

THE COMMON HOUSE CALLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## EL SALVADOR: THE XXIII ECOLOGICAL WALK 2023

The XXIII Ecological Walk 2023 had as its motto "The Common House calls for Environmental Justice". This is done every year within the framework of World Environment Day. It is being coordinated by the Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of El Salvador (JPIC-El Salvador) together with other social and religious organizations.



## GENERAL CURIA DIARY

- Br. Jimmy Zammit, Br. Albert Schmucki and Br. John Wong, General Definitors, participated from 12 to 16 June, in the General Curia, in the Discerning Leadership Programme, for English-speaking participants.
- From 11 to 14 June, Br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco, Director of the General Office of JPIC, participated in the meeting with the friars of the Province of Portugal and the local committee of WYD 2023.
- Br. Dennis Tayo, General Animator for the Missions, accompanies the Inter-Obediential Missionary Course in Cebu (Philippines) until the end of July.
- Until June 22, Br. Cesare Vaiani, Definitor General, preached the spiritual exercises on the Rule to the friars of the Custody of Morocco.
- From 17 to 20 June in Marseilles (France), Br. Daniel and Br. Fausto Yudego (Spain) meet the Franciscan fraternity of the city and the Vicar General of the Archdiocese to present the Franciscan Network of the Mediterranean.
- On June 18, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, took part in the inauguration of the "Santa Maria delle Grazie" reception centre in Voghera (Italy).
- On June 19, Br. Taucen Girsang, Vice Director of the JPIC General Office, participated in a dialogue meeting on the situation of Human Rights in West Papua, with Br. Alexandro Rangg, Local Coordinator of the JPIC Office.
- On June 21, the first zoom meeting of the OFM Franciscan Communicators Network will be held.
- From 19 to 23 June, with the participation of Br. César Külkamp, Definitor General for Latin America, the Assembly of the Bolivarian Franciscan Conference takes place in Peru.
- On June 23, Br. Cesare will meet in Montecalvo Irpino the four Definitors of the Provinces of Naples, Salerno, Benevento and Calabria, during their inter-provincial meeting.
- From 25 June to 2 July Br. Massimo and Br. Jimmy will visit the Province of Santa Barbara (United States).
- Br. César and Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas, Secretary General for the Missions and Evangelization, participate in the meeting on life and evangelization in Peru from 25 to 30 June, with participants from the Union of Latin American Franciscan Conferences (UCLAF).
- From 26 to 29 June Br. Taucen and Br. Daniel will participate in the meeting of Franciscans International and the United Nations Human Rights Council, in Geneva (Switzerland).
- From 30 June to 4 July, Br. Fábio Cesar Gomes, Pro-Monialibus General Delegate, organizes a visit and a training program for the sisters of the Santa Chiara monastery of Biancavilla, Catania (Italy).

The Walk was developed in the context of El Salvador’s “State of Exception”, which has brought greater security at the expense of the systematic violation of human rights. In addition, this Regime has allowed the criminalization and imprisonment of community leaders such as the five peasants from the Community of Santa Marta and that of Manuel Gámez Morales, son of Vidalina Morales, environmental leader from the Department of Cabañas, in the north of El Salvador.

vernment ratifies the Law Against Metallic Mining, the general law governing the management of the water resources and its adherence to the Escazú Agreement, which guarantees the protection of defenders of human rights and the environment.



On June 2, at the Church of the Holy Rosary, located in the historic center of San Salvador, the Pastoral Letter addressed to the President of the Republic was presented at a Press Conference and which letter will be delivered to the President. The letter highlights the current problems and illuminates them in the light of the Gospel. These problems include: the lack of good nutrition, health, access to drinking water and quality education; extreme poverty and social inequality. The Pastoral Letter also denounces the construction of urban projects, the construction of the eighth dams on the Sensunapán River, the contamination of the Lempa River due to the Cerro Blanco Mine in Guatemala, and the over-use of pesticides. Furthermore, the Pastoral Letter demands that the Go-

On June 6, 2023, at the conclusion of the Ecumenical Prayer and with the assistance of hundreds of people, the XXIII Ecological Walk began. The participants included Franciscan Friars, members of the Secular Franciscan Order, Franciscan Youth, the Conference of Religious of El Salvador (CONFRES), lay people, seminarians, priests, Mons. Elías Samuel Bolaños Avelar, SDB, Bishop of Zacatecoluca as well as the historic churches, peasant organizations, and various other collective entities that defend Mother Earth. Throughout the Ecological Walk, the voices of the poor, women, and peasants were heard. This represented a sign of the times for El Salvador, where ecological conversion is preached and

the people are summoned to a non-violent struggle – just like during the time of Saint Monsignor Oscar Romero – to defend the poor and their right to life.

Upon reaching the Presidential House, the Pastoral Letter addressed to the President of the Republic was delivered. What followed next was an artistic representation of the demands articulated in that letter.

Vidalina Morales summed up the spirit of that day by asserting that, the ecological Walk was an expression of the collective defense of the Earth and her common goods. “What will be the future of Salvadorans?” she asked. “We need justice. We continue to fight, because we are men and women full of hope and love. We walk and fight together with the communities because we believe and dream of a different world, where there is no contamination. We have a great responsibility to demand justice and freedom. They can build many prisons, but they cannot imprison freedom and the thousands and thousands of social fighters”.

*Br Roberto Carlos Gutiérrez Vilchez, OFM (JPIC San Salvador, El Salvador)*

THE JOURNEY FOR INTER-OBEDIENTIAL MISSION COURSE IMCA HAS STARTED  
**A SINGLE “LIGHT” TO BRING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO ASIA**

On the Feast of the Holy Trinity on June 4, 2023, the Inter-obediential Mission Course of Asia (IMCA) began in Cebu City, Philippines with Br. Carlos Trovarelli, the General Minister of the Conventual Franciscans, presiding the holy mass. In his homily, he challenged each of the 17 participants from the four participating Orders (OFM, OFMconv, OFM-Cap and TOR), to renew one’s Franciscan identity in proclaiming the gospel in Asia, especially among the poor, in dialogue as minors, and as a fraternity going to the peripheries.

A short ceremony followed after the mass: Br Carlos gave each of the participants the “mission text” from the Rule; with a lighted candle, he then passed the light to the three General Secretaries for Missions who, with the lighted candles, joined





and formed a single flare to light in turn the candles of the three-course animators, and the different participants.

This signified that amidst the diversity in our Franciscan charismatic expressions, we share the common mission to spread as a single “light” the gospel message to all in Asia, given one’s context.

With the same inspiration, the three General Secretaries for Missions and Evangelization on the following day, symbolically opened the week’s activities by blessing a glass of water, which they poured simultaneously into a common basin and which each of the participants and the animators then, one by one, used to wash and bless their five senses, as an act of total surrender to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the protagonist of missions - as they proceed with the two months course.

It was followed by the mission course orientation, laying down of schedules, and the associated activities to achieve the course objectives. The participants were likewise organized to form their respective working committees and were tasked with their corresponding assignments. A workshop was made to lay down course goals, set expectations, and share one’s inspirations for doing missions.

On June 07, 2023, the IMCA participants went to Olango Island, Lapu-Lapu City on the island. They were greeted with an ecumenical prayer service at United Methodist Church (UMC) followed by a joint symbolic tree planting activity. Traditional snacks were served and shared in fellowship as prepared by this church community, to the delight of each one.

The participants proceeded to the beach for a treat and a real adventure, strolling through the strong currents in the unbalanced paths along the mangroves, under the scorching heat of the sun to have a glimpse of the bird sanctuary and finally for some cooling experience to have leisure swimming for some, and/or chatting, playing and dancing for others, each one simply having fun.

Everyone had a full, good lunch prepared by the locals in Vicente Marine Sanctuary. With tremendous enthusiasm, the participants played volleyball until it was time to go home, tired but happy. This unity and solidarity gave them a sense of belonging, encouragement, and togetherness as one Franciscan family, coming back home as “heroes and victorious people” of the day.

The remaining days of the week were spent to know more about each other, with each participant sharing his present ministries and realities in mission, challenged by the thrusts and realities of their respective Order as shared by the three General Secretaries and/or Mission animators.

Celebrating the diversity of inter-cultural and the richness of the inter-obediential presence of each one, they embark to proceed with the this two-month course, in enthusiasm and joy, in this newfound family!

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*Prepared by Br Dennis Tayo, OFM  
(General Animator for Mission and IMCA Course Animator)*

THE MINISTER GENERAL AND DEFINITOR OF AFRICA VISITING THE PROVINCE OF ST FRANCIS  
**40 YEARS OF FRANCISCAN PRESENCE IN EAST AFRICA**

**B**r. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and Br Victor Luís Quematcha, Definitor General of the area, are visiting the Province of St Francis of Assisi in East Africa from 2 to 16 June 2023. The Minister was welcomed by Br Frederick Odhiambo, the Minister Provincial, with the friars of the province.

The first stop of the visit was Nairobi, where the Minister Provincial had meetings with the Provincial Definitory, the friars, the Apostolic Nuncio and the Franciscan family. The high point of this visit was on 3 June with the solemn celebration at the Portiuncula Centre for 40 years of Franciscan presence in Kenya.

"Yesterday with the friars and today with the Franciscan family, represented by so many of its members, I experience the vitality and joy of Christian and Franciscan life in Africa. Even in poverty and insecurity, life here is stronger, and I feel it very much from everyone," said the Minister General with great joy at the end of the celebration.

The next stage of the visit will be to the various locations of the friars in Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania. Besides the friars, the Minister will meet the Poor Clares of two monas-

teries in Rwanda, the Franciscan Family and the local bishops.

The Province of St Francis in East Africa, which covers nine African nations, was created in 1983 by the desire of Br John Vaughn, Minister General at the time, who wanted to celebrate the eighth centenary of the birth of St Francis to renew and strengthen the presence of the Order in Africa and Madagascar. It is significant to recall that Br Giacomo Bini, who later became Minister General, was the Provincial of this Province.



THE MINISTER GENERAL VISITS MALAWI AND ZAMBIA  
**40 YEARS OF PROJECT AFRICA: INTERNATIONALITY AND FRATERNITY**

**D**uring the visit of Br. Massimo, Minister General, and Br Victor Luís Quematcha, Definitor General of the area, to the Province of St. Francis in East Africa, from the 4th to the 7th June the Minister, accompanied by Br Frederick Odhiambo, Minister Provincial, and by Br Oscar Girardi, Vicar, met the friars in Malawi and Zambia. Furthermore, the Minister visited the Poor Clare nuns of Lilongwe and the Christians of two parishes in Malawi, as well as the Secular Franciscan Order.

the area. Br Sebastian Unsner, of the Franciscan Province of St. Hedwig in Poland, in Africa for 34 years, recalled how the Minister General spoke of internationality and fraternity, which are the starting points of the Province of St. Francis in Africa: "I thank the Minister General for his words of encouragement to continue our mission in Africa. Since the beginning of the Africa project, internationality and fraternal life have been present, and that's what we've been trying to do here in Malawi for the past 40 years."

After the visit, we gathered some testimonies from the friars of



*More than 1300 friars on the African continent are distributed in 15 Franciscan entities: 6 provinces, 5 custodies, 4 foundations and 3 presences. The friars are present in 32 countries on the continent, which consists of 54 countries.*

The parish priest of Chilinda, Br Jean Damascene Karanganwa, Rwandan, in Malawi for 7 years, shared the challenges highlighted by the Minister General: "Fraternity is a richness, even if there are challenges. Being an international fraternity, we have different nationalities, different ways of thinking, and making the fraternity grow together is something challenging; however, the joy of fraternity is always present, because we share the same joy".



Br Massimo's visit was a blessing according to Mother Monica, the Abbess of Lilongwe Poor Clare Monastery: "The visit of our Minister General and Definitor for Africa was a blessing for us. We felt that Francis is amongst us and it has helped us to pray more for our Order, for the whole Franciscan family. We thank God for this Franciscan-Clarian vocation".

been in Africa since 1990 said: Br Massimo's visit to the friars present in Zambia is a true demonstration of fraternal love: "The presence of the Minister General shows love for the brothers. Having this opportunity is a great Franciscan lesson for us: we are brothers, we appreciate each other's gifts and we take care of each other".

Fr. Ivica Peric, a Croatian from Bosnia-Herzegovina, who has



# OFM WORLD

Br Massimo, Minister General, in Rwanda with the friars of Rwanda and Burundi



Last Chapter of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Province, United States



Corpus Domini celebration in the Holy Sepulchre, Holy Land



Meeting of the friars of the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle in India



Feast of Sant'Antonio in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Franciscan Vocation Days in the Prov. of Ss. Francisco y Santiago in Mexico

## YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SANTIAGO IN CHILE NEW VERSION OF THE FRANCISCAN YOUTH EXPERIENCE "ESSO"

From the 26th to the 28th May, at the San Felipe de Jesús Franciscan Youth House (Santiago in Chile, Province of the Holy Trinity), a new version of the Franciscan youth experience ESSO (*Spirit of the Lord and His Holy Work*) has been developed. It is five years since it first came to light and hundreds of young people have been able to connect and experience the Holy Spirit in their lives. This year was no exception and, once again, the objective of this experience was achieved: to celebrate Pentecost, generating questions and instances of mission from the Franciscan experience of the Spirit of the Lord and His Holy Work. It should be noted that the sixth version of ESSO managed to summon 25 young people, including members of the service team, who during these days were invited to live their faith fraternally in community.

### IN A COMMUNITY KEY

Camila Carrimán, a key person in the community who was part of the organizing team of ESSO 2023, highlights in the first place the relevance of being able to create and prepare these experiences in a community way. "The experience has a general objective, which guides us in the essential matters, but the content is discerned and prepared year by year by the Service Team.

This year it was developed to orient the youth towards the >>





She expressed her joy for this new opportunity. “Compared to the first time it was more intense from the aspects of Franciscanism and devotion to the Holy Trinity. We were able to work in fraternities and get to know each other more. We were able to speak and express ourselves about what we felt and, above all, how we worked as a common group. I feel that the Youth House always gives us the opportunity to be free and be as we are, and we respect ourselves as we are and that is not found everywhere. Being able to listen and feel heard is a unique and beautiful fruit that we can cultivate. I am really grateful that

these instances exist where one can breathe an air of fraternity, love and understanding, and where they also give us knowledge and tools to continue living our faith”.

theme of community. Last year, the experience had a more personal approach, and we saw how the Spirit dwells in each one and provokes us “to get out of ourselves”, she clarifies. Moreover, this year, she adds that “giving continuity to the path we were taking, we wanted to discuss the community proposal that God has for humanity. From that point, both the content and the methodology revolved around the community. We started with a verification of the current social reality, then we saw how our triune God invites us to be a community and then we shared how to live this from Franciscan spirituality point of view”, she said. “It was a day full of helpful details, prepared with great care. Seeing how young people participate and how they complete the experience makes it a privilege to be of service to them, together with my brothers and sisters from the team. We all leave enriched and grateful for so much”, concludes Camila Carrimán.

### COMMUNION AND FAITH

Martin Bocaz from the Franciscan Youth House, said the ESSO 2023 experience was very beautiful, especially from the point of view of being able to share with other young people on the Feast of Pentecost. “The Service Team and the friars welcomed us in a very warm way and the activities that we developed during the three days were very significant for me. I would certainly recommend it to all young people from the community who want to deepen their spiritual life and their connection with God. I leave with a joyful heart, with new friends and full of the Holy Spirit. An unforgettable experience”.

### THE VALUE OF SHARING

María Teresa Toledo is a young woman from the San Felipe de Jesús parish, who enjoyed a second ESSO experience.

### ESSO, IS A RENEWING EXPERIENCE IN THE SPIRIT

Finally, Lorena Uzcategui Altuve, from the Franciscan Youth House Choir, emphasized the renewing experience that ESSO gives to all the young people who participate in it. “It is an experience full of joy, tears, plenary sessions, moments of prayer and meetings. From the music ministry we live praise and adore, focusing on songs that are balm, comfort and hope. You do not love for the reward, but as thanks for feeling loved by God”.

“Everyone, regardless of their origin, had a enormous level of empathy, honesty, and sharing, and this created beautiful friendship ties that will extend to Italy and Colombia. I am grateful for the hospitality of the brothers and the service team for all the love and wisdom they gave us”, concluded Lorena Uzcategui.

[Watch the video about the ESSO experience:](#)



JUNE 3, 1623 – 2023

## 400 YEARS OF THE COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND IN COLOMBIA

On June 3, the Commissariat of the Holy Land in Colombia celebrated its 400th anniversary. For the occasion, the Custos of the Holy Land, Br Francesco Patton, visited Colombia from 1 to 4 June.

A seminar was held on Thursday 1 June at the University of San Bonaventura in Bogotá, with the participation of the Custos and the Commissary of the Holy Land in Colombia, Br José Manuel Ortega. The event, for friars and the Franciscan family, was the opportunity to show the reality of the work of the Franciscans in the Holy Places and go into further depth into the history of the foundation of the Commissariat of the Holy Land in Colombia.

The following day, Br Francesco and Br José Manuel attended a meeting with the young people of the University Pastoral, organized at La Gran Colombia University. The dialogue was on the Holy Places, vocation to service and the testimony of Christians in the Holy Land.

On June 3, Msgr. Luis José Rueda Aparicio, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bogotá, presided the Solemn Mass; his con-



celebrants were Msgr. Francisco Nieto Súa, bishop of Engativá, Br Silvio De La Fuente, coordinator of the Commissaries of the Holy Land, Br José Alirio Urbina, Minister Provincial of the Province of Santa Fe, as well as Br Francesco Patton.

*Br Jorge Luis Torregroza Rojas*  
Province of Santa Fe, Colombia

*The origin of the Commissariats of the Holy Land is very ancient and is motivated by the enormous difficulties of the Custody to fulfil its tasks in a very complex political and religious situation.*

*Having observed that neither the lives of the friars nor preserving the Holy Places was possible without alms from the Christian princes, the first Statutes of the Custody (1377) established that the Custos appoint one or two laymen to administrate the alms. Half a century later, the figure of the Commissary of the Holy Land was officially established with the Bull His quae by Pope Martin V (14th February 1421). In more recent times, Pope Paul VI declared that the activity of the Commissaries, "as meritorious as in the past, is still valid and functional" (Paul VI, Nobis in animo). Currently there are 67 Commissariats of the Holy Land, distributed in 60 nations of the world.*

*From the website [www.custodia.org](http://www.custodia.org)*

## MESSAGE FROM BR MASSIMO FUSARELLI TO POPE FRANCIS

“We are close to the Holy Father in this moment of infirmity. We follow him with our prayers for a speedy recovery of his health. We need his voice, which reminds us of the simplicity of the Gospel, as St. Francis loved to say. May the Virgin Mary, health of the sick, accompany him and keep him”.

*Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM*  
Minister General





## FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK

### The Essence of Franciscan Spirituality

Eric Doyle OFM

Franciscan Publishing Company – England 2023

### Santa Clara de Assis - O Privilégio de Ser Pobre

José António Correia Pereira

Editorial Franciscana, Portugal 2023

### Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth

Ilia Delio, O.S.F., Franciscan Keith Douglass Warner,

O.F.M., Pamela Wood

Franciscan Media – USA, 2008

### La libertà di Antonio

Luigi Maria Epicoco

Edizioni Messaggero di Padova – Italia 2023

### The Virtuous Economy: Reforms in the Franciscan Tradition

Roderic Hewlett

Franciscan Institute Publications – USA, 2023

### Immaginari e povertà

#### San Francesco nella creazione contemporanea

Brigitte Poitrenaud-Lamesi

Edizioni Messaggero di Padova – Italia 2023

## GENERAL DELEGATE PRO MONIALIBUS, PROVINCIAL, GENERAL VISITATOR AND EDITOR OF "FRATERNITAS" IN MEMORY OF BR DARIO PILI (1929-2023)

**B**r Dario Pili, OFM, member of the Seraphic Province of the Friars Minor of Umbria and Sardinia, Italy, returned to the House of the Father at the age of 93, 75 years of religious profession and 68 years of priesthood. The Order remembers him as General Delegate pro Monialibus (for nuns), Provincial, General Visitator and editor of the periodical "Fraternitas".

Br Dario Pili (born Liberato) was born in Aritzo on 30.11.1929. On 20 October 1946, he received the habit of St Francis at the friary of St Anthony in Quartu Sant'Elena (Cagliari), where he made his novitiate and made his First Profession on 26 October 1947. On 8 December 1950, he made his solemn profession in the friary of St. Mauro in Cagliari. He was ordained a priest on 8 September 1954 in the crypt of Cagliari Cathedral.

From 1954 to 1960, he was in Sassari as Master at the Seraphic College of St. Peter in Silki and editor of the magazine "Mater Gratiarum". From 1961 he was in Rome at the OFS National Centre as editor of the magazine "Fiamma Nova"; from 1963 to 1966, he was also OFS Vice

National Assistant. At the same time, he obtained a Licentiate in Theology at the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome. From 1966 to 1968, still in Rome, he was chaplain at the Morelli Clinic and consultant to the General Chapters of the Elizabethan Sisters of Padua.

In 1968 the Minister General called him to serve in the General Curia as editor of "Fraternitas", and in this role, he participated in the Special General Chapter in Medellin in 1971.

From 1972 to 1981, he was Minister Provincial of the Friars Minor of Sardinia. He was responsible for the structural restoration of the friary complex in the Basilica of Fonni.

At the end of his term of office, he was parish priest in Fonni from 1981-1985, where he was also Guardian in 1984-1985. He was Visitator General three times: in Benevento (1982), in Tuscany (1985) and in Naples (2000).

From 1985-1991 he was in Rome as General Delegate pro Monialibus, and from 1991 to 1995, he served in the Holy



Land, where he was elected Discrete and was editor of the Italian edition of the Custody's magazine.

He then returned definitively to Sardinia, first to S. Antonio Abate in Sassari, where he was guardian, then to Bonorva and S. Pietro in Silki in Sassari. In 2011 he returned to Fonni until 2014. Then he went as confessor to the Sanctuary of S. Salvatore da Horta in Cagliari until 2017, when he was transferred to the Infirmary of Quartu S. Elena.

He died of pneumonia at the SS. Trinità Hospital of Is Mirrionis (Cagliari) on 2 June 2023 and rests in the cemetery of his native town of Aritzo (NU). We entrust him to the Lord, praying for his soul to be received into the eternal peace of good and faithful servants.

MIRACLE OF BROTHERHOOD

**INDIA: STUDENT FRIARS CELEBRATING THE GRACE OF FRANCISCAN VOCATION**

**"M**iracle of Brotherhood", so described Br. Shaji Nicholas, the Secretary of Formation & Studies of the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle of India, the gathering of young friars that took place in India.

67 Student Friars in Formation, from Novitiate to Pastoral Formation gathered together under the title FRISM '23 (Friar Students' Meet – 2023) from 25 to 31 May 2023 to celebrate the grace of Franciscan Vocation at St. Louis Friary, Palamner, India.

This was also an occasion to celebrate the 8th centenary of the Approval of the Later Rule and the celebration of Christmas at Greccio in 1223 and so to rediscover the Spirit of St. Francis in Formation.



The Inaugural Session began with the Prayer Service at the Friary Chapel and continued with the Procession in veneration of the Book of the Rule and the Babe of Bethlehem. Br. Darko Tepert, Secretary General for Formation and Studies, in his inaugural address, highlighted the essence of Prayer, Work, Poverty, and Mission. He added, "My vocation is not my property. I am called to be sent... we are invited to exit – to go out of ourselves and to go towards the others." Br. Sleeva, Guardian welcomed the gathering inviting the friars to celebrate the Franciscan Vocation.

Br. Shaji Nicholas explained the purpose of the gathering as a time of facilitating the transition from one stage to another stage of formation and to rediscover the spirit of St. Francis to nurture and grow in the Franciscan Vocation.

Br. Xavier Durairaj, Minister Provincial, in his Keynote address, invited the young friars to give themselves fully as a gift to God as God gave Himself as a gift to us.

The lay experts and religious gave input sessions every day on different themes related to vocation and life. The breaks between the sessions, the time of meals, and the evening

get-together were occasions of encountering the 'other brother' and inspiring the 'other brother'. Br. Jacob, a participant at FRISM says, "Our coming together under one roof is a prophetic witness of the Gospel fraternity, an antidote for the intangible digital fraternity and its propagandas in our age. I perceive that we have not just gathered together to eat, recreate, play, pray, etc., but to encounter, to know, and to unmask

one's true self to the other. To establish collaboration, interdependence, and inter-subjectivity."

As last year, the meeting of the formators was held this year too on the sidelines of FRISM '23.

During the interaction between the formators and student friars in formation, they shared with one another the joys, difficulties, and expectations during the years of formation.

difficulties, and expectations during the years of formation.

The games, indoor and outdoor, conducted with a fraternal spirit were moments of great joy for the brothers to celebrate the brotherhood with an authentic spirit. The cultural programme, with a variety of items, was a great show of the talents and skills of young friars!

It was inspiringly nostalgic for the student friars to be at St. Louis Friary Novitiate, where their life as Friars Minor once began, to witness the entry of 9 Novices and the simple profession of 7 friars and also to relive these precious moments once again in their lives. 38 brothers renewed their vows for another year too.

The presence of Br. Xavier Durairaj, Minister Provincial, Br. Tony D Souza, Custos and Br. Wilson Paul, President along with many friars from different communities and of the local community was very encouraging for the young friars.

It is firmly believed that the future FRISM gatherings will only help the young student friars to renew their Vision and embrace their Future in the spirit of St. Francis with courage.

## BROTHERS DECEASED \*

- 12 June: Br Gérard Guitton – Prov. Blessed John Duns Scotus, France
- 12 June: Br Alfred Clitus - Prov. Blessed John Duns Scotus, Belgium
- 7 June: Br Rhaban Daniel – Prov. of St. Elizabeth, Germany
- 6 June: Br Aristides Luiz Pasquali – Prov. Immaculate Conception, Brasil
- 2 June: Br Dario Pili – Prov. Seraphic of the Friars Minor of Umbria and Sardinia, Italy
- 1 June: Br Johannes Uhlenbrock – Prov. of St. Elizabeth, Germany
- 21 May: Br Guido Rakels – Prov. Holy Martyrs of Gorcum, The Netherlands

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

## JUNE 10, WORLD MEETING ON HUMAN FRATERNITY THE OFM NAGASAKI PROJECT IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE

On 10 June in St. Peter's Square, as part of the World Meeting on Human Fraternity, a video was projected made by the OFM Nagasaki Project, an International Franciscan Community of Peace, whose basic concept is to spread and promote lasting peace in the city of Nagasaki and around the world.

The meeting, entitled "Not Alone", was promoted and organized by the Vatican Foundation "Fratelli tutti", chaired by His Eminence Card. Mauro Gambetti, OFM-Conv, who asked the Nagasaki Project for the creation of a video to be projected during the meeting.

In the video, recorded by the Order's Nagasaki Project International Community of Peace, in collaboration with Br John Wong, General Definitor and President of the General Commission for the Service for Dialogue, in at and around the hypocentre of the atomic bomb blast in Nagasaki, Japan, and edited by the Communication Office of the San Pedro Bautista Province (Philippines), we see Br Jacobo

Hitoshi Kataoka, OFM, direct descendant of hidden Christians, who were persecuted for over 240 years in Nagasaki. He was 9 years old and had just finished confessing in the Urakami church when the atomic bomb exploded on August 9, 1945. In a few minutes he recounts his experience of violence and death, of nuclear weapons and hatred, but also and above all of peace, of relationship with God, of fraternity.



The "Nagasaki Project: International Peace Community" was born in 2010 from an idea of the then Minister General Br José Rodríguez Carballo, when he visited Nagasaki on the occasion of the meeting of the East Asian Conference, held in Japan. His short stay and experience of the

place inspired him to dream of an international community of friars in Nagasaki, which would be a living testimony of peace and reconciliation.

Nagasaki was chosen for its history: everyone remembers the atomic bomb dropped in 1945, but little is said about the persecutions that Christians suffered in the previous centuries (from the 16th to the 19th century). It is no coincidence that the OFM Province is called the "Holy Martyrs of Japan": among these 26 martyrs, killed in 1597, there was also the missionary friar San Pedro Bautista (who gave his name to the Province in the north of the Philippines).

The basic concept of the Project is to live as a contemplative fraternity on an evangelizing mission. The friars of the Nagasaki fraternity support the campaign to ban nuclear weapons, collaborate in peace activities with the JPIC Office of the East Asia Conference and with other agencies that carry out the same type of advocacy.

# OFM

ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

Director: Br Evódio João

Translators: Br. Eunan McMullan,  
Br Hugh McKenna, Br. John Luke

General Curia of the Friars Minor

Via di S. Maria Mediatrix, 25 - Rome, Italy - [comgen@ofm.org](mailto:comgen@ofm.org)  
[www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)



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