

FROM 4TH TO 11TH JUNE

## VISIT OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND DEFINITOR IN ECUADOR

From 4th to 11th of June Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and Br. César Kùlkamp, Definitor General, visited the Province of St. Francis of Quito, in Ecuador, where they had the opportunity to meet all the friars of the Province, the Poor Clare and Conceptionist Sisters and the local ecclesiastical authorities. In this regard, on 5th June in Quito they met the Apostolic Nuncio, Monsignor Andrés Carrascosa, and subsequently Monsignor Alfredo José Espinoza, sdb, Archbishop of Quito to learn about the relationship of the friars with the Church and the daily Franciscan journey.

Br. Massimo and Br. César then had a meeting with the Provincial Definitory, while the next day they greeted the Sisters of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, in the presence of the Board of Directors of the Ecuadorian Federation and representatives of all the monasteries of Ecuador. This was followed by a meeting with the friars of the North, Quito and Central Zones of the Province: an opportunity to learn about the work of the Fraternities and encourage the friars to respond positively to their vocation.

The Minister General and the Definitor also met the friars and laity of the Provincial Curia in order to understand the function and work of each one. Subsequently, the meeting

with the Franciscan Family of Ecuador took place, in the presence of many men and women religious who are nourished by the Franciscan charism and the presence of the Secular Franciscan Order. Br. Massimo and Br. César, after visiting the two San Andrés Schools in Quito, met with the brothers of the Secretariat for Formation and Studies, who presented a report on each stage of formation and on ongoing formation.

There was also a discussion with the friars in Initial Formation in the friary of St Diego (Postulants, Novices and Brothers



## GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- On the 17th and 18th June 2024, Br. Ignacio Ceja Jiménez, Vicar General, presided over the Custodial Congress of the Dependent Custody of the Annunciation of the BVM in Shkodër, Albania; from the 24th to the 28th June he will be with the friars of the Custody of Morocco to prepare for the Canonical Visitation. From June the 30th-3rd July, together with the Definitor General, Br. Victor Luis Quematcha, he will be in Rwanda for the erection of the Autonomous Custody of Our Lady of Kibeho (Burundi and Rwanda).
- Up until the 22nd June, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, will be in France for a visit to the "Blessed John Duns Scotus" Province. From the 23rd June to the 1st July

- he will be in Poland with the Definitor General, Br. Konrad Cholewa for various appointments: on the 23rd June they will be in Włocławek for the 25th anniversary of the beatification of the Friars Minor martyrs of the Nazis in World War II; on the same day, they will participate in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the construction of the monastery of Piotrków Trybunalski. From the 26th June to the 1st July they will visit the Province of St. Francis.
- On the 24th and 25th June, Br. César Kùlkamp, Definitor General, will participate in the Introduction to the General Chapter of the Canons Regular of the Lateran to be held in Caxias do Sul, RS, Brazil.

of Temporary Professions), and then also met with the Secretaries for the Missions and Evangelization of the Province. The visit was also an opportunity to meet and greet the Sisters of the Monastery of St Clare, the representatives of all the monasteries of Ecuador and the Board of Directors

of the Federation. In Guayaquil, the Minister General presided over the solemn Eucharist accompanied by Msgr. Luis Cabrera, OFM, Archbishop of Guayaquil; then he visited the Monastery of the Poor Clares of Guasmo, where the Poor Clares of Daule also joined for the occasion.

HOLY FAITH PROVINCE, COLOMBIA

**VISIT OF THE MINISTER GENERAL AND THE DEFINITORS FOR LATIN AMERICA**



**F**rom the 2nd to the 4th June 2024, the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, and the General Definitors for Latin America, Br César Kùlkamp and Br Joaquín Echeverry, visited the Province of the Holy Faith in Colombia, coinciding with the beginning of the Intermediate Provincial Chapter.

Several crucial themes were addressed in the meetings between the members of the general government and the friars of the Province: the importance of the spirit of prayer, often weakened by work and administrative problems – Br Massimo launched the idea of creating an oratory so that the friars can renew their spiritual life; He also pointed out the risk that personal projects, the search for power, the search for personal privileges and the cult of pessimism will overcome the missionary spirit of fraternity.

To this, the Minister General affirmed that the friars must be brothers full of hope, oriented to listening, abandoning individualism or fateful provincialism. To reach this maturity of human and Franciscan life, it is necessary to take care of ongoing and initial formation, but, above all, it is necessary to

rethink initial formation in the Province, according to the words of the Minister General. A requirement of this formation has to do with listening to the poor and being close to them: being close to the marginalized will allow us to review our lifestyle in the midst of today's society; Setting up a provincial project for the use of the buildings and promoting a culture of sincere and honest work will also be an antidote to laziness, because the habit of work and discipline create virtue.

Br César Kùlkamp, General Definitor of the area, in his speech spoke of the importance of dismantling clericalism, which has historically permeated the Order. Today things happen through dialogue, through cultivating the spirit of synodality as a participation for the growth of fraternal life. In this regard, Br César highlighted three articulating principles: strengthening the charismatic dimension and the life of faith; the lightening of physical structures such as traditional mental schemes; a rethinking of the system of the Order, so that there may be an authentic renewal of the charism and identity as Friars Minor in the midst of this society. Br Joaquín Echeverry, General Definitor and member of the Province, presented some perspectives that can help the brothers to reflect on the renewal of their identity, promoting new spaces and forms of presence.

On the afternoon of the 3rd June, Br César met with the temporarily professed friars, opening a fraternal dialogue about the perspectives, concerns and proposals related to the formation cycle in the Province. This space allowed the friars to express how they perceive the development of formation, highlighting key elements for the renewal >>

- From the 4th to 15th June, Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas and Br. Dennis Tayo, Secretary and Animator of the General Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization, were in Benjamin Constant, in the Brazilian Amazon, for the beginning of the Inter-Franciscan Course for Missionaries in Latin America. On the 16th June, they visited missions with migrants in Darién, on the border between Panama and Colombia. From the 23rd to 28th June, together with Br.

César, they will participate in the meeting of the Commission for New Forms of Life and Evangelization with UCLAF in São Paulo, Brazil.

- From the 1st July, Br. Massimo and Br. Konrad will be in Croatia to meet the friars and definitors of the Provinces "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" and "St. Jerome"; on the 3rd July, they will meet with the Provincial Ministers of the South Slavic Conference.

of the charism. The Definitor thanked the friars for their openness, recognizing the need to plan formation and to include the temporary friars in the formation council. He underlined the importance of implementing the guidelines of the Ratio Formationis and encouraged the brothers to express their concerns without fear, stating that "temporary vows are no less important than solemn vows."

*With the contribution of the Communications Team of the Province of the Holy Faith in Colombia*



## 70 YEARS OF THE NEW FRANCISCAN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY THE VISIT OF THE VICAR GENERAL IN VENEZUELA

**O**n the 31st of May the Custody of the Immaculate Conception in Venezuela with great joy and devotion celebrated 70 years of renewal of the Franciscan presence in Venezuela. It is renewal because it was not the first time for the friars to be in the territory of Venezuela. In 1515 friars arrived at the seacoast of Cumaná and were sent to the Island of Spain, which are present day Dominican Republic and Haiti. In the year 1575, the Province of the Holy Cross in Spain sent the missionaries to establish the convent of San Francisco de Caracas and the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The celebration of 70 years of the New Franciscan presence in Venezuela took place at the Church of Christ the King at Caracas. The friars were joined with many faithful.

On 30th May, the vigil was celebrated and the whole Franciscan family was present. They shared their experiences with regard to the services of the friars in Venezuela. The rich history of

the Order was recovered as they talked about the future of the Order which the Franciscans need to embrace.



Compostela (Spain), on which the Custody depends, participated. The friars of the Custody and the local community were present united together in the spirit of gratitude and hope.

The celebration of 70 years indicates an important step in the history of the Franciscans in Venezuela. It reaffirms the commitment of the friars in the service of mission and evangelization which make present the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi in the country.

## BR MASSIMO AND BR JOAQUÍN IN MEXICO

### THE VISIT TO THE PROVINCE OF SAINT PHILIP OF JESUS

**F**rom the 28th of May to the 2nd of June the Minister General together with the General Definitor Br Joaquín Echeverry, made a fraternal visit to the Province of Saint Philip of Jesus in the South eastern part of Mexico. Their fraternal visit was characterised by several meetings. Firstly, they met the Provincial Definitory at Izamal which is the Provincial Curia, where they were presented with

the reality of the Province. Secondly, Br Massimo and Br Joaquín met the 12 Guardians of the Province. The Guardians were reminded of their mission of being responsible for Ongoing Formation.

Then, they met the Formators and the Temporary Professed friars where the present and the future of the >>

Province was looked at. They also met the Poor Clares and the Third Order Franciscans and the Eucharistic was celebrated at the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Izamal.

After they visited the immigrants at the oasis of Tenosique where the Minister General met the persons who in that Franciscan refugee camp get physical, psychological and spiritual support. They met the postulants and novices so as to listen to them. The Minister General blessed the novitiate of St. Diego of Alcalá at Rayón, Chiapas. Finally, he had a meeting with the indigenous people. The whole fraternal visit was an opportunity for the Minister General to know the missionary activities of the Friars in the Province.



THE MINISTER GENERAL AND THE SISTERS OF THE FEDERATION OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS  
**MEETING WITH THE POOR CLARES OF MEXICO**



As part of the celebrations for the 500 years of Franciscan presence in Mexico, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM Minister General, met with the Poor Clares of the Federation of Our Lady of the Angels in Mexico on May 21.

Accompanied by Br. Joel Cosme, Minister of the Holy Gospel Province, and by some members of the General Definitorium, Br. Massimo, after being welcomed with affection by the sisters, read the Last Will for St. Clare and her sisters (taken from the writings of Francis), from which he began a substantial reflection: charism; following the Gospel; the poverty of Jesus; the Virgin Mary and perseverance were the main themes.

Subsequently, the sisters presented their fraternities to the Minister General.

In his intervention, Br. Miguel Ángel Berrocali, OFM, spiritual assistant of our Federation, expressed the importance of initial and ongoing formation, promoted through various

types of courses in the Federation. Br. Massimo added that formation is a priority in life: it is not a temporary process, but rather continuous and ongoing, because we are always learning. Even if in our fraternities we assign specifically one person to form the new vocations, in reality we are all responsible for them, since this happens above all with testimony, prayer, interiorization and listening to the Word of God; this is reflected in our relationships within the fraternity, and, in this way, we also give a witness of Jesus Christ to the world that seeks to make us resonate with its needs.

Therefore, formation ought to be aimed at achieving the following elements: quality of prayer life; quality of the fraternal life, and quality of the evangelizing life. This formation ought to help to forge in each person an adult personality capable of living the feelings of Christ.

The meeting continued on the theme of the General Constitutions of the Second Order, which for the first time in their history the sisters are writing.

Sister Monica Isabel Gonzáles, OSC, president of the Federation, affirmed that, being part of the commission directing this work, she has seen a great participation from the sisters in answering to the questionnaires and that this project is very confident, since it will help solve current problems that are faced every day. The Minister General, who is overseeing the work, confirmed that one of the greatest difficulties which the Poor Clares currently face is not the enclosure, but the work, which more often than not exceeds their limits and reduces their time. >>

Some sisters shared their opinion, above all regarding the theme of enclosure: they said that at times there is a certain fear of it, instilled by the lack of knowledge of what it entails and means, as a way of life.

They also recalled that it is important to accompany the sisters to fully realize their vocation, not seeing the enclosure as an obstacle, but as a place favorable for the vocation to be realized.

Br. Massimo intervened by recalling that, for the Poor Clares, the enclosure is not an option, because St. Clare chose to live like this, and it was, is, and will continue to be a scandal and folly for the world. The enclosure for St. Clare was not

an imposition, but an option that she freely chose, and the Second Order cannot contradict it. It is there that she found the place to enter into intimacy with Christ and to carry out her evangelizing mission.

For the sisters it was a pleasant experience, because it was if St. Francis himself encouraged them to continue living the Franciscan-Clarian charism, to continue steadfast in their faith and vocation, to give all every day for the love of the Crucified One.

*With the contribution of the Federation of the Poor Clares of Our Lady of the Angels of Mexico*

## ISTANBUL, MAY 26TH - JUNE 2ND, 2024 JOINT MEETING OF CIME-CEME IN TURKEY

From May 26th to June 4th the members of the International Council for Mission Evangelization (CIME) and the Executive Commission for Missions and Evangelization (CEME) had a joint meeting in Istanbul (Friary of Santa Maria Draperis). The main goal of the meeting was to continue developing the *Ratio Evangelizationis* for the Order (REO).

Representing CEME were Br Francisco Gómez Vargas and Br Dennis Tayo, respectively Secretary and Animator of the General Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization, Br Johannes Freyer, and Br José Rodríguez. Nine of the thirteen Conference Secretaries for Missions and Evangelization were present to represent CIME: Br Arcangel Borek (North Slavic Conference), Br Oscar Castro (Bolivariana), Br Jovit Malinao (EAC), Br Augustinus Ngame (SAAOC), Br Edgar Alves Pereira (Brazil-Southern Cone), Br Damir Pavic (South Slavic), Br José Rodríguez (ESC), Br Natalio Saludes (CONFRES), and Br Adolfo Calderón Velázquez (Our Lady of Guadalupe). Also present was Br John Barker, a member of the REO drafting committee and secretary for the meeting.

The mandate to develop an REO was given by the General Chapter of 2021. Discussion of the proposed REO began at the CIME-CEME meeting of March 2022. In May 2023 the General Definitory accepted a proposal from the Secretariat for Mission and Evangelization to convene a group of subject matter experts to develop a structure and outline for the REO and to begin drafting the document. That group met in September 2023 to develop a proposed structure for the REO, which was then discussed and accepted (with suggestions) by the General Definitory. In December 2023

the Conference Secretaries for Missions and Evangelization received a copy of the structure, asking them to discuss the proposed structure and answer questions to assist in the drafting of the REO, and to submit their responses. In the meantime, the expert group continued its work, producing a draft of Part One of the REO in March 2024.

The main work of the May/June 2024 meeting of CIME-CEME was to review the responses from the Conferences regarding the proposed structure of the REO, to discern in them common topics and concerns, and to discuss (in a preliminary way) their possible inclusion in the REO. The following is a summary of the results of that meeting.

[Download the Summary of the CIME-CEME joint meeting](#)



# OFM WORLD

Meeting of the Guardians,  
Prov. Our Lady of the Angels (Poland)



Chapter of Mats,  
Prov. St Francis and James (Mexico)



Franciscan's Got Talent,  
Prov. Holy Family (Egypt)



Meeting of Franciscan Families,  
Prov. Assumption of BVM (Italy).



National meeting of formators of  
the Franciscan Family Conference (Brazil).



First Professions,  
Prov. St. Thomas the Apostle (India).

## REFLECTION AND RENEWAL OF FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY CHAPTER OF MATS 2024, HOLY FAITH PROVINCE, COLOMBIA

From May 27 to 31 of this year, the Chapter of the Mats was successfully held at the San Bernardino de Siena formation house in Bogotá. This event, convened by the Franciscan Province of Holy Faith in Colombia, aimed to engage in reflection guided by the Order of Friars Minor as an opportunity to renew spirituality and the essence and mission of the Franciscan world.

Members of the Franciscan family attended the event, including religious from the First Order, nuns from the Second Order, religious followers of the spirituality of Saint Francis, and committed laypeople. The main objective was to explore new perspectives to revitalize the option of being brothers at the service of a synodal Church in outreach. During the reflection itinerary, three essential thematic cores were addressed:

- Renewing our vision: What characteristics of the Charism must we embrace today?
- Walking by following a model: What is the prophetic model



- of fraternity in minority?
- Embracing the future: Whom and how do we serve?

From these discussions emerged the imperative conclusion to renew the Franciscan charism to remain relevant in a society demanding understanding and support amid complex situations caused by disenchantment and individualism.

Additionally, the celebratory framework of the Chapter was illuminated with a reflection on the stigmatization >>

of Saint Francis, understood as a path to comprehend his experience and call.

After five days of deep reflection and fraternal sharing, the Franciscan family in Colombia returned to their places of evangelization, committed to being renewed by the strength of the Holy Spirit and the vigor of the Franciscan Charism.

*Br Jorge Luis Torregroza, OFM - Holy Faith Province*



## IN DEFENSE OF THE COMMON HOME

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY IN EL SALVADOR

On the morning of the 4th June 2024, the main streets of the Salvadoran capital, San Salvador, the same ones where the saint and martyr Oscar Arnulfo Romero walked, were painted brown, yellow, green and white.

The churches, including those of the Franciscan Family, together with environmental organizations organized the Ecological Walk with the slogan “The Common Home resists and demands environmental justice”, now in its 24th edition.

Cuscatlán Park, located in the center of the capital, was the meeting point. The scheduled time was 8:00 in the morning. Hundreds of Christians, evangelicals and Catholics, social, environmental, student, trade union and women’s organizations amongst others, began arriving in the early hours of the morning.



The commemoration of World Environment Day began with words of welcome, followed by an ecumenical act and then a press conference in which the statement prepared by the organizers was read. A few minutes later, a large column of people started walking with banners in their hands.

Along the way, different voices resonated with songs, slogans, reflections, protests and cries of hope. The statement denounced the various forms of ecocide: “The dispute between life and the interests of sectors that pursue private profit to the detriment of the life of the Salvadoran territories.” It was a description of a local environmental situation that applies to the global situation. In his Apostolic

Exhortation *Laudate Deum* n. 20, Pope Francis defines this description as “the technocratic paradigm that underlies the current process of environmental degradation.”

The enveloping sun and the rising temperature did not prevent the joy and jubilation of the struggle for life from being present in that march whose final destination was the Legislative Assembly composed of sixty deputies.

Upon their arrival, Vidalina Morales, an environmentalist leader, assured that they were fighting for “the right to a healthy environment, the human right to water, the right to live in territories free from contamination, free from metal extraction.”

One vehicle carried an image of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of

ecology, artistically decorated with local flowers. At the Legislative Palace, the delegation was received by a single deputy, Claudia Ortiz, who was given a piece of correspondence requesting the approval of the Climate Change Law presented in 2016 to “guarantee and promote mitigation, adaptation to climate change and attention to damage and losses”. In this regard, for Pope Francis “the most effective solutions will not only come from individual efforts, but above all from the great decisions of national and international politics” (*Laudate Deum* n. 69).

Thus, the event ended. In the header of the press release a text by Saint Oscar Romero was read: “This is the fundamental thought of my preaching: nothing matters to me as much as life...”.

FROM THE 3RD JUNE TO 4TH AUGUST 2024 IN THE AMAZON  
**INTER-FRANCISCAN COURSE FOR MISSIONARIES**

WITH YOUR FEET ABOVE THE WATER

Franciscan friars throughout the world know that “the missionary cause must be the first of all causes”, because it is the mandate of Jesus, entrusted to the Church and embraced by Francis of Assisi in fraternity and minority. For this reason, from the 3rd June to 4th August of this year, we will be in Benjamin Constant, in the Amazon, Brazil, (on the triple border Brazil, Colombia and Peru).

Thirteen brothers from the three Obediences of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM<sup>Cap</sup>, OFM<sup>Conv</sup>, OFM), and eight nationalities (Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Poland, and India), to live in prayer, fraternity and minority, sharing our missionary experiences and forming ourselves for the New Forms of Presence, Life and Evangelization in the Church in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants from the Order of Friars Minor are: Br. Pio Siury, OFM of the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Poland), Br. Diogo Henrique da Silva Siqueira Oliveira, OFM of the Custody of St. Benedict of the Amazon (Brazil), Br. Nery Tocto Calle,



OFM of the Franciscan Province of the Twelve Apostles (Peru), Br. Segundo Paulo Yesquén Torres, OFM of the Province of St. Paul the Apostle (Colombia), Br. Francisco Javier Miranda, OFM of the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Central America and the Caribbean) and Br. Guillermo Trinidad Pons Rodríguez, OFM of the Province of St. Peter and Paul of Michoacán (Mexico).

*Br. Francisco Javier Miranda, OFM*

CUSTODY OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF MOROCCO  
**THE FRANCISCAN MISSION IN MOROCCO TODAY**

The Franciscan mission in Morocco is traditionally considered the oldest in the Order. In 2010, the Custody of the Holy Martyrs of Morocco was established, reporting directly to the Minister General. The Custody currently has 18 friars, including only one temporarily professed, who discovered his vocation in Morocco and asked to join us.

The other 17 brothers are "loaned" by their home Province for six years or more. They currently come from 14 different provinces corresponding to 11 nationalities: the Philippines, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Poland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and Peru. Currently the friars are divided into 5 fraternities, two in the diocese of Tangier (in the north of the country) and three

in the diocese of Rabat (in the centre). These are small missionary fraternities of 3 or 4 friars.

FRATERNAL LIFE

To say that fraternal life is the first pillar of our mission may seem obvious. However, it takes on a very special meaning in this land. In fact, friars from all over the world are accustomed to spending their lives in a Province where they enter, form and mature together, united by shared traditions and a common history. None of this in Morocco: everyone comes from a different cultural and Franciscan world. This reality means that, as one of our friars put it, the mission begins here when we open the door of our room because the fraternal life of 3 or 4 already >>





represents a linguistic, cultural and human challenge. This implies effort on the part of everyone and the ability to open up to the reality of the other. This makes our fraternities and our Custody a laboratory of intercultural coexistence in constant search of fraternity and balance, a school of love and minority to allow each one to be himself and to give the best of himself.

### SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Today the country has more than thirty religious congregations and more than 25,000 faithful, all foreigners. The vast majority are sub-Saharan students who come to study in Morocco before returning to their country or accessing further studies in Europe. But they are joined by more and more workers who have decided to stay in Morocco, whether they be expats coming from the Western world or former students who have found work here.

The Franciscan friars are currently in charge of 7 parishes that are meeting places for students as well as for immigrants and workers (in a totally Moroccan and Muslim world) and which are also places of spiritual and human construction (especially for immigrants deconstructed by the way they travel and arrive, for Christian prisoners who for many years only receive visits from the chaplain and for students who reach adulthood and learn here to live independently and responsibly for the first time). Parishes are places of reference for them, both for catechesis and the sacraments and for the presence of the social services provided by Caritas. They are a crossing point, oases that we want to be fraternal in the paths of all. It is for us, the friars, a school of adaptability and gratuitousness: we sow and others will reap.

### THE PRESENCE AND ENCOUNTER OF THE MUSLIM WORLD

When St. Francis of Assisi evokes the mission amongst Muslims in the Rule of 1221, he proposes two ways of considering the spiritual role of the brethren, the first consisting of "not quarrelling or arguing, being subject to every human creature for God's sake, and simply confessing that they are Christians" (Rnb 16:6). This is how we feel sent by the Order to the Moroccan people: not as competitors or proselytes, but as witnesses called to live among them, to incarnate ourselves

there and to live from the encounter "as prayers amongst other prayers" (Christian de Chergé, martyr of Tibhirine). In order to develop areas of contact with the Muslim population of Morocco and not to remain among Christians despite the multiplicity of their needs, the Custody has opened three cultural centres where the friars act as teachers for people of all ages who wish to learn languages in particular. Through relationships with local volunteer teachers, support for students, cultural activities (cinema, debates, reading or writing workshops, theatre, etc.) or ecological projects, the friars gradually enter into the culture of this country, putting themselves at the service of all.

This dialogue of life (in the life shared in the middle of a popular Muslim neighbourhood by a particular fraternity) and this dialogue of charity (through works in favour of Moroccans or the poor, in collaboration with other Moroccans or with local associations) end up mysteriously opening up to spiritual dialogue. It is certainly at this level that the essential part of our mission is realized, invisibly, in the transformation of our hearts and in the elusive transformation of the hearts of the men and women around us.

### THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Today, in addition to the Friars Minor, Morocco has a monastery of six Poor Clare Sisters and about sixty Sisters and Brothers of the Secular Third Order. We share with these communities the same challenges, that of inculturation in the country, that of the interculturality of our communities and that of a certain isolation with significant distances between communities. Gathered at the Chapter of the Mats in March 2024, we sought how to receive our call to live the mission here in a new way and adapted to the calls of those we meet, Moroccans, migrants and our own faithful. Together we listen to the Holy Spirit with the desire to be able to live in a more prophetic way this mission, so special and so small, that the Lord has entrusted to us. In the joy of the vocation that we have here, we count on your prayers to be more faithful every day to this call of the Lord that surpasses all of us!

*Br Stéphane Delavelle, OFM*

## DECEASED BROTHERS \*

- 2nd May: Br. Austin McCormack, Province of Ireland

\* Information received from the General Secretariat [secgen@ofm.org](mailto:secgen@ofm.org)

JUNE 2024  
**CTC N. 63**

This issue of Communion and Communication gathers, according to the plan drawn up to celebrate the 800 years of the “words with melody” that Francis addressed to the Poor Ladies of San Damiano, testimonies and reflections inspired by verses 2 of the exhortation: Live always in truth / that you may die in obedience (cf. cTc 60, p. 68).

Br. Fábio Gomes, OFM, our General Delegate, introduces us to welcome Francis' proposal by putting into dialogue living 'in truth' and living 'in obedience' as methods that must “pass through and shine through in everything the Poor Sisters (Poverelle) live and they do (p. 8).” And this, not in a hypothetical reality, but in this today which is characterized for us sisters by the VIII centenary of the Stigmata of our Father St. Francis and by the process of revising the General Constitutions, which has reached its third phase and which the Cardinal Prefect of the Dicastery invites us to continue “in order to discern the Lord's will and be able to implement it in a spirit of collaboration.”

We are then led on a journey across the four continents, stopping by sisters who, in culturally different contexts, but spiritually not so distant, justify the observation by Br. Carlo Paolazzi: “An adverb is enough for Francis, «live always in truth», to remind the 'poor ladies' gathered in San Damiano that the gift of their life of poverty, charity, and obedience in the Spirit must be welcomed and lived in the dimension of daily life and perseverance, so that sister bodily death may find the «daughters and handmaids of the most high King, the heavenly Father» industrious and vigilant in carrying out their Lord's most holy will (cTc 61, p. 37).”

With the sisters of Nantes we reflect on the challenge that living in truth, unity, poverty, and praise constitutes in the current context, which is strongly marked by lies, individualism, consumerism, hyper-speed. The implantatio of the Clarian life form in Bomadi, Nigeria, and the end of its presence in Arizkun, Spain, are very different situations certainly; however, they respond to the same need to 'live in the truth': not a subjective truth, but the truth of the Gospel, our only 'rule.' The sisters in Cincinnati, USA, and in Cantalapiedra, Spain, tell us how this is possible: only through a constant attitude of discernment, of listening to the Spirit of the Lord in order to perceive where and how He is already operating,

and where and how he calls us to assent to his work. “Listening” is the keyword that opens Francis' exhortation and remains the keyword for us: listening to every voice - and the sisters in Aitape, Papua New Guinea, tell us from experience; listening to history and what ferments in it like a grain of wheat in the earth - the sisters in Brno, Czech Republic, know this well, as protagonist witnesses to a great transition of era in Europe.

In a few words, almost with brush strokes, Sr. Mary Andrew of Mbarara, Uganda captures the profound meaning of all of this. To Live in the truth, adhering to the Word of the Lord until the end, until the definitive Easter: let us remember Br. Enrique Gonzales Arango, OFM, General Delegate during the first years of the millennium, who recently preceded us to the Father's House, and Sr. Bernardette Cotter, OSC, President of the Federation of our sisters in Ireland and Scotland, who was visited by Sister Bodily Death during the time of her maternal service.

Our gratitude goes to each sister and brother who contributed to the creation of this issue.

To all of you who are reading this, I invite you to compose the next issue together around the next verse of Audite Poverelle: «Do not look at the life outside / for that of the Spirit is better. / I beg you through great love / to use with discretion / the alms which the Lord gives you» (vv. 3-4).

Happy reading!

*The editorial team*

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**OFM**  
 ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

Director: Br Byron A. Chamann Anléu OFM

Translators: Br John Luke OFM, Br. Arthur Andersen OFM,

Br. Cyrianus Korongo, Br Rick Martignetti OFM

**General Curia of the Friars Minor**

Via di S. Maria Mediatrix, 25 - Rome, Italy - [comgen@ofm.org](mailto:comgen@ofm.org)  
[www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)



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