



## THE POPE GOES TO ASSISI TO MEET THE POORS

An embrace, a prayer, a moment of listening with the poor. This will characterize the visit of Pope Francis to Assisi on November 12, 2021. This is a moment of preparation for the fifth edition of the World Day of the Poor which was established by Pope Francis with the aim of raising awareness of, and listening to, the cry of the poor and suffering. Scheduled for Sunday, November 14, it takes its theme from the Gospel of Mark: "You will always have the poor with you."

In the press release of the event, the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization explains that the Pope will travel privately to Assisi and will meet, again privately, in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels a group of 500 poor people from different parts of Europe and will spend a moment listening and praying with them.

It will be Pope Francis' fifth time in the heart of the Franciscan Christendom after his first pastoral visit on October 4, 2013, and the subsequent ones of August 4, 2016, on the occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the Pardon of Assisi, September 20 of the same year for the World Day of Prayer for

Peace; and, finally, on October 3, 2020, for the signing of the encyclical *Fratelli tutti*.

Official details of this occasion are still scarce, but Fr. Francesco Piloni, OFM, Minister Provincial of the Seraphic Province of Assisi, reflects on the theme of Fraternity evoked from the outset by Pope Francis' choice. "No one – he affirms – is so rich that he does not need the other and no one is so poor that he has nothing to give." a message that concerns each of us to urgently seek to re-establish authenticity in relationships.

For Fr. Piloni, Pope Francis has in mind the spirituality of the Saint of Assisi and specifically a passage from Chapter IX of the *Regola non bollata* of the Order of Friars Minor. "The friars," it reads, "must be glad when they live among people who are considered of little account and who are despised." But sharing the path of the neediest is not the only context of the visit, it also encompasses a visit to the family home of the Friars Minors, the Portiuncola, which uniquely symbolizes a Gospel that is spread to the ends of the earth.

Source: [assisiofm.it](http://assisiofm.it) e [VaticanNews.va](http://VaticanNews.va)





## VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD GIUSEPPE SPOLETINI, OFM

On 13 October 2021, the Holy Father Francis received His Eminence Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During the audience, the Supreme Pontiff authorised the Congregation to promulgate the Decree concerning the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Giuseppe Spoletini, priest of the Order of Friars Minor, born on 16 August 1870 in Bellegra and died on 25 March 1951 in Rome.

The Venerable Giuseppe Spoletini (1870-1951), sanctified himself in the generous exercise of his priestly ministry and religious profession. For some years he was responsible for formation of novices and postulants in the friary of Bellegra, where he lived with Fra Diego Oddi, now blessed, and in the friary of Fontecolombo, a sanctuary of the Franciscan Rule, which he observed to the point of becoming an authentic model for his brothers. He spent over forty years in Rome, in the historically rich friaries of San Francesco a Ripa, San Pietro in Montorio and Sacre Stimate, where he devoted himself mainly to the ministry of confessor, continually sought out by priests, religious and lay people who came to him in search of guidance and comfort. The secret of his holiness can be summed up in the expression with which he was familiar: 'Act and do everything for God's sake'.

[Source](#)

## Il grido della terra



### "THE CRY OF THE EARTH, FRANCISCAN PERSPECTIVES OF ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION"

The Assembly of the Guardians and Provincial Definitors of the Provinces of St. Michael the Archangel, of Foggia, and of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Lecce, with the Minister General of the Order, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, and Definitor General, Br. Cesare Vaiani, was held on October 11, 2021, in Ostuni at Santa Maria la Nova. In this meeting, the Minister General presented a report on the theme "THE CRY OF THE EARTH, Franciscan Perspectives of Ecological Conversion". Invited to reflect upon the "Cry of the Earth" and to offer new Franciscan perspectives on ecological conversion, the Minister General addressed a theme of great concern by proposing a reflection starting from the Cantic of the Creatures. "The cry of our Mother Earth," said the Minister, "expressed first of all suffering, a groan, expressing the incompleteness of creation, of that original project of God open to a fulfillment that is not worldly but comes from above. At the same time, the Minister emphasized a threefold movement: "To KNOW: to see that God is good; TO RECOGNIZE: when we see strength, goodness, beauty and truth in creatures; TO GIVE BACK: that is, to recognize that God is Good and to give back everything to Him."

Ecological conversion requires, therefore, a journey, a real and proper "conversion" that is proposed to the whole Order so that it can be etched in our daily life in a true evangelical, charismatic and historical sense.

[Continue reading](#)

## Communiqué

### COMMUNIQUE FROM THE GENERAL DEFINITORY – SEPTEMBER 2021 TEMPO FORTE

The intense meeting sessions of the General Definitory took place from 1 to 20 September 2021.

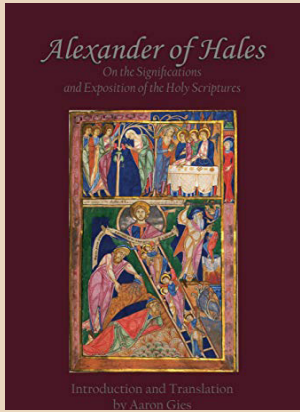
The first three days were intended to assist the members of the Definitory in getting to know each other, with the facilitation of Dr. Raffaele Mastromarino. Br. Aidan McGrath contributed to deepening our understanding of the tasks of governance and animation.

As of 6 September the planning work for the six-year period began, through an in-depth study of the definitive drafting of the Final Document of the 2021 General Chapter and of the Mandates and Orientations entrusted by the General Chapter to the General Definitory for processing. Some operational guidelines have in fact been drafted that will be shared with the Secretariats and Offices of the Curia, in order to be able to further define them during the Tempo Forte of November and thus be able to offer them to all the Friars of the Order.

The Definitory met with all the staff of the Secretariats and Offices and, as already announced, carried out the elections of the three Secretaries, the Procurator and the Guardian of the Curia, and to the appointment of other staff for the Offices of the Curia, confirming other personnel. The process for the restructuring of the Communications Office was also initiated, within the broader project for the reorganization of the infrastructure of the General Curia.

[Continue reading](#)

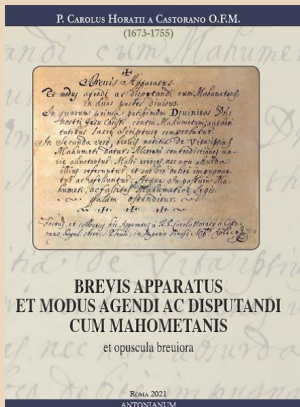
# FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK



**AARON GIES** (*Introduction and Translation*), *Alexander of Hales - On the Significations and Exposition of the Holy Scriptures*, *Franciscan Institute Publications, St. Bonaventure 2018, pp. 77.*

This volume contains the first English translation of Alexander's short treatise on biblical interpretation.

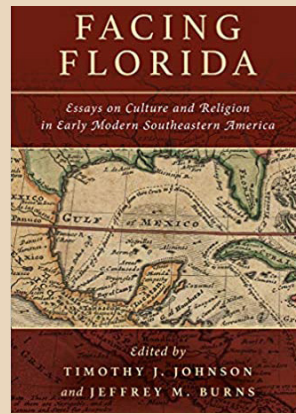
Probably written in the later 1220s or early 1230s for the use of advanced theology students, *On the Significations and Exposition of the Holy Scriptures* reveals the hermeneutical methods of the first Franciscan Master, who was renowned for his biblical lectures. The work offers a concise introduction to the art of theological interpretation as practiced in the early university.



**CARLO ORAZIO DA CASTORANO**, *Brevis apparatus et modus agendi ac disputandi cum mahometanis*, *Edizioni Antonianum, Roma 2021, pp. 246*

The work of Carlo Orazio da Castorano (1673-1755) is published here for the first time. When the Italian Franciscan began to lay

the foundations of his work he was living in Linqing, in Shandong, which is an area characterized, since the Song period (960-1279) and the Ming era (1368-1644), by the presence of a community of Chinese people practicing the Muslim faith, and not a community of Muslims from foreign lands. The work is divided into two parts that refer, even in the question-and-answer structure that characterizes some of its pages, to the catechetical and traditional controversy methodology, and the desire to show a simulation of dialogue with the other, providing an example of a dispute with a Muslim. With the *Brevis apparatus*, Castorano shows us all his interest in the conversion of Muslims, certainly using second-hand information and revealing the limits of his knowledge but indicating another possible path to the evangelization of China: the conversion of the faithful of a religion that, like Catholicism, was a minority and foreign.

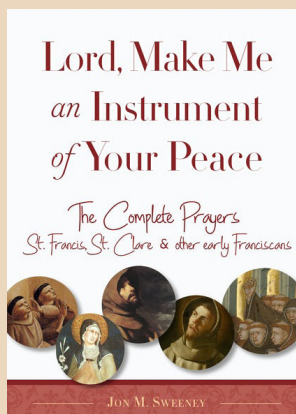


**TIMOTHY J. JOHNSON, JEFFREY M. BURNS**, *Facing Florida: Essays on Culture and Religion in Early Modern Southeastern America*, *Oceanside 2021, 260 pp*

*Facing Florida* is the third volume of a series sponsored by the Academy of American Franciscan History and Flagler College exploring the Franciscan legacy in the Spanish Borderlands.

Despite the diversity of topics in the volume, several thematic threads run through the essays. One is a concern with locating belief, motive and intention in past actors. Eliciting thought and belief in the past is a notoriously murky undertaking, but one that is directly relevant to understanding the legacy of the Franciscan project in America. Another thread in the volume is a concern with language and meaning, particularly in the ways language has conditioned how we understand the past from written and iconographic sources. A third is "exemplars," with a meaning similar to that used by Franciscan friars in conversion. Many of the essays in the volume incorporate historical anecdote, but some of the contributors highlight the ways that foregrounding a particular individual or event can bring important but underrepresented issues into sharper focus.

The result is an important new collection that explores innovative avenues in the study of southeastern American Indian culture and religion prior to the 1900s.



**JON M. SWEENEY**, *Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace. Edizioni Terra Santa, Milano 2021, pp. 288*

We do not immediately associate Francis and Clare with prayer and praying. St. Francis, according to the most common legends, rarely sat still. St. Clare did, more so, but that was probably mostly because of the convent and the grille and the conventions of the time: she couldn't be a walkabout friar. However, they did sit still. And they stood. And they danced. And they fasted. And they sang. In all these ways, Francis and Clare prayed for hours each day, as did the brothers and sisters who came after them on the Franciscan way. This prayer book gathers the stories and words of the prayer life and prayers of these remarkable Christians.

# EVENTS

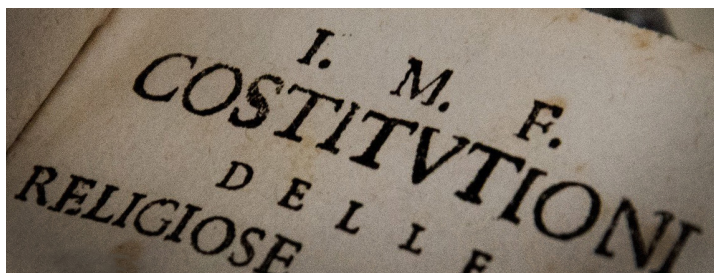
## DIARY OF THE MINISTER GENERAL NOVEMBER 2021

- 03-13 ROME, General Definitory Meeting.  
07 ROME, Mass at Saint Anthony's.  
08-09 ROME, Study Days in Commemoration  
of the feast of Blessed John Duns Scotus.  
15-19 ROME, Meeting with the General  
Visitators.  
22 ROME, Meeting with the JPIC Animators  
- COMPI.  
23 ASSISI, Formators Conference - COMPI.  
24-26 ROME, Fraterna Domus: USG Assembly  
(General Superiors).  
27-05.12 USA, Meeting with the Friars of  
Waterford, with the Ministers Provincial  
of the ESC and visit to some friaries.

### THE MINISTER GENERAL INITIATES THE PROCESS OF THE REVISION OF THE GENERAL CONSTITU- TIONS OF THE ORDER OF ST. CLARE.

The Minister General, in his letter sent to all the Presidents of the Federations of the Order of St. Clare (OSC) on the 27th of September, urged all cloistered Nuns to "revise and rewrite" the text of their Constitutions. The current text, dating back to 1985 and approved in 1988, has rendered a valuable service of unity, inspiration and to the fundamental choices of the life of the Poor Clares scattered throughout the world. However, the recent interventions of the Church in the life of the Poor Clares call for a deepening and revision of their Constitutions, taking into account the indications that those interventions contain. It is thus "a moment of grace," emphasized by the Minister General, "that is enriching in the search to mature an ever more meaningful cloistered life."

[Download](#)



## NEW GENERAL VISITATORS

**Br. Noël Muscat**  
(Province of St. Paul the Apostle, Malta)  
for the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, in India

**Br. Michael D'Cruz**  
(as Assistant of Visitor General)  
(Custody of Sant'Antonio in Singapore, Malaysia  
and Brunei, dependent on the Holy Spirit Province  
in Australia and New Zealand),  
for the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, in India

**Br. Valmir Ramos**  
(Custody of Sacro Cuore di Gesù, Brazil)  
for the Province of San Francisco de Quito,  
in Ecuador

# ACTA

The latest edition of ACTA ORDINIS is now available  
on the website

[DOWNLOAD](#)

# CONTACT

The latest edition of the newsletter "Contact"

[DOWNLOAD](#)