



**AUGUSTINIAN  
FRIARS**

Province of  
Saint Thomas of Villanova

**PRIOR PROVINCIAL**

December 18, 2014

Dear Brothers,

As we enter into the final period of Advent preparation, I wish you all the blessings of this season in order that the celebration of Christmas this year may bring you a deeper awareness of God's great gift to us in the mystery we will soon celebrate.

In the summary minutes of our last Provincial Council meeting which was sent out on December 16, there was mention of a discussion concerning activities pertaining to FANA and the Year of Consecrated Life. I would like to elaborate on these here.

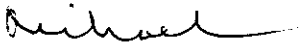
1. The three Priors Provincial of North America agreed, on the recommendation of FANA's formation commission, that the first profession of novices of our three provinces should be held in a single celebration in one of the provinces, and that the location should rotate from province to province over the three year cycle. It was further agreed that the first profession of novices in 2015 will take place on August 1st in the Villanova Province. The place and time will be the Villanova Campus Church at 4PM.
2. An additional recommendation of the formation commission was that a planned gathering of all formation candidates originally scheduled for May, 2015, be moved to the two days preceding the August 1st profession of vows. Accordingly, this gathering will take place on July 30th and 31st at Villanova. The pre-novices, novices and professed student friars of the three provinces will thus come together for this three day weekend observance.
3. Following upon these decisions, the Villanova Provincial Council subsequently agreed that the Province's celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life, originally planned for the week of the Province Retreat in June, be transferred to coincide with these events of the formation students' gathering and first profession of vows. Committees will be established to coordinate and plan these various events, which will be made known to all of you as early as possible.

I want to highlight these events and dates, through this letter, so that they can find a place in your prayers and on your calendars. While the gathering on the last days of July are for our students in initial formation, the celebration of the first profession of vows of possibly one of the largest groups of novices we have witnessed in many years, is an occasion which, I hope, will bring together many friars of our own and the other two provinces. God has blessed us with a growing number of individuals who are responding to the call to examine our way of life. The prayers we offer in our communities every day for an increase in vocations are being answered. For our part, let us express our gratitude to God and our support of our candidates by our presence and our continued prayers.

We have recently entered into the Year of Consecrated Life proposed by Pope Francis. I invite you to pray with me each day for the members of our Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, as well as for those of the other provinces of our Federation and for the Order in general, that the enthusiasm with which we began our journey in religious life might be renewed in each of us, and that we will continue to walk in fidelity the path we began, whether very recently or many decades ago.

May He whose birth we commemorate in these coming days, who is the source and cause of our way of life, be also our light and guide, our strength and peace.

Fraternally,



Michael Di Gregorio, O.S.A.