

# Evaluations of Chapter 2017

*Nota bene: 59 friars responded to the survey.*

*Comments following each question are not edited, except for spelling.*

## **1. Private dorm rooms**

Excellent: 43.1%

Good: 50%

Fair: 6.9%

Comments:

A/C was not working but open windows chilled the room fine.

Beds a bit uncomfortable not overly so

the only thing that I didn't like is that the 1st. morning there was no hot water, but that was taken care of .

Room was too cold until I found out how to turn off the air conditioning. It was not as simple a process as was announced to the group. Took some trial and error. Otherwise the room was fine.

Very nice. Would have been fine with shared dorm rooms all the same.

This time the rooms were comfortable not freezing, however, the mattresses were very uncomfortable for those with bad backs. Woke up with back pain several times each night.

The bed was very uncomfortable --- too hard.

The weather was nice enough to turn off the A/C and open the windows.

Cold shower first morning

Good thing someone thought to bring extra blankets. I used one.

The rooms were most adequate and I prefer these for next chapter rather than St Lawrence Seminary, Mt Calvary ..... I believe that especially for older friars -- we will be older and do not want to be in a dorm or another one room with common bath ..... I love Xavier University accommodations .... it is located centrally for members of the province and fits us perfectly .....

All of us need to get away from our home location and in neutral territory at this stage of the game ..... thank you

The rooms were too cold for me, but I am also one who loves the heat more than the cold.

Besides that, I'm 81 and my metabolism isn't quite as good as that of the younger friars.

Comfortable

Fitted sheet did not fit--was too small!

I found the room fine once I found where the switch was to turn off the air.

Get a few more extra blankets. Having them was a good idea. We just needed more.

I turned off the air conditioning and was comfortable all week.

Nice

We turned down the AC and it was quite comfortable.

## **2. Meals**

Excellent: 36.2%

Good: 43.1%

Fair: 19%

Poor: 1.7%

Comments:

The meals are not as good as they were the first time we were at St. X (I understand that there is a new caterer). Additionally, I did not appreciate the amount of non-recyclable disposables used for meals.

We had chicken every day. I didn't feel the quality was good. Although, the breakfast was good.

More variety beyond pasta

I thought there was enough good choices with regard to menu.

there was irons or peppers of some kind in , which I don't like .

I liked the food. I didn't like throwing away all the plastic. That gets complicated with the food service people, etc.

Vegetables were good, however the meals were very high in carbs and it seemed that chicken was served every single day including twice on the day of the banquet.

Good variety

They tasted good and there seemed to be enough "healthy" options.

I think there are too much pasta meal.

As a diabetic I found a few meals way to heavy on carbs

Nice selection .... breakfast was the best of the three ....

first morning was not very good at all

I liked the variety of menus. I also like the friendliness of the staff serving the food and their spirit of service.

Too much pasta.

Lot of Chicken

Food was OK--but far too much use of plastics (incl. forks, etc.); and no marking of bins for recyclables....

The first day the breakfast was sparse

No heavy food for lunch. Also silverware, regular plates, and regular cups would be better so there won't be waste of disposable items

Good food in general. Even less pasta would be appreciated

Lot of chicken!

good

Lots of high cholesterol and fatty foods; would have like milk available each meal. Could have done without red meat all together.

I thought I had asked for vegetarian meals, but I heard no announcement about or notice any provision for such. It was OK, though, as there was always sufficient options other than meat within the main menu.

### ***3. Evening socials***

Excellent: 47.5%

Good: 45.4%

Fair: 7.1%

Comments:

A great time to simply relax and enjoy each other for an extended meal.

Beverages and snacks provided were fine. Good space for conversation.

I thought the snack provided a healthy option.

No complaints

Wonderful opportunity to catch up on old friendships and to make new ones with the younger friars. Snacks and drinks were sufficient.

A very *festive* way to conclude our chapter.

Glad to see non-alcoholic beverages other than water or "kool aide"

I am used to having snacking fare, pretty few and far between for snacks

It was very good.

Gave us time to gather and meet people we could not see during the day of past days .....

good schedule

not many munchies

It was a good time to get to reconnect with friars I haven't seen since last chapter.

Not enough of variety

#### ***4. Provincial minister's report***

Excellent: 50%

Good: 46.6%

Fair: 3.4%

Michael's full report was available before chapter, so there was no need for an extended report during chapter. Good call.

Well done and comprehensive.

He challenged us on some things, which was good.

I expected some clarification on Bob Smith's dismissal from the Order. Although I realize that everything cannot be told, some clarification should have been offered by the Province to put an end to all the rumors floating around. I want to trust the decisions of our elected superiors, but when members of the Province are left completely in the dark you begin to wonder and doubt.

Mike gave a comprehensive review of where he thought the province was at.

I appreciated the challenges that Michael presented to us, especially regarding our fraternal life and our vow of obedience.

I guess I was looking for some good news, and some direction for dealing with all our issues.

My thought after the fact was that I could see us having the same speech in 3 years with no promise of stuff being dealt with.

Probably would have appreciated hearing about items that were successfully dealt with.

one of the better prov minister reports we've had ..... even better than the written copy ..... great detail was appreciated ....

would have appreciated more analysis

I thought it was a thorough report and nicely written.

very informative

Repeat of what I read ahead of time.

Honest

good

### ***5. Regional reports***

Excellent: 8.9%

Good: 68.6%

Fair: 22.5%

Poor: 8.9%

Comments:

I'm not sure why we include this in chapter business.

Not particularly necessary, in my opinion.

The Michigan report was pretty bad

It was an opportunity to hear about all the activities and good work and ministry our brother friars are doing in the different areas of the Province. However, we also have five friars in the Diocese of Tucson whom I am sure are doing great pastoral work in support of the Church of Tucson and especially in the Hispanic ministry. Perhaps it would have been good to hear from them also to encourage some of your younger friars to get interested in the Hispanic ministry in which there is a great need but not necessarily in Tucson. It leaves me with the impression that our presence in Tucson is being tolerated for the meantime, but not supported by the Province. At the same time we hear talk about getting established in the Southern part of the country where we are not present. What would make our presence in the South any different from our presence in the Southwest?

It was good to hear what was happening in the different regions of the province. I do think an opportunity was missed by not having a report that included the ministry of the friars in Tucson. It would have been an excellent opportunity for the younger friars to hear about our ministry, especially that with the Hispanic community.

The content seemed pretty variable as were the lengths of the presentations.

Paucity of good news, mostly old information, though it could have been useful if one had been out of circulation..

I didn't really find them helpful.

Not needed as they are already published.

I liked the shortness of the reports, especially since they lacked for significant material.

Unnecessary, we can read them.

very informative

What happened to the one on preaching?

They were good reports, but I'm not sure they are chapter agenda.

Good info, well-prepared, well-timed

Many didn't really have very much of interest to say

OK, though I found not much need for them--nothing cutting-edge about them.

### ***6. Financial report***

Excellent: 25.9%

Good: 63.8%

Fair: 6.9%

Poor: 3.4%

Comments:

Let's home school!

I find these things hard to follow. I would need more time to study the graphs to understand their meaning. My problem.

Diane did a great job, especially for her first time out.

I never heard how we went from a deficit of \$3 Million to a mere \$300,000. Would have suggested we try whatever was done again.

I did not find it very specific

data on screen was too sporadic and difficult to comprehend ..... bottom page from front seats were not visible by positioning of screen and projector ....

would have appreciated more analysis of current year projection

It was difficult to read the power point on the screen. So I couldn't follow Diane too well in her presentation.

need to cut back on spending etc.

It was sometimes hard to understand the significance of what was being reported.

Sometimes seems to say we are OK but Provincial says we're really not.

Was unable to understand much of it.

### ***7. Paul Ashton presentation***

Excellent: 32.1%

Good: 46.4%

Fair: 17.9%

Poor: 3.6%

Comments:

Not as good as his first presentation to us months ago; but still good.

good but repetitive

He is a good man. Keep inviting him back.

I personally didn't make a connection with his topic

I could not figure out what it had to do with our trend to protecting all God's children.

I thought that Dr. Ashton's presentation was OK, but I think that it could have had more focus on the challenges and opportunities that we have to create and sustain fraternities of mutual support and accountability.

If I had anything to say about it, I would look to get him back.

I was one who asked what this all had to do with the topic. But he is an enjoyable speaker was not outstanding for me

not as good as previous presentation

I thought integrating this into the chapter was a nice way to help us get certified by Presidium.

Dr. Ashton also made a pleasant experience out of which could have been something quite boring.

same as last chapter

Waste of time; humorous, but no connection with our policy for protection of minors, etc.  
Feeble attempt to satisfy requirement of insurance company  
Ashton is a great presenter. But again, it seemed it occurred in chapter simply because it was convenient to accomplish Praesidium requirements there. Is it really chapter agenda?  
Good info, thought-provoking, great style  
It was OK, though I did not feel he was as "on" this time as when he had spoken previously in Detroit. I felt that the little group things he had us do were a "bust" in that the discussion questions were not well chosen for the group.

### ***8. Panel on fraternal collaboration:***

Excellent: 49.1%

Good: 50.9%

Comments:

Very affirming. Was good to hear from each of our international friars.

Good to see the brothers who were involved and how they were doing.

need more communication on day to day events

I thought this was a positive experience and helped friars understand the goals of collaboration.

It was a blessing to have done this

I felt better about what we are doing. There remains the ongoing problem of understanding speech, accents, etc. We all need to be patient. I liked these men!

Great to meet our brothers! I would have loved more time set aside for this discussion.

A good opportunity to get to know them better in depth

What a wonderful opportunity to get to know our brothers who recently arrived from India and to experience the international flavor of our Order.

I really appreciated the way that Bill Hugo facilitated the presentation and the chances that he gave the various brothers on stage to share their experiences.

It was good to see of th collaboration brothers up there so everyone knows who they are.

excellent for them and we as a group --- calm many friars because of pre-conceived notions and agreement with what is going on .... due to little explanation on local level(s) ....

very well executed

This gave us an opportunity to know the new friars. The questions they were asked to answer gave them an opportunity to speak to us. This was helpful towards understanding them and for forming fraternity with them.

welcome to our new brothers

Could not understand some of them

Perfect length of time. The panels in the break room were superb!

A good chance to get to know something about the Indian friars.

Having the friars from India there for the entire time was good and gave us a better opportunity to get to know them a little.

### ***9: Wellness report***

Excellent: 21.4%

Good: 73.2%

Fair: 3.6%

Poor: 1.8%

Comments:

So we were told to eat vegetables and fruits. Duh!

Debby is a good person. I'm glad we have her with us. I was glad she was there for the whole week.

Deb professed to be nervous but she didn't show it. She gave an excellent overview of where we stand in this area.

Would be interested in hearing some responses to Jerry Schroeder's list of issues.

Would have like opportunity for Q & A session YES ... YES ... YES

Debbie is always excellent. I am happy she is with us.

Unnecessary

seems we are doing well with our ministry to the fraternity

Great report. Is it chapter agenda though?

Apparently for friars on Medicare and supplemental insurance there is a benefit that includes free membership in Silver Sneakers, a wellness program that includes free membership in YMCA's or other health clubs. This is a tremendous benefit, and I found out about it only by accident. Seems to me that all friars should be made aware of it, and that could have been done at chapter.

### ***10: Discussion on possible new ministry***

Excellent: 16.1%

Good: 48.9%

Fair: 31.4%

Poor: 3.6%

Comments:

Seemed like the facilitator was bent on proceeding "his way" in spite of a number of interventions to proceed differently.

We weren't ready for a yes/no. Ad Hoc group seemed a little rigid on this point

The discussion was good for us. Challenges. I still find this complex. I think we should focus on enhancing what we are already doing. We should listen to Jerry Johnson's comments about stretching ourselves too thin. Many of us are getting older and less able to do things.

I admire all the work that went into this project but I was expecting that a specific new ministry had already been chosen for the younger friars to get engaged in and the Province would be voting on its acceptance or disapproval. Now we are back to square one again so where do we go from here

Really made me rethink if it is a good idea to expand into a new ministry rather than shoring up the ones we already have.

Mike Bertram gave a good history of the process to date, and he and the committee seemed to really hear the chapter and the groups as they expressed their ambivalence yet also their desire to continue to look at this.

Have a lot of good discussion about what the Friars think we are to do with new ministry in

the future.

in general I felt the whole discussion missed the point

I question why the task force went to Minnesota and Michigan and not to Montana, in particular, Billings, to look at a possible new ministry with the estimated 6,000 Native Americans there. We staff a parish there that could easily support a community of 3 or 4 friars. where to now?

small-group handout should have had more room for comments, alternative ministry choices, etc.

We should have made a decision

The committee did a great job of listening through the process. It did its job. Report honest.

Kudos to the committee please.

I believe we should be starting from the perspective of "impact communities" and let the ministries find us.

It seems to me that we left with no apparent resolution of the question.

### ***11. Liturgical commemoration of deceased***

Excellent: 87.7%

Good: 10.5%

Poor: 1.8%

Comments:

Let's do it this way in the future!

I appreciated the shorter format.

this was wonderful. As someone who has helped to plan these ceremonies in the past, I really appreciated the work of the liturgical commission.

Wonderfully done, touching, hard to improve on

Short, concise and a beautiful remembrance of our dear brothers who have gone on before us.

Glad to see that it was a nice tribute to each of our deceased brothers and sister and still kept short enough so as not to become a burden.

It was beautiful and especially well-paced considering the number of people we needed to remember.

It was good and precise, which I think make everyone happy.

Well done .

pleased with the way the service flowed; also well done in shortening it

I feared this was going to be long because of the number of deceased but the narrative for each was short, thanks be to God! Putting this in the context of evening prayer was beautiful.

beautiful ceremony

Not reading the biographies in the ritual was a big improvement.

Well prepared for so many deceased!

Very well done.

Beautiful. We stand of broad shoulders

Much better than in past years--the shorter tributes to the deceased succinctly captured essentials of their lives but the length of the service was much more comfortable.

## ***12. Liturgy and prayer***

Excellent: 78.6%

Good: 19.6%

Poor: 1.8%

Comments:

We keep getting better at this. And I so appreciate the contributions by our lay partners!

I was impressed with the variety of good young singers. Norb Z. is a treasure, not to mention Erico. Good work! (I think we already know Mike Bertram is a treasure. And the other friars involved. Don't want to neglect anyone.)

Just that I think we have enough skilled musicians to play throughout the chapter so we don't have to hire outside pianists/organists/guitarists. ***(Editor's note: our lay partners who helped with music were not hired; they volunteer their services!)***

Wonderful to have our musician lay partners participate in our chapter!

I admire the wonderful musical talent of our younger brothers

As always our celebrations were "top notch" in bringing us pray better. The anointing service for our brother, Mike Crosby was very well prepared and well thought out. Kudos to Ed Foley for all of his work in preparing this service.

I liked the multi-cultural focus for our multi cultural younger friars

Thanks to the Liturgical Commission for another job very well done. Special thanks to Ed Foley and all others who had a part in creating and celebrating the very moving anointing of Mike Crosby during Morning Prayer on Thursday.

Well done! Variety of ministers.

The music and the choice of people leading the prayer was good.

I'm always amazed.

It is obvious that we enjoy praying together

The liturgies and prayer helped to set the tone for the whole chapter and gave reason why we were there. The anointing of Mike Crosby was a great idea, was very moving and I would almost like to say the apex of our prayer time.

we pray well

I feel some cultures and languages were exalted and favored above others. Especially in the installation mass. There many times I heard Spanish or Vietnamese during the week, but a couple of other language were only spoken in optional masses. St. Ephram's feast day was on that Friday of Chapter. It would have been appropriate to have a reading in Chaldean since he's a major influence on the Eastern churches including Chaldean rite.

Many thanks to Liturgy Commission

Always inspiring, especially the anointing of Mike Crosby!

All very meaningful

The anointing ceremony of Mike Crosby was a high point, very moving.

A huge "thank you" to those responsible for planning all those services--it had to have been a tremendous amount of work, and the quality was extraordinary.

## ***13. Chapter proposals sessions***

Excellent: 10.9%

Good: 69.1%

Fair: 20%

Poor: 10.9%

Comments:

They weren't very good proposals

We need to get proposals better to avoid inappropriate proposals

At times I wondered why those proposing the proposals don't say more to explain their thinking. I think we did well with our voting, but I wondered if more could have been said by those in favor.

I'm glad that the proposals regarding personnel and leadership/authority issues were defeated.

Pat McSherry did an excellent job revealing their flaws.

It would seem that some of the proposals would have been better suited to a conversation among the people involved, rather than hanging the dirty laundry out for the whole community

It was short, but we should think what proposal should be presented at the chapter, should we vote on a proposal before it is presented in to the chapter or allow any community to a proposal in chapter, which sometime the friars do not agree with.

The session ran smoothly. I think Pat McSherry saved the chapter from being very divisive with his observations. He was erudite.

went well

We got the job done. Proposals should have been circulated in advance.

I felt like we really didn't do much in this regards, but that was OK.

#### ***14. Presentation by Mark Schenk***

Excellent: 55.6%

Good: 44.4%

Comments:

As always, Mark was able to highlight issues of specific concern to our province and the NAPCC and to place them within the context of our broader fraternal life in the Order.

His sharing on joining provinces as well as the situation in the states was good.

Allow us to know what is going on in the Order worldwide and the of the leadership of the Order for us.

He has really grown into the job.

well done ..... he gave us a wonderful assurance in positive way what the General Administration us doing, statements of problem positive and negative .... Excellent

It gave us an overview of the whole picture

I feel sad this is our last chapter with Mark. He is always most fraternal.

proud of our province

This talk is always informative.

Good overview of the situation in the Order and positive comments about our Province.

"high impact" community story stood out for some reason

### ***15. Evening banquet***

Excellent: 58.2%

Good: 29.1%

Fair: 10.9%

Poor: 1.8%

Comments:

Would like to have seen some type of presentation during the banquet in addition to honoring John Corriveau. Would have been nice to hear from the provincial minister on the issue of fraternity.

Too long a break before the meal.

Good food. Good service. Good time.

Do we need to have a one hour social before the meal? Seems a little long to me.

I thought that there was way too much food. Could we simplify the meal?

If we were going to be served two meats we should have had a choice of one or the other. One course of meat would have been sufficient. I felt guilty I did not even touch the chicken and it was thrown away with so some many people going hungry on our own streets in the USA

A fitting way to celebrate our time together!

Wonderful opportunity for sharing but I found there to be too much quantity of meat being served. Either steak or chicken would have been sufficient. Since we had chicken at noon it could have been eliminated from the banquet meal.

The meal tasted very good, but the portions were too large. I felt bad about having to throw some of it away.

I especially appreciated the tribute to John Corriveau. The food was good but there was too much. It seemed that a lot went to waste.

Appreciated the extra space to dine with appetizers out front of room.

Too many appetizers, much too much food, sent half my meal back.

It was good and enjoyable night.

I can't say I feel it is a necessary part of the chapter  
a fine time

I didn't understand why we had 2 meats on our plates when one is sufficient.  
was alright

Too much food--much wasted

A bit lavish and had to wait too long before the meal

There was a lot of food waste. Buffet style would be best.

beef very tough. Otherwise a fun time.

Dinner not that good

With all the wonderful snacks before perhaps the main dinner could be lighter

### ***16. Discussion with new council***

Excellent: 27.8%

Good: 68.5%

Fair: 3.7%

Comments:

Although, it seems like every time we do this, there's a lot of soap box presentations...which is not the point of the session.

hopeful

I liked the interchange and the invitation to presume good will. David Preuss will be a good challenge for all of us over the coming years. Interesting thinker!

very much liked Jerry Johnson's comments about formation and the discussion about "driving golf carts."

Left early so was not present

These sessions can be helpful in enabling the Provincial Minister and Council to "take the temperature" of the Province as they begin a new triennium.

Nice to hear people speaking clearly, sort of a novel thing.

we needed more time to discuss amongst ourselves ..... took place too soon after election ....

I liked the way this part moved along.

away we go

good