

HIGHLIGHTS from the April 8 & 9, 2018 MP-6 Meeting - London

Review of the Interest Group Reports - Follow-up as needed

The Provincials reviewed the reports of the various interest groups. Jack Clark Robinson is sending replies to each group leader.

- A general issue raised by a number of groups is financing the face-to-face meetings. The MP-6 will pay room and board; the provinces pay for the travel. The number of people participating from each province should be limited to two people. If there are additional participants, the friar's province or other sources will pick up that cost.
- Would be helpful to have a central common calendar including all the meetings and conference calls as well as a central clearing house that sends out reminders of the meetings and conference calls.
- Access to this calendar as well as to US Franciscans and other resources should be easy and very user friendly

Review of the SME Report from last year - Follow-up as needed

- Mark Soehner will ask Secretaries of Formation to talk about how the mission education is being implemented.
- The suggestion of a national office will be taken up by the Provincials after the May vote.

Discussion/Decisions regarding Sentiment Survey on the Extraordinary Chapter Resolution for those not voting at Chapter

- Sentiment Survey of Solemnly Professed friars not attending the Chapter is a decision left to each province
- Sentiment Survey for Temporary Professed & Novices has been mailed with a return deadline of May 1. Only aggregate results will be published (no individuals or provinces identified). These results will go out to all the friars after the MP-6 conference call on May 7.

Discussion of JPIC Concerns as forwarded to Provincial Ministers

- Are the JPIC Animators in sync with our wishes for them?
Yes, in general. The letters that are going out are generally in sync with the thinking of the MP-6. However, the three delegate Provincials do want to continue having final approval of any letters going out.
- Immigration and Sanctuary Friaries
Use of the term "sanctuary" has the potential for waving red flags and interfering with the JPIC work that is already being done.
- Gun Safety/Control with regard to the current national situation
There is generally agreement about no weapons in the workplace, but there are differences about what a gun policy might be for friars and in friaries.

Information/Discussion of CTU Diversity Project

Jerry Bleem, Jim Gannon and Juan de la Cruz Turcios enrolled in the course at CTU and developed a project which they presented to possibly be incorporated into

regional programs for the new province. It carries an intellectual component and provides a means of training that broadens what we traditionally think of as diversity.

The MP-6 is supportive of developing and using such a program among the friars. The next step would be that Juan, Jim & Jerry will continue taking the feedback they are receiving and refining the program for presentation to the MP-6 after the gathering of Provincial Councils in August.

Discussion/Instruction for Secretaries Formation and Studies to explore the idea of a Common Post-Novitiate Program and Location(s)

There is already a common ratio for post-novitiate formation. The Secretaries of Formation need to explore a common program and an integrated "Franciscan Year" in post-novitiate studies. The MP-6 want to be regularly updated on the direction of their thinking and work.

Timelines of R & R Process - Prior to Vote/After Vote

Drawing from discussions with Michael Perry and Aidan McGrath, Caoimhín updated the meeting. He said that because of the significantly larger number of friars and the vast geographic area covered by the 6 US Provinces, procedures identical to those already used in the unification of some European provinces cannot be applied to the US process.

- The term "General Delegate" should be used rather than "General Visitor." What will be involved is not visitation in the typically-understood sense.
- The pool of friars available for this task is limited, particularly since it seems best to appoint a General Delegate from outside the six provinces.
- The General Delegate's task is to evaluate the process; ideas such as town hall meetings for the friars, meetings with each of the administrations, etc., could be used. An open invitation to friars to contact the delegate is envisaged.
- The Delegate would ultimately report on the process to the General Definitorium, bringing sufficient information for that body to make a decision.
- The Provincials gave their views on whom they would see as possible candidates for appointment as General Delegate.

After the Extraordinary Chapters, each Provincial Minister, with his council's input, will send the results of the vote to the General Definitory. In addition to the numbers of the vote, the Provincial will contextualize the chapter decision in terms of the individual province. Tempo Forte begins on July 16, so the vote and input from each of the provinces needs to be to Michael Perry by then.

Caoimhín will take the input from this discussion to the Minister General.

Discussion/Decisions regarding Press Releases for May 30th Vote

The Provincial Ministers reviewed draft press releases prepared for the Communications Directors and approved texts to be used depending upon the results of the vote.

Reflection from Michael Blastic based on interprovincial retreat content.

Michael's retreat was focused on relinquishment. Afterward he was asked to prepare a reflection paper on this theme. The Communications Directors of the six provinces are sending these reflections to the friars to use as a source of reflection for house chapters and other times.

Report from Chapter Planning Secretaries

Michael Harlan has been working with the Chapter secretaries of each province to coordinate the Extraordinary Chapters. At 4:00 on May 30, Jack Clark Robinson will appear at each Chapter electronically to announce the province votes with the raw numbers and whether this means "pass" or "does not pass" for that province's Chapter.

The legal interpretation from Aidan McGrath is that, in order to pass, the proposal must receive "yes" votes from an **absolute majority of the eligible chapter members in the chapter hall.**

Next Meeting - Conference Phone Call on Monday, 7 May.