

By Tanya Connor

WORCESTER – He's 100 years old, and right with the times. And the Lord. And his people. You get that sense talking with Father Oliver Blanchette, an Augustinian of the Assumption, and those who know him. An estimated 200 people celebrated his actual birthday with him March 12, 2016, at a Mass and brunch at Assumption College.

He lives near the college with other retired and elder Assumptionists, though he's not the retiring type. His reach has extended beyond his congregation to the diocese, civic life, and across the world.

"I can hardly say, as did Jeremiah, that I am too young to speak," Father Blanchette quipped, in prepared remarks for his birthday Mass. "Yet, I may hasten, before it's too late, to thank God for creating and loving me as my Father all these years, and giving me his Son Jesus as my Savior and friend." Father Blanchette also expressed thanks for his life as an Assumptionist, and for family and friends.

Gratitude is a trademark of his, according to Lena Langlois, of St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge, which Assumptionists staff.





