

**Letter of the Minister General
 for the IX World Day
 of the Poor
 November 16, 2025**

Dear Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace!



WWW.OFM.ORG

While we are living this Jubilee 2025, I read the Message for the IX World Day of the Poor, published by Pope Leo XIV this past June 13, “Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua, Patron Saint of the Poor”.

INDEX

Letter of the Minister General for the IX World Day of the Poor 1

General Curia Agenda2

Chapter and Establishment of the Custody of the Immaculate Mother of God in Angola.....3

The Minister General’s visit to South Africa.....4

Letter from the Conference of the Franciscan Family for COP 30.....5

Visit of the Minister General to the Missionary Presence in Botswana.....5

Assembly of the Southern European Conference (CEM).....6

CONAMO Conference Meeting in Rome..... 7

Tempo Forte 7

Reflections by Br. Massimo October 20258

Chapter of the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Brazil.....9

Assembly of the Franciscan Network for Peace and Integral Ecology in Asia9

Inter-Franciscan Missionary Course 2025.....10

XIX Formation Course for Interreligious and Ecumenical Dialogue in Istanbul 11

First meeting of the brothers who work with indigenous populations12

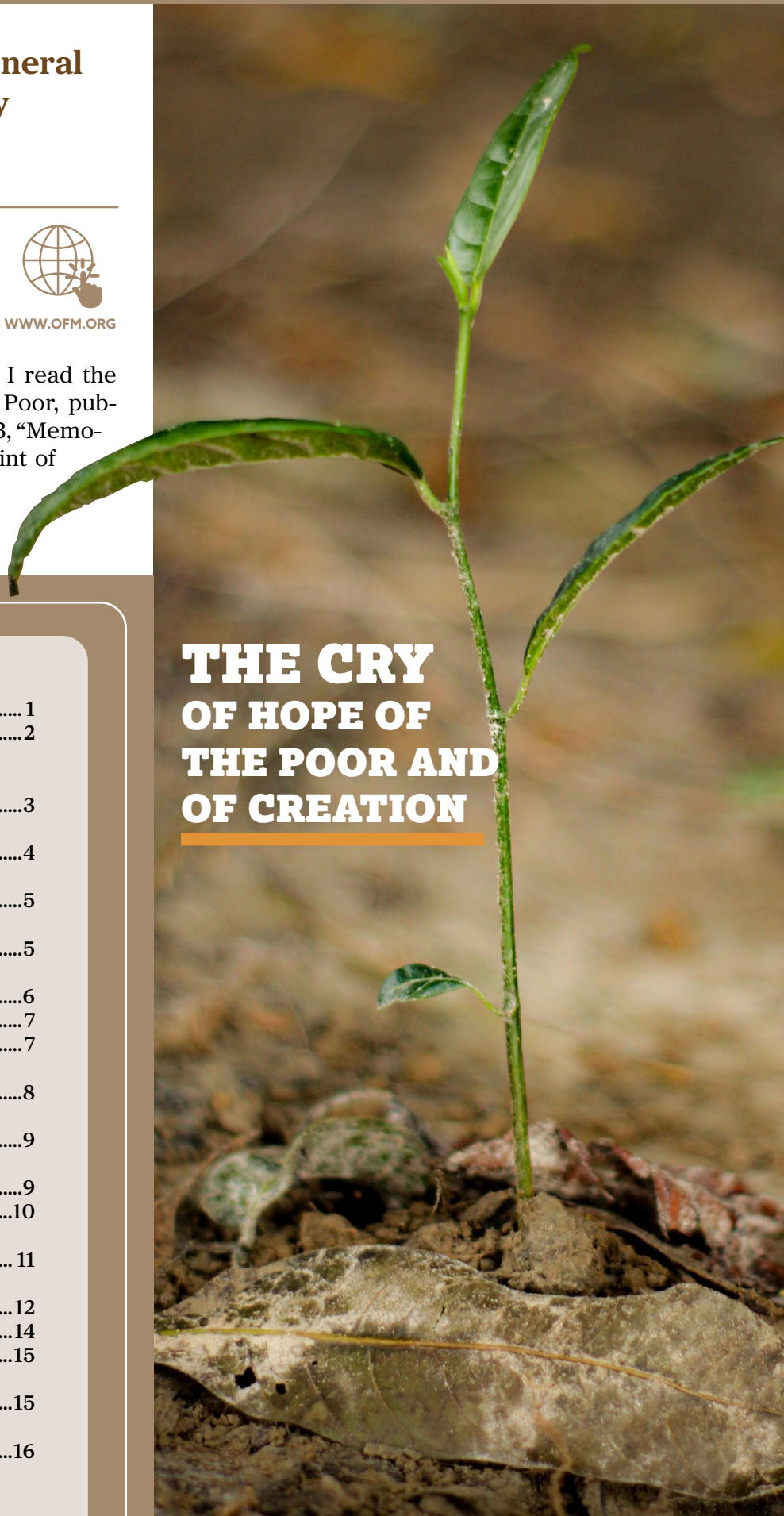
Life in the Order..... 14

OFS, National Elective Chapter in Croatia.....15

Assembly and Merger of the Federations of Poor Clares of United States15

Br. Magdy Helmy Ibrahim Manosur, OFM, appointed Apostolic Administrator.....16

**THE CRY
 OF HOPE OF
 THE POOR AND
 OF CREATION**



How can we not recognize the historical and ecclesial responsibility that, as friars minor, we have in the sharing of life and in the service of the poor?

At the center of the Message we find the words of the psalmist: "You are my hope, my Lord". It is a profession of faith that is born from the light that fills "the darkness of my heart", as the young Fran-

cis says at San Damiano, and which remains firm in the certainty that only in God does one find the true anchor of life.

Read the full text of the Letter:

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

As in past years, on the occasion of this World Day, I ask each brother and every fraternity to make a concrete gesture of service and sharing with disadvantaged people and realities. Not a sporadic gesture, but the beginning and continuation of a journey of proximity that accompanies us for the rest of the Centenary of the death of Saint Francis.

Those who wish, may tell me about the gesture made by their fraternity, also with photo (mingen@ofm.org), as a testimony of goodness to be shared.



General Curia Agenda



- ☑ The Tempo Forte will be held at the General Curia from the 10th to 25th. November
- ☑ On the 5th November, the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, will participate in the Convention of the Order's Artist Friars in Rome; on the 6th, he will be in Venice for the inauguration of the Academic Year of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies; on the 10th, he will participate in the Academic Act in honour of Blessed John Duns Scotus in Rome; on the 11th, he will meet with the Guardians, Vicars, and Bursars of the Houses dependent on the Minister General in Rome; on the 12th, he will participate in the local Chapter of the International College of St. Anthony (CISA) in Rome; and on the 16th, he will be at the College of St. Isidore in Rome for Mass marking the College's 400th anniversary. From November the 19th to 22nd, he will meet with the Presidents of the Order's Conferences at the General Curia.
- ☑ From the 17th to 19th November, Br. Joseph Condren, Secretary of the Office for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults, will participate in the meeting organised by the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.
- ☑ On the 18th November, the General Definitor Br. Konrad Cholewa will participate in the annual interprovincial meeting of the Guardians and Superiors of the North Slavic Conference, at Mount St. Anna in Poland.

Government of the Order



Chapter and Establishment of the Custody of the Immaculate Mother of God in Angola

Luanda, 13th-16th October, 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG



During moments of spirituality, historical remembrance, and significant decisions for the future of the Franciscan mission in Angola, the Immaculate Mother of God Foundation of Angola concluded its celebratory Chapter with the official announcement of the canonical establishment of the new dependent Custody of the “Immaculate Mother of God.”

The Chapter, which began on the 13th October, brought together friars from various fraternities in the friary chapel of the Fraternity of St. Francis of Assisi in Palanca, Luanda. The opening ceremony featured an invocation of the Holy Spirit, led by Br. Santana Sebastião Cafunda, and a welcoming address by the Foundation’s President, Br. Ivair Bueno de Carvalho. In his address, he inspired the participants with a quote from St. Francis of Assisi, strengthening the spirit of fraternity and communion.

Also present were Br. Paulo Roberto Pereira, Minister of the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Brazil), on which the new Custody depends; Br. César Külkamp, Delegate of the Minister General and General Definitor for Brazil and the Southern Cone; Br. Sipehele Gwanisheni, General Definitor for Africa; Br. Robson Luiz Scudela, head of the Franciscan missions of the Province of the Immaculate Conception; and Br. Valdemiro Wastchuk, Councilor of the Foundation.

During the three-day Chapter, the programme included moments of spirituality, formation, and administrative evaluations. Highlights included an update on the formation process, an evaluation of missionary fronts—such as evangelization, education, solidarity, and communication—and reflections on the future of the Franciscan presence in Angola with the establishment of the Custody.

On the second day, the Chapter members enthusiastically welcomed the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, who came to the country to closely follow the proceedings. The day also featured a moving commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the Franciscan mission in Angola, with testimonies from religious who experienced and reaped the fruits of the first steps of the Franciscan presence in the country.

The high point of the Chapter occurred on Wednesday the 15th, with the announcement of the establishment of the new dependent Custody of the “Immaculate Mother of God,” officially pronounced by Br. Massimo Fusarelli during Vespers. The new Custodial Council was also presented on this occasion:

- Custodial Minister: Br. Ivair Bueno de Carvalho
- Custodial Councilors: Br. Ermelindo Francisco Bambi, Br. José Morais Cambolo, Br. Mário

Sampaio Pelu, Br. André Luiz da Rocha Henriques.

Before the announcement of the new Council, all the friars of the Angolan Mission had already participated in a preliminary consultation, on occasions preceding the Chapter, suggesting names for the position. However, the final decision on the selection rested with the Minister General.

The Council is required to present the identified guidelines regarding the steps of the nascent Entity to the Definitory of the Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception of Brazil for approval and implementation.

The Chapter officially closed on the morning of the 16th October with a solemn Mass at Kimbo St

Francis of Assisi which brought together the Franciscan Family, consecrated nuns from various congregations, the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), the Franciscan Youth (YouFra), and several faithful. Also present were Br. Evódio João, Minister of the newly formed Province of St Clare in Mozambique, and the Provincial Minister of the Capuchin Friars Minor in Angola, Br. António Buko.

After Mass and a celebratory lunch, the program continued with meetings with the Poor Clare Sisters and the Friars Minor, concluding a Chapter that will be remembered as a watershed moment in the history of the Franciscan presence in Angola.

With the collaboration (text and photos) of the Custody's Communications staff

The Minister General's visit to South Africa Accompanied by the General Definitor, Br. Sipehele Gwanisheni



WWW.OFM.ORG

The Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, and the General Definitor for Africa, Br. Sipehele Gwanisheni, were in South Africa for a fraternal visit to the Province of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

On October 18, the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, the Most Rev. Henryk M. Jagodziński, Apostolic Nuncio to South Africa, accompanied by Monsignor Giacomo Antonicelli, Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature, participated in the Holy Mass presided over by Br. Massimo, was concelebrated by Archbishop William Matthew Slattery, OFM, Archbishop Emeritus of Pretoria. At the beginning of the

celebration, which took place at St. Francis House, Kort Street, Rietvalleirand, Pretoria, the Apostolic Nuncio and the Minister General were welcomed by Br. Ashley Tillek, OFM, Guardian of St. Francis House. The Holy Mass was attended by other Franciscans, including friars from Mozambique, as well as religious sisters from the Franciscan Family, members of the Third Order of St. Francis, and many lay faithful. During the celebration, the homily was delivered by the Apostolic Nuncio.

Br. Massimo and Br. Sipehele continued their visit until October 24.



Letter from the Conference of the Franciscan Family for COP 30

An invitation to ecological conversion in the Centenary year of the Canticle



WWW.OFM.ORG

We publish the Letter from the Conference of the Franciscan Family on the occasion of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-30), which will meet in Belém, Brazil, from November 10 to 21.

Download the Letter:

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



Visit of the Minister General to the Missionary Presence in Botswana

24th-27th October, 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG



From the 24th-27th October 2025, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, made a fraternal visit to the missionary presence in Botswana, accompanied by two General Definitors: Br. Sipelele Gwanisheni and Br. Konrad Cholewa.

The Mission at the Kanamo Centre, located in the city of Mahalapye, represents the youngest missionary presence of the Order of Friars Minor. The friars of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Poland, Br. Cyriak Budzisz and Br. Albin Kolarski, serve there, who run the spiritual retreat and pilgrimage center and collaborate in the local parish pastoral care.

The meeting with the Minister General was also attended by the Provincial Minister of the Polish

Province, Br. Egidiusz Włodarczyk, and the Provincial Vicar, Br. Arkadiusz Belcik, who carried out the canonical visit to the friars.

The entire visit had a deeply fraternal character, and its objective was to strengthen the friars in their missionary service, to jointly review the presence established so far, and to discern, together with the friars, the Immaculate Conception Province and the Diocese of Francistown, the possibilities for further collaboration and development of the Order in this country.

The friars participated in the Sunday Eucharist with the local community, during which Br. Massimo gave the homily. The exchange and interaction with the participants were truly wonderful.

Assembly of the Southern European Conference (CEM)

Lisbon, Portugal, 6th-10th October 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG



The Assembly of the Southern European Conference (CEM), established on the 7th October, 2024, took place from the 6th-10th October, 2025, in Lisbon, Portugal, at the Franciscan Convent of Our Lady of Victories. The Assembly brings together the Provincial Ministers of Italy (12), Spain (3), Portugal (1), and the Custos of Albania. The meeting was also attended by the General Definitor, Br. Cesare Vaiani, and a delegate of the Provincial Minister of Malta, as an observer. On the afternoon of the 6th October, the presentation of the newly elected Ministers was followed by a sharing of the efforts and hopes experienced in the Entities, with special attention to the various restructuring processes underway; the dialogue continued the following day, during a videoconference, contributions were made by the Custos of the Holy Land, Br. Francesco Ielpo, delegated by the Minister General to accompany the Provinces of Campania and Calabria, and Br. Sergiusz Bałdyga, delegated for the Provinces of Spain and Portugal. On Tuesday, the 7th October, the Assembly then examined the final documents of the Chapter of Mats and the Plenary Council of the Order, and the report by Br. Cesare Vaiani on the reflection that the Order is conducting on the structural processes implemented and

the new possibilities for the transformation of the Entities.

On Wednesday, the 8th October, the CEM met with some vocational animators from Italy, Spain and Portugal, discussing the common initiatives carried out so far and the prospects for collaboration; particular attention was paid to the joint conference of the Secretariats (Formation and Studies, Missions and Evangelization) and the JPIC Office which will be held in Madrid from the 10th-14th November, 2025. In the afternoon, the Portuguese Provincial Minister guided us on an interesting visit to the centre of Lisbon, which also included the sanctuary of the birthplace of St Anthony.

On Thursday, the 9th October, the COMPI and CONFRES sub-conferences met separately, and then together again to appoint the Ministers delegated for the various sectors; in the afternoon, we visited the ancient Capuchin hermitage of Sintra, and were guests of the confreres of the friary of Torres Vedras.

On the morning of Friday, the 10th October, the Ministers planned the two Assemblies of 2026, which will take place from the 10th-13th January 2026 in Assisi (in conjunction with the opening celebration of the VIII Centenary of the Transitus) and from the 19th-23rd October at St James of Compostela. The President of the CEM, Br. Francesco Piloni, concluded the meeting by thanking our Portuguese confreres for their warm hospitality and the atmosphere of cordial fraternity in the assembly, which allowed for a frank and constructive dialogue and fostered the desire, expressed by our Minister General on the occasion of the birth of the new Conference, to “learn from one another how to live as friars and minors in this part of Europe.” The President of the CEM, Br. Francesco Piloni, concluded the meeting by thanking our Portuguese confreres for their warm hospitality and the atmosphere of cordial fraternity in the assembly, which allowed for a frank and constructive dialogue and fueled the desire, expressed by our Minister General on the occasion of the birth of the new Conference, to “learn from one another how to live as friars and minors in this part of Europe.”

Br. Andrea Dovio, OFM

CONAMO Conference Meeting in Rome

Election of Animators and Definition of Priorities for the Next Three-Year Term



WWW.OFM.ORG



On the 13th October 2025, at the General Curia, the friars of the Conference of North Africa and the Middle East (CONAMO) gathered in the presence of Br. Ignacio Ceja, OFM, Vicar General. In a fraternal atmosphere, the assembly elected its new animators and outlined lines of action for the coming years. It was a moment of listening and shared responsibility, with a focus on mission in complex and multi-religious contexts.

The conference appointed Br. Francesco Lello, OFM, Custos of the Holy Land, as President. Br. Luis Alcántara Ramírez, OFM, Custos of the Holy Protomartyrs of Morocco, was elected Vice-President. Br. Felianus Dogon, OFM, guardian in Istanbul, was elected to the office of Bursar, while Br. Magdy Helmy, OFM, representing the Apostolic Vicariates of Tripoli and Benghazi, will continue to serve as Secretary.

The friars have agreed to open their entities to welcome temporary professed friars during the “Franciscan Year” and to promote, during the three-year period, a meeting of the conference’s initial formative years.

Participation in the weeks of interreligious dialogue offered by the Istanbul fraternity has been encouraged, as well as ongoing formation ini-

tiatives and spiritual exercises to foster mutual understanding. In preparation for the 800th anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis, a small exhibition, translated into local languages, will be prepared to raise awareness of the Poor-Man amongst non-Christians.

Tempo Forte



Communiqué Tempo Forte



*Ordo Fratrum Minorum
Secretarius Generalis*

Communiqué of the General Definitory Concerning the Tempo Forte of September 2025.

Download pdf:

[Italiano](#) - [English](#) - [Español](#)

Reflections by Br. Massimo - October 2025

On the 25th anniversary of the canonization of the Franciscan martyrs in China



WWW.OFM.ORG



October 1st marked the 25th anniversary of the canonization of the 120 Chinese martyrs, OFM friars, FMM sisters and OFS tertiaries. Between Chinese Christians and foreign missionaries, all victims of the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, here are testimonies that cross cultures, languages and social conditions, united by a common loyalty to Christ.

The Boxer Uprising of 1900 was an anti-foreign and anti-Christian insurrection. But from the persecution emerged Chinese Christians from generations, catechists and consecrated virgins who led the local communities, entire families who chose to die together rather than to deny Christ. Next to them, missionaries of different nationalities: friars minor, Franciscan Sisters Missionaries of Mary who shared until the end the fate of the communities they served; lay Franciscan tertiaries who testified to faith in the world of work and family.

The persecution of 1900 made no distinctions: Chinese Christians and foreign missionaries, young and old, religious and lay

people, all united in shedding their blood for faith. Among the most significant figures there stand out Franciscan bishops such as Gregory Grassi and Fantosati, friars such as Cesidio da Fossa, killed in Shanxi together with their confreres. But alongside the illustrious names shine the silent testimonies of hundreds of anonymous Chinese Christians, who preferred death to apostasy.

Among these witnesses, Saint Anthony Fantosati (1842-1900), a missionary who knew how to become truly Chinese. Born in Trevi, he left Italy in 1867. Arriving in China, he distinguished himself for his ability to become everything to everyone. In the mountains of Hubei he accompanied the poorest nomadic populations, sharing their precariousness. He learned the local dialect, wore Chinese clothing, even changed his name. His gaze always privileged the last: abandoned children, hungry families, nomads in search of fertile lands.

Appointed bishop, Fantosati was faced with the greatest challenge: to be a pastor without

betraying his Franciscan vocation. The tensions did not take long to arise. The local Christian community, accustomed to privileges and compromises, could not bear his evangelical rigor. The holy bishop rejected the clientele system that allowed speculation on funds designated for orphans. He preferred to be accused of meanness rather than betraying justice: he knew that the true glory of God is justice for the poor.

On July 7, 1900, popular uprisings also overwhelmed him. His martyrdom was the fulfillment of a life spent by the truth of the Gospel: he had chosen Christ in the poor against any compromise with power. His final words sound prophetic: "We are not driving away by the Gentiles but by their own faithful". A confession that questions every Christian generation about the most subtle betrayal: that of those who use the faith for their own interests.

Even today, the 120 Chinese martyrs give us a testimony that transverses every cultural barrier. Their holiness is not in the miracles, but in the daily fidelity to the Gospel of justice and love. All these martyrs remind us that being a Christian means always choosing the side of Christ, even when it costs misunderstanding, persecution, death.

His answer was martyrdom. What will be ours?

Chapters



Chapter of the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Brazil

October 13-17, 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG



During the week of October 13-17, the brothers of the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul – RS) celebrated their provincial chapter and elected the new provincial government. The capitular assembly was held at the Franciscan Convent of St. Bonaventure (Imigrante/RS) and was chaired by Br. Wanderley Carvalho do Couto, OFM, of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus (Goiás - GO), appointed Visitor General for the province by the General Definitorium of the Order of Friars Minor. For the six-year period of 2026-2031, Br. Olávio José Dotto, OFM, was elected Minister Provincial and Br. Mari-

no Pedro Rhoden, OFM, as Vicar Provincial. For the three-year period of 2026-2028, the brothers elected as Provincial Definitors were: Br. Pedro Geremias Bruxel, OFM, Br. Cláudio André Lottermann, OFM, Br. Franklin Francisco Silva de Freitas, OFM, and Br. Patrício Ceretta, OFM.

Inspired by the theme “The Province of St. Francis of Assisi Downsizing” and by the motto “As Friars Minor, with all creatures, pilgrims of hope”, the brothers, during the week, reviewed and evaluated different areas of the Franciscan charism: formation, vocations, ecology, care of the poorest, sustainability, presence in parishes and missionary front, social works. There was a moment of meeting and dialogue with lay representatives of the presences in which the brothers operate in Rio Grande do Sul and of the OFS, who shared impressions on the life of the friars and ideas to improve their collaborative work in the evangelization of communities.

During the chapter, the joy of the jubilee of religious consecration and of priesthood of some of the brothers was also celebrated, renewing their commitment and their gaze towards the horizon of God.

Animation of the Order

Assembly of the Franciscan Network
for Peace and Integral Ecology in Asia

Manila, 13-18 October 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG

The first Assembly of the Franciscan Network for Peace and Integral Ecology in Asia was held in Manila, Philippines, from October 13 to 18, 2025. Hosted by the Province of San Pedro Bautista, the event brought together delegates from Franciscan entities and collaborators across Asia. The main objective was to strengthen collaboration among members through reflection, sharing and

discernment, as well as planning concrete actions. The first part, focused on *reflection*, began with immersive visits, organized by Franciscan Young Advocate, to families of extrajudicial killing victims, urban poor communities marked by deep poverty, and a coastal reclamation zone where fisherfolk lost their livelihoods. These encounters provided participants with real experiences of injustice.

Then, Br. Lino Gregorio Redoblado, OFM, shared profound insights through the story of the Butbut Tribe, linking The Canticle of the Creatures with Franciscan identity, social justice, and the call to peace. This reflection was deepened by the testimony of Br. Angel Cortez, OFM, who spoke of living JPIC values not as an optional or task, but as a true Franciscan vocation, passion, and mission.



Concluding the session, Br. Derrick Yap, OFM, encouraged participants to carry forward the core ideas of Pope Leo XIV's document *Dilexi Te* (2025) and key reflections from the OFM Chapter of Mats 2025 into new JPIC initiatives that respond to the urgent challenges of today's world.

Second part, *sharing and discernment*, was divided into two sections: promoting peace and integral ecology action.

Finally, the participants moved toward concrete planning for the Franciscan Network. Building on the Cebu Resolutions, they reaffirmed three key areas of focus while identifying new directions for action. First, in the area of peacebuilding, participants committed to strengthening connections with Myanmar migrants, exploring the possibility of a peace project to mediate tensions in the Sri Lanka–Bangladesh–Nepal region, organizing ongoing human rights seminars, and using social media platforms for peace advocacy and training initiatives. *Second*, in ecological action, they pledged to further develop eco-pastoral projects in the Kampong Tambunan (Malaysia), tree-planting efforts in mountain and river areas in Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia. They also resolved to open training programs focused on the insertion of Franciscan charism into public schools. *Third*, recognizing the power of digital communication, they agreed to creatively enhance the website and other media platforms to reach wider and younger audiences.

A clear outcome from the assembly was the shared commitment to organize all initiatives with a realistic, measurable, and time-bound plan to ensure practical and impactful results.

Read the full text of the article on www.ofm.org

Inter-Franciscan Missionary Course 2025 *Between Mission and Artificial Intelligence*



WWW.OFM.ORG

The rapid and dizzying change that is constantly taking place in the digital age has not permitted us to stop and reflect on how we should enter this world of constant connection and diversity as Franciscans.

This ever-changing situation raises many questions, starting with our charism, how we should relate to each other, the way we communicate in general and with each other. Accordingly, we can approach this world as mere spectators, but critically and

consciously, without losing sight of our identity.

We cannot classify new technologies merely as useful tools, since they have become an essential part of our daily lives, transforming the way we relate to and understand life.

Pope Francis in his Encyclical *Cristus vivit* said the following:

“It is no longer merely a question of ‘using’ instruments of communication, but of living in a highly

digitalized culture that has had a profound impact on ideas of time and space, on our self-understanding, our understanding of others and the world, and our ability to communicate, learn, be informed and enter into relationship with others. [...] The web and social networks have created a new way to communicate and bond.” (CV 86-87)

When we access new technologies, especially concerning Artificial Intelligence, we need to understand that we are not en-



tering a closed room with static objects, but a window that characterizes the world in a different way, where space-time is transformed, that is, our relationships and our freedom.

We must understand that we are not facing an isolated space, but rather “a new form of understanding life and our mission.”



WE INVITE YOU TO THE INTER-FRANCISCAN COURSE NOVEMBER 18-20, 2025 TO REFLECT ON MISSION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

[To participate click here](#)

XIX Formation Course for Interreligious and Ecumenical Dialogue in Istanbul

Türkiye, 12 – 25 October 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG

The annual Formation Course for Interreligious and Ecumenical Dialogue took place from 12th-25th October 2025 at Istanbul, Türkiye. This course is organized by the international Franciscan community of Türkiye as service to the Franciscan family throughout the world engage in dialogue in their context.



The darkness of hatred and enmity, prejudices and misperceptions, misunderstandings and ignorance among nations, religions and cultures causes the situation of conflicts and violence in the world. This challenges the followers of Saint

Francis and people of good will to become instrument of peace and build bridges among religions and cultures.

This year being 800 years of Canticle of Creation of Saint Francis broaden the understanding of dialogue, not just among human but also a fraternal relationship with the whole creation. With reverence to the Sacred Scripture and anthropological understanding of dialogue, the speakers highlighted the significance of dialogue in human life as individual and community. God from the very beginning present Himself as a Trinitarian God who is always in personal relationship with all what He created, whole creation. Thus, human and spiritual growth of every person is dependent and interconnected with others. It was further elaborated that we live in a multicultural society. Human beings must learn and appreciate the other with their otherness. Example was given that in various countries, friars with different culture background form together communities which is a testimony of inter-cultural dialogue.

The world today is concerned with ecological crises which is more destructive than any war. The commemoration of the Canticle of creation of Saint Francis poses a challenge of peaceful co-existence with the whole creation and a responsible stewardship.

Speaker from Islam and Christianity are beginning to experience the fruits of dialogue as faced by the pluralistic societies everywhere in the world.

Türkiye gives the great opportunity for ecumenical dialogue where the participants were able to visit Armenian Apostolic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Syriac Catholic churches and have encountered with respective patriarchs. The audience with the patriarch Bartholomew and his

address to the Franciscans was very inspiring. Thus, formation for interreligious and ecumenical dialogue has touched the hearts of the participants, renewed their commitment and revitalized their zeal to live a dialogical life and promote better relationship and make concerted efforts with members of other religions and denominations for better environment in their respective places.

Pascal & Felianus

First meeting of the brothers who work with indigenous populations Guatemala, October 15-19, 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG



The first meeting of the brothers who work with indigenous populations took place from October 15 to 19 in the Guatemala City, hosted by the Franciscan fraternity of this central American country, in the territory of the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The meeting brought together brothers of the three conferences that compose UCLAF and saw the participation of brothers coming from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. Present also were the General Secretary for Evangelization, Br. Francisco Gómez, the General Animator of the Missions, Br. Dennis Tayo, and the General Definitor

for Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico, Br. Joaquín Echeverry. The first two days took place at the Monte San Francisco Retreat House, located in the same complex as the provincial curia.

The first greeting addressed to the participants was that of the President of the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM), Card. Jaime Spengler, OFM, Archbishop of Porto Alegre, Brazil. Speaking by videoconference, he thanked the Order for the particular attention paid to indigenous peoples who, as Pope Leo XIV recalled in his first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexite*, “are the poorest among the poor”. He also

encouraged the participants to maintain their Franciscan joy, characterized by good humor, to make the mission lighter and more exciting.

Br. Francisco Gómez and UCLAF Conference President, Br. Fernando Aparecido dos Santos, also offered words of welcome. Said Br. Fernando, “Let the Light of the Holy Spirit rekindle in your hearts the desire to read the signs of the times, to be present wherever the Spirit sends you”.

The meeting was also led by Br. Ricardo Falla, a 93-year-old Jesuit priest born in Guatemala. Missionary, anthropologist and theologian, he dedicated much of his life to the coexistence, study and evangelization of indigenous populations.

The brothers had the opportunity to share their experiences in a wide variety of services: from parochial work to help in the fight for the rights and conservation of the popular memory, from the defense of territories to the care of the common good, from sharing in the daily life to contributing to the recovery of traditional practices and rites.

On the second day, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, speaking by videocall from Angola, reiterated the 4 axes and 3 lines of action presented by the Commission of New Forms of Life in Latin American that were presented in the last meeting.

Starting from all the realities presented and the provocations raised in the dialogues and debates, the brothers were able to present some conclusions and wishes regarding the promotion of the presence among indigenous peoples, including:

- The presence and sharing of life with indigenous peoples is a way of evangelizing that is an integral part of the Franciscan identity and ought to be encouraged among the brothers and the fraternities, because the culture of waste, market dominance, the accumulation of wealth and predatory consumption have seriously endangered both the planet and the dignified survival of indigenous peoples, placing them among the poorest among the impoverished.
- The difficulty of finding brothers with the qualifications and the desire to work with

indigenous peoples and to learn their style of life remains a great challenge.

- Organizing a project for this form of presence and evangelization which involves various levels could guarantee greater security in the conduct and continuity of the processes.
- It would be necessary to publicize this type of presence in a more open and widespread way, so that the brothers of the entire Order and beyond become aware of it.
- Dedicating oneself wholeheartedly to learning the language of the people he serves is a crucial task for the brother who offers himself to this service.
- The brothers selected or those who volunteer for this service must be accompanied and receive careful preparation.
- The existing presences, above all in Amazonia, urgently need to be strengthened, looking for the necessary means for this purpose, in terms of brothers and other forms of assistance and resources.
- Working with a complex reality, such as that of indigenous peoples, requires intense networking, involving agents of the Church and beyond. Efforts in this direction are indispensable.
- An Executive Committee has been appointed, with a representative of each UCLAF conference, which will continue to work on the recommendations of the meeting, in collaboration with the Commission for the New Forms and the General Secretary for the Missions and Evangelization. The brothers nominated to this committee are: Br. Sebastián Robledo (Conf. Brazil e Cono Sud), Br. Antonio Vasquez (Conf. Bolivariana) e Br. Alfonso Barrientos (Conf. Our Lady of Guadalupe).

Continue reading on www.ofm.org

With the contribution of Br. Gustavo Wayand Medella, OFM

Province of the Immaculate Conception of Brazil

LIFE in the Order



Solemn professions

18th October, Province of St. Bonaventure (Italy)

Br. Danilo Di Vincenzo

11th October, Province of St. Francis of Quito (Ecuador)

Br. José Cepeda Sopalo and Br. Jaime Granda Paccha

11th October, Province of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

Br. Ivan Montagner and Br. Diego Taddei

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

Br. Joseph Lakra Lakra

5th October, Custody of the Holy Land

Br. Manuel Tchincocolo Ramos

29th September, Province of the Immaculate Conception (USA)

Br. Óscar Danilo Valle Pérez and Br. Luis Hernández Reinoso

14th September, Province of The Holy Faith (Colombia)

Br. Duván de Jesús Arboleda Sepúlveda

14th September, Province of St. Clare (Mozambique)

Br. Bonéfácio Januário Santos Santos and Br. Armando Matsanze Vilaculo Vilaculo

6th July, Province of St. Paul the Apostle (Colombia)

Br. Richard Galindo Pantoja



Priestly Ordinations

20th September, St. Bonaventure Province (Italy)

Br. Marco Giammatteo

13th September, St. Wenceslaus Province (Czech Republic)

Br. Jan Kapistrán Gajdoš



Deceased Brothers

† 27th October: Br. Glenn Phillips, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province (USA)

† 23rd October: Br. J. Carmen Montuoso

Sánchez, Sts. Peter and Paul Province (Mexico);
Br. Tony Hardiman, Province of Ireland

† 19th October: Br. Leonardo Berardi, Sacred Heart of Jesus Province (Italy)

† 16th October: Br. Alfonso Gibu Tokumoto, Holy Twelve Apostles Province (Peru)

† 15th October: Br. José Alberto de Oliveira, Holy Martyrs of Morocco Province (Portugal)

† 13th October: Br. Alfredo Vega Cabrera, Sts. Peter and Paul Province (Mexico)

† 12th October: Br. Richard D'Silva, St. Mary Mother of God Custody (India)

† 10th October: Br. Erasmo Rodríguez Vega, Sts. Peter and Paul Province (Mexico)

† 1st October: Br. Luis Hernando Acevedo Quiroz, Holy Faith Province (Colombia)

† 27th September: Br. Mario Radman, Holy Cross Province (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Information received from the General Secretariat

OFS



OFS, National Elective Chapter in Croatia
Samobor, October 17-19, 2025



WWW.OFM.ORG

The National Chapter of the Croatian Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) took place in Tabor, Samobor, from October 17 to 19, 2025.

The Chapter was chaired by Adrienn Bognar, OFS, International Councillor of the National Fraternity of Hungary, delegated by the Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFS. The Conference of General Spiritual Assistants delegated Br. Zdravko Lazić, OFM, to testify to the chapter.

Attending were 33 capitulars, 8 religious and 5 observers. On the first day of the chapter, reports of the last three-year period were presented by the National Minister: these were discussed and unanimously approved.

The elective session took place in a fraternal and normative atmosphere in which the capitulars had the joy of re-electing Sister Marta Radoš, OFS, as National Minister and Robert Ledinski, OFS, as International Councillor.



Pro Monialibus



**Assembly and Merger of the Federations
of Poor Clares of United States**
Sister Nancy Shively, OSC, elected President



WWW.OFM.ORG



The two Federations of Poor Clares in the United States celebrated the merger and the Assembly of the new Federation from October 17 to 23, 2025.

The occasion also marked the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Mother Maddalena Bentivoglio and her sister, Mother Costanza, in New York City, bringing the primitive Rule of Saint Clare to the United States for the first time.

During the Assembly, the Abbesses, Delegates, and Sisters worked hard on developing consensus on a Direction Statement outlining initiatives for the future, to ensure Poor Clares charism will endure in the United States.

There was also an election of new leadership for the next four years. The newly elected Federation President is Sr. Nancy Shively, OSC, and the Council members are: Sr. Etta Patton, Sr. Colleen Bryne, Sr. Pia Malaborbor and Sr. Rucia Rauton.

The Sisters greatly enjoyed being together - a rare opportunity for them - with moments of fun between meetings.

We thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon them over these 150 years!



Holy See

Br. Magdy Helmy Ibrahim Manosur, OFM, appointed Apostolic Administrator Of the Apostolic Vicariate of Tripoli, Libya



WWW.OFM.ORG



Br. Magdy was born on January 23, 1972, in Beheira (Egypt). He vested in the Franciscan habit on September 7, 1997, made his Solemn Profession on August 31, 2022, and was ordained a priest on September 12, 2023.

During his ministry, he has held various positions within his Province, most recently those of Guardian and Vicar of the House in Tripoli, as well as Secretary of the Conference of Provincial Ministers and Custodes of the Conference of North Africa and the Middle East (CONAMO).

We express to our brother, Monsignor George Bugeja, our sincere gratitude for the service he has rendered to the Church in Libya, and to Br. Magdy Helmy Ibrahim Mansour we extend our best wishes for his new ministry in the service of the People of God.

On October 22nd, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has accepted the resignation from the pastoral governance of the Apostolic Vicariate of Tripoli presented by His Excellency Monsignor George Bugeja, OFM, and has

appointed Br. Magdy Helmy Ibrahim Mansour, OFM, a member of our Province of the Holy Family in Egypt, Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* of the Apostolic Vicariate of Tripoli.

Subscribe

Write us

Web

Follow us



Newsletter



comgen@ofm.org



www.ofm.org



@ofmorg



@fratrumminorum



@ofm.org



flickr

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

Director: Br Byron A. Chamann Anléu OFM
Translators: Br. John Luke OFM; Br Arthur Andersen OFM

OFM
Ordo Fratrum Minorum
© 2025 All rights reserved