**Abbess’ Appointments and Announcements**

**Finance:**

* Brother David has volunteered to assume the role of Treasurer, for a term to end not later than December 2024. In this role he will be part of the Finance Committee and will attend Council meetings as required to discuss pertinent issues.
* Sr. Mary Magdalene has agreed to assume the role of Business Manager. In this role, she will continue to pay bills as required and produce reports for Council and Chapter. She will attend Council meetings to present reports and answer questions.
* The existing Finance Committee will retain its role of periodic review of the budget and expenses, advising Council of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. They will also be responsible for creating the annual budget in a timely manner so it can be approved by Council in the 4th quarter and Chapter at its January meeting.
* An Investment Committee consisting of Br. Robert, Sr. Anah’ Elizabeth and Br. James Rafael, which was initially formed under Br. David’s tenure as Superior, will manage our investments. I’ve asked Br. Robert to take the lead in this endeavor.

**Formation:**

* I’m excited to announce a new, team-based format to our overall formation program. All 3 roles continue to develop, but the individuals who have agreed to serve and their primary responsibilities are:
  + Br. James Rafael has agreed to remain as Dean of Oblates. He will continue to work with both our Novice Oblates and Oblates, selecting and supporting additional formation guides as needed.
  + Sr. Julian has agreed to assume the role of Dean of Professed Life. She will oversee the initial formation program for Postulants and Novices, including selecting and supporting formation guides as needed. Until June 2023, she will support those members in their 3rd year of Annual Profession.
  + Sr. Genevieve Lynn has agreed to assume the role of Dean of Continuing Education. She will support members in Annual Profession and work with both Br. James and Sr. Julian to coordinate continuing education programs for members at all levels.

**Prior** – I am blessed to announce that Br. Raymond has agreed to be our Prior. He will be the primary administrator for the community, either taking minutes himself at Council and Chapter or arranging for it to be done in his absence, and maintaining copies of these minutes for distribution.

**Pastoral Care** – Another part of Br. Raymond’s role as Prior will be to restart the in reach/outreach efforts he and several others initiated at the start of COVID to contact via phone or email members who seem to have gone silent. I have asked Br. Daniel to assist in this endeavor as a **Pastoral Care Associate**. This is a new/reemerging ministry but one I feel is needed as we become more spread out. I’m excited to see where it leads.

**Convocation** – The work of Convocation is being split into two parts:

* Primary planning of Offices, Eucharist, and other worship services, as well as scheduling of the ROTA of officiants, readers, etc., will be assumed by the Worship Community. I have asked Br. Anskar to replace me as convenor, and have asked Br. Dunstan and Sr. Catherine Ann to join the group; I’ve also left it to Br. Anskar and the committee to add additional members if necessary.
* Sr. Madeleine Sophie has agreed to assume the role of convocation administrator. She will take over tasks previously mine, including but not limited to managing the rooming list, communicating attendance to the Worship Committee for the ROTA, and being our liaison with Conception Abbey.

**Technology** – These individuals help maintain our online presence through our zoom Offices, ensuring streaming is available for services at convocation, administer our Facebook pages and serve as liaison with our 3rd party webmaster.

* Br. Florian has been managing our virtual *Opus Dei* during the week and at convocation for some time now, as well as keeping us connected for Council and Chapter. He will keep serving us in this way.
* I have asked Brs. Ronan and Jude Thaddeus to assume the role of assistants to Br. Florian. They will continue to learn operation of equipment for services at convocation. They will both also receive training from Br. David to become liaisons with WebCitz, our 3rd Party Webmaster, by approximately Jan. 2024 after some remaining work is completed. In addition, Br. Jude Thaddeus is taking over as primary administrator of our Facebook pages.

**Council** – With Br. Raymond’s appointment as Prior, his role as Professed representative needed to be replaced. I am pleased and blessed that Br. Chrysostom has agreed to fill that role until the end of the year.

**Porter** – This person reviews and answers emails that are submitted through the website, the majority being from potential inquirers or prayer requests. Br. David has handled this ministry for many years. He has agreed to continue until approximately Easter 2024; in the interim he will be training Sr. Catherine Ann. She in turn will help select an assistant when Br. David steps aside. Prayer requests will be directed to Sr. Mary Francis to increase efficiency of getting them on our prayer list.