

IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

## NEW PROVINCE OF SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA

On April 22, 2023, Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli established the Custody of Saint Anthony of Padua as a new Province of San Antonio de Padua in the southern Philippines. In addition to the friars, this historic event was graced by the presence of Definitor General Br John Wong, Delegate General Br Marcelo Ghirlando, as well as Minister Provincials from Northern Philippines, Japan, and Vietnam. >>



## GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- From 1st to 5th May, the Minister General, Br. Massimo, participates in the Chapter of the Province of St. Paul the Apostle, in Malta.
- On the same dates, Br. John Wong, Definitor General, and Br. John Puodziunas, Bursar General, participate in the meeting of the Franciscan Conferences of Asia-Oceania (FCAO) in Bali, Indonesia with the participation, formation and consultation of the Bursaries of the Entity.
- On May 1, Br. Cesare Vaiani was in Portugal, in Leiria, for a meeting of the friars of the Portuguese Province, during which he proposed a reflection entitled "Living fraternal life today according to the Rule".
- On May 2, Br. Ignacio Ceja, Vicar General, and Br. Victor Luís Quematcha, Definitor General for Africa, conclude their visit to the Holy Family Province of Egypt.
- On May 3 and 4, the friars of the Curia have an ongoing formation meeting.
- On May 6, Br. Massimo will participate in the XX Congress of Greccio.
- On 8 May, the 'tempo forte' begins in the General Curia, which will end on 20 May, including, from 15 to 18, the meeting of the General Definitory with the Presidents of the Conferences.
- On May 10, Br. Massimo meets with the Guardians, Vicars and Bursars of the houses dependent on the Minister General.

During the inauguration mass of the first Provincial Chapter at the Franciscan Retirement Center in Minglanilla, Cebu City, the decree of erection was issued. The election of Br Renee C. Dean, OFM, as Minister Provincial, Br. Neil J. Badillo, OFM, as Vicar Provincial, and Br. Prisco A. Cajés, OFM, Br. Arturo C. Daquilanea, OFM, Br. Crisologo O. Dragon, OFM, and Fr. Christopher B. Villanueva, OFM as Councilors to complete the new Provincial Definitory. Then, as a Provincial Chapter, the friars reviewed and recommitted themselves to their approved mission, vision, priorities, and chapter resolutions from the 2022 Custodial Chapter.

The event was especially significant because it was the first visit of a Minister General of the Order to the entity and Br.

Massimo's first act of establishment of a Province in the world.

Before becoming a Province, the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua existed as an autonomous entity for sixteen years, with special focus on the service of dialogue. Currently, it consists of sixty-seven solemnly professed brothers, six friars in temporary profession, three novices, five postulants, and seven aspirants. There are nineteen communities across Visayas and Mindanao, including mission communities among Muslims, indigenous, and the poor.

The new Province is also preparing to begin a new mission community in Thailand.

FRATERNAL FIESTAS IN THE PHILIPPINES

**BR MASSIMO AND BR JOHN VISITED THE PROVINCE OF SAN PEDRO BAUTISTA**

From 15-17 April 2023, Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli and Definitor General for Asia-Oceania Br John Wong visited the Province of San Pedro Bautista in the Philippines, which is also responsible for Foundations in Myanmar and in Sri Lanka.

Catholicism was brought to the Philippines by Spanish missionaries, among whom was San Pedro Bautista who was eventually martyred in Nagasaki, in Japan. In 2020, the friars' Sanctuary of San Pedro Bautista next the Provincial House in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City (Metro Manila), which is where the saint lived as a missionary in the Philippines, was accorded the status of a Minor Basilica. The friars also provide pastoral care in two separate Sanctuaries dedicated to St Anthony.

This visit by Br Massimo and Br John to Manila coincided with a series of fraternal celebrations of the Order, including the National Elective Chapter of the Order of Franciscans Secular, the meeting of Poor Clare abbesses of the Philippines, and a gathering with the annual renewal of vows of the professed friars of the Province.

The 3-day visit culminated in the joyous celebration of the Solemn Profession of Vows by seven young friars, presided by the Minister General.

During their visit in Manila, the Minister and Definitor General also had meetings with the Provincial Definitory, Major Secre-

taries, the Formation Council, members of the Inter-Franciscan family, and all the brothers in Initial Formation.

In addition, there was a communal celebration in the Kasama Inserted community, which is one of the two friaries in Manila where formators and friars in initial formation live in slums among the urban poor.

The Province of San Pedro Bautista is also preparing to celebrate with the brothers of the entity that was founded by them in the south of the Philippines, for their official establishment of the latter on 22 April 2023 as the new Province of San Antonio de Padua in Visayas-Mindanao.

Br John Wong - *Definitor General for Asia-Oceania*



# OFM WORLD

Week of retreat of the friars of Nicaragua in Diriamba, Carazo



Feast of Our Lady of "Penha", Vila Velha, Brazil



Meeting of the English-speaking Franciscan Conference in Ireland



Confirmation in the San Francisco de Asís Parish of Mostazal, Chile



Postulants in Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia



Chapter of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of Poland

## INVITATION TO THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE OFM TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE WYD WORLD YOUTH DAY, LISBON 2023

The Order of Friars Minor (OFM) will be present at World Youth Day, Lisbon 2023, through the General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

For more information, please contact us by email at: [pax@ofm.org](mailto:pax@ofm.org)

Read also: [www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org) - [www.ofmjpic.org](http://www.ofmjpic.org)

To carry out the programme on integral ecology, we invite the Franciscan friars to register as VOLUNTEERS and accompany us on each day of the WYD.

Among the activities to be developed are an ecological walk, prayers and Eucharist in the Church of St Anthony of Lisbon, the fourth edition of the Serata Laudato Si' (musical concert), "Murals for Peace" project, presence in the City of Joy and St Anthony's Square, meeting with our Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, and our Vicar General Br Ignacio Ceja, OFM, among others.

The formation days will be from 25 to 31 July, and the World Day from 1 to 6 August 2023.



"MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HASTE" (Lk 1:39)

NEW BEGINNINGS IN SRI LANKA

**BR MASSIMO AND BR JOHN VISITED THE FOUNDATION OF ST JOSEPH VAZ**

From 10-14 April 2023, Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli and Definitor General for Asia-Oceania and Delegate General for Sri Lanka Br John Wong visited the Foundation of St Joseph Vaz in Sri Lanka. The Vicar Provincial of the Province of San Pedro Bautista in the Philippines, Br Reu Galoy, and the Foundation President Br Prabath Krishanta Kumar accompanied the visit.

Catholics currently form 7% of the overall population of Sri Lanka that totals almost 22 million persons, of whom over 70% are Buddhist, around 13% are Hindu, and almost 10% are Muslim.

The history of Christian evangelisation started with Franciscan Missions in the 16th Century. The current Foundation is only 28 years old and was begun by the Philippines Province of San Pedro Bautista.

This visit by Br Massimo was the first visit in the history of the Foundation by a Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor. The visit was also the occasion of the blessing of the new Initial Formation Friary buildings of Rivo Torto and the Cenacolo in Ampitiya (Kandy) on 12 April, that coincided with the start of the 2-day celebration of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year in Sri Lanka.

Currently the Foundation has 6 Solemn Professed brothers in Sri Lanka and 2 Sri Lankan brothers of the Foundation are in the Philippines. There are also 7 young candidates in a pre-postulancy accompaniment program in the capital city of Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, next to Colombo. The visitors had fruitful meetings with all the brothers and candidates in Sri Lanka and visited the Friary buildings in Kotte, Kandy, Haputale and Beragala.

Brothers Massimo, John and Reu also engaged in a meaningful dialogue session with members of the Franciscan family in Colombo, comprising representatives of the OFM Conventual, OFM Capuchin; visited the Colettine



Poor Clare sisters in Thewatta and Bandarawela; celebrated the Tamil New Year morning mass with parishioners at the franciscan-run St Paul the Hermit parish in Haputale; and visited the "Adisham" Benedictine monastery as well as tea pluckers and students in Beragala on the occasion on the New Year.

The brothers of the Foundation look forward to their upcoming Foundation Chapter this coming May, when they will have their new leadership appointed and where they will discuss their vision and plans for their fraternal life, formation, ministry and mission in Sri Lanka over the coming three years.

Br John Wong  
*Definitor General for Asia-Oceania and Delegate General for Sri Lanka*



## CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF ST BONAVENTURE (ITALY)

**BR LUCIANO DE GIUSTI CONFIRMED AS MINISTER PROVINCIAL**

The Provincial Chapter of the Province of St Bonaventure of the Friars Minor in Italy confirmed Br Luciano De Giusti as Minister Provincial and Br Paolo Maiello as Vicar Provincial; the Provincial Definitory is now composed of Br Loreto Fioravanti, Br Roberto Bongiani, Br Alessandro Ciamei and Br Nando Simonetti.

Br Luciano was born in Olevano Romano (Italy) on 23.10.1961, received the Franciscan habit at the age of 20, made his Solemn Profession in 1989 and became a priest on 28 April 1990. After the Institutional Theology course at the Antonianum in Rome, he obtained a Licentiate in Franciscan Spirituality at the same university.

He was definator and Vicar of the Province several times. In the Chapter of 2020, he was again elected Vicar Provincial. Since 2021 he has held the role of Minister *ad complendum triennium*, replacing Br Massimo Fusarelli, then Minister Provincial and later called to lead the Order as Minister General.

Br Luciano has held numerous positions in the province: Master of Postulants, Master of Novices, and Guardian of the Greccio Shrine. In addition, he has been its legal representative for several years.

The Chapter, held from 10 to 21 April, is presided over by Br Gianpaolo Masotti, Visitor General of the Seraphic Province of St Francis of Assisi, Italy.



## PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN POLAND

**BR EGIDIUSZ WŁODARCZYK NEW MINISTER PROVINCIAL**

The friars of the Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception, gathered in Chapter from 17 to 22 April in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Poland, elected Br Egidiusz Włodarczyk as Minister Provincial and Br Arkadiusz Belcik as Vicar Provincial. In addition, for the office of Definitors, the following were elected: Br Hadrian Kamas, Br Gracjan Kubica, Br Cyprian Moryc, Br Samuel Portka and Br Leszek Walkiewicz.



The new provincial, Br Egidiusz Włodarczyk, made his first vows in 1999, his solemn vows in 2003 and was ordained a priest on 16 June 2005. He held various positions in the Province, including definator, guardian, pastor and secretary for Missions and Evangelisation.

The Chapter was presided over by Br Alan Brzyski, Visitor General of the Province of St Hedwig in Poland, with the presence of Br Konrad Grzegorz Cholewa, Definator General of the area.

APRIL 2023

## BR MASSIMO'S REFLECTIONS



In the last part of March, I visited the Province of St Mary of the Angels in Poland on the 400th anniversary of its foundation. An important anniversary for a great history in which the charism of the Friars Minor has been expressed in the most diverse contexts.

A month later, from 22 to 26 April, I am in Asia for the erection of the new Province of St Anthony in the Philippines and the Autonomous Custody of Singapore Malaysia and Borneo. On the one hand, a centuries-old history, while on the other, much more recent presences are finding their juridical structure and stability of life and mission.

Then in the March Tempo Forte, we started restructuring processes in Africa, from the Democratic Republic of Congo to East Africa, for the birth of new entities. From these, we can see that the Order's journey

moves at different speeds and can express both old and new realities.

I find this by visiting and listening to the friars in different parts of the world. On the one hand, we are aware of our roots that are so important and rich, and the Franciscan Centenary reminds us of this. But, on the other hand, we desire to live the charism today, in this new time that asks us for more vision and evangelical boldness.

This month I visited the friars of Turkey who live in Istanbul and Izmir, and here I saw how the presence of the Muslim world and the contact with Christians of other confessions are elements that help us to live our charism today. It is the dream of a reconciled humanity and an ever-wider fraternity.

We live the same in various other parts of the world, and what we manage to do is always little, but it keeps us alert and attentive to living *inter gentes*. It is here, in fact, that we receive a great challenge to live the Gospel today.

I had the grace of visiting the friars who

live in Sri Lanka, few in number and amid many difficulties. Yet, they are one with their people and show by their lives the living among the people that St Francis offers us. And this has impressed me greatly this month, as it has in the Philippines. Even living in very developed contexts, such as Singapore, makes us see that our presence as brothers and minors can be found in any land if we can always put life according to the Gospel at the centre, in the pursuit of the Lord, in a truly fraternal life and friendly closeness to the lives of people, especially the poorest and most excluded.

Meeting the friars, discovering their faces and stories, gathering their hopes and tears, and feeling from within how our family is moving and what the Holy Spirit is working in it, is undoubtedly the greatest gift of the ministry entrusted to me. And for this, I feel a responsibility to remind all the brothers and sisters that so much good is moving in our midst. Let us not deaden life; let us allow the beauty of the vocation we have received and for which we are responsible to the new generations of friars to emerge and explode.

### FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK

**Custodire la memoria. I frati Minori in Umbria dal 1899 al 1999 (Keep the memory. The Friars Minor in Umbria from 1899 to 1999).** Andrea Maiarelli e Pietro Messa, Edizioni Porziuncola – Assisi, 2023

**Intorno al futuro. Volontà e contingenza secondo Duns Scoto (About the future. Will and contingency according to Duns Scotus).** Ernesto Dezza, Andrea Nannini, Davide Riserbato, Edizioni Antonianum – Roma, 2023

**Vite meravigliose (Marvellous lives).** Paolo Martinelli, Edizioni Terra Santa - Milano 2018

**Maestra en el amor y esperanza en la aflicción. Estudios sobre los títulos marianos Virgo dolorosa y Mater misericordiae (Mistress in Love and Hope in Affliction. Studies of the Marian titles, Sorrowful Virgin and Merciful Mother).** José Manuel Sanchis Cantó (editor), Pontificia Academia Mariana Internationalis – Vaticano, 2022

**Il Vangelo di Simone (The Gospel according to Simon).** John Smelcer, Edizioni Messaggero Padova – 2020

**La Regola di Francesco spiegata ai semplici (The Franciscan Rule explained simply).** Giuseppe Buffon, Terra Santa Edizioni – Milano, 2023

THE FRIARS AMONG THE PEOPLE

**EASTER FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN SYRIA AND TURKEY**

**O**n 6 February, a devastating earthquake struck southern Turkey and the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, in which more than 50,000 people lost their lives and more than 100,000 were injured. As a result, thousands of families live in temporary shelters and struggle to obtain food and other essentials.

Two months later, continuous aftershocks are preventing even people whose homes were not damaged by the earthquake from returning home, increasing the number of displaced people. This further exacerbates the needs of the affected communities, who urgently need shelter and assistance.



"This Easter 2023 was certainly special for the two fraternities in Turkey (the one in İstanbul and the one in Bornova in Izmir). The friars made the friary and other houses available to receive people," says Br Adrian Eloza, missionary in Turkey, who continues, "In such a situation, it happens that everything stops working: electricity first, then the internet, communications, then gas and water. We now have to work on reconstruction in every sense. This year we celebrated Easter in communion with the Minister General. The two fraternities are in charge of several parishes, with more or less similar situations: with the Turks, especially in Izmir, where there is good work with catechumens, Levantines (Italians, French, English, etc.), many people from Africa, the Philippines, South America. Our communities are small entities that we accompany in their stay and growth in the faith. Our days are usually marked by this work and community life: prayer in common, the Eucharist and fraternity life. This year, Easter time overlaps with Ramadan by a few days. We organised an iftar (the dinner that breaks the fast) with Muslim friends with whom we share our life in Turkey. When we think of dialogue, we also think of these small everyday things that bring us closer together".

Br Bahjat Karakach, Syria, added: "There is a sense of despair and fear, unfortunately after the earthquake, I hear talk of

emigration. People think of finding somewhere else to go and survive. We celebrated the Easter celebrations with a spirit of hope, but we are discouraged by the desires of the population to flee. Yet, in all this, we have experienced the resurrection".

The Syrian diaspora is still a very painful phenomenon. Since 2011, in ten years of the humanitarian crisis in Syria and since the beginning of the war, 6 million Syrians have fled abroad, and 7 million have been internally displaced. The Syrian people have been living in a humanitarian crisis for ten years.

## THE RESPONSE OF THE FRIARS

In Aleppo, Syria, the Franciscan pastor of the Latin parish, Br Bahjat Karakach, tells us: "Immediately after the earthquake, we announced that we would welcome people into our church and shelter them from the cold and rain, and so did many other churches".

In Aleppo, the Christian structures are on the front line in helping the displaced people: "We have three friaries in the city," concludes Bahjat, "and all three welcome displaced people according to their capacity: in our friary in the centre of the city, we welcome about 500 people; in the Holy Land college, further out, about 2,000, also having spaces outdoors, while the secondary church accommodates about fifty people. We serve three meals a day. No one wants to go home because people fear other, stronger tremors. The temperatures continue to drop, even below zero; therefore, we keep the places warm for the children".

Also in Syria, Br Hanna Jallouf, a Syrian Franciscan from the Custody of the Holy Land and another friar, serves the Orontes Valley villages of Knayeh, Yacoubieh and Gidaideh in the Idlib area in northern Syria. "Before the 2011 war, we Christians were 10,000 in these three villages, then after the war, only 210 families. Everyone has fled; only we, two Franciscan friars, have remained to serve these people because we are convinced that it is a blessed land where St Paul passed through. We



are 43km from Antioch and 6km from the Turkish border. Rebel factions passed through this area and seized many goods, land and houses up to 2018. After that, they returned friary land and slowly returned people's land. We are under Islamic Sharia control".

A parish priest in Knaye, Father Hanna, was kidnapped on the night of 5 October 2014 in Syria by the al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front and released a few days later. "On 6 February, the earthquake did major damage. Eighty per cent of the houses of our faithful are on the ground, everything else damaged and looted, and our church is out of action, half-destroyed. Not a single person was injured among Christians, at most a couple, but there were many deaths among non-Christians. I consider this a miracle. Today we are removing all the rubble and want to restore life to these three villages. Our faithful are under tents in our friaries, despite the 11-year war. We have remained here to serve, suffer with them, and give them a piece of bread, living like everyone else".

In Turkey, the earthquake did extensive damage and shocked the population. The earthquake here affected several cities, especially Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, and places where the Catholic Church has been present for many years: Antioch (that famous Antioch of the Orontes, called Antioch of Syria)



and Alexandreta (Turkish: İskenderun). The latter is the seat of the Apostolic Vicariate of Anatolia. Therefore, the whole country has mobilised to collaborate and help in this catastrophe unprecedented in the last hundred years.

THE FRANCISCAN INITIATIVE TO HELP AND SUPPORT EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

A little over two months after the catastrophic event, the Franciscan Order is listening to the needs of the local population, thanks to the Franciscan friars present in the territories, to then be able to start relevant long- and medium-term aid programmes.

"I continue to express, on behalf of the General Definitory and the entire Order of Friars Minor, the closeness of the Franciscans to the stricken populations, to the families, to those who have been left homeless and remember the victims in prayer," said Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli.

He added, "I invite everyone to support the programmes and works of the Franciscan family in Turkey and Syria through Fondazione OFM Fraternitas. May the Almighty and Merciful Lord have mercy on all and keep all in His love".



DECEASED FRIARS \*

- 19 April: Fr. Louis (Patrick) Geelan – Holy Spirit Province, Canada
- 16 April: Fr Abílio Amaral Antunes – Province of the Immaculate Conception of Brazil
- 6 April: Fr. Huberto Rodríguez - Province of San Pedro y San Pablo de Michoacán, Mexico

\* Data received from the General Secretariat [secgen@ofm.org](mailto:secgen@ofm.org)



## REVISION OF THE GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS

**FORMATION DAY FOR THE POOR CLARE SISTERS OF MARCHE AND ABRUZZO (ITALY)**

The Delegate *Pro Monialibus*, Br. Fabio Gomez, OFM, together with Sisters Mother Clare Cristiana Mondonico OSC and Sr. Clare Benedetta Conte OSC, as Members of the Commission for the Revision of the General Constitutions, participated in Loreto (Italy) as speakers at the Day of Formation for all the Sisters of the "Immaculate Heart of Mary" Federation of the Poor Clares of Marche-Abruzzo (Italy) on the theme: "The Revision of the Constitutions: steps and horizons of a journey".

After the initial prayer and greetings from the Mother President, Sister Rosella Clare Mancinelli, and the Federation Assistant, Fr Alessandro Angelisanti, OFM, the speakers were given the floor.

Br Fabio then discussed the theme, emphasising the reasons for the Path of Revision of the Constitutions, opened in 2021 by Minister General Br Massimo Fusarelli. Drawing on his various

talks to the Sisters, he explained that the motivations are of the following type:

1. charismatic: St Clare, following in the footsteps of Christ the Way, left us a Rule, the final result of the radical experience lived over time, listening to the Lord and the sisters;
2. ecclesiological: within the Church - people on a journey - the Revision of the Constitutions is conducted with the indications that Pope Francis offers to the Synodal journey;
3. cultural: the Poor Clares allow themselves to be questioned by the challenges of the time and place themselves in continuous conversion.

Then Sister Clare Benedetta Conte and Mother Clare Cristiana Mondonico took the floor and reported on the steps that have been taken so far and the perspectives that can be glimpsed and that will have to be faced on a charismatic, experiential and canonical level.



The work done so far has shown substantial unity among the world's monasteries, and communion has been experienced among the members of the Commission, even in diversity.

Entrusting the continuation of the work to the Spirit of the Lord and His Holy Work, the speakers and the entire Commission were thanked for this valuable service they are performing for the Order.

A laude di Cristo e di Chiara poverella.

Sr Maria Rita Mongia  
*Segretaria federale*

## MARCH 2023 TEMPO FORTE

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY**

The Tempo Forte took place from 6 to 17 March and was held at the General Curia in Rome; other work sessions were held beforehand on 23 and 24 January, in São Paulo, Brazil, and on 2 and 3 March, in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The General Definitory had a time of personal sharing to deepen the relationships, and to share the experience of UCLAF, in São Paulo and UFME, in Medjugorje; they elaborated in detail the Programme of the Meeting with the Presidents of the Conferences (15-18 May 2023) and clarified some objectives and modalities of the Meeting with the Visitors, which will not be held in presence; they continued the reflection on the revision of the personnel of the Houses and Offices dependent on the Minister General; they listened to Br. Darko TEPERT, Secretary General for Formation and Studies about the: Conference of Lay Brothers, International Congress of OFM Study and Re-

search Centres, Document on Affective Maturity, Situation of the Pontifical Antonianum University; they met with the Board of the OFM Fraternitas Foundation for sharing updates and future perspectives; they listened to Br. Cesare VAIANI, General Definitory, on the work done by the Commission on the history and role of Conferences in the Order; they met Br. Salvador BURGOS LEON, Director of the Translations Office: the friars of the Order are encouraged to give their availability to help the Office in the work of long-distance translation; they drafted a first revision of the special Statutes of the General Definitory; they inquired about the nature and modalities of the presence

of a new international fraternity in London; they listened to the lawyers on some situations still active; they heard updates on economic matters presented by Br. John PUODZIUNAS, General Bursar; they met with the Board of the General Secretariat for the Franciscan Missions (GSFM) in Waterford; they listened to Br. Caoimhín Ó LAOIDE for an update on the progress of the unification of six American Provinces (US6); they visited the fraternity and the structure of St Isidore's College, the headquarters of St Bonaventure College of the Frati Editori di Quaracchi, and the fraternity of SS Quaranta Martiri, on the day of the liturgical feast of the titular saints.

### The General Definitory:

#### Nominated:

- Br Walter SCHREIBER, Visitor of the autonomous Custody "Our Lady of the Seven Joys", in Brazil (Campo Grande);
- Br Mario FAVRETTO, Visitor general e Delegate general for the Dependent Custody "St Francis of Assisi" in Guinea Bissau (Cumura), which will become autonomous;
- Br Nicodème BAKIMANI KOLANI, Visitor general e Delegate general of the Province of "St Benedict the African" in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Lubumbashi) for its restructuring;
- Br Teofil CZARNIAK, Delegate general of the Province of "St Francis", in Africa, Madagascar e Mauritius (Nairobi) for its restructuring;
- Br Manuel CORULLÓN FERNÁNDEZ, Delegate general of the Dependent Custody of the "Immaculate Conception of the BVM" in Madagascar and Mauritius, which will become autonomous
- Br Mario DEBATTISTA, Delegate of the Minister General, to represent the Foundation of "St Francis" Sudan e Sud Sudan in the formation bodies of Lusaka and Nairobi.

#### Approved the shortlist of candidates for Minister Provincial of the:

- Province of the "Immaculate Conception of the BVM", in Poland (Kalwaria Z.); Province of St Mary of the Angels in Poland (Kraków); Autonomous Custody of "St Anthony of Padua", in the Philippines (Cebu City); Province of St Wenceslaus in the Czech Republic (Prague).

#### They ratified the election of the following entities that took place:

#### In Chapter:

- Autonomous Custody of "St John the Baptist" in Pakistan (Karachi)

#### In Capitular Congressus:

- Province of St Francis of Assisi, in Brazil (Porto Alegre); Province of the Most Holy Martyrs of Japan, in Japan (Tokyo); Province of St Michael Archangel in Indonesia

(Jakarta); Province of St Francis Solanus in Peru (Lima); Province of the "Incarnate Word", in West Africa (Lomé); Autonomous Custody of "St John the Baptist", in Pakistan (Karachi).

#### Outside Chapter:

- of Provincial Definitory: Province of "The Most Holy Martyrs of Korea", in South Korea (Seoul): 1; Province of the "Immaculate Conception BVM", in Spain (Madrid): 1;
- of Secretary of the Province: Province of "Our Lady Queen of Peace", in South Africa (Vanderbijlpark);
- of Provincial Bursar: Province of the "Immaculate Conception of the BVM", in Spain (Madrid);
- of Guardians: Province of "S. Antonio dei Frati Minori", in Italy (Milan): 2; Province of "Most Holy Martyrs", in South Korea (Seoul): 3; Province of "Santa Fe", in Colombia (Bogotá): 1.

#### They analysed the Reports after the Canonical Visitation of the following Entities:

- Autonomous Custody of "St Benedict in Amazonia", in Brazil (Santarém); Province of "St Barbara", in the USA (Oakland); Fraternity of Penitentiaries "St John Lateran", in Italy (Rome); Province of "St Francis Solanus", in Argentina (Río Cuarto); Province of "Holy Martyrs of Japan", in Japan (Tokyo); Autonomous Custody of "St John the Baptist", in Pakistan (Karachi).

#### They accepted the resignation of:

- Br Evodio JOÃO, of the Autonomous Custody of "St Clare", in Mozambique (Maputo), as Director General of the Communications Office;
- Br Efen P. ORTIZ ORTIZ, of the Province of "Santa Fe", in Colombia (Bogotá), as Director General of the Development Office.

#### They appointed to various offices:

- Br Nikola KOZINA, of the Province of the "Holy Cross" in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sarajevo), Director General of the Development Office;
- Br Byron A. CHAMANN ANLEU, of the Province of "Our Lady of Guadalupe", in Central America and Panama (Guatemala City), Director General of the Communica-

tions Office;

- Br Fernando CALDERON JUÁREZ, of the Province of the "Holy Gospel" in Mexico (Coyoacán), sacristan of the General House;
- Br Marco Antonio MENDOZA MARTINEZ, bursar of the Pontifical International Marian Academy.
- Ms Anne PEACH, member of the Commission for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Mr Pedro Marcelino FERNANDEZ NAVARRETE, OFS, member of the Coordination Committee for the Franciscan Network of the Mediterranean of JPIC.

**They approved, *sub conditione*, the particular Statutes of the:**

- Fraternity of the Penitentiaries in "St John Lateran", in Italy (Rome); Fraternity of St Isidore's College, Rome; Province of the "Holy Family", in Egypt (Cairo); Province of the "Holy Cross", in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sarajevo); Province of "St Francis of Assisi" in Brazil (Porto Alegre); Province of "St Thomas the Apostle", in India (Bangalore); Autonomous Custody of "St Anthony of Padua" in the Philippines (Cebu City).

**They dealt with the following dossiers concerning changes in legal status:**

- Erection of Guardianates: 4;
- Erection of filial Houses: 5;
- Suppression of Houses: 13.

**They dealt with the following cases of separation from the Order:**

- Indult of exclaustation: 1;
- Extension of exclaustation indult: 5;
- Indult of secularisation *ad experimentum*: 4;
- Indult of secularisation *pure et simpliciter*: 2;
- Indult of dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state and of leaving the Order: 3;
- Indult of dispensation from solemn vows: 2;
- *ipso facto* dismissal from the Order: 15.

**They examined:**

- Possible cases of *graviora delicta*: 2;
- Possible cases of *contra sextum*: 3.

**They dealt with other dossiers of various kinds:**

- Concession of obedience for mission: 6;
- Concession of obedience to return from mission/particular service: 3;
- Concession of obedience to reside at the "Beato Gabriele Allegra" Fraternity, at the CISA, in Rome: 5;
- Anticipation of Provincial Chapter: 2;
- Promotion to Assistant Professor: 1;
- Conferral of Honorary Degree: 1;
- Indult of bi-ritualism: 1;
- Property disposals: 2;
- Plenary indulgence: 2.

**Approval of FOA Balance Sheet 2022.**

In conclusion, the Definitory reviewed the progress of the Tempo Forte.

**The next Tempo Forte is scheduled to take place from 8 to 19 May 2023;** all the Secretariats of the Entities of the Order are reminded to send the petitions to be submitted to the General Definitory within a week of the start of the Tempo Forte: petitions received at another time will be postponed to the following Tempo Forte.

To the praise of Christ and the Poverello of Assisi. Amen!  
Rome, 12 April 2023

Br Antonio M. IACONA, OFM, *Secretary general*



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