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Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium



2018

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## FRATERNUS NUNTIUS: Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium [2/2018]

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## MINISTER GENERAL

### MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Marco TASCA



## Calendar of the Minister General

### APRIL

- 2-6 Ghana: Fraternal visit
- 9-13 California: Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA
- 16-20 Mount St Francis-Indiana:  
Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation in the USA
- 23-27 Buffalo-New York:  
Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA
- 28-29 Niepokalanów: 100th anniversary of the priestly ordination of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 30-

### MAY

- 6 Russia: Fraternal visit
- 7-11 St. Petersburg: Ordinary Chapter of the General Custody of Russia
- 14-18 Rome: Session of the General Definitory
- 19-21 Valladolid: 50th anniversary of the San Francisco de Asís College
- 23-25 Ariccia: Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG)

### JUNE

- 11-15 Kazakhstan: Fraternal visit
- 29-30 Elizondo (Spain)

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## ■ ACTS OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY



# Session May 14-19, 2018

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

- approved the minutes of the meeting held February 12-17 and March 24, 2018;
- listened to the reports of visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
  - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, on the occasion of:
    - the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the FIMP Federation (Assisi, February 28–March 2, 2018);
    - the celebration of the first and second parts of the Ordinary Custodial Chapter of the Provincial Custody of St. Bonaventure in France-Belgium (Lourdes, France, February 19-22, 2018 and April 3-5, 2018);
    - the meeting of the friars of the Provinces of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo) and St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia) (Bari-Italy, April 17-18, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedict BAEK, on the occasion of:
    - his fraternal visit to the Mission of Calcutta, India (March 1-5, 2018);
    - the Provincial Assembly of the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Korea (Seoul, February 19-20, 2018) (March 1-5, 2018);
    - his fraternal visit to the common novitiate of the FAMC Federation (Tagaytay City, the Philippines, March 6-10, 2018);
    - the meeting of the FAMC Federation formators (Tagaytay City, the Philippines, April 23-28, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
    - the annual “Juniorentreffen” celebratory meeting of the friars in formation in the CEF Federation (Schwarzenberg, Germany, 3-7, April 2018);
    - the celebration of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia (Ptuj, Slovenia, April 22-26, 2018);
    - the Assembly of the friars of the Provincial Delegation in Holland (Dongen, Holland, May 1-2, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the CFF, Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of:
    - the celebration of the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA, (Castro Valley, California, USA, April 9-12, 2018);
    - the celebration of the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation in the USA (Mount St. Francis, Indiana, USA, April 16-19, 2018);
    - the celebration of the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA (Buffalo, New York, USA, April 23-27, 2018);
    - the celebration of the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Bonaventure in the USA (Chicago, Illinois, USA, April 30 - May 4, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of:
    - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Cuba (Marz 18-27, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
    - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Slovakia (February 19-22 and 26-28, 2018);
    - the Provincial Assembly of the friars of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary-Transylvania (Miskolc, Hungary, February 23, 2018);
    - his fraternal visit to the Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic (March 4-13, 2018);

- the Provincial meeting of the Superiors and the heads of Provincial works of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw) (Niepokalanów-Lasek, Poland, April 16-18, 2018);
- the meeting of the FEMO Federation formators (Cracow, Poland, April 19-21, 2018);
- the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the priestly ordination of St. Maximilian Kolbe (Niepokalanów, Poland, April 29, 2018);
- the celebration of the first part of the Custodial Chapter of the General Custody of Our Holy Father St. Francis in Russia (St. Petersburg, Russia, May 7-10, 2018);
- appointed Friar Felice FIASCONARO to his third term as guardian of the General Community of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum-Rome);
- appointed the visitators for the five General Houses in Rome: for the Friary of St. Anthony at the Baths ("Vigna"), Friar Dominique MATHIEU; for the Friary of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum), Friar Jarosław ZACHARIASZ; for the Friary of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe, Friar Dominique MATHIEU; for the Friary of St. Peter (Apostolic Penitentiary), Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI, and for the Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles, Friar Luciano FANIN;
- with members of the CERC present: Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, was updated on preparations for the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter;
- listened to and commented on the report of:
  - the General Visitor, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, Assistant General for the AFCOF, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana;
  - the General Visitor, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, Assistant General for the FALC, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Provincial Delegation of Ecuador;
  - the General Visitor, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, Assistant General for the FALC, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Provincial Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil;
  - the General Visitor, Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, Assistant General for the FIMP, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land;
- considered and granted the request for financial aid to the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania, for the celebration of the beatification of the Servant of God Veronica ANTAL;
- suppressed the Beata Vergine Maria Addolorata friary in Castelpetroso, Italy, Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo), effective May 20, 2018;
- declared the Statutes of the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land to be in accordance with the law of the Order;
- met with Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU, General Assistant of the Secular Franciscan Order, listened to a report on his activities in 2017 and evaluated his plans for 2018;
- met with Friar Raffaele DI MURO who is delegated to act on behalf of the Minister General in his capacity as International Assistant of the Militia of the Immaculate, listened to a report on his activities in 2017 and evaluated his plans for 2018;
- met with Friar Agnello STOIA, President of the BYNODE Association and Mr. Matteo PERFETTI, a consultant for the Association;
- was updated on the procedure proposed by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for the Sisters of the Swiss Monastery of Moutathal to transfer to the Poor Clares;
- established that the annual outing of the members of the General Definitory and the friars of the General Offices will take place on February 23-27, 2019 with a visit to the city of Naples;
- with Friar Valentín REDONDO present, the was presented with, and afterwards reviewed, the first draft-outline prepared by the Coordinating Committee of the Six-Year Plan of the Order (CCPS) to be proposed to the Major Superiors of the Order for their respective reports with an eye towards the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter;
- was presented with the first draft of the "Coordination of General Offices" (Motion no. 18 of the 2013 General Chapter).
- was presented by the Vicar General with the draft of the "Plan for the Life and Mission of the Inter-Franciscan Fraternity of Emmaus". Subsequently, unanimously approved the draft

## GENERAL SECRETARIAT

of the "Agreement between Our Order and the Friars Minor," which was relevant to the Emmaus Project, and also unanimously approved the "Decree of the Constitution of the Fraternity of Emmaus";

- made decisions on some financial issues;
- agreed on the text of a letter to be sent to the Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples);
- with the Dean of the Faculty of St Bonaventure, Friar Đình Anh Nhuệ NGUYỄN present, along with the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, was updated on the Franciscan University project and subsequently, unanimously approved a process to be proposed for the Project's implementation.
- unanimously accepted the Minister General's proposal to provide the Procurator of the Order with two jurist friars who will assist him in carrying out his office. The Procurator of the Order will prepare a draft statute regulating the Procurator Office which will then be submitted to the General Definitory for approval;
- considered some personal cases.

### GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI  
Secretary General



## Vigna Friary Makes Pilgrimage

■ Friar Jair del Cristo CONTRERAS LÁZARO

**During the Octave of Easter, April 2-9, 2018, the friars of the friary of St. Anthony at the Baths (Vigna) in Rome, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for a spiritual retreat.**

The pilgrimage-retreat was based on the words of the Gospel: "We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Father Pietro CAMPOMINOSI led the group.

The reflections, prayer periods and the contact with the places commemorating the various events in the Gospel, were very significant for the friars and allowed them to internalize the message of Jesus Christ.



The participants

Moreover, the week gave the friars an opportunity to discuss life and to strengthen the bonds of fraternity.

We sincerely ask God to grant us the ability to “come down from the mountain” and joyfully proclaim the Good News which Jesus has made resonate in our hearts.

## Rome: Kolbean Conference at the Seraphicum

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

**On May 5, 2018, a Kolbean Convention took place, hosted by the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum).**

The theme of the Convention was: “Inter-religious Dialogue Calls upon the Militia of the Immaculate: A Reflection Starting with Kolbe.”

A day in the academic calendar is customarily set aside each year to reflect on new challenges, make contributions and offer orientations in light of the life and witness of faith of St. Maximilian KOLBE.

This year’s conference was moderated by Anna Maria CALZOLARO (Father Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculate). Two of its featured lecturers were Friar Silvestro BEJAN, OFM Conv., the Order’s General Delegate for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue (EDI) and Director of the International Franciscan Center for Dialogue, in Assisi (CEFID); and Friar Raffaele DI MURO, OFM Conv., the Director of the Seraphicum’s Kolbean Chair and the International President of the Militia of the Immaculate.

At the end of the conference, there was a theatrical performance entitled “Our Fathers” – The Kolbe Story as Told by Franciszek GAJOWNICZEK (the father of a family for whom Kolbe offered to exchange his life). The play starred Davide CAPONE and was directed by Antonio TARALLO.

## Rome: Seraphicum – European Premiere of Documentary Film

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO - Seraphicum Press Office; Photo: Friar Franciszek CZARNOWSKI

**On May 9, 2018, the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure hosted the premiere of the documentary film *The Sultan and the Saint* in collaboration with PISAI – the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Cineforum Seraphicum and the monthly “St. Bonaventure Informs” publication.**

This documentary film, directed by American Alex KRONEMER, was about the meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan AL-KAMIL.

Friar Emanuele RIMOLI, OFM Conv., introduced the documentary. Friar Emanuele is a professor at the Seraphicum and one of the film’s promoters. There were presentations from the film’s American director, Alex KRONEMER, and from Sister Marie LUCEY, the Assistant Director of the Franciscan Action Network, (FAN) a USA Franciscan Solidarity Association. Also present in the room was FAN’s Executive Director, Patrick CAROLAN and Friar Mike LASKY, OFM Conv., a promoter for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

The American director’s reconstruction of this historical event made for an interesting discussion about certain issues related to the meeting, such as the personalities of St. Francis and the Sultan, the role of the Church, the crusades, and what pressuring influences may have resulted from the meeting.

It was an open and frank discussion, moderated and led by Friar Emil KUMKA, OFM Conv., a professor of Franciscanism. He was assisted by Friar Dariusz WIŚNIEWSKI,



OFM Conv., a theologian and former missionary in Turkey, and by Professor Adnane MOKRANI, an associate professor at PISAI.

Among the ideas Professor MOKRANI mentioned was a “mimicry of good, in rediscovering a common humanity, in not seeing the other as a hostile person, but seeing him with the eyes of humanity as someone who prays”.

“St. Francis’ goal was to go forth and proclaim the Gospel,” said Friar WIŚNIEWSKI, “and it is important to stress that he writes ‘among the Saracens’ (*inter*, not *contra* nor *ad*), and that this is how St. Francis thinks about the presence of friars in the world, that they are placed precisely among the people, as peace-bearers.”

There was also discussion, in light of the artistic license that film takes, to read in the parallels of the historical data provided by the Franciscan sources. For example there was reflection on the composition of the “Praises of the Most High God” and its similarity to the Ninety-nine names used to invoke Allah. Professor MOKRANI explained: “There is a clear affinity - but this is not syncretism. Certainly, St. Francis and the Sultan shared the ability to listen and learn something from each other. This requires humility and freedom from arrogance. Arrogance can pose a real risk to faith and spirituality. When we are truly free, we can appreciate the beauty of the other, without jealousy; not perceiving the other as a danger, but as an opportunity for spiritual enrichment.”

To really examine the goal of peace, Friar Emanuele RIMOLI gave the guests a parchment containing part of the text of “The Praises of God Most High” from St. Francis in the *Mirror of Perfection*, alongside some of the ninety-nine names listed in the Qur’an, by which to invoke God. The gift was a powerful symbol of how, despite respective differences, we can still pray, converse and work to achieve peace.

## Rome: The Patriarch “Meets” the Apostles

■ Friar Agnello STOIA, Pastor; Photo: Friar Iulian EVA

**On Wednesday, May 23, 2018, His All-Holiness, Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, came to venerate the relics of the Apostles Philip and James at our Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome.**

This reciprocated a visit made on May 9, 2017, by a delegation of Franciscan friar-priests from Rome, to the cathedral of St. Polycarp in Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey). On that occasion, Friar Silvestru BEJAN from the Sacro Convento in Assisi and Friar Agnello STOIA, Pastor of the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles (acting on behalf of the Minister General), delivered two relics of the Apostle Philip as gifts to the Patriarch and to the Most Reverend Lorenzo PIRETTO O.P., Archbishop of Izmir, as a “symbolic return” of the apostle to the places where he preached and was martyred (Hierapolis, today’s Pamukkale).

The prayer service at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles was intensified by the presence of so many participants, including friars from the various General Houses in



The friars with His All-Holiness and guests of honor



Rome. There were also many Orthodox with their faithful, a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and one from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The Patriarch was greeted by His Eminence, Angelo Cardinal DE DONATIS, Vicar of the Pope for the City of Rome, and Friar Marco TASCA, our Minister General. Speaking on behalf of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, Friar Marco expressed strong appreciation for the Patriarch's commitment to the defense of Creation. Given that it was the eve of the Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi, he also mentioned Brother Elias of Cortona, who initiated the Custody of the Holy Land. Since 1217, the friars of that Custody have collaborated with the Orthodox, sharing its holy sites and the difficult situation in the Near East.

In his speech, the Patriarch explained the reasons for his visit to Rome and the conversation he would be having with Pope Francis; talking with him about suffering humanity, about the commitment to people in need and about our being together as a true sign of communion and witness of the crucified and risen Christ.

At one very exciting point, Catholics and Orthodox entered the crypt and recited the profession of faith together in front of the relics of the two apostles Phillip and James. At the conclusion of the prayer service, they venerated the Basilica's icon of the Greek Madonna, the most ancient image of the Immaculate Conception known.

## Rome: Meeting of the International "Youth Towards Assisi" Team

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

**On June 9-10, 2018, the preparation team for the International "Youth Towards Assisi" Meeting held its final planning session at the Seraphicum International College in Rome.**

The International Meeting will take place August 12-19, 2018, in Assisi and Rome.

All the members of the team were present: Friars Simone TENUTI (the Meeting's Director), Giulio CESAREO, Francesco SCIALPI, Jack MARDESIC, Tomasz TĘGOWSKI (in charge of the Militia of the Immaculate youth group), Massimiliano VOLANTE (the Meeting's Treasurer) and the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ.

The team's final meeting took place over the weekend because those were the only days available for some of the members.

After completing the organizational work, a number of presidors were chosen to head the Meeting's various celebrations. Next, the Meeting's balance sheets were presented. Workshop activities and other details of the Meeting were finalized. At present, there are some 350 young people and their companions registered.

Although registration closed on May 31, 2018, some exceptions may be possible.

During the two-day meeting, the team members joined the students of the Seraphicum College for prayer and Mass.



The members of the team

## Rome: Conference on Cardinal NGUYỄN Văn Thuận

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO - Seraphicum Press Office

**On June 13, 2018, His Eminence, the late François-Xavier Cardinal NGUYỄN Văn Thuận of Vietnam was the subject of discussion at an international conference entitled “Hope, Eucharist, Forgiveness and Love: Reflection on ‘Asian’ Evangelical Spirituality by the Venerable Cardinal NGUYỄN Văn Thuận for Today.”**

The conference was held at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) in Rome.

The event was promoted by the Franciscan Institute for Asian Theological Studies (FI-ATS), founded and chaired by the Dean of the Faculty, Friar Đinh Anh Nhuệ NGUYỄN, OFM Conv. Many of the audience members were Vietnamese. The Vietnamese have always recognized their bishop as an example of great faith and courage. The conference took place one year after the Cardinal had been named “venerable”. The conference speakers included the above-mentioned Professor NGUYỄN and Professors Stéphane OPPEL, OFM, and François-Marie LÉTHEL (Carmelite). The spirituality of Cardinal NGUYỄN Văn Thuận (1928-2002) emerged with force and extraordinary coherence during his thirteen years in detention. Nine of those years were spent in isolation.

A strong message emerged from the conference, a message on the centrality of hope, forgiveness and love, as summarized in another of his invitations to us: “Discover the joy of hope!”

## Seraphicum: Closing of the Academic Year

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO - Seraphicum Press Office

**Saturday, June 23, 2018, marked the closing of the 114th academic year of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) in Rome. The faculty is governed by the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.**

The festivities began, as usual, with the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving. After the Mass, everyone gathered for a friendly, outdoor dinner in the park of the Seraphicum.

The Mass was presided-over by Friar Jerzy NOREL who is both Vicar General of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual and Vice Chancellor of the Faculty. Friar Jerzy, recalling the greeting of the Dean, Friar Đinh Anh Nhuệ NGUYỄN, mentioned that the Mass is a good time to thank the Lord for the many gifts received during the academic year, not only in terms of education, but also in terms of relationships, through the friendships established between students.

“These years of study,” said Friar Jerzy, “represent a time of encounter with God. Those who study theology are engaged in the dynamics of not only understanding but also encounter, of experiencing a Person. God is not an idea or a concept or something abstract. Rather, he is a living and true Person who loves us”.

At the end of the Mass, the Dean named and acknowledged those students who, during the course of the academic year, had passed the exams for their degrees: Those who received baccalaureate degrees were Vincent Antony Pragasam INNASIMUTHU; Christopher Michael DUDEK, OFM Conv.; Joseph Dayag-Né-Wendé KADSONDO, OFM Conv.; Franca LIMONGI, Manuel Edgardo NÚÑEZ GALLARDO, OFM Conv.; Teyindé Songré Martin ROUAMBA, OFM Conv.; Ramón Alfredo RUI UREÑA, OFM Conv.; and Mateusz WOJTOWICZ, OFM Conv. Those who received licentiate degrees were Pedro Javier MORA ALVIAREZ, OFM Conv.; Đông Thành HOANG; OFM Conv.; and Alessio SECONI. Classes for the new academic year will start on Monday October 8, 2018.

 GENERAL OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL  
General Delegate for Communications



## Worldwide: Twelve Stars in Mary's Crown

■ Editorial board

**In his Message for the World Day of Peace in 2004, John Paul II made this appeal: “Humanity needs now more than ever to rediscover the path of concord, overwhelmed as it is by selfishness and hatred, by the thirst for power and the lust for vengeance.”**

In a similar tone, Benedict XVI encouraged us to “offer new hope to the world” because “peace is not a dream or something utopian; it is possible.”

Twelve countries from around the world will establish *Peace Chapels* – “Twelve stars in the Crown of Mary, Queen of Peace”. Despite being separated by time and distance, the chapels will collectively form the World Prayer for Peace Center. Each chapel, protected by the Mother of God, will carry out perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

These “Prayer for Peace Centers” will be located on every continent. They will especially target areas affected by war, religious conflict and racial hatred. They shall be placed where people have the strongest hope for peace and reconciliation and where they seek Christ, the true source of these blessings.

Artists Mariusz and Kamil DRAPIKOWSKI from Gdansk, Poland, have created special adoration altars for the Twelve Stars project. Each altar is fashioned as an icon, based on the work and prayers of the design team. The altars’ high level of workmanship places them among the most beautiful works of modern sacred art.

The centers are located in: Bethlehem (previously in Jerusalem) in Israel; Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Oziornoje in Kazakhstan; Yamoussoukro in Ivory Coast; in Namyang in South Korea; Kibeho in Rwanda; and Dagupan in the Philippines. Among the twelve countries hosting Prayer for Peace Centers is Poland, and more specifically, Niepokalanów, the “friary-city” founded by St. Maximilian M. Kolbe.



The plan for the adoration altar in Niepokalanów

# Warsaw: President of Poland Given Relics of Pariacoto Martyrs

■ Editorial board / Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK

**The President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej DUDA, was given relics of Poland's first blessed missionary martyrs, Friars Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and Michał TOMASZEK. Both friars belonged to the Order of Friars Minor Conventual (Conventual Franciscans).**

The Conventual Franciscans of Cracow gave this very precious gift to the President on "Sanctity of Life Day", Monday April 9, 2018. The presentation was made during a Mass at the presidential palace.

Friar Jan HRUSZOWIEC, OFM Conv., who promotes the cult of the martyrs of Pariacoto, solemnly went in procession with the relics to the president's chapel. He was accompanied by two brothers of the Blessed Martyrs, Marek TOMASZEK and Bogdan STRZAŁKOWSKI.

At the end of the Mass, Friar Zdzisław GOGOLA, OFM Conv., the former Minister Provincial who sent Friars Zbigniew and Michał to Peru, recited the Prayer for Peace and Defense Against Terrorism. Pope Francis offered the same prayer in the Conventual Franciscan Basilica in Cracow, on July 30, 2016.

After the final blessing, Friar Mariusz KOZIOL, the Vicar Provincial of the Martyrs' home Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow), presented the relics of the blessed friars so the faithful could venerate them with a kiss.

The Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Henryk HOSER, Archbishop of Warszawa-Praga, Poland. Others participating included the President of the Republic and his wife, consultants and employees of the Office of the President, the Conventual Franciscans, family members of the Blessed Martyrs, and representatives from the parishes safeguarding the relics of Saint Gianna BERETTA MOLLA, a mother who gave her life for her child.

Friars Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and Michał TOMASZEK were martyred at the hands of communist terrorists in Pariacoto, Peru, on August 9, 1991. Pope Francis raised them to the glory of the altars on December 5, 2015. The Church celebrates their liturgical feast day on June 7th.



The President of Poland with the relics of the martyrs



## Geneva: FI International Council

■ Friar Joseph BLAY, Delegate General for GPIC

**On April 12-15, 2018, the international council of Franciscans International (FI) held its first meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.**

The council is made up of representatives of the Franciscan family, plus a representative from the Anglican Franciscan confraternity.

After serving two terms on the council, Friar Jude WINKLER, OFM Conv., and Friar Benedict AYODI, OFM Cap., have resigned. They have been replaced by Friar Joseph BLAY, OFM Conv. and Friar James DONEGAN, OFM Cap. The appointments of both friars were approved by the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF) and were accepted by their respective Ministers General. The second FI meeting will be held next November in New York (USA).



The FI council

## Assisi: Day of Prayer for Peace

■ Editorial board

On Friday, April 27, 2018, the ecclesial and civil authorities of the city of Assisi organized a day of prayer for peace in Syria.

The initiative will take place every month. It is a response to the proposal made by St. John Paul II, when he gathered representatives of the world's religions in Assisi on October 27, 1986.

The Bishop of Assisi and his entire Diocese; the Mayor of Assisi, the public institutions and associations of Assisi; the *Table of Peace* Association and the *Network of Peace* Association jointly signed an open letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations, António GUTIERREZ. The letter proposed that the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month be a day of prayer and reflection for peace for the tortured land of Syria.

The motive behind this initiative is "to silence weapons and reopen dialogue." In this way, the city of Assisi hopes to become an instrument of peace; hosting peace talks between the parties involved, and thereby ending the atrocious suffering which has been inflicted upon so many defenseless citizens.

# Assisi: Anniversary of the Dedication of the Basilica

■ Editorial board; Photo: Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL.

**Immediately after St. Francis' canonization, on July 16, 1228, Pope Gregory IX ordered that a *specialis ecclesia*, a basilica, should be built in Assisi where the mortal remains of the Seraphic Father are preserved.**

The Pontiff himself blessed the cornerstone and in 1230 commanded that the body of the Saint be transported from the church of San Giorgio to the new basilica. He named the basilica the "Head and Mother" of the Order of Minors. Innocent IV solemnly consecrated it in 1253.

Here below is some of the text found in the Office of Readings, taken from the Constitution *Fidelis Dominus* of Pope Benedict XIV:

"Our predecessor Gregory IX accepted the place as the property of the Apostolic See. Moreover he decreed that the church to be erected thereon should be subject to the Apostolic See alone.

Later, after the same Pope Gregory had enrolled the glorious patriarch in the catalogue of saints at Assisi, he personally laid the cornerstone of the church and declared it to be the head and mother church of the Order of Friars Minor.

After the body of Saint Francis was transferred there with memorable solemnity and the church was completed Pope Innocent IV solemnly consecrated it on the Sunday before the feast of the Ascension of our Lord in the year 1253.

Following the example of so many of our predecessors we too have been willingly led to add to the splendor and honor of this church. This is the chief reason that motivated us: We concluded that the more the Apostolic See honored the memory of Saint Francis, the more could the Roman Church hope for greater protection through his intercession. Therefore, by means of this our constitution, valid in perpetuity, we raise the aforesaid church to the dignity of a Patriarchal Basilica and Papal Chapel, confirming it at the same time as the Head and Mother of the Order of Minors."



The Sacro Convento in Assisi

# Mexico: Reconciliation Assembly

■ Editorial board

**On June 18-20, 2018, the Franciscan Conference of Mexico (COFRAMEX) celebrated its 2018 annual assembly on the theme: “Unity in the Franciscan Family.”**

The Franciscans of Mexico wanted to dedicate this 2018 assembly to unity in order to continue the work which the Ministers General of the Franciscan Order started in 2013. At that time, Pope Francis expressed the desire that the Order should strive for unity and thus be rejuvenated through an authentic and profound reconciliation. The assembly was held at the “Casa Pastoral Juan Pablo”, in San Juan de los Lagos, in the State of Jalisco, Mexico.

Around 100 participants attended the assembly; men and women, religious and laity, all with the Franciscan charism in their hearts. They reflected on and discussed unity within the Order and showed their desire to bear witness to the world the Gospel charism they received and to do it with strength and conviction. They wanted to examine their own history together, as true brothers and sisters sharing the same journey. It is a “journey full of promises, challenges and abundant blessings,” as the President of COFRAMEX, Friar Néstor WER, OFM Cap., said in an interview.

The assembly examined the current status of the nation and acknowledged its challenges, especially regarding issues such as migrants, youth and peace building. In composing the final message of the assembly, the Franciscan Family in Mexico committed itself to “collaborating among its own presences and with others for the sake of peace and goodness, thus contributing towards the building of a more just and peaceful Mexico”.

During the assembly, the 40th anniversary of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) was also proclaimed. The Rule was approved by Pope Paul VI on June 24, 1978.

This final message of the 2018 assembly was signed by Sister Virginia RAMÍREZ (OIC); Friar Ángel GABINO GUTIÉRREZ (OFM); Ángel DE LA ROSA (OFS); Friar Constantino ALONSO (OFM Cap.); Sister Lourdes GARCÍA (OSC Cap.), Friar Herlindo APARICIO CRUZ (OFM Conv.), Sr. Guadalupe SAINZ (OSC), Friar Armando VÁZQUEZ (OFM), María Esther PÉREZ (OFS), Friar Sergio BELLO (TOR) and Friar Néstor WER (OFM Cap.).

## [www.capgenofmconv.org](http://www.capgenofmconv.org)

■ Editorial board

**The 201st Extraordinary General Chapter of the Friars Minor Conventual will begin Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at the Centro *Ad Gentes* Retreat Center operated by the Society of the Divine Word in Nemi, near Rome, Italy.**

We are presenting a new website dedicated to this event: [www.capgenofmconv.org](http://www.capgenofmconv.org). We hope it will allow all of the friars, and even our friends and supporters, to participate in this very important meeting of the Order.

To facilitate the use of the website, here is a breakdown of its contents:

- in the “Convocation” section you will find the official letter convoking the 201st Extraordinary General Chapter; the list of participants (with active and non-active voice), Chapter staff, interpreters and translators; and the address of the Chapter’s location;

- in the “*Instrumentum laboris*” section you will find the complete text (downloadable in pdf format), as well as its parts: the introduction, itinerary, glossary of terms, sources, quotes and the draft text of the new Constitutions divided into chapters; in some cases, different ways of presenting the content’s graphics are used;

- the “Prayers” part contains the invocations to be used during Morning and Evening Prayer, in order to pray for the intentions of the Chapter;

- in the “Timetable” section the general program of work is presented;

- in the “Multimedia” section, videos and PowerPoint presentations can be seen, concerning the work on the revision of the Constitutions done in recent years.

The closing of the Chapter is scheduled approximately for August 26, 2018.



■ GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION

Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL  
Secretary General of the SGF



## The Philippines: Formators' Assembly and Novitiate Commission

■ Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL

**On April 23-29, 2018, a Formators' Assembly and the first meeting of the Commission for the common novitiate were conducted by the Secretary General of the General Secretariat for Formation (SGF), Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL.**

Assisting him was Friar Emanuele RIMOLI, SGF member and Seraphicum formator. Both meetings took place at the St. Joseph friary in Tagaytay City, in the Philippines. The St. Joseph friary houses the postulancy program of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines as well as the common novitiate for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC).

The Formators' Assembly (April 23-27) saw the participation of formators from various Jurisdictions: the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Korea and Sri Lanka. The Assembly was aimed at ongoing formation and tackled theological, Franciscan and educational themes. A fraternal atmosphere, made more so by the welcoming reception of the Filipino friars and an awareness of the urgent need to deal with formation issues, fostered frank and meaningful discussion not only on organizational issues but also on the blessings of this ministry, on relational difficulties with those being formed, and communication with the Jurisdiction and between formators on the same team.

When the Assembly's work was finished, the second meeting of the week spontaneously got underway. This was the first meeting of the Commission for the common novitiate (April 28-29). Its goal was to prepare a formation directory. The participants included Friar Benedict BAEK (Assistant General for the FAMC), FAMC Secretary Friar Luke VŪ from the Delegation of Vietnam; Friars Francis MATEO, Emmanuel GIVA and Matthew FARAON from the Philippines; Friar Martin PALLIKKARA from India and a missionary in Sri Lanka; and Friar James PHAN from Vietnam.

After the meetings, the SGF Secretary personally met with the formators and novices of the common novitiate. This novitiate year will end next August. There are currently eight novices from three Jurisdictions who are preparing for temporary profession in their respective Jurisdictions. Two novices come from the mission in Sri Lanka, three from the Custody of the Philippines and three from the Delegation of Vietnam.



The participants



## Zambia: Franciscan Formation for Formators

■ Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL

**The Franciscan School for the Formation of Formators in Africa (FSFFA) is a new, joint initiative between four Franciscan Families.**

From May 27 to June 10, 2018, a FSFFA seminar was held at the St. Bonaventure University-College in Lusaka, Zambia. The seminar was conducted by three Secretaries General from three of the Franciscan Families. They were joined by other moderators and formators from Africa.

Fifty-three formators from four Franciscan families participated, namely, the OFM Conv., the OFM, the OFM Cap., and the TOR. They came together to prepare, discern and do some fine-tuning in order to become more effective formators.

The seminar helped them get to know each other and experience Franciscan fraternity. Since 1992, three of the Franciscan families have been boarding at St. Bonaventure University-College and participating in joint formation. Each Franciscan family has its own separate living area, but the friars are constantly engaged in common activities. Apart from the studies they undertake together at St. Bonaventure College, they also come together for prayer, Mass, social work, and cultural activities. Therefore, the College is a very fitting place for inspiring formators about the value of fraternal, joint formation.

This seminar was divided into three sections, each running for two weeks. The first section offered material on the anthropological, psychological, Franciscan-theological and practical dimensions of formation. Every morning two of those dimensions were covered and in the afternoon there were group discussions based on the morning lectures. The formators also had an opportunity to share their own formative experiences and to suggest ways to have a more integral spiritual formation.

In the evening, along with the Vespers, there were inner healing sessions in the presence of the Lord. This helped the formators to make a personal inner journey, to heal their wounds of the past in order to become healed healers.



The participants

[web@ofmconv.net](mailto:web@ofmconv.net)

■ GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR MISSION ANIMATION

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI  
Secretary General of the SGAM



## Poland: Missionary Animation at the Formation Houses

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**On April 16-21, 2018, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM), presented various topics about missionary activity to the novitiate community in Smardzewice and to the post-novitiate community in Łódź, Poland.**

This time, the animation was carried out with help from two Provincial Secretaries: Friar Robert KOZIELSKI, from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk) and Friar Eugeniusz RÓŻAŃSKI, from the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw)

The following objectives were proposed at both formation houses:

1. To expand horizons regarding the missions of the Order, through information and reflection inspired by Pope Francis' Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. 2. To awaken passion and enthusiasm for missionary work. 3. To explain the mission of the secretariats for missionary animation. 4. To share the testimony of the life and martyrdom of our Blessed Friars Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.

There was also discussion and testimony on the missions in Kenya and Bulgaria.



The novitiate in Smardzewice



The post-novitiate community in Łódź

## Ariccia: Annual SEDOS Seminar

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**From April 30, to May 4, 2018, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) and Friar Joseph BLAY, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), attended a SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study) residential seminar on the theme “Youth and Mission.”**

The seminar took place at the Casa Divin Maestro in Ariccia-Rome, Italy.

SEDOS is a forum open to Institutes of Consecrated Life desiring to learn more about missionary formation. The purpose of this seminar was to study, reflect, pray and talk about today’s youth, with a view toward the upcoming Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment to be held in October of 2018.

Various experts gave lectures on contemporary youth culture, faith, vocational discernment, etc. The speakers included: Professor Emilia PALLADINO of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Sister Bruna ZALTRON (Ursuline), Friar Paul RAJ (Monfortani), Friar Paul BEDNARCZYK (Rogationist), and some special testimony from His Eminence, Lorenzo Cardinal Baldisseri.

130 men and women religious representing different locations, languages and cultures around the world, took part in the seminar, creating an atmosphere of communion and participation.



Our representatives at the meeting

## Brussels: Course for New Missionaries

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**At the beginning of March, 2018, a course for new, French-speaking missionaries began in Brussels, Belgium.**

The course was attended by ten friars (OFM and OFM Cap.) from different parts of the world: Madagascar, Chad, Togo, India, Italy and Poland.



The young friars from the AFCOF Federation in Assisi



During May 15-19, 2018, the friars concluded their course by making a pilgrimage to Assisi and other Franciscan places. On May 15, 2018, they were hosted by the fraternity at the friary of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Rome. During their journey to various Franciscan places, they were accompanied by the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM), Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, OFM Conv., and Friar Jacek MATYNIA, OFM Conv. Thus, for a while, there was some sharing between the three Franciscan Orders.

At the beginning of September, a course for new, English-speaking missionaries will begin. Our friars from Zambia and the Philippines will participate at that time.

## Rivotorto: Workshop and Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**From May 27 to June 9, 2018, young friars of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) took part in the second stage of their formation experience in Assisi and other Franciscan places.**

Their home base was the proto-friary of Rivotorto near Assisi.

They were able to take part in some missionary discussions with Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) during their reflections and visits to different places.

June 7, 2018 was the liturgical commemoration of the Blessed Franciscan martyrs of Pariacoto, Peru: Friars Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI. On that day a workshop was organized on various themes, consisting of three parts: the methodological approach of the various missions in Kenya and Zambia, an assessment of the effort of “inculturation” of pastoral methods, popular religiosity, cultures and places of origin, and one’s “insertion” among the least.

Some questions were posed, starting from the highs and lows of the recent past. According to the young friars from Kenya and Zambia, what should the Franciscan style of the mission be today? What are the concrete choices one should make? In what areas would it be good to be engaged? Along what lines could the Order’s missionary policy proceed?

The second part of the workshop was dedicated to discussing and testifying about the life and martyrdom of our confreres Michał and Zbigniew. During the third part, horizons were opened with regard to the Order’s missions, through lessons and discussions covering the key elements of Franciscan spirituality, in order to awaken passion and enthusiasm for missionary work.

In the evening, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI presided over Mass with the local fraternity, parishioners, OFS brothers and pilgrims. In commemorating the martyrdom of Friars Michał and Zbigniew, three words were emphasized: mission, fraternity and the poor.

One detail was especially meaningful: everything took place in a very special location - the sanctuary of Rivotorto - where the Franciscan adventure first began.



The poster of the Conference



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

Friar Joseph BLAY  
General Delegate for GPIC



## India: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

**From May 22 to June 7, 2018, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC) made a fraternal visit to India.**

Friar Joseph BLAY was accompanied by Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY Vice-Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), who was already in India for his vacation. The purpose of the fraternal visit was to animate the friars in the areas of GPIC and missionary work. The animation effort was focused mainly on friars in initial formation.

On May 24, 2018, Friars Joseph and Alphonse went to the Provincial headquarters where they met with twelve newly professed and three other temporarily professed friars who are spending a year experiencing fraternity in community.

The next day, they met twenty-three novices in Puthenchira. The morning was dedicated to a retreat led by Friar Joseph. He preached on the theme: "What Creation Says about God". At Nirmalaram, Friar Joseph and Friar Alphonse spent three days with the friars and minor seminarians. The Rector devoted all of May 29 to the two General Delegates so that they could interact with the students.

On May 31, 2018, Friar Joseph went alone to Kolbe Ashram, a formation house for postulants, and to Alwaye where the clerical students reside. He met with twenty-five postulants on Friday afternoon and led a retreat for fifteen clerical students, to begin the new academic year. The following day he joined the friars to attend the inauguration of the new academic year of the Pontifical Institute of Alwaye (PIA). He addressed the Franciscan clerical students in the afternoon, and in the evening, spent time with the Rogationist Fathers who invited him to speak to their thirty-eight students.

The main part of the visit took place in Coimbatore. Friars Joseph and Alphonse were there June 4- 6, 2018. In Snehalaya and Coimbatore, they visited a community of four friars and another of two Franciscan nuns; they treat thirty-five HIV patients. The work they do merits a report of its own.

On June 5, 2018, the friars of Coimbatore organized a solemn ceremony to commemorate the 2018 World Environment Day. Some religious, students from three nearby schools and twenty soldiers representing the Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the Indian army, participated in the ceremony and planted some trees as a symbolic gesture. Finally, Friar Joseph was asked to give a short speech.

The visit to India was very fruitful. We thank all the wonderful Indian friars who showed hospitality, fraternal warmth and collaboration.



The postulants

 OFFICE OF THE POSTULATOR GENERAL

Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU  
Postulator General



## Lucera: Conference Honoring FASANI

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**On April 11-14, 2018, the Postulator General, went to Lucera (Puglia-Italy) where he took part in a study conference entitled: “The Saint and His City: The Franciscan Imprint upon the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Capitanata District” [Puglia, Italy].**

The conference was held in honor of “Father Master” St. Francesco Antonio FASANI and Blessed Antonio LUCCHI, Bishop of the ancient Diocese of Bovino. It was arranged by the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia) in collaboration with various regional institutions. During the first two days, there were several scholarly offerings. Friar Luciano BERTAZZO lectured on “Fasani and Lucci: Formational Years in Assisi—Religious and Cultural Context”. Friar Domenico PAOLETTI presented “Traces of the Theology and Spirituality of Blessed Antonio Lucci.” Prof. Saverio RUSSO spoke about “The Historical-Social Context of Capitanata at the time of Liguori, Fasani and Lucci.” Prof. Oreste BAZZICI lectured on “St. Francesco Antonio Fasani in the wake of Franciscan Economics—The Function and Differentiated Contributions of Two ‘Mounts of Piety’ founded in Lucera by Fasani.” Prof. Angelo Giuseppe DIBISCEGLIA spoke about “Alphonsus Liguori and Antonio Lucci: Two Bold pastors in a Difficult Area.” Friar Mario VILANI (OFM) made a presentation on “Episcopal Ministry and the Franciscan Imprint upon the Ancient Diocese of Bovino”. Friar Eugenio GALIGNANO lectured on “The Works of Fasani: *Excerpta ex Sacra Scriptura pro praedicatoribus verbi Dei utilia valde*—Structure and Dominant Themes.” Friar Felice AUTIERI spoke on “The Title of ‘Father Master’ within the Organization of Academic Studies in the Franciscan Order—Historical Data on Fasani and His Personal Merits.” Prof. Rocco MARINO presented “Iconography featuring Blessed Antonio Lucci in the Ancient Diocese of Bovino and in His Hometown of Agnone—Classic and Modern Interpretations on the Intertwining of Corruption and Usury.” Dr. Giovanni AQUILINO spoke on “St. Francesco Antonio Fasani, Special Protector of the Confraternities of the Diocese of Lucera-Troia—Motives and Perspectives.” Prof. Mario TIBELLI lectured on the topic: “Why Fasani Was Promoted to Co-patron of the City of Lucera and Its Cultural Impact.”

At the conclusion of the conference, the Postulator General visited Bovino with Friar Eugenio GALIGNANO (the chief animator and organizer of the study conference). In Bovino, the Postulator listened to testimony from a number of people about some alleged miracles which they, or their families, had obtained through the intercession of Blessed Antonio LUCCHI.

Finally, special thanks to Friar Eugenio, who, as the conference progressed, did an excellent job of getting the city of Lucera to focus attention on our two holy confreres.



The poster of the Conference

## Romania/Hungary: Visits to the Venerable and to the Servant of God

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**From April 18-30, 2018, Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU, the Postulator General of the Order was in Romania and Hungary promoting two causes: the Venerable Servant of God Veronica ANTAL (1935-1958) and the Servant of God Friar Didák KELEMEN (1683-1744).**

From April 18-25, Friar Damian attended several meetings in Nisiporești, Romania, with the committee for the preparation of the beatification of the Servant of God Veronica ANTAL. Her beatification is scheduled for September 22, 2018.

On Monday, April 23, Friar Damian was present for the exhumation of the Servant of God, the recognition and extraction of her relics, and the translation of her remains from the city cemetery, where she was buried sixty years ago, to the new crypt prepared inside the Church of the *Dormitio Mariae* in Nisiporești; a church in the care of our friars. Other participants included the Most Reverend Petru GHERGHEL, Bishop of Iasi, Romania; Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph in Romania, and other friars and faithful.

From April 26-30, Friar Damian went to the towns of Arad and Miskolc, in Hungary. While there, he spoke with Friar Zsolt KALNA, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary-Transylvania, and with other friars, about resuming the cause of the Servant of God Didák KELEMEN.

On Saturday, April 28, the Postulator attended some lovely events arranged to commemorate the death of the Servant of God: A small town square was dedicated in his honor. There was a short theatrical performance and the recitation of some poetry. A film documentary was shown. The day's crowning event was a Mass which recalled our confrere's holy life and highlighted the topicality of his message for us today.



The tomb of Felicita Veronica ANTAL



Before the tomb of Didák KELEMEN



## Honduras, Costa Rica and Brazil: In the Footsteps of Witnesses

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**From May 15-31, 2018, the Postulator General traveled in Honduras, Costa Rica and Brazil, where he learned more about some of our friars who lived and died in the fame of holiness.**

Among these, we remember Friars Casimir CYPHER and Michael BROWN from the United States. They served in Honduras in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Friar Casimir ministered in Olancho, Honduras, to great effect. He was killed by agents of the ruling dictatorship, on June 25, 1975, when he was just 34 years old, together with another Colombian priest and some lay people. His tomb is in the parish church in Gualaco, Olancho. The local inhabitants still recall this confrere of ours with affection and mention his reputation for holiness, a reputation he still enjoys forty-two years after his death.

Friar Michael Brown worked continuously in a mountainous and isolated area of the Olancho district. He is buried in the church in Salamà and he too enjoys a great reputation for holiness. He died in a car accident while he was accompanying a woman and her child.

During his visit, the Postulator, accompanied by Friar Juan Alonzo PAGOADA ACOSTA, met with the Most Reverend José BONELLO, OFM, Bishop of Juticalpa. He proved very open and devoted to these witnesses to the faith in Honduras. He also promised his support in spreading the word about them to the people of God.

On May 20-24, as the visit continued Friar Damian, stayed at the beautiful friary of San Francisco of Alajuela in Costa Rica, and held a seminar on the procedures to be followed when carrying out investigations for causes of beatification and canonization. He put particular emphasis on spreading the fame of holiness and also on the new project entitled

“Our Fathers in the Faith,” which is aimed at the entire Order of Friars Minor Conventual. Six friars participated in this seminar: Friars Juan Alonzo PAGOADA ACOSTA and José Isael SARMIENTO SARMIENTO (from Honduras), Friar Alexander Roger CARRILLO (from Venezuela), and Friars Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA, Rafael Pinheiro NORMANDO and Gilson Miguel NUNES (from Brazil). Over the four days, the friars were given instruction and clarification on what the Congregation for the Causes of Saints requires in order to proceed with canonization causes. There was also time for fraternity and visits to places near Alajuela.

Finally, during May 25-30, Friar Damian was in the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Brazil where together with the Custos, Friar Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA, he visited the places where Friar Martinho Maria de Porres WARD ministered. Friar Martinho was another native of the United States who enjoys great fame of holiness in the places where he carried out his ministry, especially in the city of Andrelândia, Brazil, where he is buried in the small cemetery of the Minor Seminary of the Friars Minor Conventual. Friar Damien celebrated Mass there on Sunday May 27, together with the Custos, some friars, and a large group of faithful. The Mass marked the start of a Jubilee celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Friar Martinho. A visit to his tomb followed, where prayer was offered, thanking God for the gift of this confrere to the Church, the Order and Brazil.

[www.ofmconv.net](http://www.ofmconv.net)



## Vatican: Promulgation of Decrees

■ From the Vatican

**On June 8, 2018, the Holy Father FRANCIS received in audience His Eminence Cardinal Angelo AMATO, S.D.B., prefect of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints.**

During the audience, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the same Congregation to promulgate the decrees regarding the martyrdom of the Servants of God Enrico Angelo ANGELELLI CARLETTI, bishop of La Rioja, Gabriel Joseph Roger LONGUEVILLE, diocesan priest, Carlos de Dios MURIAS, professed priest of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, and Wenceslao PEDERNERA, layperson and father; killed in hatred of the faith in Argentina in 1976.



The soon to be beatified

## Sicily: In Search of Testimony

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**On June 6-8, 2018, the Postulator General, went to Sicily.**

Friar Damian Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU was invited to this area with the blessing of Friar Gaspare LA BARBERA, the Minister Provincial of the Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Agatha and St. Lucy in Italy (Sicily), to ascertain the status of the cause of the Venerable Friar Luigi LO VERDE and to examine the witness of faith given by Friars Matteo LA GRUA (1914-2012) and Francesco Maria RANDAZZO (1907-1977).

While the reputation of holiness of Venerable Brother Louis LO VERDE continues to grow, and many people of God already pray for his intercession, the reputation of holiness enjoyed by the other two confreres is very promising. Friar Matteo LA GRUA was well known as a powerful exorcist and an attentive confessor for many faithful. Friar Francesco Maria RANDAZZO was an effective and very devout evangelizer for the Immaculate Virgin, foundress of the Missionaries of the Militia of the Immaculate. The Missionaries continue the Blessed Virgin's work through writing and witness.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to the Minister Provincial, who accompanied the Postulator during his three days spent in Sicily.

## THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTENT OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATE

Friar Raffaele DI MURO  
International M.I. President



## Rome: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Maximilian Kolbe

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

**One hundred years ago (April 28, 1918), St. Maximilian KOLBE was ordained a priest at the Basilica of Sant' Andrea della Valle in Rome.**

The event was commemorated by M.I. International, on April 28, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., with a Mass celebrated in the above-mentioned basilica. The Mass was presided over by the M.I. International President, Friar Raffaele DI MURO. Also present were ranking members of the Italian M.I. who wanted to pay tribute to the Founder-Saint. The next day, April 29, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., the International President of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.) presided over Mass at the Church of St. Andrea delle Fratte, with numerous faithful attending. This was the church where St. Maximilian celebrated his first Mass, one hundred years ago.

These were two powerful and emotional events, during which the M.I. commemorated the Polish saint's wonderful gift of himself through the priesthood. It was this kind of self-giving that heralded the heroic gesture that would take place in Auschwitz. St. Maximilian, through his example and message, rightly provides a benchmark for priests today. On the same days, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations took place in Niepokalanów, Poland, the city-friary founded by St. Maximilian KOLBE. The Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA was present for those celebrations.

## Brazil: National M.I. Assembly

■ Sara CANEVA, Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata

**On June 1-3, 2018, Brazil held its first National Militia of the Immaculate Assembly (M.I.).**

The Assembly took place in an atmosphere of communion in diversity with the M.I. International President, Friar Raffaele di MURO, also present.

Some seventy Militia members from across Brazil gathered in Brasilia, at the São Boaventura Institute, along with their respective regional assistants and presidents. Members of the M.I. International Council also participated, including M.I. International Vice President, Angela MORAIS and Councilmember Friar Sebastiano QUAGLIO, OFM Conv.

On the first day, the Most Reverend Janusz Marian DANECKI, OFM Conv., Auxiliary Bishop of Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul State, held a conference and celebrated Mass. He was once in charge of the M.I. headquarters in Brasilia. During his presentation, he reminded everyone that this was a historical moment upon which the future of the movement would be built. In his homily, he mentioned the friars and Militia members who had given rise to the M.I., and he spoke about how important it is for the Movement to collaborate with particular churches and to promote the laity in leadership positions.

During this important meeting, Marcelo MENESES was elected M.I. National President. Marcelo is from the M.I. headquarters located in the Brasilia Federal District.

## GENERAL OFFICES – [M.I.]

The second day started with Mass presided-over by Friar Raffaele DI MURO. Friar Raffaele invited everyone to have an open heart, like Mary, and like her, to be ready to set out on a journey of bringing Christ to the world.

Friar Raffaele led the second part of the elective session. Matilde LUVISOTTO from the M.I. headquarters in São Bernardo do Campo, São Paulo State, was elected Vice President. Three Councilmembers were elected as collaborators: Caroline Leandro DE PAULA, Lea Lúcia PACHECO and Lucas PESSOA.

The Economic Council composed of Maria do Perpétuo Socorro GOULART, Helenice ZAQUEU and Paulo TEIXEIRA was also elected.

Friar Raffaele had to leave for Rome, but he thanked all of the M.I. groups and urged them to live in communion, collaboration and sharing, in order to build a path to the future together.

The new M.I. National President, Marcelo MENESES, along with the M.I. International Councilmember Angela MORAIS, continued the work of the Assembly. The participants formed different groups in order to present proposals to the new council regarding communion, evangelization and formation. Then they discussed various issues and priorities and presented proposals to the council that will guide activities in the coming years.

Everyone experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit leading them on this journey. The Spirit could be seen in the variety of ways the M.I. was expressed across Brazil. This diversity was not an impediment; it was a treasure.

On the last day, the Militia members discussed their local status and challenges in the apostolate.

The first meeting of the National Council was also held. It went right to work on suggestions from the Militia members and instructions from the International President.

This new stage of the journey of M.I. in Brazil has been entrusted to Immaculate Conception, with the certainty that she will “guide this work with extraordinary love,” as Saint Maximilian Kolbe used to say.



The participants

[www.ofmconv.net](http://www.ofmconv.net)

[www.capgenofmconv.org](http://www.capgenofmconv.org)



■ GENERAL DELEGATE FOR THE II ORDER AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTE

Friar Germano TOGNETTI  
General Delegate for the II Order



## Zakroczym: Clare and Her Form of Life

■ The Poor Clares of Poland

**On June 22-28, 2018, a scholarly conference called “Clare and Her Form of Life” was held at the “Honoratianum” Spirituality Center in Zakroczym, Poland.**

This spiritual reading of the Rule of Saint Clare of Assisi was jointly organized by the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical University “Antonianum” in Rome, and the Institute of Franciscan Studies in Cracow. It was intended for nuns who live in Franciscan and Clarian contemplative communities. Thirty sisters from fourteen Polish Poor Clare communities participated.

The purpose of this study week was to undertake a spiritual reading of this important text and to subject it to critical analysis in order to better understand the charism which the Heavenly Father gave the Poor Ladies of San Damiano 800 years ago. An important part of this study was reflecting on the way the Poor Ladies currently live their charism with respect to the Constitutions of their Orders.

The second part of this study will be conducted next year. In total, some sixty hours of lecture and group work have been scheduled. The study will conclude with the preparation of a thesis. Diplomas will be issued to certify the completion of this work and they will be co-signed by the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality of Rome and the Institute of Franciscan Studies in Cracow.

The moderator of the study week was Friar Wiesław BLOCK, OFM Cap., a professor at the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality in Rome and the author of numerous academic publications dedicated to Saint Clare of Assisi and the minoritic movement.



The representatives  
of the Poor Clares of Poland

■ GENERAL FINANCIAL OFFICE



SOME THANK YOU NOTES...

**FOR MASS OFFERINGS**

- Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- Cust. of Assisi, Italy

**FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ORDER:**

- Prov. of Spain
- Prov. of OLC, USA

**FOR THE MISSIONS:**

- (There aren't any)

**FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- Cust. of Austria-Switzerland

**FOR THE FORMATION FUND:**

- Prov. of Germany
- Prov. of Argentina
- Prov. of Cracow, Poland
- Cust. of Slovakia
- Cust. of France
- Prov. of Japan
- Prov. of OLC, USA

**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



## Ghana: Visit of the Minister General

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**On April 2-6, 2018 the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, visited the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana, of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy).**

The main reason for the visit was to give thanks to God for forty years of presence in this country by the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. In addition, the visit was the start of a general canonical visitation being presently carried out by the Delegate of the Minister General, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF).

During his visit, the Minister General was accompanied by the Assistant General and Friar Bruno VENTURATO, a confrere who has worked in this mission for many years and is now serving at the Order's General Curia in Rome.

Currently, the Custody is engaged in various services and activities: mass-media (printing and publishing), vocation formation, the Valley of Prayer and Silence retreat center in Saltpond, parish ministry, education, health ministry (a national level commitment to eradicate leprosy) and charity towards the neediest.



The Minister General  
with the friars in Ghana



## Tanzania: Formation Meeting

■ Friars Nicola ROSA and Wojciech KULIG

**On April 9-13, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania held a formation meeting in Dar es Salaam.**

The meeting was led by the Provincial Custos, Friar Dariusz SZYMBORSKI. He extended an invitation to the General Econom, Friar Nicola Rosa and the General Exactor, Friar Wojciech KULIG, who also attended. The meeting covered financial and administrative issues. The friars were taught about the management of resources, accounting, financial statements and legal responsibility, in relation to the assets that are entrusted to the Custody. Furthermore, as directed by the Church, a presentation was made on the Guidelines for the Administration of the Assets in Institutes of Consecrated Life and in Societies of Apostolic Life. After exploring and discussing difficulties related to administrative and financial matters, the participants attended a presentation on rules for making decisions.

The meeting sessions took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding and featured moments of common prayer.



The friars of the Custody with their guests from Rome

## Zambia: Presbyteral Order

■ Friar Mathews KASONGO, Provincial Secretary

**On April 28, 2018, Friars Vincent SICHANDE and Patrick MUPULA of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia and Malawi were ordained to the priesthood.**

The Most Reverend Valentine KALUMBA, O.M.I., Bishop of Livingstone, Zambia, ordained them. Friar Vincent has been serving as the Assistant Novice Director at Itimpi in Kitwe and Friar Patrick is a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Friary in the Ikelenge District in the Northwestern part of Zambia.

In his homily, the bishop advised and encouraged the friars to grow in the wisdom of the Lord. When they are called to lead the flock of Jesus, God's people, they should touch people's lives. He told them that we want to see in them the qualities of the first apostles and those whom the apostles chose. Those men were made worthy before Christ by their faith and humility.

The bishop exhorted friars not to become judgmental but to be examples and to shape the lives of the faithful wherever they might be sent. He told them to be 'living billboards' that advertise their lives and thus attract many people to the life of Christ.

## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [AFCOF]

He advised them strongly to be men of faith and men of prayer, to grow closer to Christ in prayer.

He further cautioned them that the faithful do not expect them to be experts in finances, construction, politics or social works. Rather, they expect them to be experts in prayer and specialists in the things of God.

They should be humble and gentle as they take up the offices of teaching, sanctifying and governing. People will not be coming to see them, but rather to see Jesus. He urged them to be Christ-like in their priestly ministry.

In conclusion, he reminded them to appreciate the fraternity of the friars and to always lean on other friar priests who have more experience in the priesthood.



After the ordination

## Lusaka: Closing of the Academic Year

■ Friar Wojciech KULIG, General Exactor

**On May 18, 2018, a solemn closing ceremony for the 2017-2018 academic year took place on the campus of the Franciscan College of St. Bonaventure in Lusaka, Zambia.**

186 of the college's 225 students are friars belonging to the three Franciscan families: the Order of Friars Minor, the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.



After graduation



The St. Bonaventure College Faculty of Philosophy is affiliated with the Pontifical University of St. Anthony (Antonianum) in Rome. The Faculty welcomed sixty-three third year students who will be undertaking further theological formation in various areas of Africa in the coming months.

Those attending the closing ceremony for the academic year included friars from Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Mozambique and Ghana. The ceremony was preceded by a three-day meeting of the university council, composed of all of the major superiors of the religious studying at the faculty.

The celebrations began with Mass attended by the major superiors, all of the professors, the university council, the students and the families of those students graduating in philosophy.

The religious graduates received their diplomas during the official part of the ceremony. Afterwards, there was a shared meal and festivities.

## Rivotorto: African Friars in Formation

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**This year, friars from the OFM Conventual Jurisdictions in Africa (the AFCOF area) are once again participating in an ongoing formation course in Italy.**

For the last twelve years, the Order has organized this course for young friars who have completed their initial formation. The course is intended for the Order's newest generations of friars. Its goal is to revive and make known the spirit and history of Franciscanism, which began in the 13th century.

This year's course started on May 20, 2018, and will last until June 14. There are seven friars taking part: four from the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia and three from the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya.

The animators and assistants are: Friar Francis KANYIRI (who has just completed his doctorate in Rome); Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM); and Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF).

The course takes place at three locations important to Franciscans and Christians alike: Rome, the cradle of Christianity; Assisi, where Franciscanism was born; and Padua, where it was most notably refined through the work and mission of the 'Evangelical Doctor', Saint Anthony. The friars participating in the course learned about the origins of Franciscanism and the challenges that lie ahead for the Order.



The participants after Mass



## Africa: Assembly of AFCOF Major Superiors

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**On June 4-8, 2018, the annual meeting of the Major Superiors of the AFCOF Federation took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.**

These meetings are usually organized to promote better collaboration between the various missionary presences in Africa. The participants came from the seven member countries of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF): Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Malawi and Uganda.

The Assembly in Burkina Faso focused primarily on the issue of cooperation at the level of common initial formation within the Federation.

The current AFCOF houses of common formation are: the postulancy houses of East Africa in Ruri, Kenya, and Munyonyo, Uganda; the novitiates in Itimpi, Zambia; Saltpond, Ghana; and Arusha, Tanzania; the houses of philosophy studies in Lusaka, Zambia and Accra, Ghana; and the house of theology studies in Nairobi, Kenya.

The number of vocations continues to grow, so the Superiors' main concern is finding solutions to make sure our young men get a proper and complete formation in the African context, without neglecting Franciscanism. There are two main difficulties that everyone shares: an insufficient number of properly trained formators, and maintenance of formation programs (there is a constant struggle to find the financial resources needed to cover the cost of study and everyday expenses).

Participants at the meeting included the Assistant General for the AFCOF, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI and a number of Ministers Provincial: from the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia, Friar Richard CHIMFWEMBE; from the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw), Friar Wiesław PYZIO; and from the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow) Friar Marian GOŁĄB. Various Provincial Custodes attended: from the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana, Friar Anthony BEZO; from the Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya, Friar Kazimierz SZULC; and from the Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania, Friar Dariusz SZYMBORSKI. Some Provincial Delegates attended as well: from Uganda, Friar Wojciech ULMAN; and from Burkina Faso, Friar Marek HRYNIEWICKI.



The participants

## CENTRALIS EUROPAE FOEDERATIO

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ  
Assistant General for the CEF



## Schwarzenberg: Juniorentreffen

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

**On April 3-7, 2018, the traditional “Juniorentreffen” formation meeting took place for the post-novices of the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) and their formators.**

The meeting was held at the friary in Schwarzenberg, Germany. As usual, the confreres from the Custody of England and Ireland also participated.

At the beginning of the meeting, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany, welcomed all those present. Friar Bernhardin is also the CEF President for the current term.

Twenty-one friars participated in the meeting. Five were from the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia, including their Minister Provincial, Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ. Four came from the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia, including their Minister Provincial, Friar Milan KOS. Another five were from the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland, including their post-novitiate formator, Friar Giles ZAKOWICZ. Also in attendance was Friar Daniele BROCCA, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicolas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland; Friar Michiel VAN KOOTEN, a representative of the Netherlands Delegation and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the CEF.

The meeting was set up and organized by Friar Josef FISCHER, the Director of Formation for the CEF Federation.

The theme of the meeting was: “The Spirituality of Formation and the Franciscan Spiritual Journey”. The program was led by the Secretary General of Formation (SGF) Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL and by the executive editor of the publishing house Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Friar Giulio CESAREO.

One day was spent visiting various locations. The friars first made a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Buchen, which was entrusted to our friars of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw). The Shrine is managed by Friar Adam SALOMON, the Guardian and a Delegate of this Provincial Delegation in Germany. Next, they visited the friary in the German Province in Schönau. They were welcomed by the guardian, Friar Leo BECK. Finally, they visited the friary and provincialate in Würzburg and did some sightseeing in the city itself.

In addition to time spent in conferences and prayer (*Lectio divina*), the participants enjoyed some fraternal time together.



The participants



## Germany: Formation Days

■ Friar Andreas MURK, Provincial Secretary

**On April 16-18, 2018, fifteen friars, aged 34 to 86, gathered for three days of formation at the friary in Schwarzenberg, the spiritual retreat center of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany.**

Friar Bernhardin M. SEITHER Minister Provincial asked Friar Leopold MADER (former Postulancy Director and Novice Master for about 30 years) to remind the friars of certain human qualities at the beginning of their religious life. In his talks, Friar Leopold spoke in particular about the prayer of St. Francis before the Cross of San Damiano and the Canticle of the Creatures.

In addition to the formation sessions, the friars also celebrated the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday of a former Minister Provincial, Friar Engelbert OTTE.



The participants

## Holland: Delegation Assembly

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On May 1-2, 2018, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) visited the friars of the Provincial Delegation of Holland. The Delegation belongs to the German Province.

The friars of the Delegation gathered in the Convent of the Franciscan Sisters in Dongen. Two of the friars are chaplains there. All but two of the Delegation's friars participated in the Assembly, which was led by the Provincial Delegate, Friar Thijs MOONS. The meeting officially began on May 2 with Morning Prayer.

Various topics were discussed: the financial budget for 2017 and future prospects, the future of the house in Terbeek, the changes in the committees of the Delegation, help



The friars of the Delegation



with printing the book about the meeting of St. Francis with the Sultan, animating the Secular Franciscan Order, the forthcoming pilgrimages to Assisi, etc.

Finally, the Assistant General for the CEF reported some news from the General Curia and talked about the status of the whole Order as well as the next Extraordinary General Chapter. The Minister Provincial, on the other hand, updated the friars on the status of the Province and the Provincial Custody of Austria-Switzerland.

The meeting ended with a solemn Franciscan prayer in the Sisters' oratory. Lunch followed and there was some time for fraternal discussion.

On May 3, 2018, the Assistant General for the CEF and the Minister Provincial visited the friary in Würzburg. They confirmed that the restoration work on the friary has now entered its final phase.

## Romania: Federation Assembly

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

**On May 21-25, 2018, the CEF Federation Assembly was held at the friary in Roman, Romania.**

All members of the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) were present. The CEF members include Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Croatia, Slovenia and Sweden. The Delegate of the Scandinavian mission was an exception. Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, Minister Provincial of the Province of Saint Elizabeth in Germany, presided. The meeting was attended by the Custos of the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland, Friar Ciprian BUDAŪ, (his first time), as well as the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ.

This time, the assembly was held outside the CEF territory, because the Delegation of Romanian friars in Germany was designated to host the meeting. Members of CEF were invited to Romania to learn more about this Province. The meeting's topics included updates from the Jurisdictions, news from the General Curia, news from the Order at large, an evaluation of the last meeting for post-novices and planning for the next one, preparations for the Extraordinary General Chapter and the quality of life in our Jurisdictions.

One day was dedicated to visiting some of the friaries in the Province: Cacica and Nisiporesti which features the tomb of the Servant of God, Veronica ANTAL. Later, the friars visited some Orthodox monasteries including Carmazani and Voronet, the "Sistine Chapel" of Eastern Europe. Finally, the friars visited the monastery of our Poor Clares. One evening was dedicated to visiting the "Peace Foundation" social center and "Green Time," the Province's plant nursery.



The members  
of the Federation

After the meeting, the Minister Provincial of Germany and the Assistant for the CEF met with the Minister Provincial of Romania, Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, along with the Delegate of the Romanian friars in Germany, Friar Gabriel BUDAŪ, and the Definitor appointed to look after this Delegation, Friar Ștefan ACATRINEI. Their meeting was called to talk about developing closer collaboration between the friars in Germany.

## Würzburg: Reopening of the Renovated Friary

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

**On June 23, 2018, in Würzburg, Germany, a celebration took place to reopen the friary of Santa Croce which underwent general renovations.**

The friary is part of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany. The renovation began in early August of 2016, under the direction of Friar Steffen BEHR.

More than 4,300 square meters [46,284 sq. ft.] and 23,000 cubic meters [812,237 cu. ft.] have been restored, which can be compared to an area equivalent to more than 25 family apartments.

Half of the friary will be rented out and the other half will be used as living space for the friars. This friary serves as the Provincial Curia; it has rooms for the Provincial offices and five or six guest rooms. It also serves as a post-novitiate house with five rooms for post-novices. Finally, it is a friary, with rooms set aside for sick and elderly friars. Altogether, there are eighteen rooms for friars, with large, wheelchair-accessible bathrooms.

The reopening ceremony began with Mass presided over by the Most Reverend Ulrich BOOM, Auxiliary Bishop of Würzburg. After the Mass, a solemn concert was performed by “Duo 51” (harp and violin). Those attending included the guardian, Friar Josef BODENSTEINER; Bishop BOOM; the Minister Provincial, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER; the architect, Mr. Rainer KRIEBEL; the Mayor of Würzburg, Mr. Christian SCHUCHARDT; and finally the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), Friar Miljenko Hontić.

After the celebrations, the participants were invited to an “imbiss” - a lunch in the cloister. Eventually, they broke up into smaller groups in order to take guided tours of the renovated friary.

For the sake of thoroughness, one should clarify that the friary and the Province have leased property to a hotel. Work for the hotel is still ongoing in the friary courtyard.



The chapel

## CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FEDERATION



Friar Jude WINKLER  
Assistant General for the CFF

# Arroyo Grande: Workshop at the Novitiate

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**From April 3-6, 2018, Friar Jude Winkler, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), presented a workshop on the Gospels and the Psalms to the novices of the CFF Federation novitiate in Arroyo Grande, California, USA.**

Friar Joseph WOOD is the Novice Director and Friar Maurice RICHARD is his Assistant. Friar Alexander CYMERMANN is the Senior Friar in Residence.

There are currently seven novices from the USA: three from the Province of St. Bonaventure, three from the Province of Our Lady of the Angels and one from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation.

All three Franciscan Families of the First Order have their national novitiates in California and collaborate on joint programs for their respective novitiate programs.



The novitiate team

# USA -California: Minister General Visits

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**On April 13-15, 2018, following the Provincial Chapter, the Minister General visited some Conventual communities in California.**

On Friday, April 13, the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA; the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), Friar Benedict BAEK; and the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), Friar Jude WINKLER, visited the novitiate of the CFF Federation in Arroyo Grande, California.

The novitiate has seven novices: three from the Province of St. Bonaventure; three from the Province of Our Lady of the Angels; and one from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation (OLC). The friars discussed the status of the Order, the need for an authentic lifestyle, the need for collaboration among the friars and the immeasurable value of a common life among the friars.





Some friars with the Minister General and the Assistants General

On Sunday, April 15, the Minister General met one of the oldest friars in the world, Friar Maurus HAUER, who celebrated his 100th birthday last October.

Friar Maurus spoke of his call to the community and shared his sense of gratitude for all that God has done for him. He did parish ministry until he turned ninety-two. Currently, he continues to study commentaries on the Bible for his ongoing formation.

## USA [OLA]: Visits by the Minister General

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**On April 20, 2018, Friar Marco TASCIA, the Minister General; Friar James McCURRY, the Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA; and Friar Ciprian BUDAU, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland, made some visits together.**

The three friars visited the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore Maryland (USA) to examine the missal which is believed to be the one which St. Francis opened three times to discern how he was to follow the Lord. This missal is currently in restoration (a two year project), but the curators of the Walters Gallery were most gracious in hosting the friars and explaining the history of this missal which originates from the Church of St. Nicolo in Assisi, Italy.

The next day, Friar Marco, the 119<sup>th</sup> Minister General of the Order, met with Friar Joachim GIERMEK, the 118<sup>th</sup> Minister General of the Order, in Ellicott City, Maryland (USA). They discussed the state of the Order and shared information about the friars.

Later that day, Friar Marco and Friar Jude, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), visited the post-novitiate formation house in Silver Spring, Maryland. This is one of two post-novitiate formation houses in the United States for the Federation, the other being in San Antonio, Texas (USA). Friar Brad MILUNSKI is currently the director and Friar James MOORE is the assistant director, although with Chapters currently being held in the United States, this will soon change.



The Minister General with the missal of St. Francis

## USA: Novena to Saint Anthony in Texas

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**On June 4, 2018, the Tigua community of the Mount Carmel Parish in El Paso, Texas, USA, celebrated the beginning of its novena to St. Anthony of Padua.**

The Tigua are a Native American tribe dwelling in southern Texas, near the border with Mexico.

They have been associated with this parish since the 17th century. The Conventual Franciscan Friars arrived there in 1990 to begin serving this Native American community.

At dawn, a large group of pilgrims gathered at one of the houses of the organizers to bless a group of four statues of St. Anthony. Members of the community will host the statues throughout the novena.

Friars from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation in the USA, celebrating the second part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter in Mesilla Park, New Mexico (one hour away), also participated in this ritual. The ritual incorporates traditional Catholic piety with the symbols of the Tigua culture (e.g. the use of corn pollen to bless objects; corn is considered sacred by the Tigua).

The Most Reverend Mark SEITZ, Bishop of El Paso, was the celebrant and homilist at the Mass marking this event.



The pilgrims

## Mount St. Francis: In the Spirit of *Laudato Si'*

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**The friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation in the USA discussed and approved two projects for their facilities at Mount St. Francis in Indiana, USA, which are in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.**

They chose to implement a program that will use geothermal heating and cooling in the chapel of their structure. They also chose to work with a third party provider to install solar panels on the roof of one of the buildings there. These two choices will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the retreat center as well as provide financial incentives.

Friar Andrew HENNESSY, a friar in simple profession, thoroughly investigated the options concerning this project and presented this information to the Provincial Chapter which then approved the proposal. One of the important elements in this endeavor is the witness value it will provide to those who use the retreat house, preaching about the importance of caring for Mother Earth by deed as well as by word.

## FEDERACIÓN CONVENTUALES AMERICA LATINA

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI  
Assistant General for the FALC



## Ecuador: Visitation and Assembly

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

**On April 3-18, 2018, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), made a canonical visitation to the Delegation of Ecuador.**

The Delegation belongs to the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk). In addition, he participated at the Guardian's Assembly, which was celebrated during the octave of Easter at the San Maximiliano Kolbe formation house in Quito.

The friars of the Delegation in Ecuador hold a Guardians' Assembly and a meeting of the Delegation Council every year. This year's 2018 Assembly was devoted to working on the first Four-Year Plan of the Delegation. The Assistant General collaborated in the discernment and writing of the Plan. Its main purpose was "Defining and Reinforcing the Fraternal Life in Order to Build Up and Give Witness to the Conventual Franciscan Identity in Ecuador." It also touched on specific areas, such as our Kolbean heritage.

During the Assembly, the Guardians of the friaries in Quito, Santo Domingo de los Colorados, Tulcán and Shushufindi, together with the members of the Delegation Council—Friars Michał PAGA (Delegate), Jesús Eudoro CEBALLOS BENAVIDES (Secretary) and Friar Michał SABATOWSKI (Econom)—reviewed the calendar of activities and looked at other aspects of the Delegation, such as youth and vocation ministry, initial formation, some juridical themes and various proposals in view of the development and internal organization of the Delegation.

During the canonical visitation to the communities, the Assistant General met with each of the confreres, including the postulants, some groups of faithful and some collaborators linked to our communities.

The presence of the Order in Ecuador is quite rich and varied. It has several outlets for its evangelization mission, such as its city and missionary parishes (Quito, Shushufindi and Santo Domingo de los Colorados), a Conventual Franciscan church (Tulcán), a formation house (Quito), social and humanitarian outreach (Santo Domingo de los Colorados) and assistance to the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) and prayer groups.

During the visit to the missionary community of Shushufindi in the Ecuadorian Amazonia, the friars joyfully celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the priestly ordination of Friar Krzysztof KURKIEWICZ.



The guardians of the Delegation  
/ the Shushufindi community





The communities of Tulcán and Santo Domingo de los Colorados

## Brazil: “Quinquennium” in the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe

■ Friar Rafael NORMANDO, Provincial Secretary

On April 16-20, 2018, the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Brazil held a “quinquennium” meeting in Brasilia.

The quinquennium brought together newly ordained and solemnly professed friars from the entire Province along with the Minister Provincial, Friar Marcelo José VERONEZ MARIN, to address some fraternal and formational themes. These formational days featured lectures and study groups alternating with the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.

The central theme of this year’s quinquennium was “For New Wine, New Wine-skins”, and led participants to reflect on the challenges of Franciscan ministry in the world today.

The new priests attending the meeting were Friars Mayko Ataliba CRUZ DE ANDRADE; Bernardo Vitório DA SILVA NETO; Herton ALCÂNTARA DOS SANTOS; Henrique DE SOUSA MENDONÇA; Givaldo DOMINGOS DE OLIVEIRA; João Rogério L. CARVALHO FILHO; Israel Fernando DA S. SOBRINHO; Almir RODRIGUES DE SIQUEIRA; Joveci José DE OLIVEIRA FILHO; Thiago COSTA NORONHA; and the newly solemnly professed Friar Francisco FERREIRA SILVA.



The participants

## Brazil: Canonical Visitation to the St. Bonaventure Custody

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

**On April 18-27, 2018, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina [FALC] conducted a canonical visitation to the Provincial Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil.**

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the mission in the Brazilian “Nordeste”.

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI conducted the visitation in anticipation of the Custody’s second Ordinary Custodial Chapter. The Chapter will be held on September 10-14 and November 5-9, 2018.

The Custody belongs to the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy). It has five friaries: São Francisco in Bom Jardim (state of Maranhão), Menino Jesus de Praga in São Luís – Cohama (state of Maranhão), Santo Antônio de Pádua in São Luís – Cohajap (state of Maranhão), São Francisco in São Luís (state of Maranhão), and Beato João Duns Scoto in Fortaleza (state of Ceará).

Besides the grace of the 50th anniversary of the mission’s foundation, the new Custody is enjoying a vocational awakening. This is the result of renewed efforts in youth ministry in recent years. In fact, three of the five friaries are currently set up to accept young men into the first level of formation. Moreover, the Custody is continuing to carry out its mission in the populous parishes of São Luís and Fortaleza. The friars do lay formation ministry in the missionary parish of Bom Jardim, and carry on the social works initiated by Friar Antonio SINIBALDI in São Luís. Friar Antonio SINIBALDI died heroically while rescuing a group of boys during a tragic shipwreck on São Marcos Bay, on September 7, 1987.

The Assistant General visited all the fraternities of the Custody, and celebrated Mass at some of the local parish or Conventual churches.

Each community celebrates the 50th Anniversary over the course of this year. The celebrations commemorate the mission’s founding by six young friars from what was then the Mother Province of Rome, Italy. Solemn celebrations are scheduled in São Luís for June 7-8, 2018. The participants will include the former missionaries, the former Ministers Provincial of the one-time Roman Province and many other special guests.

The canonical visitation ended with a meeting between the Assistant General and the Custodial Definitory. The members of the Definitory are: Friar Clevis MAFRA DOS SANTOS, Custos; Friar Raimundo NOGUEIRA VALDO, Vicar; Friar Carlito SILVA DO NASCIMENTO, Secretary; Friar José Augusto SILVA DO SANTOS, Econom; and Friar David RODRIGUES DO NASCIMENTO, Definitor.



Jubilee celebration at the Santo Antônio de Pádua Community





The communities of Bom Jardim and São Luis

## Brazil: Youth Day

■ Friar Flávio Martins VENÂNCIO

**From April 28th to May 1st, 2018, the third annual Conventual Franciscan Youth Day was held in the city of Cápapava, Brazil.**

The event was organized by the Province of St. Francis in Brazil

The theme of the event was: "Climb Mount La Verna". Through formation, prayer and fraternity, the young people experienced 'going up the mountain to meet the Crucified Christ.'

Fifty-five youths, six friars, a nun and two postulants participated.

The young people came from the Brazilian states of Paraná and São Paulo. They had some profound, shared experiences by praying in the style of St. Francis. The event was very joyous and fraternal. Going up the mountain and meeting God was an experience of love and mercy.



The participants



## Brazil: Conventual Franciscans Meet

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

**On May 21- 25, 2018, the communities of the Order from the Brazilian states of Bahia and Paraíba met for a second time in Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil.**

The meeting was held at the historic friary of San Francisco.

The communities belong to two different provinces: the Province of St. Francis (São Francisco de Assis) headquartered in São Paulo, and the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe (São Maximiliano Kolbe), based in Brasilia.

The meeting was convened and presided over by both Ministers Provincial, Friars Aloisio Antonio DE OLIVEIRA and Marcelo José VERONEZ MARIN. Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC) also participated. He brought greetings and a message from the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA.

The goal of the meeting was to spend time together for fraternity, prayer and ongoing formation, drawing from the current ecclesial guidelines and the local situation. In fact, although the Order has an extensive presence in various Brazilian states, the so-called “North East” has very particular characteristics, in terms of its culture (especially enriched by “Afro” traditions) its history (Bahia was the first capital of modern Brazil), and its social situation, which is filled with challenges of every kind.

All of the friars from the five communities participated: the Santa Clara de Assis friary in Itaberaba; the Nossa Senhora das Candeias friary in Candeias; the São José de Copertino friary in Feira de Santana; the Nossa Senhora Aparecida friary in João Pessoa; and the filial house of the Santa Clara de Assis friary in Salvador.

The ongoing formation was led by two speakers: Father Miguel RAMON, a *fidei donum* missionary in Bahia, and Friar Luciano BERNARDI, a member of the Salvador community. The first presentation was on the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, and dealt with the social content of evangelization. The second presentation was on “Religious Life in the Border Areas”, based on an article by the Colombian religious, Carlos GÓMEZ RESTREPO.

On the last day, with coordination from Friar Jorge GERALDO, the assembly made an evaluation and raised various proposals to continue using the meeting space and to continue reflecting together.



The participants

## Chile: Meeting of Friars of the Delegation

■ Friar Jack GINTING

**On May 28-30, 2018, friars from the Delegation’s three communities met together in Copiapó, Chile. The meeting was characterized by a fraternal and joyful atmosphere.**

On the first day, the friars discussed their personal experience of the first months since the implementation of changes made at the beginning of the four-year term. On

the second day, they reflected on a report by Friar Christian BORGHESI on the status of the Conventual presence in the Delegation's Mother Province, the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy). Friar Christian had prepared this report for a meeting of the guardians of that Province. His presentation was expanded with data from the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC) and the Order, thus giving the friars a global and accurate understanding of the present, with an eye toward the future. The friars discussed ideas and concerns in a serene and hopeful atmosphere. They were mindful, in any event, that the Delegation's status was becoming increasingly complex. The last day was dedicated to various news items about "*Conferre*" (a conference of men and women religious), the Franciscan Family / the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), Youth and Vocation Ministry, etc.

In the final review, everyone agreed that these meetings are always positive and help to strengthen fraternal relations among the friars of the Delegation, just as Psalm 133 says: "*How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one!*"

## Venezuela: Canonical Visitation

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

**On June 4-18, 2018, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC) made a canonical visitation to the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto in Venezuela.**

The Venezuelan Jurisdiction belongs to the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia). It currently has five communities and thirty-one solemnly professed friars. In addition, it has twelve temporarily professed student friars; three novices at the Caçapava international novitiate in São Paulo, Brazil; and fifteen postulants. Some friars of the Custody are serving in the communities of the Mother Province, or of the Order, and some of the temporarily professed are studying at the Seraphicum International College in Rome, Italy.

In the Custody, all of the friars participate in the mission, which involves various ministries: parish pastoral care, solidarity efforts, social work, education, spiritual direction and formation.

The bishops (local ordinaries) of the dioceses where the Order is present in Venezuela are grateful for the pastoral service offered by the friars, as well as for their charismatic contribution. The people are also especially thankful for the friars' testimony of fraternity and simplicity of religious life. Not only are the Custody's churches and friaries open, but they are spaces where friends and faithful receive, in the best possible way, human and Gospel values and where the theological virtues: faith, hope and charity, are proclaimed.

Next September, three of the temporarily professed will, with God's grace, profess their solemn vows



The friars of the Custody

## ■ FEDERATION OF ASIAN MINOR CONVENTUALS

Friar Benedict Seung Jae BAEK  
Assistant General for the FAMC



## Japan: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Benedict BAEK

**On June 3-8, 2018, Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minor Conventual (FAMC), visited the Provincial Curia of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Tokyo, Japan.**

The Curia is joined with the post-novitiate formation house. These two communities are under the same roof, so they share community prayer, Mass and meals together.

There are six friars in the Provincial Curia, including the Minister Provincial, Friar Seraphin TAKEUCHI. The guardian of the Provincial Curia community is Friar Luca TANIZAKI. He also serves as Provincial Vicar and Provincial Secretary.

The formation house has six friars as well. They are, Rector and Guardian Friar Francesco TAIRA; the Assistant Rector, Friar Nicola MATSUO; and four temporarily-professed clerical students. The clerical students study philosophy and theology at Sophia University, which is run by the Jesuits.



Some friars of the Province

## The Philippines: Diaconal Ordination

■ Friar Daniel M. SUGATAN, Custodial Secretary; Photo: Juni Amora ALEXANDER

**On June 22, 2018, Friar Lorenzo (Jimmy Boy) AVELINO was ordained a deacon by the Most Reverend Teodoro BUHAIN, Jr., Auxiliary Bishop-Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Manila.**

The ceremony took place at the St. Joseph friary in Tagaytay City, the Philippines

In his homily, the ordaining prelate emphasized two points about the kind of pastoral care a deacon should offer, namely, that he should be a minister of loving kindness and a minister of unity. He also spoke about the virtue of perseverance in achieving a fruitful ministry.

The ordination took place on the last day of the annual retreat of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines. The retreat was led by the Most Reverend Pedro ARIGO, Bishop-Emeritus of the Apostolic Vicariate of Palawan, who graced the ordination with his presence.

Others attending included various friars, seminarians, collaborators with the Custody, family members and friends of the newly ordained friar. Representatives from local men's and women's religious institutes also witnessed the event. The celebration concluded with a dinner for all those present.



■ FEDERATIO EUROPAE MEDIAE ET ORIENTALIS

Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI  
Assistant General for the FEMO



## Cracow: Meeting of FEMO Formators

■ Friar Piotr STANISŁAWCZYK, FEMO Formation Secretary

**On April 19-21, 2018, a meeting of the formators of the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) was held in the major seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Cracow.**

More than ten friars participated. They are in charge of initial and ongoing formation in the various Jurisdictions of the FEMO Federation. The Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, accompanied the formators.

The meeting provided an opportunity to get to know each other and to present the current status of formation at the individual formation houses.

During the meeting, it was noted that there are some common formation initiatives which had already been years ago in Poland's Conventual Franciscan Provinces.

Friar Piotr HRĘCIŃSKI gave a lecture on protecting children and adolescents against violence. Finally, Friar Piotr BIELENIN, the Guardian of the Cracow community, made a presentation on the history of the Basilica of St. Francis and its friary.

## Niepokalanów: Kolbe's Ordination Anniversary

■ Friar Piotr ŻURKIEWICZ, Provincial Secretary; Photo: Friar Mieczysław WOJTAK

**On April 29, 2018, the 100th anniversary of St. Maximilian M. KOLBE's priestly ordination was commemorated in Niepokalanów, Poland.**

The centerpiece of the festivities was a Mass celebrated in the Basilica of Niepokalanów. The Most Reverend Jerzy MACULEWICZ, OFM Conv., Apostolic Administrator of Uzbekistan, presided. The Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, gave the homily. The Ministers Provincial of all three Polish Provinces attended: Friars Marian GOŁĄB, Wiesław PYZIO and Jan MACIEJOWSKI. Also present were: the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO), Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI; the President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Orders in Poland, Father Janusz SOK (Redemptorists); and around sixty friar priests who were celebrating their own jubilees and ordination anniversaries this year.

In his homily, the Minister General thanked the celebrating confreres for their faithful service to the Church and to the Order. At the same time, he encouraged them to take inspiration from St. Maximilian, whose exemplary character shone in Auschwitz, when he offered his life for a fellow prisoner. The German officer in charge asked who he was, and Maximilian answered courageously: "I am a Catholic priest". This was the spring of Maximilian's spiritual strength and the source of his love. Sacrificing his life was the culmination of his priestly vocation, following the example of Jesus Christ. In conclusion, Friar Marco TASCA urged the confreres to be fearless in accepting today's great challenges and, like St. Maximilian, to be active in discovering new horizons.

The celebration was also an opportunity for all of the priests present to renew their priestly promises, the promises they made on their ordination day.



Solemn Mass

At the end of the Mass, Friar Maciej KRZYMOWSKI, speaking for all the celebrants, expressed his gratitude for the gift of the priestly vocation. He especially thanked the Superiors of the Order for their help in promoting a deeper appreciation of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. He also mentioned how valuable the prayers of the confreres and the lay faithful are in supporting the intentions of priests. It is because of these prayers that priests are able to effectively implement their ministry.

After the celebration, all of the guests and the confreres of Niepokalanów headed into the refectory of the friary for a formal and fraternal lunch.

## Kalwaria Pałacowska: 350th Anniversary of Marian Shrine

■ Editor board / Friar Jan M. SZEWEK, Province Spokesman

**On May 1-2, 2018, the Kalwaria Pałacowska shrine, the most important pilgrimage site in Poland's subcarpathian region, celebrated the 350th anniversary of its foundation.**

On this occasion, the Friars Minor Conventual together with the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow, the University of Rzeszów and the *Institute of National Remembrance* (IPN), organized an educational symposium entitled: "The Shrine of the Lord's Passion and Our Lady of Calvary".



The participants

The lecturers mentioned that over the centuries Kalwaria Paławska has been and still is an important spiritual center for south-eastern Poland. “The presence of the Conventual Franciscans has been very positive here” - said the Most Reverend Adam SZAL, Archbishop of Przemyśl, Poland.

Friar Damian SYNOWIEC, OFM Conv. of Cracow, stressed, “The central concept of our worship is the paschal mystery, that is, the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Everything that happens in Kalwaria Paławska is linked to that mystery...that goal is expressed in the liturgies, homilies, prayers, the presence of the friars, the pilgrims and even this place itself.” The miraculous image of the Mother of God came from the town of Kamieniec Podolski, [now part of the Ukraine]. Polish kings (John Casimir and John III Sobieski), princes and commanders in chief have prayed before it. Fifty years ago, then Cardinal Karol WOJTYŁA (later Pope Saint John Paul II) prayed before it as well. It still attracts thousands of pilgrims. By the end of the eighteenth century, fifty different miraculous events had been recorded. “The documentation lists the names and dates of people who experienced miraculous healing. Not only Polish Catholics, but also representatives of other religions, confessions and nationalities who were healed” said Dr. Zofia BATOR from the “Lovers of Sacred Art” Association.

The Franciscan historian Friar Zdzisław GOGOLA, OFM Conv., drew attention to a very important element in the history of Kalwaria Paławska. “During the Kalwaria friary’s 350-years existence, three attempts were made to turn it into a novitiate to receive candidates for the Order. The first two attempts were made when Poland was partitioned. The third attempt took place when martial law was imposed in 1982. That was when the novitiate opened. It experienced the collapse of communism and the emergence of a free Poland and has operated continuously to this day”.

During the two days, the participants listened to fourteen educational conferences, which had been previously published in a book entitled “The Shrine of Kalwaria Paławska, 1668-2018”.

The first founder of Kalwaria Paławska was the castellan of Lviv and governor of Podolia, Andrzej Maksymilian FREDRO (1668). He was a political writer, historian and author of aphorisms. His successor, or rather the second founder, was the noble Szczepan Józef DWERNICKI, in the 18th century.

## Cracow-KWPZM Assembly and Rector’s Meeting

■ Editorial board / Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK

On May 15-16, 2018, a meeting of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men’s Religious Institutes in Poland (KWPZM) and a meeting of the Rectors of religious seminaries took place in Cracow, Poland.

The Most Reverend Salvatore PENNACCHIO, Apostolic Nuncio in Poland, also attended the KWPZM Assembly.

The first day of the Assembly was dedicated to challenges facing consecrated persons in Poland.

The Most Reverend José Rodríguez CARBALLO, OFM, Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, sent a message to the participants in which he spoke about the message in the Congregation’s recently published document “For New Wine, New Wineskins”, within the context of the current status of consecrated life in Poland. A round table discussion took place on this topic with a number of consecrated persons and representatives of the episcopate participating: the Most Reverend Jacek KICIŃSKI, Auxiliary Bishop of Wrocław, Poland (Claretians); the Most Reverend Jan NIEMIEC, Auxiliary Bishop of Kamyanets-Podilskyi, Ukraine; Father Tadeusz FLOREK (Discalced Carmelites); Father Paweł KOZACKI (Dominicans); and Sister Dawida RYLL (a religious of St. Michael the Archangel).

On the second day of the meeting, the Major Superiors discussed, among other topics, the new provisions on the protection of personal data in the Polish Catholic Church,



in the light of the new European Union law. Further information on these issues was provided by Professor Don Piotr KROCZEK, the Ecclesiastical Inspector for the protection of personal data.

In the meantime, the Rectors of the religious seminaries met with the Most Reverend Damian BRYL, Auxiliary Bishop of Poznań, Poland, and Bishop Damian Jacek KICIŃSKI, to be updated on the current status of the document being prepared “*Ratio Institutionis Sacerdotalis pro Polonia*”, and the letter of the Prefects of the Congregation for the Clergy and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, on the introduction of theology lessons in the consecrated life, particularly the theology of the Church.

The two-day plenary meeting took place at the religious house of the Resurrectionists, and ended with Mass presided over by the Most Reverend Marek JĘDRASZEWSKI, Metropolitan of Cracow.

## Niepokalanów-Lasek: Debate on Changes in the Constitutions

■ Editorial board / Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK

**On Monday, May 21, 2018, the Chapter Delegates of Central and Eastern Europe met to discuss the upcoming Extraordinary General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.**

They met at the friary in Niepokalanów-Lasek (Poland).

Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Delegates from various Provinces, along with the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, spent a few days studying the revised text of the Constitutions of the Order, as found in the document *Instrumentum laboris*. The participants included friars from the Polish Provinces of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar (Cracow), the Immaculate Mother of God (Warsaw), and St. Maximilian M. Kolbe (Gdańsk), as well as friars from the Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic, the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary-Transylvania, the General Custody of Our Holy Father St. Francis in Russia, and the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Slovakia. They will be joined by Delegates from other Jurisdictions of the Order, when the Chapter meets in Nemi (near Rome) from July 24 until August 26, 2018. At that time they will definitively examine, analyze and evaluate the changes proposed in the Constitutions.



The participants

## Gdańsk: Restored Church Organ Blessed

■ Friar Grzegorz KORDEK, Provincial Secretary

**On Sunday, June 3, 2018, the newly restored and rebuilt Mannerist-Baroque organ of the Conventual Franciscan Church of the Holy Trinity in Gdansk, Poland, was blessed and inaugurated.**

This coincided with the 400th anniversary of the organ's construction. The celebrations began with Mass presided-over by Friar Jerzy NOREL, the Vicar General of the Conventual Franciscan Order.

During the ceremony, a postage stamp depicting the Gdańsk organ was presented. The Polish Postal Service had issued the stamp to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the instrument's creation. Next, the completely restored instrument was presented and Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, the Minister Provincial of the Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk) presided over the act of benediction. Friar Jerzy NOREL performed the rite of blessing. Then, the people and institutions involved in the organ's reconstruction were thanked as were the benefactors through whom the project was completed.

The ceremony to commemorate the organ's reconstruction and preservation was also an occasion to bestow the bronze "Medal for Merit to Culture – *Gloria Artis*" upon Friar Tomasz JANK, OFM Conv. It was awarded by Piotr GLINSKI, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland. Minister Provincial Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI conferred the Province's honorary award *Fraternitatis gratiarum* upon Andrzej SZADEJKO, the Chairman of the Council of the Association of the Friends of the Holy Trinity Church "Courtyard" in Gdańsk, who directed the organ restoration project.

The festivities included an inaugural concert. Solo and chamber compositions were performed allowing the acoustic possibilities of the reconstructed instrument to be admired. Thanks to the restoration, the organ plays as well as it did in the seventeenth century.

## Poland-Italy: In the Footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe

■ Friar Marek KIEDROWICZ, OFM Conv., Chaplain of the group

**On June 4, 2018 motorcyclists on an endurance rally - or rather a pilgrimage - left Poland to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe's ordination to the priesthood.**

The participants departed from the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz, where St. Maximilian's priesthood came to fruition as a gift of life for a fellow prisoner who had been sentenced to death by starvation.

The pilgrims' route led them through Kahlenberg (Vienna, Austria). It was there, during the seventeenth century, that Polish knights - the "progenitors" of the Knights of the Immaculate - resisted the Turkish hordes in Europe.

The pilgrimage continued to Assisi and then to Padua, to the Basilica of the Saint, where the precious relics of St. Anthony lie alongside an altar dedicated to St. Maximilian. The altar has an unusually expressive painting by Pietro ANNIGONI.

From there, the pilgrims' road led them through the Apennines to Rome. On the way, they stopped at the cemetery of Polish soldiers at Monte Cassino to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Poland's independence.

On Sunday morning, June 10, the motorcyclists visited Rome's Basilica of Sant' Andrea della Valle, where one hundred years ago, St. Maximilian was ordained a priest. Next, they went to St. Peter's Square to recite the Angelus with the Pope.

Afterwards, they had dinner at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles where the hospitality was truly fraternal and made a lasting impression in the hearts and memories of the participants.

## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [FEMO]

The pilgrims also went to the church of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, where St. Maximilian celebrated his first Mass and they visited the friary of St. Maximilian Kolbe on Via San Teodoro (better known as Casa Kolbe), where Maximilian became a priest and where the Militia of the Immaculata was founded.

Once they got back to Poland, they stopped at three important Kolbean sites: Zduńska Wola (his birthplace), Pabianice (the city he grew up in) and Niepokalanów (the City of the Immaculate). In this way, Rajmund Kolbe's childhood, and his life's work, became the unifying theme of the whole pilgrimage.

During the trip, there were visits to other places of spiritual note: Mariazell, Lanciano, Manoppello, Rivortorto, San Damiano, Porziuncola, Loreto, Łagiewniki, etc. There were many unforgettable moments that could only be had by motorcycle – experiencing the curves of alpine and Apennine roads, the scent of meadows, the beauty of nature, etc. Praised be You, my Lord! Everyone came back home - so they say – safe, sound and hopeful that they will improve.



The participants with some friars from the friary of the General Curia

## Kazakhstan: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

**On June 12-17, 2018, Friar Marco TASCA, the Minister General, and Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Foederatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) made a fraternal visit to the Franciscan fraternity in Astana, Kazakhstan.**

The friary currently has three friars serving in pastoral ministry. They are Friar Mihael MAJETIČ from the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia; Friar Paweł BLOK from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk); and Friar Roberto PERETTI from the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy).

A key moment during the visit was the celebration of Mass on the solemnity of St. Anthony of Padua. At the same time, the friars also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Conventual Franciscan presence in Kazakhstan and Friar Roberto PERETTI's 50th anniversary of religious life. Those attending included the Most Reverend Tomasz PETA, Archbishop of Astana, the Sisters of Mercy, parishioners and friends of the friars. After



The friars with the Minister General / the friars of the mission



the solemn celebration, there was a music concert with performances by some of Friar Roberto's students. The celebrations concluded with a fraternal agape meal for all the guests.

Apart from the celebrations, the visit also afforded a better understanding of the life of the friars in Astana, and supplied data that will help when planning the future of this mission of the Order.

The visit provided a good opportunity to personally meet with the Most Reverend Francis Assisi CHULLIKATT, Apostolic Nuncio to Kazakhstan along with Archbishop PETA. During the visit, the friars of Kazakhstan took their guests the Alzhir Memorial in Akmol, which, during the communist terror, was the site of one of the Soviet Union's largest gulags for women who were labeled "wives of the enemies of the people".

After the Minister General had departed, Friar Paweł accompanied the Assistant General, Friar Jacek, on visits to some of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Astana and to the National Shrine in Oziornoje.

## Ukraine: Fraternal Visit

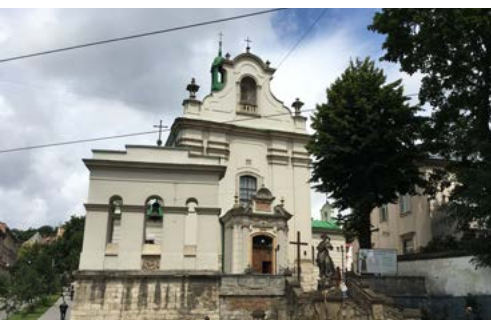
■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

**On June 18-24, 2018, Friar Jerzy NOREL the Vicar General and Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI the Assistant General for the *Foederatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) made a fraternal visit to the Ukraine.**

The main reason for the visit was to celebrate the first anniversary of the episcopal ordination of our confrere the Most Reverend Edward KAWA, Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv. Bishop Kawa is also the coordinator of the Secretariat of the "Pope for Ukraine" initiative, which is aimed at helping people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The visit provided a good opportunity to dialogue about the state of the Church in the Ukraine and the status of the Franciscan communities there, as well.

During the visit, the Vicar General and the Assistant General met with the Most Reverend Mieczysław MOKRZYCKI, Archbishop of Lviv, along with Bishop KAWA and several friars from the friaries of Lviv, Bilshivtsi and Boryspil.

Next, the Assistant General took part in celebrating the solemnity of St. John of Dukla, a famous Franciscan of the fifteenth century and a co-patron of the city of Lviv together with our confrere Blessed James of Strepur.



Bilshivtsi { Більшівці }  
Boryspil { Бориспіль }  
Lviv { Львів }

■ FEDERAZIONE INTER-MEDITERRANEA MINISTRI PROVINCIALI

Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS  
Assistant General for the FIMP



## Rome: Pope Visits Prison

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, San Giacomo Community, Rome

**On Holy Thursday, March 29, 2018, Pope Francis visited the *Regina Coeli* prison in Rome and celebrated the “Last Supper” Mass. During the Mass, he ritually washed the feet of twelve inmates.**

It was a poignant and meaningful ceremony held in the historic Rotonda. This is the prison’s central meeting space from which eight corridors lead to the other blocks of this old and historic Roman penal institution. Conventual Franciscan friars from the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy) have been doing prison chaplaincy here since 1945. Two friars from Rome’s San Giacomo friary are now serving as chaplains at the prison: Friar Vittorio TRANI (for forty years) and Friar Renzo DEGNI (for a year). Preparing for the visit by the Successor of Peter was intense. However it was done in an atmosphere of confident expectation which involved the collaboration of the Directorate of the Prison, the 900 prisoners currently in residence, the 600 members of the prison police force and the 100 worthy volunteers who help the friars carry out their pastoral activities.

Pope Francis is the fourth Pope to have visited the *Regina Coeli* prison. He was preceded by John Paul II in 2000, Paul VI in 1964 and John XXIII in 1958.

On his arrival, the Pope was welcomed by the Prison Director, Dr. Silvana SERGI, along with the two chaplains who then brought him over to the prison hospital ward. There, the Pope greeted individual sick prisoners. Next came the celebration of the Mass which included washing the feet of twelve inmates. They represented various nationalities and religions. The group included two Muslims and a Buddhist. The Pope concluded with a visit to prison block seven.

The Pope gave the prisoners the artistic bronze altar upon which he had celebrated the Mass. The altar was created by sculptor Fiorenzo BACCI and depicts Christ bowed among the thorns in the Garden of Olives. It will remain in the historic Rotonda and will be used by the chaplains for Sunday Masses, in remembrance of the papal visit.



The Pope presides at Mass

## Assisi: *The Sultan and the Saint* at the Sacro Convento

■ Friar Emmanuele RIMOLI

**“Thank you all. I feel at home.” These were the words of Alex KRONEMER, the director of a documentary film about the meeting between St. Francis and the Sultan, as he greeted friars and audience members at the Sacro Convento in Assisi on Friday, May 11, 2018.**

It was a very special time for Assisi, which was preparing to welcome German Chancellor Angela Merkel the next day. She was coming to receive the “Lamp of Peace” award for her reconciliation efforts between peoples. Moreover, she would be joined by the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel SANTOS, the winner of the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize. In the midst of all this, a screening of the film *The Sultan and the Saint* might have been ignored or even cancelled, but the result was anything but.

Friar Domenico PAOLETTI, the Vicar of the Assisi community and the promoter for the screening, greeted everyone and made some introductory remarks, then handed the microphone over to the director and his film. The director talked about the inspiration he got in Assisi forty years ago while contemplating the fresco depicting the meeting between St. Francis and the Sultan. In the light of recent violent events, that scene has re-emerged and urgently needs to be retold as a counter-narrative to fear and closure. Such a meeting is really possible; it has already happened. We only need to bring it forth from our legacy and creatively promote it again.

The director, responding to questions posed by Friar Silvestro BEJAN (CEFID), talked about his personal experience of encounter and sharing while writing this film. Sultan Al-Kamil and St. Francis were able to recognize and see the good in one another. They changed their mindset as a result of this meeting. KRONEMER went on: “On one hand, I learned that when facing someone ‘other,’ hatred and violence is the ‘easiest’ way to respond. On the other hand, while it is true that it is ‘more difficult and takes longer’ to respond with love, such a response is much more enriching. That’s what Jesus taught when he said to turn the other cheek.” The director, a Muslim, had thus borrowed one of the most intense passages of the Gospel and gave it back again to the friars and those present. The audience burst into applause in recognition of the testimony of Franciscans around the world and their commitment to building bridges that bring people together to achieve peace.

The evening concluded with the awarding of the “Lamp of Peace” to the director and two guests from the Franciscan Action Network, Patrick CAROLAN and Sister Marie LUCEY, in honor of their commitment to peace. The award recognized them all as persons who follow and spread the “Spirit of Assisi.”

## Rome: Missionary Center Meets with Young Friars

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, Director of the Missionary Center

**During April and May of 2018, the friars of the Missionary Center conducted some missionary animation by meeting with more than 100 young people from the formation houses of the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP).**

This took place through a series of meetings. One meeting was held on April 17 at the Seraphicum International College in Rome. Another took place on April 24 at the novitiate of the Sacro Convento in Assisi. It was followed by another meeting at the post-novitiate of the Franciscanum, also in Assisi. On April 30, a meeting was held at the postulancy house in Osimo. Finally, on May 3, the friars of the Missionary Center met with



## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [FIMP]

the student friars of the “La Vigna” friary in Rome. More meetings are scheduled for October and November of this year at the formation houses in Romania, the postulancy house in Brescia, Italy and the post-novitiate house in Padua.

For the young men, the meetings were an immersion into missionary. For the friars of the Center, the meetings were an occasion to talk about missionary animation and inform the young men about the life and activities of the FIMP Center. We taught them about the work that is being carried out in dialogue with missionaries throughout our Jurisdictions, in forty countries around the world. Moreover, we proposed the missionary animation that the Center conducts on the banks of the Tiber River, through “street evangelization.” Finally, we talked about the experience of some young lay people from the Italian Province of St. Anthony who spent a month conducting missionary animation in the home area of the Martyrs of Peru.

We found that the young men, though they are far from our missions, are quite interested in the subject. They have a desire to learn more about the missionary dimension and to enter into it with the conviction shared by our confreres scattered around the world.

We have seen the eager faces of young men, passionate about the missionary spirit, just as Pope Francis has wished. In some seminaries, the idea has been proposed to form a small group of students (a missionary circle), with the intent of keeping alive both their missionary animation and their desire to “get started” once their studies are finished. The young men in formation listened attentively to the Director of the Center, Friar Paolo FIASCONARO. Friar Paolo is also periodically in contact with the eleven missionary animators of the Provinces and Custodies of the FIMP Federation.

Each meeting ended with the screening of a docu-film produced by the Missionary Center. The film is on the life of our confrere Friar Antonio SINIBALDI. Friar Antonio was a solid example of missionary and a witness to the gift of life, when, during a shipwreck in 1987, he saved the lives of seventeen young people, members of the parish of San Luis in Brazil. After saving their lives, he died from exhaustion on the beach. The beatification process is underway for this missionary confrere.



The friars with the Director of the Missionary Center

## Valladolid: Golden Jubilee

■ Friar Juan Antonio ADÁNEZ SILVÁN, OFM Conv.; Photo: Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL

**During the 2017-2018 academic year, the San Francisco de Asís College in Valladolid, Spain, had been celebrating its Golden Jubilee (the fiftieth anniversary of its founding).**

It was a wonderful opportunity to thank God for his many blessings over the years.

During the year, many activities took place to celebrate the Jubilee: the inaugural event on October 4, 2017, a “Bookmarks” competition, the alumni’s meeting on April 14, the composition of a hymn, etc.

During May 18-20, 2018, the central events of the Golden Jubilee were held. There was a tribute in honor of the “grandparents” of the College, a musical concert of thanksgiving in the parish and the solemn Mass of Pentecost celebrated in the courtyard of the College and presided-over by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA. It was an honor to have him visit on this very special day. He was joined by a large group of friars from Italy and the rest of the communities of the Province of Our Lady of Montserrat in Spain, headed by the Minister Provincial, Friar Ángel Mariano GUZMÁN LUDEÑA.



San Francisco de Asís College

## Missionary on a Bike

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, Director of the FIMP Missionary Center

**Friar Marek WARZECHA, a Polish confrere, has been spending his four-month vacation period traveling by bicycle. He started from his Province's Delegation in Kakooge, Uganda, around May 1, 2018. From there, he went forth as a "pilgrim of peace" to the Holy Land, Assisi and Rome.**

Friar Marek, 52, is from the Province of St. Anthony and Blessed James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow). He has been a missionary priest at his Province's Delegation in Uganda for the last ten years. This has been the fulfillment of his dream of making a 10,000-kilometer [6214 miles] bicycle journey. He passed through Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy and Poland.

During his journey, he carried the message of St. Francis across all eighteen countries, meeting many people of every race and religion. His seventeen kilogram bike [37 pounds] was equipped with a satellite navigator, an odometer, a battery charger and everything else he needed, including wine and water to celebrate Mass. During his travels he slept in tents, parishes and various religious institutions. He spent three weeks in prayer and spiritual retreat in the Holy Land and Palestine, visiting all the shrines of Christendom. Visiting Assisi for the first time, he went to the tomb of the Poverello.

In Rome, he was a guest of the Missionary Center and spent three days at the friary of St. Maximilian KOLBE. While touring the eternal city, he visited the tomb of St. Peter.

His mission will end in Poland, where he will participate in several meetings and report on his experience and his travels among the many people he encountered.



Friar Marek WARZECHA

## Orient and the Holy Land: Ordinary Custodial Chapter, Part I

■ Friar Lucian ABALINTOAI EI

**On April 9-13, 2018, the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land held the first part of its Ordinary Custodial Chapter at the Our Lady of the Well Retreat Center in Bkennaya, Lebanon.**

Those attending included Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP); Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, the Minister Provincial of the Mother Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania; and the friars who juridically belong to the Custody. This is the Custody's third Ordinary Chapter.

During the third session of the Chapter, Friar Anton BULAI was elected to his first term as Custos. The Definitory members are: Friar Roger KOUYOUMDJI, Custodial Vicar; Friar Lucian ABALINTOAI EI, Custodial Secretary; and Friars Dominique MATHIEU and Iulian PIȘTA, Definitors.

We thank the Lord for gathering the friars together for this fraternal meeting. The atmosphere was very warm and joyful.

The second part of the Chapter will be celebrated in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 2-6, 2018.



Friar Anton BULAI  
Provincial Custos



The Capitulars

## Italy: Chapter of the Province of St. Anthony of Padua

■ Friar Andrea VAONA, Provincial Secretary and Chapter Press Officer

**On Thursday, April 19, 2018, the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy) celebrated an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter**

Sixty Capitulars attended, along with some guests and auditors. The work of the Chapter began with prayer and an invocation to the Holy Spirit. Then the Chapter got underway in the meeting room and was initiated according to the process indicated in the directory.

Friar Maximilianus Kalef SEMBIRING, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Indonesia, made a report on the status of the Custody and explained how the 2017 Custodial Chapter decided to approve a motion requesting that the Minister General elevate the Custody to a Province. His report gave



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us a sense of our grand history in the last fifty years and the enormous potential that the Conventual Franciscan witness expresses and can express in the future. There was much gratitude for the many friars who peopled that history, and for the graces that God showed through signs of providence.

After a short pause, the work of the Chapter resumed with the report by the Vicar Provincial, Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI, based on his recent canonical visitation conducted in March of 2018. His orderly report discussed current affairs in the Custody, expressed possible options, and brought up certain situations the Custody may commit to in the future.

Friar Valerio FOLLI (Provincial Definitor for the missions) gave a clear and concise budget report for the Provincial Custody in Indonesia—the admirable results of an economics course the friars of the Custody took.

Next, Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC) greeted the Capitulars on behalf of the Order and gave a positive evaluation of the work presented and done thus far.

After a discussion, the Capitulars went to lunch and resumed work at 2:30 pm.

They immediately went to work on defining a motion to be voted in the assembly. The chosen text read: *The Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua, OFM Conv., celebrated in Camposampiero on April 19, 2018, approves the request of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Indonesia to be erected as a Province (cf. Motion 7b of the 2017 Ordinary Custodial Chapter) and decides to forward it to the Minister General and his Definitory.*

The motion was voted on and approved. The results were greeted with joy and applause and were welcomed with satisfaction by the Custos of Indonesia.

The work of the Chapter continued with the election of a new Provincial Definitor to be added to the present Definitory. At the end of the regular voting process, the Capitulars elected Friar Gilberto DEPEDER.

After some words from the Minister Provincial and other friars, it was announced that the prepared program had been completed. With the approval of the Capitulars, the President of the Chapter decreed the Chapter was concluded.

## USA “SB”: Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF

**From April 30 to May 4, 2018, the friars of the Province of St. Bonaventure in the USA, which includes the Delegation in Australia, met in Chicago for the first part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter.**

Friar Michael ZIELKE had already been reelected Minister Provincial by postal ballot.

Friar Paul SCHNEIDER was elected Vicar Provincial; Friar Joseph SCHENK, Provincial Secretary; and Friars Paul LANJEVIN, Jim CIARAMITARO, and Benedict



Friar Michael ZIELKE,  
Minister Provincial

The Capitulars



The Definitory

LA VOLPE, Definitors. Friar Robert MELNICK was selected as the Province Economist.

On June 25-28, 2018, the same friars met at the Techny Towers Retreat Center in Northbrook, Illinois, USA, for the second part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter.

After discussing the Province Four-Year Plan, the friars decided to establish a strategic Plan Commission which will meet over the next two years to collect information on the apostolates of the Province, on financial plans and the possibility of inter-Province collaboration among the Conventual Franciscan Provinces of the United States as well as other Jurisdictions in the Order. The friars will then meet in Extraordinary Chapter in 2020 to finalize the plan for the coming years.

The friars of the Chapter approved the Federation Directory of Initial Formation. All four Provinces have now approved this document.

The Capitulars voted to establish a friary in the upper floors of the house on Kenmore Avenue in Chicago (to allow some autonomy for the Provincialate community).

Many of the friars present for the Chapter stayed on in the Chicago area to attend funeral rites for Friar Francis McGANN which were held Friday evening, June 29, and Saturday morning, June 30, at the friary in Marytown.

## Russia: Ordinary Chapter – Part I

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, Assistant General for the FEMO

**On May 7-10, 2018, the General Custody of Our Holy Father St. Francis in Russia celebrated the first part of its Ordinary Custodial Chapter.**

The Chapter was held in St. Petersburg. Also, this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the refounding of our presence in Russia.

The Chapter was presided over by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA. Fourteen solemnly-professed friars of the Custody were gathered with him. Also present was Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO). Friar Jacek served as a moderator at the Chapter. Friar Guglielmo SPIRITO, of the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis in Italy (Assisi), provided the friars with a spiritual introduction to the work of the Chapter.



Friar Dariusz HARASIMOWICZ  
General Custos

After reports were read and the last four-years were evaluated, Friar Dariusz HARASIMOWICZ was chosen as the new Custos. New definitors were chosen as well: Friar Andrian ZUDIN (Vicar Custos), Friar Piotr KARNIALIUK (Custodial Secretary) and Friar Viktor FRANKOVSKI (Econom and Exactor).

May thanks went to the former Custos, Friar Nikolay DUBININ for having led the Custody for three consecutive four-year terms. Thanks also to thee outgoing Definitory members: Friars Andrzej BUKO, Adam NOWAK, Stanislaw WÓJTOWICZ, Dariusz HARASIMOWICZ and Michał GRUSZKA. These men shared the responsibility of the Custody with the Superior for the last five years.

At the same time, on behalf of all the confreres, we pray that the Holy Spirit may always shine his light upon the new Custos and his collaborators as they guide the Custody in the future.

The second part of the chapter will take place September 10-13, 2018, in St. Petersburg.



The Definitory  
with the Minister General

## Croatia: Provincial Chapter – Part II

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

**On May 14-16, 2018, the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia held the second part of its Ordinary Provincial Chapter at the Holy Spirit friary in Zagreb, Croatia**

Forty-six capitulars attended, led by the Minister Provincial, Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ. Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) also participated in the Chapter.

The first day was dedicated to defining, and later, approving the Province's new Four-Year Plan (PPQ). On the second day, the Capitulars worked in groups and finally concluded their work by voting on some important issues for the future of the Province. Among the various issues they covered, the Capitulars made decisions about downsizing the Province, the responsibility for the mission in Denmark, the introduction and approval of a new solidarity system in the Province and the beginning of the beatification process for Friar Celestin TOMIĆ. Friar Celestin was a Croatian confrere who died in fame of sanctity a few years ago. Finally, during the sixth session, the new guardians, formators and Presidents of the Provincial Commissions were elected.

Every evening, there was some time dedicated to fraternal recreation. On the first evening, a new book by Mr. Ivan ARMANDA was presented, entitled: "Blessed Alojzije Cardinal STEPINAC and the Friars Minor Conventual." The second evening was dedicated to the presentation of the film on St. Maximilian KOLBE entitled: *Two Crowns*. On the third evening, a video was presented on the 50th anniversary of our friars' presence in Sisak-Galadovo, Croatia. Half a day was dedicated to a pilgrimage to the Zagreb Cathedral and to praying at the tomb of Blessed Alojzije Cardinal STEPINAC. Subsequently the friars visited a "possible" house, for the spiritual center on the mountain above the capital, where they also stopped for lunch.



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During the Chapter, the name days and birthdays of some of the friars of the Province were remembered.

After the Chapter, the Assistant General for the CEF took part in the first meeting between the Minister Provincial and the new guardians. Finally, he participated in a meeting of the Provincial Definitory.



The Capitulars

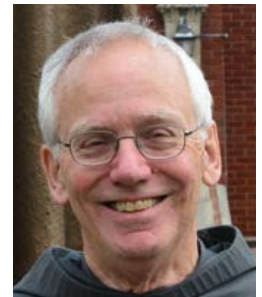
## USA "OLC": Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF

**On April 16-19, 2018, the friar Capitulars of Our Lady of Consolation Province in the USA gathered at Mount St. Francis, Indiana, for the first part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter.**

Friar Marco TASCIA, the Minister General, was the *Praeses* of the Chapter, and Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), was also present. Friar Jorge Arturo DOBLES ULLOA, the Custos of the Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America also participated.

Friar Wayne HELLMANN was elected Minister Provincial in an election conducted by postal ballot before the Chapter. Friar Martin DAY was elected Vicar Provincial, Friar Nicholas WOLFLA as Secretary, and Friars Miguel BRISEÑO, Mario Luevano SERRANO, Andrew MARTINEZ and John POZHATHUPARAMBIL as Definitors.



Friar Wayne HELLMANN  
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars



The Definitory

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Friar Gary JOHNSON was chosen as the formation director and guardian of the community at the house of post-novitiate formation in San Antonio, Texas.

One of the main themes that kept coming up in the friar's discussions was the need to reach out to the poor and discarded of our society.

On the evening of April 18, there was a jubilee celebration for friars celebrating anniversaries of temporary and solemn profession and ordination to the priesthood.

On June 4-7, 2018, the same Capitulars gathered at the Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park, New Mexico, for the second part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter.

Friar Wayne HELLMAN, the Minister Provincial, led the friars in a reflection on the current state of the Province and how the friars must prepare for the future of the Province over the next two years. The Chapter decided to convoke an Extraordinary Chapter in 2020, to complete this process of review and to plan for the coming years.

During this part of the Chapter, Friar Paul SCHLOEMER was chosen as the Provincial Econom.

The friars decided to pursue geothermal energy and solar panels for renewable energy use at Mt. St. Francis. They discussed their call to intercultural exchanges to which they have committed themselves over the past years, especially with the friars of Zambia, India, Central America and recently, Mexico.

They welcomed some of the refugees from the area to whom they have been offering hospitality. They invited further inter-Provincial and inter-Order collaboration in the coming years.

## USA "SJC": Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF

**On April 9-12, 2018, the Conventual Franciscans of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA held the first part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter at the St. Joseph of Cupertino friary in Castro Valley, California.**

Twenty-two delegates were present along with Friar Marco TASCA, the Minister General; Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minor Conventuals (FAMC); and Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF). Friar Victor ABEGG was elected as the Minister Provincial; Friar Jacob CARAZO as the Vicar Provincial; Friar James REITER as the Provincial Secretary; and Friars Paul GAWLOWSKI and Thomas CZECK as Definitors. Among the topics of greatest importance discussed was the growth of the Provincial Delegation in Vietnam. A number of friars from Vietnam were present for the Chapter.-

From June 11-15, 2018, the same Capitulars, met in Castro Valley for the second part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter.

Delegates from the Province, and from its Provincial Delegation in Vietnam, were present. The friars discussed their Four- Year Plan extensively. A major part of the Plan was the fulfillment of the Province's commitment to continue to foster the development of the Delegation in Vietnam. The Chapter, in fact, approved the construction of a new postulancy house in Cu Chi (Ho Chi Minh City). They also made a significant grant of Province funds to facilitate the building project.



Friar Victor ABEGG  
Minister Provincial



The Definitory

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The Chapter discussed the establishment of a Marian house at the St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary in Castro Valley and encouraged the friars there to develop a definition of the life style that this would entail.

Friar John HEINZ was selected as the Province Econom.

Two teams of vocation promoters were established to address the needs of this program, both geographically and ethnically. The Chapter approved the suppression of one friary in Reno, Nevada, and the establishment of two new friaries (one at the Our Lady of Grace parish in Castro Valley and the other in Van Mon, Vietnam). They also approved the establishment of an *ad hoc* commission, along with the Provinces of Our Lady of Consolation and St. Bonaventure, to explore how they might collaborate more in these coming years.

## Slovenia: Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

**On April 22-26, 2018, the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia celebrated the first part of its Ordinary Provincial Chapter at the friary of Saints Peter and Paul in Ptuj, Slovenia.**

The Chapter was presided over by the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL. Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) was also present. Twenty-five Capitulars participated, led by the outgoing Minister Provincial, Friar Milan KOS.

The first day was dedicated to listening to thirteen reports covering the life and activities of the Province. At the end of the first day's work, the friars made an evening visit to our former friary in Maribor, which has now been transformed into a theater.

The second day was dedicated to working in groups. The day concluded with a pleasant concert by the teachers of the music school in the Ptuj friary.

On the third day all the friars of the Province were convened for the election of the new Provincial. Forty-four friars attended; two others were absent due to illness. Friar Igor SALMIĆ was elected to his first term as Minister Provincial. Friar Igor was born in Ljubljana on August 3, 1979. He professed his temporary vows on September 9, 2001, his solemn vows on September 24, 2005, and was ordained a priest on June 29, 2007. The day ended with all of the Capitulars making a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in Ptujška Gora.



Friar Igor SALMIĆ  
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars



The Definitory



## CHAPTERS

On the last day, the members of the Definitory were chosen. They are: Friar Slavko STERMŠEK Vicar; Friar Danilo HOLC Secretary; and Friars Cristian BALINT and Toni BRINJOVC, Definitors. The Econom and the Exactor will be chosen during the second part of the Chapter.

The Chapter concluded with a solemn lunch attended by the Most Reverend Alojzij CVIKL, Archbishop of Maribor, Slovenia and the Provincial Definitory of the Province of St. Jerome of Croatia along with their Minister Provincial, Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ.

On June 18-20, 2018, the second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter was celebrated at the friary of Saints Peter and Paul in Ptuj-Slovenia.

The Chapter began with prayer and Mass presided-over by the Minister Provincial, Friar Igor SALMIČ. All the Capitulars were present together with Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF).

On the first day, The Capitulars discussed, and finally approved, the Province Four-Year Plan (PPQ). They next discussed thirteen motions concerning the life and apostolate of the Province. Then, they elected the Province Econom and Exactor since this had not yet been done during the first part of the Chapter. Finally, they elected the guardians, formators and various presidents of the Provincial commissions.

After completing the last session and praying for the deceased friars, there was a tour and the anniversaries of some friars were celebrated. Among those celebrating was Friar Tarzicij KOLENKO, a former Minister Provincial in this Jurisdiction, who, with all the confreres, gave thanks for his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination.

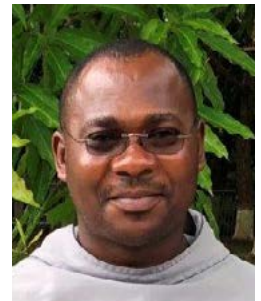
## Ghana: Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, Assistant General for the AFCOF

**On June 18-22, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana, of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy) celebrated the first part of its Ordinary Custodial Chapter in Saltpond, Ghana (Africa).**

Thirty friars of the Custody took part in this fraternal assembly, together with Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, the Minister Provincial of Padua and Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF). Friar Valerio FOLLI, the Provincial Secretary for the Missions, was also present.

The Capitulars first evaluated the state of the Custody and its ministries during the last four-year term. Then on June 20, Friar Anthony Kutiero BEZO was re-elected Provincial Custodian on the first ballot. On Thursday, June 21, the Definitors were elected at the end of the regular voting session. They are Friar Eugene ANTWI-BOASIAGO – Custodial Vicar, 2nd term; Friar Isaac FRIMPONG – Custodial Secretary, 2nd term; Friar David Marion KWAW – Custodial Definitor, 2nd term; and Friar Martino CORAZZIN – Custodial Definitor, 2nd term.



Friar Anthony Kutiero BEZO  
Provincial Custos



The Capitulars pray over the  
graves of their confrères

## CHAPTERS

Our Order has been present in Ghana since 1977. The Provincial Custody was erected in 1994. Since then, the Custody has been led by three Custodes: Friars Vincenzo MARCOLI, Emilio GALLO and Bortolino MAISTRELLO.

Currently the Provincial Custody of Ghana has thirty solemnly professed friars (twenty-five from Ghana, four from Italy and one from Romania). The custody has thirty-five simply professed friars, twelve novices and nineteen postulants (eleven first-year postulants and eight second-year postulants). The friars are distributed among five friaries (Takoradi, Accrà, Saltpond, Sunyani and Elmina). The friars serve in the following areas: mass-media (printing and publishing), vocation formation, parish ministry at three parishes, education, health ministry (a national level commitment to eradicate leprosy) and charity towards the neediest.

On June 26-29, 2018 the second part of its Ordinary Custodial Chapter was celebrated. The Minister Provincial, Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, continued as presider with twenty-eight Capitulars attending.

The first day of the Chapter was dedicated to group work in which the *Instrumentum laboris* was discussed, with the aim of defining the Four-Year Plan of the Custody.

On the second day, there was open discussion in the lecture room; all of the friars were able to give their evaluation of the life of the Custody over the last four years. Later, they discussed proposals to be drawn up for the next four years.

The Capitulars in the lecture room then chose to discuss the draft of the Four-Year Plan. After the discussion, they proceeded to vote on the Four-Year Plan and various Chapter motions. Among the most significant decisions of the Chapter was to open a new presence in Nigeria, gradually, in collaboration with other Jurisdictions of the AFCOF Federation.

Later, the Capitulars listened to explanations regarding the new approach to financial matters in the Custody. In accordance with this approach, the Financial Commission will henceforth have an important role in the Custody. The Capitulars then moved on to elect two friars to the following offices: Custodial Econom – Friar Martino CORAZZIN, third term; and Custodial Exactor – Friar Moses ARTHUR, first term.

On the last day of the Chapter, five new guardians were elected: in Accra – Friar Eugene ANTWI-BOASIAKO; in Saltpond – Friar Isaak FRIMPONG; in Elmina – Friar Martino CORAZZIN; in Takoradi – Friar Martin de Porres HATTOH; and in Sunyani – Friar Pius ASARE. The Capitulars also elected the Custody's heads of formation: Postulancy Director – Friar Charles Ekow AMOAH; Novice Master – Friar Moses Kabenla ARTHUR; and Director of Philosophy Studies – Friar Anthony Senanu ASUH. Friar Gregory Abangiba AMORE was reconfirmed as Vocations Promoter.

The Chapter concluded with a solemn procession to the Custodial cemetery and a prayer for the deceased friars.



The Definitory



## USA “OLA”: Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF

**From April 23-27, 2018, the Capitular Friars of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA gathered for their Ordinary Provincial Chapter in Buffalo, New York.**

Friar Marco TASCA was the *Praeses* of the Chapter, and Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General of the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), was also present.

Other participants included Friar Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA, who traveled from the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) and Friar Ciprian BUDAŪ, who traveled from the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland.

Friar James MCCURRY, who had been elected Minister Provincial by postal ballot, began his second term.

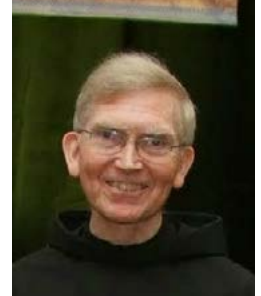
Friar Michael HEINE was selected as the Vicar Provincial and Friar Richard Jacob FORCIER began his second term as the Provincial Secretary. Friars Jude SUROWIEC, Tom PURCELL, Frank GRIMALDI, Gary JOHNSON and Ericson DE LA PEÑA were chosen as Definitors.

Friars Timothy KULBICKI and Jobe ABBASS were chosen as Delegates from the Province for the General Chapter. Friar Nicholas ROKITKA was chosen as the Province Economist. On June 18-22, 2018, the same Capitulars met in Buffalo, New York, for the second part of their Ordinary Provincial Chapter.

Friar James McCURRY, the Minister Provincial of the OLA Province was the *praeses*, and he was assisted by Friar Michael HEINE, the Vicar Provincial.

The friars concluded their preparation of the Province Four-Year Plan and revised the Provincial Statutes. They voted to approve the renovation of certain Province buildings in Rensselaer, NY; Syracuse, NY; and Hamburg, NY. The friars supported a plan to investigate a *mission ad gentes* during this mandate, and to twin with the friars of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) to support a new mission in Nigeria. In keeping with the Province’s commitment to take good care of its older friars, they also supported a proposal to assist the Province of Sicily in its renovation of a friary to care for the needs of its elder friars.

The Chapter concluded with the ordination of four friars to the priesthood (Emanuel VENTURA VASCONCELOS, Luis PALACIOS RODRIGUEZ, and Moises Maximilian D’AVILA PACHECO from OLA Province and Jorge Milton (de Jesus) TORRES ALBARRÁN from the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto in Venezuela). The Most Reverend Gregory HARTMEYER, OFM Conv., Bishop of Savannah, Georgia, and a member of the Province, presided over the ordination. Friar José Luis ALVENDAÑO MONSALVE, Custos of the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto in Venezuela, was also present for the ordination. as was the Most Reverend Elias MANNING, OFM Conv., Bishop Emeritus of Valença, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Friar James McCURRY  
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars



## ■ PERSONAL STATISTICS

## Professiones temporanae

### Prov. Indiae

BALIARSINGH Madan, CHEPPUKALAYIL Anto, EDAPULAVAN Jibin, KOLLITHADATHIL Nibil, MALIAKKAL Jintesh, MANNAMKUNNEL Manu, MONTRY Gudu, NALLUKUNNEL Dibin, NAYAK Saroj, PARAYIL Alan (01.05.2018)

## Professiones perpetuae

### Prov. Indiae

CHAKKITTUKUDIYIL Anoop, KALAPURAYIL Jeo, KAVALAMACKAL Mithin (27.05.2018)

## Ordinationes diaconales

### Prov. Polonicae B.M.V. Imm.

BOGUCKI Bartosz (26.05.2018)

### Prov. Zambiae

CHANDA Isaac Yumbe, FUNDANGA Gordon Bwalya, KADYATA Pythias, KASONDE Chama Mushimwa, KASONDE Barnabas, KATUTA Francis, NKHOMA Patson (12.05.2018)

### Cust. prov. Philippinae

AVELINO Lorenzo (22.06.2018)

## Ordinationes sacerdotales

### Prov. Italicae S. Antonii Patavini

BIASIOTTO Antonio Francesco, BOTTARO Andrea (05.05.2018)

### Prov. Polonicae S. Antonii

KANTORSKI Piotr Andrzej (02.06.2018)

### Prov. Polonicae B.M.V. Imm.

JANKOWSKI Łukasz (26.05.2018)

### Prov. Romaniae

GAL Cristinel (24.06.2018)

### Prov. Zambiae

MUPULA Patrick, SICHANDE Vincent (28.04.2018)

### Cust. prov. Keniana

MAKEMBO Paul Mucee (09.06.2018)

## ■ RESTING IN GOD

SZUMOWSKI Innocenty	Prov. Polonicae B.M.V. Imm.	2018-04-06	Niepokalanów, POLSKA	81
VANDELLI Ermanno	Prov. Italicae S. Francisci	2018-04-14	Arezzo, ITALIA	88
ZWOLAK Ferdynand	Prov. Polonicae S. Max. Kolbe	2018-04-17	Elbląg, POLSKA	83
NISHIZAWA Bonaventura Yasushi	Prov. Iaponiae	2018-04-22	Tokyo, JAPAN	92
TANIMURA Arnaldus Tatsuro	Prov. Iaponiae	2018-04-30	Isahaya, JAPAN	77
FEHLNER Peter Damian	Prov. Americanae Dominae N. Angelorum	2018-05-08	???	87
MURAYAMA Ioannes Yasuji	Prov. Iaponiae	2018-05-16	Jikei di Isahaya, JAPAN	94
CANCELLIERI Vincenzo	Prov. Italicae S. Francisci	2018-05-29	Macerata, ITALIA	94
COLI Vincenzo	Prov. Italicae S. Francisci	2018-06-19	Foligno, ITALIA	80
McGANN Francis	Prov. Americanae S. Bonaventurae	2018-06-22	Steubenville, USA	78
SAMMUT Alfons	Prov. Maltae	2018-06-28	???	89

# CONSPECTUS GENERALIS ORDINIS

Die 31 decembris 2017

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 2016
	episcopi	sacerdotes	diaconi tr.	diaconi p.	fr. clerici	fr. laici			sacerdotes	fr. clerici	fr. laici		
Pr. ZAMBIAE	1	69	8		6	15	7		29		8	143	2
Cust. pr. Ganensis		22	3		1	4			38		9	77	8
Cust. pr. Keniana		33	4		1	1	2		23		4	68	4
Cust. pr. Tanzaniensis		15	2		1				16		3	37	4
<b>summa AFCOF</b>	1	139	17		9	20	9		106		24	325	18
Pr. CROATIAE		58	1			2			8		2	71	2
Pr. GERMANIAE		46		2		7	3				1	59	-4
Pr. SLOVENIAE		38			1	3			2			44	0
Cust. Austro-Helvetica		21				1	1					23	0
<b>summa CEF</b>		163	1	2	1	13	4		10		3	197	-2
Pr. Americ. - Cons. Affl. (OLC)	1	59		1		13			8	1	3	86	-5
Pr. Americ. - D. N. Ang. (OLA)	1	145	2		3	26			7	1	4	189	-18
Pr. Americ. - S. Bonav. (SB)	2	32	2	1	1	16		2	4		4	64	3
Pr. Americ. - S. Ios. C. (SJC)		29	2		11	11	2	3	17		3	78	-1
Cust. pr. Anglo-Hibernica		23	2		3	1	1		2		3	35	1
Cust. pr. Canadensis		11						1				12	0
<b>summa CFF</b>	4	299	8	2	18	67	3	6	38	2	17	464	-20
Pr. BRASILIENSIS-S. Franc.	2	44				4	4	6	6		2	68	-2
Pr. BRASILIENSIS-S. Max. K.	2	64	2		2	4	3	3	14			94	-7
Pr. MEXICI		39	4		9	3	3	5	19	1	10	93	5
Pr. RIOPLATENSIS		30			2	5	1	1	1			40	-4
Cust. pr. Americae Centralis	1	17	2			4	4	2	3			33	12
Cust. pr. Boliviensis	1	19					3	1	3			27	-2
Cust. pr. Brasiliensis-Imm. C.	1	24				3	4	6				38	-2
Cust. pr. Brasiliensis-S. Bon.		16		2			1	3	3			25	0
Cust. pr. Columbiensis		20				2	3	2	10	1	2	40	-2
Cust. pr. Venetiolana		24	2			2	2	1	10			41	-1
<b>summa FALC</b>	7	297	10	2	13	27	28	30	69	2	14	499	-3

CIRCUMSCRIPTIONES	Professi sollemnes						irregulares	extra claustra	Professi temporarii			novitii	OMNES	diff. a 2016
	episcopi	sacerdotes	diaconi tr.	diaconi p.	fr. clerici	fr. laici			sacerdotes	fr. clerici	fr. laici			
Pr. COREAE		51	1			15		1		4			72	-3
Pr. IAPONIAE	1	42				14	5			4			66	-1
Pr. INDIAE		82	7		5	1	4	2		33			134	-7
Cust. pr. Indonesiae		47			4	12	2	2		42	4		113	-3
Cust. pr. Philippinarum		27	1		2	6	2	3		7	4	9	61	9
<b>summa FAMC</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>-5</b>
Pr. POLONIAE - B.V.M. Imm.	2	205	1		3	91	6	8		24	5	9	354	-13
Pr. POLONIAE - S. Antonii	2	273	2		8	43	17	5		39	1	10	400	-1
Pr. POLONIAE - S. Max. K.		138		1	3	17	2	2	1	13		1	178	-5
<b>summa Poloniae</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>-19</b>
Pr. CECA		14				4				3			21	2
Pr. HUNGARIAE-TRANSIL.		4		1	1	1	1	1		2			11	-1
Cust. gen. Russiae		7				6							13	-1
Cust. pr. Slovachiae		13	1			3	1			2			20	0
<b>summa FEMO</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>-19</b>
Pr. APRUTIORUM		40				3				2		2	47	3
Pr. APULIAE	1	35				1		1		2	3		43	0
Pr. ITALICA - S. Antonii Pat.	1	209	4	1	4	51	6		1	16		3	296	-2
Pr. ITALICA - S. Francisci	3	136	1	1	3	10	1	9		10	1	4	179	-4
Pr. NEAPOLITANA	1	54	1		1	5		2		3		3	70	2
Pr. SICILIAE		53			4	3		4		4			68	-5
Cust. gen. Assisiensis		23	1		1	8							33	0
Cust. pr. Calabriae		15				3				1			19	-3
<b>summa Italiae</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>-9</b>
Pr. HISPANIAE		55				10	5			2		1	73	1
Pr. MELITENSIS		41				3		1		2			47	1
Pr. ROMANIAE		172	2		4	17	11	20		51		4	281	-3
Cust. pr. Galliae		9			1	1				4			15	1
Cust. pr. Orientis-Terrae S.	1	18	1			2				2		1	25	-1
<b>summa FIMP</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1 196</b>	<b>-10</b>
<b>summa totalis (cum novitiis)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2 661</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4 124</b>	<b>-41</b>
<b>Diff. 2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-41</b>	
<b>Summa totalis professorum</b>	<b>3 500</b>						<b>519</b>				<b>4 019</b>	Tot.		
<b>Diff. proff. 2016</b>	<b>-62</b>						<b>29</b>			<b>-8</b>	<b>-41</b>			



## MUTATIONES IN CIRCUMSCRIPTIONIBUS ANNO 2017

DIE 31 DECEMBRIS 2017

	INCREMENTA												DECREMENTA												
	TRANSITUS				HOC ANNO ADMISSI								fratres regressi in Prov./Cust.	affiliati ad tempus ad	transfiliati in perp. ad	HOC ANNO EGRESSI						DEMISSI		DEFUNCTI	
	fratres regressi in Prov./Cust.	affiliatio ad tempus ex	transfiliatio in perp. ex a clero dioecetano ab alio Instituto	ad novitiatum	prof. t.		prof. s.				novitii	Prof. Temp. egressi expletis votis				Prof. Temp. dispensati	Prof. Soli. dispensati	transitus ad clericum dioec. (ob incardin.)	amissio status clericalis	fratres sacerdotes	fratres laici	fratres sacerdotes	fratres laici		
					fratres clericis	fratres laici	fratres clericis	fratres laici	ad diaconatum	ad presbyteratum															
readmissio ob congr. prob.																									
<b>Pr. ZAMBIAE</b>				8	5	5	2	3	6											1					
<b>Cust. pr. Ganensis</b>				9	4	1		2																	
<b>Cust. pr. Keniana</b>				4	3	1		3	5																
<b>Cust. pr. Tanzaniensis</b>				3	4	1		2																	
<b>summa AFCOF</b>	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	16	0	8	2	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0			
<b>Pr. CROATIAE</b>				2																					
<b>Pr. GERMANIAE</b>				1																4	1				
<b>Pr. SLOVENIAE</b>					1																				
<b>Cust. pr. Austro-Helvet.</b>																									
<b>summa CEF</b>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1			
<b>Pr. Amer. Cons. Affl. (OLC)</b>				3	4															5	2				
<b>Pr. Amer. D. N. Ang. (OLA)</b>				5	1							1								6	2				
<b>Pr. Amer. S. Bonav. (SB)</b>				4																1					
<b>Pr. Amer. S. Ios. C. (SJC)</b>				3	6	1		1																	
<b>Cust. pr. Anglo-Hib.</b>				3			3	2	2												1				
<b>Cust. pr. Canadensis</b>																									
<b>summa CFF</b>	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	11	0	4	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	5			
<b>Pr. BRASIL. – S. Franc.</b>														3							1				
<b>Pr. BRASIL. – S. Max. K.</b>					6	2		2	6																
<b>Pr. MEXICI</b>				10	7	3																			
<b>Pr. RIOPLATENSIS</b>																					2				
<b>Cust. pr. Americ. Centr.</b>									2																
<b>Cust. pr. Bolivienis</b>																									
<b>Cust. pr. Brasil. - Imm. C.</b>														1											
<b>Cust. Pr. Brasil. - S. Bon.</b>																									
<b>Cust. pr. Columbiensis</b>					1							1		1											
<b>Cust. pr. Venetiola</b>																									
<b>summa FALC</b>	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	14	0	5	0	4	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0			

	INCREMENTA										DECREMENTA															
	TRANSITUS				HOC ANNO ADMISSI						HOC ANNO EGRESSI						DEMISSI		DEFUNCTI							
	fratres regressi in Prov./Cust.	affiliatio ad tempus ex	transfiliatio in perp. ex a clero dioecetano	ab alio instituto	ad novitiatum	readmissio ob congr. prob.	prof. t.		prof. s.		ad diaconatum	ad presbyteratum	fratres regressi in Prov./Cust.	affiliati ad tempus ad	transfiliati in perp. ad	novitii	Professi temporarii egressi expletis votis	Prof. Temp. dispensati	Prof. Soli. dispensati	transitus ad clerum dioeces. (ob incaridin.)	amissio status clericalis	fratres sacerdotes	fratres laici	fratres sacerdotes	fratres laici	
							fratres clericici	fratres laici	fratres clericici	fratres laici																
Pr. COREAE							2				1	2														
Pr. IAPONIAE																								1		
Pr. INDIAE								8			5															
Cust. pr. Indonesiae							13		2																	
Cust. pr. Philippinarum					9				1	1	1	2														
<b>summa FAMC</b>	0	0	0	0	9	0	15	0	11	1	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pr. POLON.-B.M.V. Imm.					9		5		3		1	1								1					6	
Pr. POLON.-S. Antonii	1				10		13		4		2	2								1					4	
Pr. POLON.-S. Max. K.					1		4		3			3										1			1	
<b>summa Poloniae</b>	1	0	0	0	20	0	22	0	10	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	6	
Pr. CECA												1														
Pr. HUNGARIAE-TRANS.																								1		
Cust. gen. Russiae																										
Cust. pr. Slovachiae							1					1														
<b>summa FEMO</b>	1	0	0	0	20	0	23	0	10	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	7	
Pr. APRUTIORUM					2		2					1														
Pr. APULIAE												1													1	
Pr. ITALICA S. Antonii P.					3		3				2														5	1
Pr. ITALICA S. Francisci					4		2					1								1					5	
Pr. NEAPOLITANA					3		1					1														
Pr. SICILIAE									2											2					1	1
Cust. gen. Assisiensis									1																	
Cust. pr. Calabriae																										
<b>summa Italiae</b>	0	0	0	0	12	0	8	0	3	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	12	2	
Pr. HISPANIAE					1		1																			
Pr. MELITENSIS							2																			1
Pr. ROMANIAE					4		9		4		1	5						1	7							
Cust. pr. Galliae																										
Cust. p. Orient.-Terraes S.					1							1														
<b>summa FIMP</b>	0	0	0	0	18	0	20	0	7	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	13	2	
<b>summa totalis</b>	1	0	0	0	102	0	100	0	45	3	31	40	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	16	0	1	0	39	15	

## CENSUS ORDINIS - Distributio in Nationibus

die 31 decembris 2017

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								15
ANGLIA	5	1		24		2	3	1		1						31
ARGENTINA	7			24			2	4		3						33
AUSTRALIA	4		1	13				4								18
AUSTRIA	4	1		18				1								19
BELGIUM	1			7				1								8
BIELORUSSIA	3	1		13				1								14
BOLIVIA	5	1	1	23				1		7						32
BRASILIA	35	8	5	168	2	2	2	11		23		2				215
BULGARIA	2		1	5				1								7
BURKINA FASO	2			6						1						7
CALEDONIA	1	2		2												2
CANADA	6	3		20				2								22
CECHIA	5	1		16				4								20
CHILIA	3			11				1		1						13
CIVITAS VATICANA	1			14				1								15
COLUMBIA	6			19				1		3	1					24
COREA (merid.)	8			39		1		14		2		2				58
COSTA RICA	3		1	9		2		2		1						15
CROATIA	12			28												28
CUBA	2			6				1		2						9
FOEDERATAE CIVITATES AMERICAE (U.S.A)	59	4	3	304	2	5	4	62		37	2	11				430
GALLIA	4			16						1						17
GANA	5			17		3		3		14		12				49
GERMANIA	20	3		104	1			16								121
GUATEMALA				3												3
HELVETIA	3			14				1								15
HIBERNIA	2			8												8
HISPANIA	11			55				10		1						66
HONDURIA	2			7				2								9
HUNGARIA	2			4	1			1								6
<b>SUMMAE</b>   pagina	<b>227</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1329</b>



NATIONES	Conventus	Domus Filiales	PROFESSI SOLLEMNES						PROFESSI TEMPORARII			novitii	praenovitii- postulantes	adspirantes	OMNES
			Episcopi	Fr. sacerdotes	Fr. diaconi	Fr. diaconi trans.	Fr. clerici	Fr. laici	Fr. sacerdotes	Fr. clerici	Fr. laici				
<b>SUMMAE</b>   pagina	227	26	12	1 008	6	15	13	148	0	97	3	27	0	0	1 329
IAPONIA	16	2	1	49		1		14	4						69
INDIA	12	3		44		7	2	2	26						81
INDONESIA	8			44			4	11	41	4					104
ITALIA	98	3	6	711	3	11	20	100	1	69	4	19			944
KAZACHSTANIA		1		2				1							3
KENIA	6			27		8	8	2	25						70
LIBANUS	2		1	9		1		1	1						13
LITUANIA	3			8				1							9
LUSITANIA	3			13		1									14
MALAVIA	1	1		3											3
MELITA	7			38				3							41
MEXICUM	9	1		39	1	5	9	2	18	1	11				86
MOLDAVIA				1											1
NEDERLANDIA	2			13				1							14
PARAGUAIA	3			6				1	1	1					9
PERUVIA	3	1		12			1	1							14
PHILIPPINAE	5			26		1	2	5	7	4	3				48
POLONIA	57	6	1	428	1	2	11	129	1	58	5	17			653
ROMANIA	17	1		116		1	3	11	46		4				181
RUSSIA	5			8				6							14
SALVATORIA	1	1		2				1	2						5
SLOVACHIA	4			11		1		3	5						20
SLOVENIA	8	1		35			1	3	1						40
SRI LANKA	1	4		10			2		4						16
SUETIA	1			6											6
TANZANIA	4			16					8		8				32
TURCHIA	3			10				2							12
UCRAINA	5		1	16		1		1							19
UGANDA	2	1		7											7
URUGUAIA	2			5				3							8
USBEKISTANIA	3	1	1	7				3							11
VENETIOLA	5			20		2		1	5						28
VIETNAMIA	2			6		2	8		13						29
ZAMBIA	15	1	1	61		5		17	59		8				151
<b>SUMMA OMNIUM</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2 817</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 084</b>
<b>SUMMAE partiales</b>	<b>594</b>			<b>3 473</b>					<b>514</b>			<b>97</b>	<b>0</b>		
				<b>SUMMA FRATRUM (cum novitiis):</b>						<b>4 084</b>					