



INDEX

Singapore hosts the Meeting of Franciscan Communicators from Asia-Oceania1
 General Curia Agenda 2
 An invitation to pray for peace3
 Easter Visit of the Minister General to the Province of the Holy Cross3
 Visit of the Minister General to the Custody of St. Benedict in the Amazon4
 CIME and CEME meet to strengthen the evangelising mission of the OFM5
 Vocational Formation in Poland6
 Life in the Order.....6
 Br. Francesco Patton signs the meditations of the Via Crucis in the Colosseum 7
 Pope Leo celebrates Palm Sunday at St. Peter's 7

Singapore hosts the Meeting of Franciscan Communicators from Asia-Oceania

FCAO promotes collaboration and common guidelines for Franciscan communication

From 7 to 10 April, representatives of communications offices within the Franciscan Conference of Asia and Oceania (FCAO) met at St Anthony Friary in Singapore with the aim of creating a network to foster mutual collaboration, unify efforts and share experiences. Twelve people attended in person and four virtually.

On Tuesday, following morning prayer, participants presented the work of their communications offices and their challenges, which included limited resources, the need for translation, internal coordination, and digital presence. Also discussed were best practices that included the development of shared editorial calendars, the creation of shared libraries for photo and other resource material, the establishment of protocols for source verification and internal approval, the use of style guidelines to ensure consistency across languages, and the regular review of metrics to adjust content and publication schedules.



In the afternoon, consultant Ms. Karen Goh led a workshop on brand identity and message consistency. She said that being clear and consistent helps to build trust and uphold the mission and presented criteria for clearly defining and communicating an organisation's identity and applying these across different channels and contexts. She also stressed the importance of reviewing communication messages and channels regularly to ensure consistency and that these remain appropriate to the entity's communication objectives. Under her guidance, the group developed a set of draft messages to describe FCAO and its common projects.

On Wednesday, 8 April, the assembly examined in depth the document "Incipe Iterum" through a dialogue aimed at discerning criteria for an authentically evangelising digital presence. During his presentation, Br. Byron Chamann, OFM, emphasised that these guidelines approved at the Order level were a framework of reference and that each entity is called to develop its own protocols, sensitive to local culture and regulations, including working in teams that include lay experts. He also asked that the entities consider integrating digital formation into formation programmes.

On Thursday, the group discussed collaboration between the FCAO and the General Curia's Communications Office, proposing concrete measures to strengthen the exchange of news, photographs and resources between entities and conferences. The discussion, led by Br. Byron, highlighted the importance of institutional communication, the need for careful verification of sources and coordi-

nation with superiors, as well as the importance of strengthening links and references to the Order's official channels.

Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM, then gave a presentation on proposed communication collaboration among the FCAO entities. Franciscan digital presence is weakened when voices remain fragmented, and capabilities are uneven across the entities, he said. He proposed moving from simple cooperation to deeper collaboration, with clear projects and shared criteria, and encouraged the strengthening of networking, including through the improvement of common platforms and channels of exchange.

On Friday, 10 April, the discussion focused on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism and social media, with a session led by Br. John Sekar, OFM. He pointed out that, alongside the opportunities AI offers for daily work, there are also ethical risks such as disinformation, the loss of critical thinking, the protection of privacy and image rights, and the ecological impact of technology. The discussion encouraged the promotion of responsible and transparent use in the service of truth and the common good.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue strengthening the FCAO network of Franciscan communicators, to share resources in a coordinated manner, and to uphold a form of communication that, with sobriety and hope, reflects the fraternity and mission of the Friars Minor within local Churches and in the care of our common home.

General Curia Agenda



☑ The journey of Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and Br. César Külkamp, Definitor General, to Latin America continues. In Brazil, they will visit: from the 21st to the 23rd of April, the Custody of the Seven Joys of the BVM, from the 24th to the 26th of April, the Province of the Assumption of the BVM and from the 27th to the 30th of April, the Province of St. Anthony.

☑ From the 11th to the 20th April, the Definitor General, Br. Joaquín A. Echeverry H., met with the brothers of the Province of St Philip of Jesús in

Mexico; on the 20th and 21st he met with the teachers of the Franciscan school "Leona Vicario" in Mexico City.

☑ From the 3rd to the 5th of May, the Definitor General, Br. Konrad Cholewa, will participate in the Chapter of the Province of St. Wenceslas in Prague, Czech Republic.

☑ From the 4th to the 16th May in the General Curia there will be a Tempo Forte.

Government of the Order



An invitation to pray for peace *Message by the Minister General*



WWW.OFM.ORG



In these days, as the suffering of so many innocent people grows because of wars and violence, we receive with gratitude the voice of Pope Leo XIV, which resounds with clarity and courage. It is an appeal to the dignity of every person, to dialogue, and to our shared responsibility. To ask for peace is not a political gesture: it is a fundamental moral act, rooted in the Gospel. As Friars Minor, we re-

new our full adherence to the Holy Father and our commitment to welcoming his words of peace and justice. They bring us back to the heart of the message of Saint Francis of Assisi: the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ and of that Peace which comes from God – not the peace the world gives, but the peace that no power can take away or falsify. Therefore, the Church – and with it the Order of Friars Minor – chooses to stand on the side of those who build and not of those who divide; on the side of the little ones, innocent victims of wars and violence. We invite our fraternities and the Franciscan Family to intensify prayer for peace, to accompany with closeness those who suffer, and to support, according to the possibilities of each place, concrete initiatives of solidarity and assistance.

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM
Photo: Vatican Media

Easter Visit of the Minister General to the Province of the Holy Cross *Minas Gerais, Brazil*



WWW.OFM.ORG

From the 1st to the 7th April, 2026, against the backdrop of Holy Week and Easter, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, and Br. César Küllkamp, Definitor General, made a fraternal visit to the Province of the Holy Cross, in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais.



The Easter context gave the visit a particularly significant tone. In the communities of São João del Rei, Divinópolis and Betim, the Minister General presided over the celebrations of Holy Week, inserting himself into the every day life of the parishes and fraternities as a brother amongst brothers. The moments of prayer, sharing and meeting with the Christian communities and with the Franciscan nuns have marked these days with a presence that goes beyond a simple institutional visit.

On Easter Day, a meeting was held with the temporary professed and their formators, an opportunity for a serene and constructive evaluation of the formation process in progress. Afterwards, the meeting with the 11 postulants currently present in the Province represented a concrete sign of vitality and hope for the future of the Order in this land.

The meeting with the Definitory and the assembly with all the friars offered the Minister General the opportunity to share some reflections born from listening: gratitude for the dedication of the friars and for the missionary commitment in one of the largest states in Brazil, and at the same time some fidelities to be preserved and renewed, such as authentic fraternal life, the quality of relationships and communication between brothers, a bolder openness to the mission, the paths of reconciliation, as well as the fraternal economy and the future sustainability of the Province.

There was no shortage of meetings that further broadened the gaze: the visit to the Poor Sisters

of St. Clare, the sharing with the educators and young students at the College of St. Anthony of Belo Horizonte and the knowledge of some social works, a sign of a fraternal presence that reaches not only the churches, but also the peripheries of life.

At the end, Br. Massimo brought back from this visit a deep gratitude: for the Easter context that gave flavor and depth to each meeting, for the warm and fraternal welcome received everywhere and for the possibility of a frank and constructive dialogue with the friars, with a look that was both honest and full of hope turned to the future of the Province and its mission in the heart of Brazil.

Visit of the Minister General to the Custody of St. Benedict in the Amazon

7th-10th April, 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG

From the 7th to the 10th April, 2026, the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli and the Definitory General, Br. César Kulkamp, visited the Custody of St. Benedict in the Amazon, accompanied by the General Delegate Br. Wanderley G. Figueiredo and the Custos, Br. Edilson Rocha da Silva.



The visit began on the 7th April with his arrival in Manaus and reception in the São Boaventura fraternity. On the 8th April, the Minister General met with Cardinal Leonardo Steiner, OFM, Archbishop of Manaus, and Msgr. Samuel Ferreira, OFM, Auxiliary Bishop. In the afternoon, Br. Massimo and Br. César moved to Santarém, welcomed in the São Francisco fraternity, seat of the Custodial Curia, where they met the Archbishop of Santarém.

On the evening of 8 April, in the Parish of the Blessed Sacrament, the Minister General presided over the Eucharistic celebration with the Franciscan Family, made up of friars, religious and members of the OFS. The liturgy was a true family celebration

in the centenary year of St. Francis. In his homily, the Minister General recalled that “the places from which we try to escape, considering them places of darkness, are often precisely the places where the seeds of new life are found”, inviting those present to allow themselves to be transformed by the presence of the Risen One. The entire day of the 9th April was dedicated to the assembly with all the friars. In the light of the journey of faith of Abraham, who believed against all hope and became “father of many peoples”, the Minister General recalled the essential elements of the intervention of the General Definitory, highlighting the strengths and critical issues of the Custody and tracing the course of the future journey, with the accompaniment of the General Delegate and the Commission. At the heart of the message is the invitation to look at reality with new eyes, enlightened by the relationship with God and fraternity, to transform the «groans of death» into «groans of childbirth» and recognise the potential of the Custody in a crucial region for the Church, the Order and the whole world. The assembly showed a good quality of listening and discussion, laying a solid basis for continuing the journey.

On the evening of the 9th April, in the Community of St. Anne, the Minister General presided over the Eucharist with young people, GIFRA, the Lodi and Kabi-kaxi Franciscan Theatre Group and the leaders of the network of Franciscan parishes, commemorating the Transit of St. Francis in this centenary year. In his homily, he stressed that “every time we share the faith, the Risen One makes himself pres-

ent”, and entrusted the community and the world, “marked by wars, divisions and uncertainties, to the peace of the Risen Lord”. The celebration, which was participated in, was lively and was followed by a moment of dialogue and fraternal conviviality.

On the last day, the 10th April, after Lauds and the Mass with the Fraternity, the Minister General met with the Custodial Council to reaffirm the course of the journey and look forward together. In the afternoon, a meeting was held with the six postulants, the three temporary professed and the formators, in which Br. Massimo took up the essential elements

of the Franciscan vocation and the specific identity of each stage of formation. In particular, reflection was given on how to better know and prepare to welcome and accompany vocations that come from the indigenous people of the Munduruku, a challenge for the Custody and for the Order.

The visit confirmed the General Definitory’s desire to accompany the Custody of St. Benedict on a journey of renewal, in the conviction that, as St. Francis teaches, even from the cross and travail, an Easter newness capable of generating life, hope and joy can be born.

Animation of the Order



CIME and CEME meet to strengthen the evangelising mission of the OFM Malta, 22-26 March 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG

Malta hosted the joint meeting of the International Council for Missions and Evangelisation (CIME) and the Executive Commission for Missions and Evangelisation (CEME), which took place from 22 to 26 March 2026. During these days, the participants shared experiences and contexts of missionary evangelisation in the different Conferences and Entities of the Order, in an atmosphere of prayer, dialogue and discernment. Representing the CEME were Brothers Br. Francisco Gómez Vargas and Br. Dennis Tayo, Secretary and Animator of the General Secretariat for the Missions and Evangelisation, together with Br. Johannes Freyer, Br. José Rodríguez and Br. Clement Boumekpor. Present to represent CIME were the Secretaries of the Conferences: Br. Edgar Abad, Br. Peter Boegel, Br. Arcangelo Borek, Br. Matteo Brena, Br. Sandesh Manuel, Br. Leopold Mičić, Br. Elcardo Muhereza, Br. Marcel Tshikez, Br. Mauricio Meza Sánchez, Br. Eduardo Augusto Schiehl and Br. Nicholas Shin. Each one contributed with the richness and challenges inherent in his own missionary reality. Also, present were the Definitory General, Br. Jimmy Zammit, who brought greetings from the Minister General, and Edgar Abad Marcos Mendoza, who served as translator.

One of the central themes of the meeting was an in-depth study of the Ratio Evangelizationis of the Order (REO), continuing the path that began in 2022 and culminated with the publication of *Ite* in

Mundum on the 8th December, 2025. Progress has been made in the search for concrete methodologies for its implementation and in the development of contextual guidelines (Ratio Particolare), adapted to different cultural and pastoral realities.



In addition, proposals regarding the missionary and evangelising life of the Order were drawn up in preparation for the 2027 General Chapter, including contributions for the revision of the General Statutes. In this context, a specific time was dedicated to the study of Chapter V of these Statutes, which deals with missionary evangelisation, in order to update some terms in the light of current challenges. During the meeting, the specific Statutes of the General Secretariat for the Missions and Evangelisation were also examined.

The meeting ended with a renewed commitment to promote a creative and contextualised evangelisation, faithful to the Franciscan charism.



News from the Entities

Vocational Formation in Poland

Chorzów, April 7–8, 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG



On April 7–8, 2026, at the Franciscan Youth and Vocations Centre “Three Companions” in Chorzów, operating at the Franciscan monastery, a meeting of Vocation Ministry leaders of the Order of Friars Minor from across Poland took place.

The event was attended by friars responsible for Vocation Ministry from five Polish Provinces: Saint Mary of the Angels, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Assumption of the BVM, Saint Hedwig, and Saint Francis of Assisi. Br. Konrad Cholewa OFM, General Definitor of the Order, also participated in the meeting.

The main aim of the meeting was to reflect on a letter concerning vocational formation, prepared by the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies

of the Order, as well as to exchange experiences and jointly develop directions for future action. Participants also worked on preparing a program and gathering information regarding the youth and Vocation Ministry in Poland.

Through group work, participants addressed the topic of new ways of reaching young people, emphasising the importance of authentic witness of life and presence in the environments where the younger generation lives. The meeting also fostered cooperation among various centres and communities. A common calendar of initiatives organised by vocation ministries in the Provinces was also developed, with particular emphasis on events related to the celebration of the Year of Saint Francis.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of fraternal collaboration and concern for the development of Vocation Ministry throughout the country. It was organised by the Secretary for Formation and Studies of the North Slavic Conference (SLAN) of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. Siergiusz Bałdyga expressed hope that the initiatives undertaken would contribute to revitalising care for vocations and support those who are searching for their path in life.

LIFE in the Order



Deceased Brothers

† 12th April: Br. José Maria Pereira de Faria Moreira, Prov. The Holy Martyrs of Morocco (Portugal)

† 9th April: Br. José Simões (José) Alfaiate, Prov. The Holy Martyrs of Morocco (Portugal)

† 5th April: Br. Jean-Claude (Yves-Marie) Chupin, Prov. Blessed John Duns Scotus (France)

† 3rd April: Br. Sebastian (Ryszard Bernard) Baryluk, Prov. St. Francis of Assisi (Poland)

† 29th March: Br. Augustine (Roland Anthony) Pinto, prov. St. Thomas the Apostle (India)

† 28th March: Br. Ante Ivanković (sr), Prov. Assumption of BVM (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

† 27th March: Br. Pablo González Ruiz, Prov. Sts. Peter and Paul (Mexico)

† 4th March: Br. Ludio Alejandro Quinteros Rivera, Prov. The Twelve Apostles (Peru)

Information received from the General Secretariat



**Br. Francesco Patton signs the meditations
of the Via Crucis in the Colosseum**
Good Friday, April 3, 2026



WWW.OFM.ORG

The traditional Via Crucis of Good Friday at the Colosseum, presided over by Pope Leo XIV on the evening of April 3, will be accompanied by meditations prepared by Br. Francesco Patton, OFM, former Custos of the Holy Land (2016-2025).

In several interviews given to the Vatican media and the Custody of the Holy Land, Br. Francesco says he received the request through the Secretary of State. The assignment, he explains, was also entrusted in conjunction with the eighth centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi.

The editorial work was born from listening to the Word and from the Franciscan tradition: as a basis, the evangelical texts, with a particular attention to the Gospel according to John, and some passages from the writings of St. Francis, selected to offer a spiritual reading of the stations.

The meditations, in the form of prayer, are intended to help believers walk in the footsteps of Jesus and, at the same time, to open a space of question



and of hope even for those afar from the faith. The look, however, does not remain abstract. The reflections are challenged by today's reality and by concrete individuals marked by suffering: mothers who mourn their children, women injured by violence, victims of war and those who carry, often in silence, the burden of injustice. In this perspective, the Via Crucis also becomes an invitation to conversion, to the recognition of the dignity of every person and to the rejection of all violence carried out in the name of God.

Br. Francesco also recalls the experience of the Via Crucis that, every Friday, the friars of the Custody of the Holy Land guide along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem: a prayer lived in the midst of daily life, among the crowd and its contradictions, where you learn to follow Christ into a world that often does not understand. It is this concreteness, rooted in the Gospel, that the meditations also wish to deliver to the Church that gathers at the Colosseum.

Pope Leo celebrates Palm Sunday at St. Peter's
"This is our God: Jesus, King of Peace"



WWW.OFM.ORG



On Sunday, the 29th March at 10:00 a.m., in St. Peter's Square, the Church opened Holy Week with the Commemoration of the Lord's entry into Je-

rusalem. In front of the Obelisk, the Gospel of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was proclaimed, and the blessing of the palms took place; then the procession accompanied the faithful to the altar for the celebration of the Mass.

At the centre of the liturgy, the homily of the Holy Father Leo XIV pointed to the face of Christ as "King of peace", in a time marked by violence and conflicts. The Pope invited us to look to Jesus who, while war is being prepared around him, "remains firm in meekness"; to Jesus who "offers himself as a caress for humanity", whilst others «take up swords and clubs»; to Jesus who is «the light of the world», when «darkness is about to cover the earth».

Fraternitas

Taking up the Scriptures, the Holy Father recalled that the messianic King enters Jerusalem “on the back of a donkey, not a horse”, fulfilling the prophecy that announces a peace capable of breaking “the arc of war” and reaching “the nations”. And when one of the disciples draws his sword, Christ stops him with clear words: “Put your sword back in its place, for all those who take the sword will die by the sword.” The homily then contemplated the Passion as a revelation of God’s meekness: Jesus, “burdened with our sufferings and pierced for our sins”, “did not open his mouth” and, instead of saving Himself, “allowed Himself to be nailed to the Cross”, to embrace “all the crosses planted in every time and place in the history of humanity”. Hence the appeal that runs through the celebration: “Christ, King of peace, still cries out from His Cross: God is love! Have mercy! Lay down your arms, remember that you are brothers!” In conclusion, the Pope entrusted this cry to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, recalling the words of the Servant of

God Tonino Bello and the certainty that, “despite everything, death will no longer have a hold on us” and that “the tears of all the victims of violence and pain will soon be dried up”.

At the end of the Mass, the Holy Father led the Angelus prayer. At the beginning of Holy Week, he expressed the Church’s closeness “to the Christians of the Middle East”, tried by an “atrocious conflict”, and invited them to raise the supplication “to the Prince of Peace”, so that he may support “the peoples wounded by war” and open “concrete paths of reconciliation and peace”. He also remembered the seafarers who were victims of war and the migrants who died at sea, renewing the invocation: “Earth, sky and sea are created for life and peace!”

Read [Pope Leo’s homily](#)

Read the [words of the Angelus](#)

See all [photos in Flickr](#)

1226 — 2026 Franciscus

Eight Hundredth Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis



*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called
children of God (Mt 5,9).*

They are truly peacemakers who, in all the things they endure in this world, for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve peace in soul and body (Admonitions XV).

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. Rick Martigneti OFM, Br. Arthur Andersen OFM

OFM

Ordo Fratrum Minorum
© 2026 All rights reserved