



BEATIFICATION OF THE VENERABLE MAMERTO ESQUIÚ

On 4 September, in the church of San José in Piedra Blanca, a Mass for the beatification of Fr Mamerto Esquiú, a Franciscan from the province of Catamarca, Argentina, was celebrated.

For the beatification, the postulators presented the miraculous healing of a little girl suffering from “acute osteomyelitis with chronic evolution and septic arthritis” for examination by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The healing took place in January 2016 in Argentina.

Mamerto Esquiú, as a religious, priest and bishop, “is a model to imitate”, said the apostolic legate Luis Héctor Villalba, an Argentine cardinal who presided over the Mass. “He is an intercessor for us. The Church tells us, by beatifying him, that we can invoke him and pray to him because he already shares in eternal happiness”.

His beatification, he continued, is an invitation for all to walk “in the footsteps opened by Jesus Christ”, that is, “an invitation

to walk towards holiness”. Brother Mamerto Esquiú wanted to be a saint, and in his life, he sought, above all, to do the will of God, at all costs. Mamerto Esquiú was also a priest of deep prayer, the cardinal added. “He was a missionary bishop who dedicated himself to visiting all the communities of his extended diocese.” He was also “a pastor bishop, who distinguished himself by his humility, his poverty and the austerity of his life.” Esquiú “was a pastor who gave himself to the poor in the style of St Francis. He was tireless in assisting the sick and administering the sacraments”.

“Blessed Mamerto Esquiú,” said the apostolic legate in describing the new blessed, “is recognised as one of the great figures of our country for his exemplary patriotism. He illuminated the temporal order with the light of the Gospel, defending and promoting human dignity, peace and justice”.

Source: [VaticanNews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va)





ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

General Minister Brother Massimo FUSARELLI, together with General Vicar Brother Isauro COVILI LINFATI, and the eight General Definitors gathered from 6 to 15 September 2021, at the OFM General House in Rome, to deliberate on matters related to the governance, administration, and animation of the Order.

At this Tempo Forte meeting, the General leadership met with the General Secretariates and various Offices, attended to international matters of immediate necessity, and discussed the direction of the Order for the 2021-2027 sexennium, including practical ways to implement the decisions and guidelines of the General Chapter of July 2021.

After confirming Brother Giovanni RINALDI as Secretary General ad interim until 31 August 2022, the General Definitory elected for this coming sexennium:

Br Francisco GÓMEZ VARGAS, of the Province of Saint Paul the Apostle, in Colombia, as Secretary General for Missions and Evangelisation;

Br Darko TEPERT, of the Province of the Saints Cyrill and Methodius, in Croatia, as Secretary General for Formation and Studies; and

Br Claudio DURIGHETTO, of the Seraphic Province of Saint Francis of Assisi, in Italy, as Procurator General of the Order.

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FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE 2021 GENERAL CHAPTER

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we, your brothers, more than one-hundred friars from around the world, gathered at the Capuchin Franciscan Collegio Internazionale San Lorenzo da Brindisi in Rome for the 2021 General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor. While every gathering of the brothers is an opportunity for rejoicing, this General Chapter was a particularly joyful occasion and a sign of hope.

Despite the manifold challenges that face the church and world today, we friars minor recognise that there are also opportunities amid the difficulties. Over the course of the fifteen days of this condensed General Chapter, many of the themes and good work that began at the 2018 Plenary Council of the Order (PCO) in Nairobi were carried forward and developed. The major theme of the PCO was 'listening' to what the Holy Spirit was saying to the Order today. In response to that attentive listening, we friars recognised a number of invitations that God was extending to us in the church and world.

We wish to communicate to our brothers throughout the Order some of these invitations and encourage one another in a spirit of fraternal solidarity to take up the invitations that the Holy Spirit presents to us with eagerness, humility, and passion.

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LETTER OF THE MINISTER GENERAL AND DEFINITORY FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord give you peace!

The Order has recently celebrated its General Chapter, and this is the first time that we are addressing you as brothers of the General Definitory. We have started working as a Definitorial fraternity, and we are studying in-depth the mandates and guidelines, which the General Chapter has entrusted to us, to draw up guidelines for the animation of the Order over the next six years. We hope to be able to offer you these proposals as soon as possible.

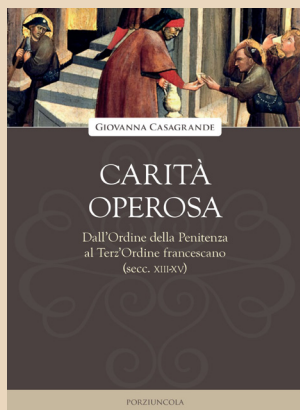
Between Fragility and Change

A Franciscan icon that is helpful in our times is Francis' return from the Holy Land. According to some traditions, he lived a quarantine on a small island in the Venetian lagoon, where he experienced the fragility of his world, the crisis of the fraternity, his inner struggles, torn between darkness and desolation. Yet Francis maintained a response of gratitude alongside a hope-filled vision. (cf. RnB 23)

Today, the Order is also troubled amid hopes and discouragements, growth in some areas and decline in others. We are caught between the path of renewal of our identity as Friars Minor and the clericalism that gives power and security and makes us believe that we do not need anyone, distancing us from our vocation and mission as Friars Minor.

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FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK



GIOVANNA CASAGRANDE, a cura di Andrea Maiarelli, Carità operosa. Dall'Ordine della Penitenza al Terz'Ordine francescano (secc. xiii-xv), (Active Charity. From the Order of Penance to the Franciscan Third Order - 13th-15th centuries), Edizioni Porziuncola, Assisi 2021, pp. 176.

Eight hundred years ago, in 1221, Pope Honorius III published the "Memoriale propositi", i.e. precise indications for all those who desired a more radically Christian life. These people soon saw in Saint Francis an exemplary reference point, and thus the Franciscan Third Order, now called the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), was born. The author recounts these events and passages with simplicity and competence.



PATRICE KERVYN OFM, L'Homme qui parlait aux Oiseaux (The man who spoke to the birds), Salvator, Paris 2021, pp. 256

In seeing Francis of Assisi as the patron saint of ecologists, haven't we gone too fast? How can we describe his relationship with nature and animals more precisely? Reading the fascinating survey by Brother Patrice Kervyn, this relationship appears richer and more nuanced. After recalling his message of poverty, simplicity and humility in which humans have a unique place, the author emphasises that nature is Creation and not an autonomous reality for Francis. Far from being an ethereal romantic, the saint addresses all creatures through a plurality of images with many evangelical dimensions. Even though Francis was neither a vegan nor a vegetarian, the fact remains that his testimony invites us to take the plight of the animal world seriously and directly addresses our concerns today.



ALBERT HAASE OFM, Du bist so verborgen und doch so nah (You are so hidden and yet so close), Brendow, Moers 2021, pp. 222

"The devout Christian of the future will either be a 'mystic', one who has experienced 'something', or will cease to be anything," theologian Karl Rahner once said. Mysticism has always been the experience of encountering God and being aware of his presence. But how does one live as a modern mystic today? How do we lead a life with God in which we approach God, listen to God and respond to him more intentionally? It is not uncommon for many people to end up struggling with themselves: Why am I not noticing any progress? Thoughts that even a Franciscan priest knows. In this book, Albert Haase recounts what helps him to experience the presence of God, a God who is mysterious and incomprehensible yet desirous of an ever more profound relationship with us. This book is easy to understand, based on biblical texts and with examples from everyday life, and invites us to cultivate a spiritual life that truly touches the heart. Short practical exercises help to mentally discover a God who never stops reaching out to us.



ALESSANDRO CORSI, Il cammino dei primi francescani, (The path of the first Franciscans), Edizioni Terra Santa, Milano 2021, pp. 224

An itinerary on foot for everyone amidst art, nature and spirituality. A "path of worship" for trekking enthusiasts, walkers and pilgrims. A fascinating and still little-travelled route, which can be covered in a week, in the footsteps of the first disciples of Francis of Assisi. A complete guide, full of images and information, with valuable indications on paths and altitudes, height differences and signs, places not to be missed and hints on where to eat and sleep.

EVENTS

DIARY OF THE MINISTER GENERAL

OCTOBER 2021

- 1-4 ASSISI, Meeting of the Ministers General of the First Order. Conference of the Franciscan Family. Solemnity of Our Holy Father Francis.
- 9 GALLIPOLI (LE), COMPI Assembly
- 10 PUGLIA, Assembly of the Poor Clares of Apulia.
- 11 OSTUNI (BR), Assembly of the Provinces of Apulia, guardians and definitors.
- 16 ROME, Meeting with the OFS Council of Italy.
- 17 ROME, Diaconal ordination Basilica of S. Sebastiano.
- 19 ROME, Formal inauguration of the PUA academic year.
- 20-24 Visit to the Custody of the Holy Land.
- 25-27 Visit to the fraternities in Turkey
- 28 ROME, Meeting with the German Porticus Foundation.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN SAN FRANCESCO A RIPPA - ROME

The Church has been celebrating this World Day since 1914. An initiative that reminds us that the causes of human mobility are always present in human history and, on many occasions, affect the most vulnerable. This year the motto chosen by Pope Francis is Towards an ever wider "We". The JPIC Office, together with the Franciscan Migrant Network and the Laudato Si' Movement, organised a prayer and reflection gathering. Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, Undersecretary of the Vatican Section for Migrants and Refugees, Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM Minister General, were present. The young people welcomed into the heart of the St Francis a Ripa Fraternity, a project promoted by the brothers of the St Bonaventure Province in Rome also participated.

[Here you can see a recording of the meeting.](#)

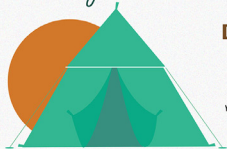
Giornata Mondiale del Migrante e del Rifugiato

Dialogo Laudato Si' sui Migranti Climatici da Trastevere

**Domenica 26
settembre**

 @MovimentoLaudatoSi'
 Movimento Laudato Si'

15:00 Roma, Città del
Vaticano



NEW PROVINCIALS

Fr. Fidêncio Vanboemmel
Immaculate Conception Province
Brazil

Fr. Luciano de Giusti,
Province of S. Bonaventura
Italy

NEW GENERAL VISITATORS

Fr. Nestor Inácio Schwerz
Province of Saint Francis of Assisi, Brazil
for the Province of Saint Francis Solano, Argentina

Fr. João Carlos Karling
Province of Saint Francis of Assisi, Brazil
for the Custody São Benedito da Amazônia, Brazil

Fr. Edwin de Jesús Alvarado Segura
Province of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
de Centro America
for the Province of San Felipe de Jesus, Mexico

Fr. Marcel Tshikez Kangwej
Province of Saint Benedict the African,
in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
for the Province of Verbo Incarnato in Africa

Fr. César Külkamp
Province of Imaculada Conceição, Brazil
for the Province of Imaculada Conceição de la BVM,
Brazil

Fr. Carlos Guillermo Paz Guzmán
Province of San Francisco Solano, Argentina,
for the Province of Santísima Trinidad, Chile

Fr. Angelo Maria Solinas
Custody of S. Maria delle Grazie, Sardinia
for the Province of Ss. Cuore di Gesù, Naples, Italy

Br. William Spencer
of the Province of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, USA
for the Immaculate Conception Province, USA