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f raternus NUNTIUS

Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium



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MINISTER GENERAL

MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Marco TASCA



Calendar of the Minister General

APRIL

- 3-8: Rome: General Definitory session
- 18-21: Oxford (UK): "Juniorentreffen" meeting
- 24-29: Assisi: First Chapter of the Italian Province of St. Francis

MAY

- 1-5: Bari (Italy): Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Puglia
- 15-20: Rome: General Definitory session
- 20: Tarancón (Spain): 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Colegio
- 21: Madrid (Spain): 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Colegio
- 22: Madrid: Blessing of the new formation house and the friary of the Rosary
- 23; Madrid, El Pardo: Inter-Franciscan Conference
- 24-26: Rome: Annual Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG)
- 29-

JUNE

- 2: Foligno (Italy): "Capitolissimo" of the Franciscans of Umbria
- 5-8: Baia Domizia (Italy): Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Naples
- 13: Camposampiero (Italy): Feast of St. Anthony of Padua
- 14-18: Sicily: Second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 19-24: Assisi-Rome: Meeting of the General Definitory with the Presidents of the Federations of the Order
- 26-30: Rome: General Definitory session.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI
Secretary General



Session April 3-7, 2017

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 10-18, 2017;
- was informed that the friary in Vilnius, Lithuania, will be formally and definitively returned to the Order on August 27, 2017;
- was updated by Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ on preparations for the International "Youth Toward Assisi" Meeting;

GENERAL DEFINITORY

- defined some aspects of the preparations for the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter with the members of the CERC;
- appointed Friar Francesco CELESTINO, former Provincial Custos of the Provincial Custody of Calabria, as guardian of the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles, Rome
- the Vicar General presented a report after listening to the friars of the General Community of St. Maximilian Kolbe;
- appointed Friar Valentín REDONDO, to his second consecutive term as guardian of the friary of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Rome;
- listened to the conclusion of the study assigned to the Coordinating Committee of the Six-Year Plan of the Order (CCPS) regarding the Pro-Seraphico Commission and then decided to propose to the Presidents of the Federations at their meeting in June of 2017, that the aforementioned Commission be suspended until the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter;
- took note of and confirmed the methods and time frame of the work of the Secretary General for Formation (SGF) and of the International Commission for Formation (CIF) on its work of revising *Franciscan Discipleship* and *Ratio studiorum*;
- defined the objectives, the program and a list of those invited to a meeting of the delegates of various communities of the Order engaged in the field of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. The meeting is scheduled for September 24-28, 2017, in Rome;
- fine-tuned the program for the meeting of the General Definitory with the Presidents of the Federations planned for June 19-24, 2017, in Assisi;
- defined the procedure to be followed for the union of the Central American Custody of Mary, Mother of the Poor and the Provincial Delegation of Costa Rica;
- accepted the proposal for the program for the joint outing of the General Definitory with the friars of the General Offices (September 30-October 2, 2017);
- looked at, studied and made changes to the draft of the statute for the creation of an Association together with the John Paul II Foundation ONLUS;
- listened to and commented on the reports of the Visitators General at the end of their general canonical visitations to the Provincial Custody of Great Britain and Ireland (Friar Jude WINKLER) and to the Brazilian Province of St. Francis (Friar Carlos TROVARELLI);
- listened to the reports of the visits made by Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
 - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the Custody of Austria-Switzerland (Vienna, Austria, March 25-31, 2017);
 - his fraternal visit with the Provincial Definitory of the Province of Germany (Würzburg, March 16-17, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the CFF, Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the CFF Federation common novitiate (Arroyo Grande, CA, USA, February 27– March 3, 2017);
 - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the USA Province of Our Lady of the Angels (Ellicott City, USA, March 6, 2017);
 - the CFF Federation Assembly (March 20-23, 2017)
 - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Belarus (February 20-March 6, 2017);
 - his meeting with the Definitory of the General Custody of Russia (March 10, 2017);
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of the Ukraine (March 13-27 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA, on the occasion of:
 - his participation in the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (March 5-11, 2017);
 - the General Assembly of the FIMP Federation (March 16-17, 2017);
 - the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of Sicilia (March 20-25, 2017);
 - the General Assembly of the friars of the Italian Province of Puglia (March 27, 2017);
 - the General Assembly of the friars of the Italian Province of Abruzzo (March 28-30, 2017);
 - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the Province of Romania and the Definitory of the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land (Bacău, Romania, February 28, 2017);
 - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the Province of Romania (Bacău, Romania, February 28, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedetto BAEK, on the occasion of:

GENERAL DEFINITORY

- his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Vietnam (March 7-12, 2017);
- his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Sri-Lanka (March 13-21, 2017);
- suppressed the friary of St. Edward in Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA of the USA Province of Our Lady of Consolation;
- accepted the request to change the name of the friary of the Holy Family in Castro Valley, CA, USA of the USA Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino;
- granted *nulla osta* to the erection of the friary of St. Hyacinth in Chicopee, MA, USA;
- approved the changes made to the Province Formation Directory of the Province of Mexico;
- was informed by the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, about the Emmaus Project (inter-Franciscan presence in Emmaus);
- the Minister General updated the General Definitory on the Franciscan University Project after the meeting of the Franciscan Ministers General with Pope Francis;
- dealt with the issue of pension contributions for the friars residing by obedience at the General Houses in Rome;
- the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, presented a report after listening to the friars of the General Community of the College of Minor Penitentiaries at the Vatican;
- the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, updated the General Definitory sharing some statistics on the presence and number of student friars in the General Houses.
- examined some personal cases.

Session May 15-19, 2017

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

- approved the minutes of the meeting held April 3-7, 2017;
- appointed Friar Lucjan BOGUCKI guardian of the friary of the College of Minor Penitentiaries at the Vatican;
- dedicated time to some personal fraternal sharing among the members of the General Definitory to discuss health status, morale and the service that is individually and collectively being rendered to the Order;
- listened to and commented on the report on the general economic visitation to the Provincial Custody of Great Britain and Ireland conducted by the General Exactor Friar Wojciech KULIG;
- listened to and commented on the report on the general economic visitation to the Province of St. Francis in Brasile conducted by the General Econom, Friar Nicola ROSA, and the General Exactor, Friar Wojciech KULIG;
- listened to and commented on the report of the General Visitor, Friar Milan HOLC at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Province of Croatia;
- studied a proposal made by the inter-Franciscan group Romans VI, with the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation present, Friar Joseph BLAY, to raise awareness among friars and the public on the importance of clean energy and ethical finance.
- reviewed the meeting program and the list of those invited to the meeting of the delegates of various communities of the Order engaged in the field of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, scheduled for September 24-28, 2017, in Rome;
- approved the statute of the unrecognized "Nodo Association ONLUS," the result of the collaboration with the John Paul II Foundation;
- appointed Friars Carlos TROVARELLI, Wojciech KULIG, and Agnello STOIA to represent the Order as members of the Administrative Council of the unrecognized "Nodo Association ONLUS";
- learned more about the issue of pension contributions for the friars residing by obedience at the General Houses in Rome, starting with a study prepared by the Coordinating Committee of the Six-Year Plan of the Order (CCPS);
- dealt with the issue of assistance for elderly friars in the General Houses and approved some recommendations about the duration of the presence of the friars in the General Houses;

GENERAL DEFINITORY

- listened to the reports of the visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
 - from the Assistant General for the AFCOF, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, on the occasion of:
 - the Assembly of the AFCOF Federation (Lusaka, Zambia, April 28–May 2, 2017);
 - the meeting of the Board of Directors of the inter-Franciscan St. Bonaventure College in Lusaka, Zambia (May 7-9, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
 - the General Assembly of the CEF Federation (Bad Saulgau, Germany, May 8-12, 2017);
 - the Spiritual Chapter of the Province of Slovenia and the meeting between the friars of the Province of Slovenia e Croatia (Ptuj, Slovenia, April 25-27, 2017);
 - the annual “Junioentreffen” meeting of friars in formation in the CEF Conference (Aylesford, Great Britain, April 18-22, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the CFF, Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of:
 - his workshop for postulants of the CFF Federation (Chicago, USA, April 24-28, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of:
 - his participation in the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Mexico (May 8-13, 2017);
 - his participation in the Ordinary Custodial Chapter of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. (Araruama, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 24-28, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Uzbekistan (April 20-May 5, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA, on the occasion of:
 - his participation in the first Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Assisi, Italy, April 24-29, 2017);
 - his participation in the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of Puglia (Bari, Italy, May 1-5, 2017);
 - his visit to the Provincial Definitory of his native Province of Spain (Madrid, Spain, April 19-20, 2017);
- was informed by the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, about the Emmaus Project (inter-Franciscan presence in Emmaus);
- learned more about a proposal pertaining to the office of the Delegate General for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue
- was updated by Friar Jude WINKLER, the Minister General’s delegate in the Administrative Council of *Franciscans International* on activities in progress;
- addressed some financial issues;
- dedicated time to reflecting on the challenges of vocation promotion for religious life in some parts of the world, in response to a specific request of a Vatican Congregation;
- examined some personal cases.

Session June 17, 19-23, 26-30, 2017

At its session held at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome, June 17, 26-30 and in Assisi June 19-23, 2017, the General Definitory:

- approved the minutes of the meeting held May 15-19, 2017;
- definitively chose the name “Nodo Association ONLUS” for the unrecognized entity erected jointly with the John Paul II Foundation;
- was updated on the first part of the celebration of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of Naples;
- elected Friar Cosimo ANTONINO as Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples);
- appointed the members of the Provincial Definitory of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples): Friar Paolo GALANTE, Definitory and Vicar Provincial; Friar Giorgio TUFANO, Definitory and Provincial Secretary; Friar Claudio IORIS, Definitory and Provincial Econom; Friar Ireneo DAEP III, Definitory; and Friar Cirillo KPALAFIO, Definitory;

- met simultaneously with the Minister Provincial of the Province of Germany, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER the Minister Provincial of the Province of Romania Friar Teofil PETRISOR;
- was updated by the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, inter-Franciscan Emmaus Project;
- analyzed a self-assessment method proposed by a religious Province;
- listened to the reports of the visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
 - from the Assistant General for the AFCOF, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, on the occasion of:
 - the 2017 AFCOF Rivotorto Course;
 - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
 - the General Assembly of the Custody of Austria-Switzerland (Fribourg, Switzerland, May 29–June 2, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of:
 - his participation in the second part of the ordinary Custodial Chapter of the Brazilian Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. (June 5-9, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the Province of Hungary and Transylvania (May 20-25, 2017);
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Bulgaria (June 9-15, 2017)
 - his visit to the Provincial Delegation of the Ukraine on the occasion of: the episcopal consecration of Bishop Eduard KAVA (June 18-23, 2017);
 - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquin AGESTA, on the occasion of: his participation in the second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Italian Province of Puglia (Bari, Italy, June 12-16, 2017);
- was updated by Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the program for the International “Youth Toward Assisi” Meeting that will be celebrated in Assisi and Rome, August 12-19, 2018 (Assisi, Italy, May 26-27 2017);
- was updated by Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ on his canonical visitation to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Muotathal (Diocese of Coira – Switzerland) together with Mother Damiana ARDESI, President of the St. Clare of Assisi Federation of the Urbanist Poor Clares of Italy and the Procurator of the Order, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO (May 22-25 2017);
- was updated by the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, about the meeting with the guardians of the General Houses;
- agreed with some changes in the composition of the General Communities;
- drew up the schedule for the common summer vacations of the General Definitory;
- addressed some financial issues;
- granted *nulla osta* to the erection of the friary of St. Andre Bessette, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, of the USA Province of Our Lady of the Angels;
- was updated by Friar Raffaele DI MURO, International President of the Militia of the Immaculate, on preparations for the International Kolbean Congress (Rome, Seraphicum October 19-20, 2017) and on the Kolbean Convention for Militia members and National Delegates (Rome, October 16-18, 2017);
- enthusiastically approved the program proposed by the organizing committee of the meeting on: “Sacred Art and the New Evangelization” (Rome, Seraphicum, November 20-21, 2017);
- examined some personal cases.

Session June 19-23, 2017

At its session held at the friary of the Sacro Convento in Assisi, the General Definitory met with the Presidents of the Federations.

Those present: Friar Anthony BEZO, President of the AFCOF; Friar Bernhardin SEITHER President of the CEF; Friar James KENT, President of the CFF; Friar Jhon Jairo MOLINA, President of the FALC; Friar Leo PAPPAPPILLY, President of the FAMC; Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, President of the FEMO; Friar Giancarlo CORSINI, President of the FIMP.

The meeting began with two periods of reflection and sharing led by Friar Jorge FERNANDEZ on: *The Grace of Working: Stimuli from the Capuchin 8th Plenary Council (VIII PCO)* and on *Francis and the Grace of Working*.

The participants split into two mixed groups.

In accordance with the agenda, the following topics were covered:

I Finances: (a) Information on the economic administration of the Order. (b) Guidelines for the Administration of Assets in Institutes of Consecrated Life and in Societies of Apostolic Life (c) Living from one's own work, self-sufficiency, economic solidarity within the Order, funds and investments.

This session also included members of the General Financial Office: the General Economist, Friar Nicola ROSA; the General Executor, Friar Wojciech KULIG; and Legal Representative of the Order, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO.

II Revision of the Constitutions: an update on the *status quo* of the work in progress.

Participants in this session included representatives of the Committee for the Revision of the Constitutions (CERC), the Coordinator, Friar Valentín REDONDO and Friar Victor MORA. They also participated in the discussion of topics III and IV on the agenda.

III 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter (CERC): dates, voting, translators, organizing committee, costs, etc.;

Taking note of the voting procedures and considering the time needed to bring the decade-long work of the revision of the Constitutions to its conclusion, the Presidents confirmed the General Definitory's proposal to have the Extraordinary General Chapter start on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at the *Centro Ad Gentes* Retreat Center operated by the Society of the Divine Word in Nemi, Rome, Italy. The General Chapter shall end as scheduled on Sunday, August 26. More information shall follow shortly.

IV Revision of the General Statutes: updates from the Federations.

V Franciscan University: information. Present at this session was the Dean of the Pontifical Faculty of St. Bonaventure, Friar Dinh Anh Nhue NGUYEN.

VI Inter-Franciscan Collaboration in the World: local initiatives (Assisi) the Emmaus Project in the Holy Land; the request by the bishops to start an inter-Franciscan community in Rieti; and initiatives implemented in the Jurisdictions and Federations.

VII Update on the Mandate of the 2013 General Chapter.

VIII Proposals on Pro-Seraphico: a proposal for 'transformation'. A proposal to suspend the meetings of the Pro-Seraphico Commission until the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter was presented and unanimously accepted.

In addition, with the Secretary General for Formation present, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, and the Vice Secretary General for Formation, Friar Giulio CESAREO, addressed the topics of collaboration between the centers of formation and studies of the Order and how best to use the available *resource professor*:

IX College of Minor Penitentiaries at the Vatican: Update on the proposal to change the linguistic framework, in consultation with the competent Vatican Authority and to review some internal practices of the College of Minor Penitentiaries especially regarding financial matters.

X Kolbe Congress (Rome, Seraphicum 19-20 October 2017). Friar Raffaele DI MURO, the International President of the Militia of the Immaculate was present.

XI International "Youth Toward Assisi" Meeting (Assisi-Rome, August 12-19, 2018). Friar Simone TENUTI was present.

XII "The Lord Had Mercy on Me" - a meeting of some communities of the Order working in the field of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (Rome, Seraphicum, September 24-28, 2017)

XIII Sacred Art and the New Evangelization (Rome, Seraphicum, November 20-21, 2017)

Additional Activities of the Presidents:

- On Wednesday morning, June 21, 2017, the Presidents met with the General Custos of the Sacro Convento, while at the same time the General Definitory met on its own.

- On Wednesday afternoon, June 21, 2017, the Presidents and members of the General Definitory jointly visited the Provincial Curia of the Italian Province of St. Francis in Foligno.

Appointments and Confirmations

■ The General Secretariat

The Minister General and his Definitory have made the appointments listed below and established the following:

On April 3, 2017, Friar Francesco CELESTINO, the Custos of the Friars Minor Conventual Provincial Custody of St. Daniel and Companion Martyrs in Italy (Calabria), was appointed guardian of the Community of the General Curia of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome. He replaces Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI, who was appointed Vicar Provincial of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua.

Friar Francesco was born in Destro (Cosenza Province, Italy) on March 28, 1969. He made his simple profession on September 8, 1994, his solemn profession on September 13, 1997, and was ordained to the priesthood on December 29, 1998. He began his service as guardian on April 24, 2017.

On April 5, 2017, Friar Valentín REDONDO, of the Province of Our Lady of Montserrat in Spain, was confirmed for his second four-year term as guardian of one of the General Houses, the friary of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe, in Rome

On April 8, 2017, Friar Franklin DURAN ZAMBRANO, of the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto in Venezuela, undertook service as guardian of another of the General Houses, the Friary of St. Anthony at the Baths (Vigna). He replaces Friar Timothy KULBICKI.

Friar Franklin was born in Boconó (Trujillo, Venezuela) on April 24, 1977. He made his simple profession on July 31, 1999, his solemn profession on September 14, 2002, and was ordained to the priesthood on October 30, 2004.

On May 19, 2017, Friar Lucjan BOGUCKI, of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Slovakia, was appointed guardian of another of the General Houses, the Friary of St. Peter at the Vatican, also known as the Apostolic College of Minor Penitentiaries at the Vatican, On May 28, 2017, he replaced Friar Rocco RIZZO, of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples) who served as guardian for two consecutive four-year terms.

Friar Lucjan BOGUCKI was born in Piwniczna (Poland) on January 2, 1966. He made his simple profession September 25, 1985, his solemn profession on December 8, 1989, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 22, 1991.

The General Definitory extends its best wishes to Friars Franklin, Valentin, Francesco and Lucjan, and assures them of its prayers.

The General Definitory offers its heartfelt thanks to Friars Timothy, Roberto and Rocco, as do the friars of their communities, for their wise and generous service.



Friar Francesco CELESTINO



Friar Valentín REDONDO



Friar Franklin DURAN ZAMBRANO



Friar Lucjan BOGUCKI

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Seraphicum: On Immigration

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO, Head of the Seraphicum Press Office

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017, the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) and the *Mulieris Dignitatem* Institute for the Study of Male-Female United Duality hosted a study day full of reflections, ideas and debate. The event took place at the Seraphicum.

Friar Giulio CESAREO, OFM Conv., the President of *Mulieris Dignitatem* and a professor of moral theology, called for the study day in order to give students an opportunity for discussion and to have them learn more about the importance and characteristics of those who, every day, face real difficulties trying to assist those who are defenseless in the midst of growing humanitarian crisis.

Friar Marco TASCA, the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, and Friar Dinh Anh Nhue NGUYEN, the Dean of the Faculty, were among those listening as the speakers made a meaningful contribution to this complex situation. Friar Victor MORA, OFM Conv., professor of sacred scripture, first presented a biblical reconstruction of the matter entitled, "Immigrants and Immigration in the Bible."

Then, Friar Christopher DUDEK, OFM Conv., lectured on "The Question of Migration from Latin America to the United States through Mexico." Friar Christopher is a U.S. citizen and a Seraphicum student. He provided a thorough and well-documented overview of events overseas, especially after the election of President Donald TRUMP.

The suffering, torture, deprivation, fear and humiliation of refugees was at the center of a moving testimonial by Léonard Ngavandje NSIMA and Etienne Alimondo WENGE, both of whom are refugees from the Republic of Congo. They are being sheltered at the General Curia community of the Friars Minor Conventual, in Rome. Léonard Ngavandje NSIMA stressed that the friary was where, "my future began to make sense."

Finally, Father Stephen P. ZAMBONI, a Sacred Heart priest, spoke on "The Church's Evaluation of the Phenomenon and Some Responses Being Offered by the West." Father Stephen is a theologian, a professor of moral theology, and a former editor of the *Journal of Moral Theology*. "This is a permanent and structural phenomenon," he said, "which requires complex social, political, cultural and religious responses. Migrations have always taken place, but today they are more characterized by forced displacements resulting from war, persecution and desertification. They are also seen within the context of globalization, which creates great imbalances in different parts of the world."

"Theology", concluded Friar Julius CESAREO, "has the task of casting its gaze on reality and provoking the Christian conscience so that it will generate a new culture....Perceiving ourselves and God in every person we see is the only way we can make an effective contribution to adequately deal with the immigration issue."

Seraphicum: New Dictionary of Mysticism

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO, Head of the Seraphicum Press Office

On the afternoon of April 6, 2017, a meeting was held at the Seraphicum library, in Rome, to present *The New Dictionary of Mysticism*, edited by Luigi BORRIELLO, Edmondo CARUANA, Maria Rosaria GENIO and Raffaele DI MURO and published by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

The meeting was moderated by Friar Germano SCAGLIONI, OFM Conv., Vice Dean of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum). The curators of the Dictionary explained the features of this work before a large audience.

The volume is 2240 pages long with about 800 entries contributed by almost 260 Italian and foreign scholars, offering the reader a rich overview on mysticism. Despite its size, the work is easily accessible due to its fluid style and valuable "tips for a systematic reading."

“Mysticism,” reports Friar Germano SCAGLIONI, “is now coming back to the mainstream. Insiders know that for some time mysticism has been marginalized, suffering from a form of ostracism caused in part by secularist prejudice. We all hope that those times have passed and that mysticism might reconquer its rightful place in the Christian experience and in theological reflection.”

Friar Raffaele DI MURO, OFM Conv., one of the editors of the volume and a professor of spiritual theology, points out that, “Man fully realizes the mystical life: he experiences the objective, ineffable presence of the living God, he reaches out to experience a communion of love with him and to have understanding, of what is possible in human nature and in the divine mysteries. The Creator is revealed to the creature and the creature enters into the mystery of His love for humanity and receives inner joy and peace, leading him to eternal bliss.”

Vatican: Pope Meets with Franciscan Ministers General

■ The General Secretariat

On April 10, 2017, Pope Francis met with the four Ministers General of the Franciscan First Order: Friar Marco TASCA, OFM Conv.; Friar Michael PERRY, OFM; and Friar Mauro JÖHRI, OFM Cap.; Friar Nicholas POLICHNOWSKI, TOR.

During the meeting, the Ministers General presented the Holy Father with information on the planned Franciscan University construction project, the interobediential community in the Holy Land, and the common and fraternal initiatives planned for commemorating the anniversary of both the Bull *Ite vos* and St. Francis' visit to the Sultan Malik al-Kamil in Damietta (Egypt).

At the same time, they presented the Pope with a request that they be allowed to entrust friars who are not priests with roles in community leadership (guardian, Custos, and Minister Provincial).

Finally, they asked Pope Francis to grant a special audience to all the friars who will go to Rome on the anniversary of the approval of our Rule, November 29, 2017.



Ministers General of the OFM, TOR, OFM Conv., and OFM Cap. with Pope Francis

Rome: Feast of Saints Philip and James

■ Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO

On May 3, 2017, the Vatican Secretary of State, Pietro Cardinal PAROLIN, came to the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles to preside over Mass for the Solemnity of the Apostles Philip and James.

At the beginning of the celebration, the cardinal and the pastor of the basilica, Friar Agnelo STOIA, prayed before the relics of the apostles conserved in the crypt.

About fifty priests and many faithful attended the Eucharistic liturgy. There were many confreres from the Order's General Houses, especially from the Seraphicum International Franciscan College.

During his homily, the cardinal commented on the readings of the day and addressed the six adults who were receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. He also prayed for the gift of peace for the whole world, recalling the numerous and senseless threats of war and the persecution of Christians.

At the end of the Pontifical High Mass, the Vicar General of the Order, Friar Jerzy NOREL, thanked the cardinal on behalf of the Minister General and all those present.

Excellent service music was provided by the *Cappella Musicale* under the direction of our confrere Friar Gennaro BECCHIMANZI.

At the end of the liturgy, the cardinal circulated amiably among the newly confirmed, priests, friars and other faithful, first in the basilica and later in the hall of the Immaculate Conception, where refreshments were provided.

On the evening of May 2, the solemnity was anticipated with the celebration of Evening Prayer I. It was followed by a fraternal dinner in the friary, attended by the rectors of all the other the churches in the parochial territory, including several confreres from the neighboring communities of the other Franciscan Families.

Seraphicum: Kolbean Day

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

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, a Kolbean Day was held on the theme "With Kolbe, Beyond Kolbe: 100 Years of History, 100 Years of Mission".

It was presented by the Kolbean Chair of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) and the International Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the M.I.

During the morning, the participants visited some Kolbean sites: first the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles where they venerated the relics of Saints Philip and James, and then the Basilica of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte where they celebrated Mass in the same place that St. Maximilian celebrated his first Mass.

The group was guided by Friar Raffaele DI MURO, who is both Director of the Seraphicum's Kolbean Chair and the International President of the Militia of the Immaculate. He also introduced and moderated an afternoon conference at the Faculty, in front of a large audience composed, in part, by friars from the Friars Minor Conventual formation communities of the Seraphicum and the novitiate in Assisi as well as national representatives of the M.I. and regional M.I. representatives from Lazio, Abruzzo, the Marches, Tuscany, Puglia, Emilia Romagna and Sicily.

Speakers at the conference included Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA, OFM Conv., and Friar Stefano CECCHIN, OFM. Friar Giuseppe is a great connoisseur of Maximilian Kolbe and has written numerous publications translated into several languages. He spoke on "The Spirituality and Mission of the M.I. in Kolbe's Thinking and in Today's Church and World", where he examined the theological foundations of the Militia, and the fundamental concept of entrusting oneself to

the Virgin. Friar Stefano spoke on “The New Statutes of the M.I., Between Theological Renewal and the Inculturation of Marian Spirituality”. He provided some inspiring insight into the Statutes of the M.I. and its Marian richness. Finally, the Dean of the Faculty, Friar Dinh Anh NHUE NGUYEN, read out one of Kolbe’s writings from 1934 about the need to lead as many souls to Mary as possible. He promptly took up the idea proposed by Friar SIMBULA about creating missionary groups that could bring the Gospel and Marian spirituality into any setting, and he guaranteed the full availability of the Faculty to set up courses for further study and formation needed in order to be prepared to head out to all the streets of the world.

At the end of the conference, “All Yours,” was presented; a selection from a dialogue with Mary written by Antonio TARALLO and starring Chiara GRAZIANO. The monologue she performed on stage was inspired by verses written by Karol WOJTYŁA.



Display on St. Maximilian at the entrance of the Seraphicum

Vatican: Penitentiaries' Pilgrimage

■ Friar Lucjan M. BOGUCKI

On April 24-26, 2017, the Community of the College of Minor Penitentiaries in the Vatican made a pilgrimage-outing to Italy's Basilicata region.

After a few years of inactivity, the traditional annual community outing for the Apostolic Penitentiaries was resumed, allowing them to detach themselves from their daily commitments for a few days, to get to know the family environment of one of their confreres, and – for the non-Italian friars – to appreciate some lovely spots in beautiful Italy.

The pilgrimage started with a visit to the Shrine of St. Michael the Archangel of Monticchio, which is entrusted to the care of the Friars Minor Conventional of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Naples, Italy.

The afternoon, however, was devoted to visiting Ripacandida, the hometown of Friar Rocco RIZZO, Rector of the College of Minor Penitentiaries. The friars then visited the Shrine of St. Donato and the Community of the Franciscan Sisters of the Child Jesus. They celebrated Mass at the parish church with several faithful attending. In the evening, they ate dinner prepared by Friar Rocco's family. Everywhere they went they experienced the family atmosphere typical of southern Italy.

The second day was dedicated to visiting Venosa, the birthplace of the poet Horace, and Melfi, the city of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II. Another stop was made at Matera, a fascinating city, where director Mel GIBSON shot a series of scenes for his film *The Passion of the Christ*.

The outing concluded with a visit to the Poor Clares in Altamura, in the Puglia area. Then the friars enjoyed lunch with some friends of Friar Kazimierz WIĘSEK.

The Apostle Philip Returns to the Site of His Martyrdom

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

On the evening of May 9, 2017, a delegation of the Friars Minor Conventual, representing both the Order and the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome, visited the Church of San Polycarp in Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey) to deliver two noteworthy relics of the Apostle Philip.

The relics were received by the Most Reverend Lorenzo PIRETTO O.P., the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Izmir, and BARTOLOMEO I of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church. The gift was given as a sign of friendship and communion between the Christian communities of these two sister Churches. This encounter with these two Church leaders was a gift of grace. It all sprang from the recent canonical recognition of the relics of the apostles Philip and James the Lesser or the 'Brother of the Lord'. The recognition was conducted at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles from April 5 to December 19, 2016.

The recognition attracted many pilgrims who flocked in from all over the world to venerate the relics. One of these pilgrims was Archbishop PIRETTO who, along with a group of faithful, came to Rome in September of 2016 to venerate the apostle Philip in particular. Philip came to preach the Gospel in Hierapolis (today Pamukkale) in the region of Asia Minor, and was martyred around 80 A.D. Father Massimiliano PALINURO, a parish priest of the Cathedral of Smyrna, handed a letter from the Archbishop to Friar Agnello STOIA, the Pastor of the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles, requesting a distinguished relic of Philip as a "symbolic return" of the apostle to the places where he preached and was martyred. This "return" also involved the Orthodox community, which at the same time requested an additional relic of equal importance to be delivered to the Patriarch of Constantinople at an ecumenical meeting in Smyrna.

Having received permission from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Minister General Marco TASCA presented an artistic silver reliquary as a gift to the Patriarch while representatives of the parish community of the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles presented a beautiful reliquary as a gift to Archbishop PIRETTO. In order to transport and deliver the relics, a delegation from Rome was set up on May 4, 2016, whose members included Friar Silvestru BEJAN, the General Delegate for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue [EDI] for the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, Friar Simone SCHIAVONE and Friar Agnello STOIA. Joining them at Smyrna were Friar Martin KMETEC, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land (Lebanon-Turkey) and Professor Francesco D'ANDRIA of the University of Lecce, Director of the Italian Archaeological Mission, who discovered the tomb of St. Philip in Pamukkale, Turkey.

Patriarch Bartholomew I made a long and engaging speech filled with thanks and gratitude to the Catholic Archdiocese of Smyrna and its Archbishop for his wonderful plan to "symbolically bring Saint Philip to the places of his apostolate and his martyrdom, a land that gave the Church a great number of saints, confessors, martyrs and neo-martyrs." At the end of the ecumenical meeting, the Patriarch gave the General Minister an icon representing the meeting in Smyrna between Saints Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp. Friar Agnello STOIA took the opportunity to invite him to Twelve Holy Apostles and promised him that when he comes to Rome he will visit us.

The following day, the delegation went to Hierapolis, accompanied by Father Massimiliano PALINURO and Professor D'ANDRIA. There, we were able to celebrate Mass at the threshold of the tiny chapel where the Apostle Philip is entombed.

This pilgrimage was a response to a call and allowed us to experience many graces. There was grace in the places that were visited, especially those recalling the apostles and the first Christian communities: Smyrna, Ephesus, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Pergamum, and Sardinia. There was grace in the fraternity and welcome we received, the accommodation and hospitality provided by our confreres in Istanbul and by Fr. Maximilian in Smyrna.

Finally, there was grace in the Franciscans' effort in fostering communion between the two sister Churches, in offering this gift of faith and in feeling ourselves in the embrace of Paul VI and Atenagora and in the embrace of Bartholomew I and Pope Francis, whom we often thought about with affection.

Padua: New Papal Delegate

■ From the Vatican

On May 20, 2017, Pope Francis appointed Reverend Fabio DAL CIN as the new Archbishop Prelate of Loreto and the Papal Delegate for the Shrine of Loreto, as well as the Papal Delegate for the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua.

Archbishop DAL CIN was born in Vittorio Veneto on January 23, 1965. He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Vittorio Veneto on December 7, 1990, and held several offices in that diocese. Since March of 2007, he has served as an official of the Congregation for Bishops. In 2011, he obtained a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm in Rome. Since 2012, he has served as Chaplain of His Holiness. He has provided spiritual assistance at the Shrine of the Madonna della Quercia in Rome.

Organizing Committee of the International “Youth Towards Assisi” Meeting

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

On May 26-27, 2017, the organizing committee planning the International “Youth Towards Assisi” Meeting held its first planning session at the Sacro Convento in Assisi.

The International Meeting will take place August 12-19, 2018. The committee was selected by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, with his Definitory.

The members of the organizing committee are: Friar Simone TENUTI, Head of the Youth and Vocational Ministry Office of the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP); Friar Giulio CESAREO, a professor and Vice Secretary of the General Secretariat for Formation in the Order (SGF); Friar Francesco SCIALPI, a professor; Friar Jack MARDESIC, a member of the Brussels community in Belgium; and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF).

The committee worked for two days to create a first draft of the program for the Meeting and to define the most important issues needing attention. It was decided that this planning session would start in Assisi and end in Rome. Each member was given the task of drafting the topic that was entrusted to him. Those drafts will be evaluated at the next planning session of the committee which is scheduled for the end of this year.



The members
of the committee

New Moral Theology Book

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO – Seraphicum Press Office

On Friday, June 9, 2017, an event took place at the Seraphicum Library to present a new book: *One Body for Communion – An Ethics of Those Resurrected with Christ* written by Moral Theology Professor Friar Giulio CESAREO, OFM Conv.

The event was moderated by another professor of moral theology, Friar Roberto TAMANTI, OFM Conv. Professor Father Sergio PASSERI, a professor of the same discipline in Brescia, Italy, attended as well. During the presentation, Professor PASSERI highlighted the merits of this text, starting with its expository usefulness. "It is a text that is placed," the speaker emphasized, "in the context of post-conciliar moral theology, enriched by the stimuli of the Second Vatican Council. Its concern moves from the ancient question about how we should behave to how we should live."

It focuses less attention on the natural man, the object of philosophy, and more on man redeemed through baptism. It is no coincidence that Friar Giulio CESAREO's previous publication was called *Baptism and Moral Life – The Ethos of the New Man in Christ* (Miscellanea Franciscana Publications, 2014).

The new text (Lipa Publications, Rome, 2016) also presents a wide and heterogeneous overview of authors from the Fathers of the Church to contemporary authors. It includes an original revival of the traditional scheme of moral theology, up until the decline of certain themes in Christian life such as asceticism or beauty.

Friar Roberto TAMANTI concluded the event by once again offering congratulations to the author, with the hope that "through his work, the reality of communion can be more and more manifested in the Church and in every relational human experience, because this is what Mans' heart yearns for."

Towards the Franciscan University

■ Friar Giulio CESAREO, OFM Conv., Vice Secretary General for Formation (SGF)

For about two years the journey towards realizing a Franciscan University in Rome has been gathering momentum.

The Central Committee behind this effort is composed of the Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries General for Formation of the OFM, OFM Capuchins and OFM Conventuals. Other Committee members include a delegate of the Secretary General for Formation of the TOR, the Rector and Vice-Rector of the Antonianum, the Dean of the Seraphicum and the Dean of the Antonianum's Franciscan Institute of Spirituality. The Central Commission has been carrying out meetings with the three Franciscan Ministers General and with the teachers and students of the Antonianum and Seraphicum academic institutions.

During last winter, three study subcommittees were entrusted with examining specific issues from an academic, legal and economic-administrative point of view. When the work of these subcommittees concluded last March, the Central Commission was able to work on a first, provisional draft of the overall Franciscan University project.

On the afternoon of June 6, 2017, the third plenary meeting was held between teachers of the Antonianum and Seraphicum and the Central Committee for the Franciscan University. The meeting took place at the Antonianum.

The teachers were presented with the first concrete and systematic draft of the mission statement and statute of the Franciscan University. They were invited to offer their opinions and comments, first in groups and then in assembly. It was also a way of fostering mutual understanding in view of the closer collaboration that the University will bring with it. Some seventy teachers attended.

Starting next week, the Committee will incorporate the teachers' observations, which have been written down, into the first draft of the project so that this first draft can then be presented to the Ministers General as early as next October.

Lviv: New Franciscan Bishop

■ From the Vatican Press Office Friar Bronisław STAWOROWSKI, OFM Conv. / Ed.

On May 13, 2017, Pope Francis appointed Friar Eduard KAVA, OFM Conv., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Lviv of the Latins (the Ukraine) assigning him the seat of the Bishopric of Cilibia.

Friar Eduard had been the Delegate to the Ukraine for the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. Friar Eduard KAVA was born on April 17, 1978, in Mostyska (Archdiocese of Lviv of the Latins, the Ukraine).

He entered the Order of Friars Minor Conventual in 1996. He subsequently completed his philosophy and theology studies at Mary Queen of Apostles seminary in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) and was ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 2003.

Since 2008, he also served as the Delegate to the Ukraine for the Order of Friars Minor Conventual and since 2012, was the Vice President of the Conference of Major Superiors of the Ukraine.

On Wednesday, June 21, 2017, the episcopal ordination was celebrated. In addition to the large number of faithful from various locations who attended, there were dozens of bishops from the Roman and Eastern rites, including the Most Reverend Światosław SZEWCZUK, Major Archbishop of Kiev-Halice and head of the Greek Catholic Church; Friar Marian GOŁĄB, Minister Provincial of the Conventual Franciscans in Cracow, Poland; Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO); the Most Reverend Claudio GUGEROTTI, Apostolic Nuncio to the Ukraine; and the Most Reverend Mieczysław MOKRZYCKI, Archbishop of Lviv, who presided over the solemn celebration.

This was the fifth time a Franciscan bishop would cross the threshold of the Cathedral of Lviv.

Before the Rite of Episcopal Ordination, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, Minister Provincial, gave a reading of the papal bull.

During his homily, Archbishop MOKRZYCKI spoke about the centuries of Franciscan tradition in the diocese and encouraged the new bishop to continue the difficult mission of peace and reconciliation in Ukraine.

After the homily, the Rite of Episcopal Ordination began with the imposition of the hands of the consecrated bishops, followed by the complementary rites, that is, the imposition of the book of the Gospels, the anointing with chrism, and the reception of the insignia: the episcopal zucchetto, the miter, the pastoral and the ring. There were plenty of Franciscan elements: the Tau, the relics of the Blessed Friars Zbigniew and Michał, martyrs of Pariacoto, Peru (embedded in the ring), the symbol of the Franciscan cord with the three knots (on the pastoral).

At the end of the liturgy, Bishop GUGEROTTI invited Bishop KAVA to joyfully proclaim the Gospel and to carry out benevolent pastoral ministry. The Minister Provincial then underlined many of the Franciscan elements in the Cathedral of Lviv, which enshrines the relics of Blessed James of Strepar, a Franciscan and the co-patron of the Province. He also said that the new bishop's miter features the cross of the previous bishop, Friar Rafał KIERNICKI, OFM Conv., and a thread from the miter of Blessed James of Strepar, which is linked to the tradition of the Franciscan bishops.

In the end, the new bishop gave a speech thanking God for the path of faith that brought him to this day, thanking his parents for the gift of life, and thanking the Order for his formation in fraternal life. Finally, he asked for prayers for himself, so that he might faithfully fulfill the mission entrusted to him.



Friar Eduard KAVA
Bishop

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Seraphicum: Closing of the Academic Year

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO - Head of the Seraphicum Press Office

On Friday, June 23, 2017, the 113th academic year of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) officially ended with the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving.

The Mass was followed by an outdoor supper on the grounds of the Faculty. Music was provided by the friars of "Sveglia Francescana".

The celebration was attended by the Grand Chancellor Marco TASCA; the Vicar Grand Chancellor, Friar Jerzy NOREL; members of the General Curia of the Friars Minor Conventual; the Most Reverend Paolo LOJUDICE, Auxiliary Bishop for the Southern Province of Rome; the guardian of the Seraphicum, Friar Felice FIASCONARO; and professors, students and friends of the Seraphicum.

The Dean, Friar Dinh Anh Nhue NGUYEN welcomed everyone present and offered best wishes to his predecessor Friar Domenico PAOLETTI, who, a few months ago, was appointed Vicar Custos of the Custody of the Sacro Convento in Assisi. Friar Domenico was also invited to preside over the closing Mass. Friar Dinh Anh Nhue, continuing his opening remarks, underlined the importance of the moment as the academic year came to a close. At the same time, he introduced the prospect of collaboration between the Faculty and the Custody of Assisi.

During his homily, Friar Domenico emphasized the cultural fragmentation of our time, inviting us to "rekindle our hearts through a passion for study, for fraternity, for this world and for the Lord. Moreover, this passion is nourished, takes shape and is made beautiful through a path, a working method in one's studies, through discipline."

He also emphasized the importance of coming out of ourselves, of leaving our fears and prejudices behind in favor of a synodal method that allows us to embark on a journey together as a Christian and Franciscan community.

This can happen by "paying attention to what is happening in us and around us" with "a heart open to others," making sure to "be careful to avoid superficiality, banality and mediocrity and instead to always go deeper, combining various proficiencies." "It is not enough to have knowledge," concluded Friar Domenico, "it is necessary to always learn more and to enjoy the knowledge, to be in love with God and life, like Saint Francis."

At the end of the Mass, the Dean, Friar Dinh Anh Nhue NGUYEN greeted and acknowledged students who passed their degree examinations during the academic year.

For the Baccalaureate: Friars Angelo DEL PRETE; Elias MARSWANIAN, OFM Conv.; Andrea MELE, OFM Conv.; Sumal MADAWALA LIYANAGE, OFM Conv.; Andrew Muendo AUSTIN, OFM Conv.; Paul Nzyoka KALOKI, OFM Conv.; Eugenio MERRINO, OFM Conv.; Francis Muthoka NZYOKA, OFM Conv.; Mario RAVANNI, OFM Conv.; and Vincenza SPIRIDIONE.

As for Doctorates, one was earned this year by Friar Ugo SARTORIO, OFM Conv. His thesis was on "Religious Obedience. Context, Historical Memory and Contributions of the Magisterium and Theology in the Post Conciliar Reception".

Classes for the new academic year will begin on October 5, 2017. Registration for the first semester will be open on Monday, September 11, 2017.



Mass

General Definitory Meets with Presidents

■ The General Secretariat / Photo: Friar Łukasz Staniszewski, OFM Conv.

From June 19-23, 2017, the annual meeting between the General Definitory and the Presidents of the Federations took place in Assisi, Italy.

In addition to the General Definitory, the other meeting participants included Friar Anthony BEZO, President of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF); Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, President of the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF); Friar James KENT, President of the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF); Friar Jhon Jairo MOLINA CASTAÑEDA, President of the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC); Friar Leo PAYYAPPILLY, President of the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC); Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, President of the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO); and Friar Giancarlo CORSINI President of the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP).

The topics on the agenda were: spiritual reflection and sharing on “the grace of work”, a report on the general administration of the General Curia, an update on the revision of the Constitutions and the General Statutes, the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter, Inter-Franciscan Collaboration (Franciscan University Project, Emmaus Project and Inter-Franciscan Initiatives in Assisi and Umbria), the Kolbean Congress (Rome, Seraphicum, October 19-20, 2017), an evaluation of the 2013 Chapter Mandate, and the Pro-Seraphico Commission.

As always, the hospitality from the Sacro Convento community was greatly appreciated.



The participants



The General Definitory

■ GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION

Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL
Secretary General of the SGF



Rome: Heads of Formation Meet

■ Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL

On April 10, 2017, the three Ministers General of the First Order and the Minister General of the TOR, along with their Secretaries General and Vice-Secretaries-General for Formation, met together at the General Curia of the Friars Minor, in Rome.

The Ministers General listened carefully to descriptions of the work done by the Secretariats of the Orders and their collaboration with other Franciscan realities, especially with the Commission for the Franciscan University.

Then the Ministers General announced that the Holy Father and the Congregation for Catholic Education had given their full support to the initiative of creating a new Franciscan University in Rome in collaboration with the Franciscan Families. In fact, earlier that same day, the Ministers General met with the Pope and Zenon Cardinal GROCHOLEWSKI, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education.

The Secretaries spoke at length with the Ministers General about various problems affecting formation and formation projects in the Orders.

In the end, everyone was in agreement about having possible inter-Franciscan collaboration for forming formators and guardians, especially in Africa.

As a result, the Ministers General proposed that the Secretaries think about a possible project and its realization by the end of the current year. The meeting came to a close with the scheduling of the next meeting (October 2, at St. Mary of the Angels, in Assisi, Italy) and with a fraternal dinner in the community.



The participants

Rome: Meeting of Franciscan Formators and Professors

■ Friar Zbigniew WÓJCIK

On April 10, 2017, Rome's Pontifical University Antonianum held its annual meeting between the professors in charge of the Master's Degree in Formation and the Secretaries General and heads of formation of the Franciscan Families.

This meeting was attended by Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, the Secretary General for Formation (SGF), and Friar Zbigniew WÓJCIK, a member of the SGF and a coordinator of student friars attending courses for formators in Rome.

A fraternal discussion took place to talk about how the Master's Degree program went last year and to elicit feedback from the course participants and from the formation heads from the various men's and women's congregations of the Franciscan Families. The majority of participants had a very positive opinion about the course content and its methodology which emphasizes theoretical training in matters concerning Franciscan formation (spirituality, anthropology, education and humanities). They also evaluated the program's various workshops and internships that help prospective formators acquire knowledge and practical skills for conducting formation talks, working in groups and preparing comprehensive formation plans at all their various stages.

The meeting was also an opportunity to reflect on different ways of improving how the educative–formative elements of the Master's Degree are provided. Among the most important items discussed was putting more attention on the human male and female aspects of affectivity and on practical knowledge concerning vocational discernment in different cultural contexts. The meeting also dealt with some of the current challenges formators face in their work and the steps they can take to better meet those new challenges.

Finally, the heads of formation of the three Franciscan families talked about formation initiatives that are being developed in different places around the world.



The participants

Assisi: Formation Meeting

■ Friar Giulio CESAREO, SGF Vice-Secretary

On April 29, 2017, the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL and his Vice Secretary, Friar Giulio CESAREO, went to Assisi and visited the post-novitiate community at the Franciscanum and the novitiate community at the Sacro Convento.

The formation meetings at both locations were carried out under two headings. One dealt with conforming oneself to Christ and the other talked about one's "docibilitas" [openness toward learning] through ongoing formation. Fraternal discussion followed.

Finally, there was also some time for discussion with the formators and personal interviews for those friars who wanted them.



The friars of the post-novitiate



The friars of the novitiate

Romania: Formation Course and Visit

■ Friar Giulio CESAREO, SGF Vice-Secretary

On May 17-19, 2017, a formation course for the guardians of the Province of St. Joseph in Romania took place at the Provincial Curia in Bacău, Romania.

The course was conducted by the Secretary General for Formation (SGF), Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, with collaboration from the Procurator of the Order, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO, who presented a conference on the legal aspects of the role of the guardian and his authority.

Twenty-four guardians participated, coming from friaries in Germany, Italy, the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land and the Province of Romania. The course took place in an atmosphere of true fraternity and mutually attentive listening. The Minister Provincial of the Province of Romania, Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, also attended.

At the end of the course, Friar Louis and Friar Giulio CESAREO were able to visit some of the Conventual presences in the Province: Luizi Călugăra, Nisiporești, Hălăucești, the social center of the friary of St. Anthony of Padua in Roman, and the convent of the Poor Clares in Roman. They also met with members of two formation communities: the novitiate in Prăjești, directed by the Novice Master, Friar Augustin PATRASCU, and the post-novitiate house in Roman, under the guidance of the Rector, Friar Marius BILHA.

The visit was very pleasant. There were numerous personal encounters with the friars. Many of them are quite young. They are engaged in various activities, living out the Franciscan charism of fraternity in the ecclesial and social context of the Moldavian region. This was a very positive experience, which provided a direct, but brief period to learn about this particularly lively and significant reality in the Order; a portent of hope which certainly transcends the boundaries of the Church in Romania and the Franciscan fraternity itself.



The participants

Ongoing Formation – Rivortorto Course

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

Friars from the Jurisdictions of Africa came to Italy to take part in the Rivortorto Ongoing Formation Course. The Order organizes the Course every two years for young friars who have already completed their initial formation.

The main purpose of this experience is to inspire and teach new generations of the Order about the spirit and history of Franciscanism which began in the 13th century.

There were fifteen friars who participated in the course, which was held from May 15 through June 15, 2017. Six of the friars were from the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia.

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Four were from the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana. Three were from the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya; and two were from the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania.

On the first day, the friars went to the General Curia where they met with the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA and enjoyed lunch as guests of the community of the Twelve Holy Apostles. The course took place at the three most important locations connected with the history of our Franciscan Order: Assisi, Padua and Rome. The Course was organized by the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) with help from various friars who offered presentations in various fields (spirituality, history and apostolate) and spoke about the origins of the Franciscan experience as well as some of the current challenges facing the Order today.

On Thursday afternoon, May 25, 2017, Friar Giulio CESAREO, the Vice Secretary of the General Secretariat for Education (SGF), conducted a meeting with the friars about ongoing formation and its many implications on the spiritual, charismatic, ministerial and intellectual levels. The title of his presentation was “Ongoing Formation: A Life Issue”.

On Sunday, May 28, the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, animated the friars with a conference on the interculturality of our Order. The title of his presentation was “The International Experience in the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, Starting from the Time of the Two Congresses” [Karukutty (India) and Nairobi (Kenya)].

The meetings were mutually enriching from a cultural and charismatic standpoint and they contributed to the sense of fraternity and relational unity that we experience as a family in the Order.



The participants

sgf@ofmconv.net

Ghana: Visits in the Custody

■ Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL

On June 10-16, 2017, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), and Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, Secretary General for Formation (SGF), visited the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana.

The main reason for their visit was to meet Ghana's Custos, Friar Anthony BEZO, along with his Definitors, at the request of the Minister General, to assess the conditions and the formation criteria for reopening the St. Bonaventure Formation House in Accra. This formation house is the second common formation house (in the 'second zone' after the one in Lusaka, Zambia) for the AFCOF's philosophy studies. The decision was made in 2014 by Minister General and his Definitory in collaboration with the various senior Superiors of the same Federation. Although this formation house was mainly built for two Jurisdictions—Ghana and Burkina Faso—it will also be open to all of the others (Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda). It is expected to be open in September for the 2017 academic year.

After meeting with the Definitors, Friar Tadeusz and Friar Louis met with the five novices and their Novice Master, Friar Moses ARTHUR who live at the same place the meeting was held, the friary in Saltpond.

The following day, they visited the postulancy house in Sunyani (18 postulants). Together with the postulants and the faithful they celebrated the feast day of St. Anthony of Padua in the parish.

The visit to Ghana was an opportunity to experience the warm welcome of the friars and the people and to understand the work our friars are doing.



with the novices



with the postulants

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR MISSION ANIMATION

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI
Secretary General of the SGAM



USA: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZANSKI

From April 19 to May 10, 2017, the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM) organized a missionary animation visit to the United States as part of its activities aimed at talking about, sharing and awakening missionary enthusiasm among friars in initial formation.

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZANSKI, the SGAM General Secretary, though mainly visiting formation houses, was able to get a perspective on the Order's reality in this great country and its relation to the missions.

In Ellicott City, Maryland, he had an opportunity to share with the community of seven students from the four Provinces of the United States. The students are currently studying theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. They are being guided by their formator, Friar Brad MILUNSKI, who has transferred from Silver Spring, Maryland.

In San Antonio, Texas, Friar Jarosław visited a community of six friars who are studying philosophy, theology, and English in a socio-cultural context with a strong Latin American influence. The students are being guided by their formator, Friar Paul SCHLOEMER. While Friar Jarosław was there, he learned about the friars' particular commitment to working with migrants fleeing areas of severe poverty and violent social conflict in Central America.

Friar Jarosław then visited the postulancy house in Chicago, Illinois, where Friar Paschal KOŁODZIEJ is the formator for twelve postulants coming from the four Provinces of the United States. Chicago is remarkable for its great educational and cultural opportunities.

On the last leg of his missionary animation visit, he visited formator Friar Giles ZAKOWICZ, at the interprovincial novitiate in Arroyo Grande, California.

He gave two presentations at each formation house in order to raise awareness about today's missions and to encourage participation in them: The first presentation, was on Franciscan missionary spirituality and how it opens up new horizons for missions in our Order, especially in Asia and French-speaking Africa. The second, presented testimony about the foundation of the mission in Peru and the process that led to the martyrdom of Blessed Miguel TOMASZEK and Blessed Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.



with the friars in San Antonio



With the friars in Arroyo Grande



With the friars in Chicago



With the friars in Silver Spring

Rome: Friars of the Rivortorto Course at the SGAM Headquarters

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On May 15, 2017, 15 friars of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) participating in the Rivortorto Ongoing Formation Course attended a meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation in Rome.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss missionary experiences and awaken the friars' enthusiasm for missionary work. The meeting was conducted by Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), who talked about the missionary reality of the Order, the letter from the Minister General on Missions and also Pope Francis' encyclical *Evangelii gaudium*.

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

Friar Joseph BLAY
General Delegate for GPIC



Abbreviation Update

■ Friar Joseph BLAY,

On May 17, 2017, the Minister General and his Definitory approved a proposal by Friar Joseph BLAY to update the title “Justice, Peace and Safeguarding Creation” to “Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation”.

According to the Delegate General, in fact, the new term “integrity of creation” is more in line with the spirit and theology of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

Moreover, for this reason, almost all of the other religious institutes are using this new terminology.

Therefore, the abbreviation for this General Office will be GPIC instead of GPSC and will remain unchanged in the other languages of the Order. However, the full meaning of the abbreviation will be translated and put into parentheses.



Rome: Economy at the Service of Mission

■ Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY

From May 2-6, 2017, SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission) hosted a residential seminar on the theme: “Economy at the Service of Mission”.

The seminar took place at *Centro Ad Gentes*, a retreat center in Nemi (Rome), Italy.

The goal of the seminar was to give the members of SEDOS an opportunity to study, pray, reflect, and talk about the term “Economy at the Service of Mission” and its implications for missionary congregations. Special attention was given to concepts like integrity, economic transparency and its challenges regarding community life.

Other thematics of the seminar included: the charismatic and prophetic aspect of religious life; cultural influences and the use of money; and corruption risk and its implication in the global world.

140 religious from various parts of the world participated in the seminar, providing a rich intercultural experience. Friar Joseph BLAY, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPSC) and Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY, a member of the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM) also participated in the Seminar.

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Further information can be found on the website: www.sedosmission.org (Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission. This forum is open to Institutes of Consecrated Life desiring to deepen their understanding of mission in a global context).



Among the participants

Zambia: Formation Workshops

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

The Zambian Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs recently had three formation workshops at three different locations.

This was done at the invitation of the Provincial Commission for Ongoing Formation, in collaboration with the Minister Provincial of Zambia, his Definitory and the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation [GPIC].

Friar Joseph arrived in Zambia on May 7, 2017, and conducted the first workshop on May 8, at the St. Bonaventure formation house in Lusaka. The second workshop was held on May 10, at the friary-parish of the Immaculate Conception in Luanshya. The third workshop was conducted on May 12 at the friary of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Solwezi.

Altogether, forty-five friars from almost all of the Zambian communities participated in these workshops. The Delegate returned to Rome on May 15.

The main theme of the workshops was "Practicing Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in Light of *Laudate Si*".

Friar Joseph BLAY, the Delegate General for GPIC, presented two lectures at each meeting.

In the first, he spoke about the theological foundation of justice and peace and the systematic development of that theme in the Church. He then elaborated on the same theme



Group work

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as being part of our Franciscan heritage, directly passed on to us from St. Francis, and thus an integral part of our spirituality in serving the world in which we friars live.

In his second lecture, he presented *Laudate Si'*, referring to the main points of the encyclical. In his opinion, *Laudate Si'* is a prophetic text in which the Pope argues the theme that our world cannot withstand the pace of development without applying some brakes and that, above all, we must repair the damage already done to the planet. While animating the friars during his lectures, Friar Joseph emphasized that *Laudate Si'* is not some book from the library, but rather, a real guidebook for making change.

During discussion in small groups, the friars talked about their expectations concerning the workshop, local issues in which they could be involved and obstacles that frustrated or prevented them from carrying out the ministry of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

At each location, the workshop was an opportunity for awakening, education, challenge and fraternity.

USA: Meeting and Seminar

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

Friar Joseph BLAY, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (GPIC), visited the United States to attend an inter-Provincial Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation meeting.

He also presented a seminar for postulants and got acquainted with some GPIC projects in the US.

On May 19, 2017, Friar Joseph stayed at the Provincial Curia of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in Ellicott City, Maryland. He was very impressed by the fact that the Provincial Curia is already using solar energy. Then, he saw some great acreage that will be used for organic farming, according to Friar Michael LASKY, the Provincial Delegate for GPIC. On May 22, 2017, Friar Joseph led a retreat for the postulants in Chicago, assisted by Friar Michael. On May 24, 2017, the two conducted a seminar on Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation and the encyclical *Laudate Si'*. On May 23, 2017, a meeting of Provincial Delegates for GPIC was held at the St. Bonaventure friary in Chicago. Those attending included Friar Michael LASKY, representing the Province of Our Lady of the Angels (OLA), Friar Vincent PETERSON, representing the Province of Our Lady of Consolation (OLC), and Friar Joseph SCHENK, representing the Province of St. Bonaventure. Only the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino did not have a representative attending.

The Provincial Delegates for GPIC shared their experiences: they discussed what they do in their Provinces and how it is possible to work together as friars in the same country. For his part, Friar Joseph presented projects that other Provinces of the Order are implementing in the field of GPIC. Then, the Delegate General referred to a GPIC meeting that will be convened by the Minister General in Rome, which will be attended by some particular friars and communities. The visit was also a time for reuniting with American friars who once ministered in Ghana. Thank you very much to the friars of the Provincial Curia in Ellicott City, the St. Bonaventure friary in Chicago, and the St. Paul friary in Kensington, Connecticut, for their fraternal hospitality.



Among the postulants

OFFICE OF THE POSTULATOR GENERAL

Friar D PĂTRAȘCU
Postulator General



When Faith Can Cost Your Life

■ Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU

On Thursday, April 27, 2017: A new book, “When Faith Can Cost Your Life: The Story of Franciscan Doctor Martin Benedict” was presented at the Academy of Romania in Rome, Italy.

The book was written by Dr. Angelo MONTONATI and published by Salomone Belforte & C., Livorno Publishing House. Those attending the presentation, besides the book’s author, included the Most Reverend Petru GHERGHEL, Bishop of Iasi, Romania; the Most Reverend Virgil BERCEA, Greek Catholic Bishop of Oradea, Romania; Friar Jerzy NOREL, the Vicar General of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual; Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU, the Order’s Postulator General; Friar Sorin Adrian GIURGI the Vicar Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Romania; and Friar Silvestru BEJAN, the Order’s Delegate General for the International Franciscan Center for Dialogue (CEFID); and Friar Eusebio BEJAN, the Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God Martin BENEDICT. Also attending were several priests, religious and a large group of lay people—friends of the Servant of God. The presentation was enlivened with music and songs composed especially in honor of the Servant of God by Friar Emanuel CHIRICHEȘ and entertainment by the Cultural Association “Majores Balistarii Asisii” [Ancestral Crossbowmen of Assisi].

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Iulian Mihai Damian, the activities coordinator of the Academy of Romania, Friar Sorin and Professor Liviu-Petru ZĂPĂRȚAN, PhD, Romania’s Ambassador to the Holy See. Afterwards, five presentations were made about the Servant of God.

The Vice-Postulator of the cause spoke briefly about Martin BENEDICT and his relevance to us today: a man, a doctor and a friar, in every way devoted to God, who knew how to combine his noble profession with his Christian being. Dr. Germina NAGĂȚ, Director of the Investigation Department of the National Council for the Study of the Archives of the *Securitate* [State Secret



The chairman’s table

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Police] in Bucharest, presented the work that her department has been doing and stressed that the few documents found about the Servant of God have shown that his persecution and death were systematically planned out and implemented by the infamous *Securitate*.

Professor Ornella PAROLINI, who teaches Applied Biology at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, offered some personal testimony on ways the example of the Franciscan Doctor Martin BENEDICT helped her better understand how to join her medical practice with her faith, in search of the same truth.

Dr. GUIDO GUASTALLA, the editor of the Salomone Belforte Publishing House, was very pleased that a Jewish publishing house was able to contribute to the publishing of this book, thus making the Servant of God more widely known throughout the Italian spectrum.

Finally, the book's author, Dr. Angelo MONTONATI, told us a beautiful story about the composition of this book, explaining how the Servant of God's example of faith and professionalism helped him grow in his own spiritual life.

The evening ended with moderator Monica Leonetti CUZZOCREA wishing we might all soon see the canonization of the Servant of God, Martin BENEDICT.

Abruzzo: Meeting with the Friars

■ Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU

On Tuesday, June 21, 2017, the Postulator General Friar Damian PATRAȘCU, went to Abruzzo, Italy, at the invitation of the Minister Provincial, Friar Franco RAPACCHIALE, to meet with the friars of the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo.

The meeting took place in a fraternal atmosphere at the Friar of San Francesco in Tagliacozzo. The Postulator updated the friars on the cause for the beatification of the Servant of God Friar Thomas of Celano.

Lately, it seems there has been increased interest in this cause, both by the municipalities of Celano and Tagliacozzo, and by the Franciscans who wish to commit to this noble mission.

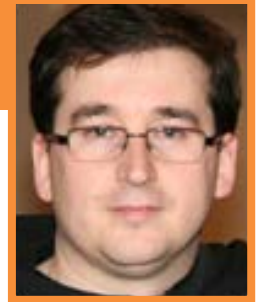
During the meeting, the Postulator presented the current state of the cause and the initiatives that must be put in place to promote the fame of holiness of the Servant of God. Several questions were asked and clarifications were made.

The meeting concluded with the celebration of Mass in the church which enshrines the mortal remains of this great confrere and first biographer of St. Francis.



The participants in front of the tomb of Friar Thomas of Celano

GENERAL DELEGATE FOR ECUMENSIM AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE



Friar Silvestru BEJAN
General Delegate for EDI

Asia: In Dialogue with Buddhist Monks

■ Friar Egidio CANIL

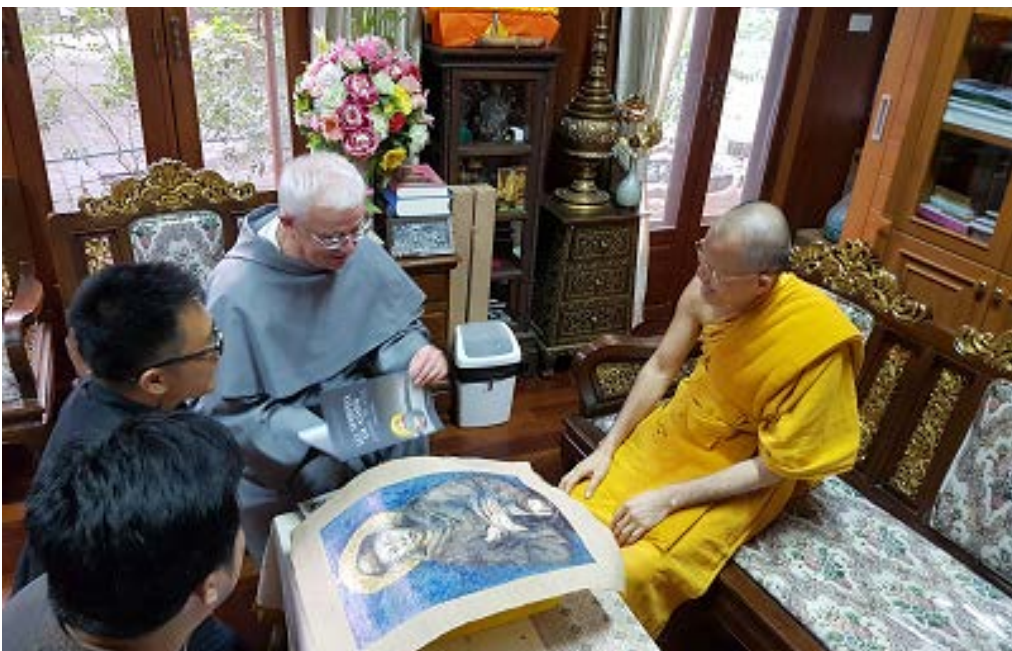
On April 18 to May 10, 2017, Friar Egidio CANIL, Delegate for the “Spirit of Assisi” of the Sacro Convento and the Diocese of Assisi, went on an “interreligious pilgrimage” to various Asian countries.

He stayed in temples, Buddhist monasteries, religious communities and cultural centers interested in interreligious dialogue. It was a scheduled trip to attend the 5th Buddhist-Christian Symposium held in Taiwan on April 24-29, 2017.

Friar Egidio visited several locations in three Asian countries. In Thailand, he attended meetings with monks and visited Buddhist monasteries in Bangkok and Chang Mai. In Taiwan, he had meetings and visited monasteries and Buddhist temples in Taipei, Taichung and Ling Jiu Mountain. Finally, in Indonesia, he met with religious and had meetings at religious communities and centers in Medan (Sumatra) and Yogyakarta (Java).

Being a Franciscan, being the Delegate for the “Spirit of Assisi” of the Sacro Convento, and being connected with the Focolare movement, has given Friar Egidio the privilege of establishing relationships with many Buddhist monks and nuns, both of Theravada and Mahayana tradition and, within this, with various schools of Japanese and Chinese Buddhism. Some of these religious have already been to Assisi and there are more who want to come, like Taiwanese Buddhist master Hsin TAO, who will be in Rome at the end of May 2017, to meet with Pope Francis and visit Assisi on June 2-3.

This pilgrimage experience was rich and was undertaken in the charism of St. Francis and Chiara LUBICH [foundress of the Focolare movement]. Both of them are a legacy, not only of the Church, but of humanity, and continue to convince Friar Egidio that interreligious dialogue, along with other dialogue, will be mankind’s agenda for the third millennium!



One of the meetings

GENERAL ASSISTANT OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ORDER

Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU
General Assistant of the OFS



Romania: OFS National Chapter

■ Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU

On May 18-20, 2017, the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) in Romania held its National Elective Chapter in the friary of the Friars Minor at the Franciscan Church of Csíksomlyó in Miercurea Ciuc, Transylvania region.

The Chapter was presided over by Attilio GALIMBERTI, Councilor of the Presidency, assisted by Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU, OFM Conv., a member of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants to the Secular Franciscan Order (CAS).

The opening Mass was presided over by Friar Lucian DUMCA, the Custos of the Friars Minor Capuchin in Romania.

Romania has 47 local OFS fraternities which are gathered into 3 regional fraternities.

Elections were held in the afternoon of the second day. There were 42 members with voting rights among 57 Capitulars. Tibor Penu SZILARD was elected National Minister (first term) and Celina FRANCAU was elected International Councilor.

On the last day, Friar Szabolcs ORBAN, the OFM Minister Provincial of Romania, presided over Mass with Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, the OFM Conv., Minister Provincial of Romania, concluding.



The new National Council

Singapore: OFS National Chapter

■ Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU

On June 2-4, 2017, the National Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), in Singapore, was celebrated in the Franciscan Church of St. Mary of the Angels at the St. Damian Spiritual Center of the Friars Minor in Bukit Batok, Singapore.

Previously, the OFS National Fraternities of Singapore and Malaysia were united. At the current Chapter, the two fraternities became autonomous National Fraternities.

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The Chapter was presided over by the General Minister of the OFS, Tibor KAUSER, assisted by Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU, OFM Conv., a member of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants to the OFS (CAS).

Twenty-seven lay people participated in the Chapter. Mrs. Janet LIM was elected National Minister (first term) and Christina PADMAN was elected Vice-Minister.

On June 3, the new National Council was installed, during Mass, which was presided over by Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU and concelebrated by Friar John WONG, OFM, the Custos of Malasia-Singapore-Brunai with the General Minister, Tibor KAUSER, also present.

The following day, the General Minister of the OFS, Tibor, and Friar Alfred, held a meeting with the new Council.



The Capitulars

Malaysia: OFS National Chapter

■ Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU

On June 9-11, 2017, the National Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), in Malaysia, was celebrated in St. Pius Church at the Retreat Center in Bundu Tuhan Ranau, in the Sabah region.

Before the Chapter, the participants met with the Most Reverend John WONG, Archbishop of Kota Kinabalu.

The Chapter was presided over by the General Minister of the OFS, Tibor KAUSER, assisted by Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU, OFM Conv., a member of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants to the OFS (CAS).

There were 73 Seculars attending including 39 Capitulars. There were five Franciscan Sisters present who provided valuable spiritual assistance to the Fraternities. Marina Jean ANJUMAN was elected National Minister (first term) and Deva SAYALAM was elected Vice-Minister.

On Sunday, June 11, General Minister Tibor KAUSER installed the new National Council, during Mass, which was presided over by Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU.



The Capitulars

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTENT OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATE

Friar Raffaele DI MURO
International M.I. President



Łódź: M.I. International Council in Poland

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

On April 18-21, 2017, the Presidential Council of the International Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.) met together for work at the post-novitiate of the Conventual Friars Minor in Łódź, Poland.

Among the fruits of this meeting, one should especially mention the compilation of a *Directory for Spiritual Directors* and the drafting of the monthly intentions for the year 2018.

In addition, it was very important to look at the organization of the anniversary celebrations in Rome and the national offices around the world, and to review the International President's visits to Militia members in Italy, Brazil, the United States and Spain.

Friar Stanisław PIĘTKA, the head of the M.I. government in Poland, was a very welcome "guest" at the Council meeting. He outlined the progress of our Association in the land of St. Maximilian.

The members of the International Council also took the opportunity to visit Zduńska Wola, the birthplace of St. Maximilian Kolbe and Pabianice, his hometown as a child.

Finally, the Council launched plans for a meeting of M.I. youth from around the world, to be held in 2018.



The participants

M.I. President in the Czech Republic

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

From May 20-22, 2017, the International President of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), Friar Raffaele DI MURO, traveled through the Czech Republic visiting Militia members in that country.

His first stop was Prague, where he met with the friars of the Definitory of the Friars Minor Conventual Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic. He had a very cordial and fruitful exchange of ideas and plans with them.

Afterwards, he travelled to Brno where he met with local M.I. members and visited the national M.I. headquarters. It publishes a magazine which has a good circulation and is much appreciated by the people. In addition, for the occasion, the members the Kolbean Association gathered together for a period of prayer and reflection.

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The M.I. Movement in the Czech Republic is very dynamic, young and active and has many elements of growth. In fact, a forthcoming national assembly is being prepared in which the formation centers linked to Kolbe's charism will be consolidated and leaders will be elected to further develop the missionary impact of M.I. within the social and cultural environment of this nation.

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the M.I. was mentioned. It promises to produce many interesting initiatives here. The visit was brief but full, and will certainly foster considerable growth among those joining the association in the Czech Republic.



The participants

Luxembourg: Visit from the M.I. President

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

The International President of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), Friar Raffaele DI MURO, is continuing his round of visits in connection with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the M.I. association.

On June 3-4, 2017, he met with members of the M.I. serving in Luxembourg.

There are no Conventional Friars Minor in this nation, but there are some Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata to serve the Militia members.

On June 3, he presented a conference that provided full immersion into Kolbean spirituality. The conference was on the theme of entrusting oneself to the Immaculate in the style of St. Maximilian. Next, the sacrament of reconciliation was celebrated and a Mass followed. There was a good attendance by members of the association, and also by many supporters.

Afterwards, Friar Raffaele met with Pierre BAUSTERS, the National President of the M.I. in Luxembourg, and discussed the 100th anniversary program and the future of the M.I. association in this area. The meetings were held at the church in Hollerich, Luxembourg's capitol city.

On June 4, Friar Raffaele visited the Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg as well as the local community of the Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata. The trip proved to be very rich, fruitful and promising. The next visits will be in Poland, in mid-July.



With the representatives of the M.I.

■ GENERAL DELEGATE FOR THE II ORDER AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTE

Friar Germano TOGNETTI
General Delegate for II Order



Seraphicum: Assembly of Poor Clares

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO, Head of the Seraphicum Press Office

From Tuesday to Saturday, April 25-29, 2017, the Assembly of the Federation of St. Clare of Assisi of the Urbanist Poor Clares of Italy was held at the Seraphicum, in Rome.

The Federation is a network of Poor Clare convents that profess the rule promulgated by Pope Urban IV in 1263.

The Assembly was attended by the abbesses of the 21 convents that make up the Federation. The meeting provided an important opportunity for discussing the current state of religious life and its new challenges.

The work session of the Assembly was chaired by Sister Damiana ARDESI, the President of the Federation. It opened with a report by Friar Domenico PAOLETTI, OFM Conv., the Vicar Custos of the Custody of the Sacro Convento in Assisi. Friar Domenico spoke about religious life being “sent forth”, in reference to the ministry of Pope Francis.

Others attending the meeting included His Eminence João Cardinal BRAZ DE AVIZ, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and Father Sebastiano PACIOLLA O. Cist., the Undersecretary of his congregation, who spoke about Pope Francis’ Apostolic Constitution “*Vultum Dei quaerere*”, dealing with woman’s contemplative life.

On Thursday afternoon, April 27, the Poor Clares made a private visit to the Vatican where they were able to admire the Sistine Chapel, the “Camera Lacrimatoria” or “Room of Tears” to which newly elected popes retreat, the Secret Sacristy, the Vatican Museums and the Vatican Gardens.

Another particularly memorable occasion took place on Friday, April 28, when Brother Enzo BIANCHI, the former Prior of the Bose Monastic Community, spoke about formation, discernment in welcoming new vocations and creating a network of connections between monasteries.

The meeting between the Poor Clares and Brother Enzo was also an occasion for a lively debate moderated by Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO, OFM Conv., the Procurator General of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.



During the session

■ GENERAL FINANCIAL OFFICE



SOME THANK
YOU NOTES...

FOR OFFERING HOLY MASSES:

- Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ORDER:

- Prov. of Spain
- Prov. OLC, USA

FOR THE MISSIONS:

- Prov. of Germany
- Cust. Great Britain-Ireland

FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Prov. of Germany
- College of Penitentiaries in the Vatican

FOR THE FORMATION FUND:

- Prov. St. Bonaventure, USA
- Cust. Great Britain-Ireland
- Prov. Korea

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



Lusaka: Assembly of Major Superiors

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

From April 28 to May 1, 2017, the Major Superiors of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) met for their Annual Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia. The AFCOF Federation is comprised of seven African countries.

These assemblies of Superiors are arranged to promote better collaboration between Africa's various missionary presences. The Lusaka Assembly focused mainly on the issue of cooperation within AFCOF's joint initial formation program. At present, AFCOF's common formation houses are: the postulancy houses in East Africa (at Ruwi in Kenya and Morogoro in Tanzania), the novitiates (at Itimpi in Zimbabwe, Saltpond in Ghana and Arusha in Tanzania), the post-novitiate houses for philosophy students (at Lusaka in Zambia and another currently re-opening at Accra in Ghana) and the post-novitiate house for theology students in Nairobi, Kenya.

The number of vocations is on the rise, so the Superiors' primary concern was to find valid solutions that will ensure our young men get a good and complete formation in the African context without neglecting the Franciscan dimension. There are two main difficulties that all of the formation houses share. One is an insufficient number of properly trained formators. The other is the cost of maintaining the formation programs (there is a continuous search for financial resources to cover the expenses of study and ordinary life).

Those attending the meeting were: the Assistant General for the AFCOF Federation, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI; the Minister Provincial of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia, Friar Richard CHIMFWEMBE; the Provincial Custos of the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana, Friar Anthony BEZO; the Custos of the Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya, Friar Kazimierz SZULC; the Vicar Custos of the Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania, Friar Jerome MUNISHI; the Delegate of the Provincial Delegation to Uganda (from the Polish Province of St. Anthony of Padua and of Blessed James of Strepar), Friar Wojciech ULMAN; and a Delegate of the Provincial Delegation to Burkina Faso (from the Polish Province of the Immaculate Mother of God) Friar Benedict OFOSU YAW. Friar Benedict is a Ghanaian a friar who resides in Burkina Faso.



The participants

Lusaka: 25th Anniversary of the Inter-Franciscan Center

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

On May 2-5, 2017, the annual Assembly of the Faculty Council for Philosophy took place at the Inter-Franciscan College of St. Bonaventure in Lusaka, Zambia. The College offers common formation and study for the three Franciscan Families in Africa.

This Inter-Franciscan Center was founded in 1992 by the Major Superiors of the Three Franciscan Families of Africa and is affiliated to the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome. Currently the College is the only one of its kind for Franciscan religious.

The College has 29 professors (religious and lay people). It expects to enroll 247 students for the 2017-18 academic year. 55 of those students will be OFM Conv., 66 will be OFM Cap., and 64 will be OFM.

The Assembly was attended by the 27 Major Superiors and Provincial Delegates of the Franciscan presences in Africa, who will have student friars at the College. Seven of the Superiors were OFM Conv., seven were OFM Cap., and eight were OFM. Also attending were the Superiors from other aggregated Congregations at the Faculty: The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI); the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD); the Congregation of Marian Hill Missionaries (CMM); the Diocese of Gaborone, Botswana; and the Passionists (C.P.).

Those attending the Assembly came from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa and Botswana.

The Presidency of the Faculty Council Assembly this year goes to the OFM Family. The Assembly was presided over by the OFM Provincial Custos of Zimbabwe (the Presidency always rotates between the Superiors of the Three Families).

The Assembly agenda included discussion about the performance of the College, Franciscan Formation and relevant structural and maintenance issues (financial and budget reports for the next year).

At the end of the Assembly, the whole Franciscan Fraternity of the College celebrated the 25th anniversary, with a solemn Mass. To commemorate the Jubilee, the Rector, together with the other members of the College, planted a tree in front of the building.

As usual, the third year philosophy students were awarded Bachelor's degrees in Philosophy and Religious Sciences.

Others taking part in the Assembly and the celebrations included the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI; the General Exactor Friar Wojciech KULIG and the Superiors of the AFCOF Federation.



The participants

Kenya: Priestly and Diaconal Ordinations

■ Friar Sławomir KLEIN

On May 20, 2017, an ordination ceremony took place for Franciscan priests and deacons of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya. The ceremony was held at the parish church of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Nairobi.

The Most Reverend David KAMAU, Auxiliary Bishop of Nairobi, presided. He was accompanied by the Custos of Kenya, Friar Kazimierz SZULC, and a large number of diocesan and religious clergy. Zambia's Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs was represented by Friar Angelo PALERI and Tanzania's Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe was represented by Friar Evarest NYAKI. In addition, many guests came from various regions of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. This highlighted the international character of Franciscan formation in Africa.

Those newly ordained to the priesthood were Friars Simon KAARU, Emmanuel MUTUA, Gifton KIWO, Pius MUSYOKA and Aquinas MUTUA (all from the Custody of Kenya).

Those newly ordained to the diaconate were: Friars Simon KESSY (Tanzania), Denis KUNAMBI (Tanzania), Mbola MWILA (Zambia), Anthony CHANDA (Zambia) and Nathan KAKUBO (Zambia).

After the liturgy there was a party with music, singing and dancing.

It should be noted that the Custos of Kenya, Friar Kazimierz SZULC, celebrated his 25th anniversary of priesthood (ante tempus) one week earlier. Among the guests at that celebration were Polish priests and nuns serving in Kenya, the Polish Ambassador and members of his embassy staff.



The entrance procession



Newly ordained priests give their blessing

CENTRALIS EUROPAE FOEDERATIO

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ
Assistant General for the CEF



Aylsford: “Juniorentreffen” - Meeting of Post-Novices

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On April 18-22, 2017, the traditional meeting of the post-novices of the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF) was held together with the post novices of the Custody of Great Britain and Ireland.

The meeting took place at the Carmelite priory and Marian shrine in Aylesford, England.

In fact, this year was the first time the Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa hosted the event and its Custos, Friar Peter Damian MASSENGILL was there representing the Custody.

The main purpose of the meeting was to provide young people with material on Franciscan spirituality that they did not get at the various theological faculties they attended. There were twenty-four participants: seven men in formation from Great Britain-Ireland, five from Croatia and two from Slovenia, along with their respective formators.

The meeting was set up and organized by Friar Josef FISCHER, the Director of Formation for the CEF Federation, in collaboration with the CEF President, Friar Milan KOS, and Vice-President Friar Bernhardin SEITHER. The Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA and the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ also took part in the meeting. Friar Mario SANT from Malta translated. This year’s theme was “Mary in Franciscan History.” It was developed and presented by Friar Christopher SHORROCK (from our Delegation in Australia), a professor at the Franciscan International Study Center in Canterbury, England.

One day was devoted to visiting our Center in Canterbury and touring the city with its splendid cathedral.



The participants

Germany: CEF Assembly

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On May 8-12, 2017, the electoral assembly of the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF) was held at the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Siessen in Bad Saulgau, Germany.

The assembly was headed by the President of the Federation, Friar Milan KOS of the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia. All of the members were present except for the Provincial Delegate of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Cracow, Poland.

The newly elected President of the CEF is Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth, in Germany. The Vice-President is Friar Daniele BROCCA, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicholas of Flüe, in Austria-Switzerland; and the Secretary is Friar Konrad SCHLATMANN, a member of the Province of Germany.

A major theme of the meeting was the General Statutes. These were reviewed and commented on by the CEF members.

Other topics touched on during the assembly were the current status of the member-Jurisdictions; news from the General Curia and the Order; an evaluation of the meeting with the post-novices of the CEF together with the members of the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland; and planning upcoming CEF events.

One day was spent taking a trip around Lake Bodensee, also called Lake Constance or Lake Bodan. The participants visited a beautiful baroque Cistercian basilica, the Marian shrine of Birnau (Wallfahrtskirche) and the island on Lake Reichenau where the ancient Marian antiphons traditionally attributed to Hermann of Reichenau, or 'Hermannus Contractus', were composed. These include the Latin antiphons *Salve Regina*, *Regina Coeli*, *Ave Regina Coelorum* and *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. The participants also visited the city of Konstanz (Constance), the site of the Council of Constance during which Pope Martin V was elected, the only pope elected beyond the Alps.



The participants

cef@ofmconv.net

Muotathal: Visit to the Sisters

■ Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO

From Monday to Thursday, May 22-25, 2017, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF); Sister Damiana ARDESI, the President of the Federation of St. Clare of Assisi of the Urbanist Poor Clares of Italy; and Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO, the Procurator General of the Order, visited the Cloister of St. Joseph in Muotathal, Switzerland (Diocese of Chur).

They were accompanied by Friar Daniel BROCCA, Custos of the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicholas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland and the Minister General's Delegate for the Cloister, which came under the jurisdiction of the Order a few years ago.

This age-old cloister was founded in 1288 A.D. It houses a community of six nuns who are dedicated to contemplative life, pastoral leadership and hospitality. Sister Scholastica has been Superior of the cloister since 2010. With the help of Friar Daniel BROCCA, she is preparing for the next elective Chapter. The visitors listened to the sisters individually and proposed some guidelines for ongoing formation, the revision of the Constitutions, and the study of the Apostolic Constitution "*Vultum Dei quaerere*".

In addition to sharing prayers and meals, the visitors took part in peaceful discussions and dialogue with the community.



The participants

Austria-Switzerland: Assembly and Definitory Session

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

Between May 29 and June 2, 2017, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF) visited the Swiss side of the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicholas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland.

On the first day, a Custodial Assembly took place for the Swiss side of the Custody. The theme of the Assembly was "Our Plans for the Future". The meeting was held at the Holy Cross friary in Fribourg, Switzerland.

The assembly was attended by the Custos, Friar Daniele BROCCA, and almost every friar from the three friaries in Switzerland. Each friary had to present a plan by which it could make a new and significant impact on the immediate future of the Jurisdiction. Work took place in small groups and in assembly.

In the days that followed, the Custodial Definitory met in session. The members of the Custodial Definitory include Friar Bernhard LANG, the Vicar Custos and Custodial Secretary, Friars Vincenzo COSATTI, Thomas MANALIL and Valentin SOLOMON, Definitors, together with the Assistant General for the CEF. The main topic of discussion was the preparation underway for the Extraordinary Custodial Chapter, which is scheduled for the first week of July, 2017. Other topics discussed were: collaboration with other Provinces, personal issues of various friars, the economic situation in the Custody and the revision of the Custodial Statutes.



The participants

Schwarzenberg: Meeting for Economs of the Province

■ Friar Andreas MURK, Provincial Secretary

On June 28, 2017, the economs of the five friaries of the Province of Germany met with the Provincial Economist, Friar Andreas FIEBACK, as part of the Province's ongoing formation program. The meeting took place at the friary in Schwarzenberg.

The meeting was organized by the Provincial Commission for financial matters. Those present included the members of the commission, the friary economs and two lay staff members.

The main purpose of the meeting was to explain some basic principles of accounting and to standardize some procedures regarding the finances of the friaries. The participants were also given a detailed overview about the insurance policies the Province and the friaries have (or should have).

The meeting was helpful in sharing important information and deepening familiarity with each other. It is hoped that in the future, collaboration between the friaries and the Provincial Financial Office will be further improved.



The participants

■ CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

Friar Jude WINKLER
Assistant General for the CFF



USA (OLA): General Canonical Visitation Continues

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

On April 23, 2017, the Province of Our Lady of the Angels (USA) joyously celebrated 120 years of its friars' presence at the parish of St. Adalbert in Elmhurst, New York.

It was here, during the nineteenth century, that Polish immigrants came together to create a spiritual center where they could preserve both their faith and their religious traditions. At present, the parish continues to serve the faithful of Polish origin, but it also serves parishioners from other backgrounds including its largest (and growing) group, the Filipinos.

The liturgy here is usually celebrated in two languages: Polish and English. The current pastor is Friar Mirosław PODYMNIAK. His vicar is Friar Stanisław CZERWONKA and other friars in the community collaborate as well.

There were two special moments during the anniversary celebrations:

-The first was Mass, presided over by the Most Reverend Nicholas DI MARZIO, Bishop of Brooklyn, New York. Also present was Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) currently serving as the Delegate of the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCIA. Others attending included the Vicar Provincial, Friar Brad MILUNSKI, five or so of the parish's still-living pastors and many friars of the Province;

-The other moment was a joyful banquet that followed, enlivened with traditional songs and dances from the various nationalities and cultures present in the parish territory.



With the friars in Elmhurst

CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONES – [CFF]

Friar Tadeusz finished the first part of his general canonical visitation to the Province of Our Lady of the Angels (OLA). He began on February 19, 2017 and concluded on April 27, at the friary in Brooklyn.

The Visitor will return to the Province on July 3, 2017 (starting with the friaries in Canada) to complete the visitation. On that occasion he will meet with the Provincial Definitory to examine the current state of the Province.

Canterbury: Closing Mass for the Study Centre

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

On June 23, 2017, a large group of Franciscans and laity celebrated the closing Mass for the Franciscan International Study Centre (FISC) in Canterbury, Great Britain.

This institute was opened in 1973, as a joint formation center with the Friars Minor, Friars Minor Conventual, and the Redemptorists participating.

Over the years, it has been the site of initial formation for many friars and sisters. It has been a center for Sabbatical and Certificate Programs, a center for Graduate Studies, and a worship site for many people from the area.

In recent years, a steady decrease in the number of students led, first of all, to a restructuring of the programs and eventually to the decision to close the Institute.

The main reason for the celebration was to give thanks for all the ways that the Lord has blessed the institute and those who were part of it over the years. Many faculty members and students from over the years attended the closing Mass and the lunch that followed.

A joint team of Friars Minor and Friars Minor Conventual are in negotiation for the eventual destination of the excellent Franciscan Library for which the Institute was well known.



The participants

cff@ofmconv.net

FEDERACIÓN CONVENTUALES AMERICA LATINA



Friar Carlos TROVARELLI
Assistant General for the FALC

Chile: Delegation on Spiritual Retreat

■ Friar Jack (Yakobus) GINTING

On April 25-28, 2017, the friars of the Delegation to Chile had their annual spiritual retreat at the Trappist monastery in Quilvo.

The retreat was led by Father José ABARCA, a Claretian priest.

Starting with the Delegation's Life Project for 2017, "Embracing the Leper," Father José invited the friars on the first day to closely connect with the Word of God through meditation, personal *lectio divina* and the writings of St. Francis of Assisi. Only in that way would we be able to recognize, not just with our physical eyes, but with our spiritual eyes, those who are today's lepers calling out to us.

On the last day of the retreat, during the recitation of Evening Prayer, there was a moment for each friar to share his personal life project for the year. It was within this prayerful context that Pedro FLEITAS, a young man from Paraguay, began his postulancy year. On Monday, April 24, just prior to the retreat, a meeting of the Delegation was held at the "Jesus de Nazaret" friary in Curicó, Chile.



The participants

MiReFALC: Reports of the Congress

■ Friar Victor MORA MESÉN

The Ministry of Reflection of the Federación Conventuales America Latina (MiReFALC) has published an extraordinary issue of its magazine *Decires*.

The issue features all of the reports that were presented at the MireFALC Congress celebrated in Rio di Janeiro, Brazil, in July of 2016.

In keeping with the 70th anniversary of the friars' arrival in Latin America, the main theme of the Congress was: "The Order's Practice of Evangelization and the Cultural and Social Settings Where It Is Carried Out". The purpose of its presentations was to offer some critical reflection about the pastoral models that have been adopted over these last 70 years and to propose a vision for the future that would encompass the most important challenges facing evangelization in our day. www.revistadecires.com

FEDERATION OF ASIAN MINOR CONVENTUALS

Friar Benedict Seung Jae BAEK
Assistant General for the FAMC



Delitua: Solemn Profession

■ Friar Maximilian SEMBIRING, Provincial Custos

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, Mass was celebrated for the solemn profession of Friars Antonius Jani Anwar BARUS and Yohanes TANDO.

The ceremony took place at the church of the friary of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Delitua, Indonesia.

The celebration was presided over by the Provincial Custos, Friar Maximilian SEMBIRING. It was also an occasion to give thanks in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of the young Friar Adéodatus Lidwig LAIBAHAS. The two newly professed are, in fact, a bit like shoots from that “grain of wheat fallen upon the ground,” that is, the young Friar Adéodatus who tragically drowned in Lake Toba on April 16, 1967, after arriving in Sumatera (Archdiocese of Medan) to bring the Gospel and implant our Order. He became a seedling for the sowing of our Order. It was really his passing that prompted the local bishop the Most Reverend Antonius VAN DEN HURK, OFM Cap., to call the Conventual friars to found a mission in the Sumatera region of Indonesia. Adéodatus was one of the first Indonesian friars who went to Europe (Rome) to continue his Conventual Franciscan and priestly formation and then return home.

The first mission of our Order in Indonesia was made by friars from the Province of Holland in Bogor – Java, in 1937. However, in 1964 it closed and all friars returned to Holland.

In 1968, one year after the death of Friar Adeodatus, the Province of Bologna sent two friars, together with another friar from the Province of Sardinia, to found a new presence of the Order in Indonesia. Today, that presence has become a Provincial Custody, composed of 68 solemnly professed friars, 33 temporarily professed friars, 11 novices, and 29 postulants.

After Mass, the party continued with fraternal recreation and lunch.



The newly professed
with the confrères

FEDERATIO EUROPAE MEDIAE ET ORIENTALIS

Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI
Assistant General for the FEMO



Uzbekistan: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

From April 20 to May 5, 2017, a fraternal visit to Uzbekistan was carried out.

The Assistant General of the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO), Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, together with the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Cracow, Poland, Friar Marian GOŁĄB and the Vicar Provincial, Friar Mariusz KOZIOŁ, met with all the friars of the Delegation in the places where they live and serve.

They also met with the Most Reverend Jerzy MACULEWICZ, O.F.M. Conv., Apostolic Administrator of Uzbekistan and Titular Bishop of Nara, and Father Ismael Gomez MAYORA, a diocesan priest from Venezuela who has been working for a few months in Uzbekistan.

The current status of the Delegation, and plans for its future, were discussed with individual friars and during friary house chapters.

Uzbekistan is a Muslim country with a small presence of Catholic Christians. Our presence is a *missio sui iuris* [independent mission].

There are currently nine friars living in Uzbekistan (eight are from the Polish Province of Cracow and one is from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Korea). The friars work in four parishes: Tashkent, Fergana, Samarkand and Bukhara.



In Bukhara / in Samarkand



In Urgench
/ friars of the Delegation

Ostróda: Franciscans Ordained to the Priesthood

■ The Provincial Secretariat

On May 20, 2017, three friars from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Gdansk, Poland, were ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Józef GÓRZYŃSKI, Metropolitan Archbishop of Warmia.

The newly ordained are Friars Bartłomiej EWERTOWSKI, Mateusz ŚWIĘTOSŁAWSKI and Karol WESOŁOWSKI. The ceremony took place at the Franciscan church in Ostróda

Others taking part in the celebration included the Minister Provincial of Gdansk, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI; the Minister Provincial of Warsaw, Friar Wiesław PYZIO and his Vicar Provincial, Friar Piotr SZCZEPAŃSKI; the Rector of the post-novitiate program in Łódź Łagiewniki, Friar Mirosław BARTOS and his Vice-Rector Friar Frausz FAŁKOWSKI; the Director of the postulancy program in Gniezno, Friar Rafał ZARZYCKI; several diocesan priests, religious, and the parents and families of the newly ordained. The event also brought together many confreres from other countries such as Ecuador, Germany, Italy and Belarus.

The liturgy was enriched by the "Cantores Bertungenses" choir from the parish of Bartąg. Clerical students from the Łódź Łagiewniki post-novitiate program provided liturgical service.

The pastor, Friar Robert WOŁYNIEC, welcomed all the participants and spoke about the brief history of the Franciscan presence in Ostróda, which began in 1989. The presence is seeing its first Franciscan friar from the parish receive priestly ordination.

At the end, the Minister Provincial of Gdańsk encouraged the new priests to let themselves be truly filled with the Holy Spirit and to always be at the service of those to whom they will be sent, sharing what they have received.



The newly ordained priests with the bishop

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Hungary/Transylvania: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On May 23-24, 2017, the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO), Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, made a fraternal visit to the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary/Transylvania.

The meeting was held in Arad (Romania). Those attending included Friar Zsolt KALNA, the Minister Provincial of Hungary/Transylvania along with his Definitory; and Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Gdansk, Poland, along with his Provincial Econom, Friar Leszek ŁUCZKANIN.

During the meeting the members discussed the topics related to the future transformation of the Province of Hungary/Transylvania into a Provincial Delegation of the Polish Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe. The next meeting on this topic is scheduled for this coming fall.



With the friars of the Province

Cracow: Priestly and Diaconal Ordination

■ Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK, Province spokesperson

On June 3, 2017, the Most Reverend Marek JĘDRASZEWSKI, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cracow, Poland, ordained two deacons, Friars Mateusz KŁOSOWSKI and Piotr KANTORSKI, as well as two priests, Friars Kamil CZUPSKI and Wojciech SZYMCZAK.

The ceremony took place at the Basilica of St. Francis in Cracow. All of the ordained are members of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Cracow.

“You must proclaim Christ,” said the Archbishop in his homily, “showing that ‘having’ is not the most important criteria for a man. But for anyone, it is giving up all that one has, to be totally for Christ and for one’s brothers. You must proclaim the Gospel of Christ which is still being written today by its witnesses, by those who have made the truth of Christ their own and have recognized that truth as being so precious that it must be proclaimed to the world, even in offering the gift of one’s life.”

The Minister Provincial, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, thanked the newly ordained for having responded to God’s call with such courage and determination. He thanked their parents for having fostered a suitable environment in which their children’s vocations could thrive and mature. The Minister Provincial also mentioned some role models to follow, the missionary martyrs of Peru, Blessed Friars Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and Saint Maximilian. Maria KOLBE, a martyr of Auschwitz. “May your life be a sacrificial victim,” he added.

The Minister General of the Order of the Friars Minor Conventual, Friar Marco TASCA, and the Assistant General of the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO), Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, also attended the celebration.

Jihlava: Priestly Ordination

■ Friar Stanisław GRYŃ, Minister Provincial

On June 3, 2017, Friar Vladimír HUBALOVSKÝ of the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius, in the Czech Republic, was ordained to the priesthood through the imposition of hands by the Most Reverend Vojtěch CIKRLE, Archbishop of Brno.

The ceremony took place at Mother of God church in Jihlava, Czech Republic.

The entire parish community took part in the preparation and organization of the ceremony, under the guidance of Pastor and guardian Friar Krzysztof SKIBIŃSKI. That morning the church was filled with the faithful, including the parents and relatives of Friar Vladimír, diocesan and religious priests, and also some confreres from Bratislava, Slovakia, where Friar Vladimír previously studied. Currently, the Czech Province has three clerical students studying there. Also present was Friar Marek DUDA, a missionary in Paraguay, who in 1998, was the first Franciscan to come to the Jihlava friary following a period of communist persecution.

At the end of the Mass, the newly ordained gave his first blessing and then the celebrations continued with a common meal in the friary's gardens.



Friar Vladimír HUBALOVSKÝ
newly ordained priest

Bulgaria: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On June 9-15, 2017, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI the Assistant General for the Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis (FEMO) made a fraternal visit to Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Provincial Delegation belongs to the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Warsaw, Poland.

The Delegation currently has six friars (one from Bulgaria and five from Poland). The friars live and work between two friaries, one in Pleven and the other in Rakovski.

During his visit, the Assistant General experienced moments of fraternity and sharing with the friars. He also met with the Most Reverend Petko CHRISTOV, OFM Conv., Bishop of Nicopoli.

In his conversation with the bishop and the friars, the Assistant General was able to learn more about the current situation of the Catholic Church and our presence in Bulgaria. Catholics in this predominantly Orthodox country are a small minority. There are few parishes and they lack local vocations. Our friars carry out pastoral ministry in three parishes and assist the local clergy.

Let us pray for these friars and for the Church of Bulgaria so that, filled with the Holy Spirit, they may carry out their mission in the service of God's holy people.



With the friars
of the Delegation

FEDERAZIONE INTER-MEDITERRANEA MINISTRI PROVINCIALI

Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS
Assistant General for the FIMP



Piglio: Initiatives Promoting Friar Quirico PIGNALBERI

■ Friar Umberto FANFARILLO, Provincial Secretary

On April 21, 2017, a meeting took place to plan some events during the summer of 2017 commemorating the Venerable Friar Quirico PIGNALBERI, OFM Conv. (1891-1982).

Friar Vittorio TRANI, the Minister Provincial of the Province of Rome, Italy, presided. With him were Friars Umberto FANFARILLO, Angelo DI GIORGIO, Gianfranco GRIECO and Paolo FI-ASCONARO along with Mayors Natale NUCHELLI of Serrone; Mario FELLI of Piglio and Silvio GRAZIOLI of Trevi in Lazio. Pastors from the parish churches of the three towns also attended. The meeting was held at the friary of San Lorenzo in Piglio, Italy.

The meeting members decided to promote a series of initiatives, starting in May of 2017. They are:

- publishing the book by Friar Gianfranco GRIECO: *The Last Look before Heaven: The Life of Father Quirico Pignalberi* (2017) and reissuing Friar Paolo FIASCONARO's video, *Father Quirico Pignalberi: A Witness of Mercy* (2016), in order to publicize this exemplary and penitent friar and educate the faithful to pray to God for his beatification.

- Presenting a Brazilian edition of this video in order to extend awareness of the holy Novice Master to Brazil, a land our Brazilian and Italian confreres have been evangelizing for the last fifty years.

- Re-proposing a pilgrimage to Serrone and Piglio on Friar Quirico's birthday (July 11) and the day he died (July 18).

- Dedicating a week or a triduum to Father Quirico for the 100th anniversary of his priestly ordination (August 10, 2017).

- Promoting a conference on Friar Quirico so that young people might recognize the relevance of his message on issues of formation and belonging and the human and spiritual values that this man from Italy's Ciociaria region bore witness to during the 20th century.

- Promoting a prize dedicated to Friar Quirico that would be awarded in area schools.

- Creating a booth dedicated to Father Quirico that could be set up at patron saint festivals or fairs featuring all the related publications and historical and devotional images.

- Turning the Franciscan friary of San Lorenzo into a true home of spirituality devoted to Friar Quirico, a place that would offer spiritual and formational meetings.

- In May of 2017, Trevi in Lazio will already be promoting a cultural get-together in which, besides presenting Friar Gianfranco GRIECO's book, will also engage the community in reflecting on Friar Quirico as a witness of peace and reconciliation.

- The 2017 Paul VI Peace Prize, which the town of Serrone will be awarding next August, will feature Friar Quirico as "The Man of God Who Brings Reconciliation and Peace."

- Making plans to transfer the relics of Friar Quirico from the Chapel of the Sacred Heart to the Church of San Lorenzo, where the Venerable meditated in ecstasy before the Eucharist on the mysteries of Christ, the Virgin Mother and the life of our Seraphic Father Saint Francis.

For forty years, this holy Novice Master transmitted his high-voltage Franciscan spirituality to a long line of young Conventual Franciscans who followed his path of formation, and today are witnesses to his holiness of life.

Cholet: Ongoing Formation in France

■ Friar François-Xavier BUSTILLO, Provincial Custos

On April 17-20, 2017, the friars of the Custody of France and Belgium met at the friary in Cholet, France, to take part in an ongoing formation meeting.

The theme of the meeting was "Father Kolbe and His Legacy: 1917-2017." It was presented by 'Angelina' of the Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata. She emphasized the prophetic possibilities that St. Maximilian offers us through the experience of evangelization with Mary, in fraternity, even to the point of martyrdom.



The participants

Friar Lino JACOVELLA Turns 102

■ Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI

On Monday, May 1, 2017, the oldest member of the Order, Friar Lino JACOVELLA, celebrated his 102th birthday. The celebration took place at the Happy Stay Retirement Home in Macerone (near Cesena, Italy).

Friar Lino is a member of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua. He is originally from Guardiagrele (Chieti, Italy). He was born on May 2, 1915, professed his temporary vows on October 4, 1935, his solemn vows on November 20, 1938, and was ordained a priest on July 13, 1941. Until a few months ago he had been living at the friary in Rimini-Bellariva, where he is still a member. Among the various positions he has held over the years, he was once the guardian of the now-suppressed friary in Bagnacavallo (near Ravenna) and before that, had spent some years serving as a pastor at Rivotorto in Assisi.

The birthday celebrations started with Mass presided over by the Vicar Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony, Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI. Friar Lino himself was one of the celebrants, along with a dozen friars from other fraternities. Also attending were guests from the retirement home, various relatives and a nice group of friends. The friars, friends and relatives all shared the joy of this milestone by joining Friar Lino for a festive lunch. Friar Lino appeared to be at peace, in good health and happy to be able to celebrate with everyone.



Friar Lino JACOVELLA

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Tarancón: 75th Anniversary of Conventual Presence

■ Javier ORTEGA, Editor of "Antena Conventual"

At 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2017, there was a Mass of thanksgiving for the 75th anniversary of the presence of the Conventual Friars Minor in the city of Tarancón (Cuenca, Spain).

The friars have the pastoral care of a friary church in the center of the small town, and an elementary school, a middle school, and at times, a high school as well.

Many people joined the friars at our church to celebrate the three-quarters of a century of our "Colegio Melchor Cano" Catholic educational mission center. Those attending included persons associated with the schools, others doing pastoral outreach in the city and many members of the Secular Franciscans Order (OFS).

The Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend José María YANGUAS SANZ, Bishop of the Diocese of Cuenca. Those concelebrating were the Minister General of the Conventual Friars Minor, Friar Marco TASCA; the Minister Provincial of Spain, Friar Ángel Mariano GUZMÁN; various diocesan priests, some of whom were former students; and some twenty other priests, many of whom were confreres from the Province of Spain.

Two former Mission Directors were present: Friar Bernardino ROMÁN and Friar José REMÓN.

After Mass, there was a dinner for the friars and the authorities present. In addition, Friar Marco was able to visit the Center's facilities and the commemorative exhibition on the history of the school over the last 75 years. The Minister General wrote an affectionate dedication in the guestbook and inscribed his blessing as well.



"Colegio Melchor Cano"

Madrid: 50th Anniversary of Colegio San Buenaventura

■ Javier ORTEGA, Editor of "Antena Conventual"

During the 2016-2017 school year, Colegio San Buenaventura, an education center [elementary through high school] of the Conventual Friars Minor in Madrid has been celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Colegio began rather precariously on October 4, 1966.

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There were many commemorative activities and events during this Jubilee year. On May 21, the culminating celebration took place with a solemn Mass of thanksgiving in order to show gratitude for these last five decades of educational mission. The Mass was celebrated in the college gymnasium. Former and current students of all ages attended along with their families, the friars and past and present teachers. Other attendees included parishioners and neighbors from our Batán district; other confreres, members of the Secular Franciscan Order, and many friends.

The Mass was presided over by our Minister General, Friar Marco TASCÁ, who encouraged the educational community to continue the Franciscan mission of our presence as Church and to build a more fraternal world through the education of young people. The Minister Provincial of the Province of Spain, Friar Ángel Mariano GUZMÁN, concelebrated along with many other friars of the Province who came from its various fraternities. Friar José Antonio POVEDA, the Regional Secretary of Catholic schools in Madrid, was also present.

At the end of the Mass, the Apostolic Blessing of His Holiness, Pope Francis, was read on the occasion of our 50th anniversary of educational mission. A commemorative plaque was given in gratitude to the former directors of the Colegio and all friars of the Province. Friar Marco also received an icon of the Madonna of the Alhambra, Patroness of Madrid, to commemorate this day



"Colegio San Buenaventura"

Madrid: New Formation House Blessed

■ Friar Joaquín AGESTA

On May 21, 2017, a new Provincial formation house in Madrid was blessed.

This formation house was requested by the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of 2012. The Chapter asked to place those in formation in a fraternity with a mission setting and one that was part of an ordinary church context, such as a parish. Madrid's Batán area was chosen, a place where we have had two fraternities for more than fifty years (Colegio San Buenaventura and the Parish of the Rosary).

The new formation house was built next to the already existing friary in the Parish of the Rosary, and was made internally connected to it. This community project is expected to house an innovative and energetic fraternity able to offer hospitality and provide a Franciscan living space that is peaceful and vocationally active.

The Mass and the blessing were presided over by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCÁ. Other participants included the Minister Provincial, Friar Ángel Mariano GUZMÁN, other friars from the friaries in Madrid, Palencia and the General Curia in Rome; the local Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order, some lay relatives of the friars, the men in formation, and the artist who created the paintings

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inside the chapel, Miguel Ángel LAGUNA. After the liturgy, he explained the contemporary meaning of the paintings (past and current Franciscan spirituality).

The event concluded with a fraternal lunch in the friary, prepared by the fraternity itself. The fraternity consists of six solemnly professed friars, one temporarily professed friar and a second-year postulant.



The chapel of the new formation house

Madrid: United by Fraternity

■ Javier ORTEGA, Editor of "Antena Conventual"

On May 22-24, 2017, Madrid became the capital of Franciscanism as it commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Papal Bull *Ite Vos*.

The Bull led to the final division between the Conventuals and the Observants. The commemoration took place during the celebration of the 7th Congress of the Franciscan School of Studies, which was held in the Capuchin friary at the Shrine of El Pardo. The theme of the meeting was: "But Let Everyone in General Be Called a Lesser Brother' (*Rnb* 3.3), United by Fraternity."

A large group of brothers and sisters from the Franciscan Family met in the presence of our three Ministers General: Friar Marco TASCA, OFM Conventual; Friar Michael PERRY, OFM; and Friar Mauro JÖHRI, OFM Capuchin. Tibor KAUSER, the Minister General of the Secular Franciscan Order also participated. Others attending included the Ministers Provincial of the Franciscan Provinces in Spain and Portugal, the Provincial Superiors of the Franciscan Religious Institutes, and a representation of the Poor Clares and the Capuchin Poor Clares.

In his speech entitled "Franciscan Fraternity: A Common Treasure", Friar Marco TASCA talked about the theme of relationship as a vital element of St. Francis' thought and something which is necessary to recover today as a hermeneutic key to Franciscan life. Moving on from the *Admonitions of St. Francis*, the Minister General of the Conventual Friars Minor focused on formation work and the important appeal of the adjective "blessed" associated with the fraternal union of the brothers. In addition to the contributions from the Ministers General, the participants were given insights from philosophers, theologians and artists, and they participated in various activities and reflection groups. Friar Joaquín AGESTA, the Assistant General for the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), spoke during the round table discussions on "The Experiences of Communion between European Obediences", where he presented the recent experiences of the friars of Umbria ("friars in Chapter") and Amatrice (Rieti), in Italy.

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The results of the work of the Congress have been synthesized in “The Madrid Declaration”, a document which notes how times of misunderstanding and rivalry have now been overcome and how it is time to heal all wounds: “With the charismatic novelty denoted in our unique Franciscan fraternity, we are called by ‘new times to a new fraternity’. At this point it makes no sense to stay bound to our local or family problems: equalities/inequalities, inclusion/exclusion, dignity/unworthiness...With creativity and fidelity to the charism, now is the time to take a chance on a project that is part of our Gospel heritage: ‘So that they may all be one’ (John 17:21).



The Ministers General of the OFM Conv., OFM, OFS, and OFM Cap., among the participants

Conclusion of the “Generalissimo” Chapter

■ From the OFM Press Office

The Bull *Ite vos* of Pope Leo X, May 29, 1517 should have reconciled the differences that were already apparent between the Friars Minor about the way of authentically living the charism of the Founder.

Instead, this Bull decreed the split into two branches (Friars Minor of the Regular Observance and Friars Minor Conventual) to which a decade later a third branch was added, that of the Friars Minor Capuchin. Since then, each of the three male branches has pursued its own traditions, increasingly reinforced in differentiating from other friars, expressing in some circumstances mutual support and collaboration, but in other occasions some form of clash.

In recent years, the sons of Francis of Assisi, especially those of the region of Umbria – where the charism was born and a place to which all the brothers of the Order refer back to – began a journey of reconciliation that came with great support from their respective Ministers General. This four-year itinerary has already seen the Ministers General mutually asking and giving pardon at the Porziuncola on July 11, 2016, a significant date for this process. An important event for this year is the common celebration of a Chapter, called: “Generalissimo”, which falls on the same significant date of May 29.

A representation of the Friars of the one Franciscan Family (an expression of the presence in Umbria of the male Franciscan Orders) gathered for four days with the Ministers General at the Oasis of St. Francis in Foligno. The get-together concluded on the morning of June 2 in Assisi, in order to “return or give back”: to the friars, the lived experience of the Chapter, and to the Lord, with praise and thanksgiving for the work He is doing.

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The first of these moments happened at the Press Room of the Sacro Convento of the Basilica of St. Francis and began with three testimonies. The first to talk was Br. Mauro BOTTI, OFM. He said that it was a “beautiful journey of mutual listening that has already led to a reconciliation celebrated before the Lord”. Br. Ivan SCICLUNA, OFM Cap., read a text on the Holy Spirit. He concluded by expressing the urgent need to share the beauty of this experience with the Fraternity of Spello and invited everyone to do the same to generate a good, positive, and fruitful “chain reaction”. Br. Danilo MARINELLI, OFMConv, expressed much gratitude for the time together, grace-filled, that’s difficult to express in a few words. After these three reflections, Br. Marcello FADDA, TOR, presented a summary of what emerged during the four days of the Chapter. Br. Marcello listed some of the many concrete proposals that emerged, all seeking to express with facts the possibility of a journey together, and that now their feasibility must be verified.

Br. Mauro JÖHRI, OFM Cap, on behalf of the other General Ministers who were absent due to other commitments, reiterated the approval – manifested by their presence throughout the Chapter – and their interest for this initiative born in Umbria, land where the hope of the Franciscan Order is placed. He also hoped for the realization of one of the ideas that emerged during the Chapter: a “Franciscan think tank” that fosters the knowledge and the value of Franciscan history, and through it, to promote esteem and respect for people. Br. Mauro concluded his speech, reaffirming his intention to go, with as many brothers as possible, to the “Lord Pope” this coming 29 November 2017 to receive from him a blessing and a word on this journey that we undertake together. The Pope gave already the initial verbal approval to the four Ministers General during a private meeting, with details that must now be finalized.

In the splendid Lower Church of the Basilica of Saint Francis, the brothers celebrated the Concluding Mass presided over by His Excellency, Monsignor José Rodríguez CARBALLO, OFM, Secretary of the Congregation for Consecrated Life Institutes and Apostolic Life Societies, who began by expressing the “great joy of being with the most beloved Franciscan Family”.



The participants (partial)



The participants (partial)

Istanbul: Franciscan Priestly Ordination

■ Friar Lucian ABALINTOAI EI

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, Friar Andrew HOCHSTEDLER, OFM Conv., was ordained a priest at the Basilica of St. Anthony in Istanbul, Turkey.

This significant occasion was attended by friars from the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land, a Custody of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. The Custody belongs to the Province of St. Joseph Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania. Other participants included friars from Italy, Croatia, France and the United States; priests of the Apostolic Vicariate of Istanbul together with the Most Reverend Rubén TIERRABLANCA GONZALEZ, OFM, Vicar Apostolic of Istanbul; plus family and friends of Friar Andrew.

The Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Cesar ESSAYAN, OFM Conv., Bishop of Beirut and former Custos of the Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land. It was during his time as Custos that Friar Cesar first guided the newly ordained on his vocational journey. Now as a bishop, he imposed his hands on Friar Andrew and conferred Sacred Orders upon him.

Before the Mass, there was a moment of interior preparation. Guests, tourists and music lovers were treated to a concert by Romanian organist Eduard ANTAL. His playing created an atmosphere which was conducive to the celebration.

At the beginning of the Mass, Friar Martin KMETEC, the Vicar Custos, welcomed everyone and gave thanks to the Lord for the gift that Friar Andrew has been to the Custody. At the same time he stressed that there had never been a priestly ordination in this basilica before. In his homily, Bishop ESSAYAN mentioned Pope Francis' message of June 10, 2017: "Life can survive only because of the generosity of other lives." In fact, recalling St. Maximilian Maria KOLBE, who gave his life to save another life in 1941, in Auschwitz, the Bishop of Beirut invited Friar Andrew to consider this example: "Being a priest is a grace from the Lord but at the same time this grace, this gift, becomes a gift to others."



Friar Andrew HOCHSTEDLER
newly ordained priest

Romania: New Priests

■ Friar Virgil BLAJ, Provincial Secretary

On Friday, June 23, 2017, thirteen young men were ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Petru GHERGHEL, Bishop of Iasi.

The ceremony took place in the Roman Catholic Church of Iasi. Five of the newly ordained priests were friars from the Romanian Province of St. Joseph of the Order of the Friars Minor Conventual. The remaining eight were from the Diocese of Iasi.

Others attending the celebration included: the Most Reverend Aurel PERCA, Auxiliary Bishop of Iasi, Friar Teofil PETRISOR, Minister Provincial, along with rectors, professors and formators of the institutes where the candidates studied, priests from Romania and abroad, parents and family members of the candidates and a large number of the faithful.

Next Sunday, the new priests will celebrate their first masses in their places of origin.



The newly ordained priests

New Franciscan Province in Italy

■ Friar Marco BELLACHIOMA, Chapter Secretary

At 3 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017, the new Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi was officially erected.

The event took place at the Tomb of our Seraphic Father St. Francis while the hymn “Veni Creatore” was sung during Midday Prayer. The new Province was created by the unification of the Italian Provinces of Sardinia, Tuscany, Umbria, the Marches and Rome.

At 4:00 p.m., the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, opened the first Ordinary Chapter of the new Province as its Presider. There were 56 Capitulars present, of whom 54 had voting rights). In the first session, the mandates for the Chapter were ratified, while in the second session, the reports of the General Visitators of the individual Provinces began.

In the afternoon of Thursday, April 27, 2017, the first Provincial Chapter of the new Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi was held at Casa Leonori at St. Mary of the Angels, Assisi, in the Italian province of Perugia (PG). At that time, the members of the Provincial Definitory were elected. The Definitors are:

Friar Franco BUONAMANO, Minister Provincial [He was already elected by universal suffrage, by letter dated December 13, 2016. He was born in Sessa Aurunca in the Italian province of Caserta, on September 11, 1961, made his temporary profession on August 31, 1988, his solemn profession on September 27, 1992, and was ordained to the priesthood on December 4, 1993.];

Friar Alessandro PRETINI, Vicar and Provincial Secretary; Friar Domenico FODERARO, Provincial Definitor; Friar Danilo MARINELLI, Provincial Definitor; Friar Claudio FANETTI, Provincial Definitor; Friar Andrea MURA, Provincial Definitor; Friar Benone BUTACU, Provincial Definitor.

Next there was the election of the Provincial Econom, Friar Sergio COGNIGNI; the Provincial Exactor, Friar Claudio FANETTI; and the two Provincial Delegates to the General Chapter, Friar Paolo BOCCI and Friar Albino TANUCCI.

The new Province currently has 162 solemnly professed friars, 7 temporarily professed friars, 2 novices and 5 postulants.



Friar Franco BUONAMANO
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars



The Provincial Definitory

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Brazil: Ordinary Custodial Chapter - Part 1

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

On April 24-28, 2017, the first part of the 15th Ordinary Custodial Chapter of the Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated at the Casa Abel center, in the city of Araruama, Rio de Janeiro state (RJ), Brazil.

The Chapter was presided over by Friar James McCURRY, the Minister Provincial of the USA Mother Province of Our Lady of the Angels.

This important fraternal, ecclesial and institutional event was attended by the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), Friar Carlos TROVARELLI. He also made a general canonical visitation to the Custody.

A new Custodial Definitory was elected during the third session of the Chapter. The new Definitors are: Friar Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA (former Vicar Custos, first term); Friar José Pinto CARDOZO JUNIOR (Vicar Custos); Friar Carlos Roberto de OLIVEIRA CHARLES (Custodial Secretary); Friar Michel da Cruz Alves DOS SANTOS (Custodial Definitor); Friar Luis Henrique Lascar LIMA (Custodial Definitor).

The Chapter was celebrated in a peaceful and fraternal setting.

The second part of the Chapter is scheduled to be celebrated at the same facility on June 5-9, 2017.



Friar Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA
Provincial Custos



The Custodial Definitory



The Capitulars

Slovenia: Spiritual Chapter and Meeting of the Provinces

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On April 25-27, 2017, a Spiritual Chapter of Slovenia's St. Joseph Province was held at the friary of Saints Peter and Paul in Ptuj, Slovenia.

The Minister Provincial, Friar Milan KOS, presided over the Chapter and all the friars in the Province attended except those who were prevented by illness or some other serious impediment. The Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF), Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, was also present.

The theme of the Chapter was: "St. Maximilian Kolbe and the 100th Anniversary of the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.)." The speaker was M.I. International President, Friar Raffaele DI MURO. Friar Igor SALMIČ, a member of the Province and a professor at Rome's Seraphicum International College, served as translator.

On the second day, in addition to Friar Raffaele's presentation, there was a conference by Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Jerome, in Croatia. It was on the theme: "Christianity and Religious Movements in the World. What Role Can the M.I. Play in This Context?"

On the third day, the Chapter concluded with a conference by Father Ciril ČUŠ (diocesan) the diocesan delegate for Marian initiatives. He spoke on the theme: "Marian Devotion in the Life of Religious and Priests and the Concept of Consecration."

After the Chapter, the annual meeting of the two Provinces of Slovenia and Croatia took place in Ptujška Gora, the Marian Shrine of the Province of Slovenia, This year our friars celebrate eighty years of presence at this Shrine.

Salesian Father Bogdan KOLAR, a history professor, began the program with a lecture on the theme: "Eighty Years of Friars Minor Conventual Presence in Ptujška Gora."

Afterwards, The Assistant General for the CEF presided over Mass celebrated in both languages of the Provinces. The meeting concluded with a fraternal lunch.



The participants

cef@ofmconv.net

CHAPTERS

Italy-Puglia: Provincial Chapter - Parts I and II

■ Friar Massimo Antonio RUGGIERO, Chapter Secretary

On May 1-5, 2017, the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Puglia (Italy) held the first part of its 19th Ordinary Provincial Chapter. The event took place at the San Francesco Social and Spiritual Center in Bari, Italy.

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

There were around twenty friar Capitulars who met to evaluate how the Province had progressed over the past four years. All of the friars of the Province came to the Chapter for the election of the Minister Provincial.

On Thursday, May 4, 2017, Friar Vincenzo Maria GIANNELLI was elected as the new Minister Provincial. Friar Vincenzo was born in Carbonara di Bari on July 19, 1967. He professed his temporary vows on August 29, 1995, his solemn vows on August 25, 1998 and was ordained a priest on February 26, 2000.

On the next day, May 5, the members of the new Provincial Definitory were elected. They are: Friar Salvatore SANTOMASI (Vicar Provincial); Friar Massimo Antonio RUGGIERO (Provincial Secretary); Friar Massimiliano MARSICO (Definitor); Friar Giovanni FOGGETTA (Definitor). Finally, Friar Fabio PACIELLO was elected as the new Provincial Econom and Exactor.

The second part of the Chapter took place from Monday June 12 to Friday June 16, 2017, at the same location.

Twenty-one Capitulars participated, including Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP). Friar Joaquín served as the delegate of the Minister General. The Capitulars discussed the six, large-scale topics that had been set forth in the *Instrumentum Laboris* and they approved the ten motions that had been put forward, including some experimental changes to the Provincial Statutes in relation to the purpose and composition of the Provincial Commissions.

At the sixth session of the Chapter, the guardians of the Province's friaries were elected. They are: Friar Mario Maria MARINO, San Francesco d'Assisi friary, Bari; Friar Salvatore SANTOMASI, San Giuseppe da Copertino friary, Copertino; Friar Daniele Flavio Maria MAIORANO; San Francesco d'Assisi friary, Gravina-Puglia; Friar Eugenio Maria GALIGNANO San Francesco d'Assisi friary, Lucera; Friar Massimiliano MARSICO San Francesco d'Assisi friary, Monte Sant'Angelo; Friar Gianni Mario STRAFELLA Maria Santissima Annunziata friary, Spinazzola; and Friar Giovanni FOGGETTA, San Massimiliano Maria Kolbe friary, Taranto.

The Mater Ecclesiae friary, in Bari, was suspended, although it remains the headquarters of the Provincial Curia.



Friar Vincenzo Maria GIANNELLI
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars

CHAPTERS

In addition, the Presidents of the Provincial Commissions were elected. They are: Friar Massimo Antonio RUGGIERO, Provincial Commission for Ongoing Formation); Friar Giuseppe Maria DE STEFANO, Provincial Commission for Franciscan Pastoral Ministry; and Friar Fabio PACIELLO Provincial Commission for Legal Issues, Economics, and Administration of Patrimony and Art.

Mexico: Provincial Chapter - Part I

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

On May 8-13, 2017, the first part of the Second Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe) was celebrated in the Maria Immacolata friary in Cuautitlan Izcalli, State of Mexico, Mexico.

The Chapter was presided over by the Vicar General of the Order, Friar Jerzy NOREL. The Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), Friar Carlos Alberto TROVARELLI, was also present.

In the third session, Friar Mario CASTRO MARTÍNEZ was elected to his first term as Minister Provincial. Friar Mario was born in Tlalnepantla (State of Mexico) on October 21, 1966.

In the fourth session, the Capitulars elected new members of the Provincial Definitory. They are: Friar Francisco MUÑOZ VILLEGAS, Provincial Vicar (first term); Friar Fausto de Jesús RAMÍREZ ROSARIO, Provincial Secretary (first term); Friar Jorge HERNÁNDEZ DE LUNA, Definitor (first term); and Friar Lorenzo ROJAS GUTIÉRREZ, Definitor (first term).

Subsequently, Friar Alfredo Guadalupe MEDRANO GALVÁN was nominated and elected the Provincial Econom and Friar Oscar Vicente BENAVIDES GALICIA was elected the Provincial Exactor.

The Chapter took place in a fraternal and peaceful atmosphere. On Thursday, May 11, a festive lunch was served immediately after the election. During the lunch, the Minister General communicated his confirmation and the new Minister Provincial took his oath of office before all the post-novices, novices and postulants of the Province. The Province of Mexico currently has eleven communities in Mexico, including two missions, Tlacoachistlahuaca and Xochistlahuaca in the State of Guerrero. It also has a community serving Latin American migrants in Austin, Texas, U.S.A. Parish ministry is carried out at thirteen locations. There are also various important social and cultural works.

There are fifty-two solemnly professed friars in this young Province which was erected at the Ordinary General Chapter of 2013. The Province also has nearly fifty young men in initial formation.



Friar Mario CASTRO MARTÍNEZ
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars

Sicily: Ordinary Provincial Chapter - Part II

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, Head of the Chapter Press Office

On June 14-20, 2017, the second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Agatha and St. Lucy in Italy (Sicily) was held in Pergusa in the Italian province of Enna (EN).

The Chapter was presided over by the Minister Provincial, Friar Gaspare LA BARBERA, with the Visitor General, Friar Leopoldo FIOR also present. The Minister General, Friar Marco TASCIA attended for the first three days.

Following the *Instrumentum laboris*, there was review and discussion on: the life and activities of the Province; the reorganization of the communities after the closing of the friaries of Pergusa and San Filippo del Mela; a more careful review of the Provincial finances and works; the continuation of the positive experience of the Montevago evangelization community; the spiritual and pastoral heritage of Friar Matthew Gregory LA GRUA, for whom a request has been made to open the canonical process for beatification, and finally the upgrading and reorganization of the cultural, artistic and museum-worthy assets of the Provincial archives. In addition, the Provincial Infirmary was erected next to the "Sacro Cuore" friary in Palermo.

On the last day, the new guardians were elected, they are : Friar Pasquale LIMA (Alcamo), Friar Daniel Felix MORARU (Avola), Friar Salvino PULIZZOTTO (Carini), Friar Biagio APRILE (Comiso), Friar Massimiliano DI PASQUALE (Enna), Friar Saverio BENENATI (Marineo), Friar Giuseppe CATALANO (Messina), Friar Antonio PARISI (Montevago), Friar Salvatore LO CURCIO (Palermo "Sacro Cuore"), Friar Gesualdo VENTURA (Palermo "San Francesco") and Friar Vincenzo SEIDITA (Trapani).

Finally, the Presidents of the Provincial Commissions were appointed, they are: Friar Biagio APRILE, Chairman of the Commission for Ongoing Formation; Friar Gaspare LA BARBERA, Minister Provincial, Chairman of the Commission for Youth, Vocational and Adult Ministry and Initial Formation.



The Minister Provincial and some guardians



The Capitulars

 GENERAL OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Friar Ryszard Adam WRÓBEL
General Delegate for Communications



Ordinationes diaconales

Prov. Zambiae

CHANDA Anthony Mubanga, KAKUBO Nathan Mumbi, MWILA Peter Mbola (2017-05-20)

Cust. Prov. Tanzaniensis

KESSY Simon Daniel, KUNAMBI Denis Dominick (2017-05-20)

Prov. Polonica B.M.V. Immaculatae

JANKOWSKI Łukasz (2017-05-27), KANTORSKI Piotr Andrzej, KŁOSOWSKI Mateusz (2017-06-03)

Ordinationes sacerdotales

Cust. prov. Anglo-Hibernica

DOYLE Rory (2017-04-25)

Prov. Polonica S. Maximiliani Kolbe

EWERTOWSKI Bartłomiej Maria, ŚWIĘTOSŁAWSKI Mateusz,
WESOŁOWSKI Karol Maria (2017-05-20)

Cust. Prov. Keniana

KAARU Simon Mwenda, MBAYA Gifton Kiwo,
MUSYOKA Pius Mutisya, MUTUA Emmanuel Mutune,
MUTUA Aquinas Mutunga (2017-05-20)

Prov. Polonica B.M.V. Immaculatae

ŚLIWIŃSKI Daniel (2017-05-27)

Prov. Polonica S. Antonii

CZUPSKI Kamil Kazimierz, SZYMCZAK Wojciech (2017-06-03)

Prov. Cechiae

HUBÁLOVSKÝ Vladimír (2017-06-03)

Prov. Dacoromana

BLAJ Andrei-Marius, COJOC Robert, IȘCIUC Paul-Aure, MÎRȚ Andrei,
PERCĂ Miha (2017-06-23)

Ordinationes episcopales

Prov. Polonica S. Antonii (Deleg. Prov. Ucrainae)

KAVA Eduard (2017-06-21)

RESTING IN GOD

DEFUNCTI [NOMEN]	CIRCUMSCRIPTIO	DIES	LOCUS	AETAS
CALTRAN Giorgio	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patav.	2017-04-17	Feltre (BL)-ITALIA	85
BATTISTA Raúl Vito	Prov. Rioplatensis	2017-04-25	Olavarría-ARGENTINA	84
KATUSZ Christian	Prov. Amer. D. N. Angelorum	2017-05-03	Rensselaer, NY-USA	69
ROLLI Antonio Maria	Prov. Apuliae	2017-05-10	Gravina in Puglia-ITALIA	80
ZAGÓRSKI Marcin	Prov. Pol. Cracovia	2017-05-13	Legnica-POLSKA	86
DRAPER Carolus	Prov. Germaniae	2017-05-16	Maastricht-DEUTSCHLAND	88
POPPI Angelico	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patav.	2017-05-20	Feltre (BL)-ITALIA	89
DUDEK Berard	Prov. Amer. D. N. Angelorum	2017-06-04	Baltimore-USA	90
LAZAR Krzysztof	Cust. Prov. Ang-Hiber.	2017-06-10	Niepokalanów-POLSKA	53
ZEBRON Samuel	Prov. Amer. D. N. Angelorum	2017-06-19	Boynton Beach-USA	85
PUFF Paschalis	Prov. Germaniae	2017-06-20	Alzing (Maria Eck)-DEUTSCHLAND	90
KORCZAK Mateusz	Prov. Polonica S. Antonii	2017-06-21	Rychwałd-POLSKA	87