

# International Bulletin

# Fraternitas

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## The General Definitory meets with the Presidents of the OFM Conferences

*Four days of synodal dialogue in the General Curia*

From the 19th to 22nd November 2025, the OFM General Curia hosted the meeting between the General Definitory and the Presidents of the Conferences of the Order. A moment of grace and discernment in which the friars spoke of co-responsibility with the laity in the light of the experience of the Chapter of Mats, the processes of transformation of decreasing Entities, the presentation of the Final Document of the PCO 2025, the fraternal economy and the approval of the 2026 Budget. A synodal journey that alternated moments of reflection, dialogue in language groups, Eucharistic celebrations and the pilgrimage to the Holy Door on the occasion of the Jubilee.

The Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, opened the work by emphasising the importance of collaboration with the laity. “It is essential to move from simple collaboration to real co-responsibility, starting with the members of the Franciscan Family,” he said, recalling the magisterium of Pope Francis: “By virtue of the Baptism received, every member of the People of God has



become a missionary disciple.” Br. Massimo invited the Conferences to overcome all forms of clericalism: “The Franciscan charism belongs not only to the friars, but to the whole Franciscan Family. The Franciscan future is built together with the laity, not without them.”

In the evening Eucharistic celebration, Br. Gabriel Romero Alamilla invited the friars to “invest with hope in our lives” and made the invitation to proclaim the Gospel with creative capacity: “In this meeting of the Presidents of the Conferences of the Franciscan Order, the Lord calls us to proclaim the Gospel with creative capacity, to be sensitive to the signs of the times. We know that the task is immense and that the path is not easy, but we are equally convinced that we can do everything in the One who gives us strength.

The following day, after the presentation of the Final Document of the PCO, the Minister General opened the dialogue in groups by inviting them to speak on the theme of the numerical decrease of many Entities. “Talking about degrowth does not mean announcing the end, but discerning the signs of the times to respond with creative fidelity to the Lord’s call,” he said, proposing a paradigm shift: “Not jealously guarding what was, but courageously building what will be.” Br. Massimo presented the proposals of the 2025 Plenary Council, including the lightening of Provincial structures and new, more agile organi-

zational models: “The law serves life, not the other way around.” In the afternoon, Br. Reu Galoy, OFM, presented the work of the Commission on the Fraternal Economy.

On Friday, the participants made the pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica, on the occasion of the Jubilee. In the evening Eucharistic celebration, the memorial of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, Br. Francesco Piloni, OFM, meditated on the total gift of self as a response to the divine call: “We are called to be a Temple. Imitating Mary, we are exhorted to prepare ourselves, to make our lives a welcoming dwelling place for Christ who comes.”

On the last day, the 2026 Budget was approved. In his closing homily, Br. Massimo urged the Presidents as follows: “We are called to discern where God’s life pulsates today in our Order, and there invest our energies, our courage, our creativity. God is not of the dead, but of the living.”

The meeting laid the foundations for a synodal journey towards the 2027 General Chapter, which the Minister General defined as “not only an assembly of friars who decide for the friars, but a moment of the Franciscan Family that discerns the future together, in fidelity to the Gospel and to St Francis”.

See the photos on [Flickr](#)



## General Curia Agenda



☑ Up until the 12th December 2025, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, accompanied by the Definitor General, Br. John Wong, will visit the Province of the Korean Holy Martyrs in South Korea and the Franciscan presences in Laos and Thailand. On the 13th and 14th December, Br. Massimo will be in Paris for the Beatification of the Friars Minor who were victims of Nazism; on the 16th in Rome he will meet the Fraternity of Blessed Gabriele Allegra (CISA) for Christmas greetings; on the 17th he will participate in the Conference of General Ministers of the OFM; on the 18th he will participate in the

Christmas dinner of the General Curia; on the 21st December he will be in Latina for Holy Mass and a visit to the city's prison, and then visit the Parish of the Immaculate Conception. On the 25th December he will preside at Mass in Greccio.

☑ From the 2nd to 13th December, Br. Cesare Viani, Definitor General, will be in Cyprus and then in Nazareth for two formation meetings for the Guardians of the Custody of the Holy Land.

☑ From the 15th to 19th December the Tempo Forte will be held in the General Curia.

## Government of the Order



### Reflections by... Br Massimo

November 2025



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October took me through Southern Africa: Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia. Everywhere, the same impression: young, vibrant, restless clubs. In the streets, in the markets, in our fraternities, there are many young faces, urgent questions, and energies that seek direction. A ferment that is not only demographic: it is existential, political, spiritual.

In Luanda, Angola, several young friars in formation ex-

pressed to me their different expectations on an evening of meeting, hot not only because of the climate. In Pretoria, a very young Jelani looked me straight in the eye: "Father, in my country 62% of young people cannot find work. What future can we hope for?" I didn't know what to answer. His question followed me throughout the journey.

So, I tried to look at the "Gen Z protests" that broke out in different parts of the world. I feel the danger of trivializing a deeper phenomenon. Young people are not angry about demographics: they are the first to lucidly perceive that the old order is at the end of the line. Far from apathetic, they show a growing protagonism, refusing to feel irrelevant.

In Pretoria, amid the sound of persistent rain and the crowded street in front of our church,

Jelani, 20, told me again: "We pay for crises that we have not created." He's right, and it's not just in Africa. In Rome, Luca, in his 25s, angrily tells me that he and his friends are becoming adults in economies that no longer need their jobs.

They are not only asking for better material conditions: they want to be considered relevant actors, capable of influencing decisions. They want to count, to give an imprint to this century that they feel as being their own. In their voices there is not only contestation: there is the demand for a new pact between generations. This is also true for religious life.

These are the questions I ask myself and us adults: do we really know young people and do we meet them? Do we build structures designed by us for them, without ever listening to

them and letting ourselves be changed by them?

In Harare and Lusaka, listening to our young friars, in Botswana meeting young people, I asked myself: when was the last time in my/your fraternity we made room for young people to say what they really think?

If they denounce an unjust world, a system that excludes them, ankylosed communities –

what responsibility do we have who have built, maintained, perhaps even blessed this world?

Or do we continue to call them “youth issues” so as not to take them seriously?

St Francis of Assisi was Jelani’s age when he began his research.

Perhaps young people today are telling us that the world we know is ending. Not because

of catastrophism, but because they experience it on their skin. The first step? Listening. Real listening, without an agenda. Create spaces where you can walk ‘with’ young people, not just ‘for’ them. They are not only asking for solutions: they are asking for recognition. I ask you: do you have a listening history with a young person? Share it with a sibling. There are many Jelani to meet – and many stories to share.

## 400 years of the College of St. Isidore in Rome November 16, 2025



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On Sunday, November 16, 2025, the OFM Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, presided at the Holy Mass in the College of St. Isidore, in Rome, to celebrate the institute’s 400 years of history.

In his homily Br. Massimo, taking up the words of the Gospel of the day – “Days will come in which, of what you see, no stone will be left on stone that will not be destroyed” (Lk 21:6) – emphasized that the four walls were not being celebrated, as much as “how much a living history, a history that continues to unfold, a light that continues to shine”.

Br. Massimo recalled the work of Br. Luke Wadding, an Irish brother born in Waterford in 1588 who arrived in Rome in 1618, to whom the Minister General at the time entrusted a small unfinished church and the adjoining convent dedicated to Saint Isidore of Madrid. “In 1625, exactly 400 years ago, Luke Wadding took charge of this unfinished convent with a clear vision: not to build a monument, but to create a house where faith and culture could continue to grow. A place to form young Irish Franciscans when their faith was per-

secuted at home. A place where the Gospel could be lived according to the Franciscan tradition and transmitted to new generations”, said the Minister, highlighting then the importance which over the centuries has become an important center of Franciscan studies even today.

And despite the variable events that followed in history, the College went ahead, continuing the evangelizing mission that the Lord himself has entrusted to each of the baptized. Br. Massimo invited everyone to move forward, “remaining faithful to the Gospel” and following Christ “in the way of Francis, with joy and humility, with love for creation and compassion for the poor, with academic excellence and humble service”.

During the solemn celebration, there was presented the letter of the Secretary of State, Card. Pietro Parolin, which conveyed the wishes of the Holy Father Leo XIV for the 400 years of the College’s history at the service of the educational mission of the Church: “His Holiness recognizes with pleasure the significant contribution made by so many Irish Franciscans to theology and to the broader culture, as well as the pastoral ministry, since the foundation of the College in 1625 on the part of the Venerable Luke Wadding, OFM”, the letter read, also containing an encouragement to “carry the mission forward”.

[Read the Letter of the Secretary of State](#)

Read the homily of Br. Massimo Fusarelli:  
[Italiano](#) - [English](#)

## Franciscan Centenaries



## Thanksgiving for the Canticle of Brother Sun in the Franciscan Family of Morocco

Rabat, November 18, 2025



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On Tuesday, November 18, 2025, the Franciscan Family of Morocco celebrated its annual meeting at the diocesan house of Rabat. Sixteen Friars Minor, six Poor Clares and thirty-one Franciscan sisters from six different institutes gathered, representing almost all eighteen Franciscan communities of Morocco. Some travelled for more than six hours to attend this family gathering, which has become an important annual tradition. It was a joy to get together, to meet a dozen new faces – the brothers and sisters who joined us this year – and share the joys, sorrows, and challenges of our fraternities, often located far from each other.

Several themes touched many of us: the challenge of rebuilding fraternity with the new brothers and sisters, the challenge of work and renovation in many homes, the necessity of being available and flexible in a continuously evolving environment and the importance of remaining firm in Franciscan humility and simplicity.

Br. Frédéric-Marie Le Méhauté OFM, Minister Province of the Friars Minor of France and French-speaking Belgium, helped us to deepen, in an original and stimulating way, the Canticle of Brother Sun of St. Francis of Assisi, of which we celebrate its 800th anniversary this year. A canticle of joy born in the heart of darkness and of the night. A canticle which calls us to a fraternity

beyond our “comfort zone”, with brothers and sisters which are called not to dominate. A canticle in which no animal or creature appears that we can possess, paving the way for a joyful mutual dependence. A canticle which invites us to dare to dream of our world, our future, and our Franciscan Family. The echo of these new words has long resounded in our sharing groups, demonstrating how deeply these challenges touch us and how they call us to live and contemplate our personal and community life in a deeper way, inspired by the Gospel.

In our family there is no fraternity without communion... So we gathered around a big banquet with what everyone had brought, amused by the amazement of each group for this abundance. And it all culminated (and was fulfilled) at the Eucharistic table, to the sound of songs directed by our Poor Clare sisters, just as it began, with the violin that accompanied the Canticle of Brother Sun. The Gospel of the day, the meeting between Jesus and the publican Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-10), taught us to continue to share what we have experienced: “Come down now”, the Lord tells us from the ground, come down and be yourself, abandon all these illusions about yourself and the world and live the salvation you dream of in this fraternity of sharing what you are at the heart of your daily life...

*Br. Stéphane Delavelle, OFM*



## Solemnity of All Saints of the Seraphic Order

29th November, 2025



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This year we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints of the Seraphic Order on the eve of the opening of the last Franciscan Centenary, that of the Easter of the *Poverello*- Poor Man of Assisi. The final stage of the celebratory journey that the Franciscan Family wanted to experience from 2023 to 2026 actually opens us to the future, to a new chapter in the history of the Order and of salvation, in which all of us Franciscans are invited to leave a mark, to write a page.


St Francis, in his Letter to the whole Order, wrote: *“Keep nothing of yourselves for yourselves, so that the One who offers himself totally to you may receive you completely”*. These words must have guided the hearts, minds and steps of so many confreres who, in the eight centuries of Franciscan history, have truly lived Francis’ project to the full, welcoming God unreservedly and loving their neighbour to the end.

A host of people that, in a chronological sense, goes from St. Francis (canonized on July 19, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX) to the Martyrs of Damascus (canonised on the 20th October, 2024 by Pope Francis), and already extends to the French Friars Minor victims of Nazism, who will be beatified next December on the 13<sup>th</sup> in Paris.

In the conference entitled “Holiness Today”, promoted by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in October 2022, Br. Maurizio Faggioni, OFM, taking up the conciliar Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, recalled how the universal vocation to holiness was a call consequent to baptism, thanks to which Christians *“were truly made children of God and sharers in the divine nature, and therefore truly holy.”* By virtue of baptism, therefore, we are all called to holiness, each one in the context in which he lives, even where hatred, indifference, violence, hunger, war, darkness seems to prevail. Retracing the last years of St Francis’ earthly life, the Centenarians taught us to pause before the mystery of the Incarnation to contemplate the greatness of divine love for humanity; to celebrate the Rule in order to be an open and outgoing fraternity, a builder of a new culture of encounter and social friendship; to be silent in order to listen to and follow Christ, conforming ourselves totally to Him; to change our relationship with Creation and its creatures; to welcome sister bodily death with song in order to enter into full communion with God.

On this day of celebration for the whole Franciscan Family, let the testimony of St Francis resonate within us!





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Laudato si', mi' Signore, per sora  
nostra matre terra, la quale ne sustenta  
e governa, e produce diversi fructi  
con coloriti flori et herba.



## Animation of the Order

### Letter to the Animators of the Pastoral Care of Vocations *Fourth Letter on Formation and Studies*



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We publish the fourth Letter on Formation and Studies, this time addressed to the Animators of the Pastoral Care of Vocations. Over the next two years, the series will be completed with further letters addressed to the Animators of Pastoral Care of Vocations and the Masters of Postulancy, Novitiate, and Temporary Profession. It is hoped that these letters, always agreed upon with the General Definitory, will offer encouragement and important insights for the formation process.

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



## News from the Entities

### Formation meeting for Franciscan Superiors of Poland *St. Anne's Mountain, 17–20 November 2025*



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From 17 to 20 November 2025, at the Sanctuary of St Anne in the territory of the Province of St Hedwig, in Poland, a formation meeting was held for Franciscan Superiors – Guardians and Presidents. Around 130 friars from Poland and other countries came to the Pilgrim House at Góra św. Anny [Mount of St. Ann], to take part in workshops aimed at helping them exercise more effectively and responsibly their service as Superiors of local Franciscan communities.

Provincial ministers also took part in the meeting, underlining the importance of the formation of Superiors for the whole Order. The presence of friars from various Provinces and countries created a space for the exchange of experiences, the sharing of good practices and a common search for answers to the challenges faced today by Franciscan communities. The formation programme included conferences, group work and time for personal reflection. The invited speakers were:

Br Konrad Cholewa OFM, General Definitory from Rome, who gave a conference entitled “The Order at a Crossroads”. In his talk he drew attention to the current challenges faced by the Friars Minor in a world of rapidly changing social and ecclesial structures, and to the need for a renewal of fraternal and missionary life.

Br Kordian Szwarz OFM, who spoke on “Brothers for the World: the mission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in the life of the parish and the friary”. He reminded the participants

that concern for social justice, peace and creation lies at the very heart of the Franciscan vocation and should be expressed in the daily life of communities and their pastoral activities.

Dr Agnieszka Janiak, who led two thematic blocks: “The (Laborious) Building of Community” and “Intergenerational Communication”. Her presentations focused on building mature relationships within the community, overcoming tensions and seeking ways to foster dialogue between friars of different generations, who are sensitive to different lifestyles, forms of communication and ways of seeing the Church.

In addition to the conferences, an important element of the meeting were the many opportunities for conversation and fraternal dialogue. Guardians and Presidents shared their experience of accompanying communities, making de-

isions and searching for new ways of presence in parishes and in the works conducted by the Order of Friars Minor.

The Eucharist and common prayer were the central point of each day. This rhythm of prayer and listening to the Word of God formed the foundation of the whole meeting, reminding everyone that the service of a Superior is rooted above all in a personal relationship with Christ.

The days of formation at Góra św. Anny were a time of strengthening fraternal bonds, reflecting on the style of exercising authority within the community and renewing Franciscan identity grounded in the Gospel, simplicity and closeness to people. The participants concluded the meeting convinced of the need for ongoing formation and mutual support in the demanding yet beautiful service of Guardians and Superiors.

## IV Congress on Franciscan History in Mexico

*In the context of the 500th anniversary of the Franciscan Province of Michoacán*



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On 14 November, the Franciscan Province of St. Peter and St. Paul in Michoacán, Mexico, concluded its celebrations marking 500 years since the arrival of its founder, Fr Martín de Jesús de la Coruña, in the ancient Kingdom of Michoacán, and subsequently the Franciscan presence in the Bajío region, in Querétaro and beyond. Five hundred years of ‘sowing the Gospel.’

During the Jubilee Year, the Franciscan Family celebrat-

ed this event with various religious and cultural events. To celebrate the Centenary, the IV Congress of Franciscan History was organised with the intention of recording this great and significant event through the memoirs or proceedings that will soon be published.

A team was appointed to coordinate and seek the necessary collaborations to carry out this ambitious project, bringing together several academic institutions such as the Provincial

Historical Archive, the University College of Santa Cruz, the Faculty of Arts of the Autonomous University of Querétaro, the College of Michoacán, and the *Enahrmonicos* and *Mechoacan Tarascorum* study centres. The team launched the call in March of this year, receiving responses from various institutions and universities across the country, as well as from independent researchers. By the close of the call, there were 62 applications for papers, which qualified the event as ‘extraordinary,’ suggesting that the topic of ‘Franciscanism’ is alive and present in university classrooms and among researchers.

The ‘IV Congress of Franciscan History’ took place over three days, from 12 to 14 November, with the sessions held simultaneously at two venues at the same time in order to accommodate the speakers. Each day featured keynote lectures, book presentations and a cul-

tural event at the end of the day. The closing ceremony featured a 'themed dinner,' with a menu taken from the 'Carta cuentas' ('Account Menu') of an 18th-century recipe book from our historical Archive.

The topics addressed, divided into twelve study groups, were as follows: Chronicles, stories and descriptions; Franciscan foundations; Evangelisation programmes; The figure and

work of the 'Twelve Franciscan Apostles'; Life and work of illustrious Franciscans; Art, literature, science; Franciscans in the face of major events in Mexican history; Regular clergy and secular clergy: Confluences and divergences; Franciscanism in women: Monasteries and beguinages; Franciscanism through the laity: Confraternities, stewardships and Tertiaries (OFS).

The success of this event poses a challenge for us: What next? Well, may God grant us the grace to hold the 'Fifth Congress,' and it would be very good to return to the intention of the first Congress on Franciscan History in 2015: it should alternate among the Provinces of the Conference of Saint Mary of Guadalupe. May God continue to give us opportunities and wisdom to share our history and charism. *Peace and All Good.*

## Meeting of the lay brothers of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe Central America and Panama



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The lay brothers of the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America and Panama met from November 11 to 15 in the Monte San Francesco Retreat House in Guatemala.

With the participation of brothers coming from different regions of the Province, our brothers gathered to reflect and meditate on the identity, the formation, the mission and the evangelization of the lay brother in our Province.

The general objective of this meeting was to revitalize the being and working of the lay brothers of the Province through fraternal reflection and discernment.

The days were full of joy, prayer and fraternal sharing, during which the brothers shared experiences, appreciated the journey undertaken by the more senior brothers as inspiration for the young-

er ones and remembered those brothers who now enjoy the presence of God, but whose witness of humility still resonates among us today. We are grateful for the various spaces in which our brothers currently serve in our Province, including social assistance, mission areas, schools, clinics, hospitals, formation programs, provincial government and retreat houses.

Some fruits of this meeting include:

- To maintain the evangelical experience as lay brothers.
- To continue to promote the Franciscan values of humility and fraternity in our assigned communities.
- To respond to the responsibilities to which we are assigned.
- To strengthen and establish guidelines for the formation of the lay brothers in the Province.
- To discover new forms of evangelization which help us to renew our vocation.
- To include and strengthen the vocation of the lay brother in all phases of formation.

After these days of reflection and meditation, the meeting was concluded with the thanksgiving of all to God for this fraternal moment, each one returning to his community with a heart full of gratitude.

*Br. Edgar Daniel Coyoy Medrano, OFM*

*Provincial Secretary*

## 50 years of Franciscan presence in Guatemala Mount San Francisco, Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America and Panama



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On 11 November, the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America and Panama celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Mount Saint Francis Fraternity – now the seat of the Provincial Curia – in the village of Puerta Parada, Santa Catarina Pinula, Guatemala.

The history of this Franciscan presence dates back to 1974, when the area was just a landscape of farms. Mrs. María Luisa Castillo V. de Monge donated the land to the Franciscan Friars of the Seraphic Province of the Immaculate Conception (USA), in the hope that the Franciscan charism would flourish there. Construction of the Franciscan Novitiate for Central America and Panama began on that site.

According to the chronicles of Br. Bonicio Morin, OFM, the first friar to arrive at Mount St. Francis: 'There was nothing here, only cornfields where the chapel of the Retreat House now stands.' He arrived with 30 novices who, while the novitiate was being built, lived in the Porziuncola, using the small room of that little house as a dining room and study room.

During the celebration, Br. Cirilo Morisco, OFM, the first superior of the fraternity, and the Provincial Minister of New York, the Most Reverend Fray Juan María Cassese, OFM, were remembered with gratitude.

The Eucharist of thanksgiving for the 50th anniversary was presided by Mons. Luis Enrique Saldaña Guerra, OFM, and concelebrated by Br. Edgardo Manuel Pérez Tejeira, OFM, together with friars from vari-

ous regions of the Province. Benefactors and friends joined in this celebration to give thanks to God for these 50 years of Franciscan presence.

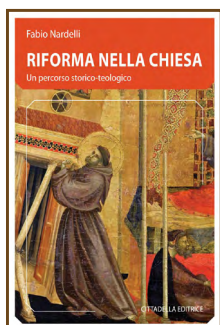
Mount San Francisco is an emblematic place for the Province of Central America. It was a novitiate house from 1975 to 2019, forming more than 44 groups of novices. Since 2017, it has been the seat of the Provincial Curia.

Throughout 2025, various activities were held to commemorate the 50th anniversary, culminating in a fraternal meal at the current retreat house, shared with brothers of the Third Order, members of the Mount San Francisco committee, friends and benefactors.

© Photo: Juan Manuel Lopez



### Franciscan Bookmark



**Riforma nella Chiesa**  
Un percorso storico-teologico  
Fr. Fabio Nardelli, OFM  
Cittadella editrice



**Selecciones de Franciscanismo**  
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# It's nativity scene time!

Br. Israel has been working on the nativity scene of the General Curia for some time, and you? Are you already making the nativity scene of your OFM Fraternity? Send photos of your "work in progress" by the **23rd December 2025** to [comgen@ofm.org](mailto:comgen@ofm.org): they will be published in the Order's media. Let us live this Advent together, waiting for Christmas!

**PS:** Don't forget to write the name, city and town of the Fraternity. Thank you!



## Pro Monialibus

### Assembly of the Poor Clare Sisters of French-speaking Africa New Solofo Kamuti Federation Council elected



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On the 16th November, 2025, the Assembly of the Solofo Kamuti Federation of the Poor Clare Sisters of French-speaking Africa, meeting in the monastery of Our Lady of the Angels in Libreville, Gabon, elected the new Federal

Council under the chairmanship of Assistant Br. Peter Williams, OFM.

The following were elected:

- Sr. Elisabeth Lubuya, of the monastery of Lomé (Togo),

Federal President;

- Sr. Marie Elisabeth Kalenga Kapinga, of the monastery of Djiri (Congo Brazzaville), first Councilor;
- Sr. Claire Kabuya, of the monastery of Kabinda (Democratic Republic of Congo), second Councilor;
- Sr. Claire of Jesus of the Monastery of Libreville (Gabon), third Councilor;
- Sr. Myriam of the Monastery of Antananarivo (Madagascar), fourth Councilor.
- Sr. Marie de Jésus di Libreville (Gabon), Economa federale.

## Centenary of the death of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair, Poor Clare *“One of God’s little ones”*



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soul.” Her body was taken back to the Poor Clare convent for the funeral and buried in Kensal Green, northwest London. In December 1927 her body was transferred to Mount Vernon Cemetery in Edinburgh, and later, on 25 October 2003, to the Chapel of the Resurrection in St Patrick’s Church.

Margaret Sinclair remains a shining sign of everyday holiness: a young woman of the people who, quietly and simply, lived the Gospel radically in the ordinary circumstances of work, family, and cloistered life. Her charism is that of “God’s little ones”: a serene and joyful faith, capable of transforming fatigue and suffering into an offering of love, continuing to inspire the faithful and draw pilgrims to her shrine in Edinburgh.

*Sister Mariachiara Bosco, OSC*

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

*“Margaret could well be described as one of God’s little ones who, through her extreme simplicity, was touched by God with the strength of real holiness of life, whether as a child, a young woman, an apprentice, a factory-worker, member of a Trade Union, or a professed Sister in religion.”*

These words of Saint John Paul II were spoken in Edinburgh during his pastoral visit to Great Britain in 1982; in his address he referred to a young Scottish Poor Clare, Margaret Sinclair, who in the monastery took the name Sister Mary Francis of the Five Wounds, and who died of tuberculosis only a few months after her first religious profession. Like God’s little ones, she made no noise, yet her witness of life and faith continues to enlighten the Church. [...]

in February 1925, after professing her first vows, she fell seriously ill with tuberculosis. Fully aware of the severity of her illness, Margaret radiated unshakable joy and serenity amid suffering, so much so that

the nursing staff were deeply moved. Once, after a day of piercing pain, she smiled bravely and whispered: “Oh, this has been a glorious day, a day of suffering. If I could save even one soul for Jesus, it would be worth it.” Her extraordinary inner strength impressed everyone who saw her during her seven months of illness.

On 24 November 1925 Margaret died with the Name of Jesus on her lips. Her final words were: “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my



# LIFE in the Order



## Solemn Professions

23rd August, Prov. NS di Guadalupe (USA): Br. Edgar Alberto, Br. Daniel Cruz, Br. Jimmy Kernan, Br. Adolfo R. Mercado, Br. Joshua Richter

23rd June, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA): Br. Manuel Mendoza



## Priestly Ordinations

22nd August, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA): Br. Noe Alfaro Casas, Br. Raphael Nnabuikem Ozoude III, Br. Matthew Thomas Ryan

Prov. BVM of the Assumption (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

† 8th November: Br. Lester (Charles) Kochlin, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 4th November: Br. Velimir (Ivko) Zirdum, Prov. Holy Cross (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

*Information received from the General Secretariat*



## Fratelli Defunti

† 25th November: Br. Francesco Antonelli, Prov. St. Francis Stigmatised (Italy)

† 22nd November: Br. Efren Ojeda, Prov. Mary Queen of China (Taiwan)

† 15th November: Br. Kevin Eugene Mackin, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 11th November: Br. Ivan Marić, Prov. Holy Cross (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

† 10th November: Br. Karl (Hermann) Stahlberger, Prov. St. Elizabeth (Germany)

† 9th November: Br. Petar (Stjepan) Krasić,





## The Pope visits the Portiuncula to meet the Bishops of the CEI

*He also greets the friars of the Porziuncola*



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quests, alleviates their suffering, shares their hopes”, continuing “to be close to families, to young people, to the elderly, to those who live in solitude” and “to spend yourselves in the care of the poor”. He also recommended “attention to the smallest and most vulnerable, so that a culture of prevention of all forms of abuse may also develop”, recalling that “welcoming and listening to victims are the authentic trait of a Church that, in community conversion, knows how to recognize wounds and is committed to soothing them”.

The Holy Father recalled the example of the Poverello-The Poor Man of Assisi in the very place where he lived: “In this place, St. Francis and the first friars lived to the full what, in today’s language, we call ‘synodal style’.

The Holy Father Leo XIV went to Assisi at the Portiuncula for the conclusion of the work of the 81st General Assembly of the Italian Bishops’ Conference. The Pope was welcomed and accompanied by Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, Br. Francesco Piloni, Minister Provincial of Umbria and Sardinia, and Br. Massimo Travascio, Custos of the Portiuncula.

an effective exercise of collegiality, requires not only communion among you and with me, but also attentive listening and serious discernment of the requests that come from the people of God.”

The Pope urged the Bishops to be “a Church that lives amongst the people, welcomes their re-

In his address to the Bishops of the CEI, Leo XIV placed synodality as an ecclesial style at the centre, urging “the commitment of all, so that the face of a collegial Church, which shares common steps and choices, may take shape.” The Holy Father invited the Bishops not to go back on the issue of the amalgamation of dioceses, “especially where the needs of the Christian proclamation invite us to overcome certain territorial boundaries and to make our religious and ecclesial identities more open, learning to work together.” He also stressed that “synodality, which implies



Together, in fact, they shared the different stages of their journey; together they went to Pope Innocent III; Together, from year to year, they perfected and enriched the initial text". Leo XIV highlighted that "this convinced choice of fraternity, which is the heart of the Franciscan charism together with minority, was inspired by an intrepid and persevering faith", concluding: "May the example of St. Francis also give us the strength to make

choices inspired by an authentic faith and to be, as a Church, a sign and witness of the Kingdom of God in the world".

At the end he wanted to visit the friars of the Portiuncula fraternity. "Peace and goodwill. It is a pleasure to be able to greet you this morning," the Pontiff began, sharing his joy for this first visit "dressed in white" to the Franciscan holy places. "I hope that next year, the eighth centenary

of the death of St. Francis, there will be some other opportunity," he added, thanking the friars for their testimony in this place "already well known in the world, certainly important in the journey of faith of so many people, so many families." The Pope concluded by asking for the prayers of the friars: "I pray for you... and I ask for your prayers."

[Read the Pope's speech](#)

## Br. Miro Relota appointed as Military Ordinary of Bosnia and Herzegovina

21 November 2025



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The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed Br. Miro Relota, OFM, a member of our Franciscan Province of the Holy Cross – Bosnia Argentina, as Military Ordinary of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Br. Miro was born on July 1, 1965, in Busovača, Bosnia and

Herzegovina. He received the Franciscan habit on July 14, 1984. He completed his philosophical and theological studies at the Franciscan Theology in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and at the Faculty of Theology in Bari, Italy.

From 1991 to 1993, he also attended courses in ecumenical theology at the Institute of Ecumenical-Patristic Theology "San Nicola" in Bari.

He made his solemn profession on September 22, 1990, and was ordained a deacon on October 1, 1990, and a priest on March 19, 1991. By agreement between the two Provinces, from 1991 to 2015 he lived and worked in the Franciscan Province of Saint Michael the Archangel in Puglia-Molise.

During his ministry, both in his home Franciscan Province and in the Province of Saint Michael, he carried out various responsibilities, including Master of temporary professed friars, parish priest, Bursar, Guardian, Definitor, Spiritual Assistant of the OFS, Vice-postulator for the Causes of Saints, Visitor General of the OFM Province in Herzegovina, and member of the team responsible for the pastoral diaconal year in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is currently serving as spiritual father at the student house in Sarajevo and as provincial definitor.

We extend to our brother, His Excellency, Most Reverend Mons. Miro our warmest best wishes for his ministry in the service of the People of God.

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