

## INAUGURATION OF THE CELEBRATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE FRANCISCAN SOLEMNITY **PARDON OF ASSISI 2024**

**W**ith the celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, the Pardon of Assisi officially opened on the 1st August 2024, which allowed the faithful to gain the plenary indulgence until midnight on the 2nd August in all parish and Franciscan churches around the world.

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, in his homily focused on the link between the Virgin Mary, Christ Crucified and the mercy of the Father, recalling the words of St. Bonaventure, whose 750th anniversary of his death occurs this year. It was precisely the relationship with the Crucifix that marked Francis' life: "From the beginning, in the church of San Damiano, to the Stigmata, whose eighth centenary we are celebrating. Jesus Crucified calls him to rebuild His house, the Church, which was all in ruins. Francis will do so with the witness of a life radically faithful to Him and His Gospel."

"Reached by the enlightening word and transforming love of Christ Crucified, he begins to realize that first of all, the house to be repaired is the one in which Jesus wants to be welcomed in order to live therein permanently, as St Bonaventure reminds us", said the Minister, who went on to recall how the Pardon of Assisi calls us "to a new step in permanent and radical conversion to the Lord Jesus, to become His stable home and to be able to repair the home of so many lives and communities, of so many situations and so many people who are ruined in the Church and in the world." >>



## GENERAL CURIA AGENDA

- From the 3rd to 24th August, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, accompanied by Br. John Wong (Zone Definitor) and Br. Baptist D'Souza (Deputy Director of the Development Office) will visit the St. Anthony of Lisbon Foundation in East Timor, the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia and the Province of St. Francis Herald of Peace in Papua (Indonesia).
- On the 26th August he will be in Ariccia (RM, Italy) at the Meeting with the Mothers-Abbesses, Presidents of the Federations of the Poor Clares in Italy.
- From the 2nd to 5th August, Br. Cesar Kulkamp, Definitor General, made the canonical visitation to the Province of the Most Holy Trinity of Chile; on the 6th August he participated remotely in the meeting with the Bolivarian Franciscan Conference; from the 26th to 28th August he will participate remotely in the Chapter of Mats of the Conference of Brazil and Southern Cone.
- From the 26th to 30th August in Singapore, Br. John Wong, General Delegate for Sri Lanka, will hold a course of Ongoing Formation for the friars of the St. Joseph Vaz Foundation.
- From the 26th to 28th August, Br. Taucen Girsang, Deputy Director of the JPIC Office, will be in Cebu for the Meeting of JPIC Animators of the Franciscan Family present in the Philippines.
- On September 1, Br. Daniel Rodriguez Blanco, Director of the JPIC Office, will participate at the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Br. Massimo, quoting Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, referred to the experience of joy that one feels in being reconciled, in repairing a relationship "in ruins", in rebuilding a bond that has been lost.

Immediately after the celebration, the "door" of the Portiuncula was opened, which within two days thousands of faithful and pilgrims passed through it, including young people and families of the Franciscan March who arrived on the 2nd August from all over Italy. In the evening, in the Piazza della Porziuncola, the theatrical show: "Fra" by the Roman actor Giovanni Scifoni took place, who interpreted the Poor man of Assisi-Poverello of Assisi in a personal and contemporary, joyful and reflective key, and who was able to involve from beginning to end the varied audience gathered under the loving and protective gaze of Our Lady of the Angels.

[Read the homily of the Minister General \(Italian\)](#)



11TH AUGUST

## LETTER FROM THE MINISTER GENERAL FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. CLARE, 2024

The Minister General

### Letter for the Solemnity of St. Clare, 2024

"True love of Christ transformed  
the lover into His image"  
LMj, XIII, 5

Dear Sisters,  
*May the Lord give you peace!*

This year, the Feast of our Mother St. Clare occurs during the Eighth Centenary of the Stigmata of St Francis — the culmination of his path of following the poor and crucified Christ. I have pondered at length about how this event in the life of Francis resonates in Clare's human and spiritual experience.

The link is their individual relationship with the Lord Jesus. For Francis, the mysterious encounter at La Verna can be seen as a blazing coal that prepared him to become conformed to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in his encounter with "Sister Death." For Clare, instead, the encounter with "her" Lord was the *raison d'être* of her entire existence as a woman, expressed in the sign of her total belonging to Him.

I would like to offer you a few reflections which I hope will be useful in deepening your charism. I also draw from the teaching of the Seraphic Doctor, Saint Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, the 750th anniversary of whose death falls this year.

Read the full text of the Letter:

[Italiano](#) - [English](#) - [Español](#) - [Deutsch](#) - [Français](#) - [Hrvatski](#) - [Polski](#) - [Português](#)

ASSISI, 15TH –19TH JULY

**MEETING OF THE TEMPORARY PROFESSED FRIARS OF EUROPE**

**F**rom the 15th –19th July 2024 at the Porziuncola in Assisi the Meeting of the Temporary Professed Friars of Europe was held, organized by the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies, which chose as its theme an expression taken from the Life before Thomas of Celano: "*Filled with infinite admiration*".

**15TH JULY**

On the first day of the meeting, more than 150 temporarily professed and about twenty of their formators were able to listen to four different testimonies on life and formation in different areas of the continent and on the prospects for the future of Franciscanism in Europe.

Testimonies were offered by Br. Cristian and Br. Giuseppe from the Province of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor in Italy, Br. Karol from the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in Poland, Br. Steven from the Province of the Holy Martyrs of Gorkum in the Netherlands and Br. Danijel from the Province of the Assumption of the BVM in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These different testimonies served as an impetus for the work in the language groups.



The day ended with the celebration of Holy Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, presided over by Br. Francesco Piloni, Minister Provincial of the Seraphic Province of St. Francis in Umbria and Sardinia, and with the celebration of Vespers.

**16TH JULY**

The 155 friars and their formators reflected on "The balance between contemplation and activities", a topic presented by Br. Paolo Zampollini, president of the "Spirit of devotion and prayer" Commission of the OFM. In a discussion rich in personal experiences, Br. Paolo analyzed several texts from the Franciscan Sources that describe St. Francis' relationship with contemplation. After working in the language groups, the Temporary Professed exposed some difficulties that they encoun-

tered in the search for a healthy balance. It was emphasized that sometimes there is a lack of solemnly professed friars who are experts in the contemplative life.

Several groups expressed the desire to have the opportunity to make a day of spiritual retreat each month in the form of a desert. During the Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of St. Clare, Br. Darko Tepert, Secretary General for Formation and Studies, starting from the text of the prophet Hosea, spoke of the importance of God's will in every decision, including the decision to retire to a hermitage.

**17TH JULY**

On a day of fraternal meetings and personal and community prayer, on Wednesday the 17th July, the friars went on pilgrimage to La Verna, exactly two months after the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis.

The Mass was presided over by Br. Livio Crisci, Minister of the Province of St. Francis Stigmatized and President of COMPI, who recalled how the ascent to Mount La Verna was for Francis the experience of the "night", while the pause and the event of the stigmata represent the irruption of the "new day in his own life". He then concluded: "Dear brothers, let us immerse our-



selves in history, carrying in our hearts the last words spoken by the Seraphic Father before leaving this world: 'I have done my part; May Christ teach you yours' (LegM XIV, 3)".

18TH JULY

The fourth day of the meeting was dedicated to New Forms of Life and Evangelization: in the homily of the Mass presided over by Msgr. Mario Vaccari, OFM, Bishop of Massa Carrara-Pontremoli, he began with the Gospel passage and spoke of how to bear the yoke, emphasizing that it must be done with meekness and humility.

After the celebration, he shared his experience of itinerancy and life in an inserted fraternity. Br. Casey Cole, OFM, presented a report on evangelization through social media. The day also marked the arrival of the General Definitory, which offered its contribution in the various language groups.

19TH JULY



On the last day of the meeting, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, spoke about the situation of the Friars Minor in Europe, trying to open his gaze to the future. In his speech, he reiterated that post-secularization can be an opportunity to rediscover the faith.

He began with the example of St. Francis, who injected a touch of humanity into his world, he encouraged the friars to study and research in order to become capable of elaborating today the elements of a Franciscan humanism, which must then be modulated in contact with the novelties that emerge.

Finally, he encouraged the friars to open the horizon beyond our borders and to the audacity to think of "new things".

In the basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, the Holy Mass, animated with the singing of the friars from Poland, was presided over by Br. Massimo who in his homily, speaking of the society



in which we live, wondered if this was the end of Christianity and with it of religious life, or if it was the possibility of a new beginning, and he replied: "I strongly believe that this is the time to start again, but we must take the right path, the one that the Spirit shows us."

Finally, he wished the temporarily professed friars that their lives be given totally to becoming a proclamation of the Gospel that saves.

During the meeting, the Temporary Professed Friars of Europe were able to discuss and share the reality of their formation, life and mission in their Entities, and the prospects for the future of the Franciscan mission in Europe.

Starting from the presentations offered in the hall and after the work in the language groups, they drew up a Final Declaration and Proposals of the Meeting, confirmed by secret ballot by the vast majority of the assembly.

Read the Minister General Speech:  
[Italiano](#) – [English](#) - [Hrvatski](#) – [Polski](#)

Read the Final Declaration:  
[Italiano](#) – [English](#) - [Hrvatski](#) – [Polski](#)



GENERAL CURIA, 8TH-12TH JULY

**MEETING OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY WITH THE VISITORS GENERAL**

**F**rom 8th-12th July, the meeting of the General Definitory with the Visitors General was held in Rome: 22 friars who in the coming months will be engaged in Canonical Visitations and later in the Provincial and Custodial Chapters in many Entities scattered throughout the world. In the inaugural Eucharistic celebration, the Vicar General Br. Ignacio Ceja Jiménez emphasized the main purpose of the meeting: "To reflect and dialogue together on the priorities, lines of action, processes and difficulties to be taken into account in the animation of the friars of the Entities to be visited," he said during his homily.

In the Duns Scotus Hall of the General Curia, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, opened the meeting with his speech entitled: "And let the friars visit: Expectations and fears for the encounter, listening, sharing and fraternal correction in the Visitation". Starting from Regula Non Bullata (Rnb) and Regula Bullata (Rb), Br. Massimo examined the meaning of terms such as visit, exhort, comfort, correct: it is the Minister who moves and goes out to meet the friars, it is he who must overcome the expectations and fears that often hinder meeting and sharing. All this must happen in the style of friars and minors: a simple "how are you" on a human level, of a journey of faith, of vocation, to put oneself next to the brother, and not in a position of judgment. In this regard, the Minister General also spoke of correction: "Fear can be that fraternal correction humiliates the other or others; We do not convey a judgment and we do not give the impression of arriving with a ready-made version of reality and not listening with empathy and truth to those we meet".

In the afternoon, the General Definitory, Br. John Wong, starting from the Final Document of the 2021 General Chapter, presented the report entitled: "Starting from the Guidelines for the Six-Year Period, What Indications for the Visitor?". Afterwards, Br. John Wong and Br. César Kulkamp moderated the dialogue in the hall on the theme of synodality and how to activate the process.

On the second day, legal and practical issues were addressed: the Procurator General, Br. Claudio Durighetto, explained the contents, practices and modalities of the Canonical Visitation and the Presidency of the Chapter; Br. John Puodziunas, General Treasurer, spoke about the economic aspects, while Br. Antonio Iacona, Secretary General, illustrated the Acts and the Timeline of the Visit, Chapter and Congress. On the 10th July, the Visitors General were able to get to know the Offices of the General Curia and have a personal conversation with the Minister and the Definitory General of their area.



The following morning was dedicated to the Protection of minors and vulnerable adults: Br. Albert Schmucki, Definitory General and Director of the Guardianship Office, starting from Mandate 9 of the 2021 General Chapter, illustrated the theme by focusing on how to verify the situation regarding Guardianship during the Canonical Visitation.

On the final day of the meetings, space was given to the theme of Listening: helped by Fr. Marco Vitale, a priest of the Diocese of Rome who deals with the ongoing formation of the clergy, the friars were introduced to "Meaningful Communication" and "Conflict Management in the Service of the Visit and the Chapter". In the concluding Mass at which he presided, the Minister General invited the Brother Visitors General to live their ministry as a "word of light and hope: not a cheap hope, but one that opens to us the greatest horizon of our vocation. Rediscovering this, choosing it together again, is the way to rediscover vitality and meaning in our lives as Friars Minor," he said in his homily.

Download the Vicar General's homily:

[Italiano](#) – [English](#) – [Español](#)

Download the Minister General's homily:

[Italiano](#) – [English](#) – [Español](#)

*Ordo Fratrum Minorum*



*Secretarius Generalis*

**Communiqué for the  
Tempo Forte of July 2024**

**Download PDF:**

[Italiano](#)  
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JULY 2024

## REFLECTIONS BY BR. MASSIMO

Last June, the meeting with the friars affected by age and health limitations in the Province of France/Belgium prompted me to some reflections. In many homes and infirmaries around the world, in fact, I meet friars who have lived in the Province as if on mission: several are serene and passionate about our future and patiently live the withdrawal from activity and illness, whilst others struggle more. I collect beautiful testimonies of life from friars who take care of the elderly, even together with people who come from outside.

So far, I have also met friars who have experienced very difficult situations, such as very serious disabilities or significant mental suffering, in addition to the consequences of proceedings for abuse or other serious shortcomings. They were very intense moments for me, even emotionally.

I also meet elderly and infirm friars who are cared for in their respective local fraternities, guaranteeing them welcome and dignity at this age and condition of life. Often the whole provincial fraternity takes charge of this condition of life, which we do not want to relegate to the margins.

In all these circumstances we are called to live our vocation as Friars Minor at the differ-

ent stages of life, up to its last phase. Vocation, in fact, does not concern us only when we are efficient, but also when we are more vulnerable and seem humanly "useless".

The weakness that marks us through these most fragile brothers and sisters is a sign and we want to welcome it in faith and not with resignation or fatalism. I wonder if the Lord does not ask us today to respond to our vocation precisely in this reality of weakness, welcomed as an opportunity.

We are not alone in this challenge. In fact, in many societies the number of elderly people is growing and poses many human, social and even economic challenges. The answer often seems to

be to marginalize or isolate the elderly in protected environments, felt as a problem rather than as a presence and wealth. The resentment of the new generations for the situation left by the previous ones also often grows.

For this reason, our way of accompanying this age of life can become a prophetic sign, in a culture where the tendency towards death is growing as a response to weakness and suffering, felt as unbearable and even inhuman.

In all this, I wonder what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us through so many elderly and infirm friars and Sisters present amongst us. Thanks to them, it seems to me that we are driven first of all not to



be afraid of decreasing and aging, to learn to face, process and live our limits and death as part of life. It is an important sign, which is good for us, also to be close to so many people of our time. If we accept this paschal logic, I am confident that we will be able to recognize what future the Spirit opens to us today, for a full life according to the Gospel.

### HONORARY CITIZENSHIP CONFERRED ON THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY THE CELEBRATIONS FOR ST. BONAVENTURE IN BAGNOREGIO (ITALY)

On the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the death of St. Bonaventure, the Minister General, OFM, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, on the 15th July 2024 participated in the events in honour of the Franciscan saint celebrated in his hometown, Bagnoregio (VT, Italy).

In the conference dedicated to the Seraphic Doctor, Br. Massimo presented a report entitled "Wisdom for the following of Christ according to Bonaventure of Bagnoregio". Quoting the Letter of the Ministers General "St. Bonaventure. A voice that is still relevant", Br. Massimo recalled how St. >>>



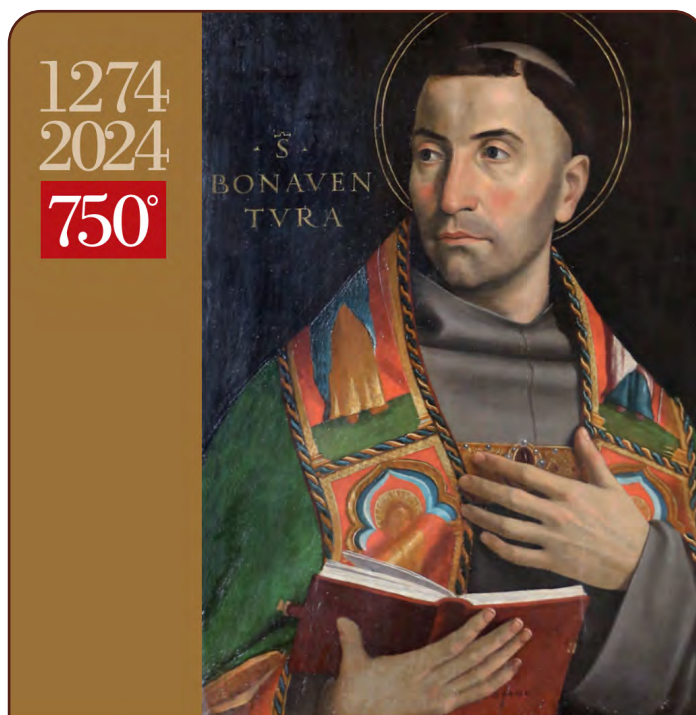
Bonaventure was a teacher of theology, a minister of the Order and a mystic, leaving a doctrinal and formative legacy "not only to the friars who belong to the Order founded by St. Francis of Assisi, but also to the Church, to the world of university culture, to many scholars and researchers committed to enhancing and updating the cultural heritage of the Middle Ages". In this regard, he mentioned the Centre for Bonaventurian Studies founded over 70 years ago, in 1953, in Bagnoregio, which promotes and disseminates the thought of the Franciscan master through annual conferences and the bulletin *Doctor Seraphicus*.

The Minister General OFM then examined some essential coordinates of the teaching that the Saint of Bagnoregio proposes on the gift and exercise of wisdom.

At the end of the conference, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, on behalf of all the Ministers General of the Franciscan Family and the President of the Union of Franciscan Sisters, received honorary citizenship of the city of Bagnoregio.

The day concluded with Mass presided over by H.E. Msgr. Orazio Francesco Piazza, Bishop of Viterbo. Also present were the Minister and the friars of the Province of San Bonaventura (Italy).

[Read the full text of the article on www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)



## St. Bonaventure A Voice Still Relevant Today

A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MINISTERS OF THE FIRST ORDER AND THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR on the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Death of St. Bonaventure.

17TH AUGUST, SOLEMNITY OF ST BEATRICE DA SILVA

## LETTER FROM THE MINISTER GENERAL TO THE SISTERS OF THE ORDER OF THE MOST HOLY CONCEPTION



*Celebrating the mystery of the Immaculate Conception in silence, in praise and in the wounds of the world*

Dearest Conceptionist Sisters,  
*may the Lord give you peace!*

I turn to you again on the occasion of the Solemnity of Mother Saint Beatrice da Silva, after having had the gift of being able to visit some of your communities in the world, thus getting to know you more closely.

The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis is a precious opportunity to read three points that I consider important for your contemplative life that looks to Mary as a form.

Read the full text of the Letter:

[Italiano](#) - [Español](#) - [Português](#)

# OFM WORLD

Retreat with 29 young people in Dukla, Prov. Immaculate Conception (Poland)



Franciscan March in Egypt, Prov. of the Holy Family



Entry into the Novitiate, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)



Closing of the canonical month, Prov. St. Philip and St James (Mexico)



First Profession of the Novices of the Foundation of the Immaculate Mother of God (Angola)



Franciscan March of Families, Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Italy)

## POLAND, 30 JUNE – 12 JULY PREPARATION FOR SOLEMN VOWS IN SLAN

From the 30th of June to 12th July the preparation for solemn vows in the North Slavic Conference (SLAN) of the Order of Friars Minor took place in the city of Duszniki-Zdrój, in Poland. This year seven brothers coming from the following OFM Provinces participated: The Province of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Kalwaria Zebrzydowska), The Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Katowice-Panewniki) and the Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Poznań), in Poland, and the friars from the Byzantine Foundation of all the Saints of the Seraphic Order in Ukraine.

The days were characterized by common prayer, Eucharistic celebration, the liturgy of the hours, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, various activities and conferences.

Different themes were treated such as: Human Formation, Communication, Mental and spiritual health of the consecrated persons, Safeguarding and protection of the Minor and Vulnerable Adults, Pastoral work with the Children and the Youth, Religious consecrated both in legal and theological perspective, Human maturity, Pastoral and Franciscan accompaniment for the



Secular Franciscans, Missionary activities and assistance to the Poor and the Immigrants. The content on preparation for solemn vows insisted on the importance of encountering the other with his experience of life. As Friars Minor coming from various Provinces of the world. The friars managed to know each other and live as a fraternity, a fundamental dimension of our charism as Franciscan Religious.



## TOWARDS THE CELEBRATORY CHAPTER OF THE NEW PROVINCE THE CUSTODIAL ASSEMBLY OF MOZAMBIQUE

«United in the “land of good people”, in the Diocese of Inhambane, the brothers of the Autonomous Custody of St. Clare of Assisi have wished to have an assembly so as to evaluate and review the life of the Custody as the way of walking together towards the celebratory Chapter which will mark the beginning of the new Province in July 2025».



The assembly took place at Guiúá Centre, in Mozambique, from 15th to 20th July 2024, under the Presidency of the Custos Br. Lage Nhampoca Luís Afonso and in the presence of Br. Isidro Pereira Lamelas, the Delegate of the Minister General. During the assembly, the friars took the decision of «walking together with joy and in the faith of the Catholic Church (Jubilee of 2025), in the charism of St. Francis and Clare (Centenary of the stigmata), elevating our La Verna to the better identification with Christ but also the Canticle of the Creatures (2025), which is a great responsibility in taking care of our “common house” and our brothers and sisters whom the Lord gives us».

In as far as the preparations for the chapter of 2025 are concerned, the celebration of the Chapter will mark the transition from the Autonomous Custody to the Province. The friars discussed some themes that reflect the life of the Custody. All the themes were presented by the Custos and the Minister General’s Delegate; they reflected about the Instrumentum laboris presented by the Commission for the Assembly. The themes



were centered on Formation, economy of the Custody, JPIC, Spiritual Assistance to the Poor Clares, OFS and Franciscan Youth and were presented by the respective friars who are responsible. The discussions were fraternal and sincere.

On the last day of the meeting the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, in his message addressed the friars by expressing his fraternal communion and his appreciation “for important steps which are being carried out for the radicality of our Franciscan charism in Mozambique.”

Taking into account the growth of numbers in vocations, the Minister General exhorted the brothers to invest “their time and resources in ongoing formation of the friars and accompaniment of the young friars”. In the area of evangelization,



Br. Massimo encouraged the friars “to continue enlarging the horizons inside and outside Mozambique” with new presence.

In the Assembly 39 Solemn and Temporary Professed Friars participated, coming from 12 fraternities spread in Mozambique and South Africa. Others who participated were two Franciscan Bishops, Mons. Adriano Langa, OFM, Bishop Emeritus of Inhambane, and Mons. Hilário da Cruz Massingue, OFM, Auxiliary Bishop of Inhambane.

According to the Particular Statutes of the Custody, the Custodial Assembly is carried out once a year so as to promote communication among the friars and the Council, dealing with the important issues of observing the Rule, the activities of the Custody, economy and contribution to the preparation of Custodial Chapter.

8TH -12TH JULY, MESORACA (KR, ITALY)

## THE ASSEMBLY OF DEFINITORS PROVINCIAL OF CAMPANIA-BASILICATA-CALABRIA

From the 8th to 12th of July 2024 the Assembly of Definitors Provincial of Campania, Basilicata and Calabria (Italy) took place at Mesoraca (KR), at the convent of "Santissimo Ecce Homo". The Delegate General Fr. Francesco Ielpo was present.

The assembly made reviewed the work, the fraternal year that was spent walking together and evaluated the objectives of Inter-Provincial journey that were sent two years ago in view of Provincial Chapters of in 2025 of four Provinces of Holy Martyrs Province - Calabria, Sacred Heart of Jesus - Napoli-Caserta, The Immaculate Conception Salerno-Basilicata, and St. Mary of Graces - Sannio and Irpinia.

The Assembly took place in the climate of real encounter and dialogue. The theme was the phrase taken from Prophet Isaiah: "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (43,19).

The final document was approved. It is the product of the whole work, and it presents all the process that will guide the friars in their journey in the coming months.



BENEVENTO, BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GRACES

## HOLY MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE ELEVATION TO VENERABLE OF BR. ISAIA COLUMBRO



On the 14th July, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace in Benevento, Italy, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, presided over the Solemn Eucharist of thanksgiving for the Decree on the exercise of the heroic virtues of Venerable Br. Isaia Columbro, professed priest of the Order of Friars Minor in the Province of Sannio and Irpinia "Our Lady of Grace", born in Foglianise (BN) on the 11th February 1908, died on the evening of the 13th July 2004, at the "Annunciation Friary in Vitulano (BN). >>

### DECEASED BROTHERS \*

- 24th July, in Brazil: Fr. José Müller, Prov. Immaculate Conception
- 22nd July: Br. Hermilo Villason, Prov. St Peter Baptist (Philippines)
- 22nd July, in Bolivia: Br. Giuseppe Rossi, Prov. St. Francis Stigmatized (Italy)
- 22nd July, in Brazil: Br. Márcio Carneiro Cabral, Prov. Holy Cross
- 20th July, in Japan: Br. Dominikus Bauer, prov. St. Elizabeth (Germany)
- 11th July: Br. Pasquale Dettori, Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Italy)

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



More than a thousand faithful filled the great Basilica, where the Venerable Br. Isaia made his solemn profession of vows (15th September, 1929) and was ordained a priest (25th July, 1931). In this same place, 20 years after his death (13th July, 2024) and 10 years after the beginning of the Diocesan Inquiry (13th July, 2014), the Decree on the heroic virtues of Br. Isaiah was officially read, which Pope Francis authorized to promulgate on June 20, 2024, and by which it is recognized that the friar of Foglianise he followed the Lord more closely, thus becoming a credible witness of the Gospel.

The Cardinal, during his homily, emphasized in particular the ministry of consolation of the Venerable, and encouraged to ask, in particular cases of need, for his spiritual support from God.

The Postulator General of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. Giovangiuseppe Califano, read the Decree on the Virtues after the penitential act, followed by a long applause from the whole Assembly.

At the end of the celebration, the Minister Provincial Br. Antonio Tremigliozi, OFM took the floor to thank those present and those who have worked for the cause of Br. Isaiah in recent years, stating that his "venerability" represents a particu-

lar sign with which the Lord blesses the Franciscan Province of "Our Lady of Grace", the Archdiocese of Benevento, but also the entire Order of Friars Minor and the entire Church.

He then reported the message sent by the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, who was unable to be present, but who wanted to express his personal joy, having met the Servant of God: "The sense of a full life and a joy that spreads has remained imprinted in me after two providential meetings I had with Fr. Isaia in the 1990s. I remember with affection a humble, serene friar, with a bright and blessing gaze. The light that shone through his eyes was the reflection of a deep belonging, which became one with the Lord and Master, transformed into a real blessing both for the friars of the Province and for all the faithful."

*Provincial Secretariat of the Province of Santa Maria delle Grazie*



**THE NEXT ISSUE OF FRATERNITAS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON  
WEDNESDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

**OFM**

ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

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