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Ordo Fratrum Minorum

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Safeguarding Commitment Strengthened across Malaysia and Singapore

Safeguarding Days in the Custody of St Anthony di Sant'Antonio

The Autonomous Custody of St Anthony (Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei) reaffirmed its commitment to the care of minors and vulnerable adults through two intensive Safeguarding Days held in Singapore on 1 June 2026 and in Kuching, East Malaysia, on 10 June 2026.

The formation programmes brought together friars, full-time staff, key volunteers and parish ministry leaders from across the Custody. Participants included those serving in friar-led ministries in Singapore, Peninsular Malaysia (Penang and Johor), and East Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak), as well as leaders and volunteers from *Sign Light*, the ministry for the deaf. Attendance was mandatory for those with significant pastoral and leadership responsibilities.

The Safeguarding Days followed earlier meetings between the friars of Malaysia and Singapore and Mr Christo-



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pher Hu, Director of the Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office of the Custody. These formation events formed part of the Custody's ongoing commitment to strengthening a culture of protection, accountability and care in all its ministries.

The programme featured presentations and discussions led by friars and lay professionals with expertise in civil law, canon law, psychology and counselling.

During the morning sessions, participants reflected on the current safeguarding landscape through sessions entitled *Where Are We Now: Seeing and Judging*, which examined the sexual abuse crisis in the Church, *Clericalism*, and *The Developmental, Legal and Social Impact of Abuse*.

After lunch, attention then turned towards practical action through the theme *Where Are We Going? From Seeing and Judging to Acting*, which focused on building safe environments for minors and vulnerable adults. Participants received orientations based on the Custody's Safeguarding Handbook. Topics included the options available to victims, the Custody's investigation process, how decisions are made, responsibilities in reporting concerns, and the restrictions, rights and options available to persons against whom complaints are made.

"In our individual ministries we need to have a higher level of competence," said Mr Hu, emphasising the responsibility shared by all involved in pastoral service.

The formation also included practical guidance on empathetic listening to survivors and on re-

sponding appropriately when matters related to abuse arise within the context of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Each Safeguarding Day concluded with participants signing a declaration accepting the Custody's Code of Conduct, a visible expression of their commitment to uphold safeguarding principles in their ministries.

Looking towards the future, Br Derrick Yap OFM, Custos of the Custody of St Anthony and safeguarding representative for the Conference of Religious Major Superiors of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei, highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration throughout the local Church.

"We are in the process of setting up a Safeguarding Team within the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei, with representatives from various dioceses and religious congregations for collaboration and shared resources. There will be fifteen members on this team," he said.

The Custody has also committed itself to conducting a Safeguarding Audit every two to three years to evaluate the effectiveness of its policies and practices and to ensure continued accountability and improvement.

Through these formation initiatives, the friars and their collaborators continue to demonstrate their determination to create safe environments, to accompany those who have been harmed, and to fulfil faithfully the Church's evangelical responsibility to protect minors and vulnerable adults throughout Malaysia and Singapore.

Government of the Order



The Minister General visits the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Spain)

The charism is greater than we are, and it lives with us and beyond us



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From 1 to 6 June, the Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli, accompanied by the General Definitor Br. Cesare Vaiani, visited the Spanish Province of the Immaculate Conception. It was a fraternal visit under the motto “Following Christ poor, sent to proclaim the Gospel,” which crossed Spain from Madrid to Andalusia, from Extremadura to the Levante and on to Murcia, weaving together places of Franciscan memory and questions about the present. The journey began in Madrid, at San Antonio del Retiro, with a meeting of the Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization and a time of prayer

in the basilica of San Francisco el Grande. From there the visit reached the shrine of Nuestra Señora de Loreto, near Seville; then the hermitage of El Palancar and Guadalupe; next Santo Espíritu del Monte, in the Valencian Levante; and finally Cartagena, Santa Catalina del Monte and Murcia. Each stage joined shared prayer – Lauds, the Eucharist, the silence of the hermitages – to open conversation with the friars. In the general gatherings with the brothers – at Loreto and at Santo Espíritu – and then in the conversation with the Provincial Definitory, a climate of calm candour took hold. The

General Curia Agenda



☑ Br. César Kulkamp, General Definitor, is participating from June 15 to 20 in the Meeting of the Bolivarian Franciscan Conference in Quito (Ecuador), together with the Ministers of the Conference and the delegates of the Formation and Studies, Mission and Evangelisation, and JPIC services. From the 21st to 26th June, he will then visit the Province of St Francis of Quito (Ecuador) and will participate in the Chapter of Mats of the Province that will take place from the 23rd to 25th June in Azogues, with the participation of the friars and those in formation of the Province.

☑ On the 16th and 17th June, Br. Cesare Vaiani, General Definitor, participates in the meeting of the friars responsible for the charity sector of the CEM (Southern Europe Conference) with a reflection on “Charity in the Franciscan charism”.

☑ From the 18th June to 2nd July, Br. Ignacio Ceja, Vicar General, will be in Indonesia to participate in the opening of the Continental Meeting of Asia and Oceania of JPIC and for the opening of the Meeting of Asian Conferences, both in Jakarta. In addition, he will visit some fraternities of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel.

☑ From the 21st June till the 1st July, Br. Cesare Vaiani and Br. Fabio César Gomes, Assistant General pro monialibus, will participate in the meeting of the Commission for the revision of the General Constitutions of the Poor Clares at the Monastery of St. Clare, in Rome. On the 24th June, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, will also meet the Commission, and together they will participate in the papal audience.

☑ Br. Massimo Fusarterelli’s visit to the “Our Lady of Africa” Foundation of Congo Brazzaville continues until the 21st June. From the 24th to 26th June, accompanied by the Definitor General, Br. Albert Schmucki, he will be in ‘S-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, for the meeting of the Definitors of the Provinces of St. Elizabeth (Germany) and the Most Holy Martyrs of Gorkum (Netherlands and Flanders), with a view to closer collaboration in the future.

☑ From the 27th till the 29th June, Br. Massimo, accompanied by Br. Konrad Cholewa, Definitor General, and Br. Franco Mirri, Director of the OFM Fraternitas Foundation, will be in Poland for the Centenary of the parish of Olsztyn. From the 30th June 30 to 4th July they will be in Ukraine to visit the Province of St. Michael the Archangel and the Foundation of All Franciscan Saints.



present and the future of the Franciscan presence were discussed openly, in a Spain living through a full “change of era”: a Church called to move “from quantity to significance,” yet also marked by a surprising awakening of committed young minorities – a faith chosen rather than inherited. The underlying question, drawn from the Ratio Evangelizationis Ite in mundum and from the Pentecost Letter “Beyond the Centenaries: the Spirit who gives life,” ran through every meeting: what kind of Friar Minor does the gift of the charism shape today? In the background, always, the Eighth Centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis as a call to be reborn, not merely to remember – and the road being travelled together with the sister Provinces of the Iberian Peninsula, looked upon with realism and trust.

Two extended meetings with the Poor Clares, the Conceptionists and the other contemplatives – at Loreto and at Santo Espíritu – placed at the centre what is proper to the charism in our time: the contemplative dimension as the axis of Franciscan life, the anchor of a body on the move. They spoke of the real poverty of the monasteries, of welcoming the vocations of women whose paths are new, and of the intercultural formation that already runs through the communities, where sisters from other cultures bring an unexpected face of Christ. An interculturality that, it was said, is itself already a proclamation of the Kingdom. The meetings with the OFS, with the students, the educators and those responsible for the Province’s fourteen schools and for the school in Cartagena, and with the young people setting out for the Pope’s visit to Spain, made tangible a mature laity, co-responsible for the mission alongside the friars. In educa-

tion, in youth ministry, in social works, the shared responsibility of lay people appeared not as a stop-gap but as a path of the Spirit: a new way in which the charism finds hands to keep it alive.

From this interweaving of faces and places emerged the sense that gave the visit its unity: the charism is greater than we are, and for that very reason it lives with us and beyond us. The movement begun in these days does not end with the departure for Rome: it continues in open dialogue and in a gaze turned towards the future.

Tempo Forte



Communiqué Tempo Forte



Ordo Fratrum Minorum
Secretarius Generalis

The Communiqué of the General Definitory relating to the Tempo Forte for May 2026 has been published.

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Franciscan Centenaries



Kalòs, Franciscan Network of Beauty

Lecce, 8th-10th May



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From the 8th to 10th May in Lecce, Italy, the Friars Minor of the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lecce, in collaboration with the Archdiocese and the Municipality of Lecce, on the occasion of the VIII Centenary of the death of St. Francis, organised the event “Kalòs, Franciscan Network of Beauty. Barefoot and eyes open”.

The city of Lecce welcomed Kalòs, transforming itself into an open-air laboratory where art, spirituality and civic commitment merged into a single path, connecting numerous territorial realities committed to building Beauty with civic, social, environmental, and cultural care. This event represented a true mosaic of experiences, capable of generating a shared and participatory beauty, enhancing, and updating the Franciscan message on the one hand and activating a territorial network of beauty.

The program was developed through sensory and thematic itineraries that actively involved children, young people, and adults in the city's most symbolic places. In all, fourteen places were involved, including squares, churches, and other public spaces, embracing both the centre and the suburbs. Twenty-six associations have joined, each offering its own contribution to beauty. Four exhibitions have been set up: an international photographic exhibition dedicated to the Canticle of the Creatures, an exhibition of olive wood sculptures, an exhibition on bread, and a pictorial exhibition on fruits. In addition, a magnificent Floral Carpet inspired by the Canticle of the Creatures was created, along with sixteen workshops (theatrical, musical, care, service, and civic engagement). In addition to these events, there were Franciscan conferences designed to deepen the value of beauty in St. Francis's message, with the historian Letizia Pellegrini participating. The heart of the days was represented by the shows “Il viaggio di Francesco”, based on the novel “La Sapienza di un

povero” by Eloi Leclerc, directed by Pino Quartullo, and “Kalispera”, which saw the participation of artists such as Massimo Donno, Radiodervish, the art popularizer Benedetta Colombo and the testimonies of associations such as *Made in Carcere* (which regenerates textile waste thanks to the work of the prisoners, offering them new opportunities), Slow Food, Libera (for civic commitment against the mafia and the return of confiscated assets to the community), and the testimony of Br. Matteo Brena on the Holy Land.



On Sunday, the square was transformed into a big collective embrace for the conclusion of the event with “Kalòs in festa”: music, dances, and workshops, culminating in the solemn mass in the cathedral, presided over by the Minister Provincial, Fr. Massimo Tunno.

Kalòs proved to be a unique opportunity to rediscover and enhance the beauty inherent in the Franciscan charism, launching a provocation to all the participants: how can each one be an architect of beauty? A question that calls for shared responsibility and invites us to sow traces of beauty.

The title of this edition sought to summarise Francis' style: barefoot and with open eyes, an approach to beauty that translates into humility, simplicity, and the ability to be surprised and moved by reality, capturing the wonderful even in small things.

The Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, in his message that he sent for the event, concluded as follows: “Francis contemplated the ‘Beautiful’ as a reflection of the ‘Good’: not an aesthetic that consoles, but a gaze that converts, that educates to fraternity and care for our common home. Every laboratory, every workshop, every meeting of these days has been, after all, an exercise of this gaze: learning again to be amazed, to touch, to listen, to preserve”.



Election of the new government of the Tuscan Province of St. Francis Stigmatised *Elective provincial chapter in Lucca (Italy)*



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In the year in which the Franciscan Family celebrates the VIII centenary of the blessed Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi, from May 4 to 15, 2026, the Friars Minor of the Tuscan Province of Saint Francis Stigmatised gathered in Lucca, at the convent of Saint Cerbone, to celebrate the elective provincial chapter, chaired by Br. Alberto Pisapia, Visitor General.

To open the work of the Chapter was a day of retreat and prayer animated by Fr. Roberto Pasolini, OFM Cap, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, who shared with the friars a deep spiritual meditation, offering the evangelical and Franciscan coordinates within which the capitular discernment developed.

Guided by the theme inspired by the words of the Testament of St. Francis – “But the Most High himself revealed to me...” – the friars experienced an intense

time of listening, dialogue, and fraternal discernment, renewing their commitment to live the Franciscan charism in fraternity, in minority, in contemplation and in the mission, looking with confidence at the challenges of the present and the future.

Particularly significant was the meeting with Cardinal Augusto Paolo Lojudice, Archbishop of Siena-Colle di Val d'Elsa-Montalcino and President of the Tuscan Episcopal Conference, who shared with the friars the view and expectations of the Tuscan Churches towards the presence and pastoral action of the Friars Minor in the region. The dialogue that resulted from it represented an important opportunity for discussion on the contribution that the Franciscan charism continues to offer to ecclesial life and to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Tuscan territory.

The meeting with representa-

tives of the Secular Franciscan Order and Franciscan Youth was also very fruitful, contributed to the chapter reflection, testifying to the vitality of the Franciscan Family and the desire to walk together in the evangelical mission.

During the days of May 11 and 12, the brothers called to lead the Province for the next six years were:

- Minister Provincial: Br. Guido Fineschi, OFM
- Vicar Provincial: Br. Francesco Baldini, OFM
- Provincial Definitors: Br. Matteo Brena, OFM; Fr. David Gagrcic, OFM; Br. Federico Russo, OFM; Br. Matteo Tosti, OFM.

At the conclusion of the Chapter, the capitular friars were joined by the formandi and the brothers who, for various reasons, had not been able to take part in the work of the assembly. In a climate of fraternity and shared joy, the Province has thus found itself united to thank the Lord for the journey made, for the success of the Chapter, and for the many goods that the Lord continues to donate to our fraternity. A simple but significant moment, which manifested the desire to continue the journey together, in the trust that the Lord continues to guide and sustain the life of our Province.



Animation of the Order



A Visit to the Province of St Paul the Apostle Vice-Director of the JPIC General Office in Malta



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In between 4–8 June 2026, from the General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), Br. Taucen Girsang, Vice-Director of the Office, made a short visit to the Province of Saint Paul the Apostle, Malta. The purpose was to meet and listen to the friars who have been participating in serving in various JPIC ministries.



Intercultural Church. One of the most significant experiences during the visit was the encounter with the Franciscan international fraternity in Valletta where a Franciscan church is open to welcoming the believers from various nationalities and the ministry is served together by Maltese friars and from abroad - Br. Thomas OFM (India), Br. Arsan OFM (Pakistan), and Br. Jhoan OFM (Philippines).

There is a visible reality where the friars are responding to the needs of people coming from diverse cultural, social, and national backgrounds, including migrants and workers from Pakistan, India, the Philippines, and other countries. Intercultural living constantly raises questions about integration, dialogue, communication, and mutual understanding. In this context, according to Br. Ramon Farrugia OFM, the Minister Provincial, the Franciscan spirituality and charism serve as a powerful instrument for unity and fraternity. They enable friars from different nations and cultures to work together in one mission, fostering mutual respect and collaboration. The vision of a Fran-

ciscan convent as an “open tent” for friars from all over the world offers an inspiring response to the question of how Franciscan spirituality remains relevant in accompanying the people of our time.

Dar Frate Jacoba: A self-sustaining community. The visit also included *Dar Frate Jacoba*, a community dedicated to promoting the values of recycling, reusing, and sustainable living, coordinated by Br. Raymond OFM. The project demonstrates an integrated approach that connects animal farming, agriculture, education, vocational training, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and solar power. Such initiatives require adequate personnel, financial support, strong community involvement, and effective systems of cooperation. The experience highlights the importance of developing a structured ministry that can support and expand self-sustaining communities. While the commitment of friars and volunteers remains essential, the involvement of qualified professionals is often necessary to ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

Peace Lab. Another important visit was to Peace Lab, a well-known centre that was visited by Pope Francis during his Apostolic Journey to Malta (April 2022). During the visit, the local JPIC Animator, Br. Dionysius OFM, had the opportunity to meet and speak with the Holy Father. The Peace Lab movement traces its origins to the period following the First and Second World Wars. Its founder was inspired by the urgent need to promote peace and reconciliation in society. Initially, the mission was carried out through radio broadcasting, spreading messages of peace to a wider audience.

Over time, educational materials on peace were introduced into schools throughout Malta, helping young people learn about peace-building and the teachings of *Pacem in Terris*. One of the significant achievements of the movement was its contribution to the establishment of a national Day of Peace in Malta, celebrated annually on 1 July. Today, it is necessity to continue this rich heritage to the future and so the voice of Peace from

the Franciscan friars in Malta can be heard. *Soup Kitchen*. The Soup Kitchen ministry in Valetta was established by Br. Marcellino OFM six years ago after learning from and collaborating with similar initiatives in some Entities in Europe. The ministry serves people experiencing various forms of vulnerability, particularly those facing mental health challenges and social exclusion. On average, approximately 80 people benefit from the service each day.

Beyond providing meals, the ministry creates opportunities for training, volunteering, and active participation in community life. Many professionals—including dentists, nurses, doctors, and other healthcare workers—contribute their expertise to support the mission. The project

has generated numerous opportunities for service and employment, creating a broad network of social support. The effective operation of the ministry depends on professional management, dedicated volunteers, and the support of a foundation and committee members who oversee fundraising, donations, accountability, and transparent reporting.

The visit to Malta offered valuable insights into the various ways the Franciscan charism is embodied through JPIC ministries. From intercultural fraternity and sustainable living to peace education and service to the vulnerable, these initiatives demonstrate how Franciscan spirituality continues to respond to the challenges of our time in creative and effective ways.

Safeguarding Formation Meeting

On Spiritual Abuse and Abuse of Conscience in Consecrated Life



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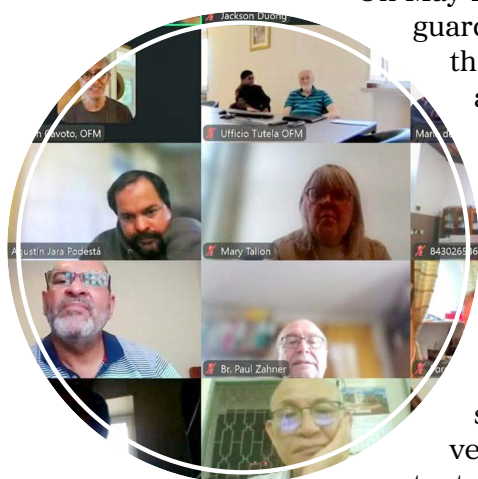
On May 21, 2026, the Safeguarding Office of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) General Curia organized an online formation meeting entitled: “How to Identify Spiritual Abuse or Abuse of Conscience and Prevent It in the Context of Consecrated Life: The Care of Victims and the Accused.” The session was led by Prof. Giorgio Ronzoni and moderated by Br. Eduard Iurii Semko, OFM, who guided the flow of the discussion.

The formation sought to deepen awareness of the nature and dynamics of spiritual abuse and abuse of conscience, particularly within the context of consecrated life and religious formation. More than 70 participants reflected on how spiritual authority, obedience, Scripture, and vocational language can at times be misused in ways that compromise personal freedom, dignity, and the integrity of conscience.

The discussion also addressed the challenges faced by victims in identifying and reporting such

experiences. Participants explored practical ways to promote safeguarding, accountability, transparency, and a culture of listening within religious communities and formation houses.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to fostering safe environments within consecrated life. Through greater awareness, ongoing formation, dialogue, and accountability, ecclesial communities can continue to uphold human dignity, respect freedom of conscience, and promote healthy relationships rooted in the Gospel.



News from the Entities



New Novices, Professions and Ordinations in India

A Season of Commitment and Grace: the Order of Friars Minor in India



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In the closing days of May 2026, the Order of Friars Minor in India witnessed a season of profound spiritual renewal – a time when young men chose to bind themselves in obedience, poverty, and chastity, and their brothers already on the journey renewed the sacred promises that define Franciscan life. Across the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Custody of Mary the Mother of God, and the Foundation of St. Francis of Assisi (the three Entities present on the Indian peninsula) the Gospel was not merely read – it was lived, embraced, and professed anew.

Having completed their year of postulancy, sixteen brothers crossed a threshold that is as ancient as the Order itself. On 30 May 2026, the doors of the Novitiate were opened by Br. Xavier Durairaj, Minister Provincial, who welcomed the brothers to the Order of Friars Minor by listening to the desirous knock of the postulants. Led in solemn procession to the Novitiate Chapel, the new novices received three gifts that together mark the beginning of the Franciscan journey. They received the San Damiano Cross, a sign of the discernment of Franciscan vocation and the call to walk the Gospel path. They were then given the Book of the Rule and Constitutions of the Order of Friars Minor, marking their clarity and audacity to daringly embrace the Gospel path. Finally, they donned the Franciscan habit – a much-awaited dream – with which their Franciscan journey in the Order of Friars Minor has truly begun.

The following day, on 1 June 2026, twenty novices who had completed their year of novitiate in the Fraternity of St. Louis Friary, Palamaner, guided by Br. Charles Bernard, the Novice Master, together with Br. Tommy TJ, Guardian of the fraternity, made their Simple Profession in the hands of Br. Xavier Durairaj. With joy and solemnity, they professed to live the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ in obedience, without anything of their own, and in chastity. During the homily, Br. Xavier encouraged the newly professed brothers to walk the Gospel faithfully as they learn the intricacies of the Franciscan way of life in the years of formation ahead, and to arrive at a firmness of heart that would set them apart as Gospel witnesses – the kind of witness the world so deeply and long needs.

Across the Province, Custody, and Foundation, twenty-nine simple professed brothers renewed their vows for another year, recommitting themselves to the Gospel way of life and expressing their readiness and willingness to continue walking in the Order of Friars Minor. Each brother choosing once again, with full freedom and conviction, the path he had first embraced.

The season was further enriched by the ordination of several brothers to the priesthood and diaconate. In the months of April and May, Brs. Pradeep Anthony, Anthony Joseph Archer, Andrew Thomas, Nelson Toppo, Niraj Kumar Tirkey, and Ankit Kumar Baghel were ordained to

the priesthood. Br. Kasu Eliyas had already been ordained in the month of February. In addition, Brs. Anmol Bara, Prasandeep Ekka, Bhushan Minj, and Ajay Mallikanti were ordained as Deacons, taking a significant step forward in their ministry within the Church. Looking ahead, the season of commitment is not yet complete. On 13 June 2026, Brs. Kishore Joseph, Gins Francis, and Maria Nithin Kumar will make their Solemn Profession – binding themselves to the Order for life, in the fullness of the Franciscan

charism. The entire fraternity accompanies them in prayer as they prepare for this definitive and joyful consecration.

What this season reveals, taken together, is a fraternity very much alive – one that continues to attract, to form, and to send. Young men still hear the call to walk the Gospel path that Francis walked before them. They still knock at the door, and the Order, faithful to its centuries of grace, continues to open.

A Week of Vocational Blessings and Formation Milestones

Province of San Pedro Bautista, Philippines



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Quezon City, Philippines – The Province of San Pedro Bautista rejoiced in a week filled with significant vocational celebrations and formation milestones, witnessing the continuing growth of the Franciscan vocation in the Philippines and across Asia.

The formation year opened with a promising sign of hope as the Province welcomed 23 new aspirants who will begin their journey of discernment and formation at the Our Lady of the Angels Seminary (OLAS). They join the 18 continuing aspirants, bringing the seminary community to a total of 41 young men preparing to deepen their call to Franciscan life.

On 26 May 2026, during Evening Prayer at the Portiuncula Chapel of OLAS, seven student friars renewed their temporary vows for another year. In the presence of the fraternity, they reaffirmed their commitment to live the Gospel according to the Rule and life of the Friars Minor as they continue their formation.

The following day, 27 May, the Province celebrated the installation of ministries. During the liturgical celebration, six student friars were instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte, while one friar received the Ministry of Lector, marking another important step in their preparation for future service to the

Church and the Order. A particularly joyful celebration took place on 28 May at the Basilica Minore of San Pedro Bautista, where 16 novices made their First Profession of Vows. The newly professed friars came from different entities of the Order: eight from the Province of San Pedro Bautista (Philippines), seven from the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation (Myanmar), and one from the Custody of St. Anthony (Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei). Through their profession, they publicly embraced the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience within the Franciscan fraternity.

The celebrations continued on 29 May at the Juan de Plasencia Novitiate House in Liliw, Laguna, where 12 new novices were formally accepted into the novitiate. The group consists of five brothers from the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation, four from the Province of San Pedro Bautista, and three from the Custody of St. Anthony. Their reception into the novitiate marks the beginning of a year dedicated to deeper prayer, fraternity, and discernment in the

Franciscan way of life. The week concluded on 30 May with the acceptance of seven new postulants during Morning Prayer. Following the celebration, the Province witnessed another grace-filled moment as five friars made their Solemn Profession of Vows, definitively committing themselves to the Franciscan life and mission in the Church. These celebrations manifest the vitality of Franciscan vocations in the region and highlight the growing collaboration among the

Province of San Pedro Bautista, the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation in Myanmar, and the Custody of St. Anthony. As the brothers continue their journey of formation, the Province gives thanks to God for the gift of these vocations and entrusts them to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Pedro Bautista.

By Br. Elimark Cruz, OFM

LIFE in the Order



Solemn professions

23rd April, Custody of Our Lady of the Seven Joys (Brazil)

Br. Maicon de Jesus Cruz



Deceased Brothers

- † 5th June: Br. Rafael de Jesus Rodrigues, Prov. The Martyrs of Morocco (Portugal)
- † 3rd June: Br. David (David Robert) Kohut, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 2nd June: Br. Harold (Edward Stoltz) Geers, Prov. NS of Guadalupe (USA)
- † 24th May: Br. Oswin (Wolfgang Hubertus) Schirpke, Province of St. Elizabeth (Germany)
- † 23rd May: Br. Jaak (Louis) Spreuwers, Prov. The Martyrs of Gorcum (Belgium)

Information received from the General Secretariat



On-Going Formation Accompaniment Program

For the friars Under 5 of the two Philippine Provinces



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The Provinces of San Antonio de Padua and San Pedro Bautista conducted the yearly program of the On-Going Formation Accompaniment Program – Under 5 from May 11 to 20 in Samar, gathering young friars for a joint formation program held in Calbayog City and Northern Samar under the theme “Inheriting the Bare Earth: Under 5 Journey into the Heart of the Transitus.”

The ten-day program brought together friars in their early years after solemn profession for a shared experience of fraternity, prayer, and ongoing formation.



The program was hosted at Christ the King College (CKC) Friary in Calbayog City and included scheduled sessions of communal prayer, Eucharist celebrations, and individual sharing. The friars reflected on their experiences in religious life, fraternity, and ministry through sharing sessions.

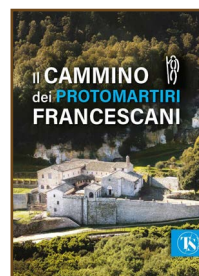
Daily activities followed a set rhythm of Morning and Evening Prayer, the celebration of the Eucha-

rist, group sharing, and time for recreation within the friary.

The second part of the program brought the participants to several areas in Northern Samar, visiting places that form part of the Franciscan mission presence in the region. These included San Isidro, Biri, San Antonio, Catarman, and Mondragon. Activities included parish visits, encounters with local communities, and visits to sites such as the Biri Rock Formations. The brothers also spent time with Poor Clare communities in the area.

The program concluded back in CKC with a synthesis and evaluation session, a closing Mass, and a message from Br. Gregorio Redoblado, OFM, Provincial of the Province of San Pedro Bautista, challenged the brothers to live an authentic Franciscan life beyond appearance and rituals. He calls them to embrace JPIC, fraternity, and obedience, even in difficult missions, so that true Franciscan identity is shown through living the Gospel in concrete service, not just external practice.

Franciscan Bookmark



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