

REVISION AND RENEWAL OF ORDER STRUCTURES

MEETING OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY WITH OFM CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

The meeting between the General Definitory and the Presidents of the OFM Conferences took place from 15 to 18 May at the General Curia. Four days to discuss the life of the Conferences, the challenges to be faced, and their renewal, in a perspective of fraternal and constructive dialogue in view of the upcoming events (Franciscan Centenaries 2023-2026, International Meeting of Lay Brothers, Chapter of Mats).



GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- From 25 to 27 May Br. Francisco Gomez Vargas, Secretary-General for Missions and Evangelization and Br Denis Tayo, General Animator for Missions participated at the inter-Provincial meeting on New forms of evangelization at Cebu in the Philippines.
- From 31 May to 10 June Br John Wong pays a post-Chapter visit to the Province of Japan (Tokyo-Kyoto-Osaka-Nagasaki).
- From 31 May to 17 June, the Minister General, Br Massimo, visits the Province of St Francis in Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda and Tanzania).
- From 3 June Br Francisco Gomez Vargas, Secretary-General M&E, participates at the first week of the inter-obedience Missionary Course at Cebu (Philippines). Br Dennis Tayo will present the course for two months together with two other friars, one OFM Capuchin and one OFM Conventual.
- On 8 June Br Albert Schmucki, General Definitory, and Br Fabio C. Gomes, delegate General pro Monialibus participate in Rome at the meeting with the Presidents of the Italian Federation of the Poor Clares on the subject "The Clarian Ideal and the formative process".
- From 11 to 17 June, Br Cesare Vaiani, General Definitory, will preach the spiritual exercises for the friars of Morocco, meditating upon the Rule.

In the first day, after the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Br Fredy Galvez Angulo, President of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference, the morning meeting, moderated by the General Definitor Br Jimmy Zammit, began with the greeting and thanks of Br Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General: "Good morning brothers, welcome to each and every one: thank you for being here! This meeting takes on greater importance each time, and we will see it again this time, as we increase our reflection on the concept of "rethinking the Conferences", as the General Chapter has asked us to do," Br Massimo said.

Afterwards, the participants introduced themselves and shared the strengths and challenges of each Conference. Among the strengths, the presidents mentioned the good communication between the entities, the creation of common formation and mission projects, the senior friars' witness and fidelity to their vocation, the sense of belonging, the collaboration with the Franciscan Family and other religious. But around the world, the Conferences also face many difficult challenges: conflicts and wars, which affect populations and friars; old age and the decrease in vocations; formation to prevent abuse and the fight against clericalism.

In the afternoon, in the session moderated by the General Definitor Br Konrad Cholewa, Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli presented the report "No one is saved alone: revision and renewal of the Conferences, Curia Structures and the Order". Afterwards, there was time for dialogue.

Following this, the General Definitor, Br Cesare Vaiani, presented the work of the Commission on Conferences (cf. [General Curia Mandate n. 31](#)), while Br Darko Tepert, Secretary General for Formation and Studies, introduced the topic of the revision of the organigram of the Curia and the Order (cf. [Orientation n. 29](#)).

On the last day, during the Eucharist, the Minister General reviewed the activities during the meeting and said: "At the heart

remains the promotion of our identity as brothers and the contact with the reality of the time we are living, with the hopes and labours of so many people in the world today. I can testify that so many brothers live in a living relationship with the reality of the people among whom we live. Often on very dangerous borders'.

Taking an example from St Felix of Cantalice, the saint of children, whose liturgical memory was being celebrated, Br Massimo invited the Presidents to live as brothers to so many people, especially the sick and the poor, and concluded his homily by saying: "As we close this meeting and prepare to resume our ordinary life and mission, let us take with us this call to live as brothers, also in our relations with the Ministers and those responsible in the Conferences, and to work with our hands, in a spirit of minority, learning again and again to serve our brothers".

" AT THE HEART REMAINS THE PROMOTION OF OUR IDENTITY AS BROTHERS AND THE CONTACT WITH THE REALITY OF THE TIME WE ARE LIVING, WITH THE HOPES AND LABOURS OF SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY"
(BR MASSIMO)

The four-day meeting was greatly appreciated by the Presidents who attended. For Br José Alirio Urbina Rodriguez, President of the Bolivarian Conference, the meeting made

one remember, analyse and deepen the mandates of the General Chapter 2021; Br Mikhael Paruhe, President of the South Asia and Oceania Conference, shared his joy at meeting the other presidents and Br Daniel A. Fleitas Zeni, of the South Cone Brazil Conference, also appreciated the meeting. Br Thomas Nairn, President of the ESC (English Speaking Conference), shared his interest in dealing with the themes of synodality, safeguarding of minors, transparent economy and solidarity; Br Fredy Gálvez Angulo of the Mexico and Central America Conference emphasised how this meeting is an important time of closeness with the Minister General and an opportunity to be in communion with the Order. For Br Thodorus Van Andrichem of the Central Europe, Hungary and Transylvania Conference, it was positive to see how the history of the Conferences of the Order has been formed from the grassroots; Br Paolo Quaranta, President of COMPI, highlighted how the Definitory is ready to deal with all the problems of the life of the Order, a sign of vivacity and a willingness to question what the Lord is asking



of us today as lesser brothers in the world. Finally, for Br Virgile Agbessi of the African Conference, who attended for the first time, it was interesting to see the strengths and challenges of the Order.

In addition to the Definitory, the meeting was attended by:

- Br Alard Krzysztof Maliszewski, SLAN (North Slavic Conference);
- Br Daniel Alejandro Fleitas Zeni, Brazil and Southern Cone;
- Br Francesco Patton, Conference of the Custody of the Holy Land;
- Br Fredy Gálvez Angulo, Mexico and Central America Conference;
- Br Joaquín Zurera Ribó, CONFRES (Conference of Provinces of Spain and Portugal);
- Br José Alirio Urbina Rodríguez, Bolivarian;
- Br Lino Gregorio Velasquez Redoblado, EAC (East Asia

Conference);

- Br Marko Mrše, SLAS (South Slavic Conference).
- Br Mikhael Peruhe, SAAOC (South Asia, Australia and Oceania Conference);
- Br Paolo Quaranta, COMPI (Conference of Minister Provincials of Italy and Albania);
- Br Theodorus Van Adrichem, COTAF (Transalpine Franciscan Conference);
- Br Thomas Nairn, ESC (English Speaking Conference);
- Br Virgile Agbessi, African Conference.

The meeting of the General Definitory with the Presidents of the Conferences is convened at least every two years by the General Minister to deal with the most important questions and issues for the life of the Order (cf. General Statutes 147; 200).

PROVINCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

VICAR GENERAL AND DEFINITOR IN EGYPT

“During our visit to Egypt, we met with almost all the friars of the Province with meetings spread over the four zones: Luxor, Assiut, Cairo and Alexandria,” shared the Vicar General of the Order, Br Ignacio Ceja Jiménez, after visiting the Province of the Holy Family of Egypt from 23 April to 2 May.

“We were able to get to know the reality of the places - underlined the Vicar General - where the friars live and carry out their mission, and we met with the lay people who collaborate with them: in parishes, sanctuaries, schools, homes for orphans, homes for students, etc. We also met with the Provincial Definitory, the formators and the friars in initial formation”.

The Definitory for Africa, Br Víctor Luís Quematcha, who accompanied the Vicar on the visit, shared the objective of the journey from Rome to Cairo: “We brought the friars of Egypt the fraternal greetings and closeness of the Minister General and his Definitory. With our visit, the Minister wanted to express the Order’s closeness and gratitude towards the witness of evangelical life in the footsteps of Francis, in a context where Muslims constitute the majority of the population compared to Christians”.

The Vicar General and the Definitory addressed several themes, such as the sense of belonging to the Order of Friars Minor, the call of the last General Chapter to renew identity and to be brothers and minors in mission, and the call to care



for an authentic service to the Church and society starting from an authentic life that witnesses to the primacy of God.

“We were very edified by the witness of our brothers,” said Brother Ignacio, “who showed us a great fraternal welcome and worked hard, sometimes with sacrifice, for the good of the Church and society in Egypt.”

The Egyptian Province currently has 89 friars, distributed in 23 friaries. The friars are dedicated to pastoral service, education (1765 pupils, 65% of whom are Muslims), and promoting culture through cinema and other activities.

The Franciscan presence in Egypt dates back to the time of St Francis, in the early winter of 1219, when Francis met with Sultan Ayyūbid al-Malik al-Kamil in Damietta.

VISIT TO THE PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF HUNGARY
THE MINISTER GENERAL AND THE GENERAL DEFINITOR IN HUNGARY

The Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, accompanied by Br Albert Schmucki, Definitor General of the area, visited the Province of Hungary from 22 to 26 May 2023.

At the end of the visit, the friars expressed their joy at welcoming the Minister; among them, Br Lajos Kruppa, a student friar, testified: "We were truly impressed by his closeness to the people. In Br Massimo, we got to know a very open person, noting how the Minister several times left his papers, with prepared speeches, to converse directly with us, listening with great attention".

Another friar, Br Quirin Kóta, was impressed by the dialogue and the topics discussed to "find the meaning of our personal life in ourselves and respond to Jesus according to the Gospel. The clarity of our vocational choice and fidelity can also become important signs for others, as the Second Vatican Council tells us".

The Franciscan presence in Hungary dates back to 1225-1226, and the first Minister Provincial was Blessed Albert of Pisa. The present Province is the result of the merger in 2006 of two Hungarian Provinces. It has 96 friars dedicated to pastoral service in parishes and shrines and education in schools and



kindergartens. In addition, the friars are involved in the support centre for autism and for those excluded from society, such as gypsies, and in social services to help the elderly, in charity and care centres for disabled children.

They are also active in the world of culture with the Interreligious Theological Faculty affiliated to Sant'Anselmo in Rome. An important commitment of the Province is the mission in Transcarpathia (in Ukraine, with a centre in Vinogradivi). In addition, some friars of the Province serve in the Holy Land, Rome, Peru and Australia.

VISIT TO THE PROVINCE OF ST STEPHEN KING OF HUNGARY IN TRANSYLVANIA
BR MASSIMO AND BR ALBERT IN ROMANIA



From 26 to 30 May, the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, and the Definitor General of the area, Br Albert Schmucki, visited the Province of St Stephen King of Hungary in Transylvania (Romania).

The visit coincided with the most significant event for the Province and its shrine of Csiksomlyo, the largest Marian shrine in Central and Eastern Europe: the Minister General and the General Definitor took part in the celebration of the Pilgrimage Feast of Csiksomlyo, during which they were able to pray with

hundreds of thousands of pilgrims.

On Sunday, 28 May, the Solemnity of Pentecost, Br Massimo, presided at the Eucharistic celebration in the shrine, after which he met the large Franciscan family, spending moments of fraternity with many young people from this region. Br Massimo and Br Albert also met the friars of the Province: always an opportunity for listening and fraternity.

Before returning to the General Curia, they made a brief stop in Cluj-Napoca, the largest city in Transylvania, with a great historical tradition and a vibrant university life.

"For us, every visit is a celebration," said the friars of the province. "The legacy of Communism can make us a little closed, and perhaps the language barrier makes it difficult for us to make contacts, to cross borders. But every visit is very important for us because it makes us feel that we belong to a big family that transcends national borders. Moreover, the visit of the successor of St Francis has given us an opportunity for spiritual renewal, and we hope that it will help us to mark the anniversaries that lie ahead for the members of the Order and all those who live here and are in solidarity with St Francis".

The Franciscan presence in Transylvania dates back to the 13th century. The independent custody was founded in 1640 under the patronage of Saint Stephen King of Hungary and became a province in 1729. Several storms in history (the Reformation, Josephinism and, more recently, Communism) have threatened this presence, but it has always managed to recover.

In the first half of the 20th century, the only visit by a Minister General was commemorated with a commemorative plaque in the minor basilica of Csíksomlyó; during the decades of Communism, no activities by the Order were possible, but after the change of regime, things

changed. In 2017, the then Minister General, Br Michael Perry, participated in the votive pilgrimage to the shrine, and Br Massimo already made a short stop in the province last spring.

The Order currently has 34 friars serving in nine friaries. One of the most important ministries is at the Shrine of Mary in Csíksomlyó, where hundreds of thousands of pilgrims attend the votive pilgrimage on the Saturday before Pentecost. In addition, three friaries also have adjoining parishes. An important activity is youth work: in addition to various programmes and activities with groups, they run two colleges in university centres and a col-

lege for high school boys.

In the social field, the friars also carry out important activities (e.g. caring for orphans and abandoned children) and try to provide pastoral care for Hungarian Catholics who have emigrated to the United States.



25 – 27 MAY, CEBU (PHILIPPINES)

INTER-PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT FOR MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION MEETING

The Secretariat for Mission and Evangelizations of the Province of San Pedro Bautista and Province of Saint Anthony of Padua in the Philippines gathered for a meeting with the General Secretary for Mission and Evangelization, Br Francisco Gomez Vargas, OFM and the General Animator for Mission and Evangelization, Br Dennis Tayo, OFM. It was held at the Franciscan Retirement Community, Minglanilla, Cebu, Philippines on May 25-27, 2023. Graced with presence of the Minister Provincial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Br Renee Dean, OFM, the gathering was participated by the animators of the different ministries of the two entities in the Philippines. The gathering focused on reflecting the General Document *Ite Nuntiate: the Guidelines for the New Forms of Life and Mission in the Order of Friars Minor vis-à-vis the current forms of life and mission of each entity in the Philippines*. The document hopes to utilize the concrete experiences of the brothers regarding missions and evangelization.

It was highlighted that traditional way of doing mission and evangelization can be a way of establishing New Forms of Life and Mission since they are very rich grounds to initiate these New Forms. However, the brothers reflected that we need to have a reorientation regarding the term “New Forms.” There is a need to go back to the roots of our charism and to ask what our identity is. There has to be a Franciscan mark in all our ministries.

The brothers further reflected that the term “new” could be a misnomer. This is because there is an understanding that it may imply leaving our old ministries in favor of the new. Thus, what

we need is to have reorientation in our own context in the Philippines. There is a suggestion that instead of the term “new”, as entities in the Philippines, we could use “integral” or “wholistic” Forms of Life and Mission.

The participants shared their present difficulties and challenges in living the New Forms of Life and Mission. At the end, common resolutions were made for both entities:

1. that an ongoing discernment and reflection on New Forms of Life and Missions be made to be facilitated by the respective Definitorium utilizing the output of the gathering;
2. that friars working with/and among the poor from the two entities in the Philippines gather for a meeting to reflect experiences and opportunities for New Forms of Life and Missions.



MAY 2023

BR MASSIMO'S REFLECTIONS

At the beginning of May, I attended the Chapter of the Province of Malta, where Maltese, English and Italian were spoken for a week, switching from one language to another, even in questions in one and answers in another. I came from Asia, where the mosaic of languages is impressive. The brothers and sisters of our Family almost always speak a different European language from their mother tongue, which is also different.

What better preparation for the Pentecost before us, I told myself? The possibility that the Spirit gives many to understand the proclamation of the Gospel in their own language lies at the origin of the Church. It reminds her that she is never confined to one language and culture but can speak in many different ways. If it is true that the Greek Logos allowed the Christian proclamation to enter into the cultures of the time in the Mediterranean basin, it is also true that it immediately spread into languages and cultures foreign to Greek philosophy, such as Armenian, Syriac, Coptic, to name but a few.

We are present in many geographical contexts where one has to learn languages other than one's own to have a common linguistic medium. This forces one to step out of one's own way of thinking and seeing reality and open up to others because it is necessary to learn several languages. For example, the brothers must know several languages in India to move around in its vast territory.

The same is true in other areas of Asia, as in Africa and Latin America, between native and European languages. There are geographical areas where the brothers know they have to learn another language to not remain closed in a restricted context, to be able to study abroad and also for the inter gentes mission,



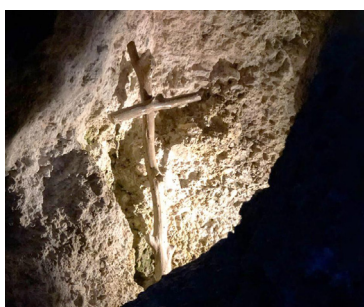
which requires learning other languages. In this way, one can escape from one's culture and expression, which can never remain self-contained.

There are areas of the Order where learning languages other than one's own is more difficult and fails to take off. This calls for serious evaluation and concrete decisions, right from initial formation.

In my experience, I often regret not having invested more in learning other languages. So I try to speak as I can and to come into contact with categories of thought and perception of reality other than my own.

We become a genuinely international fraternity to the extent that we make this transition, face different cultures and thoughts, and accept that the same Franciscan faith and vocation is expressed in different ways. And there is still much to be done for this to grow and mature.

HAVING THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IN THE TIME OF CRISIS PENTECOST LETTER OF THE MINISTER GENERAL TO ALL THE FRIARS OF THE ORDER



The Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, on the occasion of the eighth centenary of the Rule and Christmas in Greccio, takes up the tradition of the Pentecost Letter to all the Friars of the Order

Read the full letter:

[English](#) - [Italiano](#) - [Español](#) - [Français](#) - [Português](#) - [Deutsch](#) - [Polski](#) - [Hrvatski](#)

OFM WORLD

Meeting of Guardians of the Immaculate Conception Province, Brazil



Renewal of vows for the Province of Sts Francis and James in Mexico



Br Reynaldo Legayada of the Philippines sent to Rome as confessor



Annual Spiritual Retreat in Colombia



Meeting of the "under 10" friars, from the St. Junipero Serra Province, Mexico, in California (USA)



St Francis Mission in Rio Cururu, St Benedict Custody, Amazon

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN MEETING OF LAY BROTHERS OF THE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CONFERENCE

From 15 to 19 May, the meeting of the lay friars of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean took place. It was attended by 57 friars from the 5 Provinces, to take up as lay brothers the sense of the "spirituality of the Incarnation", which springs from the experience of St Francis in the Christmas of Greccio, from minority and from the commitment which inspires the Rule of St Francis, to update the sense and the evangelising commitment with the poor in the present moment.

The lay brothers looked at the historical memory of their own journey, shared and presented the life and mission of the brothers today in their different presences and the challenges that the current reality presents in this region of the world.

Some of the themes they shared:

- Analysis of the situation in the Mexico-Central America region.
- The challenges of our being lesser brothers.
- The challenges of Pope Francis' initiative: a poor, outgo-



ing and synodal Church. An evangelising look from Latin America.

- Francis of Assisi, the proposal of minority in a feudal, pyramidal and warlike society and church.

Br Byron Chamann

BR PETER TINDO, OFM, GUARDIAN IN KHARTOUM, TELLS THE STORY
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN

Since 15 April, clashes in Sudan between the regular army, led by President Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, led by General Mohammed Hamdan Daglo, known as Hemedti, have been causing displacement, death and starvation. According to the IOM (International Organisation for Migration), this is the worst humanitarian crisis the country has ever seen: 1.1 million people have been forced to leave their homes, both in the capital Khartoum and in other cities.

Br Peter Tindo, OFM, guardian of the fraternity in Khartoum, was also forced to leave his friary in search of a safe place in Juba, South Sudan. He recounts what he experienced and saw.

"On 12 May, I left Khartoum. The situation was dramatic; there were weapons everywhere; after a month of fighting, the supplies the people had stockpiled were running out, food was starting to run out, and many people were dying". He added: "This war spares no one: bullets kill people, even civilians, who are not at war. Another problem is the looters, who devastate houses to steal. If you are on the street, people will attack you and take what you have in your hands or in your pockets. So Khartoum was becoming very dangerous and unsafe".



Br Peter explains with great sadness how he left the Sudanese capital: "Getting out of the capital was a big risk. Someone took me to the bus station, and then, with other people, I took a small vehicle that took us out of Khartoum to the Joda border [with South Sudan]. But it was very risky. When we approached our destination, military planes were right above us, but we managed to get out of the country safely. There are many checkpoints where they check what you have and take everything away - they took the little money I had in my pocket

for the trip".

Asked how so many displaced people can be helped, Br Peter said: "First, it would be better to help the displaced people who are in Renk [north-eastern area of South Sudan]. They urgently need mosquito nets, covers to protect them from the sun, food and water. About 10,000 or 20,000 of us were out in the open in Renk. Later we also think of the people who remained in Khartoum. In cooperation with the local church, we can get things to those in need".

On 21 May, during the Regina Caeli prayer, Pope Francis renewed his appeal for peace in Sudan and called for the intervention of the international community: "In encouraging the partial agreements reached so far, I renew my heartfelt appeal for arms to be laid down, and I ask the international community to spare no effort to make dialogue prevail and alleviate the suffering of the population. Please, let us not become accustomed to conflict and violence".

Br Massimo Fusarelli, Minister general, through the OFM Fraternitas Foundation, has set up a committee to coordinate and support the displaced populations of Sudan through our confreres in South Sudan and Egypt. To support our brothers and sisters suffering as a result of the conflict, you can make your donation at the following link: <https://www.ofmfraternitas.org/en/donate-for-sudan-emergency/>

3 JUNE – 29 JULY IN CEBU (PHILIPPINES)

INTER-OBEDIENTIAL MISSION COURSE IN ASIA (IMCA) 2023

On June 3, the Missionary Course begins in Cebu, Philippines, with the participation of 17 friars. From the First Order: 3 Conventual friars (all from India); 6 Capuchin friars (3 from India, 2 from Indonesia, and 1 from the US); 7 OFM friars (3 from the Philippines, 3 from Vietnam and 1 from Pakistan). And 1 TOR friar (from Sri Lanka). The course concludes on July 29.

This is the second year that the traditional Brussels missionary course has been held on the continents. Last year it started in Uganda, Africa. In 2023 it will be the turn of Asia, where participants will be hosted by the OFM Province of St. Anthony of Padua.

Coinciding with the centennial celebration, the theme is "Sent to Asia to deepen our missions of proclaiming the Gospel in the spirit of the Franciscan Jubilee, as lesser brothers in synodality."

The meeting is organized by the four General Ministers of the First Order, through the GSME. The OFM Curia is sending Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas, General Secretary ME who will be present in the first week to open the course, and Br. Dennis Tayo, General Animator for Missions who will be journeying with the participants for two months, along with two other friars from OFM cap and OFM conv to animate this course.

The objectives of the course are threefold:

- 1. Witness and contextualize missionary realities in Asia for deeper discernment and commitment in view of the contexts and challenges.
- 2. To prepare and form missionaries holistically, cognitively, affectively and spiritually, encouraging participation and remembrance of Franciscan charism and traditions.
- 3. Establish and/or strengthen inter-obediential missionary collaboration toward a common charism for our time and in synodality in Asia.

The first week will be the "Orientation, Goal-setting and Getting to Know" week, while the last week will be the "Assimilation,



Processing, and Evaluation Week", both of which will be facilitated by the Course Animators. The remaining weeks will be covered by five expert speakers on relevant mission topics, contextualizing their inputs where participants have their mission assignments, namely: Melanesia (4), Vietnam (4), India (3), Sri Lanka (3), Bangladesh (1), East Timor (1), and Myanmar (1).

Following last year's positive practices in Uganda that facilitated active participation, greater fraternal bonding, and future collaboration, participants will be divided into 3 Working Committees, are to come up with a batch WhatsApp group and a Facebook page, as well as an official Franciscan publication: "IMCA 2023" at the end of the course, to share their learnings and realizations.

Finally, IMCA is hoped to provide avenues for turning course learnings into a demonstrable experience and holistically prepare missionaries. Thus, for each of the week's topics, there are corresponding Saturday exposure visits that deepen the inputs, aimed to achieve this desire.

An "IMCA learning Journal" will also be provided to guide the participants towards introspection and prayer, to crystallize realizations and learnings hoped to make them better missionaries, given one's internal reality and in the context of Asia.

DECEASED FRIARS *

- 23 May: Br Ruben Sandoval Herrera – Holy Trinity Province, Chile.
- 10 May: Br Harley Luis Siqueira Jorge – Immaculate Conception Province, Brazil.
- 30 March Br Bruno Pennacchini – Seraphic Province, Italy.

* Data received from the General Secretariat secgen@ofm.org

BR BENEDYKT SWIDERSKIJ NEW PROVINCIAL
CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, UKRAINE

The Provincial Chapter of the Province of St Michael the Archangel, Ukraine, elected Br Benedykt Swiderskij as Minister Provincial and Br Radoslav Chodonickij as Vicar Provincial; the Provincial Definitory is now composed of Br Tadeusz Fostakovskij, Br Walenty Tokar, Br Pawlo Shevchuk and Br Bernard Petrov.

The Chapter, postponed last year because of the war and held from 15 to 19 May in Gai-Shevchenkivski near Ternopil, is presided over by Br Jozafat Gohly, Visitor General of the Province of St Hedwig in Poland, in the presence of Br Konrad Grzegorz Cholewa, Definitor General of the area.



BR KRZYSZTOF BOBAK WAS ELECTED MINISTER PROVINCIAL
CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS, POLAND



On the 24th May, 2023, the friars of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels, in Poland, gathered in Chapter and elected Br Krzysztof Bobak as the Minister Provincial and Br Norbert Cebula as the Vicar Provincial. The following definitors were elected: Br Nikodem Gdyk OFM, Br Cyprian Mazurek, Br Serafin Broniowski, Br Lucjusz Wrotniak and Br Gądek Piotr.

The Chapter was celebrated in Krakow and presided over by the Visitor General, Br Sergiusz Baldyga, of the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Poland.

BR. JAKUB FRANTIŠEK SADÍLEK WAS CONFIRMED AS MINISTER PROVINCIAL
CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. WENCESLAS, CZECH REPUBLIC

On the 24th May 2023, the friars of the Franciscan Province of St. Wenceslas in the Czech Republic gathered for the Provincial Chapter, confirmed Br Jakub František Sadílek as the Minister Provincial and Br Jeroným František Jurka as the Vicar Provincial. The following friars were elected as definitors: Br Šebestián Pavel Smrčina, Br Bonaventura Ondřej Čapek, Br Eliáš Tomáš Paseka and Br Bernard Ondřej Mléčka.

The Chapter was celebrated in Prague and presided over by the Visitor General, Br Jan Kapistran Lazovy, of the Province of The Most Holy Saviour in Slovakia, in the presence of Br Konrad Grzegorz Cholewa, Definitor General.



BLAIR MATHESON, TSSF (THIRD ORDER OF ST FRANCIS)

FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The International Board of Directors (IBD) of Franciscans International (FI) met in Assisi, Italy from May 11-14, 2023. After significant deliberations, prayer and discernment, on May 13, the IBD appointed Blair Matheson, TSSF (Third Order of St Francis), to be the new Executive Director of FI. He will replace Br. Markus Heinze, OFM on January 1, 2024.

Blair is an Anglican Third Order Franciscan from New Zealand. He and Br. Markus will work together during the transition period from now until the end of the current calendar year.

The Board recognizes the tremendous contributions by Br. Markus, who, over the past eleven years, guided FI through significant changes toward both organizational and financial stability. The members of the IBD look forward to working with Blair and the dedicated staff of FI as we continue to respond to the cries of the poor and of creation, defending human rights and raising these concerns at the United Nations and to the international community.



In the picture, from left to right: Markus Heinze, OFM; Blair Matheson, TSSF; Michael Perry, OFM; Carlos Trovarelli, OFM Conv. (liaison from the Conference of the Franciscan Family); Charity Nkandu, SFMA; Carolyn Townes, OFS; James Donegan, OFM Cap.; José Eduardo Jazo, TOR; and Joseph Blay, OFM Conv.

FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK

The universal fraternity - Franciscan roots of Fratelli tutti
Martín Carbajo-Núñez, OFM
Ed. Media House, Delhi, 2023

Cristologia. Verdadero Dios y Verdadero hombre
Guillermo Lancaster Jones Campero, Ofm.
Ed. Alfaomega, Argentina, 2023

La libertà di Antonio
Padre Luigi Maria Epicoco
Edizioni Messaggero, Italia, 2023

«**El Espíritu del Señor y su santa operación**»
Origen y sentido de la fraternidad franciscana
José Antonio Guerra, ofmcap
Ediciones Franciscanas Arantzazu, España, 2023

Paz a esta casa
Una lectura social de la Regla Bulada de Francisco de Asís
Fidel Aizpurúa, ofmcap
Ediciones Franciscanas Arantzazu, España, 2023

A Gasp of Love

Duns Scotus: Franciscan Theologian and Mystic
Séamus Mulholland, OFM
Franciscan Publishing 2022

Pellegrinare in Terra Santa con Egeria
Enrique Bermejo Cabrera, OFM
Terra Santa Edizione, Italia 2023

Remembering Francis
Making Sense of Modern Life
Joachim Ostermann, OFM
Franciscan Institute Publications, USA 2023

Francisco e Clara - Dupla Biografia
Niklaus Kuster, OFMcap
Editorial Franciscana, Portugal 2023

Seguire Francesco
I penitenti volontari medievali e il francescano secolare
Piero Maglioli
Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana, Italia 2023

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2023

HOPE FOR THE EARTH. HOPE FOR HUMANITY

Laudato Si' Week 2023 is celebrated around the world May 21-28 with the film "The Letter", to mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation.

This is not just another celebration, nor is it intended to be a "memory" of the encyclical's publication. Rather, it's a celebration of change, a Hope for the Earth and for all Humanity.

We began on Sunday, May 21st, and concluded on Pentecost Sunday by asking God the Creator to send his Holy Spirit upon all those who work for our common home. We will also find out

what the protagonists of "The Letter" are currently doing. But the most important thing is what you are going to do, because this year you are the protagonist.

How? It's very easy. We invite you to watch "The Letter" with your community, family or friends. You could simply meet at someone's house and watch the movie together.

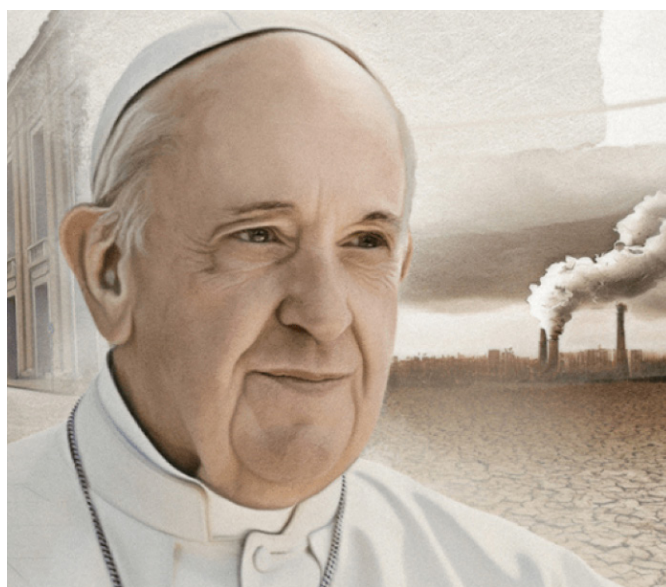
Why? Because "once you know what's happening, you can't look away" and, after watching the film, we trust that God will move you to act. There are many ways to do it. It's up to you. You and your community, we are confident, will do what is necessary.

The climate crisis is a tangible reality in an ever increasing number of countries and affects us all.

Since the publication of Laudato Si in 2015, many things have changed. However, at the same time, we have seen the situation worsen. Today, more than ever, a "radical change in humanity's behavior" is needed, as St. Paul VI warned us over 50 years ago....

Pope Francis, in the Regina Caeli on Sunday 21 May, said: "Today, Laudato si' Week begins. I thank the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the many participating organizations. And I invite everything to collaborate in the care of our common home. There is such a need to put our capabilities and creativity together!"

Tomás Insua - *Laudato Si' Movement*



PONTIFICAL ANTONIANUM UNIVERSITY

BR AGUSTÍN HERNÁNDEZ VIDALES CONFIRMED RECTOR

The Dicastery for Culture and Catholic Education has renewed the mandate of Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome to Br Agustín Hernández Vidales for the three years 2023-2026.



Formerly Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Vice-Rector of the Pontifical Antonianum University, Br Hernández, from the Province of Saints Francis and James in Mexico, received his doctorate in Philosophy from the same University on 13 May 2008 with a thesis on Human Happiness in Plato's Philebus. 65 A6, an indication towards the divine.

To Br Agustín, the Order's best wishes and prayers that his mandate will bear abundant fruits of good for our Order's University and for the Church.

LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS' COUNCIL

ARCHBISHOP SPENGLER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CELAM

Archbishop Jaime Spengler, OFM, is the new president of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) for the four-year period 2023-2027.

In an interview published on the CELAM website, Archbishop Spengler, who had been elected President of the CNBB less than a month ago, said he was very surprised by this new election, which took place on 17 May. "For me, all this is great news. We are here because of what the Church is asking of us, and when they asked me if I would accept the position", said the bishop, "I said I would do it in the name of obedience, with the desire to serve the Latin American Bishops' Council in the best possible way".

We renew to Archbishop Jaime the Order's wish that his ministry at CELAM will bear abundant fruits of good.

The Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) is a body of communion, reflection, collaboration and service. It was created by the Holy See, at the request of the Latin American Episcopate, as a sign and instrument of collegial affection, in perfect communion with the universal Church and its visible Head, the Roman Pontiff.

As a service organisation, CELAM must, above all, be an



animation and aid to the reflection and pastoral action of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CELAM coordinates its activities with the regional episcopal bodies in Latin America and the Caribbean that exist or may exist in the future. It is governed by its own statutes and regulations and by the provisions issued by the Holy See.

(From the website: celam.org)



**SAVE THE DATES!
FRIARS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE**

What? Meeting and sharing of ideas and experiences with 'New forms' of fraternal life.

Where? At the Curia in Rome.

When? 6-8 November 2023.

Why? Revitalizing our fraternal life, because joy is being a friar!

Who? Friars from all over Europe are welcome.

Further information will soon follow.

OFM

ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

Director: Br Evódio João

Translator: Br Hugh McKenna, Br Eunan McMullan, Br John Luke

General Curia of the Friars Minor

Via di S. Maria Mediatrix, 25 - Rome, Italy - comgen@ofm.org
www.ofm.org



@ofmorg



@fratrumminorum



@ofmdotorg



@ordo-fratrum-minorum



@ofmdotorg