

NAIROBI (KENYA), 23RD – 29TH JANUARY

THE MEETING OF THE MINISTER GENERAL AND THE GENERAL DEFINITORY WITH AFRICAN CONFERENCE

From the 23rd to 29th January 2024 the Minister General and his General Definitory met the Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Presidents of the Entities of the African Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in the Province of St. Francis in Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius.

On the first day after being welcomed by Br. Fredrick Odhiambo, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Francis, Br. Virgile Agbessi, the President of the Conference speaking online he demonstrated in his presentation the actual situation of the Conference: the growing number, but he underlined the challenge on formation of candidates and their formators. Furthermore, he spoke of a good collaboration among the Entities of the continent, inviting them to reflect on the new presence in Nigeria. In the afternoon also Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, underlined the importance of formation, both initial and ongoing, and the



choice of formators so that they may be able to accompany in a better way the young friars. He affirmed that there is a need



of investing in formation of the Guardians and inculturation of the Gospel and the Franciscan Charism.

In regard to the situation of the war, continuous instability and exploitation of natural resources of the continent by multinational companies and the complexity of many African Governments, he invited and encouraged the brothers to work for justice, living together as brothers and protect the nature. At the end, Br. Massimo invited the Entities to greater collaboration among themselves, challenging them to open a new presence in Nigeria. After, followed a discussion and Eucharistic celebration presided by Br. Sipehele Gwanisheni (Vice President of the Conference).

The other days were characterized by various presenters who were alternating among themselves: Br. Marcel Tshikez, Secretary for the Mission and Evangelization of the Conference, >>

GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- Until the 18th February 2024, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, will be in the Democratic Republic of Congo making a fraternal visit to the Provinces of St. Benedict of Africa and Our Lady of the Angels. From the 19th to the 22nd he will be in Togo and from the 23rd to the 26th in the Ivory Coast to visit the Province of the Incarnate Word.
- Until the 8th February, Br. John Wong, Definitory General, will be in Manila, in the Philippines, for the preparations for the meeting of the Franciscan Conferences of Asia Oceania (FCAO) scheduled for next April.
- Until the 8th February, Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas and Br. Dennis Tayo, General Secretary and General Animator for Mission and Evangelization, will participate in the meeting of the Commission for 'New Forms of Life and Presence in Europe', in Holland, in view of the next General Assembly.
- On the 8th February, the World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking, Br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco and Br. Taucen Girsang, Director and Vice-Director of the JPIC General Office, will participate in an online meeting together with the Franciscan Network for Migrants of the Americas. Br. Taucen will also participate in the meeting of the JPIC offices of the Franciscan Family, at the Seraphicum Institute in Rome.
- Until the 9th February, Br. Ignacio Ceja, the Vicar General, will be in Albania to prepare the Chapter of the Custody.
- On the 9th February, Br. Hieronimus Dei Rupa, >>

he made his presentation online on the joys, challenges and hopes of the African Entities.

Among the joys that exist in the conference surely there is a collaboration among various Entities even under the form of mission: it is growing more and more among the friars of the continent the willingness to become missionaries in African countries with different people as many are already doing.

About the challenges, Br. Marcel identified the challenges of inculturation, communication among the Entities, ecology, vocation of Lay Friars, interreligious and ecumenical dialogue, the necessity of having clear relationships with the Dioceses. Br. Marcel spoke on the importance of opening a house in Nigeria so as to embrace and undertake new forms of evangelization taking into account the African context.

Br. Victor Luís Quematcha, General Definitor of the African conference, analyzed the theme of re-structuring that is making New Conferences or two Sub-Conferences with regard to the languages (anglophone and francophone).

Br. Lage Afonso, Custos of Mozambique and the Secretary of the Conference, treated the theme of initial formation: collaboration among the Entities which is a good experience that needs to be maintained and developed, but he realized that there is a need of having more qualified professors and formators who are capable of accompanying better the young friars.

New infrastructures are also necessary so as to be able to accommodate the brothers in formation as the Entity are already aware of their limits, the level of professors as they are already blessed by the presence of the missionaries from other Entities.

On Sunday 28 January the Minister General and the General Definitor for Africa met with the students of theology in the Province. 20 brothers expressed their lively gratitude to the Minister General for his fraternal support and to all the benefactors of the Order.

Br. Victor explained the idea of the African Conference on Formation, through which the students coming from the different Entities of Africa will be invited to three different study centres on the continent (Lusaka - Zambia, Kolwezi in Democratic Republic of Congo, Catholic Missionary Institute of Abidjan in Ivory Coast), to undertake an International and Missionary Formation.

After the presentation of Br. Antonio Iacona, the Secretary General, on the use of the database of the Order, the meeting was concluded by an evaluation on the themes which were dealt with in the days of sharing, reflection, prayer and fraternity.



Deputy General Secretary for Formation and Studies, will participate in the online meeting of the “Spirit of Prayer and Devotion” Commission.

- Until the 16th February, Br Albert Schmucki, General Definitor and Director of the Office for the Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Adults, will be in Nairobi for a meeting on Safeguarding.
- From the 15th to 25th February Br Joaquin A. Echeverry, General Definitor, will be in Panama for the preparations for the meeting between the “Our Lady of Guadalupe” Conference and the General Definitory, to mark the 500 years of the Franciscan presence in Mexico and the visit of the Minister General to the Provinces of “The Holy Gospel”

and “St. Philip of Jesus” in Mexico.

- On the 17th February, Br Daniel and Br Taucen will participate in the online presentation of the 2023 Annual Report of the Franciscan Network of Migrants of the Americas.
- Until the 26th February, Br Konrad Cholewa, General Definitor, and Br Nikola Kozina, Director of the Development Office, will visit the friars of the “St. Francis Foundation” in Russia.
- Until the 9th February, Br César Kulkamp, General Definitor, will participate as envoy of the Minister General to the Head of the Custody of “Our Lady of Seven Joys” in Brazil; from the 20th to the 23rd he will participate, together with the Vicar General, in the Chapter of Mats of the Province of Saint Francis of Quito in Ecuador.

NAIROBI, KENYA-1ST - 15TH FEBRUARY

TRAINING COURSE ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

From 1st to 15th February a training course will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by the Office for the Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Adults of the General Curia and aimed at the friars of the African Conference. “Inspired by St. Francis to promote the dignity of every person with our words and actions” is the title of this meeting, in which approximately 50 friars from all the Entities of the African Conference will participate.

The course is part of the activities for the implementation of Mandate n.9 of the 2021 General Chapter, which aims, amongst other things, to enable each Entity to adopt a written code of conduct on the subject of Safeguarding and that all, friars and lay people who collaborate within our fraternities are trained to respect it. We have already asked some questions to Br. Joseph Condren, secretary of the General Office for Safeguarding, who is already in Nairobi for the course.

What is the objective of this course?

In view of what is happening in the other Conferences of our Order, we wish to train other friars on the topic of respect towards every human person. The 2021 General Chapter has shown us a path, which we are following by equipping the Order with some tools, such as the Manual for Safeguarding in initial and ongoing formation. With this meeting we first of all wish to shed light on all situations related to the topic of abuse, in all its forms, even the most hidden ones.

The sessions are led by various experts on this subject.

We have involved various figures to give a complete approach to the topic. On the first day, Dr. Augusta Muthigani,

Kenyan educator of the Pontifical Commission for the Safeguarding of Minors, spoke, because we want to provide all the knowledge of Canon Law and the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith in matters of Safeguarding. Moreover, some victims, lay and religious, will also speak; there will be space for sharing, reflection and prayer, personal and fraternal. Br. Albert Schmucki, Director of the General Office for Safeguarding, will show how much the Franciscan charism is involved in these issues, whilst Father Lowrent Kamwanza, of the Missionaries of Africa, will explain how safeguarding is a form of evangelization, in Africa and in the world.

What are the expectations of the General Office for safeguarding?

The intent is to guarantee the support of the Order by providing all the necessary tools to the friars. In every continent there are different cultures, traditions and habits that we must respect and from which we must start to achieve our goals. We want to provide the right knowledge of the subject, raise awareness of the risks of certain behaviours and broaden the skills of individuals and fraternities.

The training will not end with this course.

The objective is that each Entity can equip itself with a policy on the topic of Safeguarding, which will be included in the initial and ongoing training of each friar. The General Office for Safeguarding is open to everyone: the 2021 General Chapter asked us to do this, the Church asks us to do it, Saint Francis himself still asks us to do it today.

[Link to the Safeguarding Manual](#)



FORMER MINISTER GENERAL (1991-1997)

BR HERMANN SCHALÜCK HAS RETURNED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE



With sadness we inform that our brother, Hermann Schalück, OFM, former Minister General (1991-1997), died unexpectedly on the morning of 26 January 2024 at around 11.00 a.m. at the House of the Mission of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in Neuenbeken, near Paderborn (Germany). He was 84 years old.

while he was our Minister General, the opening of boundaries to the world that he knew how to give to our discourses and horizons. He sensed long ago the crisis of a certain model of religious life and knew how to point us towards the future.

He strongly sensed the urgency of a worldwide commitment to the poor and the safeguarding of creation, fueled by a deep Franciscan spirituality.

Now our dear brother, former Minister and Servant of what he himself taught us to consider an international Fraternity and not just a provincial one, is in the light of God and from there he sees people and situations. We continue perceive his fraternal presence and so capable of orienting us. It would be interesting for us to go back and read his writings and interventions, to find them always very relevant. His presence as a brother and minister continues among us".

The funeral took place on Monday, 5 February 2024 in Paderborn.

Below is an extract from the Letter that the current Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, dedicated to his late brother.

"It is with a heavy heart that I received the news of Brother Hermann Schalück's passing to Eternal Life while in Nairobi with the General Definitorium and the Ministers, Custodes and Presidents of Africa. Brother Hermann was a friar that so many of us knew and appreciated. [...]

Personally, I first met him back in 1985. The most vivid memory I have of him was his capacity for attention and listening, not only on a personal level but much deeper. In this way, one could catch something of his spirit, along with his intelligence. Last year I had heard from him by phone after the operation he had undergone, and I found the same caring and attentive person I met so many years ago. I always appreciated in Brother Hermann, especially



[Read the full text of the Letter](#)

DECEASED BROTHERS *

- 29th January: Br. Anđelko Rakhel, Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius (Croatia)
- 26th January: Br. Hermann Schalück, Province of St. Elizabeth (Germany)
- 19th January: Br. Oscar Adra Ante, Province of St. Peter Baptist (Philippines)
- 12th January: Br. Benedykt Władysław Kolaniak, Province of Our Lady of the Angels (Poland)
- 11th January: Br. David Ethelbert Flood, Province of the Holy Spirit (Canada)
- 30th December: Br. Somerset Lasola Icalina, Province of St. Peter Baptist (Philippines)

* Information received from the General Secretariat secgen@ofm.org

OFM WORLD

Entry of postulants into the Province of the Holy Faith (Colombia)



Formation Assembly & Secretariat Meeting in the Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Philippines)



Br. Massimo Fusarelli visiting the Province of the Assumption of the BVM (Italy)



Solemn Professions in the Foundation of the Immaculate Mother of God (Angola)



"Come and See Weekend" in February 2024 (Province of Ireland)



The Franciscan friars of Marrakech inaugurated the first "Caritas Intermediate Accommodation Village" (Morocco)

CONFRES AND COMPI CONFERENCES

MEETING OF THE VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF



fratars of the VYM of COMPI, shedding light on many issues and proposing ideas for working on evangelization with young people. The friars were also able to visit the Fraternities of Toledo and Arenas of St Peter and Paul, and St Anthony of Retiro in Madrid, where we had another meeting with the Minister Provincial and President of CONFRES, Br. Joaquín Zurera.

We wish to thank all the friars who in these days have marked the beginning of a new stage in the Vocational Youth Ministry of our Conferences.

After an initial videoconference meeting in September, the friars of the staff of the Vocational Youth Ministry (VYM) of CONFRES (Spain and Portugal) and COMPI (Italy and Albania), from the 9th to 12th January had a second meeting in person at the fraternity of Christ of Peace, in Madrid.

Source: <https://jovenes.ofminmaculada.org>

In recent years the Provincial Ministers of the two Conferences have discussed taking steps towards a future union. For this reason, the different areas (including Vocational Youth Ministry) were called to make contact and establish common lines of action.

It was an enrichment to be able to share life and mission with the



OFM GUARDIANATE IN TURKEY

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE GENERAL DELEGATE FOR ISTANBUL

With much sadness, we have followed the news of the attack on the church in Istanbul on Sunday 28 January 2024.

The friars of our OFM Guardianate in Turkey have assured us that all are well and that our parish churches are safe. We thank our friars, our collaborators and the many people of goodwill who have expressed their concern and offered their prayers.

The church of St Mary in Büyükdere, in the district of Sarıyer, which was attacked, is served by the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, who are dear brothers and close collaborators of the friars of our Guardianate.

We ask you to continue to pray for the peace of the Franciscan Order, the Church and the country of Turkey.



CUSTODY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI (MOZAMBIQUE)

CHIDENGUELE WELCOMES EIGHT YOUNG POSTULANTS

On the 25th January, 2024 the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, eight aspirants were admitted to the Postulancy in the Custody of Saint Clare of Assisi, in Mozambique.

The Rite of Admission, was presided over by Br Édson Augusto Nhatuve, Delegate of the Custos, was attended by the Postulancy Training Team and Monsignor Adriano Langa, OFM, Bishop Emeritus of Inhambane.

After the ceremony, the eight postulants, coming from various parts of Mozambique, expressed their joy and expectations.

For Joaquim Alberto Chato, 25 years old, born in Sofala, "the Postulancy means a time of discernment prior to entering the novitiate".

Good discernment is also shared by the young Efligenio Paulo Ganane, 21 years old, born in Gaza.

For Jorge Marques Marcelino Comé, 22 years old and born in Inhambane, postulancy is the stage that begins is that of discernment and the hope of being formed and starting to live the Franciscan life.

Discernment is also a watchword for Romoaldo João Vicente, 27 years old, born in Nampula.



For Francisco Armando Dimande, 19 years old, born in Maputo, the postulancy "is the place to begin the Franciscan journey with the friars". Fraternal life is also the central point for Bendito Cesário, 22 years old, born in Cabo Delgado. "I hope to fall in love with the poor and crucified Christ, as the Seraphic Father Saint Francis did" is the desire of



Maganha João Verniz, 26 years old, born in Manica, who, feeling the vocation to the Franciscan life, left the third year of Mathematics at University.

And finally, for Salvador António, 18 years old, born in Niassa, the stage that begins "is preparation for fraternal life".

With this entry into the Postulancy, the Custody concluded the ten days of the Franciscan Vocation, which began on the 15th January with the entry into the Novitiate of 6 postulants, on the 16th January with the First Professions of 4 novices and the renewal of the vows of 29 Temporarily Professed friars.

Currently the Custody of Saint Clare of Assisi in Mozambique has 8 postulants, 6 novices and 38 friars of Temporary Profession.

Br Evodio João, OFM



JANUARY 2024
REFLECTIONS BY BR MASSIMO

Today we become more aware every day of the plurality of cultures, even in the international brotherhood of the Order, rich in colours, languages, sensitivities, and very different visions. How can we experience this diversity that, in a society that some have defined as an "archipelago", risks transforming Pentecost into a new Babel?



It seems to me that we are called to learn again to experience this multiformity not as a threat but as an opportunity, which also helps us also to listen to where the Spirit is leading us. In this way we can allow the charism entrusted to us to spawn new visions, new possibilities and to open new paths throughout this world. Our task, in fact, is not that of repeating formulas which we had forged around the Mediterranean and in Europe, both within the Church and in our Franciscan family, but to listen to the way in which each culture allows us to affirm the core of the Christian faith, and of the forma vitae of the brothers and minors, contemplatives in mission among the poor. This is Pentecost, which implies the mutual recognition of all. It is not a given among us. John XXIII dreamed

of this with Vatican Council II, and synodality today is part of this movement. We are moving at the Entity level of the Order toward the Chapters of Mats in the different Provinces and Custodies, which will flow into the international one of June 1-8, 2025, at St. Mary of the Angels. In these meetings we want to listen to our voices and together those of lay persons, lay and religious men and women, coming from many languages and cultures of the world, to reiterate our charism today.

We are working at different levels on three points:

1. Renew our vision: *to which characteristics of the charism are we open today?*
2. Walk according to a style: *which prophetic style of fraternity in minority?*
3. Embrace the future: *testimony-mission: who and how do we serve?*

We welcome this convocation, so as not to settle for repeating formulas, believing that the charism of Francis, Clare and Elizabeth is alive and can be expressed in the many languages and cultures of our world, to show us and everyone today the beauty and the newness of the Gospel of Jesus.

ST. ANTHONY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

CELEBRATION OF THE MEMORY OF BLESSED GABRIELE ALLEGRA OFM



On the 27th January 2024, at the International College of Saint Anthony, the memory of Blessed Gabriele Allegra was celebrated with a Eucharist presided over by Br. Vjekoslav Miličević.

At the beginning of the celebration, the rector Br. Angel Montoya read the greetings sent by the Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli. In his message he told the friars: "I wish to remind you of the gentle and unshakable strength of this humble friar

minor, who crossed the world starting from his small village, to become an echo and presence of the word of salvation of the Gospel". He concluded his greeting by saying: "With these sentiments I wish you a great celebration and enjoyable fraternal moments, so that the example of Blessed Gabriele Maria continues to inspire the time you spend in Rome for studies, without digressing from the evangelical life of the friars minor, which is our vocation and the source of our true joy, which should be returned to many when you return home to your Entities".

Br. Vjekoslav said in the homily that there are men, like Blessed Gabriel Allegra, who with their lives direct our gaze towards God: "If we look at any photograph of Blessed Gabriel one thing becomes very evident: his shining smile and the joyful light of his eyes; but the light in the hearts and eyes of men, even of holy men, is a reflection of the true Light, of that Light that gives light." At the end, he invited us to follow this testimony with words and deeds, so that we too can be a reflection of God's light.

18TH - 25TH JANUARY 2024

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024 CONCLUDES

From the 18th to 25th January, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place, which this year had as its theme "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself" (Lk 10:27).

On the 24th January, in the Custody of the Holy Land, the Custos, Br Francis Patton, OFM, presided over the prayer vigil that was celebrated in the Latin parish church of St. Saviour, in Jerusalem. Br Francis dwelt on the unity of Christians paradoxically already achieved in those places: "As Christians of the Holy Land we already have an ecumenical element that unites us all and it is the element of common suffering, what in extreme cases is called the ecumenism of blood. When we are targeted, we are not targeted because we are Catholic or Orthodox or Armenian or Syriac or Coptic or Anglican or Lutheran. We are targeted simply because we are Christians. [...] Even if we do not yet perceive ourselves as united, those who want to strike us already perceive us as a single reality. I believe that in this there is a solicitation on the part of the Spirit so that we too may learn to recognize ourselves more and more as part of a single body that is beaten and humiliated and for this reason has the possibility of manifesting some form of uni-



ty that already exists in sharing the Lord's Passion, since we are not yet able to share His glory together."

On Thursday the 25th January, in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome, during the celebration of Second Vespers on the Solemnity of the Conversion of St. Paul, [Pope Francis commented on the Gospel passage from St. Luke](#) that inspired this week. If, on the one hand, the Doctor of the Law wants to divide as the devil does by asking who is the "neighbour," that is, he wonders who we should love and whom we should ignore, on the other hand, the Samaritan goes beyond religious prescriptions and



becomes a neighbour, he draws closer to his wounded brother. "Only this love that becomes gratuitous service," he said, "only this love that Jesus proclaimed and lived, will bring separated Christians closer to one another. Yes, only this love, which does not return to the past to distance itself or point fingers, which in the name of God puts one's brother and sister before the iron defense of one's own religious system, only this love will unite us. First the brother and sister, then the system."

The Holy Father dwelt at length on the difference between asking "Who is my neighbour?" and "Do I make myself a neighbour?": "Am I and then my community, my Church, my spirituality, becoming neighbours? Or do they remain barricaded in defense of their own interests, jealous of their autonomy, locked up in the calculation of their own advantages, entering into relationships with others only to get something out of it? If this were the case, it would not only be a matter of strategic mistakes, but of infidelity to the Gospel."

Pope Francis then related the Doctor of the Law, who asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, and St. Paul, who, blinded by the light of the Lord, simply asks him, "What must I do?" Paul doesn't change his life on the basis of his goals, he doesn't become better because he realizes his projects. His conversion is born of an existential reversal, where primacy no longer belongs to his skill before the Law, but to docility towards God, in a total openness to what He wants. [...] And the night before He gave His life for us, He prayed ardently to the Father for us all, "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). This is His will," Francis said. The Holy Father concluded his homily by recalling the importance of

prayer, with a thought turned to the wars in Ukraine and the Holy Land.

The handbook to accompany the celebrations, published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches, was prepared by an ecumenical group from Burkina Faso, coordinated by the local community of *Chemin Neuf*.

The West African country, in the Sahel region, has 21 million inhabitants, of whom 64% are Muslim, 9% profess traditional African religions and 26% are Christian (20% Catholic, 6% Protestant). For years, it has been experiencing serious political instability that puts the security of its citizens at risk: terrorist attacks and human trafficking have resulted in more than 2 million internally displaced persons. The situation is out of control in many parts of the country. Christian churches have been the object of many attacks and worship, abbreviated in rites, can only be considered "safe" in large cities, under the protection of the local police.

But this situation of hardship has fostered a new solidarity between the different religions, especially amongst the Christian religions, which have come together to elaborate the texts for the Week of Prayer and to give their witness of unity despite the objective difficulties they are experiencing.

The text reads: "It is only by learning to love one another, despite differences, that Christians can draw near to others, following the example of the Samaritan of the Gospel" (cf. *Texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, pp. 6-7).

Ordo Fratrum Minorum



Secretarius Generalis

- Communiqué from the General Definitory relating to the Tempo Forte of December 2023

- Communiqué of the General Definitory relating to the Tempo Forte of January 2024

2ND FEBRUARY 2024 - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

ST BONAVENTURE (†1274): A VOICE STILL RELEVANT TODAY**A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MINISTERS OF THE FIRST ORDER AND THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR on the 750th anniversary of the Death of St. Bonaventure.**

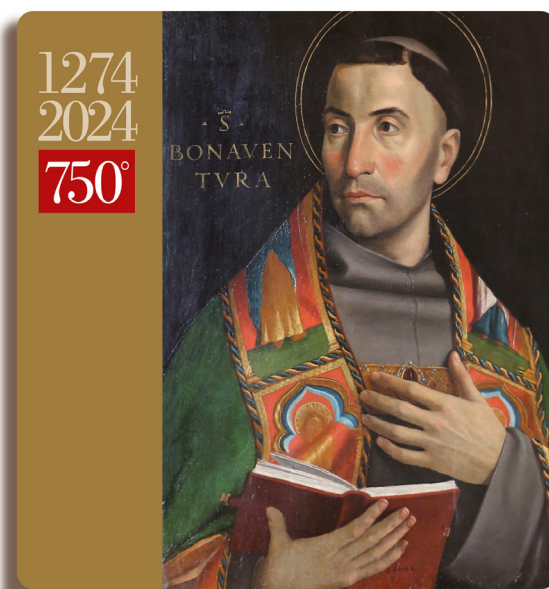
*To All the Brothers
of the Franciscan First Order
and Third Order Regular,
and to All the Brothers and Sisters
of the Franciscan Family*

The 750th anniversary of the death of the Seraphic Doctor (d. July 15, 1274), gives us an opportunity not only to remember and celebrate the service he rendered to the Order and the entire Church, but also to repropose him as a gift that is still valid for our time. During his visit at the 1974 international conference celebrating the 700th anniversary, Pope Paul VI recommended St. Bonaventure “to all the children of the Church ... so that, by careful meditation on his message, they may become an effective witness in the Church and in the world.”

Aware of his importance, but also that he is not always as well known and appreciated as he should be, even within our own circles, we want to accept again the invitation of Pope Paul VI by sharing some reflections on his life and message, certain that it will be a useful gift for us in the Franciscan Order to better live our commitment to the Church and the world. It is not easy to reproduce in a few lines the theological and Franciscan richness contained in the nine volumes of the Opera omnia of Saint Bonaventure. We have chosen, therefore, to highlight some aspects of the three main areas of his activity in chronological order of their development. First, Bonaventure was a theology master at the University of Paris until 1257, when he left the position after being elected general minister of the Order,

a position which he held continuously until the end of his life. During the time he embraced these two commitments he also revealed himself as a mystic – the third area of his activity which benefited the Order and the Church. Through this, he was able to place his experience of God at the service of others especially through spiritual direction. This letter also affords us the opportunity to express our gratitude to the many scholars, friars and lay people who, with passion and perseverance, have dedicated themselves over the last fifty years to this great and complex figure of a theologian, friar and mystic, thereby keeping his memory alive and demonstrating the richness and relevance of his thought.

[Download the Letter](#)



OFM

ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

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