



I drove from Emmitsburg, Maryland to Waterloo, Ontario on Monday, June 3. There were a number of community events in which to participate. Our community retreat ran from June 3-June 7 at Resurrection College in Waterloo. We celebrated our Jubilarians at St. Francis Church in Kitchener on Friday, June 7. Then our Provincial Chapter was held at Resurrection College from June 10-14. Finally, we celebrated Raphael Ma's ordination to priesthood on Saturday, June 14 at St. Mary's Church in Kitchener.

Almost everyone in the Ontario-Kentucky Province was able to make the community retreat. One of our directional statements from the last Provincial Chapter was to educate ourselves about three documents of Pope Francis—*Evangelii Gaudium*, *Laudato Si'*, and *Amoris Laetitia*—with the intention of



implementing them in our ministry. Previous retreats focused on the first two documents. Fr. David Perrin, a priest of the Diocese of Hamilton, Ontario gave input during the retreat and presided and preached at the Eucharists during the week.



The Ontario-Kentucky Provincial Chapter brought us together to assess how well we responded to our ten directional statements from the Provincial Chapter of 2016 and to plan for the next three years. The Chapter meetings were part of the week that included morning and evening prayer and Eucharist each day, as well as good meals in the Manor dining room and a social each evening. We had a very good Chapter Planning Committee, chaired by Fr. Sam Restivo, C.R. Other



members of the committee were Fr. Toby Collins, C.R., Fr. Paul Szymanowski, C.R., Fr. Dan Lobsinger, C.R., and our facilitator, Sr. Joan Atkinson, S.S.J.



I was blessed to be able to preside and preach at the Eucharist on Thursday, with Deacon Raphael Ma, C.R. as the Deacon of the Mass. Raphael and I lived in Emmitsburg together while he attended Mount St. Mary' Seminary. This was the



first opportunity for me to minister with Raphael in his diaconal role. It would prove to be a once in a life time opportunity for me since he was ordained to the priesthood two days later! As you can see from the photo below, it was good to be together with community members.



*Fr. Dan Lobsinger, Fr. James Donohue, Br. David Ernst, Fr. Raphael Ma, and Fr. Tim Uniac*

As the Chapter progressed, we crafted several key areas to direct our energy as a Province over the next three years. Below is our statement and a “word cloud” that captures the dominant ideas and thoughts.

*Acknowledging our diminishment in the face of the pascal mystery, yet alive with the Holy Spirit breathed upon us by the Risen Christ, we the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection, rooted in our charism and mission, will put energy into . . .*







*Delegates of the Ontario-Kentucky Province at their Provincial Chapter 2019.*

An unexpected moment for me was a “missioning” of me by the community as I begin my ministry in Tanzania. After the concluding Eucharist, Fr. Murray McDermott, our Provincial Superior, asked everyone to raise their hands in blessing for me.







*A blessing for mission by the Ontario-Kentucky Province.*

Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> marked a great day of celebration for our Province and for the Church: Deacon Raphael Ma, C.R. was to be ordained to the priesthood by



Bishop Wesley Spiewak, the Bishop of Hamilton in Bermuda, who is a member of the Polish Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection. The ordination was at St. Mary, Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, Church in Kitchener...the same place I was ordained 36 years ago. The church was packed!



A special moment was when I helped Raphael to vest as a priest. I was getting a bit emotional, but Raphael re-centered me, as he reminded me to make sure that the tag of the chasuble was tucked in at the back! 😊







*Newly ordained Fr. Raphael Ma, C.R. with Bishop Wesley Spiewak, C.R.*

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