

GROWTH OF THE ORDER IN EAST AFRICA

“The greatest joy of the three-week visit to East Africa was to see the growth of our Order and the living faith of so many Christian communities. Christians grow and are co-responsible for their community life.” These are the words of Br Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, at the conclusion of the visit to the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in East Africa, which took place from the 2nd to the 16th June 2023. “The celebrations are filled with a joy that is not only exterior and noisy, but is profound and is also seen in the various services and commitments that arise in these vibrant Christian communities,” he added.

Before his return to Rome, the Minister wanted to share 4 challenges for the Franciscan presence in East Africa.

“The first challenge we have as Friars Minor is certainly that of an exponential growth of the Order, in this part of the world, which requires adequate means, formators and structures; and sometimes it's hard to keep up with that.”

The Minister continued: “Another challenge concerns the inculturation of the charism of St. Francis in the various cultures, languages, mentalities present in Africa. We are in a part of the African continent where some countries have had a recent tormented and difficult history, between violence, wars and ethnic conflicts”.



GENERAL CURIA DIARY

- On July 2, Br. Massimo, Minister General, concluded his visit to the Province of Santa Barbara, in the United States.
- From 2 to 4 July, Br. Taucen Girsand, JPIC Vice-Director, participates in the meeting with the friar animators of the Province of St. Francis in Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius on the theme "Nature and mission of JPIC", which takes place in Kigali, Rwanda.
- From 3 July to 14 July, the General Definitory will meet in Rome for the Tempo Forte.
- From 4 to 7 July, the Congress of the Order's Study and Research Centres takes place in the General Curia. The Rectors, Deans and Directors of the Centres participate. The event is organized by the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies (Br. Darko Tepert, Br. Hieronimus Yoseph Dei Rupa). The meeting begins with a greeting from the Minister General.
- From 4 to 8 July, Br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco, JPIC Director, in Rome, participates in the meeting of the Territorial Ecclesial Networks of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development.
- On July 7, Br. Fábio Cesar Gomes, Pro-Monialibus General Delegate, will animate the retreat of the Federation of Poor Clares of Colombia inspired by the Earlier Rule.
- On July 12, Br. Massimo will be present at the Chapter of the Picena Province of S. Giacomo della Marca (San Marino).

The third challenge concerns the so-called “diversified mission”: “It is necessary to have a diversified Franciscan presence and mission. Here I found friars who are opening up, for example, to the educational mission in schools and in some places to welcome and to lead spiritual animation. Here, we cannot think only of parish ministry”.

Finally, Br Massimo spoke of the challenge of freedom: the ever greater freedom, for brothers, from conditioning and bonds that can also prevent a missionary spirit, within this Province, distributed over many states, and elsewhere in the world.

The Minister concluded his sharing by thanking “the Lord and the brothers I met, the Poor Clares, who live the same reality of growth; There is a need to inculturate the charism, but also many prospects for the future. All this is sustainable because there are vocations, there is the joy of growing and also looking to the future”.

The Minister Provincial, Br Frederick Odhiambo, who accom-

panied Br Massimo during the visit, shared his joy: “Also together with Br Victor Luís Quematcha, Definitor General, we visited the small missions that were not expecting the arrival of the Minister General, and so in this way encountered a real image of our Province”.



The first stage of the visit was held in Nairobi, Kenya, seat of the Provincial Curia of the Province of St. Francis, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its creation. Subsequently, the Minister visited Malawi, Zambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and, finally, Tanzania. In addition to the friars, the Minister met the Poor Clares, the Franciscan Family, the local bishops, and

visited the social works of the Province.

The Province of St. Francis of Assisi of East Africa, founded in 1983, to-day has 131 friars distributed in 9 countries. The friars dedicate themselves to pastoral service, education, spiritual assistance to the Poor Clares and the Secular Franciscan Order.

TEMPO FORTE - MAY 2023

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE GENERAL DEFINITORY

The Tempo Forte took place from the 8th to the 19th May 2023 at the Curia General, in Rome. On the 10th May the General Definitory met the Guardians, Vicars and Bursars of the friaries in Rome dependent on the Minister General and from the 15th to the 18th May the Presidents of the Conferences; a final working session took place on 31st May.

The General Definitory, at its opening, allowed a time for personal narration, to deepen relationships and share what had been experienced during the period since the last Tempo Forte; the definitory continued its discernment on the candidates for the London fraternity, which it will appoint during the Tempo Forte in July

2023; and also appointed the Investment Review Committee (IRC) in the persons of Mrs. Joycelyn NGO, President, also of Mr. David REUSCH, Mr. Jorge Apóstolos SIARCOS and Mr. Leslie QUICK, and Br. John PUODZIUNAS, General Bursar. The session assigned the offices to the friars of the Fraternity of the Penitentiaries of “St. John Lateran” in Rome, a fraternity dependent on the Minister General; the definitory met fr. Matthias MAYER, of Franziskaner Helfen (Bonn - Germany), together with Br. Franco MIRRI, Director of the OFM Fraternitas Foundation, and Br. Efren P. ORTIZ O. and fr. Nikola KOZINA, outgoing and incoming Directors of the Development Office, to deepen the policy of project verification; continued the verification of the Order’s

presence in Russia and the Foundation; The definitory listened to updates from Br. Pedro ZITHA, OFM General Spiritual Assistant for the OFS; and continued to reflect on the Conference for Lay Brothers, in particular on the chronogram and questionnaire sent to the Entities of the Order. The definitory listened to updates on economic matters presented by Br. John PUODZIUNAS, Treasurer General; the definitory questioned the turnover of the staff of the dependent friaries; the definitory met with the Officers of the Curia, who began to present the Regulations of the various Offices, with a view to better collaboration amongst them and also with the General Definitory.



OFM WORLD

Meeting of the Ministers of the Bolivarian Conference in Peru



Pilgrimage of the Seraphic Province of Assisi to Siena



Diaconal ordination of Br Elie John Espady, Dominican Republic



New Definitory of the Province of San Francisco and Santiago de México



Students of the Pontifical Antonianum University visit the Vatican Apostolic Library



"Gardianat Assisi" from Indonesia visits the "St. Antonius Padua" in Jakarta

THE GENERAL DEFINITORY APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING:

- Br. Praveen D'SOUZA, Visitor General of the Province of "Our Lady Queen of Peace", in South Africa (Vanderbijlpark);
- Br. Amaral Bernardo AMARAL, Visitor General of the Province. "St. Mary of the Angels", in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Mbujimayi);
- Br. Siniša BALAJIĆ, Visitor for the Formation Houses of the Province. "Assumption of the B.V.M." of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo).

THE DEFINITORY APPROVED THE SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTER PROVINCIAL OF:

- The Province "Saints Peter and Paul", in Mexico (Celaya);
- "The Province of Ireland" (Dublin).

THE DEFINITORY RATIFIED THE ACTS OF THE ELECTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES:

In Chapter:

- The Province of "Magna Domina Hungarorum", in Hungary (Budapest);
- The Province of "Saints Cyril and Methodius", in Croatia

(Zagreb);

- The Province of the "Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.", in Poland (Kalwaria Z.);
- The Province of "St. Bonaventure", in Italy (Rome);
- The Province of "St. Francis of the Stigmata", in Italy (Florence);
- The Province "St. Anthony of Padua", in the Philippines (Cebu City);
- The Province "St. Paul the Apostle", in Malta (Valletta);
- The Seraphic Province "St. Francis of Assisi", in Italy (Our Lady of the Angels);
- the Province of "St. Wenceslas", in the Czech Republic (Praha);
- The Province of "St. Michael the Archangel", in Ukraine (Zhhytomyr);
- The Province of "Our Lady Mary of the Angels", in Poland (Kraków);
- The definitory (acknowledged) the "Foundation St. Francis", in India, dependent on the Province of "St. Thomas the Apostle", in India (Bangalore).

In the Chapter Congress:

- The Province of "S. Francis of Assisi", in Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City);





- The Province of “St. Anthony of Padua”, in the Philippines (Cebu City);
- The Province of the “Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.”, in Poland (Kalwaria Z.);
- The Autonomous Custody of “St. Anthony”, in Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei (Singapore).

Outside Chapter:

- Regarding the Provincial Definitory: “The Franciscan Province of Arantzazu”, in Spain (Donostia – St. Sebastian): 1;
- Of Guardians: the Province of “Saints Francis and James”, in Mexico (Zapopan), 1; the Province of the “Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.”, in Spain (Madrid), 1; the Province of the “Holy Faith”, in Colombia (Bogota), 2; the Province “St. Thomas the Apostle”, in India (Bangalore), 1; the Province of “St. John the Baptist”, in the USA (Cincinnati), 1.

THE DEFINITORY APPROVED, SUB CONDITIOE, THE PARTICULAR STATUTES OF:

- The Province of “St. Francis of Assisi”, in Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City);
- The Missionary Province of “St. Anthony”, in Bolivia (Cochabamba);
- The Province of the “Holy Spirit”, in Australia (Waverley);
- The Autonomous Custody of “St. John the Baptist”, in Pakistan (Karachi);
- “The Foundation of St. Francis, in Papua New Guinea.

THE DEFINITORY ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES REGARDING THE CHANGE OF LEGAL STATUS:

- The Erection of Guardianati: 5;
- The Erection of Branch-Houses: 7;
- The Elevation of Branch-Houses into Guardianati: 1;
- The scaling down of Guardianati to Branch- Houses: 4;
- The suppression of Houses: 21;

THE DEFINITORY ALSO DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING CASES OF SEPARATION FROM THE ORDER:

- Exclaustration pardon: 5;
- Indult of secularization ad experimentum: 2;
- Indult of secularization pure et simpliciter: 2;
- Indult of dispensation from Solemn Vows: 5;
- Indult of dispensation from the obligations of the Clerical State and Solemn Vows: 6;
- Resignation from the Order: 4.

THE DEFINITORY EXAMINED:

- the Cases of graviora delicta: 7;
- Possible cases of graviora delicta: 1;
- Inappropriate behaviour: 2;
- Protocols for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults from Entities: 1.

THE DEFINITORY DEALT WITH OTHER PRACTICES OF VARIOUS KINDS:

- The grant of obedience for the mission: 1;
- The Concession of obedience on returning from a particular mission/service: 2;
- The granting of scholarships and obediences to reside at the Fraternity of “Blessed Gabriele Allegra”, at CISA, in Rome: 5;
- The transfer to another Order Entity: 2;
- Readmission to the Order: 1;
- Hierarchical appeal: 1;
- Alienation of real estate/ex voto: 6;
- Economic matters: 3.

THE GENERAL DEFINITORY:

- Encourages each and every individual entity of the Order to follow up on the work of reviewing the data of the Schematismus and Directiones Domorum;
- Approved the proposal of the General Secretariat, Prosecutor’s Office and Protocol Office to take care of training sessions for the various Secretaries of the Entities of the Order;
- Encourages the individual friars, in agreement with their Minister, to make themselves available for the Translation and Communication Service of the General Curia.



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The meeting of the Definitory with the Guardians, Vicars and Bursars of the friaries in Rome which are dependent on the Minister General

- The General Curia “Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces”, The International College “St. Anthony at the Lateran”, The Fraternity of Penitentiaries at “St. John at the Lateran”, The College of “St. Isidore” – has a formative and informative character; topics also related to:
 - The Animation of fraternal life,
 - The Role and task of the Definitor Delegate of the Minister General for each of the dependent fraternities,
 - Fraternal Economy,
 - Care of the Archive.

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THE MEETING OF THE DEFINITORY WITH THE 13 PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCES TOUCHED UPON THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

1. Sharing on the life, mission, revision and renewal of the Conferences (Mandate no. 31 of the General Chapter 2021);
2. Revision of the organization chart of the Curia and the Order (Orientation no. 29 of the General Chapter 2021);
3. Celebration of the Franciscan Centenary;
4. Protection of minors and vulnerable adults;
5. Fraternal economy: current situation, investment fund, revision of the solidarity contribution (Mandate no. 6 of the General Chapter 2021);
6. Conference of Lay Brothers;
7. Ratio Evangelizationis;
8. Chapter of Mats;
9. Plenary Council of the Order.

The Presidents, in order to respond to Mandate no. 31 and Orientation no. 29 of the General Chapter of 2021, have drawn up and approved the following Document:

We recognize that the intention of the General Chapter of 2021 with Mandate 31 and Guideline 29 is to simplify the structure of the Conferences, the Order and the General Curia, rather than making a complete revision.

1. Let us entrust to the General Definitory, for its point of observation, reflection to recognize what is really needed today and to choose accordingly.
2. We propose to reflect on the possibility of entrusting the two Secretariats, Missions and Evangelization and For-

mation and Studies, to two General Definitors, chosen ad hoc by the Minister General after the Chapter, to promote greater integration with the service of animation and governance of the Minister General with the Definitory.

3. We propose to find ways to obtain appropriate flexibility in not requiring each Entity to complete an organizational chart of offices, when it is not necessary; however, to ensure that, within the same Conference, the entire organization chart is present.
4. We propose to review the current configuration of the Conferences with the following criteria:
 - examine the historical reasons for the compositions of the Conferences;
 - to elaborate on the reasons for the creation of a new Conference and its usefulness;
 - to have knowledge of the situations of each Conference;
 - to evaluate the criterion of the minimum number of Entities and Friars per Conference;
 - to promote a survey in the Conferences to see if they want to update their configuration and, if so, motivating the possible steps, with advantages and disadvantages, and the criteria identified. The Definitor General accompanies this circular process of dialogue, which will take place essentially in the Conferences, without impositions from above;
 - to promote discernment in all the Conferences to agree together where we want to go today through this mediation, which opens us to the Order;
 - to encourage different conferences with common elements, such as language, to verify any steps of greater collaboration, reconfiguration and integration;
 - to deepen and give content to the possibility of Sub Conferences.
5. We propose that in the meetings with the new Ministers Provincial and Ministers Custodes, the General Definitory announces a new model of animation of the Order, where the Minister Provincial or Custos works in the perspective of the Order, through and beyond the Province/Custody. From here matures the horizon, the contents and the methods of the animation of one's own Entity.
6. We propose to give the General Animator of JPIC the right to participate in the General Chapter, promoting the service of animation proper to this Office, intersecting the dimensions of Evangelization and Formation.
7. We propose to revise the title as follows: “Justice, Peace and Care of Creation”, for a more suitable biblical-theological-Franciscan vision of integral ecology.
8. To continue to foster the presence of the Minister and the Definitor General in the meetings of the



Conferences, together with a greater presence of the Curia within the Entities. We recognize that the presence of the General Definitor is charismatic and can help the Province/Custody to come out of its self-referentiality, accompanying the Provinces to realize that which was already decided in the Provincial/Custodial Chapter and to feel ever more part of the Order, beyond provincialism and any form of resistance that does not allow a change in mentality.

9. To verify the skills, usefulness and functionality of the offices currently functioning in the Curia, also for any proposed amalgamations.
10. To verify the current configuration of the Plenary Council of the Order, with regard to its functions and the possibility of greater decision-making power.
11. We propose to initiate a complete revision of the General Statutes to verify their content, and that which no longer has an effective weight may and can be removed or revised.
12. We propose that on the OFM website there should be a section on the development of the Order, as well as on events and initiatives.

Amongst the 12 propositions listed above, those to be presented to the General Chapter and the others to be implemented will be identified.

The Presidents, in order to respond to Mandate no. 6 of Chapter General of 2021, regarding the revision of the Solidarity Contribution that the Entities allocate to the General Curia, approved to:

1. Maintain GNP as an objective measure to assess the ability to contribute of a Province.
2. No bands: GNP is direct.
3. Budget based on need (replaces the annual increase in inflation per friar) - 3.5 million for the first year.
4. After the first year: to present and approve any changes

to the Conference Presidents.

5. Update of the General Curia/Mission/Formation division: 80/10/10.

Amongst the four contribution models presenting, the one that reflects the characteristics of the 5 propositions listed above, is the "Model D", which you may decide to adopt.

At the conclusion of the session, the Definitory verified the meeting with the Superiors of the Fraternities in Rome dependent on the Minister General, the one with the Conference Presidents and the progress of Tempo Forte.

The next Tempo Forte is scheduled from the 3rd to the 14th of July 2023; all the Secretariats of the Entities of the Order are reminded to send their requests to be submitted to the General Definitory within one week from the beginning of the Tempo Forte Sessions: the requests received outside this time limit will be postponed to the following Tempo Forte.

Everyone was reminded that at the General Curia, during the month of August there will be closure of the Offices, and therefore the Curia will work with reduced staff numbers.

In praise of Christ and the "Poor Little Man" of Assisi. Amen!
Rome, 5th June, 2023.

Fr. Antonio M. IACONA, OFM - General Secretary OFM



BROTHERS DECEASED *

- 21st June : Br Agostino Pirri – Seraphic Prov. of Assisi, Italy
- 17th June: Br Santiago Cepeda Iglesias – Prov. of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- 2nd June: Br Alcimir José Pillotto – Prov. Immaculate Conception, Brasil

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

JUNE 2023

BR MASSIMO'S REFLECTIONS

In 1982, Br John Vaughn, then Minister General, wrote a letter to the Order entitled: Africa is calling us. Thus began our presence in East Africa and on 2 June just past I celebrated this remembrance with the brothers of the Province of St. Francis in Nairobi. It was a moment of thanksgiving, remembering and a look to the future for this young and lively Entity, currently spread over nine countries in that part of Africa, up to Madagascar and Mauritius.

In 1982 I began my novitiate and I remember well that the letter from the Minister General aroused in us enthusiasm and passion for the future. We felt that we belonged to a fraternity with broad horizons and that was going to new lands.

Recalling this anniversary, I asked myself, precisely in Africa, what is left of that drive in us today. I must admit that I find this missionary movement in various Entities of the Order, such as for example in Asia, which is now becoming more and more missionary for Asia itself. Even in Africa this step is beginning to be seen, so that the brothers of that continent begin to take responsibility for the opening of new presences precisely in Africa.

For the rest, I believe we are called to a new missionary zeal. For example, today I would like to tell the Order that the Amazon is calling us, because this region transcends itself and with its challenges is a sign for the whole planet. The brothers of Latin America are taking charge of it, but the opening to the friars of the Order for possible vocations in this area remains.

Even the Caribbean is asking to have our presence there. How can we fail to think then of the Custody of the Holy Land, the first of our missions, which urgently needs new friars, to respond to the mission that the Church has entrusted to us of guarding the Holy Places and accompanying the journey of Christians, less and less, who live in that land, and of the many pilgrims who visit it.

I have already asked for attention for our small and precious presence in Morocco, where we have been present among that people for 800 years, to bear witness that God alone is good. We have the same type of charismatic presence in Turkey, as well as in Libya where it is urgent that some



brothers respond to the call to stay in that war-torn country. In Asia we are responding to several calls: Thailand, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Laos and Cambodia... Little seeds waiting to grow.

There is another missionary front that we perhaps think of less: the countries that are now Christian, where our presence is increasingly weak. I am thinking of Europe, North America, such as Australia and New Zealand and certain countries of Latin America.

WITNESS AND MISSION BELONG INTIMATELY TO OUR CHARISM. ANSWERING YOU IS VITAL FOR US. LEAVING OUR COUNTRIES, OUR LANGUAGES AND CULTURES AND MAKING OURSELVES PILGRIMS AND STRANGERS IN NEW LANDS PUTS OUR VOCATION BACK IN MOTION.

It is these realities that ask us for a new openness: in fact, how to proclaim the Gospel in countries that have received it

for centuries and today need a testimony that can speak to people who have by now forgotten Christianity or have never known it. The new international presence in London that will start in the coming months is a small sign in this sense. We are rethinking our presence in Russia, which we want to keep as a mustard seed, a witness of encounter, peace and reconciliation.

Witness and mission belong intimately to our charism. Answering you is vital for us. Leaving our countries, our languages and cultures and making ourselves pilgrims and strangers in new lands puts our vocation back in motion.

Let us think about it while we thank the Lord for the forty years of our presence in East Africa, remembering with gratitude, among others, Br Giacomo Bini, who with other brothers gave a decisive impulse to that reality.

“A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF COMMUNICATION”

FIRST MEETING OF THE FRANCISCAN COMMUNICATORS' NETWORK

On June 21, the first meeting via Zoom of the Franciscan Communicators' Network was held, which involved over 40 participants, religious and lay, from 27 OFM entities from all over the world.

The event, organized and promoted by the Communications Office of the General Curia, was the first step towards the formation of a network involving communication operators from all OFM entities. The purposes are many: first of all, to get to know each other and create relationships, to then develop strategies that make the Order more present in the field of communication, in order to be more effective in the evangelizing mission and to bring more easily the Franciscan message to the whole world.

The meeting began with a greeting from the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli. Here is an excerpt:

“I thank the current Director of the Communications Office, Br. Evodio João, his successor from 1 September, Br. Byron Chamann, and their collaborators, because in the last two years we have learned together, also as a General Definitory, a new, diverse communication philosophy. Firstly, we understood that communication doesn't work top-down; “Network communication” means that we must all be more

attentive to what is happening in the periphery, so that the so-called “centre” can collect, pass on, and make known what is happening. We want to improve the way we portray Saint Francis, our family and our Order: not a fake image, but a concrete reality, who we are, who we want to be and how we want to be in these 20s of the 21st century. This meeting is meant to be the first step in this long process, which, I am sure, will bear much fruit. We need this network of communicators to share information, to break news, to increase reflection and the ways of communicating. We would like to receive from you, from the Provinces and from the various realities of the Order, information, suggestions, provocations: listen to the local and think globally and internationally. St. Francis was a great communicator of his time, because he was able to transmit and make everyone understand, beginning with ordinary people, a new way of reading and understanding the Gospel. He presented a completely new way of living religious life, which is why he attracted many and was immediately understood by the world. Francis communicated well because he had a life to communicate, to make heard, to transmit: we too do not want to communicate just ideas or images, but a real life, and I hope that the challenge to communicate better will lead us to truly live the Gospel as brothers, in our time among the poor, with our hearts turned to the Lord”.



After Br. Massimo, also Br. John Wong, Definitor General and Delegate for Communications, intervened to greet and listen to the participants: “After the General Chapter we were called to a restructuring of the Curia, and therefore also of the Communications Office, that it must not only communicate within the General Curia, but also engage in communication with the outside. It is therefore important to create a network of communicators and a link between the communication offices of the whole Order: I am at your service and I look forward to meeting you and collaborating with you”.

Afterwards, moderated by Br. Byron, all the entities presented themselves: from the Americas to Oceania, from Europe to Asia, passing through Africa, everyone recounted their experience in the field of communication: there are many challenges

that are faced every day, sometimes the means are not many, but the “restructuring” of the communications field is in fact a process that has already begun.

The next step will be to collect the expectations and proposals on this “newborn” Network of Franciscan communicators: a questionnaire will be sent to the participants in the coming days, the answers to which will be elaborated and presented at the next meeting of the Network, in the month of September.

The Communications Office of the General Curia thanks all the participants and invites those who were not present to write to us to be included in the mailing list: comgen@ofm.org

In addition to the staff of the Communications Office of the Curia, the following entities participated in the first meeting of the Franciscan Communicators’ Network:

- Prov. Holy Martyrs of Morocco (Portugal)
- Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA and Central America)
- Prov. N. S. of the Hungarians (Hungary)
- Prov. Saint Thomas the Apostle (India)
- Prov. Saints Francis and James (Mexico)
- Prov. St. Francis of Assisi (Brazil)
- Prov. Immaculate Conception (Brazil)
- Prov. Assumption of the BVM Rio de la Plata (Argentina)
- Prov. St. Elisabeth (Germany)
- Prov. St. Anthony of Padua (Philippines)
- Prov. S. Pedro Bautista (Philippines)
- Prov. St Anthony (Brazil)
- St. Francis Foundation (Russia)
- Cust. Sacred Heart of Jesus (Brazil)
- Cust. St. Benedict of Amazonia (Brazil)
- Cust. Saint Clare (Mozambique)
- Prov. Holy Cross (Brazil)
- Prov. St. Michael the Archangel (Italy)
- Prov. Immaculate Conception (Italy)
- Prov. Seraphic of St. Francis (Italy)
- Prov. Saint Francis of the Stigmata (Italy)
- Prov. Twelve Apostles (Peru)
- OFM Fraternitas Foundation (Italy)
- Social Work of Saint Hermano Pedro (Guatemala)

FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK

Respiro di esultanza: la Parola in Chiara e Chiara nella Parola. Una proposta di lettura

Chiara Grazia Centolanza

Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana - Italy 2023

Corpus franciscanum. Francesco d'Assisi: corpo e scrittura

Jacques Dalarun

Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana - Italy 2023

Francesco in piazza: Nell'ottavo centenario del sermone di Francesco d'Assisi a Bologna

A cura di J. Dalarun, P. Delcorno e R. Parmeggiani

Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana - Italy 2023

O jeito franciscano de celebrar - Guia da celebração litúrgica franciscana

Alberto Beckhäuser

Editora Vozes - Brazil

GENERAL CURIA GENERAL PROCURATOR

The General Procurator of the Order is responsible «in the name of the Minister General, to conduct and expedite all of the Order's business with the Holy See» (cf. SSGG Art. 156 §2).

Currently, the General Procurator, Br Claudio Durighetto, of the Seraphic Province of St Francis of Assisi in Italy, and the Deputy General Procurator and Secretary of the Procuratorate, Br Chryzostom Fryc, of the Province of St Francis of Assisi in Poland, are working there.

The Procurator deals with matters to be submitted first to the General Definitory and then to the Dicastries of the Roman Curia. Naturally, it deals most frequently with the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic

Life: for rescripts and dispensations, for nihil obstat for alienations and juridical recognitions, for disciplinary matters. The most common dossiers are: requests for an indult to leave the Order and for an indult of secularisation with a view to incarceration in a diocese. In addition, there are requests for excommunication and proceedings for dismissal from the Order (although the latter

two types no longer provide for access to the Holy See, they are still dealt with by the Procura). At the Dicastery for the Clergy, there are numerous dossiers to request a dispensation from the obligations deriving from sacred ordination, including celibacy, and at the same time, from vows. At the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, documentation is presented concerning allegations of delicta graviora, including the abuse of minors, which then gives indications on how to proceed; with the same Dicastery, any doctrinal, faith or moral questions arising from publications edited by friars are also dealt with.

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments is asked to approve votive Masses, Proper

Masses, and particular liturgical Calendars. Requests for indulgences and nominations for the appointment of Ordinary Penitentiaries for the Basilica of St John Lateran and Extraordinary Penitentiaries for St John Lateran and St Peter's Basilica are submitted to the Apostolic Penitentiary. More rarely, it deals with the Secretariat of State, with the Dicastery for the Oriental Churches (e.g. to accept a candidate from an Oriental Church or for the faculty of bi-ritualism), with the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.

The Procurator generally studies the material coming from the Order's entities, verifies the correctness of the procedures and the completeness of the documentation, and then submits it, with its own observations, to the Minister General for passage to the Definitory. Subsequently, it presents it - usually with the Minister General's votum - to the competent Dicastery.

The following are excluded from the Procurator's competence: processes for the Causes of Saints, matters directly concerning Study Centres and those concerning the Sisters of the Second Order.

The Procurator also performs a "consultancy" role for the

General Definitory and the Ministers, Custodes and Provincial and Custodial Secretaries for everything concerning the juridical sphere (Code of Canon Law, General Constitutions, General Statutes, etc.) and the various procedures. In addition, it contributes to the formation courses for new Ministers and Custodes and for Visitors General, always dealing with canonical and disciplinary issues and those relating to proceedings in cases of child abuse. The Juridical Commission and the Commission for Appeals to the Minister General also report to the Procurator.

It works more closely with the General Secretariat, the Minister General's Private Secretariat, the Protocol Office and the Commission for the Safeguarding of Minors.



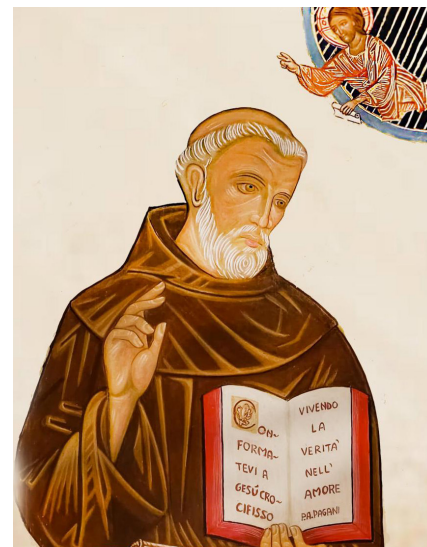
PROMULGATION OF THE DECREE OF HEROIC VIRTUES
VENERABLE ANTONIO PAGANI, OFM

During the Audience granted to His Eminence Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the same Dicastery to promulgate the Decree concerning the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Antonio Pagani (né Marco), priest of the Order of Friars Minor and founder of the Sisters Dimesse Daughters of Mary Immaculate, born in Venice (Italy) in 1526 and died on January 4, 1589 in Vicenza (Italy).

Marco Pagani (Venice 1526), having obtained a degree in civil and canon law, after an initial experience among the Barnabites he passed among the Friars Minor Observant in 1557 assuming the name of Antonio. A man of culture, canonist and theologian, he dedicated his fruitful apostolate as a priest (1551) to preaching, teaching and publishing writings. He participated as a theologian in the Council of Trent alongside the Minister General of the Order, P. Francesco Zamora. He nurtured a deep zeal for the glory of God and the good of the Church, always maintaining a simple, austere, humble lifestyle. He actively collaborated in the work of reform promoted

by the Council for a return to the evangelical simplicity of the origins, to stem the relaxation of customs and to refute heresies. He was particularly attentive to the role of the laity in evangelization and for them he founded the Company of the Brothers of the Cross and the Company of Dimesse. The latter, which arose in Vicenza in 1579 as part of the Franciscan Third Order with the collaboration of Deianira Valmarana, are still active today in the Church under the name of Suore Dimesse Daughters of Mary Immaculate and constitute the most significant spiritual legacy of the Servant of God.

Father Antonio Pagani spent the last



years of his life in the Franciscan hermitages of the Venetian region to be ever more intimately united with the Lord in contemplation. He died in the convent of St Blaise in Vicenza on January 4, 1589. The long Cause of Beatification, started in 1615, today reaches the well-deserved goal of recognizing the heroic virtues, attesting to the authentic fame of holiness which, defying the centuries, has always accompanied the Venerable.

MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2023
NEW FORMS OF PRESENCE, LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION OF OUR ORDER IN EUROPE

From 11-14 June, the members of the Commission to coordinate new forms of presence, life and evangelization of our Order in Europe, have met in Prague, where they enjoyed the fraternal hospitality of the brothers who live in the center of the old town.

each other and celebrate our fraternal life.

The provincials of Europe will be asked to invite one or two brothers to join the team in Rome in order to refresh the Franciscan charism into new forms of life, presence and evangelization.

Starting from the guidelines articulated in the document *Itē, nuntiate...* (Rome, 2017), the commission's member have made a program for the meeting to be held in Rome from 6-9 November 2023. The meeting will center around the presentation of new forms and ideas. Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Ministry General, will give a lecture and there will be lots of time to meet



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