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Pope Leo at Our Lady of the Angels-Santa Maria degli Angeli

The invitation to build a civilisation of love was addressed to 2500 young people in Europe

Eight centuries after the 30th May, 1221, when 5000 friars met at the church of Our Lady of the Angels to meet and pray together, on the 6th August, 2026, 2500 young people from all over Europe met in the same place to pray, welcome and dialogue with Pope Leo XIV, on his second visit to the Porziuncola of his pontificate.

The meeting, which came at the end of the “GO! Franciscan Youth Meeting”, promoted by the Ministers General of the Franciscan Family and organised by the Friars Minor of Assisi (OFM, OFMCap and OFMConv), in collaboration with the Diocese of Assisi - Nocera Umbra - Gualdo Tadino and Foligno and the City of Assisi, did not disappoint expectations.

In the parvis of the Basilica, packed with young people and others, Pope Leo was greeted by Fr. Marco Vianelli OFM, Minister Provincial of the Seraphic Province of the Friars Minor of Umbria and Sar-



dinia, in the presence of the Ministers General of the First Order of the Franciscan Family. This was followed by the long-awaited meeting with young people. Three of them – Karolina from Croatia, Giovanni, and Luigi from Italy – asked the Pontiff many questions, concerning the lives of young people like them, their realities, the world that changes too quickly, leaving doubts and uncertainties. To Karolina from Zagreb, who asked how she could bring hope to her peers, Leone replied by taking the example of Francis, his evangelical radicalism, following Christ and the joy of being together in His name: “Bear witness to this style everywhere, especially in a time when technology makes us unaccustomed to being together, amongst people of flesh and blood”, said the Pontiff.

Giovanni di Bologna, on the other hand, questioned him on how to be able to make definitive decisions in a world where the culture of the provisional reigns. The Holy Father recalled how a definitive choice is not a cage, but a “revolutionary act”, which, if done with faith, trust, and reliability in Christ, opens up new paths to be discovered, with God’s help. He also shared his vocational experience: “The Lord has never left me alone: he has always accompanied me, also giving me people to walk with. Thus, in the vocation to be a priest, a member of the Augustinian community, a missionary, I found a light that guided me until today, until I had to say ‘yes’ to a very special call: that of being Pope”. Luigi from the YouFra in Paternò, a small town in Sicily, focused on a phrase that many young contemporaries repeat, namely that “they believe, but not in the Church”. In this case, Leone took up the experience of Francis, who rediscovered Christ by contemplating the Crucifix, who invited him to “repair his house”: “Each of us has a role in this construction site that is always open. We have different responsibilities and vocations, but we walk together, inspiring, helping and correcting each other. It is important to do our part. Then we will speak of the Church with the affection with which we speak of a Mother, because we will recognise that we belong to her.”

After greeting dozens of friars inside the cloister of the Basilica, Pope Leo XIV presided at Mass on the day of the Feast of the Transfiguration. In his homily, he emphasised how Our Lady of the Angels was first for St Francis, and then for St Clare, the place of their transfigura-

tion, in which they welcomed the Gospel *sine glossa*, “without discounts, and the life of Jesus began anew in them.” The Pontiff recalled how the light of the transfiguration is the same light of Easter morning, of the new day, “towards which we are oriented, while around us, and sometimes in us, it is still dark. We see the dawn of this in canonised saints, such as St. Francis and St. Clare, and in a myriad of brothers and sisters who respond to evil with good. We are not alone!

In these days you have experienced this”, said Leone, recalling the events that young people have experienced with the “Go! Franciscan Youth Meeting”. And taking up the title of the event, the Holy Father made an appeal to all young people: “Today Europe and the whole world are looking for new saints in you: dare to believe in the word of the Gospel, become human with the freedom of Jesus Christ, embrace sister poverty!

The title of your meeting – Go! – it is a mission, a sending out on roads of which we do not have maps, because they open by listening to the heart, obeying the Spirit, following the Risen One where he wanted to precede us. Go! Go! Better yet: let’s go! Let’s go! On the margins, where injustice and the arrogance of a few deny the dignity and dreams of many, of too many sons and daughters of God”, to build a “civilisation of love whose sprouts you have found in so many examples of gratuitousness, and which transfigures – in the image of Christ – countless peacemakers even today committed to serving life in the most tragic scenarios of death”.

Before the final blessing, a young man, Francesco Varone, on behalf of all the participants of the meeting, thanked the Pontiff for his presence, asking him to pray for all the young people of the world.

[Read the dialogue between the Pope and young people](#)

[Read the greeting of Br. Marco Vianelli, OFM](#)

[Read the homily of Pope Leo XIV](#)

[Read the GO Missionary Charter! Franciscan youth meeting](#)

Watch the photos on [Flickr](#)

Watch the video on [Youtube](#)

General Curia Agenda



- ☑ From the 17th -18th September 2026, the Tempo Forte will be held at the General Curia.
- ☑ On the 16th and 17th September, Br Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General, will be in La Verna for the Feast of the Stigmata; on the 17th September, he will meet with the youth of the Holy Land in Rome; and from 21st to 23rd September, he will be in Morocco for the Chapter of the Custody of the Protomartyrs of Morocco.
- ☑ On the 11th and 12th September, Br Cesare Vaiani, General Definitor, will participate in the meeting of the four Definitors of the Provinces of Spain and Portugal, scheduled in Madrid, Spain.
- ☑ From the 14th to 18th September, Br Fábio Cesar Gomes, General Assistant pro Monialibus, will participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of St Beatrice de Silva, founder of the Order of the Immaculate Conception, in Toledo, Spain.
- ☑ On the 18th and 19th of September, Br. Konrad Cholewa, General Definitor, will participate in the Under Ten meeting of the St. Jerome Conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Government of the Order



The Minister General in Croatia, among the friars of the Most Holy Redeemer Province 13 August 2026



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On 13 August 2026, the Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli travelled to the Most Holy Redeemer Province in Croatia for the feast of the Assumption at the Shrine of Sinj. Upon arriving at the Provincial Curia in Split, he greeted the friars and met with them before continuing to the shrine the following day. At Sinj, he presided at the Vigil Mass of the Assumption. On the solemnity itself, he took part in the Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Split and in the procession, which drew at least one hundred thousand people. He met the friars who were assisting with the many confessions and liturgical celebrations and greeted the temporarily professed friars.



At the shrine, he witnessed first-hand the faith and culture of the Croatian people. He then visited the friary in Imotski, home to the postulancy, where he met the local friars and the four postulants. He took part in the Mass for the feast of Saint Roch in Vinjani, one of the parishes en-

trusted to the friars, and there met with the brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order, with whom he spoke about the Centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis. He then travelled to Omiš to visit the friary and the friars of the area. In the preceding days, Omiš had been struck

by a devastating fire. The Minister visited two families who had lost their homes in the blaze. The friars and the friary are safe, but the destruction, environmental damage and suffering are still painfully evident. The fire was reportedly the work of arsonists. Accompanied throughout the visit

by the Minister Provincial, Br. Siniša Balajić, the Minister General travelled to the friary in Karin, the Province's house of prayer. There he came to know another part of the region and was able to spend a few days in rest and prayer. The visit concluded with a meeting with the infirm friars,

as well as with the professors and some of the students of the house in Trstenik. At the end of the visit, the Minister General expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and the family spirit he had encountered, as well as for the dedication of the elderly friars and of all the brothers.

The friars of the San Francesco Foundation gathered in Assembly *General Curia, 7-9 August 2026*



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On the VIII Centenary of the Transitus of St. Francis, from the 7th to 9th August 2026, in Rome, at the General Curia of the Order of Friars Minor, under the presidency of the Minister General Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, and assisted by Br. Konrad Cholewa, OFM, Definitor General, we friars of the St. Francis Foundation, engaged in the service of the Church and the Order in the Russian Federation, we met in the Assembly, five in person and two online.

We gathered under the icon of the disciples of Emmaus and asked that their journey, from disappointment to hope, would illuminate and sustain ours: the passage from the weight of the present to a new beginning.

The Gospel passage of the "calming storm" also helped us: let us not hide our fatigue; we are few and far away, in a demanding land, and often the wind is against us. The Gospel, for its part, does not promise us a journey without shocks, but guarantees us something greater: that the Lord walks with us and can make our hearts burn. Our presence is not based on

large numbers or favourable conditions, but on the presence of the One who, when strength is lacking, becomes a companion on the road.

On the whole, the Gospel has given us only one thing: to keep our gaze on Jesus, who walks with us and opens the meaning of our life and our mission. He alone is the foundation that does not yield. Starting from this, we have reaffirmed the meaning and choice of our presence in Russia.

We have chosen to focus on strengthening the quality of our fraternal life and relationships with those who, religious or laity, share our same Franciscan charism; we confirmed our commitment at the "Nativity of the Lord" School in Novosibirsk and in the pastoral services entrusted to us: in St. Petersburg at the parish of the "Most Sacred Heart of Jesus" and at the Seminary "Mary Queen of the Apostles", in Novosibirsk at the parish "Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; we have decided to invest more energy and skills to help young Catholics discover, follow and make their vocation flourish; we wish to ask the Lord to show us new ways of serving the poor.

Now, like the two disciples of Emmaus, we get up and set out again, in the hope that the desire to come and serve the Church and the Order in the land of Russia will also arise in other friars... Think about it, brothers: we need you too!

May the Lord keep us in His peace.

The Friars of the San Francesco Foundation

Reflections by Br. Massimo - August 2026

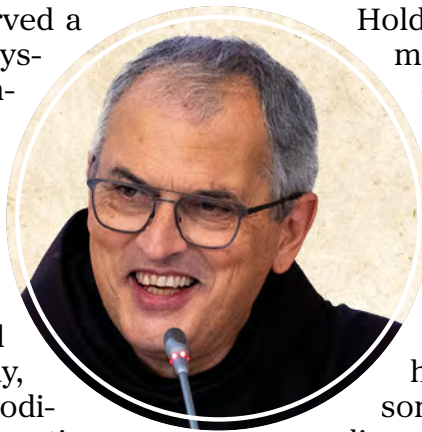
Where the Spirit continues to bring forth life

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In Cambodia last February, I served a meal to people whom the social system does not admit to the common table. They stood apart, at the edge, waiting for the others to finish. As I handed them their food, our eyes met. No words. None were needed. In that small act – a plate, a glance – I caught sight of a presence: the Gospel announced first of all in this way, before any words. That Cambodian Church has known both destruction and rebirth. Under the Khmer Rouge, bishops, priests, religious and faithful were killed and churches razed. Today the community is rising again, led by local catechists and guided by local catechists and by a faith rebuilt in a generation. It reads like the Acts of the Apostles: communities small and alive, radiating the Gospel without any concern for numbers.

This was no isolated case. In January, in a poor neighbourhood in Pakistan, I celebrated the Eucharist among Christians who are a minority in a Muslim land. Their faith is a choice that costs something every day, exposed and without guarantees. And yet, in the midst of the tension, I found a joy that challenges us: they sang, they prayed, they welcomed me and offered the little they had. In Papua New Guinea, among the very poor, faith is hope; in South Korea, a more structured Church is facing generational change. Asia appears as a laboratory. It is on this continent that in 2027 we will hold the General Chapter, for the first time in Asia. Many ask me why Vietnam. Surprise, at times unease: the climate, the distance, the differences. But the very fact that the question itself is already a fruit. A familiar venue would not have prompted it.

We are used, especially in the older Provinces, to picturing the fraternity within the maps we know. Whoever has never entered another culture finds it hard to take the step, to come out of himself. The point is not to become cosmopolitan, but to let ourselves be questioned. A different language, a different Church, a different Franciscan form can widen the measure by which we look at our own vocation. Simply to let ourselves be unsettled is a beginning.



Holding the General Chapter in Asia means opening a window. To gather and to discern together who will guide the Order will have a different flavour beyond the horizons in which we grew up. Where the Church lives among many faiths, evangelisation – the knot of our time – shows itself in a new light. And perhaps, after Asia, Africa will come: some recent visits have given me a glimpse of it.

I write from Croatia, in front of waterfalls that the drought has reduced to a third of their flow. The water is missing. One sign among many of a time that is changing. And I ask myself where the living water flows today, and whether we can still recognise it. Perhaps this is what the General Chapter in Vietnam is for: not only to decide, but to notice where the Spirit continues to bring forth life.

Letter from the Minister General to the Sisters of the Order of the Most Holy Conception on the Solemnity of Saint Beatrice da Silva 2026

To intercede: to stand before God on the side of men



Read the full text of the Letter:

[Italiano](#) - [Español](#) - [Português](#)

The Easter of Francis continues in Asia

A call to be Good News



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Newsasi. We are called to be Good News... not just to receive communion, but to live our lives as signs of communion for all."

Br. John later delivered a conference entitled "The Easter of St. Francis: Gospel Fidelity, Joyful Fraternity and Mission in the Context of Asia." He presented the Transitus as an ongoing Paschal journey; from fear to trust, bitterness to joy, isolation to fraternity, and self-centeredness to total gift. Reflecting on the realities and challenges of Asia, he invited the young friars to become rooted in Christ, brothers to all, close to people and creation, and witnesses of hope.

As the Franciscan Family celebrates the 800th anniversary of the Transitus of Saint Francis (1226–2026), the encounter offered a clear invitation: the Easter of Francis continues in us; not simply by preaching the Good News, but by becoming Good News for the peoples of Asia.

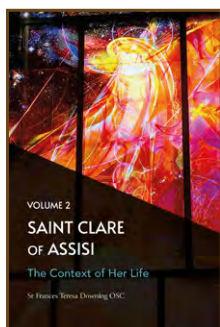
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - 14 August 2026. Delegates of the OFM East Asian Conference Common Integration Program (EAC-CIP) from the Philippines, Vietnam, and Myanmar had a meaningful encounter with Br. John Wong, OFM, General Definitor for Franciscan Conferences of Asia and Oceania, through prayer, reflection, and fraternal sharing.

The day began with the celebration of Eucharist presid-

ed over by Br. John Wong. In his homily, he reflected on St. Francis's discovery that, despite his sinfulness, he remained deeply loved by a God of tender mercy. This experience transformed the way Francis saw himself and others; sinners yet deeply loved by God.

Drawing from the witness of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Br. John challenged the friars: "We are called not just to listen to the Gospel as Good

Franciscan Bookmark

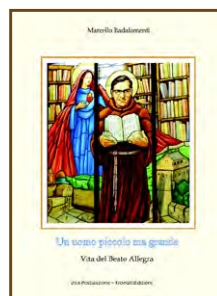


Saint Clare of Assisi

The Context of Her Life. Vol. 2

Sr. Frances Teresa Downing, OSC

Franciscan Publishing



Un uomo piccolo ma grande

Vita del Beato Allegra

Marcello Badalamenti, OFM

Kromato Edizioni

The Province of the Immaculate Conception of Brazil celebrates the Chapter of Mats

On the 350th anniversary of its foundation



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From the 3rd to the 6th August 2026, the Province of the Immaculate Conception of Brazil celebrated its Mat Chapter at the Santo Antônio Seminary in Agudos, in the State of São Paulo (Brazil). The meeting brought together about 200 participants—friars, men and women religious of the Franciscan Family, lay people, people in vocational discernment, postulants, novices, friars at the various stages of formation, and collaborators of the Province—including Br. Paulo Roberto Pereira, OFM, Minister Provincial, and Br. César Kulkamp, OFM, Definitor General. The theme of the Chapter of Mats was “The Love That Does Not Die” and was held in the context of the celebrations for the 350th anniversary of the Province, in harmony with the Jubilee of the Eighth Centenary of the transitus of St. Francis of Assisi. The meeting was an opportunity to retrace the history of the entity, discern the current challenges of Franciscan life and renew the commitment to the charism received.

It was a meeting under the banner of communion and the renewal of Franciscan identity. Inspired by the tradition of the meetings of the first friars, which were held on straw mats, the event invited the fraternity to retrace its history and to discern new paths for its mission. Over the course of four days, the participants took part in a program characterised by community prayer, liturgical celebrations, moments of formation and opportunities for dialogue between the different vocations of the Franciscan Family. During these activities, the 350th anniversary of the Province was presented as a living heritage that not only animates the mission in the present but also paves the way for future generations of Franciscan friars. The reflections that emerged from the meeting underlined the importance of fraternity and “minority” (humble service) as ways through which the Province can continue to respond to the challenges that challenge the Church and contemporary society.

The opening programme saw the celebration of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi, organised to commemorate the eighth centenary of the death of the “Poverello”—Poor Man of Assi-

si. Inspired by the theme “The love that does not die”, the ceremony was presided over by the Minister Provincial. During the celebration, some symbols of Franciscan spirituality – such as the Crucifix of San Damiano, the Gospel, the habit of St. Francis and the mat of rushes – helped to evoke the legacy left by the Seraphic Father. “May we experience the radical nature of fraternity. The Mat Chapter helps us to actualise St Francis’ words for our time and to renew the joy of living the Gospel. The same Spirit that guided the friars in the past continues to be the source of our mission today,” the Minister Provincial reflected during the Chapter.



Amongst the highlights are the pilgrimage to the cemetery of the Seminary of St Anthony – part of a commemorative route entitled “From dream to eternity” – and the message addressed for the occasion by the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. Massimo Fusarelli. The event was also marked by the ceremony of the Solemn Profession of Br. Bruno de Mello, the preparations for the General Chapter of the Order in 2027 and the closing ceremony, which offered a splendid testimony of the Franciscan life of the friars celebrating their jubilee anniversaries.

“May these 350 years make us even more attentive to evangelisation projects inspired by justice. May they revive in us the conviction that the poor are our teachers. May Francis continue to inspire us and always invite us to pursue the stubborn utopia of fraternity. May he make our ‘yes’ fruitful,” said the Minister Provincial.



Franciscan Centenaries

Making Francis's love visible

800 Years of His Transitus, Celebrated with the People of Nesanagar



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As we commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi, the Franciscan family seeks to make visible his love for his brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. In this spirit, on 23 August 2026, the 800th anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis was commemorated in a simple yet meaningful way through an act of solidarity with the people of Nesanagar, Athipet, Tamil Nadu, home to around 43 tribal families.

The OFM Franciscans of India, through Nesakkaram, an NGO dedicated to the well-being of the poor and needy, have been accompanying the community of Nesanagar for many years. Since 2009, the friars have continued to respond to the social, educational and basic needs of the people, working towards improving their quality of life and enabling them to live with greater dignity. Under the leadership and coordination of Br. Eugene, Director of Nesakkaram, together with the friars and the dedicated staff of Nesakkaram, this accompaniment continues as a sustained ministry of presence, care and solidarity. This commitment began with the construction of 22 houses for families in Nesanagar, followed by several other initiatives, including educational support for children and continued assistance to families facing difficult circumstances.

On the occasion of the Jubilee commemoration, Nesakkaram once again reached out to the families by providing them with essential provisions. Most of the families depend on daily-wage labour and face financial difficulties in meeting their everyday needs. The assistance, though modest, was a meaningful support during a time when even basic provisions can become a burden. More importantly, it was an expression of continued friendship and solidarity with the community.

The celebration also included a friendly volleyball tournament for the youth of Nesanagar. The youth of St. Sebastian's Parish participated as the opposing team, creating an atmosphere of friendship, enthusiasm and joyful interaction. The young people of Nesanagar enthusiastically demonstrated their volleyball skills, while the event provided an opportunity for the two groups of youth to meet, play and build relationships.

Nesakkaram hopes to organize more such programmes for the youth of Nesanagar, including life-skills training and opportunities that can help them develop their abilities, find employment and support their families. The organization also continues to accompany the children of the community through a supplementary education programme, assisting

them with their educational needs and encouraging them to pursue a better future.

The gathering at Nesanagar was a simple but meaningful way of commemorating the Transitus of St. Francis. Through sharing,

accompaniment, education, friendship and service, the Franciscan presence continues to reach those in need, keeping alive the spirit of the saint who chose to embrace the poor and to recognize Christ in his brothers and sisters.

Madagascar celebrates the Franciscan Centenary

Pilgrimage of the relic of St. Francis



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The Franciscan Family of Madagascar is celebrating its Franciscan Centenary and, to crown this celebration, the Inter-Franciscan Conference of Madagascar (CIFM) has organised the pilgrimage with a relic of St. Francis of Assisi, ex ceneribus corporis. From the 16th July to the 2nd August 2026, the relic passed through six dioceses of the country in the central, eastern and northwestern regions; the journey ended in Ankaramibe, in the Diocese of Ambanja, on the day of the Pardon of Assisi.

At each stage, participation was numerous: Masses, vigils and moments of veneration brought together the faithful of the parishes together with priests, postulants, members of the Secular Franciscan Order and religious communities, including Capuchins, Poor Clares, Franciscans of different congregations, Carmelites and Ursulines. The celebrations were presided over by Bishops, a Cardinal and Religious Superiors, whilst in the fraternities and monasteries the prayer vigils offered prolonged moments of recollection.

On the 2nd August, a Franciscan march and the closing Mass, presided over by the Minister Provincial, concluded the itinerary in an atmosphere of thanksgiving. During Mass in the Cathedral of Antsirabe, Br. Jean-Pierre

Rasolonjanahary, OFM, expressed his joy for the Franciscan Family, because the relic of a great saint has arrived in Madagascar: "From 2023, we celebrate the Franciscan Centenaries, which end this year, 2026. The arrival of the relic is a grace for the Franciscan Family and for all the faithful. May celebrations and pilgrimages bring spiritual graces for all of us."

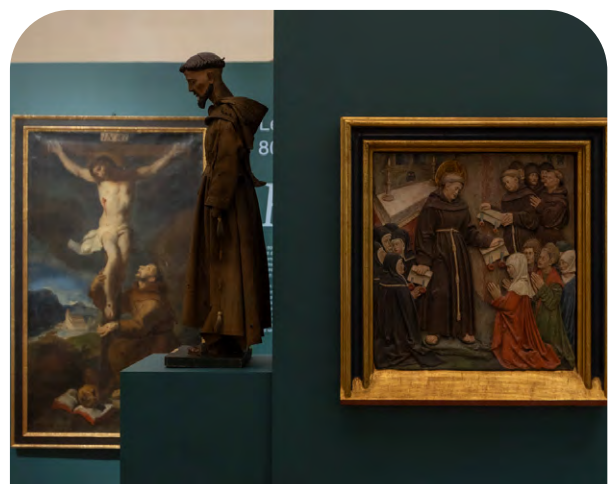
The ICFM brings together the Friars Minor, the Capuchin Friars, the Poor Clares, the Secular Franciscan Order, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary, the Little Franciscans of Mary, the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate of Palagano, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady, the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters of Blessed Angelina, the Franciscan Sisters Servants of Mary of Blois, the Franciscan Missionary Poor Clares of the Blessed Sacrament and the Capuchin Sisters.

The Art of Living. 800 Years of St Francis of Assisi



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Exhibition at the Salzburg Cathedral Museum



For more information:
www.domquartier.at

Chapter of the Province of the Holy Gospel, Mexico

Mexico City, 20th-28th July 2026



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From July 20th-28th, 2026, we, the friars of the Province of the Holy Gospel of Mexico, celebrated our Provincial Chapter at the formation house for temporary professed friars, located in Santa Úrsula Coapa, Mexico City.

Presided over by Br. Cristóbal de Jesús Díaz Martínez, OFM, our Chapter was a privileged moment of prayer, discernment, and fraternity. During these days, we participated in retreats, the presentation of reports, group work and fraternal dialogues, which allowed us to evaluate the journey of our Province and to reach agreements to guide its life and mission in the years to come.

One of the central moments was the election of the new Provincial Government, called to serve the friars and to revive the life of our Province with an evangelical and Franciscan spirit.

Br. Pascual Núñez Santiago, OFM, was elected Minister Provincial and Br. Miguel Ángel Berrocali Álvarez, OFM, was elected Vicar Provincial.

The following were elected Provincial Definitors: Br. José Luis Honorato Munguía Rodrí-

guez, OFM; Br. Víctor Pérez Reyes, OFM; Br. Luis Daniel Martínez González, OFM; Br. Serafín Mendoza Álvarez, OFM; and Br. Sergio Aguirre Benítez, OFM.

We concluded our Chapter by thanking God for the days spent together, for the discernment undertaken and for the gifts received. We do so with grateful hope for the path that the Lord has allowed us to travel and, at the same time, with hope for the future, confident that he will continue to guide the life and mission of our Province.

Let us entrust to the Lord the service of the new Provincial Government and the agreements reached, so that they may strengthen our fraternal life, renew our vocation, and spur us to respond faithfully to the challenges of the mission.

Let us give thanks to God, good and merciful, for this time of grace, and we ask him to continue to accompany the journey of the Province of the Holy Gospel of Mexico.

Br. Ricardo Maldonado Castillo, OFM, Head of the Communication Commission of the Provincial Chapter

Animation of the Order



Br. Taucen visits the Province of Our Lady Queen of Peace in South Africa 23-28 August 2026



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From 23 to 28 August 2026, Br. Taucen Hotlan Girsang, OFM, from the Office for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) in Rome visited several Franciscan fraternities around Johannesburg, South Africa, including those in Vanderbijlpark, Boksburg, and Pretoria. He also visited Eldorado Park, where the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) Sisters are present. The purpose of the visit was to meet with and listen to the friars and the FMM Sisters, to understand the social realities in which they carry out their Franciscan mission and evangelisation, and to learn more about the Franciscan presence and pastoral activities related to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

Br. Taucen was welcomed by Br. Siphelele Gwanisheni, OFM, Definitor General for Africa, and Br. Ndumiso Khumalo, OFM, Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Lady Queen of Peace, at the Provincial House in Vanderbijlpark, Johannesburg. In this area, the friars serve at least three parishes, where there is no apparent segregation based on race—whether Black, Coloured, or White. Nearby is the St. Bonaventure Skills Centre, where the friars, together with their team, offer training to students interested in farming, carpentry, and furniture making. There is also a retreat house, La Verna, where people can come for a spiritual oasis. Here, one can truly appreciate the broad vision that the friars have de-

veloped over the years: to integrate pastoral activities, capacity building, and spiritual renewal, all rooted in Franciscan spirituality and way of life.

Then, although there are no friars in Eldorado Park, the Franciscan presence can still be seen through the ministry of the FMM Sisters, who work in several schools in the area. According to the sisters, the current social situation of many families in the area is very challenging. They encounter a significant number of single-parent families, people struggling with drug addiction, problems related to crime, and a clear gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” Not far from the FMM Convent are Mandela House and Regina Mundi Cathedral, places that played an important role in the struggle against the Apartheid regime and the liberation movement some years ago. It seems that, although people have been liberated from racial segregation, a new form of segregation has emerged through economic inequality. The divisions of the past have not completely disappeared; rather, they have taken on a different form, as the gap between those who have resources and opportunities and those who do not continues to shape people's lives.

Later, the visit continued in Pretoria. There, Br. Taucen and Br. Siphelele visited the seminary, where students study theology and philosophy, as well as the Archbishop's Palace and the Bishops' Conference Building. There is also a parish served by the friars. The Franciscan convent is on Kort Street in Rietvallei-rand. In the past, the convent served as a formation house for students. Today, it is used for postulancy, as a library and guest house, and also provides accommodation for some retired friars, including Archbishop Emeritus Br. William Slattery, OFM.

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Meeting of the International Council for Formation and Studies 14th to 18th July 2026



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From the 14th to 18th July 2026, the meeting of the International Council for Formation and Studies, composed of the Secretaries for Formation and Studies of the OFM Conferences, was held at the General Curia in Rome.

During the meeting, the individual Secretaries had the opportunity to share the experiences of their respective Conferences, both in the context of ongoing formation and initial formation. The reception of the Letters to the Formators, which the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies has sent to all Entities starting from January 2025, was also discussed.

The friars of the OFM Fraternitas Foundation presented the projects the Foundation promotes to support formation in the Order.

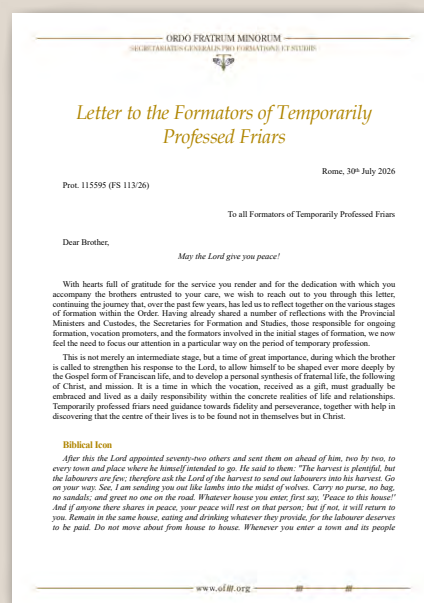
During the meeting with the Minister General, he reflected on formation in the following of Christ today, proposing the question that should guide every formation journey: "What kind of brother does the Lord ask for our Order today?"

The central part of the meeting was dedicated to the work on the *Instrumentum laboris* relating to Formation and Studies for the next General Chapter, with particular attention to the

preparation of the revision of the *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae*.

Letter to the Formators of Temporarily Professed Friars

Seventh Letter on Formation and Studies



Download the Letter:

[Italiano](#) - [English](#) - [Español](#)

LIFE in the Order



Solemn professions

22nd August, Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA): Brothers Tyler Grudi, Kevin Hamzik, Domingo Martinez, Phillip McCarter, Brian Menezes, Joan Perez, Carlos Neri Portillo Melendez, Nathaniel Tran.

16th August, Province of St. Francis Solano (Peru): Brothers Luis Rafael Caycho Zela-da and Hassler Osmin Pineda Gonzalez.

9th August, Province of St. Clare (Mozambique): Br. Aveze-do Vasco Damião Damião, Br. Daniel Alfredo Fulgêncio Fulgêncio, Br. Marchande Fernando João João, Br. Leonardo Mutolino Moniua Moniua.

5th August, Prov. Immaculate Conception (Brazil): Br. Bruno de Mello.

2nd August, Prov. Our Lady of the Angels (RDC): Br. Constantin Bunkolele Muambayi, Br. Oliver Ciany Mukuna, Br. François Mbombo Lumpungu, Br. Sébastien Ngandu Bukasa.

10th July, Custody of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Brazil): Br. Cristiano Nobre de Oliveira.



Priestly Ordinations

30th August, Custody of the Holy Land: Br. Maikel Anjelo.

21st August, Prov. Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA): Br. Maikel Eduardo Gómez Pérez and Br. Joshua Richter.

3rd and 11th August, Prov. St. Thomas the Apostle (India): Br. Gali Bal Reddy Reddy and Br. Abhishek Mariaswamy.

2nd August 2, Cust. Our Lady of Kibeho (Rwanda-Burundi): Br. Janvier Izabayo and Br. Gaspard Nkundimana.

29th June, Prov. Assumption of the BVM (Bosnia-Herzegovina): Brothers Jakov Jure Nikolić, Ante Radoš, Danijel Sentić, and David Slišković.

28th June, Province of St. Clare (Mozambique): Brothers Feliz Elias Assane, Jeremias Felipe Benedito, Itélio Costa Francisco Chale, Raimundo José Mateus Mateus, Orlando Augusto Nhachengo, and Oracio Francisco Pacule Pacule.



Deceased Brothers

† 22nd August: Br Joaquim Cerqueira Gonçalves, Province of the Holy Martyrs of Morocco (Portugal)

† 19th August: Br Gerald (Antonius) Wördekemper, Province of St. Elizabeth (Germany)

† 14th August: Br Ante Leko, Province of the Assumption of the BVM (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

† 13th August: Br Placido (Pietro) Pozzobon, Province of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 12th August: Br Flaviano (Antonio Giuseppe) Andreoletti, Province of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 7th August: Br Hyacinthus (Piet) Lemmers, Province of the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (Netherlands)

† 4th August: Br Giovanni Cazzola, Province of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor (Italy)

† 30th July: Brother Joseph (Joseph Alfred) Ricchini, Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA)

Information received from the General Secretariat

OFM WORLD



15th EAC Integration Programme



(USA) Solemn professions and ordinations in the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Croatia: 9 candidates were received as postulants.



Cebu, Philippines. ongoing formation for Guardians



USA, Under Ten Meeting in the Prov. of the Immaculate Conception.



Peru, Solemn Professions in the Province of St. Francis Solanus



Poland, Franciscan pilgrimage from Krakow to Jasna Góra of the Province of St. Mary of the Angels



Indonesia, Solemn Professions in the Province of St. Michael the Archangel



Philippines, Quezon City: First Meeting of Franciscan Communicators



Poland, Patronal Feast of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels



Vietnam, Opening of the 15th Common Integration Programme of the East Asia Conference



Croatia Medjugorje, 37th Youth Festival



DRC, Pilgrimage of Forgiveness



India, First Missionary Symposium of the Asian Franciscan Family



Italy, Taranto, Third Edition of the "Mediterranean Weaves" Summer School



Second Pan-African Congress of the Secular Franciscan Order

21-27 August 2026



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The newly canonically established National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) in Uganda had the distinct honour and privilege of hosting the Second Pan-African Congress of the Secular Franciscan Order, which was held from 21 to 27 August 2026, and was immediately followed by the National Elective Chapter, held from 28 to 31 August 2026.

We give heartfelt thanks to God for the grace of this fraternal gathering and extend our sincere gratitude to the organizers for their courage, dedication, and steadfastness in ensuring the realization of the Congress, despite the

continuous threat posed by Ebola. Their perseverance is a beautiful witness to the Franciscan spirit of fraternity, hope, and trust in Divine Providence.

The Congress brought together total number of 91 OFS brothers and sisters from the National Fraternities from across Africa, with a beautiful representation from the Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone regions. Among those represented were Cameroon, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Togo, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This diversity of languages, cultures, and experiences enriched our fraternal communion and reminded us that, though we come from different nations and traditions, we are one Franciscan family, called to live the Gospel after the example of Saint Francis of Assisi. The theme of the Congress was Be peacemakers hence throughout the Congress, we reflected on a number of important themes for the life and mission of the Secular Franciscan Order in Africa.

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OFS, National Elective Chapter in Uganda

28-31 August 2026



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The National Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) in Uganda held its National Elective Chapter immediately following the Pan-African Congress at the Uirika Guest House, Gogonya-Kisubi Enterprise, Gamba, from 28-31 August 2026. The Elective Chapter was presided over by the Presidency Council, Emerenciana Chiyama, OFS. In a joyful and fraternal atmosphere, the eleven Capitulars gathered in a spirit of prayer, fraternity, and discernment to elect the new National Council.

The Capitulars elected Brother Frederick Kanyike, OFS, as the new National Minister and International Councillor.

The Conference of General Spiritual Assistants expresses its sincere gratitude for the generous collaboration and tireless service of the National, Regional, and Local Spiritual Assistants in Uganda. Through their faithful accompaniment, they continue to encourage the Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters to remain rooted in the Franciscan charism,

to live the Gospel in fraternity, and to embrace more fully their responsibility and mission in the local Church in Uganda.

The celebration of the Elective Chapter concluded with Holy Mass and the installation of the newly elected National Council. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Br. Gidion Nucagaba Twongiriewe, OFM. The Elective Chapter was marked by a calm, prayerful, and deeply fraternal spirit.



Pro Monialibus

40 years of contemplative presence in El Salvador *The Franciscan Family gathered around the Poor Sisters of St. Clare*



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On Saturday, the 22nd August 22, in San Salvador, El Salvador, in an atmosphere of profound joy, fraternity and thanksgiving, the Poor Sisters of St. Clare celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of the

Monastery of St. Damian,

giving thanks to the Lord for four decades of contemplative presence and fidelity to the charism of St. Clare of Assisi in Salvadoran lands.

The history of this community began precisely on the 22nd of August 1986, when the first founding sisters, coming from the Santa Clara Monastery in Guatemala, arrived in El Salvador carrying with them the desire to live and witness to the values proper to the Clarian way of life: incarnate prayer, the highest poverty and fraternity.

Forty years later, the celebration once again brought the Franciscan Family together around the sisters. Brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order, members of the community of Los Planes, the Poor Clare Sisters of the Mother Santa Clara Monastery of

Puerta Parada, Guatemala, and sisters of the Federation from monasteries in Costa Rica, Panama, and Puerto Rico participated. Br. Edgardo Manuel Pérez Tejeira, OFM, Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Guatemala), presided over the solemn Mass of thanksgiving, and several brother priests concelebrated. Also present was Fr. Efrén Antonio Bolaños de Paz, OFM, Pontifical Assistant of the Poor Clare Sisters.

The celebration was an occasion to gratefully remember the road travelled and, at the same time, to renew hope. From its beginnings, the community of the Monastery of San Damiano has sought to be a simple presence of prayer and fraternity amongst the people, keeping alive the spirituality of St Francis and St Clare of Assisi.

As we celebrate these 40 years of grace, the sisters continue to entrust their vocation and mission to the Lord, grateful for the many brothers and sisters and benefactors who have accompanied their history and renewing the desire to continue to offer the Church and the world the silent and fruitful witness of a life entirely given to God.

by Br. Edgar Daniel Coyoy Medrano, OFM, Provincial Secretary



Season of Creation 2026

1st September – 4th October: Living Water



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SEASON OF CREATION - TEMPO DEL CREATO - TIEMPO DE LA CREACIÓN 2026



From 1st September to 4th October, Christians of various denominations will celebrate the Season of Creation, a period dedicated to prayer, contemplation, and care for our common home, responding together to the cry of creation. This year, the ecumenical family gathers around the theme “Living Water,” with the symbol “Immersion in Living Water,” inspired by the words of the prophet Ezekiel: “Every living thing that moves wherever the river goes will live, and there will be very many fish there, for wherever the waters come, they are healed; and wherever the stream goes, everything will live” (Ezek. 47:9). “Along the river, on this bank and that, will grow every kind of tree for food. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail, but will bear fruit every month, for their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine” (Ezek. 47:12).

For the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, established by Pope Francis in 2015 and celebrated by the Catholic Church on September 1, Pope Leo XIV published the message “They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks” (Is. 2:4).

The Holy Father invites us to interpret the crises and human sufferings and the accelerating destruction of the balance of creation as “a single invocation for healing and peace” rising from a wounded world. In particular, he highlights how war has consequences that reach far beyond the battlefield: it destroys ecosystems, contaminates essential resources like air and water, jeopardises food security, and fuels poverty, inequality, and new social tensions, creating a vicious cycle that can generate further conflict.

For Pope Leo XIV, the response requires responsibility and a conversion of the heart, both personal and collective. Peace, in fact, begins in the heart and is reflected in relationships, communities, and the relationship with creation. This is the path of an authentic ecological conversion: transforming what is used for destruction into instruments of life, dedicating energy and resources to integral human development, overcoming poverty, defending human dignity, reconciliation, and protecting creation. The Pope thus invites us to protect the different “ecosystems” entrusted to humanity: creation, human relationships, and the

heart. This year, the closing of the Season of Creation, on October 4, will coincide with the eighth centenary of the Transitus of St Francis. For the Franciscan Family, this celebration further reminds us to experience the Season of Creation as a journey of peace, conversion, and care for our common home.

For full information:
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Download [the guide to celebrations](#)

Read [the message of Pope Leo XIV](#)

Emergencies



Colombia Emergency 2026 the appeal of the Minister General

Extraordinary fundraising for the people affected by the earthquake



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After the magnitude 7.4 earthquake that struck western Colombia on 10 August 2026, the Minister General, Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, made an emergency appeal to the whole Franciscan Family on 11 August, the feast of Saint Clare of Assisi: “Br Richard Paúl Cortés López, Minister Provincial of the Province of Saint Paul the Apostle, sent me a photograph of an elderly woman sitting on a piece of cardboard, on the plank floor of her house left without a roof, with a bottle of water next to her. That woman is, today, for us, the face of Colombia asking for help.”

The Minister General has asked every fraternity of the Order, the monasteries of the Poor Clare Sisters and the entire Franciscan Family to remember in the Eucharist and in the Liturgy of the Hours the deceased, the injured and the displaced people of Colombia, and the brothers and sisters who serve them.

Br Massimo has also commissioned the Fondazione OFM Fraternitas ETS, a body of the General Curia, to open an extraordinary fundraising campaign, “Colombia Emergency 2026”. Every donation will be allocated entirely to water, food and safe accommodation for the Poor Clares and the postulants of Montenegro, to humanitarian aid for the families of the parish of Buenaventura, to the safety works on unsafe buildings and to the restoration of the damaged churches, convents and colleges of the Provinces of Saint Paul the Apostle and of Holy Faith - Santa Fe.

It is possible to donate by credit card through the link:

<https://ofmfraternitas.org/en/2026/08/12/earthquake-emergency-in-colombia/>

“God always provides, and very often provides through our hands. Let us not let the trust of the poor fall on deaf ears.” With these words the Minister General concludes his letter, making his own the appeal of the two Colombian Provinces and inviting the whole Franciscan Family to pray and to donate. The full text of the appeal is [available here in PDF](#).



Earthquake in Flores, Indonesia: Closeness and Prayer for Those Affected 15 August 2026



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The Order of Friars Minor expresses its closeness and solidarity with the people of Flores, Indonesia, affected by the magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck on Saturday, 15 August 2026, at 5:58 a.m. local time, causing considerable destruction in the area.

According to a communication sent to the Minister General, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, by Br. Agustinus Lorensius Nggame, OFM, Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia, all the friars are safe and well. However, several churches entrusted to the care of the friars have suffered damage as a result of the earthquake.

At present, precise information on the full extent of the damage is not yet available. The fri-

ars of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Flores continue to follow the situation and will provide further updates as soon as more reliable information becomes available.

In this time of sorrow and uncertainty, the Order of Friars Minor expresses its closeness and solidarity with all those affected and with the communities impacted by the earthquake, especially those who have lost loved ones and the families suffering from its consequences.

We invite the entire Franciscan Family to join in prayer for the deceased, for their families, for all those affected, and for the communities struck by this earthquake, asking the Lord to grant consolation, strength and hope to all who are going through this difficult time.



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