Fraternitas
OFM International News

NEW GENERAL VISITATORS

On November 16-20, 2015, the General Curia hosted 24 friars who have been named General Visitators to the different Provinces and Custodies. The week began with the Minister General’s talk about the objectives and means of carrying out the Canonical Visitation. It continued with different sessions related to the different aspects helpful for the Canonical Visitation.

The Document of the General Chapter 2015

The document of the General Chapter of 2015 was released on November 1, 2015. Three texts are being offered: the final document, the decisions of the Chapter for the next six years and the texts that relate to the wonderful audience granted to us by Pope Francis.

While the document takes as its starting point the experience shared in Chapter and sets forth some general reflections that emerged during those days, the decisions are more operational and practical in their style. Finally, the texts from the audience are a grateful memory of a “high” moment for the whole Order in the presence of the Pope.

The full text can be downloaded in PDF from the Order’s website as well as in ePUB format in the iBookstore.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF THE MINISTER GENERAL

1-3: ROME
Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples: Plenary Assembly

4-6: PARIS
COP 21 - JPIC Meeting of the French Franciscan Family

7-8: ROME
Celebration of the beginning of the Jubilee of Mercy

9-11: ROME
Christmas Visit to the Congregations and Pontifical Dicasteries

12: ROME, PUA
Meeting with the Academic Senate

13: SIENA
Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

14-20: ROME: Tempo Forte
16: Meeting of General Minsters of the First Order and TOR

21-26: ROME: General Curia
26-31: Personal days of retreat
A New Franciscan Presence in Senegal

The Franciscan Fraternity of “La Porziuncola” of Dakar was inaugurated. It is the first presence of the Order of Friars Minor in Senegal. The members of the international fraternity are Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli, Br. José and Br. Antonio of Guinea Bissau, and Br. Celistin of Congo RDC.

The First Priesthood Ordination for the St. Francis Foundation of Russia and Kazakhstan

The Feast of St. Francis this year was even made greater and more meaningful by the first priesthood ordination for the Foundation: our brother, Vitaly Kostiuk.

The Inauguration of the Academic Year of the Antonianum

The inauguration of the Academic Year of the Pontifical University Antonianum (PUA) on October 22, 2015 was a little different this year. The program was divided in two parts. The first part was held at the Aula Magna where the Rector of the PUA, Sr. Mary Melone, gave the Report on the 2014-15 Academic Year. For the second half, the program moved to the Basilica of St. Anthony where the Grand Chancellor of the University and General Minister of the Friars Minor, Br. Michael A. Perry, celebrated the Eucharist.

Beatification of Maria Teresa Casini

On Saturday, October 31, 2015, His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Amato, SDB, representative of the Holy Father and Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided over the Rite of Beatification of the Venerable Maria Teresa Casini. Her Cause for Beatification was entrusted to Fr. Luca M. De Rosa, OFM General Postulator, in 1997.

Opening of St. Mary of the Angels Friary in Juba, South Sudan

The friars in Juba, South Sudan have marked a significant milestone in their mission with the blessing and official opening of their new friary. On October 26, 2015, the friars were joined by parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish where they minister, several local religious, and Bishop Santo Loku Pio, Auxiliary Bishop of Juba Archdiocese, who officiated at the blessing ceremony.

Work of Friar Bernardino De Sahagún: UNESCO Memory of the World

At its meeting from 4 to 6 October 2015 in Abu Dhabi in the UAE, the UNESCO International Committee on the “Memory of the World” unanimously approved to include in the International Register of the Memory of the World the work of Friar Bernardino de Sahagún, the sixteenth-century missionary of the Province of the Holy Gospel in Mexico and father of American anthropology.

New Franciscan Library in New York City

On November 7, 2015, the eve of the feast of Blessed John Duns Scotus, at a gathering of friars, Franciscan Sisters, Secular Franciscans, and friends, a newly established Franciscan Library was blessed by Fr. Primo P. Piscitello, Provincial of Immaculate Conception Province. The day began with a talk by Friar Michael Della Penna on his new book, The Crucified Knight, and was followed by a special prayer service honoring the theology and spirituality of Blessed John Duns Scotus. The library will serve anyone involved in an academic Franciscan research project.

450th Anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul Province in Mexico

After a series of religious and cultural events throughout the past year, the celebration of the 450th year of the canonical foundation of the Province of Saints Peter and Paul of Michoacán in Mexico concluded with a Solemn Mass on November 3, 2015.

The “European Missionary Fraternity” of Palestrina

The Minister General and General Definitor, Ignacio Ceja, was welcomed by the fraternity in Palestrina on Nov. 15 for a fraternal visit and dialogue.

In a masterful study of Henri d'Avranches’ “The Versified Life of Saint Francis,” Friar Michael della Penna offers a frame for this marvelous poem. He enhances the beauty of Henri’s liberating contemplative insight on St. Francis’ desire for God. His study thereby offers readers a new framework for contemplative insight that intersects with the poetry and affective power of Francis’ dream.

ROBERTO SCOCCHIA, Francescanesimo in Celano e Santa Maria Valleverde (Franciscanism in Celano and Santa Maria Valleverde), Ed. Palumbi, Teramo 2015, pp. 142.

Recounts the Franciscan presence in Celano and the history of Santa Maria Valleverde friary. The book was presented on October 11, 2015 in Celano. The speakers were: Fr. C. Serri, Provincial Minister; Fr. Bogdan Fajdek, of the Collegio “S. Isidoro” of Roma; Fr. Osvaldo Lemme, of the friary of Santa Maria Valleverde.

HEINRICH FÜRST OFM, GREGOR GEIGER OFM, Im Land des Herrn: Ein franziskanischer Pilger- und Reiseführer für das Heilige Land, Bonifatius-Verlag Paderborn 2015, pp. 830 + XXXII Tafeln.

A Guide, edited by two Franciscan friars, of the Holy Land: land of the Patriarchs and of the Prophets, the homeland of Jesus, of Mary and of the Apostles, the place of origin of the Church and still today, the home of active Christian communities. The current edition, which is the 5th, uses the text from 1999 with revisions and new images. The Guide includes Israel and Palestine, Jordan and the Sinai Peninsula. The Italian translation will be published soon.

ILIA DELIO OSF, KEITH D. WARNER OFM, PAMELA WOOD, El Cuidado de la Creación. Una espiritualidad franciscana de la Tierra (Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth), Ediciones Franciscanas Arantzazu, Oñati 2015, pp. 298.

This book is a translation and adaptation in Spanish from the English text written by Ilia Delio, OSF, an expert on St. Bonaventure and Duns Scotus; Keith D. Warner, OFM, an expert in the field of ecology; and Pamela Wood. Four sections highlight the distinct relationships creation has with the world: incarnation, community, contemplation and conversion. The subject, aside from being current, is of paramount importance. It is recognized by scholars that St. Francis of Assisi has much to contribute in this area.


This book is a basic help for the year of mercy. The Symposium of the Austrian Franciscan Province in 2014 provides a theoretical and practical way to put together a theological, Franciscan and artistic view. The book also presents the situation of oppressed people in the German-speaking community and the ways to help them in a Franciscan spirit of mercy.

NEW PROVINCIAL MINISTERS:

BR. SANTIAGO ANDRADE T.
PROVINCE OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
IN CHILE

BR. MARIO FAVRETTO
PROVINCE OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
IN ITALY

BR. CIELITO R. ALMAZAN
PROVINCE OF SAN PEDRO BAUTISTA
IN THE PHILIPPINES

BR. RODOLFO HERNÁNDEZ MEDRANO
PROVINCE OF SAINTS FRANCIS AND JAMES
IN MEXICO

BR. JAMES GANNON
PROVINCE OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, USA
NOTICES

FRIARS IN SERVICE AT THE OFM GENERAL CURIA

September 2015

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Br. Stefano Lovato, Prov. of St. Anthony of Padua, Italy
Br. Akjmed Echeverry, Prov. of Santa Fe, Colombia

Secretary of the Minister General:
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Sacerston:
Br. Peter An, Prov. of the Korean Martyrs, Korea

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Br. Juan Pablo Aguilar, Prov. of St. Philip of Jesus, Mexico

Treasurer of the Fraternity of Santa Maria Mediatrix:
Br. Tyberiusz Mąka, Prov. of the Immaculate Conception BVM, Poland

12 November 2015 - Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC with Their Royal Highnesses Henri and María Teresa, Grand Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg after a private visit in the General Curia.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

to all the readers of FRATERNITAS