

ENGLISH  
EDITION

# f rater nus NUNTIUS

Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium



1 2018

January  
February  
March



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**FRATERNUS NUNTIUS:** Notitium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium [1/2018]  
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 The current edition was closed on March 31, 2018.  
 Covert art: St. Francis (Cimabue, 1290)

## MINISTER GENERAL

### MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Marco TASCA



## Calendar of the Minister General

### JANUARY

- 8-13: Rome: Session of the General Definitory
- 14-20: Assisi-Rome: Meeting of newly elected Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries
- 21-27: Santa Severa: Personal retreat
- 30-31: Assisi: fraternal visit to the Sacro Convento

### FEBRUARY

- 2-4: Denmark: Fraternal visit
- 12-17: Rome: Session of the General Definitory
- 19-23: Croatia: Ordinary Provincial Chapter

### MARCH

- 9-21: England: Fraternal visit to the: Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa
- 26: Rome: Meeting of the Conference of Ministers General and the Franciscan
- 29-31: Rome: Easter Triduum at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles

### GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI  
Secretary General



## Session January 8-11, 2018

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

- approved the prepared part of the minutes of the meeting held November 27 – December 6, 2017;
- was updated on some organizational aspects of the 2018 AFCOF Rivotorto Course;
- was updated on the Inter-Franciscan Emmaus Project;
- listened to the reports of visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
  - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
    - his meeting with the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, and the Provincial Definitory of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany (Schwarzenberg, December 20, 2017);
  - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of:
    - the first Custodial Chapter of the newly erected Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America (Alajuela, Costa Rica, December 11-14, 2017);
    - his fraternal visit to some communities of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico (Totolapan, Valle de Aragón, December 17-22, 2017);
  - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, on the occasion of:
    - his fraternal visit to the inter-Jurisdictional postulancy program in Osimo, Italy (December 11, 2017);
    - his fraternal visit to the friary of Montedinove, Italy (December 12, 2017);

## GENERAL DEFINITORY

- with members of the CERC present: Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, dedicated a lot of time to the organization of the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter;
- granted permission to make expenditures toward the renovation of the friary in Niepokalanów-Lasek, Poland,
- suppressed the friary of St. John the Baptist in Halshany, Belarus, effective January 18, 2018;
- reviewed the program of meetings between the Minister General and some members of his Definitory with the Major Superiors attending the meeting with the newly-elected Ministers Provincial, Provincial Custodes and Provincial Secretaries held January 15-20, 2018, at the General Curia;
- with Friar Agnello STOIA present, was updated by him on the activities of the ByNode Association;
- listened to and commented on the report of the General Visitor, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, Assistant General for the FEMO, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the General Custody of Our Holy Father St. Francis in Russia;
- met with Friar Lauro Diogo APOLINARIO, General Archivist, listened to a report on his activities in 2017 and evaluated his plans for 2018;
- met with Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL, General Delegate for Communications, listened to a report on his activities in 2017 and evaluated his plans for 2018;
- met with Friar Dennis VARGAS, member of the Inter-Franciscan Emmaus Project
- dealt with some financial issues;
- was updated by the Minister General on the Franciscan University;
- decided that all of the friars affiliated to the General Custody of Russia can participate in their 2018 Ordinary Custodial Chapter
- considered some personal cases.

## Session February 12-13; 15-17, 2018

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

- approved all of the minutes for the meetings held November 27 – December 6, 2017, and January 8-11, 2018;
- with the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary-Transylvania, Friar Zsolt KALNA present, along with the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk) Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, evaluated and proposed a procedure for the suppression of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary-Transylvania and the transfer of its friars and friaries to the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland;
- with the Postulator General for the Causes of Saints, Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU present, accepted the request of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples) to initiate a cause for the beatification of Friar Antonio MANSI, co-founder of the Militia of the Immaculate and to resume the cause for the beatification of Friar Michele ABATE;
- was updated by Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU, on the causes for beatification for Veronica ANTAL, Friar Carlos MURIA and Companions, Friar Martin BENEDICT, Friar Didák Samuel KELEMEN, Friar Thomas of CELANO, and Bishop Francesco MAZZIERI;
- listened to and commented on reports from:
  - the General Visitor, Friar Benedetto BAEK, Assistant General for the FAMC, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Provincial Delegation of Vietnam;
  - the General Visitor, Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF, at the end of his general canonical visitation the Provincial Delegation of Australia;
  - the General Visitor, Friar John HEINZ, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the Province of St. Bonaventure in the USA;
- With the friars of the General Financial Office present (the General Econom, Friar Nicola ROSA; the General Exactor, Friar Wojciech KULIG; and the Legal Representative of the Order, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO) read and approved the 2017 final budget and the general administration budget for 2018;
- approved the distribution of financial aid for 2018 from the Fund for the Needs of the Order;
- examined some final balance sheets and budget plans of the financial administrations of the General Houses in Rome;
- examined and approved the final balance sheet for 2017 and the budget plan for 2018 of the “Seraphicum Holiday House”;
- approved some financial decisions;
- considered some proposals for collaboration between the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany and the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania;

- met with Friar Germano TOGNETTI, General Delegate for the Second Order and Affiliated Institutions; listened to a report on his activities in 2017 and evaluated his plans for 2018;
- met with the Secretary General for the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM) Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI and fellow SGAM member Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY, listened to a report on Friar Jarosław's activities in 2017 and evaluated his plans for 2018;
- listened to the reports of visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
  - from the Assistant General for the AFCOF, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, on the occasion of:
    - his meeting with the Definitories of the Provincial Custodies in Kenya (Nairobi, January 24-25, 2018); and Tanzania (Dar es Salaam, January 29, 2018); and the Definitory of the Province in Zambia (Ndola, February 7, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
    - his visit to the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia on the occasion of the meeting of the guardians of the Province (Olimje, January 23-24, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI on the occasion of:
    - the celebration of the second part of the Custodial Chapter of the Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America (Alajuela, Costa Rica, January 30 – February 2, 2018);
    - the FALC Federation Assembly (San Salvador, El Salvador, January 22-27, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedict BAEK, on the occasion of:
    - the celebration of the second part of the Ordinary Custodial Chapter of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines (Paranaque, January 22-26, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
    - his fraternal visit to the General Mission in Kazakhstan (Astana, January 23-27, 2018);
  - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquin AGESTA CUEVAS, on the occasion of:
    - of the meeting of the guardians of the Provinces of Southern Italy (Palermo, January 22-26, 2018);
    - the meeting of some members of the General Definitory with the Minister Provincial and the Provincial Secretary of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples) (Rome, January 16, 2016);
- granted the *nulla osta* to accept the parish of Santo Antônio do Menino Deus di in João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil;
- granted the *nulla osta* to alienate part of the friary in Faenza, Italia,
- considered some personal cases.

## Session March 24, 2018

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

- with members of the CERC present: Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, approved the proposal for a *Directory for the Celebration of the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter* and also for a *General Program* for the same Chapter, to be proposed to the Capitulars;
- planned the canonical visitations to the General Houses;
- confirmed Friar Lauro Diogo APOLINARIO in his position as General Archivist for a second four-year term.
- confirmed Friar Germano TOGNETTI in his position as *General Delegate for the Second Order and Affiliated Institutions* for a second four-year term.
- confirmed Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI in his positions as *Secretary General for Mission Animation* until the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter;
- confirmed Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY in his position as a Member of the General Secretariat for Mission Animation until the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter;
- confirmed Friar Silvestro BEJAN in his position as the *Delegate General for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue* until the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter;
- reviewed the calendar of meetings of the General Definitory for 2018 and 2019;
- suppressed the Immacolata Concezione friary in Catanzaro, Italy;
- dealt with some financial issues;
- considered some personal cases.

## Rome: Meeting of New Superiors

■ General Secretariat

**On January 15-19, 2018, the annual Meeting of the General Curia with the newly-elected Ministers Provincial, Provincial Custodes and Provincial Secretaries took place at the Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome.**

The attending Ministers Provincial were: Friar Aloisio DE OLIVEIRA of the Province of St. Francis in Brazil; Friar Cosimo ANTONINO of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples); Friar Vincenzo GIANNELLI of the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia); and Friar Mario CASTRO of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

The attending Custodes were: Friar Ciprian BUDAU of the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland; Friar Dariusz SZYMBORSKI of the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania; Friar José Andrés CASTRO FARAH of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Colombia; Friar Carlos Antonio CATALAN of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis in Bolivia; Friar Jorge DOBLES of the Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America; and Friar Ronaldo GOMES of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Brazil.

The attending Secretaries were: Friar José Hugo DA SILVA of the Province of Saint Francis in Brazil; Friar Ion HORVAT of the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis in Italy (Assisi); Friar Giorgio TUFANO of the Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples); Friar Alessandro PRETINI of the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy); Friar Andrea VAONA of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy); and Friar Fausto de Jesús RAMÍREZ ROSARIO of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

On the first day, the program included a presentation on the organization and duties of the General Definitory as well as that of the General Offices and Secretariats. In the afternoon there was a visit to the Kolbean Exhibition at the friary of St. Maximilian Kolbe on Via San Teodoro. The next day there was a meeting on the revision of the Constitutions, and another on economic management as well as a period for personal dialogue with the Regional Assistant General. On the third day, there was a presentation on the Promptuary for Procedural Practices between the Provincial, Custodial and General Curiae. After lunch, there was a visit to the archeological excavations under St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Thursday was dedicated to the discussion of specific cases with the Secretary General and the Procurator General. Next there was an opportunity to meet personally with the Minister General or the Area Assistant General. The last day was dedicated to a meeting with the members of the General Secretariat and a visit to the Basilica of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, of the New Martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, located on Tiber Island. The annual meeting closed with an update on the Order, presented by the Minister General and the Vicar General.

As always, the week was very worthwhile; it gave the newly elected officials an opportunity to examine the responsibilities and the realities of the Order and to make a comparison between their local problems and those of the entire fraternity.



The participants

## Announcement of the 2018 Chapter

■ General Secretariat

**On Saturday, January 6, 2018, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Minister General of the Friars Minor Conventual, Friar Marco TASCA, announced the 201st General Chapter. It shall begin on Tuesday, July 24, 2018.**

In keeping with the mandate of the 2013 Ordinary General Chapter, the Minister General has convoked the Extraordinary General Chapter to finalize and approve the text of the new Constitutions. The Chapter will be celebrated in Nemi (Rome) at the Centro *Ad Gentes* Retreat Center operated by the Society of the Divine Word. It will start on the afternoon of July 24, 2018, and presumably end on August 26.

The Capitulars will be called to give our Order a new spiritual and juridical interpretation, one which is more responsive to the times we live in. The confreres will discuss the text of the *Instrumentum laboris*, which is the result of the work of the International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions and the discussions held at the Conventual House Chapters of all our presences around the world.

Let us pray that this fraternal event may be, as our Seraphic Father St. Francis instructed, a time of listening to the Holy Spirit who calls us to follow and serve the Lord in our daily lives.

<http://www.ofmconv.net/lettere-del-ministro-generale/?lang=en>

## USA: Friar Donald KOS Returns to the House of the Father

■ General Secretariat

**Our confrere Friar Donald (Thaddeus) KOS reached his life's goal in Christ on February 4, 2018, in Enfield (MA-USA).**

We thank the Lord for giving him to us. We still feel his unobtrusive presence in the way he used to share his years of experience and profound wisdom, helping us resolve the difficulties of our life as brothers. We thank him once again for discreetly helping us to become better religious.

We sense Father Donald standing next to us still as he repeats: "Cui bono?" (Who, or what, will benefit from this?), thus helping us to sort out whatever was concerning us at the moment and making us anxious. From his simplicity and depth we could grasp what was really important, that our life was in Christ and that nothing else mattered.

May the Lord reward him fully for his many years of faithful service. May he be welcomed by the Good Shepherd at the gates of heaven: "Good and faithful servant, welcome to my home".



† Friar Donald KOS

# Commemoration and Prayer for Missionary Martyrs

■ Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK

**On Saturday, March 24, 2018, the Church celebrated a day of commemoration and prayer for contemporary missionary martyrs. On this special day, the Church prays and fasts for missions.**

Included among today's missionary martyrs are Blessed Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI and Blessed Michał TOMASZEK, two Conventual Franciscan friars from the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow). They were both martyred on August 9, 1991, in Pariacoto, Peru. They were beatified on December 5, 2015.

At the end of each year, *Agenzia Fides*, the news outlet of the Pontifical Mission Societies, publishes a list of missionaries and pastoral workers who had been killed the previous year.

In 2017, twenty-three people were killed: thirteen priests, a religious brother, a religious sister and eight lay persons. Most of the victims were killed in the Americas, where eleven pastoral care workers lost their lives: eight priests, a religious brother and two lay persons. In Africa, ten pastoral care workers were killed: four priests, a religious sister and five lay persons.

According to *Fides*, from 2000 to 2017, 447 people engaged in pastoral activities were killed, including five bishops.

The day commemorating contemporary missionary martyrs was established in 1993, on the initiative of the Italian Youth Movement of the Pontifical Mission Societies. It is celebrated on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Blessed Oscar Arnulfo ROMERO, the Metropolitan Archbishop of San Salvador, who openly opposed the violence perpetuated by the Salvadoran regime. He was shot dead on March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass in the hospital chapel.

## Vatican: Conventual Appointed Tribunal Judge

■ Office of Communications

**On Thursday 22 March 2018, Pope Francis appointed three new judges of the Ecclesiastical Court of the Vicariate of Vatican City. One of them is our confrere Friar Robert LEŻOHUPSKI, OFM Conv.**

Friar Robert was born on September 7, 1974 in Gdansk, Poland. From 1989 to 1993, he attended a classical lyceum [prestigious preparatory high school]. From 1993 to 1998 he studied at the University of Gdansk, where he graduated with a degree in law.

A year earlier (1997) he entered the Order of Friars Minor Conventual through the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk). He made his solemn vows in 2002 and was ordained a priest in 2004. He completed his Philosophical-Theological studies at the Major Seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Łódź Łagiewniki and graduated from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

In 2008, he obtained a doctorate in canon law at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

From 2009 to 2012, he worked at the Faculty of Theology in the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, as a professor of canon law. At the same time, he was the head of university pastoral care (the "Porziuncola" community at the friary).

In 2012 he left for the mission in Kenya, where - in addition to carrying out missionary and pastoral ministry for the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya, he also lectured in canon law at various universities and directed the Canon Law Department of Tangaza University College.



Friar Robert LEŻOHUPSKI



In 2016 he was called to work at the Apostolic Penitentiary Tribunal in the Vatican.

Now he teaches canon law (questions of internal forum) at the Pontifical Urban University of Rome.

He is a spiritual assistant to the “Teams of Our Lady” family community and to the “Faith and Light” movement founded on the spirituality of Jean Vanier.

His hobbies include hiking and climbing in the high mountains and studying history.

The Ecclesiastical Court of the Vicariate of Vatican City was instituted on November 21, 1987, by Pope St. John Paul II with his *motu proprio*, *Quo Civium Iura*. It was established for that part of the territory of the Diocese of Rome which falls within Vatican City. It is modeled on the diocesan tribunal, but the magistrates are appointed by the Supreme Pontiff and the appeal against its sentences can only be brought before the Roman Rota.

## Rome/Seraphicum: Feast of the Faculty

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO, Head of the Seraphicum Press Office

**On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, the feast of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) was held in honor of the Faculty’s patron saint, the Seraphic Doctor.**

The day started with Mass presided over by the Most Reverend Roberto CARBONI, OFM Conv., Bishop of Ales-Terralba (Sardinia, Italy). Bishop CARBONI has a close relationship with the Seraphicum. He is a former student and was ordained a deacon in the St. Bonaventure chapel by His Eminence, Virgilio Cardinal NOË. Bishop CARBONI was also once the Secretary General for Formation for the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

After the Mass, the academic part of the day began with greetings and an introduction by the Dean, Friar Dinh Anh Nhue NGUYEN. The Dean gave a detailed overview on various studies and new articles published by teachers during this academic year.

Next, the Rector of the European University of Rome, Father Pedro BARRAJÓN (Legionaries of Christ), lectured on the theme “Christian Wisdom According to St. Bonaventure: His Theological and Ecclesial Topicality”. Father Pedro was followed by Friar Enzo GALLI, OFM Conv., a Christology professor, who lectured on the theme “From Triplex Verbum to Divine Filiation: An Attempt to Actualize the Christological Thought of St. Bonaventure”. Both reports will be published in the next issue of the journal *Miscellanea Francescana* (June-July issue).

In keeping with the feast day, the Seraphic Doctor was honored by both presenters and, even earlier, by Bishop CARBONI, in his homily which pointed out that “in his life and doctrine St. Bonaventure had the ability to integrate, with rare mastery, the



In the lecture room

course that St. Francis had indicated for each minor friar; that he should study, not out of personal vanity, or in search of prestige, or worse, in search of riches, but rather out of service to the Word and to the friars. In fact, St. Bonaventure was a master at facilitating interaction between the love of Christ Crucified, the love of Scripture and the humble, constant, enlightened and sustained study of prayer”.

The path towards establishing a Franciscan University was well-represented with the presence of Sr. Mary MELONE (Franciscan Angelical Sisters), Rector of the Pontifical University of St. Anthony “Antonianum” in Rome, and Friar Luca BIANCHI, OFM Cap., Head of the Antonianum’s Franciscan Institute of Spirituality. The Franciscan University Project is something our own Bishop CARBONI actively worked on when he served as the Order’s Secretary General for Formation.

“Everyone knows,” continued Bishop CARBONI, “that establishing this unique Franciscan University is a big challenge. There is no doubt that this is an important ‘prophetic moment’ which calls for the involvement of the entire Franciscan family. It is a remarkable indication for the Church, which wants to teach us to dialogue, collaborate, share and find unity, in a world which, as we know, tends to put up walls of separation, walls of national and regional protectionism and walls that divide us into sects and groups”.

## Vatican: “24 Hours for the Lord”

■ Friar Lucjan M. BOGUCKI, Rector of the College of Vatican Penitentiaries/  
Photo: Friar Łukasz STANISZEWSKI, OFM Conv., Father Michał SIENNICKI, SAC

**On Friday, March 9, 2018, a penitential liturgy took place, along with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican. The event was part of an initiative called “24 Hours for the Lord.”**

Pope Francis presided over the solemn liturgy which included more than sixty priests hearing confessions. The Vicar of Christ himself first knelt before one of the priests to receive reconciliation and then sat in a confessional to hear the confessions of twelve penitents.

This year, the “24 Hours for the Lord” initiative, now in its fifth year, was guided by the words of Psalm 130:4 “With you is forgiveness.”

Prior to the evening celebration in the Basilica, the Pope held a midday meeting in the Paul VI Hall with the members of the Apostolic Penitentiary and the participants in the course on the internal forum for confessors. This course is organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary every year.



Some of our friar confessors

## Vatican: Feast of the College of Penitentiaries

■ Friar Lucjan M. BOGUCKI / Photo: Friar Ryszard PAROL

**February 22 is the liturgical feast of the Chair of Peter, Apostle. Each year on that date, the Apostolic College of Minor Penitentiaries in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican celebrates its own feast day.**

This year the celebration was postponed to Wednesday, February 28, 2018. This was because the Roman Curia was on retreat during February 18- 23.

The Vatican College's feast day served as a good opportunity to get to know the confessors from the other papal basilicas in Rome, as well as meet the officials and employees of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

This year's celebration was graced by the presence of His Eminence, Mauro Cardinal PIACENZA, Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary; the Reverend Krzysztof NYKIEL, Regent of the Penitentiary; and Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI, Secretary General of the Friars Minor Conventual.



The participants on the friar's roof terrace

## Brussels: International Youth Toward Assisi Team Meets

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

**On March 2-4, 2018, the team preparing the upcoming International Youth towards Assisi Meeting had their third organizing conference.**

The conference took place at the St. Anthony of Padua friary in Brussels, Belgium. The International Meeting is scheduled for August 12-19, 2018, in Assisi and Rome.

The International Youth Toward Assisi Meeting will bring together young people from our fraternities around the world. The theme of this year's International Meeting is: "Made to Shine: the Beauty of Holiness."

All of the organizing team members were present: Friars Giulio CESAREO, Francesco SCIALPI, Massimiliano VOLANTE, Jack MARDESIC, Miljenko HONTIĆ and Simone TENUTI, who is the executive organizer of the International Meeting.

Friar Jack MARDESIC and the guardian of the Brussels friary, Friar Daniel THÉVENET, along with members of his community, provided warm and fraternal

## NEWS

hospitality. For the first time, a new member was added to the organizing team, Friar Tomasz TEĢOWSKI. He represents the young members of the Militia of the Immaculate (M. I.) who will be participating in the event this August.

The organizing team finalized several themes for the International Meeting and will complete others later. The team members also clarified the situation regarding the meeting of the "Italian Youth" with the Holy Father. That meeting will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 11-12, 2018, in preparation for the Synod on Youth. Those young people of ours who can and want to arrive early will thus be able to participate in the meeting with the Pope.

In addition, for the first time, an estimate was made of the International Meeting's expenses and some solutions were hypothesized to reduce costs.

The International Meeting will start in Assisi and will move to Rome for its final two and a half days. The closing Mass will be on Sunday, August 19, 2018, with Minister General Friar Marco TASCA presiding and participants in the Extraordinary General Chapter on the Constitutions concelebrating. Finally, on the same day, the friars may participate in the Angelus of Pope Francis.

On Sunday March 4, 2018, the organizing team attended Mass at our St. Anthony church in Brussels. Many of the faithful participated in this lively celebration.

After the team finished its work, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) and Friar Bart DE PAEPE, visited the nursing home in Halle, Brussels, where Friar Mark BRUSSELAERS lives. He is our oldest Belgian friar and a member of the Dutch Delegation. Friar Mark turns 93 this March and has just finished writing a book on Franciscan history in Belgium and Holland.



The team

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

 GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION

Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL  
Secretary General of the SGF



## Rome: Meeting of Province Animators

■ Friar Simone TENUTI

**If someone focused only on the title, “The Annual Meeting of Provincial Animators of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, for the Pastoral Care of Young People and Vocations” he might become a bit fearful.**

In fact, every year, friars and nuns who do youth and vocation ministry in Italy gather together to evaluate and plan for the Italian “Youth Towards Assisi” Meeting. They tackle some common questions and engage in a little formation.

This year, 2018, it was decided to have this fraternal meeting in Rome, at the Seraphicum, to be exact. From Monday January 8, to Friday January 12, 2018, work sessions in assembly and small groups alternated with various outings and pilgrimages.

Wednesday was devoted to discussions led by two different presenters. The first took place in the morning at “Casa Kolbe”. Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, our Order’s Secretary General for Formation (SGF), led a discussion on the criteria for entry into the postulancy program. This material was prepared by vocation ministers from various Provinces and had been submitted to the Ministers Provincial of the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP). It provided us with a broader view, and at the same time, confirmed some of the underlying ideas found in Franciscan Discipleship. In addition, this was a chance for many of us to visit one of Italy’s Kolbean sites.

In the afternoon, Father Michele FALABRETTI head of the National Youth Pastoral Service of the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI), made a presentation on the Synod of Bishops on Young People. He reported the results of a previous work, using a data sheet about the Synod.

Thursday was another special day. In the morning we visited the TeleGiornale 1 news studio (TG1) at Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI) [Italy’s national public broadcasting company] in Rome’s Saxa Rubra area. This is a world where communication really matters. Therefore, it was very interesting to have a simple and fraternal meeting with journalists and technicians in order to better understand how news programs are conceived and structured. There was an opportunity to attend a recording of TG1’s show “Dialogo” and to meet journalist Piero DAMOSSO. Impressed by the care and attention to detail that goes into the work of those who labor in the information field, we should be aware of how much passion our friars and sisters should invest in their leadership. As leaders, we are charged with helping young people grow in the life of faith, a faith which must be communicated and transmitted in the best way. That’s why after visiting RAI in Saxa Rubra, we made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Peter, in order to learn to be witnesses of the most beautiful news, the supreme Good News: the Gospel.



The vocation animators

## GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR MISSION ANIMATION

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI  
Secretary General of the SGAM



## Final Farewell to a Martyr's Mother

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**On Monday, January 15, 2018, the funeral of Mrs. Franciszka STRZAŁKOWSKA, mother of our Blessed Zbigniew Strzałkowski, Martyr of Pariacoto, was held in Zawada, Poland.**

The funeral ceremonies took place in a small parish church on St. Martin's Peak in Zawada. Many priests and Franciscan friars came to pay their last respects, as well as Franciszka's two sons, Bogdan and Andrzej, and other family members, friends and residents from Zawada and the surrounding area.

At 1:30 p.m., Friar Dariusz GACZYŃSKI, the Provincial Secretary for Mission Animation for the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow), led a recitation of the Rosary.

The funeral Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Andrzej JEŻ, Bishop of the Diocese of Tarnów, Poland. At the beginning of the liturgy he said: "Franciszka STRZAŁKOWSKA visited this church to immerse herself in the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity and experience closeness with Mary."

Friar Marian GOŁĄB, the Minister Provincial of Cracow, concelebrated at the funeral Mass. His eulogy was filled with faith and hope. In it, he mentioned that Blessed Zbigniew's mother, who lived eighty-five years, was now enjoying eternal life with her son.

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM), represented Minister General Friar Marco TASCA. His homily referenced the Liturgy of the Word, calling mother Franciszka a woman of great faith, close to the truth, having walked throughout her life alongside Jesus. Jesus not only gave her the grace of a beautiful life, but also the great gift of being able to forgive her son's persecutors.

As his homily continued, he cited some condolence letters from Peru. Among them were letters from the Most Reverend Salvador Piñeiro GARCÍA-CALDERÓN, Archbishop of Huamanga, Ayacucho, and President of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference; the Most Reverend Luis Armando BAMBARÉN GASTELUMENDÍ, S.J., Bishop Emeritus of Chimbote; Maria Elvira VELÁSQUEZ RIVAS-PLATA, Peru's Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome; Father Rafael REÁTEGUI; and many parishes in Pariacoto and Lima.

Franciszka STRZAŁKOWSKA's funeral was a grand celebration of thanksgiving for her life and for her having given Blessed Zbigniew to the Order and the Church. Her son remained faithful to Christ and the poor to the point of martyrdom.



† Franciszka STRZAŁKOWSKA

## Panama: Towards WYD 2019

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**On January 22-28, 2018, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) participated in the Assembly of the FALC in El Salvador.**

He also visited Panama to study and to present ways the five Franciscan Orders can participate in World Youth Day 2019 (WYD) to be held in Panama.

In El Salvador, Friar Jarosław presented a plan to the Major Superiors to involve the Franciscan family in WYD in Panama. He proposed that the Superiors choose young friars who have the enthusiasm and the desire to participate in this event.

The general objective of the Franciscan family's participation in WYD is:

- to form a traveling fraternity of members of the five Orders, from different countries or Jurisdictions, who would then participate in World Youth Day in Panama.
- to be examples of our charism among the people and the teachings of Pope Francis, to be a Church with open doors, to guide young people so that they can become a Church of communion and participation in their own various home environments.
- to help others rediscover the vocation to service, to which every young person is called.

After arriving in Panama, Friar Jarosław was hosted by the OFM community in the parish of San Antonio de Padua in Panama City. With him was the National Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), Mr. Ramón LLORACH. Together they visited the offices of WYD International and other places that are part of the plan to be implemented. He then visited the community of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate and their "Colegio Internacional", a place that will probably provide accommodations and serve as the home base for the new temporary traveling community made up of the five Franciscan Orders.

In addition to the official visits to the various entities, a tour was made to the places where WYD will be held in Panama, in an attempt to find out where it will be possible to carry out the mission.

## Warsaw: Meeting of Mission Animators

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**On March 14-15, 2018, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM) met with the Provincial Secretaries for Missionary Animation from the three Provinces in Poland.**

The meeting took place at the friary in Warsaw.

The participants included Friar Eugeniusz RÓŻAŃSKI from the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw); Friar Dariusz GACZYŃSKI from the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow) and Friar Robert KOZIELSKI from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk).

The main theme of the meeting was fostering collaborative mission promotion among all the Provinces of the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO).

The secretaries reported on their latest activities and the practical, collaborative initiatives between our friars and those of other Provinces within the Franciscan Family (OFM and OFM Cap.).

Friar Jarosław reported on SGAM activities; the revision of the Directory for Missions; the promotion of the feast day of the Martyrs of Peru; the preparatory courses in Brussels for new missionaries; and various emerging missions. In September of this year, there will be a workshop for new Provincial mission animators who are members of the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) as well as for those in the FEMO Federation.



The mission animators with the Minister Provincial and the SGAM Assistant General

## Romania: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

**On February 18-25, 2018, Friars Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI and Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY from the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation [SGAM], together with Friar Joseph BLAY, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation [GPIC], carried out missionary animation in Romania.**

This initiative focused on missionary spirituality, Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and finally, the current status of the missions in our Order. There was a discussion on the experience of missionary service in Peru and testimony on our Order's recently beatified Friars Michał TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.

Friars Jarosław, Alphonse and Joseph visited several fraternities in the Province.

The fraternity in Bucharest (Romania's capital) is doing some study and discernment over its own identity (mission and presence among the poor).

The fraternity in Roman is a post-novitiate formation house with thirty-nine friars studying philosophy and theology. They are led by their formators, Friar Marius BILHA, Rector; Friar Iosif CADAR, Vice-Rector; and Friar Marius VĂTĂMĂNELU, Spiritual Director.

The fraternity in Vișoara is a postulancy house with five candidates and a stable fraternity of four friars. They are led by Friar Cătălin FABIAN, Rector; Friar Virgil PETRIȘOR Vice-Rector; and Friar Adrian MIHĂLCUT, Spiritual director.

The fraternity in Prăjești is a novitiate house. There are four novices this year. The Novice Master is Friar Augustin PĂTRAȘCU, and his Assistant is Friar Alexandru OLARU.

Friars Jarosław, Alphonse and Joseph also made a fraternal visit to the novitiate community in Galbeni, the hometown of the Servant of God Martin BENEDICT.

They also enjoyed some beautiful prayer experiences with the Missionary Sisters of Charity in Bucharest and Bacău, as well as with the Benedictine Sisters of Vișoara.

While visiting our communities in Romania, the first thing that struck us was their spirit of joy, hospitality and communion and the spirit of prayer and work they share together. It was something very simple yet fundamental. We also enjoyed the wonderful way the formators of all the formation houses hosted and guided us.

We hope our friars in Romania will fully embrace two fundamental aspects of our religious life: remembrance and proclamation. These always refer to the Gospel of Jesus, to whom we must all conform our lives as believers and brothers to others.



The participants



# A Month of Commemorating Martyrs

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

## “Migrants and Refugees—Men and Women in Search of Peace” (Pope Francis, World Day of Peace, 2018)

On March 24, 2018, inspired by the message above, priests, religious men and women and lay persons gathered at 4:00 p.m. near Castel Sant’ Angelo in Rome, to celebrate the Day of Missionary Martyrs. From Castel Sant’ Angelo they processed down Lungotevere Boulevard. After the prayer march, they celebrated the commemorative Mass for Blessed Oscar ROMERO, at 6.30 p.m., in the church of Santa Maria della Luce in Rome’s Trastevere section.

A few days later, in the middle of Holy Week, bishops, priests, religious and lay people gathered together with members of the St. Egidio Community to commemorate those who gave their lives as witnesses of charity and who gave their lives for the Gospel. It is important to mention that representatives of several other churches and religions were present as well. The celebration took place on Tuesday, March 27th at 6:30 p.m., at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere. A Liturgy of the Word was presided over by His Eminence Marc Cardinal OUELLET, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops. “We commemorate the martyrs to restore hope and peace to all: it is our challenge to love more,” the cardinal said during his homily.

In the same spirit of commemorating the martyrs whose light and strength help humanize the world, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, OFM Conv., led fraternal discussions about the martyrs of Pariacoto. These discussions took place in March at various formation and mission animation events. Among them was a meeting with the Provincial Secretaries of the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO); a meeting with the “Magnificat” community in Kolumna, Poland; with other religious communities; and with refugees in Rome.

Reflecting on martyrdom leads us to Jesus, the culmination of God’s history of love and care for humanity. Therefore, commemorating the martyrs means opening one’s heart and eyes for a more humane future, for a Church that increasingly conforms to the spirit of the Gospel.



Stations of the Cross on the streets of Rome

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

Friar Joseph BLAY  
General Delegate for GPIC



## Kenya: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

**Friar Joseph BLAY, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC) visited Kenya this year with two goals in mind.**

The first was to present a seminar to our student-friars in Nairobi on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. The second was to visit the Village of Mary, Mother of God, the National Marian Shrine located in Subukia, Kenya.

Friar Joseph arrived in Nairobi on January 29, 2018, and returned to Rome on Sunday, February 4, 2018. The Delegate General stayed at the Custodial Curia and parish friary in Nairobi South C.

The good news is that the formation house in Nairobi is full to the brim, with no room for any visitor whatsoever. There are fifty-two seminarians: twenty-two from Zambia, twelve from Ghana, eight from Kenya, nine from Tanzania, and one from Malawi. The Delegate General remembers twenty-four years ago when the common formation house of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) was just getting started. At that time, there were nine student-friars: two from Kenya, two from Ghana, and five from Poland. With their two formators, they formed a community of eleven friars.

On Tuesday, February 1, the Delegate General met with the fifty-two student friars after supper. Although the seminar lasted an hour and forty-five minutes, it was not long enough to exhaust the topic. After discovering that only a few friars had thoroughly read *Laudato si'* the Delegate General spent more time to introducing the encyclical. He pointed out that the encyclical is the Pope's thesis on the environment. According to the Delegate General the overall assertion of the social encyclical is this: "Should the pace of modern development continue as it is and nothing is done to repair the damage of



The shrine in Subukia

human activities to the natural environment, the earth will not be able to sustain future generations.” Both the student-friars and the Delegate General agree that the next time, such a seminar should be given a full day or two.

On Thursday, February 1, the Delegate General and Friar Kazimierz SZULC, the Provincial Custos of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya traveled together to Subukia.

Over the next two days, Friar Joseph practically walked the entire length and breadth of the beautiful 240 acres comprising the National Marian Shrine, the Village of Mary, Mother of God. The Shrine is a source of spiritual delight for thousands of Catholics and others who visit the site. In addition, it is an ideal setting for an ecological village. The Shrine has a miraculous spring gushing from a mountain. The friars have channeled the spring to provide water for the pilgrims and for the friar’s domestic and agricultural use. They intend to devote twenty-five acres of the land to planting trees. Friar Joseph germinated some seeds to symbolize the beginning of this new project. There is also ample space for the friars to produce solar energy. The friars have forty cows and fifty-two sheep. They have a vegetable farm and a poultry farm. If the friars get funding for planting the trees and producing solar energy, the Subukia Shrine will be a working showpiece of *Laudato si’*.

The Delegate General’s visit coincided with the national pilgrimage of the Catholic Women Association of Kenya to the Shrine. The pilgrimage took place on Saturday, February 3, with over 10,000 pilgrims participating. Friar Joseph assisted in hearing confessions and returned later that evening to Nairobi with the Custos.

## Tanzania: Formation Seminar for Novices

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

**On Wednesday, January 24, 2018, Friar Joseph BLAY, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC), arrived at Kilimanjaro airport to give a seminar to the novices in Arusha, Tanzania.**

The Novice Master, Friar Denis NTABO, gave Friar Joseph a warm, fraternal welcome as he picked him up to take him to the novitiate. The novitiate has eight novices: one from Uganda, three from Tanzania and four from Kenya. Friar Francis MUMBURI is the guardian and also assists in the formation of the novices.

The St. Anthony of Padua novitiate and friary at Arusha is situated on twenty-four square acres of land, located at the foot of Mount Meru, the third highest mountain in Africa. The western border of the novitiate property is flanked by a beautiful river which springs from the mountain. Upon entering the novitiate, practically everything indicates that the friars are real sons of St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Ecology. There are big forest



The novices during the outing

trees planted by the friars, different tropical fruit trees, a banana plantation, a vegetable garden, a maize farm, a field for fodder, a cattle and goat ranch, a pig farm and a fish pond. All this confirms a copious amount of “Franciscan DNA” – Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC) –in the formation bloodstream of the novices. At table, about eighty percent of the food comes from their farm produce.

The seminar took place on Friday, January 26. Friar Joseph integrated the seminar with the natural environment. He underlined how issues of justice, peace and integrity of creation form the core of our Franciscan charism and way of life. On Saturday, Friar Joseph accompanied the novices to the Usa River. They hiked about seventy meters [230 feet] upstream. It is relevant to note that not a single piece of plastic waste was found in the river. This is a big credit to the Polisingizi people who live along the river. To the novices, it was a time for fun, awe and contemplation. Surprisingly, it was also the first time some of them had ever stepped foot in that river. At one point, the Delegate and the novices sat on the rocks and contemplated the trickling flow of water. They prayed Psalm 148 and sang the praises of God. They also prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet and asked the Lord’s intercession for the care of creation, justice and peace in our world.

On Monday, January 29, 2018, the Delegate General for GPIC departed Tanzania for Kenya.

## Romania: GPIC Animation

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

**On February 18-25, 2018, Friar Joseph BLAY, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation together with Friars Jarosław WYSOZKAŃSKI and Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY from the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM), visited the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania to witness some of the friars’ pastoral activities in the area of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.**

In Bucharest, all three visitors took part in an initiative to feed the poor and homeless. Our friars distribute food every night to more than seventy people, food which comes to them from Providence.

At Roman, the Province operates the “Peace Foundation”, where the friars provide schooling for gypsy youngsters and other poor children. The friars provide food, clothing and teach reading and writing to children preparing for public school. Friar Lucian BOBÂRNAC is the head of the Foundation. Every day the friars pick up children from the neighborhood and provide them with schooling and after school activities, then, they bring them back to their parents.

Our confreres offer spiritual assistance to the Missionary Sisters of Charity. In Bucharest and Bacău, the friars have a close relationship with Mother Teresa’s sisters, as well as with the sick and disabled. Their formation activities very often integrate the Franciscan values of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation. The seminarians in Roman, the novices of Prăjești and the postulants of Viișoara, were able to discover that we Franciscans are privileged to embody the values asked for and required by the encyclical *Laudato si’*.

The visitors experienced extraordinary hospitality and fraternity at each community they visited. The landscape surrounding them was beautiful, white, and icy-cold.

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■ OFFICE OF THE POSTULATOR GENERAL

Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU  
Postulator General



## Padua: The Italian President “Meets” the Servant of God

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**On Thursday, February 8, 2018,  
the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio MATTARELLA,  
bestowed the gold Medal of Civil Merit upon the Servant of God  
Friar Placido CORTESE, OFM Conv. (1907-1944).**

The President delivered the medal to the friars of the Basilica of St. Anthony at a private ceremony in a room of the Rectorate of the University of Padua.

The Servant of God was once the director of the Saint Anthony Messenger. During World War II, he worked tirelessly helping political prisoners, war interns and persecuted Jews.

Our confrere’s humanitarian efforts led to his being tortured and killed by the Nazi Gestapo.

Along with the gold medal, the friars were given a parchment explaining why the commemorative medal was being conferred. It said: “Director of the St. Anthony Messenger, during the Second World War and during the Resistance period he worked, with extraordinary charitable commitment and in spite of significant personal risk, to benefit prisoners interned at a nearby concentration camp, providing them with food, clothing and money. After September 8, 1943, he became part of a clandestine group linked to the Resistance and succeeded in helping numerous Jewish citizens and allied soldiers flee abroad by procuring false documents for them. He was arrested for this activity in 1944 and was transferred to the Trieste prison, from which he did not return. He is a shining example of high Christian values and dedication to the service of civil society. 1942-1944 - Padua “(see Alberto FRISO, *Messaggero di Sant’Antonio*, February 8, 2018).

The cause for the beatification of Servant of God Friar Placido CORTESE has already gone to Rome. Having passed the historic Commission, it is now waiting to be discussed in the Theological Commission.

We invite everyone to pray and to ask for the intercession of Servant of God Friar Placido, so that he may be raised to the glory of the altars as soon as possible.



The Italian President  
with the friars of the Basilica  
of St. Anthony of Padua

## Vatican: Veronica ANTAL, Martyr, Soon to Be Beatified

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**On January 26, 2018, the Holy Father Francis held an audience with His Eminence, Angelo Cardinal AMATO, S.D.B., Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.**

During the audience, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the Congregation to promulgate the Decree concerning the martyrdom of Servant of God Veronica, ANTAL. Veronica, a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, was born on December 7, 1935, in Nisiporești, Romania. She was killed in hatred of the Faith on August 24, 1958, in Hălăucești, Romania.

Her cause was begun in 2003, in the Diocese of Iași, by the Province of St. Joseph in Romania of the Friars Minor Conventual. This effort was led by the Province's then Vice-Postulator and later external collaborator and Postulator General, Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU.

Veronica owed her religious education to her grandmother, Serafina. Since Veronica's parents were working in the fields most of the time, it was up to the elderly woman to take care of her grandchildren's faith and judging by the fruits of her labors, one can only rejoice with her. At the same time, she taught Veronica how to work hard and was already giving her small jobs when she was only four. Therefore, when Veronica was seven, it was not too tiring to work with her parents in the fields and still regularly attend elementary school. This early preparation and an increased sensitivity were the only special traits of the child, who was otherwise no different from the rest of her companions. Her mother had even started raising funds for Veronica's dowry, to which Veronica contributed with her sewing work. All of this predicted that marriage was part of the plan (or at least that is what her mother hoped for), even though small signs of Veronica's particular predisposition towards spiritual matters would not be long in coming.

When Veronica was 16 or 17 years old, her religious vocation suddenly took wing and she desired to enter a convent of Franciscan nuns in the nearby village of Hălăucești. To say that her mother was less than enthusiastic would be an understatement. Her motherly heart offered every possible objection, but this only had the effect of strengthening Veronica's desire for religious life. Nevertheless, Veronica would also have to contend with the socio-political climate Romania was subjected to as a Soviet satellite. State imposed atheism meant closure for religious congregations. Veronica understood that all this would, at the very least, end up delaying the fulfillment of her desire. She therefore "adapted" and was content to cultivate her own vocation, with a cloistered lifestyle, within the walls of her house. She set up a small room inside for her to contemplate and pray. In the meantime, she became the very soul of the pastoral life in her parish. She taught catechism, led the choir and visited the sick—just as any nun would do. Some, in fact, called her a nun and it did not displease her at all, for that was how she lived and dressed. She enrolled in the Franciscan Third Order and later joined Father Kolbe's



Servant of God  
Veronica ANTAL



A piece of cloth with the  
martyr's blood

## GENERAL OFFICES – [POSTULATION]

Militia of the Immaculate. Finally, she professed her own private vow of chastity. Her spirituality became robust; she was nourished by the Eucharist and illuminated by the Rosary. Every morning, she traveled eight kilometers to the church in Hălăucești, where she arrived before dawn with a group of friends to attend daily Mass.

Unfortunately, she was alone on the evening of August 24, 1958. As she was returning from the same church, where she worked so hard and where the Sacrament of Confirmation had been administered earlier that afternoon, a young man from the countryside attacked her as she passed a corn field. He tried in vain to rape her (as her autopsy attested) and ended up stabbing her forty-two times. Right around that time, Veronica had been reading the biography of Maria GORETTI (canonized only a few years before) and had confided to two friends that she too would behave like that. “I belong to Jesus and Jesus is mine,” she wrote on a piece of paper. She preferred remaining faithful to Him until death.

The beatification of the Venerable Servant of God Veronica ANTAL, a Third Order Franciscan, will take place on September 22, 2018, in Nisiporești, Romania. The Holy Father will be represented by His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

## Rome: Opening of the “Collanian Year”

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**On Saturday March 10, 2018, the Postulator General of the Conventual Franciscans, Friar Damian Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU, attended the opening of the Collanian Year at the parish church of San Girolamo Emiliani in Rome.**

The Collanian Year is celebrated in honor of the Servant of God, Sister Maria Santina COLLANI, (1914-1956) of the Institute of Merciful Sisters.

The Most Reverend Giuseppe MANI, Archbishop Emeritus of Cagliari, Italy, presided over Mass. Those concelebrating included the Postulator General, the Minister General of the Somascan Fathers, and the local pastor. Many nuns from the Institute of Merciful Sisters attended along with a large number of faithful.

The Archbishop said that the “Servant of God Maria Santina COLLANI is a living image of the Gospel and if we want to become saints, we should follow her example.”



Sisters of the Institute of Merciful Sisters together with some lay faithful

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## Florence: “Light from Light” Exhibition

■ Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU

**On Saturday, March 24, 2018, Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU, the Postulator General, visited the “Light from Light” Exhibition in the Upper Room of the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy.**

The event was organized by the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence, in the Cenacle of Santa Croce, in collaboration with the Association of Friends of Santa Croce; the Romanian Orthodox Deanery of Tuscany; the “RomanArt Gallery”; the “2Alter.NATIVA” Cultural Association; the Theological Study Center for laypersons; and the City of Life Magazine, Florence, with support from the Romanian Embassy to the Holy See; the Regional Council of Tuscany; and the Municipality of Florence.

This ecumenical event was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Unification of Romania, which occurs this year.

At the same exhibition, a book was presented called “Icoana, Chipul Slavei Tale Celei Negrăite” (Icon, the Inexpressible Face of Your Glory), published by New City Magazine, Florence. The authors are Father Constantin NECULA, an Orthodox priest and a professor at the St. Andrei Șaguna Orthodox Theological Faculty at the University of Sibiu (Romania) and Friar Eugen RĂCHITEANU, OFM Conv., Director of the City of Life Magazine. The speakers emphasized how the icon, both the western and the eastern one, unites the two churches, as long as it not reduced to purely a work of art. Its purpose, being more spiritual and theological, is to lead one to contemplate the face of God and also that of man, made divine in the image of the Creator. Finally, a collection of beautiful Orthodox icons was displayed. They had been brought to Italy by the owners of the RomanArt Gallery, husband and wife team Cezar and Rodica PĂDURARU. The icons will be exhibited in the Upper Room of Santa Croce until April 15 of this year.



Some works of the exhibition

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



## GENERAL ASSISTANT OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ORDER

Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU  
General Assistant of the OFS



## Korea: OFS Elective Chapter

■ Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU

**On January 26-28, 2018, the National Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order [OFS] of Korea was held at the Friars Minor Conventual Retreat Center in Seoul.**

Mr. Tibor KAUSER, the OFS Minister General, presided. He was assisted by the OFS General Assistant, Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU, OFM Conv. The theme of the Chapter was: “As the Father Has Sent Me, So I Send You” (John 20:21). The opening Mass was presided over by Friar Leonard KIM, OFM, the current President of the Conference of Spiritual Assistants to the Secular Franciscan Order in Korea.

Eighty-seven of the eighty-nine Capitulars summoned were present. On the first day, Tibor KAUSER gave a presentation on the theme of the Chapter. On the second day, Saturday, Friar Alfred spoke about spiritual assistance in light of the current OFS Rule and Constitutions.

Also on the second day, Friar Marco Jincheol JEONG, OFM Conv., Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Korea, presided over Mass. Later that day, Mr. Joseph SON was elected to his first term as OFS National Minister.

The next morning, Tibor, Friar Alfred, and Mr. Augustine YOON, Councilor of the Presidency, participated in the monthly meeting of a local OFS fraternity. Afterwards, they visited the OFS national office. Minister Provincial Friar Ho MYUNG-HWAN, OFM, presided over the closing Mass, during which the new OFS National Minister and OFS National Council were installed by Tibor KAUSER.

After the Chapter, Tibor and Friar Alfred met with both the outgoing and incoming OFS Council members. The entire Chapter took place in a spirit of discussion, dialogue and deep fraternity.



The participants

## Kenya: Annual Retreat and Other Meetings

■ Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU

**From January 8-12, 2018, Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU, the General Assistant for the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), preached the annual spiritual retreat for our friars in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.**

The theme of the retreat was “The Topicality of St. Francis’ Spirituality as Reflected in His Life and Writings.” The retreat took place at the retreat center next to the Franciscan friary in Subukia, Kenya.

On Sunday, January 14, Friar Alfred met with the OFS National Council in Kenya. The Secular Franciscans greatly appreciate the spiritual assistance of our friars.

In the evening of January 16, Friar Alfred held a meeting with our clerical students at the College of St. Bonaventure in Nairobi. He spoke about the presence of the Secular Franciscans in the world and the spiritual assistance the friars should provide for them.

The Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya is dependent on the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdansk).

The Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania is dependent on the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw).

The Provincial Delegation of Uganda is dependent on the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow).



The participants

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

■ GENERAL DELEGATE FOR THE II ORDER AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTE

Friar Germano TOGNETTI  
General Delegate for the II Order



## Cracow: Poland's President Visits Poor Clares

■ The Poor Clares of Cracow

**On the afternoon of Saturday, March 10, 2018, the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej DUDA, crossed over the threshold and entered the monastery of the Poor Clares located on Grodzka Street in Cracow.**

His visit was a pleasant surprise and a great honor for the sisters. It was something they hoped would happen, but had not planned on.

This unusual meeting took place during this year's jubilee celebrating the 750th anniversary of the death of Blessed Salomea. Currently, the Poor Clare community has been offering special prayers for the country through the "Novena of the Months" which invokes the intercession of our Blessed.

The President's visit provided an opportunity for conversing, asking questions, taking pictures, and above all, praying for the country in front of the relics of Blessed Salomea. She became Poland's first Poor Clare during the time of the Piast dynasty.



The President of Poland with the Poor Clares of Cracow

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 GENERAL FINANCIAL OFFICE


SOME THANK  
YOU NOTES...

**FOR MASS OFFERINGS:**

- Parish of the Twelve Holy Apostles, Rome, Italy
- Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- Prov. of Slovenia

**FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ORDER:**

- Prov. of OLC, USA
- Prov. of Spain
- Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy

**FOR THE MISSIONS:**

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

**FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- Prov. of Warsaw, Poland
- Prov. of Spain
- Deleg. of Holland

**FOR THE FORMATION FUND:**

- Deleg. of Holland
- Prov. of Warsaw, Poland
- Cust. of the Immac. Conc., Brazil
- Cust. of Canada
- Prov. of Japan
- Prov. of SB, USA

**THANKS**

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

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

We extend our thanks to you all!

## AFRICAN FEDERATION OF CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS

Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI  
Assistant General for the AFCOF



# The Assistant General Remembers a Missionary

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**On January 11, 2018, a funeral took place for a young missionary of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland. Services for Friar Dariusz DEMBKOWSKI were held at the Conventual Franciscan church in Gdańsk, at the Provincial Curia.**

Friar Dariusz was 49. He was affiliated “in perpetuity” to the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya.

Friar Dariusz was the first missionary of the Province and the Custody to be called home by the Lord. He left us after a long and very serious illness.

His funeral was celebrated in two significant stages. At 9:00 p.m. on January 10, the friars of the Province gathered with the Minister Provincial Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI and his Definitory, along with the friar’s mother and the family. They prayed Evening Prayer for the dead and took part in a Mass presided over by the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI. Friar Tadeusz also attended on behalf of the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA. The Provincial Custos of Kenya, Friar Kazimierz SZULC gave the homily.

At 11.00 a.m. on the following day, friars from the Provinces of Gdańsk and Warsaw, including the Minister Provincial of Warsaw, Friar Wiesław PYZIO, gathered with other friars from Canada, Germany and the United States. They were joined by clerical students from Łagiewniki, Poland, among them, two Kenyans studying there, and numerous faithful. Together they filled the immense Gothic church of Gdańsk which dates back to 1400. The liturgy began with praises for the dead and ended with Mass and funeral rites at the Province sepulcher. The Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Zbigniew ZIELIŃSKI, Bishop of Gdańsk, who has been a great and long-time friend of the friars. The Minister Provincial, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, gave the homily. In it, he emphasized the great zeal, commitment, obedience and joy with which Friar Dariusz served God, the Church, the Order and his missions (19 years in Kenya and 5 years in Canada).

Friar Dariusz was a very jovial and kind friar. He was ready to offer help whenever it was needed. He really enjoyed living in a Franciscan community and creating a true fraternal atmosphere. He was much loved by the faithful in each of the places where he was sent under obedience. He gladly proclaimed the Word of God in simple terms, wanting to reach the hearts of all people. There was no treatment for his disease and he endured his “calvary” with great patience and without complaint, until his final breath.

We pray that the Lord will repay him with the gift of eternal life.



† Friar Dariusz DEMBKOWSKI

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## Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia: Fraternal Visits

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**From January 22 to February 8, 2018, the Assistant General for AFCOF, took part in the Definitory meetings of three Jurisdictions: the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya, the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania, and the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia.**

These fraternal visits are being carried out by the General Definitors, on behalf of the Minister General, in order to assist the governments of the Jurisdictions in their task of animating and planning various activities. In particular, the Visitorator evaluated the state of implementation of the Provincial/Custodial Four-Year Plans which had been adopted and enacted at the Ordinary Chapters of each Jurisdiction.

The Definitors of the aforementioned Jurisdictions are:

- Kenya: Friar Kazimierz SZULC, Custos; Friar Joseph KIKUYU, Vicar Custos; Friar Hillary RADUK, Custodial Secretary; Friar Blasio OOKO, Postulancy Director; and Friar Bernard WAWERU, Pastor.

- Tanzania: Friar Dariusz SZYMBORSKI, Custos; Friar Benson MAPUNDA, Vicar Custos and Custodial Secretary; Friar Mieczysław BEDNARCZYK, Econom; Friar Jerome MUNISHI, guardian; and Friar Laurian LASWAY, Pastor.

- Zambia: Friar Richard CHIMFWEMBE, Minister Provincial; Friar Mathew KASONGO, Provincial Secretary; Friar Joseph KACHELEWA, Postulancy Director; Friar Maximilian MAROZZI, Pastor; Friar Innocent MUBANGA, teacher; Friar Hillary MULENGA, guardian; Friar Timothy KAYULA, guardian, and Friar James CHISHIMBA, Definitor.



The Definitory of the Custody in Kenya



The Definitory of the Custody in Tanzania



The Definitory of the Province in Zambia

## Zambia: Visit to the Novitiate

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**On February 5, 2018, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO, the Procurator of the Order and Friar Richard CHIMFWEMBE, the Minister Provincial of Zambia, together visited the AFCOF Federation Common Novitiate in Itimpi, Zambia.**

They met with the novices for purpose of animation and providing information on structures within the Order and on various issues the Order faces.

There are currently eight novices in Itimpi: seven from Zambia and one from Malawi. The Novice Master is Friar Ryan MUTAYOMBA. He is assisted by a friar-deacon. The novitiate is located at a friary where the friars teach at an eight-year primary school and manage a nearby spiritual retreat center.



The novices with the AFCOF Assistant General and the Procurator General

## Tanzania: Conventual Franciscan Education Promoters

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**On January 27, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. KOLBE in Tanzania celebrated the tenth anniversary of the “St. Maximilian Education Center”.**

The celebration began at the parish church in Segerea (Dar es Salaam) with a Mass presided over by the Most Reverend, Marek SOLCZYŃSKI, Titular Archbishop of Caesarea in Mauretania and Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania. He was accompanied by the Most Reverend Jerzy MAZUR, S.V.D., Bishop of Ełk, Poland, and Delegate of the Polish Episcopate for Missions; Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF); and Friar Wiesław CHABROS, the Provincial Econom for the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw).

In addition, there were numerous friars and other missionaries, religious and lay people from various dioceses in Tanzania attending. Also present was Mr. Krzysztof BUZALSKI, the Polish Ambassador to Tanzania.

The church was filled to capacity with children and young people from the Center, along with their teachers and parents. After Mass, the entire assembly moved in a pro-

cession (an hour's walk) to the Center's campus. The Center is comprised of a seven-year primary school, a four-year secondary school and a three-year technical school. The entire event was filmed and scrupulously documented by emissaries from TVP Polonia [Poland's public television broadcasting corporation].

The Center's motto is: "Education That Adds Value", which means that the Center's purpose is to educate the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, socially and morally. The Center's teachers understand the importance of having a curriculum that embraces the needs, abilities and interests of the students. In short, the main purpose of the St. Maximilian Education Center is to raise the standard of living of the Tanzanian popula-



Children of the Center

tion by providing children and young people with a good, serious education.

Over the last ten years, the local population has developed the highest regard for the Center and considers it among the best educational centers in the city. Members from every tribe and religion in the area agree.

The construction of the Center began in 2008, with financial help from St. Anthony's Charities. Later, various other benefactors contributed to the gradual development of the Center, including Poland's Ministry of Education, which provided a great deal of help through the Polish Embassy in Tanzania. Currently, the Center's primary, secondary and technical schools boast a combined enrollment of nearly 1600 students.

## Rome: Conference on Conventual Franciscans in Burkina Faso

■ Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

**On March 10, 2018, friars from the Provincial Delegation in Burkina Faso, of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw) with the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo), presented a conference together with members of the NGO *Emergenza Sorrisi* at the Seraphicum International College in Rome.**

The conference was entitled "The Friars Minor Conventual in Africa: Presences, Results and Expectations - The Sabou Medical Center in Burkina Faso: An Example of Synergy between the Gospel, Charity and Inculturation."

The conference moderator was Mr. Lucas DURAN of Vatican Radio.

The Delegation founded and maintains a large medical center known as the "CREN" [Center for Rehabilitation and Nutritional Education]. It has since become a hospital.



## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [AFCOF]

The CREN was made possible with support from Burkina Faso's Ministry of Health and many benefactors. Emergenza Sorrisi is united with the friars in their commitment to address the health issues of the local population and to tackle the most pressing needs emerging in the poorest area of the country.

The hospital initially started as a small parish pharmacy. It is located on a major crossroads in the country and has been operating since 2003. It provides first aid, general medicine, care for AIDS patients, maternity wards, and nutritional rehabilitation for malnourished children.

Future developments being planned include setting up radiology and surgery departments. The hospital is indispensable in the local area. In 2017 alone, it provided 12,815 medical consultations for adults, 4,000 medical consultations for children, 1,090 hospitalizations, and performed 196 deliveries. The hospital is the only treatment center in a region with 112,000 inhabitants.

On the occasion of this conference, Pope Francis sent the following words of encouragement, "His Holiness Pope Francis sends you his cordial thoughts and best wishes. He hopes that the religious family will be able to continue its generous work of spreading the Gospel and constantly supporting the Church in Burkina Faso, while always giving priority to the poor and those working in the geographical and existential peripheries who are entrusted with the precious commitment of evangelization and human promotion."

Friar Jerzy NOREL, the Vicar General of the Friars Minor Conventual, spoke on behalf of the Order and expressed thanks and appreciation for the evangelizing and charitable work our confreres carried out with Emergenza Sorrisi. Both of the Ministers Provincial responsible for the Delegation in Burkina Faso were present as well: Friar Franco RAPACCHIALE (Abruzzo, Italy) and Friar Wiesław PYZIO (Warsaw, Poland). The Most Reverend Gianrico RUZZA, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome and Secretary General of the Vicariate of Rome, expressed his encouragement on behalf of the Diocese of Rome.

Other speakers included Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF); Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM); Friar Tomasz KRĘT, Director of the Sabou Medical Center; Mr. Fabio Massimo ABENAVOLI, President of Emergenza Sorrisi; Mr. Massimiliano MALLARDO, the Head of the RAI Social Secretariat [Italian national public broadcasting]; and Mr. Paolo RUFFINI, Director of Tv2000.

Officials of Burkina Faso were also present: Mr. Nicolas MEDA, the Minister of Health, and other officers of the same ministry along with many other attendees who were interested in the theme of human promotion, collaboration and helping the poor and needy in Burkina Faso.



In the lecture room

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## CENTRALIS EUROPAE FOEDERATIO

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ  
Assistant General for the CEF



## Slovenia: Meeting of the Guardians

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

**On January 23-24, 2018, the Provincial government and the Guardians of the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia had their annual meeting. It took place at the friary of Blessed Anton Martin Slomšek, in Olimje, Slovenia.**

Those present included the Guardians from all eight communities of the Province; the delegate of the filial house; the members of the Provincial Definitory; and Minister Provincial Friar Milan KOS. The Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, also took part in the meeting.

The first day was dedicated to presenting reports on the status of the fraternities—friaries. The day concluded with a conference by the Assistant General for the CEF entitled “The Superior—Guardian in the Community: Biblical, Franciscan and Juridical Aspects”.

On the second day of the meeting, the Guardians were joined by the Friary Economs who reported on the financial status of each friary. At the end, the Provincial Economist made his report on the finances of the Province.

During a free moment, the Assistant General met with the Provincial Definitory to reflect on the report of the general canonical visitation conducted in November of 2016. They evaluated the implementation of certain recommendations made regarding the status of the Province at that time. At the end of the meeting, the Minister Provincial explained some new rules and state laws concerning the management and recognition of friaries in the Slovenian State.

Finally, during lunch on the second day, a celebration took place for friars with name days occurring that month. They were joined by other confreres of the Province.



The participants

## Germany: Annual Guardians' Conference

■ Friar Andreas MURK, Provincial Secretary

**On January 29-31, 2018, the Province of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary in Germany held its annual guardians' conference.**

The Minister Provincial, Friar Bernhardin M. SEITHER, welcomed the five guardians of his own Province; all but one of the guardians from the Provincial Custody of Austria-Switzerland; and some representatives from the Polish friaries in Germany. Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the area, was also present.

At the beginning of the conference, all of the guardians presented themselves and gave a short summary on the current status of their friary. On the second day, the friars listened to a lecture by Friar Fidelis RUPPERT, OSB, the Abbot Emeritus of the famous Abbey of Münsterschwarzach (the home of Friar Anselm GRÜN, OSB). Friar Fidelis talked about anger and fury – and how to deal with it in one's daily life.

In the afternoon, there was an excursion to a gardening factory. The friars visited one of Germany's leading producers of cress [a salad green]. They were impressed by the passion the owner showed towards his profession – and the solidarity he experienced from a Dutch colleague (and competitor) after his greenhouses burned down some years ago. He gave an overview on how his cress is produced as well as some insight into the challenges he and his staff face every day on the job.

On the third day, Friar Bernhardin gave an update on some important issues in the Province. He was followed by Friar Daniele BROCCA who reported about life and ministry in the Custody. The friars also heard a report by Friar Miljenko on new developments in our Order and a detailed overview by Friar Steffen BEHR on the major renovations that are currently in progress at the Provincial headquarters in Würzburg.

Apart from the conferences and the excursion, the friars enjoyed fraternal time together and shared some spiritual moments in common, celebrating Mass and praying together.



The participants

## Denmark: Visit of the Minister General

■ Friar Tomaž MAJCEN

**On February 2-4, 2018, the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, visited our friars' community in Copenhagen, Denmark.**

Current members of the community include Friar Tomislav CVETKO from the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia and Friar Tomaž MAJCEN from the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia. The two confreres were very happy and grateful for the Minister General's visit. This was his first visit to the two confreres in Copenhagen. They have been there for a year.

On February 3, 2018, the Minister General met with the Most Reverend Czesław KOZON, Bishop of Copenhagen, Denmark. During lunch and after the meeting with the Bishop, the friars discussed the Conventual Franciscan presence in Denmark. The Minister General mentioned the possibility of a third friar arriving, perhaps from the Custody of the Philippines. Even the Bishop was pleased with this possibility, because it would mean improved ministry for the many Filipino immigrants in the area.

In the time that remained, the Minister General and the two confreres visited the two parishes (Jesu Hjerter Kirke and Sakramentskirke) which the Bishop entrusted to the pastoral care of our friars.

On Sunday, February 4, the Minister General concelebrated at a Mass in Danish presided over by Friar Tomaž MAJCEN at the Church of the Most Holy Sacrament (Sakramentskirke).



The friars  
with the Minister General  
and the local bishop

## Germany: Day of Formation and Grace

■ Friar Florin-Cristian FARCAȘ and Friar Sebastian ANTON

**On March 5, 2018, the Romanian friars living in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (16 friars) met at the parish friary in Chieming, Germany, for a fraternal day of human and spiritual formation.**

The friars were led by Friar Ștefan ACATRINEI, one of the Definitors of the Province of Romania and Friar Lucian HORLESCU, a professor in Roman, Romania.

The day began with a fraternal greeting from Friar Gabriel BUDĂU, the President of the Association of Romanian Friars Minor Conventual in Germany. The meeting was particularly meaningful and joyous for the participants simply because it was the first of its kind.

Friar Ștefan ACATRINEI presented the program schedule and got the formation day started. Friar Lucian HORLESCU presented the first lecture on the theme of human and fraternal relations from the psychological point of view. He divided the theme into three parts: a) physical dependence and affectivity, b) rigidity of character, and c) lack of relational freedom.

Friar Ștefan presented the second lecture. It followed the same theme as before but, this time, from the perspective of Franciscan spirituality. Afterwards, there were two fraternal discussions; one before lunch and one after. Their aim was to provide a deeper

understanding of the personal and community issues that friars face in the places where they live.

At midday, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, the Minister Provincial of Germany, presided over Mass. A solemn, fraternal agape meal followed in the Chieming parish friary.

In the afternoon, the friars met together to share their experiences, based on Friar Lucian's conference. Friar Lucian had emphasized the importance of affective maturity in a friar's life, in order to carry out his mission in the Lord's vineyard and to be successful in obediently serving the brothers and sisters to whom he is sent.

At the end, Friar Ștefan thanked Friar Lucian for his personal commitment to the well-being of the friars. The friars listened keenly to Friar Lucian and found the idea of a united fraternity to be very important.

The meeting concluded with a walk near Lake Chiemsee followed by a fraternal dinner.



The Romanian friars

## Austria: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

**On February 26-28, 2018, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), visited the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicolas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland.**

He spent the first day attending the regional meeting of the Austrian part of the Custody. The meeting took place at the friary in Vienna, Austria. That morning, Dr. Franz ZDRAHAL made a presentation on the theme: "Advance Directives for Illness and Old Age". In the afternoon, Friar Christian FICHTINGER gave a guided tour of the friary library after which, Professor Helga PENZ spoke on the theme: "The Meaning of Libraries".

On February 27-28, the Assistant General and the members of the Custodial Definitory met for a Definitory meeting in Neunkirchen, Austria. All the Definitors were present: Friar Daniele BROCCA, Custos; Friar Bernhard LANG, Vicar-Custos and Custodial Secretary; and Friars Valentin SOLOMON and Thomas MANALIL, Definitors. Former Definitor Friar Vincenzo COSATTI is now a penitentiary in the Vatican. The Definitors reflected on a possible new Definitor to replace Friar Vincenzo. In addition to that issue, the Definitors reviewed the Custodial Four-Year Plan and the current status of the Custody.

Despite snow outside and freezing temperatures that fell as low as -17°C (1°F), the atmosphere inside the Neunkirchen friary was welcoming and fraternal, especially thanks to the confreres of the community.



The participants

■ CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

Friar Jude WINKLER  
Assistant General for the CFF



## USA: Holyoke The Funeral of Friar Donald Kos

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**On February 10, 2018, over fifty friars gathered for the funeral Mass of Friar Donald KOS, former Vicar and Procurator of the Order (OFM Conv.), at Our Lady of the Cross Parish in Holyoke, MA, USA.**

Minister General Friar Marco TASCA presided. Others present included the Most Reverend Gianfranco GIROTTI, O.F.M. Conv., Regent Emeritus of the Apostolic Penitentiary; Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF); Friar James McCURRY, the Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA, of which Friar Donald KOS was a member; and Friar Michael ZIELKE, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Bonaventure in the USA.

Friar Raymond BORKOWSKI, Friar Donald's classmate, had preached the night before at the prayer vigil in the church, and Friar James McCURRY preached at the funeral Mass.

Over and over again, the friars spoke of how Friar Donald was a simple, humble friar who served the Order and the Church throughout his fifty-nine years of service in Rome. He had only recently returned to his Mother Province due to illness.

There was a memorial Mass for Friar Donald at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome, on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m.



During the Mass

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

## USA: “caRe vaN” - The Mobile Apostolate

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

On February 11, 2018, Friar Marco TASCA, the Minister General, and the Most Reverend Gianfranco GIROTTI, OFM Conv., Regent Emeritus of the Apostolic Penitentiary, visited the care van sponsored by Elms College and directed by Friar Michael DUFFY of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA.

This mobile apostolate travels throughout western Massachusetts providing medical care, food and other necessities to homeless people encountered along the way.

Friar Michael is the Dean of Nursing Studies at Elms College and he organizes groups of volunteers from among his students who serve the needs of the homeless twice a week. Both the Minister General and Bishop GIROTTI were most impressed with this initiative which is certainly consistent with the mandate from both our Founder St. Francis and our Holy Father Pope Francis, a mandate which directs us to reach out to the margins of society so that we might show concern and compassionate love to those who most need it.

The symbol chosen to represent this ministry is “caRe vaN.” These words are enclosed with an ICTHUS, a fish symbol which represents Christ. The students chose an unusual capitalization with R and N in large letters because those two letters stand for ‘Registered Nurse’ and the van is run by nursing volunteers.



The “caRe vaN”.

## England: Pilgrimage to Walsingham

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

On March 19-20, 2018, Friar Marco TASCA, the Minister General, Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), Friar Ciprian BUDAU, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland and several friars and postulants from the formation community in Oxford made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in East Anglia, England.

## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [CFF]

This is England's national Marian Shrine, dating back to 1061. All of the English monarchs up to and including Henry VIII made a pilgrimage to this shrine.

The friars established a large friary there in the 14th century to host pilgrims, and they remained there for almost two centuries until the dissolution of religious houses under Henry VIII. This past fall, the friars of the Custody accepted the invitation of Monsignor John Armitage, the director of the Shrine, to come to Walsingham and serve the pastoral needs of the pilgrims coming from all over England to this famous historic shrine. The first friars will shortly arrive to host pilgrimages, celebrate Mass, listen to confessions, work with the local Travelers community, etc.

The Minister General and the other friars made the pilgrimage to Walsingham to pray for the blessing of this new initiative through the intercession of St. Joseph (on whose feast day they arrived in Walsingham) and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The main devotion of the Shrine is the Joy of Our Lady at the Incarnation of Jesus. In times past, pilgrims would visit the holy house which replicated the house of the Holy Family in Nazareth and would venerate the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham.

There is both a Catholic and an Anglican worship site in Walsingham. It is hoped Walsingham will serve as a center for ecumenical dialogue under the guidance of Our Lady.



The friars with the Minister General

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



## FEDERACIÓN CONVENTUALES AMERICA LATINA

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI  
Assistant General for the FALC



## Chile: Temporary Profession

■ Friar Jack GINTING

**January 13, 2018, was a very special day for our Delegation in Chile. After completing his novitiate year, Friar Augusto URZÚA GONZÁLEZ professed his temporary vows into the hands of the new Provincial Delegate, Friar Tullio PASTORELLI.**

The profession ceremony took place at our parish of Jesus of Nazareth in Curicó, Friar Augusto's hometown. Those attending included family members, friars of the Delegation, parishioners and some young missionaries from our three parishes.

The words "The Rule and life of the Friars Minor is this: to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ," were chosen by Friar Augusto as the motto of his profession.

After the liturgical celebration, there was a fraternal agape meal in the courtyard of the parish church. The celebration was a testimony of life and faith for all those present, especially for the young people. May the Lord continue to bless our Delegation through the prayers of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi and through the intercession of the "Virgen del Carmen", our Mother and Patroness of Chile.



After the Mass

## Chile: Papal Youth Mission

■ Friar Jack GINTING

**On January 13-20, 2018, some sixty young missionaries from our three parishes in Copiapó, Santiago and Curicó, Chile, gathered, as they do every year, to take part in a special mission, a "papal mission", with the motto: "Young People, Go Forward with Francis and Make Some Noise."**

For the first two days, the young people stayed at the mission in Curicó where they attended the first profession of Friar Augusto URZÚA GONZÁLEZ who had just returned from Colombia after his year of novitiate. After half a day of formation, the young people set off for Santiago to meet with Pope Francis.

## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [FALC]

The young missionaries enthusiastically participated in the papal mission activities. They visited the Shrine of Alberto Hurtado and the mission in that area. They attended Mass in O'Higgin's Park, presided over by the Holy Father and they attended a meeting with the Pope in the Votive Temple of Maipú, where the young people were filled with joy and youthful spirit.

The young people concluded the Pope's visit by going forth into the streets, to give a lively answer to a key question the Pope had raised: "What would Christ do in my place?" Then they spent the day carrying out various activities with children, young people and adults.

The mission ended with a Mass of Sending Forth, in which the young people were invited to carry Pope Francis' message back to their hometowns, to encourage teens and young people to get up from their easy chairs and go forth as peacemakers to make the world a better place.



The youth

## El Salvador: San Salvador 2018 Ordinary Assembly

■ Friar Maurizio BRIDIO, former FALC Secretary

**On January 22-27, 2018, the new Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America fraternally hosted the annual Ordinary Assembly of the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC).**

The event took place at the Marist Brothers' Hermitage Retreat Center in San Salvador, El Salvador

Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Delegates from the Jurisdictions of Latin American met together with Assistant General Friar Carlos TROVARELLI and the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL. The event took place in an atmosphere of simplicity and fraternity. Several recently elected Superiors participated for the first time: Friar Carlos Antonio CATALÁN, Provincial Custos of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis in Bolivia; Friar Aloisio Antonio DE OLIVEIRA, Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Francis in Brazil; Friar José Andrés CASTRO FARAH, Provincial Custos of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Colombia; and Friar Mario CASTRO MARTÍNEZ, Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

## CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [FALC]

Special thanks to those friars who recently completed service commitments: Friar Jhon Jairo MOLINA CASTAÑEDA, FALC President; Friar Gilson Miguel NUNES, FALC Vice President; and Friars Ronaldo Ramiro ARMIJO ZELADA and Francisco DÍAZ VAL-DEZ.

Father Rodolfo CARDENAL, a Jesuit at the Monsignor Romero Center in the Central American University (UCA), presented a key to understanding the socio-ecclesial reality of Central America. The new Custos, Friar Jorge DOBLES ULLOA and his Vicar Custos, Friar Isidoro de Jesús MEJÍA HERNÁNDEZ, made a joint presentation on the path toward unification which led to the creation of the new Custody of Mary Mother of Mercy and the celebration of its first Custodial Chapter, last December.

Regarding ongoing formation, Friar Carlos CORTEZ OFM Cap., lectured on the theme, “The Grace of Working”, a document which his Order produced in 2015. The same document was also used as a reflection tool by the General Definitory of our Order, during its meeting with the Presidents of the Conferences.

In keeping with previous Assemblies, this year’s Assembly also discussed initial formation. Friar Franklin DURÁN ZAMBRANO, Vice-Secretary General for Formation and Assistant General Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, offered a joint presentation on progress made so far.

The Assembly deliberated on, and unanimously approved, its formation plan. It will next be submitted to the Minister General and his Definitory, who may then confirm it and make it binding throughout the FALC.

The Assembly discussed the upcoming 2019 World Youth Day (WYD) to be held in Panama. Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), made a proposal to involve the participation of the entire Franciscan family. Friar Erik MARÍN from the Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America, informed us about last September’s meeting in Rome which involved several friars representing some communities engaged in the field of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC).

Other topics were reviewed: the Course for Guardians, the Second Novitiate, the meeting for novitiate and postulancy formators, post-novitiate common formation, the Franciscan formation of our young men in formation, the Rivortorto Course, the FALC’s financial status, activity in the Ministry of Reflection of the Federación Conventuales America Latina (MiReFALC) and the structure of the FALC in the future. The Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, gave updates on the General Definitory’s latest decisions for the next General Chapter.

Since the terms of President, Vice-President and FALC Secretary were interrupted due to changes of Major Superiors in recent Chapters, a vote was put forward to elect the Presidency Council. It is comprised as follows: Friar Jorge DOBLES ULLOA, President; Friar Aloisio Antonio DE OLIVEIRA, Vice President; Friar José Andrés CASTRO FARAH, Secretary; and Friar Aldo Andrés CÚCCARO, voting member and Econom.

Sincere thanks to the confreres of the Custody of Central America and, in a special way, to the friars of the St. Anthony of Padua friary, whose generosity made this Assembly possible.



The participants

## Brazil: Temporary Vows

■ Friar Carlos Roberto De Oliveira CHARLES, Custodial Secretary

**At 7:00 p.m., on February 8, 2018, two friars from the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Brazil professed temporary vows.**

The event took place at the Church of São Francisco de Assis, next to the Custody's headquarters, in Rio de Janeiro.

Friars Ricardo Elvis ARRUDA BEZERRA and Jesus RODRIGUES DO AMARAL professed their first vows into the hands of the Provincial Custos, Friar Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA. The friars of the Custody were very happy because these were the first temporary professions the Custody has celebrated in six years.



The newly professed

## Brazil: UCOB Second Novitiate

■ The friars of the UCOB Second Novitiate

**On January 8, 2018, by God's grace, the UCOB (Union of Conventual Franciscans of Brazil) began its "Second Novitiate", a month-long program of preparation for solemn profession.**

The event got underway at the São Francisco de Assis Retreat Center in Curitiba, Paraná State, Brazil.

Ten temporarily-professed friars participated. Two were from the Province of St. Francis in Brazil (São Paulo); two from the Provincial Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil (Maranhão); and six from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Brazil (Brasilia). The program was under the guidance and coordination of the Second Novitiate Director, Friar Jean DE SOUZA.

The purpose of the Second Novitiate was to reflect and meditate upon the Franciscan charism and to experience it more deeply. It was to freely and responsibly prepare oneself for the profession of solemn vows, a public declaration of the definitive commitment to follow Christ in the manner of Francis of Assisi, in the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

During the first week of formation, Friar Márcio MAGALHÃES made a nice presentation on various proposals for living Franciscanism today.

On January 8-12, the friars reflected on the sense of belonging to the Order, on different levels. They reflected on the commitment to the Franciscan religious life and on Franciscan Christian spirituality. Using Francis of Assisi's own path to conversion as a guiding perspective, the friars tried to learn with him to understand their present context and to respond to today's issues, as the Saint of Assisi did—from the strength of the Gospel. The first week concluded with a reflection on minority, an essential element of the Conventual Franciscan identity. The friars rediscovered that being minor means being the servant of all. For example, the Lord, who was the greatest, made himself the least and a servant.

During the second week, there was a meditation on the human dimension in religious life, under the guidance of Friar Carlos QUEIROZ. It dealt especially with the process



The participants

of human formation and how to create processes of resilience—the ability to withstand and overcome trauma—in the lives of consecrated persons. The week was very fruitful for the growth of the friars.

During the last week of the Novitiate, the friars, under the guidance of Friar Alexandre PATUCCI, examined religious life from the perspective of its prophetic witness and relevance.

The Second Novitiate concluded on February 3, 2018. The friars are grateful for the prayers and fraternal guidance of the whole Order.

## Chile: Delegation Retreat

■ Friar Jack GINTING

**On March 5-9, 2018, the friars of the Delegation of Chile had their annual retreat at the monastery of the Vitorchiano Trappesines in Quilvo, Chile.**

In keeping with the Four-Year Plan of the Delegation and referring to the biblical text of Romans 12:1-2, Father José ABARCA, a Claretian, led the retreat and invited the friars to explore the theme “Transformation through Renewal.” This follows the example of Jesus, starting from his humanity and that of St. Francis of Assisi. In this sense, the Four-Year Plan, the community plan and each friar’s personal plan will be a journey of transformation and a path toward growth.

After Vespers on Thursday, March 8, the friars, together with two more in formation, Friar Augusto URZÚA GONZALES (temporarily professed) and Eduardo BARRERA DIAZ (postulant) shared their Personal Life Plan for this year.

On Friday, March 9, after Vespers and the Way of the Cross prepared by those in formation, the friars returned to their community, feeling renewed and ready to live a new way of life.



The friars of the Delegation

## FEDERATION OF ASIAN MINOR CONVENTUALS

Friar Benedict Seung Jae BAEK  
Assistant General for the FAMC



## Indonesia: Conventual Franciscan Ordained Deacon

■ Friar Maximilian SEMBIRING, Custos

**On January 25, 2018, Friar Yohanes TANDO, OFM Conv., was ordained a deacon through the imposition of the hands of the Most Reverend Anicetus B. SINAGA, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Medan.**

The ordination was celebrated in the chapel of the “Christus Sacerdos” minor diocesan seminary in Pematangsiantar, Indonesia.

Friar Yohanes TANDO is a member of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Indonesia. He is a native of Tanah Toraja, on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. He professed his solemn vows on April 22, 2017. He is currently living in community at the *St. Catherine* of Siena friary in Tigajuhar and serves as the Assistant Postulant Director.



After the Mass

## Vietnam: Canonical Visitation

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, the General Assistant of the CFF

From January 28 to February 8, 2018, Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minor Conventual (FAMC); and Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), conducted a general canonical visitation of the Delegation of Vietnam in preparation for the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of its Mother Province, St. Joseph of Cupertino in California, USA.

Friars Benedict and Jude spoke with all of the friars of the Delegation.

The Delegation currently has eighteen friars in solemn profession (two of whom are studying in Rome and another who is working at the novitiate in Tagaytay, the Philippines). Two of these friars are from the Mother Province, while a friar from Australia



The friars of the Delegation

(which founded the mission), Friar Joseph TROUNG, recently returned to his Delegation.

There are sixteen friars in temporary profession in Vietnam, and three novices in Tagaytay.

There are currently two friaries in the Delegation, both in the area around Ho Chi Minh City, and a filial house in Van Mon in the north of the country.

The Delegation now has four local ordained friars and one religious brother in solemn vows. There are a number of friars who will be ordained in the next few years, and the delegation is at a turning point, passing from a stage where its primary apostolate was the formation of new vocations to finding an outreach for those who are ready for other apostolates.

## Korea: Province Assembly

■ Friar Benedict BAEK

**On February 19-20, 2018, the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Korea held its Province Assembly at the retreat house at the friary in Seoul.**

Fifty-two solemnly professed friars participated. During the meeting, the guardians shared news from their communities and the Minister Provincial, Friar Marco JEONG, presented various plans being considered in the Province. Afterwards, the friars expressed opinions about those plans.

The second day featured various celebrations. The Province welcomed three new postulants; Friars Paolo LEE and Edmond PARK celebrated their 70th birthday; and Friars Marco JEONG and Giovanni YOON celebrated their 25th anniversary of solemn vows.

The Assembly ended with Mass presided over by the Minister Provincial.



During the Mass

■ FEDERATIO EUROPAE MEDIAE ET ORIENTALIS

Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI  
Assistant General for the FEMO



## Kazakhstan: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

**On January 23-27, 2018, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO), made a fraternal visit to the Order's presence in Kazakhstan.**

The Kazakhstan community is comprised of three friars from different Jurisdictions: Friar Miha MAJETIČ is from the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia; Friar Roberto PERETTI is from the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy); and Friar Paweł BLOK is from the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk).

The friars provide pastoral services at a small parish on the outskirts of Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. In addition to doing parish ministry, they work a lot with young people, teaching them music and the English language. They also serve as confessors for various religious communities and carry out certain cultural and pastoral projects in the Archdiocese of Astana.

This visit was an opportunity to discuss the friars' current lives and talk about the future of the mission.

Finally, the Assistant General, together with the friars, visited the Most Reverend Tomasz PETA, Archbishop of Astana.



The friars of the mission with the FEMO Assistant General and the local bishop

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



## Hungary: Provincial Assembly

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

**On February 23, 2018, the Provincial Assembly of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Hungary and Transylvania took place in Miskolc, Hungary.**

Those attending the Assembly included the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI; the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdansk), Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI; and all the friars who live and work in the territory of the Province of Hungary and Transylvania.

The Assembly provided an opportunity to explain the Decree of the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA. In his Decree, the Minister General appointed Minister Provincial Jan MACIEJOWSKI as his Delegate, during the transitional phase, to conduct the process of unification between the two Provinces.

The transformation of the Province of Hungary and Transylvania into the Provincial Delegation of the Province of Gdansk should take place in September of 2018.



The participants

## Slovakia: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

**On February 19-22, 2018, and again on February 26-28, 2018, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO), Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, made a fraternal visit to the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Slovakia.**

During his visit, the Assistant General visited all the friaries in the Custody and spoke with all the friars.

His visit concluded with a meeting with the Custos Friar Tomáš LESŇÁK and his Definitory. They discussed the current status of the Custody and talked about plans for its future.



The friaries  
in Bratislava and Brehov



The friaries  
in Levoča and Spišský Štvrtok

Currently, the Custody has seventeen solemnly professed friars and two temporarily professed. The Custody has four friaries located in Bratislava, Spišský Štvrtok, Levoča and Brehov. The friars serve at three parishes, a Catholic school, a recovery center and a retreat house. Two friars work in Italy—one at the Vatican Apostolic Penitentiary and the other in the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy). The Custody will celebrate its Chapter next year.

## Czech Republic: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

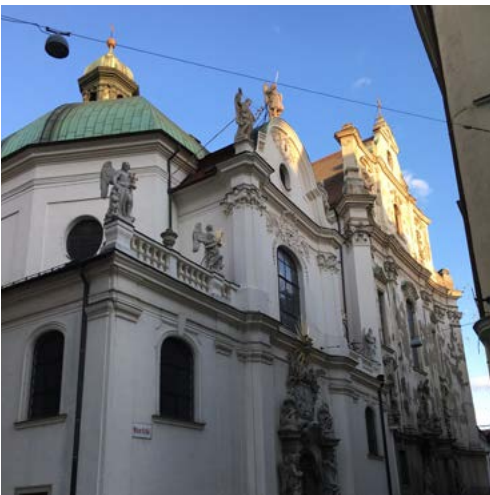
**On March 4-13, 2018, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) made a fraternal visit to the Czech Republic.**

The visit began with a spiritual retreat for all the friars of the Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic. As traditional, the retreat took place in Prague. During the retreat, the friars listened to two conferences, one by Friar Benedict MOHELNIK (Order of Preachers) on the practice of the vow of poverty in the current situation of the Church in the Czech Republic. The other, by Friar Jacek, was about preparing for the Extraordinary General Chapter.

Everyone took part in Mass, the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Stations of the Cross. The visit ended with a fraternal agape meal. During the meal, friars with name days or birthdays around this time were celebrated.

Subsequently, the Assistant General had the opportunity to visit all of the friaries, and to speak with all of the friars about the Province's present status and future plans.

The Province currently has seventeen friars in five friaries: Prague, Jihlava, Brno, Opava and Krnov. The Province has three friars in initial formation in Bratislava, Slovakia, and three postulants in Głogówek, Poland.



The churches  
in Brno and Krnov



The churches  
in Jihlava and Krnov-Cvilin



The church in Opava  
and the community in Prague

## Poland: Kalwaria Paławska New Recognition

■ Editorial board/jms

**March 24, 2018, marked the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Conventual Franciscans in Kalwaria Paławska, Poland.**

Also on that day, the mortal remains of the Venerable Servant of God, Friar Wenanty KATARZYNIĘC, OFM Conv., (1889-1921) were newly recognized and translated into the church of the Mother of God of Calvary in Kalwaria Paław.

That morning, a Mass was celebrated to pray for the beatification of our confrere. The liturgy was presided over by Friar Marian GOŁĄB, OFM Conv., the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow). The concelebrants included the members of the recognition commission which was established by the Most Reverend Adam SZAL, Metropolitan Archbishop of Przemyśl, Poland. Novices, parishioners and pilgrims also participated.

In the evening, the commission members and friars from the friary and the novitiate took part in the solemn translation of the coffin into the church, where it was placed in a specially prepared sepulcher made of Carrara marble.

Friar Wenanty KATARZYNIĘC died in the fame of sanctity on March 31, 1921, in Kalwaria Paławska.

St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe had requested that he be beatified as early as 1930, in a circular letter which he sent from Japan.

On April 5, 2016, the Commission of Cardinals and Bishops issued a positive judgment on the life and virtues of the Servant of God. On April 26, 2016, Pope Francis gave permission for the Decree on the Heroicity of Virtue of the Servant of God to be published. Since then, Friar Wenanty has been rightfully called a Venerable Servant of God.

This year in Kalwaria Paławska, April 7 and 8 will be special days dedicated to pray for Friar Wenanty's beatification. The program includes Mass; the Stations of the Cross; a meditation by Friar Andrzej ZAJĄC on the theme "Some Time on the Thought and Lectures of Father Wenanty KATARZYNIĘC"; a presentation of the book by Tomasz TERLIKOWSKI entitled "Wenanty KATARZYNIĘC: A Polish St. Charbel"; and the blessing of the new sepulcher.

■ FEDERAZIONE INTER-MEDITERRANEA MINISTRI PROVINCIALI

Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS  
Assistant General for the FIMP



## Brazil – Maranhão: 50 Years of Conventual Presence

■ Lorenza CASSANELLI, Secretary of the Missionary Center

**The Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy), in collaboration with the Conventual Franciscan Missionary Center, has made two docu-films to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Friars Minor Conventual in Maranhão, Brazil (1968 -2018), and to document the heroic sacrifice of the missionary Frei Antonio SINIBALDI (+1987).**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the mission, starting in 1968, when friars Mario PALONI, Luigi D'ANDREA (ordained a bishop in 1988), Antonio SINIBALDI and Eduardo RORI, left their former Province of Rome and went to the north east area of Brazil to plant the Order in that region. The first documentary tells this story and the years that followed, as other Italian friars joined the mission. The mission became a Custody in 2014. Today, it has twenty-three friars and fifteen young men in formation.

The second documentary entitled “Frei Antonio SINIBALDI: The Friar, the Missionary, the Heroic Sacrifice”, recounts the work this confrere did during his nineteen years of intense pastoral ministry serving the poor of the favelas. It also talks about the heroic deed he performed on September 7, 1987. On that day, he and seventeen young people from the parish were traveling by boat to a spiritual retreat when their craft was struck by a freak wave. The boat overturned and Frei Antonio, swimming, rescued each young person. Finally, exhausted, he died on the shore. In 2014, the Archbishop of São Luis opened a canonical process for him and Frei Antonio's legacy is still alive today among the people, through the great social and charitable association named after him.

The two documentaries, in Italian and Brazilian, were written and directed by Friar Paolo FIASCONARO. Photography and editing was done by Roberto DAMIATA, a cameraman at Italy's public broadcasting corporation RAI. It is hoped the documentaries will be useful tools for evangelization and missionary animation during this jubilee year in Brazil and in Italy.



The logo of the Custody

## Rome: 29th Missionary Assembly

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, Director of the Missionary Center

**From January 31 to February 3, 2018, the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) held its 29th Missionary Assembly at the Seraphicum in Rome.**

Fifty people attended, including twenty-four friars and twenty-six young lay people from various Italian ecclesial and Franciscan associations. Also in attendance were the FIMP President, Friar Mauro GAMBETTI and the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, who presided over the liturgical celebrations.

The Assembly was conducted in a climate of fraternal discussion and was presided over by the Director of the Missionary Center, Friar Paolo FIASCONARO. The theme of the Assembly was, "Lay People, Champions of the Mission." On the first day, Prof. Marco BARTOLI, a Franciscanist and member of the St. Egidio Community, and Friar Jarosław WYSOCZYNSKI, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM), lectured extensively on the theme. Those listening were inspired to more closely engage with the laity of our ecclesial and Franciscan realities and to collaborate with the Provincial Animator on a missionary animation event that reflects the lives of our Conventual and parish communities.

On the second day there was an interesting and prophetic round table discussion, coordinated by the journalist Elisabetta LO IACONO. Three young people gave testimony about their missionary experience last summer, working in the same area as the Blessed Martyrs of Pariacoto, Peru. There was also testimony from a girl who spent three months volunteering in the Holy Land. On the afternoon of the World Day for Consecrated Life (February 2), the assembly participants took part in a Mass with Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica. On the last day, the Director of the Center gave a report on its last four years and initial planning began for the next four-year period.

Among the working proposals was a decision to spur involvement within our Jurisdictions by creating lay missionary groups, or cells that would collaborate with a local animator. Furthermore, in September, there will be a "formation workshop" for animators only, on issues related to new techniques and methods of missionary animation.



The participants

## Saint Mary of the Angels: FIMP Assembly

■ Friar Marco BELLACHIOMA, Segretario FIMP

**From February 28 to March 2, 2018, the 122nd Ordinary General Assembly of the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) was held at the Casa Leonori Hotel at Saint Mary of the Angels, Assisi, Italy.**

This coincided with the 42nd Assembly of the Union of the Conferences of Ministers Provincial of the Franciscan Family in Italy.

Those present included all fourteen Ministers Provincial and Custodes of the FIMP federation together with the Assistant General of the area, Friar Joaquín AGESTA.

Some of the more important topics discussed included an examination of the FIMP document on vocational discernment and the criteria for entry into the postulancy program; the direction of the Missionary Center, animation in the field of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation; planning for the College of Pastors; an evaluation on the progress of all the initial formation communities and finally, the national level assistance provided by the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.) in Italy.



In the lecture room.

## Lebanon: Canonical Visitation

■ Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS

**On March 3-10, 2018, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), Friar Joaquín AGESTA, conducted a canonical visitation to the two fraternities in Lebanon belonging to the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land of the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania.**

The Custody has two friaries in Lebanon: one in Beirut (Sin El Fil) and one in Zahlè, which houses the Custody's postulancy program and serves as a place to welcome prospective vocations. There are nine friars between the two fraternities: five are in the friary-parish of St. Anthony in Beirut, and four are in Zahlè where various ministries are carried out such as Secular Franciscan (OFS) formation, charity towards the poor and the Syrian refugees, and youth and vocational animation. There are two additional young confreres: one is studying sacred scripture in Jerusalem, and the other studying patristics in the U.S.A.

The Zahlè fraternity is just over fifty kilometers [31 miles] from Beirut. The friars have been there for more than ten years. The church next to the friary is still under construction. About two and a half kilometers from the friary, [1.5 miles] the friars also take care of a hermitage dedicated to St. Clare. It is a pilgrimage destination and a meeting place



Some friars of the Custody

for the faithful participating in Easter and Franciscan events (the Palm Sunday procession, Good Friday and the Pardon of Assisi indulgence).

The Custody was preparing for its next Ordinary Custodial Chapter, which was celebrated during the second week of Easter.

## Italy: Foligno Province Spiritual Retreat

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

**On March 12-16, 2018, a group of friars from the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy) attended a retreat preached by Friar Jude WINKLER on the topic of conversion.**

The biblical text chosen to convey that theme was Mark 1:15: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Friar Jude used the Gospel of Mark as an example of conversion, especially emphasizing the simplicity and humility of Jesus in that Gospel as a model for the Franciscan life.

The retreat was held at the retreat house run by the Capuchin Sisters in Foligno, Italy.

It was one of the initiatives organized by the Province Formation Commission in the first year of the new Province. The retreat took place in response to the Four-Year Plan of the Province (PPQ) to make the friars' relationship with God their prime concern during the year. The Province will hold an Extraordinary Chapter and a Provincial Assembly in June of this year.



Some friars of the Province

## Rome: “Dads’ House” Inaugurated

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, San Giacomo Community

**On Wednesday, March 21, 2018, the “Dads’ House” was inaugurated. It is located on the premises of the former friary of Santa Dorotea in the Trastevere section of Rome.**

The one-time home of the friars is now a hospitality facility with seven rooms, fifteen beds and related services. Accommodations are made available, free of charge, to the fathers of the children with serious clinical problems who have been admitted to Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome. This initiative tries to meet the needs of parents who are staying at the hospital with their children, but who, due to the long duration of their child’s hospitalization, cannot afford the housing expenses involved.

This effort tries to respond to those facing economic difficulty. It is part of the charitable and beneficial activities of the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy), in collaboration with Bambino Gesù Hospital; the parish of Santa Dorotea; the San Giacomo alla Lungara friary community; and the *Regina Coeli* Volunteer Center (Vo.Re.Co. Center), which generously provides hospitality services, solidarity and leadership.

The “Dads’ House” was officially opened by the President of Bambino Gesù Hospital, Dr. Mariella ENOC, and the Minister Provincial, Friar Franco BUONAMANO. Others present included Friar Renzo DEGNI, the guardian of the San Giacomo friary, along with nine friars from his community; Friar Umberto FANFARILLO, the Pastor of Santa Dorotea; Friar Vittorio TRANI, leader of the Vo.Re.Co Center; and many benefactors.

The inauguration took place after a break-in period which began last September. Since then, 120 fathers have already been hosted. One came from as far away as Afghanistan, but others have come from Greece, Libya, Albania and Southern Italy.



Inauguration of the “Dads’ House”

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



## France-Belgium: Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, Assistant General for the FIMP

**On February 19-22, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Bonaventure in France-Belgium, of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua, celebrated its Ordinary Custodial Chapter in Lourdes, France.**

All the friars of the Custody participated in the Chapter along with Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, Minister Provincial of Padua, and Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP).

Friar Jean-François Marie AUCLAIR, Guardian of Cholet and former Custodial Secretary during the previous four-year term, was elected the new Provincial Custos. Friar Jean-François was born in Orléans, France, on December 2, 1980. He professed his temporary vows on August 28, 2006, in Padua. He professed his solemn vows on November 21, 2009, and was ordained a priest on September 24, 2011.

The new Custodial Definitory is composed as follows: Friar Bernard Marie CERLES, Vicar Custos; Friar Adrian BACIU, Custodial Secretary; and Friar Jack MARDESIC, Custodial Definitor.

Let us join with the confreres of the Custody in assuring the new Superior and his collaborators of our prayers. May their efforts in carrying out the Lord's will bear fruit.



Friar Jean-François Marie AUCLAIR  
Custos



The Capitulars



The Definitory

## Croatia: Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

**On February 19-23, 2018, the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia held the first part of its Ordinary Provincial Chapter at the Holy Spirit friary in Zagreb.**

Fifty-three friars attended out of the sixty-two who were entitled to participate. Illness prevented the rest from attending. The Chapter was presided over by the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA.

For the first two and a half days, the friars evaluated the previous mandate. In the end, they identified all the elements needed to create a basic document which they will use during the second phase of the Chapter to work on the Province's future Four-Year Plan (PPQ).

During a break, the Minister General, Minister Provincial Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ and the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, together visited His Eminence Josip Cardinal Bozanić, Archbishop of Zagreb.

During the third session of the Chapter, Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ was elected to his second four-year term as Minister Provincial.

After the election, Friar Milan KOS, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia, and Friar Milan HOLC, the General Visitor to the Province of Croatia, came by with some Slovenian friars to offer their congratulations to the newly elected.

Finally, during the fourth session, the members of the new Definitory were elected. They are: Friar Tomislav GLAVNIK, Vicar Provincial; Friar Ljudevit MARAČIĆ, Provincial Secretary; Friar Vitomir GLAVAŠ, Provincial Econom, Friar Stjepan BRČINA, Provincial Exactor; and Friar Ivan BRADARIĆ, Provincial Definitor.

The second part of the Chapter is scheduled for May 14, 2018.



Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ  
Minister Provincial



The Capitulars



The Definitory

# Central America: First Ordinary Chapter - Part 2

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, Assistant General for the FALC

**From January 30 to February 2, 2018,  
the new Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America  
celebrated the second part of its first Ordinary Chapter.**

The Chapter took place at the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción friary in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

The Provincial Custos, Friar Jorge Arturo DOBLES ULLOA, presided over the Chapter sessions. Minister Provincial Friar James KENT of the USA Mother Province of Our Lady of Consolation was present along with the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), Friar Carlos TROVARELLI. Friar Mark WEAVER was an invited guest at the Chapter and served as translator.

The Chapter took place in a peaceful, friendly atmosphere which pervaded both the work and various fraternal activities in which the temporarily professed friars also took part.

The communities were given enough time to go over the *Instrumentum laboris* which had been prepared as a guide for working on the Four-Year Plan of the Custody. For this reason, deciding on and approving the Plan as well as processing and approving particular motions, was handled easily.

This was how the new Central American Jurisdiction gave itself the structural and fraternal instruments it needed to thrive, give Franciscan witness and do missionary work.

In addition, the guardians of the communities in the Custody were elected. In Costa Rica, Friar Marco UMAÑA JUÁREZ was elected guardian of the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción friary in Alajuela; Friar Jonhatan Leonel VARGAS RAMÍREZ was elected guardian of the San Francisco friary in Moravia (San José); and Friar Grevin Oliver SIERRA RIVERA was elected guardian of the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe friary in Belén (Heredia). In Honduras, Friar Isidoro de Jesús MEJÍA HERNÁNDEZ was elected guardian of the Santa Ana de la Virtud friary in Campamento (Olancho); and Friar Jorge Eduardo BARILLAS RODRÍGUEZ was elected guardian of the San José de Cupertino friary in Tegucigalpa. In El Salvador, Friar Javier Ernesto GUERRA was elected guardian of the San Antonio friary in San Salvador; and in Guatemala, Friar Julio Enoc ZELEDÓN HERRERA was elected Superior of the community of the San Francisco de Asís Rectory.

To everyone's great joy, during the Chapter on Thursday, February 1, Friars José SARMIENTO and Andrés QUESADA made their temporary profession of vows, having completed their year of canonical novitiate in Itagüí (Medellín), Colombia.

On February 2, the World Day for Consecrated Life, after completing its sixth and final Chapter session, the Custodial Chapter concluded with the celebration of Mass.



Some Capitulars

## The Philippines: Ordinary Chapter – Part II

■ Friar Daniel M. SUGATAN, Custodial Secretary

**On January 22-26, 2018, the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines celebrated the second part of its Eight Ordinary Custodial Chapter at the St. Maximilian Friary in Parañaque City.**

Thirty-two Capitulars were present along with Friar Benedict BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC); and Friar Claudio IORIS, the Minister Provincial's Delegate and Provincial Econom. The Friar-auditors present included Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF); Friar Angelo PALUMBO, the Legal Representative of the Mother Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples); and Friar Irenaeus DAEP, Provincial Definitor.

Part II began with a report by Friar Andrew DATOY on the 2013-2017 economic performance of each friary in the Custody. This was followed by a presentation by Mylene SALUTA on the Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association, Inc. (FCCAI), as a mission partner of the Inter-Franciscan Minister's Conference of the Philippines (IFMCP). Friar Jude WINKLER gave a spiritual introduction on the Word of God and Fraternity. The Chapter deliberated on the topics already selected and prepared during the break between Parts I and II. At the end, ten priority motions were approved.

The following guardians were elected for the 2017-2021 term: Friar Jeronimo JACOBO, Immaculata friary in Novaliches; Friar Emmanuel GIVA, St. Maximilian friary in Parañaque; Friar Daniel SUGATAN, St. Joseph friary in Tagaytay), Friar Christian ORNUM, San Agustin friary in Parañaque, and Friar Josel MARTINEZ, St. Anthony friary in Eastern Samar.

Those chosen as formators are: Friar Matthew FARAON, Novice Director; Friar Jeremiah ARGUELLES, Postulancy Director; and Friar Leonides MATEO, Vocation Director. Various chairpersons were selected for Liturgy, Formation, Finance and Works, Apostolate and Mission.

The Capitulars approved the Custodial Four-Year Plan entitled: "Continuing to Build an Evangelizing Fraternity." As the title indicates, the friars wish to focus on being Conventual Franciscans, staying rooted in the Gospel and having a strong sense of fraternity, as part of an international Order and as a Custody in the Philippines carrying out our mandate to be communities that evangelize. Underlying all of this was the Capitulars' desire for the Custody to become a self-reliant, OFM Conventual Province in the future. For the last session of the Chapter, Mass was celebrated for deceased members of the Custody, the Province of Naples and missionaries of the mission. Before giving the final blessing, Friar Francis Victor MATEO, the Provincial Custos, distributed letters of obedience to the friars.

Next year, the Custody will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding. The entire Custody is grateful to God, the General Curia, the Province of Naples and all other Jurisdictions of the Order for all the support it has received.



The Capitulars

# Italy: Calabria Ordinary Chapter

■ Friar Rocco PREDOTI

**On March 12-14, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Daniel and Companion Martyrs in Italy (Calabria) met in Amantea, Italy, to celebrate its Spiritual and Extraordinary Chapter.**

In addition to the friars of the Custody, others attending the Chapter included Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP); Friar Cosimo ANTONINO the Minister Provincial of the Mother Province of Our Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples); and his Vicar Provincial Friar Paolo GALANTE.

Two reflections were offered during the spiritual part of the Chapter. The first was presented by the Assistant General on contemporary Conventual identity and the current challenges facing the Order. The second was presented by Father Pino DEMASI the Calabrian representative of the "Libera" association, who illustrated the difficult social situation in Calabria and gave some good reasons for why there should be a significant Conventual presence in this periphery of Italy.

During the main part of the Extraordinary Chapter, the friars approved a motion to close the friary of the Immaculate Conception in Catanzaro, Italy. They also presented the current status of each community in the Custody and the Custody as a whole.

During the Chapter, the friars greatly appreciated being visited by their confrere, the Most Reverend Francescantonio NOLÈ, OFM Conv., Archbishop of Cosenza-Bisignano, Italy.



The Capitulars

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

## GENERAL OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Friar Ryszard Adam WRÓBEL  
General Delegate for Communications



## OFFICE OF STATISTICS

### Professiones temporanae

**Prov. Italicae S. Antonii Patavini**

URZÚA GONZÁLES Augusto Esteban (13.01.2018)

**Cust. prov. Americae Centr.**

QUESADA SOTO Andrés, SARMIENTO SARMIENTO José Isael (01.02.2018)

**Prov. Coreae**

KIM Andrea Daegon (08.02.2018)

### Professiones perpetuae

**Prov. Coreae**

KIM Angelo, SHIN Petere (09.02.2018)

### Ordinationes diaconales

**Prov. Sloveniae**

PREDIKAKA Vladimir Rufinus (02.01.2018)

**Cust. prov. Indonesianae**

TANDO Yohanes (25.01.2018)

### Ordinationes sacerdotales

**Prov. Indiae**

KOTTUPALLIL Sajesh, NADACKAL Sijo, NJARAKULLATH Sijo (07.01.2018)

**Cust. prov. Ghanensis**

AMO NENYI Stephen Oscar, APETORGBOR Thaddeus, OCRAN Emmanuel Kofi (03.02.2018)

## RESTING IN GOD

DEFUNCTI [NOMEN]	CIRCUMSCRIPTIO	DIES	LOCUS	AETAS
DEMBKOWSKI Dariusz	Prov. Pol. - San Massimiliano Kolbe	05.01.2018	Gdańsk, POLSKA	50
PALONI Mario	Cust. prov. Brasile - San Bonaventura	05.01.2018	???	84
POCZWOROWSKI Luke	Prov. USA - San Bonaventura	11.01.2018	???	81
VAROTTI Albino	Prov. Italia - Sant'Antonio	18.01.2018	Castel Bolognese, ITALIA	93
MIKA Bolesław	Prov. Pol. - San Massimiliano Kolbe	20.01.2018	Gdynia, POLSKA	79
BLÁJUJ Eugen Sr.	Prov. Romania	30.01.2018	Galați, ROMÂNIA	60
TAVOLACCI Salvatore	Prov. Italia - Sicilia	12.02.2018	Palermo, ITALIA	84
WARDYN Manswet	Prov. Pol. - San Massimiliano Kolbe	25.02.2018	Poznań, POLSKA	81
PIACENTINI Ernesto	Prov. Italia - San Francesco	28.02.2018	Roma, ITALIA	80
GRIFFI Raimondo	Prov. Italia - Sant'Antonio	20.03.2018	Maceronte, TALIA	72
SALVAGNIN Giuseppe	Prov. Italia - Sant'Antonio	20.03.2018	Pedavena, ITALIA	94
ZLODI Zvonimir	Prov. Croazia	31.03.2018	Zagreb, HRVATSKE	95