



LA VERNA 800



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**The celebrations for the VIII Centenary of the Stigmata**  
*La Verna, 16-17 September*

On September 17 we will celebrate the VIII Centenary of the Stigmata, the third stage (after the approval of the Bull Rule and the Christmas of Greccio) in the journey of the Franciscan Centenarians, who help us to retrace – and often to re-discover – the last years of the life of St. Francis.

For our Seraphic Father it was a period of pain and love, characterized by the deep desire to follow Christ and conform himself totally to Him.

The encounter with the Crucifix, who impresses on his heart and body the signs of love, is summarized by St. Bonaventure as follows: “The true love of Christ had transformed the lover into the very image of the Beloved” (Major Legend 13, 5, FF 1228).

Celebrating the Centenary of the Stigmata as a Franciscan Family is an invitation to recover in our daily lives that dimension of prayerful and contemplative silence that confronts us with the essential, that allows us to recognize the desire for the infinite that resides in our hearts, that allows us to listen to ourselves, to others and to God.

“From wounds comes new life”: after receiving the sacred stigmata, Francis went out to meet the poor, the sick



and the needy to touch them, to transmit divine love to them. Remembering and celebrating the Poverello of Assisi touched by the Crucifix urges us to go out of ourselves to “touch the suffering flesh of Christ in others” (Gaudete et Exsultate, 37) and, at the same time, to allow ourselves to

be touched and challenged by the many dramatic situations of pain and suffering in which so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world find themselves.

[See the programme of celebrations](#)



## Government of the Order

### Reflections by Br. Massimo August 2024



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10 September 2024 marked the 800th anniversary of the arrival of the first friars in England.

As a Franciscan Family in the world, we are celebrating the 800th anniversary of the last period of St Francis' life, marked by a crisis in his relationship with the Order, a time of personal temptation and the last two years of his preparation for death. A very intense period in which St Francis matured to his full stature as a man and as a Christian.

The approval of the Rule and the Christmas lived in Greccio opened him to live in La Verna a profound communion with Christ through the Stigmata. At San Damiano, wounded in the body and now blind, his prayer

exploded with the Canticle of the Creatures, and it was in this spirit that he went to meet “Sister Death” at the Porziuncola in 1226.

It is certainly no coincidence that the first Franciscan mission to England took place in 1224, precisely at this unique time in the Poverello's life and before the Stigmata. It was born, as it were, from his wounded heart, strong in his love for the Gospel and for humanity.

Francis had already sent his friars to various parts of Europe to live and proclaim the Gospel. England, at the time under the reign of Henry III, was a territory ripe for evangelisation and spiritual reform. The arrival of the first friars in Dover on 10 September 1224 was therefore an important event in the religious and cultural history of the country.

We know that the group was led by Agnello di Pisa, a friar of great devotion and organisational talent. Other friars travelled with him, including Albert of Pisa, Richard of Ingworth and others. Their presence was peculiar and new: they wore simple clothes, walked barefoot and lived in poverty. This way of life

quickly attracted the attention of many people and their presence spread rapidly throughout the island. We can say that the first Franciscan mission to England in 1224 marked the beginning of a period of great growth and influence for the Order in the country. The Franciscan Friars were able to establish a permanent presence and made a significant contribution to the religious, intellectual and social life of medieval England.

In a time of “great temptation”, Francis was able to create such a novelty of life and mission. He did not withdraw into himself, but went out to meet others, crossing borders.

The recollection of the 800th anniversary of the arrival of the Friars Minor in England, as we celebrate the Franciscan centenary, reveals to us even more his light and strength.

As we commemorate the anniversary of this arrival, we look to the future to continue our presence in England, today also through the new international fraternity that is about to be founded in Stratford, on the outskirts of London. Between memory and new beginnings. We are still going on mission.

## Visit of the Minister General to Asia

4 – 22 August

From 4 to 22 August 2024, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli OFM, accompanied by the Definitor General for Asia and Oceania, Br. John Wong OFM, and the representative of the Development Office, Br. Baptist D'Souza OFM, visited the friars of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia, the Dependent Foundation of St. Anthony of Lisbon in Timor Leste, and the Province of St. Francis Herald of Peace in West Papua.

On the first day of their visit, upon arriving on the island of Java on Sunday, 4 August 2024, the team from the General Curia was welcomed by Br. Mikael Peruhe OFM as the Provincial Minister, with the Definitors and friars.

The visitors were greeted with a cultural ceremony from Ngada-Bajawa in the island of Flores, namely Sa Ngaza(welcoming speech) and the Ja'i dance (welcoming dance). They were also presented with traditional Ulos cloth from North Sumatra in the Provincial House. During his official address of welcome, Br. Mikael expressed the Province's great joy at the visit of the Minister General, and he highlighted the diversity of Indonesia and widespread presence of friars across the archipelago. The welcoming ceremony in Jakarta concluded with a fraternal lunch, immediately after which team from Rome departed for Dili in Timor Leste.



### St. Anthony of Lisbon Foundation in Timor Leste



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The Order of Friars Minor has been present in Timor Leste since 1988, and this youthful and growing Foundation, which is dependent on the Province of St Michael the Archangel in Indonesia, now has 23 Solemn Professed friars, 32 Temporary Professed friars, 3 Novices and 6 Postulants.

During the visit, from 5 to 8 of August, Br Massimo and Br John met with the brothers in 3 different groups to listen to their sharings on their reality, challenges, hopes and dreams. Dialogue sessions were held with FRATILES (Franciscan family of Timor Leste), representatives from 10 different Fran-

## General Curia Agenda



- ☑ From the 9th to 20th September the Tempo Forte will be held in the General Curia.
- ☑ On September 12 in Rome, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, will participate in the General Chapter of the Capuchin Friars Minor; on the 14th he will be in St. Giovanni Rotondo for the opening of the Novena for the Feast of St. Padre Pio; on 16 and 17 September, together with the General Definitory, he will be in La Verna for the VIII Centenary of the Stigmata of St. Francis.
- ☑ From September 14 to 16, Br. César Kulkamp, General Definitor, will participate remotely in the Chapter of Mats of the Bolivarian Conference.
- ☑ On September 20, the General Definitory will meet in the Curia with the Guardians, Vicars and Bursars of the houses dependent on the Minister General.
- ☑ On September 21, Br. Massimo will be in Salerno for the celebration of Mass on the occasion of the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle. On the 23rd he will meet in Rome the Friars who work at the Roman Curia. From September 24th to 1st October he will visit the Province of Saints Francis and James, in Mexico.
- ☑ From the 25th to 29th September, the meeting of the Permanent Commission for the Safeguarding of Minors and Vulnerable Adults will be held at the General Curia, with the participation of Br. Albert Schmucki, General Definitor and Director of the Office.



ciscan parish youth groups, and the parish priests and councils of the 3 different Franciscan parishes served by the Foundation. The Minister General reminded these groups about the importance of rebuilding the church beginning with oneself, the necessity of cultivating an interior life of faith and encounter with God, and the direction of the Holy Father towards a more synodal way of being Church.

In addition, Br Massimo, Br John and Br Baptist, accompanied by friars from Timor Leste and Indonesia, had an audience with Cardinal Virgilio do Carmo da Silva, SDB in Dili. They also visited the Friars' ecopastoral community in Weto; the Franciscan school, hostel; the currently combined Postulancy and Novitiate house in Fatucahi; and the almost-completed new Novitiate building and the site of the friars' future Sanctuary of St Anthony at Fatuberliu.

During this historical first visit by a Minister General of our Order to Timor Leste, Br Massimo was formally received at each place by traditional and civil leaders, with spectacular and colourful ceremonies of welcome, steeped in local cultural traditions.

In this land of profound traditions, the union of culture and Church is greatly respected. Indeed, in this young missionary presence of the Franciscan friars, where culture, faith and communion with the local Church are deeply held values, there is much hope for growth of the Church and Order.

### Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia



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From Timor Leste, Brothers Massimo, John and Baptist, accompanied by the Vicar Provincial of Indonesia Br Daniel Klau Nahak, made a 4-day visit to Manggarai region in the western part of the island

of Flores, where they were greeted in Labuan Bajo by representatives of the Franciscan family and local leaders, including Emeritus Bishop of Bogor Diocese, Msgr. Michael Cosmas Angkur OFM.

After a night in Labuan Bajo, Br Massimo and team proceeded to Pagal, where they were greeted with a traditional "tuak cur" ceremony and Ronda and Ja'i dances. In Pagal, they also met with the friars serving in 4 different places in the Manggarai region. The friars from the OFM missions of Airamu and Kurubokho in central Flores also joined in the meetings and celebrations.

The pastoral council members of the 5 parishes served by the friars in Flores, as well as 25 youth from each of these Franciscan parishes, also had the opportunity to share with the Minister General and Definitor General about their hopes, challenges and dreams. A visit was also made to the eco-pastoral project of the friars and their collaborators in Pagal, that included a liturgy and a tree-planting ceremony.



The visit to Flores concluded with a Eucharistic celebration on August 11, 2024, presided by Br. John Wong in the Indonesian language. In his homily in English, Br. Massimo drew inspiration from Jesus as the bread of life, emphasizing His role as a source of strength, joy, and sustenance.

After the visit to Flores, the team from the General Curia proceeded to the current Indonesian capital city of Jakarta, where they met with the friars serving in the islands of Java, Sumatra, Borneo and Riau. They also met with Msgr. Paskalis Bruno Syukur OFM (Bishop of Bogor Diocese) and Msgr. Adrianus Sunarko OFM (Bishop of Pangkalpinang Diocese).

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

**Province of St. Francis  
Herald of Peace  
in West Papua**



From August 16-22 Fr. Massimo visited the Province of St Francis Herald of Peace in West Papua accompanied by Br. John e Br. Baptist.

Here, the friars serve in many locations of great natural beauty, that appear to be tranquil and serene. Yet, just below the surface in many of these places, poverty, violence and conflict are a part of the daily reality of the people of God.

This strongly missionary presence of the Order was founded by Dutch missionary friars, 108 of whom have served in the missions of this western half of the island of Papua since 1937.

This entity became an Autonomous Custody in 2007 and subsequently a Province in 2017. The last of the Dutch friars in Papua, Br. Nico Syukur Dister OFM, returned to the Netherlands in early 2024.

Today, the Province has over 70 Solemn Professed friars and over 30 Temporary Professed friars who are from indigenous Papuan cultures, as well as from the Indonesian islands of Maluku, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Java, Timor and Flores, Timor.

The friars maintain their strong commitment to a contextualised Formation, to an inculturated Evangelisation, and to Mission to the marginalised.

Together with the local Minister Provincial Br. Aloysius Gonzaga Rusmadji OFM, the Minister General and his companions from the General

Curia visited the Province’s missions to the Asmat peoples in the southern swamps of Agats Diocese, to the Kamoro people in Timika-Mapuru Jaya, and to the indigenous peoples of Pikhe and Yiwika in Wamena, in the Baliem Valley which was first discovered by the Western world only in 1938.

In these remote missions, the friars serve the rural poor who are very isolated and who generally have low levels of education and healthcare; whereas in their urban ministries, the friars provide pastoral care for parishioners who face very contemporary challenges.

Beyond West Papua, the Province of St Francis Herald of Peace has mission projects in other islands of the archipelago and missionaries in South Sudan and the Holy Land.

Br. Massimo and his team visited the Friars and some of their ministries in the city of Jayapura as well as Abepura and Sentani. On the grounds of the Provincial House, the Province has established Provita hospital with a Franciscan ethos and some of the latest medical equipment in Papua; and on the same mission property as a house of Initial Formation, the friars run the Surya Kasih hospice for abandoned HIV AIDS patients, many of whom have late-stage critical illnesses.

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

*Br. John Wong  
Definitior General for Asia and Oceania*

**KOINONIA**



The latest issue of Koinonia N° 122 – 2024.2: Year 31, the bulletin of the Secular Franciscan Order, entitled *Francis Marked by the Love of Christ*, has been published.

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## News from the Order

### Solemnity of St Clare 2024 11th August



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On 11 August the Franciscan Family celebrated the feast of St Clare, a light that shines brightly in the hearts of Franciscans today. [During the Angelus, Pope Francis greeted the Poor Clares:](#) “I address an affectionate thought to all the Poor Clares, and especially to those of Vallegloria, with whom I have a beautiful friendship.”

In Indonesia, the Minister General also took part in the celebration. In his homily, after commenting on the Sunday Gospel, he recalled Francis: “His life can tell us something about the desert, about work and about love. Above all, it can tell us something about love for Christ and for the poor.”

He added: “Clare, like Francis, saw in the Eucharistic bread the humility and simplicity of God. And this is true! Bread is a very simple thing, but it can change lives. May it be so for us today! May the Lord give you peace.”

In the Basilica of St Clare in Assisi, the Eucharist was presided over by the Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who in his homily recalled the words of Pope Francis on 11 August 2021, when he urged people to imitate the example



of St Clare, “a shining example of those who knew how to live their adherence to Christ with courage and generosity.”

Cardinal Parolin also urged people to follow the example of Saint Clare, who made a radical choice of poverty born of

love: “She is a model for life in our society, which is marked by consumerism, that is, the unbridled pursuit of the satisfaction of needs, induced by the pressure of advertising and social imitation, with the inevitable economic waste and pollution, and by hedonism, which considers pleasure to be the supreme good of man and the sole purpose of life.”

At the end of his homily, the Cardinal called for prayer for peace: “From Assisi, on the occasion of this feast, I would like to launch a strong prayer and appeal for peace throughout the world. As the Holy Father has repeatedly said, war is a defeat for everyone and benefits no one.”

Read the homily of the Minister General: [Italiano](#) – [English](#) – [Español](#)

Read the [Letter of the Minister General for the Solemnity of St Clare](#)

### Celebrating 800 Years of Franciscans in the British Isles

*A collection of essays in honour of Br Eric Doyle, OFM*



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The book “Celebrating 800 Years of Franciscans in the British Isles” has been published by Franciscan Publishing.

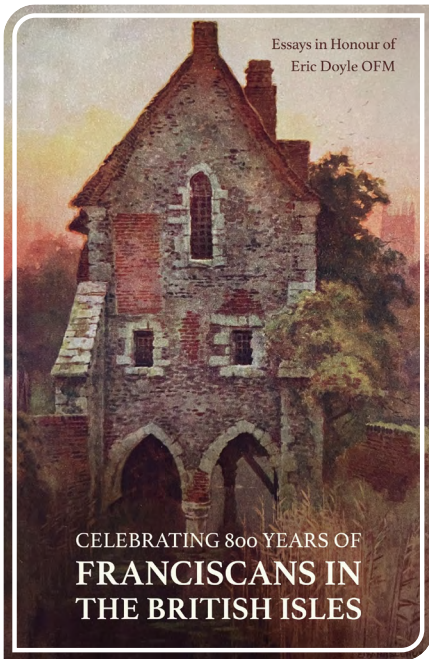
It is a collection of essays edited by Brenda Abbott which, as well as commemorating the Franciscan presence in Britain and

Ireland, pays tribute to a Friar of these lands, Br Eric Doyle, OFM, on the fortieth anniversary of his death (25 August 1984).

The chapters that make up the volume offer a glimpse of different aspects of these eight centuries, beginning with the first

mission desired by St Francis in 1224 and led by Blessed Agnello of Pisa.

“We learn of the spread of the Franciscan message throughout the islands, of the great successes and celebrations of the mission, as well as of the diffi-



culties and adversities endured by men and women of faith in their efforts to follow the Gospel of Christ”, reads the preface.

A look not only at the past, but also at the present, at how the Franciscan charism has manifested itself in new and creative ways, also to reach out to young people in a secularised world like today’s, but in need of peace, reconciliation and stability.

Values that the Gospel and the message of the Poverello of Assisi and of so many brothers and saints of the British Isles can still give today, after 800 years.

Eric Doyle, one of the greatest Franciscan scholars of the twentieth century in England, whose influence continues to spread throughout the world, not only because of his immense culture and his great gift of transmitting his knowledge and wisdom, but also because of the way in which the Franciscan charism permeated his life and his vision, founded on the following of Christ and an inspiration to those who knew him.

Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, Minister General, recalls that the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan presence in the British Isles is part of the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the last period of St Francis’ life, “marked by a crisis in his relationship with the Order, a time of personal temptation and the last two years which prepared him for death”.

“It is certainly no coincidence that the first Franciscan mission to England took place in 1224, precisely at that unique time in the life of the Poverello and before the Stigmata. It was born, as it were, from his wounded heart, strong in his love for the Gospel and for humanity. Francis had already sent his brothers to various parts of Europe to live and proclaim the Gospel in a poor and humble way. England, at the time under the reign of Henry III, was a territory ripe for evangelisation and spiritual reform. For this reason, the arrival of the first friars in Dover on 10 September 1224 was an event of great importance in the religious and cultural history of the country”, the Minister General continues, hoping that the publication will be an opportunity to revisit these events and “also in the light of a master of the value of Brother Eric Doyle, to rediscover their message and inspiration for our times. It is truly different and new, and yet it awaits a new breath of life and hope.”

Celebrating 800 Years of Franciscans in the British Isles.

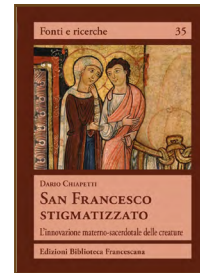
*Essays in Honour of Eric Doyle OFM (13 July 1938–25 August 1984), on the fortieth anniversary of his death.*

*Edited by Brenda Abbott  
Franciscan Publishing, 2024*

Franciscan  
Bookmark



San Francesco stigmatizzato.  
L’innovazione  
materno-sacerdotale  
delle creature



Fra Dario  
Chiapetti, OFM

Edizioni  
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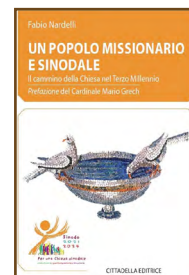
O singular em Ockham:  
ontologia, antropologia, política



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André  
Lottermann, OFM

Editora Vozes

Un popolo missionario e  
sinodale. Il cammino della  
Chiesa nel Terzo Millennio



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Nardelli, OFM

Cittadella  
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Hildegard. Tre porte e un  
retablo alla Verna



Mons. Rodolfo  
Cetoloni, OFM

Effigi



## Extraordinary Provincial Chapter in Peru

### Missionary Province of San Francisco Solano



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From the 19th to the 23rd of August, the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Missionary Province of St. Francis Solano of Peru was held in the Convent of Our Lady of the Angels (known as the “Convent of the Barefoot”) in the Rímac district of the city of Lima, Peru.

The purpose of this Chapter was to review and update the Particular Statutes of the Missionary Province, in order to strengthen the evangelising

work in Peru. All the brothers of the Province participated, under the presidency of the Provincial Minister, Br Marcos Saravia Orellana, OFM, accompanied by the Delegate of the Order, Br Mario Wilson Ramos Novoa, OFM.

The Chapter began with a reflection presented by Br. Andrés Alegre Paredes, OFM, Brother Canonist of the Missionary Province and currently Assistant to the General Secretariat of the Order.

The work and dedication of the Friars, who in these days, between group work and plenary sessions, have arrived at the drafting of the new Statutes of the Province, which will be sent to the General Curia for revision and approval, should be noted.

May the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Angels, continue to enlighten the Missionary Province of St. Francis Solano of Peru in its work for the good of the People of God.

*Br. Jorge Ñiquen Urquiza, OFM*

*Provincial Secretary for Evangelisation and Missions, St. Francis Solano Missionary Province, Peru*

## Chapter of the Province of St Mary of the Angels

### Democratic Republic of Congo



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The Province of St. Mary of the Angels in the Democratic Republic of Congo celebrated its Provincial Chapter from 2 to 11 August. The Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, appointed Br Amaral Bernardo Amaral, of the Custody of St. Clare in Mozambique, Visitor General of the Province of St. Mary of the Angels and President of the Chapter.

At the end of his canonical visitation, on 26 June 2024, Br Amaral Bernardo invited thirty-seven friars, vowed capitulars and guests to take part in the celebration held at the Mamu wa Bupole convent of the Poor Clare Sisters in Mbujimayi. The theme of the Chapter was “Brothers and Minors, configured to Christ, facing the wounds of our world today”, in relation to the celebration of the 800th anniversary

of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi. The Chapter arrived on the evening of 31 July 2024. On the morning of 1 August 2024, Br Joseph Kalambayi preached the retreat for the capitulars. The evening was devoted to the organisation of the various services and to the appointment of officers: secretaries, presiding officers, scrutineers.

On the 2nd August, feast of St. Mary of the Angels, Patroness of the Province, the work began with the visit of Mgr Emmanuel-Bernard Kasanda, Bishop of the Diocese of Mbujimayi, where the Province of St. Mary of the Angels has its headquarters. Stanislas Lukumwena, Bishop emeritus of the diocese of Kole and member of the Province, addressed the capitulars of the Fraternity. The rhythm of the work

was marked by listening to the reports in plenary sessions, group reflections in workshops based on the reports presented, and sharing of reflections in plenary sessions.

On Wednesday 7 August 2024, during the celebration of Mass, the decree of the Minister General was brought to the attention of the Capitular friars, and it appoints for three years: Br Nicodème Muambata Mukatsala, Provincial Minister; Br Benjamin Kabongo Ngeleka, Provincial Vicar; and Br Joseph Kasombo Tshimal, Br Patrice-Emery Muepu Kamangu, Br Jean-Paul Ntumba Ntumba and Br Polydore Badibanga, Provincial Definitors. The promulgation of the decree was followed by the profession of faith of the new Minister Provincial, the rite of obedience and the oath of office of all the members of the Provincial Definitory.

On Thursday 8 August, during the celebration of Lauds, the seal of the Province was passed from the outgoing Minister Provincial to the new Minister Provincial. On Friday, 9 August, the Capitulars voted on the direction of the articles of the Final Dispositions, a document that will serve as a compass for the activities of the Province for the three-year period 2024-2027. On Saturday, 10 August, the plenary discussed some outstanding issues, followed



by the vote on the Final Dispositions. At the end of the morning, the Chapter President, Br Amaral Bernardo Amaral, declared the 2024 Chapter of the Province of St Mary of the Angels closed.

In the solemn celebration of the Mass of the feast of St Clare, seven novices made their first profession, one simple professed made her solemn profession and two solemnly professed renewed their vows on the occasion of their 25th anniversary in religious life. On the same occasion, three brothers celebrated their jubilee of priestly ministry, and five new priests and two new deacons were ordained.

*Br. Adélard-Marie Ntumba, OFM  
Secretary Provincial*

## Chapters of Mats



### Assembly and Chapter of Mats of the Brazil and Southern Cone Conference

*Belo Horizonte, August 25 – 30*



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With the joy of living a synodal Church and motivated by the proposal of the Order of Friars Minor, which in the General Chapter of 2021 had as its mandate (n. 4) to promote moments of authentic

fraternal life, to listen to every person who works in our most diverse forms of evangelization, the Provincial Ministers and Custodians of the Franciscan Conference of Brazil and Southern Cone (CFB&CS) together with the Secretaries of the Chapter of Mats of the respective Entities, met from the 25th to 30th August in Belo Horizonte (MG) in Brazil for the Assembly and Celebration of the Chapter of Mats at the Conference level.

The goal throughout the OFM is to remember and revive our identity as Friars Minor, which is embodied in the effective ability to listen, learn and change the will, the heart, the intelligence and our steps.

The Secretaries present shared the fruits and importance of the celebration of the Chapter of Mats in their respective Entities, emphasizing that it was a moment of true reciprocal, attentive and understanding listening, as well as a great opportunity to experience the communion of Franciscan spirituality through the presence of lay people engaged in the most diverse fronts of evangelization and members of the Franciscan Family (Religious, OFS and YouFra).

The collection of the Final Documents received from the Entities was the work of the friars who played the role of Secretaries of the local Mat Chapters, in order to build a final document to be sent to the Preparatory Commission of the “Chapter of Mats” which will take place at the level of the Order from the 2nd to 8th June 2025 in Assisi, Italy.

These were days marked by fraternal coexistence, prayer and the sharing of local realities. An arduous work, but above all fruitful and one that will certainly make a contribution to the Order. “We are a new, bilingual Conference, with a large ter-



ritorial extension covering 4 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay), with a great cultural plurality and institutional practices in our Entities that enriches us and challenges us to communion,” the friars concluded in the final draft of the document that will be sent to the Order.

Let us pray to Mary, Mother of God, advocate and Queen of the Order, to intercede for all the friars. May St. Francis of Assisi, our Seraphic Father, help us to reflect and revive our identity as Friars Minor.

*The Secretaries of the 2024 CFB&CS Mats Chapter*

## Chapter of Mats of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe Central America and Caribbean



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From 12 to 16 August, the friars of the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America and the Caribbean held their Chapter of Mats at the Monte San Francisco Retreat House in Guatemala.

The Chapter was attended by 56 Friars from Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic,

including Friars Minor, Consecrated Sisters, members of the SFO, parish pastoral and educational leaders, and Social Works.

The Provincial Minister, Br. Edgardo Pérez, urged everyone to listen to one another in order to find a path that leads to fraternal life as a family and to proclaim the values of the Kingdom of God in or-

der to be a living witness. The General Definitor, Br. Joaquín Echeverry, was also present, and he shared the good news that vocations are flourishing in spite of the contrasting realities of the world.

The first reflection was on the charism, while the second meditation was on communion (fraternal life), orienting the theme with the following statement: Fraternity in the Old Testament, where it is written that to be a brother is to recognise in the other the image of God. The third reflection was on Franciscan spirituality: “Embracing the future, witness and mission”, whom and how do we serve?

All were invited to live the Franciscan mission as a silent proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

This was followed by work on the proposals to be taken into account in order to consolidate the presence of the Franciscan Family. It was a time of reflection and celebration on what to do today as Friars Minor, on the collaboration with the laity, on the projection for the future and on the mission to be carried out in union with the Franciscan Family of Central America.

[Download the Final Message \(Español\)](#)

## News from the Entities



### Solemn Professions in Mozambique

Maputo, 18th August



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On August 18, 2024, during the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio in Mozambique, Mgr Luís Miguel Muñoz, and in the presence of the Custos of the Autonomous Custody of St. Clare of Assisi, Br. Lage Nhampoca Luís Afonso, four young Mozam-

bicans committed themselves definitively to the Order of Friars Minor through Solemn Profession. Several friars, relatives of the professed, friends and faithful from the parish of St Anthony of Polana, Maputo, were present.

In his homily, the Nuncio asked: “But where does all the spiritual fruitfulness of the Franciscan Family, which has existed for more than eight centuries, come from? It comes from the evangelical radicality, I repeat, from the evangelical radicality of Francis of Assisi, a totally

## Solemn Professions



**26th August, Prov. of St. Junipero Serra (Mexico)**  
Fr. Raúl Alberto Chaires García, Fr. Luis Roberto Cisneros Reveles, Fr. Eduardo Javier González Quezada, Fr. Zacarias Mendoza Castillo.

**24th August, Prov. of Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)**  
Fr. John Gunther Neuffer, Fr. Raphael Ozoude, Fr. Richard Victor Phillip, Fr. Matthew Ryan.

**23rd August, Prov. of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Central America and the Caribbean)**  
Fr. Pierre Wisler Beaugé.

**18th August, Custody of St. Clare of Assisi (Mozambique)**  
Fr. Armando Damião, Fr. Luís Manuel Muavenche,

Fr. Domingos Assique Salange, Fr. Rito Manuel Trigo.

**3rd August, Custody of St. Benedict of the Amazon (Brazil)**  
Fr. Lauro Matheus Costa dos Santos.

**2nd August, Prov. of Sts. Peter and Paul (Mexico)**  
Fr. Salomé Andrés Ortiz, Fr. Ramiro Cancino Herrera, Fr. Rodrigo De Alejo González, Fr. Israel Medina Ortega, Fr. Alfonso Rodríguez García.

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

poor, obedient and chaste man, indeed the man on earth most like our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Speaking to the newly professed, the Holy Father’s representative in Mozambique recalled the nature of the Franciscan vocation, which is “a vocation of fraternity, of communion, of life in common”; and he went on to say that it must be nourished in prayer, in listening to the Word and in the sacraments: If you do not eat his body and drink his blood, that is, if you do not feed on Christ in prayer, in the word and in the sacraments, every day, I repeat, every day, you will begin to lose spiritual weight little by little, and you may even become spiritually anaemic and even die within”.

At the end of the Eucharist, the families of the newly professed



expressed their joy and gratitude to the Franciscan Order and to all those who accompanied their sons, as well as to those who take care of the boys in their different stages of life.

The Custos thanked the parents and families for “educating these young people in the faith” and, addressing the newly professed, he continued: “I want to assure you that the joy we express on this day is one of humble acceptance and gratitude for the wonders God is working in the life of each one of you: your commitment is an added value to the life of the Order. Congratulations!”

At present the Autonomous Custody of St. Clare of Assisi in Mozambique, founded in 1898, has 99 friars: 2 bishops, 57 solemnly professed, 37 temporarily professed and 5 novices.

Read the biography of the newly professed on [www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)

*Br. Evodio João, OFM*

## Wayanad landslide in India

### Offering hope in the face of despair



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The Wayanad landslide of 2024, triggered by heavy monsoon rains and a midnight cloudburst on July 30th, brought unimaginable devastation to Kerala, South India. We lost over 415 lives, with more than 200 of our brothers and sisters still missing.

The disaster reduced homes, resorts, schools, places of worship, and vital infrastructure to rubble, leaving survivors with nothing but the wet, torn clothes they wore as they fled for their lives.

Wayanad, a district known for its hills, valleys, and tea gardens, is one of the most underdeveloped regions in Kerala. We, the friars living in the remote village of Meppadi, found ourselves deeply connected to this tragedy. Our friary, Prakruthi Mithra, which stands for living in harmony with nature, is located within the vicinity of the disaster. On that fateful night, the relentless rains turned the Chaliyar River into a violent torrent. The landslides not only caused physical destruction but also left deep psychological scars. What was once a life-giving monsoon became a terrifying force of death.

As we looked around, we saw our neighbors, once eagerly awaiting the monsoon rains to bring relief from the summer heat, now facing a harsh reality. The landslides, combined with the fear of more to come, forced many into temporary camps. The pain of losing loved ones was unbearable, especially for those who couldn’t even recover the bodies of their family members to perform last rites.

Before the landslide struck, we had already begun our relief efforts, responding to the havoc caused by the unceasing rains. We provided tarpaulin sheets to cover leaking roofs and emergency light bulbs to bring some light into dark, rain-soaked homes. Despite the immense challenges, we continued to offer not just physical relief, but also emotional and spiritual support to those affected.

In the camps, we tried to bring moments of joy to the displaced, particularly the elderly, who found some solace in the school classrooms where they were sheltered. We also provided food kits to those returning home after the camps, ensuring



they had something to eat despite the ongoing hardships. Thanks to the support from the Franciscan mission and local benefactors, we were able to sustain our efforts and continue reaching out to those in need.

The teachings of our Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, deeply moved us, urging us to reach out to the excluded and suffering. Inspired by Pope Francis' message for the World Day of the Poor, we committed ourselves to serving those on the periphery, offering them hope in the face of despair.

Our work in Wayanad is a reflection of the Franciscan spirit of standing by the least and the lost,

mending broken hearts, homes, and families in the aftermath of this tragic landslide.

In conclusion, our response to the Wayanad landslide is a testament to our commitment to solidarity with the poor and marginalized. Our efforts to bring comfort and hope to those affected by this disaster are rooted in our Franciscan values of compassion, service, and brotherhood, even in the face of overwhelming tragedy.

We are determined to continue walking with our people, offering them the support they need as they rebuild their lives.

*Babu Jose Pampalny, OFM*

## Deceased Brothers



- † 26th August: Br. Darcísio Paetzold, Prov. St. Francis of Assisi (Brazil)
- † 25th August: Br. Felice Pannone, Prov. Neapolitan of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Italy)
- † 24th August: Br. Aurelio Rughetti, Prov. Seraphic St. Francis of Assisi (Italy)
- † 15th August: Br. Fabio Longo, Prov. St. Anthony of Padua (Italy)
- † 6th August: Br. Joaquín Nuñez Ledesma, Prov. Assumption of the BVM of the Rio de la Plata (Argentina and Paraguay)
- † 2nd August: Fr. Rodolfo Velasco Ramírez,

Prov. S. Francis of Quito (Ecuador)

- † 24th July: Br. Daniel Paul Riley, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 10th July: Br. Edward Boren, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 28th June: Br. Eugenio H. Ortíz, Province of the Assumption of the BVM of the Rio de la Plata (Argentina and Paraguay)
- † 25th June: Br. Arnaldo Motta e Sá, Prov. St. Anthony of Padua (Brazil)

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## OFM Vietnam Under-Five Meeting Dalat, 5 - 8 August



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Forty brothers of the Province of St. Francis of Vietnam gathered at Du Sinh Parish in Dalat city from August 5 to 8 for Under Five Ongoing Meeting.

The annual program is a good time for the young brothers to share experiences, joys and challeng-

es in religious life. With the theme: “Soar High Like an Eagle”, the young brothers have an opportunity to rediscover the basic foundation of consecrated life, and how to have “swift pace, light step and unswerving feet” (II LCI 12) in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, on this occasion, the brothers learned about the topic of safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults.

«Temptations will drag us down, but all of us will “soar high like an eagle” with a deep prayer life with God and serve everyone with their faithful and persevere love. We were accompanied by the Minister Provincial, the Moderator of Ongoing Formation, and the Secretary of Formation and Study. Hopefully, like the eagle always flying high, the young brothers will also reach out to God and others.»

*Br. Peter Dang, OFM*



## Animation of the Order

### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024 *Hope and Act with Creation*



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The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home.

The “Celebration” begins 1 September, the Feast of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

We share information from the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development.

[Pope Francis’ Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024](#), with the theme “Hope and Act with Creation,” was released on June 27.

To learn more visit:  
[www.humandevlopment.va](http://www.humandevlopment.va)

Download the [Prayer for the Season of Creation](#).



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Ordo Fratrum Minorum  
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