

Long-serving D.C. Priest elected provincial

Calling on all of his brothers and gathered friends of his community to insert themselves in the common mission of the Gospel, Father James J. Greenfield was installed as provincial of his religious order, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, during solemn evening prayer in

the parish church of his new Wilmington, Del., residence. This formal installation followed a January election by delegates whose decision was later ratified by the Congregation's leaders in Rome.

Father Jim, as he is widely known, has been a regular weekend presider and

preacher at both Holy Trinity in Georgetown and the Cathedral of St. Matthew for more than 10 years. "I am really grateful for the opportunity to come to know so many people in D.C.," he said. "It is a great place to be Catholic. There are so many different people from so many different places. I like how it has expanded my world."

Father Greenfield's ministry in the archdiocese began when he was a seminary student, working at St. Thomas the Apostle as Eucharistic minister and then as an assistant at George Washington University's Newman Center, where he would later return as chaplain and director as a priest in 1994.

He completed his master of divinity degree at DeSales School of Theology and his doctorate in human development at GW

"I am especially grateful for my ministry at GW's Newman Center," Father Greenfield said. "There, I was able to connect with students, faculty, and staff from the University. The urban, Foggy Bottom setting brought in many different government employees and business people; it really was a parish. Together, we were able to accomplish a good number of things during those six years," he said.

Father Greenfield has served as chaplain to the Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School since

1997 and now serves on its board of trustees. "Father Jim has been a blessing to us here. His contributions to our community have been great," Dan Kerns, head of school, said. "From his preaching at Masses and reconciliation services to his advising our school on how to bring Salesian spirituality to our larger community, Jim is a gift," he said.

"Preaching is my favorite part of being a priest, and I am glad that people have welcomed me into their parishes," Father Greenfield said. "It is always a challenge to preach well, but it is the one I enjoy the most," he said.

Prior to his election, Father Greenfield served as



Father James J. Greenfield

director of formation for the Oblate seminarians at their home near Catholic University, where he also teaches. For a number of years, he has taught in the seminary programs at CUA and the Washington Theological Union.

The Eastern Province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales is a religious community of priests and brothers who serve in parishes, schools, universities, retreat centers, and hospitals.