

O.F.M. Franciscans of Canada Holy Spirit Province Saint-Esprit Fact sheet

The Franciscan presence dates back to 1615 with the arrivals of the Recollects.

The existing Franciscan presence dates back to Quebec, 1888 and the first presence in Western Canada was in 1908. Then the Commissariat of the Holy Land was created.

St. Joseph Province founded in 1927.

Christ the King founded in 1955.

In 2018, before the unification, Saint-Joseph Province had 55 friars and Christ the King Province had 32.

Who are we?

Most of the friars of Saint-Esprit/Holy Spirit Province are from Canada. However, some friars have joined from other countries such as Poland, South Korea, India, USA, Germany, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Vietnam, Democratic Republic of Congo, Philippines and Nigeria.

Of the 87 Friars there are 4 Friars in temporary vows: Mathieu Bélanger-Leduc, OFM, Michael Perras, OFM, Gabriel Lacerte-Robitaille, OFM and Michael Okwegba, OFM.

Currently there are 2 men in formation at the International Novitiate in Ireland, Novices: Adrian Macor, and Theodore Splinter. There are currently 5 friars who are students in various degrees of studies. The youngest friars belong to the millennial generation.

Since 2008 there have been 8 Friars who have made solemn profession.

There are currently 10 Franciscan Friaries (houses/fraternities) across Canada: 5 in Quebec, 2 in Alberta and 3 in British Columbia.

What do we do?

We are currently ministering in several parishes: Immaculate Conception parish in Vancouver, BC. St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Richmond, BC. St. Mary's Parish in Cochrane, Alberta. St-Roch's Parish in Montreal, Quebec. St. Francis Parish in Montreal, Quebec.

St-Canut, Ste-Scholastique and St-Colomban parishes, Diocese of St-Jérôme, Quebec.

2 Friars are professors at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta: Don MacDonald, OFM and David Norman, OFM.

Since 1949 the Friars have been involved in retreat ministry at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane, Alberta.

The Friars in Trois-Rivières operate a museum. *Musée du Bienheureux Père Frédéric and Saint-Antoine Chapel* is where the tomb of Bienheureux Frédéric is located. This museum opened to public in 1938 has recently been renovated. Roland Bonenfant, OFM serves as vice-postulator for the cause of Blessed Father Frédéric-Janssoone. Frédéric-Janssoone was declared blessed in 1988.

Several Friars have published works in various areas of Theology, Spirituality and Franciscanism.

There are 4 friars serving as missionaries in 3 countries: Peru, Haiti and Madagascar. Friars provide spiritual assistance to fraternities of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) across Canada.

Friars are also involved in a variety of ministries including : sacramental ministry, service to the poor, pastoral care for vocations, hospital and school chaplaincy, social justice advocacy, service to refugees, present in Indigenous communities and Provincial administration.