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Leo P.P. XIV
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HABEMUS PAPAM!



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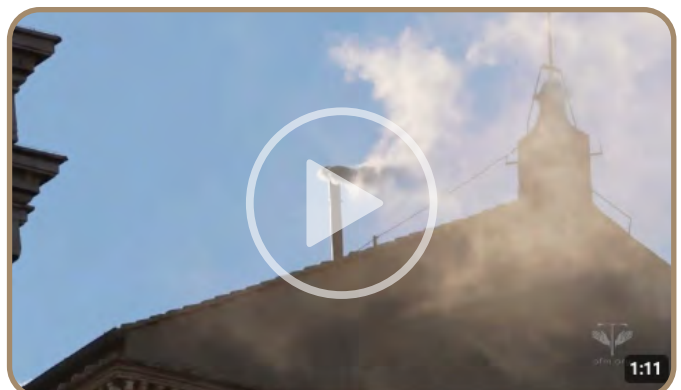
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Watch the video: Habemus Papam!



Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, Pope Leo XIV, is the 267th successor of Peter *Habemus Papam!*



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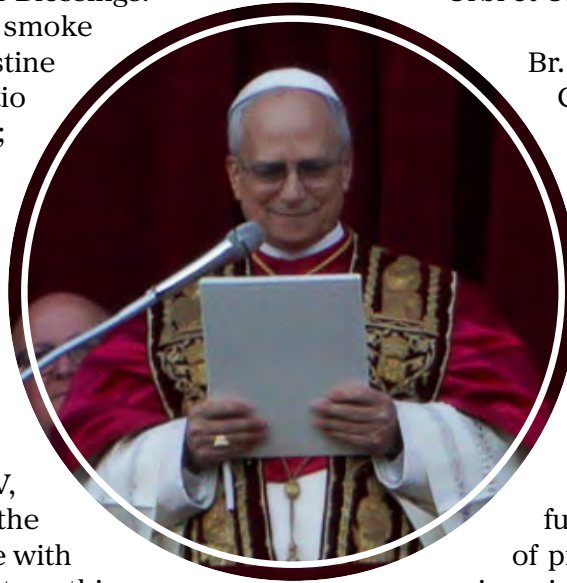
Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost is the 267th successor of Peter. With the name of Leo XIV, on Thursday, the 8th May 2025, at 7:10 p.m., it was announced by Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti from the Loggia of Blessings.

After the long-awaited white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel, his words “Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum; habemus Papam!” were greeted by the exultation of a St. Peter’s Square packed beyond all limits, which shouted, “Long live the Pope” and “Leo, Leo, Leo!”.

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, in his first appearance as Pope Leo XIV, addressed the faithful from the balcony as follows: “Peace be with you all! Dear brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave his life for God’s flock. I too would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families, to all people, wheresoever they may be, to all peoples, to the whole earth. Peace be with you!”.

Afterwards he paid homage to Pope Francis, recalling his blessing in Rome during Easter. He continued by saying «I am a son of St. Augustine, an Augustinian, who said: “With you I am a Christian

and for you a bishop”». He addressed a special greeting to his former diocese of Chiclayo in Peru and then asked everyone to pray a Hail Mary together and concluded with the Apostolic Blessing “Urbi et Orbi”.



Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General who was present in St. Peter’s Square said after the Pope’s election: “We greet with affection and joy, our new Pope Leo, who greeted the world by announcing peace, wishing it to all, asking to continue to build bridges. We renew to him as Friars Minor, our obedience and reverence in the spirit of St. Francis and our full collaboration in the mission of proclaiming the Gospel as missionaries, living it first and foremost and bearing witness to it. We guarantee the new Bishop of Rome our prayers and our full fidelity, for the good of all the people of God and of all men and women of good will”.

Pope Leo XIV succeeds Pope Francis, elected on the 13th March, 2013 and returned to the Father’s House on the 21st April, 2025.

[Read the first words of the Holy Father Leo XIV](#)

Watch the video: The first words of Pope Leo XIV



Watch the video: The first Urbi et Orbi blessing



Leo XIV meets the international media

“Let’s disarm words to disarm the Earth”



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Pope Leo XIV’s invitation to the representatives of the media from all over the world gathered in Rome for the Conclave is that of a communication of peace. In his first official meeting with the world of the media, which took place on the 12th May in the Pope St Paul VI Hall of Vatican City, the Pontiff wanted to emphasize the importance of peace and disarmament, including verbal.

Taking up the passage from the Beatitudes and specifically the peacemakers (Mt 5:9), Pope Leo invited all those present to feel “challenged” by these words, as it calls “everyone to the commitment to carry out a different communication, which does not seek consensus at all costs, does not clothe itself in aggressive words, does not espouse the model of competition, it never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it. Peace begins with each of us [...]: we must reject the paradigm of war”.

The Pontiff then expressed solidarity with all those journalists imprisoned for trying to tell the truth, requesting their release: freedom of expression and of the press is an asset to be safeguarded that concerns everyone, he stressed.

The Holy Father, after thanking all the journalists gathered in Rome not only for the Conclave, but already previously for Holy Week, Easter, and the farewell to Pope Francis, recalled how the current

General Curia Agenda



☑ From the 21st to 23rd May, Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, will participate in the Assembly of Superiors General in Sacrofano (near Rome); on the 23rd in Rome he will visit the Fraternity of Blessed Gabriele Allegra. On the 24th he will preside over Mass in the Basilica of St Sabina, in Rome. On the 27th May, together with the Definitor General, Br. Cesare Vaiani, he will meet the Novices of San Damiano and La Verna in Rome; then she participated in Ariccia (near Rome) in the Assembly of the Poor Sisters of Umbria. On 28 and 29 May he will be in Tropea (Calabria, Italy) for the Assembly of the Definitors of Campania and Calabria; on the 30th in Rome he will participate in the JPIC International Course. From 1 to

8th June he will participate together with the General Definitory in the International Chapter of Mats that will take place at Our Lady of the Angels and Assisi.

☑ From the 23rd to 26th May the General Definitory will carry out the spiritual exercises in Greccio.

☑ On the 28th May, Fr. Cesare Vaiani will celebrate a Mass at the tomb of St. Peter with the Novices of San Damiano and La Verna.

☑ From the 1st –3rd June, Fr. Ignacio Ceja Jiménez will be in Egypt for the beginning of the Chapter of the Province of the Holy Family.

times are difficult to travel and to report, because they require “in our different roles and services, never to give in to mediocrity”, to get out of clichés, because “communication is not just the transmission of information, but it is the creation of a culture, of human and digital environments that become spaces for dialogue and confrontation”.

Leo XIV concluded by quoting the [Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day](#), to be held on the 1st June 2025: “Let us disarm communication of all prejudice, rancour, bigotry and ha-

tred; Let's purify it of aggression. We don't need thunderous, muscular communication, but rather communication capable of listening, of picking up the voice of the weak who have no voice. Let us disarm words and we will help disarm the Earth. Disarming and disarming communication allows us to share a different view of the world and to act in a way that is consistent with our human dignity.”

[Read the full text of Pope Leo XIV's speech](#)

Franciscan Centenaries



Hundreds of young people for “Francesco Live” in Florence

The Cantic of the Creatures at the center of the event



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On Saturday, the 10th May, hundreds of young people from all over Tuscany flooded the city of Florence, Italy, for the second edition of “Francesco Live”, this year dedicated to the Cantic of the Creatures.



Numerous initiatives in the city promoted by the Youth Ministry of the Tuscan Province of the Friars Minor that involved the young people. In the morning, the participants were welcomed at the “La Compagnia” theatre to deepen the composition of St. Francis from several angles.

The young people were also welcomed by the mayor of Florence, Sara Funaro, who recalled the “indissoluble bond” between the lily city, Assisi and La Verna, emphasizing the relevance of that first poetic text in the Italian vernacular that “offers messages that seem to have been written today”. Many institutions participated in the events,

including Cosimo Guccione, current President of the City Council of Florence, who last year was amongst the proponents of the first edition of Francesco Live, dedicated to the Centenary of the Stigmata.

The intervention of Sister Simona Paolini, a nun of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Child Jesus and canonist, was intense, who focused above all on the verse of the Cantic in which Francis praises God “for those who forgive for your love”. Sr Simona called that poem by the Poverello of Assisi “a medieval selfie,” because, far beyond being an ecological manifesto, “it is a way of understanding reality, of understanding each other as men and women and it is a passage from simply looking to seeing, to contemplating, to being amazed as reconciled people.”

Finally, the highly anticipated meeting with the musician, youtuber and international cooperator Pietro Morello, who recounted his experiences among children in war contexts or amongst sick children in Italian hospitals, and how music is one of the vehicles with which to take children by the hand, in the awareness that the only way to raise peace-loving generations is to give them education.

The day continued in the spaces of the church of All Saints, where the young people spent the afternoon involving themselves in the various workshops proposed.

Finally, the evening in the garden of the friary of San Salvatore al Monte alle Croci was an opportunity to cement fraternal relationships in a great final party, in which the young people of the “Cantico project” presented a preview of the song dedicated to the Canticle of the Creatures, composed at the end of a path of reflection, meetings, prayer around the poetry of Francis of Assisi. “We are truly grateful,” said the Friars Minor, “for this further

opportunity for meeting and dialogue with young people, who once again demonstrated their extraordinary liveliness, their strength, their courage in knowing how to look with hope at God’s newness through the gaze of Francis of Assisi. Thanks to the institutions that have supported us and believed in this project, thanks to the sponsors and thanks to the many volunteers who have made all this possible”.



Chapters

Chapter of the Province of Blessed John Duns Scotus (France-Belgium)

Brussels, April 21-30, 2025



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and published also in Italian. In the fraternity in Paris, he served as professor of theology at the Faculty of Loyola. His research focuses on fundamental theology and the dialogue between science and faith, on practical theology that listens to the poorest and on the theology of creation, seeking to connect the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

During the Provincial Chapter held from the 21st to 30th of April 2025 in Brussels, the friars of the Province of Blessed John Duns Scotus elected Br. Frédéric-Marie Le Méhauté, 51, as Provincial Minister. Most recently, Br. Frédéric-Marie was involved in the Province’s communications and youth ministry activities. He was serving as Vicar of the Province, and succeeds Br. Michel Laloux.

A theologian giving a voice to the poor

Brother Frédéric-Marie was born in Paris in 1974. After a degree in engineering he spent 7 years of professional experience in that field, including 4 in Japan. He entered the novitiate of the

Friars Minor in 2004 and worked with people in difficult situations (people without homes, as well as “Fourth World” families in Toulouse, Paris and Marseille). He then spent a year in Congo-Brazzaville ministering to street children. He made his solemn profession on April 24, 2010 and was ordained a priest on April 14, 2012. In 2013, he entered the Jesuit Faculties of Loyola in Paris for a master’s degree, and wrote his thesis on the poor as a privileged “place” to experience the revelation of God. It was published in 2022 with the title “Révélé aux tout-petits. Une théologie à l’écoute des plus pauvres” (“Revealed to the littlest. A theology that listens to the poorest”) and has been translated

A Vicar close to migrants

Br. Didier Van Hecke was elected Vicar Provincial. Born in 1954 in Mâcon, Br. Didier entered the novitiate of the Friars Minor in 1982 and made his solemn profession on February 23, 1987. His Franciscan life was influenced greatly by two missionary experiences he had in Africa (Togo and Ivory Coast between 1995 and 2001), where he was director of the simply professed, Guardian of the local fraternity, and a professor of Sacred Scripture. He also led numerous pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Italy. Since September 2022, he has been the Guardian of the Franciscan fraternity of Marseille, where the friars live their calling right

in the heart of the impoverished neighbourhood of Noailles, giving particular attention to welcoming migrants in line with the wishes of Pope Francis, who reached out to them on the first day of their Chapter.

The Provincial Definitorium was elected and reflects the current increasingly international composition of the Province:

◆ Br. Miki Kasongo Mukanjila, formerly Prefect of Studies and

Head of the Internationality and Interculturality Commission in the Province;

◆ Br. Yannick Le Maou, formerly Provincial Treasurer and Head of Initial Reception;

◆ Br. Carlos Alberto Gutierrez Velasco, formerly Secretary of Formation and Studies and Professor in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical University *Antonianum*;

◆ Br. Nicolas Morin, formerly involved in youth and vocation ministry.

With this new team, the Province intends to continue to respond to the challenges of our times, in particular, reaching out to young people who often have many questions even while they may feel the call to be radical and committed. The Province will continue to serve those men and women on the margins of the Church and society, who will hopefully find through the Franciscan joy of the Friars, a way back to faith and hope.

Intermediate Chapter of the Province of the Assumption of the BVM in Poland

Katowice-Panewniki, 4-10 maggio 2025



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From the 4th-10th May, 2025, the XXXVIII Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was held at the Friary of the Friars Minor in Katowice-Panewniki, Poland. The Chapter was held in the special year in which we celebrate the 170th anniversary of the foundation of our Province and had as its motto: *“He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says...”* (cf. Rev 2:7).

40 friars from the different fraternities took part in the Chapter work, together with Br. Konrad Cholewa, OFM, General Definitor for the North Slavic Conference (SLAN), who brought us the message of the Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM.

In a spirit of fraternity, simplicity and openness to the action of the Holy Spirit, the participants collaborated in identifying the guidelines for formation, pastoral care and the organization of provincial life for the coming years.

The fruit of this discernment is the Life Project of the Province



for the three-year period 2025-2028, which will represent a point of reference for the journey of our fraternity.

During the Chapter, voting was held for the election of the new Provincial Definitory, which will support the Minister Provincial, Br. Witosław Sztyk, in the next three years. The new Definitors were elected Br. Ksawery Majewski OFM, Br. Ireneusz Toczy-

dowski OFM, Br. Samuel Kukielka OFM, Br. Walenty Piechaczek OFM and Br. Maseo Senczek OFM.

We sincerely thank all the brothers for their prayers and spiritual support during the days of the Chapter.

Br. Sergiusz Bałdyga, OFM



Animation of the Order

International Meeting of Lay Brothers Assisi, 28 April – 2 May 2025



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On April 28th, the International Meeting of Lay Brothers of our Order, requested by the last General Chapter, opened in Assisi.

After two years of preparation worldwide at the Conference level, elected representatives from each Conference gathered in Assisi to discuss themes of Fraternity and Minority, Mission and Evangelization, and Formation and Studies.

The Meeting's work, in the presence of the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, and General Definitory, was inaugurated by Br. Joaquín Echeverry, General Definitory, while the theme of Fraternity and Minority was introduced by Br. Keith Warner. Discussion continued in the assembly and in language groups.

The day concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, presided over by the Vicar General, Br. Ignacio Ceja.

On the 29th, the day began with the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by the General Definitory Fr. John Wong, in the Chapel of Saint Catherine of the Basilica of Saint Francis. Later at Saint Mary of the Angels, the meeting continued with a conference given by the General Animator for Missions, Fr. Dennis Tayo, who spoke about the vital

evangelizing mission of lay brothers today, emphasizing that lay brothers are a testimony of the Gospel lived in fraternity, humility and service. In the afternoon, the brothers gathered in the classroom for group work.

On Wednesday 30th April, the Lay Brothers continued their meeting reflecting on Formation and Studies. The day began with the celebration of Lauds in various languages, followed by a presentation by Br. Mark Joy G. Basallajes, who presented a theological and historical reflection on the formation of Lay Brothers, emphasizing that the Franciscan vocation is fundamentally rooted in fraternity. He highlighted that Franciscan formation must be holistic, considering the person in their entirety, then continued with work in language groups.

In the afternoon, after sharing the reflections from the language groups, the brothers participated in the Eucharist at Saint Clare's, presided over by Definitory General Br. Konrad Cholewa. In his homily, Br. Konrad reflected on the testimony of the first Christian community and the importance of evangelical loves in fraternal life, recalling the words of Saint Francis: "If a mother loves her carnal son, how much more should each one love his spiritual brother." On the fourth day of the meeting the fri-

ars began with the celebration of the Eucharist in Spanish presided over by the General Definitor Br. César Kùlkamp. In his homily, Br. César highlighted the commemoration of St. Joseph the Worker, emphasizing that “work, carried out with dignity, allows us to complete Creation, because God entrusts it to our hands”.

The morning session was dedicated to the presentation of the work of the Commission for conclusions, followed by a dialogue between the friars present at the meeting and the commission. This was followed by the intervention of the Minister General. In his address, Br. Massimo Fusarelli spoke about the need to understand the vocation of the Franciscan lay brother as a “generative narrative” that can shape the future, emphasizing that the current challenge is not simply to “revalue” the vocation of the lay brother, but to rediscover the original insight of an evangelical fraternity where the diversity of vocations is lived as a richness.

On the last day, the day began at 9:00 with the celebration of Morning Prayer in different languages; subsequently, the commission presented the Final Document, which the assembly approved after corrections.

The Minister General presided over the closing Eucharist in the Porziuncola, during which he emphasized the importance of the identity of the Friars Minor as brothers, beyond any distinction between clerics and lay people. In his message, he recalled the words of St. Francis’s Testament: “The Lord gave me brothers,” highlighting how this fraternity is the heart of the Franciscan charism.

The Minister also reflected on the need for a profound conversion of mentality and culture in the Order, warning against clericalism that can distort the Franciscan charism. He invited all friars to return to their fraternities with a renewed heart, carrying with them Jesus’s vision and closeness in service to the people of God.

Br. Joaquín Echeverry’s Speech: [Italiano](#)
[English](#) - [Español](#)

Br. Ignacio Ceja Jiménez’s Homily: [Italiano](#)
[English](#) - [Español](#)

Read the Minister General’s Homily: [Italiano](#)
[English](#) - [Español](#)

Read the Minister General’s Speech: [Italiano](#)
[English](#) - [Español](#)





News from the Entities

National Meeting of Franciscan Catechists in Ecuador Quito, 26th-28th April, 2025



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Evangelization of the Province of St Francis of Quito, under the guidance of Fr. Oscar Castro, OFM, Fr. Sandro Luzuriaga, OFM, together with the CAFRE team (National Coordinators of Franciscan Catechists).

With great joy and fraternal spirit, 235 catechists from various parishes and friaries of the Franciscan Province participated, in a space of formation, fraternity and spiritual renewal.

May God, the ever-Virgin Mary and St. Francis of Assisi bless the apostolate of our catechists!

Br. Oscar Castro, OFM

From the 26th-28th April, 2025, the National Meeting of Franciscan Catechists was held at the friary of St Francis of Quito, in Ecuador. The theme of the meeting was "Praising your creation", in

commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures by St. Francis.

The event was organized by the Secretariat of Missions and

Exhibition "Time Tiles: the Map of Madaba" In the crypt of the Basilica of St. Anthony at the Lateran-Rome



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From May 4 to 11, the exhibition "Time Tiles: the Map of Madaba" was held in the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Anthony at the Lateran (Via Merulana 124, Rome). The exhibition is the result of the collaboration between the Italian Geographical Society and the School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies.

Dating back to the sixth century, the Map of Madaba is a detailed mosaic representation of the Near East. It summarizes the cartographic knowledge of the Roman and Byzantine world and is "the most detailed remaining example of topographical representation of that area".

The curator, Professor Margherita Azzari, highlighted the importance of the project: "It is truly a piece of the heart, in the sense that its realization not only highlights the first results of the ReMAP project, but it is a project that we would like, because we like to dream big, to be the starting point

to achieve something even more important”. “As in the Franciscan tradition, where nothing that is created is rejected or underestimated, this exhibition invites us to embrace with a contemplative gaze the tiles of a mosaic that help us to read the book of reality,” said Fr. Massimo Fusarelli at the inauguration. He also emphasized the crucial role of the Custody of the Holy Land: “A fundamental role in this mission of dialogue is played by the Custody, entrusted to the Friars Minor by the Supreme Pontiffs, which has been taking care of the Holy Places for eight centuries.”

The exhibition, divided into four sections, allowed visitors to explore the extraordinary Map of Madaba, a sixth-century mosaic preserved in the church of St. George in Madaba, Jordan.

Franciscan Bookmark



Libro copiador de cartas y oficios
de Fray Antonio Avellá
Prefecto Comisario del colegio de Moquegua
(1803-1809/1820-1825)



Azarug Justel,
Narí Agustina Morando,
Fr. Mariusz Adam Kaprón,
OFM

Grupo Editorial Kipus

Life *in the Order*



Solemn professions

10th May, Prov. St Francis Solano (Argentina)

Fr. Juan Pablo Bernaldo de Quirós
Fr. Juan Fagioli



Priestly Ordinations

25th April, Custody of the Sacred Heart of
Jesus (Brazil)
Fr. Suelton Costa de Oliveira

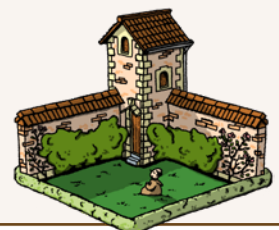
- † 8th May: Br. Charles Melaine, Prov. Blessed Duns Scotus (France)
- † 7th May: Br. Leonard (Gerald) Lawrence, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 6th May: Br. Luis Alonzo Vargas, Province of Saints Francis and James (Mexico)
- † 5th May: Br. Moisés (Anastasio) Díaz Gutiérrez, Province of Saints Francis and James (Mexico)
- † 23rd April: Br. Patryk (Marian) Gardocki, Prov. Immaculate Conception (Poland)



Deceased Brothers

† 13th May: Br. Halim Noujaim, Custody of
the Holy Land

Information received from
the General Secretariat





Course of formation for OFS Spiritual Assistants in Colombia

First interobediential seminar for 22 brothers



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From April 28 to 30, 2025 the OFS spiritual assistants of the First Order (OFM, OFMConv and OFM-Cap) held their first formation seminar organized by the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants of Colombia. The Seminar was held in Chinauta, Cundinamarca, where 22 friars gathered for this historic event of the national OFS and GiFra.

Br. Miguel Ángel Estupiñán Zafra, OFM, National Assistant, introduced those present to a deep conversation about the expectations, experiences and difficulties encountered as spiritual assistants.

In the midst of this climate of openness, Br. Elkin Soza, OFMConv, presented a clear and precise diagnosis of the current situation of the OFS and GiFRA in Colombia. Thereafter, the General Spiritual Assistants addressed the following themes:

- ◆ The Role of the Spiritual Assistant, given by Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM;

- ◆ The OFS / GiFra Statutes, given by Br. Tomas Panzo, OFM-Cap;
- ◆ Collegiality and Koinonia, given by Br. Stefan Acatrinei, OFMConv.

Each session was followed by group work, in which the participants elaborated proposals for the National Conference of Spiritual Assistants.

The group work helped a lot in the formulation of the conclusions and the way forward in the future, which will ensure adequate formation of spiritual assistants and of all the brothers not yet trained. The formation seminar ended with the Holy Mass celebrated by the Provincial Minister of the Franciscan Province of the Holy Faith, Br. José Alirio Urbina Rodríguez, OFM, who in the homily recalled that the true treasure of the Order is not in its documents or in its structures, but in the shared life, in the fraternity lived as witnesses of the Kingdom.



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