



# DOMINICAN FRIARS

Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

December 6, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week we met as the Provincial Council to begin the implementation of our Province's strategic plan. We made the painful decision that we must withdraw from Saint Mary Magdalen's Church, and notified Bishop Barber that we will leave at the end of June in 2017.

Since 1923 we have faithfully served Saint Mary Magdalen's Church and help develop a strong parish school. More importantly we helped develop a strong and vibrant community of faith.

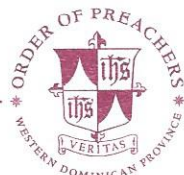
The process for this difficult decision began nearly three years ago at our Provincial Assembly in 2014 when we began discerning the need to build up our communities, which would allow us to be faithful to our common life, and to ensure that our ministries are suitably staffed, guaranteeing the quality of ministry that is expected. We also saw the reality that we are an aging Province and simply do not have enough friars to properly staff our ministries. We have only forty-one available priests for forty-five ministry assignments. It is encouraging that we have a large number of students and novices (24), yet it takes six to eight years to properly prepare a student for ordination and pastoral ministry.

We want to assure you that the Dominicans have no desire to leave you. However, we acknowledge that as parishioners you deserve to receive the best spiritual care and to hear honestly about our limitations. Therefore, we must humbly admit we are no longer in the position to offer you the consistent pastoral ministry that you need and desire.

We will work diligently with Bishop Barber and the Diocese for a smooth transition and ensure that you continue to receive the pastoral care and ministry you expect.

No doubt this news fills our Advent Season with sadness and anxiety, and we must allow ourselves to grieve, but not without hope. Let our hope sustain us and help us anticipate coming of the New Born King who brings peace.

Be assured of our prayers and support during this holy season and throughout the coming months.



We are committed to working with you and your staff to ensure a smooth transition and to continue the consistent pastoral ministry which the Diocese expects in all its ministries.

We are grateful for the years we have been able to serve in the Diocese and the kindness and patience that we have received from you and your predecessors.

Please keep the Province in your prayers, especially our brothers and the communities during this transition, and know of our prayers and support.

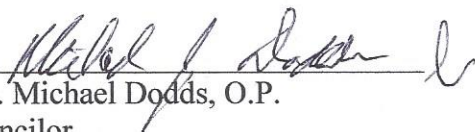
Sincerely in Christ,



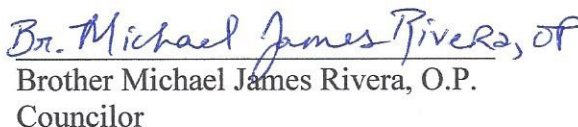
Very. Rev. Mark C. Padrez, O.P.  
Provincial



Rev. Steven Maekawa, O.P.  
Councilor



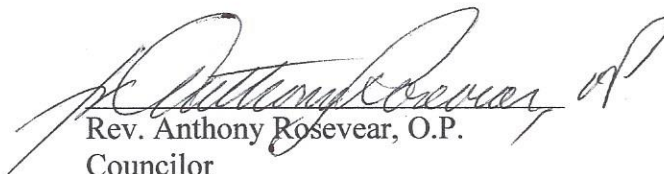
Rev. Michael Dodds, O.P.  
Councilor



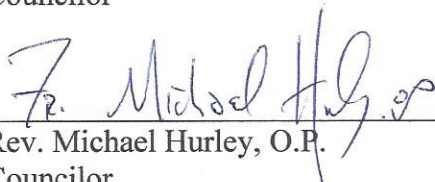
Brother Michael James Rivera, O.P.  
Councilor



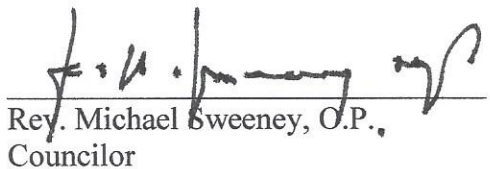
Rev. Christopher Fadok, O.P.  
Councilor



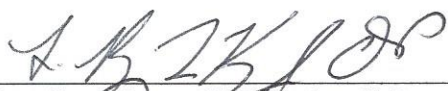
Rev. Anthony Rosevear, O.P.  
Councilor



Rev. Michael Hurley, O.P.  
Councilor



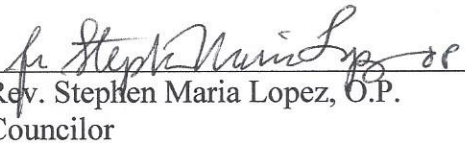
Rev. Michael Sweeney, O.P.,  
Councilor



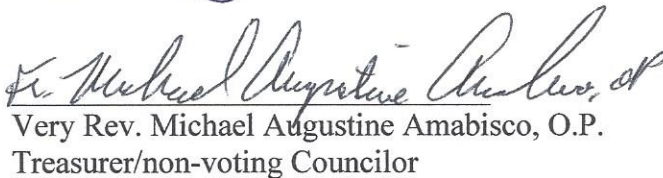
Very Rev. Bryan Kromholtz, O.P.  
Regent of Studies/Councilor



Rev. James Thompson, O.P.  
Councilor



Rev. Stephen Maria Lopez, O.P.  
Councilor



Very Rev. Michael Augustine Amabisco, O.P.  
Treasurer/non-voting Councilor