



INDEX

Venerable Augusto Rafael Ramírez
 Monasterio, OFM.....1
 University and Grand Chancellor
 Party 2026..... 2
 General Curia Agenda 3
 Reflections by Br. Massimo
 January 2026..... 3
 Visit of the Minister General
 to the Custody of Saint John the Baptist 4
 Opening of the Franciscan Centenary
 in the Philippines..... 6
 Pope Leo’s Prayer
 to St. Francis..... 7
 Franciscan Bookmark 7
 Intermediate Chapter of the Province
 of St. Francis of Assisi in Vietnam..... 8
 A day at St Anthony’s Dining Room
 in the city of San Francisco, California 8
 OFS, National Elective Chapter of Haiti..... 10
 Life in the Order..... 11
 Elective Chapter of the Monastery
 of Our Lady of the Angels 12

**Venerable Augusto Rafael
 Ramírez Monasterio, OFM**

Martyr in hatred of the faith in Guatemala

On the 22nd January, 2026, Pope Leo XIV received in audience Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, and authorized the publication of the Decree concerning the martyrdom of the Servant of God Augusto Rafael Ramírez Monasterio, professed priest of the Order of Friars Minor, born in Guatemala City on the 5th November, 1937, and killed there *in odium fidei* (hatred of the faith) on the 7th November, 1983.

The martyrdom of the Venerable Augusto Rafael Ramírez Monasterio is part of the climate of violence that was established in Guatemala during the years of military rule and the consequent civil war. Since 1978 the Servant of God was parish priest and guardian in “San Francisco el Grande” in the city of Antigua, Guatemala. By preaching and example he bore witness to the Gospel and the liberating power of faith. He promoted truth and justice and was in solidarity with the poor and oppressed. By his example, he encouraged the faithful to follow Christ.

The pretext for eliminating him presented itself in June 1983 when, in the exercise of the ministry of confession, he welcomed a peasant involved with the guerrillas. He was accused of being himself a sympathiser of the left, whilst in reality he had always remained extraneous to politics, nor did he preach anything but Christ and the doctrine of the Catholic Church. Fr Augusto was kidnapped and tortured, with the intention of extorting information received in confession, then he was released. He, faithful to his ministry, courageously remained at his post, without accepting the suggestions of those who proposed that he leave the country.

In the following months, threats and tailings by the State police multiplied. Finally, on the 7th November, he was kidnapped a second time and shot dead on the outskirts of Guatemala City, whilst trying to save himself by fleeing from the vehicle that was transporting him. His body, tortured and riddled with bullets, was recognized in the mortuary the next day by a family mem-



ber. He was the thirteenth priest assassinated in Guatemala since 1978. Fr Augusto belonged to the Custody of the Holy Name of Jesus in Guatemala dependent on the Province of the Friars Minor of Cartagena. For this reason, in his youth, he had

received religious and theological formation and priestly ordination in Spain. The cause of beatification, supported by the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America, began in 2008 at the Curia of Guatemala City.



Government of the Order

University and Grand Chancellor Party 2026 *Pontifical University Antonianum*



WWW.OFM.ORG

On the 16th January 2026, the University feast was celebrated in the Auditorium of the Pontifical University *Antonianum*, presided over by the Grand Chancellor, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, Minister General, together with the Rector, Br. Agustín Hernández Vidales, OFM, the academic community and numerous guests from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the West and Europe. The morning was hosted by Sara Baranzoni.

In his initial greeting, the Rector thanked the Grand Chancellor, the teachers, the administrative staff, the students for the daily service that makes the mission of the *Antonianum* possible. I place today's feast on the path of the great Franciscan centenarians, remembering the anniversaries that began in 2019, the Franciscan University project, the Global Educational Pact wanted by Pope Francis and the years marked by the pandemic, which have called for creativity and resilience in academic life. Pre-

senting some data, he underlined the growth of the stability of the faculty and the development of new initiatives, such as the Academy in Integral Ecology, the highly specialized programmes in Artificial Intelligence and the numerous inter-university collaborations and cooperation agreements, signs of an Athenaeum that wants to combine research, teaching and "third mission" at the service of the Church and society.

The floor then passed to Prof. Daniele Menozzi, professor emeritus of the École Normale Supérieure, who gave a videoconference on "St. Francis of Assisi in the teaching of Pope Francis", highlighting how the Pope looks at the "Poor Man" as an exemplary figure of poverty, peace and integral ecology. The artist Berger Mosbach then presented his work "exhibited on the upper floor of the University, recounting how the discreet and concrete witness The Death of St. Francis", of the



friars, in particular with the poorest, has inspired his work. In the concluding speech, Br. Massimo Fusarelli drew attention to the identity of the *Antonianum* as an authentic Franciscan university. Connecting the feast with the opening of the Franciscan Centenary and the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Blessed Gabriel Maria Allegra, he presented this son of the *Antonianum* as a model of scholar and missionary of the Word of God in China. Through the so-called “Allegra method” – where intelligence and heart, research and prayer, competence and humility remain united – Br. Massimo invited students, teachers and collaborators to be first and foremost listeners of the Word, capable of dialogue with cultures, of working in fraternity and of also taking advantage of digital tools without losing depth. Taking up the motto so dear to Blessed Allegra, “Nothing is impossible for those who pray, work and hope”, he entrusted to the Uni-

versity the task of continuing to make the Gospel resound today, in the footsteps of St. Francis.

The day concluded with the presentation of the “Student of the Year” awards to doctoral students in theology, fundamental theology and spirituality, and with the proclamation of the winners of the “St Francis” Prize for research works on the Franciscan sources and theology. The laureates expressed gratitude to the *Antonianum*, to their own fraternities and to the study centers that support them, recalling how patient work on the texts is a service to the Church and to the Franciscan family.

Read the full text of the Minister General’s Speech: [Italiano](#)

See all [photos on Flickr](#)

General Curia Agenda



☑ Up until the 8th February 2026, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and Br. Konrad Cholewa, Definitor General, will be in Russia for the canonical visit to the “St. Francis” Foundation. From the 10th to 18th February, Br. Massimo, accompanied by the Definitor General, Br. John Wong, will be in New Zealand and Australia to visit the “Holy Spirit” Province.

☑ Up until the 14th February, Br. Ignacio Ceja, Vicar General, will be in India to visit the Province “St. Thomas the Apostle” and the Custody “St. Mary Mother of God”.

☑ From the 13th to 15th February, Br. Konrad will be in Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the Episcopal Ordination of Br. Miro Relota, OFM

Reflections by Br. Massimo – January 2026

Pilgrims of the hope which does not disappoint (Romans 5:5)



WWW.OFM.ORG



On January 10, 2026, as the Jubilee of Hope concluded, the Year of Saint Francis began to com-

memorate the eighth centenary of the saint’s passing. The hope of the Jubilee is now transformed, as proclaimed by the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary which inaugurated the Year of Saint Francis, “into one of zeal and fervor and love in action.” Over these next twelve months, I want to offer in this monthly publication as many useful elements as possible to animate the Year of Francis, because alongside the liturgical and sacramental dimension, we

are calling for a more personal, communal, and societal transformation. From January 2nd to 9th, I was with our brothers in Pakistan, visiting villages inhabited by very poor tribes. Yet, in the midst of that poverty, I breathed in genuine joy, warm hospitality, and a generosity that knows no bounds. I was taken into poor homes and welcomed as one of the family. They continually offered to share with me what little they had, always with smiles that

have stayed with me. I celebrated the Eucharist with Christian communities who are a fervent minority in an Islamic country. Embracing their faith is a risky daily choice. They pray with intensity and sing with a joy that comes from deep within.

What I experienced there did not romanticize poverty. The conditions that need to be transformed remain urgent: Clean water, education, health care, fair labor, social justice. Our brothers are working tirelessly toward improving these things since they see it as an essential part of the Franciscan mission.

But there's something more to experience there: the hope that comes from faith in Christ and illuminates poverty from within. It is not a generic hope, but a certainty rooted in the heart that God does not abandon his children. It's the same hope that motivated Francis when he

stripped himself of everything. This hope doesn't deny suffering, but passes through it. The person of hope does not hide his or her tears, but allows them to be transformed. Hope does not close its eyes to injustice, but finds the strength to resist and build. It is precisely that "hope which does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

The Jubilee decree reminds us that our times "are not very different from the times in which Francis lived." The Year of Francis asks us to move from being pilgrims of hope to being witnesses of "zeal and fervor of active charity." It's not enough to have walked through the holy doors. Now we are called to live out that hope and show it to the world by concrete acts of love. The Christians of Pakistan, a passionate minority living in a Muslim land, remind us that faith is not only lived out when it is comfortable, but when it comes at a cost. The genuine

joy they share even in the midst of their great poverty, their generosity in the face of destitution, their hope in insecurity make them true living witnesses to Francis.

As we begin this special year, I wonder: What hope is within us? How can we keep hope awake and alive? What concrete steps can we take to "detach ourselves from every sin," from our self-centered "ego," in order to turn towards Christ and with him towards those we meet along the way?

The Year of Francis, eight hundred years after his death, must become a year of conversion, in which we learn from the poor what it means to hope against all hope, in which our fraternal life becomes a witness that Christian hope is alive and "does not disappoint."

Visit of the Minister General to the Custody of Saint John the Baptist *Pakistan, 2-9 January 2026*



WWW.OFM.ORG

From January 2 to 9, 2026, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, together with Br. John Wong, Definitor General (Asia-Oceania), made a fraternal visit to the Custody of Saint John the Baptist in Pakistan.

The visit included meetings at some of the friars' fraternities and ministries in Karachi and Hyderabad, including to tribal villages in the rural interior of Sind Province, allowing the visitors to know directly the daily life and apostolate of the brothers in this particular context.

The culminating moment was the Custody Assembly that brought together all the friars of the Custody, offering a privileged space for listening and sharing.

An assembly of listening and discernment

During the assembly, the Minister General and the Definitor were able to listen attentively to what the friars live and work in this land, gathering their testimonies about the daily challenges and difficulties, but also about the hopes and aspirations for the future of the Franciscan presence in Pakistan.

The assembly focused on the message of the Cantic of Creatures, of which this year marks the 800th anniversary of its composition. Precisely in light of this fundamental text of Franciscan spirituality, the need for the friars to grow in the experience of universal fraternity, of being all connected as brothers, emerged with clarity.

The urgency of living ever better with a project of life and a community dimension that are well thought out, welcomed and carried forward together also appeared, in order to profoundly renew the life of the Custody. The assembly culminated in a dialogue and Mass with representatives of Franciscan religious, the Secular Franciscan Order, and collaborators of the Franciscan family.

The encounter with young friars

Particularly significant was the meeting with the young friars in formation. Their joy in responding to the Franciscan vocation and their expectations for the future represented a very challenging and stimulating moment. The custody can count on a good number of young friars, a sign of vitality and hope for the future journey.

A minority but vibrant Church

The visit to the educational, charitable and pastoral activities of the friars allowed us to see up close the reality of the Church in Pakistan: small, minority, but very much alive and capable of moving with wisdom in a multireligious and multicultural context, particularly in dialogue with the Muslim world.

The friars offer a precious service in this delicate context, witnessing to the Gospel through

their fraternal presence and their commitment to the poorest.

Looking to the future

The Custody of Saint John the Baptist is committed to growing ever more in the quality of life of fraternal communion, in the transparency of relationships and in the missionary response to the challenges and opportunities that this country offers. The visit of the Minister General and the Definitor aimed to confirm the brothers in this journey, encouraging them to continue with courage and creativity in their mission.

Br. Massimo and Br. John left Pakistan carrying in their hearts the joy and enthusiasm of the Pakistani brothers, their fidelity to the Franciscan vocation in a not-easy context, and the certainty that the Spirit continues to work also in this land, raising up vocations and animating the service of the friars on behalf of the people of God.

The fraternal visit of the Minister General to the different realities of the Order throughout the world manifests the communion that unites all Friars Minor and the fraternal support that the leadership of the Order wishes to offer to each community in its journey of fidelity to the Gospel and to the charism of Saint Francis.





Franciscan Centenaries

Opening of the Franciscan Centenary in the Philippines Makati City - January 19, 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG



The Philippine Franciscan Family formally opened the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Transitus (Easter) of St. Francis of Assisi (1226–2026) with a landmark ecclesial and cultural event held at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church in Forbes Park, Makati City.

The opening celebration, titled *Frater Sole: On the Life of St. Francis*, was jointly organized by the Italian Embassy in the Philippines and the Inter-Franciscan Ministers Conference of the Philippines (IFMCP), headed by Br. Lino Gregorio V. Redoblado, OFM, IFMCP Chairperson and Minister Provincial of the Franciscan Province of San Pedro Bautista.

The event formally launched the 8th Centenary of the Easter of St. Francis of Assisi through a solemn rite presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Charles John Brown, D.D., who led the liturgical celebration marking

the beginning of the centenary year. The opening message and pastoral reflections were delivered by Archbishop Gilbert A. Garcera, D.D., President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), who led a delegation of around 40 Filipino bishops in attendance.

The Italian Ambassador to the Philippines, Ambassador Davide Giglio, delivered the introduction of the event and formally presented the featured artist, underscoring the strong cultural and spiritual ties between Italy and the Philippines through the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi.

The highlight of the evening was the piano performance of *Frater Sole – On the Life of St. Francis* by renowned Italian pianist and composer Maestro Mario Mariani. Through original compositions, Mariani offered a contemplative musical journey into the life, conversion, and spirituality of the saint of Assisi, whose witness of peace, humility, frater-

nity, and care for creation continues to inspire the world eight centuries after his death.

The celebration was graciously hosted by the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Community, under the leadership of its Guardian, Br. Albert Marfil, OFM, Parish Priest Br. Mark Adame Bakari, OFM, and Ms. Pia Lim Castillo, President of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Also present at the opening were members of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) from different fraternities across the country, together with representatives of Franciscan Youth (YouFra), Young Franciscan Advocates, and a large gathering of devotees, friends, and lovers of St. Francis of Assisi.

The celebration was further graced by the presence of Franciscan Sisters from different congregations, highlighting the richness and diversity of Franciscan consecrated life in the Philip-

Joining the celebration as well were the other Franciscan Ministers Provincial: Br. Edgar S. Martinez, OFM Cap, Minister Provincial of the Capuchin Franciscans, and Br. Emmanuel Giva, OFM Conv, Minister Provincial of the Conventual Franciscans - expressing the strong communion of the three Franciscan Orders in the country. Church leaders emphasized that the Franciscan Centenary is being celebrated in close spiritual continuity with the Extraordinary Jubilee proclaimed by Pope Leo, which calls

the whole Church to renewed conversion, reconciliation, and hope. The Centenary is seen as a providential extension of the Jubilee's grace, inviting the faithful to walk the path of renewal in the footsteps of St. Francis.

In his closing remarks, Br. Lino Gregorio V. Redoblado, OFM invited the faithful to journey together throughout the centenary year in the spirit of St. Francis, renewing the Church's commitment to peace, care for creation, and love for the poor.

The opening celebration marks the beginning of a year-long series of spiritual, pastoral, cultural, and social initiatives across the Philippines in commemoration of the Franciscan Centenary. St. Francis of Assisi remains one of the most beloved figures in Christian history and is widely revered for his message of peace, humility, and universal fraternity.

The Franciscan Centenary celebrations will culminate in 2027 with major national and international events.

Pope Leo's Prayer to St. Francis



WWW.OFM.ORG

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen

Download the prayer:

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



Leo P.P. XIV

Franciscan Bookmark



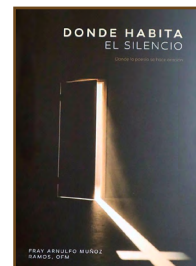
Studi Francescani

Anno 122, Luglio
Dicembre 2025, n. 3-4



a cura
dei Frati Minori d'Italia

Donde habita el Silencio



De Fr. Arnulfo Muñoz
Ramos, OFM

Librería Franciscana
Zapopan



Intermediate Chapter of the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Vietnam *New Provincial Definitory elected*



WWW.OFM.ORG



From January 19 to 28, 2026, the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Vietnam is holding its Intermediate Chapter at the Our Lady of Nui Cui Pilgrimage Center (Diocese of Xuan Loc).

Under the theme “From Provincial Heritage to Today’s Mission,” the 53 members of the Chapter have gathered to reflect on the journey of grace and discern the Divine Will for the mission of evangelization.

On the morning of January 23, 2026, the fifth day of the Chapter, the assembly focused on the election of the Provincial leadership. Following the Morning Prayer to invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Minister Provincial, Br. John of God Nguyen

Phuoc, presided over the election of five Provincial Definitors for the 2026–2029 triennium, in accordance with the General Constitutions.

In a spirit of co-responsibility and fraternal love, the 47 members present cast their ballots to elect the following brothers to the new Provincial Definitory:

- Br. Ignatius Nguyen Duy Lam
- Br. Joseph Ngo Ngoc Khanh
- Br. Joseph Vu Lien Minh
- Br. John Baptist Dau Quang Luat
- Br. Vincent Tran Duc Hanh

These five newly elected Definitors, together with Minister Provincial Br. John of God Nguyen Phuoc and Vicar Provincial Br. Joseph Pham Van Binh, will constitute the Provincial Definitory for the 2026–2029 term. This election is not merely a juridical act of the Order but a profound sign of obedience and apostolic commitment. Following the footsteps of the Seraphic Father, St. Francis, the new Definitory is called to serve as “lesser ones” (minores), collaborating with the OFM general leadership to safeguard the heritage of the friars and courageously open new paths for the mission in the world today.



Animation of the Order

A day at St Anthony’s Dining Room in the city of San Francisco, California *“These are the treasures of the Church”*



WWW.OFM.ORG

On 1st January, 2026, the city of San Francisco, California, dawns with little commercial and social activity. The thermometer reads 11° Celsius and the rain is present. One of the city’s central neighborhoods is the Tenderloin, currently known for

its high concentration of homeless people, the sale and consumption of drugs, especially fentanyl, and poverty. In the heart of this neighbourhood is the church of St Boniface administered by the Franciscans since 1887.

At 9:00 am. 121 Golden Gate Avenue runs through the Tenderloin, and that is where the San Antonio Dining Room is located. At this time of day you begin to notice a group of people forming a line. The Dining Room was founded in 1950 by Br. Alfred Boeddeker, OFM, who was the parish priest of St. Boniface, the church under which the St. Anthony Foundation was born whose mission is “to feed, heal, shelter, clothe, lift the spirits of those in need and create a society in which all people can thrive.”

To-day, ten Franciscan friars are at the service of St Boniface church and the different programmes managed by the Foundation. It is an intergenerational, multilingual and multicultural fraternity that knows how to combine its fraternal life with the demands of daily work. One of them has taken as an apostolate to go out into the neighbourhood in search of the inhabitants of the street to offer them sheets, socks, hats, raincoats, scarves, or whatever he receives in donations, so that the night is as unforgiving as possible.



At 9:30 am. It is the arrival time of the volunteers who will serve for the next four hours. The food is ready, the dining room looks clean and hygienic. Aurelio, one of the 260 collaborators who work at the Foundation, begins to lead physical warm-up exercises in order to prepare the body for work. Then general indications are offered and service areas are assigned: distribution of food and water, cleaning of tables, attention to people with physical disabilities, etc.

On the 7th November, the St Anthony Foundation celebrated seventy-five years of existence. That

humble dining room of Br. Alfred “has become a vibrant community centre that accompanies more than 10,000 neighbours each year.”

Among the beneficiaries of this programme are the homeless; those with low incomes, but with a home, and within these two groups there are some who have fallen into alcoholism or drug addiction.

At 10:00 am. The St Anthony’s Dining Room opens its doors to receive the first diners. The most commonly used greeting by everyone is: “Happy New Year!” Half an hour later the dining room tables are almost full. The faces, languages, and accents of the people who occupy them reveal their origin: Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, etc.

Some of them were born in the country, most of them are migrants. Everyone knows that in this Dining Room they have a place that not only offers them a lunch, but also welcomes them with respect and affection three hundred and sixty-five days a year. In addition to lunch, they can access the distribution of breakfast and dinner to go, as well as the weekly delivery of a bag of food.

At 12:00 am. After two hours of intense work, the people in charge of the soup kitchen give some of the volunteers a twenty-minute break with their respective lunch and then a change of service. Once that time is over, the same is done with the other part of the day’s volunteering.

Pope Leo XIV in his Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te*. On love for the poor, he affirms that their condition represents “a cry that, in the history of humanity, constantly challenges our lives, our societies, our political and economic systems, and especially the Church” (n. 9).

The St Anthony’s Foundation has allowed itself to be challenged by that cry and at this time responds to it through programs such as the Dining Room, free clothing, clinics for physical and mental health, a technology centre to reduce the digital divide, personal hygiene service with showers and laundry, the drug recovery programme with a view to reintegration into the labour market, advice on fair employment, women’s empowerment, advice on migration and labour issues, personalised support and guidance in different areas, etc.

At 1:30 pm. The dining room has closed its doors, but a man with Asian features has been able to sneak in. The leaders and volunteers look at each

other without knowing what to do. One of them, with a smile on his face, says aloud: “one was missing.” Lunch is then served.

The work is done. A small screen located near the food distribution reports the number of lunches delivered on this first day of the year, namely 1574.

At 2:00 pm. Volunteers begin to leave the facilities, experience physical fatigue, but also satisfaction of the heart. A few meters from the Dining Room is the St Boniface’s Church. At that time, a group of people are seen leaving it and receiving their belongings that they left at the entrance. They are the beneficiaries of the St Clare’s programme that offers street dwellers at least eight hours of rest in the pews of the church, allowing them a safe and warm place under the care of a staff that welcomes, protects and attends to them.

When in the third century the authorities of the Roman Empire asked the deacon St. Lawrence to bring them the treasures of the Church, he distributed amongst the poor the few possessions that the Christian community possessed, presented to the authorities a multitude of poor, crippled and blind with the iconic phrase: “These are the true treasures of the Church.”

In this place, the Franciscan friars for more than seventy-five years have dignified the poorest and most vulnerable people left on the streets by the prosperous and opulent society. Without a doubt, they are convinced where the true treasures of the Church are to be found, and opening the doors to them daily is their greatest joy.

Br. Daniel Rodríguez Blanco, OFM, Director of the JPIC General Office



OFS

OFS, National Elective Chapter of Haiti 11th January, 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG

On the 11th January 11, 2026, the national fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of Haiti held its Elective Chapter. Unfortunately, due to the political unrest in the country, the delegates of CIOFS, in particular Adolph Atsu Assagba and Br. Pedro Zitha, OFM, were unable to reach Haiti, but thanks to a special permission they were able to conduct the Chapter via Zoom, under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assistant, Br. Fenol Laugene, OFM.

In the elective session, Dionisse Edouarzin, OFS, was elected National Minister and International Councilor.

We thank all the brothers and sisters for the understanding and cooperation shown during the elective session. Despite the distance, everything hap-

pened with serenity and enthusiasm.

We continue to pray for peace and harmony in Haiti, so that one day the delegates of CIOFS will be able to visit the sisters and brothers of the OFS to strengthen the bond of unity and communion.

In the cover photograph the OFS National Council of Haiti: in the bottom row, from left to right, Dionisse Edouarzin (National Minister), Alesla Valmé (Treasurer), Luc Paul Déplat (Formation Master). In the top row, from left to right: Emmanuel Ludovic André (Secretary) and Estel Servé, Deputy Minister.



LIFE in the Order



Solemn professions

17th January, Prov. St. Paul the Apostle (Colombia):

Br. Rubén Darío Valencia Carvajal

12th January, Prov. The Holy Martyrs of Korea (Republic of Korea)

Br. John Kim

25th October 2025, Prov. The Sacred Heart of Jesus (Italy)

Br. Antonio Scafuto



Priestly Ordinations

8th December 2025, Prov. Missionary of St. Anthony (Bolivia)

Br. Bladimir Salazar Murillo



Deceased Brothers

† 26th January: Br. Antonio Tagliaferro, Prov. Immaculate Conception of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 25th January: Br. Saverio (Ambrogio) Fornasiero, Prov. St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 21st January: Br. Michael Crosby, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 19th January: Br. Jesús-Francisco Varela del Río, Prov. Immaculate Conception of the BVM (Spain)

† 18th January: Br. Vianney (Robert Joseph) Miller, Cust. St. Benedict of the Amazon (Brazil)

† 15th January: Br. Piergiorgio De Marchi, Prov. Immaculate Conception of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 8th January: Br. Raúl Martínez Guapo, Prov. Sts. Peter and Paul (Mexico); Br. Adam (Adam Kazimierz) Raczkowski, Prov. St. Mary of the Angels (Poland)

† 6th January: Br. Guillermo Hernández Gómez, Prov. Sts. Francis and James (Mexico)

† 5th January: Br. Graziano (Ilario) Meggiolaro, Prov. Immaculate Conception of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 4th January: Br. Karl Möhring, Prov. St. Elizabeth (Germany)

† 3rd January: Br. Pavo (Nikola) Maslach, Prov. Assumption of the BVM (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Br. Scaria Varanath, Cust. St. Mary Mother of God (India)

† 2nd January: Br. Stjepan Pavić, Prov. The Holy Cross (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

† 29th December 2025: Br. John Kapitan, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 20th December: Br. James (James Thomas) Vacco, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

† 19th December: Br. Kevin (John Terrence) Lynch, Prov. Holy Spirit (Canada)

† 18th December: Br. Lucas Leung, Prov. The Holy Spirit (Australia), Br. Giovanni Paolo (Giovanni) Perfetto, Prov. The Sacred Heart of Jesus (Italy)

† 14th December: Br. Vincent (Conrad) Fink, Prov. The Holy Spirit (Canada)

† 11th December: Br. Franjo Ninić, Prov. The Holy Cross (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

† 20th November: Br. José Rubén Moratilla Ramírez, Prov. The Holy Gospel (Mexico)

† 9th November: Br. Benignus (Colin James) Clowes, Prov. The Holy Spirit (Australia)

† 3rd November: Br. Carmine (Pasquale Maria) Serpetti, Prov. St. Bonaventure of the Friars Minor (Italy)

Information received from the General Secretariat



Elective Chapter of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Angels Dourados (MS), Brazil - 10th January, 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG

Thanking the Giver of grace, from whom we believe every good gift and every perfect gift comes (2CtIn), we wish to communicate with great spiritual joy (1CtIn, 21) the celebration, last January 10, 2026, of our Elective Chapter for the Triennium 2026-2029. After the Conventual Chapter met, preceded by the convocation of all the *vocali* (the electors), according to the CCGG, Chapter IX, in the presence of the President, Br. Roberto Miguel do Nascimento, OFM, and two scrutineers, the work continued until the voting took place, from which the following were elected:

- Mother Abbess: Sister Maria Rafaela of the Immaculate Virgin, OSC
- Vicar: Sister Laís Maria of Our Lady of the Angels, OSC
- Second Councillor: Sister Maria Francis, OSC
- Third Councillor: Sister Maria Catarina of the God Child, OSC

- Fourth Councillor: Sister Maria Beatriz of Christ the King, OSC

We trust in the graces of the Lord, which made it possible for the elective Chapter to take place on the same date on which the Franciscan Family inaugurated the VIII Centenary of the Transit of St. Francis, a man of peace and brother to all.

We are certain that God Himself, faithful in all his words and holy in all His works, will pour out His blessing and be our best help and comforter, for He is our Redeemer and our eternal reward (cf. CtEr).

We ask for your prayers, so that the Lord, who gave us the good beginning, will give us growth and perseverance until the end (St. Clare).

Mother Maria Rafaela of the Immaculate Virgin, OSC



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, Br. Rick Martignetti OFM

OFM
Ordo Fratrum Minorum
© 2025 All rights reserved