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Meeting of the General Definitory with the Friars in the initial formation of SLAN

Panewnicki (Poland), 17 October

A meeting of the General Definitory of the Order presided over by the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, took place in Panewniki on 17 October with the friars of the houses of initial formation of the North-Slavic Conference (SLAN).

Brothers from the postulancy of Borki Wielkie, the novitiate of Leżajsk and the initial formation houses of Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Slovakia took part in the event.

The dialogue touched on many issues, including the identity of the Friar Minor, the question of solutions for formation in the new social and ecclesial conditions, and the priorities for the formation of new generations of followers of St Francis.





Government of the Order

The Minister General visits Zagreb

Franciscan Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Croatia



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On Thursday the 24th October, the completion of the structural renovation of the friary and church of St. Francis in Zagreb, severely damaged by the earthquake that struck the city on the morning of Sunday, the 22nd March, 2020, was celebrated.

On this occasion, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli visited the friars at the principal friary of the Franciscan Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Croatia.

The celebration began with a meeting between the Minister General and the friars of the Province, during which experiences and opinions on coexistence, mission and challenges were exchanged. Br. Massimo encouraged the friars to keep alive the spirit of prayer and prayer taught by St. Francis, despite their pastoral commitments.

In addition, the restructuring process was also discussed, in which next year the Franciscan Province of St. Jerome in Dalmatia and Istria will become a Custody dependent on the Franciscan Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Croatia.

The culminating moment of the day was the solemn Eucharistic celebration in the newly renovated church, presided over by the Minister General and concelebrated by numerous Provincial Ministers of the various Franciscan obediences, friars of the General Curia of the Order and other priests. The Mass was also attended by repre-

sentatives of State and City Authorities, as well as many other faithful.

Before the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration, the Minister Provincial Br. Milan Krišto welcomed those present and the Minister General donated to the convent the relic of St. Francis and the relic of the martyrs of Damascus, canonized a few days ago, on Sunday, the 20th October.

In his homily, Br. Massimo, referring to the 800th anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis, emphasized the depth of the saint's life, comparing it to the burning flame of Christ's love.

In addition, he hoped that the restored church and convent would inspire a renewed fervour and love for Christ. After the Eucharistic celebration, the rite of blessing of the friary took place, followed by a community meal.

Let us recall that during the extensive research of the conservators, tombs were found in all the altar niches on the north and south sides of the western part of the church, which were documented and exhumed, and which bring new information about the previous history of Zagreb, i.e. the possibility that the first cathedral in Zagreb was located on the site of today's Franciscan church.

Br. Mario Zubak OFM



Meeting of the General Definitory and the Ministers of the ESC *Dublin (Ireland), 18-23 October 2024*



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On Friday 18th October, the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, his Definitory and the Ministers of the English-speaking Conference (ESC) gathered in the Franciscan friary in Merchants' Quay, Dublin, Ireland. Br Philip Miscamble, Minister Provincial of the Province of the Holy Spirit in Australia (currently part of the SAAOC Conference) was also present.

The following morning, Br Massimo and the members of the General Definitory met with the Minister of the Province of Ireland, Br Aidan McGrath, and his Definitory. A presentation on the Irish Province was made by Vicar Provincial, Br David Collins. Sharing and discussion followed, including reflections on the experience since the friars of the UK Custody of the Immaculate Conception were assimilated fully into the Province of Ireland last year. The Province now has eight houses in Ireland, three in England and one in Scotland.

Also discussed was the inter-provincial novitiate in Killarney friary where for the last several years novices from the Irish province, some provinces in Western Europe, and Canada have shared a joint novitiate experience.

Br Massimo and the General Definitory Br Albert Schmucki, after going to Rome for the [Canonization of the Blessed Martyrs of Damascus](#), returned to Ireland to meet, together with the entire General Definitory, the Ministers of the ESC. Reports were shared from the Ministers: in particular, the



spoke of the Chapter of Mats taking places in the Provinces and the syntheses of the reflections coming from those gatherings.

However, the main discussion focused on the future of ESC and the possible restructuring of the Conferences needed in the light of the changing realities in USA and other Entities. Also discussed were the Plenary Council of the Order and the upcoming international Lay Brothers meeting.

The Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell, joined the group for prayer and a festive meal on one of the evenings.

Deep gratitude was expressed to Br Massimo and the brothers from Rome for their fraternal presence and for the encouragement and inspiration offered for the path ahead.

General Curia Agenda



- ☑ Up until the 11th November 2024, the Tempo Forte will be held at the General Curia.
- ☑ Up until the 7th November, the General Curia will host the meeting on New Forms of Franciscan Life, which will be attended by Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas, Secretary General for Missions and Evangelization, Br. Dennis Tayo, General Animator for the Missions.
- ☑ On the 7th November, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, will meet the Gabriele Allegra Fraternity in Rome; on the 11th November he will be

at the Antonianum for the Academic Act in honour of Blessed John Duns Scotus. On the 16th November he will participate in the Intermediate General Chapter of the OFS in Rome; on the 17th he will be in Naples to meet the Franciscan Religious Movement; on the 18th he will participate in the Day dedicated to Luca Wadding at the College of St. Isidore, in Rome.

- ☑ From the 19th to 23rd November, at the General Curia, the General Definitory will meet with the Presidents of the Conference of Provincial Ministers.

Reflections by Br. Massimo

October 2024



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This year I celebrated the feast of St. Francis far away from Assisi and from its beauty of spirituality and art, far away from the living memory of the Poverello, almost impressed in those stones.

On the Eighth Centenary of the Stigmata, I accepted the invitation to go to Canindé, in the Brazilian Northeast, where for over a hundred years a sanctuary has stood, that of St. Francis of the Stigmata. As we drove from Fortaleza along the road dotted with palm trees and cacti to get to Canindé, I could see more and more vehicles, loaded with pilgrims arriving at the sanctuary. Many do it on foot, even barefoot.

When we enter Canindé I begin to see many people, small and large, walking; many are dressed in a robe. Then I glimpse hammocks everywhere, hanging between the trees in the green spaces or in the squares. It's all teeming with life, words, songs, glances hugs, prayers. The whole city becomes a sanctuary.

Not only the church of St. Francis of the Stigmata, packed to the brim with people, but also the streets, even the kiosks where one can drink something cool because the heat gives no respite.

These simple people, marked by the sun and by toil, spread throughout the city of St. Francis, as they call it, seeking his hidden presence, entrusting themselves to his prayers.

In the sanctuary there is a hole through which everyone peeks, hoping to see St. Francis who, according to popular belief, lives hidden in this

place and from which he dispenses graces of all kinds. I thought of how the faith of the simple contains a truth. Would that God grant that those who visit our places and our houses of friars could seek and be touched by the presence of Francis, alive through our existences as brothers and minors!

The procession and the Transitus on the evening of October 3 see over half a million people gathering, singing, celebrating, praying, being silent. Many volunteers, especially young people, enthusiastic about being part of this popular celebration, which here embraces Francis, feels him as theirs, experiences him present and active.

Many people wait outside the confessionals, pray in the sanctuary and sleep there because of a promise made; others participate in the Eucharist, then gather around the hammocks and prepare to spend the night in the open air. The heat is oppressive, but it does not stop anyone's momentum.

According to the people of the Brazilian Northeast, Francis lives in Canindé. Francis lives where he is sought, where his steps are trodden on dusty roads, where hope is kindled in a spark of life, of healing, of forgiveness.

The poor, in their own way, know how to recognize the trail that Francis leaves and to follow it. May they teach us not to tire of seeking him and with him to follow in the footsteps of Christ.



Interreligious prayer meeting in Sarajevo

“The Spirit of Assisi” at the convent of St. Anthony of Padua in Bistrik



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In the friary church of St. Anthony of Padua in Bistrik, Sarajevo, on Saturday the 26th October 2024, an important prayer meeting entitled “The Spirit of Assisi” was held: inspired by the initiative of St. John Paul II, who in 1986 gathered representatives of the world’s religions in Assisi to pray together for peace, this meeting also welcomed representatives of different religious communities, demonstrating that Sarajevo, a city with a long history of multiculturalism, is truly a city of peace, dialogue and interreligious understanding.

The Franciscans, led by Br. Zdravko Dadić, Minister of the Province of the Holy Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the friars of the convent of St. Anthony in Bistrik and Br. Ivan Tučić, provincial head of the Council for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, opened the doors of their church for this prayer meeting.

Amongst the illustrious guests present were the Archbishop and Metropolitan of Vrhbosna, Msgr. Tomo Vukšić, the apostolic nuncio to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Msgr. Francis Assisi Chullikatt, the Minister General of the OFM, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, and the representatives of different religious communities: the Jewish Community (Mr. Igor Kožemjakin, hazan of the Jewish Community of Sarajevo), the Islamic Community (Nedžad ef. Grabus, mufti of Sarajevo), the Protestant Evangelical Alliance (Pastor Tomislav Dobutović), the Bahá’í Association (Mr. Laurent Mesbah), the Sathya Sai Organization (Ms. Dunja Mašić) and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Mr. Darko Ostojić). Read more about www.ofm.org

O Lord, You are the source of peace and the foundation of brother and sisterhood amongst people.

*May Your Holy Spirit enlighten and guide us
so that love instead of hatred,
understanding instead of distrust,
and sensitivity to the needs of others
instead of selfishness, reign everywhere.*

*Grant that every day we may become ever better
builders of peace.*

*Remind us that the true source of a just and lasting
peace amongst people is peace with You,
peace in a pure heart and conscience. Amen!*

(Text of the prayer recited by Mons. Tomo Vukšić)

Br. Šimo Ivelj



Conclusion of the Congress “The Franciscans in Hispanic America” *The Legacy of the Twelve Apostles of Mexico*



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Academics, experts and specialists from Spain, Italy and Mexico met for four days in a scientific and academic congress with the aim of interpreting and discovering the traces of the legacy of the so-called “Twelve Apostles of Mexico” in today’s society.

These intellectuals, brought together by the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation and the Royal Extremaduran Academy of Letters and Arts, sought to highlight, through their presentations and communications, the humanistic, social, political, cultural and religious value of the twelve Franciscan friars who in 1524 traveled from the Extremaduran friary of Belvís de Monroy to Mexico, going down in

history as the prototype of the best Spanish legacy left in America.

This Congress, which was attended by more than three hundred and fifty people, was held in Guadalupe, Cáceres and Belvís de Monroy, with the aim of commemorating the date on which twelve friars, barefoot and raising the flag of poverty, arrived in “New Spain” with a serene gaze and freedom of thought, understanding history as a process of advancement and progress. Amongst the speakers was Br. Ignacio Ceja Jiménez, Vicar General of the OFM. [...]

The congress served to update the latest research on the importance of Franciscanism in Extremadura in the second half of the sixteenth century, since many of the first Franciscans in Mexico were from this region and transferred their fundamental characteristics to America: evangelical poverty and, from 1492, an evangelizing passion that they already manifested both in the newly conquered Granada, and in Extremadura, whose population was going through an unfavourable situation.

Read the full article on www.ofm.org

Solemn Professions



Prov. Assumption of the BVM (Poland)

12th October: Br. Claudius Mainka

5th October: Br. Nehemies Michalski, Br. Pius Stuchlik

3rd September: Br. Partenij Dats

10th October, Prov. St. Francis of Quito (Ecuador)

Br. Jorge Merino Ramos

6th October, Prov. of the Holy Cross (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Br. Driton Hajdaraj, Br. Matej Juričević, Br. Darijo Laštro, Br. Anton Selitaj, Br. Tomislav Vidović, Br. Tonči Šarić

5th October, Prov. of the Holy Saviour (Slovakia)

Br. Lukáš Mária Buhla

5th October, Custody of Kibeho (Rwanda-Burundi)

Br. Anicet Nahishakiye

17th September, Prov. St. Francis of Assisi (Vietnam)

Br. Mark Bui, Br. Peter Chu, Br. Francis of Assisi Doan, Br. John the Baptist Han, Br. Peter Hoang, Br. Benadone Luu, Br. Dominic Ngo, Br. Thomas Nguyen, Br. Dominic Nguyen, Br. John the Baptist Nguyen, Br. Anthony Micae Pham, Br. Joseph Tran, Br. Mathias Tran, Br. Joseph Vo, Br. Dominic Vu, Br. Joseph Vu

Information received from the General Secretariat

Chapters

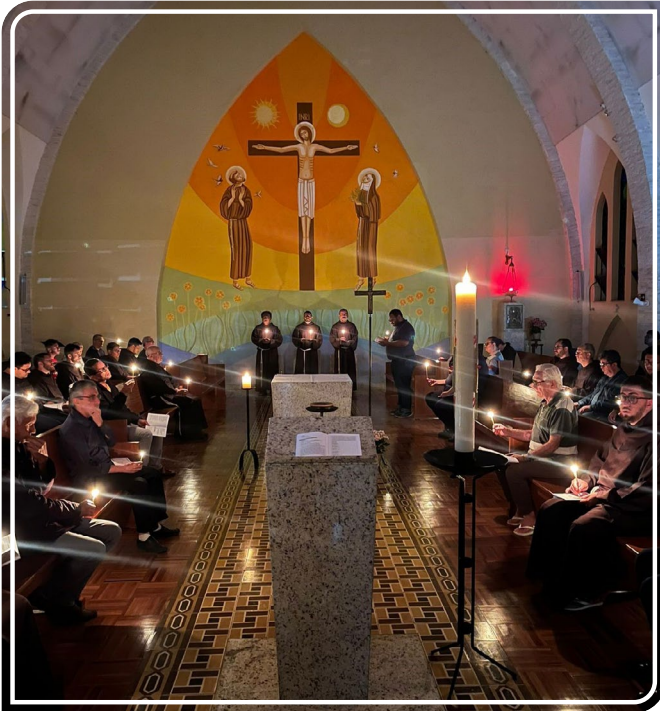


Chapter of the Holy Cross Province (Brazil)

Santos Dumont, October 14-21



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The brothers of the Holy Cross Province of Brazil met in provincial chapter from October 14 to 21, 2024, at the Santo Antônio Seraphic Seminary, at Santos Dumont, in the state of Minas Geiras. This chapter had as its theme: “Vocation, Witness, Welcome and Accompaniment of the Friar Minor in the face of social-ecclesial challenges”, and as its motto: “I give you, my people, to build, to destroy and to plant” (Jer 1:10).

There were 60 friar capitulars present, in addition to the temporary professed and friar bishops, who insisted on participating: Bishop Hugo Maria Van Steekelenburg, OFM (emeritus of Almenara, MG) and Archbishop Dario Campos (Vitória, ES).

The reports of the Visitor General, Br Gustavo Wayand Medella (Province of the Immaculate Conception, Brazil) and of the outgoing Minister Provincial, Br Hilton Farias de Souza, were read. Then the three provincial secretariats (Formation and Studies, Missions and Evangelization, and Administration) also presented their reports.

After fruitful reflections in the groups and in the plenary sessions, the following lines of priority

were chosen: 1) restructuring the process of formation; 2) qualifying fraternal life; 3) revitalizing the evangelizing mission; 4) reaffirming the commitment for minority and the values of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

In this chapter the election of the new Minister Provincial took place, Br Vicente Paulo do Nascimento (53). Br Vicente Paulo is the first lay brother of the Order to assume the service of provincial minister in Brazil. He is also a pioneer of the Conference of Friars Minor of Brazil and the Southern Cone, which covers Argentina, Chile and Paraguay.

Elected to the Definitorium were: Br Alessandro Rufino da Silva, Br José Aguinaldo Querobino, Br Carlos Alexandre da Silva Lima, Br Laércio Jorge de Oliveira.

At the conclusion of the chapter a final message was prepared, in which one reads: “The socio-ec-



clesial challenges push us to bear prophetic witness before the Church and society.

As the Province of the Holy Cross, we are committed to the cause of the little ones of our times, in serious questions related to integral ecology and against every form of racism that exists in our society, reaffirming our position against the culture of hatred and division.

The current economic model excludes our brothers and sisters from having a life of abundance (John 10:10). In view of this, we want to place ourselves more and more at the service of the least of our time, following Mary's mandate to do everything he tells us, to alleviate their dramas and to obtain victory."

Márcia Gomes Mafía Mendes



Chapters of Mats

Chapter of Mats of the Province of the Most Holy Redeemer *Split (Croatia), 22-23 October*



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On the 22nd and 23rd October, the Chapter of Mats of the Province of the Most Holy Redeemer of Croatia was held in Split, at the friary of the Servant of God Br. Ante Antić. As indicated by the General Government, in addition to the friars, the sisters of the Society of Franciscan School Sisters of Christ the King, the Franciscan Sisters of the BVM Society and the brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order also took part.

The Chapter had a purpose, that is, for the brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Family to feel close, to reflect on the state of the Franciscan charism, its presence and recognition in today's society, and

to listen more attentively to those who are on the margins of our societies. The meeting began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, presided over by the Minister Provincial Br. Marko Mrše. The Secretary of the Chapter, Br. Ivica Jurić, then introduced the participants to the work of the Chapter and read a letter from the Poor Clare Sisters of the Monastery of St. Clare in Split, in which they expressed their support and closeness to all the members of the Chapter.

After the words of welcome, we listened to the first reflection given by Br. Siniša Balajić, master



the radical turning point in Francis' life – making him a free, joyful man and a permanent inspiration for all – sought ways to clarify how to arrive at the same experience of God and man, and consequently to a more authentic living of God's will in one's own life. In fact, St. Francis was not only a naïve romantic, but he considered the Gospel a program of transformation of his own life and of the whole of society. In the same way, the brothers and sisters of the whole Franciscan Family were called to actualize the Gospel in their lives and to be a visible proof of its timeliness for the people of today's world. [...]

of the temporary professed friars and professor of Psychology of Religion at the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Split, on the theme "Renewing our vision: what are the characteristics of our charism to open ourselves to today?". In the following two days of the Chapter, we heard two other speeches from two other professors of the same Faculty: Br. Domagoj Runje on the theme "What style of our journey: what prophetic style of Fraternity in minority?", and Br. Anđelko Domazet on the theme "Embracing the future. Testimony - mission: who and how do we serve?".

The speakers reflected on the events in the life of St. Francis, but also on the current challenges of the friars of our Province, such as the rapid socio-cultural changes in our society. Each reflection was followed by group work, then the presentation of the results of the work in the plenary session and a fruitful debate on the issues.

The speakers, leading the capitulars back to the sources, that is, to the events that gave a boost to

Touched by Francis' lifestyle and by the encounter with the Risen Christ, the friars and sisters gathered in Chapter invite us to recognize the marginalized brothers and sisters of our time on a daily basis, caring for them spiritually and helping them materially.

In the same way, together with the Minister General, they invite us to look at the whole "cosmos that bears the stigmata of violent exploitation, but which still reveals the power of life, impressed by the Creator" (Letter of the Minister General for the Feast of St. Francis 2024).

The Chapter concluded with a beautiful phrase: weaknesses, fears and contradictions, our own and those of others, must never discourage us in the continuous process of discovering and living what God asks of us today. Read the full article on www.ofm.org

Br. Siniša Balajić OFM





Franciscan Centenaries

800th anniversary of the Stigmata in Poland *Celebrations of the Franciscan Family in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska*



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On the 25th and 26th October, the 800th anniversary of the stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (Poland), in which the Definitor General, Br. Konrad Cholewa OFM, over 250 representatives of the three Franciscan obediences: Friars Minor, Friars Minor Conventual and Friars Minor Capuchin.

The celebration took place in several significant moments: the Eucharist, the contemplation of the Cross, the blessing with the relics of St. Francis, personally brought by the Custos of the Sacred Friary of Assisi, the show "Somewhere on top of the mountain... La Verna" of the theatrical community of the Franciscan Youth and Vocation Centre of Chorzów. The formative part saw three reports on the stigmata: Br. Konrad presented "Francis of Assisi as the new messenger of God, marked by signs of glory", Dr. Magdalena Ludera of the Jagiellonian University presented the theme of the stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi in art, while Br. Filip Czub OFM, of the shrine of Alwernia, spoke about Franciscan life in "La Verna polacca" and told the story of the Shrine.

The friars of the three Franciscan branches of Poland are celebrating together the entire Centenary of the events of the last three years of St. Francis of Assisi's life. Last year the celebrations included the remembrance of the Rule and Greccio, this year the Holy Stigmata, next year the Canticum of the Creatures. Everything will end in 2026 with the celebration of the Transit with the participation of the three Franciscan Ministers General.



News from the Entities



Franciscan Studies Week 2024

Organised by the Missionary Province
of St. Francis Solanus of Peru and the PUA



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Rodríguez who explained the historical context of the stigmata of St. Francis.

There were panelists who spoke about different approaches to the theme of suffering: Prof. Jean Luis Arana Alencastre (philosophical vision), Prof. Lila Castro Rojas (psychological vision) and Br Jorge Ñiquen Urquiza, OFM (theological vision).

We have also had brothers who gave their testimonies of suffering in their work: Sister Norma Albuquerque, FMN; Dr. César Fernández Quintana and Prof. Teófilo Ayala Espinoza.

Finally, perspectives for the future of Franciscan evangelisation were presented: Br. Marco Huatay Flores, OFM; Br Jimmy Alvarado Sánchez, OFMCAP; Sister Dina Silvera Enriquez, FMNJ; and Sister Esther Yauri Inga, FIC.

Our Brother Minister Provincial, Br Marcos Saravia Orellana, OFM, gave the closing address, thanking the organisers, the speakers and above all the participants, and emphasising the need to strengthen the Franciscan Family in Peru.

Thanks be to the Almighty and Good God for allowing these spaces of Franciscan formation.

*Br. Jorge Ñiquen Urquiza, OFM
Provincial Secretary for the Missions and Evangelisation*

The Week of Franciscan Studies, organised by the Missionary Province of St. Francis Solano of Peru and the Pontifical University Antonianum of Rome, was held from the 15th to the 18th of October in the Coliseum of the Private Educational Institution "San Antonio de Padua" in Jesús Maria - Lima - Peru.

This Franciscan Week had as its central theme the event of the Stigmatisation of our Father St. Francis, on the 800th anniversary of this extraordinary and important event in the life of the Friars Minor.

All the friars who belong to the great Franciscan family in Peru were present: religious, sisters, SFO brothers and teachers from our educational institutions, who enjoyed a few days of formation and fraternal encounter.

Bernardo Molina Parra, OFM-CAP, professor at the Pontifical

University Antonianum and other Franciscan Universities and Institutes, who gave us a didactic introduction to the importance of the stigmata of Francis in the life of the Church and their significance for Christian life.

Among the conferences received during these days, we can mention:

- From the Testimony to the Original Sources.
- The importance of the cross in the Christian experience of St Francis: the encounter with San Damiano.
- The Chartula of Assisi 1: From supplication to praise.
- The Chartula of Assisi 2: From the "You of God" to the "You of the brother"

Furthermore, once again we had the presence of Br Jorge Cajó



OFM in the World

50th anniversary of the presence of the Poor Clares in Guatemala

“Clare, light of blessing”



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On Sunday the 27th October, in the monastery of “St Clare of Assisi” in Puerta Parada in Guatemala, the Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving was held for the 50th anniversary of the presence of the Poor Clares in Guatemala and the canonical approval of their community. It was an important event not only for the Poor Clares, but for the entire Guatemalan church.



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Celebrate Francis at the time of Francis

Exhibition in the Medieval Section of Picture Gallery of the Vatican Museums

On the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the stigmata of St. Francis, observed on October 24th, the exhibition titled “Celebrate Francis at the Time of Francis” was inaugurated in the medieval section of the Vatican Museums’ Picture Gallery. This space, dedicated to artworks from the time of St. Francis which are explained through Franciscan agiographies.



First Anniversary of the Unified Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

17 October 2023 – 2024



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A year ago, on Oct. 17, 2023, nearly 700 Franciscan friars came together to form the new Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a historic moment for Franciscan life in the United States. From coast to coast, Franciscan friars across the United States, Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Cuba are serving in a rich variety of ministries.

Let's live together again this year!



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On October 19 in Tolentino (Italy) the conference “Travel notes: Marco Polo and the Franciscans in the East in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries” was held, organized in collaboration with the Pontifical University Antonianum on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the death of the Venetian merchant.

The meeting presented a real “exchange of views” on the Franciscan experience in China.

“Marco Polo and the Franciscans in the East in the XIII and XIV centuries” 19th October, Conference in collaboration with PUA



The celebration of the Spirit of Assisi, 2024 25-27 October, for peace in the World



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On 27th October 1986, Pope St. John Paul II had a prophetic intuition of inviting the representatives of various religions of the World at Assisi so as to offer to God, many souls in various languages in one song of peace. At this year’s celebration of 38 years, the invocation that with more voices was repeated for the world that is better, renewed, deeply fraternal and human.



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100 years of Br. Antonino Vaccaro, OFM “Who sings, death frightens”

From the 15th-19th October, the centenary of the birth of our brother Br. Antonino Vaccaro, OFM in San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega, Nicaragua, was celebrated.

He was born in Sicily (Italy), he left as a missionary in 1964 for Central America, where he still resides. Some of his phrases are famous such as “Who sings, death frightens” and “Long live happy people”.





Animation of the Order

Meeting of the Commission of Parishes and Sanctuaries “Sent to Evangelize in Minority and Fraternity in the Parish”



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From October 22 to 24, the Commission for Parishes and Sanctuaries, convened by the Minister General and his Definitory, met in the General Curia, charged with initiating, together with the General Secretary for Missions and Evangelization, a process of updating the document, “Sent to Evangelize in Minority and Fraternity in the Parish”.

Reflecting on the challenges and opportunities of parish evangelization in today’s world, discerning and planning the steps to be taken to update the document were some of the objectives of the first meeting in the presence of the Commission.

After a fraternal welcome from Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas, Secretary for Missions and Evangelization of the Order, the participants were motivated by the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, who recalled important Franciscan ecclesiological elements of the life and mission of the parish reality.

Father Sergio Massironi, theologian of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development of the Holy See, illustrated the work around the words evangelization, fraternity, minority, parish, and sanctuary.

During the meeting, the sense of ecclesial belonging that is constitutive of the Franciscan identity was emphasized, which is an essential

requirement for the presence of the brothers in the parishes. Ecclesial belonging is internal to the charism, because the Franciscans are pilgrims and walk with the people of God, they are in the parishes without owning them.

The etymology of the word “parish”, whose meaning refers to proximity, closeness, becoming close, is stimulating for the constant process of conversion in the Franciscan way of being in the parish, at the service of the Kingdom of God. Advancing in synodality, evangelizing in fraternity and minority, working in authentic collaboration with the laity, overcoming individualism, clericalism and sacramentalism are privileged ways of approaching (paroikía) in the parish mission entrusted to the Franciscan Order since the 14th century.

After 15 years of existence of the document on the presence of Friars Minor in the parishes, the time has come to update it, thinking of new perspectives and intuitions so that Franciscan evangelization in parish institutions continues to bear fruits of peace and goodwill.

The following brothers participated in the meeting:

Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas, OFM, Secretary General for the Missions and Evangelization;
 Br. Pedro Botia Nogueiras, OFM, Province of the Immaculate Conception, Spain;
 Br. Lawrence Janezic, OFM, Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, USA;
 Br. Krzysztof Paszkiewicz, OFM, Province of St. Mary of the Angels, Poland;
 Br. Boaventura da Silva, OFM, Custody of St. Francis of Assisi, Guinea Bissau;
 Br. Dagoberto Marín Pacheco, OFM, Province of the Holy Faith, Colombia;
 Br. João Fernandes Reinert, OFM, Province of the Immaculate Conception, Brazil;
 Br. Reu Jose Galoy, OFM, Province of St. Peter Baptist, Philippines.

Document “Sent to Evangelize in Minority and Fraternity in the Parish”:

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Inter-Franciscan Online Forum on the New Evangelisation in Europe 26-28 November 2024



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On behalf of the Ministers General, and organised and coordinated by the Secretariats for Missionary Animation of the three Obediences of the First Order, the Second Online Forum on the challenges for Franciscans in the field of the New Evangelisation in the European context will take place from 26th to 28th November. The Evangelisation of Young



People in Europe is this year's theme to reflect, update, animate and revive in Franciscans

the commitment to reach out to the new generations. The course is open to all Friars of the First Order and TOR present in Europe. To participate, please register using this [link](#).

Download the programme:

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Deceased Brothers

- † 28th October: Br. Magnus Weger, Prov. St. Leopold (Austria-Italy)
- † 27th October: Br. Patrick Mc Cormack, Prov. NS of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 25th October: Br. Alexis Makonga Kibanga, Province of St. Benedict the African (DRC)
- † 25th October: Br. Christopher Neuman, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 18th October: Br. José María Bárcenas Jiménez, Prov. Sts. Peter and Paul (Mexico)

- † 17th October: Br. Damazy Wyroba, Prov. Assumption of the BVM (Poland)
- † 10th October: Br. Roland Désilets, Prov. Holy Spirit (Canada)
- † 9th October: Br. Gualberto Gismondi, Province of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

Information received from the General Secretariat

Holy See



“He Loved Us”, Fourth Encyclical of Pope Francis On the Sacred Heart of Jesus



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Encyclical Letter *Dilexit nos* of the Holy Father Francis on the Human and Divine Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, 24.10.2024

1. “HE LOVED US”, Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us” from that love (Rom8:39). Paul could say this with certainty because Jesus himself had told his disciples, “I have loved you” (Jn15:9, 12). Even now, the Lord says to us, “I have called you friends” (Jn15:15). His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship. For “he loved us first” (cf. 1 Jn4:10). Because of Jesus, “we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us” (1 Jn4:16).

Read the full text of the Encyclical:

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Synod of Bishops on Synodality concludes *Harmonizing differences*



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With the closing of the second and final session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, the Synod on Synodality came to an end on Sunday the 27th October, which has seen the Catholic world confront and dialogue since 2021, first at the local level and finally, in the last two years, at the global level.

Presented by Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod, not as a convention, but as “an ecclesial assembly that prays”, made up of people “docile to the voice of the Holy Spirit”, the Synod showed all the differences present in the contemporary Church, understood not as divisions, but as richness, mutual listening, search for harmony. This is what Card. Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, OFM, Archbishop of Manaus (Brazil), who also underlined how in the Amazon synodality is the way to go, as well as in the Order: the importance of the laity, of the missionary sisters, of the synodal assemblies to listen to everyone are already a reality in the Amazon.

A journey that, however, does not stop there. The approved Final Document, which will not be followed by an apostolic exhortation from the Holy Father, is only a new beginning: in fact, the work of the ten “Study Groups” on particular themes will continue and above all Pope Francis will continue to listen to the bishops

and the Churches, as he himself said in his speech delivered on Saturday 26 October in the Paul VI Hall to the participants of the Synod. “The key word is this: harmony. What the Spirit does, the first strong manifestation, on the morning of Pentecost, is to harmonize all those differences, all those languages... Harmony!”, said Francis, well aware that in



the future there will be many decisions to be made, as witnesses of peace, “also learning to give real form to the conviviality of differences”.

Some of the themes on which there are different points of view and which will be explored in depth in the coming months concern the role of women in the Church (paragraph no. 60), dialogue with believers of other religions (no. 123), the revision of the liturgy (no. 27), the revision of formation courses for candidates for the ordained ministry (no. 148), the decision-making competence of the bishop (n. 92), the role of the Episcopal Conferences (n. 129), the strengthening of

collaboration between the Latin Church and the Eastern Catholic Churches (n. 133), to name a few.

Concluding his greeting, the Holy Father said: “We come from all parts of the world, marked by violence, poverty and indifference. Together, with the hope that does not disappoint, united in the love of God spread in our hearts, we can not only dream of peace, but commit ourselves with all our strength so that, perhaps without talking so much about synodality, peace is achieved through processes of listening, dialogue and reconciliation. The synodal church for mission now needs shared words to be accompanied by deeds. This is the path”.

Seven of our friars participated in the Synod: Cardinal Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, OFM, Archbishop of Manaus (Brazil); Msgr. Luis Gerardo Cabrera Herrera, OFM, Archbishop of Guayaquil (Ecuador); Msgr. Jaime Spengler, OFM Archbishop of Porto Alegre (Brazil); Msgr. Héctor Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte, OFM, Arcivescovo di Trujillo (Perù); Msgr. Adrianus Sunarko, OFM, Vescovo di Pangkalpinang (Indonesia); Msgr. Franz Lackner, OFM, Arcivescovo di Salzburg (Austria); Br. Joel Da Costa Pinto Cazemiro, OFM (Timor Est).

Download the Final Document of the Synod: [Italiano](#)

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