

Definitory notes from December 31st, 2017, through January 1st, 2018

St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Baptista, CA.

- Received financial reports for the first 11 months of 2017, and noted with great joy that as of the end of November we are doing very well for the first time in a long time. Much of this may be attributed to the fact that we are presently spending about half on health insurance than we budgeted for 2017.
- In light of the 2017 financial reports, decided to transfer \$100,000.00 from the Province Operating fund to our Retirement fund.
- Discussed several personnel opportunities and situations.
- Discussed the progress of our consultation program for all Friars with Christian Brothers Services.
- Discussed the possibility of assuming pastoral care for St. Francis of Assisi parish in Los Angeles. John is scheduled for a site visit on Sunday, January 7th and meetings with Archdiocesan officials on Monday, January 8th.
- Met with Friar Luke Vu regarding the Delegation of Vietnam regarding:
 - Received a petition from Friar Joseph Nguyễn Văn Nhàn for and extension of six months simple Profession of Vows. The petition received a positive vote. Congratulations Friar Joseph Nhàn!
 - Received with regret a letter of resignation as Guardian and Formation Director of Friar Joseph Truong, who has been serving with our Delegation for the last three years.
 - Elected Friar Tammylee Ngo as both Guardian, and Formation Director of the St. Anthony Friary in Ho Chi Minh City.
 - Elected Friar Peter Vũ Bình Quốc as Associate Formation Director of the St. Anthony Friary.
 - Elected Friar Dominic Hoàng Thành Nghĩa as Associate Formation Director of the St. Anthony Friary.
 - John and Luke gave an update on the state of the common Asian Novitiate in Tagatay based upon their fraternal visit in December. Presently the Custody of the Philippines is in the process of bringing in a new team of five Friars for the Friary there.

- Discussed the reception of a property that is being donated to the Delegation.
- Discussed the planning and financing for the building of a Postulancy house on the newly purchased property in Cu Chi that is adjacent to our present Friary there.
- John discussed his visit to the Van Mon filial house, and the success of the Friars in expanding their farm and their social services outreach.
- Discussed planning a workshop for the Delegation Friars who will be coming over for our Province Chapter. The workshop would be on ministry with vulnerable children and adults.
- Discussed the challenges and our research regarding obtaining visas with the U.S. Consulate for our Friars.
- John gave an update on his visit to a property that the Delegation presently owns, and the feasibility of creating a farm there.
- Received a request for permission by the St. Francis of Assisi Novitiate Friary to purchase a new minivan. The request received a positive vote.
- Received updates on the sale of the Bello house and on the Viva Francis Foundation from Victor Abegg.
- Next Definitory scheduled for February 6 – 8th at the Maryknoll Retirement community in Los Altos.