



Fraternitas

International OFM Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING WITH NEW MINISTERS PROVINCIAL AND CUSTODES

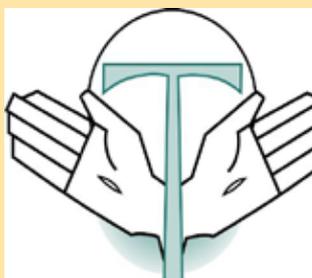


On January 27th, 2017, the meeting of the General Definitory with the New Ministers Provincial concluded. The gathering had taken place over two weeks, and was informative and formative. The principal themes discussed were: The Service of Authority; the accompaniment of friars; the Minister Provincial and his Definitory; the final document of the 2015 General Chapter, and the Animation Guidelines of the General Definitory for 2016/17; Financial Affairs. All the

participants had an opportunity to have an individual meeting with the Minister General, and to visit all the offices of the General Curia.

37 Ministers and Custodes from 5 continents took part in the meeting, which was a fraternal event that dealt with the hopes and challenges of the Order today. The Franciscan way of life is alive and well thanks to all the friars of the Order – best wishes to the new Ministers and Custodes.

CONTINENTAL CONFERENCES ON FORMATION



A Notice from the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies.

In response to the General Chapter Decision no. 3, which asked that the General Definitory should (through the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies GSFM) ensure that Continental

Conferences on Formation be organized during this six-year term, the GSFM has decided that:

- The first of this series of Continental Conferences will be held in Jakarta (Indonesia) from June 25th to July 1st, 2017, and will involve the two Asian Conferences (SAAOC and EAC).
- The second will be held from September 3rd to 9th, 2017, for the Latin American Conferences: Guadalupe, Bolivarian, Brazilian, Cono Sur (to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil).
- July 1st to 7th, 2018, for the English-speaking Conference (to be held in the US).

- September 23rd to 29th, 2018, for the Conferences of Western Europe (COTAF, COMPI, CONFRES).

- June 30th to July 6th, 2019, for the African Conference.

- September 1st to 7th, 2019, for the Conferences of Eastern Europe (SLAS and SLAN), to be held in Poland.

The following are called and invited to attend these Conferences; the Provincial Secretary for Formation and Studies, the Director of Ongoing Formation, and the animator of the Pastoral Care of Vocations. Our Provinces are expected to send all three friars mentioned, Independent Custodies should send two of these friars, and Dependent Custodies and Foundations should send one friar.

Within a setting of formative accompaniment, the Formation Conferences will address the fundamental topic of Ongoing Formation, with special attention being given to the training of Guardians. The issue of the Pastoral Care of Vocations (crucial for many Entities) will also be dealt with, in the context of Ongoing Formation.

Dublin – JPIC Ireland Organizes Anti Human Trafficking Conference



The NGO Dassat and the Irish Provincial JPIC Commission organized a seminar in Merchant's Quay, Dublin on October 29, 2016 to highlight the plight of human trafficking with a special focus on Vietnam and Kenya. Thirty-five participants, including five friars, were treated to excellent presentations. One of the speakers, Br. Séan Cassin OFM, looked at how economic development is negatively affecting ethnic and fishing villages in Vietnam.

In the light of a visit by Ireland's President Higgins to Vietnam shortly after the Conference, the Board of DASSAT and Br. Gearóid Ó Conaire, OFM, representing the Provincial JPIC Commission, were invited to a conversation with the President. The group felt that it would be important for the President to highlight the relationship between trafficking and the economic model of development that is undermining rural and ethnic communities. The President agreed and raised the issue during his visit in Vietnam.

Pakistan – Franciscans and Interreligious Harmony



On December 18th, 2016, the Pakistan Franciscan JPIC committee, in collaboration with Kawish Resource Centre and the OFM Special Commission for Dialogue with Islam, organized an "Interfaith Celebration of Eid e Milad ul Nabi and Christmas".

Fr. Jamil Albert, OFM, a member of the OFM Special Commission for Dialogue, welcomed the guests and noted how great a joy it was

for the brothers that their Muslim guests recited evening prayers in the friars' chapel. It was a true sign of the interfaith harmony that this celebration of Eid e Milad ul Nabi and Christmas was organized to express.

Bangkok - Franciscans in Dialogue with Buddhism



Br. John Wong, Custos of the Custody of St. Anthony (Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei), was privileged to be the only Catholic religious and priest at a recent International Monastic Retreat outside of Bangkok, engaging in dialogue with 350 Buddhist monks and nuns from different traditions and nationalities. Br. John attended at the invitation of a Buddhist community in Thai Plum Village, and with the blessing of the Minister General Michael Perry.

The participants gathered as brothers and sisters in a hamlet in the one of the valleys of the foothills of Khaoyai National Park, and shared silence, vegetarian meals, and the challenges in bringing peace to our broken world.

Roma - The Quaracchi Legacy



The inaugural meeting of the International Board of the Collegium Sancti Bonaventurae – International Center for Franciscan Studies and Research took place on January 10th & 11th last. A new name has been given to a Centre for Studies that has its roots in the wonderful Quaracchi tradition, which subsequently moved to Grottaferrata, and lately to St. Isidore's, Rome. The traditional Latin name of the Quaracchi College has been combined with an English subtitle, indicating a future with an international focus.

Having devoted a year of planning and reflection to the restructuring and relaunch of this Centre for Studies, the General Definitory nominated an International Board for the renewed Collegium Santi Bonaventurae (CSB) last November. The CSB Board has four members who are lay Franciscan scholars: Jacques Dalarun, Gerard Pieter Freeman, John McCafferty and Marianne Schlosser. Four friars are also members of the Board: Br. Giuseppe Buffon, Br Johannes Freyer, Br John Puodziunas and Br Cesare Vaiani.

Rome – Feast Day of the University and of the Grand Chancellor



The Feast Day of the PUA (Pontifical University, Antonianum) and of the Grand Chancellor (the OFM Minister General, Br. Michael A. Perry) was held on January 16th, 2017.

Taking place in the Aula Magna of the Antonianum, a full academic program had been drawn up to mark the event, under the chairmanship of Prof. Stefano Cavalli. Following a welcome from the PUA Rector, Prof. Mary Melone, various speakers took the floor— Profs. Riccardo Burigana and Placido Sgroi of the "San Bernardino" Institute for Ecumenical Studies; the Lutheran Archbishop of Uppsala, Most. Rev. Antje Jackelén, who spoke on "What are the prospects for ecumenism following the Pope's visit to Sweden?"; and Br. Michael A. Perry who contributed concluding remarks and thanks.

The celebrations concluded with an afternoon performance of "Francis, dust of God", by Gabriele Riccardo Tordoni, with music by Paolo Ceccarelli.

Israel – Holy Land Museum



The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land has worked with the Association Pro Terra Sancta and the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in creating the world's first museum devoted to the early Christianity and to conservation of the Holy Places.

The Terra Sancta Museum is being built in two Franciscan buildings in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem and will have three sections; Multimedia,

Archaeology, and History. It will be an extraordinary permanent exhibition of archaeological finds and works of exceptional historical and artistic importance, preserved by the Friars of the Custody during the almost eight centuries in which they have cared for and studied the Holy Places.

Discover more on the museum's website:

www.terrasanctamuseum.org

Assisi – Umbrian Friars help those affected by earthquakes

A Benefit Concert for the Poor Clare Monastery of Camerino was held on January 21st last in the Domus Pacis Theatre, Assisi. A bus came from Camerino, and so those who travelled had the opportunity to spend a day in Assisi and then enjoy the evening concert.

Mexico – An Icon of Francis and Clare Visits the Friars



The brothers in charge of the JPIC Offices of each of the Entities of the Conference of Our Lady of Guadalupe have, with the approval of their Ministers and Custodes, taken the initiative of bringing the icon depicting St. Francis and St. Clare which is kept at the Basilica of Guadalupe to all the entities of the Conference. The visit of the icon is intended as an invitation to all the brothers to adopt the proposals made by the General Definitory for this year:

- That each Entity draw up and implement an ecological program for the local fraternities, in accordance with decision 19 of the General Chapter.
- That in a world often dominated by conflict and violence, we must strive to be promoters of peace and non-violence in all the areas in which we live and work.
- That the suggestions contained in the handbook "Franciscan Management of Finances" be studied and put into practice, in order to help towards an authentically poor and evangelical way of life.

The visit of the icon of St. Francis and St. Clare to each of the entities will conclude in May 2017 when, in the remembrance of the anniversary of the arrival of twelve Franciscan pioneers in New Spain (May 1524), the icon will reach the Port of Veracruz and be welcomed by friar-representatives from all the entities of the Conference.

Vicenza - Friars make accommodation available for families in difficulty



encounter in our society inspire us to reach out to our weaker brothers and sisters. This is in line with the approach proposed during the Jubilee of Mercy which has just recently concluded." The apartments, which were completed very recently, will host their first tenants in 2017. ([Source: IlGiornalediVicenza.it](http://IlGiornalediVicenza.it))

Annual Assembly, Province XII Apostles of Peru

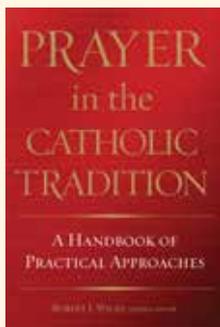


The Franciscan Province of the Twelve Apostles of Peru had an annual Assembly in the city of Lima, Peru from January 9th to 14th, 2017. Seventy-two friars from the various fraternities of the Province participated in a process of reflection and in the drawing up of the Ecological Plan of the Province. The assembly was attended and facilitated by Br. Jaime Campos, Director of the Order's JPIC Office.

During this week of reflection led by the Provincial Minister, Br. Guido Zegarra, there was also a presentation about various aspects

of Peru's social and economic realities by Dr. Pilar Arroyo, a distinguished sociologist and political analyst at the Bartolomé de las Casas Institute.

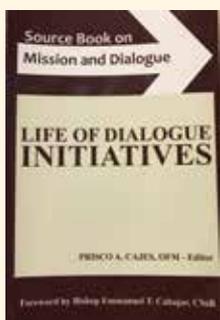
FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK



ROBERT J. WICKS (ed.),
Prayer in The Catholic Tradition: A Handbook of Practical Approaches,
Franciscan Media,
Cincinnati 2016, pp. 640.

Within the Catholic tradition, there are many ways to pray. This handbook breaks new ground, offering forty important voices on forty essential topics for a comprehensive look at

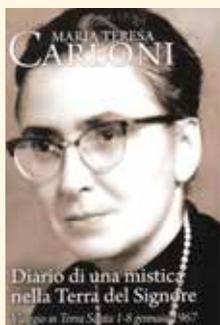
the learning, practice, and teaching of all that it means to pray in the Catholic tradition. Contributors include Franciscan authors Richard Rohr, OFM, Daniel P. Horan, OFM and Leslie J. Hoppe, OFM.



BR. PRISCO A. CAJÉS, OFM (ed.),
Life of Dialogue Initiatives: A Sourcebook on Mission and Dialogue,
2016, pp. 466.

This book is a collection of theological reflections on experiences of mission and dialogue in the Philippine context. Part I presents theoretical and theological thoughts on mission and dialogue by the editor himself. Part II, the heart of the book,

contains stories and experiences of friars in dialogue with Muslims, indigenous peoples, the poor and with creation. This section is described by the editor himself as the hidden treasure on mission and dialogue where everyone can learn from and build upon for our life of dialogue in the future. There is a foreword and an article by Bp. Emmanuel Carbajar, CSsR, a supporter of the Franciscans in Mindanao-Philippines, who reminds us that the prophetic mission of the Church today is to engage in dialogue itself.



MARIA TERESA CARLONI,
Diary of a mystic in the Land of the Lord. A Journey to the Holy Land, January 1st to 8th, 1967.

Terra Santa Publications, Milan, 2016, 214 pages, with a photo gallery on pages 217-224.

The author of this simple and lively travelogue went on pilgrimage to the Holy Places six months before the war that would forever change the

geopolitics of that troubled region.

While undertaking a demanding mission for the martyred Church of that region, and encountering many bureaucratic obstacles, Maria Teresa experienced renewal through contact with the origins of the faith, and was able to humbly surrender to the Lord.



LOUIS ANTOINE DE PORRENTUUY,
The Authentic Life of St. Pascal Baylón. Patron of Eucharistic Congresses and Associations,
Vatican Library Publishing,
Vatican City, 2016, 290 pages.

Gianluigi Pasquale has edited an Italian edition of life of St. Pascal Baylón, with an introductory essay.

The aim is to restore devotion to this popular saint to the People of God. The life of St. Pascal was written in French by Louis Antoine de Porrentruy, based on documents related to his beatification and canonization.



MICHELE IMPAGNATIELLO,
I Give You What I Have. The writings of Brother Michael Impagnatiello, Porziuncola Publishing, Assisi, 2016, 291 p.

This book collects Impagnatiello's writings (1965-2013), and has a threefold approach: his vocation, his mission, and finally his illness. This is not an

autobiography, but the story of a Franciscan friar told in the light of events that can happen in life.

It is a publication that might be called a workbook — written not in ink, but in the flesh and blood of this man, who lived in the Post-Modern Age, but who saw everything in the light of the Gospel.

DIARY OF THE MINISTER GENERAL February 2017

- 1-5: SOUTH SUDAN, Juba**
Fraternal Visit
- 6-14: KENYA, Nairobi**
Meeting of the General Definitory with the African Conference
- 16-20: ZAMBIA, Lusaka**
Fraternal Visit to St. Bonaventure University College
- 21-26: SOUTH AFRICA**
Fraternal Visit
- 27-28: ROMA**
General Curia

VISITATOR GENERAL

BR. CAOIMHÍN Ó LAOIDE
DEFINITOR GENERAL
FOR THE PROVINCE OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST (USA)