

*Song of*  
**RECONCILIATION**



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**Song of Reconciliation**

*Letter for the 8th Centenary of the Canticle  
 of the Creatures (1225-2025)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Franciscan Family around the world,

*May the Lord give you His peace!*

With this letter we wish to share with you our joy for the 8th Centenary of the Canticle of Creatures, a date we cannot ignore. This anniversary fits fully into the sequence of centenaries that form the unique Franciscan Centenary, from Fonte Colombo to Greccio, to La Verna, to San Damiano and finally to St. Mary of the Angels.

Between the pain and love of La Verna, where Francis received the Stigmata, and the encounter with “Sister Death”, we find this song of praise and reconciliation that sums up Francis’ view of God and the world, of creatures and human beings, of himself and the Most High. The Canticle is a summary of the way Francis saw reality, and together we still want to sing it with joy of spirit!

In 2025, the Holy Year and the Year of the Canticle of Creatures, we wish to



rediscover together the depth of this prayer that has spanned the centuries and still speaks to the heart of humanity and the Church. The Cantic, composed gradually by Francis between 1225 and 1226, is not just a poetic text, but a testimony to a comprehensive vision of God the Creator, creation, universal fraternity and integral ecology, themes that Pope Francis has taken up forcefully in his encyclical *Laudato si'*...

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM  
Br. Carlos Trovarelli, OFMConv  
Br. Roberto Genuin, OFMCap  
Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR

Read the full text of the Letter:

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



## Season of Creation

### X World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025 «Seeds of Peace and Hope»



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“Seeds of Peace and Hope” is the theme of Pope Leo XIV’s message published on the occasion of the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This event, established 10 years ago by Pope Francis in conjunction with the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, opens the “Season of Creation”, that is, the period from the 1st September to the 4th October, the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, in which the ecumenical Church from all over the world comes together to care for our Common Home.

The Holy Father takes up the image of the seed, used several times by Jesus, which must die in order to bear fruit: “The seed is given entirely to the earth and there, with the disruptive force of its gift, life sprouts, even in the most unexpected places, in a surprising capacity to generate the future”, writes the Pontiff, underlining how we, in Christ, we are seeds of Peace and Hope. Indeed, taking up the words of the prophet Isaiah, he recalls how «a spirit will be infused into us from on high; then the desert will become a garden, and the garden will be considered a forest».

The Season of Creation is therefore that period to highlight the cry of Creation - violated, exploited, plundered, polluted - and respond with prayer and

concrete actions. As Pope Francis already wrote, the current Pontiff recalls, the concept of integral ecology relates, unfortunately in a vicious circle, the activities of man and the Earth, and therefore the populations who live in it: «In a world where the most fragile are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, the care of creation becomes a question of faith and humanity», writes Pope Leo, recalling that in Genesis it is God Himself who invites humanity to cultivate and care for - that is, «protect, care, preserve, preserve, watch” - the garden of the world.

Amongst the initiatives of the Church, Leo XIV recalls the *Borgo Laudato Si' project*, which [Pope Francis](#) bequeathed to Castel Gandolfo, as a seed that can bear fruits of justice and peace. It is a project of education in integral ecology that aims to be an example of how one can live, work and build community by applying the principles of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

[Read the full text of the message](#)

[Download the Pastoral Kit prepared by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#)  
[Follow the initiatives on the Season of Creation website](#)



## Government of the Order



### Erection of the new Province of Saint Anthony *The third Province born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*



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On July 30, 2025, in Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of the Congo, DRC), during the assembly of the brothers of East Congo, presided by Br. Nicodème Kolani (Delegate and Visitor General), the Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli proclaimed the canonical erection of the new Province of Saint Anthony of Padua. This new entity is a “rib” of the mother Province of St. Benedict the African and has as its own territory North Kivu and South Kivu, and as mission territory the four provinces of Eastern Congo.



The assembly began on July 29; the following day the Minister General and the Definitor General, Br. Sipehele Gwanisheni, met and dialogued with the brothers present. At the end of the solemn eucharistic celebration, the Minister himself read the decree of erection and that naming the new Provincial Minister and Definitory, thus composed:

- Br. Jean Baptiste Tabaro, OFM for the office of Minister Provincial;
- Br. Michael Muhindo, OFM for the office of Vicar Provincial;

Br. Antoine Muyisa, OFM, Br. Bienvenue Bahati, OFM, Br. Elie Munguakonkwa, OFM, Br. Raymond Kafulirhu, OFM and Br. Pascal Lushuli, OFM for the office of Provincial Definitors.

The participation of the brothers and of the Franciscan Family hailed this moment long awaited and prepared. The war in eastern DRC, which also affects our brothers, made it impossible to establish the province in its territory. Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy for the grave situation of violence and occupation in Kivu were deeply present on this day. The Minister General asked the brothers to grow as mediators of peace and reconciliation, according to our charism. The meeting with the definitors of both the mother province and the new province crowned the day. On July 31, a new moment of sharing and dialogue between the brothers and the Minister and Definitor General completed the meeting. The new province has 63 solemnly professed brothers, 22 temporary professed and novices.

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

## General Curia Agenda



- ☑ From the 7th to 11th September the General Definitory will meet to review the past year.
- ☑ On the 11th and 12th September, Br. Cesare Viani, Definitor General, will be in Madrid to participate in the meeting of the Definitors of the Provinces of Spain and Portugal.
- ☑ On the 16th and 17th September, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, will be in La Verna for

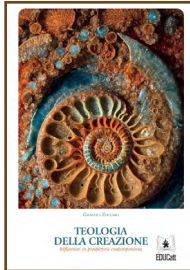
the Feast of the Stigmata; on the 21st he will be at San Damiano to celebrate Mass on the occasion of the Feast of Songs; on the 24th he will be in San Vittorino (RM) for the Assembly of the Federation of the Poor Clares “St. Giacinta Marescotti”.

- ☑ From the 12th to 24th September in the General Curia the Tempo Forte will take place.



## Franciscan Bookmark

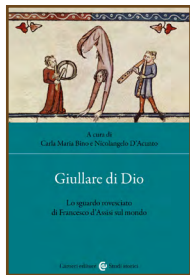
**Teologia della creazione.**  
Riflessioni in prospettiva  
contemporanea



Fr. Gianluca Zuccaro, OFM  
Educatt Università Cattolica  
del Sacro Cuore

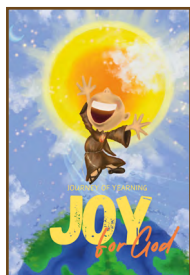
**Giullare di Dio.**

Lo sguardo rovesciato di  
Francesco d'Assisi sul mondo



A cura di Carla Maria Bino,  
Nicolangelo D'Acunto  
Carocci editore

**Journey  
of Yearning  
Joy for God**



Fr. Robin Toha

## Reflections by Br. Massimo August 2025 *The Urgency of Peace*



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During my travels to Jerusalem and Congo at the end of July, I did not witness the horrors of war directly, but I breathed an air heavy with tension that speaks louder than a thousand words. The stories I heard, the accounts entrusted to me, continue to resonate in my mind like a persistent echo, a call I cannot and will not ignore.



In Jerusalem, the thrice-holy city, every stone seems to hold memories of conflict. The walls not only divide physically but bear the weight of opposing narratives. I heard stories of broken families, of children growing up more familiar with the sound of sirens than with the sound of peace. In Congo, I listened to testimonies about the wealth of the soil that contrasts dramatically with the poverty of communities, about conflicts over resources that continue to claim innocent victims. The voices I gathered spoke to me of fleeing villages, of mothers searching for their children, of a peace that always seems to slip away like sand through fingers.

It was in these moments of direct confrontation with human suffering that the words of Dag Hammarskjöld came back to mind, spoken more than sixty years ago in the Belgian Congo, under circumstances tragically like those we face today. The great Swedish diplomat, UN Secretary-General from 1953 to 1961, addressed a group of university students with a truth that still burns today: «It is our duty to feel the moral responsibility for a war in a remote part of the world with the same force as for a war in which we ourselves, or those dear to us, were directly threatened in a physical sense.»

These words resonate with urgency in our time. Geographic distance can no longer serve as an excuse for moral indifference. Every child who dies under bombs in Gaza, every family fleeing violence in Eastern Congo, every innocent person who falls victim to hatred should shake our conscience with the same intensity with which we would react if it happened in our city, on our street, in our home. Peace is not a passive state of absence of conflict, but an active commitment that requires courage. It asks us to take a stand, to raise our voice, not to remain neutral spectators in the face of injustice. Neutrality, in the presence of innocent suffering, becomes silent complicity.

Let us listen to the silent witnesses of humanity, even when we know them only through the accounts of those who have met them: they teach us that peace is not an unattainable utopia, but a daily choice that begins with recognizing in others the same dignity we claim for ourselves. Hammarskjöld reminds us that moral responsibility knows no borders. At the end of this summer, let us heed his call: let us feel the weight of the world's suffering as if it were our own, because ultimately, it truly is.

## Franciscan Centenaries



## Brother Sun Festival, cultivating relationships to blossom hope

France, 28th -31st August 2025



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There were more than 170 participants, students and young professionals (18-40 years old), Franciscan nuns and friars gathered in the last days of August to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Cantic of the Creatures. This festival, entitled “Brother Sun”, was prepared over two years by a group of fifteen young volunteers close to the friars of the Province of Blessed Duns Scotus of France and Belgium and led by Br. Alejandro Torrado Mendoza, responsible for Youth and Vocation Ministry of the Province. It took place in Alsace, near Strasbourg, with the aim of celebrating the anniversary of the Cantic in a “school of fraternity”, open to all, believers and non-believers, to draw together hope for the world of tomorrow, afflicted by numerous ecological and social upheavals.

The programme of these days included Franciscan teaching to discover the depth of the Cantic and its relevance by Br. Frédéric-Marie Le Méhauté, Minister Provincial and theologian, moments of sharing with guests committed to a more just world, moments in small “groups” to experience fraternity, moments of service to offer oneself generously to others, workshops of contemplation, of discovery of integral ecology with the presence in particular of the *Laudato si’* Movement, of prayer, of dancing praise, giving voice to the most precarious, but also poetic evenings that raise the soul and heart towards the Creator Father. Indeed, above all, plentiful joy, music and celebration.

*“I am amazed by all the preparation that has been done for this festival, almost without us, I would say, or at least with a role more of accompaniment and presence that I find very appropriate. There are young people we can count on, who gravitate around our fraternities and who want to commit themselves to our side. It is up to us to leave them space, this portends good things for the years to come,”* one friar expressed gratefully. Words widely shared by the dozen friars present, convinced that the Church of tomorrow will reinvent itself in this horizontality. *“For several years, our pastoral care of young people and vocations has been decisively part of this way of working, in harmony with Pope Francis’ dream of a synodal Church. In the end, it’s very relaxing for us: we don’t have to organize anything for young people. They are autonomous and full of quality. But we can position ourselves as friars: it is not our projects that they follow, but their project that we help to build and enrich spiritually,”* sums up Br. Frédéric-Marie.

The participants in the festival are unanimous and moved by the quality and intensity of the relationships they have lived and received together. *“I didn’t really know what to expect when I came to Brother Sun, but I come out very enriched by all the encounters I was able to experience,”* exclaims Marie, who discovers the Franciscans for the first time. *“The moments of sharing in small groups allowed me to discover in depth other young people*

that I would not have met in my usual circles of the parish or the movement. I was able to deconstruct some preconceptions and marvel at the presence of God in each one. Our Church is beautiful because it is plural," Nicolas agrees.

Kevin keeps in his heart the workshop "St. Francis for beginners" which "allowed him to discover the figure of Francis and above all his joy, his humility and his trust in the heart of trials". Thibaud gladly admits: "I used to read the Canticle of the Creatures in a poetic and somewhat naïve way, but I realized that it is a compass for my life. This festival allowed me to take more ownership of Franciscan spirituality." Helena, baptized at Easter, has been involved as a volunteer at the festival. She found herself in the logistics commission "serving beers with the friars at the bar", emphasizing the self-managed nature of the festival, where friars and young people were able to mingle from the chapel to the kitchen!

Claire has known the Franciscans for about ten years, but continues to be amazed: "I have learned that the friars can dance at any age and even in the middle of the night!", echoing the "Vigil of the Stars". A real highlight of the festival, this event offered participants a night walk as a search for God in Creation through all their senses. Equipped with large lanterns that they had made themselves, the festival-goers wandered through nature, forming a single flock in search of true light. They found it in the chapel of the sanctuary of Reinacker on the face of Christ of San Damiano illuminated by 170 candles. Accompanied by some guitar chords,

John's prologue resounded in the church: "The Word was the true Light that enlightens every man and woman coming into the world."



Until late at night, the participants of the festival contemplated Christ and were invited to leave with a candle to be that fire that illuminates their relationships, their work, their family... The final words are from Gwendal, an ecological activist from the first hour: "In Brother Sun I found a lot of tenderness and sweetness, something free that is given, a space that was a breath of fresh air", demonstrating that with St. Francis evangelical radicalism is above all a quality of the soul to live our relationships.

Emilie Rey, Communications Office  
Prov. Blessed Duns Scotus



## Chapters

### Chapter of the Province of St. Francis Solano Argentina, 20th –27th August 2025



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From the 20th-27th August, the friars of the Province of St. Francis Solano, Argentina, celebrated their XII Provincial Chapter, inspired by the theme "Let us sing the hope of a reconciled humanity and a resurrected creation." The first three days were strongly characterized by listening, dialogue and discernment, in a synodal and shared mission key, since in this phase lay men and women from their communities and some Poor Clare sisters participated.

The whole process led to voting on the priorities for the next three years in the areas in which the province is organized: Education, Youth, JPIC, Parishes and Friars (formation).

The new Provincial Government was also elected:

- Br. Nicolás Aguilar, Minister Provincial;
- Br. Agustín Jara Podestá, Vicar Provincial;

- Br. Fernando Ferrario, Br. Claudio Equiza, Br. Maximiliano Ruiz and Br. Martín Caserta, Provincial Definitors.

the Province flowed out, where the Spirit worked reconciliation in many fraternal bonds and many friars returned renewed to their fraternities, full of confidence in the future.

These were days in which the song of gratitude for so much life and so much mission that pulsates in

*Br. Fernando Ferrario, Secretary of the Chapter*



## Chapter of the Province of St. Benedict the African Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 11th-16th August 2025



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From the 11th to 16th August, 2025, the friars of the Province of St. Benedict the African gathered at the St. John XXIII Scholasticate in Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo, to celebrate their Provincial Chapter. This important event in Franciscan life took place just eleven days after the erection of the Province of St. Anthony of Padua in the east of the country, marking a new dynamic within the Order.



The Chapter was solemnly inaugurated on the 11th August, the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, with a Eucharist presided over by Br. Nicodème Kolani, General Visitor and President of the Chapter. In his homily, he invited the chapter friars to recenter their lives on Christ, inspired by the spiritual abandonment of St. Clare.

The Chapter work began with a talk given by Br. Alexis Lawson on the theme: “Rediscovering our Franciscan identity in the face of changes in our society: missionary perspectives”. This reflection highlighted the urgency of returning to the roots of Franciscanism in order to respond to contemporary challenges.

Subsequently, in an atmosphere of prayer and dialogue, on the 14th August, the capitular friars elected a new Provincial Government:

- Br. Georges Misange, OFM, as Minister Provincial
- Br. Clément Mututa, OFM, as Vicar Provincial
- Br. Jean-Baptiste Mbo, OFM, Br. Benoît Kibambye, OFM, Br. Blanchard Nduwa, OFM, and Br. Hubert Kasonta, OFM, as Provincial Definitors.

The Chapter expressed its gratitude to Br. José Nzau, outgoing Minister Provincial, and his Definitory, for their generous commitment to the service of the fraternity. On Sunday, the 17th August, after the conclusion of the Chapter, the Province celebrated with great joy several significant events: The Temporary Vows of 20 young friars; the Solemn Vows of 5 friars; the Jubilee of 50 Years of Consecrated Life by Br. Arthur Kelenge, OFM; the Jubilee of 25 Years of Religious Life of Brothers Br. Jean-Baptiste Tabaro, OFM, Br. Kevin-Eusèbe Assassa, OFM, Br. Barthélemy Bulambo, OFM and Br. Jean-Marie Mufeki, OFM.

*With the contribution of: Br. Luc Landu Nzita, OFM*

## Chapter of the Province of St. Francis of Quito

*Azogues, Ecuador, 4th–8th August 2025*



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From the 4th-8th August 2025 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cloud in the city of Azogues, the Chapter of the Province of St. Francis of Quito was held with the motto “Praised be my Lord, for the Friars Minor, witnesses of hope”. The goal was to listen, discern and decide together on the life and mission of the Order of Friars Minor in Ecuador.

The opening Mass was presided over by Br. Julio César Bunader, OFM, Visitator General and President of the Chapter. In his homily, he recalled that Christ is the centre of our history and the one who calls us to live as friars and minors.

Br. César Kulkamp OFM, the Definitor General for Latin America and envoy of the

Minister General, also joined the celebration. The new Provincial Government that will animate the Province is composed of:

Br. Ángel Edwin Montoya Montoya, OFM, Minister Provincial; Br. Fausto Hermigio Suárez Salazar, OFM, Vicar Provincial.

Provincial Definitors: Br. Edgar Patricio Abad Masache, OFM; Br. Luis Marcos Álvarez Abad, OFM; Br. Carlos Hermel Amendaño Agüinsaca, OFM; Br. Marco Tulio Beltrán Aldaz, OFM.

We ask that the Spirit of the Lord enlighten and inspire them in the decisions they will make for the good of the Province and all its pastoral works.

*Provincial Secretariat of the Province of St. Francis of Quito*



## Animation of the Order

### Visit in West Papua and Papua New Guinea *Small Steps to unite two OFM Entities in Melanesia*



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#### *A Shared Franciscan Journey*

The Franciscan presence in Melanesia embraces both West Papua (W. Papua) and Papua New Guinea (PNG). Though divided by politics, these lands share the same cultural heart: communal life, respect for elders, closeness to the land,

and a spirituality expressed in symbols, rituals, and kinship. Franciscan roots here go back decades.

In 1937, Dutch friars began the W. Papua mission and grew steadily, becoming an Autonomous Custody in 2007 and later a Province in 2017. On the oth-

er hand, In 1946, six friars from Sydney sailed to PNG's Sepik District, and began a foundation that grew into a Province, long admired for its missionary vitality. Yet while W. Papua rose to Provincial status, PNG has since declined, now reduced to a Foundation under the care of the Minister General.

Today, the two Entities embody opposite trajectories: one ascending, the other struggling. But this very contrast makes collaboration not only desirable, but necessary. Guided by this conviction, the General Animator for Mission, Br. Dennis T. Tayo, accompanied by Br. Aloysius Gonzaga Rusmadit, OFM, Provincial Minister of W. Papua, and Br. Fredy (former missionary of PNG), visited both: W. Papua (August 16–22, 2025); and PNG (August 22–30, 2025). The goal was to explore and see the situation firsthand and discern concrete forms of collaboration and/or mission.

*Present Realities*

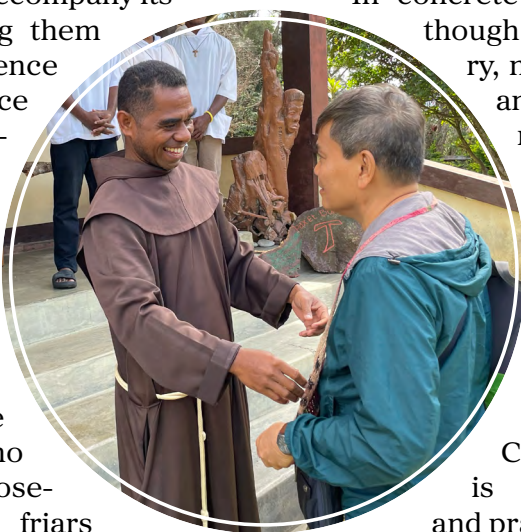
PNG’s Franciscan story is venerable, but fragile today needing renewal. Few missionary friars are stretched across to accompany local friars in the many responsibilities. More seriously, local friars have not been fully empowered in administration, formation, or finance, leaving the Entity dependent and uncertain about the future. What PNG needs are more missionaries who can accompany its friars, helping them build competence and confidence for leadership.

Missionaries are essential—but missionaries who understand the culture, who can walk closely with the friars as equals, and who can strengthen the foundation from within.

By contrast, W. Papua is a Province in growth, marked by vitality

and great promise with abundant vocations and growing ministries. Yet as a young Province, it still needs to channel its energy into sustainable ministries and parish life, robust formation, and a wider Franciscan horizon.

W. Papua can provide PNG with missionaries who are not only close at hand but culturally attuned, able to accompany as brothers. In turn, PNG’s long missionary tradition can help W. Papua open itself to the wider Franciscan world, offering a rich



Maturity and international exposure remain vital steps on its journey. What it needs is a fertile ground of preparation for the future ahead, especially in the aspect of mission ad gentes, blessed with sustained vocations.

In concrete terms, PNG, though rich in history, needs renewal and empowerment. W. Papua, though vibrant, needs maturity and broader international experience.

Collaboration is both natural and practical.

As Melanesians, the friars of W. Papua share the same cultural worldview as their brothers in PNG. Their proximity across the border makes support feasi-

ground for initial missionary experience and English language proficiency training. Each Entity offers what the other lacks, creating a complementarity that strengthens both. [...]

The journey was a small step, but small steps matter. They build bridges across borders, allowing two entities to breathe with one Franciscan spirit. Challenges remain—financial, structural, and pastoral—but Franciscan renewal always begins with fraternity and humble collaboration.

May these first steps grow into a Melanesian partnership that brings life, renewal, and Gospel witness to the peoples they serve.

*Br. Dennis T. Tayo, OFM*

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

## Fraternal Visit to the Custody of Our Lady of Kibeho

### *Seeds of Hope in Wounded Lands*



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From July 21 to 25, 2025, the General Animator for Missions, Br. Dennis Tupas Tayo, OFM, conducted a fraternal visitation to the Autonomous Custody of Our Lady of Kibeho, which encompasses the Franciscan fraternities in Burundi and Rwanda. The visit took place shortly after [the Custody marked its first year anniversary of autonomy](#) on July 1, 2025. It served as an occasion to strengthen bonds of fraternity, promote missionary openness - especially in light of exploring a new OFM presence in Nigeria - and offer encouragement to the friars as they take their initial steps as a new Custody.

Burundi and Rwanda are historically marked by deep wounds of tribal violence and political unrest. Against this backdrop, the Custody of Our Lady of Kibeho was born amid communities still marked by historical trauma, distrust, and biases between two nations that have carried the wounds of ethnic division, conflict, and political instabilities. This new Entity therefore holds a unique and prophetic place within the Order, with our Franciscan presence, embodying a tangible witness to peace, reconciliation, and healing. But as Burundians and Rwandians, humbly living as loving fraternities, our friars offer a concrete witness to unity and healing. And this makes their mission all the more significant, not only for the local Church but also for the Order at large.

The visitation included fraternal encounters across several communities, with stops in Bujumbura, Magarama, and Kayongozzi in Burundi, and Karama, Kivumu, Mbazi, Nyarunyinya, and Kibeho in Rwanda. These visits highlighted both the strengths and challenges faced by the Custody. While much of the friars' current ministry is rooted in parish life, there

is an often-overlooked vibrancy of Franciscan spirituality that shapes their daily witness. As their Custos, Br. Br. Theoneste Twahirwa, OFM, observes, their commitment and efforts often remain under-recognized within the broader structures of the Order. Yet what emerged clearly during the visitation was their closeness to the people - especially the poor - their simplicity, their dedication to manual work as a path to community self-reliance, and their earnest desire to serve as instruments of reconciliation, speaking volumes in a region still yearning for peace, vis a vis the difficulties faced, as they take their initial strides, as a new Entity.

A significant challenge the Custody faces is the ongoing task of articulating a clear and distinct identity as a newly autonomous Entity. Having emerged from the Province of St. Francis of Assisi (East Africa), the Custody is now discerning a vision and mission that reflect the socio-political, cultural, pastoral, and spiritual realities specific to present context. As they prepare for their first Custodial Chapter in 2026, the friars share a deep commitment to defining common values, strategies, and priorities that respond authentically to their realities, including the challenges of economic sustainability and formation needs.

Amid these efforts, the Custody of Our Lady of Kibeho stands as a living sign of Franciscan renewal - a light of hope in a land long wounded by division. The fraternal visitation confirmed the Custody's rich potential to contribute meaningfully to the Order's missionary presence, especially as the friars open themselves to intercultural collaboration and broader missionary initiatives. They are blessed with a promising number of religious vocations, a gift to be nurtured with vision and care.

This fraternal encounter was a moment of gratitude, discernment, and encouragement. Above all, it stands as a testimony to the enduring relevance of the Franciscan charism - a presence that listens, reconciles, and walks with the people. In these lands once fractured by division, the friars of the Custody are sowing seeds of hope, cultivating a future marked by unity, healing, and shared peace.

*By: Dennis Tupas Tayo, OFM*

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



## News from the Entities



## Solemn Professions in Papua New Guinea

### *Foundation of St. Francis of Assisi*



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The remote Papua New Guinean villages of Lumi and Napapar came alive with praise and thanksgiving, song and dance, as Br Thomas Tuau and Br Leonard Melit made their profession of solemn vows during August. Lumi, in the Torricelli Mountains, is the birth-

place of Thomas and where he met the Franciscans who cared for the local parish and outstations during his childhood and formative years. Their way of community living and generous pastoral care of the people attracted him to consider the same lifestyle.



place of Thomas and where he met the Franciscans who cared for the local parish and outstations during his childhood and formative years. Their way of community living and generous pastoral care of the people attracted him to consider the same lifestyle.

*“I was inspired by people like Br Leo McCullagh who worked as a mechanic and knew most of the people in our village. He was a very helpful man to everyone and showed young people that we could give thanks to God by working with his hands”,* said Thomas when he reflected on his own calling to be a friar minor. During Thomas’ formation years, he included a study course in carpentry and hopefully will follow in the spirit of friars like Br Leo.

Although the friars had withdrawn from Lumi eighteen months ago, they were welcomed back with open arms by the people, eager to celebrate with one of their own who had chosen to be a Franciscan brother. Br Hugh Kuam, Vicar general of the Diocese of Aitape, was the principal celebrant for the Eucharist in the local language *tok pisin*, with Br Victor John (post-novitiate formator, originally from Pakistan) as one of several concelebrants. Thomas made his profession of solemn vows into the hands of Br Paul Smith, President of the Foundation of St Francis of Assisi which is dependent on the Minister General.

Two weeks later in the church of St Anthony of Padua in the village of Napapar #5 on the island Province of East New Britain, Br Leonard made his solemn profession also into the hands of Br Paul Smith, this time with Br Philip Pagolu, Vice-president of the Foundation, as main celebrant of the Eucharist. During Leonard’s school years, he met the OFM vocation director and discerned whether to join the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) or the Franciscans. One of Leonard’s cousins, newly-ordained Fr Francis MSC was a concelebrant at the Eucharist with yet another cousin, the local parish priest Fr Edward Morata, and several friars, including Br Victor John. The large parish church was overflowing with villagers of Catholic faith and other faith traditions.

After a shared lunch with hundreds of people, the afternoon continued with song and dance by various groups in colourful, traditional, tribal dress. A noisy, vibrant, uplifting and rich cultural celebration of thanksgiving to God, family and friars.

Through Leonard’s formation years, he completed a three-year course as an electrician at Port Moresby Tech College, and this will prove helpful in places where the friars serve because town power is not yet fully available nor reliable. Last year during the tech college study break, Leonard was instrumental in wiring San Damiano retreat house in the village of Banaule (West New Britain) to have it ready for when the town power is eventually connected and ‘switched on’.

There are just 24 friars in Papua New Guinea, mostly indigenous men, with five from other nations: Australia, Italy, Pakistan, Vietnam. Brothers like Thomas and Leonard – and others whom we hope will follow – are integral to the future of the small and fragile Foundation which does its best to “repair and rebuild the house of the Lord” physically and spiritually. Today’s friars follow a long history of mainly Australian,

New Zealand and Italian friars who “worked with their hands” to build the PNG mission since 1946 and who helped form generations of local men in their Christian and Franciscan vocation. The Foundation welcomes suitably experienced friars who are ready

to “look, listen and learn” as they help to “rebuild” a fragile entity within the framework of a culturally rich and unique way of simple living in one of the world’s poorest and under-resourced nations.

## East Asian Conference meeting in Hong Kong

### *Pilgrims of Hope in a Wounded World*



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In the spirit of fraternity and synodality, from 24-28 August, 2025, the East Asian Conference (EAC) of the Order of Friars Minor gathered its Ministers and representatives at the Precious Blood Renewal Center in Hong Kong for their 2025 Ministers’ Meeting. The assembly brought together Franciscan leaders from the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Myanmar, joined by the President of SAAOC, Br. Derrick Yap, OFM, and the Definitor General for Asia, Br. John Wong, OFM.



The meeting unfolded within the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 and the 8th Centenary of the Canticum of the Creatures—two milestones that invited the friars to reflect on how their Franciscan witness might radiate hope in a world marked by pandemic, war, and ecological crisis.

The gathering opened with the Eucharist presided by Br. Lino Gregorio Redoblado, OFM, Provincial Minister of San Pedro Bautista Province (Philippines) and President of the EAC. In his homily, he called the friars to walk through the “narrow gate” of fraternity, humility, and minority, reminding them that radical hope is not naïve optimism but a courageous response to the wounds of humanity and creation. “As St. Francis sang the Canticum in the midst of sickness and conflict,” he said, “we too must proclaim hope as a gift and mission.”

Read more about [www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)

[Download the EAC Ministers’ Meeting Final Statement](#)

## Common Integration Program 2025 - EAC

### *Quezon City, Philippines*



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Asia and Oceania for a month-long formation experience.

The program opened with a liturgy and orientation at the Portiuncula Chapel, Provincial House, facilitated by the EAC-CIP team led by Br. Judee Mar Maquinad, OFM. In the evening, Br. Lino Gregorio V. Redoblado, OFM, Minister Provincial of San Pedro Bautista, presided over the Opening Mass, concelebrated by Br. Peter, OFM, Formator of the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Vietnam.

The Province of San Pedro Bautista successfully hosted the 14th East Asia Conference – Common Integration Program (EAC-CIP) from August 3 to 29, 2025, gathering young friars from across East

In his homily, Br. Gregorio emphasized the history of the Common Integration Program, highlighting collaboration, international brotherhood, and the Franciscan mission in today’s world. He also

reflected on the Jubilee Year, citing hopelessness, poverty, and ecological destruction as challenges the friars must confront, quoting the late Pope Francis: “Creation is not something to be possessed, but to be celebrated.”

Held under the theme “Integrated Friars as Agents of Hope for Renewed Humanity and Restored Environment in the Context of Asia,” the gathering brought together 33 friars preparing for solemn profession. They represented: Province of San Pedro Bautista (Philippines): 5 friars; Province of San Antonio de Padua (Philippines): 3 friars; Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Vietnam):

22 friars; Province of Korean Holy Martyrs (South Korea): 1 friar; Foundation of St. Francis (Papua New Guinea): 2 friars.

The month-long program was divided into four focus weeks: Immersion Week – engaging with local communities and ministries; Franciscan Spirituality Week – rediscovering the charism of St. Francis;

Asian Spirituality Week – reflecting on faith within diverse Asian contexts; Franciscan Hermitage Experience – a period of silence and contemplation.

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## 80 Years of Indonesian Independence

### Reflections and a Call for Ecological and Social Justice



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The Friars of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel Indonesia hosted a national seminar on Saturday, August 9, 2025, titled “Faith, Public Policy, and Ecological Justice.” The event, held at the Vincentius Putera Ballroom in Jakarta, was part of a deep reflection on Indonesia’s journey toward its 80th year of independence and its ongoing mission to achieve social justice for all its people.



This seminar also marked the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi’s *Canticle of the Creatures* and the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’*.

Br. Mikael Peruhe OFM, the Provincial Minister of Indonesia, emphasized in his opening speech that social justice is not merely an endpoint but an ethical and spiritual project that requires continuous effort. He highlighted the critical link between environmental crises and social injustice, a concept he referred to as integral ecology. “The cry of the earth is also the cry of the poor. Ecological aware-

ness must go hand in hand with the struggle for social justice and peace,” he said.

#### *Government and Civil Society Join Forces for Biodiversity*

The seminar drew approximately 425 participants and featured two keynote speakers: Mikhail Gorbachev Dom, an expert staff member to the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia, and Prof. Dr. Martin Harun, OFM, Professor Emeritus at STF Driyarkara Jakarta.

Dom spoke about Indonesia’s rich diversity, which he categorized into five levels: geological, topographical, ecological, cultural, and generational. He noted that the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia is actively working to manage this diversity through inclusive policies that engage various stakeholders, including civil society, academics, and non-governmental organizations.

Martin Harun explained that the *Canticle of the Creatures* serves as a foundational inspiration for the ecological and spiritual movements. He expressed deep concern over a world facing a severe ecological crisis fueled by systemic exploitation and unchecked industrialization.

“A person who is humble before God and sees all creatures as brothers and sisters would certainly not allow the ecosystem to collapse for personal gain,” he stated.

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## Ongoing formation in Central America and Panama

### Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe



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In July and August 2025, the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America and Panama held several weeks of Formation for friars divided into age groups. The participants were divided into three large groups: Solemn Professed Friars from 30 to 50 years old, from 51 to 70 years old and from 70 years old and over.

The main objective of these weeks of formation was to generate a significant space for listening and personal encounter with oneself, with others and with Christ, starting from a

contemplative, reflective and celebratory attitude towards life and being Friars Minor, in order to revitalise following Christ and in faithful dedication to building up the Kingdom of God firmly rooted in the values and charisma of the Order of Friars Minor.

The meetings were held in Monte San Francisco, Guatemala; Valle de Ángeles, Honduras; Mount Auvergne, El Salvador; San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua; and to the fraternities of Haiti. With this in mind, the Council for Ongoing Formation has taken significant steps in the process of revitalising the vocation, life and mission of the solemnly professed friars of the Province.

This formation was structured by Br. Gerardo Moore, OFM, who passed away last April, and was taken up by the Council for Ongoing Formation. Br. José Dimas Granados, OFM, oversaw the formation and coordinated the various commissions formed for this purpose in different countries and for different age groups.

*Br. Edgar Daniel Coyoy Medrano, OFM,  
Provincial Secretary*



## The Sanctuary of Poggio Bustone

### reopened to the faithful

*Rieti (Italy), Franciscan place of forgiveness and grace*



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On the 24th July, 2025 at 11.30 a.m., the Franciscan Shrine of Poggio Bustone, in the Rieti Valley (RI - Italy) was reopened and returned to the faithful and visitors. The works had become necessary due to the serious earthquake that struck central Italy in 2016.

The presence of the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, the Minister Provincial, Br. Luciano de Giusti, together with the Guardians of the shrines of the Valley and other friars, was enriched by that of the technicians who carried out the interventions and the Civil and Military Authorities of the place.

For the territory it is certainly a sign of hope, as well as for the Province of St. Bonaventure and for the entire Franciscan Family who have been

pilgrims to this place of Pardon and Grace for centuries.



**Feast of Our Lady of Candelaria de Santa Anita**  
*325 Years of worship - Jalisco, Mexico*



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On Sunday, the 17th August 2025, the Franciscan Fraternity of St. Anita, Jalisco, belonging to the Franciscan Province of Saints Francis and James in Mexico, celebrated with joy, faith and devotion its Mother, Patroness, Queen and Advocate for the 325th Anniversary of her maternal presence.

The original Image of Our Lady of Candelaria, one of the most loved and venerated images in the Franciscan Province, was carried in procession through the streets of the community; Every street and every believer poured forth manifestations of love and devotion.

On her return to her Shrine, Holy Mass was presided over by Br. Ignacio Ceja Jiménez, OFM, Vicar General of the Order and member of this



Province. He accompanied them with his honorable visit.

The Franciscan Friars in this community already have almost 500 years of presence and mission since they have evangelized since 1530 and have been permanently in this place since 1760. Currently they administer a parish with great pastoral activity and the Shrine of the Virgin which receives thousands of faithful every year.

Thanks are given to God for all the benefits he has granted to the brothers and the community through the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son Jesus Christ in this town and shrine of great Franciscan tradition.

*Br. Luis Javier Roman Moya, OFM*

**50 years of the Rectory of Holy Mary Mother of God**  
*El Salvador, 30th August 2025*



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On the 30th August, 2025, the Franciscan presence in El Salvador celebrated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Rectory of Holy Mary Mother of God, in Usulután.

This presence is significant for the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America and Panama: since its foundation, it has offered space as a house of formation, minor seminary, postulancy and novitiate. It currently serves as a retreat house, from where the local fraternity carries out its pastoral service, faithful to the charism of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

With the motto “Half a century of Franciscan footprints with

faith and hope”, various activities have been carried out in recent months, culminating with a Mass of thanksgiving presided over by Msgr. Romeo Tovar Astorga, OFM, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Santa Ana, El Sal-

vador, and first Rector, accompanied by the friars of the Province and the local community.

*Br. Edgar Daniel Coyoy Medrano, OFM, Provincial Secretary*



# LIFE in the Order



## Solemn professions

10th August, Prov. St. Clare (Mozambique)

**Br. Vihiene Mutanapahi Abudo, Br. Macedo Alberto Cufa.**

2nd August, Prov. Sts. Francis and James (Mexico)

**Br. Luis Jonathan Beltrán Peña, Br. Omar Campos Pérez, Br. Hernández**

**Garrido José Arturo, Br. Juan Gilberto Manzo Torres, Br. Vázquez López Pedro Manuel.**

2nd August, Prov. Sts. Peter and Paul (Mexico)

**Br. Saúl Reginaldo García Galdeano, Br. Isaac González Tinajero, Br. José Armando López Machado, Br. Jairo Orozco Flores, Br. Manuel Paz Ortega, Br. Francisco Samuel Tirado Saucedo.**



## Priestly Ordinations

16th August, Prov. Sts Francis and James (Mexico)

**Br. Juan José Beltrán Cervantes, Br. Juan Ramón Escobedo Hernández, Br. Sergio Eufracio Puente, Br. Mario Alberto González Hernández, Br. Daniel Iribe Simental, Br. Oscar Alberto Leal Leal, Br. Heriberto Arturo Olea Partida, Br. Luis Fernando Pacas Santos, Br. Donaldo Daniel Rosete García.**

2nd August, Prov. Immaculate Conception (Brazil)

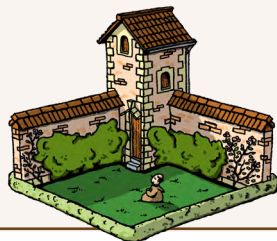
**Br. José Ganga, Br. Evaristo Joaquim, Br. Elias Luis, Br. Domingos Soma.**

2nd August, Custody of St. Benedict of the Amazon

**Br. Fábio Melo Vasconcelos.**

30th June, Prov. Sts. Peter and Paul (Mexico)

**Br. Salomé Andrés Ortiz, Br. Rodrigo De Alejo González, Br. Israel Medina Ortega, Br. Marco Uriel Pichardo García, Br. Alfonso Rodríguez García.**



## Deceased Brothers

† 25th August: Br. Sean Murnan, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 22nd August: Br. John-Michael Pinto, Prov. Immaculate Conception (USA)

† 18th August: Br. Pijo Pejić, Cust. St. Jerome (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

† 14th August: Br. Ignatius Edward Smith, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 12th August: Br. Louis Brennan, Prov. of Ireland

† 11th August: Br. Giorgio Catania, Prov. The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Italy)

† 9th August: Br. Stanislao Loffreda, Prov. St James della Marca (Italy)

† 8th August: Br. Marco Flore, Prov. St. Francis Stigmatized (Italy)

† 4th August: Br. Michael Madden, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 31st July: Br. Lider Facundo Cordova, Province of the Twelve Apostles (Peru)

† 31st July: Br. Vicente Rubén Insfran Molina, Prov. Assumption of the BVM of the Rio de la Plata (Paraguay)

*Information received from the General Secretariat*



## OFS in Ethiopia, Extraordinary Pastoral and Fraternal Visit 16-26 August 2025



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The Extraordinary Pastoral and Fraternal Visit to the five Canonically erected fraternities of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) and YouFra in Ethiopia, which are still qualified as a “Presence” according to the CIOFS regulations for the establishment of OFS fraternities in the Order, was held from 16-26 August 2025 by the Presidency Councilor of English and Portuguese African countries, Emerenciana Chinyama, OFS and the representative of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants, Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM.

The Presidency Councilor had the joy of receiving the Profession of nine OFS members of the Sacred Heart fraternity in Addis Ababa. Afterwards, the visitors moved to the city of Konto at the Capuchin friary of Our Lady of Loreto Mariam Parish Church in Wolaita Soddo, where they began the program with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by the Apostolic Vicariate of Soddo in the Southern Ethiopia Region, Bishop Dejene Hidoto, OFM-Cap. This was followed by the welcoming ceremony of the CIOFS delegates in the hall by the Bishop, OFS, and YouFra. Then, the formation workshop began, and in the afternoon, the election of the new local Council took place. The visitation continued to another town, Dubbo, where the delegates met with the OFS and YouFra for a formation workshop, the admission of YouFra members, the profession of OFS

members, and the election of the local council. All these celebrations culminated in the celebration of the Holy Mass, followed by the departure to another town, Meganasse, at the Novitiate house, where the visitors met the friars and novices. They then began the visit to two OFS local fraternities: that of St. Claire and Kidanemeheret (which means the Arch of the Covenant) and the YouFra. It is also worth noting that here at the novitiate is where the OFS formally and structurally began in Ethiopia, at the strong request of then Minister General Mauro Jöhri, OFM-Cap, during the Provincial Elective Chapter in 2012.



## OFS, National Elective Chapter in the Democratic Republic of Congo 11th – 17th August, 2025



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From the 11th –17th August, 2025 in the Capuchin Friars’ student house located in the industrial district of the municipality of Limete, Kinshasa, the National Elective Chapter of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) of the Democratic Republic of Congo was finally held, pending since 2017 due to the social, political and economic situation of the country.

On the afternoon of the 11th August, the Solemnity of St. Clare, the Chapter officially began with

Mass presided over by the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Nkolo, His Excellency Msgr. Stanislas Lukumwena, OFM, and concelebrated by the National Assistants Br. Polydore Bodibanga Kashala, OFM, Br. Jean Paul Kilingi Nsomo, OFM, Br. Emmanuel Galeboe, OFM-Cap, Br. Aimé Kungi, OFM-Cap and the Custos of the Capuchin Friars, Br. Tharcisse Ngose, OFM-Cap. The Chapter was presided over by the International Councillor for Francophone Africa Adolph Atsu Assagba, OFS, as delegate of the Minister General of the OFS Tibor

Kauser, OFS, and witnessed by a member of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants, Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM.

The work of the Chapter resumed with a welcome greeting to the delegates of CIOFS and the 12 capitulars who came from the regions of Mbandaka, Kisangani, Lumbashi, Kananga, Bukavu. Each chapter presented a report on their region, which



facilitated the understanding of the reality of the fraternities in which the members of the OFS live in the DRC.

The work of revising, examining, adapting and approving the National Statutes was carried out in an atmosphere of tranquillity, respect and fraternal listening. The following day, in the morning, there were visits to the convent of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), where the first OFS fraternity in Kinshasa was born.

On the 15th August, elections were held: Noël Nkodia, OFS was elected National Minister, while 4 Deputy Ministers were elected, each for one language: Martin Balabega (Tshiluba), Pascal Batumike (Swahili), Hector Suami (Kikongo) and Timothée Kandege (Lingala). The latter will help the Minister in carrying out work and communication at national level.

Felicien Kasongo has been elected International Councillor, while other additional members of the National Council will help in the functioning and pastoral action of the fraternity, emphasising the importance of living together as one fraternity in a vast nation and addressing social, economic and political challenges.

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## OFS National Elective Chapters *In Malawi and Paraguay*



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The National Elective Chapter of Malawi was held at Likuni Parish from August 7 to 10, 2025. International Councilor Emerenciana Chinyama, OFS, presided over the Elective Chapter, while the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants was represented by its delegate, Br. Francis Sagwirika, OFM Cap. Tereza Mukatipa was elected National Minister and Tobias Shaba International Councilor. The participants reported that the Chapter celebrations went very well, and everyone was satis-

fied with the outcome of the elections. On August 16 and 17, 2025, the National Fraternity of the OFS in Paraguay held its National Elective Chapter at the “Casa de Retiros Oásis Franciscano”. The capitulars elected Mirta Ferreira as National Minister and International Councilor. This is the first time a woman has been elected National Minister; she will lead the OFS in Paraguay for the next three years.



**Ongoing Formation for the Franciscan  
Family of Congo Brazzaville**  
*8th- 9th August, 2025*



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The OFS, the friars and the Poor Clares of Congo Brazzaville had the joy of meeting for ongoing formation at St. Clare’s school in Djiri-Brazzaville from the 8th- 9th August, 2025. The Spiritual Assistant General, Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM, emphasised the significance of being a Franciscan Family that enriches the mutual vitality of the members, enhancing the significance of the Spiritual Assistant of the OFS.

Each session was followed by a sharing that brought to light many positive and some negative aspects that favour growth, strengthen the understanding of the identity of the OFS and the sense of belonging to the Franciscan Family.

The formation ended with the celebration of Mass presided over by Br. Pedro, who urged all the members to rediscover the true Franciscan identity in order to witness to the Gospel in today’s world that

so much needs to live in mutual and unconditional love; He also thanked each sister and brother for the sacrifice made in dedicating their time to participating in this ongoing formation.

The first OFS fraternity in Congo was born in 1958 in Pointe-Noire. The General Curia of the OFM entrusted the pastoral care to the Spiritan Fathers (Congregation of the Holy Spirit), before the arrival of the first Order and the Poor Clares, so in the early years, the OFS lived

its Franciscan charism despite the absence of the OFM and OFMCap friars. Finally, with the arrival of the friars in 1982 in Makoua Boudji and then of the Poor Clares in 2000, the OFS had the joy of living its Franciscan charism within the Franciscan Family.

This joint formation once again emphasised the importance of living the charism together and the awareness of the interdependence between the three families: the First Order, the Poor Clares and the OFS.



**Obituary**



**Br. Louis Brennan, OFM**  
*August 12, 2025*



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With profound sorrow, but also with the serenity that comes from faith in the Resurrection, we announce that Br. Louis Brennan OFM returned to the Father’s House on August 12, 2025, at Our Lady’s Manor Nursing Home in Dalkey, Ireland.

He was born on December 21, 1929, made his first religious profession on September 8, 1949, and was ordained a priest on June 30, 1957. His life was entirely dedicated to the service of the Order of Friars Minor and the Church.

His dedication and competence led him to hold important positions of responsibility: Minister Provincial of the Franciscan Province of Ireland (elected in 1972 and re-elected in 1978), Definitor General of the Order (elected at the General Chapter

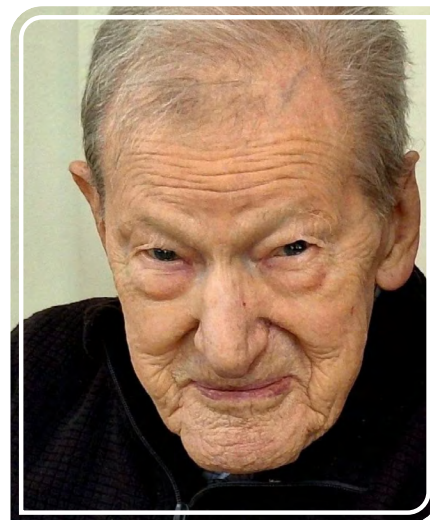
of 1979), Secretary General of the Order (from 1985 to 1991).

After completing his mandate as Secretary General in 1991, Br. Louis dedicated his energies to organizing the Franciscan Challenge, a renewal program for all members of the Franciscan Family, based at the Collegio Sant'Isidoro in Rome. This initiative represented a significant moment of spiritual and formative growth for the entire Franciscan Family.

Subsequently, he continued to serve the Province of Ireland as Provincial Definitor, Vicar Provincial, and Secretary of the

Province, before moving to the Collegio Sant'Isidoro in 2005. In August 2020, he returned to Ireland, settling in Cork and later at Our Lady's Manor Nursing Home in Dalkey, where he spent his final years.

Br. Louis Brennan lived the Franciscan charism to the full, distinguishing himself through his dedication to service, his wisdom in governance, and his tireless commitment to the spiritual renewal of the Order. His legacy will continue to live on through all those he formed and guided along the Franciscan path. We entrust his soul to the mercy of the Father and to the interces-



sion of Saint Francis of Assisi, while we pray that the Lord may grant consolation to all who knew and loved him. *May he rest in peace!*

## Br. Stanislao Loffreda, OFM August 9, 2025, Franciscan archaeologist



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On August 9, 2025, Br. Stanislao Loffreda (Montepulciano, 1932), belonging to the Franciscan Province of St. James in the Marche region, Italy, returned to the Father's House.

He was a graduate in Sacred Scripture (Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1961) and in Theology (*Studium Biblicum Franciscanum*, 1962), and he obtained a Master's degree in archaeology from the Oriental Institute of Chicago (1967).

From 1978 to 1990 he directed the *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum* in Jerusalem, where he has been a professor emeritus until today.

He conducted numerous excavation campaigns, in particular in Capernaum (1968-91; director since 2000), where together with Br. Virgilio Corbo discovered the House of Peter.

He also carried out excavations at the fortress of Machaerus, in Jordan (1978-81), to which he dedicated several publications.

His memory is a blessing and represents an invitation to the younger generations to devote themselves to biblical studies, including archaeological studies in the places of our salvation.

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