

New Provincial of Assumption Province

On April 28, 2011 Very Rev. Louis Lougen OMI, Superior General, formally announced the appointment of Fr. Marian Gil OMI as the new Provincial of Assumption Province.



Fr. Marian Gil was born on August 3, 1962 in Beczkow, Poland. After completing his elementary school studies in his home town, he began preparatory studies at the Oblate seminary in Markowice. He entered the Novitiate at Swiety Krzyz in 1981 and a year later made his first vows.

In 1982 he began studies at the Oblate seminary of higher learning in Obra, Poland; there in 1986 he professed perpetual vows and in 1988 was ordained to Oblate ministry. His first assignment was in Assumption Province in Canada. After a year of learning the language and adapting to the culture, he was assigned to work with the youth at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga. In 1994, he began his radio ministry under the name of Catholic Youth Studio. This was begun in Polish, with the English-language component (Catholic Radio) being formed in 2001. In 1997, he was co-founder of the monthly magazine Rodzina (Family) in Canada. From 1994-1995 he was pastor at St. Hyacinth Parish in Ottawa and from 1995-1996 he served as assistant at St. Casimir's in Toronto. In 1996, he returned to St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga as assistant pastor. Since 1994, he has continually served as director of Catholic Youth Studio in addition to his various parish assignments. In 2008 Fr. Marian was appointed pastor of St. Casimir's Parish in Toronto and Superior of Toronto District.

From 1996-2002 he was a member of the Provincial Council and has again been named to the Council beginning in 2005. Fr. Marian is chaplain of a number of Polish-community organizations. Fr. Marian comes from a large family; he has one brother and five sisters. His hobbies include tennis, involvement in the media, reading books and an active interest in news services. The installation of new Provincial will take place on June 10 at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga.

Congratulations Fr. Marian, and know that our prayers are with you as you begin this new ministry of service to your brother Oblates.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Blazejak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Janusz Blazejak OMI
Provincial

WELCOME: Fr. Athanasius



We would like to introduce to you **Fr. Athanasius Vernon von Wedon, O.M.I.** from Germany who will be coming to Assumption Province sometime this summer and will work along with us in our ministry. Fr. Leo, the name he prefers/ uses, visited us a few months ago and his wish from the very beginning was to work here in Canada. As you will read in his biography, he worked in Canada for his pastoral year, including six months in Toronto and an additional six months in other parts of Canada. He is fluent in both German and English and knows a considerable amount of French. Fr. Leo, welcome and we wish you all the best in your ministry in Assumption Province

Fr. Athanasius was born in Stuttgart, Germany, on August 6, 1962. In 1986 he entered the Oblate Novitiate in Hünfeld, Germany. He studied philosophy and theology at the University of Mainz. In 1989 he came to Canada and was in St. Peter's Province, in Happy Valley Goose Bay, Labrador for a "mission experience". He also attended a summer course in spirituality at Saint Paul's University, in Ottawa, Ontario. While in Canada he also had the opportunity to work as a social worker in a downtown Toronto, homeless shelter operated by the Brothers of the Good Shepard.

In 1994 he was ordained and began his service as a parish priest. While working as a pastoral assistant he also served part-time as a military chaplain with the US-Army in Wiesbaden and Stuttgart, Germany. He became formator of seminarians at the O.M.I. House of Studies in Mainz, Germany from 1995-2001. He has also acted as Pastoral coordinator for German pilgrims visiting the shrine of Lourdes in France.

During 2002-2005 Fr. Athanasius was a lecturer at the Faculty of Theology of Vallendar-Koblenz and at the same time Superior of the Oblate Junior and Senior High School Centre at Borken, Westfalia, Germany. He is currently a pastor and teacher, responsible for the religious education of adults.

Fr. Athanasius graduated from Handelsschule in Stuttgart, Germany with a certificate in Economics in 1981. He went on to obtain his Masters of Theology in 1993 from the University of Mainz, in Germany. In 2001 he successfully completed his Doctorate in Theology again at the University of Mainz.

His majors included Spirituality, Pastoral Studies, and Church History. Fr. Athanasius has been involved in several research projects including: Spirituality of religious orders and congregations and Military Chaplaincy – its history, future and importance and is a member of the Research Society of the History of Religious Congregations of the 19th/20th century.



Fr. Athanasius with Fr. Chris Pulchny at Queen of Apostles Centre



**Touring Queen of Apostles
Renewal Centre**

Fr. Athanasius is well versed in several classical languages including: Latin, biblical Greek, and biblical Hebrew. He is totally bilingual in both English and German. He is able to read and comprehend French and has basic conversational skills with stronger skills in oral comprehension. As a lecturer/professor Fr. Athanasius has taught the following courses at Pallottine Faculty of Theology, in Koblenz-Vallendar, Germany:

Values and Virtues (Ethics)
“Demonstratio Religiosa: Man – God – Religion” (Anthropology)
The Sacramental Dimension of Life Decisions (Spirituality)
Coping with Guilt – A Spiritual Approach (Spirituality)
An Impulse to Ancient Europe: “Theology in North America”

In addition to his parish ministry and his teaching, Fr. Athanasius has also found the time to write the following publications:

Hören und Antworten. Biblische und pastorale Aspekte des Ordensgehorsams, Haag und Herchen Verlag Frankfurt 2004, 116pp.
Eugène de Mazenod (1782-1861) ‘Evangelizare Pauperibus’. Leben und pastorale Praxis, Echter Verlag Würzburg 2001, 400pp.
„Eugen von Mazenod – Briefe an Oblaten in Frankreich (1837-1842). Generalpostulation O.M.I. (Hrsg.), Übersetzt und bearbeitet, Mainz 1997, 276pp.

CONSULTATION...

Fr. Warren Brown, General Council for Canada – US Region has spent a few weeks in Assumption Province conducting consultations in regards to our new Provincial and his administration. Immediately after Easter he returned to Rome where the General Administration began its Plenary Session. Here is his note of thanks to our Province.



At the Provincial House: Warren Brown, Zenon Kosiniak-Kamisz, Ambassador pod Poland and his wife Katarzyna, Fr. Janusz Blazejak

Dear Janusz,

It was an honor and a privilege to spend the past months of March and April visiting the men of the Assumption province. I was truly edified by the genuine hospitality and welcome I received at every place I visited. I learned so much about the work of your province and the Oblates and their lay collaborators who continue to accomplish so much in the name of the Gospel. Please let everyone know of my sincere gratitude and that I continue to hold them in prayer. We begin our general council meetings here in Rome tomorrow. May light of the risen Christ continue to shine through the life and ministry of your community.

Fraternally,

Rev. Warren A. Brown, O.M.I.