

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, USA

FAITH, UNITY AND FRATERNITY MARK ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROVINCE

There were deep expressions of faith and joy, along with some tears shed, as friars from across the United States gathered in Kansas City on the morning of Oct. 17 for the birth of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the synodal Chapter of Unity.

This historical unification paves the way for a future rooted in renewing Franciscan life, spirituality and fraternity by living the Gospel through service to the poor and those in the margins.

At the start of morning prayer, Minister General Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, said, "My brothers, by God's grace and your generous spirits, you have come here to establish a new entity in our Order."



He acknowledged that it was "a special moment, a time of emotions, and time of history," while emphasizing that the friars' faith gave them the capacity to come together.

During the Rite of Suppression for the legacy provinces, members of the individual provinces were asked to stand. Br. Massimo called each Provincial Minister forward to recount a brief history of their respective province, share their gratitude for the past and hope for the future. Each friar then resigned his position and handed over the seal for the province. In response to each, Br. Massimo said, "In the name of the entire Order, I thank you, brother, and all the brothers for your fraternal life and ministry and call down the blessing of God upon you." >>

GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- From the 3rd to the 11th November 2023, in the Curia, dr. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and the General Definitory will be engaged in the Tempo Forte. From the 13th to the 21st November, they will meet the recently elected Provincial and Custodial Ministers.
- On the 5th and 6th November 2023 fr. Cesare Vaiani, General Definitory, will participate in the inter-provincial meeting of the CONFRES friars in Madrid (Spain).
- On the 7th November in Rome, at the PUA, Br. Massimo will concelebrate the Holy Mass, presided over by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, in honour of Blessed John Duns Scotus; on the 8th he will participate in the Academic Act in honour of Blessed John Duns Scotus; on November 11th, in Subiaco, he will participate in the celebrations for the Centenary of the Portrait of St. Francis.
- From the 6th to 8th November fr. Francisco Gomez Vargas, Secretary of the SGME, will participate in the Curia meeting on the New Forms of Presence, Life and Evangelization in Europe, which involves 20 representatives from the fraternities present in Europe. From the 7th to the 9th he will participate online in the inter-Franciscan Course (OFM, OFMConv, OFMCap, TOR) on Missionary Training in Europe.
- From the 6th to 10th November fr. Albert Shmucki, Director of the Protection Office, and the General Definitors fr. John Wong and fr. Jimmy Zammit will participate in the second unit of the "Discerning Leadership" course in Rome.



Br. Massimo said. “And all of this should indeed be in service of our lives: what we can do, how we can live, what we can offer, and how we can make this new reality a true fraternal reality. It’s going to be challenging. Sometimes, maybe even frustrating. But we are witnessing something new being born. Our Order needs that newness and freshness!”

[Continue reading on the website >>> >>>](#)

[Read more: “Chapter of Unity Begins with Faith and Hope”](#)

By Eileen Connelly, OSU

Foto Br. Octavio Duran, OFM

The Rites of Establishment of our Lady of Guadalupe Province and establishment of new administration followed. Br. Lawrence Hayes, OFM, was confirmed as the Provincial Minister of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Br. Mark Soehner, OFM, as Vicar Provincial; and Brothers John Eaton, OFM; Erick Lopez, OFM; Roger Lopez, OFM; Samuel Nasada, OFM; Rommel Perez Flores, OFM; José Rodriguez, OFM; and Edward Tlucek, OFM, to the office of Provincial Councilor. Each friar read his Profession of Faith and expressed his commitment to the Order and to his office.



During his homily at Mass later in the morning, Br. Massimo told the friars that St. Francis is the perfect example of “how to harmonize our lives, the needs of our time, the Church and the Gospel”.

"WHAT WE CAN DO, HOW WE CAN LIVE, WHAT WE CAN OFFER, AND HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS NEW REALITY A TRUE FRATERNAL REALITY. IT'S GOING TO BE CHALLENGING"

“Dear brothers, as you all know, in the last couple of decades, so many friars have spent a lot of energy organizing, developing, scheduling, and estimating the events we are living,”

POOR SISTERS OF ST CLARE CONFEDERATION OF ST AGNES OF PRAGUE: TOWARDS UNITY

From 16 to 20 October, the Poor Sisters of St Clare of the Confederation of St Agnes of Prague met for an Assembly in Chevilly-Larue, near Paris, where they focused on the unification of their three Federations.



Fr. Fábio Cesar Gomes, Assistant General pro monialibus, joined them on the last day of the meeting to speak about the importance of the Federations as structures of communion; he also updated the Sisters on the process of

revising the Constitutions of the whole Order. May St. Clare continue to intercede for and inspire the Federation in this new stage of its journey.

Who is there, then, who would not encourage me to rejoice over such marvelous joys? Therefore, dearly beloved, may you too always rejoice in the Lord. And may neither bitterness nor a cloud of sadness overwhelm you, O dearly beloved Lady in Christ, joy of the angels and crown of your sisters.

(From Letter III of St Clare to St Agnes of Prague)

BORKI WIELKIE, POLONIA

BEGINNING OF THE INTERPROVINCIAL POSTULATE IN POLAND

The Interprovincial Postulancy of all five Polish Provinces began on Friday 13 October in the Monastery of Borki Wielkie, Poland.

At the beginning of the celebration the letter of the Minister General was read. Among other things, he wrote: "One of the aims of the Postulancy is to enable the postulant to confirm his decision to begin following Jesus Christ according to the form of life of St. Francis and to prepare himself adequately for the novitiate" (*Ratio Formationis Franciscanae*, 181); during this journey "the postulant, with the help of the formators, devotes himself especially to his human formation and deepens his baptismal commitment" (*RFF*, 182). In these few words we clearly find the essence of this stage, and this is what I hope you will experience in the context of the Fraternity of Formation, made up of all the Friars of the House. May the candidates see in you the mirror of a fraternal life, of poverty and of the grace of work. May they work on themselves and open themselves with confidence to personal and community accompaniment".



reminded the postulants where they can find this cross, but also that they will carry it more easily in the Fraternity. Finally, he stressed that the Lord must always be at the centre of their vocation. It is he who has called them and it is he who will give them the strength to continue. Speaking of the first reading with the priestly blessing from the Book of Numbers, which St. Francis mentioned in his note to Brother Leo, Fr. Darko explained that in it the holy name of God is invoked three times upon the Israelites, in the same way that the sign of the Tau, which St. Francis drew on Brother Leo's name, was to be written by the prophet Ezekiel on the foreheads of those who believed in God, or in the Book of Revelation on the foreheads of the redeemed, and he wished that the postulants would wear the sign of the Tau as a sign of the cross, but of the cross that means love.

After the homily, each Minister Provincial received his candidates in postulancy. Since then the Provinces in Poland have 15 new postulants.



The Holy Mass was presided over by the Definitor General, Fr. Konrad Cholewa, in the presence of all five Ministers Provincial, the Secretary and Vice Secretary General for Formation and Studies, and the friars of the local fraternity. Darko Tepert, in his homily in Polish, based on the words of the Gospel of Matthew, stressed that the Lord's call begins with the words: "If you will". The Lord always leaves freedom to his callers. Jesus then asks his disciples to deny themselves. Brother Darko explained that one cannot erase oneself and Jesus does not ask him to do so.

What he asks is to place one's will in the hands of God. St. Francis himself sought God's will until the end of his life, for example on La Verna, where he received the stigmata. Jesus invited his disciples to take up their own cross. Brother Darko

At the end of the celebration, Fr. Konrad invited the postulants to live their vocation with joy. After Holy Mass and the sharing of the table, everyone paused for a moment of fraternal sharing.



GENERAL CURIA, 9 - 12 OCTOBER

MEETING OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY WITH THE MINISTERS OF COMPI AND CONFRES

The Minister General and his Definitory met with the Ministers Provincial of the Conferences of Italy and Albania (COMPI) and of Spain and Portugal (CONFRES) at the General Curia from 9 to 12 October. The main purpose of this meeting was to continue the process of union initiated by the two Conferences some years ago.

During these days it was possible to deepen mutual knowledge, the desire for collaboration and some concrete practical issues. The atmosphere was close and fraternal, always seeking the common good and mutual help in the essential Franciscan vocation which unites and defines us.

Albert Schmucki, Definitory General, spoke about the protection of minors and the protocols that the Provinces and Conferences must have in place. Fabio Catenacci (Province of St. Bonaventure - Lazio and Abruzzo -) and Graziano Malgeri (Seraphic Province - Umbria and Sardegna -) were also present at the Assembly on the theme of Europe and vocations. They spoke about Youth and Vocations Ministry and shared some of the experiences that COMPI is carrying out in this fundamental area of our Order.

On the subject of the Union of Conferences, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, gave a historical review of the role that the Conferences have had and still have in the structure of the Order. He emphasised in particular that the Conferences, over and above their juridical power, must be a space of life that supports the Ministers and Government of the Order in their task of animating the Friars. He also stressed that, although the origin of this process of unification is the minority imposed by the reduction of Friars and Provinces, we Friars must live this moment as a "kairos", a significant moment, an opportunity, a space of grace through which we can collaborate in the vocation and mission to which the Lord has called us within the Order.



Claudio Durigetto, responsible for the Procure in the General Curia, also took part. In his speech, based on the legislation of the Church, the General Statutes and the Statutes of the two Conferences, he presented the juridical keys on which the process of union and formation of the new Conference must be based.

A commission has been set up, composed of Br. Cesare Vaiani, Definitory General, and the Presidents of CONFRES and COMPI. This Commission, with the help of the necessary juridical advisers, will be responsible for preparing the draft Statutes of the new Conference, which will be studied by the Assembly of Ministers of CONFRES-COMPI and then sent to the General Definitory for study and, if necessary, final approval.

Finally, they thanked the Friars of the General Curia for their welcome and hospitality, for opening their doors and accompanying the Friars during these days of work and fellowship.

Br. Jesús Hernández Martín, CONFRES Secretary

DECEASED BROTHERS *

- 21st October: Br Sergey Loktionov, Custody of the Holy Land
- 19th October: Br Berthold Duffner, Prov. of St Elizabeth (Germany)
- 17th October: Br Roberto Camilleri, Prov. St. Paul the Apostle (Malta)
- 13th Oct: Br Trpimir Leko, Prov. Sts Cyril and Methodius (Croatia)
- 7th Oct: Br Cataldo Migliazzo, Prov. Most Holy Name of Jesus (Italy)
- 7th October: Br Mario Jurišić, Prov. Most Holy Redeemer (Croatia)
- 1st October: Br Louis Bartko, Prov. of St John the Baptist (USA)
- 26th September: Br Krzysztof Kustra, Prov. St. Mary of the Angels (Poland)
- 24th September: Br Daniel Anderson, Prov. of St John the Baptist (USA)
- 10th September: Br Milan Jašić, Prov. of St Redeemer (Croatia)

* Information received from General Secretariat secgen@ofm.org

12-14 OCTOBER IN RAMA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

CONFERENCE ON PROTECTION IN THE SOUTH SLAVIC CONFERENCE

From 12 to 14 October, a conference on the protection of minors and vulnerable persons was held in Rama, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with the participation of provincial Ministers, provincial Protection Delegates and trainers from the South Slavic Conference.

Among the speakers were Dr. Anita Dučkić Sertić and Dr. Sanda Smoljo-Dobrovoljski, both psychologists, who introduced the participants to the dynamics of abuse and the accompaniment of victims, especially those from families where boundaries are not respected, based on concrete cases.

Dr. Josip Bošnjaković, also a psychologist, proposed a reflection on the abuse of power based on the biblical story of Abraham and Hagar. Since Abraham's loyalty and love was first and foremost for Sarah and not for the Lord, Abraham and Sarah decide on the fate of the servant girl, on Hagar's "destiny". This story is sometimes repeated because, for some religious, loyalty is first and foremost to the bishop, to the provincial Minister, to the Church, to the brothers, to the relatives, to the reputation, to the money, to the honour, and not first and foremost to the human being, "Hagar": this leads to the abuse of power and also to the question of covering up cases.

The book "Spiritual Abuse" by Doris Wagner (2019), in which Klaus Mertes immediately points out three possible situations in which spiritual abuse occurs, was also discussed: when the person receiving spiritual help substitutes the voice of God for that of the person receiving help; when the person giving spiritual help thinks he is replacing the voice of God; when both are deceived by the above possibilities.



After a panel discussion on the theme of protection in ongoing and initial formation, there was a discussion on how to select candidates in order to avoid possible abusers. The Definitor General, Fr. Albert Schmucki, OFM, shared his experience of accompanying friars accused of abuse. There is no single profile of the abuser, but very often they are people who put all their energy into their work but suffer from a great psychological and spiritual emptiness within themselves.

Finally, Fr. Ratko Radišić, OFM, of the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius (Croatia), spoke about some juridical aspects of responding to an accusation of abuse.

This conference was very useful for the friars who took part, who are now better able to continue their commitment to the protection of minors and vulnerable people.



OFM WORLD

Beginning of the Academic Year of the Theological Institute of Murcia (Spain)



Anniversaries of Priesthood, Province of the Holy Gospel (Mexico)



Vocational Pastoral Meeting, Conference of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean)



Relic of from the Holy Mountain of La Verna sent to Kiev (Ukraine) for peace



Msgr. Luis Cabrera Herrera, OFM, Archbishop of Guayaquil (Ecuador), at the Synod in the Vatican



Br. Victor Quematcha, General Definitor, celebrates his 25 years of priesthood in Guinea Bissau.

POLAND, 11 - 12 OCTOBER

MEETING OF THE ANIMATION OFFICES OF THE NORTH SLAVIC CONFERENCE

On the 11th and 12th October 2023, at the House of Pilgrims at the Sanctuary of Mount St. Anne in Poland, the General Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization, the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies and the General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, in collaboration with the President of the Conference, br. Alard Maliszewski, and in the presence of the Definitor General responsible for the North Slavic Conference, br. Konrad Cholewa, organized the meeting of all the respective Offices of the Provinces of this Conference.

The meeting began with the celebration of Holy Mass, presided over by the President of the Conference, who read the letter of greeting sent by br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, who wrote, amongst other things: "This moment is very important to take stock of the situation together in the various areas, listening to the positive things that grow amongst you and knowing how to read the weaknesses. All for a more common and co-responsible relaunch in the various fields".

Before the blessing, the Minister General added: "I hope that the discussion with friars of the General Curia will help you to expand



the boundaries of your Conference to those of the entire Order, to be able to feel and walk in communion with all the friars scattered throughout the world".

At the beginning of the work, the Secretary General for Formation and Studies, br. Darko Tepert, presented the purpose of the meeting and the work of his Secretariat, especially regarding the preparation of the European Meeting of >>



Temporary Professed Friars and the possibilities of collaboration between different Offices within the Conference. The Secretary General for Missions and Evangelization, br. Francisco Gómez Vargas,

presented the structure of his Secretariat and the responsibilities of the individual components. In addition, he informed the participants about the point at which we arrived in the preparation of the Ratio evangelizationis of our Order and underlined the importance of the work that the Secretariat carries out with regard to new forms of life and evangelization in Europe.

The Director of the General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco, presented the various commitments of his Office, emphasizing that they are the responsibility of all the friars. In a brief discussion, the participants reflected on the topics presented. In the afternoon part of the first day, the individual Provincial Secretaries for Formation and Studies and for the Missions and Evangelization, as well as the Provincial Animators for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, presented

the work of their offices and Provinces in their respective fields and the challenges they encounter in this work.

On the second day of the meeting, at the beginning of the day, after Holy Mass presided over by the Definitor General, br. Konrad Cholewa, and after the completion of the presentations of all the Provinces, the President of the Conference, br. Alard stressed that the North Slavic Conference has an important and confirmed role in recent history, which is realized through various meetings and through concrete collaboration in different fields. The decline in the number of friars may represent a challenge, but it is neither the only nor the first motivation for collaboration. The Conference is marked by common history, often not easy. One difficulty is the diversity of languages, cultures and rituals.

In conclusion, br. Alard also asked questions concerning different offices; In conclusion, he stressed that the focus must always be on brothers. After a brief discussion, the work continued in three groups: one dedicated to missions and evangelization, one to formation and studies, and one to justice, peace and integrity of creation.

[Continue reading on the website >>>](#)

PROVINCE "ST FRANCIS"

ONGOING FORMATION MEETING IN TORUŃ, POLAND

At the invitation of the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Francis in Poland, on the 23rd October 2023 in the friary of Toruń, fr. Darko Tepert, General Secretary for Formation and Studies, participated in the Province's ongoing training day on the theme "Sacred Scripture in the Regula Bollata".

In the first conference, fr. Darko presented which biblical themes are present in the Rule and showed how the idea of observing the Rule and the Word of God comes from Sacred Scripture and particularly from Deuteronomy. Furthermore, he highlighted those passages of the Rule in which Saint Francis develops the texts mentioned in the triple opening of the Gospel at the beginning of his call and the life of the Friars Minor.

After the break, the friars discussed in small groups the presence of the Word of God in their personal and fraternal lives.

During the celebration of the Holy Mass, presided over by the Minister Provincial, fr. Leonard Bielecki, starting from the evangelical passage, fr. Darko underlined some aspects of fraternal life and, based on the example of Saint John of Capestrano,

invited friars to free themselves from the limitations placed by ourselves and to be, like this saint, free to go wheresoever the Lord can send us.

In the afternoon meeting, the small groups reported the fruits of their discussions and fr. Darko exposed the way in which Saint Francis sees life according to the Rule and according to the Gospel at the end of his life, in his Testament. He highlighted Francis' desire to live the Gospel and the Rule sine glossa, explaining the meaning of the term glossa in Francis' time and showing that this does not mean the absence of any interpretation.



ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS, ASSISI, 7-12 OCTOBER
INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF OFM FRANCISCAN HERMITAGES

The International Meeting of OFM Franciscan Hermitages, promoted by the Commission for Prayer and Devotion of the Order, was held at Santa Maria degli Angeli, Assisi, from 7 to 12 October. There were 27 friars present, representing 21 fraternities (11 from Europe, 6 from Latin America, 1 from the USA, 1 from Korea, 1 from Togo and 1 from the Holy Land); not only hermitages, but also some houses of prayer.



The first day of work was introduced by Mother Cristiana Mondonico OSC, who meditated on the Lord's invitation to Francis to repair his "house" and not his church: the life of the friars, the various discernments, must have as its goal the creation of "recollection", according to Mother Cristiana; a life in which the Kingdom of God and his justice are sought "first of all" by "repairing the house of the heart". Contemplation means entering the house of the heart, where there is a struggle: there is someone who destroys it and someone who repairs it.

Paolo Zampollini (President of the OFM Commission for Spirituality and Prayer) then invited the brothers to pray on the Gospel passage of Martha and Mary (Lk 10:38-42), helping them to understand the meaning of the quotation of this passage in the Rule for hermits. Darko Tepert, OFM, General Secretary for Formation and Studies, Fr. Francisco Gómez Vargas, OFM, General Secretary for Missions and Evangelisation, Fr. Daniel Nicolas R. Blanco, OFM, Director of the General Office for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, who presented the activities of their offices, emphasising how the friars living in hermitages can contribute to them.

In the days that followed, the activities continued between moments of mutual listening and times of individual or communal prayer in the places dear to St. Francis. Before the arrival of the Minister General, Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, the friars, divided into working groups, reflected on some questions put to them by the Commission: What is the call of the Lord to live in a hermitage within the call to be a Brother? How can the experience of the contemplative life be put at the service of all the friars of the Order?

The summary of the answers given to Fr. Massimo showed that life in a hermitage is first and foremost a response to God's call. The richness, vitality, creativity and variety of life in hermitages and houses of prayer were also evident. In conclusion, some proposals were made to the Minister: to repeat the meeting of the Friars living in hermitages throughout the world every three years; to organise annual meetings of two or three days in the respective Conferences or geographical areas; to promote, through various initiatives, a real knowledge of the Franciscan hermitages among all the Friars of the Order.

Beginning with the liturgy of the day, the reading of RB X, the Testament of Siena and the Rer itself, the Minister General gave important reflections on how to continue the journey in the individual hermitages, but also on how to continue the journey of knowledge and communion begun at this Conference and put it at the service of the Order.

In particular, he emphasised that having the "Spirit of the Lord" is at the heart of the Franciscan charism, so that >>



places and spaces, such as hermitages, are needed for this necessary "care of the heart" to grow. Only in this way, said Fr. Massimo, will it be possible to reach the heart of Franciscan life, which is "to make our life a praise to God, to be able to give thanks to God because he is the Most High".

The Conference ended on 12 October with the celebration of Holy Mass in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, presided

over by the Minister General, with the whole community of the Porziuncola.

Some of the friars present at the meeting testified to the joy and the moment of grace they had experienced during these days: [continue reading on the website >>>](#)

With the contribution of: Fr. Paolo Zampollini

REFLECTIONS BY BR MASSIMO - OCTOBER 2023 MUSEUMS OF THE FUTURE

In many of our historic Provinces we find the museums of our past, which present a way of life as Friars that no longer exists, fixed in environments and objects that reproduce it, often in an idealised way.

We do not usually have museums ... of the future, places where we can imagine and experience who and how we will be in the near future. The General Chapter of 2021 has asked us to review the main structures of governance and animation of the Order, and we have begun this process.

We cannot stop at the top structures. We urgently need to look with faith at our future in a world that is changing and challenging us. What will we Friars Minor be like in 20 or 30 years? We need to live and act today with an eye to the future.

How can we work to accompany and prevent change, not just to live through it? How can we be concerned about future generations of Friars to whom we will be handing over not only houses and works that are very difficult to manage, but a life that must be expressed in a way that is understandable today?

The Order is changing rapidly, in numbers, in the distribution of the Friars in the different geographical areas, in the structures that it manages to maintain, such as the structures of governance and animation that it has given itself over time. Therefore, we cannot continue to maintain all the structures that history has given us. It is not just a question of reducing, but of asking ourselves once again who we want to be today in order to proclaim the hope of the Gospel.

From here we are called to seek, to discern and to begin to live



something new, so that the future will not surprise us. I am well aware that it is difficult and painful to say goodbye to a past that we often idealise and wish to preserve, or that we resign ourselves to seeing die.

"IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT WE CAN RETHINK THE STRUCTURES OF THE ORDER, THE FIRST OF WHICH REMAINS THE PERSON OF EACH FRIAR MINOR, WITHOUT WHOSE TRANSFORMATION NOTHING CHANGES"

I also know that it seems easier to give immediate answers, to sew up the wound of a world that has disappeared and of a newness that we still do not see.

The way is to grow as believers on a journey, knowing that we do not know everything and accepting to learn together to listen to the Lord and to the signs of the times.

This is true, though in different ways, in every area of the Order, even in the youngest. It is in this context that we can rethink the structures of the Order, the first of which remains the person of each Friar Minor, without whose transformation nothing changes. It would be useful to have places where we can observe reality, study it and try to anticipate the future in the light of the Gospel and our charism.

Museums... of the future! They are beginning to be built!

10TH – 13TH OCTOBER, LIMA (PERU)
FRANCISCAN STUDIES WEEK 2023

The Franciscan Studies Week 2023 was held from the 10th to 13th October at the Coliseum of the Private Educational Institution “St Anthony Padua” of Jesús María – Lima – Peru, organized by the Missionary Province of St Francis Solano of Peru and the Pontifical Antonianum University of Rome. The main themes of this Franciscan Week were the VIII Centenary of the approval of the Rule and the VIII Centenary of the celebration of the Nativity Scene of St. Francis in Greccio, Italy, both being significant events in the life of the Friars Minor.



Members of the Franciscan family, parish faithful and teachers from the various Franciscan educational institutions participated, who enjoyed some days of formation and fraternal sharing together.

The main speaker of the Study Week was fr. Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM, professor at the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome, along with other commentators and experts such as Br. Jorge Cajo Rodríguez, OFM and the Architect Mr. Javier Luna Elías.

After an interval of several years, this Franciscan Week is being celebrated again in Peru. It was attended by more than 600 friars who came from different parts of the country to celebrate together our way of life and the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Amongst the reports received in these days we can mention:
- That they may have life" (Jn 10:10): the Regula Bollata of St. Francis.
- Work and the economy in the light of the Regula Bollata
- Authority and Obedience: Mothers Caring for Life (cf. Rb 6:8).
- Greccio: the humanity and humility of our God.
- Greccio: Francis, "popular" theologian. Greccio and the Franciscan theological tradition.

During the conference there was also a historical reflection on both events and the testimonies of Franciscan life of three friars: Br. Felipe Quiroz Viccina, OFM, Br. Antonio Goicoechea Mendizábal, OFM, and Sr. Sebastiana Fernández Roque, FIC, who presented their service to the Church since living the consecrated life and they gave profound messages appreciated by those present.

At the conclusion the Choir of the Toribianitos in Peru sang some famous Christmas Carols that enriched the event.

The Minister Provincial, Br. Marcos Saravia Orellana, OFM, closed the meeting by thanking the organizers of the event, the speakers and all the participants, encouraging them to make the most of the formation they had received in these days.

By: Br. Jorge Ñiquen Urquiza, OFM.



Foto: vatican.va

OFM
 ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

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

General Curia of the Friars Minor

Via di S. Maria Mediatrix, 25 - Rome, Italy - comgen@ofm.org
www.ofm.org



@ofmorg



@fratrumminorum



@ofmdotorg



@ofmdotorg