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Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium



4
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FRATERNUS NUNTIUS: Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium [4/2018]

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MINISTER GENERAL

■ MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Marco TASCA



Calendar of the Minister General

OCTOBER

3-28 Vatican City: 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops
29-

NOVEMBER

-3 Rome, General Curia: Session of the General Definitory
3 Assisi: Closing Mass of the "Youth toward Assisi" Meeting
6-11 Venezuela: Fraternal visit to the Provincial Custody
14-16 Naples: Extraordinary Provincial Chapter
21-23 Ariccia (Rome): Assembly of the Union of Superiors General
25-28 Rome, Seraphicum: FIMP Assembly

DECEMBER

3-15: Rome, General Curia: Session of the General Definitory
28-2.01.2019: Indonesia: Fraternal visit to the Provincial Custody

The Promulgation of the Constitutions

Dear brothers, Peace be with you!

The Ordinary General Chapters of 2007 and 2013 decided upon and confirmed the work of revising the Constitutions. This work has been a commitment of the Order for over a decade. We have finally reached the end of this formative journey, which has helped us to reflect upon and renew our identity and mission within the Church. The Constitutions, in fact, are expected to be, and must be, an actualization of the Rule in the context of the Church and of the societies in which we Friars Minor Conventual live.

In the first of two sessions during 2007-2013, our common commitment was to learn more about some fundamental topics. To begin, reflections were initiated in all the communities of the Order through common worksheets to use as guides during House Chapters and the publication of various studies carried out ad hoc and published in *Commentarium Ordinis* and on the Order's website.

At the 2013 Ordinary General Chapter, the process of revising the Constitutions was given a renewed and decisive boost. The Chapter called for a committee composed of some friars working full-time to promote the process of working on, discussing, studying and debating particular topics. Then they would propose the revised text for the Constitutions. The General Chapter indicated three guidelines for the revision process of the previous text. This text had gone into effect on March 25, 1985, concluding work that started in 1969. The guidelines were to be considered during the process of rewriting

MINISTER GENERAL

the new charismatic-legislative text: (1) to deepen our knowledge of our charism, in light of the development of studies on Franciscanism in recent years; (2) to understand more deeply the evangelical and theological principles related to the consecrated life in the Church, in the light of the fact that the ecclesial magisterium has profoundly renewed its vision and language (starting first in the area of ecclesial and interpersonal communion); (3) to seriously consider the significant demographic changes and the geographical delocalization of the Order in these last decades. In fact, the Constitutions must respond to the needs of an increasingly global, diverse and pluralistic fraternity.

The 2013 General Chapter called for the involvement of the entire Order in the revision process, through the study and discussion of the draft of each chapter of the Constitutions, which would be reviewed during the House Chapters of all the individual communities scattered throughout the world. The faithful commitment of many friars and of many local fraternities has made a surprising contribution to the growing consensus on our identity as Friars Minor Conventuals and has given us a better understanding of the witness and mission that the Church asks of us and which the world needs. Ongoing formation throughout most of the Order has received a considerable boost precisely because of our shared effort to reflect on our identity and mission. It has also benefited the quality of fraternal life in our communities.

The 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter has just concluded. It was a profoundly fraternal event, precisely because we began with different visions and opinions and still, the Chapter managed to make us come together on those differences, so that we could review and approve a text of the Constitutions that adhered to our vocation and faithfully reflected not only who we are, but who we are called to be - in the light of the richness of our charism - in the Church today. The Capitulars, almost unanimously saw in the fruits of their labor, results that were inspired and blessed by the "Most High, all-powerful, good Lord". The Chapter was thus an invaluable aid in living our Gospel call wherever Providence calls us.

I therefore invite the friars from all backgrounds and Jurisdictions to accept, with humility and fidelity, the initiatives that will be promoted by the Ministers Provincial and Custodes in the coming years - as the main task of their office - in cooperation with the Minister General and his council and to allow to the new Constitutions to provide a common foundation in the mentality, discernment and lifestyle of each Jurisdiction, community and individual friar.

May the Immaculate Virgin, Queen and Patroness of our Order, sustain and guide us during this journey. The Constitutions describe our devotion to her as the "golden thread" that runs through our history. May the Seraphic Father Saint Francis and all the Saints of the Seraphic Order assist and inspire us. We are called to holiness, a holiness realized in our total dedication to the Lord "who performs wonders", in our joyful, fraternal daily life and in our missionary commitment in which we always try to reach all human peripheries.

Having completed this years-long process and being open to the journey that the Lord indicates for us; having obtained the definitive approval of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life by decree dated November 29, 2018, I, through this letter, by virtue of my office, submit for publication and do hereby promulgate the definitive text of the Constitutions of the Order, which shall go into effect starting February 2, 2019, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and World Day for Consecrated Life.

Rome, Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles, December 8, 2018, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Friar Marco TASCA, Minister General
Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI, Secretary General
 Prot. N. 865/18

■ ACTS OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY



Session October 29 - November 3, 2018

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

- approved the minutes of the meeting of September 24-28, 2018;
- dealt with issues concerning the 2019 retreat of the General Definitory;
- fine-tuned the program of the January 2019 meeting with the newly elected Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Provincial Secretaries;
- decided to conduct a general canonical visitation in the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia)
- listened to the reports of the visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
 - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
 - the CEF Federation Assembly (Marienrode-Germany, October 8-12, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the CFF Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland (October 5-10, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit to the post-novices of the USA (Texas, USA, October 10-12, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit to the postulants of the USA (Chicago, USA, October 12-19, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit to the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia on the occasion of: a formation course for young friars (October 23-27);
 - from the Assistant General for the FALC Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of:
 - the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Francis in Brazil (Rondinha-Curitiba, October 15-19, 2018);
 - the 2018 FALC Rivortorto Course (Rome-Assisi-Padua, September 3 - October 11, 2018);
 - the joint assembly of the friars of the "Rioplataense" Province of St. Anthony of Padua in Argentina-Uruguay and of the Provincial Delegation of Paraguay, (Luján-Buenos Aires, October 15-20, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedetto BAEK, on the occasion of:
 - the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in South Korea (October 23-24, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the missions in Kazakhstan and Russia (Astana-Kazakhstan October 1-5, 2018; Russia October 5-10, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Delegation of Bulgaria (October 11-15, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit to the friars of Hungary and Transylvania (October 16-20, 2018);
 - the FEMO Federation Assembly (Brno, the Czech Republic, October 22-25, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, on the occasion of:
 - the preparation meeting for the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy, (Nocera Inferiore, October 25, 2018);
- noting the permission granted by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) appointed seven religious brothers who will participate *pleno iure* in the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter;
- with the General Econom, Friar Nicola ROSA and the General Exactor, Friar Wojciech KULIG present, dealt with various financial issues;
- with members of the CERC present, Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, reviewed the draft of the General Statutes after having received suggestions from the Federations;

GENERAL DEFINITORY

- with members of the CERC present, Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, along with Friar Tomasz SZYMCZAK, the Secretary General appointed for the 2019 General Chapter, and Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, dealt with the organization of the Ordinary General Chapter;
- with the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL present, along with the members of the SGF, Friars Franklin DURÁN, Emanuele RIMOLI, and Zbigniew WÓJCIK, verified and approved the text of *Franciscan Discipleship* prepared for presentation at the 2019 General Chapter and defined some points of *Ratio Studiorum*;
- declared the changes made to the Statutes of the Custody of Our Holy Father St. Francis in Russia to be in conformity with the proper law of the Order;
- declared the changes made to the Statutes of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA to be in conformity with the proper law of the Order;
- approved the cause for the beatification of Friar Celestino TOMIĆ, a friar of the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia;
- dealt with issues concerning the missionary presence in Kazakhstan;
- conducted a second reading to review "The Guidelines for the Coordination of the Services of the General Offices and General Assignments";
- supported the publication of a new edition in Italian of the "Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe";
- was updated on the Inter-Franciscan Emmaus Project;
- was updated on the Franciscan University Project;
- considered some personal cases.

Session December 3-15, 2018

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

- approved the minutes of the meeting of October 29 - November 3, 2018;
- was updated on the methods and location for the 2019 retreat of the General Definitory;
- listened to the reports of the visits made by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
 - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of:
 - his fraternal visit to the mission in Denmark (November 23-26, 2018);
 - the Extraordinary Custodial Chapter of the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicolas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland (Vienna, Austria, November 29, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the CFF, Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of:
 - the CFF Federation Assembly (Chicago, USA, November 5-9, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit to the friaries of North Carolina, USA, (November 11-19, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of:
 - the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Koszalin, Poland, November 5-9, 2018);
 - the meeting of the guardians, formators and directors of Provincial works of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Koszalin, Poland, November 9, 2018);
 - the meeting of the guardians, formators and directors of Provincial works of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Niepokalanów-Lasek, Poland, November 19-20, 2018);
 - the 100th anniversary of the of the return of the friars to Łódź-Łagiewniki and the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the seminary (December 1, 2018);
 - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of:
 - the second part of the Custodial Chapter of the Province of St. Francis in Brazil (São Luis do Maranhão, Brazil, November 5-8, 2018);
 - his fraternal visit, together with the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, to the friaries in Amazonia, Brazil (November 15-24, 2018);
 - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Brazil (Brasília, November 26, 2018);

- from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedetto BAEK, on the occasion of:
 - the FAMC Federation Assembly (Sri Lanka, November 12-16, 2018);
 - the Provincial Assembly of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Japan (Nagasaki, Japan, November 22-24, 2018);
- proposed a process for the requested transfer of the mission in Kazakhstan to the General Custody of Our Holy Father St. Francis in Russia
- with members of the CERC present, Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, established that the newly revised Constitutions, which were formally approved on November 29, 2018, by the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVASVA), will go into effect on February 2, 2019, and that this news would be communicated to the friars of Order through a circular letter of the Minister General dated December 8, 2018;
- with members of the CERC present, Friars Valentín REDONDO, Timothy KULBICKI, Victor MORA and Zbigniew KOPEĆ, along with Friar Tomasz SZYMCZAK, the Secretary General appointed for the 2019 General Chapter, and Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, dealt with the organization of the Ordinary General Chapter;
- with the General Econom, Friar Nicola ROSA and the Legal Representative of the Order, Maurizio DI PAOLO present, dealt with various financial issues;
- listened to a report on the 2018 International Youth toward Assisi Meeting with the Meeting's coordinator, Friar Simone TENUTI, and its treasurer Massimiliano VOLANTE, both present;
- listened to and commented on the report of the General Visitor, Friar Luciano FANIN, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome;
- listened to and commented on the report of the General Visitor, Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI, at the end of his general canonical visitation to the friary of St. Peter (College of the Vatican Penitentiaries);
- granted approval for the establishment of the Provincial Delegation of St. Francis of Assisi in Canada of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA;
- granted approval for the establishment of the Provincial Delegation of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Hungary and Transylvania of the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Poland;
- approved the draft contract with the Archdiocese of Astana-Kazakhstan, regarding the presence of the Order in Astana;
- approved the transfer of the novitiate headquarters of the Province of St. Francis in Brazil from Caçapava, São Paulo, to Cascavel, Paraná, Brazil;
- defined and approved the list of properties owned by the OFM Conventual General Curia to be included in the appendix to the General Statutes, as required by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA);
- decided to print the Italian version of the revised Constitutions;
- decided to print an edition of the General Album of the Order updated to January 1, 2019;
- confirmed the alienation of a property of the General Curia;
- with the Procurator General, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO present, was informed about the opportunity for a meeting on the proper law of the Order;
- with the Procurator General, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO present, reflected on the characteristics that the office of a Procurator of the Order could have;
- defined the documentation to be presented in the General Chapter by the Provincial Custodies which are asking to become Provinces;
- met with Friar Agnello STOIA, president of the BYNODE Association and Mr. Matteo PERFETTI;
- considered some personal cases;
- On Monday December 17, 2018, met with the members of the Study Commission of the Franciscan University Project and with the members of the General Definitories of the Friars Minor and the Friars Minor Capuchin.

 GENERAL OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Friar Ryszard WRÓBEL
General Delegate for Communications



Rome: Inauguration at the Seraphicum

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO – Seraphicum Press Office

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, the 115th academic year of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure (Seraphicum) was inaugurated.

The day began with the celebration of Mass in the St. Bonaventure Chapel. The presider was the Most Reverend Augusto Paolo LOJUDICE, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome for the southern sector.

In his homily, the bishop said that the Gospel of the day highlights qualities that Saint Francis exemplified for us, in terms of radicality and courageous witness. It is an invitation to seek and learn more about the truth. However, he went on to stress that, within the academic context, “we ask the Lord for the discipline to study, to search, to learn more and to teach, while remembering to do all this under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In this way, our witness of life, both as teachers and as students, will be a true and credible witness of our vocation.”

The Dean, Friar Đinh Anh Nhuê NGUYỄN, opened the academic year with an overview of its academic activities and invited everyone to respond to their vocation.

“We ask that God grant us the missionary zeal of St. Paul the Apostle, who was martyred on this hill,” said the dean, “and that of St. Maximilian Maria KOLBE who studied at the Seraphicum when it was then headquartered on Via San Teodoro. May God grant us this Christian, Franciscan and apostolic zeal for the new academic year, in this new season of evangelization. Moreover, in everything we do, in every mission, may we have the conviction of Saint Paul: ‘I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me.’”

The inauguration of the academic year started off with the ritual formula read by Dean NGUYỄN. Those in attendance included representatives from other academic institutions in Rome, professors and students. The Grand Chancellor, Minister General Friar Marco TASCA, was absent due to his involvement in the work of the Synod on Youth at the Vatican. In his place was the Secretary General, Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI, along with the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI; the Procurator General, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO; and the General Econom, Friar Nicola ROSA.



Mass in the Seraphicum chapel

Rome: Bust of Pope John Paul II at Twelve Holy Apostles

■ Friar Robert LEŻOHUPSKI

At 6:30 p.m. on October 27, 2018, the 40th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II, and the inauguration of his Pontificate, were celebrated at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome.

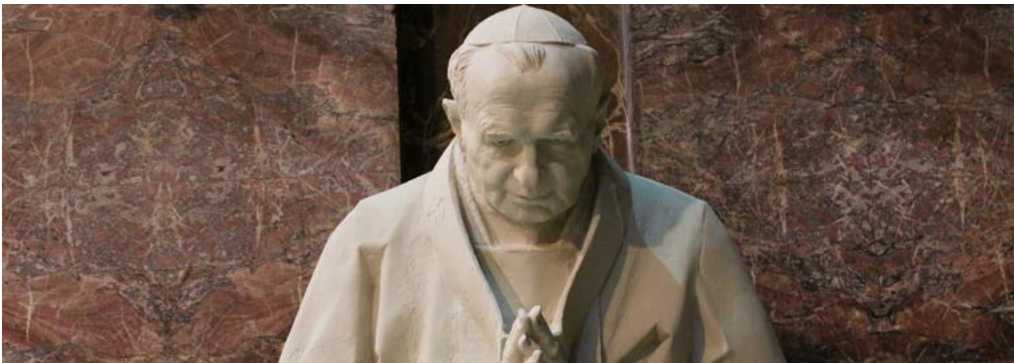
A Mass was offered with His Eminence, Giovanni Cardinal Battista RE, presiding.

Those attending the celebration included Polish diplomatic authorities involved with the Holy See; the priests in charge of the Roman Curia; the Friars Minor Conventual from different friaries around Rome; and many Polish nuns along with the lay faithful. After the Mass, a large bust of John Paul II was blessed. The bust was a gift from the Polish artist, Mr. Tomasz SOBISZ. He is a sculptor and professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk, Poland.

Cardinal RE gave some passionate, personal testimony in which he highlighted the personal attributes of St. John Paul II, attributes which were perfectly captured by the artist: his being a man of God who managed to reawaken religious sensibilities in the world; the depth and intensity of his union with God; his prayer, which he called the primary task of a Pope; his mystical dimension of always entrusting his pontificate, sufferings and discernment to God's Providence.

At the end of the celebration, some bas-reliefs were donated in memory of the 100th anniversary (1918-2018) of St. Maximilian Maria KOLBE's priestly ordination. These works are destined for the Rectory of Sant' Andrea della Valle, the Parish of Sant' Andrea delle Fratte, the friary of Maximilian Maria KOLBE and the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles.

After the celebration, a buffet was served in the Sala dell'Immacolata.



The bust of St. John Paul II

Website for the 2019 General Chapter

■ Editorial Staff

Welcome to the new website [www.capgenofmconv.org]. This website is dedicated to the Ordinary General Chapter, which will take place May 18 to June 18, 2019, in Assisi and Collevale, Italy.

For the time being, the website will feature pre-Chapter information, such as the letter announcing and convoking the Chapter, a list of the participants with their photos, the prayer invocations for the Chapter and a timetable of the most important preparatory phases.

The Chapter logo and its explanation have already been posted along with photographs showing the Chapter's meeting places.

Subsequent information will be published systematically as the office receives it.

The new website can be accessed through the Internet address indicated above or by the banner found on the Order's website [www.ofmconv.net].

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION

Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL
Secretary General of the SGF



Tanzania: Fraternal Gathering

■ Friar Benson Gideon MAPUNDA, Custodial Secretary

On October 9-11, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania held its second fraternal gathering.

All of the friars of the Custody gathered together for prayer, reflection and to talk about daily life in their respective friaries. This gathering was not only an ongoing formation event; it was also a time to thank God for the 30th anniversary of our presence in Tanzania.

The gathering was graced by the presence of the Most Reverend Josephat Louis LEBULU, Archbishop Emeritus of Arusha, Tanzania; and the Secretary General for Formation (SGF) Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, OFM Conv.

Archbishop LEBULU had initially invited the friars to Tanzania, while he was the bishop of the Diocese of Same. In his talk, he told the friars about the importance of perseverance and sacrifice in their ministries. He expressed how pleased he was with the work the friars are doing, not only in the diocese of Same, but in other places as well.

Friar Louis, for his part, gave a talk on “The Renewal of Gospel Life in the Order and in the Friars, in the Light of the New Constitutions”. His second talk was on “Interpersonal Conflicts in a Fraternity”.

During this gathering, the friars thanked Archbishop LEBULU for his support and care ever since the first friars arrived in Tanzania.

Likewise, the friars expressed their gratitude to Friar Dominik WASILEWSKI and Friar Piotr BUJNOWSKI, who in 1988 were the first friars to found a mission in Tanzania.



The participants

Indonesia: Canonical Visitation to the Custody

■ Friar Gabriele SINGARIMBUN

From October 16-26, 2018, the Secretary General for Formation [SGF] made a canonical visitation to the formation houses and friars in initial formation of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Indonesia.

The Visitor, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, went to Indonesia to learn about and discuss the status of the friars' formation and to evaluate it in view of the Custody soon becoming a Province. The visitation began at the clerical students' formation house in Pematangsiantar, by meeting with its thirty-five post-novices and four formators. The Visitor then held a meeting on the new vision of Franciscan formation.

He next visited the novitiate in Tiga Dolok, where he spoke with its twelve novices and four friars. Afterwards he led a discussion on the importance of having humility as Conventual friars and of having a new Franciscan vision of today's world.

His last visit was made to the Santa Catarina friary and postulancy house in Tiga Juhar, where he interviewed the seven postulants and ten friars of the community.

At the end, he met with the Custos and all the formators and guardians who are members of the Custody's commission for initial formation and its commission for ongoing formation. Friar Louis discussed some important aspects of the Custody's formation situation. Moreover, he proposed some urgent things to be reviewed, fine-tuned and changed, in light of the new Constitutions and the growing number of vocations in this part of the world.

During his visitation, the Visitor very much appreciated the hospitality of the confreres and the wonderful historical sites of Indonesia.

Rome: CIF Meeting

■ Friar Zbigniew WÓJCIK

On November 5-9, 2018, a meeting of the International Commission for Formation (CIF) of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, was held at the Seraphicum in Rome.

As it was last year, this year's meeting was dedicated to updating the main documents relating to the formation of the friars.

During the meeting, the Commission, along with the members of the General Secretariat for Formation (SGF), worked on the new draft of the *Ratio Studiorum Generalis*, which concerns the intellectual formation of the friars. This work was preceded by some reflection on the current state of formation in the various Federations of the Order.

The meeting continued in a fraternal atmosphere with the members working as a team and following a precise methodology. As a result, a revised and updated version of the *Ratio Studiorum* was drafted, which now takes into account the various changes that have taken place in recent years in our Order, the Church and society.

On the first day, the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, together with the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), Friar Benedetto BAEK, took part in the work session and made some interesting and valuable observations.

The members took a break to visit the Abbey of Montecassino, where they prayed, some for the first time, at the tomb of Saints Benedict and Scholastica.

Those participating in the meeting included Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL (SGF Secretary General); Friar Franklin Antonio DURÁN ZAMBRANO (SGF member); Friar Zbigniew WÓJCIK (SGF member); Friar Emanuele RIMOLI (SGF member); Friar Joseph KACHELEWA (AFCOF Federation representative); Friar Josef FISCHER (CEF Federation representative); Friar Piotr SZCZEPAŃSKI (FEMO Federation representative); Friar James CIARAMITARO (CFF Federation representative); Friar Alessandro PERISSINOTTO (FIMP Federation representative); and Friar Mattia Moonki CHOI (FAMC Federation representative).

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR MISSION ANIMATION

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI
Secretary General of the SGAM



Indonesia: Missionary Animation in Timor

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On October 3-7, 2018, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC) and the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) made a fraternal visit to Timor.

Friar Joseph BLAY (GPIC) and Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI (SGAM) went to Indonesia mainly to discuss the most important goals of both offices with each fraternity.

With a spirit of attentive listening, they visited two fraternities: Kafamenanu (with eight friars) and Pássabe (with three friars).

On October 4, 2018, the feast of the Seraphic Father St. Francis, they celebrated Mass with the local clergy, religious, and the people with whom our confreres share daily life.

The friars lead a very simple lifestyle, as do the people. One is immediately aware of being in an impoverished environment, but it is an environment where the people are warm and welcoming. The visiting friars experienced all this and much more as they traversed the vast territory of the mission in Timor.



Some participants

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Indonesia: Missionary Animation in Sumatra

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On October 7-10, 2018, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC) and the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) made a fraternal visit to Sumatra, Indonesia.

Friar Joseph BLAY (GPIC) and Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI (SGAM) visited various formation houses: the novitiate in Tiga Dolok, the post-novitiate in Pematangsiantar and the postulancy house in Tiga Juhar.

Friar Joseph discussed the goals of his office in the light of the spirituality and example of St. Francis. Friar Jarosław focused on missionary spirituality and on the status of the missions of our Order.

Both visitors from Rome enjoyed the friendship and collaboration of the formators and governing members of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Indonesia. The visiting friars sensed an optimistic energy among the friars in formation and noted the positive direction they were taking towards the growth of the fraternity.

It was a privileged time of grace to be part of this Custodial fraternity. It was quite heart-warming to share the peace and joy of the friars while trying to learn more about this particular part of the world. It was very interesting to experience “Indonesian” Franciscanism, as it tries to find, deepen and maintain its identity.



In Tiga Juhar



In Pematangsiantar



In Tiga Dolok

Japan: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On October 16-20, 2018, the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC) and the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) visited the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Japan, where they set up various meetings to discuss missionary work.

The animation meetings took place at the fraternities of Nagasaki and Tokyo. Both friaries in this part of the world were places of silence and recollection, which fostered listening to the Word of God and the friars, in an atmosphere of profound communion.

Friar Joseph BLAY (GPIC) and Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI (SGAM) carried out two community meetings attended by about fifteen friars from the Province. The animation focused on issues related to missionary spirituality; Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si'* documents; the letter of the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, "Forging Unity in Mission"; the missionary situation in our Order; and the themes of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

Plenty of time was given to discuss the pastoral experience in Peru regarding the life, martyrdom and beatification of our confreres Miguel TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.

On the last day of the visit, the participants gathered around the altar to celebrate Mass and to pray for all of our missions.



Some participants

Lebanon and Turkey: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI,

On October 24-28, 2018, members of the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation (SGAM) visited the friar fraternities of Lebanon and Turkey.

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI focused on issues relating to the "Mission Together" formation project, missionary spirituality and the missionary status of the Friars Minor Conventual. There was plenty of discussion about the latest Blessed in the Order, namely Friars Miguel TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZAŁKOWSKI.

Then, they visited various fraternities: Beirut, Lebanon, which currently has seven friars; Zahle, Lebanon, a formation community, vocations center and postulate, which has two friars and a candidate; and Istanbul, Turkey, which has seven friars.

The Conventuals in Lebanon and Turkey carry out various initiatives: working with the elderly and young people in the field of inter-religious dialogue and helping refugees and the poor. Our churches welcome the faithful for daily prayer and provide pastoral service to various groups. The friars are laying solid foundations on which to build an inclusive, plural and democratic society. They invest in culture through their encounter with others, opening paths of peace and acceptance, without excluding anyone.

On October 28, joining with the universal Church in Istanbul and Adampol, Turkey, they offered prayer for persecuted Christians.

Kenya: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On November 11-15, 2018, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) visited the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya.

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI visited the following fraternities: Nairobi-South C—the Custodial fraternity and the parish; Nairobi-Lang’ata—the formation house (seminary-theology studies); Ruiru—the postulancy house; and Subukia—the fraternity and the Marian Shrine.

Friar Jarosław’s missionary animation at the formation houses in Nairobi and Ruiru was focused on the missionary spirituality and the missionary status of the Order. He also discussed the growth of the Order in Anglophone Africa, as evidenced by the growing number of friars, the creation of structures in the Jurisdictions, the organization of pastoral ministry, the role of the many lay people involved, especially catechists in the field of evangelization, the turnout of the faithful in the churches on Sunday and their participation in the sacraments; and various social works and educational projects, which have caused us to give serious consideration to new presences in Francophone Africa.

Friar Jarosław then discussed the importance of seriously considering Pope Francis’ invitation to participate in his extraordinary October 2019 missionary prayer intention, in order to renew missionary enthusiasm and authenticity and thus become zealous missionary disciples, increasingly devoted to the love of Jesus and his mission of evangelization.

Friar Jarosław also went to the National Marian Shrine, which is entrusted to the Friars Minor Conventual. He got to spend some time in prayer and fraternal discussion with the community in charge of the “Village of Mary” where he offered sacramental and logistical assistance and visited the spirituality center. In addition to managing the Shrine, our friars are also dedicated to agriculture and run a small carpentry school for young people.



Some participants in Ruiru

Uganda: Missionary Animation

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On November 16-17, 2018, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) visited the Provincial Delegation in Uganda to engage in formation and spend some fraternal time together.

The SGAM Secretary General, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, visited the Conventual Franciscan fraternities in Uganda. On November 16, 2018, he visited Matugga and Kakooge. The next day he went to the postulancy house in Kampala.



In Kampala

While there, he made a presentation to the fraternity and the seventeen postulants. He spoke on the theme: “The Church Going Forth”, inspired by Pope Francis’ invitation to the whole Church in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. He also spoke about his missionary service in Peru, the story of the martyrdom of Miguel TOMASZEK and Zbigniew STRZALKOWSKI and Franciscan missionary spirituality.

Currently in the Delegation in Uganda [of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland, (Cracow)] the friars are distributed among the three above-mentioned friaries: Kakooge (parish and missionary presence), Kampala-Munyonyo (parish and National Shrine of the Ugandan Martyrs) and Matugga (parish and missionary presence).

The friars serve in the following capacities: pastoral care of catechists in the field of evangelization; care of the Shrine; vocations formation; parish ministry; pastoral health care ministry; and charitable work for the most needy.

The visit was a nice fraternal experience and an opportunity to strengthen brotherly bonds among the friars.

12th Edition of the “Mission Together” Project

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

On December 4, 2018, the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM) organized a meeting for the twelfth edition of the “Mission Together” Project.

The meeting took place at the Seraphicum International College of the Friars Minor Conventual in Rome.

The project helps our friars get training in Franciscan intercultural mission.

During the meeting, Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI, the SGAM Secretary General, and Friar Alphonse VAZHAPPANADY, a SGAM member, presented the goals of the project and shared some practical experiences.

Friar Jarosław made a report on his last visit to Lebanon.

Those participating in the project include Friar Emanuele RIMOLI (Italy) formator and leader, Friar Piotr KŁYS (Poland), Friar Peter GWON (Korea) and Friar Longinus JUDUNG (Indonesia). They will begin a mission experience in Lebanon in August of 2019.

In the coming months, other meetings will take place to study the theology of the mission and the current situation in the country. The friars will also study various issues concerning the presence of the Order in this part of the world.

Brussels: Course for New Missionaries

■ Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI

From September 3 to November 24, 2018, the course for new English-speaking missionaries was held in Brussels, Belgium.

Eight friars, members of the OFM, OFM Capuchin and OFM Conventual, attended the course. The friars came from various countries around the world: India, Italy, the Philippines and Zambia.

On November 20-24, as the course was concluding, the friars made pilgrimages to Rome, Italy, and the Franciscan sites of the Rieti Valley and Assisi.

On November 20, they were hosted by our fraternity of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Rome and spent some fraternal time at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles (the OFM Conv. General Curia).

During their stay in Assisi, they were hosted by the Franciscanum post-novitiate fraternity.

They visited a number of Franciscan sites such as Greccio, Fonte Colombo, La Foresta, the Porziuncola, the Sacred Convent, the Church of San Damiano and the Basilica of Saint Clare, where they experienced sharing, joy, and Franciscan hospitality.

We wish our missionary friars worthy and meaningful missionary ventures as they proclaim God's love, provide words of comfort and hope, and offer concrete help to the poor and marginalized around the world.



The participants

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

Friar Joseph BLAY
General Delegate for GPIC



South Korea: Friar Animation

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

On October 11-16, 2018, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC), and the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM), were in South Korea for various meetings.

Friar Joseph BLAY (GPIC) and Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI (SGAM) visited two formation houses (Ganghwa and Daegu) and two friaries doing social and pastoral ministry (Gimpo and Incheon). They all belong to the Province of St. Maximilian M. KOLBE in South Korea. The men undergoing formation in this Province were given presentations on the methods and goals of GPIC and on missionary work as an integral part of our Franciscan charism.

It was touching to see the choices the friars have made in helping restore human dignity to the least of Korean society. In Gimpo, the friars operate a nursing home for the disabled. Friar Stefano LIM is its guardian and director. Together with various collaborators, he takes care of sixteen people affected with autism. In Incheon, the Korean Province provides care for seven elders, including a ninety-four year old who has lived with the friars for thirty years. Friar Michele JEONG is the director of that program.

In both communities, the friars share their lives as much as possible with the people they serve. In particular, they all participate in prayer, meals and recreation together. The government of South Korea greatly appreciates the work the friars are doing and actively supports it.

USA: FI Meeting in New York

■ Friar Joseph BLAY

On November 8-12, 2018, the Franciscans International Board of Directors held its last meeting of the year in New York.

The Board is made up of representatives of the six Franciscan families, the Anglican Franciscan confraternity, and the Executive Director of Franciscans International (FI). The General Delegate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC), Friar Joseph BLAY, represented the Conventual Franciscan family.

The Board reviewed the FI charter, the four-year strategic plan and approved its budget for 2019.

New personnel at the New York office came to meet with the Board, as well. On Saturday, November 11, the Board spent the first half of the day meeting and interacting with the Franciscan Families in and around New York.

On November 13, Friar Joseph BLAY attended a “Friars’ Day” of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA, celebrated in Enfield, Connecticut. It was an occasion to meet with some friars who worked in Ghana and to discuss some GPIC issues.

Poland: Franciscans for the Climate in Katowice

■ Friar Stanisław JAROMI, OFM Conv. / REFA

On December 3-15, 2018, the United Nations Climate Summit was held in Katowice, Poland.

The event was attended by politicians, scientists and world leaders attempting to deal with the difficult, modern-day challenges caused by the current social and economic crises and ecological and climatic conditions.

Shortly before the Climate Summit (December 1-4), workshops by the Ecological Movement of St. Francis of Assisi (REFA) took place in Katowice as well, at the School of Integral Ecologists. Eighteen participants prayed, worked together and grappled with the difficult challenges posed by the ecological and climatic crisis with the aim of creating their own Christian response in the spirit of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. "Looking in the same direction is what unites us," the participants declared. "We want to be ecologists among Catholics and Catholics among ecologists."

The tools for this mission were crafted through conferences, discussions and meetings with experts. The workshops were conducted by Friar Stanisław JAROMI, OFM Conv., and Emilia ŚLIMKO of REFA. Friar Joseph BLAY, OFM Conv., the Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC), was also present.

One important event was a Mass organized by REFA on December 2, for international reconciliation and the success of the climate summit negotiations. The Mass took place at the church used by the Fatebenefratelli lay society.

The next day, a Franciscan discussion took place on the topic "Climate Crisis and the Role of the Faith Community for Climate Justice." It was organized by the OFM General Office for GPIC. Much attention was paid to the Christian response to the environmental crisis and the role of Christian communities in achieving climate justice. Eco-messages were delivered by Friar Jacek ORZECZOWSKI, OFM, from the USA; Friar Stanisław JAROMI, OFM Conv.; Junghee MIN, Secretary General of the ICE Network (Inter-religious Climate and Ecology), Budi TJAHJONO (Franciscans International) and Igor BASTOS (Global Catholic Climate Movement).

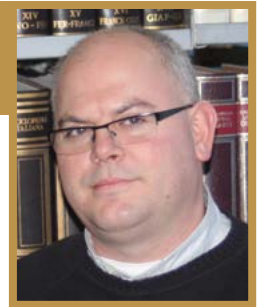
On December 8, many Catholic ecologists spent the day at the Franciscan Center of Upper Silesia in Katowice-Panewniki, Poland. Mass there was presided over by Friar Stanisław JAROMI, OFM Conv., and concelebrated by Friar Sergiusz BAŁDYGA, OFM, the guardian of the local friary where a charging station for electric cars was recently installed. The events that day combined lessons, discussions and prayer under the slogan: "Mission *Laudato Si'*: Christians for the Climate." Participants included representatives of GCCM, Franciscans International, REFA, the diocesan Caritas organization and local pastoral groups.

The Franciscan voice was clearly heard during the various scientific and ecumenical events.

Notable among these was the International Convention entitled "For the Care of a Common Home: The Christian on the Path of Ecology." It was held on November 30, 2018, organized by the Faculty of Theology of the University of Silesia in Katowice. Next, there was a symposium entitled "Safeguarding Our Climate, Advancing Our Society." It was held on December 10, 2018, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Polish Academy of Sciences and the French National Center for Scientific Research. Among those participating was the Most Reverend Wojciech POLAK, Primate of Poland. At the end, a joint memorandum was issued in which the scientists, intellectuals and clergy demanded an active and scientifically based response to limit global climate change.

OFFICE OF THE POSTULATOR GENERAL

Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU
Postulator General



Croatia: Fraternal Visit

■ Friars Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU and Miljenko HONTIĆ

In October of 2018, the Postulator General and the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) made a joint visit to Croatia.

Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU (Postulator) and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ (Assistant General) stayed in Zagreb, Croatia, for the first stage of their journey (October 14-20, 2018) where they learned more about Friar Celestin TOMIĆ (1917-2006) who lived and died in the fame of sanctity.

On October 15-16, they met with the Minister Provincial Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ, who informed them of the Croatian friars' wish to initiate a cause for the beatification of Friar TOMIĆ. This confrere was an illustrious professor and a humble friar. He greatly loved studying and teaching the Holy Scriptures in our seminaries and at the theological faculty in Zagreb. Many friars and priests remember him as almost being a new Saint Jerome of Dalmatia.

The visitors next went to the friary in Šibenik, where they met with Friar Augustin KORDIĆ. This confrere has been put in charge of gathering the documentation for this cause and the preparations needed to open it. Despite his age, he has committed himself very ardently to this task, which the Provincial Chapter entrusted to him.

On October 17-20, both friars participated in celebrations commemorating St. Francis of Assisi's passage through this area and the 800th anniversary of the first Franciscan church built in this country. The festivities were organized by Pastor Stipe BODRUŽIĆ, from the parish of St. Mary of the Angels in Trogir (Central Dalmatia).

On the evening of October 19, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ presided over a final Mass, during which a relic of Saint Francis of Assisi was solemnly enshrined and a statue of the Seraphic Father, made for the occasion, was blessed. After the Mass, there was a procession of the relic of St. Francis through the streets of Trogir, with the participation of many priests and faithful from the city and its surroundings.



A moment during the Mass

Vatican: Upcoming Beatification for Conventual

■ Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU

The Secretariat of State of the Holy See has written to the Postulator General of the Friars Minor Conventual, informing him by letter No. 423.517, dated October 17, 2018, that the Holy Father has authorized the beatification of four venerable Argentinian martyrs.

The document concerns the Most Reverend Enrico Angelo ANGELELLI CARLETTI, Bishop of La Rioja, Argentina; Father Gabriel Giuseppe Ruggero LONGUEVILLE, a diocesan priest; Friar Carlo di Dio MURIAS, OFM Conv., a priest of the “Rioplátense” Province of St. Anthony of Padua in Argentina-Uruguay; and Wenceslao PEDERNERA, a layman and the father of a family. All four were killed in *odium fidei* in Argentina in 1976.

The Rite of Beatification will be celebrated on April 27, 2019, in the city of La Rioja, Argentina. His Eminence, Angelo Cardinal BECCIU, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, will represent the Holy Father.

The Postulator General, Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU, OFM Conv., has been taking care of the process for all four martyrs.

On June 9, 2018, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decrees recognizing the martyrdom of these four.

Let us give glory to God, the source of all holiness.



Friar Carlo di Dio MURIAS

Vatican: A New Secular Franciscan Venerable

■ Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU

On November 7, 2018, the Holy Father Pope Francis formally recognized the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Lodovico COCCAPANI, a layman of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Servant of God was born in Calcinaia, outside of Pisa, Italy, on June 23, 1849, to Sigismondo (an artisan) and Fortunata GUELFI. He received the Sacrament of Baptism the next day and was given the name Lodovico Francesco Angiolo Cesare. He received the Sacrament of Confirmation on his seventh birthday (June 23, 1856) at the hands of His Eminence Cosimo Cardinal CORSI (1798-1870). The Venerable lost both his parents at a young age.

In 1864, the Servant of God moved to Pisa to study at the Royal Teachers’ School, receiving his diploma in 1867 as a teacher for higher elementary school. After first teaching in Pisa, he moved to an elementary school in Fucecchio (outside of Florence) where he remained for two years and was publicly recognized for his pedagogical prowess. He left teaching in 1869, and in 1871, he moved back to Pisa together with his brother and sister. In Pisa, he won a position as a debt collector and worked there from 1872 to 1883. At that point, he dedicated himself completely to charitable activities, rooming with his priest-brother Lionello and living off his family savings.

On Saturday, December 7, 1907, the vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Servant of God was invested with the habit of the Third Order Franciscans, making his profession on December 8 the following year.

From the late 1880’s onward, the Servant of God increasingly dedicated himself to evangelization and charitable works. He joined several religious and civil committees that offered social assistance. In 1894, he entered the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at Santa Maria del Carmine and in 1895, he entered the Conference at Sant’Eufrasia, of which he served as President from 1907 until his death. In 1914, the Servant of God was elected joint President of the three St. Vincent de Paul Conferences in the city. In 1918, he was recognized for his commitment to charity, through the recommendation of Cardinal MAFFI, when he was nominated a Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory, civil class.



Lodovico COCCAPANI

The charitable activities of the Servant of God had a notable impact upon society. Immediately following World War I, he also involved himself in civic life. He became involved with a Pisan institute known as the “Buonomini” (Gentlemen), where he dedicated himself to the moral and material care of prisoners. His commitment to prisoners was civilly recognized in 1925, with a bronze medal and certificate of merit for social rehabilitation. These two honors explain why the Servant of God is also known as the “Knight of Charity”.

His activities were also recognized in the Catholic world. He was on excellent terms with His Eminence Pietro Cardinal MAFFI (1858-1831), who gave him a house in Calcinaiia with which to establish an asylum. He was also involved with the future Blessed Giuseppe TONIOLO (1845-1918) regarding work with young people, as well as with Bishop Francesco Maria BERTI (1868-1944).

The Servant of God died of pneumonia at the age of 82.

Vatican: Heroic Virtues of Friar Girolamo Biasi

■ Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU

The Holy Father Pope Francis on December 21, 2018, having consulted with His Eminence Giovanni Angelo Cardinal BECCIU the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, recognized the heroic virtue of the Servant of God Girolamo BIASI.

The Servant of God, Girolamo Maria BIASI, was born “Arcangelo” BIASI, on December 7, 1897, in Sfruz (Trento), Italy, which was then under Austro-Hungarian domination.

At twelve, in September of 1909, after elementary school, the Friars Minor Conventual of the Province of St. Anthony of Padua accepted Girolamo into their college in Camposampiero, Italy. On October 4, 1914, he was admitted into the novitiate. He professed his vows the following year and began high school. In 1916, at the height of World War I, he was transferred to the International College on Via San Teodoro in Rome. He continued his high school studies at the Lateran University and graduated in philosophy.

On December 8, 1918, he professed his solemn vows and enrolled in the Faculty of Theology at the Gregorian University. However, in the winter of 1919, he suffered his first episode of hemoptysis. He was ordained to the sub-deaconate on April 1, 1922, the diaconate on April 17, 1922, and the priesthood on July 16, 1922.

The following years were a continuous rotation between the friary and the hospital. In August of 1928, he made a pilgrimage to Lourdes. However, less than a year later, at 2:00 p.m., on June 20, 1929, he died, offering himself in a supreme act of faith and love to God, assisted by the hospital chaplain.

All of his family members attended his funeral, along with the friars and representatives from all the religious families and secular clergy in the town. He was buried in the priests’ tomb. In 1940, when the friars had a tomb of their own, they had his body transferred there [*Biographia Documentata*, pp. 115-118]. Finally, on December 8, 1987, his remains were placed in the church of the Antonian Sanctuaries in Camposampiero-Padua, Italy.



Friar Girolamo BIASI

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Vatican: The Heroic Virtue of Friar Melchior Fordon

■ Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU

The Holy Father Pope Francis on December 21, 2018, having consulted with His Eminence Giovanni Angelo Cardinal BECCIU, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, recognized the heroic virtue of the Servant of God Melchior FORDON.

The Venerable Melchior FORDON was born in Grodno (now the Republic of Belarus) on August 5, 1862, and baptized August 26, 1862, at the local Roman Catholic parish church. Melchior was the son of Jakub FORDON and Felicja LUKOWICZ. Jakub was an architect in Grodno. Felicja came from a noble Polish Catholic family. To avoid Russian schooling, little Melchior received his elementary education at home, but later attended a Russian junior high school.

In 1883, at the age of twenty-one, he entered the diocesan seminary in Vilnius, Lithuania. He was ordained a priest on August 2, 1887, in Kaunas, Lithuania.

After a few months, the Servant of God was made a pastor in Strubnica (Belarus) and later, in Dąbrowa Grodzieńska (Poland). In early 1903, he was transferred to Grodno where he served as the pastor of St. Mary of the Angels and the curator of a former Franciscan friary, transformed into a kind of reformatory house for priests that the Russian authorities deemed as dangerous to the state.

After twenty-three years of priesthood, having obtained permission from the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Vilnius, the Servant of God entered the Order of Friars Minor Conventual (Province of Warsaw). During World War I, he served as the assistant pastor of the church of St. Mary of the Angels in Grodno.

His unshakable faith in God, in his Son Jesus Christ and in the Blessed Virgin Mary and his imitation of St. Francis, gave the Servant of God the strength he needed to carry out his pastoral ministry among those who needed spiritual, moral and material assistance. He taught and attracted people not only by proclaiming the truths of the faith, but above all by his example of a humble, sober life, full of renunciation and mortification. He was willing to sacrifice himself to save or defend his neighbor's life. The priests, friars, religious and many faithful who had known him during their lifetime considered him holy.

From the way he lived his life, one gets the sense that he chose the priestly state before the religious one in order to get closer to God and to bring his fellow countrymen closer to the Lord, especially those who were disadvantaged or abandoned, that is, the people who lived in the villages.

The Servant of God began his pastoral service in the simplest way, through religious education. In this way, he intended to gradually raise the moral sense of the inhabitants of the villages and the urban districts entrusted to him. He fought against alcoholism and immorality. He understood how hard living conditions were for the peasants and the inhabitants of the poor neighborhoods. He always wanted to be close to his parishioners to learn more about their problems and find solutions to their difficulties.

On October 20, 1922, Friar Maximilian Kolbe came to Grodno to promote the Militia of the Immaculate. Friar Melchior FORDON would guide young candidates who came to Grodno. He helped them on their vocational journey with spiritual conversations and by hearing their confessions. He even served as a spiritual director and confessor for Friar Maximilian Kolbe himself.

Friar Melchior FORDON piously surrendered his holy and meritorious life to God on February 27, 1927.



Friar Melchior FORDON

■ GENERAL ASSISTANT OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ORDER

Friar Alfred PARAMBAKATHU
General Assistant of the OFS



Sardinia: A Franciscan for Our Times

■ Friar Silvano BIANCO, OFM Conv.

This book presents the life and writings of Tina GARAU. She was born in 1921, in Gonnosfanàdiga (Oristano Province), a charming town in southwestern Sardinia, Italy.

Tina was the youngest of eight children—six boys and two girls. At twenty-one she earned a diploma with honors to teach elementary school. The same year, she was vested in the habit of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS). The following year, she professed her vows with the fraternity in Oristano, far from her hometown. She kept her membership in the OFS hidden at first, probably because as a young girl she had been engaged in Catholic Action in the Diocese of Ales.

In 1955, she moved with her family to Cagliari [Sardinia], where she attended the OFS fraternity of the Annunciation parish. Two years later, she was made a teacher of formation and in 1958, was elected the Regional Delegate of the Franciscan Youth for Women. From then on, a relationship of love and service was established between Tina and the OFS. She served in various roles, including the Regional Minister of Sardinia, first from 1966 to 1988 and then from 1994 to 2001; the National Councilor from 1966 until her death; the Deputy Minister of State for a three-year term covering 1983 to 1986; and she served as the International Vice President from 1978 to 1990. Her work in formation led her to travel to conferences and conventions throughout the peninsula and abroad. This explains the richness of her writings, which deal principally with St. Francis and various aspects of the Secular Franciscan Order. However, she covers many other topics dealing with social and ecclesial life and Christian spirituality.

In his introduction to this book, the Most Reverend Roberto CARBONI, Bishop of Ales-Terralba, writes: “The research and in-depth examination that Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA, OFM Conv., has conducted on the life and testimony of Tina, shows us a journey of faith, which starts from a distance and gradually intensifies and, as it were, solidifies around the figure of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a happy choice, letting Tina speak, presenting her writings and notes, which once again show us the freshness of her thought and her Christian and Franciscan spiritual journey. It was a journey not without difficult moments, both humanly, when her health deteriorated, and spiritually, when she experienced those “dark nights” so familiar in mysticism and spirituality, those intense, questioning moments. We give Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA credit for showing us, with his clear style and careful research, a vibrant interpretation of Tina’s life journey; her love for the Lord and for Saint Francis; her generous service, first devoted to Catholic Action in our Diocese of Ales – Terralba, when Bishop TEDDE – as soon as he was installed – called her to be the Diocesan President, a post she held for sixteen years. In addition, there was her service in the Secular Franciscan Order, at the regional, national and international level.”

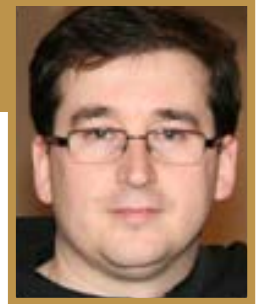
Her writings will certainly be welcomed as a grace and a sure guide, not only by Secular Franciscans, but also by the whole of the diverse Franciscan family and by the many Christians who strive for evangelical perfection, because what she has written is a lucid and faithful presentation of spirituality in keeping with the Saint of Assisi. Moreover, it is also the reality she lived with love and passion.



Tina GARAU

■ GENERAL DELEGATE FOR ECUMENSIM
AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Friar Silvestru BEJAN
General Delegate for EDI



Schwarzenberg: 9th “Pro Dialogo” Meeting

■ Friar Silvestru BEJAN

On November 5-9, 2018, ten friars from Italy, Malta, France, Turkey and Germany gathered at the friary in Schwarzenberg, Germany, for the 9th “Pro Dialogo” Meeting.

The meeting was organized by Friar Silvestro BEJAN, the Delegate General for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue (EDI).

Friar Silvestru is also the director of the International Franciscan Center for Dialogue (CEFID). The theme he prepared for this meeting was “Paths of Dialogue between Catholic Christians and Christians of the Protestant Reform.” The General Assistant for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF), Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, was also present at the meeting. On Tuesday, November 6, Friar Heinz-Meinolf STAMM, OFM, gave the first lecture. He spoke on “Martin Luther and his Theology.” I

On the same day, Friar Silvestru BEJAN presented a four-part report: (1) “Francis yes – Francis no: Francis of Assisi and Martin Luther”. Here, he used Luther’s writings to show how Luther somewhat admired Saint Francis, but more often spoke against Francis’ choices and those of his friars—especially regarding religious vows; (2) “The Franciscan Orders before the Protestant Reformation of the Early 16th Century: A Polymorphism of Attitudes and Responses”; (3) “Franciscan Rewrites between the 19th and 20th Centuries”; and (4) “Assisi: The City that Welcomes Lutherans”.

After Friar BEJAN’s reports, the participants went to meet Professor Joachim ROTH, a Protestant pastor in Scheinfeld, Germany. On Wednesday, November 7, two important visits were made to the city of Nuremberg. The participants first visited the CPH Academy in the Diocese of Bamberg, where Dr. Claudio ETTL, spoke about the Sister Caritas PIRCKHEIMER (1467-1532), a German Poor Clare who strenuously opposed Martin Luther in the reform of Catholic monasteries.

The second visit was to the Protestant Academy in Nuremberg, where Dr. Ekkehard WOLLEBEN, Pastor and Rector of the Academy, spoke about ecumenical activities.

On the last day, there was meeting in the morning, which included a fraternal discussion on the commitment to dialogue and some time spent planning work and activities for the future. In the afternoon, the participants visited the Protestant Monastery in Schwanberg, Germany. While there, they met with Sister Katharina-Susanne SCHULZ, CCR, an evangelical (Lutheran) Benedictine nun.

The final visit was made to a “private” church along the Autobahn-Rasthof Geiselwind called “Licht auf unserm Weg” (Light on our Way). This church is used for Catholic functions and Lutheran services; the friars of Schwarzenberg collaborate with the Catholic owner of the church. The visit concluded with the recitation of Evening Prayer.

The participants returned to their friaries on Friday, November 9.



The participants

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTENT OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATE

Friar Raffaele DI MURO
International M.I. President



Rome: 101st Anniversary of the Foundation of the M.I.

■ Friar Raffaele DI MURO

Echoes from last year's Kolbean centenary continued to resound during this year's 101st anniversary of the foundation of the Militia of the Immaculate.

The M.I. was established on the evening of October 16, 1917, making the charismatic presence of St. Maximilian M. KOLBE more alive than ever and setting up a driving force for the years to come.

In an evocative presentation, Father KOLBE's life and travels, the key moments of his life, were performed and celebrated, particularly the dramatic reversal of fortune among the condemned prisoners in the concentration camp. On October 17, 2018, the friary on Via di San Teodoro in Rome, once again hosted the anniversary event. This time it commemorated one hundred and one years of the Militia of the Immaculate's existence. It was a joyous and emotional triumph. A large and motivated audience attended, comprised of friars, groups and individuals representing various movements and associations, and those who share the Kolbean charism, all assembled to see Father KOLBE's splendid message made real through the presentation of a series of remembrances.

The guardian, Friar Valentín REDONDO, greeted and welcomed the delighted public in front of the Kolbe Exhibition. Next, Friar Raffaele DI MURO, President of the International Militia of the Immaculate, introduced the evening's opening event, a theatrical presentation called "Madri Nostri", directed by Antonio TARALLO. Friar Raffaele took the opportunity to ask the director to give some artistic background. Now, as then, we see events involving death and destruction, but these events do not get the last word. It is love that has the final say, the same love embodied by Father KOLBE, love that endures and never dies.

The event continued with the celebration of Mass, presided over by the Most Reverend Roberto CARBONI, OFM Conv., Bishop of Ales-Terralba, Italy. Those concelebrating included Conventual friars from the friary on Via San Teodoro and the "Seraphicum" International College in Rome. Hymns were sung by the "San Giuseppe da Copertino Parish Choir" of Rome. In his homily, Bishop CARBONI presented all the richness and topicality of Father KOLBE and proposed him as an admirable figure, about whom we should learn more.

The event concluded with a fraternal agape meal.



A moment during the Mass

 GENERAL FINANCIAL OFFICE


SOME THANK YOU NOTES...

FOR MASS OFFERINGS:

- Friary of the XII Holy Apostles, Rome, Italy
- Cust. of Assisi, Italy
- Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- Prov. of Croatia

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ORDER:

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

FOR THE MISSIONS:

- Cust. of Canada
- Prov. of Warsaw, Poland
- Prov. of Germany
- Prov. of Croatia
- Prov. of Slovenia

FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Cust. of Canada
- Prov. of Croatia

FOR THE FORMATION FUND:

- Cust. of Austria-Switzerland
- Cust. of Ghana
- Cust. of Indonesia
- Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- Prov. of Germany
- Prov. of SJC, 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



Kenya: Friars Serving Pilgrims in Subukia

■ Friar Kazimierz SZULC, Provincial Custos

As it happens every year, the “National Day of Prayer for Peace” was celebrated on the first Saturday of October at the National Shrine of Subukia in Kenya.

The Shrine is entrusted to the care of the Friars Minor Conventual of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi. The Custody belongs to the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk).

This prayer meeting was organized by the Catholic Episcopate of Kenya under the theme: “Do Not Be Afraid, Mary, for You Have Found Favor with God.” (Lk 1:30). The celebration began with Mass on Saturday evening followed by a Eucharistic procession and Eucharistic adoration that lasted throughout the night. It ended with the Mass of Indulgence on Sunday.

During this time, the friars and other priests administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the numerous pilgrims.

Seventeen bishops participated along with the Apostolic Nuncio. Fifty thousand pilgrims came from all over Kenya.

At the end of the meeting, the throng of pilgrims was “blessed” by some rainfall, which everyone considered to be a “grace from heaven”.

Catholics in Kenya are very devoted to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and many people (individuals, families and groups) come to this National Shrine throughout the year for a number of different events. The community of friars in Kenya is dedicated not only to setting up these events, but to also offering sacramental and logistical assistance.

His Eminence, Maurice Cardinal OTUNGA, named the place “The Village of Mary” in 1984. The name “Subukia” comes from the Masai word “isupuku” which means “higher ground”; in fact, the Shrine is located in the upper elevations of this area and so people say, ‘Mother is always gazing upon us’.



The procession in Subukia

There is also a spring of 'miraculous water,' as many believe. The water flows out from the top of the ridge (where the Stations of the Cross are followed by climbing several steps). The spring never runs dry, even during the dry season.

The Shrine appeals to both Christians and non-Christians; everyone is attracted to this "holy place", as announced at the entrance.

The Shrine was constructed in the shape of Mary's crown and was built almost exclusively with donations from the Christians of the country. It measures 50 meters [164 feet] in diameter and can hold up to five thousand people.

Next to it there is a large friary accommodating a sizeable community of friars dedicated to pastoral service. Moreover, the confreres, with the help of the Custody of Assisi, have built a "spiritual center" with sixty rooms to be used for the various activities carried out in the Shrine and its surroundings. A small carpentry school for young people was also built. The parcel of land which the Episcopal Conference donated to the Order is very large, so the friars are studying many development plans for this place.

Kenya: New Conventual Franciscan Parish

■ Friar Kazimierz SZULC, Provincial Custos

The Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya accepted an invitation to serve in another diocese.

The Most Reverend Emmanuel OKOMBO, Bishop of Kericho, Kenya, issued the invitation. This diocese will be the seventh location where the Friars Minor Conventual of Kenya are engaged. They have been doing pastoral service, helping another dioceses in the country and performing many other services (vocation formation, taking care of pilgrims, education, spiritual retreats, publishing and typography, as well as offering social and charitable services).

On October 14, 2018, the friars took possession of the new parish of St. John the Evangelist in Chepseon.

The parish is located halfway between Limuru (the Franciscan Center) and Subukia (the National Shrine). In the past, Chepseon had been the site of terrible tribal warfare. During the last Extraordinary Custodial Chapter, the Custody decided to take on the commitment in Chepseon with the intention of promoting peace and reconciliation among the area's multi-tribal population.

During Mass, Bishop OKOMBO thanked the Custody for its commitment and presented the first community of friars to the 1500 parishioners attending the event. The fraternity at St. John the Evangelist is composed of three friar priests: Friars Stephen GATIMU, Godfrey OPATA and Paul MAKEMBO. They will be serving the faithful at the parish center and in its twelve outlying chapels.

The faithful were very enthusiastic about this event; until now there had only been one diocesan pastor and, of course, he could not do much by himself.



The friars with the bishop

Zambia: Roofs Ripped Off at Ibenga

■ Friar Mathews KASONGO, Provincial Secretary

The Ibenga mission, commonly known as the St. Theresa Shrine, is a Catholic mission in the Masaiti District of Copperbelt, Zambia.

The mission serves the local community and beyond by providing spiritual guidance as well as health and education services. It is run by the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia with help from the Franciscan Sisters of Assisi under the auspices of the Catholic Diocese of Ndola.

Around 5 p.m. on Friday, October 19, 2018, the entire region experienced severe thunderstorms, which ripped the roofs off the church, the school hall and the operating room at the hospital. This has affected activities at the mission especially now that exams are underway. The operating room is also currently unusable and incapable of providing critical services to the community.

The spiritual life of the community has also been affected, since the church's roof has been ripped off. We thank God that there were no human casualties or loss of life.

Zambia: Workshop for Young Friars

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF

On October 23-26, 2018, the friars of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia held a workshop for friars completing their initial formation within the last five years. The workshop took place in Ndola, Zambia.

Twelve friars gathered to reflect upon their fraternal, spiritual and apostolic life during these last years and to consider their hopes for the future. Friar Jude WINKLER, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), was the coordinator for this week of renewal. He took his reflections from St. Paul's Letters (1 Corinthians and Philippians) and applied various ideas in those letters to our Franciscan life.

On October 24, the friars gathered with other friars living in the Ndola area to celebrate our national day of independence with an afternoon picnic.

On that day, the Minister Provincial, Friar Richard Francis CHIMFWEMBE, along with Friar Jude, visited the mission in Ibenga to view the damage done to the church during a recent storm (reported on the Order's website in an earlier posting).



The participants

Tanzania: A New Parish

■ Friar Benson Gideon MAPUNDA, Custodial Secretary

The Conventual Franciscans of the Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania have been serving four outstations along the Nyumba ya Mungu Dam since the friars' arrival in 1988.

Two of the outstations have grown both spiritually and materially to the point of being elevated to the level of a parish. On October 28, 2018, the bishop of the Diocese of Same elevated one of the outstations to a parish, placing it under the patronage of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. A diocesan pastor will head the new parish.

This is the second parish to have sprung from the Divine Mercy parish in Mwanga. Many thanks to all the friars who have worked at the Mwanga parish, for their dedication and commitment in serving God's people at the Nyumba ya Mungu Dam. Friars Grzegorz BYKOWSKI and Everest Valentine MKENDA currently serve at the Mwanga Parish.

On the same day, ninety-six boys and girls received the sacrament of confirmation.



The friars with the bishop

Zambia: Guardians' Meeting

■ Friar Mathews KASONGO, Provincial Secretary

On December 3, 2018, the guardians of all sixteen friaries of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia and the mission in Malawi, gathered at the Franciscan Center in Ndola, Zambia, for their annual Guardians' Meeting, held December 3-6, 2018.

The meeting took place in the Chapter Hall of the Pastoral Center. It opened and closed with Mass. Friar Vincent SICHAND made his Profession of Faith as he took his new office as guardian for the St. Kalembe mission friary in Kapembe, Manyinga District, in Zambia's North-Western Province.

CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [AFCOF]

After the Profession of Faith, the Minister Provincial, Friar Richard Francis CHIM-FWEMBE, presided over the meeting offering a warm and fraternal welcome to the guardians who serve as his immediate collaborators. In his opening remarks, he stated that the theme of this year's Guardians' meeting was "Nurturing the Seed That Has Been Entrusted to Me". Based on this theme, he reflected with the guardians on the concept of lending a "helping hand". He fraternally encouraged each guardian to see his office as lending a helping hand, not only to the Minister Provincial, as his immediate collaborator in running the affairs of the Province, but also lending a helping hand to every friar in the Province, especially the friars who are members of the guardian's own friary. The Minister Provincial further exhorted the guardians that, when it comes to lending a helping hand, there will be times in their lives when they will need help from others, especially when they are facing the dark side of life in their office and ministry. He also encouraged them to bring different generations of friars in the Province together because the Province is not comprised of only one generation. Different generations of friars make the Province what it is. One must treasure and take care of this beauty, which the Lord has given our Province.

Keeping the theme of this year's meeting in mind, the friars evaluated the Provincial Four-Year Plan to see what progress the communities have made so far and how they are faring regarding their spiritual life, fraternal life, apostolates and Province finances. The friars formed discussion groups and talked extensively about these aspects of our lives. They evaluated the joys, struggles and challenges the friars have faced during the first two and a half years of this four-year term.

The meeting also included time for the Liturgy of the Hours, Mass, presentations, discussions, reflections and evening social recreation.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister Provincial thanked the guardians for their concerted efforts for the good of the Province. He also urged them to improve communications and their financial support of the Provincial administration. Above all, he asked them to strengthen our fraternity and to focus on the common good of the Province. He further encouraged them to celebrate 2019 as the "Year of Fraternity". At the close of the guardians' meeting, the friars recited the peace prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.



In the lecture room

www.capgenofmconv.org

■ CENTRALIS EUROPAE FOEDERATIO

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ
Assistant General for the CEF



Germany: CEF Assembly

■ Friar Miljenko Hontić

On October 8-12, 2018, the CEF Federation held its fall assembly at the convent of the Benedictine Sisters of Eibingen in Marienrode, Germany.

Thirteen members of the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF) attended, along with a guest, Friar Ciprian BUDĂU, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland, and the CEF President, Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany. The only member who was absent was the Delegate of Scandinavia.

At this session, various topics were examined, starting with updates from the Jurisdictions. Next, evaluations were made of events that had been organized by the last assembly; plans for the future were considered, etc.

The Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, reported news from the General Curia and the Order, and presented the Postulator General's plan for a course to be organized in every Jurisdiction of the Federation, which will spread the fame of sanctity of outstanding figures of our Order.

One day was dedicated to visiting the friary in Ottenberg, guided by Friar Jarek KACZMAREK. The Ottenberg friary belongs to our friars of the Provincial Delegation in Germany of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw). A visit was also made to the neighboring city of Hildesheim, which is the seat of the Diocese where the Ottenberg friary is located. This time, the Jurisdiction that hosted the CEF members was the aforementioned Provincial Delegation, headed by the Provincial Delegate, Friar Adam SALOMON.

During the friars' stay at Marienrode, the relics of St. Bernadette SOUBIROUS arrived from Lourdes. They were brought on pilgrimage to the church of the Benedictine Sisters in Germany. The friars took part in the event by celebrating Mass with the relics and participating in the "au flambeaux" procession.

Finally, we should mention that the Jurisdictions of Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Slovenia, Switzerland and Sweden are all members of the CEF Federation.

Germany: "FraJuWa" Jubilee

■ Friar Konrad SCHLATTMANN

Young people and adults recently met for the 30th "Franciscan Youth Pilgrimage".

"FraJuWa" (Franciscan Youth) was a wonderful jubilee. In fact, it marked the 30th time that friars from the Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany and from the Provincial Delegations of the three Polish Provinces present in the country have invited young people to attend this Franciscan pilgrimage. There were many young participants. The gathering took place on October 5-7, 2018, in Werdohl (Northern Rhine-Westphalia, in Western Germany). This year's theme repeated the theme of the first pilgrimage in 1988: Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*.



The participants

The participants were asked to call their attention to the four elements of creation: fire, water, air and earth; the experience was very spiritual and creative. It engaged their intelligence as well as their senses, through different workshops. Thus, after listening to a biblical presentation, they went on to make soap, decorate flower vases and create lanterns.

After a procession up and down the hills, the youth arrived at a chapel in the woods. Along the way, several reflection stops had been set up, each marked with a “tau”, the sign of Franciscan blessing, which had been created during the morning workshops.

Another important moment was the presentation of the jubilee cake. It had been lovingly prepared for this occasion by two friends of the fraternity. During the presentation, it was just as lovingly cut up and served by Friar Josef FISCHER, one of the originators of the “FraJuWa”.

The “FraJuWa” of 2018 ended with Sunday Mass at the church of St. Michael, followed by lunch and an acknowledgement of thanks to the entire organizing group which had been coordinated by two friars from the local fraternity: Friars Kamil PAWLAK and Krzysztof ROBAK.

The next pilgrimage will take place on October 11-13, 2019, at one of our other fraternities in Germany.

Denmark: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On November 23-26, 2018, the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF) visited the Conventual Franciscan community in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This is a missionary presence that opened almost two years ago. It belongs to the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia. The mission in Denmark currently has two friars: Friar Tomislav CVETKO (from the Province of Croatia) and Friar Tomaž MAJCEN (from the Province of St. Joseph in Slovenia).



The friars of Denmark (in gray)

CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [CEF]

These two confreres will be joined by Friar Stephen BEJO from the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines. Friar Stephen has already received his residence permit and can begin studying the Danish language. His presence will make the mission in Denmark completely international.

As the visit continued, Friar Theodor JÜRGENSEN (from the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis in Italy (Assisi), met with the friars of Denmark. Friar Theodor is the only Danish-born friar in our Order. He held several meetings in Denmark to give witness to Franciscan spirituality and the Franciscan charism, especially among the Lutheran communities.

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the CEF, also visited the Most Reverend Czesław KOZON, Bishop of Copenhagen, Denmark. They spoke about the future of our mission and the situation in the diocese and in our Order.

Germany: Fraternal Meeting

■ Friar Konrad SCHLATTMANN

On October 1, 2018, fifty Conventual Franciscans from the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany gathered at the friary in Würzburg for their annual fraternal meeting.

The fifty friars came from various friaries in Germany, including those belonging to different Provincial Delegations (from Holland and the three Provinces in Poland). There were also friars present from the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicolas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland.

After celebrating Mass and hearing some news from the Minister Provincial, Friar Bernhardin M. SEITHER, the friars visited the restored friary. Everyone appreciated the work that was done.

In the afternoon, the friars took a scheduled cruise on the Main River, from Würzburg to Veitshöchheim, where they visited the parish church and the rococo garden.

The Province of Germany is part of the CEF Federation (*Centralis Europae Foederatio*) whose other members include the Jurisdictions of Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Holland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.



The participants

CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FEDERATION



Friar Jude WINKLER
Assistant General for the CFF

USA: Workshop for Postulants

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

On October 15-19, 2018, Friar Jude Winkler, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), presented a workshop on the Letters of St. Paul to the postulants of the U.S. Provinces.

The workshop took place in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The directors of the postulancy program are Friars Brad Milunski and Paul Schneider. On October 13, Friar Brad celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

This year, there are eight postulants: four from Our Lady of Consolation Province, three from Our Lady of the Angels Province and one from St. Bonaventure Province.

This non-academic, one-year postulancy program has served the Federation for the past three years.



The participants

USA: CFF Assembly

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

On November 6-8, 2018, the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF) held its mid-year Assembly at the St. Bonaventure friary in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Among the topics being discussed was the preparation for the Ordinary General Chapter scheduled for May of 2019. Next, they discussed problems regarding initial and ongoing formation, the designation of the heads of the various commissions and organizations (e.g. Formation, OFS, M.I., and GPIC).

Friar John Ronald HEINZ (Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA) began his service as Secretary of the Federation.



The participants

Friar Victor ABEGG (of the same Province), Friar David BLOWEY (Delegate to the Provincial Delegation in Australia) and Friar Jobe ABBASS (future Delegate to the Provincial Delegation in Canada) participated for the first time.

The meeting ended with a visit to Chicago's Shedd Aquarium.

The CFF Federation includes the Jurisdictions from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and the U.S.A.

USA: Workshop for Novices

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

On December 17-21, 2008, Friar Jude Winkler, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), presented a workshop on the Gospels and Psalms to the novices of the CFF in Arroyo Grande, California, USA.

This year, the Federation has six novices: three from the Province of Our Lady of the Angels, two from the Provincial Custody of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa in Great Britain-Ireland, and one from the Province of St. Bonaventure. The Novice Master is Friar Joseph WOOD and his Assistant is Friar Maurice RICHARD. Friar Alexander CYMERMAN serves as a member of the Novitiate team. Monday, December 17, was dedicated as a day of reflection and prayer on the Gospel of Luke, not only for the novices of Arroyo Grande, but also for the novices of the Friars Minor of Santa Barbara, California, and the novices of the Capuchins of Santa Ynez, California. This workshop was part of a number of joint programs being offered to the novices of all three families of the Friars Minor.



The novices during the workshop

■ FEDERACIÓN CONVENTUALES AMERICA LATINA

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI
Assistant General for the FALC



Colombia: Ordinations in the Custody

■ Friar Fabián Alberto MARTÍNEZ ARAQUE

On October 13, 2018, the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Colombia joyfully celebrated the ordinations of two confreres: Friar Oscar Julián ARIAS FERNÁNDEZ (priest) and Friar Fabián Alberto MARTÍNEZ ARAQUE (deacon).

The celebration took place at the Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Chiquinquirá, in La Estrella (Antioquia). The friars chose the site out of their devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God and for the basilica's connection with the history of the Order at our San Maximiliano Kolbe friary in Itagüí. The ordinations were presided over by the Most Reverend Ricardo Antonio TOBÓN RESTREPO, Archbishop of Medellín, Colombia. Several friars from the various fraternities of the Custody took part, as well as some diocesan and religious priests from different religious communities who are close to the life and work of the friars.

May the Most High and Good Lord continue to guide these two confreres on the path of fidelity and generous self-giving, and make their lives a testimony of God's love and mercy for the benefit of the Church and our Order.



The newly ordained with the bishop

Italy: Rivotorto Formation Course

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

From September 1 to October 11, 2018, the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC) conducted its now traditional Rivotorto Ongoing Formation Course.

“Rivotorto,” or more specifically, the Proto-Friary of Rivotorto in Assisi, Italy, is the main location where the course is held.

The course has gone through many editions since its inception in the early 1980s. It has always been organized by the Assistants General of the Area, with various collaborators, particularly the communities of Rivotorto and the Seraphicum College, where the course participants are able to take part in community life.

Seventeen friars attended this year’s edition, from several different countries: Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras, Mexico and Ecuador. The coordinator was Friar Jesús Eudoro CEBALLOS BENAVIDES of the Delegation of Ecuador.

Besides the fraternal experience of the “community” formed by the students under the guidance of the coordinator, the course was interwoven with various other elements: lessons, reflections, guided visits to Franciscan places, Franciscan pilgrimages, celebrations, and visits to the General Houses and various sites in the Eternal City.

The main location, as mentioned, was Rivotorto, but the participants spent a few days at the Friary of St. Anthony (Padua, Italy), and also stayed at the Seraphicum College during the first and last days of the course. The group got to visit Assisi and its surroundings (several Franciscan sites), the Valle Reatina, Padua, Camposampiero, Venice, Osimo, Rome and Vatican City.

The local superiors in all those places, including the General Curia, collaborated so that the course could be carried out as planned. Many thanks to the Custody of Assisi, the Seraphicum College, the Province of Padua, the General Curia and all the other General Houses, the individual friars, and the communities.

Friar Charles BALDACCHINO, the guardian of Rivotorto, Friar Mauro GAMBETTI, the Custos of the Sacred Convent in Assisi, and both of their communities, were very welcoming and hospitable and made the participants feel at home, especially in Assisi, a main objective of the course.

Several collaborators guided the group; Friars Carlos Roberto de Oliveira CHARLES (Brazil); Bernardino HOSPITAL POSADA (Spain); Valentín REDONDO FEUNTES (Spain); Miguel Ángel LÓPEZ (Rioplátense); Valentino MARAGNO (Padua); François BUSTILLO (France); and finally, Friar Bernardo MOLINA, OFM Cap. (Chile), as well as other friars who on various occasions, while offering hospitality, were able to provide valuable content. The course was coordinated in a very “Franciscan” style as described by the coordinator, Friar Jesús Eudoro. He helped the participants maintain fraternal cohesion and encouraged them to exercise their gifts and creativity. These elements were all part of the experiential content of the course.

The member countries of the FALC Federation are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.



The participants

San Salvador: Aiding Migrants

■ Friar Javier Ernesto GUERRA, OFM Conv.

Friars in initial formation from the Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America, have been offering aid and prayer as the American continent deals with various ongoing social situations.

These friars reside at the Saint Anthony of Padua post-novitiate formation house in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The post-novitiate formation community in San Salvador has been filled with enthusiasm, hope and joy over a number of recent events: the canonization of Bishop Óscar Arnulfo ROMERO; the beatification of the Martyrs of Izabal, Friar Tullio MARUZZO and Luis Obdulio ARROYO NAVARRO, the upcoming beatification of Friar Carlos de Dios MURIAS, OFM Conv., the presence of the inter-Franciscan fraternity at Emmaus in the Holy Land and the future inauguration of the Franciscan University in Rome.

Working with the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (GPIC), the friars of this community have been confronting issues of social injustice afflicting Latin American nations. One thorny problem in particular has been the mass exodus of migrants heading for the northern part of the continent. The friars are providing aid to these migrants with help from Caritas Diocesana. The intercession prayer for the care and survival of migrants throughout the world has been playing a major part in the spiritual life of this formation community. The post-novices would like to invite our confreres around the world to pray in communion for Latin America and not to forget the needs of our brothers and sisters.

The friars currently in initial formation in the Custody are Friars Miguel BUSTILLOS, Osmin Lenin CANTOR MUNGUIA, José Isael SARMIENTO SARMIENTO (all three from Honduras) and Andrés QUESADA SOTO (from Costa Rica). The formation team is composed of Friars Erick MARIN CARBALLO, Arturo VALLEJO ESCOTO and Javier Ernesto GUERRA.

Chile: 11th Franciscan Youth Gathering

■ Friar Jack GINTING / Photo: Francisco Gabriel CONTRERAS and Mirna Rojas FUENTES

“Bread, Wine, and Water: Hope of Divine Love” was the slogan of the 11th Franciscan Youth Gathering held November 1-3, 2018, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Copiapó, Chile.

Approximately 120 young people from Curicó, Santiago, and Copiapó gathered to share Franciscan charism and spirituality and to encounter Jesus Christ. Friars Christian BORGHESI, Emilian DUMEA, Fabio MAZZINI, and Ramón ZAS GARCÍA as well as leaders from the three parishes, accompanied the young people.



The participants

The theme of “bread” was developed during the first day, as something that provided nourishment after the process of bread making. The theme of “wine” was developed on the second day, through a visit to Fajardo Vineyard, where the process of wine making was demonstrated. The third day examined the theme of “water” as a vital element of human life as well as the environment.

During these days, the young people took part in prayer, Eucharistic adoration, fraternal recreation, and the celebration of Mass at St. Francis’ parish church. They went on mission to Chamonate, Toledo, and Hacienda San Pedro; made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria; and visited the Inglesa Bay and the Padre Negro Cave in Caldera.

Understanding, sharing and in particular, giving witness to the hope of Divine Love are what these young people want to communicate in their daily lives. Strengthened by this experience of faith and fraternity, each of them returned home bearing a local cactus plant as a keepsake.

Chile: Visit from the Minister Provincial

■ Friar Jack GINTING

On November 2-15, 2018, the Minister Provincial of The Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy), Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, visited the Delegation in Chile.

The Minister Provincial was accompanied by Friar Irinel DOBOȘ of the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania. They visited the three communities of the Delegation: Curicó, Copiapó and Santiago de Chile.

On November 12-15, the friars of the Delegation gathered at the friary in Curicó to meet and spend some fraternal time together. During the meeting, they reflected on the letter the Minister Provincial sent to all the friars of the Province last September, on the occasion of the meeting of the guardians. They reflected on how to “re-form” and “re-design” the Conventual Franciscan presence in Chile, in view of the prophetic dimension embodied in this fragile yet hopeful reality.

The next day, walked along the beach at Iloca, a town in the Maule region of Chile, where they enjoyed the beauty of the coast and their stay at the fraternity in particular. On the last day they made a visit to a small hermitage in Angostura, a town located between Curicó and Santiago. While there, they visited some land the Delegation owns in the area.

These days were characterized by simple and fraternal coexistence, a gift that was of great help in consolidating communion among the friars of the Delegation.



The participants

Venezuela: Visit of the Minister General

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

On November 6-11, 2018, the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA, made a fraternal visit to the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto in Venezuela, in the context of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the arrival of the Friars Minor Conventual in that country.

To facilitate the Minister General's meeting with all the young men in formation, and the rest of the friars residing in the Custody, a carefully planned fraternal meeting was held at the San José de Cupertino formation house in Palmira-San Cristóbal, Venezuela.

The communities of all five friaries in the Custody met in Palmyra to experience the grace of a meeting with the Minister General, and to be enriched by the common reflection, prayer and openness shared with all the confreres, including the aspirants, the postulants, pre-novices and post-novices.

The meeting program included time for dialogue with the participants as an assembly and time for smaller group meetings with Friar Marco. Separate meetings were held with the aspirants, the postulants, the pre-novices, the post-novices, and the solemnly professed friars. There was also time to converse with some lay people.

On the first day, the organizers arranged some time for common reflection on different aspects of the consecrated life. A Dominican, Friar Jesús María HERNÁNDEZ, led the reflection.

The Minister General met personally with the Provincial Custos, Friar José Luis AVENDAÑO MONSALVE and his Definitory. In view of preparing for the Custody's 2019 Ordinary Custodial Chapter, some group work was done in which the friars learned more about various topics related to the life of the Custody as well as some personal, communal and social challenges. At other common times together, the Minister General shared reflections with the participants on a variety of subjects: the concrete life of the Order, the new General Constitutions, the proximity of the Ordinary General Chapter, the missions, formation, etc.

Praying in common and, in particular, celebrating Mass together, provided some grace-filled moments to reinforce fraternal communion within the Custody and with the greater family of the Order. Furthermore, the presence of Friar Marco cast a special glow upon the 40th anniversary of the Conventual Franciscan presence in Venezuela.

Some common aspects of the meeting included the fraternal joy it offered and the beauty of the Minister General spending time with the participants, including the laity, who came to the formation house to take part in various moments of liturgical prayer.

The Custody of Venezuela belongs to the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia). The Province founded a mission in Venezuela in 1978. The Custody of Venezuela is a member of the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC). It coordinates its activities with the FALC Federation, especially those regarding formation.



The participants

Brazil: Fraternal Visit to Amazonia

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

On November 15-24, 2018, the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL, and the Assistant General for the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC), Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, visited the mission in Amazonas State of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Brazil, together with the Minister Provincial, Friar Marcelo VERONEZ.

The mission operates through three distinctly different centers. One is Manaus, the capital city of Amazonas State, with almost two million inhabitants. It is a three-hour flight from Brasilia. Another is Tefé, which has sixty thousand inhabitants and lies about 550 km [342 mi] from Manaus. Finally, there is Juruá, which has ten thousand inhabitants and lies about 150 km [93 mi] from Tefé as the crow flies or 400 km [249 mi] by river.

The Manaus mission is an urban setting. The Tefé mission combines urban, marginal and semi-rural elements. The Juruá mission, however, includes parish ministry in town and ministry to remote communities scattered along the banks of the Juruá River. This makes for an extensive territory. However, the Juruá community also has a new boat, which seats nine and has a powerful engine. It is an important means of evangelizing the riverside villages.

In many ways, the entire presence of the Order in Amazonas State is a missionary presence. There are enormous distances to travel and the challenges of displacement, in terms of the difficult social and cultural situation and the fragile church setting. The social fabric is made up of transplanted peoples from other Brazilian states, mixed-race peoples and local, original or indigenous peoples.

Besides traditional parish ministry and pastoral outreach efforts, some new initiatives are underway, such as “Projecto Tocar” in Juruá, which teaches young people music and how to play instruments. There is also social ministry being carried out in Tefé.

The parish church in Juruá shelters the mortal remains of Friar Agostinho (Stefan) JANUSZEWICZ, OFM Conv., who died in 2011. He was the former Bishop of Luziânia and the founder of the mission in Amazonas. His tomb is now a “symbolic place”, a real landmark and veneration location for the Church community.

In Tefé, the visitors met with the local bishop, the Most Reverend Fernando Barbosa dos Santos, C.M., Prelate of Tefé. Together they discussed various issues concerning the mission and the expectations for the next Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region, which will be celebrated in Rome in October of 2019.

The missionary commitment in Amazonas is a gift from God, for the Order and especially for Brazil.



The tomb of Archbishop JANUSZEWICZ in Amazonia

Brazil: Formation Houses Visited

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

During their last two trips to Brazil in October and November of 2018, the Vicar General, Friar Jerzy NOREL and the Assistant General for the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC), Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, made joint visits to some of the formation houses in Brazil.

In the Province of St. Francis in Brazil (São Paulo), they visited the international novitiate (São Benedito friary) in Caçapava, São Paulo State and the postulancy house (Santo Antônio friary) in Cascavel, Paraná State.

In the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Brazil (Brasilia) they visited the postulancy house (Santa Maria dos Anjos friary) in Brasilia and the post-novitiate house for theology studies (São Francisco de Assis Formation House at the São Boaventura friary) in the Federal District of Brasilia.

While in the Province of St. Francis in Brazil (São Paulo), the Vicar General also visited the postulancy house (São Francisco friary) in Curitiba, Parana State and the post-novitiate house for theology studies (Senhor do Bonfim friary) in Santo André, São Paulo State.

At all of the formation houses, the visitors listened to the young men in formation and held discussions with them and their formators about various aspects of the life of the Order.

The four Jurisdictions in Brazil share a common novitiate, which also includes some novices from the Provincial Custody of Our Lady of Coromoto in Venezuela. Furthermore, all of the Jurisdictions have their own aspirancy and postulancy programs. At present, there are two post-novitiate formation houses, one in Brasilia and the other in Santo André (São Paulo). Both of them accept men in formation from other Jurisdictions. Currently, there are more than one hundred young men at all levels of formation in Brazil.



The post-novitiate in Brasilia



The postulancy house in Santa Maria (Brasilia)

Brazil: Retreat and Renewal of Vows

■ From the Custody

On December 10-14, 2018, the friars of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) held their annual retreat.

The retreat took place at the Formation Center for Christian Leaders (CEFLĂ) in Juiz de Fora, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Moreover, on December 13, Friars Jesus RODRIGUES DO AMARAL and Ricardo Elvis ARRUDA BEZERRA renewed their temporary vows before the Provincial Custos, Friar Ronaldo Gomes DA SILVA.

Bolivia: Solemn Profession

■ Friar Oscar Eduardo URIZAR CAMPOS

On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Provincial Custody of Saint Francis in Bolivia celebrated the solemn profession of vows of Friar Jonathan Cristian FUNES LUJÁN.

The Mass with solemn profession took place at 7:00 p.m. at the Basilica of San Francisco de Asís in Sucre, Bolivia. Friar Jonathan professed his solemn vows into the hands of his Provincial Custos, Friar Carlos Antonio CATALÁN MELGAR, in the presence of the friars of the Custody, his relatives and the many faithful who attended this important moment in the religious life of our confrere.

After the celebration, all those present enjoyed dinner and took part in some festive and fraternal time together.



The newly-professed with the confreres

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FEDERATION OF ASIAN MINOR CONVENTUALS

Friar Benedetto Seung Jae BAEK
Assistant General for the FAMC



The Philippines: Inter-Franciscan Transitus

■ OFM Conv., the Philippines – Office of Communications

On October 3, 2018, the Inter-Franciscan Ministers of the Philippines, chaired by Friar Francis Victor MATEO, OFM Conv., organized an Inter-Franciscan Transitus held at Our Lady of the Lourdes parish church in Tagaytay City, the Philippines.

Friar Jeremiah ARGUELLES, OFM Conv., presided over the three-part ritual, which consisted of short meditations on the life of St. Francis followed by a solemn presentation by the Conventual postulants and novices, which depicted St. Francis' passing on to eternal life. The presentation concluded with more than 500 Franciscan religious (friar-priests, brothers and sisters) and the Secular Franciscans (OFS) renewing their Franciscan Commitment.

The Most Reverend Reynaldo Gonda Evangelista, DD, Bishop of Imus, the Philippines and an OFS member, was the main presider during the Mass that followed. He spoke about the discernment he made which led to his embracing the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi and how that spirituality encourages everyone to live in simplicity, to relate joyfully with others and to lovingly serve those who are poor and neglected.

Those concelebrating included Ministers Provincial and Custodes from three Franciscan families: Friar Cielo ALMAZAN, OFM, Friar Eugenio LOPEZ, OFM Cap., and Friar Francis Victor Mateo, OFM Conv. Many friar-priests, OFS members, Tertiary Capuchins and others attended.



A moment during the Transitus

Sri Lanka: Meeting of FAMC Superiors

■ Friar Benedetto BAEK

On November 12-16, 2018, the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC) held its annual meeting of local superiors in Sri Lanka. Everyone attended.

During the meeting, the friars discussed the directory of the Common Novitiate House in Tagaytay City, the Philippines. The directory was prepared by Friar Joseph Luke VŪ, the Provincial Delegate in Vietnam, Friar Martin PALLIKKARA, the former Provincial Delegate in Sri Lanka; and Friar Emmanuel Jr. GIVA, the Custodial Vicar of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines. The guardians also listened to some suggestions from Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL, the Secretary General for Formation (SGF). After that, the friars unanimously approved the directory.

Later, Friar Louis spoke on the theme, “The New Constitutions and Their Impact on Initial and Ongoing Formation.”

Many thanks to the Provincial Delegate in Sri Lanka, Friar Ferdinand MELAPPILLY THOMAS and the Sri Lankan friars who were so hospitable to the participants.

Members of the FAMC Federation include the Provinces of South Korea, Japan and India, the Provincial Custodies of the Philippines and Indonesia and the Delegations of Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

The next meeting will be held in November of next year, in Vietnam.



The participants

The Philippines: Custodial Assembly

■ Communications Office of the Custody

Every December 8, the friars and men in formation from the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines gather together to solemnly commemorate the Custody’s patroness.

This year (2018), the assembly was held at the Immaculata friary in Novaliches, Quezon City. It started with a conference presented by three friars who developed the topic of the “Marian Dimension of the Franciscan Charism.”

The Provincial Custos, Friar Francis Victor MATEO, made some introductory remarks and spoke about the way this particular topic was dealt with at the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter. Friar Emmanuel GIVA expounded on the two Marian writings of St. Francis of Assisi, in order to examine the concept of the “Marian golden thread”



The participants

which runs through the Order. Lastly, the National Spiritual Assistant for the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), Friar Andrew DATOY, gave an update on the provisions of the M.I. General Statutes approved in 2015.

The event concluded with the celebration of Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish church. The presider was Friar Geronimo JACOBO, the local guardian. Friar-priests representing all of our communities concelebrated. Others attending included the Custody's temporarily professed friars, the novices of the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), the postulants, some M.I. members and a few Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi. A simple meal followed.

All of the friars and our collaborators are looking forward to a series of meetings next year that will commemorate our 30th Anniversary as a Provincial Custody

Japan: Provincial Assembly

■ Friar Benedetto BAEK

On November 22-24, 2018, the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Japan held a Provincial Assembly at the Seibo-no-Kishi friary in Nagasaki.

The Assembly's program was as follows: first, presentations by the various commissions of the Province; second, a conference on "Abuse of Authority and Sexual Abuse" by Ms. Fukuda MARI, Director of the Women's Law Consultation of the Diocese of Nagasaki; and third, a presentation on the new Constitutions by Friar Luca TANIZAKI.

On Saturday, November 24, a Mass was celebrated to commemorate various anniversaries of priestly ordination. Friars Nicolas ŚWIĄTEK and Ikuo MIZUURA celebrated their 50th anniversary of ordination and Friars Caecilianus AKAO and Raphael BAN celebrated their 25th anniversary of ordination.



A moment during the Assembly

South Korea: Priestly and Diaconal Ordinations

■ Friar Bonaventura Kyuhee HAN, Provincial Secretary

On December 20, 2018, the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in South Korea, celebrated some priestly and diaconal ordinations.

The ordinations took place at the parish church of St. Clare (Kalsan) in the Diocese of Incheon, South Korea.

The priesthood was conferred upon Friar Macario Soon-hyun GO through the laying on of hands of the Most Reverend John Baptist Jung SHIN-CHUL, Bishop of Incheon. He also ordained two deacons, Friars Angelo Min-seok KIM and Pietro Jae-hee SHIN. There were two additional deacons ordained who were not part of our Order.

Several friars from the various fraternities of the Province participated in the celebration, along with some diocesan and religious priests from different religious communities who are close to the life and work of the friars.

May the Most High and Good Lord continue to guide these three confreres on the path of faithfulness and generous self-offering. May their lives be made a testimony of the love and mercy of God, for the benefit of the Church and our Order.



The newly ordained with the confreres

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■ FEDERATIO EUROPAE MEDIAE ET ORIENTALIS

Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI
Assistant General for the FEMO



Poland: New Academic Year in Cracow

■ Friar Jan Maria SZEWEK, Spokesman for the Province of Cracow / Editorial Staff

For the first time in history, the three Franciscan Orders (Friars Minor Conventual, Friars Minor Capuchin and Friars Minor), who each have a major seminary (post-novitiate) in Cracow, Poland, started a common formation program for their religious.

This historical event took place on October 1, 2018, in Cracow.

Academic formation will be common for all three Franciscan branches, but religious formation shall remain separate, according to the proper tradition of each Order.

In addition to the students and professors taking part in the inauguration of the new academic year, others attending included the Ministers Provincial of the three Franciscan families, the Rector of Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II (Pontifical University of John Paul II – UPJPII) and the Dean of the Theological Faculty of the same university, which the seminarians attend.

It is a special year three times over. First, a new state document concerning university education in Poland, “Konstytucja dla Nauki” (Constitution for Education), goes into effect. Secondly, a few months ago, Pope Francis signed the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, which concerns universities and ecclesial faculties. Third, this is our first joint Franciscan inauguration – according to Professor Father Arkadiusz BARON, Dean of the Theological Faculty of the UPJPII.

“This is a historic event, even for our university,” said Professor Father Wojciech ZYZAK, Rector of the UPJPII. “With your Franciscan spirituality, with your Peace and All Good, you will surely enrich the university.”

The most repeated word during the inauguration was “unity”. Rector Alojzy WARTOT, OFM, and presider at this year’s inauguration, said the word first, just after the sign of the cross, at the beginning of Mass.

“It is appropriate and worthwhile. We must work hard at getting closer, walking together, showing and practicing unity, for which Christ our Lord has prayed, and St. Francis has yearned,” said Friar Marian GOŁĄB, OFM Conv., Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow).



The seminarians from all three Franciscan families

“Our collaboration has become a joyful and hopeful reality,” said Minister Provincial Tomasz ŻAK, OFM Cap., “We can be men of conviction and conscience, building a Christian, Franciscan world—the Kingdom of God—in unity and with profound cooperation.” Minister Provincial Jacek KOMAN, OFM, wishing the students all the best, added, “Knowledge and wisdom seek a covenant with holiness.” Rector Mariusz ORCZYKOWSKI, OFM Conv., mentioned the recent history of collaboration between the Franciscan families. Rector Augustyn CHWAŁEK, OFM Cap., gave a presentation on the organizational structure of the new initiative. Rector Alojzy WAROT, OFM, commented on this new reality using the words of former Czech President Václav HAVEL: “Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”

The opening speech was on the theme: “The Ways of Faith of the Beloved Disciple of Jesus, as Seen in the Fourth Gospel.” It was presented by Friar Adam SIKORA, OFM, (Habilitation Doctor) of the University of Poznań.

Poland: Solemn Professions in Cracow

■ Friar Jan M. SZEWEK, Spokesman for the Province of Cracow / Editorial Staff.

On October 4, 2018, the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, four students from the Friars Minor Conventual major seminary in Cracow (the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland) made their solemn profession.

Friars Arkadiusz GÓRA, Artur SPODAR, Dawid NOWAK and Mateusz GLIWA, standing before the community, promised to live in chastity, poverty and obedience in perpetuity.

Religious, priests, family members, friends and acquaintances gathered in the Basilica of St. Francis in Cracow, to pray for them that “with generosity they might constantly walk the path they have enthusiastically chosen”, asking the intercession of all the saints—particularly the Franciscan ones.

The Minister Provincial spoke openly, saying that this generous sacrifice is not easy, and that “this closeness to Jesus costs a lot, because we must offer him not only our words and emotions, but our whole being, all that we have and all that we are.”

In the end, he directly addressed the newly professed with the words of St. Francis: “O beloved brothers and sons, forever blessed, listen to me, hear the voice of your Father. Great things we have promised, greater things have been promised to us. Let us observe the former and yearn for the latter. Pleasure is short and punishment is eternal. Suffering is slight and glory, infinite. Many are called, few are chosen. All shall be repaid. Brothers, while we have time, let us do good.”



The newly professed

Poland: Feast Day for the Province of Gdańsk

■ Friar Grzegorz KORDEK, Provincial Secretary / Editorial Staff

There are three aspects of the feast day of the Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk) that will certainly be remembered: the beautiful autumn weather, the fantastic lecture by Friar Tadeusz BRZOZOWSKI and the Franciscan hospitality of our confreres in Darłowo.

Every year, in mid-October, the friars gather at one of the Province's friaries to celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of the Jurisdiction.

This year, the Minister Provincial, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, invited everyone to Darłowo. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Unity, which was blessed at the Vatican by St. John Paul II. Friars from all the friaries in the Provinces in Poland, as well as those in Germany and Lithuania, replied to the invitation. The guardian, Friar Wiesław PRZYBYSZ, addressed a welcome speech to all those present, wishing them a good stay and inviting them to visit this 'royal city' in the future.

The meeting began with the recitation of Mid-Morning Prayer. Next, the Minister Provincial invited all those present to listen to a lecture presented by Friar Tadeusz, a missionary who has been working in Kenya for years. It was also mentioned that this year is also the 100th anniversary of the priestly ordination of St. Maximilian M. KOLBE.

Friar Tadeusz started by saying that his talk would be a "reflection from the African bush, with some language that is not politically correct." He reminded us of the great value of thanksgiving, which must never be forgotten. He added that our friaries are "holy ground", and that it is not necessary to look for this ground somewhere else far away. He recalled the priesthood of St. Maximilian and reflected, in a very lively and suggestive way, on the religious vows. The missionary's accessible language and warm heart ensured that his lecture was understood not only by the priests and religious, but also by the laity gathered in the church.

The noon Mass was presided over by the Minister Provincial. In his homily, he spoke about how happy Mary is as the Mother of Jesus. For us the key to being happy here on earth is accepting the Word of God. He asked his listeners, "What word do you live today?" He then drew attention to the importance of unity and mentioned that in order to promote unity at home and in the world, it is necessary to first have it in one's heart. We ourselves must burn with love, hope and faith in order to offer all of this to others. At the end of his homily, he thanked all the friars who have worked in post-war Darłowo (in particular, Friar Janusz JĘDRYSZEK), as well as the parishioners, who for years have prayed, and still pray, in this "House of Our Lady of Unity".

During the Mass, some deceased brothers were remembered; among them was Friar Stefan MALANDY who returned to the Father's house right here in Darłowo, two months ago.

At the end of the liturgy, the *Fraternitatis Gratiarum* statuette was given out. It is traditionally assigned each year to lay people who are associated with the Franciscan communities. This year, 2018, it was given to Mr. Mirosław MIKOŁAJCZUK from Gniezno, who for years has been very involved in the life of the parish community and helps the friars in various ways. With his serene attitude and his profound faith, he is an example of someone who leads a truly Franciscan life.

The festivities ended at 3:15 p.m., with Evening Prayer celebrated in the church of San Giorgio, where the Franciscans have been doing pastoral ministry for years.

Bulgaria: Blessing of the Altar in Pleven

■ Friar Ventsislav NIKOLOV, Shrine Director

October 13, 2018, was the 101st anniversary of the last apparition of the Mother of God to the “three shepherds” of Fatima in Portugal.

On this occasion, during Mass in the diocesan Shrine of Pleven (Bulgaria), a new altar-triptych was blessed in the center of the presbytery. The authors of this work are Margarit IVANOW, Atanas ATANASOV and Stanimir ZHELEV. The new triptych was placed amid a group of sculptures depicting the Mother of God together with the three children of Fatima, created by Professor Kirila MESKINA.

The triptych was blessed by the local ordinary, our confrere, the Most Reverend Petko CHRISTOV, OFM Conv., Bishop of Nicopoli, Bulgaria. Friar Wiesław PYZIO, the Minister Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw), was present. He gave a homily on the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Many guests from the country and abroad took part in the celebrations. Among them were Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Foederatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) and Friar Anton BULAI, the Custos of the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land, which belongs to the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania.

The participants' prayers were directed toward the “Valley of Peace” (Cova da Iria) where the Mother of God, revealing herself to the three shepherds, asked for their total dedication to God and to her, their heavenly Mother. It was then that Divine Providence intervened in a special way to help a lost humanity by warning against the dangers of civilization without God. Many idols were pointed out that in various ways attempt to destroy man who is created in the image and likeness of God, Creator and Father.

A little over twenty years ago, Bishop CHRISTOV, OFM Conv., while on a pilgrimage to Fatima, had a heartfelt desire that the Bulgarian nation might profoundly know the message of Our Lady of Fatima. He decided to highlight this message in his diocese where, like the beating heart of a person, there might be a continuous call to conversion. Today there is a Conventual community and parish in this place. We pray, with strong faith and hope, that this shrine will become an open door to God's graces for the Church in Bulgaria.



The procession

Kazakhstan: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On October 1-5, 2018, the Assistant General for the FEMO Federation, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, visited the friars who live and provide pastoral service in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

During his visit, the friars discussed and gave their opinions about the possibility of building a new home for the friars and their future activities. The same question was presented to the local ordinary, the Most Reverend Tomasz PETA, Archbishop of Astana.

Also during his visit, the Assistant General celebrated the Transitus and the solemnity of the Seraphic Father St. Francis. He was joined by the friars of the community, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and the faithful of the parish.

The members of FEMO (*Foederatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis*) come from the OFM Conv. Jurisdictions of Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary and Uzbekistan.



After the Transitus

Russia: Fraternal Visit

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On October 5-8, 2018, the Assistant General for the FEMO Federation went to Russia.

In Moscow, the Russian capital, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI met with the Custos of the General Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Russia, Friar Dariusz HARASIMOWICZ and his Definitory.

The main theme of the meeting was the realization of some projects that had been approved by the Ordinary Custodial Chapter, which was celebrated in early September of 2018.

During his visit, the Assistant General, together with the entire government of the Custody, participated in the patronal feast day of the parish of Kaluga, where our friars perform pastoral service with invaluable assistance from the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi.

In addition to the General Custody in Russia, there are other members of the FEMO (*Foederatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis*). They come from the OFM Conv. Jurisdictions of Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary and Uzbekistan.

The Czech Republic: FEMO Federation Meeting

■ Friar Leszek M. ŁUCZKANIN, FEMO Secretary / Friar Jan M. SZEWEK, Spokesman for the Province of Cracow

On October 22-25, 2018, the Major Superiors and Provincial Delegates of the Conventual Franciscan FEMO Federation met in Brno, in the Czech Republic.

The Assistant General for the FEMO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, was also present from Rome.

Members of the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) include Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Russia, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The participants summarized the work done at the Extraordinary General Chapter held in Italy this year, and made several decisions concerning ongoing formation for the religious of their Jurisdictions.

Since the Provinces in Poland will be celebrating their Ordinary Provincial Chapters in 2020, the formation courses scheduled for the next two years will be merged. Confreres who made their solemn vows in 2009 and 2010 will meet July 8-25, 2019, in Harmże, Poland. At the same time, friars who made their solemn vows in 1994 and 1995 will meet in Łódź-Lagiewniki, Poland.

The preparation period for perpetual profession commonly known as the “second novitiate” will take place in Lubomierz near Mszana Dolna, Poland, in September of 2019.

The Provincial and Custodial Superiors have also received word that the Postulator General, Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU will organize a course to train friars in how to prepare the procedures for causes of beatification and canonization in their own Jurisdictions. He will also talk about what is needed to spread the cults of saints and those who are blessed. The first meeting for this area will take place on March 11-14, 2019, in Brehov, Slovakia.

The Superiors then proposed the names of friars to serve as translators and religious brother delegates at the next Ordinary General Chapter. The General Chapter will be held next year in Assisi and Collevalenza, in Italy.

They also planned a meeting regarding the new General Statutes. It will be held April 23-26, 2019, in Niepokalanów-Lasek, Poland.

Finally, the Assistant General asked the Federation for material support for the poorer Jurisdictions of the Order.

The participants also made a pilgrimage to the Shrine in Velehrad, Moravia (the Czech Republic).

The next meeting of the Federation will be held from October 21-26, 2019, in Bołszowce in the Ukraine.



The participants

Slovakia: Commemoration of a Martyr

■ Friar Jozef SUKENIK

Eliáš IGLÓDY was born in 1621, in Kisorzvaggy, a small village neighboring Slovenske Nove Mesto on Slovakia's southern border with Hungary.

Childhood and Path to God

Eliáš IGLÓDY [later Štefan] was born in 1621, in Kisorzvaggy, a small village neighboring Slovenske Nove Mesto on Slovakia's southern border with Hungary. Eliáš came from an aristocratic family and therefore received a good education. His parents were Calvinists and taught him to hate the Catholic Church.

In 1635, some apostolic missionaries came to the village. They were Conventual Franciscans sent to Hungary by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome. Two of the missionaries, Friars Pietro VALLONICA and Pietro CIMA, met with sixteen-year-old Eliáš. The young man soon decided to become a Catholic. He entered into the service of Count Štefan Gnári, near the village of Kisvarda and lived a good, holy life there. In the spring of 1636, he witnessed a miracle, when one of the missionaries saved the Count's life through prayer. This event brought Count Gnári, his wife, and many servants to the Catholic faith. In 1638, Eliáš asked the Conventuals to allow him to enter the Order.

His Time with the Conventual Fraternity

Eliáš joined the fraternity at Easter time in 1638. The Minister Provincial, Friar Giambattista Fiorentino, vested him in the habit and gave him the name Štefan. The vesting was celebrated at the friary in Rad (near Trebisov, Slovakia). The Italian missionary, Father Pietro Vallonica, was young Štefan's spiritual director and formator. In 1638, the fraternity already had four novices and Father Pietro hoped they would become good priests one day.

The life of Brother Štefan was first published in Italy in 1711. It states that the boy's spirit was full of joy when he entered the novitiate. His Minister Provincial wrote, "Štefan served his brothers in the spirit of love and humbleness. He would constantly and willingly practice every spiritual exercise. Because of his knowledge of Hungarian, he was deemed the most appropriate to go begging in the countryside. Another source says that Štefan inspired the priests to preach more frequently and give lectures on spiritual themes. Štefan used to call out to poor people on the streets and the fields, inviting them to come to the friary where they could hear God's word and find their way to the Catholic Church, as he once did.

The Martyrdom

Young Štefan's experience in the fraternity of St. Francis lasted only six months. On Sunday, November 6, 1639, Štefan's guardian sent him to a certain Madam Loneane, a generous patroness of the fraternity. At around three o'clock, as he was passing through the Calvinist village of Maly Hores, two men, Stefan Fesset and Michal Cose, attacked him, threw him from his horse, tied him to a tree and tried to make him reject his habit and his Catholic faith under the threat of death. When he refused, they cut a cross on his forehead with a Turkish sabre. Štefan cried out, "Jesus and Mary, help me!" He begged his attackers to let him pray. However, this made them even angrier and they cut his throat.

Brother Štefan was buried on November 16, 1639 by the Most Reverend Stefan Simandi, Bishop of Transylvania, in the Provostry of Leles. With honors worthy of a martyr, they laid his body in the crypt of St. Andrew's chapel. Štefan's body was later transferred to the friary in Rad. During the 19th century, the friary and the church in Rad were suppressed. Nevertheless, the Conventuals never forgot Štefan. In 2011, archaeologists in Rad uncovered the old friary and found Štefan's grave among the ruins of the church. At present, Štefan's body is undergoing scientific investigation and current research is filling out his interesting story with new information discovered in the historical archives.



Friar Eliáš IGLÓDY

The Czech Republic: Profession of Solemn Vows

■ Friar Stanisław GRYŃ, Minister Provincial

On November 17, 2018, the liturgical feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic celebrated a profession of solemn vows.

On this day, Friar Patrik Bogdan RYGIEL professed his solemn vows into the hands of his Minister Provincial, Friar Stanisław GRYŃ.

Friar Patrik's vocation developed slowly. He was deeply influenced by the magazine "Immaculata", published in the Czech Republic by the Friars Minor Conventual—whom he met while he was in high school.

Friar Patrik currently attends the diocesan seminary in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The solemn profession of vows took place at the Conventual Franciscan church in Opava (near Ostrava). Many faithful from the area took part, including confreres from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. Some nuns attended along with Friar Patrick's friends and family. The three novices from the Czech Republic, attending the novitiate at Kalwaria Pałacowska, Poland, came as well, together with their Novice Master. Also present was the postulant from the Czech Republic who is undergoing formation in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Our confrere's profession gave good witness to all those struggling to make lasting decisions in their lives, especially young people.

For the Province, the event was truly a gift from God. This is already the second profession within two years. In fact, last year, Friar Petr MACHÁČEK celebrated his profession of solemn vows.

We entrust our vocations and our entire Province to Our Lady of Cvilín.



The newly-professed with the confreres and family members

Poland: Two Jubilees in Łódź-Łagiewniki

■ Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI

On December 1, 2018, a symposium was held at the Conventual Franciscan Major Seminary in Lodz-Łagiewniki, Poland, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the return of the Friars Minor Conventual to this Antonian shrine after having been suppressed by the Russian Empire in 1864.

The symposium also commemorated the 40th anniversary of the major seminary's inauguration.

CONFERENCES / FEDERATIONS – [FEMO]

The symposium was divided into two parts. The first part was comprised of history lectures. Friar Roland PREJS, OFM Cap., spoke on “The Franciscan Orders in Poland after World War I and Their Development in the Following Years.” Friar Rafał KWIATKOWSKI, OFM Conv., presented “The Return of the Franciscans to Łagiewniki in 1918” and Friar Paulin SOTOWSKI, OFM Conv., lectured on “The Activities of the Franciscan Major Seminary in Łagiewniki”.

This first part ended with Mass celebrated in the Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua and Blessed Rafał CHYLINSKI. It was presided over by the Most Reverend Władysław ZIÓŁEK, Archbishop Emeritus of Łódź, Poland. The homily was given by Friar Wiesław PYZIO, the Minister Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw). Other participants included Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO); Friar Tomasz RYŁKO, the Vicar Provincial of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk); together with professors from the Seminary; friars from the friaries in Łódź; priests from the diocese; and a large group of Secular Franciscans.

The second part took place after lunch and was dedicated to the commemoration of various people connected with the shrine and the seminary in recent years. This was followed by lectures presented by Archbishop ZIÓŁEK, some friars who worked in Łagiewniki, and two professors from the seminary.

Thanks to the friars of Łagiewniki for contributing to the great history of this place and we hope that, guided by the Holy Spirit, a great history will be written about it in the future.



The concelebrants



The bishop, the friars and the faithful

FEDERAZIONE INTER-MEDITERRANEA MINISTRI PROVINCIALI



Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS
Assistant General for the FIMP

Romania: Diaconal Ordinations

■ Friar Virgil BLAJ, Provincial Secretary

On October 4, 2018, the Conventual Franciscans of the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania, celebrated the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, together with the Capuchins and religious from the “Opera Don Calabria” congregation at the friary in Roman.

The Most Reverend Petru GHERGHEL, Bishop of Iași, presided over the Mass, which took place in the chapel of the Franciscan Theological Institute.

During the Mass, nine deacons were ordained: four from the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, four from the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and one from the Congregation of the “Poor Servants of Divine Providence” (Opera Don Calabria).

Those concelebrating included the Minister Provincial, Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, OFM Conv.; the Provincial Custos, Friar Lucian-Iosif DUMEA, OFM Cap.; Father Gustavo-Ismael LISSA, a representative of the Major Superiors of the Opera Don Calabria and Father Ivo PASA, the General Delegate from the same congregation. In addition, over one hundred priests attended along with seminarians, consecrated persons, the families of the candidates and a large number of faithful.

The new Conventual deacons are Friars Felix-Marian BLAJ, Alexandru DÂNCĂ, Mihai-Gabriel JITARU and Ionuț TOTU.

During his homily, the bishop presented the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi as an ever-present model for deacons and for all the faithful. He should be imitated above all in his poverty, humility, simplicity, and in his love for the crucified Christ and the Church. These traits can also be seen in the life and witness of faith of St. John CALABRIA.

We are grateful to the Lord for the gift of the new deacons and we ask for the grace to always be courageous witnesses in service to the Gospel, the altar and the poor, in the image of Christ who came to serve and not to be served.



The new deacons

Italy: Solemn Professions in Padua

■ Friar Andrea VAONA, Provincial Secretary

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, the Italian Province of Saint Anthony of Padua (North Italy) celebrated the solemn professions of four post-novices of the Province and a post-novice from the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Indonesia.

The celebration took place at St. Anthony's Basilica in Padua. It was presided over by the Minister Provincial, Friar Giovanni VOLTAN with more than seventy concelebrants and many other friars present, as well the as friends and relatives of those professing.

The newly professed are Friars Nico MELATO, Nicola GALIAZZO, Stefano VINCI-TORIO, Simone PAGNONI and Eko Gayus SIJABAT.

We heartily welcome them into our Provincial family and the Order.



The newly professed

Italy: Priestly Ordination in Sicily

■ Friar Antonio M. PARISI

On October 19, 2018, the Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Agatha and St. Lucy in Italy (Sicily) rejoiced in the Lord for the gift of ordination.

The priesthood was conferred upon Friar Antolín RAMOS DE LA CRUZ through the imposition of the hands of His Eminence, Francesco Cardinal MONTENEGRO, Metropolitan Archbishop of Agrigento.



The new priests with the bishop and the confreres

The celebration was held at the Friary-Shrine of Madonna delle Grazie in Montevago (Agrigento Province, Sicily, Italy). This was where Friar Antolín lived for about a year as a member of the Conventual Franciscan evangelization community.

The friars of the religious Province of Sicily took part in the celebration along with some friars from the International “Seraphicum” College in Rome and others from the “Franciscanum” in Assisi. Several priests of the archdiocese of Agrigento attended, as well as the mayor, civil authorities and many faithful. It was a time of grace and joy for everyone, especially for Friar Antolín’s family who, although unable to attend, prayed from Mexico and celebrated in communion with us all.

Italy: Friar Antonio Mansi, New Servant of God

■ Friar Gianfranco GRIECO

On October 31, 2018, on the 100th anniversary of his death, Friar Antonio MANSI was declared a Servant of God.

He was born in London on May 9, 1896, and died at the headquarters of the Seraphic International College on Via San Teodoro al Palatino in Rome.

The decree was signed by His Eminence, Angelo Cardinal DE DONATIS, Pope Francis’ Vicar for the Diocese of Rome. On October 30-31, to celebrate the news, the friar community of Ravello, of the Conventual Franciscan Province of the Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples); the Mansi family, and the ecclesial and civil community commemorated one of the Amalfi Coast’s most illustrious sons during October 30-31. Friar Antonio MANSI along with Friar Massimiliano Maria KOLBE and five other confreres founded the Marian movement of the Militia of the Immaculate on October 16, 1917.

In Ravello, on Tuesday, October 30, an exhibition was set up in the hall of the library of San Francesco: Writings and Signatures of Friar Antonio Mansi, produced by Friar Francesco CAPOBIANCO and Salvatore AMATO. On the first day of the celebrations, there was a significantly large representation of the Militia of the Immaculate from Campania and Basilicata, Italy. A prayer gathering began in the library hall and was continued at the tomb of Friar Antonio. He has been buried there since 2004, after a long stay at the Verano cemetery in Rome. Now he reposes at the Bonaventurian Franciscan shrine in Ravello. The prayer leader was Friar Mauro DE FILIPPIS DELFICO, the National Assistant for the Militia of the Immaculate. The Most Reverend Angelo SPINILLO, Bishop of Aversa, Italy, concluded with a brief meditation on St. Maximilian.

In the afternoon, a presentation of the book by Friar Gianfranco GRIECO took place: “The Eldest Son: the Life of Friar Antonio Mansi” (*Miscellanea Francescana* Publishing, page 304, Rome, 2018). Friar Giorgio TUFANO, Provincial Secretary, made some opening comments. He was representing the Minister Provincial, Friar Cosimo ANTONINO. Friar Cosimo was in Siena for the funeral of Friar Paolo PRIMAVERA. Another speaker was Dr. Natalia PINTO, the councilor in charge of social services, education and marital status for the municipality of Ravello.

Others speaking about Friar Gianfranco GRIECO’s book included, Salvatore AMATO, a historian and archivist; Angelo SCELZO, a journalist and writer; Benito CORRADINI, the President of the “La Sponda” Academy; and Luca Caruso, spokesman for the Benedict XVI Foundation. Friar Gianfranco explained the historical, spiritual and cultural motivations of the book and talked about the personality of Friar Antonio MANSI. He feels Friar Antonio deserves to be known, loved and talked about.

A Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Orazio SORICELLI, Archbishop of Amalfi-Cava de’ Tirreni, Italy.

The next day, Wednesday, October 31, the Minister Provincial, Friar Cosimo ANTONINO, presided over Mass attended by many relatives of the new Servant of God as well as the faithful of the city of Ravello.

The historic day ended with fireworks. It was a “party in the heavens” for Friar Antonio Mansi and for the inhabitants along Amalfi’s “Divine Coast.”



Friar Antonio MANSI

Romania: Meeting of Definitors

■ Friar Virgil BLAJ, Provincial Secretary

On November 12-13, 2018, the Definitors from the Province of St. Joseph Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania and the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land met together at the St. Joseph friary (Provincial Curia) in Bacău, Romania.

The meeting was led by the Minister Provincial, Friar Teofil PETRIȘOR, and focused on various topics of common interest such as getting to know each other better, motions to bring to the Ordinary General Chapter, collaboration on ongoing formation, prospects, expectations, projects, financial matters, etc.

The participants were able to share their experiences and personal vision regarding these topics, in a truly joyous atmosphere of communion and fraternal dialogue. This interchange also included time for community prayer and fraternal recreation.



The Definitors

Italy: Canonical Visitation in Calabria

■ Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS

On November 5-19, 2018, Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) visited the Provincial Custody of Calabria, Italy, on behalf of the Minister General.

The Provincial Custody of St. Daniel and Companion Martyrs in Italy (Calabria) has four fraternities, each attached to a parish: Amantea, Castrovillari, Catanzaro Lido and Palmi. The Custody has twenty-one friars. Two are posted to the General Houses in Rome, one is a solemnly professed student at the Franciscanum and the others serve in the Calabrian friaries. Of these, nine confreres are from other Jurisdictions of the Order. The Custody also has four young men in initial formation.

The friars have been present in this blessed land since the expansion of the Order in 1217 and the deaths of St. Daniel and his companions, the first martyrs among the Friars Minor, who shed their blood in 1227.

The Jurisdiction belongs to the Province of the Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples), although it retains considerable autonomy, self-governance and a clear Jurisdictional identity.



Some friars of the Custody

Italy: Canonical Visitation in Puglia

■ Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS

From November 20 to December 19, 2018, a general canonical visitation was conducted in the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia).

Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) conducted the visitation on behalf of the Minister General, Friar Marco TASCA.

The Province currently has forty-six religious. There are four temporarily professed religious brothers, of whom one is a clerical student. There are two solemnly professed friars, thirty-eight temporarily professed priests, and one bishop). The Province has eight friaries and one filial house.

The canonical visitation was concluded in Bari with a meeting of the Visitor with the Provincial Definitory.

During the visitation, a special prayer was offered to commemorate Friar Giovanni MEDDA, the last General Visitor. He had returned to the Father's House immediately after this assignment, without leaving a written report.

Castrovillari: IV Centenary of Friar Filippo Gesualdi

■ The Custodial Secretariat

On Sunday, December 16, 2018, the community of Castrovillari, of the Provincial Custody of St. Daniel and Companion Martyrs in Italy (Calabria), commemorated Friar Filippo GESUALDI on the 400th anniversary of his death.

The Most Reverend Francesco SAVINO, Bishop of Cassano all'Jonio, presided over Mass with the friars concelebrating. The anniversary celebration began by recalling the key elements of the life and work of Friar Filippo, a member of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

Friar Filippo was born in Castrovillari on February 23, 1550. He entered the friary in his hometown. After his novitiate year, he continued his formation in Rome, Padua and Treviso. In 1573, he was ordained a priest, in Padua, and dedicated himself to preaching and to teaching in various colleges of the Order. In 1591, he was elected Minister Provincial of Calabria. He performed his service as a leader with excellence, sharing the ideals of reform, strict spirituality and austerity of life.

In 1593, he was elected Minister General of the Order. Supported by Pope CLEMENT VIII, he worked for the reform of the Order, beginning with initial, spiritual, theological and devotional formation. He abolished the exceptions to the common life and the observance of poverty and defended the Conventual family against further divisions.

On April 15, 1602, towards the end of his third term as Minister General, he was ordained a bishop and entrusted with the Diocese of Cariati and Cerenza, one of the poorest in Calabria. He took his seat there, in all Franciscan poverty and with his health already compromised. While there, he taught Christian doctrine and personally administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He instituted lay confraternities, dedicated himself to popular preaching and founded a hospital for the poor and the sick.

He died on December 12, 1618, in Cariati (Province of Cosenza, Italy), in fame of holiness, and was interred in the cathedral. The title "blessed" was soon appended to his name, but despite this, an 18th century restoration of the cathedral erased all traces of his tomb. This resulted in blurring the memory of one of the most interesting exponents of the Catholic-Tridentine reform in the history of religious orders.



Friar Filippo GESUALDI

Brazil: Extraordinary Chapter (Province of St. Francis)

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI,

The Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Francis in Brazil, based in Santo André (São Paulo), celebrated an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter.

The event was held October 15-19, 2018, at the São Francisco Retreat Center in Rondinha (Paraná). Those present included the Vicar General of the Order, Friar Jerzy NOREL; the Assistant General for the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC), Friar Carlos TROVARELLI; and the General Exactor, Friar Wojciech KULIG.

The Chapter was convened by the Minister Provincial, Friar Aloisio Antonio DE OLIVEIRA with the timely aim of analyzing and making decisions about a Provincial enterprise whose juridical title is "Franciscan Services of Evangelization". The Chapter's next goal was to revise the Regulations of the Provincial Administration and to update some numbers in the Provincial Statutes.

During its nearly seventy years of existence, the Province has developed an important tradition carrying out evangelization and human promotion projects aimed at proclaiming the Gospel, nourishing faith and devotion, teaching and transmitting the Franciscan charism and caring for the most needy in society. However, momentous changes have been taking place that have compelled the confreres to start renewing and updating. This was an important focus of the Chapter; indeed, it was a true turning point, in terms of the style of Province works and the way they are managed. This new style of management favors a more community-oriented approach, a more synodal discernment and a more professional administration in order to deal with current historical circumstances.

In addition, the Chapter provided some valuable time for strengthening fraternal bonds, praying together and discussing life in the Province and its ongoing initiatives. During the week, the friars celebrated some anniversaries of priestly ordination, as well as some birthdays.

The last session of the Chapter was dedicated to listening to the Vicar General, who reported on some aspects of the life of the Order, in particular, the events of the very recent Extraordinary General Chapter, which undertook the revision of the Constitutions.



The Minister Provincial with the Vicar General of the Order

South Korea: Extraordinary Chapter (and Assembly)

■ Friar Bonaventura Kyuhee HAN, Provincial Secretary

On October 22-23, 2018, the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in South Korea held an assembly of its friars at the St. Francis Retreat House in Hannam-dong, Seoul.

The friars shared fraternal time together and discussed current issues in the Order.

After the assembly, an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter was held at the same place, October 23-24, for a period of two days and one night. Nineteen friars attended this Chapter.

One important topic was the social welfare work in which the friars are engaged. The friars took some time to consider how they should live as Franciscans in these changing times.



The Capitulars

Argentina and Uruguay: Spiritual Chapter

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

The “Rioplattense” Province of St. Anthony of Padua in Argentina-Uruguay celebrated a unitary Spiritual Chapter with the Provincial Delegation in Paraguay, of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow).

The Chapter was held October 15-19, 2018, at the Villa Marista Retreat Center in Luján (Buenos Aires), Argentina.



The Capitulars

CHAPTERS

In keeping with a series of bilateral agreements made between the two Jurisdictions, the Minister Provincial of the “Rioplattense” Province, Friar Aldo Andrés CÚCCARO, convened the Chapter in collaboration with the Minister Provincial of the Province of Cracow, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, who also took part in the Chapter.

The purpose of this initiative was to strengthen the fraternal bonds between the friars of Argentina and Uruguay and those of Paraguay. Most of the friars from Argentina and all the friars from Paraguay participated, together with Friar Jacek ORZEŁ, the Delegate of the Minister Provincial to this land of the “Guaraní”.

Also present at the Chapter Assembly was the Assistant General for the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, serving as the General Visitor to the “Rioplattense” Province.

Spiritual reflections were given by Friar Edgardo QUINTEROS (Dominican), who was asked to speak on the theme of “Minoritic Fraternity”.

The Chapter was a true time of grace, especially because of its fraternal richness. The assembly also got to visit the nearby National Marian Shrine (Nuestra Señora de Luján), to celebrate Mass together.

Beyond the spiritual reflection, the meeting also took place to develop mutual understanding between the friars who are living the Gospel, who are working for it and bearing witness to it in this “Southern Cone” of Latin America.

Brazil: Ordinary Chapter– Part II (Custody of St. Bonaventure)

■ Friar Carlos TROVARELLI

The second part of the Ordinary Chapter of the Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil (Maranhão) was celebrated at the Infant of Prague friary in the Cohama section of the city of São Luis, at which participated Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, the Assistant General for FALC.

Under the presidency of the Provincial Custos Friar Clevis MAFRA DOS SANTOS, the Capitulars approved the Custodial Four-Year Plan (2018-2022) which has four sections: the primacy of God, initial and continuing formation, mission and proclamation of the Gospel, and finances.

The Chapter also approved a directory for Custodial finances and administration, the first one ever for the Custody. The directory was drafted by a new Custodial financial team of three friars.



The Capitulars

During session six, the following friars were elected: Friar João Raimundo Jr. BATALHA (Guardian of the Bl. John Duns Scotus friary in Fortaleza); Friar David RODRIGUES NASCIMENTO (Guardian of the St. Francis of Assisi friary in São Luís); Friar Raimundo Nonato M. SILVA (Guardian of the St. Anthony friary in Cohajap / São Luís); Friar Roberto HONORATO REMÉDIOS (Guardian of the Infant of Prague friary in Cohama / São Luís); Friar Felipe Vitor TORRES DE LIMA (Guardian of the St. Francis Friary in Bom Jardim); Friar Gleison SILVA CONCEIÇÃO (Delegate for the mission community at Teresina); Friar Roberto HONORATO REMÉDIOS (Director of Postulants).

The Provincial Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil belongs to FALC (Federación América Latina Conventuales), which also includes Jurisdictions of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Poland: Extraordinary Chapter (Province of Gdańsk)

■ Friar Mateusz STACHOWSKI

On November 5-9, 2018, the Conventual Franciscan Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk) celebrated its Extraordinary Provincial Chapter at the Center for Education and Formation in Koszalin, Poland.

The Chapter was presided over by the Minister Provincial, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI. Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO) came from Rome to serve as the Delegate of the Minister General. Also participating were Friar Jerzy NOREL, the Vicar General of the Order; Friar Wojciech KULIG, the General Exactor; and, for the first two days, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF).

The Capitular deliberations were mainly about real estate and the use of immovable assets. Among the first decisions of the Chapter was a ruling on the activity in the restored friary in Vilnius, Lithuania. Then, matters regarding the Provincial Custody of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya were dealt with. In fact, on the second day, the friars unanimously accepted the request to present a motion to establish the Province of Kenya.

Next, the Provincial Econom, Friar Leszek ŁUCZKANIN, presented development plans for some Provincial buildings, in particular the priorities connected with the friary in Gdynia, Poland. The discussions held in small groups, and those in the Chapter auditorium, clearly indicated that the friars are interested in the proper use of real estate.

One of the most discussed topics was the future of a place used by the Province of St. Maximilian, commonly called "St. Francis Island". It lies within the borders of Gdańsk, near the Baltic Sea.

At the end of the Chapter, the Superiors of the Province met for their own annual fall meeting.



The Capitulars

Austria-Switzerland: Extraordinary Chapter

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ

On November 29, 2018, the extraordinary Custodial Chapter of the Provincial Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicolas of Flüe in Austria-Switzerland was celebrated at the Holy Trinity friary in Vienna, Austria.

All twenty-four Capitulars were present together with the Custos, Friar Daniele BROCCA. Friar Bernhardin SEITHER, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany and Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, the Assistant General for the Centralis Europae Foederatio (CEF), also took part in the Chapter.

The main theme was on the restoration of the cloister of the monastery of Graz, Austria, as well as its “Minoritensäle” two ancient refectories—for winter and summer—which today are used for different cultural events. In addition to this, the friars decided to increase the contributions for the Custody’s “senior” fund.

The Chapter began with a Mass commemorating the feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order, during which all the friars present renewed their vows.

The previous day, November 28, the Assistant General for the CEF sat in on a session of the Custodial Definitory.

The celebration concluded on November 30, with the annual meeting of the guardians of the Custody.



The Capitulars

Italy: Extraordinary Chapter (Province of Naples)

■ Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS

On November 14-16, 2018, the Province of the Seraphic Father St. Francis in Italy (Naples) conducted an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter, as called for by its Ordinary Provincial Chapter (Paestum, July 2017).

The opening liturgy took place at the “Centro Don Giustino” retreat facility in Naples and began with invocations composed by the Seraphic Father. The theme of the Chapter was, “All You Peoples, Sing a New Song!”

As a sign of the Order’s care for this Province, those attending included the Minister General, Friar MARCO TASCA, the Procurator General, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO and

CHAPTERS

the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS.

In all, it was a fraternal experience, as seen during liturgical prayer, discussion groups, breaks, and at the table. Collegiality was evident in the choices that were made and approved, which will guide the future of the Province.

The introductory report by the Minister Provincial, Friar Cosimo ANTONINO, offered the Capitulars some useful material: a review of the works of the Province (Radio Kolbe, the Liturgical Center, various magazines, etc.), criteria for discernment (fraternal life, pastoral ministry, historical memory, heritage and planning) and projects to be strengthened or realized as a Provincial fraternity.

The projects in progress are [in Italy]: the evangelization center in Benevento, the youth ministry center in Montella, the cultural center in San Lorenzo Maggiore, the vocation promotion and formation center in Nocera, and the spirituality center in Ravello. Special attention will be given to parish animation at the friary of the Immacolata al Vomero and the “Casa della Carità” charity house next to the small church known as “Little Pompeii. Next, the Capitulars focused on a suggestion taken from the new Constitutions of the Order: engaging in Marian and Kolbean animation, probably with the help of the Father Kolbe Missionary Sisters. Although the sisters will be leaving their convent in Mondragone, they intend to remain in the Italian Province of Campania.

The final motions the Capitulars voted on and approved, concerned: 1) The priority to be given to the “New Evangelization” to be instituted in Benevento, with the management of the liturgical center and the use of all necessary resources, such as magazines, radio, and other means; 2) The development of a provincial work at the “Little Pompeii”, as part of the “Casa della Carità” charity house, to offer needed hospitality to parents whose children are hospitalized at the Santobono Children’s Hospital.

As for the practical realization of these projects, the Chapter assembly gave the mandate to the Minister Provincial and his Definitory, with the faculty to reformulate the presences of the friars as they see fit, resorting, if necessary, to the possible suppression of certain friaries.

Among the various presentations at the Chapter there was an interesting film made by Friar Paolo GALANTE on the activities of Montella (Italian Province of Avellino) at a location now known as the “Insula Franciscana”. Friar Giuseppe CAPPELLO offered a detailed and precise, overview on Radio Kolbe (“The Other Radio”) and Friar Gennaro BECCHIMANZI offered some stimulating initiatives in his presentation entitled “In ... canto” .

The Chapter concluded with the taking of a group photo.



The Capitulars

■ PERSONAL STATISTICS

Professiones perpetuae

Cust. prov. Boliviae

FUNES LUJÁN Jonathan Cristian (2018-12-12)

Prov. Cechiae

RYGIEL Patrik Bogdan (2018-11-16)

Cust. prov. Indonesianae

SIJABAT Eko Gayus (2018-10-06)

Prov. Italicae S. Antonii Patavini

GALIAZZO Nicola, MELATO Nico, PAGNONI Simone, VINCITORIO Stefano (2018-10-06)

Prov. Polonicae B.M.V. Imm.

KAMIŃSKI Jakub, ROMBEL Łukasz (2018-12-08)

Ordinationes diaconales

Prov. Coreae

KIM Angelo, SHIN Peter (2018-12-20)

Ordinationes sacerdotales

Prov. Coreae

GO Macario (2018-12-20)

Prov. Siculae

RAMOS DE LA CRUZ Antolín (2018-10-19)

■ RESTING IN GOD

DEFUNCTI [NOMEN]	DIES NATALIS	CIRCUMSCRIPTIO	DIES MORTIS	LOCUS	AETAS
TOTTOLI Giovan Battista	1945-10-16	P. Italica SA	2018-10-01	Feltre, ITALIA	72
OSO Anselmus Akira	1927-08-10	P. Iaponiae	2018-10-02	???	91
DARAŽ Piotr	1947-06-28	P. Pol. Cracovia	2018-10-03	Dąbrowa Górnicza, POLONIA	71
URSIDIO Tomaso	1936-11-26	P. Italica SA	2018-10-15	Pedavena, ITALIA	81
PRIMAVERA Paolo	1937-03-12	P. Italica SF	2018-10-27	Siena, ITALIA	81
RACZEK Czesław	1953-06-02	P. Pol. Cracovia	2018-11-08	Lubomierz, POLONIA	65
HERNIK Walerian	1943-04-24	P. Pol. Varsavia	2018-11-22	Niepokalanów, POLONIA	75
OKRZESIK Kazimierz	1966-02-12	P. Pol. Cracovia	2018-11-22	Horyniec Zdrój, POLONIA	52
SAPERRE Renato	1944-05-11	P. Neapolitanae	2018-11-30	Nocera Inferiore, ITALIA	74
VERDICCHIO Giuseppe	1928-12-30	P. Zambiae	2018-12-17	Ibenga, ZAMBIA	89
GROSSER Martin	1924-12-03	P. Germaniae	2018-12-21	Würzburg, GERMANIA	94

LIST OF THE CAPITULARS FOR THE 2019 ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

FRATRES CAPITULARES

▪ TASCA fr. Marco,	Minister generalis
▪ NOREL fr. Jerzy,	Vicarius generalis
▪ GIERMEK fr. Joachim,	ex-Minister generalis
▪ AGESTA CUEVAS fr. Joaquín Ángel,	Ass. Gen. FIMP
▪ BAEK fr. Benedetto (Seungjae),	Ass. Gen. FAMC
▪ CIUPIŃSKI fr. Jacek,	Ass. Gen. FEMO
▪ HONTIĆ fr. Miljenko,	Ass. Gen. CEF
▪ MARCOLI fr. Vincenzo,	Ass. Gen., Secretarius generalis
▪ TROVARELLI fr. Carlos Alberto,	Ass. Gen. FALC
▪ ŚWIĄTKOWSKI fr. Tadeusz,	Ass. Gen. AFCOF
▪ WINKLER fr. Jude Martin,	Ass. Gen. CFF

MINISTRI PROVINCIALES

▪ ABEGG fr. Victor,	Min. prov. USA-S. IOSEPH A CUP.
▪ ANTONINO fr. Cosimo,	Min. prov. IT-NEAPOLITANAE
▪ BLAŽEVIĆ fr. Josip,	Min. prov. CROATIAE
▪ BUONAMANO fr. Franco,	Min. prov. IT-S. FRANCISCI
▪ CASTRO MARTÍNEZ fr. Mario,	Min. prov. MEXICI
▪ CHIMFWEMBE fr. Richard Francis,	Min. prov. ZAMBIAE
▪ CÚCCARO fr. Aldo André,	Min. prov. RIOPLATENSIS
▪ DE OLIVEIRA fr. Aloisio Antonio,	Min. prov. BRASILIENSIS-S. FRANCISCI
▪ GIANNELLI fr. Vincenzo Maria,	Min. prov. IT-APULIAE
▪ GOŁĄB fr. Marian,	Min. Prov. POLONIAE-S. ANTONII
▪ GRZYŃ fr. Stanisław,	Min. prov. CECAE
▪ GUZMÁN LUDEÑA fr. Ángel Mariano,	Min. prov. HISPANIAE
▪ HELLMANN fr. Wayne,	Min. prov. USA-CONS. AFFL
▪ JEONG fr. Marco (Jin-Chol),	Min. prov. COREAE
▪ LA BARBERA fr. Gaspare,	Min. prov. IT-SICILIAE
▪ MACIEJOWSKI fr. Jan,	Min. prov. POLONIAE-S. MAX. KOLBE
▪ McCURRY fr. James,	Min. prov. USA-D. N. ANGELORUM
▪ PAYYAPPILLY fr. Leo,	Min. prov. INDIAE
▪ PETRISOR fr. Teofil,	Min. prov. ROMANIAE
▪ PYZIO fr. Wiesław,	Min. prov. POLONIAE-B. M. V. IMM.
▪ RAPACCHIALE fr. Franco,	Min. prov. IT-APRUTIORUM
▪ SALMIĆ fr. Igor,	Min. prov. SLOVENIAE
▪ SAMMUT fr. Colin Charles,	Vic. Prov. MELITENSIS
▪ SEITHER fr. Bernhardin,	Min. prov. GERMANIAE
▪ TAKEUCHI fr. Serafino Akihiko,	Min. prov. IAPONIAE
▪ VERONEZ MARIN fr. Marcelo José,	Min. Prov. BRASILIENSIS-S. MAX. KOLBE
▪ VOLTAN fr. Giovanni,	Min. prov. IT-S. ANTONII
▪ ZIELKE fr. Michael,	Min. prov. USA-S. BONAVENTURAE

CUSTODES GENERALES

▪ GAMBETTI fr. Mauro,	Custos gen. ASSISIENSIS
▪ HARASIMOWICZ fr. Dariusz,	Custos gen. RUSSIAE

CUSTODES PROVINCIALES

▪ AUCLAIR fr. Jean-François Marie,	Custos prov. GALLIAE
▪ AVENDAÑO MONSALVE fr. José Luis,	Custos prov. VENETIOLAE
▪ BŁASZAK fr. Józef,	Custos prov. CANADIENSIS
▪ BROCCA fr. Daniel,	Custos prov. AUSTRIAE-HELVETIAE
▪ BUDĀU fr. Ciprian,	Custos prov. ANGLIAE ET HIBERNIAE
▪ BULAI fr. Anton,	Custos prov. ORIENTIS ET TERRAE SANCTAE
▪ CASTRO FARAH fr. José Andrés,	Custos prov. COLUMBIAE

ATTACHMENT

- CATALÁN MELGAR fr. Carlos Antonio,
- DA SILVA fr. Ronaldo Gomes,
- DOBLES ULLOA Friar Jorge Arturo,
- KUTIERO fr. Anthony Bezo,
- LESŇÁK fr. Tomáš,
- MAFRA DOS SANTOS fr. Clevis,
- MATEO fr. Francis Victor,
- SEMBIRING fr. Maximilianus Kalef,
- SZULC fr. Kazimierz,
- SZYMBORSKI fr. Dariusz,
- TASSONE fr. Giorgio,

Custos prov. BOLIVIAE
 Custos prov. BRASILIENSIS-IMM. CONC.
 Custos prov. AMERICAЕ CENTRALIS
 Custos prov. GANAE
 Custos prov. SLOVACHIAE
 Custos. Prov. BR- S. BONAVENTURAE
 Custos prov. PHILIPPINARUM INSULARUM
 Custos prov. INDONESIAE
 Custos prov. KENYAE
 Custos prov. TANZANIAE
 Vic. Custos. IT-CALABRIAE

DELEGATI PROVINCiarUM

- ABBASS fr. Jobe
- AFRENŤOAE fr. Mihai,
- BARTOS fr. Mirosław,
- BOCCI fr. Paolo,
- BORDIN fr. Fabrizio,
- BRIDIO fr. Maurizio,
- DYBKA fr. Paweł,
- KALINOWSKI fr. Adam,
- KAYULA fr. Timothy Mpaluka,
- KOPEĆ fr. Zbigniew,
- KRĘT fr. Tomasz,
- KULBICKI fr. Timothy,
- LEŽOHUPSKI fr. Robert,
- MALINOWSKI fr. Kazimierz,
- MICHOWICZ fr. Przemysław,
- MISARIU fr. Iulian,
- OLSZEWSKI fr. Jan,
- PANIZZOLO fr. Francesco,
- PĂTRAȘCU fr. Damian-Gheorghe,
- RAVAIOLI fr. Francesco,
- STROJECKI fr. Stanisław,
- SZYMCZAK fr. Tomasz,
- TANUCCI fr. Albino,
- VĂTĂMĂNELU fr. Marius,
- ZACHARIASZ fr. Jarosław,

Delegatus Provinciae USA-D. N. ANGELORUM
 Delegatus Provinciae ROMANIAE
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-B. M. V. IMM.
 Delegatus Provinciae IT-S. FRANCISCI
 Delegatus Provinciae IT-S. ANTONII
 Delegatus Provinciae IT-S. ANTONII
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-S. ANTONII
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-S. MAX. KOLBE
 Delegatus Provinciae ZAMBIAE
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-B. M. V. IMM.
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-B. M. V. IMM.
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 Delegatus Provinciae IT-S. ANTONII
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 Delegatus Provinciae IT-S. ANTONII
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-S. ANTONII
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-B. M. V. IMM.
 Delegatus Provinciae IT- S. FRANCISCI
 Delegatus Provinciae ROMANIAE
 Delegatus Provinciae POLONIAE-S. ANTONII

FRATRES qui derogatione ex Constitutionibus vocales sunt

- CHOI fr. Alexander (Young Seon),
- HORVAT fr. Robert,
- KOZIELSKI fr. Robert,
- MARDESIC fr. Jack,
- NTUMBILA fr. Joseph Bwalya,
- PEREIRA XAVIER fr. Rogério,
- SCHENK fr. Joseph Stuart,

Prov. COREAE – FAMC
 Prov. SLOVENIAE – CEF
 Prov. POLONIAE-S.MAX. KOLBE – FEMO
 Cust. Prov. GALLIAE – FIMP
 Prov. ZAMBIAE – AFCOF
 Prov. BR-S. FRANCISCI – FALC
 Prov. USA S. BONAVENTURAE – CFF

UDITORES (sine voto)

- BLOWEY fr. David Francis,
- DI PAOLO fr. Maurizio,
- KAWA fr. Stanisław,
- MAZUREK fr. Dariusz, Deleg.
- MOONS fr. Mathias Johannes,
- PAGA fr. Michał,
- PANTHIRUVELIL fr. Louis,
- PASTORELLI fr. Tullio,
- PAZHETSKI fr. Antoni,
- ROBAK fr. Krzysztof,
- ROSA fr. Nicola,
- SALOMON fr. Adam,
- ŚLIWIŃSKI fr. Stanisław,
- WYSOCZAŃSKI fr. Jarosław,

Deleg. Prov. AUSTRALIAE (Prov. USA S. BONAV.)
 Procurator Generalis Ordinis
 Deleg. Prov. UCRAINAE (Prov. POLONIAE-S.ANT.)
 Prov. PERUVIENSIS (Prov. POLONIAE-S.ANT.)
 Deleg. Prov. NEERLANDENSIS (Prov. GERMANIAE)
 Deleg. Prov. AEQUATORIAE (Prov. POLONIAE-S.MAX. KOLBE)
 Secretarius Generalis Formationis
 Deleg. Prov. CHILIAE (PROV. IT-S. ANTONII)
 Deleg. Prov. BIELORUSSIAE (Prov. POLONIAE-B.M.V.IMM.)
 Deleg. Prov. GERMANIAE (Prov. POLONIAE-S. MAX. KOLBE)
 Oeconomus Generalis
 Deleg. Prov. GERMANIAE (Prov. POLONIAE-B. M. V. IMM.)
 Deleg. Prov. GERMANIAE (Prov. POLONIAE-S. ANT.)
 Secretarius Generalis Animationis Missionariae

OFFICIALES

▪ SZYMCZAK fr. Tomasz	Secretarius Generalis Capituli
▪ KULBICKI fr. Timothy	Vice-Secretarius Generalis Capituli
▪ PANTHIRUVELIL fr. Louis	Vice-Secretarius Generalis Capituli
▪ MORA MESÉN fr. Víctor Manuel	Vice-Secretarius Generalis Capituli
▪ RIMOLI fr. Emanuele	Secretarius Actuarius
▪ BEJAN fr. Silvestro	Vice-Secretarius Actuarius
▪ KULIG fr. Wojciech	Vice-Secretarius Actuarius
▪ WRÓBEL fr. Ryszard	ad secr. addictus (pro mediis comm.)
▪ DI PAOLO fr. Maurizio	ad secr. addictus (pro liturgiis)
▪ BECCHIMANZI fr. Gennaro	ad secr. addictus (pro liturgiis et cantibus)
▪ ERCOLI fr. Aurelio	ad secr. addictus
▪ REDONDO FUENTES fr. Valentín	ad secr. addictus (pro fraternitatis actionibus)
▪ WYSOCZAŃSKI fr. Jarosław	ad secr. addictus (pro fraternitatis actionibus)

MODERATORES

- BRIDIO fr. Maurizio
- MACIEJOWSKI fr. Jan
- SAMMUT fr. Colin Charles

CONSILIUM IURIS PERITORUM

- DI PAOLO fr. Maurizio
- KOPEĆ fr. Zbigniew
- LEŽOHUPSKI fr. Robert
- MICHOWICZ fr. Przemysław
- PANIZZOLO fr. Francesco
- REDONDO FUENTES fr. Valentín
- SINGARIMBUN fr. Gabriel

TRANSLATORES

▪ FOLGER fr. Mark	(ITA-ENG)
▪ GAJDA fr. Sławomir	(ITA-POL)
▪ PALACIOS VÁZQUEZ fr. Alejandro	(ESP-ITA)
▪ ERCOLI fr. Aurelio	(ITA)

INTERPRETES

▪ BLAY fr. Joseph Kwame	(ENG-ITA)
▪ <i>SPIRITO fr. Guglielmo</i>	(ENG-ITA) (May 27 - June 10)
▪ FORMOSA fr. Joseph	(ITA-ENG)
▪ ORNELLI fr. Matteo	(ESP-ITA) (May 18-28)
▪ <i>MORA fr. Pedro Javier</i>	(ESP-ITA) (May 28 - June 18)
▪ ADÁNEZ SILVÁN fr. Juan Antonio	(ITA-ESP)
▪ STACHOWSKI fr. Mateusz	(ENG-POL)
▪ BRZOZOWSKI fr. Tadeusz	(POL-ENG)
▪ WETTA fr. Eugeniusz	(ESP-POL)
▪ WILK fr. Marek	(POL-ESP)
▪ STÓJ fr. Stanisław	(ITA-POL)
▪ WEŻIK fr. Tomasz	(POL-ITA)
▪ RUBINO fr. Vincent	(ENG-ESP)
▪ SERRANO fr. Mario Luevano	(ESP-ENG)
▪ TANIZAKI fr. Lucas Shin-ichiroh	(JAP- ITA-JAP)
▪ VAN KOOTEN fr. Michiel	(OLA- ITA-OLA)