A Time of Transition

Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS

You already may be aware that Father John Kemper, PSS was elected as the Provincial Superior of the US Province during our January 2015 Provincial Assembly. As Fr. Kemper's term of office begins July 1, 2015, I currently find myself in transition from Provincial to a member embracing a long anticipated sabbatical. It has been a privilege to lead the US Sulpicians for the past seven years and, as I leave office, I am encouraged by the fact that, despite challenges, our Province continues to do well. In this context, I want to make four observations.

First, our membership has decreased slightly over the past seven years. I take this as a success, given the similar decline during that period in the number of diocesan priests in the US. You

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The Provincial Assembly of 2015

Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS

From January 3-9, 2015, a Provincial Assembly of 19 delegates met at St. Mary's Center for Continuing Formation in Baltimore. The equivalent of a Provincial Chapter in religious life, a Sulpician Provincial Assembly is the highest governance body in a province. Its main duties are to elect a provincial superior and four provincial consultors and to make decisions about the overall policies and priorities of the province.

The recent Assembly in Baltimore did just that. First, after hearing several administrative reports and discussing the general state of the US Province, on January 6 the Assembly elected

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Thomas R. Ulshafer presiding at community Eucharist in the historic seminary chapel at St. Mary's, Paca Street.

Update

is a publication that seeks to inform its readership of the state and current activities of the US Province of the Society of St. Sulpice and its membership and institutions. For more information, please visit our website at www.sulpicians.org

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might be interested to know that currently we have seven Sulpician candidates and seven members pursuing graduate degrees in Europe and in the US. These priests give us special hope for the future.

Second, we have sustained all of our commitments to the Church during the past seven years. The most important of these are our four seminaries: St. Mary's in Baltimore, MD; St. Patrick's in Menlo Park, CA; Theological College in Washington, DC; and Emmaus Spirituality Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. We continue to assist Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, TX. In this context, I am especially grateful to Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop William Lori, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and Bishop Benjamin Phiri, representative of the Zambian Episcopal Conference, for their guidance, support and, at times, patience.

Of our major commitments, St. Patrick’s has faced the biggest challenges in recent years, but the Seminary is doing better now. There is energetic new Sulpician leadership, enrollment is stabilizing, the archbishop has expanded the Board of Trustees, the Seminary has been reaccredited, and most importantly, the priestly formation program at St. Patrick’s remains balanced and healthy.

Third, the morale of the US Sulpicians is very strong. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a brief article I authored on our recent successful Provincial Assembly. Here I will only note that, as we approach 2016, the 225th Anniversary of the arrival of Sulpicians in the US, there is increasing interest among our priests in the thought of our founder, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, and an increasing desire to strengthen the Sulpician character of our programs of priestly formation.

Fourth, the finances of the province are sound, and thanks to the generosity of many of the readers of this publication, we have been able to complete several important projects. First, we were able to renovate and restore the historic seminary chapel on Paca Street in Baltimore. Second, we built a new wing at the seminary in Lusaka, Zambia. Third, we purchased property in Lusaka and constructed a Sulpician Centre House for our Zambian members. And fourth, we have begun the process of updating St. Charles Villa, our retirement residence just south of Baltimore. Thank you very much for your assistance with these costly projects.

We are a community of service to the priesthood and thereby to the Church, and as we move forward, we need to continue to strengthen our sense of mission, i.e., as Fr. Olier would say, our apostolic spirit. I am confident that under the leadership of our new Provincial, Father John C. Kemper, PSS that will happen. Please support him with your prayers and financial assistance as you have supported me during the past seven years.

Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS is Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.
Father John C. Kemper, PSS as our new provincial superior, effective July 1, 2015. Then the delegates elected four other Sulpicians as provincial consultors: Fathers Daniel F. Moore, Richard M. Gula, Anthony J. Pogorelec and Hy K. Nguyen.

Fr. Kemper not only has a fine education and diverse experience in priestly formation but also has extensive background in administration. He is a 58-year-old priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg and was ordained a priest in 1983 after earning the M.Div. and the M.A. at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. His first Sulpician assignment was at St. Joseph's College Seminary in Mountain View, CA. In 1987 he earned a Certificate in Theological Studies at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA, and in 1993 he earned the D.Min. at the Pacific School of Religion / Graduate Theological Union, also in Berkeley. After three years at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Michigan, where he also served as the vice rector, he was assigned in 1997 to assist with priestly formation in San Antonio, TX. While there, he served as the director of the D.Min. and International Priest programs and later as vice president for administrative affairs at Oblate School of Theology. In 2007, he was recalled to Baltimore where he has served, until becoming provincial, as director of St. Mary's Spiritual Center & Historic Site on Paca Street. Since 2009, he has also been the vice president of advancement for the Sulpician Fathers.

The Provincial Assembly also approved some policies and set some priorities for the new leadership of the Province. First, the importance of the continuing formation of Sulpicians was reaffirmed, and the delegates...
Fr. Cornelius Hankomoone, Regional Superior in Zambia, presiding at Assembly Eucharist.

Frs. Larry Terrien and Hy Nguyen receiving delegates’ gifts at the conclusion of the Assembly.

Assembly delegates debating proposals.

Fr. John Kemper, delegate and Ms. Ann Lesini, Director of Finance, presenter.

Frs. Stevens, McKearney and Pogorelc, delegates.

The assembly asked the new leadership to offer some programs and develop new educational resources on the history and spiritual traditions of the Society, especially on various aspects of spiritual formation.

Second, the Assembly reaffirmed the critical need for new Sulpicians. Accordingly, the Assembly asked for renewed attention to the careful integration of new Sulpician candidates into the community and also reaffirmed the practice that the director of discernment (the Sulpician vocations director) not be asked to assume duties on the faculty of a seminary.

Third, the Assembly expressed great interest in the Sulpician ministry in Zambia and confirmed the practice of inviting the Zambian regional superior to attend meetings of the provincial council at least twice a year in order to help maintain good communication between the leadership in the US and the Zambian members of the Province.

This Assembly was a fine example of Sulpician collegiality in action. It also helped the Province set a course for the next six years.

Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS
is Provincial Superior
of the Society of St. Sulpice,
Province of the United States.
Zambian Sulpicians of the US Province, assigned to serve halfway around the world and in a culture quite different from ours in the West, can sometimes be misunderstood. An African proverb, however, enlightens our way: "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." In order to go far together, we need to remain connected. To this end, the Provincial Superior, usually accompanied by one member of the Provincial Council, has been making annual visitations to our members in the Zambian Region of the US Province since 1989.

In Zambia, the US Province has corporate responsibility for the Emmaus Spirituality Centre, a one-year preparatory program for young men beginning their seminary studies. This program introduces young men to the disciplines of formation for ministry and offers basic courses in theology, English and African culture. In addition to staffing this Centre, some Zambian members of the US Province have also been teaching in the philosophy program at St. Augustine's Major Seminary and at the school of theology, St. Dominic's Major Seminary. The summer 2014 issue of UPDATE featured our Zambian Region in greater detail.

This past April, Father Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS, the Provincial, and I visited the members and seminaries of the Zambian Region. Father Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS, the Regional Superior, hosted us at the newly constructed Sulpician Regional Centre House, only a short distance from the Emmaus Centre.

During the first week of our visit, Father Shoba Nyambe, PSS, Rector of the Emmaus Centre, welcomed us. Fr. Ulshafer met with each of the Sulpician members as well as the student body. I addressed the student body at Emmaus on the topic of "Discerning a Vocation." Later in the week, I spoke to the student community of St. Dominic's on "A Spirituality for Ministry." During the week, we also celebrated the Eucharist with the Emmaus community each morning. In addition to individual meetings with our Sulpician members and candidates, we also met as a group on two different occasions at the Sulpician Centre House to discuss matters of Regional and Societal interest.

As part of our visitation program, Fr. Hankomoone arranged for meetings with leading ecclesiastical officials. We had a luncheon meeting with Archbishop Telesphore Mpundu, the Archbishop of Lusaka and President of the Zambian Episcopal Conference. We also had a luncheon meeting at the Vatican Embassy with Archbishop Julio Murat, the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia. Fr. Ulshafer also had a phone conversation with Bishop Benjamin Phiri, the head of the seminary division of the episcopal conference. In these meetings, we were cordially received and thanked for the contributions we are making to the Zambian church through our service to the seminaries.

At the end of the first week, the Emmaus community hosted a party to celebrate our visit, to acknowledge Fr. Ulshafer's last visit in his role as Provincial and to celebrate my birthday, which happened to be that very day. This all-out celebration included local dishes, drumming, singing...
and dancing as the seminary community shared their tribal traditions.

On Sunday of the second week, Fr. Hankomoone took us to the philosophy school of St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Mpima, about a two-and-a-half hour drive north of Lusaka. Fr. Ulshafer celebrated the Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday and I gave the homily. Father Patrick Simutowe, PSS, the Rector, gave a tour of the campus and hosted a luncheon with his staff.

During this second week of our visit, we took the opportunity to go down to the Livingstone region of southern Zambia and northern Botswana and Zimbabwe. This region is the home of Chobe National Park, one of the largest wild game preserves in Africa, and Victoria Falls, the icon of the wonders of the world. These days were certainly filled with wonder and amazement. We were ambushed by awe at every turn as we floated on that ribbon of peacock blue water, the Chobe River, and drove through the game preserve of the northern Kalahari to see wildlife, up close and personal, in their natural habitat.

Making these annual visits brings richness to our understanding of Zambian culture and a bonding in fraternity with our Zambian members. The photos, stories and emails of others who have made this visitation can only begin to capture what first-hand experience reveals. It didn't take me long to appropriate and appreciate the wisdom of another African proverb: "The fool speaks; the wise man listens." There really is no substitute for spending time in the home of our brothers who, while together with us in the US Province, live and work in a culture very different from our own. On these visitations, listening is the order of the day. Listening to Zambian stories, Zambian drums, Zambian signing, their hopes and their concerns is the beginning of the wisdom that will enable us to go far, together.

Richard M. Gula, PSS is the Director of Personnel for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.
Established as St. John Seminary in 1915 by the Most Reverend John Shaw, fourth Bishop of San Antonio, Assumption Seminary prepares to celebrate its centennial on October 2, 2015.

From its original location just north of Mission Concepción, the seminary moved to its current home on Woodlawn Avenue and was rededicated as Assumption Seminary in 1952. The seminary boasted an enrollment of 95 students in 2014-15. Father Jeffrey Pehl, a priest of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, has served as Rector of Assumption since 2011.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S, has served as Archbishop of San Antonio since 2010.

The Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, in response to an invitation from Archbishop Patrick Flores, has served in San Antonio since 1996, with Father Jerry Brown, PSS serving as Rector of Assumption from 2000 until 2004. Four Sulpicians (Fr. Luis Corneli, Nam Kim, Jim Myers and Hy Nguyen) are currently assigned to the ministry of priestly formation in San Antonio. Other Sulpicians who have served in San Antonio include Frs. Gerry McBrearty, John Kemper, Tony Lobo, Jim Oberle and Jim Tucker (currently retired in San Antonio). Fr. Jaime Robledo, PSS served on the Assumption faculty prior to joining the Sulpicians.

The centennial year will conclude with a solemn celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the seminary on October 2, 2015.

James Myers, PSS is a member of the formation faculty, Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, Texas.
Father Leo Gajardo, PSS, an alumnus of Theological College, is a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN. Ordained in the summer of 2006, he served in his diocese for five years. Under diocesan sponsorship, Fr. Gajardo completed a license in canon law at The Catholic University of America. He returned to his diocese and after a period of discernment, received permission to enter the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States in the summer of 2011. He began his first Sulpician assignment at St. Mary’s Seminary & University which he describes as “a grace-filled time of learning and growing.” Fr. Gajardo views his experiences, first as a candidate, and then as a temporary member, as a privileged time, given his diverse relationships with the seminarians, staff and faculty. Recently reflecting on his initial entry into the Sulpicians, he noted, “I loved my time there and was sad to leave, but I knew that God would invite me to experience new adventures. And this past year has certainly brought many new adventures!”

After being assigned by the Provincial Council to graduate studies in Rome, Fr. Gajardo spent seven weeks last summer in Florence learning Italian. It was a great opportunity to be introduced to Italian culture and to travel a bit in the north of Italy. In October he arrived in Rome and began studies in liturgical theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. The students and faculty of the university come from many parts of the world, which enriches the whole experience. His courses are all taught in Italian and cover a wide range of topics, from liturgical anthropology to the Liturgy of the Hours to the liturgical year. The program will take four years to complete and will include the writing of a doctoral dissertation.

Fr. Gajardo resides at the Pontifical Canadian College, the Sulpician house in Rome, which is located about five minutes from the Vatican. There are about 30 priests residing at the college with him and the spirit in the house is very positive and supportive. The student priests live, pray and eat together, as well as enjoying much that Rome has to offer. Commenting on the “much that Rome offers,” Fr. Gajardo confessed, “The fact that the diet includes so many carbohydrates has been a challenge, but with all of the walking that we do, and a bit of exercise, I have been able to maintain my weight.”

As a priest and Sulpician in studies, Fr. Gajardo knows that the many people with whom he has been able to minister over the years enrich this educational experience. His time in the parish and on the seminary faculty gives his studies a focus that helps him to prepare better for the ministry to which he will soon return. Reflecting on his studies, Fr. Gajardo stated, “The opportunity to live and study in Rome, especially with the great witness of Pope Francis, and the possibility of travel in Europe, is helping me to grow as a disciple, priest and Sulpician. I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to applying my studies in practical ways upon my return to the US.”
Father Timothy Chikweto, PSS, is originally from the Archdiocese of Kasama in northern Zambia. Having been ordained on June 23, 2002, he came to the Sulpician Fathers as a candidate in July 2005 and was admitted to Membership on May 22, 2008. June 23, 2015 marks the 13th anniversary of his priestly ordination. He will celebrate the anniversary while in postgraduate studies in Rome—once again.

Fr. Chikweto completed an S.T.L., i.e., License in Biblical Theology, between 2008 and 2011 at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He then returned to Lusaka, Zambia where he assisted as a seminary faculty member. In 2014, he returned to the same university to pursue a doctoral degree in the same discipline, biblical theology—which is where he is today. Commenting on the interim period between studies, Fr. Chikweto noted, "My three year break in Zambia after the License not only helped me to keep in touch with formation work and realities in general, but also granted me the opportunity to share part of what I had learned through teaching biblical courses and biblical languages."

His proposed doctoral thesis, which focuses on the Gospel of John, is entitled "And he had to go through Samaria" - Composition and Interpretation of John 4:1-45. In this study, he wishes to examine Jesus' departure for Galilee from Judea, his ministry and brief sojourn in Samaria and his arrival in Galilee using a method called Rhetorical Analysis. Meanwhile, he is also studying French and German in two different institutes in order to meet the requirements for studies at the doctoral level.

Fr. Chikweto resides at the Pontificio Collegio Canadese, the Canadian college in Rome, which is home to both Canadian priests and Sulpicians from the three Sulpician Provinces worldwide. Commenting on his familiar surroundings, Timothy noted, "Living in the Canadian College is a wonderful experience. The rector, Father Éric Sylvestre, PSS and the staff do their best to help you settle in and feel at home. House-mates, who are also students, are very friendly and supportive. Doctoral studies can be a somewhat lonely venture in that you do not get to meet other students in regular courses apart from orientation courses and programs organized by the faculty to facilitate interaction."

Fr. Chikweto is grateful to the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States for the opportunity to complete his studies in an atmosphere of fraternity and collegial support. He hopes to complete his doctorate by the spring of 2017.

Daniel F. Moore, PSS is the First Consultant and Provincial Secretary for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.
Meet Our Newest Sulpician Candidates

Father Dominic Ciriaco
By Daniel F. Moore, PSS

Fr. Ciriaco blessing a commissioned painting of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, S.C.-the first beatified woman from New Jersey. The painting hangs in the Church of St. Mary, Dumont, NJ where he was pastor.

Fr. Ciriaco is a native of New Jersey. He grew up in a suburb of Newark in the town of West Caldwell and attended Catholic grammar school and public high school. He went to a Catholic Dominican College, Caldwell University, in Caldwell, New Jersey where he majored in Social Studies and Education. Following graduation, he taught one year in a Catholic grammar school then entered Immaculate Conception Seminary located at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. While there, he earned an M.Div. and an M.A. in Systematic Theology. Fr. Ciriaco was ordained for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey on May 28, 1999 by Archbishop (now Cardinal) McCarrick. He has been ordained a priest for 16 years. For eight of those years he has been involved in high school education, teaching and serving as chaplain to several Catholic high schools. Fr. Ciriaco spent the other eight years in parish work: four years as a parochial vicar and, most recently, four years as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Dumont, New Jersey. As a pastor, he has been indirectly involved with the formation of seminarians either as a spiritual director, a host parish for field education or being invited to speak at the Seminary. This and his own exploring, through the years, of the Sulpician way of life and ministry has led Fr. Ciriaco to embrace the work and vocation of the Sulpicians. The Sulpicians have surfaced at various times in his life as early on as high school, then again during seminary and his years as a priest. Given the pattern of occurrences, Fr. Ciriaco knew the Spirit was asking him to stop and take a look at this unique ministry in the Church. With the permission of his archbishop, Fr. Ciriaco applied to the Sulpicians and was subsequently accepted as a Candidate. His first assignment is Theological College, The National (Sulpician) Seminary at The Catholic University of America. Some of his interests and hobbies are reading, writing, playing tennis and going to the movies. He is self-admittedly "a big history buff" who loves visiting historical sites.

When asked about the Sulpicians and their ministry, Fr. Ciriaco replied, "What I love about the Sulpicians is the rich spiritual contributions they have made to the United States, especially in the area of priestly formation. I am inspired by the example of Jean Jacques Olier, Francois Nagot and the early Sulpicians. I am looking forward to continuing these contributions to the Church especially in the area of forming men to be priests and collaborating with the other members of the Society in doing this important work."

Daniel F. Moore, PSS is the First Consultor and Provincial Secretary for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.

Fr. Ciriaco out to dinner with friends.
Father Joseph Chamwaza

By Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS

Father Joseph Kasweka Chamwaza was born on November 11, 1982 in the Kabompo district of the Northwestern province of Zambia. He is the first born in a family of six, five males and one female. He grew up in Kabompo and did all his primary and secondary education in the same district. He completed his secondary education in 2001.

In August 2003, Fr. Chamwaza was admitted to Emmaus Spiritually Centre as a seminarian studying for the Catholic Diocese of Solwezi. After a year of spiritual formation, he proceeded to St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Kabwe to study philosophy and religious studies. He claims that philosophy ignited in him a fervent love for academics regarding the discovery of new frontiers of education. Fr. Chamwaza graduated from St. Augustine's Major Seminary in May of 2006, then proceeded to St. Dominic's Major Seminary for theology, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 2011.

He was ordained a Catholic priest for the Catholic Diocese of Solwezi on August 13, 2011. After his ordination, Fr. Chamwaza was appointed Assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish, Kabompo (his home parish). Later, he served in two other parishes: St. Andrew Kim parish in Ntambu, Mwinilunga and St. Andrew's parish, Kasemba, in the same capacity. In 2014 he was appointed Parish Priest of St. Mary's Mother of God parish in Meheba, Solwezi (a refugee settlement). He recalls the 10 months of his stay in Meheba as a most exciting segment of his life as a priest. Fr. Chamwaza viewed his appointment as a parish priest as an opportunity for him to strengthen his leadership qualities and to mature pastorally. The refugee camp where he was working was a home for people from different countries. For him, this was again an opportunity to learn other foreign languages like Swahili (a language that is widely spoken in some parts of Africa) and Kinyarwanda.

In the spring of 2015, with the permission of his bishop, the Most Rev. Charles Kasonde, Fr. Chamwaza applied to the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States. He was subsequently accepted as a Candidate.

The Sulpician Fathers are grateful for the bishop's generosity and encouragement. Fr. Joseph Chamwaza begins his first Sulpician assignment at Emmaus, following the Mois Sulpicien (Sulpician Summer Formation Program) in Paris, July 5-30, 2015.

During his free time, Fr. Chamwaza likes to play volleyball. He enjoys watching movies, reading novels and visiting new places. When asked how he felt when he was accepted as a Candidate, he replied, "This is a dream come true and the best choice of my priestly life because as a Sulpician priest I will have the rare privilege of contributing to the larger church, through the formation of its future priests. I come to share with my brothers my deep love for the priesthood and my sincere love and zeal to serve God's people, especially the poorest of the poor."

Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS is Regional Superior of Sulpicians in Zambia.
Books in Print

THE WORD OF GOD AT VATICAN II: EXPLORING DEI VERBUM
Ronald Witherup, PSS

Dei Verbum—The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation remains one of the foundational teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and its 50th anniversary will come in November 2015. Fr. Witherup’s The Word of God at Vatican II: Exploring Dei Verbum (Liturgical Press, 2014) provides the text, a short history of its evolution, a commentary on each of its articles and an assessment of the impact it has had on Catholic teaching about revelation and Sacred Scripture. An optional study guide can also be purchased with the book, making it a fine resource for parish adult faith formation efforts, Bible study groups, diocesan education programs, courses for seminarians and priests and many other settings.

SAINT PAUL AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION
Ronald Witherup, PSS

To some, “the New Evangelization” seems to mean warmed-over and outdated apologetics that rarely resonate with people today. But that approach fails to do justice to what evangelization is really all about. In Saint Paul and the New Evangelization (Liturgical Press, 2013), Fr. Witherup analyzes the techniques of one of the church’s best evangelists—Paul of Tarsus—to show how Catholics can help reinvigorate the faith of friends and loved ones. Along the way, the book gives a lot of information about the 2012 synod of bishops on the new evangelization, about how synods of bishops function and why the new evangelization can be a biblically sound strategy for the church in the third millennium.

MULTICULTURALISM AND NEW EVANGELIZATION
Van Nam Kim, PSS

Fr. Van Nam Kim, PSS has authored a new book published in 2014, Multiculturalism and New Evangelization, which addresses the impact of globalization on the Church becoming multicultural and the various issues surrounding this evolution. Fr. Kim was quoted in a recent article by the Western Catholic Reporter saying, “Recognizing the multicultural reality of the Church and society is essential for successful evangelization.”

Fr. Kim is a Vietnamese-American who was ordained a priest in 1990 having served many multicultural parishes and seminaries since then. He is currently a member of the formation faculty, Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, TX. Fr. Kim discusses many interesting concepts like the development of a “flexible spirit” by obtaining new skills like bilingual and multilingual fluency and equipping US seminaries for fruitful implementation of the new evangelization.