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**Opening of the Centenary
of the Transitus of St. Francis**

*10th January 2026, Basilica of Our Lady of
the Angels at the Porziuncola*

On the 10th January, in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels at the Porziuncola, the Franciscan Family began the VIII Centenary of the Transit of St. Francis of Assisi, the last stage of the journey undertaken in 2023 and which made us relive the last years of the Poor Man’s earthly life.

The opening rite began with a gesture conceived as a symbolic and spiritual bridge between the Centenary of the composition of the Canticum of the Creatures (2025) and the Centenary of the Transit (2026). Taking up the last two stanzas of the Canticum (those dedicated to reconciliation and to sister bodily death), in memory of the reconciliation between the bishop and the Podestà of Assisi, the Bishop of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino and Foligno, Monsignor Domenico Sorrentino, and the Mayor of the city of Assisi, Valter Stoppini, entered the Basilica carrying an unlit candle, a sign of humanity marked by conflict and fragility.

The procession reached the Chapel of the Transit, the place of Francis’ last





earthly moments, where the candle was lit at the Paschal Candle, symbol of the risen Christ. From there, the light was brought to the six side stations of the Basilica, each entrusted to one of the six branches of the Franciscan Family.

In fact, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM Minister General, Br. Carlos Alberto Trovarelli, OFMConv Minister General, Br. Roberto Genuin, OFMCap Minister General, Tibor Kauser, OFS Minister General, Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR Minister General, and Sr. Daisy Kalamparamban, President of the International Franciscan Conference of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular, were present.

Each station was dedicated to a theme taken from the Testament of St. Francis, as a consignment of his last spiritual will. At each stage, a text from the Franciscan Sources or the Gospel was proclaimed, accompanied by the reflection of one of the 6 representatives of the Franciscan Family, followed by a symbolic sign or listening to a testimony, to actualize the Franciscan message in today's world.

For the occasion, the oldest painting depicting St. Francis of Assisi, preserved at the Porziuncola Museum, was exhibited in the Basilica: the work of the so-called Master of St. Francis (mid-thirteenth century), it depicts the Saint with the stigmata clearly visible, an expression of his full and definitive conformatio Christi.

The image would have been executed on a wooden plank used to accommodate and protect the body of Francis immediately after his death, giving it a value that is not only iconographic, but also profoundly reliquary and testimonial.

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Government of the Order



Letter from the Minister General for the Sunday of the Word 2026

Switching off, allows us to listen: Blessed Gabriele Allegra's method



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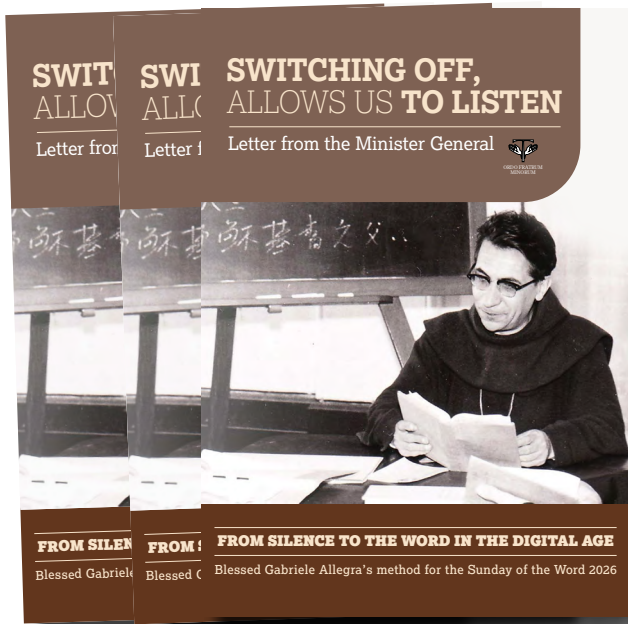
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you His peace!

In this year 2026, the Eighth Centenary of the Transitus of Our Father St. Francis, Word Sunday falls on January 25: it is the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Blessed Br. Gabriele M. Allegra (1907-1976), Friar Minor, Missionary in China, Apostle of the Word of God in a thousand-year-old culture.

This happy coincidence gives me the opportunity to remember with gratitude his person and work. His life is a prophetic testimony that illuminates the challenge of biblical listening in the digital age. Not only do we remember what he did – the complete translation of the Bible into Chinese after twenty-six years of intense work – but we want to listen to his method and his spirit, which continue to speak with particular force...

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



Tempo Forte



The Communiqué of the General Definitory regarding the Tempo Forte of December 2025 has been published.

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General Curia Agenda



- ☑ The Tempo Forte will be held from the 12th to the 23rd January at the General Curia.
- ☑ On the 14th January, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, met with the Pre-Chapter As-

sembly of the Seraphic Province at Our Lady of the Angels. On the 16th he will participate in the Feast of the Grand Chancellor at the Pontifical University Antonianum. On the 18th January in Fondi (LT), he will preside at

Mass for the Centenary of the Death of St. Francis. From the 25th to the 30th January he will visit the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius, in Croatia.

Reflections by Br. Massimo – December 2025

Tradition and technology: what presence?

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mission? Do we also stay on the roads where people live?

In Korea, I saw that tradition and innovation can coexist when there is a solid identity capable of conscious choices. This harmony is not always easy. Don't we often feel almost passive consumers of virtual relationships that do not feed the heart?

The challenge is not to reject the digital world but to learn to live it as believers, respecting the dignity of the person. It means asking ourselves, does this reality serve communion or isolation? Does it nourish prayer, or does it risk exhausting the interiority? Does it help the mission or replace it with efficient but sterile surrogates?

As Franciscans, we are called to live *inter gentes*, amongst the people, with an incarnate presence. St Francis did not evangelise by correspondence but by walking with his brothers, embracing lepers, and looking into the eyes with mercy. Technology can amplify this presence, but never replace it.

The Jubilee of Hope invites us to return to the essential: the living relationship with God and between brothers and sisters. We guard spaces where screens are silent, and people talk to each other. We choose the fatigue of the real encounter against the ease of virtual connection.

Only in this way do new talents do not remain buried out of fear, but are integrated into the living tradition that we bring, because hope always needs faces, not pixels.

Between November and December, I visited South Korea. In Seoul, a metropolis of ten million inhabitants, ancient Buddhist temples coexist with ultra-modern skyscrapers. Elderly people in traditional hanbok walk next to young people immersed in their smartphones. Traditional spaces such as markets and old houses seem to be able to coexist with ultra-modern architecture, robots that make deliveries and state-of-the-art shopping malls. I have seen one of the most technologically advanced companies in the world preserve a thousand-year-old culture, without blocking innovation.

This tension questioned me. How do we experience the technological change taking place? Are we aware of this? Is our use of digital tools critical or passive? Moreover, above all: do we try to understand and inhabit them from within our faith and vocation, or do we use and/or suffer them as something foreign?

Pope Leo XIV, meeting with the Superiors General last November, recalled the urgency of "integrating *nova et vetera* with balance". Technology offers im-

mense possibilities for communion and mission, but it risks replacing virtual connection with real relationships, where physical presence, patient listening, and deep sharing are needed.

The Spanish thinker Joan Subirats, in his recent contribution on democracy in the digital age, warns that we are experiencing an erosion of ties caused by accelerated digitisation. The distances between those who have access and skills and those who are excluded are growing; Important decisions are left to a few experts or algorithms, and everyone ends up locked in their own bubbles and interests. Without critical integration between technology and human participation, social fragmentation deepens.

This is also true for us. Our fraternal meetings often take place online: do we sometimes replace the relationship with a hasty video call? Does personal prayer perhaps give way to the compulsive scrolling of screens, even through Apps that help us with different prayer texts? How many moments of online proclamation and reflection do we propose, also thanks to the creation of digital content for the

Franciscan Centenaries



Francis of Assisi: A Seed for Eternal Life

Letter from the Franciscan Family on the occasion of the Centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis



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Eight hundred years ago, Francis of Assisi left this world. But the seed he planted continues to germinate. In his letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul writes words that seem mysterious: “one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit.”

These words were fulfilled in Francis. After welcoming the Spirit of Jesus into himself, to the point of bearing the marks of the Crucified One on his body, he himself became a seed of the Gospel filled with the fruits of eternal life. This is the precious legacy he left us. A legacy that still speaks to the hearts and minds of our generation today, helping us to believe in the Gospel, “to have the Spirit of the Lord and Its holy activity” and to become signs of peace.

With this letter, we wish to thank the Lord for the seed of the Gospel that he planted in the Church 800 years ago and which is still alive and fruitful today. Together, we wish to recall some fundamental

aspects of this Christian history. These aspects remain a legacy for all those who, following Francis, wish to follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus...

Read the full text of the Letter:

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Centenary of the Transit of St. Francis: Worksheets by the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies



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Dear Brothers,

May the Lord give you His peace!

In preparation for the Centenary of the Transitus of St. Francis, on behalf of our Minister General, we present three worksheets. The Cards are designed as a useful tool both for individual work and for that in the Fraternities. In fact, they could be used in local chapters, in ongoing formation meetings, in spiritual retreats, in initial formation, and on many other occasions. In addition, the richness of the texts, taken from the Franciscan Sources and the Bible, allows each card to be used several times and in different ways, even in personal study or meditation.

The themes and most of the texts are taken from the Guidelines for the celebration of Franciscan Centenaries prepared by the Commission of the Franciscan Family. This is not to be under-

stood as replacing the Guidelines. On the contrary, we invite everyone to deepen some themes by also drawing on that text.

The Worksheets remain on a general level to allow the Entities, Fraternities and individual friars to make them compatible with their context. This is why we send them to you in a format that allows for any adaptations. May this last year of the great Centenary be for our whole Order with the Franciscan Family a fruitful opportunity for growth in the common charismatic identity.

A fraternal greeting to all of you!

Br. Darko Tepert, OFM, Secretary General for Formation and Studies

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Animation of the Order

Four young French friars recognized as martyrs of the Catholic apostolate

*Beatification of Gérard Cendrier, Roger Le Ber,
Louis Paraire, and Xavier Boucher*



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prisoners to escape, and stand in for comrades on the verge of exhaustion, doing their work for them and living out their call to be Catholics in Action. The chaplaincy was forbidden and clandestine at the time and because of their good works they were beaten, sentenced to life imprisonment, where they battled epidemics of typhus and dysentery. The assembly was moved upon hearing these testimonies, permeated with the love for Franciscan spirituality, to which they had dedicated their lives. “Saint Francis, in my place, would not have acted differently,” Br. Gérard Cendrier would often say.

Br. Massimo was deeply struck by the stories and said: “I think their testimony is very relevant today, especially for the younger brothers of the Order. They remained united with each other and with the people they served in a very concrete way, sharing their struggles and their daily prayer lives. I believe their testimony gives us much hope and shines a light on the darkness present today. Martyrdom isn’t about being strong; that’s pagan heroism. Christian martyrdom is about being weak – and they were – but, when called by God, they weak find their strength in Him to love to the very end.” Br. Massimo also shared that he had sent a letter to his confreres in the war zones of Ukraine, Syria, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, and eastern Congo that very morning.

The Friary of Saint Francis in Paris was bustling with activity throughout the weekend celebrating with the Church of France the beatification of Franciscan friars Gérard Cendrier, Roger Le Ber, Louis Paraire, and Xavier Boucher. Along with 46 other faithful people, mostly lay (members of the Christian Workers Youth and the Scouts), these four men were recognized as martyrs of Catholic apostolate, meaning they were killed by the Nazis for secretly providing spiritual support to young French people deported to forced labor camps. The General Minister, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, accompanied by the General Postulator, Br. Gianni Califano, and Br. Jürgen Neitzert (St. Elizabeth Province, Germany), arrived from Rome to share to take part in the celebration along with the friars of the Blessed John Duns Scotus Province of France-Belgium.

The celebrations began on the evening of Friday, December 12th, with a review of historical

situation and a moment of remembrance in prayer. One hundred year old Br. Luc Mathieu, considered “a living memory of the Province” who knew these friars, spoke along with historian Caroline Langlois, detailing the lives of the martyrs to an attentive audience.

A Franciscan Life in the Heart of Hell

As the story goes, it was in 1943, that twelve young Franciscan in early stages of religious life arrived at the Deutsche Reichsbahn camp in Cologne. From there, in September of that year, they were shipped off to the Buchenwald concentration camp. The two speakers emphasized their determination to live together and embrace their fraternal life of prayer amidst the incessant bombings. They were discovered caring for the sick, leading prayer and song at social gatherings, and organizing drives to clothe and feed Ukrainian and Russian prisoners. They would also sabotage the enemy’s equipment, help

Learning from the beatification

On Saturday, December 13th, the celebration took on a very special dimension with the grand solemn beatification Mass at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. In this iconic location, the liturgy brought together more than forty bishops from France and Germany.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg, urged in his homily: “Whatever our vocation, our work, our responsibilities, as disciples of Christ, we are committed to serving our brothers and sisters, wherever God, in His Providence, has placed us. Faith is never a private matter. It must find expression in concrete service to our brothers and sisters. These beatifications invite us to look at the present and prepare for the future. We are living, we have lived, in times of reconciliation between peoples. Reconciliation is a work that never ends and that each generation must continue. [...] All of you young

people from France and throughout Europe, perhaps you do not go to church, perhaps you find no meaning in your lives. If that is the case, I invite you to look to Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Prince of love and not of hatred, learn from Him, like your brothers and sisters, the martyrs beatified today, learn from Him and from them to forget self and to commit yourselves to the good of your brothers and sisters!”

A highlight of the celebration came with the reading aloud of fifty names of martyrs and the discovery of Nicolas de Palmar’s work depicting the fifty martyrs – now blessed – symbolically ascending to heaven around the cross of Christ. The weekend concluded with a Thanksgiving Mass presided over by Br. Massimo at the Rue Marie Rose friary. It was Gaudete Sunday and the Minister invited the faithful to meditate on the figure of John the Baptist in his vulnerability and doubts, the same doubts that were surely experienced by the four martyrs whose portraits

were displayed in the chapel. “The true prophet,” Br. Massimo said, “is not a fortune-teller, does not know the future, but is one who, in times of persecution and despair, helps us look to the future and find hope and joy in the present. The true prophet becomes a ‘sacrament’ of God’s presence here and now! How visible and tangible this is in the lives of our young martyred brothers! Their faith was severely tested. And perhaps for them too, the darkness and cold of the night made it difficult to hope and find joy... Nevertheless, they decided to remain united, even in the face of the possibility of death, which for the Christian is an invitation to new life. No matter how bitter reality may seem, or how great our loss may be, it is still true that the Lord is coming! This is the great message of Advent, this is the great message given to us by any of our martyred brothers or sisters.”

Emilie Rey, Communications Office, Blessed John Duns Scotus Province

Venerable Berardo Atonna, OFM

Publication of the decree regarding the heroic virtues



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On December 18 Pope Leo XIV received in audience Card. Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery of the Causes of Saints, and authorized publication of the decree regarding the

heroic virtues of the *Servant of God Berardo Atonna, professed priest of the Order of Friars Minor*, born in Episcopio di Sarno on July 1, 1843, and died in Naples on March 4, 1917.

The Venerable Berardo Atonna was formed in his youth in the austere and penitent spirituality of the Friars Minor Alcantarine of Naples, among whom he made his first profession in 1860. He lived the first years of his priesthood exclaustated, owing to the suppression of convents as decreed by the Italian liberal government. He therefore settled

for some time in his native city of Sarno where he continued to exercise his ministry with zeal. Reestablished in the common life, he returned in 1873 to the convent of Santa Maria Occorrevole in Piedmonte d’Alife to dedicate himself to prayer, study, and preaching, following the example of St. John Joseph of the Cross who had lived a long time in that place.

Father Atonna gave his life to countless popular missions in Campania, Apulia, Molise. He aroused authentic conversions with the proclamation of the

Word of God and the apostolate of confession. He approached every class of person, with preference for the weakest and abandoned. He dedicated himself to heal the moral and material wounds of the people of God with the exercise of mercy and tenderness. He had special compassion for the sick. He spread the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the practice of the Via Crucis. He had the gift of counsel and supported the birth of new female religious families, including the Franciscan Sisters Alcantarine of Castellammare di Stabia. When in 1897 Pope Leo XIII ordered the merger of the Franciscan families into the sin-

gle Order of Friars Minor *simpliciter dicti*, Father Atonna, while loving the tradition of the Alcantarine branch, worked to promote the implementation of the reform aiming at the spiritual good that would derive from it for the individual friars and for the fraternities. In this circumstance, he was appointed *ex officio* First Minister Provincial of the newly constituted Province of the Friars Minor of St. James of the Marches, from 1902 to 1905. In this capacity he had to endure slander and refusals from those friars who had not accepted the decree of union with a serene soul, providing that he was always humble and ready

for forgiveness. He spent the last years of his life in Naples on behalf of the charitable work “Casa San Giuseppe” built on the hill of Capodimonte to welcome elderly and young women of the people and directed by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary, for which he was chaplain, father, master and spiritual guide.

His contemporaries identified in him the characteristics of the authentic friar minor, in the contemplative and apostolic dimension of St. Francis of Assisi, and wanted to hand down his memory to future generations, starting the Cause of Beatification in 1930.



News from the Entities

Christmas of fraternity in Valletta

Four communities celebrate the Mystery of the Incarnation together



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In the Franciscan church of Valletta, the Province of St. Paul (Malta) lives a journey of missionary collaboration with India, Pakistan and the Philippines: an international fraternity that accompanies migrant communities and bears witness to unity in diversity.

This year, Christmas in the Franciscan fraternity of Valletta (Malta) had a new and profoundly evangelical face. For the first time, four communities – Maltese, Indian, Pakistani and Filipino – celebrated the birth of the Lord in the church of the Friars Minor, sharing the Eucharist, prayer and moments

of fraternity in the convent. In a society where attitudes of racism and mistrust are still perceived, this experience has become a sign of communion and acceptance.

The journey began in 2023, when the Intermediate Chapter of the Province of St. Paul, in the presence of the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, asked to explore new collaborations within the Order to better serve society. The Minister Provincial and the Guardian of Valletta presented this vision to the General Curia to the Definito General for Asia, Br. John Wong, OFM, who helped establish contacts with the Provinces of India and the Philippines and the Custody of Pakistan.

As a result of this process, in 2024 Br. Thomas Manakuzhiyil, OFM, from India, and Br. Andro Fernandez, OFM, from the Philippines; in 2025, Br. Arslan Amanat, OFM, from Pakistan, and Br. Jhoan Pader, OFM, from the Philippines joined. These friars pastorally accompany the migrant communities that have progressively moved to the church in Valletta: the Indian community celebrates three times a week and offers Sunday catechesis; the



Filipino community, followed for years by Br. Raymond Falzon, OFM, meets for the weekly Mass and the choir; The Pakistani community also celebrates once a week. At the same time, the friars are collaborating with the Maltese community and some are learning the local language; Br. Andro is chaplain of the Filipino community in Gozo, at the request of the bishop, Msgr. Anton Teuma.

Christmas Eve was experienced as a real “chain” of celebrations: at 6.00 p.m. the Maltese community, at 7.15 p.m. the Filipino community, at 8.30 p.m. the Indian community, at 10.00 p.m. the Pakistani community and, finally, at 11.30 p.m. the Midnight Mass in Maltese. After each Mass, the communities shared a simple gesture of fraternity with the cutting of the cake in the friary. The community celebration of the 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, also remains in everyone’s memory, in which it became visible that fraternity can overcome historical and political borders, especially between people from India and Pakistan.

In parallel, the Province of St. Paul, through the fraternity of Valletta, has strengthened its collab-

oration with Missio Malta to support the Order’s missions. The “800 smiles” campaign, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the transit of St. Francis, promotes the educational “adoption” of girls and boys in India for ten years of schooling; So far, more than 520 minors have been “adopted”, with the desire to exceed 800. With the help of benefactors, pastoral and social projects in India and Pakistan have been supported, including a mobile clinic and water wells, as well as initiatives in the Philippines.

Thus, a small fraternity in the heart of the Mediterranean becomes a sign of the missionary and international dimension of the Friars Minor. Malta, a land of encounters and passage, is once again a place of hospitality and bridges between peoples. From Valletta, the Maltese, Indian, Pakistani and Filipino communities offer the Lord of Christmas a unique song, made up of different languages, music and faces, but united in the same faith and in the desire to build a fraternity that brings many people closer to God.

With the contribution of: Br. Ramon Farrugia, OFM

Dialogue experienced between East and West

A testimony from the XIX Franciscan Course on Ecumenical Dialogue



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As has been happening since 2004, so also this year, the Ongoing Formation Course on Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue took place in Istanbul in October. An appointment, now in its XIX edition, promoted by the International Franciscan Community in Turkey, in collaboration with the OFM Minister General, the Secretary General for the Missions and Evangelization of the Order, and the Pontifical University *Antonianum*.

It is a true and proper point of reference for Franciscan formation, created to continue, in the spirit of St. Francis, a dialogue with other religions, other cultures, in the name of encounter and of the common effort to promote peace and harmony between nations and faiths. In this jubilee year, in which the 800

years of the Canticum of Creatures are commemorated, the participants had the opportunity to listen to testimonies from the protagonists themselves of the dialogue, visiting also various places in order to be able to acquire experiences of interreli-

gious and ecumenical dialogue. We receive and publish the personal testimony of M. Alessandra Filippi, a participant of the XIX Course on Dialogue.

For more information on the course: <https://dialogo.istanbulofm.org>





OFS Elective National Chapter in Slovenia

December 12-14, 2025



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The elective national chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order in Slovenia was held from December

12 to 14, 2025, at Kurešček, Visoko 120, 1292 Ig, presided over by Marta Radoš, National Minister of Croatia, delegate of the General Minister Tibor Kauser, OFS, and witnessed by Br. Janez Papa, OFM, delegate of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants.

53 capitulars, 4 religious, and 1 observer participated. All the reports (formation, finances, and spiritual assistants) were unanimously approved in a very fraternal atmosphere. Jože Kosel was elected National Minister and Primož Hodak became International Advisor. Subsequently, on December 13th, the installation Mass for the new Council for the next three years was celebrated.

OFS National Elective Chapter in France

Orsay, December 12-14, 2025



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The OFS National Fraternity of France has 2,140 members in 260 local fraternities and 22 regional fraternities; there are also 70 young Franciscan (YuFra) in 4 fraternities.

The National Elective Chapter was celebrated from December 12 to 14, 2025, in Orsay, in the spirituality center "La Clarté-Dieu".

The capitulars enjoyed an hour of worship on Friday evening, followed by the recitation of vespers. The two representatives of the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS), Adolph Assagba, delegate of the OFS Minister General, Tibor Kauser, and Br. Stefan Acatrinei, OFMConv, met the outgoing National Council in the evening, to discuss the program of the chap-



ter and issues concerning the chapter. Saturday program began with Lauds and the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by the guardian, Br. Jean Francois Marie Auclair, OFMConv. The whole morning was devoted to the presentation of various reports, to the discussions therefrom and to their approval. After lunch were the interventions of the representatives of the CIOFS, who offered a general vision of the OFS; in addition, Br. Stefan Acatrinei offered a spiritual reflection on the Cantic of Creatures.

Later, while the candidates for the new National Council were present in the chapter room, Br. Stefan met the 12 spiritual assistants present; he lis-

tened to them, answered their questions, learned what their challenges are and their way of working. He particularly emphasized the qualities required to be an OFS/YuFra Spiritual Assistant: to be suitable and prepared. Vespers concluded the final session of the day, while the day ended with a prayer vigil.

On Sunday, the elective session was led by Adolph Assagba. The 43 capitulars elected as National Minister, Bernard Corder, and as International Councillor, Jean Pirnay. The new National Council was seated during the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Bishop Michel Pansard, bishop of Evry-Corbeil-Essonnes.

LIFE in the Order



Solemn professions

6th December, Prov. The Holy Faith (Colombia):

Br. Rafael Enrique Maldonado Carrascal, Br. Yorgen Omar Marciales Parada, Br. Jaime Wilmer Benitez Granados, Br. Juan Guillermo Dávila Suaza.



Deceased Brothers

- † 4th January: Br. Pasquale Benigno, Prov. St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)
- † 2nd January: Br. Agnello Jacquemin, Prov. Blessed Duns Scotus (France - Belgium)
- † 16th December : Br. Blas Alvarado Jiménez, Prov. St. Philip of Jesus (Mexico); Br. Richard Bendorf, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA).

Information received from the General Secretariat





Closing of the Jubilee at St. Peter's Pope Leo XIV invites us to a new hope on the Epiphany



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On the 6th January, the day of the Epiphany, in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Jubilee journey experienced its last passage. During the morning, Pope Leo XIV presided over the rite of closing the Holy Door in the Basilica, a simple and solemn gesture that sealed the Holy Year that began on December 24, 2024. In an atmosphere of prayerful silence, with the passage through the threshold and its subsequent closing, he entrusted to God's mercy the prayers and tears of so many "pilgrims of hope" who in recent months have crossed that door in search of reconciliation and peace.

Immediately afterwards, the Holy Father celebrated the Mass of the Epiphany and, commenting on the Gospel of Matthew, recalled how the Gospel describes "the great joy of the Magi in seeing the star again", but also "the turmoil felt by Herod and all Jerusalem" in the face of their search. The Pope emphasized that Scripture, when it speaks of the manifestations of God, never hides these contrasts of feelings: "joy and turmoil, resistance and obedience, fear and desire," showing how the encounter with the Lord always shakes false securities. In this context, he linked the gesture of closing the Holy Door to the interior journey of the Magi, a sign of a passage from a habitual faith to a living search for God. From here Leo highlighted the meaning of the Epiphany as the beginning of a new hope just as the Holy Year ends. "Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, aware that in his presence nothing remains as before. This is the beginning of hope," he said, explaining that when God reveals himself "noth-



ing can stand still" and that false tranquility that leads to repeating: "There is nothing new under the sun" ends. Recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah – "Arise, be clothed with light, for your light is coming, the glory of the Lord shines upon you" – the Pope invited the faithful to read the closing of the Holy Door not as a formal conclusion, but as the beginning of a time in which "the present and the future depend on the way in which we welcome this light". so that Jubilee grace may continue to work in personal, ecclesial and social life.

At noon, in the Angelus prayer from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo recalled that Christian joy is born from the manifestation of God in Jesus, who gives us hope even in difficulties because "God saves". He explained that in Christ the divine life was revealed that frees us from fears and builds peace, inviting us to communion and sharing. Linking the gifts of the Magi to the Jubilee that has just ended, the Pope urged people to give all of themselves so that the Kingdom of Jesus may grow, transforming adversaries into brothers and sisters, inequalities into equity and war into a craft of peace. He concluded by inviting everyone to be "weavers of hope", walking towards the future by another path, with a concrete hope that comes from heaven and renews the earth.

[Read Pope Leo's homily](#)

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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, Br. Rick Martignetti OFM

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Ordo Fratrum Minorum
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