



THE MINISTER GENERAL IN THE HOLY LAND

The visit of the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor Br. Massimo Fusarelli to the Custody of the Holy Land, the “pearl” of the Franciscan missions, ended on Sunday 24 October.

They were five days of intense visits to the various realities of the Franciscan mission in the Holy Land: from the shrines of the Redemption, to the schools, to the various works of the Custody and to local Christians.

In Jerusalem, the Minister and the Vicar General of the Order Br. Isauro Covili were welcomed, at the Jaffa gate, by the religious and civil authorities, by Br. Dobromir Jaształ, Vicar of the Custody and member of the Discretorio, and by the friars of the Custody of the Holy Land. The friars then went to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. Awaiting Fr. Massimo Fusarelli were representatives of the three churches responsible for the Basilica: the Franciscan friars, the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches and Br. Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land.

The new Minister participated, at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, in the solemn daily procession that traces the places of the passion-death-resurrection of Christ and, in front of the Edicule, presided over the daily Mass.

On Friday, October 22, he participated in the Way of the Cross through the streets of Jerusalem.

A route followed by the Franciscans every Friday and by thousands of pilgrims every year.

On Saturday, October 23, the solemn entrance to the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem took place. The Christmas City welcomed the new Minister General with a warm welcome. To accompany him there were bagpipes and brass instruments of the scouts.

A private visit was made to the Terra Sancta School in Bethlehem, considered the oldest in the Holy Land. The visit to the city of Bethlehem ended with a stop at the Piccirillo Center, a project of the Custody of the Holy Land, to respond to the social and economic needs of the weakest and most needy people in the city.

The last stop on the journey was Galilee. Here the Minister General made his solemn entrance into the Basilica of the Annunciation, where he paused briefly in prayer. The solemn entrance was followed by Holy Mass in the Upper Basilica with great participation from the local community.

In taking leave of Nazareth, the Minister General in the prayer of the Angelus in the Grotto wanted to entrust the Order of Friars Minor to Our Lady. The last stop of his visit to Galilee was the Sanctuary of Capernaum, on the shores of Lake Tiberias.

Source: [Christian Media Center](#)





THE DREAM AND THE FRANCISCAN WAY @COP26

The COVID-19 virus has thrown millions of people around the world into chaos, causing a widespread economic crisis. Governments around the world have taken steps to safeguard lives and livelihoods. Climate change, on the other hand, has persisted, and now poses a threat to life on earth. For decades, religious communities have been involved in this work, and the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* has had a significant spiritual impact.

As a continuing response to this climate crisis, JPIC-OFM, represented by Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM, flanked by Br. Billy Hoyne, OFM, and Br. Gabriel Kinahan, OFM; Franciscan International represented by Budi Tjahjono and Thomas Kleinveld; and the Anglican Franciscans represented by Br. Clark Berge, SSF; worked together to organise a delegation to COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Local Franciscans supported them in Glasgow and nearby towns, such as the friars of the Blessed John Duns Scotus Community, led by Br. George Smulski, OFM (Guardian).

We dream, hope and request that COP26 make decisions consistent with IPCC climate science and include faith-based organizations and their traditions that advocate for a more sustainable lifestyle.

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THE POPE MEETS AND LISTENS TO THE POOR IN ASSISI

Pope Francis went to Assisi on Friday 12 November to meet 500 poor people from all over Europe, pray with them and listen to their testimonies, on the occasion of the Fifth World Day of the Poor which is celebrated on Sunday 14 November. The Holy Father was welcomed by Fr Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor and Fr Massimo Travascio, Custos of the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Porziuncola together with religious and civil authorities of Assisi.

At the beginning of the meeting Francis listened to a French couple with a 4-month-old baby, a Spanish former detainee from Toledo who, after a past of violence, was helped by a priest and the testimonies of other poor people. In response, Pope Francis called for the poor to be heard and their dignity to be restored by the creation of jobs.

At the end of his speech, Pope Francis prayed that everyone can live and witness to the serenity and joy that St. Francis lived: "Here at the Porziuncola, St. Francis teaches us the joy that comes from caring for those who are close to us, as a traveling companion who understands us and supports us, just as we do for him or her".

The meeting ended with listening to the Word, an intercessory prayer to the Father, a greeting and final blessing, followed by the delivery of gifts to the poor by the Holy Father. It should be remembered that with this trip Pope Francis has been to Assisi five times.

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MEETING OF THE MINISTER GENERAL WITH THE GENERAL VISITATORS

From 15th to 19th November 2021, at the General Curia, Rome, the 2021 the meeting of the Minister General, Fra Massimo Fusarelli, and his Definitory with the General Visitors took place.

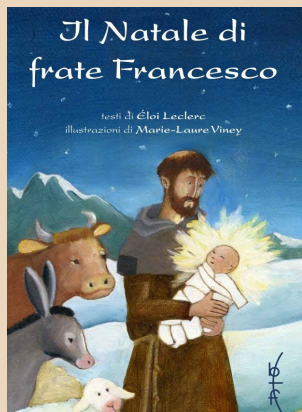
To open the day of the meeting on November 15 was the Eucharist presided over by the Vicar General, Friar Isauro Ulises Covili Linfati, who, commenting on the readings of the day, invited the Visitors to listen to the cries within society, the Church and our fraternities.

In his report, Fra Massimo invited those present to be grateful by welcoming "the gift of faith that makes us recognize the good that God still works today in our lives", to renew our vision "verifying how in this time we are brothers and minors in our life of proclamation and witness of the Gospel in the various missions and services entrusted to our fraternities" to take care of "continuous formation in emotional life and the free choice of chastity with sensitivity in relation to the protection of minors and vulnerable adults"; to mission and evangelization in three areas: young people, integral ecology and the digital continent and, finally, to embrace the future and the challenges present in the Order and in the entities.

At the end of his talk, Friar Massimo asked the Visitors to "inwardly assume their duties, elaborating their personal identities as men who live by following Jesus Christ, the heart of their very existence"

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FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK



ÉLOI LECLERC
Il Natale di frate Francesco (nuova edizione), (Brother Francis' Christmas (new edition), Franciscan Media, 2020, pp. 104.

Is it possible to rediscover the profound meaning of Christmas, putting aside today's nagging advertising that has reduced it to an

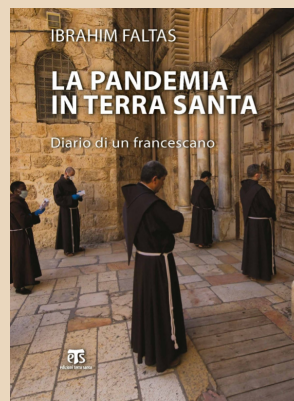
opportunity for consumption?

The memory of the Christmas celebrated by St. Francis in Greccio in 1223, recounted by Éloi Leclerc with the sensitivity and finesse that are proper to him, becomes an opportunity to return to the essential: stupor before the glorious God who chooses to share our fragile humanity. So we are again invited to put first what God has done for us, freeing ourselves from the anxiety of having to be the ones to do who knows what for God.



FIRAS LUTFI
Un nome e un futuro. La risposta francescana al dramma siriano dei "bambini senza identità", (A name and a future. The Franciscan response to the Syrian drama of "children without identity"), Edizioni Terra Santa, 2021, pp. 112

Faced with the phenomenon of children born during the war – especially from marriages between extremist fighters and Syrian women – which are existing, but without official registration, the Franciscan friars of Syria conceived the project called "A name and a future". Without a name, in fact, you do not have an identity, much less a future. The project was born in a spirit of friendship between the Islamic and Christian worlds. The group of collaborators is composed of Christians and Muslims who work together for the good of the most vulnerable victims of war. This book recounts the many activities of this initiative: registrations at the registry office, reception, psychological support for post-traumatic syndromes, literacy and education of children and women, socialization and education through art and sport.



IBRAHIM FALTAS
La pandemia in Terra Santa, Diario di un francescano, (The pandemic in the Holy Land, Diary of a Franciscan), Edizioni Terra Santa, 2021, pp. 368

Jerusalem, Easter 2020: a degraded and rundown feast, with cancelled celebrations, empty shrines, people locked up at home

and Franciscan communities locked up in friaries .

Easter, a year later: many local faithful and migrant workers breathe again the joy of walking from Bethphage to Jerusalem and of celebrating the rites of the Easter season in the presence, warmth and sharing of brothers and sisters of faith.

Never as in these long months has the Holy Land been physically "alone", abandoned by pilgrims in its symbolic places – usually full of life – and by the inhabitants themselves. Yet, never has it been so present in the hearts and prayers of believers in every corner of the Earth.

In this diary, drawing heavily on memories, notes and images, Father Ibrahim Faltas, a Franciscan of the Holy Land, recounts "his" pandemic between Easter 2020 and Easter 2021: two symbolic dates, the result of the choice of those who want to communicate Christian hope. The end of the pandemic will not erase the suffering of the many people who have lost a family member. Nevertheless, there remains the unshakable desire to resume living normality, returning to weave threads of peace in this land, a crucible of peoples and religions.

La Madre del Signore nel pensiero francescano

Introduzione, cronistoria, bibliografia per lo studio della mariologia francescana



STEFANO M. CECCHIN
La Madre del Signore nel pensiero francescano, (The Mother of the Lord in Franciscan Thought), PAMI, Vatican City 2021, pp. 494

Starting from the desire to follow Jesus and his Most Holy Mother manifested by Francis of Assisi to Clare, this volume seeks to offer an introductory overview

of the great and fundamental contribution of Franciscan thought to Catholic dogmatics on the Mother of the Lord. In addition to being an introduction on Franciscan Mariology with the history of the dogmas of the Immaculate and the Assumption, it offers a Marian chronology of the Order, and a brief biography with the Marian bibliography of 370 authors. The volume will bring stimulation for research and study on Franciscan Marian thought.

EVENTS

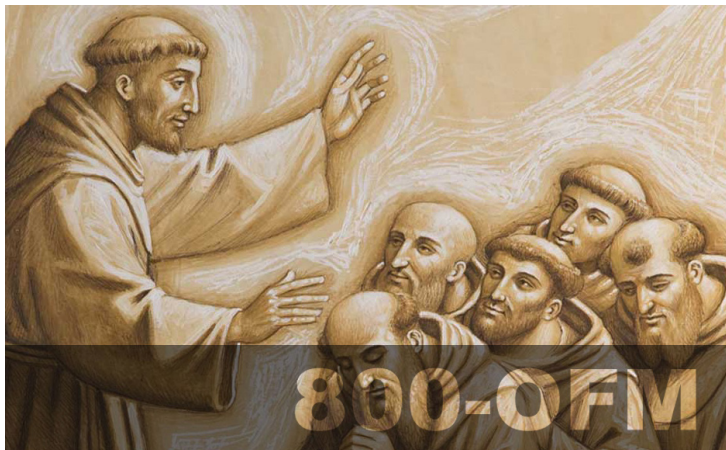
AGENDA OF THE MINISTER GENERAL DECEMBER 2021

- 1-7 USA, Meeting with the Friars of Waterford, with the Ministers Provincial of the ESC and visit to some houses
- 8 ROME, Solemn professions in San Sebastiano
- 11-12 POGGIO A CAIANO, Centenary of the aggregation to OFM of the Minimums of the Sacred Heart, Visit Poor Clares of Florence
- 13-17 ROME, Tempo Forte
- 15 ROME, Vespers and Christmas dinner at the Collegio S. Isidoro
- 17 ROME, Vespers and Christmas dinner at CISA
- 18 AFRAGOLA, Holy Mass
- 19 CAVA DE' TIRRENI, Holy Mass
- 25 GRECCIO, Celebration of Christmas
- 28-1 CROATIA/BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, Fraternal visit.

LETTER OF THE "CONFERENCE OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY" ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE FRANCISCAN CENTENARY

On October 2, 2021, the Ministers General of the Franciscan Families met in Assisi to plan the celebration of the Franciscan anniversaries in a single Franciscan Centenary.

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NEW GENERAL VISITATORS

Br. Fuad Miguel Hilal
of the Province of San Francesco Solano, Argentina
for the Misionaria Province of St. Anthony, Bolivia

NEW PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Br. Carlos Antônio da Silva
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus,
Brasil

Br. Joaquín Zurera Ribó
Immaculate Conception Province,
Spain



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