

VATICAN, 4 - 29 OCTOBER 2023

XVI ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

The XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (First Session) will take place in the Paul VI Hall of the Vatican from the 4th to the 29th October. This year's theme is "For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission".

This stage marks the conclusion of the first phase of this Synod, launched by Pope Francis in October 2021: during these two years, the local Churches from all over the world have consulted and listened to the People of God on the basis of the question: "How is this "walking together", which enables the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to her, realised today at different levels (from the local to the universal); and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?". The responses received were collected, processed, synthesised and shared



with the Synods of Eastern Catholic Churches and the Episcopal Conferences. At the end of this period of listening, the General Secretariat of the Synod prepared an Instrumentum Laboris to guide the participants in their work.



GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- From 10 to 18 October, br. Dennis Tayo, General Animator for the Missions, is in Poland to meet with the Secretaries of Formation and Studies, the Secretaries of Missions and Evangelization and the JPIC leaders of the North Slavic Conference (SLAN). From the 20th October till the 3rd November he will be in Papua New Guinea for the strategic planning of the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation which includes new missionaries, local friars and specialists invited from the Philippines.
- From the 15th till the 20th October, br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and br. Jimmy Zammit, Definitor General, will be in Kansas City (USA) for the Chapter and Canonical Erection of the new Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- From the 16th till the 20th October, br. Taucen Girsang, Deputy Director of the JPIC General Office, will be in Semarang, Central Java (Indonesia) for the meeting of the Global Thematic Social Forum in Mining and Extractive Economy. From the 22nd to the 25th October he will visit the Custody of St. Anthony of Malaysia - Singapore - Brunei.
- On the 19th and 20th October, br. Fabio César Gomes, General Delegate pro monialibus, will participate in the General Assembly of the Poor Clare Sisters of the Confederation of St. Agnes of Prague in Chevilly, France.
- From the 19th till the 23rd October, br. Albert Shmucki, Definitor General, and br. Francisco Gomez Vargas, Secretary General for Missions and Evangelization, will be in Geneva for a fraternal visit to Franciscans International.
- From the 22nd till the 31st October, br. Massimo will be in Central America visiting the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- From the 23rd till the 28th October, br. Ignacio Ceja, Vicar General, and br. César Kulkamp, Definitor General, will be in San Francisco de Mostazal, Chile, to participate in the Week of Ongoing Formation of the Province of the Most Holy Trinity. On the 29th they will be in the Church of the friary of St. Francis of La Alameda, in Santiago, Chile, for the solemn celebration for the 400th Anniversary of the Friary of St. Francis La Alameda.
- From the 29th till the 31st October, br. César will participate in the meeting with the Presidents of the UCLAF conferences in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In its pages we read the following: "The Synodal Assembly is called to listen attentively to the situations in which the Church lives and carries out her mission [...]. What is at stake is the ability to proclaim the Gospel by walking together with the men and women of our time, wherever they are, and the practice of catholicity lived by walking together with the Churches that live in conditions of particular suffering" (IL, 5).

It is precisely on the theme of listening that the Letter of the Minister and General Definitorium of OFM for the Solemnity of Saint Francis of Assisi focuses, which will be celebrated on 4 October: a sign of living communion with the Pope and with the synodal journey of the Church.

The second and final session of the Synod will take place in October 2024.

[Download the Instrumentum Laboris](#)
[See the working calendar](#)

The Synod of Bishops was instituted by Pope Paul VI in 1965, in response to the Council Fathers' desire to keep alive the spirit of the Council itself. With the Apostolic Letter in the form of a Motu Proprio, "Apostolica sollicitudo", Paul VI established the Synod as a consultative assembly composed not only of the Bishops of the Catholic College of Bishops, but also of priests, religious and lay people who are invited from time to time for their experience and expertise.



Foto: www.synod.va

THE STATEMENT OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR FOLLOWING THE RECENT VIOLENCE **LET US PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND**

The Order of Friars Minor has been present in the Holy Places for eight centuries and preserves together with the Sanctuaries also the link with the local people who dwell in that land. The current situation of violence and war deeply saddens us, and worries us for the fate of the people who live there. We are intensifying our prayer of intercession for peace.

The Friars Minor present in the Custody of the Holy Land, together with the Custos fr. Francesco Patton, (who is in regular contact with fr. Massimo Fusarelli, the Minister General), are always present, they are well and remain close to the people, continuing to pray for peace and to sow it with concrete gestures. Therefore, as an Order and as a Franciscan Family let us allow the friars of the Custody to feel that we are near to them, that they may feel our closeness as they await for us to return to visit the Holy Places as soon as possible. In this way we are able to express our communion and belonging together with the Christians of the Holy Land and to all the people who live there.

LET US PRAY PSALM 122:6-9:

*PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM:
 MAY THOSE WHO LOVE YOU BE SECURE.
 MAY THERE BE PEACE WITHIN YOUR WALLS
 AND SECURITY WITHIN YOUR CITADELS.
 FOR THE SAKE OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS, I WILL SAY:
 "PEACE BE WITHIN YOU."
 FOR THE SAKE OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD OUR GOD,
 I WILL SEEK YOUR PROSPERITY.*



POPE FRANCIS ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION "LAUDATE DEUM"

On Wednesday the 4th October 2023, the day of Feast of Saint Francis and the opening of the XVI Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, the Apostolic Exhortation "Laudate Deum" (Praise God) was published. «Praise God for all His creatures». This was the invitation that Saint Francis of Assisi made with his life, his songs, and his gestures. In this way he took up the proposal of the Psalms of and re-presented the sensitivity of Jesus towards the creatures of His Father": this is how the exhortation begins in which, eight years after the encyclical "Laudato Si", Pope Francis returns to speak about climate emergency.



The text also refers to scientific sources, to provide clarifications against denialist theories, against "certain contemptuous and unreasonable opinions that I also find within the Catholic Church. However, we can no longer doubt that the reason for the unusual speed of such dangerous changes is an undeniable fact: the enormous developments connected to unbridled human intervention on nature in the last two centuries" (LD, 14).

In the 73 paragraphs of 6 chapters, there are several passages that the pontiff dedicates to the dramatic environmental current situation, with an integral approach to the issue: pollution, increase in temperatures, migrations, famines, are all consequences of the "technocratic paradigm", already denounced in the LS, which "consists of thinking «as if reality, goodness and truth blossomed spontaneously from the very power of technology and the economy». As a logical consequence, «from here we easily move on to the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which has so excited economists, theorists of finance and technology»" (LD, 20).

Pope Francis is clear in criticizing the "logic of maximum profit at minimum cost, masked by rationality, progress and illusory promises", which "makes any sincere concern for the common home and any attention to the promotion of society's discarded impossible" (LD, 31); and he is equally clear in praising the virtuous behaviour of individuals and families, which should guide the consciences of the powerful.

His gaze is also turned towards COP28, the 28th United Nations Conference on climate change to be held in Dubai from

30th November to 12th December 2023: "If there is a sincere interest in ensuring that COP28 becomes historic - we read in the paragraph 59 - that honours and ennobles us as human beings, then we can only expect binding forms of energy transition that have three characteristics: that they are efficient, that they are binding and that they are easily monitored".

Pope Francis also provided the spiritual motivations of this exhortation, which does not treat the issue in a "romantic" or simply "green" way (LD, 58), but has profound theological foundations. In paragraph 62, amongst others, Leviticus is cited: «The lands cannot be sold forever; because the land is Mine and you are with Me as strangers and guests» (Lev 25, 23).

"PRAISE GOD" IS THE NAME OF THIS LETTER, BECAUSE A HUMAN BEING WHO CLAIMS TO REPLACE GOD BECOMES THE WORST DANGER TO HIMSELF

The conclusion contains the whole meaning of the Laudate Deum: «"Praise God" is the name of this letter, because a human being who claims to replace God becomes the worst danger to himself» (LD, 73).

[Download and read the complete text of the Laudate Deum](#)



PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY ANTONIANUM

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR OF THE PUA

On Monday, the 9th October, the new Academic Year of the Pontifical University Antonianum was inaugurated in Rome. The Eucharistic celebration that opened the day was held at the Basilica of St. Anthony Lateran and was presided over by br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General and Grand Chancellor of the University.

In his homily, br. Massimo, starting from the liturgy of the day (Monday of the XX-VII Week in Ordinary Time), dwelt on the "distance" of Jonah who flees from the city to which God sends him on mission, and on the "closeness" of the Samaritan. "Studies are not only an empty space to prepare intellectually for the mission," said br. Massimo, "but they are part of the evangelizing action of the People of God, because they allow us to learn to read the word of God and the signs of the times, to keep faith and life together, faith and history, without distances that would not account for the fundamental Christian criterion. that of the Incarnation."

Study as a tool to prepare for the mission, according to br. Massimo, again following the example of the Seraphic Father: "The proximity of the Samaritan helps us to deepen the meaning of study as an integral experience that helps us to know ourselves better and thus to serve others. St. Francis feels bound to serve to all and to administer to all the fragrant words of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word, and the words of the Holy Spirit, which are spirit and life" (2LFed, FF 180). Animated by his spirit, we can continue in this mission, always listening to Saint Francis who, in the Rule of which we commemorate eight centuries this year, forcefully tells us: "I also admonish and exhort the brothers themselves that, in the preaching they do, their words be examined and chaste, for the benefit and edification of the people" (Rb IX, 3: FF 99)".

The day continued at the Antonianum Auditorium. Prof. Agustín Hernández Vidales, 'Rector Magnificent', began his greeting with a moment of reflection and prayer regarding the violence in the Holy Land, unfortunately the last of the many war scenarios present in the world to-day.

An Academic Year that begins at the same time as the Synod of Bishops, the publication of *Laudate Deum*, the Eighth Centenary of the approval of the Rule and the Nativity Scene of Greccio. "This university is inspired by St. Francis, was founded in 1883 and is based on the Franciscan theological tradition begun by St. Anthony of Padua. It is with this spirituality that we want to live in time and in the world that Providence has given us," said br. Agustín, who then presented the report on the last Academic Year.

Br. Massimo, Grand Chancellor of the PUA, also remembered the centenarians in his speech, this time speaking of the 800th Anniversary of the Impression of the Stigmata that we will celebrate in 2024. He then added: "The scientific research and studies of our university must start from the joy of the encounter with God, to make this joy present and transparent in the 'light and darkness' of our present days."

The Minister General of the OFM also recalled other Anniversaries: the 30th Anniversary of the confirmation of the ab immemorial cult of St. John Duns Scotus, the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem, initiated by the Custody of the Holy Land as a teaching and research centre, and finally, in 2024, the 750th Anniversary of the death of the Seraphic Doctor St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio.



During the ceremony, Alejandro Guillermo Roemmers Colman was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Philosophy with a specialization in Integral Ecology. In his *lectio magistralis*, the Argentine writer and philanthropist focused on happiness: "If as Christians we believe in a perfect and omnipotent God who in his ultimate essence is a pure energy of love, we can have no doubt that God created us for life, for light and happiness, not for pain, darkness and suffering. [...] It is not only our right, but also our primary duty as human beings, to develop our potentials or, in the words of Jesus, to make our talents bear fruit and not leave them buried." Alejandro Guillermo Roemmers Colman then went on to give his "Teachings on Happiness": accepting oneself, with one's limitations and defects, always trying to improve, for one's own good and that of others; committing oneself and giving oneself to enable all human beings to be happy; giving what we want to receive, living by building relationships, observing and discerning ourselves and the reality that surrounds us". Referring to his own life experience, he emphasized the importance of seeking happiness first within oneself and not in the achievement of professional, social or economic goals.

[Read the speech of the Minister General and Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical University Antonianum on the occasion of the Inauguration \(Italian\)](#)

[Read the full text of the Minister General's homily \(Italian\)](#)

6-8 OCTOBER 2023, ONLINE WORLD MEETING FROM ASSISI 4TH EDITION THE ECONOMY OF FRANCIS

From the 6th to the 8th October, the fourth annual meeting of 'The Economy of Francis', the community that brings together young economists and entrepreneurs from all over the world, was held live online (and, in person, at the Sanctuary of the Renunciation in Assisi).



To address the issue of the economy in today's world, in his message Pope Francis spoke of *coincidentia oppositorum*, that is, the unity of opposites, and how theories seek to reconcile and create a synthesis between them. "Big and small, poverty and wealth and many other opposites are also present in the economy. Economy are the stalls of the market, as well as the hubs of international finance [...]. Where is the coincidence between these opposites? It lies in the true nature of the economy: to be a place of inclusion and cooperation, a continuous generation of value to be created and circulated with others. The small needs the great, the concrete needs the abstract, the contract of the gift, the poverty of shared wealth." But in the face of the economy "that kills, that excludes, that pollutes, that produces war," that generates profits "at the expense of the most vulnerable and defenseless," that is "only arrogance, violence, only a predatory order from which to free humanity," the Pontiff proposes "the economy of the earth and the economy of the journey."

The first meaning of the term economy, "care of the home", brings us back to our Common Home, to the world in which we live, which has been entrusted to us by the Creator: "By the mere fact of being born we are called to become guardians of this Common Home and, therefore, brothers and sisters of every inhabitant of the earth. Applying economy means taking care of our Common Home, and this will not be possible if we do not have eyes trained to see the world starting from the peripheries: the gaze of the excluded, of the least," Pope Francis wrote.

He continues: "The integral economy is one that is applied with and for the poor - in all the ways in which we are poor to-day - the excluded, the invisible, those who have no voice to make themselves heard." For "economy of the journey", Pope Francis takes up the image of the Poverello-the poor man of Assisi:

"When Francis of Assisi, so dear to us, began his revolution, even economic, in the name of the Gospel alone, he became a beggar again, a wanderer: he began to walk, leaving the house of his father Bernardone. What way, then, for those who want to renew the economy from the roots? [...] Just as the pilgrim knows that his journey will be dusty, so you know that the common good requires a commitment that gets your hands dirty. Only dirty hands can change the earth: justice is lived, charity is incarnated and, in solidarity in the face of challenges, we persevere with them with courage."

The Pontiff concluded his message with a determined and affectionate invitation: "I ask you to remain actively united, building real bridges between continents on operational issues, which will definitively bring humanity out of the colonial era and inequalities. Give faces, content and projects to a universal fraternity. Be pioneers from within the economic and business life of integral human development. I trust you, and never forget: I love you very much."

[Read the full text of Pope Francis' message](#)

In addition to the online event, the Regional Contacts of The Economy of Francis in Italy have organised a meeting in Assisi from 6 to 8 October, dedicated to relationships and formation. Hosted by the Diocese of Assisi, and in particular by the Sanctuary of the Spogliazione, more than 70 participants from The Economy of Francis (EoF) in Italy will meet to explore economic and social issues through ad hoc sessions designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and sharing.

Founded in 2019 at the invitation of Pope Francis, the so-called Generation EoF now includes thousands of people working seriously and responsibly to fight inequality and the environmental crisis, to promote indigenous economies, peace and food security.



STATEMENT BY BR. MANUEL CORULLÓN FERNÁNDEZ
FROM MARRAKECH, “SERVANTS OF HOPE”

We share this statement from br. Manuel Corullón Fernández, who recounts his experience of helping the victims of the Marrakech earthquake.

On the 8th September, 2023, as the Catholic Church was concluding the festive celebrations of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whereupon, the earth literally shook! this time in the Marrakech region, 85 km south of the tourist capital of the Alawite Kingdom.

Saint Francis of Assisi sang to the earth, calling it mother and sister, because it supports us and in a certain sense governs our destinies and provides us with everything we need. Pope Francis, echoing St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures, reminded us that the earth suffers trembles and roars.

Beyond all predictions, and without any kind of warning, just before midnight the earth shook. In the city of Marrakech, many houses in the Melah district, the oldest in the Medina, the old city, collapsed like a house of cards, while other more robust and modern buildings resisted the shock, which left its mark with cracks and visible damage. The friary and the church of the Franciscan Martyrs of Marrakech, the parish church, resisted the shock with some damage that time will give us the opportunity to repair; the cross of the church remained propped up as if it were looking with veneration and respect at the victims of the earthquake.

After the initial disturbance, I called together all the social pastoral workers of our parish community in Marrakech and, in a first emergency meeting attended by Christians and Muslims, the answer was clear: let's act! We immediately activated an emergency protocol between all the active forces of the parish, friends, collaborators, former members of the parish

community and all those who sent messages of solidarity to each other.

On Monday the 11th September we organized the first humanitarian convoy to the Lower Atlas Mountains. We went up with four vehicles loaded with basic necessities, food, clothes, toiletries and personal hygiene products, tents, electric generators... The road up the mountain was really sad to see, the destruction gradually increased as we approached the epicentre of the earthquake that hit the entire region on the Marrakech-Taroudant axis. We arrived in the first village that was waiting for us to arrive and thanks to some contacts from members of our parish community, we had time to stop, to listen, to share, to accompany some sick people to the field hospital, and we were able to help to set up some tents.

Caritas of Marrakech, as the social pastoral arm of our parish community, has never stopped being fully active, receiving donations of all kinds, making contacts with various associations of Moroccan civil society, sending aid to orphanages, to isolated villages where only the Army helicopters could arrive, processing humanitarian emergency projects for various international organizations, managing volunteers, sorting donations and preparing the humanitarian convoys that ascend the mountains every two days.

In the midst of this humanitarian emergency, it is worth remembering the emergency situation

in which our sub-Saharan migrant brothers and sisters have found themselves, adding poverty to the misery in which they already live. The fact that they were housed in the cheapest and therefore oldest neighbourhoods and houses, many were left on the streets and we spent three days trying to relocate them all.

In the midst of this situation I have learned, or rather, I can say that I am learning three important things: the great solidarity of the Moroccan people who are giving us a great lesson in brotherhood in the face of the very common coldness of our indifference; the love of many people in our parish community for Morocco and its people, who put their time and resources at the service of everyone with admirable generosity; the Islamic-Christian interreligious dialogue that we are experiencing and feeling through compassion.

In recent days a Moroccan friend told me: "If I have a crust of bread and you don't have any, between the two of us we have half a crust of bread each; what we have, we receive to share".

*Br Manuel Corullón Fernández, OFM
 Parish Priest of Marrakech
 President of Caritas Marrakech*



19 NOVEMBER 2023, VII WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
LETTER FROM THE MINISTER GENERAL

On the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, addressed a letter to all the brothers of the Order of Friars Minor for the VII World Day of the Poor

“The World Day of the Poor is again before us, the seventh so desired by Pope Francis and I would like to bring to our attention the Message that the Pope wrote for the occasion on the 13th June on the feast of Saint Anthony of Padua, brother and friend of the poor. The invitation is to read it personally and in fraternity, with our lay people and collaborators, «to discover ever anew the heart of the Gospel». Br. Massimo says at the beginning of the letter.



Read the full text of the Letter:

[Italiano](#) – [Español](#) – [English](#) - [Français](#) - [Português](#)

BR. MASSIMO FUSARELLI, MINISTER GENERAL

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. FRANCIS 2023

“**O**ne day a brother asked Francis: why is the whole world coming after you? You're not handsome, you're not particularly capable, why is the whole world coming after you?” With this question, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, began his homily at the Eucharist celebration for the Solemnity of St. Francis, at Our Lady of the Angels, in the Porziuncola, in Assisi. To answer this question that still resonates so relevant to-day, he reminded us how Christ truly became man according to God's plan, and he spoke of three points of Francis' humanity that respond to this question.

In the first point, he told us that in order to respond to our human vocation we must take care of others and learn to always start anew, like Francis, who at the end of his life said to the friars: “I have done my part, may Christ teach you yours... Let's start again, brothers.” He invited us to learn, to start again without tiring, even when it becomes very difficult, and recalling



the friars he met on his visits, he said: “In my service to the Order I have the privilege, I can say, of meeting people in all parts of the world; In the last month, between Syria and South America, I have met people tried by the war in Syria, people tried by violence and poverty be-

tween Bolivia and Argentina, and yet I always find a “repairer of breaches” who starts again, that bets on life, on reality. Here I see how Francis is truly relevant.” The second point focuses on the humanity of those who follow Jesus Christ, that is, the Cross, pain and suffering: “Francis learned to enter into a mystery not only of pain, because we do not love pain for pain's sake, but for the sake of love and pain. At La Verna this will reach its highest point, as Francis faced his many illnesses, as he always arrived here at the meeting with Sister Death,” said the Minister General. At the end, for the third point of his homily, br. Massimo commented on the Gospel of Luke in which Jesus rejoices “because the mysteries of the kingdom of God are open to the simple, to the small, to those who do not claim to understand, to control, to dominate...”

And so, in order to become men and women after God's own heart, we must learn to take steps backwards from our natural will to control reality, ourselves, others, the situations around us, as Francis did: “At a certain point the Lord makes Francis understand that that fraternity, those brothers, are not his, he cannot control them, they belong to him, to Jesus Christ.

Francis truly learned to no longer control reality, to return it to the Lord, and so he saw his humanity flourish fully, but also that of his brothers and sisters, also accepting that they began to follow a different path from the one he had opened. The ‘little ones’ of whom Jesus speaks, for whom He thanks the Father, are those who not only renounce control and the desire to dominate, but who are open themselves to the newness that God knows how to create.”

OFM WORLD

Solemn Profession of br. Juan David in the Custody of the Holy Land



Solemn Professions in the Prov. Immaculate Conception BVM (Poland)



Solemn Professions in the Prov. Our Lady of the Angels (Poland)



Solemn Professions in the Prov. St Francis of Quito (Ecuador)



Transitus of St. Francis in the Prov. St. Anthony of Padua (Philippines)



St. Francis celebrated in Barranquilla (Colombia)

PROVINCE OF ST. MICHAEL-THE ARCHANGEL THE FEAST DAY OF ST. FRANCIS ASSISI IN INDONESIA

In the Province of St. Michael-The Archangel, Indonesia, the friars usually celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with the Franciscan Family (ORDO I: OFM, OFMConv, and OFM-Cap; ORDO II: OSC or Claris Sisters, and ORDO III: regular and secular) both at the diocesan, regional, and guardianate levels. In each diocese, the number of Franciscan congregations is joined to be one as local Franciscan Family groups. For example, in the Archdiocese of Jakarta, the group is named as KANESTA, the Archdiocese of Semarang is called KEKANTA, the Diocese of Bogor is called GEFRABO, the Archdiocese of Ende is called KEFRADA, and so on.

This year, 2023, the celebration, which culminated on 4 October, began as usual with, first, the Great Novena of St. Francis of Assisi, which is held for 9 consecutive days in the Franciscan Parishes from 22-30 September; second, the Triduum: a 3-days activity to reflect together on a particular theme based on the direction and pastoral vision of each diocese or based on the formula to be achieved by each entity or guardianate; third, the Transitus: a celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the transition of the Seraphic Fathers from earth to heaven;

and fourth, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

In Jakarta, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated by the Friars Minor together with the

Franciscan Family of the Archdiocese of Jakarta (KANESTA) at the Sacred Heart Church-Kramat Parish, Central Jakarta. The theme of this celebration was: "Stepping Together for Common Welfare". The eucharist was led by the local guardian, Br. Stanislaus Agus Suharyo, OFM.



On the other dioceses, in Bogor, Franciscan Family of Bogor (GEFRABO) celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi at the OFM Transitus Novitiate, Depok, West Java. In Kapuas Hulu, Sintang Diocese, West Kalimantan, the brothers and sisters started the celebration with a joint study with the theme "Living the Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi in Daily Life" and then



the eucharistic celebration at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception-Putussibau Parish, West Kalimantan, was presided by Mgr. Samuel Otton Sidin, OFM Cap (Bishop of the Diocese of Sintang-West Kalimantan).

It was no different in the Archdiocese of Ende-Flores. The Franciscan Family of Ngada (KEFRADA) celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi at the Church of the Holy Cross - Soa Parish. This was also happened in the Foundation of East Timor, especially in the new place where the Friars Minor began to serve the people since August 2023, namely Fatumea Parish

- Diocese of Maliana, East Timor. The head priest of the parish, Br. Eugénio Pereira OFM, celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi for the first time with the people of the parish, which was served for a few months. The parishioners were very happy because not only get to know the Friars Minor who live the spirit of brotherhood and minority, but they were also invited to get to know the Person of the Poor Man of Assisi, St. Francis of Assisi.

Contributed by: Br. Jimmy H.R. Tnomat, OFM

COLOMBIA, FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS

FEAST OF SAN PACHO, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Every year, from 3 of September to 5 of October, the inhabitants of the neighbourhoods of the city of Quibdó, in the department of Chocó, Colombia, organise a series of events that come together in the "Feast of San Pacho", a nickname given to people with the name of Francisco.



Santiago R. Hernández Celada, OFM, of the Province of St. Paul the Apostle in Colombia, describes the details of this feast.

Thanks to the evangelisation of Friar Matias Abad, a Spanish Friar Minor,

in the 17th century, the Department of Chocó met Christ and our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi. In Colombia we affectionately call those who bear the name of Francis 'Pacho'; the feast of Saint Pacho begins each year on 3 September with the celebration of Peace and

ends on 5 October. On 19 September, the Quincenario begins with the procession of the boys and girls of the city, called El Sanpachito.

In 2012, the San Pacho Festival was declared a Cultural and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, which describes it as "the most important symbolic event in the life of the city of Quibdó. It strengthens the identity of the Chocó department and fosters social cohesion in the community, while promoting creativity and innovation through the revival and recovery of traditional knowledge and respect for nature.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, THE PATRON SAINT OF PEACE

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMED CONFLICT IN COLOMBIA

On the 4th October 2023, in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Bogota, Colombia, a tribute was celebrated for the victims of the armed conflict in Colombia within the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi. The Mass was presided over by br Franklin Buitrago Rojas, OP, who in his homily stressed the importance of following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who dedicated his life to the search for peace and reconciliation.

This celebration has taken on a special character as it has become a tribute to the victims of the prolonged armed conflict that has affected our country for decades. The ceremony was attended by survivors and relatives of the victims of the armed conflict, as well as clerics, representatives of human rights organizations, military personnel and the Police Force.

The church choir sang hymns of peace and unity, creating an atmosphere of reflection and spirituality.

This moving event reminds us of the importance of working together as a society to build a country where peace and reconciliation are a reality for all. The Church, in her commitment to justice and peace, will continue to be a beacon of hope in the search for a better future for Colombia and its people.

Br Hugo Andrés Sánchez Quintero, OFM



100 YEARS OF FRANCISCAN PRESENCE IN CANINDÉ, BRAZIL
FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF THE PRECIOUS WOUNDS

From the 24th September to the 4th October in Canindé, in the City of Ceará, Brazil, the Feast of St Francis of Chagas (St. Francis of the Precious Wounds) was solemnly celebrated, which this year coincided with the 100 years of presence of the Friars Minor in the area. br. César Kulkamp the General Definitor of the area was present at the celebrations.

The theme of this year's celebrations was "Saint Francis who teaches us to evangelize in fraternity", chosen to reflect on two cornerstones of Franciscan spirituality: evangelization and fraternity.

The eighth night of the Novena was characterized by the preaching of br. César, who brought into his reflections encouraging words on the work carried out in the parishes. Remembering the words of Pope Francis expressed in *Evangelii Gaudium*, he underlined the importance of conversion, without which we risk losing the strength of the Gospel, remaining attached to simple sacramentalism, which leaves no room for the Holy Spirit.

At the end of his homily, he addressed the Franciscan Fraternity, bringing the grateful wishes of the Minister General, br. Massimo Fusarelli, and addressing his gratitude to the pilgrims present: "I want to thank all you followers of Saint Francis for all that you do for this Sanctuary. Your presence here enables you to experience a profound encounter with the Risen Lord and with His faithful disciple St. Francis of Assisi, indeed, to experience the



certainty and joy of knowing that you have always been loved by God. Return to your homes and communities, carrying in your hearts the joy of the Gospel and of the Fraternity. This is the most precious testimony that our world so desperately needs."

Canindé saw the arrival of the first friars, who came from the Franciscan Province of St. Anthony of Brazil, on the 26th March 1923. In these 100 years of presence, the friars have seen the growth of a faith that moves many hearts. Saint Francis of the Precious Wounds identifies deeply with the wounds of the pilgrims who come to this sanctuary throughout the year.

Written with the contribution of Br Roberto Alves, OFM

BÜYÜKADA, ISTANBUL
CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF CREATION

On Saturday 23 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Integrity of Creation was celebrated in the Parish of St Pacific of the Friars Minor in Büyükkada, in the presence of the Apostolic Vicar of Istanbul, Mgr Maximilian Palinuro. It was also an opportunity for us Friars Minor to present the *Laudato Si'* Centre in Tierrablanca. Br. Georges Misange also took the opportunity to present his book: *Éthique comme harmonie du monde, Introduction à l'éthique de la création* (Ethics as Harmony of the World, Introduction to the Ethics of Creation).



Speaking of the centre, it is an intercultural centre for training in integral ecology. The centre is called Tierrablanca in memory of Monsignor Rubén Tierrablanca González and his interfaith, ecumenical and ecological commitment in Istanbul.

Why Büyükkada? The choice of this site was motivated, among other things, by a series of initiatives on the part of the Turkish government and the Church of Istanbul. Firstly, from the government's point of view, Büyükkada is an island dedicated



to the protection of the environment, a place where there are no devices that can pollute nature (vehicles, motorbikes, etc.). But it is also an island with an intercultural vocation. From an ecclesial point of view, the Laudato Si' Committee of the Vicariate of Istanbul, at the time of Mgr Ruben, had already chosen this place to meet and celebrate the World Days of Prayer for the Integrity of Creation.

For these reasons, the idea was born to create a centre for dialogue, cultural exchange, meetings and training in integral ecology, in order to build a true family or network of cosmic brotherhood based on human values. It is also a response to the call of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who speaks of ecumenical cooperation for the safeguard of Creation. To this end, he invites us to join our Christian and non-Christian brothers and sisters in a commitment to the care and safeguard of creation. As the Metropolitan of Chalcedon, His Eminence Emmanuel, said in his interview with Vatican Radio (1 September), the "inner revolution" we need to protect the environment "requires global, collective and individual action. We are all involved, even if some theological issues separate us: all religions and philosophical convictions are called to dialogue, to work and to act together in a responsible way on environmental issues. It is this commitment that explains the reason for the creation of our Centre.

One of the Centre's aims is to promote joint reflection on the possibilities of a

suitable environment and to help people become aware of the need to take responsibility for the environment in which they live. Other objectives are to promote dialogue in its various aspects, especially anthropological, intercultural and ecological; to promote education in respect of the natural, social, cultural and economic environment; and to raise awareness of environmental and climate justice through concrete actions.

In short, the vocation of the Centre will be to promote the beauty of universal fraternity, the culture of peace and social, climatic and environmental justice, naturally in collaboration with the various commissions at the ecclesial level, the Order of Friars Minor and the Apostolic Vicariate of Istanbul.

Returning to the celebration of the day, on Saturday 23 September, after a presentation of the Centre and its objectives by Sister Miriam Oyarzo, Br. Georges Misange presented his book, focusing his reflections on the beauty of harmony in the world. The existential vocation of man must be his responsibility towards the whole of Creation. This is the meaning of today's new humanism, a true Copernican revolution based on a new ethic, not an environmental ethic, but an ethic of Creation.

This ethic focuses on the relationships, interactions and bonds that exist in nature and society. For authentic life and its true richness lie in these relationships, in



these exchanges based on love, fraternity and friendship. The miracles of true and valuable coexistence can only happen through sincere humanity.

At the end of the day, Shiri and Murat (a Sufi couple) gave a presentation on up-cycling before inviting the Apostolic Vicar, Bishop Maximilian, to close the day with a procession and prayer in front of the tree planted by Bishop Ruben Tierablanca for the 2018 Day of Prayer for Creation.

Bishop Maximilian congratulated the sons of St. Francis of Assisi for this splendid initiative and insisted on the commitment of all to act and work together for the safeguard and protection of Creation and to learn to live together as brothers and sisters, as the Holy Father and the Synod have invited us to do.

With the contribution of Br. Georges Misange, OFM

FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK

Forming Franciscan Minds and Hearts
Anthony Carrozzo OFM and Brenda Abbott PhD
Franciscan Publishing, 2023

Hermano Francisco, ¿qué es la Navidad? La celebración de la Navidad en Francisco de Asís
Francisco Pérez Hermoso
Ediciones Franciscanas Arantzazu, 2023

San Francisco de Asís o casi
Agustí Boadas Llavat
Ediciones Franciscanas Arantzazu, 2023

CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE PROVINCE OF THE MOST HOLY NAME
VISIT OF THE MINISTER GENERAL AND THE AREA DEFINITOR TO BRAZIL

From the 18th to the 24th September 2023, at the Regina Minorum Seminary, located in Anápolis, Goiás, Brazil, the Week of Ongoing Formation of the Friars Minor of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus took place, which this year also saw the participation of br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and br. César Kulkamp, General Definitor of the area, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Province.



After the opening, with a celebration of the Lectio Divina, the following day the friars experienced a very special day: in the morning, training and reflection on the Rule and the Nativity of Greccio; in the afternoon, they reflected and evaluated the progress of some work carried out in the areas of Evangelization and Mission, the Provincial Treasurer's Office and the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable adults.

Arriving in Goiás on the 20th September 2023, br. Massimo and br. César attended a splendid representation on the Rule, the Nativity Scene, the Eucharist and the Cross, the foundations of our spirituality. In the following days, meetings of the Councils and Secretariats of the Province were held in their presence. On the 21st September 2023, accompanied by the Provincial Minister, br. Carlos Antônio, br. Massimo and br. César visited the studios of our radio stations 96.3 and 97.7 FM, the College of St. Francis of Assisi, the Parishes of St. Ann and St. Francis of 'Assisi of Anápolis, and the missionary works managed by the Province. On the same day they were able to meet the Poor Clare Sisters and the Franciscan Family present in Anápolis.

The friars in Initial Formation, the Aspirants' House, the Postulants' House and the Post-Novitiate were able to dialogue at

length with the Minister General, sharing the experience of formative life in the Province, their dreams and their expectations. Finally, the Provincial Government shared a morning in the Provincial Discretorium with br. Massimo and br. César; at a later time, the meeting was extended to include the Guardians.

The 2023 Training Week was a time full of sharing and experiences at various levels of work and office, with moments of prayer and fraternal meetings. On this occasion, the Friars also celebrated the eightieth anniversary of the foundation of the Province by the North American missionary friars. In 1943, in fact, fourteen North American Friars received the missionary cross and came to Brazil - Goiás - Anápolis - and here they began a work of evangelization and training of people in parishes, schools, radios, healthcare; they formed the Secular Franciscan Order, Secular Institutes and other lay ministries. On the 24th September, at Matriz St. Francis in the Jundiá neighbourhood - Anápolis, in the presence of friars, men and women religious, and a good number of lay faithful, the Minister General presided, at 7 pm, at the Holy Mass of thanksgiving for the mission of the Friars Minor in the heart of Brazil.

To all the people of good will who are committed to carrying forward the Mission of the Friars, we offer our gratitude. To br. Massimo Fusarelli and br. César Kulkamp, to the Bishops present in our Province, to the clergy, to the men and women religious, we offer our gratitude for having celebrated this rich moment of eighty years of evangelization. In the heart of Brazil (Goiás - Tocantins - Federal District) the Franciscan Friars Minor have been announcing the Gospel, peace and goodness for eighty years.

Courtesy of Br Ronildo Arruda, OFM

On the Tomb of St. Peter, in the Vatican, Mass of thanksgiving by Mons. Carballo

On Tuesday 26th September 2023, the Dicastery for the Institutes of Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life organized a moment of thanksgiving for ten and a half years of service given by our brother, Mons José Rodríguez Carballo.

It consisted of a celebration of the Eucharist at the Tomb of St Peter in Vatican City. Afterwards a group of his co-workers and invited guests gathered at a luncheon to wish him well in his new assignment in the Diocese of Merida-Badajoz in Spain.

Our Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, was carrying out his duties in South America on the day of this celebration but he sent our brother warm wishes on this new appointment in service of the People of God and also sent a friar as his delegate for the celebration.



PROVINCE OF ST. FRANCIS SOLANO

VISIT OF THE MINISTER GENERAL TO ARGENTINA

From the 25th to the 29th September, 2023, br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and br. Cesar Kulkamp, General Definitor of the area, visited the Province of St. Francis Solano, in Northern Argentina.

This visit took place within the meeting of all the friars of the Province (from the 22nd to the 26th), including moments of celebration, sharing and ongoing formation. They were, in fact, days of fraternal dialogue with the Minister, reflecting on the horizons and challenges of religious life and the life of the Friars Minor in Argentina and Latin America, with the urgent need for a change in structures and mentalities immersed in a world that changes.

On 25th September the Eucharist was celebrated with the Franciscan Family (nuns, OFS, lay people, young people, pupils and teachers of the schools managed by the Friars Minor); subsequently, sharing dinner together, we experienced moments of celebration with the accompaniment of music and dances typical of the Argentina. On the 26th September br. Massimo and br. Cesar visited the original Ava – Guaraní Community at the Mission St. Francis of Pichanal, where they were welcomed by the people with great joy; it was a day of celebration, inculturation and gratitude to God.

Br. Massimo, in his words at the end of the welcome ceremony, recalled that "every time we dare to come out of ourselves, when we give our lives with generosity, life flows, the Gospel and the charism become present and incarnate in the reality of people and culture". At the end of the meeting of the friars of the Province with their visitors, br. Massimo and br. Cesar had the opportunity to meet the Minister Provincial, br. Daniel Fleitas, and the Definitor, and then gave a final farewell to all the friars. Br. Daniel, after thanking the Minister and the Definitor for the fraternal visit and the brothers who provided the various services during the meet-



ing, encouraged everyone to continue the journey starting from 4 key points: a profound attitude of listening to every friar and every event in history; a contemplative look at the environment and the reality of the country, of each friar, of the communities; that the Province be in a phase of continuous discernment, encouraged to always be searching and asking questions; that the Province may look outside itself and towards those most in need.

Br. Massimo shared with the emotion and gratitude of the fraternal welcome received and the openness of the friars of the Province, and the emotion for the aboriginal communities of Northern Argentina where he witnessed the strength and at the same time the pain of the people, the beauty of the culture and of the simple and profound faith of the people. Subsequently, he invited the friars to always maintain the tension between the fraternal and the personal, being careful of extremes: excessive individuality or, on the contrary, the risk of conforming to the will of others.

The challenge is to maintain tension so that each individual can express himself and yet contribute to a common project. Life lies precisely in this tension, according to the Minister General, who concluded by underlining the importance of always being careful to discern how to proclaim Jesus Christ to-day, in the reality where life and a Gospel are forever incarnate.

DECEASED FRIARS *

- 2nd October: br. Fernando Campagna, prov. Immaculate Conception (Italy)
- 29th September 2023: br. Drago Prgomet, Prov. Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- 29th September: br. Paolino Castrillo, Prov. St. Michael the Archangel (Italy)
- 26th September 2023: br. Mladen Jozić, Prov. Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- 24th September: br. Valentino Natalini, Prov. St James of Marca (Italy)
- 24th September 2023: br. Stipo Karajica, Prov. Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina)
- 23rd September: br. Ralf (Heribert) Preker, Prov. Of the German Franciscans
- 19th September: br. João José da Silva, Prov. St Anthony (Brazil)
- 18th September: br. Francesco Taronna, Prov. St. Michael the Archangel (Italy)
- 17th September: br. Lorenzo Viscariello, Province of Our Lady of Grace (Italy)

* Data communicated to the General Secretariat secgen@ofm.org

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

VII SESSION OF THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF THE OFM

From the 18th to the 22nd September, 2023, the VII Session of the African Conference of the Order of Friars Minor took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in the presence of the General Definitory of the area, br. Victor Quematcha, and the friars representing 12 Entities.

The first two days were dedicated to sharing the Life and Mission of the entities, with an eye towards the future, in view of the meeting between the Conference and the General Definitory which will be held in January 2024 in Nairobi (Kenya).

On the third day, br. Victor, using the works of br. Cesare Vaiani and br. Claudio Durighetto, retraced the history and objectives of the Conferences, whose creation dates back to 1967 with the Decree of br. Costantino Koser (at the time Minister General). Conferences existing in the 1970s and following probably had different starting dates and had changes in membership numbers during their lifetime. In 2005, there was a review and legal arrangement of the conferences.

During the meeting it was decided to accept and present to the General Definitory the request of the Provinces of Egypt and Morocco to join the Holy Land with the possibility of also including the two Vicariates of Libya to create a conference. Amongst the reasons for this proposed reorganization are factors such as the difficulty of language, culture and geographical distance with sub-Saharan entities.

To encourage communication and collaboration between the Entities, it was also established that from now on the Conference will be divided into two large areas: the French-speaking region (the Province of the Incarnate Word, the two Provinces in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo Brazzaville Foundation, the Central African Republic Foundation, the Custody of Guinea Bissau and the Custody of Madagascar) and the English-speaking region (the Province of Saint Francis of Assisi of East Africa, the Province of Our Lady Queen of Peace of South Africa, the Custody of Saint Clare of Mozambique, the Custody of

the Good Shepherd of Zimbabwe and the Immaculate Mother of God Foundation in Angola)

At the end of the meeting, the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, br. Massimo Fusarelli, sent a message to those present: "Greetings to all. I am following the work of the African Conference, I wish to encourage you. In December I will be in South Africa and Zimbabwe on a fraternal visit to these two Entities, in January in Kenya for the conference meeting with the General Definitory".

The following participated in the Assembly: br. Virgile Agbessi, Prov. Incarnate Word (West Africa); br. Fredick, Prov. Saint Francis of Assisi (East Africa); br. Gregoire Bowa-Kateta, Prov. of Our Lady of the Angels (Democratic Republic of Congo); Br. Andre Marhabale, Prov. Saint Benedict the African (RDC); br. Siphelle Paul Gwanisheni, Prov. Our Lady Queen of Peace (Southern Africa); br. Stéphane Delaveue, Cust. Holy Martyrs (Morocco); br. Lage Afonso, Cust. St. Claire (Mozambique); br. Armando Cossá, Cust. Saint Francis of Assisi (Guinea Bissau); br. Thomas Makamure, Cust. of The Good Shepherd (Zimbabwe); br. Canga Manuel Mazoa (representing br. Ivair Bueno de Carvalho, President of the Immaculate Mother of God Foundation of Angola); br. Jérôme, Foundation of the Central African Republic; br. Peter Tindo, Foundation of Saint Francis of Assisi (Sudan and South Sudan).

Source: br. Canga Manuel Mazoa – www.franciscanos.org.br



THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE MEETS ONCE A YEAR. IT HAS 15 ENTITIES, 6 PROVINCES, 5 CUSTODIES, 4 FOUNDATIONS, 3 FRANCISCAN PRESENCES. OF THE 54 COUNTRIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, THE FRIARS ARE PRESENT IN 32 COUNTRIES. THE NEXT ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER 2024 IN SOUTH AFRICA AND TOGO.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY TEMPO FORTE SEPTEMBER 2023

The Tempo Forte in September took place from the 4th to the 15th and took place at the General Curia "Our Lady Mediatrix", in Rome. The ordinary sessions were preceded by two extraordinary sessions, which took place at the friary of "Jesus and Mary" in Pescocostanzo (AQ) on the 23rd and 25th July 2023.

The General Definitory, at the beginning, passed a time of personal narration, to deepen mutual relations and share the experiences of the period that had elapsed since the last Tempo Forte; it defined the programme and objectives of the Meeting of the Definitory with the Guardians, Vicars and Bursars of the Fraternities of Rome dependent on the Minister General, set for the 18th December 2023. The Definitory continued to reflect on the rotation of the personnel of different Houses/Friaries and Works dependent on the Minister General. Definitory re-examined the Document signed with the Presidents of the Conferences regarding Mandate 31 and Orientation 29 of the 2021 General Chapter: it elaborated a questionnaire that will soon be disseminated; defined the programme of the Meeting of the General Definitory with the New Ministers Provincial and Custodial which came to pass from the 13th to the -21st November 2023 (The invited Ministers have already been reached) and updated the date of the same Meeting with the other New Ministers Provincial and Custodial of 2024, setting it to take place from the 10th -18th May; met with the New Definitory of the Province of Ireland to agree on the status of the new presence in Stratford (London); continued the discernment and verification of the presence of the Order in Russia and the Foundation. The Definitory updated itself on administrative and fiscal issues concerning the International College of "St. Anthony" in Rome; it discussed the presence and mission of the Order in the Far East; with br Albert SCHMUCKI, Director of the Office for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. The Definitory looked at the draft Document on Protection; received from br Darko TEPERT, Secretary General for Formation and Studies, updates on the Document on affective maturity, on the 2024 Centenary cards to be distributed to the Order, on the Pontifical Antonianum University, on the Congress of the Order's Study and Research Centres (4th-7th July 2023), on the Conference of Lay Brothers and that of the Temporary Pro-

Communiqué Tempo Forte



Ordo Fratrum Minorum Secretarius Generalis

fessed of Europe. The Definitory planned the Celebration of the Chapter of Mats of the Roman Friaries dependent on the Minister General (3rd-4th May 2024); The Definitory heard from Br Dennis TAYO, General Animator for the Missions, some updates on the mission in Thailand, on Papua New Guinea and on the missionary course lived in Cebu City (Philippines, June-July 2023); The Definitory listened to the updates on economic matters presented by br John PUODZIUNAS, Treasurer General; on Tuesday 12th September, the Definitory met the staff and the 'guests' of the "St. Anthony" Food Distribution Centre at the Antonianum in Rome. The Definitory listened to updates from Br Giovangiuseppe CALIFANO, Postulator General and all the staff, headed by the new Director br Byron A. CHAMANN ANLEU, of the Office of Communications; examined the draft programme of the Meeting of the General Definitory with the union of FCAO Conferences (April 2024); On Thursday the 14th September, the Definitory met with the friars who work at the Holy See and took time to reflect on the Synodal journey of the Church and the Order.

THE GENERAL DEFINITORY:

Elected:

- The Board of the Dependent Foundation of "St. Francis" in Russia.
- The Board of the Dep. Foundation of "St Francis" in Papua New Guinea

Appointed:

- br Ignacio CEJA JIMÉNEZ, Vicar General, Visitor General of Custody of the "Annunciation B.V.M." in Albania and Montenegro (Shkodër).

- br Gustavo Wayand MEDELLA, General Visitor of the Province of the "Holy Cross", in Brazil (Belo Horizonte).

The Definitory approved the shortlist of candidates for Minister Provincial of:

The Province of "St. Anthony of Padua", in Brazil (Recife).

Of the following Entities, the Definitory ratified the Acts of the elections that took place:

In Chapter: Prov. "St James of Marca", in Italy (Jesi); Prov. "Holy Gospel", in Mexico (Coyoacán); Prov. "Saints. Peter and Paul", in Mexico (Michoacán); Province of Ireland (Dublin); The Foundation of "Our Lady of Africa" in Congo.

In Chapter Congress: Prov. "St. Francis Stigmatized", in Italy (Florence); Prov. "Our Lady of the Angels", in Poland (Kraków); Prov. "Saints. Peter and Paul", in Mexico (Michoacán); Prov. "The Holy Gospel", in Mexico (Coyoacán); Province of Ireland (Dublin); Prov. "St. Bonaventure", in Italy (Rome); Prov. "St. Wenceslas", in the Czech Republic (Praha); Foundation of "Our Lady of Africa" in Congo.

Out of Chapter: of the Definitors: of the Prov. "St. Francis Solano", in Peru (Lima), 1; Prov. "B.V.M. Queen of China", in Taiwan (Taishan Shiang), 1; Prov. of "The Holy Cross", in Brazil (Belo Horizonte), 1.

Out of Chapter: of the Guardians of the: Prov. "St. Casmir", in Lithuania (Vilnius): 1; Prov. "The Most Holy Name of Jesus", in Italy (Acireale), 1; Prov. "St. Francis of Quito", in Ecuador (Quito), 1; Prov. "The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus" in Italy (Naples), 2.

The Definitory analyzed the Reports of:

- The Post Canonical visitation of the Visitor General or of the Minister Provincial: Province of "St. James of Marca", in Italy (Jesi); Prov. "The Immaculate Conception B.V.M.", in Poland (Kalwaria Z.); Prov. "St. Michael the Archangel", in Ukraine (Zhhytomyr); Prov. "St. Wenceslas", in the Czech Republic (Praha); Prov. "Our Lady of the Angels", in

- Poland (Kraków); Foundation of "Our Lady of Africa", in Congo.
- Regarding the updating, of the General Delegate: Prov. of the "The Holy Cross", in Slovenia (Ljubljana); Prov. of "St. Casmir", in Lithuania (Vilnius); erected Prov. of "Our Lady of Guadalupe", in the USA (Atlanta).
- Prov. "Sts. Cyril and Methodius", in Croatia (Zagreb), at the 42nd Provincial Chapter.
- Foundation of "St. Francis" in Russia for a three-year period.

The Definitory appointed:

- Mrs. Maria Eugenia RIOS ANDRADE OFS, as a member of the JPIC Coordination Committee for the Mediterranean Franciscan Network.
- Ms Siew Hua THIO and Mr. Gianluca GORI as a member of CIRE.
- br Aidan McGRATH, br Jimmy ZAMMIT and br Franco MIRRI as members of the Executive Commission Fraternity of Stratford in London (CEF).

The Definitory addressed the following practices regarding the change of legal status:

- Integration of the Custody of Britain into the Province of Ireland.
- Case Deletions: 3.

The Definitory has dealt with the following cases of separation from the Order:

- Exemption from Temporary Vows: 3.
- Exclaustration pardon: 6.
- Extension of exclaustration pardon: 1.
- Indult of secularization ad experimentum: 1.
- Indult of secularization pure et simpliciter: 1.
- Indult of dispensation from Solemn Vows: 4.
- Indult of dispensation from the burdens of the Clerical State and Solemn Vows: 3.
- Resignation ipso facto: 1.
- Resignations: 4.

The Definitory examined practices already in progress and new ones:

- Possible case of graviora delicta: 1.
- Graviora delicta case: 1.

The Definitory dealt with other practices of various kinds:

- Granting Obedience to Mission: 3.
- Alienation of real estate: 1.
- Postponement of the Provincial/Custodial Chapter: 1.
- Sanation admission to the Order: 2.
- Transfer of the Novitiate House: 1.
- Approvals of the Ratio Formationis of Entities: 1.

On conclusion, the General Definitory verified the direction of the Tempo Forte.

The General Definitory announced that, shortly, the Ministers and Secretaries of all the Entities of the Order and the Heads (Presidents and Guardians) of the Entities dependent on the Minister General will receive access credentials (e-mail and password) to the Database in use in the General Curia which summarize the Schematismus and Directiones Domorum: that e-mail will be considered as the official address for communication between the General Curia and each Entity.

The next Tempo Forte is scheduled from the 3rd to the 21st November 2023: from 13th to the 21st the Definitory will meet a section of the new Provincial and Custodial Ministers. All the Secretariats of the Entities of the Order are reminded to send the requests to be submitted to the General Definitory within one week from the beginning of the Tempo Forte work: the requests received at outside this time frame will be postponed until the next Tempo Forte.

In praise of Christ and the Poverello of Assisi. Amen!

Rome, 29th September 2023.
Br Antonio M. IACONA, ofm
Secretary-General

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RULE HONORIUS III, THE FRIARS MINOR AND THE RULE OF 1223

The Italian Historical Institute for the Middle Ages has published the book "Honorius III, the Friars Minor and the Rule of 1223", edited by Antonella Dejure, Christian Grasso, Juri Leoni, Marco Guida, Massimo Miglio and Sara Muzzi, which concerns the Rule of the Friars Minor of 1223.

The book is the result of the international conference held at the Pontifical University Antonianum (PUA) on 12-13 May 2022 and comes out on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the confirmation of the Rule; it will be an essential point of reference for those who want to study and deepen the Rule of the Friars Minor and its tradition.

The preamble reads: "Proinde is sit finis libri, sed non finis quaerendi". With these words of Bernard of Clairvaux concluded the volume *New Studies on Honorius III* published in 2017 by the Italian Historical Institute for the Middle Ages in the *Italia Sacra* series. It was hoped that the studies on the Pontificate of Honorius III (1216-1227) would be continued. The same desire was expressed at the end of the research seminar by Cencio

Romano to Honorius III. *Nuovi Studi*, held at the Pontifical University Antonianum on the 15th May 2018, the reports of which were published in the journal *Antonianum*, issue 3 of 2019.

Honorius III was for a long time, perhaps even too long, one of the least frequented Pontiffs historiographically. His own role, which is central to the genesis and historical development of the Order of Friars Minor, has thus been blurred. And yet, it was Honorius III himself who put his signature at the end of the famous *Solet annuere*, with which on 29th November 1223 the Apostolic See confirmed the Rule of Life of the Order created by Francis of Assisi.

[To discover the contents of the rich volume, read an excerpt](#)



ANNUAL MEETING IN BURLINGTON WISCONSIN, USA GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FRANCISCAN MISSIONS



Our General Secretariat for Franciscan Missions has offices in Burlington Wisconsin, USA (Catholic Missionary Work - Franciscan Missions). On the 18 and 19 of September the Board of Directors met for their

annual face-to-face meeting - they meet by Zoom at other times during the year to approve projects and disbursements, a protocol that has been regularized during our Covid experience.

These September dates were filled with opportunities to come to know the good work being done by our Franciscan Missionaries throughout the world. There was also work to be done on the bylaws in view of the transformation taking place in six of our seven US provinces.

Currently the ten-member board is made

up of representatives of the US Provinces of the Friars Minor and three ex-officio members from the OFM General Curia in Rome. Brother Andrew Brophy, the director of GSFM, also joins us and, depending on the topics, other staff and volunteers can be at the meeting either in person or by Zoom, to provide us with pertinent information.

Living together gave us a chance to get to know one another better, to ask questions about the good work being done by our Franciscans, to pray together and to be "brothers".

OFM
ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

Director: Br. Byron A. Chamann Anléu OFM
Translator: Br. John Luke OFM

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