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## Consecrated Life at Jubilee 2025

*'Pilgrims of hope on the road to peace'*

From the 8th-11th October in Rome, thousands of consecrated persons from every continent participated in the Jubilee of Consecrated Life as a single body of prayer, listening, and mission. From the Vigil in St. Peter's to the meetings on forms of life, up to the final pilgrimage, an ecclesial face of communion emerged, capable of speaking to the hearts of local Churches and the peripheries of the world.

During the Mass in St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo reaffirmed the three verbs of prayer from the Gospel of Luke as icons of the evangelical counsels: "Ask" in poverty, "Seek" in obedience, and "Knock" to offer Christ's charity to all. "For you, for us, the Lord is everything... Without Him nothing exists, nothing has meaning," he recalled, inviting consecrated persons to spread the "oxygen" of a concrete, faithful, and lasting love. In his audience with participants, the Holy Father recognized consecrated life as a Gospel capable of awakening the world: "The Church needs you and all the diversity and richness of the forms of consecration... United with Christ, your



small lights become a luminous path in the great project of peace and salvation.” He then assigned a task that is both method and style: synodality as a “domestic dialogue” that renews relationships, processes, and paths, calling on them to become “experts in synodality... prophets at the service of the people of God.”

In the squares of Rome, with the themes of “fraternity, listening to the least fortunate, and care for creation,” Consecrated Life demonstrated its simplest signature: closeness that mends, hope that never gives up, and the protection of our Common Home. In the Paul VI Hall, moments of discernment accompanied the invocation of peace, with the desire to transform communities and works into laboratories of reconciliation. Sister Simona Brambilla, Prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, offered a reflection that spanned the entire Jubilee, calling consecrated persons to live their charism as a “yobel,” a horn announcing freedom and a new beginning. “Different people, backgrounds, cultures, ecclesial experiences, different forms of consecrated life, different charisms,” she said in the 10th October audience. “We are like so many yobels, each with its own unique and un-

repeatable sound, but called to play together the symphony of the Jubilee of Hope.”

In her closing message at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, Sr. Simona urged those present to be “a place of dialogue and encounter, a bridge over which different experiences and wisdoms can pass, find each other, and exchange gifts,” transforming their communities into “a safe and respectful environment in which relationships of true reciprocity can be born and grow.” With a final exhortation, he encouraged everyone: “So, let us go, brothers and sisters! Let us go, pilgrims of hope on the path of peace, carrying with us the experience we have lived to cherish it in our hearts and to share it with those we meet!” The Jubilee has rekindled a shared decision: to “go” as pilgrims of hope and artisans of peace. Consecrated persons set out again on the roads of the world with a renewed “yes,” ready to make the demanding joy of the Gospel shine in their daily lives. The Pope’s command remains the daily task: to ask, to seek, to knock—so that, in poverty, obedience, and charity, the Church may recognize the face of Christ who walks with us.

See all the photos on [Flickr](#)

## General Curia Agenda



☑ Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli and General Definito Br. Siphelile Gwanisheni will be in South Africa from the 18th to 24th October for a fraternal visit to the Province of Our Lady Queen of Peace; from the 25th to the 27th, together with General Definito Br. Konrad Cholewa, they will be in Botswana for a visit to the missionary presence; and from the 28th October till the 2nd November, they will be in Zimbabwe for the canonical establishment of the autonomous Custody of the Good Shepherd.

☑ From the 20th-25th October, the Vicar General Br. Ignacio Ceja will participate in the Annual Assembly of the Franciscan Network of Migrants of the Americas in Guadalajara, Mexico. From the 27th-30th October, together with the General Definito Br. Joaquin Echeverry, he will be in the Province of Saints Peter and Paul in Mexico for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Friars Minor in the Kingdom of Michoacan. From the 27th-31st October, the General Defini-

tors Br. Albert Schmucki, Br. Cesare Vaiani, and Br. Konrad Cholewa will participate in the Assembly of the Union of Friars Minor of Europe (UFME) to be held in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Poland.

☑ From the 20th October-1st November, Br. Fabio César Gomes, General Delegate pro Monialibus, will participate in the Assembly of the Sagrada Familia Federation of the Poor Clare Sisters of Brazil in Canindé.

☑ From the 4th-7th November, Br. Darko Tepert, General Secretary for Formation and Studies, will participate in the meeting of the Executive Committee for Formation and Studies (CEFS) to be held at the friary of St. Francis in Zagreb, Croatia.

☑ From the 24th-30th October, Br. John Wong, General Definito, will be in Sydney, Brisbane, and Auckland for the post-Chapter visit to the Province of the Holy Spirit (Australia and New Zealand).

# Government of the Order



## PUA, inauguration of the Academic Year 2025-2026 7th October, Basilica of St. Anthony Lateran and Auditorium Antonianum



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On the 7th October 2025, the traditional inauguration ceremony of the Academic Year 2025-2026 of the Pontifical University Antonianum (PUA) took place in Rome.

The event opened with the Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of St. Anthony Lateran presided over by Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the OFM and Grand Chancellor of the PUA. On the day on which the Church commemorates Our Lady of the Rosary, Br. Massimo recalled how the university world must be a “laboratory of the future”, in which we must try to “intercept, interpret and deepen the signs of the times to enter into dialogue with today’s currents of thought”.



All this is done through listening, said the Grand Chancellor, like the inhabitants of Nineveh who listened to Jonah and were converted: ascetic study, incessant search for truth, analysis of the present time with Mary’s gaze: “It is necessary to sit like her at the feet of the Master, in contemplative listening. Only from this deep listening will authentic, non-ideological thoughts and gestures of peace be born.”

In this regard, Br. Massimo emphasized how St. Anthony of Padua taught that true peace begins

with a reconciled heart. For this reason, “the Franciscan university is called to this prophecy: not only to study peace, but to live it. Begin with reconciliation with ourselves, with the truth, with others. To train not only competent professionals, but witnesses of fraternity, builders of bridges. [We must accept to] die to our laziness and fears, to be reborn to a knowledge that serves life, that embraces humanity, that builds peace.”

The ceremony, moderated by Br. Efrén Parmenio Ortiz, Secretary General of the PUA, continued at the Antonianum Auditorium, where Prof. Agustín Hernández Vidales OFM, Rector Magnificus of the PUA, welcomed those present and presented the Report on the 2024-2025 academic year.

This was followed by Prof. Fabrizio Lobasso, Central Director for Economic Internationalization at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, with the inaugural address “Francis and the Art of Encounter: Towards an Intercultural Humanism.”

At the end, Br. Massimo Fusarelli gave his traditional speech entitled *The PUA construction site of hope in the change of era*, in which he focused on how to research and assume “new paradigms, new keys of interpretation, new forms of wisdom” in the light of the “Franciscan inspiration” that characterizes the PUA.

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

[Read the full text of the Minister General’s homily](#)

[Read the full text of the Minister General’s speech](#)

Photo: OFM Archive

## Fraternal Visit to Ukraine of the Definitor General

*Zhytomyr, Br. Konrad Cholewa celebrates  
the Solemnity of St. Michael the Archangel*



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The solemn celebration in honour of St. Michael the Archangel, heavenly patron of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Ukraine and patron saint of all Ukraine, both for Catholics and Orthodox, brought together friars from different convents, even distant from Zhytomyr, the city that hosted the event.

This year the anniversary acquired a special significance thanks to the presence of Br. Konrad Cholewa, General Definitor, who was present together with Br. Nicola Kozina (former Director of the Development Office of the OFM General Curia) to bring a tangible sign of fraternal solidarity to all Ukrainians in this time of war.

During the solemn celebration in the church of St. John of Dukla in Zhytomyr, Br. Konrad delivered a profound homily and catechesis, offering his support to the Ukrainian people in their difficult struggle and emphasizing an unshakable faith: “God always wins, and the last word



belongs to Him.” His message was a source of inspiration and encouragement for all present. A special thanks was raised to God for all the friars of the Province who serve the faithful with dedication in this difficult moment and for the blessing of new vocations.

Br. Konrad and Br. Nikola made an intense journey visiting various friaries in the Province: Shargorod, Sudova Vyshnia, Baranivka, Polonne. Their mission of solidarity has also led them to Lviv and the capital, the city of Kyiv, which has recently

suffered more than other cities due to the bombings and chaos of the war, spiritually uniting themselves with the suffering of the country.

With sword in hand, St. Michael the Archangel is the Prince of the heavenly armies and the powerful defender against the forces of evil. In this terrible time of war, the Province trusts with hope in the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, imploring through prayers peace and protection for the Ukrainian people.

## Final Document of the PCO 2025

*Proposals and suggestions for the Order's journey*



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The Final Document of the Plenary Council of the Order, which met at *Santa Maria degli Angeli* from June 8 to 12, 2025, has been published.

Following the fruitful experience of synodality at the International Chapter of Mats, the PCO met to make proposals and suggestions for the 2027 General Chapter.

Download the Final Document:  
[Italiano](#) – [English](#) – [Español](#)

**Ukraine, Franciscan Youth Weekend**  
*Guest, the Definitor General Br. Konrad Cholewa*



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The Franciscan Youth Weekend in Sharhorod (26th – 28th September) brought together 90 young people from different fraternities of the OFM Friars of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Ukraine.

The theme of the meeting, “Community”, was associated with the beginning of the formative year. For three days, the young people prayed together, listened to lectures, created several posters on the theme “Who am I in the community”, spent cheerful evenings and, most importantly, lived the time in the Franciscan spirit of unity and fraternity.

The young people also visited the cemetery and prayed at the graves of the friars and soldiers who fell in the war that unfortunately still continues.

A great joy for those present was the visit of an unexpected guest, the Definitor General Br. Konrad Cholewa OFM, who at that time was visiting the

Ukrainian Province of St. Michael the Archangel: thanks go to him for his inspiring words and his fraternal blessing.

We thank the Lord for the gift of these young people, ready to follow simplicity and dedication to God following the example of St. Francis.



**Solemnity of St. Francis 2025**



**Solemnity of St. Francis in the Province of St. Anthony of Padua (DRC)**  
*Goma, celebrations despite the war context*



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The Solemnity of St. Francis was lived in a particular way in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a context of war and conflict in Eastern Congo, the feast was celebrated in Goma and in other parts of the territory of the new Province of St. Anthony of Pad-

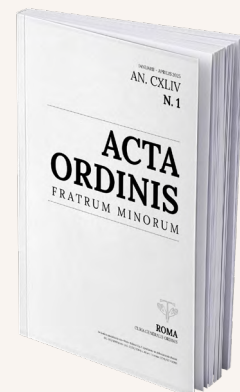
ua as a moment of grace: the joy was immense for all the friars of the nascent Province, canonically erected on the 30th July, 2025 by Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor.

**Acta Ordinis**

**Fratrum Minorum 2025/1**

The latest edition of Acta Ordinis is now available for download:

[An. CXLIV - Ianuarii - Aprilis 2025 - N. 1](#)



In Goma, Francis' sons and daughters celebrated this Solemnity at the Provincial Curia. The 4th October was preceded by the Triduum during which the friars of all the fraternities of the Province meditated on the Canticle of the Creatures, whose Eighth Centenary we are celebrating. The Mass was presided over by the Vicar Provincial, Br. Michael Muhindo Kyamakya and concelebrated by Br. Evariste, SDB, President of the Conference of Major Superiors (COSUMA) of Goma, Br. Gabriel Mushagalusa, Br. Jean-Baptiste Kashaba, Br. Patrice Bahati, Br. Isaac Mulumeoderhwa and Br. Félicien Mumbere. In his homily, Br. Michael invited the entire Franciscan Family to live the values of St Francis, such as minority, humility, service to the

poorest, especially in this country characterized by violence of all kinds, where the poor, marginalized and needy have increased due to the ongoing war in the territory of the new Province. Before the solemn blessing, the assembly listened to the reading of the letter of the Minister General and that of the Minister Provincial on the occasion of the Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis. The two messages encouraged Francis' followers to persevere in their mission of serving the poor and to "begin."

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

*Br. Michael Muhindo Kyamakya, OFM  
Vicar Provincial*

## Feast of St. Francis in Sarajevo

### Solemn professions, admission to the postulancy and celebration of the *Transitus*



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On the eve of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a triple celebration was held on Friday, the 3rd October 2025, at the Franciscan Seminary in the friary of St. Paul in Sarajevo: the rite of solemn profession, the rite of admission to the Franciscan postulancy and the rite of the *Transitus*.

In the church of the friary of St. Paul, during the solemn Mass presided over by Br. Zdravko Dadić, Minister of the Province of the Holy Cross of Bosnia and

Herzegovina (Bosna Srebrena), concelebrated by the members of the Provincial Curia, the Master of Students Br. Danijel Nikolić, the Master of Postulants Br. Bruno Čubela and the friars gathered, five students made their solemn vows: Br. Robert Bašić (parish of Busovača), member of the Franciscan Province of Bosna Srebrena, and four friars from Africa: Br. Alexander Tusiime (Uganda) and Br. Fraser Kizito Chipata (Malawi) of the Province of St. Francis in East Africa, and Br. Olivier Dukunze

(Burundi) and Br. Teophile Habimana (Rwanda) of the Autonomous Custody of Our Lady of Kibeho of Burundi and Rwanda.

In his homily, the Minister Provincial Br. Zdravko spoke about the evangelical counsels, encouraging the young friars not to be afraid of challenges, to repair the house of Christ like St. Francis, to preach the peace of God and thus awaken hope in this world. For the assembled faithful, the act of prostration during the singing of the litanies was particularly moving, followed by the rite of vows. The students individually recited vows in which they solemnly promised to live in obedience, without property and in chastity until the end of their lives according to the Rule of St. Francis of Assisi and the Constitutions of the Order of Friars Minor.

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

*Br. Luka Grubešić, OFM  
Photo: Br. Marin Mamić*

## Franciscan Centenaries



## Announcement of the Eighth Centenary of the Transit of St. Francis

*The official opening will be held in Assisi on January 10, 2026*



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On Friday, the 3rd October 2025, in the Papal Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, at the end of the celebration of First Vespers in the Transitus of St. Francis, the Minister General of the OFM, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, on behalf of all the Ministers General of the Franciscan Family, officially announced the VIII Centenary of the Transitus of St. Francis (1226-2026).

This is the culmination of the great Franciscan Jubilee journey that from 2023 to 2026 retraces the last blessed years of the life of the *Poverello*-Poor Man of Assisi. After the approval of the Bull Rule and the Christmas of Greccio (2023), the gift of the Stigmata (2024) and the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures (2025), the Franciscan

Family is preparing to celebrate and relive the bodily death of our Seraphic Father, of which he himself had written - not surprisingly - in the last stanza of the Canticle: *“Praised be you, my Lord, for our sister bodily death, from which no living man can escape”*.

The official beginning of the Centenary will be celebrated in Assisi on the **10th January, 2026**: all the sons and daughters of St. Francis, all people of good will, Christian and civil communities, young and old, the healthy and the sick, are invited to join this great Franciscan jubilee.

[Join the Franciscan Centenary](#)

## Italy - St. Francis National Day

*From 2026 the national holiday returns on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the death of the Patron Saint of Italy*

From the 4th October 2026, the Feast of St. Francis, will return to be a national holiday in Italy. The law, approved by Parliament, will come into force next year on the occasion of the eighth Centenary of the death of St. Francis.



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## From Prison to Transitus

*Lubumbashi (DRC), opening of the 8th Centenary of the Transitus with the prisoners of Kipushi*



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The Franciscan Family of Lubumbashi is composed of the Friars Minor (OFM), the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary (FMM), the Franciscan Sisters of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (SFRGC), the Capuchin Tertiary Sisters, the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Secular (OFS), the youth of the Franciscan Youth (YouFra), and some members of the Secular Missionary Institute of the Kingship of Christ (IMSRC).

To live and spread the spirit of the Seraphic Father wherever they live, this Franciscan Family gathers to experience together, as brothers and sisters, the great moments of joy—com-

mitment, religious profession, diaconal and priestly ordinations, the main liturgical feasts and Franciscan feasts—as well as moments of pain and suffering. To open this jubilee year celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Easter of St. Francis of Assisi, the Franciscan Family has undertaken a first joint action by visiting the inmates of the BOMA prison in Kipushi. This act reminds us that the Poverello of Assisi chose not only Our Lady of Poverty, but above all the poor, the marginalized, and those excluded from society. For this reason, the visit aimed to meet these inmates, to speak with them, to share their concerns, and, above all, to offer them a little of our time for a fraternal and human exchange.

This prison does not meet the standards of human dignity. It is a place designed for 50 inmates, yet sadly today it must house more than 400. These conditions are simply inhumane. Justice is not being served. Of the 416 in-

mates present here, there are only 162 convicted, 90% of whom are young people. Living conditions are completely inhumane and the inmates live on the charity of people of good will. After this gesture of sharing with our fellow prisoners, the Franciscan Family gathered at the novitiate of Our Lady of the Angels to celebrate the Transitus and the Solemnity with all the members and friends of St Francis. In his homily, the celebrant emphasized universal brotherhood and peace. At the end of the Mass, celebrated with joy and gratitude, the entire Franciscan Family shared a festive meal as a sign of thanksgiving.

We thank the Heavenly Father for inspiring our father and brother Francis of Assisi with this charisma, so rich in Christian and human values that continues to speak to our tormented and divided humanity. Happy Feast of Saint Francis to all.

*Br. Georges Mbayo, OFM*

## Bolivia, in ballet form, the Song of the Creatures

*The dance that celebrates 800 years of brotherhood with creation*



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The *Compañía de Danza Acuarela Boliviana* (Bolivian Watercolour Dance Company), under the direction of Natalia Loma Paz, presented the Canticum of the Creatures in ballet form for the first time in Bolivia: an artistic and spiritual tribute commemorating the 800th anniversary of this immortal work by St Francis of Assisi. The premiere took place in September 2025, during the Provincial Chapter of the Friars Minor of the Missionary Province of St Anthony in Bolivia, marking a fraternal event in the dialogue between art, faith, and culture.

The presentation is also part of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which draws on Franciscan



inspiration to remind us of the urgency of protecting our Common Home. In the Bolivian context, this call takes on special relevance given the deforestation of the Amazon, the pollution of rivers and lakes, the loss of biodiversity, and the effects of climate change that strongly impact rural and indigenous communities, ancestral guardians of nature. *Acuarela Boliviana's* artistic proposal transforms poetry into movement: each choreography is praise and denunciation, prayer and prophecy. The ballet becomes a danced prayer that celebrates the beauty of creation and, at the same time, reminds us of the responsibility to care for it. In its universal language, dance invites us to rediscover the brotherhood with the sun that gives us warmth, to bless the purity of the water that gives life, to

give thanks to the earth that nourishes us, and to embrace the air, the fire, the night, and life itself as part of a great cosmic family. Internationally recognized for bringing Bolivian art and culture to stages in Europe and the Americas, *Acuarela Boliviana* offers with this work a testimony that transcends borders. With its combination of tradition and modernity, the Cantic of the Creatures becomes a song of peace, universal brotherhood, and commitment to life.

Ultimately, this ballet bridges centuries and cultures: a work that honors the past and looks to the future, reminding us that caring for the planet is not only an ecological necessity, but also an act of love and hope for future generations.

## Chapters



### Chapter of the Province St. Michael the Archangel, Indonesia *Setting New Course for Charism, Communion, and Mission*



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The Friars of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel, Indonesia, and the Foundation of St. António de Lisboa, Timor Leste, have successfully concluded their Provincial Chapter, which ran for nine days from September 21 to 29, 2025. This chapter served as a strategic forum to formulate the next steps for the ministry and the fraternal life of the friars, amidst the dynamics of global change. The Chapter, held under the theme “Living the Charism, Communion, and Mission Amidst a Changing World,” was attended by 72 participants and committee members.

*Opening and Reflection on the Franciscan Charism*  
The Chapter commenced with a retreat guided by Br. Martin Harun, OFM, across three reflective sessions. The Capitulars were invited to re-internalize the core Franciscan spirit of minority and fraternity. The Provincial Chapter was officially opened by the

General Visitor, Br. Konstantinus Bahang, OFM. For several days, the Capitulars engaged in deep discussions based on three key documents: the Report of the Provincial Minister by Br. Mikhael Peruhe, OFM, the Visitation Report from the General Visitor, and the Instrumentum Laboris formulated based on the results of the Mats Chapter.

*New Provincial Leadership Elected* On the final day, the Capitulars elected the new Provincial Definitory for the upcoming term. Br. Agustinus Laurensius Nggame, OFM, was elected as the new Provincial Minister. Simultaneously, Br. Hieronimus Yoseph Dei Rupa, OFM, was elected as the Provincial Vicar. The elected Provincial Definitors are: Br. Albertus Purnomo, OFM, Br. Andreas Bernardinus Atawolo, OFM, Br. Titus Angga Restuaji, OFM, and Br. Alforinus Gregorius Pontus, OFM. With the election of the new leadership and the establishment of various decisions, the Province of St. Michael the Archangel, Indonesia, and the Foundation of St. António de Lisboa, Timor Leste, are ready to carry out their service and evangelization in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi amidst the challenges of the modern era.

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

*Br. Jimmy Hendrik Rance Tnomat, OFM*



## Animation of the Order

### 8th European Continental Meeting of JPIC Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 7-11 October 2025



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With the theme “Praise be to you, O my Lord, with all your creatures!”, the 8th European Continental Meeting on Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) began on Tuesday, the 7th October at the St. Paul’s friary in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, belonging to the OFM Province of the Holy Cross, whose Provincial Minister, Br. Zdravko Dadić, offered a welcome greeting to the JPIC animators who came from at least ten European countries and fifteen Entities of the Order of Friars Minor. Br. Konrad Cholewa, Definitor General, presided at the opening Eucharist celebrated in memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary. During his homily, he stated that “Mary is not only a model of prayer, she is also the mother of justice, peace, and care. She teaches us to have a heart that knows how to unite contemplation and action, mercy and truth, faith and commitment.”

In addition, Br. Konrad read the message sent by Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, to the friars gathered in the Slavic country. In the letter, Br. Massimo acknowledges the difficult and cloudy times that Europe and the world are experiencing. In view of this, he said, we need “friars who know how to build bridges where others raise walls, who know how to be instruments of peace in a time of division. We are few and often tired, perhaps with little hope for our future, and not only that. It is precisely from this vulnerability that we can start again,” he said.

At the end of his message, the Minister General invited the Friars to let the Canticle of the Crea-

tures resonate in their hearts so that they might return to their fraternities as “bearers of that ‘perfect joy’ that comes from serving the least among us and caring for the Common Home that the Father has entrusted to us”.

Br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco, Director of the JPIC General Office, presented a summary of both the Final Document of the last European Continental Meeting held in Malta in September 2019 and the Declaration approved by the JPIC International Council, which took place in Assisi, Italy, from the 1st -7th March 2025. Then, Br. Tau-  
cen Girsang, Vice-Director of the same General Office, in addition to moderating the day, shared the objectives and programme of the event.

Another special moment was the presentation of the reports from the Franciscan Conferences in Europe. These reports highlighted the difficulties of the decline and aging of the friars and, consequently, of the Entities but at the same time, they presented the projects they are carrying out related to migrants and war refugees, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue as a means of building peace, and various initiatives on integral ecology.

#### *What were the main topics addressed?*

**Migration and Refugees:** The friars discussed the current situation of migration in Europe, noting a worrying increase in rejection of migrants and refugees, but also highlighting the evangelical actions promoted on their behalf by the Franciscan Family and ecclesial and civil organizations. **Peacebuilding:** The friars learned about the peace process in Bosnia and expressed concern about the wars and conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, particularly the current situation in Gaza. **Integral Ecology:** The participants reflected on the climate and environmental crisis and Europe’s historical responsibility in this regard. At the same time, they rediscovered the beauty and challenge of building up human and global brotherhood as one of the most genuine intuitions of St Francis of Assisi, expressed in his

Canticle. The JPIC animators pledged to continue strengthening the Mediterranean Franciscan Network in the three areas of attention: migrants and refugees; dialogue/peace; and youth. At the same time, they agreed to create a Peace Commission to work toward ending violence, conflict resolution, and fostering a culture of peace. At the end of the meeting, Br. Daniel Rodríguez

Blanco, Director of the JPIC General Office, thanked and encouraged the participants to “live with hope this service of animation that we provide to the friars in our organizations, whose main challenge is to help them realize that JPIC is part of our way of life.”

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

## News from the Entities



### Johannesburg, meeting of the OFM African Conferences *Minister General calls for presence in Nigeria*



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From the 28th September to the 1st October 2025, the meeting of the African Conferences of the Order of Friars Minor (Francophone African Conference and Anglophone African Conference) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Participants included Br. Sipehele Paulus Gwanisheni, Definitor General for Africa, and 11 friars representing African Entities.

The Minister General then asked the two African Conferences to evaluate and decide how they will contribute to the sending of qualified friars, the financing of this mission and the objectives to establish this presence in Africa’s most populous country, which has about 233 million inhabitants.

The reports of the President of the now extinct African Conference, Br. Virgil Agbessi, and the Secretary and Treasurer, Br. Lage, also received the attention of the assembly. The triennial reports illustrated the meetings held, the decisions taken and the challenges faced by the two African Entities, such as the collaboration between the two Entities in the fields of Evangelization and Formation, strengthening the formation centers of Lusaka (Zambia), Kolwezi (Democratic Republic of Congo) and the ICMA of Abijan (Ivory Coast); the Protection of minors and vulnerable adults was also discussed.

On the third day, the different Conferences focused on the Statutes, outlined the conclusions of the meeting and held elections. Here are the decisions made:

#### Francophone African Conference

- During the year, the Conference will organize a meeting for the Formation of Formators in Lomé, on a date to be determined;
- Reflection on the new mission in Nigeria will continue, taking into account the costs.
- Entities are encouraged to have a shared formation, as in the case of the Province of the



The first two days were dedicated to sharing the life of the Entities in Africa. Each participant presented the political and social situation in their jurisdiction, the number of friars, the services they perform and the challenges they face in daily life.

Along the same lines, the Definitor General spoke by addressing the issue of the lack of communication between the African Entities and the General Curia, the issue of aid received by the Entities without monitoring their reporting and the need to establish new missionary presences on the African continent, in particular in Nigeria.

Incarnate Word of Togo and the Custody of St. Francis of Guinea-Bissau.

#### *Friars Elected for the Next Three Years:*

- President: Br. Nicodème Kolan, Minister Provincial of the Incarnate Word of Togo;
- Vice-President: Br. Nicodème Muambate, Minister Provincial of Our Lady of the Angels, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Secretary: Br. Armando Cossa, Custos of St. Francis of Assisi of Guinea-Bissau;
- Bursar: Br. Jérôme Lusiak, President of Our Lady of the Angels of the Central African Republic.

#### **Anglophone African Conference**

##### *Mandates*

- Strengthen communication between the Entities and between the Entities and the Order;

- Study how and where to support the small economies of the Conference, if possible in Africa.

- Recommendations

- Study and identify two novitiates that will host the novices of the Conference;

- Increase collaboration in the areas of formation, prayer life and retreats.

#### *Friars Elected for the Next Three Years:*

President: Br. Evódio João, Minister Provincial of St. Clare of Assisi in Mozambique;

Vice-President: Br. Fanuel Magwidi, Guardian of the Good Shepherd of Zimbabwe;

Secretary: Br. Ndumiso Khumalo, Minister Provincial of the Queen of Peace of South Africa.

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

*Br. Evodio João, OFM*

## **Focus on OFM international cooperation**

*Franciscans from Waterford and Rome visit Franziskaner Helfen in Bonn*



WWW.OFM.ORG



In the spirit of global Franciscan cooperation, *Franciscan Missions* from Waterford, USA, and *Fondazione OFM Fraternitas* from Rome, Italy, met with the *Franziskaner Helfen* team in Bonn, Germany, at the beginning of October 2025. The meeting focused on topics such as fundraising, project work and the implementation of aid projects, as well as an exchange on current emergency relief initiatives.

The meeting not only provided a valuable opportunity to learn from each other, share experiences and further strengthen the connection between the international Franciscan relief organisations, but also to exchange views on cultural differences and different approaches to project work. Through this intercultural dialogue, joint projects can be made even more effective and adapted to the specific needs of different regions.

Such encounters are an integral part of our cooperation and take place regularly as part of an annual exchange. They not only promote mutual understanding, but also cohesion among the international partners – supported by the common concern to help people in need and give them hope.

*Franziskaner Helfen* attaches great importance to further strengthen the existing cooperation with the international Franciscan relief organisations and launching new joint initiatives. Be-

cause only through strong cooperation can long-term change be achieved. Our mission remains clear: to provide support where poverty and injustice are greatest. Together with partners worldwide, *Franziskaner Helfen* is committed to

improving living conditions, creating opportunities and giving a voice to people who would otherwise often be unheard. This solidarity across borders is an expression of solidarity in action – and at the heart of Franciscan work worldwide.

**India, FRAYME 2025: The Franciscan Youth Meeting**  
*Bangalore, St. Anthony's Convent*



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In a powerful display of faith and fraternity, St. Anthony's Friary Parish, Bengaluru, under the guidance of Br. Prashanth Fernandes, Parish Priest, successfully hosted FRAYME 2025 – the Franciscan Youth Meet that brought together young people filled with zeal and the Franciscan spirit. The event was made possible through the dedicated collaboration of parish pastors and parish youth movements, led with vision by Joy Francis, President of Ferdinand's Youth, and supported wholeheartedly by all parish pious movements. This event was organized in collaboration with the Provinces Secretariats for Mission and Evangelization and JPIC.

both the Jubilee Year 2025 and the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's *Canticle of Creation*.

From the inaugural session's ceremonial lamp-lighting by Br. Xavier Durairaj, Minister of the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, the atmosphere was filled with a spirit of renewal – ecological, spiritual, and communal.



Sessions on "Youth Who Pray" and "Witnesses in a Wounded World" meaningfully linked contemplation with compassionate service. Interactive activities, filled with laughter and learning, mirrored the simple, brotherly joy that St. Francis championed.

The gathering resonated deeply with its theme, "Youth Called to Renew Hope and Restore Creation," beautifully commemorating

A truly moving dimension of FRAYME 2025 was the diversity in unity it celebrated – youth and friars from different regions of India,

speaking different languages, yet united as one family in the spirit of Francis. The harmony of hearts and the shared joy of fraternity became a living witness of Franciscan communion. FRAYME 2025 thus stands as a radiant chapter in the ongoing story of Franciscan youth in

India – a movement that continues to renew hope, restore creation, and celebrate fraternity in diversity.

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

## Theological Institute of Franciscan Studies in Krakow

### Inauguration of the academic year and the OFM Interprovincial House



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On the 1st October, 2025, the inauguration of the new academic year 2025/2026 was celebrated at the Theological Institute of Franciscan Studies (ITSF) in Krakow. This act had a historic character, since the OFM Interprovincial House of the Temporary Professed in Krakow-Bronowice Wielkie was officially inaugurated. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by H.E. Mons. Damian Muskus OFM, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Krakow. In his homily, he stressed that “we need to listen much more to Christ’s call to authentic renewal, to rebuild the bond with St. Francis, who dreamed of the Friars Minor not as ‘attractive ecclesiastical officials’, but as a fraternal community, living in poverty and humility, a sign of closeness and unity for a divided world”.

Concelebrating were the authorities of the John Paul II Pontifical University (UPJPII) in Krakow, the professors of the Theological Institute of Franciscan Studies, the Provincial Ministers of the various Franciscan Families and formators. The Eucharist was attended by 82 OFM, OFMConv and OFMCap students. After the Eucharist, in the hall of Blessed Duns Scotus, the opening academic ceremony was held during which the first-year students took the oath: “Let us promise before our Lord Jesus Christ, Giver of life and wisdom, fidelity to God, to the Gospel, to the Church and to the Order. We want with the right intention to acquire philosophical and theological knowledge, so that in the spirit of Gospel truth and on the basis of the

Magisterium of the Church we can serve man in the contemporary world. We will do everything, with our behaviour as students and alumni, with religious discipline and with commitment to study, to give a good example to others and fulfill all the commitments we have made. May God help us in this way.”

Afterwards, the *Rector Magnificus* of UPJPII, Msgr. Prof. Robert Tyrała, took the floor. The first part of the ceremony ended with the singing of the academic hymn *Gaudeamus igitur*, performed by the choir of the student friars. The inaugural speech, entitled *Happiness as an imperative of action. A look through the Franciscan perspective* was given by Prof. Zdzisław Kijas OFMConv. Words of encouragement to the teachers and student friars were also addressed by Br. Krzysztof Bobak OFM, Minister Provincial and President of the ITSF Chapter, who wished that the New Year of intellectual and spiritual work will be a time of growth in wisdom and grace before God and men, and invoked the blessing of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the commitment to the search for truth and the formation of the hearts in the image of Christ, the High Priest.

The academic act ended with the singing of the hymn *Gaude Mater Polonia. Vivat Academia, vivant Teachers!*

Br. Cyprian Mazurek, OFM



# LIFE in the Order



## Solemn professions

11th October, Prov. St Leopold (Austria)

**Br. Adam Bergmann**

5th October, Cust. Of the Holy Land

**Br. Chukwuma Sylvester e Br. Diab Roshrosh**

5th October, Custody of Mary Mother of God (India)

**Br. Joseph Kishan**

5th October, Fond. St Francis (India)

**Br. Leo Max Thesong**

4th October Prov. Our Lady of the Angels (Poland)

**Br. Mateusz Suchecki and Br. Sebastian Wisniewski**

3rd October Prov. The Holy Cross (Bosnia Argentina)

**Br. Robert Bašić**

29th September, Prov. Immaculate Conception (USA)

**Br. Kevin González Vega e Br. Daniel Ramirez-Luna**

27th September, Prov. Immaculate Conception (Brazil)

**Br. Marcelo Cardoso**

14th September, Province of Ireland

**Br. Ian Cunningham**

6th September Prov. Assumption BVM (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

**Br. Alen Barać, Br. Franjo Brbor, Br. Ivan Lovrić, Br. Filip Miloš, Br. Antonio Ramljak, Br. Marko Vukadin, Br. Zeljko, Lucijan**



## Deceased Brothers

† 12th October: Br Władysław Czarniak, Province of the Immaculate Conception (Poland)

† 11th October: Br. Andrej (Alojzij) Vovk, Province of the Holy Cross (Slovenia)

† 9th October: Br. Eugenio Barelli, Province of St. Francis Stigmatized (Italy)

† 5th October: Br. Ricardo Aliende Romero, Province of the Immaculate Conception (Spain)

† 24th September: Br. Francisco Antonio Molina Molina, Province of the Most Holy Trinity (Chile)

† 21st September: Brother Vincent (Vincent Alexander) Gallogley, Province of Ireland

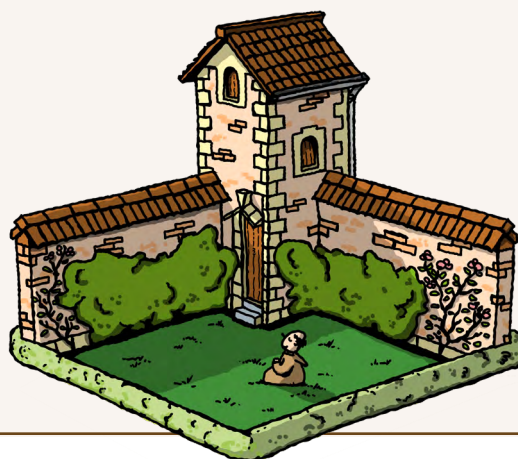


## Priestly Ordinations

20th September, Prov. Immaculate Conception (Spain)

**Br. Antonio Fernández Redondo and Br. Javier Gómez Cediel**

*Information received from the General Secretariat*





## Raising Hope

*Pope Leo XIV encourages an “ecological conversion”  
and unity for the common home*



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From the 1st to 3rd October 2025 in Castel Gandolfo, with the presence of Pope Leo XIV, the Raising Hope for Climate Justice conference marked the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, bringing together leaders from the Catholic Church, other religions, science and civil society to transform ecological urgency into active hope. In an atmosphere of prayer, dialogue and commitment, it was emphasized that the care of creation is inseparable from the dignity of peoples and from peace.

In his speech, Pope Leo emphasized the “heart” as a place of decisions and conversion: “We need to move from collecting data to caring; from environmentalist discourses to an ecological conversion that transforms personal and community lifestyles.” He urged not to reduce *Laudato Si'* to a “passing fad”, but to support processes that integrate faith, justice and care for the vulnerable. “I therefore renew a strong appeal for unity around integral ecology and for peace!” And he left a demanding question: “God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for this world that he created (cf. Gen 2:15), for the benefit of all and of future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters (cf. Gen 4:9; Jn 13:34). So, what shall we answer?” Cardinal Jaime Spengler, president of CELAM, linked climate justice and human dignity: “In the face of the cry of the peripheries, the forgotten and the groaning of the Earth, mercy is a cry for justice. God does not abandon His people. The Church will not be silent!”. He recalled that indigenous peoples embody a decisive wisdom for preserving ecosystems and invited learning from their harmony with nature. Tomás Insua, president of the *Laudato Si'* Center in Assisi, invited us to look at the present in the light of the Cantic of

the Creatures, 800 years after its composition, and to recognize how the encyclical has “reshaped” Catholic ecological commitment, from grassroots communities to institutions, opening paths of lasting collaboration between the Church, civil society and public officials.

The panels brought together diverse voices - youth, indigenous peoples, scientists, bishops, and activists - to articulate concrete commitments. The day ended with a symbolic gesture: water from the Greenland ice block, blessed by the Pope at the beginning, was collected by the participants as a sign of shared mission that will travel to COP30 in Bethlehem.

Raising Hope reminded us that praise and care go hand in hand: with God, with others, with nature, and with oneself. Fraternity is realized in courageous decisions, political and communal, that protect the most vulnerable and the common home. Following the Pope’s appeal, let us raise hope and persevere together in ecological conversion, in prayer and daily commitment.

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Curia Generale dei Frati Minori  
Via di S. Maria Mediatrix, 25  
Roma, Italia

**Director:** Br Byron A. Chamann Anléu OFM  
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**OFM**  
Ordo Fratrum Minorum  
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