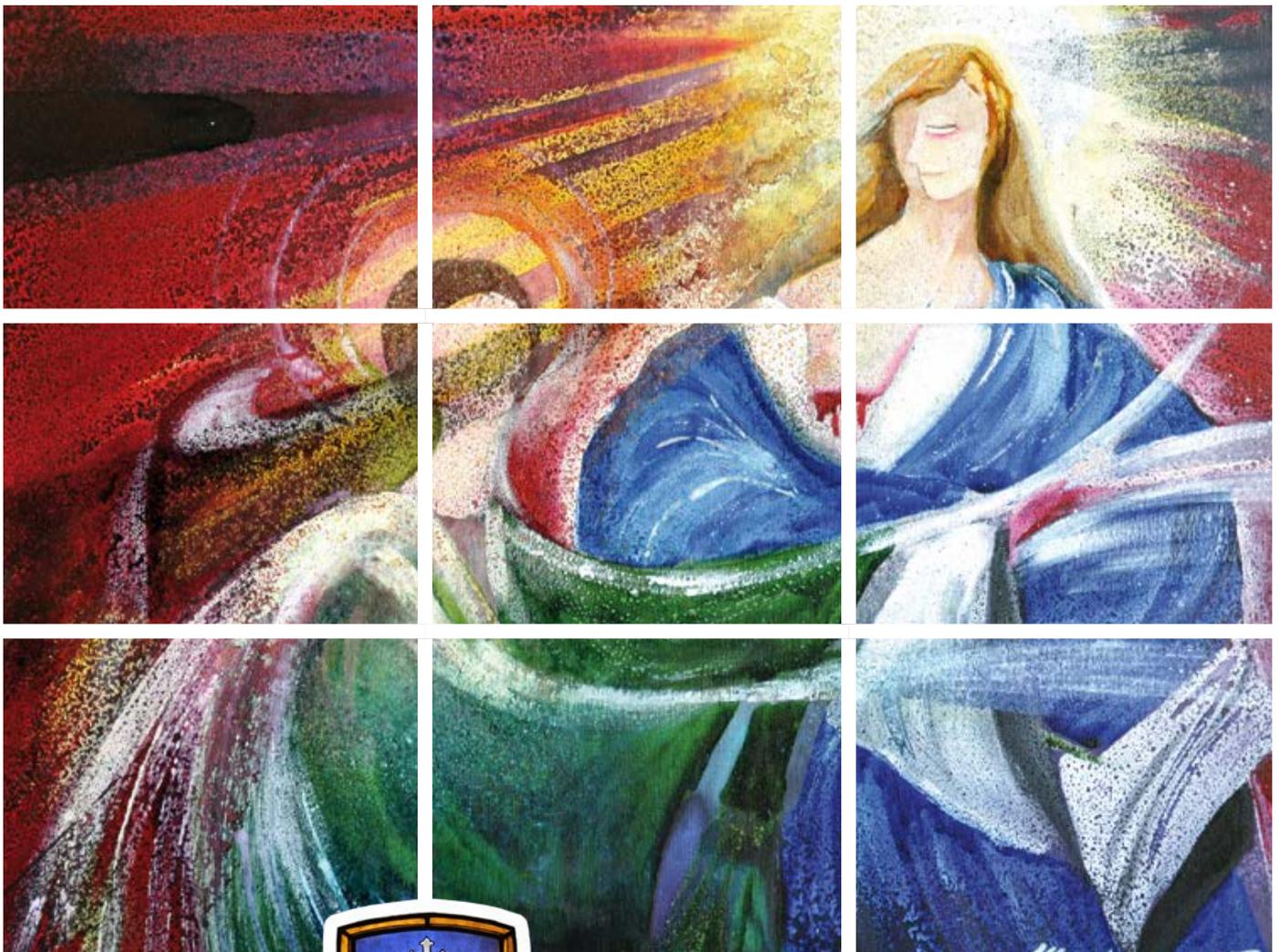


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Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium



January • February • March
ENGLISH EDITION

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FRATERNUS NUNTIVS: Notitium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium [1/2017]

- A work of the General Secretariat, 00187 Roma, Piazza Ss. Apostoli, 51; tel. (+39) 06.69957319; fax (+39) 06.69957321
- www.ofmconv.net ■ web@ofmconv.net ■ Executive Editor and DTP – Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL OFMConv
- Executive Editor of English text and English translations – Friar Mark FOLGER, OFM Conv. [mf]
- The current edition was closed on March 31, 2017
- Cover art: Maddalena Franguelli– "Jesus Confirms the Faith of Thomas".

MINISTER GENERAL

■ MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Marco TASCA



Calendar of the Minister General

JANUARY

- 16-21: Rome, General Curia: meeting of the General Definitory with the new Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries
- 22-28: Personal spiritual retreats

FEBRUARY

- 10-18: Rome: Session of the General Definitory
- 19-24: Assisi: Ordinary Custodial Chapter

MARCH

- 5-11: Camposampiero (Province of Padua): Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua
- 20-25: Pergusa (Sicily): Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Sicily
- 28-30: Pescara: Provincial Assembly of the Province of Abruzzo-Molise

St. Maximilian Kolbe: His Prophetic Vision Continues

■ Friar Marco TASCA, Minister General

Letter of the Minister General Friar Marco TASCA to all the friars of the Order

2016 and 2017 are particularly significant years regarding the legacy left to us by St. Maximilian Kolbe. These years, respectively, mark the 75th anniversary of his martyrdom, and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.). I think it is important to take a moment to reflect on the Martyr of Charity of Auschwitz, in order to find inspiration and motivation to enrich the life of our Order. His word and his example should be valued and put into practice because even today they can provide the Friars Minor Conventual with fresh ideas for their interior and apostolic growth.

The martyrdom of charity experienced in daily life – holiness of life and mission

The Saint makes us realize that it is possible to achieve a high degree of charity on one's daily spiritual path by carrying out continuous and effective acts of love—perhaps unseen by most people, but certainly valid. Throughout his life, Kolbe experimented, in different ways, with the dimensions of the gift of oneself. Before his death in Auschwitz, he had undertaken a journey marked by a remarkable and clear call to offer up his own life, an offering that manifested itself in the acceptance of painful episodes, harbingers of an even greater charity, one that was exemplary and resistant to hardship and persecution. He is known in particular for the martyrdom he suffered at the extermination camp in Auschwitz. However, this event was only the culmination of his journey of love and sorrow which he offered for Christ, the Church, the friars and the Kingdom.

These expressions of his are significant: "Let us remember that love lives and is nourished by sacrifices. Let us thank the Immaculata for inner peace, for the ecstasy of love, but let us not forget that all of that, though good and beautiful, is not the essence of love and love, indeed, perfect love, may even exist without all that. The summit of love is the state in which Jesus came to find himself on the cross... There is no love without sacrifice" (SK 503).

Being a great son of Francis, the Polish Saint loved to meditate on the mystery of Christ. The Lord's love had a particular attraction for him, because it really put him in the spirit of someone who wants to learn how to love following the footsteps of the Redeemer. Contemplating Christ, you can make life a miracle of love, in every situation and in every event of our existential journey. St. Maximilian teaches us not to be afraid to love and to give of ourselves generously because only in this way can the charity of the Lord be seen in everything we do. This was the case, for example, with the martyrdom of Blessed Miguel Tomaszek (1960-1991) and Blessed Zbigniew Strzałkowski (1958-1991). They were killed in Peru by Shining Path revolutionaries and were proclaimed blessed on December 5, 2015. The witness of these Franciscan friars found a relative bench mark in the example that Kolbe set.

Miracles of love are possible, according to the experience of St. Maximilian, when we rely on the intercession and mediation of the Immaculate. In an article from 1924 he states: "Rekindle love and trust in Mary Immaculate everywhere and you shall soon see tears flowing from the eyes of the most hardened sinners. You shall see prisons emptied, the ranks of honest workers increased; while home hearths will be redolent of virtue; peace and happiness will destroy discord and pain, for it will be already a new era" (SK 1088).

Pope Francis, in his Angelus of August 14, 2016, offered this significant prayer in reference to the charity of Maximilian: "Let us ask the Virgin Mary to pray with us and for us to the Heavenly Father, that he dispense upon all believers the Holy Spirit, the divine flame which warms hearts and helps us to be in solidarity with the joys and the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. May we be sustained on our journey by the example of St Maximilian Kolbe, martyr of charity, whose feast day is today: may he teach us to live the fire of love for God and for our neighbor."

The foundation, nature and mission of the M.I.

It was really the desire to love in the style of Christ, and to experience the richness of entrusting oneself to Mary, that gave rise to the M.I. in 1917. This Marian movement was the solution Kolbe and his companions found to address the delicate social, political, economic and religious situation of their day. The Marian association that Kolbe and his six companions founded was the prophetic vision that was put forward as an element to resolve and propel through the great darkness humanity was enduring in that period.

Maximilian was not afraid of novelty, in fact it launched him into new forms of apostolate, supported and driven by the strength that emanates from God. He imagined the M.I. as a mission that could reach the hearts of all men, surpassing previous models of associations. He desired that the M.I. "be less 'transcendentalis' than 'universalis', that is to say, it should not present itself as one more organization among the many that already exist, but rather deeply permeate all organizations" (SK 658). According to Kolbe, a movement that was born by listening to the voice of the Spirit and which lives by entrusting oneself the Immaculate cannot be constrained and is called to be "woven into" every part of the ecclesial and social fabric. Indeed, "the purpose of the Militia of the Immaculata is to conquer the whole world, all hearts and each person individually, for the Queen, not only of Heaven, but also of the Earth. To give true happiness to those poor unfortunates who seek it in the ephemeral pleasures of this world, this is our aim" (SK 97).

Today the M.I. is called to important enterprises in evangelism in keeping with its history, its journey and especially with its distinctly missionary vocation. I have been following the path of the Kolbean association with great care and attention and—with satisfaction, too. I note some initiatives that are proving to be particularly innovative and fruitful from the apostolic point of view. These are evangelization schools in Poland which are particularly popular with young people who, through a progressive catechetical path, are able to come face to face with the Kolbean charism. In addition, I should mention the increasingly enthusiastic participation of young M.I. members in World Youth Day. It's a very significant change: In many countries the Kolbean

Association is being rediscovered as something well-suited for young people—to the point that a World Day for young M.I. members has been called for 2018.

Love was the driving force that animated the Saint's whole missionary journey. Evangelization, mission, martyrdom—everything came from a heart that loved in the light of the contemplation the Lord, a Lord who gives generously, without limits or boundaries. Kolbe said: "Your personal sanctification is your first occupation. Commitment toward the sanctification of others must be the overabundance of your love toward Jesus" (SK 987F). The Saint, with his spiritual experience, shows that you can achieve great apostolic goals if you express charity in your daily life through concrete and tangible acts.

The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the M.I.

The message and testimony of Kolbe are still very current and in this "favorable time" our Order and the M.I. are called to discover the topicality of his prophecy in the mission. The mission is not exempt from persecution as it witnesses the Gospel in contexts that are secularized and hostile to the Christian message and its apostolic journey. In this spirit, the M.I., with the Government of the Order present, began preparing for the 100th anniversary with a Marian Congress to be held in Fatima on October, 28-30, 2017. Its evocative and meaningful theme is: With Mary from the Mission to Martyrdom: The Secret of St. Maximilian Kolbe. On October 16-18, 2017, in Rome, the centennial will be solemnly celebrated with timely moments for prayer, discussion and festivities. The year 2017 shall be a Kolbean Year for the entire Order, with opportunities to reflect on the legacy of Kolbe in the Church, in the Order and in the context of the New Evangelization, as suggested by a motion made at the last General Chapter. In fact, on October 19-20, 2017, there will be a convention in Rome with friars from all over the world participating. We will try to learn how to implement the Saints missionary and martyrial witness in our own life and times, certain that his prophetic vision is not worn out and still has much to say and to give.

May we experience this Kolbean Jubilee Year with great interior joy and with a greater emphasis on listening. We have a wonderful spiritual patrimony. It can be the basis for new itineraries suggested by the Holy Spirit to benefit the Church and humanity and that the Order and the M.I., in profound communion, may want to develop. Like Kolbe, in addition to Kolbe, under the creative influence of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to discover new avenues of mission that can speak to the hearts of the men and women of our time.

Rome, 2017 January, 1, Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God

Constitutions: Draft of Chapter VI

■ Friar Marco TASCA, Minister General

The consultation of all the friars and friaries on the work of revising the Constitutions as desired by the General Chapter now turns to the draft of Chapter VI on the government of the Order (divided into three Friary Chapter Guides: cf. attachments), which were prepared by CERC, reviewed by CIRC and approved with some modifications by the General Definitory.

Dear Friars, Peace and All Good Things!

Once again I ask each friar to study the draft texts and each local fraternity to dedicate sufficient time during Friary Chapter (preferably a half-day) to community analysis of the text and to prepare any eventual written suggestions. Some local fraternities have come together to share analysis and reflection on the texts; this type of process is also to be encouraged.

MINISTER GENERAL

The revision process for the Constitutions, as the General Chapter of 2013 indicated, is an opportunity for continuing formation and reflection on our identity and mission in the Church and in the world, in light of the challenges that the vowed life faces today.

It's almost finished; let's go out with a bang!

I would like to thank all the reference friars, guardians, and ministers/custodes who have led this process up to now, with the hope that their work continues and that the response rate is very high.

I remind you that the suggestions by local fraternities on Chapter VI are due to the reference friar of your Province, Custody, or Delegation (cf. attachment X), by July 31, 2017. In turn the reference friar will synthesize all the jurisdictional responses for the CIRC member of your respective Conference/Federation (cf. attachment X) by September 1, 2017. The CIRC member will then synthesize all the Conference/Federation responses by October 1, 2017, for the next phase of work by CERC and the General Definitory.

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et Misera* which concluded the Jubilee Year, reminds us that, "We are called to promote a culture of mercy based on the rediscovery of encounter with others... The culture of mercy is shaped in assiduous prayer, in docility to the working of the Holy Spirit, in knowing the lives of the saints and in being close to the poor. It urges us not to overlook situations that call for our involvement" (no. 20).

May this process help us to notice the situations that call for our involvement in the future. May the Lord bless us and journey with us.

Rome, January 27, 2017

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI
Secretary General



Session January 13, 2017

At its session held at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome, the General Definitory:

- evaluated and fine-tuned the program for the 2017 Kolbe Congress;
- defined the agenda for the January 2017 meeting with the new Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries;
- suppressed the friary in San Lorenzo, Vicenza, Italy, of the Province of St. Anthony of Padua, Italy;
- declared the statutes of the FEMO Federation (formerly CEO) to be in accordance with the law of the Order;
- authorized an expenditure of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God, Poland;
- approved continuing the collaboration process and feasibility study of the plan to create a new Franciscan University;
- examined some personal cases.

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Session February 10-18, 2017

At its session held at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome, the General Definitory:

- approved the minutes of its meetings of December 9-20, 2016 and January 13, 2017;
- decided to begin listening to the friars of the General Communities with regard to the appointment of their guardians;
- approve the General Financial Administration's final balance sheet for 2016 and its budget plan for 2017;
- examined some final balance sheets and budget plans of the financial administrations of the five General Houses in Rome;
- examined and approved the final balance sheet for 2016 and the budget plan for 2017 of the "Seraphicum Holiday House";
- met with Friar Lauro APOLINÁRIO, General Archivist of the Order;
- met with Friar Germano TOGNETTI, General Delegate for the Second Order and Affiliated Institutions;
- met with the Minister General's Delegate for the Militia of the Immaculate and its International President, Friar Raffaele DI MURO;
- met with the Delegate General for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue (CEFID), Friar Silvestru BEJAN;
- met with the Secretary General for Mission Animation, (SGAM) Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, and Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY, member of SGAM;
- met with representatives of the John Paul II Foundation Onlus for Dialogue and Cooperation;
- listened to and commented on the reports of the General Visitors at the end of their canonical visitations to the Province of St. Agatha and St. Lucy, Sicily, Italy (Friar Leopoldo FIORI); the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis, Naples, Italy (Friar Luciano FANIN); the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis, Assisi, Italy (Friar Nicola SCARLATINO); the Province of St. Anthony of Padua, Italy (Friar Joaquín AGESTA); and examined some notes left by the dearly departed Friar Giovanni MEDDA about the canonical visitation that he conducted to the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo, Puglia, Italy;
- listened to and commented on the reports of the General Visitors at the end of their general canonical visitations to the Italian Provinces which were united on April 24, 2017 to become the Province of St. Francis of Assisi: the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis, Umbria (Friar Aurelio ERCOLI); the Province of Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Bonaventure, Rome (Friar Massimiliano MARSICO); the Province of the Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Sardinia (Friar Ion CIURARU); the Province of the Holy Stigmata of Our Holy Father St. Francis, Tuscany (Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA); and the Province of the Holy House of Our Lady of Loreto, the Marches (Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI);
- listened to and commented on the reports of the General Visitors at the end of their general canonical visitations to the Province of Slovenia (Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ), to the Provincial Delegation of Cuba (Friar Carlos TROVARELLI);
- appointed Friar Mauro GAMBETTI to his second term as General Custos of the General Custody of Assisi;
- suppressed the friary of Nostra Signora di Montserrat, Madrid, Spain, to take effect on February 21, 2017;
- authorized the transfer of a property belonging to the Sacro Convento in Assisi;
- granted to all solemnly professed friars of Brazil's Province of St. Francis the ability to participate in their 2017 Ordinary Provincial Chapter;
- declared the Provincial Statutes of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico, to be in accordance with the law of the Order;
- declared a change made to the Provincial Statutes of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe, Korea, to be in accordance with the law of the Order;
- suppressed the friary of St. Jerome, Gary, Indiana, USA, Province of Croatia, to take effect on February 21, 2017;
- accepted the appeal from various friars of the Province of Croatia to reopen the debate on two Chapter motions;

- granted to all solemnly professed friars of the Province of St. Jerome, Croatia, the ability to participate in their 2017 Ordinary Provincial Chapter;
- granted an exception regarding the number of members of the Custodial Definitory of the General Custody of Assisi;
- gave consent to the transfer of an inheritance to the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo, Puglia, Italy;
- granted nulla osta to the Province of Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Bonaventure, Rome, for the donation of some properties to the Diocese of Civitavecchia;
- declared the FALC Federation Statutes to be in accordance with the law of the Order;
- approved the distribution of aid from the Fund for the Needs the Order for the year 2017;
- met with the Ministers Provincial of the Italian Provinces which were unified on April 24, 2017, becoming the Province of St. Francis of Assisi: Friar Franco BUONAMANO (Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis, Umbria), Friar Vittorio TRANI (Province of Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Bonaventure, Rome), Friar Salvatore SANNA (Province of the Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Sardinia), Friar Roberto BERNINI, (Province of the Holy Stigmata of Our Holy Father St. Francis, Tuscany), and Friar Giancarlo CORSINI (Province of the Holy House of Our Lady of Loreto, the Marches);
- accepted the request of Friar Timothy KULBICKI, the guardian of the general friary of St. Anthony at the Baths of Caracalla ("Vigna"), to anticipate the end of his four-year term by a few months due to a surgical procedure he must undergo;
- appointed Friar Franklin Antonio DURAN ZAMBRANO, of the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto, Venezuela, as guardian of the general friary of St. Anthony at the Baths of Caracalla ("Vigna").
- listened to reports about the visits the Assistants General made to various Jurisdictions:
 - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of
 - his visit to Denmark regarding the return of the friars to that country (Copenhagen, Denmark, February 2, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of
 - his fraternal visit to the mission in Kazakistan (Astana, Kazakistan, January 23-27, 2017);
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Lithuania (January 27 to February 4, 2017)
 - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI,
 - on the occasion of the meeting of the Minister Provincial and his Definitory of the Rio Plato Province (Argentina and Uruguay) with the Minister Provincial of the Province of Cracow and the Provincial Delegate of the Provincial Delegation in Paraguay (Cordoba, Argentina, January 31, 2017).
 - on the occasion of the FALC Federation Assembly (Brasilia, Brazil, January 22-26 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedict BAEK, on the occasion of
 - the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of India (Assisi Shanti Kendra, Kerala, India, January 9-12, 2017);
- planned the agenda for the meeting with the Presidents of the Federations of the Order (Assisi June 19-24, 2017);
- was updated on the Emmaus Project (a project for an inter-Franciscan presence in the Holy Land);
- was informed about the planning for the 2018 International "Youth Toward Assisi" Meeting;
- was updated on the agenda for the inter-Franciscan meeting in Rome on November 29, 2017;
- considered the request of a congregation of Franciscan sisters;
- approved the initial modus operandi for the General Office of Communications
- examined some personal cases.

Rome: Relics of the Martyrs of Peru

■ Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK, OFM Conv., Spokesman for the Franciscan Province of Cracow

On Thursday, January 19, 2017, a prayer service was held for the installation of the relics of the Polish missionary martyrs of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual: Blessed Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and Blessed Michał TOMASZEK.

The event took place at the Shrine of the Martyrs of the 20th and 21st Centuries, in the Basilica of San Bartolomeo on Tiber Island, Rome.

The Chapel of the New Martyrs of South America now enshrines a vial of blood-soaked soil from the site of the martyrdom, a traveling chalice that the Franciscan missionaries used to celebrate Mass in 72 villages of Peru's Andes Mountains, and a sandal belonging to Blessed Michał.

The prayer and installation took place with the participation of Poland's ambassador to the Holy See, the government of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, several Major Superiors from Franciscan Provinces all around the world and numerous faithful. Father Marco Gnavi, a representative of the Sant'Egidio Community, delivered a speech for the occasion.

Those participating were given two holy cards commemorating the blessed martyrs. One contained a second degree relic (particles of the martyrs' clothes) while the other featured Pope Francis' prayer for peace and defense against violence and terrorism through the blessed martyr's intercession. Those who wanted to could also buy rosaries containing relics and information materials on the life, activities and martyrdom of the two blessed friars (books, films, brochures).

The Basilica of San Bartolomeo was built at the turn of the 10th century. The relics of Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr, (+997) were installed there by Emperor Otto III. He had been given the relics by the King of Poland, Bolesław Chrobry. Since the start of the 21st century the relics of modern era martyrs have been installed in six of the basilica's side chapels. One can find, among others, first and second degree relics of Saint Maximilian KOLBE, Blessed Jerzy POPIELUSZKO Blessed Karolina KÓZKA, Blessed Michał KOZAL, Blessed Wincenty MATUSZEWSKI, Blessed Józef KURZAWA and Blessed Stanisław STAROWIEYSKI.



The relics of the martyrs

Vatican: The Penitentiaries with the Papal Guard

■ Friar Lucjan Maria BOGUCCI, OFM Conv.

On Sunday evening, January 22, 2017, the community of the Vatican Penitentiaries met with members of the Swiss Guard.

The commander of the guard, Colonel Christoph GRAF, invited the Franciscans to thank them for their valuable service hearing confessions in St. Peter's Basilica during the extraordinary Holy Year. The meeting was also an occasion to celebrate the 511th anniversary of the founding of the papal army.

The celebrations began with Mass in the church of Santa Maria della Pietà in Campo Santo, located in the Vatican's German cemetery. The liturgy was presided over by the Rector of the College of Penitentiaries, Friar Rocco RIZZO and was concelebrated by the "Vatican Franciscans", the chaplain of the Swiss Guard, and other priests. After the Mass, the Swiss national anthem "Swiss Psalm," was played while the clergy and the command of the Swiss Guard went to the side chapel in the crypt where soldiers of the Swiss Guard are buried. The soldiers were killed in battle on May 6, 1527, defending Pope Clement VII.

The first part of the celebrations ended with a military march through St. Peter's Square, to the Swiss Guard barracks. In the courtyard, a ceremony took place to honor the flag of the Papal Guard. At that time, the deputy commander, Colonel Philipp MORARD made a brief speech encouraging the guards to cultivate strength of mind and body. After the military parade, invited guests were able to see the old arsenal of the papal troops, guided by Captain Adriano AMBORDA.

The last event of the program was a dinner prepared by the guards. Each of the penitentiaries received a small gift as a souvenir of the meeting.



The friars of the Penitentiary with representatives of the Swiss Guard

Rome: Preparatory Meeting for International Youth Toward Assisi

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

On January 24-27, 2017, the youth and vocation ministry leaders from various Jurisdictions met together at the Seraphicum in Rome.

Those present included: Friar Simone TENUTI, an organizer for the International Meeting and the Director of Youth and Vocation Ministry for the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP); Ms. Benedetta DRAOLI, Meeting Secretary (from Rivotorto in Assisi); Tiziana DISABATO, a Father Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculate and Representative of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.); Friar Giuseppe FRANCO, (North Italy); Friar Michael LASKY (Our Lady of the Angels Province - USA); Friar Josip PETONJIĆ (Croatia); Friar Martin KOCH (Germany); Friar Paolo FAN (Assisi-China) Friar Piotr ODÓJ (Cracow, Poland); Friar Elias MARSWANIAN (Lebanon), Friar

Franciszek CZARNOWSKI, (working as a translator); and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF).

The purpose of the meeting was to start preparing for the “2018 International Youth Toward Assisi Meeting”. As the work of the meeting progressed, the participants evaluated the responses of leaders who attended the last “International Meeting”. Next, they chose the theme on which the 2018 Meeting will focus: “Rediscovering the Beauty of the Gift of Faith (Baptism) to Become True Disciples of Jesus and Then Saints!” They also chose the basic text on which this issue will be developed during the week, namely, Acts 8:26-40 (Philip baptizes an Ethiopian official).

In addition, they decided that to proceed with this work it would be good to form a group of friars living in Rome, who will collaborate with the members of this meeting and continue the work from Rome or Assisi. Some names have already been proposed, and others shall be identified in accordance with the four areas that must be covered for the Meeting: liturgy, finances, theology-Franciscanism and activity-creativity.



The leaders together

Rome: Meeting of the New Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries

■ The General Secretariat

On January 15-20, 2017, the annual meeting of the General Curia with the newly elected Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries was held at the Seraphicum, in Rome.

This year, a total of twenty-nine Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries attended. The number of participants was higher than usual because there was no meeting in 2016 due to a scheduling conflict with the first round of the meeting between the General Definitory and the members of the Federations.

The purpose of the meeting was for the new Major Superiors and Provincial Secretaries to learn more about how the General Curia functions and the various services that are performed there. For this reason the meeting program primarily used PowerPoint presentations to outline the vital connection and collaboration between Assistants General of an Area—Conference/Federation and individual Jurisdictions. Afterwards, various General Offices made presentations. There was an important block of time dedicated to presenting the ongoing work of revising the Constitutions. Next there was instruction on the financial management of Provinces and individual communities.

NEWS

One subject that always arouses great interest, because it directly involves the service of Ministers Provincial and Custodes, was the topic of the procedural guidelines for Provincial and Custodial curial offices in their relations with the General Curia. This is an area which always generates various special cases. This year, the Procurator of the Order set aside time to discuss and compare these cases.

Some high points of the meeting included the bilateral meetings between the Minister General and the Ministers Provincial and Custodes, the time participants spent in discussion and getting to know each other, prayer time and the meeting held with the General Communities: the Seraphicum (which provided very fraternal hospitality during the five-day stay), La Vigna, Twelve Holy Apostles, the College of Penitentiaries and the Community of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Also noteworthy was the opportunity the participants got to visit the archaeological excavations under St Peter's Basilica. That was greatly appreciated by all. There was also a touching prayer vigil, on Thursday, January 19, for the installation of the relics of the martyrs of Peru, Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI. The event took place at the Church of St. Bartholomew on Tiber Island.



The participants

New General Office of Communications

■ The General Secretariat

A new General Office of Communications was officially created during the session of the General Definitory held last December.

That decision led to the appointment of Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL, formerly the head of the Order's website, as the General Delegate for Communications.

With this appointment, a study phase has begun for the enhancement of a service that is already partially being performed at the General Curia.

As of now, the duties of the General Office of Communications shall include: a) publishing and updating the Order's website, including its archives and its current homepage; b) the quarterly publication of *Fraternus Nuntius*; and c) managing, updating and upgrading the personal and statistical database of the friars and friaries of the Order.

A new section will soon be activated on the Order's website that will list scheduled events. Another section is planned which will feature information relating to the Order as a whole and not just the Government of the Order, as has been the case so far.



Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL

2017 Federation Abbreviations

■ The General Secretariat

With the recent approval of the Statutes of the Federation of Friars Minor Conventual in Central and Eastern Europe (FEMO), the revision of the abbreviations of the different areas of the Order has been completed.

The welcome participation of guardians and Provincial Delegates at regular meetings of the Ministers Provincial of the various areas of the Order has led to a revision of their statutes and the establishment of new abbreviations. Only AFCOF and FALC have remained unchanged compared to the recent past. Here are the abbreviations in detail:

AFCOF	African Federation of Conventual Franciscans
CEF	Centralis Europae Foederatio - Central European Federation (formerly CEC)
CFF	Conventual Franciscan Federation (formerly CFC)
FEMO	Federatio Mediae et Europae orientalis- Federation of Central and Eastern Europe (formerly CEO)
FALC	Federación Conventuales America Latina
FAMC	Federation of Asian Minor Conventuals (formerly FAAMC)
FIMP	Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (formerly CIMP).



Vatican: Community Feast of the Penitentiaries

■ Friar Lucjan M. BOGUCKI, OFM Conv.; Photo: Friar João Aroldo CAMPANHA, OFM Conv.

The liturgical feast of the Chair of St. Peter, which falls on February 22, is traditionally celebrated as the patronal feast day of the Franciscan (Friars Minor Conventual) community of confessors in the Vatican.

Those invited to this year's solemn luncheon included the Major Penitentiary, His Eminence Mauro Cardinal PIACENZA; the Regent, Monsignor Krzysztof NYKIEL; and other prelates and employees of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

Also present were representatives of other Colleges of Penitentiaries serving Rome's papal basilicas. Among them was the abbot of the Benedictine community at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Friar Rocco RIZZO, OFM Conv., Rector of the Apostolic College of Minor Penitentiaries at the Vatican, welcomed the guests and made a speech in which he stressed that today's community meeting was helping to build bonds between all those who carry out the ministry of mercy on behalf of the Holy Father.



Participants on the roof terrace of the Penitentiary friary

Seraphicum: Feast Day of the Faculty

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO, Seraphicum Press Office; Photo: Friar Franciszek CZARNOWSKI, OFM Conv.

On Tuesday, March 14, 2017, the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) celebrated the feast day of its patron, Saint Bonaventure.

This event inaugurated the celebrations for the eighth centenary of the birth of the Seraphic Doctor.

The celebration began with Mass presided over by the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph of the Friars Minor Conventual in Romania, Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR.

“This day is truly historic in the life of the Seraphicum,” said the Dean, Friar Anh Nhue NGUYEN DINH, “because for the first time in the history of the faculty, we have a relic of the patron saint in our midst, thanks to the Postulator General of the Order Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU. This most precious item is an ex ossibus relic of the saint. Thus do we increase the solemn character of this celebration during this jubilee year of the 800th anniversary of the birth of the Seraphic Doctor.”

Another significant moment during the festivities was the academic event that followed the Dean’s opening remarks. It featured presentations by Friar Pietro MARANESI, OFM Cap., on “The Verbum Inspiratum in Bonaventure: Between Christology and Pneumatology” and Friar Orlando TODISCO, OFM Conv., on “The Word—Artist of the Father: The relevance of St. Bonaventure’s perspective today.” Accounts of these will soon be published in the scientific journal *Miscellanea Francescana*.

The Dean took the occasion to present a report on the theological research being done in the faculty. He described the studies completed during 2016 and the research projects planned for the future. “All this,” Dean Nguyen added, “is reason for giving thanks to God and our patron saint for the grace of working and researching, and should inspire us even further on the path of doing theology together, that is, to walk side by side with each other and in communion with each other.”

The ceremony was attended by, among others, the Vice Chancellor of the Faculty, Friar Jerzy NOREL; the Rector of the Antonianum, Sister Mary MELONE with the Vice Rector, Friar Agustín HERNÁNDEZ, OFM; Friar Cesare VAIANI, OFM, the Secretary for Formation and Studies; Friar Carlos SALTO SOLÀ, OFM, from the Antonianum and Friar Luca BIANCHI, OFM, from the Antonianum’s Franciscan Institute of Spirituality.

Seraphicum: Friar Francesco Uricchio's 90th Birthday

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO, Seraphicum Press Office; Photo: Friar Franciszek CZARNOWSKI, OFM Conv.

On March 21, 2017, the Seraphicum community celebrated the 90th birthday of Friar Francesco URICCHIO. He had been a professor for many years at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure.

Friar Francesco was born in Salandra, Province of Matera, Italy, on March 21, 1927. He entered the Order of Friars Minor Conventual in the religious Province of Naples, made his temporary profession in 1944, his solemn profession in 1948 and was ordained a priest in 1951.

Two years later he received his doctorate in Theology at the St. Bonaventure Faculty. The topic of his thesis was *The Unity of Grace and the Disunity Sin in St. Paul*, which he then published under the title *Grace and Sin in Saint Paul: Relationships and Social Consequences* (Edizioni Messaggero, Padua, 1955).

He next obtained a Licentiate in Biblical Studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute (Biblicum) in Rome.

From 1961 to 1998 he was a professor at the Pontifical Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) in Rome, teaching Biblical Greek, Exegesis, and Biblical Christology. From 1967 to 1971 he also served as the General Secretary of the Faculty.

Friar Francesco is the latest scholar to whom the Order awarded a teaching Masters of Theology and Philosophy, a degree that was conferred by a solemn ceremony, as noted by Friar Francesco COSTA, a historian of Franciscanism.

"After the Minister General or his delegate had pronounced the formula that then established him being graduated as a Master and Doctor of Theology and Philosophy," explains Friar Francesco. "the young doctor uttered his profession of faith. This was followed by the awarding of the insignia, which consisted of a ring, a book of theology and a biretta. The gold ring on his right ring finger was a sign of his union with wisdom; the book of theology, which at first was closed as a warning to be closed to doctrines contrary to the Catholic faith, was then opened as an invitation to generously communicate the gift of knowledge to others. Finally, there was the biretta with its four segments, arranged in the shape of a cross. It was a sign of honor, prominence, authority and dignity. The celebrant then gave the new Sapiientiae nomine Master a kiss of peace and invited him to take his chair as the Te Deum was sung and closing prayers were said."

The Seraphicum honored Friar Francesco before the academic community, the friars and their relatives.

Friar Orlando TODISCO, the vicar guardian and a professor of Franciscan Philosophy, offered his salutations and spoke about Friar Francesco's long and intensive service to the Faculty by means of his teaching and "refined biblical exegesis".



Friar Francesco URICCHIO
with some friends

CERC: Review of Chapter IV in Friary Chapters

■ Friar Timothy KULBICKI, CERC/CIRC Secretary

A good number of friaries in the world (around 46%) continues to participate in the review of draft Constitutions as a continuing formation process regarding our identity.

Many thanks to the members of the International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions, to the jurisdictional reference friars, and to the Friary Chapter Secretaries.

As you can see, participation rates have remained stable with Chapters II-III.

The majority of the friars continues to appreciate the more Franciscan and spiritual tone of the revised text, as well as the quotations from the writings of St. Francis.

More than 500 suggestions (most of which are either editorial/stylistic or regarding translations) arrived at the Executive Committee, and were examined to arrive at a second official draft.

You can find a more detailed report on the web page dedicated to the Constitutions.

Rome: Prayer Vigil for Europe

■ Friar Agnello STOIA, Pastor of the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles.

On the evening of March 25, 2017, the Piazza dei Santi Apostoli was enveloped in an eerie peace.

From the morning onward, the only sounds that could be heard were people's voices; there were no sounds of car horns or scooters; nothing of the frenetic, everyday beat of the Capital.

We fell inside of a special red zone that had been designated within the city. Earlier in the day, just a few hundred meters away on Capitol Hill, celebrations took place for the 60th anniversary of the Treaty for Europe. Then, behind us, on Quirinal Hill, Sergio Mattarella, the President of Italy, hosted all the European heads of state.

We, too, prepared for this important event with an ecumenical prayer vigil called "Together for Europe". The vigil was organized by a committee of community and Christian movements from various Christian Churches. They included the Spirit of Assisi group, the Focolare Movement and the Community of Sant'Egidio. At least 750 people attended the vigil which was presided over by His Eminence Kurt Cardinal KOCH, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Representatives of



A moment during the liturgy

several Christian denominations were present, including members of the Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican and Waldensian Churches. This may have been the first ever ecumenical prayer service in the basilica. The Most Reverend Nunzio GALANTINO, Secretary of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI), commented on a passage from the Gospel of Matthew, “You are the salt of the Earth...You are the light of the world.” He made a brief and incisive speech against “not thinking for oneself” and the danger of an arrogant and unproductive attitude towards building Europe. He warned about the attitude of those who think they have the truth in their pocket and want to impose it on others at all costs: too much light dazzles and annoys, too much salt makes any food inedible. The construction of a Europe of Nations needs the witness of Christians, of all denominations, as Saint Peter says in his letter: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 3: 15-16).

Friar Gennaro BECCHIMANZI opened the vigil with a musical improvisation on the organ in which he merged Beethoven’s Ode to Joy with Veni Creator Spiritus—a very much appreciated hymn. The “ministers of beauty,” a group of female volunteers who decorate the basilica with flowers, prepared some themed flower arrangements: on the railing before the altar they place bouquets of iris, anemones and yellow freesias to symbolize the flag of Europe; yellow buttercups and red gerberas were placed before the lectern to symbolize the colors of Rome.

The organizers were quite pleased; ourselves most of all. The best compliment I heard was that the people felt at home—that really cheered us.

For us friars and the parish staff, introducing the people to the basilica and the Apostles Philip and James and promoting their cult is all part of our hope that the Basilica will increasingly recover its role as the “Church-bridge” between the East and the West. That is the main goal we are trying to pursue. We know, however, that our work is merely an accompaniment to the bright and effective radiance of the Apostles and their testimony, which draws people to the “gentle light and sweet flavor” of Christ.

Seraphicum: International “Youth Toward Assisi” Meeting

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

On March 31, 2017, a meeting was held at the Seraphicum International College regarding the next International “Youth Toward Assisi” Meeting, which will take place August 12-19, 2018.

Those who took part in the meeting at the Seraphicum included Friar Simone TENUUTI, who is the Meeting’s organizer, and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF). They met with the student friars of the Seraphicum, along with some of their formators, in order to familiarize them with the Meeting experience and get them involved in preparing for the Meeting by joining one of its organizing teams.

Later, Friar Simone also met with Friar Giulio CESAREO who will be responsible for handling the theological-Franciscan content of the Meeting, and Friar Francesco SCIALPI, who is in charge of its liturgical aspects. Friar Jack MARDESIC has been tapped to handle the “creative” part of the meeting. He is an Australian friar, currently with the community in Brussels.

Besides getting involved in the preparations, the friars, who come from various nations, were invited to get in touch with youth and vocation ministry leaders in their own home Jurisdictions of the Order. Friar Simone TENUUTI wrote a letter, which he sent out to all of the Provinces of Italy, urging them to keep the Meeting in mind, especially in view of the next Synod of Bishops (2018) which has been entitled, “Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment”. He also encouraged the friars to devote more attention to the youth apostolate.

■ GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION

Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL
Secretary General of the SGF



Inter-Franciscan Formation Meeting

■ Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL

On Friday afternoon, March 24, 2017, a meeting took place between the OFM Regular, Capuchin and Conventual Secretaries General and Vice-Secretaries General for formation. The meeting was held at our St. Maximilian Kolbe friary in Rome.

The main purpose of the meeting was to jointly establish a formation theme that will be presented at a meeting with the Ministers General on April 10, 2017. The current meeting provided us a good opportunity to exchange views and learn more about initial and ongoing formation in the three OFM families around the world.

While we noticed there were many similarities in the opportunities and difficulties that present themselves in formation, the meeting also opened up more prospects for increased and effective inter-Franciscan collaboration that can be presented to the Ministers General for their consideration. The meeting ended with a fraternal dinner in the community.

Rome: Study Day at the Antonianum

■ Friar Giulio CESAREO, OFM Conv.

On March 30, 2017, the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality hosted a study day at the Antonianum Pontifical University in Rome.

The theme of the study day was: “The Search for Truth in Being Open to Communion: Franciscan Spirituality and Academic Life.” The study day began with opening remarks from the academic authorities: the Rector of the Antonianum, Sister Mary MELONE; the Dean of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum), Friar Dinh Anh Nhue NGUYEN, OFM Conv.; and Friar Luca BIANCHI, OFM Cap., from the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality. The program was presented in two basic stages.

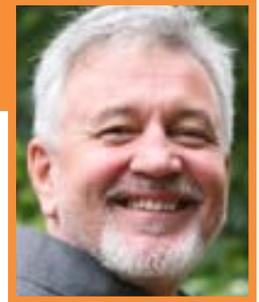
In the morning, some purely academic contributions were offered. There were presentations from Luis CLAVEL (“The Symphonic Nature of Research in the Personarum et Universitas Scientiarum: A Historical and Methodological Look”) and Marco BARTOLI (“A Franciscan University? Reflections on the Meeting between Evangelical Minority and Academic Wisdom”).

In the afternoon, however, there was a panel discussion about some ongoing programs involving the communion of life and academic endeavor. One such case was the Focolare Movement’s “Sophia University Institute” as presented by its director Father Piero CODA. Another was the Aletti Center’s “Cardinal Špidlík Atelier of Theology” as presented by its director Maria CAMPATELLI. There was the “St. Bonaventure Project” as presented by Friar Giulio CESAREO, OFM Conv.; and there was some critical reflection on the topic as proposed by Friar Stéphane OPPES, OFM.

This adds another segment to the path of reflecting upon the proprium of the nascent Franciscan University. It is the latest in a line of several other conferences on this same subject which were held at the Seraphicum and the Laurentianum Capuchin College in recent years.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR MISSION ANIMATION

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI
Secretary General of the SGAM



11th Edition of the “Mission Together” Project

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On Monday, January 16, 2017, the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM) organized a meeting for the “Mission Together” Project.

The Project helps our friars in formation get training in Franciscan intercultural mission. The meeting took place at the Seraphicum, in Rome.

During the meeting, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Mission Animation, presented the goals of the project and shared some practical experiences.

This year’s “Mission Together” Project will be held in Portugal. On November 21, 2016, Friar Fabrizio BORDIN, the Provincial Delegate for Portugal, met with the group to develop the project. Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY participated on behalf of the SGAM.

Friars Jesús Ramirez (Venezuela) formator and guide, Thomas BOURQUEROD (France) and Claudiu ILIEȘ (Romania), will be undertaking their mission experience in Portugal.

In the coming months, the project participants will be meeting again to study the theology of mission and the current status of the country. They will be informed about the presence of the Order in Portugal, and of course, in order to do this, they will need to learn Portuguese. The friars will leave for Portugal in August.



The participants

Calabria: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On February 21-22, 2017, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), carried out mission animation at the 6th ongoing formation meeting of the Provincial Custody of St. Daniel and Companion Martyrs in Italy’s Calabria Region

The animation took place at the Oasi Bartolomea Retreat Center located in Lamezia Terme. An air of silence and recollection prevailed which helped foster attentiveness to the Word of God and one’s neighbor in an atmosphere of profound communion.

Two community meetings were proposed which were attended by twenty friars of the Custody.

GENERAL OFFICES – [SGAM]

The mission animation focused on issues related to missionary spirituality, Pope Francis' exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Minister General Marco TASCA's most recent letter: "Forging Unity in Mission" and the current missionary status in our Order.

There was plenty of discussion on the pastoral experience in Peru as it related to the life, martyrdom and beatification of Friars Miguel TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.

The first day featured Eucharistic Adoration and contemplating the courage needed to be evangelizers (cf. EG 85, 109, 129, 259, and 288). On the second day, the participants gathered around the altar for the celebration of Mass.



The participants

Milan: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Salvatore CANNIZZARO, OFM Conv.

On Saturday and Sunday, February 26-27, 2017, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), met with the missionary youth group "Witnesses of Hope" at the Friars Minor Conventual parish church of the Immaculate Blessed Virgin and St. Anthony in Milan, Italy.

These young people are preparing for an intensive missionary experience in Peru this August.

There are around twenty members in the group, coming from various regions in Italy (most of them will be going to Peru). They will be led by Friars Valerio FOLLI and Salvatore CANNIZZARO from the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua and Sisters Martina and Renata from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth.

Friar Jarosław presided over the final 11:30 a.m. Mass at the parish church and gave witness to the two blessed friar martyrs of Peru with whom he collaborated in the mission to Pariacoto.

Niepokalanów: Franciscans for Peace

■ Editor / Friar Piotr M. LENART, OFM Conv.

On March 4, 2017, the friar community of Niepokalanów (City of the Immaculate) in Poland had a meeting with the Delegates Generals.

The Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Friar Joseph BLAY, the Secretary-General for Mission Animation, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI and a Member the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation, Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY.

GENERAL OFFICES – [SGAM]

Friar Joseph BLAY stressed that caring for justice, peace and integrity of creation is a very important aspect of our Franciscan charism, and that we need to take responsibility for our planet. He noted that Niepokalanów could be a place from which to spread the message that proclaims and calls for the protection of creation. The message is already clearly demonstrated in the symbiosis between the friars and nature, as evidenced by the presence of the animals, the fish tank, the bee hives, orchard and farmland.

Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY encouraged the friars to renew their missionary zeal as modeled by St. Maximilian Kolbe and stressed that Niepokalanów, which he founded, has always set an example regarding mission promotion and development. He asked the friars to pray for missionary vocations, because “today we really need passionate missionaries.”

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI talked about Friar Michel Kossi EGAH, OFM Conv., (1960-2014) of Togo, who tragically died, as an example of love for creation. Moreover, this love was something Friar Michel came to know and experience right in Niepokalanów.



Friar Joseph BLAY
Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI
Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY

Poland / Slovakia: Animation in the Fraternities

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

From February 28 to March 20, 2017, the heads of two General Offices animated fraternities in Poland and Slovakia.

The animators were Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the General Secretary for Missionary Animation (SGAM), Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY, a member of SGAM and Friar Joseph BLAY, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPSC). To carry out this animation effort they formed their own sort of itinerant fraternity. Together they visited the houses of formation in Poland including the major seminary in Łódź-Łagiewniki, the novitiate in Smardzewice, the major seminary of Cracow, the novitiate in Kalwaria Paławska and the postulancy house in Gniezno.) In Slovakia, they visited the seminary in Bratislava.

While meeting with the friars in the formation houses, they wanted to raise awareness about the competencies and initiatives of the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPSC). They also wanted to rekindle passion for missionary work in these friars being formed, using the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. They also wanted to testify about the lives and martyrdom of Blessed Friars Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and finally, to convey the fraternal dimension within the ministry of the Secretaries General.

The three animators also visited some of the more important fraternities in the three Provinces of Poland and the Provincial Custody of Slovakia.

GENERAL OFFICES – [SGAM]

A Niepokalanów, Gdynia and Cracow, they spoke about missions and missionary animation with the Provincial Secretaries for the missions, while in Rychwałd, Chęciny and Gdansk, they got to know and appreciate the great work that the Provinces are doing in the field of GPSC.

The last stop for this “animating fraternity” was Bratislava, where they concelebrated Sunday Mass in the parish.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to all the guardians and Ministers Provincial for their fraternal and warm hospitality.



The participants

Sardinia: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On March 23-24, 2017, the General Secretary for Mission Animation (SGAM), Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, traveled to Sardinia (Italy), to the communities of Pimentel and San Gavino Monreale (in Cagliari), to make a fraternal visit for mission animation and to hold a prayer vigil in commemoration of missionaries who were killed.

Friar Jarosław made the visit at the behest of the Diocesan Missionary Center of Cagliari and Ales-Terralba who were celebrating their twenty-fifth Day of Prayer and Fasting in Memory of Missionary Martyrs worldwide.

The vigil was presided over by the Most Reverend Roberto CARBONI, OFM Conv., Bishop of Ales-Terralba. He has been a bishop for about a year now. Also present were a number of priests and religious. The service was animated by young people. It was a meaningful time for prayer and witness based upon Jesus' words: “Do not be afraid.” The event commemorated those men and women who gave their lives to bear witness to faith in Christ.

A key moment in the proceedings was recalling the life and martyrdom of our martyrs of Peru, Friars Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.



A moment during the prayer vigil

■ GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR JUSTICE, PEACE,
AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF CREATION

Friar Joseph BLAY
General Delegate for GPSC



Catholic Investment

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

On January 27, 2017, a group of Catholic Social Movements organized a day-long workshop at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

The workshop's theme was "Laudato Si' & Catholic Investing: Clean Energy for Our Common Home". The organizing Catholic Social Movements were: CAFOD—the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (U.K.); CIDSE—the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (Belgium); FOCSIV—the Federation of Christian Organizations for International Volunteer Service (Italy); Trócaire (Ireland); UISG—the International Union of Superiors General (women's religious); USG—the Union of Superiors General (men's religious) and the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

Delivering the keynote address, His Eminence, Peter Kodwo Appiah Cardinal TURKSON spoke on the "The Challenge, the Call to Action in the Light of Laudato Si'". There were more than ten renowned speakers who also spoke on the theme and, in particular, shared the experiences of their congregations regarding various kinds of Catholic financial investments.

Those attending included Bishops, Major Superiors, animators and delegates of Justice, Peace and Safeguarding Creation, Economs of religious congregations, members of finance committees, priests/religious, and some lay people.

As usual, all the participants of the various Franciscan branches present seized the occasion to celebrate the event with the typical joy of the Franciscan family.



The participants

gpsc@ofmconv.net

Franciscan Social Justice

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

In February and March of 2017, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation [GPSC] traveled to some Provinces of the Order that carry out pastoral service for people with disabilities or addictions.

Friar Joseph BLAY went to the communities of Monselice, Montericco and Noventa Padovana in Italy and Chęciny and Gdańsk in Poland.

What sets these Franciscan centers apart from others is the cooperative effort between the friars and professionals (doctors, psychologists, etc.) and especially between the friars and the people they welcome.

One of the methods used to reorient those with dependencies is “IppoEducazione” [therapy working with horses].

After the young people complete their treatment period, the friars also help them enter the job market. At the Noventa community the friars provide the disabled a home where they may reside as long as state law allows. In Gdańsk, a former Nazi training center from the Second World War has been entrusted to the friars by the state. The friars want to transform this location from being a symbol of despair and death to a place of hope, brotherhood and unity.



The friars at work



With the friars of the Villaggio di Sant'Antonio

■ GENERAL DELEGATE FOR ECUMENSIM AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE



Friar Silvestru BEJAN
General Delegate for EDI

500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

■ Friar Silvestru BEJAN

In 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation will be celebrated all over the world. Its symbolic beginning took place on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, which countered the scandal of indulgences, to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg.

This is a historic event that goes beyond just looking at the past; it provides an opportunity to focus on the future.

In Assisi this event was commemorated on Saturday, March 18, 2017, with a meeting at the International Franciscan Center for Dialogue (CEFID). The speakers included: Dr. Jens-Martin KRUSE, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rome (“Martin Luther and the Lutheran Reformation in Germany”), Reverend Taneli ALA-OPAS, a Finnish Lutheran pastor (“Lutheran Spiritual Movements in Finland: Historical, Theological and Ecclesiological Insights”) and Friar Silvestru BEJAN, OFM Conv., the Delegate General for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue and the Director of the International Franciscan Center for Dialogue. (“The Christians of the Reformation, the Franciscan Friars and the Town of Assisi”). The meeting was moderated by George CALLAGHAN, a professor of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue at the Theological Institute of Assisi and the President of the World Council of Christian Churches in Perugia.

The event ended in the CEFID chapel with an ecumenical common prayer service for the commemoration, presided over by Friar Francesco LENTI, Rector of the Franciscanum Post-novitiate and Reverend Antti Kruus, a Lutheran minister from Finland.



A moment of prayer

web@ofmconv.net

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTENT OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATE

Friar Raffaele DI MURO
International M.I. President



International President Meets M.I. Delegates

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

From January 13 to 27, 2017, Friar Raffaele DI MURO, the International Assistant of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), met with delegates of the Kolbean association in Italy, Brazil and the United States.

On January 13-14, he held a meeting reserved for Italian M.I. Presidents and Regional Assistants at the Seraphicum in Rome. On January 17-23, Friar Raffaele went to Brazil to dialogue with the delegates of the two National Centers in San Bernardo and Brasilia. On January 24-27, he went to California, in the United States, and participated in the work of the National Council.

Why all these “marathons” within such a short period of time? The reason was to disseminate the plans for the 100th Anniversary celebrations which will be held in Rome, October 16-18, 2017, and to go over some particularly urgent matters, related to activities that the M.I. carries out in those three places.

These ‘visits’ are part of a series of meetings, scheduled by the International President, to encourage the increasingly important communion between members and to ensure that the centenary initiatives in each country will have a markedly missionary context, in line with the motto of the anniversary itself: “100 Years of History, 100 Years of Mission”.

Future visits will take place in Spain, Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Japan. This is a process of sharing and unity to mark a year in which the heart and communion of M.I. spirituality will play a leading role, above and beyond other outward manifestations.

It is wonderful to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the M.I., but it is even more important to go forth from this milestone with the joy and awareness of transmitting an important message and witness, on a global level, in the wake of Kolbe.



The participants

Spain: Visit by the M.I. International President

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

On March 17-21, 2017, Friar Raffaele DI MURO, the International President of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), traveled to Spain to visit various centers of the Kolbean movement there.

This was done in connection with the M.I.'s upcoming 100th anniversary celebrations.

The M.I. movement is not extensive in this country, but it is dynamic. Many young families are involved in its activities. The M.I. is mainly centered around Madrid, Barcelona and Murcia and it is notable for its commendable vitality. This is due in part to the enthusiasm of its young president, Miquel BORDAS and its very dedicated National Assistant, Friar Abel GARCIA.

The first part of the visit (March 18-19) was held in Murcia, where there is a consistent and fervent presence of the Militia. On the afternoon of March 18, Mass was celebrated at the historic Basilica of the Holy Cross in Caravaca. It was a very meaningful event.

On March 19, Friar Raffaele gave the many members of the "Murcian" center a lecture about the anniversary. The theme of the lecture was: One Hundred Years of History, One Hundred Years of Mission. Mass was celebrated after. The discussion and exchange of ideas with individual Militia members was intense and worthwhile.

On March 20-21, the President met with the Spanish National Council. They worked together on a program for future M.I. evangelizing in the Iberian region.

In the last phase of his visit to Spain, the President preached to M.I. members centered in Madrid. The Barcelona area had already been previously visited.

One highlight was a long interview that Friar Raffaele gave to Radio Maria España. During the interview, he got to explain the history and development of the M.I., the spirituality of St. Maximilian and future programs of the association.



The participants

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■ GENERAL FINANCIAL OFFICE



SOME THANK
YOU NOTES...

FOR OFFERING HOLY MASSES:

Parish of the 12 Holy Apostles, ROME
Prov. of St. Anthony, ITALY
Prov. of Warsaw, POLAND
Cust. of Assisi, ITALY

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ORDER:

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Prov. of SPAIN
Prov. OLC, USA

FOR THE MISSIONS:

Prov. of KOREA
Prov. of the CZECH REPUBLIC
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Prov. of GERMANY
St. Anthony's Charities
Prov. of CRACOW
Friary of Fribourg, SWITZERLAND
Prov. of Umbria, ITALY
Friary of Oristano, ITALY
Deleg. of AUSTRALIA

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Prov. of SPAIN
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Prov. Warsaw, POLAND
Cust. of AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND
Cust. of TANZANIA
Cust. of KENYA
Cust. of CANADA
Prov. of INDIA

THANKS also to those
who have made donations
using the communications channel
of the **GENERAL CURIA**

The financial aid administered by the General Curia isn't the only circle of solidarity in the Order; in fact, there are commendable and exemplary solidarity initiatives, for example, between Mother Provinces and their Daughter Custodies or Delegations, or through 'twinning' thanks to the involvement of groups, institutions and parishes.

We extend our thanks to you all!

AFRICAN FEDERATION OF CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS

Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI
Assistant General for the AFCOF



Uganda: “Come and See” Vocation Retreat

■ Friar Marcin ZAŁUSKI, OFM Conv.

On December 27-30, 2016, the friary in Kakooge, Uganda, hosted a “Come and See” spiritual retreat for young men discerning their vocation.

Eleven candidates participated, some for the sixth or seventh time. They came from various regions of Uganda and from different tribes. For this reason, the reflections were held in English. During the retreat, an “Emmaus” course was suggested.

This was a “kairos” retreat, that is, an opportune and sacred time during which God speaks and man listens. Once again we see God has generously sent forth his word so that many young people desire to enter the Order. Of course, for various reasons, not everyone can immediately start religious formation.

As part of his vocation ministry, Friar Marcin ZAŁUSKI went to a diocesan youth meeting in Soroti, in mid-December. While there, he gave a presentation on the Order. This was the first time that many young participants had ever seen a religious dressed in the Franciscan habit. Another big surprise for them was discovering that a vocation to the priesthood can also be realized within the Order.



The participants

Uganda: Youth Meeting in Kagooge

■ Friar Marcin ZAŁUSKI, OFM Conv.

On January 2-6, 2017, an annual youth meeting was held in Kakooge, Uganda.

The event was attended by seventy-five young people from the Franciscan parishes of Munyonyo, Matugga and Kakooge. The meeting was conducted mostly by the youth of Uganda’s NET Ministries. The meeting’s theme was “Today salvation has come to this house” (Lk 19: 9).

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [AFCOF]

During reflection, the word “today” was emphasized, namely as an invitation directed at the young people not to delay the decision to entrust themselves to God because, “today God wants to come to you!”

Participation in the sacraments and in the spiritual conferences helped the young people open themselves up to God, the God who comes to encounter humanity.

This year, as every year, the director of the youth meeting (Youth Camp) was Friar Wojciech ULMAN.



The participants

Ghana: Annual Retreat

■ Friar Anthony BEZO, OFM Conv., Custos

On March 20-24, 2017, the friars of the St. Anthony Custody of Ghana held their annual retreat.

All of the solemnly professed friars in Ghana gathered at Saltpond for the retreat which was directed by the Most Reverend Patrick CHISANGA, Bishop of Mansa, Zambia. Bishop Patrick is a Franciscan friar.

The five day retreat featured talks, Eucharistic celebrations and adoration. There were also moments that emphasized the desert experience, fraternal sharing, the Way of the Cross and the washing of each other’s feet.

It was truly a time of grace and we thank God for granting us such a refreshing experience.



The participants

CENTRALIS EUROPAE FOEDERATIO

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ
Assistant General for the CEF



Denmark: Reopening of Our Presence

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On Thursday, February 2, 2017, two new “missionaries,” came to Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark: Friar Tomislav CVETKO, from the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia and Friar Tomaž MAJCEN, from the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia.

Their arrival has given a fresh start to the presence of our Order in this part of Europe.

For this occasion, they were accompanied by their respective Ministers Provincial, Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ (Croatia) and Friar Milan KOS (Slovenia) together with the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ.

In addition, all six of our friars in Jönköping, Sweden, along with their guardian, Friar Joseph NILSSON, went to Copenhagen to attend this event and to welcome the two new friars who will now be their neighbors. All of the friars were welcomed by the Most Reverend Czesław KOZON, Bishop of Denmark and the Most Reverend Niels ENGELBRECHT, Vicar General of the Diocese.

At noon, a Mass was celebrated, presided over by the Assistant General for the CEF. Afterward, everyone was invited to lunch in the Vicar General’s apartment. They were then joined by the bishop, who had not been able to attend the Mass because of a funeral. The two “missionaries” will immediately begin a course in the Danish language.



The participants

Schwarzenberg: Course for Guardians

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On February 6-10, 2017, the first course for guardians was held at the friary and formation house in Schwarzenberg, Germany, in the German-speaking zone.

Although the course was especially designed for new guardians, others also attended. The participants included all the guardians of the Province of Germany (5) and those of the Custody of Austria-Switzerland (7). Then there was also a guardian from the Delegation of the Province of Warsaw in Germany, who came from the Maria Buchen friary.

Other course participants included the Minister Provincial of Germany’s St. Elizabeth Province, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, (who also gave a talk) along with his Definitory, and the Custos of Austria - Switzerland, Friar Daniele BROCCA.

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [CEF]

The course was prepared and conducted by the Secretary General for Formation (SGF), Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL and his Vice Secretary, Friar Giulio CESAREO, along with Friar Josef FISCHER, the representative of the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF) for formation, and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the CEF. On the last day, there was a featured lecturer, Friar Heribert ARENS, OFM.

The course lectures were presented from different approaches: Franciscan, Biblical, psychological-pedagogical, anthropological, legal, practical and cultural.

In addition, the program was enhanced with periods of common prayer, *Lectio Divina* and Franciscanism, led by Friar Giulio CESAREO.

One afternoon the participants visited the Benedictine Abbey in Münsterschwarzach (where the famous Anselm GRÜN resides) and the Friars Minor Church in Dettelbach, near Schwarzenberg.



The participants

Province of Germany: Meeting with the Provincial Definitory

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On March 16-17, 2017, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF), made a fraternal visit to the Provincial Definitory of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany.

The purpose of the visit was to make a post-Chapter, initial assessment of the life of the Province based on its Provincial Four-Year Plan. Those attending included the Minister Provincial, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER and all of the Provincial Definitors (Friars Josef FISCHER, Ludwig MOSCHEL, Steffen BEHR and Andreas MURK).

Friar Ștefan ACATRINEI, a Provincial Definitor from the Province of Romania, also attended part of the meeting in order to discuss the issue of collaboration between the two Provinces and how the presence of the Romanian friars in Germany is functioning.

The following day, the Assistant General for the CEF visited the construction site of the Würzburg friary which is undergoing complete renovation. The work is proceeding according to schedule and is not causing any particular disruption to the community. It is hoped the work will be completed by March of 2018.



The participants

Blieskastel: Meeting of the Delegation from Cracow

■ Friar Mateusz MICEK, OFM Conv.

On March 13-25, 2017, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony of Padua and Blessed James of Strepar, Cracow, Poland, and Friar Mariusz KOZIOŁ, Vicar Provincial, visited the friaries of the Province that are part of the Provincial Delegation in Germany.

Currently there are twenty-six friars serving in the Delegation (twenty priests, one deacon and five brothers) in five friaries: Blieskastel, Ratingen, Oggersheim, Neustadt an der Waldnaab, Bogenberg. They carry out pastoral work in parishes and at a shrine, as well as help the Polish Catholic Mission.

On Sunday, March 19, the Minister Provincial presided over a solemn celebration to install some first class relics of the blessed missionary martyrs Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and Michał TOMASZEK into the church in Blieskastel.

On Monday, March 20th, the Minister Provincial celebrated Mass at the Blieskastel church, in a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows where he gave thanks to the Lord for the 25 years of priesthood of Friars Adam STASICKI, Wojciech KORDAS and Ryszard SZWAJCA who was absent due to health reasons. In his homily, Friar Marian GOŁĄB expressed gratitude to all the members of the Delegation for their service and for their work of evangelization in Germany.

Before the liturgy a meeting of the friars of the Delegation took place during which the Provincial Superior brought up and explained the decisions of the Provincial Chapter and dealt with some personal and organizational issues pertaining to the Jurisdiction in Germany.



The participants

Zagreb: Meeting of the Definitors of Croatia and Slovenia

■ Friar Nikola ŠANTEK, OFM Conv.

On Friday, March 30, 2017, the Definitors of the Province of St. Jerome, Croatia and the Province of St. Joseph, Slovenia, had their traditional meeting together at the Holy Spirit friary in Zagreb, Croatia.

After an opening prayer and greetings from the two Provincial Ministers, the following issues were discussed: the “Youth Toward Assisi” meeting to be held in 2018 in Assisi; the new presence of the Order in Denmark; the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.) along with some Provincial events linked to it (the Spiritual Chapter of the Slovenian Province, the international symposium in Zagreb with the theme “The M.I. and Freemasonry”); the national meeting of the M.I. in Croatia; and the pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima of about 400 pilgrims from the M.I. of Croatia).

Finally, there was talk of the meeting of the post-novices of the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF) held in England and the traditional meeting of the Croatian and Slovenian post-novices held in Croatia. The day ended with lunch and a visit to the church of St. Anthony, the office of St. Anthony Messenger and the national office of the M.I. in Croatia.



The participants

Fraternal Visit to the Custody of Austria-Switzerland

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On March 25-31, 2017, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF), visited the headquarters of the Custody of Austria-Switzerland, in Vienna.

On Sunday, March 26, the Assistant General presided over Mass at the “Minoritenkirche” church for the Italian community in Vienna, where Friar Thomas MANALIL is the Rector.

On Monday, March 27, a meeting of the Austrian part of the Custody took place at the friary of the Holy Trinity in Vienna. The lecturer at the meeting was Friar Josef IMBACH. He spoke on the theme “God’s Love Cannot Be Bought.” Friar Josef presented four lectures on the topic. Afterwards, there was opportunity for questions and discussion. All the friars of the Austrian part of the Custody were present except for two who were unable to attend due to health problems.

In the days that followed (March 28-29) the Assistant General participated in a session of the Custodial Definitory. The session was presided over by the Custos, Friar Daniele BROCCA, with his Definitors present, including Friars Bernhard LANG (Vicar and Secretary), Vincenzo COSATTI, Thomas MANALIL and Friar Valentin SOLOMON. The crucial issue for this session was preparing for the next Extraordinary Custodial Chapter, which is scheduled for early July of this year. Friar Tomasz ZAHAROVA, the Custodial Econom, attended part of the Definitory meeting.

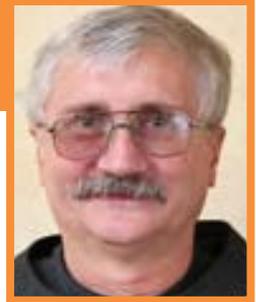
On the last day, the Assistant General met with the friars of the Conventual community in Vienna, along with their guardian, Friar Dariusz ZAJĄC. They updated the Assistant General on their experience with a new charismatic project that was initiated in September of last year.



The participants

CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

Friar Jude WINKLER
Assistant General for the CFF



San Pablo: Deaconal Ordination

■ Friar James REITER, OFM Conv., Provincial Secretary

Friar Paul Lê Đức Chánh of the Vietnam Delegation of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino (USA) was ordained a transitional deacon by the Most Reverend Michael C. BARBER, S.J., Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, California.

The ceremony took place on Wednesday evening, February 1, 2017 at the friars' parish of St. Paul in San Pablo, California.

Friar Paul left the Provincial Delegation of Vietnam on September 5, 2016, and traveled to the United States accompanied by Minister Provincial John Heinz. One of the reasons for his visit was to have an experience of life in the Province. Since his arrival, he has been living at the Holy Family Friar in Castro Valley, California, and has been assisting with the Province's mission promotion, development and communications.

Arroyo Grande: Workshop for Novices

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

From February 27 to March 3, 2017, Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), conducted a workshop for the novices of the CFF Common Novitiate at Arroyo Grande, California, USA, on the Gospels and the Psalms.

There are currently six novices: three from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, two from the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino, and one from the Province of Our Lady of the Angels. The novitiate moved from Mishawaka, Indiana, USA to Arroyo Grande in June of 2016. The Novice Director is Friar Giles ZAKOWICZ, the Assistant is Friar Maurice RICHARD and the senior friar in residence is Friar Alexander CYMERMAN.



The participants

Silver Spring: Retreat for the Post-Novitiate

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

From March 7 to 11, 2017, Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), preached a retreat to the post-novitiate friars of the CFF program in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA.

The retreat was held at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, Maryland. The topic of the retreat was the Letter to the Hebrews.

There were students attending from Provinces of Our Lady of the Angels, Our Lady of Consolation, St. Bonaventure and St. Joseph of Cupertino.

There is another post novitiate program for the CFF in San Antonio, Texas. The directors of that program are Friars Brad MILUNSKI and James MOORE.



Friar Jude and the post-novices

USA: Visitation of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

From February 20 until March 15, 2017, Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), having been delegated by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, conducted a general canonical visitation of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino, California, USA, in preparation for their Ordinary Provincial Chapter in April of 2018.

The Province has six friaries in the United States (five in California and one in Nevada) and two friaries in Vietnam (which will be visited in the early months of 2018).

The friars of this Province are mostly engaged in parish ministry, caring for four parishes and one cathedral (in Reno, Nevada). Friar Jude met with the Province Definitory at the beginning and the end of the visitation.



The participants

Ellicott City: Assembly of the CFF

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

From March 20-23, 2017, the leadership of the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF) representing Australia, the U.S., Canada, Great Britain and Ireland, met together for their semi-annual assembly in Ellicott City, Maryland, USA.

All of the members were present with the exception of Friar Peter Damian MASSINGILL who was unable to attend.

The friars discussed various issues concerning the Federation Formation Program located in six centers (Dingley, Australia; Oxford, England; Chicago, Illinois, USA; Arroyo Grande, California, USA; San Antonio, Texas, USA; and Silver Spring, Maryland, USA). They studied and commented upon the proposed revision of the General Statutes.

They also encountered Friar Leo PAYYAPPILLY, the Minister Provincial of the Kerala Province in India, which will soon have friars serving in five of the Jurisdictions of the Federation. In addition, they met with Meghan MEROS, the director of the Franciscan Mission Service, a body which coordinates lay missionary volunteers in the US and overseas.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the various liaisons for ongoing formation, initial formation, vocation promotion, the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.) and Mission Activities, gave their reports.



The members of the CFF with Friar Leo PAYYAPPILLY, Minister Provincial of India

USA: Canonical Visitation to OLA Province

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, OFM Conv., General Visitor

On February 19, 2017, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, delegated by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, began a general canonical visitation to the Province of Our Lady of the Angels (USA).

The visitation is being conducted in preparation for the Province's next Chapter which will take place in April of 2018. The first part of the visitation (February 19-April 27) began with visits to two friaries in the state of Florida, a three-hour flight from the nation's capital, Washington D.C. The Visitor is devoting two to three days on average for each friary. He will be visiting twenty-five friaries during the first part and will meet with every single friar of the Province.

The friars of this new Province (created in 2014), come from two pre-existing USA Provinces: the Immaculate Conception Province and the Province of St. Anthony of Padua. The new Province currently has 204 solemnly professed friars between 27 and 97 years of age. It has seven temporarily professed friars, one novice and five postulants. All of the friars are distributed between 35 friaries. Each friary normally has a minimum of four friars. The friars are distributed along the eastern part of the North American continent, ranging from Florida (USA) to Toronto (Canada).

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [CFF]

The friars of the Province are committed to various ministries: the formation of vocations, parish ministry, campus and school ministry, care for the sick and elderly, spiritual direction to religious and various congregations.

The second part of the visitation will be held in July. On that occasion there will be a meeting with the Provincial Definitory to review the current status of the Province.



The Assistant General with the friars of Jonesboro



The Assistant General with the friars of Atlanta



The Assistant General with the friars of the high school

More photos: <http://www.ofmconv.net/usa-visita-canonica-alla-provincia-ola/?lang=en>

FEDERACIÓN CONVENTUALES AMERICA LATINA

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI
Assistant General for the FALC



Brazil: Meeting of the Custody

■ Friar Paulo SÉRGIO, OFM Conv., Custodial Secretary

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, the friars of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception in Brazil met at the friary of St. Francis of Assisi in Rio de Janeiro.

The Custody is part of the American Province of Our Lady of the Angels.

The meeting's purpose was to reflect on the future of the Jurisdiction. Friar Brad MILUNSKI, the Vicar Provincial, presided. The friars of the Custody considered what steps need to be taken in the near future in order to develop and strengthen the Jurisdiction.

The meeting was intended as a tool to help the progress of the Custody after the Ordinary Chapter of April, 2016.



The participants

Brasilia: 2017 FALC Assembly

■ Friar Maurizio BRIDIO, OFM Conv., FALC Secretary

On Monday, January 23, 2017, Brazil's St. Maximilian Kolbe Province hosted the 2017 Ordinary General Assembly of the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC).

The event took place at the "Centro de Franciscano Evangelização e Cultura" retreat center in Brasilia, Brazil. Those present included almost all of the Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Delegates of the Latin American Jurisdictions. The Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, was also present.

As always, the atmosphere was very fraternal. This Assembly was also attended by new members: the Delegate of Ecuador, Friar Miguel PAGA; the Delegate of Peru, Friar Dariusz MAZUREK; the Delegate of Cuba, Friar Luigi MORETTI; and the Delegate of Paraguay, Friar Jacek ORZEŁ. The Minister Provincial of Cracow, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, also participated.

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [FALC]

One of the central themes of the Assembly was the presentation: “Lifestyle and Mission” offered by Assistant General Friar Carlos TROVARELLI. His presentation was a continuation of the reflection that took place at last year’s Congress in Rio de Janeiro on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Order’s presence in Latin America. That event was made richer by a beautiful presentation by Friar Rogério XAVIER who summarized the themes of the Congress.

Friar Rogério, the new MiReFalc coordinator (Ministry of Reflection of the FALC), along with the participants in the FALC Assembly, discussed MiReFalc’s role, positions and the criteria under which one can participate.

Common formation was another key theme of the Assembly. After several years of intense discussion about the common novitiate, it has begun to reflect on post-novitiate formation. In this regard, FALC President Friar Jhon JAIRO offered a presentation entitled “The Challenges of Formation”.

A summary was presented on the 2016 Novice Masters meeting in Colombia. The FALC Federation Econom Friar Aldo CÚCCARO reported on FALC finances. Finally, the Assistant General briefed the Assembly on various activities of the Order.

The next Rivortorto course has been scheduled for 2018 and an Extraordinary FALC Assembly has been scheduled for July, 18-20, 2017, in Montevideo, Uruguay, to go over the new Statutes of the Order.

Certainly the most impactful aspect for everyone was discussing the situation in each Jurisdiction along with the joys and difficulties of the Federation.

Special thanks to the Province of Brasilia and its Minister Provincial, Friar Marcelo VERONEZ, for hosting the Assembly, and to the confreres who helped make it all happen.



The participants

Curitiba: UCOB Second Novitiate

■ Friar Rogério XAVIER PEREIRA, Provincial Secretary

On January 4-30, 2017, the Union of Conventual Franciscans of Brazil (UCOB) held a “Second Novitiate” at the Casa San Francesco in Curitiba, the capital of the state of Paraná.

This was a phase of initial formation to prepare for solemn profession. Those participating included, seven friars from three Jurisdictions: Friars Adailton, Alessandro, Décio and Raffaele (from the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe of Brasilia); Friar Alexander (from the Custody of St. Bonaventure of Brazil-Maranhão); and Friars Arnaldo and Augusto (from the Province of St. Francis of Assisi of São Paulo).

The Second Novitiate was arranged into periods of formation, prayer, work, sports and even some leisure time. This time was very helpful, as expected, for reflecting on one’s vocational journey on the path of following Jesus Christ, poor and crucified, in

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [FALC]

preparation for professing one's final vows of poverty, obedience and chastity in the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

Those participating as formators for the young friars were: Friar Everson GARCIA, OFM Conv., (Rector-Formator of postulants for the Province of St. Francis of Assisi-São Paulo); Friar Rogério XAVIER PEREIRA, OFM Conv.; and two psychologists: Friar Carlos, OFM Conv., and João Paulo.

At the same time, it was a pleasure getting to know the next four novices of the Custody of Venezuela: Daniel BUSTAMANTE, Fernando PAREDES, Ricardo CARVAJAL and Roberto PARADA. They are preparing to start their novitiate year in the city of Caçapava-São Paulo, at the friary and parish of St. Benedict the Moor. May the Lord grant them perseverance on their way to being fervent Conventual Franciscan religious.

The participants in the Second Novitiate also enjoyed visiting and learning about the Our Lady of the New World Trappist monastery of Campo do Tenente in the state of Parana. They participated in the recitation of Morning Prayer with all the monks.



The participants

Chile: Youth Mission

■ Friar Jack GINTING, OFM Conv.

**“Sent forth by your love, we praise you O Lord!”
This was the motto of the fifth mission of the Franciscan Youth.**

The mission was organized by youth ministers working at our three parishes in Chile: Copiapo, Santiago and Curicó.

Sixty enthusiastic and joyous young people went to the parish of Nuestra Señora de Los Dolores in Dalcahue, on the island of Chiloé, to take part in this mission. They were accompanied by seven friars and a number of adults. Once there, they carried out several activities: repairing houses; visiting families and the elderly in particular; conducting recreational activities for children, doing group formation and enjoying fraternity with the people.

The young people received group and individual instruction during the mission. They participated in the celebration of Mass, Morning Prayer and Franciscan formation. These elements helped foster missionary activity among the Franciscan Youth and increase their faith. The group returned home charged with the spirit typical of young Franciscans, transmitting joy to others and happily being witnesses and missionaries of the Lord among the needy.



The friars with some young people

Brazil: General Economic Visitation

■ Friar Wojciech KULIG, OFM Conv., General Exactor

On March 16-24, 2017, Friar Nicola ROSA, the General Econom, and Friar Wojciech KULIG, the General Exactor, made a general economic visitation to the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Brazil.

As part of their visitation, they checked and examined the administration of the Provincial Curia and the works conducted by the Province. These include: the City of Children (Cidade dos Meninos), the Militia of the Immaculate, the St. Maximilian Kolbe Foundation (consisting of radio and television ministry), an elementary school (Escola Seibo) a home for the poor (Casa Acolhida) and the production of the “Messenger of St. Anthony”.

The Visitators conducted a series of interviews with the directors, staff and volunteers of these works. The visitation ended with a meeting of the Provincial Definitory with the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), Friar Carlos TROVARELLI. At that time, both the General Econom and General Exactor submitted their reports. The meeting took place in São Paulo.



The Visitor with some laypersons

New MiReFALC Publication

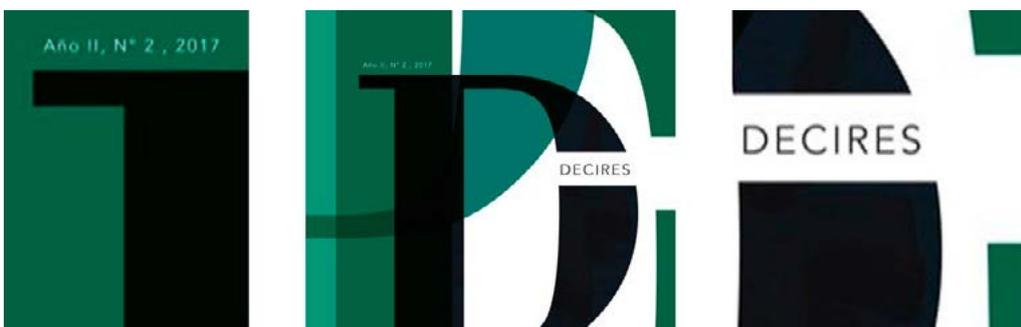
■ Friar Victor MORA MESÉN, OFM Conv.

The FALC's Ministry of Reflection recently published a new edition of its magazine Decires in digital form.

This time, the magazine featured articles taken from what had been presented and discussed at the 2015 group meeting in Cordoba, Argentina.

A new edition will soon be available which corresponds with the Congress celebrated last July, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the life of the Order in Latin America.

www.revistadecires.com



The magazine cover

FEDERATION OF ASIAN MINOR CONVENTUALS

Friar Benedict Seung Jae BAEK
Assistant General for the FAMC



India: Meeting of the Econsoms

■ Friar Wojciech KULIG, OFM Conv., General Exactor

On January 4-5 and 7-8, 2017, the General Exactor, Friar Wojciech KULIG, conducted two meetings for economs in India's Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The first meeting took place at the St. Joseph of Cupertino formation house in Eluru, in the Delegation of Andra Pradesh. The second meeting was held at the St. Maximilian Kolbe formation house in Aluva.

During the meetings, the participating economs and theology students were able to get familiarized with the documents of the Church and the Order on the topics of management, administration, budgeting and accounting.

In addition, they saw a presentation on communication, time management and decision-making. There was also some group work and some accounting exercises.

At the end of the second meeting, the guardians met with the Minister Provincial to discuss some questions about the Superior-Econom relationship, the responsibility for administration and finance, and the development of the Conventual Chapter.



the Visitor with
the Econsoms of the Province



the Visitor with
the Guardians of the Province

Tagaytay City: Ongoing Formation in the Philippines

■ Friar Emmanuel L. GIVA Jr., OFM Conv., Custodial Secretary

On February 4-5, 2017, all of the guardians, Economs and the Exactor of the Philippine Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza, met together at the friary of St. Joseph in Tagaytay City in the Philippines.

The meeting was organized by the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Naples, Italy, at the request of the Minister General.

Also present were Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC); Friar Victor Francis MATEO DIMAANGAY, the Provincial Custos of the Philippines; and members of the Custodial Definitory.

On the first day, Friar Edoardo SCOGNAMIGLIO, the Minister Provincial of Naples, gave a spiritual introduction. He focused on three concepts, namely: the image of a journey, the metaphor of poverty and the joy of poverty. Friar Angelo PALUMBO, the Provincial Econom, talked about his experiences as a missionary in Africa and his many years as an econom.

The second day of the conference focused on the practical aspects of administration, particularly on financial administration.

The Provincial Custos, facilitated a review of the provisions of the Constitutions and the General Statutes on the Administration of Goods, highlighting the role of the friary Chapter, the guardians, the economs, and friars assigned de familia, in ensuring responsible administration, accountability and transparency.

Towards the end of the meeting, the participants themselves felt the need to organize a conference in the near future, conducted by experts on financial and legal matters in order to address the current issues facing the religious communities in the country.

Before leaving the country, Friars Edoardo and Angelo visited the friary of St. Anthony of Padua in Dolores, Eastern Samar. This is the farthest community from Manila and the most calamity-prone friary of the Custody. We have an active presence in that area and carry out a vibrant prison ministry done in collaboration with a local circle of the Militia of the Immaculate.



The participants

Vietnam: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Benedict BAEK

On March 7-12, 2017, Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), visited the Provincial Delegation of St. Joseph of Cupertino in Vietnam.

Friar Luke VU, the Provincial Delegate, is working in collaboration with two other missionary friars: Friar Joseph TRUONG NGUYEN, of St. Bonaventure Province (USA), and Friar Tammylee NGO, of St. Joseph of Cupertino Province (USA).

There are three communities of friars in Vietnam: two are in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and the other is in Hanoi.

The Delegation is flourishing and currently has fourteen solemnly professed friars, including two priests and two deacons. In addition, there are eleven temporarily professed friars, four novices and six postulants.



A moment of prayer

Sri Lanka: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Benedict BAEK

From March 13-21, 2017, Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), visited the mission in Sri Lanka.

The mission is run by the Province of India. Friar Ferdinand MELAPPILLY is the mission's Superior and has six other friars from the Province of India working with him.

The mission is currently made up of four communities: three are dedicated to initial formation and the other carries out parish ministry. The mission also has six temporarily professed friars, including three from the Province of India, two postulants and thirteen minor seminarians.

The laity in the parish of the Padre Pio Shrine has a special appreciation for the missionaries.



The Assistant General with the friars of the mission

■ FEDERATIO EUROPAE MEDIAE ET ORIENTALIS

Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI
Assistant General for the FEMO



Poland: “Lublin Nobel” Awarded to a Franciscan

■ Friar Marek WÓDKA, OFM Conv.

Friar-Professor Marcin TKACZYK, OFM Conv., Pro-rector of the Catholic University of Lublin (Poland) for Science and International Relations, received the 2016 Science Award of Lublin dedicated to Professor Edmund Prost (commonly called the “Lublin Nobel”).

The award ceremony took place on January 10, 2017, at the Czartoryski Palace in Lublin.

The Scientific Society of Lublin granted him the award for his book “Futura Contingentia” which was published by the Catholic University of Lublin Publishing House. The author deals with the problem of random future events and asks the following questions: Are phrases that describe future events already now true or false? Does God know the future and, above all, does he know the future choices we made by free will? In answering a question originally posed by Aristotle, about whether knowledge of the future is possible, Professor TKACZYK first gave his response and then justified that response through methods of logical reasoning.

The award-winner very carefully analyzed the question being dealt with, showing great scholarship from the historical perspective, a clear sense of direction regarding the metaphysical and theological aspects, as well as a thorough knowledge of logic – as mentioned by the President of the Scientific Society of Lublin, Professor Artur KOROBOWICZ.

The award is given out for research work, published as a book or monograph, which stands out for its originality and high scientific values. It is also given out for inventions or technical improvements that are particularly innovative and demonstrate novel content and form.



Friar Marcin TKACZYK

Kazakhstan: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On January 23-27, 2017, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO) [Federation of Central and Eastern Europe], visited the friars who live and work in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Currently there are three: Friar Miha MAJETIČ from the Province of St. Joseph, Slovenia; Friar Paweł BLOK from the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Gdansk, Poland; and Friar Roberto PERETTI from the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua.

During his stay, the Assistant General had the opportunity to speak personally with each of the friars and to celebrate their Chapter with them. Later, he also met with the Most Reverend Tomasz PETA, Archbishop of Astana. During these meetings, the life and service of the mission was discussed, along with ideas for its future.

In addition, Friar Jacek was able to participate in an ecumenical liturgy together with the friars and some representatives of the various Christian churches in the capital of Kazakhstan. He also met with the sisters who work with our friars in the parish and was introduced to various parishioners and friends of the friars. They thanked the Order for our friars' presence and service in Kazakhstan.

Lithuania: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

From 27 January to February 4, 2017, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO) [Federation of Central and Eastern Europe] made a fraternal visit to the Delegation of Lithuania.

While there, he visited the three friaries of the Delegation and met all the friars.

Lithuania currently has nine friars in three friaries. Two friars live in Medininkai, three in Klaipėda and four in Vilnius. On Monday, January 30, 2017, a meeting of all the friars of the Delegation was held in in Klaipėda. Others attending included the Assistant General for the FEMO, the Minister Provincial of Gdansk, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI and the Provincial Econom, Friar Leszek ŁUCZKANIN.

The friars were able to learn about the progress being made on the construction of the new friary in Klaipėda. It should be finished before summer of this year. During the meeting, the friars discussed some changes to the Statute of the Delegation, made some plans for the year, establishing the dates of the fraternal meetings and days of the Community spiritual retreat. They also exchanged some opinions about their future work in youth and vocational ministry. All the friars of Lithuania are expecting the Order to return to its historic friary in Vilnius. This could be a source of new growth for the life and pastoral activity of the Delegation as well as the Vilnius community.



Before the painting of the Madonna



The Assistant General and the Minister Provincial with some friars

Czech Province: Retreat Day

■ Friar Piotr PAWLIK, OFM Conv., Vicar Provincial

On February 6, 2017, the friars of the Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic enjoyed a retreat day at the friary in Jihlava.

During the previous evening, the friars got together for some common recreation, at which time they discussed the joys and concerns of their local Conventual communities.

The retreat day was primarily characterized by prayer: the Liturgy of the Hours; the Conventual Mass with the Minister Provincial, Friar Stanisław GRYŃ, presiding; a celebration of the Stations of the Cross, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and two spiritual conferences presented by Professor Peter P. TAVEL, OP, psychologist, psychotherapist and Dean of the Theological Faculty at the Palacký University in Olomouc. The theme for reflection was: “Determining boundaries in religious relations—religious and lay religious.”

The meeting concluded with information presented by the Minister Provincial on the life and activities of the Province.



The participants

Lublin: University Appointments

■ Editor

On February 22, 2017, a solemn ceremony took place to confer doctorates and appoint professorships at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), in Poland.

During the ceremony, Lecturing Professor Friar Marek FIAŁKOWSKI, the Department Chair of Pastoral Theology at the Institute of Pastoral Theology and Catechetics, was appointed Extraordinary Professor, and Friar Stanisław BAZYLIŃSKI, a university professor at the St. Bonaventure Pontifical Theological Faculty and the Pontifical Biblical Institute, both in Rome, Italy, received the title of Lecturing Professor.

The Catholic University of Lublin was founded in 1918 with the noble goal of “Deo et Patriae”. For many years it was the only Catholic university operating inside a communist country. It became an island of freedom and independent scientific thinking, offering study and scientific research to people who had been discriminated against or were dismissed from other universities. Since its inception, it has employed many distinguished professors, such as Saint John Paul II, and has instructed the nation’s intellectual elite.



Friar Marek FIAŁKOWSKI

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [FEMO]

There are currently five Franciscans of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual teaching at the university. They are:

- Lecturing Professor Friar Wiesław BAR from the Province of Cracow, Department Chair of Canonization Law and Sacramental Law at the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration;
- Lecturing Professor Friar Marcin TKACZYK from the Province of Warsaw, Vice-Rector of KUL for Science and International Relations, Department Chair of Logic at the Faculty of Philosophy;
- Lecturing Professor Friar Waldemar KLINKOSZ from the Province of Gdansk, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology of Individual Differences at the Institute of Psychology in the Faculty of Social Sciences;
- Lecturing Professor Friar Marek FIAŁKOWSKI from the Province of Cracow, Department Chair of Pastoral Theology at the Pastoral and Catechetical Institute in the Faculty of Theology;
- Friar Marek WÓDKA, PhD, from the Province of Warsaw, Assistant Lecturing Professor in the Department of Social Doctrine of the Church and Socio-Economic Ethics at the Institute of Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Belarus: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

From February 20 to March 5, 2017, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO), made a fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation in Belarus of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God, Poland.

The Assistant General visited all of our communities in Belarus and met with all of the friars. He also took the opportunity to meet the Most Reverend Alexander KASZKIEWICZ, Bishop of Grodno. He spoke to the Bishop about the future of our work in his diocese.

Currently the Delegation has five friaries (Grodno, Ivianec, Halshany, Udziela, Porazava) and a filial house (Svislach). It has twelve solemnly professed friars, two temporarily professed friars who are in formation at the seminary of Łódź-Łagiewniki in Poland.

During the Ordinary Provincial Chapter held last year, due to legal difficulties and too few friars, it was decided to send out new missionaries, close two friaries (Halshany, Porazava) and temporarily suspend our presence Svislach.



The model of the friary in Halshany

More photos: <http://www.ofmconv.net/bielorussia-visita-fraterna/?lang=en>

Russia: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On March 7-10, 2017, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO), made a fraternal visit to the friary and Custodial Curia in Moscow, Russia.

During his stay, he took part in a meeting of the Custodial Definitory, during which he was informed about the Custody's current status and its plans for the future, in view of its Ordinary Chapter scheduled for next year.



The Custodial Definitory with the Assistant General

The Ukraine: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On March 13-27, 2017, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO), made a fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation in the Ukraine of the Province of St. Anthony of Padua and Bl. James of Strepar, Poland.

The Assistant General visited all of our communities in the Ukraine and met with all of the friars who reside and carry out pastoral ministry there.

Currently the Delegation has five friaries (Lviv, Bilshivtsi, Matskivtsi, Boryspil and Kremenchuk). It has seventeen solemnly professed friars and two temporarily professed friars who are in formation in Cracow, one of whom is currently doing a year of pastoral ministry in Lviv.

The Delegation is doing very well, so much so, that during the last Ordinary Provincial Chapter a motion was brought to the Minister Provincial and his Definitory to verify if the conditions have been met for the Delegation to be erected as a Provincial Custody.



The Assistant General with the friars of Kremenczuk

More photos: <http://www.ofmconv.net/ucraina-visita-fraterna/?lang=en>

Oświęcim-Harmęże: Kolbean Days XVI

■ Friar Piotr CUBER, OFM Conv. / Ed.

On March 24-26, 2017, the sixteenth edition of “Kolbean Days” took place. It featured a full program which was centered on the theme: “The Militia of the Immaculate: One Hundred Years of History, One Hundred Years of Mission.”

This event was part of the ongoing 100th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.). It was held at the St. Maximilian Center in Oświęcim-Harmęże, Poland.

Many members of the Militia from Poland and the Czech Republic attended, along with some non-members who were attracted to the person and the ideal of the founder of the M.I.

The speakers at the event were as follows: Friar Paulin SOTOWSKI, OFM Conv., a professor at the Franciscan major seminary in Łódź-Łagiewniki who talked about the beginnings of the M.I.; Dariusz ŻUK OLSZEWSKI, a researcher at the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, who brought out the main points of the apparitions of Fatima and told the fascinating story of Bishop Pavol HNILICA, SJ, who, on March 25, 1984, stood in Moscow’s Red Square and consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Friar Zbigniew SUCHECKI, OFM Conv., a professor at the St. Bonaventure Pontifical Theological Faculty in Rome, who spoke on the theme “The Church and Freemasonry”; and Friar Grzegorz BARTOSIK, OFM Conv., a professor at the Cardinal Stefan WYSZYŃSKI University in Warsaw, Poland, who gave a presentation on the missionary dimension of Father Kolbe in the context of Pope Francis’ exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*.

On the evening of March 25, Janusz KOHUT and Józef BRODA performed a concert entitled “Music of the Heart and of Reason.”

The symposium was organized by the Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculate and the Friars Minor Conventual of Harmęże.



The participants

femo@ofmconv.net

■ FEDERAZIONE INTER-MEDITERRANEA MINISTRI PROVINCIALI



Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS
Assistant General for the FIMP

Madrid: Conference on Kolbe

■ Friar Abel GARCÍA-CEZÓN ROLDÁN, OFM Conv.

At the end of December, 2016, the Province of Spain held its traditional Franciscan conference, as it does every year at that time.

The conference is an important stage of its annual ongoing formation course. The event was held at the Capuchin friary of El Pardo, in Madrid.

This time, the meeting was dedicated to Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe in honor of the 75th anniversary of his martyrdom and the 100th anniversary of his founding of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.). The central theme that inspired all the presentations, and was used for the title of the conference, was: “Do Not Forget the Love. Kolbe: The Man, the Friar, the Madman of the Immaculate and the Martyr of Charity”.

For three days, the participants—more than forty friars and some lay members of the M.I. National Council—were able to learn more about the precious legacy that our holy friar of the twentieth century left us. His life was like a “grain of wheat” sown in the furrow of years of intense academic preparation, hours and hours of prayer, countless apostolic works and sacrifices, even dying in the hardened and bitter soil of Auschwitz, in order to yield unexpected and abundant fruit, produced not just for its quantity but rather for its quality.

The conference was opened by the Most Reverend Juan Antonio MARTÍNEZ CAMINO, SJ, Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid. He is a Jesuit theologian of great prestige who produced the highly acclaimed dissertation on the theology of martyrdom, entitled: “The Disciple Is Not Greater Than His Master”. This first lecture was followed by another which was very well presented by Friar Gonzalo FERNÁNDEZ-GALLARDO, OFM Conv., a former M.I. Assistant in Spain. His talk was on the early life and Franciscan vocation of Raymond Kolbe. Father Felix is the General Superior of the “Siervos the Hogar de la Madre” [Servants of the Home of the Mother], a religious institute founded in Spain in recent years. He has a great love for Kolbe. He made two wonderful presentations of great spiritual depth: “The Immaculate, Here Is Our Ideal—St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the Mystery of Mary” and “For Christ I Am Ready to Bear Any Suffering—The Strength of the Testimony of Father Kolbe: Religious Consecration, Apostolic Urgency and Martyrdom in Auschwitz”.



The participants

On the last day, Mr. Miquel Bordas PRÓSZYŃSKI made a beautiful and heartfelt presentation. He is a young Spaniard of Polish origin, who has been the President of the M.I. of Spain since 2016. His speech was about the current status of the Militia in the world and in Spain and was entitled: “Belonging Totally to Christ through the Immaculate.” The conference ended with a Mass and the act of entrustment to the Immaculate, presided-over by Minister Provincial Friar Ángel Mariano GUZMÁN LUDEÑA. The conference covered three days of formation, prayer and fraternal sharing—to learn more about St. Maximilian Maria, the Apostle whose huge heart desired nothing less than to “conquer the whole world and every single person for the Immaculate and, through Her, for the Heart of Christ”. Kolbe’s life, his spiritual teachings and the offering he made of his own life for love as the “patron saint of our difficult century” (St. John Paul II) are still for us, his confreres, and for the whole Church, a source of great inspiration for renewed apostolic zeal and evangelization under the guidance of Mary.

Northern Italy: Canonical Visitation

■ Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS

From April, 2016 to February, 2017, Assistant General Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, conducted a general canonical visitation to the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy), which has thirty-three friaries in the FIMP area [Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali].

This was the General Government’s first evaluation of the new Province since its initial founding on April 7, 2013. In each fraternal community, the Assistant General participated in meetings at different levels: community prayer, common meals and recreation, personal interviews and a Friary Chapter at the end of each visitation.

The general visitation ended with a meeting of the Assistant General and the Minister Provincial and his Definitory, the ones primarily responsible for the good of the Province.

The most valuable outcome of the visitation was the discussion between confreres about the Franciscan vocation itself and the desire to discover what mission the Lord is sending the friars on right here and now. In the background of their journey, one sees the icon of St. Anthony, preacher of the Word and defender of the Poor.

The friars of the Province mainly serve and live out their consecration through their commitment to the Shrine of St. Anthony, parish commitments, press and media services and the pastoral care of those least among us: prisoners, people with disabilities and people with addictions.

In addition to its Northern Italian friaries, the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua cares for the Custody of St. Bonaventure in France and Belgium, the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana, the Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Indonesia, the Provincial Delegation of Chile and the Provincial Delegation of Portugal.



The Assistant General with the friars of the Provincial Definitory

Rome: Experience Presented to the Sisters

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, OFM Conv., Director of the Missionary Center

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, the Director of the Franciscan Missionary Center OFM Conv., Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, made a presentation during a session of the twelve-session formation series entitled: “Contemplate and Announce”.

The series is open to the sisters of the thirty-six congregations and Franciscan institutes in Rome. The eighty sisters participating explored the theme “Mission on Our Outskirts”. It was based upon the summer experience that the Conventual Franciscans have been undertaking along the banks of the Tiber River in Rome.

The meeting was an opportunity to testify about the summer initiative, an initiative which the Center has carried out for the last three years at the “Along the Tiber in Rome” event. This event has attracted more than two million tourists and locals on warm summer evenings. The presentation also offered mediation on the significance of the Franciscan presence in that “secular site” where the friars have been a stable presence, operating an exhibition booth. The booth was set up to teach passersby about Conventual Franciscan missionary activities going on in forty countries around the world. It has allowed the friars to meet and interact with many people enjoying some leisure time in the midst of Rome’s nightlife.

The presentation was also a “tutorial on the field”, using video and dialogue, to highlight the missionary dimension of an evangelization that “goes forth”, one which meets a man at whatever stage of growth he is at and one which reaches the “existential peripheries” as Pope Francis asks us to do.

Anthonian Missions

■ Friar Luciano MARINI, OFM Conv.

In 1981, the recognition of the body of St. Anthony was a high profile media event. Many churches, especially those named after the Saint, requested one of his relics.

The Holy See required, however, that all the mortal remains of St. Anthony be reenclosed in the altar in which they were originally placed.

An exception was made for part of the “body mass”. Some reliquaries were then created containing fragments of the massa corporis. Many churches that had asked for their own relic of the Saint were told it was not possible, but—the friars would be willing to bring the relics of the “Saint the whole world loves” to their communities for a few days of veneration.

This initiative grew and a decade ago the Italian Province of Saint Anthony decided to entrust this ministry to a group of friars. They developed what are now called the “Anthonian Missions”. These are more than a quick, one or two-day presentation of the



Children before the reliquary

CONFERENCES/ FEDERATIONES – [FIMP]

Saint's relics. These are actual popular missions in the name of St. Anthony, which last about a week. Around fifteen celebrations were designed for the use of pastors who may be planning for their own mission. There are celebrations tailored for children, youth, families, visiting the sick, hospitals, prisons, etc.

Every year, around fifteen to twenty Anthonian Missions are conducted in France, Italy, Spain and other nations in Europe as well as Australia, the United States, Canada, and beyond. Lately the relics visited the Philippines, India and Bangladesh. Usually when the Missions are conducted abroad, an effort is made to involve the friars in those countries.

However, most Anthonian Missions are requested by secular priests; there are not many requests from the friars of our Order. The theme of the Mission is "From Devotion to Faith" or *Per Antonium ad Jesum*.

Saint Anthony's mission continues on, through his brothers, to announce "the only Word that saves", as he wrote in his sermons. It is always amazing to see the crowds that rush in to venerate the relics of the Saint and to ask for his help. Again and again, we see people who were alienated from the Church return to the sacraments, attracted by the presence of the Saint as expressed in his relics.

At its Provincial Chapter in 2013, the Italian Province of St. Anthony, decided to strengthen this ministry, not only welcoming the crowds who come to Padua from around the world every year, but having the Saint continue his mission of going forth, with his brother friars, to bring the Gospel to the people, through the powerful expression of his holy relics, on the roads of the world.

Romania: Meeting of the Definitors

■ Friar Virgil BLAJ, OFM Conv., Provincial Secretary

From February 28 to March 3, 2017, the Definitors of Romania's Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of B.V.M and those of the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land met together at the St. Joseph Friary and Provincialate in Bacau, Romania.

Also attending were Friar Joaquín AGESTA, the Assistant General of the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) and Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO, the Procurator General of the Order.

Discussions focused on three basic points: the status quo of the two Jurisdictions, the priorities and projects that should be implemented, and the ways of strengthening collaboration on formation regarding mission and solidarity of personnel.

The Provincial Definitory and Financial Office met with the Assistant General for the FIMP and the Procurator General to discuss formation, finances and canonical procedure. In addition, the Provincial Definitory and Financial Office received some guidelines on financial procedures.

Meeting participants were able to share their experience and personal vision on the issues raised in an atmosphere of true communion and fraternal dialogue. The meeting also included periods for fellowship and community prayer.

In addition, the meeting's guests got to visit other friaries and houses of formation in the Province. In those places they experienced conversation, prayer and joy.



The participants

Bologna: Spread the Word - 2017

■ Friar Francesco RAVAIOLI, OFM Conv.

On March 4-5, 2017, the 2017 Franciscan Youth Meeting, was held in Bologna, Italy. It was organized by the friars of the CPV (Youth Ministry Vocation Center) of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua.

Around 80 young people from various regions of Northern Italy took part in this year's event, in order to have an encounter with Mary and to try their hand at evangelization.

The meeting's theme was "Spread the Word". The meeting itself was conducted in a number of ways.

On Saturday afternoon, March 4, the friars taught the young people about certain aspects of the city of Bologna and the visits that St. Francis and St. Anthony made to it. The young guests at our local Friary and Basilica of St. Francis then heard some lively teaching by the Most Reverend Matthew M. ZUPPI, Archbishop of Bologna. He encouraged them to evangelize without fear by simply carrying forth what they had already experienced of God, such as Mary did in her visit to Elizabeth. That visit was the biblical icon of the meeting. After receiving some basic training, various service teams went out from the basilica, simply and enthusiastically, and spent the evening in areas of the city frequented by young people and students.

After Morning Prayer on Sunday, March 5, the young people listened to a simple talk about St. Maximilian Kolbe and the founding of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.) as well as the apparitions of Fatima. These are two Marian events celebrating their 100th anniversaries this year. The young people then made a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary Basilica of the Madonna of San Luca, a Marian shrine in the city. While there, Minister Provincial Giovanni VOLTAN presided over Mass with the young people and the friars.

After lunch, at the end of the meeting, the Minister Provincial departed with the friars for the start of their Provincial Chapter in Camposampiero (Province of Padua).

Thanks to the friars of Bologna for their fraternal hospitality and to the young people for their enthusiasm. They were "bearers of the Word" like Mary. Being with them was a powerful faith experience for the Youth Ministry friars as well.



Evangelization in the square

fimp@ofmconv.net

India: Extraordinary Chapter

■ Friar Benedict BAEK, Assistant General for the FAMC

On January 9-12, 2017, India's Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe held an Extraordinary Chapter in Karukutty, India.

Twenty-two Capitulars attended along with Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC). Also present were Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), and Friar Wojciech KULIG, the General Exactor. They participated in the Chapter as auditors.

All of the topics were related to Province finances and formation. The Minister Provincial and his Definitory also helped the Capitulars review and reflect on the evolution of the decisions made during the Ordinary Provincial Chapter in 2015.

Friar Jude WINKLER provided a spiritual introduction at the Chapter and gave the homilies for the Masses. Immediately after the Chapter, the Province celebrated the jubilees of various friars in the Province: Friar Ugolino XERRI (of the Province of Malta) – the 60th anniversary of his of simple profession; Friar Cris MANIAL – the 25th anniversary of his solemn profession; Friars Damian VELIYIL, Simon ELINJELY, Dominic THEKKEMUNDACKAPADVIL and Elias THEKKEMUNDACKAPADAVIL – the 10th anniversary of priestly ordination; Friars Abin MADATHUMKUDY and Nineesh KURUDIYAKULAM - newly ordained in December of 2016;

Father George MANALEL (a Vincentian from India) - was made an honorary member of the Province of India because of his many years spiritual direction offered to our Indian friars.



The Capitulars

Sacro Convento: Custodial Chapter - Part 1

■ Friar Marco MORONI, OFM Conv., former Custodial Secretary

On February 20-24, 2017, the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis of Assisi held the first part of its Ordinary Custodial Chapter at the Sacro Convento.

The Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, presided, attended by the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), Friar Benedict BAEK.

At the opening of the Chapter, the Minister General announced that the General Definitory, at its meeting of February 16, 2017, had confirmed Friar Mauro M. GAMBETTI for his second four-year term as the General Custos.

After listening to reports and making an evaluation of the last four years, the Chapter elected a new Custodial Definitory. It is comprised of six friars: Friar Dominic PAOLETTI, from the Province of Abruzzo, Italy (elected Custodial Vicar, first four-year term); Friar Ion HORVAT, from the Province of Romania (elected Custodial Secretary, first four-year term); Friar Janez ŠAMPERL, from the Province of Slovenia (elected Definitory, first four-year term);

CHAPTERS

Friar Francesco LENTI, from the Province of the Marches, Italy (elected Custodial Exactor, first four-year term); Friar Alfredo M. AVALLONE, from the Province of Naples, Italy, affiliated temporarily to the Custody of Assisi (elected Definitor, second four-year term); and Friar Jorge FERNÁNDEZ, Rio Plata Province, Argentina-Uruguay (elected Definitor, first four-year term).

The composition of the Definitory reflects the multicultural make-up of the fraternity of the Custody.

The Chapter also elected a Custodial Econom. He is Friar Mauro SILVA from the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua.

On the morning of Thursday, February 23, the Custodial Chapter also approved an important motion by which the Custody canonically assumes full responsibility for the Friars Minor Conventual mission in China. The Order has eleven friars in China and all of them are already affiliated to the Custody. With this decision, the Order's presence in China will be consolidated: there are three friars already living in the house in Xi'an who will soon be joined by other friars who have completed their formation process and have had some pastoral experience in Italy. They are making contact with some bishops to open a second house that will serve a parish. The Chinese friars are well motivated and are ready for the canonical erection of the mission and its friaries.

The Chapter celebrated Masses in the Lower Basilica which were presided over by the Minister General; His Eminence Gualtiero Cardinal BASSETTI, Archbishop of Perugia; Friar Franco BUONAMANO, Minister Provincial of the newly-formed Italian Province of St Francis; The Most Reverend, Giuseppe PIEMONTESE, Bishop of Terni; and the Most Reverend Domenico SORRENTINO, Archbishop-Bishop of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino and former General Custos.



Friar Mauro GAMBETTI
Custos



The Custodial Definitory



The Capitulars

Province of Northern Italy in Chapter - Part 1

■ Editor/Friar Andrea VAONA, OFM Conv.

On March 5-11, 2017, the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua celebrated the first part of its Ordinary Chapter in Camposampiero, a town in Italy's Province of Padua.

Some 70 Capitulars attended the Chapter. They came together in an atmosphere of fraternal dialogue to assess the progress of the Province over the last four years.

The Chapter was presided over by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, and was also attended by the General Visitor, Friar Joaquín AGESTA, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP).

On the morning of March 9, the Chapter reached its culmination with the reelection of Minister Provincial Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, to another four-year term. In the afternoon of the same day, the following members of the Provincial Definitory were elected: Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI, Definitor, Vicar Provincial (first term); Friar Andrea VAONA, Definitor, Provincial Secretary (first term); Friar Giancarlo CAPITANIO, Definitor (second term); Friar Giancarlo ZAMENGO, Definitor (second term); Friar Fernando SPIMPOLO, Definitor (first term); Friar Francesco PANIZZOLO, Definitor (first term); Friar Antonio RAMINA Definitor (second term); and Friar Valerio FOLLI Definitor (second term);

In the remaining days of the first part of this Chapter, the Minister Provincial and his Definitory, along with the other Capitulars, made some appointments that will commence as the regular life of the Province begins. They also began to identify a working blueprint for the future of the life of the religious Province. The work of the Chapter will be suspended until part two resumes in late June or early July of 2017.



Friar Giovanni VOLTAN
Minister Provincial



The Provincial Definitory



The Capitulars

Sicily: Provincial Chapter - Part 1

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, OFM Conv., Head of the Chapter Press Office

On March 20-25, 2017, the Province of Saints Agatha and Lucy of the Friars Minor Conventual of Sicily celebrated the first part of its Provincial Chapter at the Oasi Francesca Center in Pergusa, in the Italian province of Enna. 26 friars participated (19 delegates and 7 authorized attendees).

The assembly was presided over by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, with the participation of the General Visitor, Friar Leopoldo FIOR and Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), Friar Joaquin AGESTA CUEVAS. The Minister Provincial, Friar Giambattista SPOTO was absent for health reasons (hospitalized).

The Chapter opened with lectio divina directed by Friar Leopoldo FIOR on the theme "At Your Word I Will Lower the Nets" (Luke 5:1-11). During the first two days of the Chapter, the Capitulars heard reports by the General Visitor; the Minister Provincial; the Vicar Provincial; and the Provincial Econom. There were noteworthy visits from the local bishop, the Most Reverend Rosario GISANA, Bishop of Piazza Armerina, and from the Regional Presidents of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), Diego TORRE; the Secular Franciscans (OFS), Fabrizio LOMBARDO; and the Franciscan Youth, Luca CORALLO.

On the third day, the Capitulars worked in groups where they further studied the reports and discussed their evaluation of the last four years.

On Thursday, March 23, the election of the Minister Provincial was held per presentiam with 57 of the 62 friars with voting rights participating. Friar Gaspare LA BARBERA was elected Minister Provincial (first term) in the first round with 41 votes. Friar Gaspare was born in 1953 in Palermo, Italy. He made his temporary profession on November 12, 1978; his solemn profession on October 20, 1981; and was ordained a priest on October 25, 1982. For six years he served as the guardian of the Franciscan Evangelization Community of Montevago in the Italian province of Agrigento. He previously served as Minister Provincial from 2001 to 2009.

On the fourth day, the Capitulars elected a new Definitory. The members are: Friar Guglielmo BARBASSO, Vicar Provincial (first term); Friar Luca GURRERA, Provincial Secretary (first term); Friar Giuseppe MESSINEO, Definitor (first term); Friar Antonio PARISI, Definitor (first term); and Friar Pietro ARCOLEO, Definitor (first term). In addition, other officers were elected apart from the Definitory: the Provincial Econom, Friar Saverio BENENATI and the Provincial Exactor, Friar Massimiliano DI PASQUALE.

The Chapter concluded with the approval of the "Evaluation Document" that frames the guidelines for the Instrumentum laboris, which will serve for the second part of the Chapter scheduled for June 14-20, 2017, in a place to be announced.

Currently, Sicily has sixty-two friars in fourteen friaries. Eight of those friaries are parishes. It has eleven young men in formation, five friars serving the Order in Rome and in the Secretariat of the Vatican City State. It has two retreat centers, a retirement home, and the great Franciscan Library and Workshop of Medieval Studies at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Palermo.

In 1977, the missionary spirit led a group of Sicilian friars to Mexico. Over the last 40 years, this mission has become a new religious Province with sixty-two Mexican friars, eleven friaries and forty-five men in formation.



Friar Gaspare LA BARBERA
Minister Provincial



The Provincial Definitory

OFFICE OF STATISTICS

Friar Antonio M. PARISI
Head of Statistics



Professiones temporaneae

Prov. Brasiliensis S. Maximiliani Kolbe

MACHADO Jorge Elias Oliveira, NASCIMENTO Moisés Araújo do, OLIVEIRA Josimar Mendes, SANTO JR. Antonio dos, SILVA Marcelo Borges (2017-02-11)

Professiones sollemnes

Prov. Marchiae (Deleg. prov. Cubana)

MONDEJAR PÉREZ Riduán, SÁNCHEZ PEÑA Danisandro (2016-11-29)

Cust. prov. Slovachiae

VLČEK Tomáš Mária (2016-12-10)

Ordinationes diaconales

Prov. Americana S. Ioseph a Cupertino (Del. prov. Vietnamiae)

LÊ (Đức Chánh) Paul Raphael (2017-02-01)

Ordinationes sacerdotales

Cust. prov. Anglo-Hibernica

Martin (Wayne) Maximilian Mary (2017-03-25)

RESTING IN GOD

DEFUNCTI [NOMEN]	CIRCUMSCRIPTIO	DIES	LOCUS	AETAS
MORKA (Tomasz) Apolinary	Prov. Polonica B. M. V. Immacolatae	2017-01-01	Niepokalanów - POLSKA	89
ROCCHI Ferdinando	Prov. Marchiae	2017-01-07	Osimo (AN) - ITALIA	74
HASHIGUCHI Gabriel Sagoemon	Prov. Iaponiae	2017-01-14	Tokyo - JAPAN	88
TWARDOWSKI Józef (Stanisław)	Prov. Polonica B. M. V. Immacolatae	2017-01-15	Niepokalanów - POLSKA	94
MIZZI (Mikiel) Egidju	Prov. Melitensis	2017-01-28	Rabat-Gozo - MALTA	84
BÁNÓCZKY László Konrád	Prov. Hungariae-Transilvaniae	2017-02-14	Arad - ROMÂNIA	98
KOSZEWSKI Jan	Prov. Polonica S. Antonii Patavini et B. Iacobi a Strepa	2017-02-16	Kraków - POLSKA	87
RIZZO (Florindo) Gentile	Prov. Rioplatensis	2017-02-18	El Bolsón - ARGENTINA	89
SCARPAZZA (Davide) Benigno	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patav.	2017-02-28	Pedavena (BL) - ITALIA	90
POLICARPO (Giulio) Luigi	Prov. Apuliae (ad tempus Prov. Zambiae)	2017-03-01	Ndola - ZAMBIA	88
RUKSTALIS (Daniel) Simeon	Prov. Americana D. N. Angelorum	2017-03-27	Hamburg, NY - U.S.A.	83

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

CONSPECTUS GENERALIS ORDINIS DIE 31 DECEMBRIS 2016

The figures list friars according to the Jurisdiction in which they exercise their rights (Prov./Cust.) therefore, they include those friars *affiliated ad tempus*.

The friars of Provincial Delegations are counted among the numbers of friars in the Provinces and Custodies to which they belong.

Irregulares: are all those solemnly professed who are **unlawfully absent from the religious house** (can. 665 § 2).

Extra claustra: this heading includes all solemnly professed in *extra claustra* (can. 686 § 1, can. 693) and also those who completed their period of *extra claustra* and are **unlawfully absent from the religious house**.

None of these friars have active and passive voice.

CIRCUMSCRIPTIONES	Professi sollemnes						irregulares	extra claustra	Professi temporarii			OMNES	diff. a 2015
	episcopi	sacerdotes	diaconi tr.	diaconi p.	fr. clerici	fr. laici			sacerdotes	fr. clerici	fr. laici		
Pr. ZAMBIAE	1	67	12		5	14	4		31	1	6	141	-2
Cust. pr. Ganensis		23	1		2	4			35		4	69	-1
Cust. pr. Keniana		28	6		3	1	2		21		3	64	2
Cust. pr. Tanzaniensis		14			2				13		4	33	1
summa AFCOF	1	132	19		12	19	6		100	1	17	307	0
Pr. CROATIAE		59	1			2			7			69	-2
Pr. GERMANIAE (+Nederlandia)		50		2		8	3					63	-1
Pr. SLOVENIAE		38			1	3			1		1	44	-2
Cust. Austro-Helvetica		21				1	1					23	-1
summa CEF		168	1	2	1	14	4		8		1	199	-6
Pr. POLONIAE - B.V.M. Imm.	2	210	1		2	98	17	5	22	4	6	367	-8
Pr. POLONIAE - S. Antonii	1	280	3		6	43	17	4	34		13	401	-1
Pr. POLONIAE - S. Max. K.		138	4	1		17	3		15		5	183	1
summa Poloniae	3	628	8	1	8	158	37	9	71	4	24	951	-8
Pr. CECA		11	1			3	1		3			19	2
Pr. HUNGARIAE-TRANSIL.*		4		1	1	2	1	1	2			12	-1
Cust. gen. Russiae		8				6						14	0
Cust. pr. Slovachiae		13			1	3	1		1		1	20	1
summa CEO	3	664	9	2	10	172	40	10	77	4	25	1 016	-6
Pr. Americ. - Cons. Affl. (OLC)	1	64		1		16			4	1	4	91	4
Pr. Americ. - D. N. Ang. (OLA)	2	157	2		5	29	2	2	5	2	1	207	-4
Pr. Americ. - S. Bonav. (SB)	2	33	2	1	1	16		2	4			61	-6
Pr. Americ. - S. Ios. C. (SJC)		30	1		11	11	3	2	15		6	79	4
Cust. pr. Anglo-Hibernica		21	2		1	3	1		5	1		34	-5
Cust. pr. Canadiensis		12										12	0
summa CFF	5	317	7	2	18	75	6	6	33	4	11	484	-7

CIRCUMSCRIPTIONES	Professi sollemnes						irregulares	extra claustra	Professi temporarii			novitii	OMNES	diff. a 2015
	episcopi	sacerdotes	diaconi tr.	diaconi p.	fr. clerici	fr. laici			sacerdotes	fr. clerici	fr. laici			
Pr. BRASILIENSIS-S. Franc.	2	47				5	4	4		6		2	70	2
Pr. BRASILIENSIS-S. Max. K.	2	57	5		5	5	4	3		14		6	101	1
Pr. MEXICI		44	4		6	3	3			18	1	9	88	5
Pr. RIOPLATENSIS		33		1	2	6	1			1			44	-4
Cust. pr. Americae Centralis*		12				3	2	2		2			21	0
Cust. pr. Boliviensis	1	21					4			3			29	-2
Cust. pr. Brasiliensis-Imm. C.	1	29				3	4	3					40	-1
Cust. pr. Brasiliensis-S. Bon.		18		2			1	1		3			25	0
Cust. pr. Columbiensis		22				2	4	1		10	1	2	42	-1
Cust. pr. Venetiolana		25	2			2	2	1		10			42	0
summa FALC	6	308	11	3	13	29	29	15		67	2	19	502	0
Pr. COREAE		50	2		1	16	1	1		2		2	75	2
Pr. IAPONIAE*	1	43				14	5			4			67	0
Pr. INDIAE		82	1		2	1	4	2		45		4	141	3
Cust. pr. Indonesiae		50			4	12	4			29	4	13	116	-7
Cust. pr. Philippinarum		27	2		2	5	1	2		8	5		52	-4
summa FAMC	1	252	5		9	48	15	5		88	9	19	451	-6
Pr. APRUTIORUM*		38			1	3						2	44	1
Pr. APULIAE	1	32	1			1		1	1	3	3		43	-3
Pr. ITALICA - S. Antonii Pat.	1	215	2	1	6	52		3	1	14		3	298	-8
Pr. MARCHIAE		44			3	2	1			4		1	55	1
Pr. NEAPOLITANA*	1	54	3		1	4		2		2		1	68	-5
Pr. ROMANA	1	30		1		1		3		1			37	-3
Pr. SARDINIAE	2	25	1	1		4	1	2		1	1		38	-3
Pr. SICILIAE		57			2	4	2	2		6			73	-8
Pr. TUSCIAE		19				2				1		1	23	-1
Pr. UMBRIAE*		25				1	1	1		2			30	1
Cust. gen. Assisiensis		23	1			8				1			33	-3
Cust. pr. Calabriae		17				4				1			22	3
summa Italiae	6	579	8	3	13	86	5	14	2	36	4	8	764	-28
Pr. HISPANIAE		55				10	5			1		1	72	0
Pr. MELITENSIS		42				3		1				2	48	2
Pr. ROMANIAE		173	6		2	18	11	16		48		10	284	-3
Cust. pr. Galliae		8			1	1				4			14	-1
Cust. pr. Orientis-Terrae S.	1	17	2			2				2			24	-5
summa FIMP	7	874	16	3	16	120	21	31	2	91	4	21	1 206	-35
summa totalis (cum novitiis)	23	2 715	68	12	80	477	120	67	2	464	24	113	4 165	-60
Diff. 2015	2	-7	-2	1	-8	-5	-18	-1	1	-20	1	-4	-60	
Summa totalis professorum	3 562						490			4 052			Tot.	
Diff. proff. 2015	-38						-18			-4			-60	

	TRANSITUS					HOC ANNO ADMISSI							fratres regressi in Prov./Cust.	affiliati ad tempus ad	transfilii in perp. ad	HOC ANNO EGRESSI							DEMISSI		DEFUNCTI		
	fratres regressi in Prov./Cust.	affiliatio ad tempus ex	transfilii in perp. ex	a clero diocesano	ab alio instituto	ad novitiatum	readmissio ab congr. prob.	prof. t.		prof. s.		ad diaconatum				ad presbyteratum	novitii	Professi temporarii egressi expletis votis	Prof. Temp. dispensati	Prof. Soli. dispensati	transitus ad clerum dioec. (ob incardin.)	amissio status clericalis	fratres sacerdotes	fratres laici	fratres sacerdotes	fratres laici	
								fratres clerici	fratres laici	fratres clerici	fratres laici																
Pr. BRASIL. – S. Franc.						2		2					2														
Pr. BRASIL. – S. Max. K.	1					7		2	1		6				1	4			1			1					
Pr. MEXICI						9		3	6	1	3	3			1	3											
Pr. RIOPLATENSIS								2					1			1							2				
Cust. pr. Americ. Centr.*																											
Cust. pr. Bolivienis															1							1					
Cust. pr. Brasil. - Imm. C.													2								1						
Cust. Pr. Brasil. - S. Bon.																											
Cust. pr. Columbiensis								5											1								
Cust. pr. Venetiola								5				2	1														
summa FALC	1					18		19	7	1	11	9		2	2	8		2		1	2	2					
Pr. COREAE						2						2	3														
Pr. IAPONIAE*						4		3	2		1	4			1												
Cust. pr. Indonesiae						13		2	2						2	15		2					1				
Cust. pr. Philippinarum								5	1	2		2				3			1								
summa FAMC						19		10	3	4	5	7		3	18		2	1				1					
Pr. APRUTIORUM*			1			2																		2			
Pr. APULIAE								1			1					1			1		1						
Pr. ITALICA S. Antonii P.	1	1		1		3		6	1	1	2								1					13			
Pr. MARCHIAE						1			2																		
Pr. NEAPOLITANA*						1		1			2				1			1	1	1	1						
Pr. ROMANA																1								2			
Pr. SARDINIAE									1										1					2			
Pr. SICILIAE										1					1	1			3				1	1			
Pr. TUSCIAE						1								1										1			
Pr. UMBRIAE*		1																									
Cust. gen. Assisiensis		1									1	1	2									1		1			
Cust. pr. Calabriae		3										1															
summa Italiae	1	6	1	1		7	1	7	2	4	1	6	2	3	2			3	2		6	2	1	1	22	1	
Pr. HISPANIAE						1		1																	1		
Pr. MELITENSIS						2							1														
Pr. ROMANIAE	3					10		5	1		5	8		3	4		2		1		5		1				
Cust. pr. Galliae								1																			
Cust. p. Orient.-Terraes S.		1						2				2	1		2	1											
summa FIMP	4	7	1	1		20	1	16	2	5	1	13	12	5	5			6	4	4		7	2	6	1	24	1
summa totalis	8	11	4	1	2	111	1	96	6	39	5	52	55	8	11	4		18	55	6	3	14	4	14	3	46	8

CENSUS ORDINIS - Distributio in Nationibus DIE 31 DECEMBRIS 2016

The data describes friars according to their distribution in the nations in which they live.
It also includes the friars who are "irregulars" and "extra claustra".

NATIONES	Conventus	Domus Filiales	PROFESSI SOLLEMNES						PROFESSI TEMPORARII			novitii	praenovitii- postulantes	adspirantes	OMNES
			Episcopi	Fr. sacerdotes	Fr. diaconi perm.	Fr. diaconi trans.	Fr. clerici	Fr. laici	Fr. sacerdotes	Fr. clerici	Fr. laici				
AEQUATORIA	4	1		11				4					4		19
ALBANIA	1			1											1
ANGLIA	6	1		23		1	1	3		4	1		4		37
ARGENTINA	7			26	1		2	4					1		34
AUSTRALIA	4		1	13				4							18
AUSTRIA	4			19				1							20
BELGIUM	1			7				1							8
BIELORUSSIA	5	1		14						1					15
BOLIVIA	5	1	1	25						11					37
BRASILIA	35	7	5	169	2	5	5	13		23		8	39	6	275
BULGARIA	2		1	5											6
BURKINA FASO	2			6						1			4		11
CALEDONIA	1			2											2
CANADA	5	2		19				2							21
CECHIA	5	1		15		1		3						1	20
CHILIA	3			12				1		1					14
CIVITAS VATICANA	1			15											15
COLUMBIA	5	1		24				3		10	1	2			40
COREA (merid.)	8	1		39		1	1	15		2		2	7		67
COSTA RICA	3		1	11			2	2		2					18
CROATIA	12			46		1		2		7			1		57
CUBA	2			5			2			2					9
FOEDERATAE CIVITATES AMERICAE (U.S.A)	62	5	3	296	2	4	3	65		17	3	7	9		409
GALLIA	4			20						1			1		22
GANA	5			16				4		15		5	22		62
GERMANIA	20	3		103	1	1		17					1		123
GUATEMALA		1		3											3
HELVETIA	3			14				1							15
HIBERNIA	2			7		1									8
HISPANIA	10			55				10		1			1		67
HONDURIA	2			7				2							9
HUNGARIA	2			4	1			1							6
SUMMAE pagina	231	25	12	1032	7	15	16	158		98	5	24	94	7	1468

NATIONES	Conventus	Domus Filiales										novitii	praenovitii- postul	adspirantes	OMNES
			Episcopi	Fr. sacerdotes	Fr. diaconi	Fr. diaconi trans.	Fr. clerici	Fr. laici	Fr. sacerdotes	Fr. clerici	Fr. laici				
SUMMAE pagina	231	25	12	1 032	7	15	16	158		98	5	24	94	7	1 468
IAPONIA	16	2	1	51		1		14		4					71
INDIA	12	2		54		1	2	2		38		4	11	27	139
INDONESIA	8			48			4	11		28	4	13	21	36	165
ITALIA	113	5	6	722	4	11	22	101	2	60	4	12	13		957
KAZACHSTANIA		1		2				1							3
KENIA	5	1		22		11	7	1		17	1		18		77
LIBANUS	2		1	8		2		1		1			3		16
LITUANIA	3			8				1							9
LUSITANIA	3			12											12
MALAVIA	1			1						2					3
MELITA	7	1		39				3							42
MEXICUM	9	1		37	1	5	6	3		18	1	9	22		102
MOLDAVIA		1		1											1
NEDERLANDIA	2			15				1							16
PARAGUAIA	3			7				1		4			1	2	15
PERUVIA	3	1		11			1	2		2					16
PHILIPPINAE	5			24		2	2	4		8	5	4	11		60
POLONIA	57	5	1	448	1	7	6	137		48	4	21	25		698
ROMANIA	16	3		118		6	1	13		41		10	7	86	282
RUSSIA	5			9				6					2		17
SALVATORIA	1			2				1		2					5
SLOVACHIA	4			11			1	3		4					19
SLOVENIA	8	1		35			1	3		1					40
SRI LANKA	1	3		7						6			2		15
SUETIA	1			6											6
TANZANIA	4			15						1		10	7		33
TURCHIA	3			10				2							12
UCRAINA	5			15		1		1					2		19
UGANDA	2	1		7											7
URUGUAIA	2			5				3							8
USBEKISTANIA	3		1	7				2							10
VENETIOLA	5			25		2		1		5					33
VIETNAMIA	2			6		1	9			11					27
ZAMBIA	15	1	1	63		7	1	16		65		6	13		172
SUMMA OMNIUM	557	54	23	2 883	13	72	79	492	2	464	24	113	252	158	4 575
SUMMAE partiales	611			3 562						490		113	410		
				SUMMA FRATRUM (cum novitiis): 4.165											