



Fraternitas

OFM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

OFM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER GENERAL FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



(October 5th, 2016: Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. REUTERS / Tony Gentile.)

My dear brothers of the Order of Friars Minor,
brothers, sisters and friends of the Franciscan Family,

May the Lord give you all His peace!

The love of Christ urges us on; it compels us to share with all members of the human family what we have seen and heard, namely that in Jesus Christ, God's Word of love became flesh so that we may be reconciled to one another as His children and to Him as our Heavenly Father (cf. 1 John 1:3). This is our vocation – as Franciscans, yes. This is, after all, the Good News we profess as our Rule and Life. More fundamentally, this is our vocation as Christians, and in world crying out for

news of just such love, it is a most fitting theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

[...]

As Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby recently stated in their Common Declaration marking the fiftieth anniversary of official dialogue between our two ecclesial communions, "Jesus gave his life in love, and rising from the dead overcame even death itself. Christians who have come to this faith, have encountered Jesus and the victory of his love in their own lives, and are impelled to share the joy of this Good News with others."

The complete text may be found on:

<http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?p=12101>

CHILDREN PRAYING FOR PEACE:

A LETTER FROM THE MINISTER GENERAL AND THE CUSTOS OF THE HOLY LAND



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
May the Lord give you peace!

For a long time now, we Friars Minor have been very concerned about the situation being experienced by our brothers in Syria, by Christians and the entire population. Recently, we called on the international community to intensify its efforts to stop the war and the suffering of the civilian population, and to make every effort to achieve peace.

We are asking all Franciscan fraternities, on the first Sunday of every month, to have special prayers for peace

at their Children's Mass (or at the mass attended by most children). Opportunities for this prayer intention could also include Youth Ministry programs, or working with local schools — which would bring an ecumenical and interreligious dimension.

If the prayer service is done outside of Mass, it can always be adapted, while retaining the symbolism of the lighting of the candles, along with the simple prayer and songs for peace. Please remember to always explain to the children that this prayer is being done in communion with children worldwide who are praying for world peace, and specifically for peace in Aleppo and Syria.

We ask all those who take part to visit our Facebook page:

Children-in-prayer-for-peace.

God bless all our efforts for peace, and may the Lord listen to the cries and the prayers of His little ones.

Morocco – Friars attend COP22



COP22 (Conference of the Parties), organized by UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), took place in Marrakech, Morocco on 8-18 November 2016.

The friars attended the meetings in their habits in remembrance of the Franciscan Martyrs in Marrakech. This led to many occasions of dialogue with the locals and participants of the Conference. On 8 November, an interfaith prayer service for climate justice was held in the Franciscan Church in Marrakech.

Tullamore, Ireland – Plowing Championships



The Irish National Ploughing Championships has been held annually since 1931. It is Europe's largest Outdoor Exhibition and Agricultural Trade Show — with about 300,000 attendees and over 1,500 exhibitors.

For several years, the Irish friars have had a very popular stand there, where they give a warm welcome to people who want to chat, write prayer requests or talk about their faith. The Catholic Church in Ireland has been in decline in the last 25 years, but this event shows that there is still a hunger for the faith, and a great fondness for the friars!

Poland – Guardians' Meeting



From November 14th-17th a group of over ninety Guardians gathered at the shrine of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Poland, for the Annual Week of Workshops. The gathering, which addressed contemporary issues related to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, was led by the well-known Capuchin School for Confessors. The event was a fitting conclusion to the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Rome - Special Commission for Dialogue with Islam



The Order's Special Commission for Dialogue with Islam gathered at the General Curia from 21-25 November, 2016. The Commission met to decide on its six-year plan of activities and projects, chief among which will be the preparation of diverse, multilingual materials to assist the Order and its ecumenical and interfaith friends in commemorating the eighth centenary of the meeting between St. Francis and Sultan Malik al-Kamil in 1219.

Murcia – Academic Honors



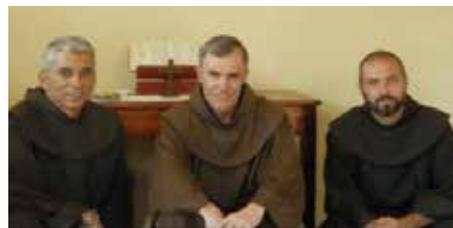
On November 28th, an academic ceremony to honor Emeritus Professor Br. Francisco Víctor Sánchez Gil took place at the Theological Institute of Murcia. During his long career, Br. Victor was Director of three Franciscan journals: Carthaginensia, Archivo Ibero-americano, and Archivum Franciscanum Historicum.

Friars from the Antonianum hold a retreat at the General Curia



To assist community life, the fraternity at the Antonianum is divided into smaller groups who arrange activities for the friars involved. One of these groups is the 'La Verna fraternity', composed of 12 friars in studies, from 7 different countries. On December 3rd, 2016, Br. Federico Rodriguez Schmädke led them in a retreat which focused on the theological concept of poverty, as outlined in Chapter 6 of the Approved Rule. After Mass in the Curia oratory, they had lunch with the friars of the General Curia.

South Sudan – the Friars ask for prayers for peace



Our brothers in South Sudan ask for special prayers for peace. They write: "the war is continuous and there is never a day in which we do not hear the noise of weapons in the night, and even during the day...." Brothers of our beloved Order, let us join our voices to those of our brothers and sisters living in this extremely complex and desperate situation, where many are giving their lives in order to make Christ present.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Theatrical Performance for the Feast Day of the PUA and of the Grand Chancellor



The Feast Day of the PUA (Pontifical University, Antonianum) and of the Grand Chancellor (the OFM Minister General) will be held on January 16th, 2017.

A full program has been drawn up to mark the event. Prof. Cavalli will chair the day and will introduce various

speakers — Profs. Burigana and Sgroi of the PUA; the Lutheran Archbishop of Uppsala, Antje Jackelén; and the PUA Rector, Prof. Mary Melone, who will welcome the participants.

The celebrations will conclude with an afternoon performance of “Francis, dust of God”, by Riccardo Tordoni.

In speaking of this performance, the Apostolic

Administrator of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, wrote — “It is not easy to talk about Francis to those who do not know him; it is even more difficult to talk about him to those who assume that they know him. In my judgement, Riccardo Tordoni has managed to do both.”

“San Bernardino” – Scripture Course



A course on the “Letter to the Hebrews” will be held at the Verona Theological Institute from January 30th to February 1st, 2017. Fr. Cesare

Marcheselli, lecturer in Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy will present the course.

For further information, please contact Br. Lorenzo Raniero: +39 349 3991195 or: ranierolorenzo@gmail.com

The Poor Clare Monastery of San Severino Marche – Earthquake damage



The Poor Clares of San Sererino write that they are all well and very grateful for so much support and friendship. Key areas of their monastery are inaccessible, such as their church, refectory, kitchen and sleeping areas. Thank God they have other spaces that they can use, such as the infirmary, the retreat house (where they sleep), the workshops (where they work and eat), the choir (for Mass) and the sacristy (for prayer and community gatherings.)

They ask for nothing but our prayers, with the intention that the difficult circumstances of the earthquake will enable them to get to the heart of the Gospel Life that St. Clare wants for her sisters:

“Let the sisters not appropriate anything to themselves, neither a house nor a place nor anything at

all; instead, let them live as pilgrims and strangers in this world who serve the Lord in poverty and humility”

Nonetheless, we can help them with a bank transfer to:

“Monastero Santa Chiara” IBAN IT74 C076 0113 4000 0001 1235 629 or else:

CCP 11235629, “Monastero Santa Chiara”, Via Gorgonero, 20 - 62027 SAN SEVERINO MARCHE

Camerino Poor Clare Monastery Collapses



The earthquakes of October 26th and 30th, 2016, meant that the Poor Clares in Camerino were “exiled”, because of the collapse of their monastery. They took refuge in the San Severino Marche monastery, itself badly damaged.

Apart from sending love and prayers, they also ask for Winter clothing suitable for the sisters.

If anyone wishes to send a

donation, large or small, these are the bank details:

Monastero S. Chiara – Camerino
IBAN: IT77 H030 6968 83000 000 000 1032

Name of Bank: Banca Intesa, Camerino branch.

Or else: CCP 17194606, Monastero S. Chiara-Camerino.

Special Statutes for Missions and Evangelization

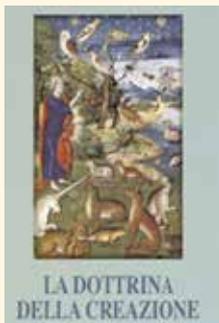
The General Secretary for



Missions and Evangelization, Br. Luis Gallardo, draws our attention to the availability of the Statutes for Missions and Evangelization on the OFM website: “We put them at your disposal to serve as guidelines for the work you carry out as the friars responsible for stimulating the Missions and Evangelization activities in your Entities”.

The complete text may be found on <http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?p=12062>

FRANCISCAN BOOKMARKS



ERNESTO DEZZA
La dottrina della creazione
in Giovanni Duns Scoto,
Edizioni Antonianum,
Roma 2016,
476 pages.

What emerges in this book is John Duns Scotus' exposition of how God, who is sovereign, has created in total freedom.

But the most innovative part of this book is the Italian translation of the quaestiones, in which the Subtle Doctor investigates the nature of the created world and its essential link with the First Principle by whom it has been created.

DIARY OF THE MINISTER GENERAL

January 2017

1-5: USA

Days of personal retreat and reflection

6: ROME

Ara Coeli, Solemnity of the Epiphany

9-27: ROME, Tempo Forte

16: PUA, University Feast Day

17-27: Meeting with new Provincial Ministers and Custodes

30-31: AFRICA

Fraternal visits



ÉLOI LECLERC,
La fraternità come testamento,
Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana,
Milan 2016, 128 pages.

The late Éloi Leclerc's most recent reflections have been collected and presented in interview form. Like all his writings, they are profound and go to the heart of things.

NEW PROVINCIAL MINISTERS:

BR. PHILLIP MISCAMBLE

**PROVINCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA**

BR. ADRIANUS SUNARKO

**PROVINCE OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL,
INDONESIA**

BR. DANIEL ALEJANDRO FLEITAS ZENI,

PROVINCE OF ST. FRANCIS SOLANO, ARGENTINA

VISITATORI GENERALI

BR EMMANUEL MUSARA,

**A MEMBER OF THE CUSTODY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
ZIMBABWE,**

**FOR THE PROVINCE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE,
SOUTH AFRICA.**

BR ROMUALDO KOŚLA,

**MEMBER OF THE PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M., POLAND**

FOR THE PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITÀ ANTONIANUM.

Blessed Giles of Assisi Foundation: A Missionary Fraternity for Europe



Currently the OFM Fraternity in Palestrina (Rome, Italy) is composed of 5 brothers, all Italians, of whom 4 are incardinated to the Foundation (Jacopo Pozzerle, Paul Iorio, Arturo Milici, Maurizio Pagliari) and 1 has an annual obedience from his Provincial (Giuseppe Frasca of the Roman Province). This summer, after a long process of discernment, another house of the Fraternity was founded in Croatia (Istria), and 3 Croatian friars (Drago Vujevic, Marinko Klaić, Josip Vlačić) have been appointed there.

"Living among people in distress, rather than serving or working in charitable organizations is one of the current features of the Palestrina community. Encouraged by the Pope's invitation to welcome the poor, we've made our guest quarters available to accommodate refugees, and now we welcome people who are in financial difficulty. We eat meals with them daily, which gives us an opportunity for dialogue and mutual understanding."

Evangelization: a Brazilian experience



Br. Augusto Luiz Gabriel, OFM, has told us about a video which features testimonies from various Simply Professed friars from the Province of the Immaculate Conception in Brazil. The friars worked hard on this project for five months and they now make it available.

They speak in the video about their lives and the different pastoral activities in the Curitiba area in which they are involved. Their friary activities are shown in the video, as well as hospital and care home visits, parish ministry, work with street people etc.

They say: "Pastoral work strengthens our vocations and brings us to the core of our lives as Christians and Religious."

Link:

<http://www.franciscanosrondinha.com.br/pastorais/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gntgNmhahEM>

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