



# Fraternitas

INTERNATIONAL OFM NEWSLETTER

## POOR AND 'LESSER ONES': WHERE ARE WE?

### GUIDELINES FOR AN EVALUATION OF OUR LIFE OF POVERTY AND MINORITY



On May 26th, 2015, the friars attending the General Chapter had an audience with Pope Francis, who appealed to us to live our Franciscan vocation faithfully. He reminded us that "minority requires us to be and to feel small before God, entrusting ourselves totally to his infinite mercy", and he told us that minority means "going beyond structures – which

have their use, if they are used wisely – going beyond habits and securities, in order to witness to real closeness to the poor, the needy, and the marginalized in an authentic attitude of sharing and service". Concluding his talk, the Pope remarked.....

"...You have inherited an authority amongst God's people through minority, brotherhood, meekness, humility, poverty. Please, keep it safe! Don't lose it! The people wish you well, they love you. May the esteem of these good people, and the affection and appreciation of pastors be of encouragement to you on your faith journey...."

The Final Document of the General Chapter (nos. 22-23) quotes the final words of the story of Bartimaeus: "And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road", it then goes on to declare that we too are called to "follow the footsteps of Jesus in the emptying of ourselves, in humble love, becoming ever closer to the poor and those for whom no one cares", and continues with the thought-provoking affirmation: "The Risen Lord is already present and alive in the peripheries!"

The aim of the new resource document "Poor and Lesser Ones: Where are we?" is to suggest fundamental guidelines, in order to facilitate an evaluation of our lives of poverty and minority, at all levels.

This evaluation tool may be used by individual friars, at local Chapter meetings, by a Committee or Definitory, or by all the friars of a Province or Custody.

To read the entire document:

<http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?p=%201652&lang=en>

## GENERAL VISITATORS MEET IN ROME



The meeting of the Visitors General with the Minister General and Definitory took place from November 14th to 18th, 2016. Training for the Visitors was provided, so that they would be well prepared to carry out their office in accordance with the Order's guidelines.

Canonical Visitation is regulated by the Code of Canon Law, by our Constitutions and General Statutes, by the Statutes for Canonical Visitation and Presidency of the Provincial Chapter (SSCV), as well as by other documents of the Church. It pertains to the Minister General to carry out Canonical Visitation either personally or through Delegates (cf. SSCV 1). During Canonical Visitation, the Visitor "represents the Minister General and acts in his name (SSCV 8 §1). While it undoubtedly has a special legal character, Canonical Visitation must be carried out in the spirit which Francis specified for visits to the Friars.

## RIP - BR. ANSELM MOONS, OFM



Foto: Franciscan Mission Service

Br. Anselm Moons, OFM, a member of the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Province, died on November 13th, 2016 in Warmond, the Netherlands, at the age of 92. Born Wilhelmus Andreas Moons, he was a Professed friar for 74 years and a priest for 67 years, during which time he was a missionary in Pakistan, where he served as Provincial Minister, and as the first Rector of Christ the King Seminary. In 1979, Anselm was elected General Definitory for Asia. In 1985, Anselm founded the Franciscan Mission Service in Silver Spring, Washington, DC (USA), retiring in 1995 and then returning to the Netherlands.

## **Fraternal visit to the Greek-Byzantine Rite Foundation of All Franciscan Saints in Ukraine**



From October 14-16 2016, the Minister General, Br. Michael A. Perry, OFM, along with the General Definitor for Slavic Conferences, Br. Ivan Sesar, OFM, made a fraternal visit to Foundation of All Franciscan Saints in the Ukraine; the Foundation has about 20 friars.

## **Vietnam – Third Gathering of Young Friars**



The Third Asian Young Friars Gathering was held last October 18-27, 2016 in the Province of St. Francis, Vietnam, and centered on the theme of "Going to the Peripheries with the Joy of the Gospel". It was attended by 47 friars from about 14 entities in Asia, Australia and Oceania, as well as by the Minister General.

The 10-day event is a response to the Order's call for an intensification of Ongoing Formation. It is open to friars who have been Professed for under ten years, and highlights the need for collaboration and inter-Provinciality, particularly in the area of JPIC, Mission and Evangelization.

Furthermore, it also aims to provide an opportunity for young friars in Asia to share their Franciscan life and vocation experiences, in order to support, strengthen and inspire one another.

## **Myanmar - 10 years of Franciscan presence**



On October 29th, 2016, the Foundation of St Francis of Assisi in Myanmar marked the 10th anniversary of its foundation, with Mass celebrated by the Minister General, Br. Michael A. Perry and Br. Greg Redoblado, Definitor General for Asia and Oceania, and Delegate General of the Foundations of Thailand and Myanmar.

To date, the Foundation has been blessed with one local Solemnly Professed friar, five Temporary Professed friars, one novice and five aspirants.

## **Spain – Meeting of the Commission on Prayer and Devotion**



The Commission on Prayer and Devotion, whose members are Br. Julio César Bunader (Vicar General), Br. Emilio Rocha Grande, Br. Diego Dalla Gassa and Br. Gerardo Evans, gathered in El Palancar, Cáceres, from October 31st to November 5th, 2016. Its purpose was to draw up guidelines for the establishment of a Hermitage or House of Prayer for presentation to the General Definitory, as requested by the General Chapter 2015 (see Decision 7).

The fraternal and prayerful life of the friars who live at the House of El Palancar, Spain, enriched the experience for the commission members.

## **Rome – International Conference on Duns Scotus**



The Pontifical University, Antonianum, held an International Conference on Duns Scotus entitled "A New Metaphysics for a New Theology; John Duns Scotus on the 750th anniversary of His Birth" from November 7-8, 2016.

The two-day Conference heard a succession of important international speakers who were welcomed by Mary Melone, Rector of the PUA, by Josip Percan, President of the Scotus Commission, Michael A. Perry, OFM, Minister General and Chancellor of the PUA, and Serge-Thomas Bonino, President of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas.

## **Albania – Beatification of 8 Friars Minor**



November 5th, 2016 – Amongst the thirty-eight recently beatified martyrs of the Communist persecution in Albania are 8 Friars Minor: a bishop and seven priests. For nearly 50 years the Albanian Catholic Church suffered harsh persecution at the hands of one of the fiercest Communist regimes ever. Some of the martyrs were condemned to death, and others died from being tortured or because of the harsh prison conditions they had to endure. While dying, they forgave their persecutors and entrusted themselves and their country to God.

## Rome – Visit to the Poor Clares affected by the recent earthquake



On Saturday, November 12th, 2016, Br. Michael A. Perry OFM, Minister General, made a visit to the Poor Clare Monastery in Via Vitellia, Rome. Br. Michael was accompanied by Br. Fernando Mendoza Laguna OFM, Delegate General Pro Monialibus. The friars went there to visit eight sisters from the Poor Clare Monastery in Rieti who have had to move to Rome because of earthquake damage.

The sisters gave an update on what had emerged from the engineering survey of their monastery: the monastery tower, even though it did not actually fall, caused serious damage to the church and part of the monastery when it swayed during the earthquake. The rest of the monastery is not so badly damaged, but needs work to ensure that it is safe for occupancy by the sisters.



## Assisi - Fourth CD from Fra. Alessandro



Universal Classics and Jazz, a division of Universal Music, Italy, has just produced Br. Alessandro Brustenghi's fourth CD, entitled "O Holy Night". As the title suggests, this is a Christmas album, but it also includes some Franciscan classics.

## Rome – Second Gathering of Franciscan Friars living in Rome.



On November 12th, 2016, friars from the different Franciscan Families living in Rome gathered at the Capuchin Friars' College (St. Lawrence of Brindisi), for a meeting with the theme of: "... camminare insieme (walking together)."

The keynote speaker was Bishop Rubén Tierrablanca, OFM, Bishop of Istanbul, who spoke on "Intercultural Reconciliation." The fraternal meeting ended with lunch, which was a wonderful (and very large!) gathering of approximately 250 Franciscan Friars.

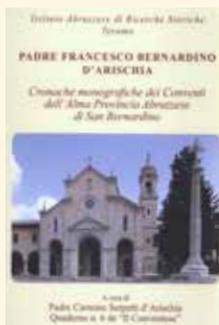
## Franciscan Friars go to Ireland to learn English



The newsletter of the Province of Tuscany recently published an account of the experience of two friars who went to Ireland this past summer to learn English. Brs. Giovanni Greco and Francesco Bogoni spoke highly of their time in Ireland, and were very enthusiastic about the English Course provided by the Province of Ireland. They were delighted with the welcome of the Irish Friars and the beauty of the Irish countryside, and they wrote about its numerous places of interest, both historical and religious.

The English Language Program will be offered once again this coming summer (for the 37th time!). The Irish Friars website is: <http://www.franciscans.ie>

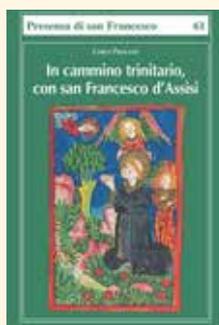
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[fraternitas@fm.org](mailto:fraternitas@fm.org)



**PADRE FRANCESCO BERNARDINO D'ARISCHIA,**  
***Cronache monografiche dei Conventi dell'Alma Provincia Abruzzese di San Bernardino***  
 (Ed. Padre Carmine Serpetti d'Arischia). Published by **Multiprogress, Mosciano Sant'Angelo (TE) 2015,**

**551 pages (Vol. 6 of "Il Conventese").**

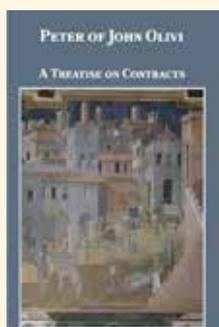
This book, launched in the Palazzo Farnese in Campoli on May 14th, 2016, contains descriptions of six Observant Friaries of the Province of St. Bernardine of Siena. The speakers at the launch were: Br. Bogdan Fajdek, St. Isidore's College, Rome, Nicolino Farina, director of the Abruzzo Institute for Historical Research and Br. Carmine Serpetti, of the Friary at S. Maria Valleverde, Celano.



**CARLO PAOLAZZI,**  
***Il cammino trinitario, con san Francesco di Assisi,***  
 Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana,  
**Milano 2016, 245 pages.**

Starting from the insight that in the Holy we "encounter the omnipresence of God ...", this book encourages the reader to identify and deepen their image of God, by exploring the life and writings of St. Francis of Assisi.

Knowing God in this way leads to an understanding of Christian life as a process of communion with the Trinity.



**PETER OF JOHN OLIVI,**  
***A Treatise on Contracts***  
 Franciscan Institute Publications,  
**St. Bonaventure (NY), 2016, 252 p.**

Peter of John Olivi's *A Treatise on Contracts* – in a new critical edition with a detailed historical presentation by Sylvain Piron — has been translated from the Latin by Ryan Thornton, and from the French by Michael Cusato, OFM. For the first time ever, this major work is now available to an English-speaking audience.

Olivi draws on law, philosophy, and theology in order to present a Franciscan approach to justice and the economy. This publication makes it possible to unravel the apparent paradox of how an uncompromising advocate of Franciscan poverty could also be the most penetrating analyst of medieval trade and credit.

## DIARY OF THE MINISTER GENERAL December

- 1-3: TAIWAN**  
China Project
- 4-9: USA – NEW YORK**  
Commitments with various institutions
- 10-24: ROME**  
12-16: Tempo Forte  
12-23: Christmas visits to Vatican Congregations and Dicasteries  
18: Palestrina, Visit to the "Beato Egidio" Foundation  
21: Meeting of the Ministers General of the First and Third Orders
- 25: GRECCIO**  
Christmas Day celebrations
- 26-31: GREAT BRITAIN**  
Personal reflection and retreat days



The Friars Minor present at the Closing Mass for the Jubilee of Mercy (20.XI.2016).



*Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy  
New Year  
to all  
our readers!  
Fraternitas*