



THE MINISTER GENERAL MEETS THE NEW MINISTERS PROVINCIAL AND CUSTODES

“The wisdom of the Spirit enlarges our boundaries and helps us to look at the broader horizon”: these are the words with which the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, opened the annual meeting between the Definitory and the Provincial Ministers and Custodes, elected in the last two years. “This requires the development in us, personally and with our brothers, of a contemplative look at reality, not just a functional and almost managerial one. It is a matter of exercising that believing vigilance at the heart of the Christian faith and our profession as brothers and minors”.

Starting from the problems and challenges that the Order faces today, the Minister invited the participants to have a vision of faith: “Here, in our lives and in the service of washing the feet of the brothers, we can discover the source of joy in becoming more and more capable of recognising what the Lord has accomplished among us, in the brothers and our Fraternities at different levels.

The Minister’s address was followed by a moment of questions and dialogue. In this dialogue, the

restructuring of the Order, the growth and ageing of some provinces and the position of some entities concerning the challenges that today’s society presents to the Church were discussed.

The first day of work ended with the Eucharist for the name-day of the Minister General, presided over by Br Ignacio Ceja, Vicar General of the Order. During his homily, the Vicar General emphasised three important aspects of the lives of the apostles Peter and Paul, which are of great help to the new ministers: the deep faith in the Lord Jesus, the life experience of being part of the Church and the dynamism of the evangelising mission.

In the following days, all areas of service of the friars will be explored, from ongoing and missionary formation to the offices of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, from the financial management of the fraternities to the accompaniment of friars in difficulty. A spiritual day with a pilgrimage in the Rieti valley is also planned for next Saturday.



OTHER NEWS



INTERNATIONAL FORMATION AND STUDIES COUNCIL RETURNS

"Yesterday, we opened the meeting with a greeting from the Vicar General, Br Ignacio Ceja, who also conveyed greetings from the Minister General and encouraged us in our work". This was said by Brother Darko Tepert, Secretary General for Formation and Studies of the Order, on the side-lines of the meeting of the International Council for Formation and Studies, which takes place in Rome from 21 to 24 June 2022. "The Vicar pointed out that the last General Chapter gave several tasks to the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies and invited the International Council to offer help in this regard to the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies".

Today, the second day of the meeting, as we read in the programme, the councillors devoted themselves to the theme of Franciscan identity. Br Darko explained: "The question of our identity was very present at the last General Chapter, and we saw that there are many concerns throughout the Order in this regard. As the General Chapter says in the final document, we must work hard to start again with our commitment to be truly lesser brothers".

In addition to the Franciscan identity discussed today, the participants have on the agenda for the next few days the preparation of two conferences: one of the Franciscan study centres (to be held next year) and the other of the lay brothers, planned for 2024, which will be at the level of the OFM conferences. Also on the table are topics such as safeguarding minors and vulnerable people, evangelisation and the offices of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

Apart from the organisers – Br Darko Tepert, General Secretary, and Br Hieronimus Yosep Dey Rupa, Vice Secretary -, representing the Secretariats of the OFM Conferences, the following Secretaries are taking part in this meeting: Br Samuel Ceglowski for the North Slavic Conference, Br Antonino Milazzo for the Custody of the Holy Land, Br Bruno Peixoto for Confres, Br Charles Bernard for the SAAOC Conference, Br Danijel Nikolić for the South Slavic Conference, Br Elton Viagedor for the EAC Conference, Br Fernando Ferrario for Conocla, Br Danijel Nikolić for the South Slavic Conference, Br David Pool Paredes for the Guadalupana Conference, Br Elton Viagedor for the EAC Conference, Br Fernando Ferrario for the Brazilian and Cono Sur, Br Larry Hayes for the ESC Conference, Br Marco Huatay Flores for the Bolivarian Conference, Br Milko Gigante for COMPI, Br Solomon Sekabata Mphela for the African Conference and Br Thomas Abrell for COTAF.

ISTANBUL: 16th ONGOING TRAINING COURSE ON ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

After the online course in 2020 and the break in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic, the International Franciscan Fraternity for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue based in Turkey is resuming its distinctive course of study and formation. The 16th Ongoing Formation Course on Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue will be held from 16 to 30 October 2022 in Istanbul. As always, it will be held in collaboration with the Minister General O.F.M. and the General Secretariat for Missions and Evangelisation.

The Fraternity offers to the whole Order of Friars Minor and to all members of the Franciscan Family who are interested, an Ongoing Formation Course on Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue in Italian, English and French with simultaneous translation. The topics envisaged are: formation for dialogue according to the Franciscan charism; ecumenical dialogue between Catholics and Orthodox; Islamic-Christian interreligious dialogue; anthropological and intercultural perspectives; the challenges and future of interreligious dialogue (dialogue with culture and the problem of immigration as a challenge). During the course there will be visits and meetings with the main religious groups present in ancient Constantinople, such as the Orthodox Patriarchate, the city's large mosques, synagogues, the Alevite cemevi, etc.

At the end of the course, a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul to Turkey is also planned.

The cost of the course is €900 including registration fee, board and lodging, excursions and guided tours. All those interested can send a booking request to the e-mail dialogue@istanbulofm.org or makutaba@yahoo.fr by 31 August 2022 at the latest. The first 20 people to register will receive confirmation and a detailed course programme. More information and details of courses held in recent years can be found at <https://dialogue.istanbulofm.org/>.



THE ARCHBISHOP OF SÃO PAULO ANNOUNCES THE DEATH OF CARDINAL CLAUDIO HUMMES

It is with great sorrow that I announce the death today of His Eminence Cardinal Claudio Hummes, Archbishop Emeritus of São Paulo and Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy, at the age of 88, after a long illness that he endured with patience and faith in God.

Born in Salvador do Sul (RS) on 08.08.1934, he entered religious life in the Order of Friars Minor; he received priestly ordination on 3 August 1958 and episcopal ordination on 25 May 1975. He was Diocesan Bishop of Santo André (SP), Archbishop of Fortaleza and Archbishop of São Paulo. He was appointed a member of the College of Cardinals by Pope Saint John Paul II in the Consistory of 21 February 2001. From 2006 to 2011, he worked alongside Pope Benedict XVI in Rome as Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy.

Returning to Brazil, he served as President of the Episcopal Commission for Amazonia, the (National Conference of Brazilian Bishops) (CNBB) and the newly created Ecclesial Conference of Amazonia (CEAMA).

I invite all to raise prayers to God in gratitude for the late Cardinal Hummes' hardworking life and in suffrage on his behalf that God may welcome him and give him eternal life, as he believed and hoped. May God welcome our deceased brother, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, into his eternal home and let everlasting light shine upon him.

His body will be laid to rest in St. Paul's Metropolitan Cathedral, where Masses will be celebrated at times to be announced in due course.

San Paolo, 4 July 2022

Cardinale Odilo Pedro Scherer

Archbishop of São Paulo



FORTY YEARS SINCE THE FIRST FRANCISCAN MARCH: BISHOP CETOLONI RECOUNTS THE ORIGINS

After years of difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Franciscan march is back this year, with groups of young people from different backgrounds setting out on foot to reach Assisi on the day of the Pardon of Assisi, August 2nd. More than forty years after the first Franciscan march, Bishop Rodolfo Cetoloni, bishop emeritus of the diocese of Grosseto (Italy) – and a Franciscan friar for almost fifty years – tells us about the birth of this initiative, which has changed the lives of thousands of young people around the world..

How did the idea of the Franciscan march come about?

We are in the early months of the year 1980, in the Convent of St Francis in Fiesole (Italy), where the formation house for theology students (temporarily professed) and the Franciscan youth and vocational pastoral house were located. In that year, it was Tuscany that had to offer oil for the lamp burning at the Tomb of St Francis, patron saint of Italy. So in the friaries and dioceses they were trying to organise some special initiatives, so as not to reduce everything to the days of the celebrations of this event on 3-4 October. In the Tuscan provinces and dioceses, the idea of undertaking pilgrimages of groups or parishes to Assisi was suggested. So in our friary, so full of young people, a more creative way to implement this idea was sought. One day, while having coffee after lunch, Brother Daniel and Brother Michael suggested we go to Assisi on foot! Touched to the core, I took up the provocation and accepted. The times were very different from now. Few people spoke of the Camino de Santiago, the Via Francigena or other itineraries. A few scouts walked and a few people jogged on Sunday mornings. But by then the idea had been launched. As the person responsible for the vocational pastoral ministry, I took it upon myself to organise it.

What was it like to organise the first Franciscan march?

I worked with Father Eugenio Barelli, master of the professed, I questioned a few scout leaders to get an idea of what walking for several days entailed, I studied the itinerary with Father Martino Bertagna (historian and archivist). A leaflet was made (mimeographs of the time with hand-drawn, waxed paper stencils) and distributed around. We didn't think there would be much participation, we thought about 20 to 30 people and for accommodation it shouldn't have been so difficult to be accommodated in a small group. For food we would organise ourselves day by day.

We chose a date for July, but already in June we realised that we had more than one hundred and twenty members. It got very complicated, but working together and the sense of community that characterised the Fiesole house helped us. Particularly providential was the choice of the parents of a young man who took the trouble to think about provisions. With some of the students and Father Eugenio, I toured the places on the itinerary a couple of times to ask for accommodation in parishes or other places. Many would widen their eyes and say: 'To Assisi on foot?! In the heat of July? And in how many?'

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COMMUNIQUE FROM THE GENERAL DEFINITORY
JULY 2022 TEMPO FORTE

[SOURCE](#)

LEONADO BOFF

***Forse la Terra si salverà,*
Edizioni Terra Santa, 2022, pp.
288**



Leonardo Boff, Brazilian theologian (1938), is one of the fathers of Liberation Theology. A friar minor and a priest, he left the Order in 1992 after differences with the Holy See, which was critical of his more “Marxist” and radical leanings in his thought. He has always sided with those who are least in society, convinced that poverty is not a natural state. Teacher, writer and conference speaker, he is the author of many books, in which his “ecological” philosophy shines through in which the Earth is conceived as a living organism of which man is an integral part. Before the challenge facing the planet, the accession to the papacy of Pope Francis is for him a sign of great hope.

GILBERTO AQUINI

***I santi del sorriso*
Vite straordinarie tra storia,
umorismo e devozione, TS
Edizioni, 2022, pp. 208**

The words and works of the giants of the faith who knew how to make light of the difficulties of life.



In this rich gallery of extraordinary lives what is recounted are the words and works

of giants of the faith who were able to make light of the difficulties of life: from Philip Neri to Ignatius of Loyola, from St Nicolas to St John Bosco, from Thérèse of Lisieux to the Blessed Joanna of Signa.

The stories told through the expert pen of Gilberto Aquini are historical, without however leaving out those legendary aspects and anecdotes which have perpetuated devotion to them.

Amongst these saints – some of whom are not so well known – there is not one who is like the other. It is their kindly and indulgent regard on the misfortunes and contradictions of daily life which teaches us that wisdom which is purely a gift of the Holy Spirit.

FIDEL AIZPURÚA DONAZAR

***Miradas sobre Francisco de Asís,*
Ediciones Franciscanas
Arantzazu, 2021, pp. 168**

In this book, Fidel Aizpurúa presents us with a series of viewpoints from authors who, for the most part, are not directly tied to St Francis, but who nevertheless may be regarded as belonging to the “Franciscan family”, that which does not require a habit, nor an affiliation, or even a faith. It requires only an appreciation of Francis, and the persons presented here had that and considered it a treasure in their lives.



AGENDA MINISTER GENERAL AUGUST 2022

- 1° ASSISI, CONVENT OF S. CHIARA
Mass
PORTIUNCULA: Opening of
the Feast of Pardon- Mass
2-3 MEDJUGORJE: Youth Festival
10 ASSISI, San Damian: Transit of St.
Claire
PERUGIA, POOR CLARE
CONVENT OF S. ERMINIO,
Meeting
11, FOLIGNO, POOR CLARE
CONVENT OF SANTA
LUCIA: Mass
ASSISI: General Assembly of the
Missionary Institute of the
Kingship of Christ: Meeting
and Mass
12-26 Vacation
27, ROME, Consistory for the new
Cardinals

NEW PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Fr. Marcos Iván Saravia Orellana
Province of St Francis Solano, Peru

Fr. Virgil Agbessi
Province of the Incarnate Word –
Togo, Costa d’Avoirio, Benin, Burkina
Faso e Ghana.

NUEVOS VISITADORES GENERALES

**Fr. Edgardo Manuel PÉREZ
TEJEIRA** of the Province of Our Lady
of Guadalupe in Central America, for
the Province of Saints Peter and Paul in
Mexico (Celaya).

Fr. Giampaolo MASOTTI of the
Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi,
Italy, for the Province of St. Bonaventure
of the Friars Minor, Italy.

**Fr. Pedro Roberto Balingit
MANANSALA** of the Province of St.
Peter Baptist in the Philippines, for
the Custody of St. John the Baptist in
Pakistan.

Fr. Agustinus Lorensius NGGAME
of the Province of St. Michael the
Archangel in Indonesia, for the
Province of St. Francis Herald of Peace
in Indonesia.