The article was first reported by The Catholic Free Press.

'You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.' – John 8:32

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FATHER OLIVER: Missionary to Africa in his 80s

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on how to run the college. Father Blanchette told him, in effect, "You have the ear of the president. Tell him he's doing a great job and here's some more advice..."

"I went to Africa when I was 83," Father Blanchette told The Catholic Free Press for a story marking his 100th birthday in 2016. "I came back when I was 90.

Father Blanchette said he'd always had a little desire to go to the missions and was sent to be present to the younger people.



CFP FILE PHOTO

At his 100th birthday celebration at Assumption College in 2016, Assumptionist Father Oliver Blanchette greets Joshua Richards, as his mother, Denise Richards, watches.

From 1971 to 1977 he was a spiritual director at the John XXIII Center in Cassadaga, New York.

He served in the Assumptionist community at 246 Salisbury St. in Worcester from 1977 to 1980 and was superior for one year. Then he became assistant pastor at St. Anne and St. Patrick Parish in Sturbridge, serving there until 1999, when he went to Africa.

In his retirement he worked with the Lay-Religious Alliance of the Assumptionists through the internet for another 12 years.