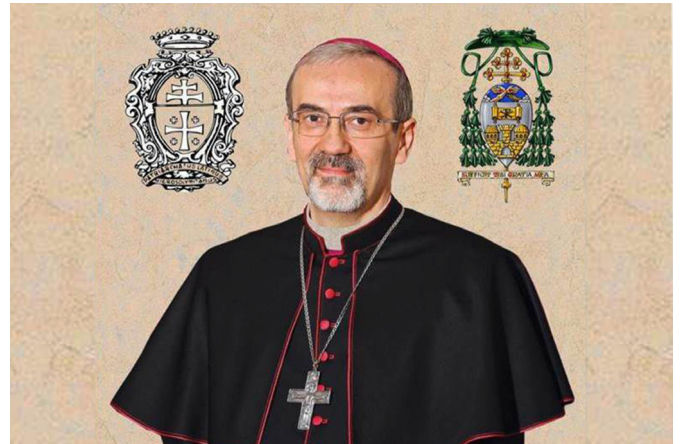


LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

## HIS BEATITUDE PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA, OFM, APPOINTED CARDINAL

“Now I would like to announce that on the 30th September 2023 I will hold a consistory for the appointment of new cardinals. Their origin expresses the universality of the Church, which continues to announce the merciful love of God to all the men and women of the Earth”, said Pope Francis on Sunday, the 9th July, 2023, during the Angelus in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Amongst the twenty-one cardinals there is one of our brothers, His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, welcomed the appointment with great joy and saw it as a sign of esteem and support for the Holy Land: "It is with great joy that we welcomed the appointment of our Brother Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, as Cardinal. A sign of es-



teem and support for the Holy Land and our Franciscan presence in those places".

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE OF HIS BEATITUDE PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA, OFM (from: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))

He was born in Cologno al Serio, Italy, on the 21st April, 1965. He attended Middle School at the Minor Seminary "Le Grazie" in Rimini and obtained his classical maturity at the Archiepiscopal Seminary of Ferrara (June 1984). He has been in the Order of Friars Minor since the 5th September 1984 at Ferrara (Santo Spirito-The Holy Spirit) and spent his year

of novitiate in the Franciscan Shrine of La Verna (Arezzo-Italy). He made his Temporary Profession at La Verna on 7th September, 1985 and his Solemn Profession on the 10th October 1989 in Bologna, at the Church of St. Anthony. Thereafter, on the 15th September 1990, also in Bologna, he was ordained a priest. After spending a period in Rome,

he then transferred to Jerusalem in the Holy Land, in October 1990. After his philosophical-theological studies, he obtained a Master's Degree in Biblical Theology at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem.

His Beatitude Pizzaballa speaks Italian, Modern Hebrew and English. In 1995,

## GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- On 14 July the General Definitory concluded the Tempo Forte.
- From 17 to 21 July the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, and some Definitors will participate in the Discerning Leadership Program at the Pontifical Gregorian University.
- From 22 to 25 July, the General Definitory meets in Abruzzo (Italy) to review the past year.
- From 23 to 30 July in Lisbon, preparations for World Youth Day are being carried out, in which various vo-

- lunteers will participate (friars and from the Laudato Si' Movement). Also present will be the Minister General (July 30 and 31), Br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco and Br. Taucen Girsang, from the JPIC Office. The latter will be in Lisbon until 7 August, to promote the themes of integral ecology and the common home at WYD.
- From 18-19 July, as Delegate General to Sri Lanka, Br. John Wong will be conducting a Post-Chapter workshop in Colombo for the brothers of the Foundation of St Joseph Vaz.

he edited the publication of the Roman Missal in Hebrew and translated various



liturgical texts into Hebrew for the Catholic communities in Israel. On the 2nd July 1999 he formally entered the service of the Custody of the Holy Land. He served as Vicar General of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem for the pastoral care of Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Israel. Since 2008 he has been a Consultor in the Commission for Relations with the Jews of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

He made his solemn entrance into St. Saviour's friary on the 2nd June, 2004, and then at the Holy Sepulchre on the 3rd June, 2004, at Bethlehem on the 4th June, 2004, and at Nazareth on the 9th June of the same year. Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa was appointed Custos of the Holy Land for the first time in May 2004, for a period of six years. In May 2010 he

was reconfirmed by the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor for another three-year term and, in June 2013, for a further three years. On the 24th June, 2016, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem sede vacante, until the appointment of a new Patriarch. On the 15th July, 2016, on the occasion of the meeting of the College of Consultors of the Latin Patriarchate, His Beatitude Patriarch Emeritus Fouad Twal proceeded to transfer his powers to Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, designated Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem as per the decree of Pope Francis. His Episcopal ordination took place in September 2016 in Bergamo, Italy.

On the 24th October, 2020, Pope Francis appointed Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa as the new Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. To our brother Pierbattista, we wish him every blessing. He will be accompanied by the prayers of the whole Order so that his ministry to the Church of the Holy Land and to the people of the Middle East may bear abundant fruit of peace and goodwill.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTELLECTUAL RESEARCH IN THE FRANCISCAN WORLD  
**CONGRESS OF OFM STUDY AND RESEARCH CENTRES CONCLUDED**

**F**rom 4 to 7 July, at the General Curia in Rome, the Congress of OFM Study and Research Centres was held, organized by the General Secretariat for Formation and

Studies (GSFS), which has brought together representatives of university-level institutions and higher scientific research centres of the Order.



"This meeting was born out of the desire of the 2015 General Chapter to organize a congress in order to foster collaboration between our study centers", says Br. Darko Tepert, Secretary General of the GSFS. "Due to the Covid pandemic it could not be held in 2020, but the General Definitory for this six-year period accepted the proposal of our Secretariat to continue on this path. We have therefore resumed and updated the issues related to the Franciscan identity of our study and research centres, such as, for example, the promotion of the Franciscan heritage, integral ecology, which we will try to examine from a biblical and theological point of view, and the theme of collaboration: the desire, in fact, is to build a network of our study and research centres, in order to encourage collaboration in important issues for our Order and for the Franciscan charism".

In his introductory speech, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, recalled how the 2021 General Chapter focused attention on the theme of the renewal of Franciscan identity and fraternal life. "In the Final Document - said the Minister - we read: "The task of renewing our Franciscan identity requires discernment, study, formation and action" [Final Document, 10]. This discernment, study, formation and action also concerns our academic institutions, which must find a way to keep in touch with the signs of today's times, among which, for us Friars Minor, the condition of the smallest has a particular place. , of migrants and the marginalized, rejects of the current economic system (cf. GC 66)".

He then continued: "The question of integral ecology, linked not only to the current pontificate, but also to our Franciscan identity, presents itself as an important form of our action in the world today. We can recognize as one of our missions that of helping the world in changing paradigms, which could lead to changes in the scientific and cultural setting and in the entirety of the socio-economic sphere, to found an alliance between nature and culture".

Br. Massimo also wanted to underline the importance of build-

ing a network between study and research centres: "I hope that this Congress can help us reach this goal which could instill a new and stimulating impetus in the academic circles of our Order".

[Read the complete text of the Minister General's speech \(Italian\)](#)  
Download the programme: [English - Italiano - Español](#)

The convocation of the Congress is a response to the decision n. 4 of the 2015 General Chapter: "The General Definitory, together with the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies, should promote the development of the Franciscan intellectual patrimony through research, teaching and publications of a high scientific level; encourage collaboration between the OFM Higher Study Centers; convene a Congress for OFM Study Centers on current issues, for the life and mission of the Order in the Church, starting from a global cultural and theological perspective; studies and foster the possibility of greater academic collaboration of the PUA and of the other OFM Study Centers with the entire Franciscan Family".

On the last day of the Congress, during the Eucharistic celebration, Br Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, spoke about faith in Abraham and the importance



## DECEASED FRIARS \*

- 10 July: Fr. José Gabriel Francés Dominguez – Prov. Immaculate Conception, Spain
- 5 July: Fr. Rémy Peraud – Prov. Blessed John Duns Scotus, France
- 4 July: Fr. Thomas Speier – Prov. St John the Baptist USA
- 29 June: Fr. Noël Adele – Prov. Blessed John Duns Scotus, France
- 22 June: Fr. Burchard Verheist - Province of the Holy Martyrs of Gorum, Netherlands
- 2 May: Fr. Manuel Marquez Novo - Province of the Holy Martyrs of Morocco, Portugal

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

of intellectual research. "This figure who speaks of provisionality, of being strangers and of the journey - he said during the homily - brings us back to the heart of faith and we can also see a link to intellectual research, which leads to wisdom of heart and life. We cannot seek knowledge that is already established, a faith in pills ready to use, a truth that can be reduced to the measurements of a manual".



work together and to "increase the quality of our study, our research and our teaching".

According to Br Luca Bianchi, OFM Cap, Dean of the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality, these days were an "invitation to fraternal collaboration with the whole Franciscan family, if we really want to preserve its charisma".

In the figure of Abraham Br Massimo added that of Levi and mercy: "Levi's account shows us how to place ourselves amongst sinners, to obtain mercy. We can think of faith in a new way for our time if we know and experience that we are pilgrims and strangers, missing persons, sinners always in need of mercy. We study theology and create Franciscan thought starting from the margins, where mercy is invoked and expected. Even in research we can become less, because the knowledge of faith surpasses us, it is not reduced just to our words but must enter into the Mystery of God, which is always greater than what we can think on our own".

Invoking the Spirit of the Lord upon the participants, the Minister General concluded by inviting them to remain pilgrims of truth: "Dear brothers of our Study Centres, I hope that you will remain pilgrims of truth, men of mercy and therefore bold in thought and wisdom of the faith of today".

The four days of the Congress were much appreciated by the friars who participated: Words from Br. Raffaele di Muro, OFM Conv, Dean of the Pontifical Faculty of St. Bonaventure – Seraphicum in Rome, the Congress was an opportunity to

The Director of the Franciscan School of Theology in the United States, Br. Garret Galvin, OFM, said: "We all have similar concerns, because we are all trying to accomplish something, but we need guidance and general support so that we can come together and do something much stronger."

Br. William Short, OFM, Director of the Collegium S. Bonaventurae, said: the Congress was a beautiful experience of intercultural exchange between colleagues. "At present - said Fr. William –we are inspired by the Magisterium of Pope Francis, we are living a Franciscan moment both in the church and in global society. We must respond with our tradition to today's questions on the main themes, such as the economy, integral ecology, the care of our common home; The Franciscan spirit of peace and reconciliation can give answers to a world torn apart by wars and violence. How can we find "allies" within the Franciscan family, within the Church, within local and international society? The goal is that the message of Christ's presence in the world reaches all levels: the power of love must win over the power of hatred, the possibility of reconciliation must also exist in world conflicts, and there must always be space for peace".

CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS:

- Br. João Mannes, Director of the Group educacional Bom Jesus (Brazil)
- Br. Ernesto Londoño Orozco, General Rector of the Saint Bonaventure University and Rector of the Medellin Section (Colombia)
- Br. Jesús Antonio Ruiz Ramírez, Rector of the Cartagena Section (Colombia)
- Br. Benjamin Soto Forero, Rector of the Cali Section (Colombia)
- Br. Rosario Pierri, PUA, Dean of the Biblical and Archaeological Sciences Faculty
- Br. Lorenzo Raniero, President of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (Venice)
- Br. Miguel Ángel Escribano Arráez, Director of the Theological Institute of Murcia (Spain)



- Br. Daniel P. Dwyer, President Academy of American Franciscan History (USA)
- Br. Sandro Roberto da Costa, President Theological Institute Petropolis (Brazil)
- Br. Alessandro Cavicchia, Supervisor, SBF Jerusalem
- Br. Garrett Galvin, Director of the Franciscan School of Theology (USA)
- Br. Mark G. Reamer, Vice President for Mission, Siena College (USA)
- Br. Edgar Abad, Director of the Studium Theologicum Franciscanum "Cardenal Echeverría", Quito (Ecuador)
- Br. Antonius Eddy Kristiyanto, Dean of Theology, Ketua Sekolah Tinggi Filsafat Driyarkara, Jakarta (Indonesia)
- Br. Valentine Eboh, University of St. Bonaventure, Lusaka, representative
- Br. Marco Mendoza, Secretary and Bursar of the Pontificia Accademia Mariana Internationalis
- Br. William Short, Director of the Collegium S. Bonaventurae
- Br. Jean-Claude Paluku Mulekya Kinombe, PUA, representative of the University of Kolwezi (DR Congo)
- Br. Agustín Hernández Vidales, PUA, Rector
- Br. Giuseppe Buffon, Supervisor, PUA, Dean of the Faculty of Theology
- Br. Carlos Esteban Salto Solá, PUA, Dean elect of the Faculty of Theology
- Br. Andrea Bizzozero, PUA, deputy Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy
- Br. Michele Sardella, PUA, deputy and Dean elect of the Faculty of Canon Law
- Br. Luca Bianchi, PUA, President Franciscan Institute of Spirituality (OFMCap)
- Br. Pietro Messa, PUA, President of the Institute of Religious Science
- Br. Ernesto Dezza, PUA, President of the High School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies
- Br. Raffaele Di Muro, President of the Faculty Pontificia San Bonaventura – Seraphicum (OFMConv)
- Br. Stefano Recchia, Vice President of the Scotist Commission

BR LAWRENCE HAYES NEW PROVINCIAL  
**FUTURE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PROVINCE, USA**

On July 5, 2023, the General Definitory of the Order, meeting in Rome, has appointed the Definitory for the future Our Lady of Guadalupe Province in the United States. It was announced on 7 July by Br Caoimhín Ó Laoide, General Delegate of the Minister General.



The new government is composed of Br Lawrence Hayes, Provincial Minister, and Br Mark Soehner, Vicar Provincial. The following were appointed to the office of Provincial Definitors: Br. John Eaton, Br. Edward Tluced, Br. José Rodriguez, Br. Erick Lopez, Br. Rommel Perez Flores, Br. Roger Lopez and Br. Samuel Nasada.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, which will be officially erected on 17th October 2023, will be the result of the merger of five American provinces: Holy Name Province, Sacred Heart Province, Assumption Province, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province and Saint John the Baptist Province.

WORKSHOP PROMOTED BY ST. FRANCIS PROVINCE  
**JPIC AS A WAY OF LIFE IN EAST-AFRICA**

**O**n 4-8 July 2023, at the Franciscan Spiritual Centre in Kabgayi, a town of about 50 km from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, a workshop on Promoting JPIC for Every Creature was organized by Br Jean Eric Mutabazi, OFM, Provincial JPIC animator in the Province of St. Francis in Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius.

In this land of a thousand hills, the workshop was attended by 24 participants from various countries (Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi, Burundi, Rwanda), namely: Franciscans Youth, Franciscan seculars, Franciscan religious, the members of Laudato Si' Movement in Africa, and OFM JPIC animators in these countries. As the representative of the JPIC Office in Rome, Br Taucen Girsang, OFM also attended the event and conveyed the essence and mission of JPIC.

**JPIC AS FRANCISCAN WAY OF LIFE**

The awareness of JPIC as transverse values, a fundamental dimension of Franciscan charism, spirituality and way of life was raised by Br Taucen. He argued that JPIC, the Franciscan's DNA, should not be considered as an additional work, an optional, a service for a few interested friars. He encouraged the participants to realize that JPIC must be embodied in every single Franciscan. That JPIC is an identity for all Franciscans, young, religious, and secular. On that basis, every Franciscan is responsible for making JPIC more visible in the social reality. In addition, in the midst of sharing, some participants asked interesting questions about how we implement JPIC as our way of life today.

**JPIC'S CONCRETE PLAN**

After a brief discussion in groups divided by country to get to know the social reality better (Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Zambia and Malawi), each of the friars as local animators in those countries came together and presented what they found out about the JPIC work plan from 2023-2025 for their province. Some of the concrete plans collected included: pastoral care for street-children, visiting prisoners, defending the rights of women and children, visiting refugee camps, mak-

ing JPIC animations in schools, encouraging Franciscan youth, building closer collaboration among Franciscan families, and so on. Through these activities, local animators will make small steps without pushing themselves to do something beyond their capacity.

**SPECIAL STATUTES FOR JPIC IN THE PROVINCE**

The need for a Special Status for JPIC in the Province is a reasonable fact. Looking at the JPIC as an office and a way of life, the nature and purpose of the JPIC Office as well as its organization and how the province would finance the activities of JPIC was discussed by the Provincial JPIC animator, Br Jean Eric Mutabazi with his co-animators for Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Zambia and Malawi, and Tanzania. With a little help from Br Taucen, it was agreed that the JPIC Special Statutes model from the JPIC Office in Rome would be applied in the province taking into account the contextual situation in each country where the animators work.

**FRANCISCANS YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

The next session was a presentation on Laudato si, Pope Francis' encyclical letter (2015), led by Steeven Kezanutima, coordinator of the Laudato Si Movement in Africa. He invited the participants, especially the Franciscans Youth, to look at what is happening to our common home. Awareness of the environmental degradation issues, such as plastic and bottle waste, deforestation, chemical fertilisers, natural disasters, extreme drought, fast food, were discussed in depth. Having detecting these problems, what do we do to it? He asked. He then concluded that every-



# OFM WORLD

Celebration of the 125th anniversary of the departure for the first Portuguese missionaries to Mozambique, in Portugal



Ordinations to the priesthood of friars Ivan González Caro and Asunción Xocoténcat Jiménez in Coroneo, Guanajuato, Mexico



Ordinations as deacons of friars Juan Sebastián Ávila, Manuel Arturo Flórez and Edgar Fernando Botello in Colombia



Visit by HRH Beatrice of Holland, Queen Mother to La Verna



Novice retreat in preparation for first profession, Angola



First professions in Croatia

one has contributed to the cries of mother earth so environmental conversion must be personal, communal, social, and committed. He added that Franciscans will never stop campaigning for environmental justice. At the end of his session, Steeven took time to watch film *The Letter* together, and followed by a discussion on resources mobilization for youth.

Then, a friar who dedicates his time to human development at Franciscan school in Kivumu-Kabgayi, Br Emmanuel Buber, OFM, explained how young people, the students, should care for the environment with simple actions, such as not cutting down trees, not using plastic, cleaning the room, not wasting food.

## JPIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Br Jean Eric dedicated one day of the five-day Workshop to visit a Lake for a moment of togetherness as well as to evaluate and to present certificates to the participants. He also reminded them that humans are part of Mother Earth and should respect each other. While enjoying the fantastic panorama

with good food and drinks during lunch, boating on the Lake, singing and dancing during the trip, there was a space where explanations about Human Rights such as the right to food, water, life, house, health, freedom of expression, access to education, free choice, were explained by Steeven. This was of course intended for the participants to understand that the violation of other rights will always lead to injustice and destroy peace.

The highlight of the Workshop was that the bond of brotherhood among the participants grew stronger by the day by declaring that Franciscan life is to have nothing but to enjoy everything. More than that, the participants committed to immediately start and actively make JPIC as a way of life more visible in Africa. To conclude the workshop after Mass, while singing *Laudato si o mi Signore*, a mango tree was planted as a sign of their commitment.



*Br Taucen Girsang, OFM  
Vice-Director GPIC Office, OFM General Curia*

## MEETING OF THE UNION OF LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCES OFM NEW FORMS OF PRESENCE AND EVANGELIZATION TODAY

From From the 26th to the 29th of June 2023, the Meeting of the Union of Latin American Conferences of the Order of Friars Minor (UCLAF) took place in Lima, Peru. Addressing the theme of new forms of presence and evangelization today, the meeting was attended by Br. César Kulkamp, the Definitor General for Latin America, Fr. Francisco Gómez Vargas, OFM, the Secretary General for Missions and Evangelization and 60 friars from all over Latin America. On the basis of the reports presented and the studies carried out, on the last day the participants, divided into groups, prepared a final text of the meeting, which will be transmitted to the Ministers Provincial and the Custodes of the Entities and will also serve as an object of study and work for the Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization and for the General Definitory. We present, below, the conclusions:

1. The new forms are original experiences that seek to return to the essence of what Francis lived, offering answers to current challenges, based on a careful exercise of listening to reality. It is important to consider the changes in the times we live in and what we are experiencing, thinking of what action we can take and being a presence that will resonate in people's hearts. We are experiencing a civilization crisis in many respects and there are many provocations that await us: protagonism of the laity, especially women, profound transformations of the world of work, being more exclusive, destruction of our common home, inequalities, wars, hate speech, crisis of meaning, etc.

We need to ask ourselves "How and where people seek God today and where and how can we address these concerns."

2. "I came that they might have life and life abundantly" (Jn 10: 10). The quality of life of many people is not so good; they must be accompanied along their life processes so that their life may be dignified. We are few, but where we are we can make a difference. We must be creative, trying to place ourselves amongst the poor. There are many documents about this in both ecclesial and Franciscan writings.

It is essential to recover our identity as brothers and friars minor. We must be clear about our process of conversion, to proclaim God and not ourselves. We must recover the kenotic sense of our vocation. The Gospel challenges us to make choices, we cannot be distracted. We must focus on returning to living more simply. Moreover, being prophets of peace is an urgent and indispensable call to continue to live faithfully and authentically our Franciscan charism.

3. The personalisation of projects is an obstacle to the de-

velopment and continuity of new initiatives. It is important to maintain a balance between caring for structures and following emerging insights and proposals. Ongoing formation and openness to dialogue with the laity can be valuable resources in this process. In the same way, constructive and hopeful criticism is necessary to reconfigure initial and ongoing formation, a formation capable of forming in the hearts and minds of the friars a true and profound Franciscan identity that learns to look at and inhabit the world starting from the Gospel with a prophetic vision.



4. The primary objective is to work for the dignity and life of the people, especially those living in poverty. This requires creativity, clear choices and an attitude of constant negation of self-comfort. It is necessary

to move from a pastoral care of conservation to a pastoral of conversion; to promote synodality and active dialogue with the friars and the community in general.

5. Commitments, in order to make a real impact, must transcend the personal sphere and be supported by the Ministers Provincial. Moreover, it is essential that fraternity support those friars who seek and develop new paths and projects.

6. Lines of action:

- Promote the Amazon project to Entities in other parts of the world.
- To form ourselves so that we can inhabit the "digital continent" in a Franciscan way.
- That the formation of the friars who join the projects of mission and evangelization take place in the place to which they will be destined.
- Animate and promote the options and indications of this meeting and also of previous congresses.





7. Animation should be the task of the Secretaries of Evangelization and Mission at the General level of each Conference and of each Entity. A team could be formed to promote the product of this meeting and of previous ones, in the perspective of new forms of presence, life and evangelization.

What should be the tasks of the animation team? Design and address the ideas put forward, offering UCLAF a clear and achievable proposal with respect to objectives, managers and deadlines. It is essential that there be clarity in the adherence of the Ministers Provincial to what has been mentioned. On the

other hand, from the sentiments and opinions of the groups, it is believed that it is not necessary to form such a committee, because there is a risk of increasing bureaucratization. It is believed that the lack of facilities is not the problem. This service could be entrusted to the Secretaries of Evangelization and Mission of each Conference.

8. The participation of the laity is fundamental, not only in Congresses and Meetings, but as ordinary agents and protagonists of our evangelizing mission wherever we are.

## BRAZIL AND SOUTHERN CONE CONFERENCE

### COURSE FOR FORMATORS IN PETROPOLIS (BRASIL)

From 3 to 16 July the in-presence phase of the Course for formators of the Brazil and Southern Cone Conference took place.

The 26 formators participating in the course arrived in Petropolis, Brazil, and were welcomed by the Fraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to begin two intense weeks of formation and exchange of experiences. Also participating in the course, with great joy, were two brothers from the Central American Province.

We began with the Eucharist presided over by Br Daniel Fleitas, President of the Conference, who invited us to give thanks for this opportunity to meet, which should be a moment to continue building fraternal communion and mutual collaboration between the entities of the Conference.

Br Daniel also encouraged us to value, cherish and exploit this course mediation, since in our first assembly as a Conference, held in March last year, and in several meetings at Conference level, the challenge and need to form formators emerged as a priority and urgency.

This course started at the end of April in virtual mode and will continue until November. It was created with the twofold objective of being, on the one hand, a space to listen, to care for the formators, to exchange experiences with each other, and at the same time it seeks to give practical tools for the formation task in the life of the formation houses.

Starting from the anthropological/psychological, biblical, theological and Franciscan spirituality dimensions, we address current formation challenges in an integral manner.

We are very grateful for having created this new space in the Conference and we hope to be able to continue and qualify it more and more, for the good of the young brothers and for the fraternal care and ongoing formation of the formators.

*Br Fernando Ferrario, OFM  
Secretary for Formation and Studies  
Conference of Brazil and the Southern Cone*



FRANCISCAN SOLIDARITY

**OFM FUNDRAISING PARTNERS MEETING 2023**

The annual meeting of the Franciscan Partners took place in Waterford, Wisconsin (USA), on 27 and 28 June 2023. The organization looked at the meeting of the Development Office of the General Curia OFM with three non-profit organizations dedicated to fundraising: General Secretariat of Franciscan Missions (GSFM) of Waterford, Franziskaner Helfen of Bonn (Germany) and the OFM Fraternitas Foundation of Rome (Italy).

The meeting was attended by Br. Andrew Brophy and Br. Gil Noriega, respectively director and responsible for the GSFM-Waterford projects; David Rauch and Ansgar Danath, director and project manager of Franziskaner Helfen; Br. Matthias Maier, president of Franziskaner Helfen of Bonn; Br. Konrad Cholewa, Definitor General; Br. Nikola Kozina and Br. Baptist De'Souza, director and vice-director of the Development Office of the General Curia; Br. Franco Mirri and Gennaro Marsiglia, director and project manager of the OFM Fraternitas Foundation.

This annual meeting is the result of a continuous informal collaboration throughout the year through the exchange of information on ongoing projects, in relation to funds, the history of the various activities, and verification. The

agenda for this Waterford meeting included: coordination for emergency projects; verification of the implementation of projects in the various territories of the Order; in-depth analysis of some support programmes, in particular those concerning initial training and the protection of minors; the development of an integrated digital system to measure the impact of aid in the various entities of the Order.

The various categories of projects underway concern initial formation, scholarships, construction, social and pastoral activities. In 2022, the projects supported



by the Partners were more than 500 in over 50 countries around the world. The support of many projects and many activities of the friars in mission and in formation has been made possible thanks to the work of many friars and lay people involved in the fundraising service, but above all thanks to the precious generosity of many benefactors who in various parts of the world love the Franciscan charism and support it with continuous donations.

The next meeting will take place in Rome on 12-14 June.

LISTENING, DIALOGUE, SHARING AND CALM CONFRONTATION

**ITALY: ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCES OF CAMPANIA-BASILICATA-CALABRIA**



From 21 to 23 June 2023, at the "Maria Immacolata" Oasis in Montecalvo Irpino (Italy), the Assembly of the Definitors of the four Provinces of Campania, Basilicata and Calabria was held, with the presence of the Delegate General Br. Francesco Ielpo, who was appointed last September by the Minister General (at the request of the four provincial Chapters) "to facilitate and accompany" the journey of the four Provinces (of the "Sev-

en Holy Martyrs" of Calabria, of the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" of Naples-Caserta, of the "Immaculate Conception" of Salerno-Basilicata, of "Santa Maria delle Grazie" of Benevento-Avellino), in view of "a common restructuring project, to be implemented gradually". The work was also attended - on the day of 23 June alone - by Definitor General Br. Cesare Vaiani

The Assembly, which took place in an atmosphere of listening, dialogue, sharing and serene confrontation, was an important moment to verify the journey made in recent months, and to plan, through the approval of the Final Document, the next steps and initiatives for the coming fraternal year.

From: [www.fratiminorisannioirpinia.it](http://www.fratiminorisannioirpinia.it)

JPIC, MEETING IN VATICAN

## ALLIANCE OF ECCLESIAL NETWORKS FOR INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

The "Alliance of Ecclesial Networks for Integral Ecology", a network of networks from different biomes and regions of the world, holds its meeting of discernment and reflection on its identity, vocation and mission, with the accompaniment of the Department for the Service of Human Development Integral, in the Palace San Calisto, Vatican, from July 2 to 4. The General Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation OFM participates in this meeting as a special guest.

The alliance is a conglomeration of networks representing different regions and areas of fauna and flora in the world. Those participating in the event are reflecting on their identity, vocation and mission.

The forty-five representatives of seven biomes of the world have gathered to reflect on their identity, vocation and mission. Some of the members of the Alliance of Ecclesial Networks for Integral Ecology are actively engaged in Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), and in the similar entities across the world, including: Mesoamerica (REMAM); Guarani and Gran Chacho Aquifer (REGCHAG); Congo Basin (REBAC); Asia Pacific and Oceania (RAOEN); and their respective European, Canadian and United States counterparts.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the dicastery, points out that this meeting "demonstrates that there are new ways to face the challenges of integral ecology in various parts of the world, without wanting to homogenize them, make them the same in all parts or institutionalize them". "At this moment - he adds - we are together to listen, exchange ideas, pray, and continue this path together as the Alliance of Ecclesial Networks for Integral Ecology, deepening reflection, and strengthening collaboration."

### FOR INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

For Mauricio Lopez, coordinator of this alliance of Territorial Ecclesial Networks, this is a historic moment for the process that began in a foundational meeting in March 2019 in Washington, "around the reflection of the Amazon Synod for integral

ecology, accompaniment of indigenous peoples and new paths for the Church".

In recent years, several virtual meetings were held, due to the limitations imposed by the pandemic, and many joint advocacy activities in forums such as the COP and contributing to the current synodal process of the Church, until reaching this important face-to-face meeting that gathers all this way to move forward. "This face-to-face meeting seeks to bring the lived path, the different processes of the networks and platforms, some more consolidated, others under construction and others that have not yet begun, to define together where we want to go,

how we respond to what the Pope is asking us and to be in constant dialogue with this Dicastery (for Promoting Integral Human Development)", affirms Lopez.

This meeting, sprinkled with much hope, amplifying the voices of the native peoples, pastoral agents within the diverse terri-

tories and ecclesial organizations, is carried out in an attitude of reflection and discernment. It seeks to advance in the consolidation of the identity, vocation and mission of this Alliance of Networks.

### ALLIANCE WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The indigenous leader of the Amazon, Marcivana Sataré Mawé, expresses that "the Church in the world has been a great ally of the indigenous peoples, promoting at the international level a discussion of their reality". She adds: "Pope Francis has been a great promoter of indigenous causes in the world, as demonstrated by our presence here within these net-





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tifies to the Church's emphasis on the importance of incorporating the theme of integral ecology in its pastoral action oriented at safeguarding the future of the planet.

In various critical moments of the gathering of the various networks, Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" served as a source of inspiration for all, especially his all-embracing recognition that "everything is interconnected" (LS 137) and that an integrated approach and actions are needed to safeguard of the common home and the people who live in it.

works in defense of Mother Earth".

This meeting of the Ecclesial Networks for Integral Ecology, represented by the diversity of voices of the indigenous peoples, laity, religious, priests, bishops and cardinals present, tes-

*Text and Photos: Julio Caldeira / REPAM*

## BULLETIN OF THE CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS GENERAL OFS – YOUFRA (CAS) KOINONIA N° 118 - 2023: YEAR 30

### THE HOLY GOSPEL AS RULE OF LIFE

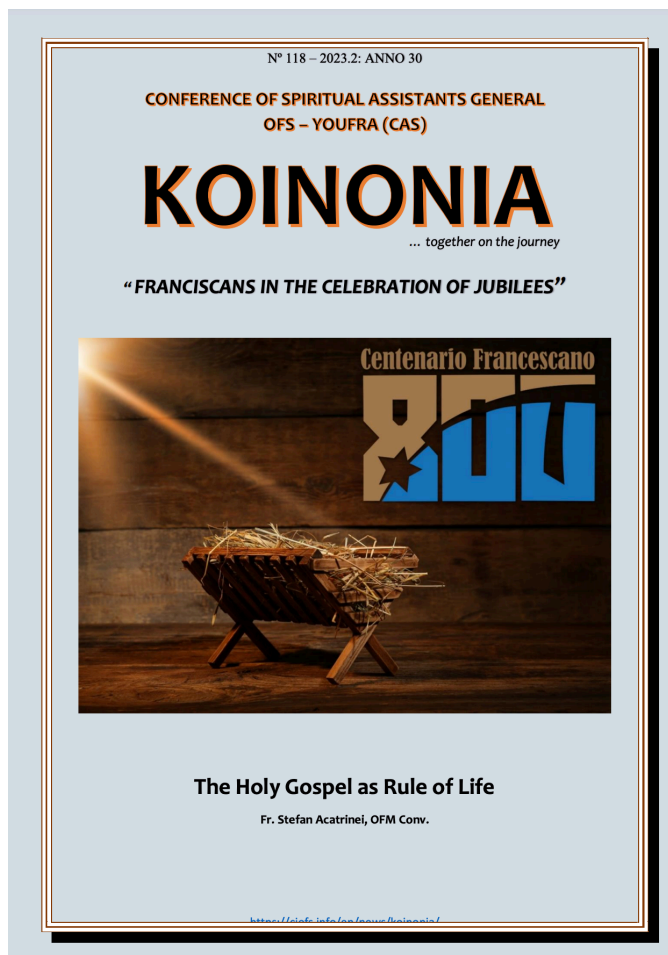
The Supreme Pontiff, Pope Francis, as can be seen from his many initiatives, is doing everything possible to re-purpose the ideal of St. Francis of Assisi, whose name he took, not only for the Church but also for today's society, since the Poverello of Assisi is "the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation". By maintaining the ontic and ethical relationship with God, the person enters a sublime value situation, where freedom of conscience, forgiveness, and unlimited love prevail, and it is finally absorbed by the theo-anthropological primacy, whose characteristic is cosmic brotherhood.

If, according to the Supreme Pontiff, the proposals of St. Francis are valid for the problems of the Church and of today's world, we can ask ourselves: what is its value, what does the Norm of his life and of his Order, the Rule, represent today for those who have embraced his way of life and share his values and ideals?

So, let us now turn our attention to the Franciscan Rule to perceive it simply as a form of life. In fact, this is how Saint Francis conceived it, and his intention was very clear from the very beginning, and it is evident from the very first verse, where it is specified: "The rule and life of the Friars Minor is this: to preserve the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...".

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## HOLY LAND

**COMMUNIQUÉ ON EXCAVATION WORK IN THE AREA IN FRONT OF THE AEDICULE OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE**

The Communiqué on excavation work in the area in front of the Aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, edited by Prof. Francesca Romana Stasolla of the Department of Antiquities at Rome Sapienza University, was published on 7 July.

"Excavation work in the area immediately in front of the Aedicule, in the Holy Sepulchre complex in Jerusalem, was completed on June 27th, 2023. It is part of the restoration programme of the floor of the basilica.



The archaeological investigations in this area were carried out by the Department of Antiquities of Sapienza University of Rome, under the direction of Francesca Romana Stasolla. The particular location of the excavation area meant that the access to the Aedicule had to be temporarily closed. For the same reason, the excavation was carried out in a continuous cycle, in just 7 days and 7 nights of work.

The excavation revealed the early Christian layout of the Aedicule, which was accessed via two white marble steps. In front of it, a floor of lithic slabs extended, traces of which were found in the preparation mortar. Their measurements and course can be reconstructed. This floor continued for approximately 6 meters eastwards, until it joined a plane of large, well-smoothed white lithic blocks, arranged in a north-south direction. This arrangement represents the final appearance of the Rotunda at the end of the 4th century, as is dated by the coin hoard found underneath the lithic slab floor preparation. It has the coins of the emperor Valens (364-378) as its last issues.

Sections of masonry were discovered. They date back to before the end of the 4th century and it confirms the presence of forms of organisation of the Rotunda during the course of the century. They have still to be reconstructed in their entirety.

Furthermore, remains of the base of the balustrade of the 16th-century liturgical enclosure have also emerged. They remained in use until the 19th-century renovations.

Among the artefacts, a fragment of wall cladding, most likely from the Aedicule, is significant. It dates back to before the 19th-century reconstruction and it is rich in graffiti datable to the 18th century in various languages, including Greek, Latin and Armenian.

The restoration of the floor inside the Aedicule allowed for archaeological cleaning beneath the slabs. In the Chapel of the Angel, a grey marble slab floor rested directly on the rock face. Regarding the marble slab, very little remains below the socle of the present Aedicule. There also remain fragments of walls with a north-south orientation.

It must have formed the bases of the liturgical enclosures also mentioned by the pilgrim Egeria at the end of the 4th century. A little further towards the centre, cuts in the rock mark the position of the small altar that supported part of the stone closing the tomb.

Between the Chapel of the Angel and the tomb, the working of the rock and very few remains of marble wall cladding make it possible to reconstruct the configuration of the opening of the chamber. It is slightly apsidal towards the chapel itself.

Inside the tomb, a section shows an earlier marble floor from the Middle Ages and the working of the rock itself, with traces of intense frequentation that made it extremely smooth. Part of the bottom of a burial chamber similar to those found in the northern portion of the Rotunda has been traced and documented. It has been filled in and arranged to encourage pilgrims to visit it since the early Christian period.

*From: Holy Land Custody*

COMMUNION AND COMMUNICATION – NOTEBOOKS OF THE OFFICE PRO MONIALIBUS  
**CTC NO. 61 (06.2023)**

With Communion and Communication No 61, we begin the journey of deepening the Words of exhortation addressed by Francis to Clare and the sisters Audite, poverelle, whose 800th anniversary of composition we will commemorate in 2025. As we wrote at the close of cTc 60, "we have decided to devote ample space to the Audite poverelle in the next issues reserving the first to an introduction to the reading and to testimonies relating to the discovery of the text by the sisters of the Monastery of St. Fidenzio Novaglie, custodians of the manuscript, who experienced 'live' the stages of its 'discovery'. Their words put us in touch with the different emotions that accompanied that moment.

Ample space is devoted to the commentary on the Words of the Exhortation by Br. Carlo Paolazzi, ofm, published by Edizioni Biblioteca Franciscana in the small volume entitled Francis for Clare (Milan, 1993). The text, of particular interest, has been divided into two parts, the second part will be



published in the next issue.

Paolazzi's commentary is followed by a short introduction of Paolazzi prepared for us by Br. Marco Guida, ofm, who introduced us to the text and helps us to familiarise ourselves with the Author. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts! Our thanks also go to Br. Paolo Canali, ofm and to the EBF who allowed us to publish Br. Carlo Paolazzi's text. Below, you will find the last part of the reflection offered by Sr. Marie de Jésus of the Monastery of Libreville, Gabon, rereading the encyclical Fratelli tutti in a feminine way.

Finally, we recall the 60th anniversary of the magazine Forma sororum, currently published by the Monastery of Città della Pieve (Perugia, Italy): the essential events that determined its birth and development are quickly retraced. Before all this, Br. Fábio Gomes, ofm, General Delegate Pro Monialibus, accompanies us to grasp the movement of the Spirit that speaks to us through the Words of exhortation of Francis of Assisi.

Let us treasure his words, in this 'ordinary time' >>

We were just finishing writing this Presentation when we received the news of the death of Br. Dario Pili, ofm (2 June 2023), General Delegate Pro Monialibus from 1985 to 1991.

It was he who inaugurated the series of the Communion and Communication issues, in which he wished to see the active participation of the sisters and to foster knowledge, relations, exchange, and interaction among all throughout the world. Our gratitude to this passionate, creative brother, solidly rooted in the Franciscan charism, a man of the Gospel, can never be enough.

in which we are sent as living witnesses of the Risen One. Please do not close this issue before also reading the last page, in which we invite you to send us notification of the Federal Assemblies held in the past six months, so that we can forward them to Acta Ordinis. Thank you for your collaboration!

And remember that the next cTc 62 will collect testimonies and/or brief reflections on the first verses of the Words of Exhortation: “Audite, poverelle dal Signore vocate, ke de multe parte e provincie sete adunate”. It is therefore a question of

vocation, and in particular of finding ourselves living together coming from very different places, which poses important evangelical challenges... Thank you in advance to all the sisters who would like to send us their reflections by the end of August 2023 to share in the next cTc 62! Happy reading!

*The Sisters of the Editorial Staff*

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ALEPPO, SYRIA

**BR. HANNA JALLOUF APPOINTED APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR**

**O**n the 1st July 2023, Pope Francis appointed Br. Hanna Jallof, OFM, of the Custody of the Holy Land, Apostolic Administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate of Aleppo which extends its jurisdiction over the Catholic faithful of the Latin rite in Syria.

Br. Hanna was born in Knayeh, Municipality of Jisser El Chougur, Province of Idlib (Syria) on the 16th July, 1952. He made his first vows in our Order in 1975, his solemn vows in 1979 and was ordained a priest on the 29th of July of the same year.

He obtained a Licentiate in Youth Ministry and Catechetics at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome. Br. Hanna has held numerous positions in the Custody of the Holy Land: Vice-Rector in Amman (1979-1982), Rector of the Minor Seminary in Aleppo (1982-1987), Parochial Vicar in Casalotti in Rome (1987-1990), Superior and Parish Priest in Ghassanieh and Jisser el Chougur (1990-1992), Director of the Terra Sancta College in Amman (1992-2001), Superior and Parish Priest in Knayeh (2001-2013); Superior and Parish Priest of Knayeh, in charge of Jisser El Chougur and Ghassanieh (2013-2016); Superior and Parish Priest of Knayeh and in charge of Jisser El Chougur



(2016-).

The Order wishes Br. Hanna the very best and assures him of our prayers in order that his ministry to the Syrian Church and people may bear abundant fruits of peace and all that is good.

**OFM**

ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

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