



**ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di  
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO**

## **General Visitation**

**Living Hospitality  
Hopefully and Boldly**

**Province of the Good Shepherd in North America  
May 9<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Meeting with Directors & Board Members  
Of Good Shepherd Manor  
Momence, Illinois, USA  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

## **1. The Canonical Visitation in Sessenum 2012 – 2018**

Once, during the time of a Sessenum there will be a General Visitation. During the first Definitorium Session in Sessenum 2012 to 2018, from January 8th to 10th, 2013, Brother Rudolf Knopp was delegated with the General Visitation of the North American Province.

## **2. The Visitation of the Ministry of the Province in Momence**

The Ministry Center for men who are mentally challenged is Good Shepherd Manor in Momence, Illinois, established by the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd in 1971. In 1990, the membership ratio changed to four lay members to three Brothers. Bylaws were revised in 1996. At that time membership included the Superior General of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd as ex officio and also stated that the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd could not constitute the majority member. In 1990, the Brothers relinquished majority membership of Good Shepherd Manor, but retained three brother membership seats. Since that time, two additional membership seats have been relinquished. Brother Raphael resigned his position in 1995 and another Brother was not appointed. Brother Justin resigned his position following the fusion. Br. Alphonsus is the only one who is currently a member of the Board. Good Shepherd Manor is not a sponsored ministry of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God and does not receive Catholic identity through the Order. There is no longer any legal connection between Good Shepherd Manor and the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God Province of the Good Shepherd in North America.

The Visitor was taken by the Prior, Br. Alphonsus for a tour of Good Shepherd Manor and some of the group homes in the local residential area of Momence.

On Monday May 23, 2016, the Visitor attend a meeting of the Board of Directors and Co-Workers.

The following were present:

Brother Rudolf Knopp	-	Visitor
Brother Justin Howson	-	Provincial
Brother Alphonsus Brown	-	Prior and Member of the Board
Bruce Fitzpatrick	-	President of Good Shepherd Manor
Jim LaMotte	-	Chairman of Good Shepherd Manor Board
Rick Byrne	-	Board Member and brother of a Good Shepherd Manor Resident
Chryl Bramer	-	Business Manager
John Combs	-	Director of Human Resources
Amy Carmack	-	Director of Development and Public Relations
Janis Land	-	Director of Nursing
Kristen Stockle	-	Residential Director

The meeting began with everyone present introducing themselves and giving a brief overview of their responsibilities at Good Shepherd Manor. There was a good discussion after, comparing the European and American developments in serving the mentally challenged.

The Provincial, Brother Justin Howson informed the members of the Board of Directors that in the near future, the Brothers of the Local Community would be leaving the residence on the grounds of Good Shepherd Manor and move into a regular house in the center of the town of Momence. The members were taken by surprise at this announcement and spoke of the appreciation of having the presence of the Brothers at the Manor.

Since Good Shepherd Manor is not a sponsored ministry of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, the Visitor made it clear to all those present that the identity/symbols of the pomegranate, Hospitaller Order and St. John of God Brothers are the rights of the Order. They are not to be used by Good Shepherd Manor in any way, for identity or fund raising purposes. All present declared their full understanding of this but only requested that they would be allowed to keep the formal name of Good Shepherd Manor.

Referring to earlier discussions, the Provincial reminded the members of the following points:

- a separate tax identification number is required for the Province
- a separate tax exemption ruling either by the IRS or by inclusion in the Official Catholic Directory is required for the Province
- the Canonical entity, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God Province of the Good Shepherd in North America, has a legal corporation of the same name which operates separately from all ministry centers

The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for Good Shepherd Manor, Inc. must be amended to delete all references to the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd and/or Hospitaller Order of St. John of God Province of the Good Shepherd in North America since the Order has separated from the ministry at Good Shepherd Manor.

**Momence, May 23, 2106**

**Brother Rudolf Knopp, OH  
General Councilor**

**Distribution:**

1. General Curia
2. Br. Justin Howson, OH – Provincial
3. Br. Alphonsus Brown, OH – Prior, Good Shepherd Manor
4. Bruce Fitzpatrick - President of Good Shepherd Manor