

NOTITIARUM
Fratrum Minorum Conventualium

fraternus
NUNTIIUS



July
August
September
ENGLISH EDITION

3 2020

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■ **FRATERNUS NUNTIVS:** Notitium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium [3/2020]

■ A work of the General Office of Communications [UGC],

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■ DTP – Studio perbene [www.perbene.pl]

■ The current edition was closed on September 30, 2020.

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On the cover:
"Foederis Arca" [Ark of the Covenant],
1860, by Luigi ROVERSI,
(Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles, Rome).
Photo: Friar Iulian EVA



■ MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Carlos Alberto TROVARELLI



EXECUTIVE GENERAL DECREE ON THE SABBATICAL PERIOD

Prot. N. 555/2020
Rome, July 14, 2020

Daeare brothers,
Peace be with you!

The 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter in Nemi and the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter in Assisi - Collevale, provided the Order with updated and revised legislation, namely, the Constitutions and the General Statutes. All Provinces and Custodies are now required to update and revise their Statutes, so that they are in conformity with the proper law of the Order.

The Constitutions, art. 7, §4 stipulate that before Provincial Statutes are promulgated they are to be sent promptly to the Minister General who, with his Definitory, "verifies and declares their conformity to the proper law of the Order."

One of the issues that must be regulated by the Provincial or Custodial Statutes is the question of the sabbatical period. In fact, article 181, §2 of the Constitutions reads:

§2 The Minister or Custos, with the consent of his Definitory, may grant to the friars who reasonably request it a period of sabbatical. **Sabbatical policies are to be determined in Provincial and Custodial Statutes.**

In order for the government of the Order to declare that the "policies" regarding the sabbatical period, which are to be contained in the revised Provincial or Custodial Statutes, are in conformity to the proper law of the Order, it is necessary to provide some clarification on this matter.

The sabbatical period is described in Franciscan Discipleship. Since the General Chapter of 2019 did not approve the new text, the 2007 Franciscan Discipleship remains in effect. Two difficulties arise here. First, the 2007 Franciscan Discipleship is a text that is to be revised, according to the mandate of the General Chapter of 2019 (cf. *Approved Motions*, 4.1). Second, the description of the sabbatical contained there is no longer in accordance with the existing law.

All this said,

- by virtue of the authority conferred by law upon the Minister General, in keeping with the norms of the *CIC*, can. 622, and the Constitutions, art. 203, according to the *CIC*, can. 31, §1;
- in order to provide the Provinces and Custodies the precise indications and legal instruments they need to determine the policies for granting a sabbatical period (cf. *Constitutions*, art. 181, §2);
- having obtained the positive opinion of the General Definitory, given on July 4, 2020, with this letter, I hereby issue the following Decree:

DECREE

General Norms Regarding the Sabbatical Period (cf. Constitutions, art. 181, §2):

- a. For friars, a sabbatical period is one of the “adequate means at their disposal for their spiritual growth and for staying current with cultural change” (cf. *Constitutions*, art. 181, §1). A sabbatical is offered to a friar at a significant moment in his life, such as his jubilee of solemn profession (and/or priestly ordination), that is, every twenty-five years. It may also be offered in exceptional cases, for example: after a long period of Mission *ad gentes* or service as a Major Superior, etc. Nevertheless, such cases are to be examined in discernment with the friar’s Minister Provincial/Custos;
- b. The sabbatical period is **to be lived normally inside a friary of the Order**. Otherwise, for example, in the case of studies undertaken at an educational institution which does not belong to our Order, the friar must scrupulously follow the norms for absence from the religious house, for a period of not more than one year, once in his lifetime (*extra domum ex CIC*, can. 665, 1), or he must follow the norms for an *extra claustra* indulgence of not more than three years, even if those years are non-consecutive (ex *CIC*, can. 686, 1);
- c. the **maximum sabbatical period** may not exceed twelve months;
- d. the **purposes and the program** of the sabbatical period must be proposed by the applicant, and subsequently agreed upon and approved by the Major Superior (can. 620);
- e. the **expenses** for the sabbatical period are to be detailed and agreed upon in advance with the major Superior, who must approve them with his Definitory according to the financial means of the Province or Custody;
- f. During the sabbatical period, the friar is absolutely **forbidden to take on ecclesiastical offices or posts**, even temporarily, such as: pastor, parish vicar, chaplain, teacher, etc.;
- g. The granting of a sabbatical period, under the above conditions, is the responsibility of the Minister Provincial or Provincial Custos, with the consent of his Definitory, by means of a **Decree** through which the interested party is notified, which specifies, at least in summary form, the terms indicated above. If necessary, a specific contract can be attached to this document, in analogy with the provisions of similar cases (cf. *General Statutes* 47 §5).

The norms established by this Decree must be taken into consideration during the revision of the Provincial or Custodial Statutes, in order for those Statutes to be declared in conformity with the proper law of the Order (cf. *Constitutions*, art. 7, §4).

This Executive General Decree goes into effect today, July 14, 2020.

In faith,

Friar Carlos A. Trovarelli, *Minister General*
Friar Tomasz Szymczak, *Secretary General*

CALENDAR OF THE MINISTER GENERAL

JULY

- 1-10 Spain: Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 13-17 Abruzzo: Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 20-25 Rome: Session of the General Definitory and virtual meeting with the Presidents of the Federations
- 27-

AUGUST

- 7 Warsaw (Poland): Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 19-31 Zambia: Ordinary Provincial Chapter

SEPTEMBER

- 11-19 Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy: Session of the General Definitory
- 20-27 The Czech Republic: Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 30-04 (Oct) Assisi: House Chapter at the Franciscanum, meeting with the friars of the General Custody of the Sacred Convent, meeting with the Conference of Franciscan Ministers General

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Friar Tomasz SZYMCZAK
Secretary General



SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL DEFINITORY

The eighth session of the General Definitory took place on July 4, 2020. Half of the Definitory participated using a platform on the Internet. The Minister General, Friar Carlos Alberto TROVARELLI and Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), called in from Prado, Spain. They were there to attend the Provincial Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of Monserrat in Spain. Friar Anthony Bezo KUTIERO, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) called in from Accra, Ghana. Friar Dominique Joseph MATHIEU, the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), called in from Lourdes, France and Friar Tomáš LESŇÁK, the Assistant General for the *Federatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO), called in from Gdańsk, Poland. He was there for the second part of the Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland.

The rest of the General Definitors participated from Rome. They were: the Vicar General, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI; the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC), Friar Benedetto Seung-jae BAEK; the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), Friar Jude Martin WINKLER; the Assistant General for the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC), Friar Rogério PEREIRA XAVIER; and the Secretary General, Friar Tomasz SZYMCZAK.

During this session the General Definitory:

- 1) Prayed for sick and deceased friars.
- 2) Was updated on some situations and issues discussed during previous sessions.
- 3) *Fraternal Visits*

Listened to brief reports on some fraternal visits and meetings conducted by the Minister General and the Assistants General in various Jurisdictions:

FIMP

- from the Assistant General for the FIMP Federation, Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, on the occasion of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Spain;

FEMO

- from the Assistant General for the FEMO Federation, Friar Tomáš LESŇÁK, on the occasion of the second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Gdańsk, Poland.

4) *Canonical Visitations*

- from the Assistant General for the CFF Federation, Friar Jude WINKLER, was provided information on the general canonical visitation to the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in South Korea, conducted in June of 2020.

5) *Chapter Mandate- General Offices - General Houses*

- approved the request of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure in Rome, which sought permission to add Friar Józef LIZUN, a philosophy professor, to the faculty for a period of three years;
- established the work timeline for *Franciscan Discipleship* (Motion No. 4 of the 2019 General Chapter).

6) *Juridical Matters*

- decreed the canonical suppression of the Immacolata Concezione della B.V.M. Friary in Santa Severa, Rome;
- gave permission for the reopening of the novitiate in Pueblo Llano, Venezuela;
- discussed some personal cases.

The ninth session of the General Definitory took place on July 20-25, 2020, at the Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome. The entire General Definitory was present except for Friar Anthony Bezo KUTIERO, the Assistant General for the AFCOF Federation, who had to remain in Ghana due to restrictions imposed by the local government regarding the pandemic. The General Definitory worked during the morning hours. Since the annual meeting of the General Definitory with the Presidents of the Federations could not be realized this year, the Definitors devoted their afternoon hours to meeting with the Presidents via platforms on the Internet.

During this session of the General Definitory:

1) **Prayed for sick and deceased friars, including the first Conventual Franciscan victim of COVID-19, Friar Orlando PALMA MONTAÑO of the Provincial Custody of St. Francis in Bolivia;**

2) **Approved the minutes of the seventh and eighth sessions and was updated on some situations and issues discussed at previous meetings.**

3) *Fraternal Visits*

Listened to brief reports on some fraternal visits and meetings conducted by the Minister General and the Assistants General in various Jurisdictions:

FIMP

- from the Assistant General for the FIMP Federation on the occasion of:
 - the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo);
 - his fraternal visit to Assisi, on July 19, 2020, at which time the name of the newly elected Custos, Friar Marco MORONI, was announced to the General Custody of the Sacred Convent of St. Francis in Italy (Assisi).

4) *Canonical Visitations*

- from the Assistant General for the CFF Federation, Friar Jude WINKLER, received a summary of his report on the general canonical visitation he made to the Province of South Korea.

5) *Financial Issues*

- discussed some properties of Province of St. Bonaventure in the USA (SB) with the Minister Provincial, Friar Michael ZIELKE;
- considered some financial requests;
- granted the required authorization needed to make certain expenditures.

6) *Chapter Mandate- General Offices - General Houses*

- began consultations prior to the election of the new Postulator General;
- listened to the report of the Guardian of the Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome;
- began consultations prior to the election of the new Guardian of the Friary of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Rome, to replace Friar Valentín REDONDO who was elected Guardian of the friary in Madrid during the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Spain;
- began reflection on the possible opening of a presence of the Order in Nigeria (Motion No. 1 of the 2019 General Chapter);
- reflected on how to implement Motion No. 3 of the 2019 General Chapter, the "St. Bonaventure Project";
- approved the guidelines on the use of new media called for in Motion No. 7 of the 2019 General Chapter.

7) *Juridical Matters*

- gave permission for the erection of the "St. Anthony Franciscan Ashram" Friary in Kanaparthi, Warangal, India, of the Provincial Delegation in India (Andhra Pradesh - Telengana)
- gave permission for the erection of the "St. Bonaventure Franciscan Ashram" Friary in Kambipura, Bangalore - Karnataka State, of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in India;
- gave permission for the erection of the "św. Maksymiliana M. Kolbego" Friary in Inowrocław, Poland, of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk);
- approved the Portuguese translation of the Constitutions, prepared by the "União dos Conventuais do Brasil" (Union of Conventual Franciscans of Brazil - UCOB);
- considered some personal cases.

The tenth session of the General Definitory took place on September 2 and September 11, 2020, at the Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome, and on September 13-18, in the rectory of the Church of Ss. Apostoli Filippo and Giacomo in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. All of the General Definitors were present.

1) Approved the minutes of the ninth session and was updated on some situations and issues discussed at previous meetings;

2) Fraternal Visits

Listened to brief reports on some fraternal visits and meetings conducted by the Minister General and the Assistants General in various Jurisdictions:

AFCOF

- from the Assistant General for the AFCOF Federation on the occasion of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia;

CFF

- from the Assistant General for the CFF Federation on the occasion of his visit to the novitiate in Arroyo Grande, California, USA;

FEMO

- from the Assistant General for the FEMO Federation on the occasion of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw), parts I and II;

FIMP

- from the Assistant General for the FAMC Federation on the occasion of:
 - the second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Abruzzo, Italy (the Assistant General for the FIMP Federation was unable to participate due to obligatory self-quarantine after his trip to Romania);
- from the Assistant General for the FIMP Federation on the occasion of:
 - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia) and the Provincial Definitory of the Province of Abruzzo.

3) Canonical Visitations

- from the Assistant General for the FAMC Federation, received his report on the general canonical visitation he made to the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Japan.

4) Financial Issues

- discussed some financial issues that arose due to COVID-19 restrictions;
- received the opinion of the Bishop of the Porto Santa Rufina Diocese of Rome regarding the alienation of a property.

5) Chapter Mandate - General Offices - General Houses

- continued reflection on the possible opening of a presence of the Order in Nigeria and the possible missionary commitment of some Provinces (Motion No. 1 of the 2019 General Chapter);
- defined the decision-making process for evaluating the projects that will be handled by the Project Office (Motion No. 2 of the 2019 General Chapter);
- decided to meet with the community of the Franciscanum in Assisi to talk about Motion No. 6 of the 2019 General Chapter
- elected Friar Zdzisław KIJAS as the new Postulator General, replacing Friar Damian PĂTRAȘCU;
- elected Friar Germano TOGNETTI as the new Guardian of the Friary of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Rome, replacing Friar Valentin REDONDO;
- appointed Friar Michael EARLY as Vice-Rector of the Seraphicum International College in Rome.

6) Juridical Matters

- gave permission for the Provincial Delegation in Uzbekistan to erect the Friary of Blessed Zbigniew Strzałkowski and Michał Tomaszek in Bukhara;
- suppressed the Friary of St. John the Baptist in Samarkanda, Uzbekistan, of the Provincial Delegation in Uzbekistan;
- gave permission for the Provincial Delegation in Peru to erect the "San Maximiliano Kolbe" Friary in Moche, Trujillo Province, Peru;
- granted permission for Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya to erect a postulancy house in Subukia, Kenya;
- considered some personal cases.

NEW VADEMECUM OF THE CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

■ Friar Francesco PANIZZOLO, General Procuration Office

On July 16, 2020, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued the “*Vademecum* on Certain Points of Procedure in Treating Cases of Sexual Abuse of Minors Committed by Clerics”. It was published in several languages.

The *Vademecum* does not present any new legislation; therefore, from a legal standpoint, it contains no new material with respect to what legal professionals already know.

However, its publication is no less important, since this document offers step-by-step guidance for Ordinaries (and therefore Ministers Provincial and Custodes) in dealing with cases of religious clerics who are accused of child abuse.

Indeed, for those trying to penetrate the dry and synthetic language of the law and understand the depth of certain technical terms, the *Vademecum* provides explanations and examples.

Reading and studying this handbook is more worthwhile than ever. For Major Superiors, and anyone else who may be interested, it provides the knowledge needed at the right time.

To read and download the *Vademecum*, go to: (link)

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20200716_vademecum-casi-abuso_en.html

GENERAL DEFINITORY



The government of the Order

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■ GENERAL OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Friar Alejandro PALACIOS VÁZQUEZ
General Delegate for Communications



POLAND: MINISTER GENERAL VISITS STARVATION CELL OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

■ Friar Dariusz MAZUREK

On July 7, 2020, the Minister General, Friar Carlos A. TROVARELLI, visited the Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was accompanied by the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepur in Poland, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, along with some other confreres. The outing took place during the celebration of the second part of the Province's Ordinary Chapter.

The Chapter is being celebrated in Harmęże, a village close to the site where St. Maximilian was martyred. The Minister General and the other friars entered the saint's starvation cell and spent a very moving moment in prayer together. They were in the very bunker where our Martyr of Charity was killed, on the eve of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 14, 1941). St. Maximilian offered his own life to save the father of a family from death.

Below is Friar Carlos' message from the concentration camp, which he wanted to share with all the friars:

We are in front of the building where the bunker is located, where St. Maximilian and so many other people were put to death. We have just entered to pray and I want to share with the Order what I have experienced there; so many things have resonated in my heart.

This is a strange place because, although it is a place of death, the first feeling I experienced was one



The Minister General praying inside the cell of St. Maximilian



The Minister General at the concentration camp

of massive love. It was as though St. Maximilian's great love were still present, mixed with the cold air and darkness of the cell. Moreover, this is a great mystery, because that love is Love with a capital L; it is the love of the Lord. I also experienced union with the Cross, the Cross of Jesus; not as an abstract idea, not as a rational discourse, but just as a feeling, because that was Love, too. In the isolation of the cell, facing death, in the dark, in spite of everything, one still feels Love with a capital L.

That is why I want to share this with you, especially the inner strength I feel to be able to give myself to Him again. This is what I want to say to the whole Order: it is worth giving ourselves to the very end for Love, without holding anything back. It is all or nothing; I believe that this is what Saint Maximilian did.

May he also encourage us, to be witnesses of this Love and the gift of self; it is the best message that we can give to the world. God bless you all!

GENOA: ORDINATION OF ARCHBISHOP MARCO TASCA

■ Office of Communications

At 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, 2020, the episcopal ordination of Archbishop Marco TASCA was celebrated in Piazza della Vittoria in Genoa, Italy. His Eminence Angelo Cardinal BAGNASCO presided.

Due to the pandemic, the liturgy was celebrated outside. This allowed around 1,000 people to take part; along with officials, friends and family of Archbishop TASCA and many confreres, particularly those belonging to the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy).

At the end of the celebration, Archbishop TASCA first thanked the Lord for the gift of life and for his vocation to religious and priestly life. He next thanked Pope Francis for the trust he placed in him, in wanting him to be the Archbishop of Genoa. He also thanked Cardinal BAGNASCO for being there and for his leadership in the Church in Genoa.

Then he thanked all the faithful of Genoa. As their new shepherd, he wants to be a father and brother to them all and thereby encourage them to take care of each other. Finally, he thanked his family of origin, the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, and even the many who were unable to attend the event.

In his closing remarks, Archbishop TASCA said, "And now, let us begin to serve the Lord and together seek the face of the Father that we may be authentic witnesses of the joy of belonging to his Son Jesus Christ." We pray that the Father of Mercy may accept all his good intentions.



Cardinal BAGNASCO imposing his hands upon our confrere



The newly ordained Archbishop TASCA

LETTER OF THE MINISTER GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF FRIAR MARCO TASCA

**Dear brothers,
May the peace of the Lord be with you!**

I am sending this brief message to you on the day that our beloved Friar Marco TASCA, the former Minister General of the Order, is being ordained as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Genoa, Italy. This is a time of great celebration for our entire family. Ideally, I would like us all to join together in offering thanks to the Father for the gift of grace that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit represents for our brother and for the Church entrusted to him.

I first became aware of this appointment through the Apostolic Nuncio in Italy. Since then, my heart has been filled with mixed emotions. On one hand, I feel joy and satisfaction about the choice Pope Francis has made. It shows he has recognized in our dear brother the qualities that are needed for such a high and demanding ecclesial ministry. On the other hand, I feel an equal measure of regret over the “loss” of such a good friar, a friar who deeply understands our family, whose wisdom and experience might still have given so much to the Order. I feel that Mother Church is asking us to make a great sacrifice. However, at the same time, I affirm that we are pleased to serve the Lord through Friar Marco’s obedient “yes”. We can all imagine that the mission that awaits him will not be easy. The Church in Genoa, which the Holy Father is entrusting to his care, has its own centuries-old customs which are firmly established in an area of Italy that is culturally and socially very lively.

In his beautiful greeting to the Church in Genoa, Friar Marco wrote, among other things, that the dowry he is bringing to this new community is everything he learned during his years as a Conventual Franciscan religious. It is very pleasant to think, that all the seeds that were patiently planted in his life, including the ones discreetly sown by our own confreres, shall continue to bear fruit, albeit in changing circumstances. We feel sure that Friar Marco will not simply be a bishop who was a Franciscan; rather, he will be a Franciscan bishop! Personally, I am comforted and consoled to know that within the territory of the Church that Friar

Marco will serve as Archbishop, there is a portion of our Conventual Franciscan family—the fraternity of San Francesco in Albaro. I am sure that Marco will feel supported by the brothers living and working there. They have always been, and will always be, his family.

Let me conclude by once again thanking Friar Marco for his loving service to the Order throughout his more than forty years of Conventual Franciscan religious life, especially his twelve years of service as the Minister General of our fraternity. Having worked closely with him for the past six years, I can say with confidence that we have all witnessed the passion with which he led the Order, as well as the attentiveness and sensitivity he brought to his meetings with friars all around the world.

May the Lord watch over and support Friar Marco on his new mission. May the Immaculate Mother of God, Queen of our Order, guide his steps and help him to be a shepherd after God’s own heart.

My dear brothers, may the Lord grant you peace!

Friar Carlos A. TROVARELLI, *Minister General*
Rome, July 11, 2020



“PREACH PENANCE TO EVERYONE, AS HE WILL SEE FIT TO INSPIRE YOU” (LEGEND OF THE THREE COMPANIONS 49 – FF 1458)

■ Office of Communications

In Łódź Łagiewniki, Poland, the “FRS” rap group is recording a new CD. The friars at our major seminary in Łódź Łagiewniki can explain exactly what FRS is and where it comes from:

– *What is FRS?*

“FRS (Franciszkański Rap Session) is a new Franciscan rap group. This CD project, and its title, came up spontaneously and we want to preserve that characteristic.”

– *Why the idea of preaching the Gospel with rap?*

“The project got started because of the ministry we were doing at two orphanages in Łódź. The ongoing pandemic had seemingly made it impossible for us to continue this ministry. However, it turned out our ministry was not so impossible after all. One day we decided, among other things, to record some short music videos for our friends at the orphanages. Right after that, we got the impression that making more of these projects for a wider audience might be a brilliant idea. Our superiors gave us the green light and thus the FRS group was born.

At first glance, you might think a combination of the Gospel, the Franciscan habit and rap would be an explosive mixture. You might think these elements were incompatible. However, the event of the Incarnation itself, in which God took on human nature, shows us that God wants to be close to us. It teaches us that nothing is impossible for God. It indicates that God wants us to be saved; that he wants us to know him and his love. The FRS ‘tree’ shall be recognized by its fruit; therefore, the feedback we get from people who listen to FRS is very important to us. At the same time, this feedback makes it very clear that we are on a path worth taking.”

– *Who is involved in this project? Is it the whole seminary?*

“The FRS group has the following permanent members: Friars Michał WIĘCH, Wiktor MIELESZKO



Friars Kamil, Wiktor and Paweł



The musical group FRS

and Grzegorz ŚWIERKOSZ. However, other confreres collaborate as well. For us, this is a communal way of proclaiming the Gospel. We want to spread the word of God wherever we can."

– We understand you are making a CD; is that right?

"Yes, we started recording a CD. We are redoing all the songs that we presented on YouTube (<https://tiny.pl/7c6cz>). Those were more of a live session than the studio version we are working on now. We also hired two friars from our band 'Pokój i Dobro' [Peace and All Good], Friars Paweł ZIEŃKOW and Kamil PLUSZCZEWICZ. In addition, we have Anna SZAJA and Anna FISIĄK, two friends from our Franciscan pastoral

ministry program. We have just finished recording all the tracks. Now we are preparing the mix all the songs and we hope that the CD will be released at the beginning of the new academic year."

– Well then, we wish you every blessing on this evangelizing adventure.

"Please pray that this work of ours may contribute to evangelization and above all, reach those who are furthest from the Church. We are very thankful for your prayers for us and for those whom FRS reaches. We embrace you all with our prayers and ask you constantly for yours! May God be glorified in all this!"

www.facebook.com/franciszkanskirap

www.instagram.com/franciszkanskirap

www.youtube.com/frsfranciszkanie

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENCYCLICAL *LAUDATO SI'*

■ Office of Communications

You may recall that the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has instituted a special year to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The year lasts from May 24, 2020 to May 24, 2021.

The ongoing pandemic has made Pope Francis' message about the care of our "common home" even more timely and urgent. Indeed, since we are all facing the same problem, we are forced to rethink our selfish positions, to adopt an attitude that is more in solidarity with others and to seek the good of all creation.

Events today show that the encyclical is more prophetic than ever; in fact, the encyclical helps us to better understand the evils that afflict humanity and gives us an opportunity to create an authentic, new way of living together; one that is in harmony with the demands of life, as it was conceived by the Creator.

This year, the Dicastery, (created at the Pope's behest), wants to help build an alliance between all people of good will, so that they can find and implement specific tools that will help achieve the values and demands of the encyclical.

Below, you will find a link to keep you up to date with this special year's initiatives and programs. Among the many initiatives that have been planned, there is the noteworthy "Multi-Year *Laudato Si'* Roll-Out Plan" to make communities totally sustainable, and the institution of the "*Laudato Si'* Awards" in order to encourage and promote initiatives for the care of our common home.



RUSSIA: NEW CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN BISHOP

■ Office of Communications

At noon on July 30, 2020, the Holy See made an official proclamation, confirming that Pope Francis has appointed our confrere, Friar Nicolai Gennadevich DUBININ, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of the Mother of God in Moscow, assigning him the Titular See of Aquae in Byzacena.

Friar Nikolai is a member of the Russian General Custody of St. Francis of Assisi. He was born May 27, 1973, in Novoshakhtinsk, Rostov Oblast (southern Russia) to a very devout family. His parents are now deceased and he has an older sister. Friar Nikolai underwent theological formation for the priesthood with the Conventual Franciscans of Poland. He made his temporary profession on September 8, 1995, his solemn profession on October 3, 1998, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 2000. During 2002-2005 he studied at the Santa Giustina Institute of Pastoral Liturgy in Padua, Italy where he received a Licentiate Degree in Liturgy. He continued his doctorate cycle in theology with a liturgical-pastoral specialization at the same Institute.

Also during 2000-2005, once he was ordained, he worked in various friaries. In 2005, he was elected Custos of the Russian Jurisdiction and held that office for three terms (2005-2018). Since 2005, he has been the general manager of the Franciscan publishing

house in Moscow. Since 2006, he has taught liturgy and homiletics at the Mary Queen of the Apostles Major Seminary in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 2006, he became the Secretary of the Liturgy Commission of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Russia. From 2008 to 2013, he worked as the deputy editor-in-chief of the Russian Catholic Encyclopedia. Since 2009, he has been the President of the Conference of Men and Women Major Superiors in Russia (CORSUM) and is now serving his third term. Since 2015, he has chaired the Commission for Catechesis and Liturgy of the Archdiocese of the Mother of God in Moscow, and has served as the coordinator of the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Union of the European Conferences of Major Superiors (UCESM). He is currently the Guardian of the Friary of St. Anthony, Wonderworker in St. Petersburg, Russia.

We offer our brother our sincerest best wishes and assure him of our prayers!



Bishop Nicolai Gennadevich DUBININ

ITALY: FRIAR GIORDANO TOLLARDO TURNS 100

■ Office of Communications

On Tuesday, August 11, 2020, the feast of St. Clare of Assisi, Friar Giordano TOLLARDO achieved a century of life. He follows Friar Ilario MORATTI who turned 100 on January 13, 2020. Both friars belong to the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy).

Commenting on this, the Vicar Provincial of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua, Friar Roberto BRANDINELLI, wrote a letter to all the confreres. Here is an extract of that letter:

“Saint Clare’s exercise of mirroring herself in Christ, in order to resemble him as much as possible, is something that Friar Giordano has been doing for 100 years!

Friar Giordano was born on August 11, 1920, in Lamon, not far from Feltre, Italy. He entered the seminary in Camposampiero, Italy, on September 21, 1931. He made his temporary profession on August 3, 1937, at the Friary of St. Anthony in Padua and made his solemn profession on October 4, 1941, again in Padua. He was ordained a priest, together with Friar Ilario MORATTI, on June 3, 1944, by the Most Reverend Carlo AGOSTINI, then Bishop of Padua, at the Parish Church of Peraga di Vigonza in the Province of Padua.

Over the years, Friar Giordano applied his talents in various fields. He put his financial-administrative skills to use as the Director of the Casa del Pellegrino [Pilgrim’s House] in Padua from 1952 to 1961, and served as the Econom of the Seraphicum in Rome from 1963 to 1970. He was talented as a teacher and taught mainly in the colleges of the Province. He was gifted in evangelization and carried out pastoral ministry assignments in Rome, Milan and Turin, and performed various tasks entrusted to him by the

Managing Editors of the *Messaggero di Sant’Antonio* [Messenger of St. Anthony magazine]. From 1961 to 1963, he served as a missionary in Istanbul. He was responsible for the Italian translation of ‘The Sermons of St. Anthony of Padua,’ which were published in 1994, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Saint’s birth.

In 2010, the then Minister Provincial, Friar Gianni CAPPELLETTO, transferred Friar Giordano to the Friary of L’Immacolata di Lourdes in San Pietro di Barbozza, Italy, so that he could transmit his peace to others as he lived out the sunset of his existence. Ten years have passed since then and Friar Giordano’s journey continues. Since January of 2018, he has been living in Pedavena, Italy, where he is lovingly assisted by the friars of the local community, in particular, the Guardian, Friar Giuseppe FRANCO. In addition to the care of the friars, Friar Giordano is looked after by a number of sisters and other healthcare providers who make sure that our confrere has everything he needs.

Although he may seem understandably foggy at times, there are some days when he shows surprising vitality for a centenarian. We thank all those who take care of Friar Giordano and our other ailing confreres in Pedavena, and we thank the Lord who has granted long life to several of them. Moreover, through their example, the Lord allows us to experience His extraordinary fidelity.”



Friar Giordano

SERAPHICUM: SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR THE LAITY

■ Seraphicum Press Office

On August 27-30, 2020, the Seraphicum College in Rome hosted a spiritual retreat for the laity. The retreat was led by Friar Raffaele DI MURO, OFM Conv., a professor of spiritual theology.

This was the first retreat organized by our confreres which was offered to a wide audience. The response was very encouraging, despite the problems related to Covid-19.

The theme of the retreat was on prayer and the ways of expressing it in the life of the believer. Silence and recollection formed a backdrop to what was a rich and productive spiritual experience. The

fundamental ingredients of this time of the Spirit were prayer, lecture and discussion. The event was enhanced by the hospitality of the Seraphicum Holiday House.

The retreat ended with the satisfaction of all the participants and friars who collaborated in making it a success.



The participants listening to Friar Raffaele



Friar Raffaele giving a homily

REST IN PEACE, BISHOP PETKO JORDANOV CHRISTOV

■ Father Strahil KAVALENOV, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Nikopol

On September 14, 2020, our confrere, the Most Reverend Petko Jordanov CHRISTOV, OFM Conv., Bishop of Nikopol, was called to the house of the Lord. The bishop passed away in the city hospital of Ruse, Bulgaria.

Petko Jordanov CHRISTOV was born on October 9, 1950, in Velcevo, a town in Bulgaria's Veliko Tŕrnovo Province. After basic schooling, he graduated as a construction expert in the city of Veliko Tŕrnovo, with a specialization in "Building and Architecture".

On April 17, 1977, he received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Most Reverend Bogdan DOBRANOV, then Bishop of Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The ceremony took place at St. Joseph's Church in Sofia, Bulgaria. From there, Petko began his journey towards the priesthood.

On October 20, 1985, he was ordained to the diaconate and on December 15, 1985, he was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Samuel DJOUNDRINE, then Bishop of Nikopol. Starting June 20, 1986, Father Petko served as the Associate Pastor for Pastor Filip ROMANOV at the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the city of Belene.

Meanwhile, Father Petko professed his simple vows with the Order of Friars Minor Conventual in 1990 and his solemn vows on December 15, 1993.

In 1994, he was transferred to the city of Ruse and on January 6, 1995, Pope John Paul II consecrated him as the Bishop of Nikopol, at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

On January 25, 1995, Bishop CHRISTOV took possession of the Cathedral of St. Paul of the Cross, in Ruse, the seat of the Diocese of Nikopol. He was installed by Decree no. 001 dated January 25, 1995. Those attending the ceremony included the Most Reverend Mario RIZZI, then Apostolic Nuncio to Bulgaria, Bishop DJOUNDRINE, and the priests of the Diocese of Nikopol.

Bishop CHRISTOV served as the President of a number of commissions in the Episcopal Conference of Bulgaria, namely, the Commission for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; the Commission for Ecumenism and Unity among Christians; and the Commission for Activities in the Church. In addition, the 18th National Conference held December 1, 2001, in Sofia, elected Bishop CHRISTOV as the President of the "Caritas of Bulgaria" [a charitable institution]. In 1997, he became a member of the board of directors of the "Caritas of Ruse".

The funeral liturgy for Bishop CHRISTOV will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Paul of the Cross, in Ruse, on September 19, 2020, at noon local time.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the Lord God welcome him into His dwelling place.



FUNERAL OF ARCHBISHOP PETKO JORDANOV CHRISTOV

■ Office of Communications

On September 19, 2020, at noon, the funeral of our brother, the Most Reverend Petko Jordanov CHRISTOV, OFM Conv., Bishop of Nikopol, Bulgaria, was conducted at the Cathedral of St. Paul of the Cross, in Ruse, Bulgaria. Archbishop CHRISTOV was called to the house of the Lord on September 14, 2020. He was buried in the crypt of the cathedral.

The Funeral Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Gheorgi JOVČEV, Ordinary of the Diocese of Sofia-Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The celebration was attended by the Most Reverend. Hristo PROJKOV, President of the Bulgarian Episcopal Conference, who expressed his condolences to those present during his homily. Other bishops from neighboring dioceses attended along with our confreres from the Provincial Delegation in Bulgaria.

Friar Grzegorz BARTOSIK, the Minister Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw) greeted those present, and addressed some words of farewell to our deceased confrere.

At the conclusion of the Mass, a letter from our Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, was read out. Below is an extract from the aforementioned letter:

In 1989, when Father Dominik ROMANOV was the only Conventual Franciscan friar left in Bulgaria, the Lord sent him two diocesan priests who were candidates for the Order. By the mysterious workings of Providence, both of them, when they were being

secretly prepared for the priesthood, had the same spiritual directors. One Director was our brother Friar Josif KRIVČEV, the first Bulgarian friar in the Order and a great friend of St. Maximilian KOLBE. The other was the Most Reverend Giuseppe RONCALLI, who would later become Pope St. John XXIII.

One of the two candidates died shortly after making his simple profession. The other was our Friar Petko Jordanov CHRISTOV. In 1993, one year after making his solemn vows, he was appointed as a bishop. This episcopal appointment was the express will of the Holy Father, St. John Paul II. It was seen as a great sign of respect for the Church and the Seraphic Order, whose suffering of such sacrifice and persecution was a testament to the Catholic faith in Bulgaria.

Today we thank God for the gift of our confrere, for his simple, modest, Franciscan life, entirely dedicated to the Church.

May the Lord reward the sacrifice of his pastoral ministry by welcoming him into his Kingdom. Through his intercession with the Good Shepherd, may new vocations be sent to serve the Church in Bulgaria.



Blessing of the body

FRIAR UMBERTO ZUCCA: A FAITHFUL AND SERENE WITNESS OF LOVE FOR CHRIST AND THE FRANCISCAN LIFE

■ Friar Silvano BIANCO

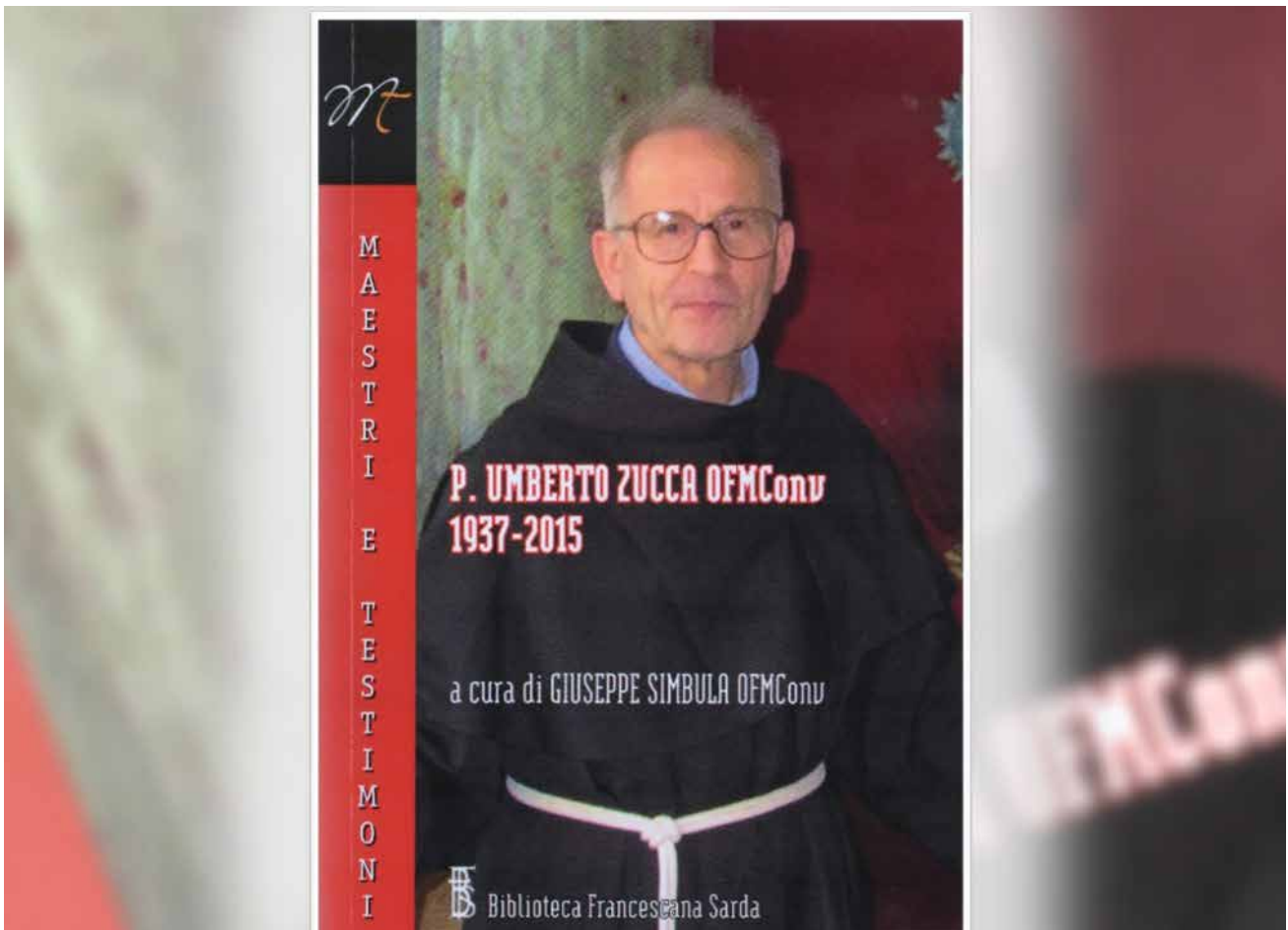
We joyfully announce the publication of “Padre Umberto ZUCCA, OFM Conv., 1937-2015”, a new book dedicated to this unforgettable friar. The book was published by Biblioteca Francescana Sarda (2020) and edited by Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA for the *Maestri e Testimoni* series [Masters and Witnesses].

Friar Umberto passed away on July 15, 2015, in Cagliari, Italy. He was seventy-eight. Now, a new book has been written about him, revealing the life and passion of this friar who loved Christ and the Rule of St. Francis. Friar Umberto was a serene and faithful witness of love for the Church and for his brothers. He gave everything he had to his vocation.

After a forward written by Prof. Francesco NUVOLI, the book continues in three sections: Friar Umberto's life and many offices; an in-depth study of the friar and his pastoral and cultural activities; and the testimony of the confreres and lay faithful who knew him.

Ample space is dedicated to his role as the Regional Assistant of the Secular Franciscan Order and to the crowning achievement of his assiduous studies, his book: “The Beatification of the Martyr Friar Francesco ZIRANO, OFM Conv.” (2014). Also of note are the cultural and editorial activities that Friar Umberto was involved with, even outside of his home region.

SIMBULA, Friar Giuseppe. *Padre Umberto Zucca Ofmconv, 1937-2015*, edited by Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA, Oristano, Italy, Edizioni Biblioteca Francescana Sarda, 2020, 236 pp.



SERAPHICUM: INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GRAPHOLOGY

■ Elisabetta LO IACONO - Seraphicum Press Office

Friday, September 25, 2020, marked the beginning of the academic year for the three-year graphology course being offered by the "Seraphicum Department of Graphology" in Rome.

The Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure has placed the fascinating discipline of graphology on the curriculum with the goal of offering greater understanding of the human person. The course will follow the teaching of Friar Girolamo MORETTI, OFM Conv., a great scholar and the father of Italian graphology.

The course will take place both in person and online. The inaugural event for this course was held in compliance with anti-Covid regulations, in the presence of the teachers and students who responded enthusiastically to the formation project. The course is aimed at fostering greater knowledge of oneself and others through handwriting analysis. This discipline can be applied in a variety of work areas such as graphological personality analysis, human resources, the judiciary, the criminological and medical sectors, childhood development, and the pastoral and vocational fields.

During the inauguration, our confrere Friar Raffaele DI MURO, the Graphology Department Chair, explained the structure of the course and the specializations available during the third year of study. He was supported by other Professors including Professors Alessandra MILLEVOLTE and Vincenzo TARANTINO who took part in presenting the new Department. The formation course has been given extra prestige by the recent news that

the Italian Graphological Association has recognized and accredited the Seraphicum Department of Graphology.

Friar Raffaele addressed a speech to the students present in the Sisto V Auditorium and others online. He expressed his satisfaction over the excellent rapport between the teachers and students. "All of you," he said, "have already shown during your interviews that you feel you are in a family environment and that you contribute to make it so. You are not numbers to us, you are an enriching presence. It is our aim to continue in an atmosphere of mutual exchange, an atmosphere in which we will provide you with ideas and experience and you will help us to always give our best."

Friar Raffaele then gave special thanks to the Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, for his having wanted to see this important educational discipline rehabilitated, a discipline to which our confrere Friar Girolamo MORETTI devoted fifty years of study and teaching.

In addition there will be a national study conference dedicated to Friar Girolamo, entitled, "Humanity and Writing: The Graphology of Girolamo Moretti". The conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, (from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at the Seraphicum Auditorium (Via del Serafico, 1, Rome). This is a free educational event with certification. It will be live-streamed.



Friar Raffaele giving a speech

■ DELEGATE OF THE MINISTER GENERAL FOR THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATE

Friar Raffaele DI MURO
Delegate of the Minister General for the M.I.



USA: SHORT FILM ON THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA

■ Office of Communications

The National Center for the Militia of the Immaculata in the USA is pleased to announce it has released a short film on the Militia of the Immaculata. The film is available in various languages and can be seen on the Vimeo channel of the M.I. Center.

This new film aims to encourage viewers to consecrate themselves to Our Lady in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Several Conventual Franciscan friars from various countries appear in the work.

The film was released on August 14, 2020, the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe. It beautifully and eloquently captures the essence of the M.I.: total

consecration to the Immaculata in the missionary spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

We invite everyone to promote it! You can find the film at <http://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/mi-movie/>

Let's reach as many people as possible to win the world for Christ through the Immaculata!

**MILITIA OF THE
IMMACULATA**
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA



FIRST MEETING OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING M.I.

■ Angela MORAIS, M.I. International President

The Militia of the Immaculata wants to carry out effective efforts aimed at unity and sharing. For this reason, after 100 years in existence, the International M.I. is launching a specific unity initiative in order to find a common path for the Militia of the Immaculata in the Americas, a path that will join Conventual Franciscans with Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception, lay adults and young people.

September 22, 2020, was an important day. On that day, an online meeting took place that brought together a number of Spanish-speaking countries, namely, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Spain.

The goal, according to Angela MORAIS, the M.I. International President, was for the M.I. to better recognize itself and increasingly grow as a family. "We are a 100 year-old institution and one of the ways that can help us achieve this goal is to come together as a continent, to find unity through language, culture and religious traditions; even if these are a little different, we are looking for common ground," she said.

The M.I. has been growing for several years now. During this first "historic" meeting, the participants laid out strategies for further communion and communication among Spanish-speaking members of the M.I.

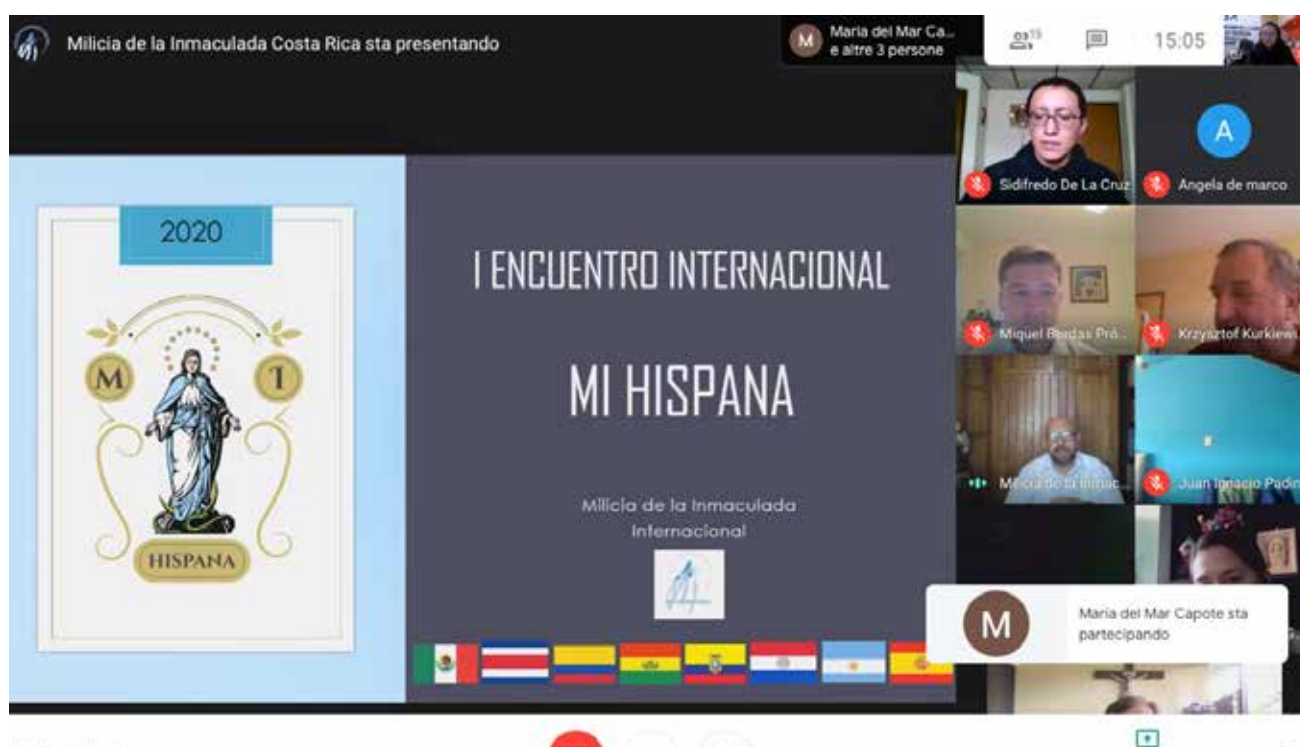
"This is a really important moment, because it is the beginning of a challenging path. This will

certainly set an excellent example and suggest proposals for other continents to come together," said the President.

The Militia of the Immaculata has always faced great challenges, and has always trusted the protection and guidance of the Immaculata. Inspired by St. Maximilian M. KOLBE, a proposal was made to start a magazine in his honor. Thus, on October 16, 2020, the online Spanish language edition of the *Knight of the Immaculate* magazine will be launched, adopting the same name that the founder of the M.I. used for his original magazine.

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, OFM Conv., the Minister General and MI Assistant, gave his blessing and thanked everyone for contributing to this event. He exhorted everybody to follow the path of collaborative work with strength and courage.

The President concluded the meeting with a motivational invitation: "Let us continue like this, let us continue".



■ GENERAL FINANCIAL OFFICE

**SOME NOTES
OF THANKS...****FOR MASS OFFERINGS:**

- Prov. Croatia
- Prov. Northern Italy
- Prov. OLC, USA
- Cust. Assisi, Italy

**FOR THE FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY FUND
OF THE ORDER:**

- Prov. Spain
- Prov. Northern Italy
- Prov. Slovenia
- Prov. OLA, USA
- Prov. OLC, USA

FOR THE MISSIONS:

- Prov. Parish of St. Joseph, Germany
- Prov. Malta
- Deleg. Holland
- Prov. Germany
- Fr. Salvatore SULLA

FOR THE FORMATION FUND:

- Prov. South Korea

THANKS

also to those who have made
donations using
the communications channel
of the **GENERAL CURIA**

The financial aid administered by the General Curia isn't the only circle of solidarity in the Order; in fact, there are commendable and exemplary solidarity initiatives, for example, between Mother Provinces and their Daughter Custodies or Delegations, or through "twinning" thanks to the involvement of groups, institutions and parishes. We extend our thanks to you all!

AFRICAN FEDERATION OF CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS

Friar Anthony Bezo KUTIERO
Assistant General for the AFCOF



TANZANIA: PRIESTLY ORDINATION

■ Friar Benson Gideon MAPUNDA, Custodial Secretary

The Provincial Custody of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Tanzania has added a newly ordained priest among its members: Friar Amadeus Cypriano MARO.

Friar Amadeus was ordained on July 2, 2020, by the imposition of hands of the Most Reverend Ludovick Joseph MINDE, (*Opus Spiritus Sancti*) Bishop of Moshi, Tanzania. Friar Amadeus was born on September 25, 1987, in Moshi. He was baptized in the Parish of Shimbwe on September 10, 1988. He received the sacrament of confirmation on April 17, 1999 and was ordained a deacon on May 18, 2019. His

parents are Siprian Bernard and Filomena AWATO. Friar Amadeus is the eleventh local Conventual Franciscan priest in Tanzania. He will be assigned *de familia* to the St. Maximilian M. Kolbe Friary in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, and will work at our school there, the St. Maximilian Education Center. We thank God for this new priest, and hope our brother will live out his ministry with joy.



From left: the Custos, Friar Dariusz SZYMBORSKI, Bishop MINDE and Friar Amadeus

GHANA: SIMPLE PROFESSION AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

■ Friar Moses Kabenla ARTHUR, Novice Master

On Saturday, July 25, 2020, the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana celebrated the first profession of temporary vows of twelve novices and the 50th anniversary of Friar George ABRAM's ordination to the priesthood.

The events were celebrated at the Franciscan Valley of Prayer and Silence in Saltpond, Ghana.

The Vicar Custos, Friar Eugene ANTWI BOASIAGO, received the vows of the novices in the presence of other confreres from Accra, Takoradi, Elmina and Sunyani. Ten of the newly professed friars belong to the Custody of Ghana while the other two come from Uganda and Burkina Faso. The newly professed are Friars Justice Kwame YALLEY,

Guenole Ziem DA, Francis MUSAANYA, Matthew MENSAH, Honore Kionbi KABORE, Nicholas Opiesaw ENNIN, Emmanuel OSEI, Dennis Dei AGYEKUM, Isaac ASAMOAH, Dominic Kwame ACKOM, Clement Nwoza MENSAH and Richmond Panyin ASSAFUAH. Finally, Friar George Abram received a commendation from the Custody for his service to the Order and the Republic of Ghana in the area of healthcare. Congratulations friars!



Some of the professed



Friar Giorgio ABRAM

UGANDA: ECOLOGICAL FARM IN KAKOOGE

■ Friar Bogusław DĄBROWSKI, Farm Director

An ecological (organic) farm has been created at the missionary vocational school known as the St. John Paul II Technical Institute in Kakooge, Uganda.

The farm was inspired by the ideals of the St. Francis of Assisi Ecological Movement in Cracow (a work of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland) and by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

Currently, the farm has ten cows purchased by the "Caritas Antoniana" charitable institution. The novices at the novitiate in Kakooge milk the cows every day. The novitiate has five novices from Kenya, four from Uganda and three from Tanzania.

To celebrate the 100th birthday of St. John Paul II, the school's patron saint, a new venture was launched with the purchase of ten pigs, ten goats, ten rabbits and one hundred chickens. Waste from

the cows and pigs is used to produce biogas which is used to cook meals for the students at the vocational school. It is also used as a fertilizer. In addition, organic waste is composted to create soil fertilizer.

The farm has a vegetable garden as well. The vegetables it produces add variety to the students' meals.

In the near future, there are plans to devote twenty hectares (fifty acres) of land to grow corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes and cassava. The goal is to provide better nutrition to the novices and the vocational school students. Unfortunately, in 2020, the students have been unable to take advantage of the farm's benefits because the school has been closed due to the pandemic.



Students and professors at the St. John Paul II Technical Institute



Raising cattle



Road maintenance works

ZAMBIA: SIMPLE PROFESSION AND BEGINNING OF THE NOVITIATE

■ Friar Mathews KASONGO, Provincial Secretary

On Sunday, August 2, 2020, six novices of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia made their temporary profession of vows. The ceremony took place at the Parish Church of St. Joseph of Cupertino in Ndola, Zambia.

The confreres professed their vows into the hands of the Minister Provincial of Zambia, Friar Richard Francis CHIMFWEMBE. The newly professed are Friars Emmanuel KAPAMBWE; Emmanuel MALAMA; Peter Raphael CHIPULU; Macleno MULENGA KOMAKI; Stephen SUMANI CHANDA; and Jack Joachim MWAPE.

On Saturday, August 8, 2020, five postulants were vested in the habit and began their canonical year of novitiate at the formation house in Itimpi, Kitwe. The new novices are Noel Augustine DAMA (Malawi); Stanslaus Kabwe SAMPA (Zambia); Mathews BANDA

(Zambia); Brown TEMBO (Zambia); and Julius INGWE (Zambia). The Minister Provincial presided over the vesting ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were Friars Ryan MUTAYOMBA (Novice Master); Joseph Kapoko MUKUKA (Postulancy Director); Gordon Bwalya FUNDANGA (Assistant Postulancy Director); and Xaveriano Joseph BANDA, a spiritual retreat preacher and a member of the Itimpi Friary.

We pledge to pray fervently for our newly professed and novice confreres.



The newly professed



The new novices (center)

KENYA: SOLEMN PROFESSION

■ Friar Pius Mutisya MUSYOKA, Provincial Secretary

On Saturday, August 15, 2020, the Solemnity of the Assumption of our Mother Mary, nine friars made their solemn profession at the St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church in Nairobi, Kenya.

The colorful celebration was presided over by the Minister Provincial of the Province of Kenya, Friar Obed Muriungi KAROBIA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent directives issued by the government of Kenya which limit the number of people in public gatherings, only family members of the friars were invited. The celebration was also witnessed by a delegation of friars from all of the friaries in Kenya. The friars who professed their solemn vows before Friar Obed were from three jurisdictions of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), namely, Kenya, Zambia and Ghana.

The newly professed are Friars Edward Kutin

MENSAH and Louis Etsey NANEWODO from the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana; Friars Pethias Chitalu KAFULA, Patrick MULENGA and Davies LUNDA from the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia; and Friars Peter Otieno ONYANGO, Jackson Mbonge MAWEU, William Mwirigi KILEMI and Vincent Onyango OPUBA from the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya.

All nine friars will continue their Theological studies at Tangaza University College while residing at the St. Bonaventure Formation House in Nairobi.

Congratulations to our brothers! May they be strengthened in their zeal to follow the poor and humble Christ in the Conventual Franciscan family.



A moment during the celebration



The newly professed

UGANDA: “FRANCISCAN HEALTH CENTER”

■ The friars of the Delegation in Uganda

We are slowly approaching the first anniversary (December 1, 2020) of the official opening of the Wanda Health Center Hospital at our Conventual Franciscan mission in Matugga, Uganda.

The hospital is already recognized by the local community as a facility that offers high-quality medical services.

Shortly after its construction, it was clear we needed more than an empty building in order to serve the local community. During the first months of operation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Poland helped us purchase medical equipment through the Innovaid Foundation. Our friars in Schwarzenberg, Germany, helped us secure payments for new employees, for which we are very grateful. The friars in Schwarzenberg have been actively involved from the beginning, not only in the construction of the medical center but also in its effective functioning.

In the near future, with help from our partners at the Innovaid Foundation and the Province of Germany, we plan to provide the hospital with more needed medical equipment and spaces, such as X-ray machines, a dental room, an operating theater and additional auxiliary rooms for the staff. The Center recently received a new ambulance, a Toyota Land Cruiser. The vehicle is

already being used to transport patients.

As the pandemic continues, despite the enormous difficulties in operating and managing the Center, we have undertaken further investments to prepare for a possible surge of COVID-19 cases in Uganda. Thanks to the efforts of the Innovaid Foundation, we will soon be opening an intensive care unit in the hospital. We are also preparing a comprehensive informational and educational campaign on how to protect one's health during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the construction of a staff house for employees is underway, made possible by support from Caritas Antonina [a charitable institution]. Thanks to our benefactors in Germany and Poland, the medical center will soon become one of the best equipped and well-functioning hospitals in the Wakiso District of Uganda. We are very grateful for their commitment and involvement in this wonderful work of helping the poorest in Uganda.

May God reward all of you for your openness to our brothers and sisters in need in Africa.



Hospital entrance



Analysis laboratory



Visiting patients



Ambulance

ZAMBIA: DIACONAL ORDINATION

■ Friar Mathews KASONGO, Provincial Secretary

On Saturday, August 29, 2020, eighteen young men were ordained to the diaconate by the Most Reverend Valentine KALUMBA, O.M.I., Bishop of Livingstone, Zambia.

The ceremony took place at St. Dominic's Major Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia. The new deacons are comprised of ten diocesan clergy members from various dioceses, four Missionaries of Mariannhill, two Capuchin Franciscan friars and two Conventual

Franciscans, Friars Francis MULENGA and Ernest MUKUKA.

We thank God for the gift of our brothers as they embrace the ministry of service in the Church.

BURKINA FASO: TWENTY YEARS OF CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN PRESENCE

■ Office of Communications

One of the youngest presences of our Order is found in the African nation of Burkina Faso. The friars have been there since September 12, 2001, giving witness to the Gospel through their truly simple lifestyle.

There were no anniversary celebrations scheduled this year, due to the pandemic. However, the friars have many other commitments that must be carried out.

Here is an interview with one of our local missionaries, Friar Tomasz KRĘT, Director of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Medical Center in Sabou, a town in the Boulkiemdé Province of central-western Burkina Faso.



Some friars next to a statue of St. Maximilian

FEDERATIONS – [AFCOF]

I don't suppose there was any way you could to celebrate the anniversary of the friars' arrival in Burkina Faso. There just wasn't time for it.

"That's true, this year we had no special celebrations. However, in our communities, we thanked God for giving us the grace to bear witness to him, especially in a society that is so culturally and religiously diverse."

The friars serve in two places in Burkina Faso: Ouagadougou and Sabou. They do pastoral ministry, dig wells and set up schools. Has the virus made this kind of work problematic?

"A little, but we have managed quite well. Until recently, there were travel bans in the country and restrictions on public meetings. Cities were kept in isolation. Of course, the same health recommendations were implemented in many other countries. The current situation has had a clear effect on the spiritual dimension, too. It seems that most of society feels frightened, in fact, people are scared all around the world."

I imagine that the greatest challenges are to be found in a medical center. Is the pandemic making life difficult there?

"Our medical center followed similar protocols back when there were Ebola cases in some neighboring countries. So we're used to the battle. We just need to be more watchful, pay attention to hygiene and reduce the number of family members who visit the sick."

So, is the center fully operational?

"Yes, this is our mission. It is difficult to leave others in need. We provide missing nutrition for under-nourished children. We treat people with malaria. Our wards for surgery, pediatrics, lab diagnostics and radiology are functioning. The ambulance is always on the move, responding to calls and accidents. Furthermore, we have many additional commitments because we are the "go-to"

hospital for a district with a population of 112,000. We operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We are almost like a supermarket with good prices and an interesting selection."

Does it seem you have to work harder than ever just to keep the Center running from day to day?

"Indeed, it does. At the beginning, many of hygienic materials we needed were in short supply and the prices went up. Therefore, we contacted various institutions and asked for their support. The Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) helped us purchase a lot of materials and equipment. The Polish Episcopal Conference co-financed the purchase of food and milk products. The 'Emergenza Sorrisi' Foundation organized online training for the hospital staff. One could truly see God's Providence in all of this."

Speaking of groceries: How do they get to the hospital? It seems that must involve a lot of work.

"We run a kitchen for patients and employees. In addition, for some time, we have been cultivating a vegetable garden and raising poultry in order to supplement the menu we offer."

In closing, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who support our work of saving lives and improving human health. Every day, the friars and the staff pray together in the hospital chapel. We commend all of our benefactors to God through the intercession of St. Maximilian, and we ask God's grace to make us instruments in building his kingdom.

In particular, we thank CEI, "Caritas Antoniana" [a charitable institution], the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo), the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw), and the "Sięgnij Nieba" Foundation of Poland, for their support and financial aid in realizing our projects. God bless you all!

On the website of the "Sięgnij Nieba" Foundation you can find videos about Conventual Franciscan facilities in Burkina Faso. Go to:

<https://siegnijnieba.pl>.



The St. Maximilian Kolbe Medical Center in Sabou

GHANA: PRIESTLY AND DIACONAL ORDINATIONS

■ Friar Pius Kofi ASARE, Custodial Secretary

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, God blessed the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana with the ordinations of three friar-priests and one friar-deacon.

The ordinations took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Sunyani, Ghana. The Most Reverend Matthew Kwasi GYAMFI, Bishop of Sunyani, presided. The Vicar Custos, Friar Eugene Harrison Owusu ANTWI-BOASIAKO, presented the four friars to the bishop for ordination.

This solemn and colorful celebration was graced by friars from each of the Custody's five friaries. Many priests attended as well, along with religious, lay faithful and family members of the friars.

Bishop GYAMFI advised the friars to always teach the Gospel and serve God's people in the Sacraments. He added that they are to fulfil their call without discrimination, in humility and with patience.

The newly ordained priests are Friars Bernard Atsu NANEWODO, Derrick Amenyo Yao BRESSEY and Francis Atobrah ADUSEI-POKU. Friar Emmanuel Adjei NSIAH was ordained a deacon. The friars' families and the Custody are grateful to God for the gift of these ordinations.



The new priests



Prostration of the ordination candidates

KENYA: PRIESTLY AND DIACONAL ORDINATIONS

■ Friar Pius Mutisya MUSYOKA, Provincial Secretary

On Saturday, September 19, 2020, the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Kenya reached yet another milestone when two of its friars were ordained priests and another two were ordained deacons.

The colorful celebration took place at the Holy Cross Church in Saba Saba, in Kenya's Diocese of Muranga. The ordination was presided over by the Most Reverend James Maria WAINAINA, Bishop of Muranga. Those attending the ceremony included hundreds of lay faithful, priests, and religious brothers and sisters. They assembled in defiance of the Covid-19 pandemic protocols in order to bear witness to the ordination of their sons. Wearing face masks of varied colors, they all braved the heat of the day to cheer the friars who were being ordained.

In his moving homily, Bishop WAINAINA encouraged the newly ordained to take on the challenge of bearing witness to the Gospel in a

world that is hostile to the word of God.

The newly ordained priests are Friar Martin Mwangi WANJIKU who was posted to the St. Maximillian Maria Kolbe Friary in Ruiri and Friar John Mungai WAMBUI who was posted to the St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Limuru.

The newly ordained deacons are Friar Francis Mutuku KILO who was posted to the Mary Mother of God Friary in Subukia and Friar Bernard Waweru MWANGI who was posted to the St. Maximillian Maria Kolbe Friary in Ruiri.

Hearty congratulations to our brothers and may the Lord strengthen them in their new apostolates.



The ordination candidates



The concelebrants

CENTRALIS EUROPÆ FOEDERATIO

Friar Dominique Joseph MATHIEU
Assistant General for the CEF



CROATIA: PROVINCE FORMATION WEEK

■ Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, Provincial Director for Ongoing Formation

On September 13-18, 2020, the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia conducted a week of ongoing formation. The event took place at the ancient St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Cres, Croatia.

This was a mandatory formation program for friars who were solemnly professed or ordained to the priesthood within the last ten years. However, the program was also open to friars who were further along in their religious or priestly lives. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, seventeen confreres participated. Most of them were young, but a few older friars attended as well.

The theme of the meeting was: *"The Challenges of Fraternal Life; Problems, Conflicts, the Game of Victimhood, All the Way to the Path of Fraternal Forgiveness"*. The speaker was Friar Krunoslav KOLARIĆ, OFM, a theologian and gestalt

psychotherapist. The meeting alternated between conferences, working in groups and working in assembly.

In addition, the week was enhanced by common prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and time spent in fraternity. On one day, the friars visited the towns of Valun and Lošinj. Since the weather was nice, the friars were able to go swimming in the sea. The participants also found the time to plan the pastoral activities in the Province for next year.

Finally, the friars evaluated the meeting and generally made very positive comments about it, expressing their gratitude and thanks.



The participants

CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

Friar Jude WINKLER
Assistant General for the CFF



USA: FOUR NEW NOVICES VESTED

Office of Communications

On July 5, 2020, the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA celebrated the vesting of four novices. The ceremony took place in the chapel of the Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua in Ellicott City, Maryland, USA.

The four new confreres are: Friars Michael BOES, Edgar VARELA, Jonathan GARCÍA ZENTENO and Bram DE BACKER. After the rite of vesting in the habit of our Order, the four were transferred to the North American Novitiate of St. Joseph of Cupertino in Arroyo Grande, California, USA. They will spend their year of probation there, in a spirit of fraternity,

engaged in personal and community prayer and taking part in various activities, such as lessons, workshops, manual labor, etc., in keeping with the objectives at this stage of formation.

Let us remember these new novices in our prayers and ask the Lord to bless them and support them on the journey.



The new novices

USA: FIRST HARVEST OF THE LITTLE PORTION FARM

■ Office of Communications / From www.yaleclimateconnections.org

On July 14, 2020, the first potato harvest of the “Little Portion Farm” was celebrated. A liturgy of blessing was conducted for the occasion, led by Friar James McCURRY, the Minister Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in the USA (OLA).

In 2015, Pope Francis published the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, in which he urged the world to take action on climate change and protect those most vulnerable. “He asked us to consider both the cry of the poor and the cry of the planet,” said Friar Michael Joseph LASKY. The Pope inspired Friar Michael to find a new use for eighty acres of land near Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

For years, the land had been leased for cultivating corn and soybeans; using industrial methods that depleted the soil and made it too compacted. Friar Michael understood: “I took a walk out into the middle of our farmland and it was like walking on concrete,” In his region, climate change has been causing dangerous downpours and flooding. Compacted soil makes the flooding worse because water runs off the fields rather than being absorbed.

Therefore, the friars decided to transform their land. They chose to rent a large part of it to an organic farmer who grazes cattle in a sustainable way.

Moreover, Friar Michael, along with other confreres, created a small farm on three acres: the “Little Portion Farm” to be exact. They planted cover crops to replenish the soil and make it fertile. As a result, in the summer of 2019, they had their first small-scale harvest of vegetables, which they offered to the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. The Center is a partner of this project and provides services to economically disadvantaged people.

These confreres of ours reside at the Provincial Curia and at the OLA Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, Maryland. We are truly grateful to the Lord for always offering us a better way!



The farmland, friary and church in Maryland

CHICAGO: PROVINCE ASSEMBLY

■ Friar Jude WINKLER, Assistant General for the CFF

From September 28 to October 1, the friars of the Province of St. Bonaventure met in assembly at Our Lady of Fatima Friary in Marytown (Chicago, Illinois, USA).

The friars have been conducting a two-year study on the strategic needs of the Province over the coming years (together with consultants from the Plante Moran Agency), and this assembly allowed them to finalize their Four- Year Plan (which included withdrawing from two apostolates in order to offer more flexibility in meeting the needs of the Province. The hope is to concentrate on larger, urban friaries which offer an opportunity for outreach to the poor.

This assembly was originally going to be an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter, but given the restrictions due to coronavirus, it proved impossible to gather enough friars to create a quorum for a Chapter (especially considering the fact that the friars of Australia are a Delegation of this Province).

On the evening of September 30, the friars of the assembly gathered in the chapel of Marytown to celebrate the diaconal ordination of Friar Thomas Anthony FETZ.



A moment during the work of the Chapter



A consultant from the agency

FEDERACIÓN CONVENTUALES AMERICA LATINA

Friar Rogério PEREIRA XAVIER
Assistant General for the FALC



CUBA: PRIESTLY ORDINATION

■ Friar Flavio César LAURA CHARCA

On Saturday, July 4, 2020, Friar Danisandro SÁNCHEZ PEÑA was ordained to the priesthood at the Church of San Francisco de Asís in Havana, Cuba, by the imposition of the hands of His Eminence Juan de la Caridad Cardinal GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ, Metropolitan Archbishop of Havana.

Friar Luigi MORETTI, the Delegate of the Provincial Delegation in Cuba of the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy), said that he hoped that every friar would take part in this joy: "The ordination of Friar Danisandro is a cause of great joy for all of us and it gives us hope because it reminds us that our life is in the hands of the Lord, who has a loving plan for each one of us. Indeed, Friar Danisandro is our first Cuban priest since we established our presence in this country, back in 2001, when Friars Fernando MAGGIORI, Silvano

CASTELLI and Roberto CARBONI (now Archbishop of Oristano) first came to Cuba.

We sincerely thank the Lord, who never tires of calling generous people to proclaim his Word, celebrate the sacraments and bear witness to his infinite mercy.

Friar Danisandro chose the Good Shepherd as the biblical icon of his ordination. We hope that he will model his priestly ministry upon the kindness, meekness and charity which Jesus Christ showed to all people he met, especially those who were the most outcast and marginalized."



Friar Danisandro and Cardinal GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ

EL SALVADOR: CHRONICLE IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

■ Friar Andrés QUESADA SOTO

“What started as some exotic disease in the Far East quickly became a reality which directly affected our fraternity.” Thus spoke Friar Andrés QUESADA SOTO, in his chronicle of the San Antonio de Padua Friary in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The friary is part of the Provincial Custody of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Central America. As soon as the health crisis began in El Salvador, we were taken by surprise when our confrere Friar Javier Ernesto GUERRA was confined to one of the government’s quarantine centers. We went through days of anguish for him and for the whole fraternity.

For us, the pandemic has become more than the discomfort of staying at home or dealing with the new normal of virtual classes and social distancing. It has brought us pain, fear and uncertainty about the health of our friends and relatives. We share the distress of many of our brothers and sisters in our Parish of Jesús de las Misericordias [Jesus of Mercies] who have been infected by the new virus. We have even mourned the deaths of some of them. In addition, messages of support come to us almost daily from the Conference of Religious of El Salvador, communicating the death of some consecrated person.

In addition to the difficult situation caused by this health crisis, there are also political difficulties and disagreements in the country, as well as the damage inflicted by tropical storms “Amanda” and “Cristobal”. Several families in the parish community lost everything due to flooding. The friars were

present in that situation, too, particularly Friar Erick Gerardo MARÍN CARBALLO, who tried to bring relief to those families.

Here, the pandemic has a face. As one confrere said, “We always live near sister death, but we remain united in the face of these difficulties. It is just as St. Paul says: ‘We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned’” (2Cor 4:8-9).

However, it is not all bad news. We have learned to more deeply value the time we spend together and to discover meaning in the details of daily life. We celebrate with more care and awareness the little joys of each day: an anniversary, a profession, the recovery of a loved one, our fraternal evening in community on Fridays, or pupusas (a Salvadoran dish) on Sundays. We have also discovered new talents and have found the courage to put them at the service of the community. Necessity has made us more creative.

We continue to pray, smile, work and dream. Life continues and is renewed in ways we never expected, because “this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ” (Jn 17:3). In the midst of this pandemic, we are recognizing that a little more.



Celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi

CHILE: FORMATION WEEK

■ Friar Jack GINTING

From August 31 to September 4, 2020, a formation week took place for the confreres of the three communities of the Provincial Delegation in Chile. The Delegation belongs to the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy).

Due to the current pandemic, the formation sessions were held online. Friars Ramón ZÁS GARCÍA and Enrico BROCCHI were able to participate from Italy. The week provided a good opportunity to reflect on some themes of faith, even though everyone missed being physically together in an atmosphere of fraternity.

The formation week was led by Friar Guilherme PEREIRA ANSELMO JÚNIOR, a biblical scholar and the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Congregation of St. Ignatius of Antioch in Brazil. The theme of the event was: "The Popular Reading of the Bible in Latin America: Being Instruments in God's Hands. How God Transforms Us and Moves Us to Be Prophets in Our Day". Based on the characteristics of the popular reading of the Bible, Friar Guilherme presented texts involving Elijah, Moses and St. Paul. In addition, he also spoke about the practical life of the friars, the Delegation and the Church in Chile.

Two documentaries were presented for further study. The first, "The Island of Flowers", dealt with the various networks that interconnect all people. The second, "Barefoot on the Red Earth", covered the missionary life of the Most Reverend Pedro CASALDÁLIGA PLA, Prelate Emeritus of São Félix, Brazil and his missionary activities in Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

On the last day, the friars discussed issues dealing with community life, vocations and youth ministry. They also talked about matters regarding the Delegation and they examined the possibility of creating a website.

Some confreres in initial formation, Friar Augusto Esteban URZÚA GONZÁLES and Postulant Benjamín CASTRO, participated in the formation event and prepared two community prayer segments which were carried out at the beginning and end of the meeting.



FALC: EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY ONLINE

■ Friar Rogério Pereira XAVIER, Assistant General for the FALC

Due to the current health emergency caused by the pandemic, the Federación América Latina Conventuales (FALC) conducted an extraordinary formation assembly, online, on October 24-26, 2020.

The friars in charge of the various Jurisdictions of Latin America used the Zoom Internet platform to meet in a creative and fraternal way and discuss their experiences and urgent problems as the health emergency continues. Several confreres were invited to talk about some very practical topics.

On the first day of the virtual assembly, Friar Valerio FOLLI, head of the Project Office (connected to the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation) spoke about the importance of communication, transparency and involvement among the friars, the Church and the people, as well as the issue of charismatic identity in the development of social projects in far-flung areas of the world.

On the second day, Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO, the Procurator General and Friar Francesco PANIZZOLO gave an instructive analysis of the various canonical aspects of the “*Vademecum* on Certain Points of Procedure in Treating Cases of Sexual Abuse of Minors Committed by Clerics,” which was recently promulgated

by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

On the last day of this extraordinary assembly, the Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, spoke about the various ways the current pandemic is impacting our daily lives. He exhorted everyone to keep hope alive and to care for the most vulnerable in our society. He spoke about the value of fraternity and overcoming fear and indifference.

The whole assembly was characterized by free-flowing communication and a spirit of fraternity. The friars were therefore able to update each other on the status of various formation settings and discuss specific examples of community and pastoral creativity as well as various difficulties and limitations.

We thank all the participants for making themselves available and ask God to let us continue our Franciscan witness with joy, together with the people of God in our “great homeland”, Latin America.



Online connection

CHILE: HISTORY OF THE CONVENTUAL PRESENCE IN SANTIAGO

■ The friars of the Delegation of Chile.

Dear friars, we are approaching the solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis, and as religious of the Provincial Delegation in Chile, commemorating the 25th anniversary of our presence there, we would like to share this video with you on the history of our fraternity in Santiago.

The community of Santiago was inaugurated on October 4, 1996, and the Vicar Provincial of Padua, Friar Giuseppe MARINI, declared the canonical erection of the second friary of the mission in Chile. The friary was named after St. Anthony of Padua and was located in the town of Conchalí, in the Archdiocese of Santiago.

The friars stayed in that place a little over a year and it became immediately apparent that the sector north of the capital did not offer the level of pastoral ministry the friars of the delegation had wanted. Therefore, they began to search for a place more suited to our Conventual Franciscan style. The Archdiocese of Santiago offered various proposals, one of which was the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in San Ramón, south of the capital. Thus, on March 15, 1998, the friars officially moved into the new location. The community was comprised of three confreres: Friar Pietro BELTRAME, Guardian and Rector of the shrine; Friar Enrico BROCCHI, the Vicar Guardian; and Friar Ramón ZAS, the House Econom. The Delegation finally achieved the “logistical” balance it had sought.

The friars immediately dedicated themselves to

restoring first the church, which needed an almost complete makeover, and then renovating the friary, a former OFM property which had been turned over to the Diocese of Santiago some years earlier.

As the years passed, it became clear that a small parish was needed in the area. Thus in 2003, our presence, which had been a shrine, was made into a parish.

The blessing of the renovated church and friary took place in 2005, with the then Minister Provincial of Padua, Friar Marco TASCA, present. Thanks to the renovation, part of the friary was used to accommodate young university students from outside Santiago, thus helping young people trying to earn a university degree. Basically, the friars in Santiago take care of the shrine and the parish, providing pastoral ministry to immigrants as well as to the youth of the parish and students.

These last twenty-five years in Chile have given us the opportunity to thank the Lord for the good we have received and passed on to others. May the Lord grant us the gift of his Holy Spirit so that as his missionaries, we may always be instruments in the hands of God, able to discern and fulfill his true and holy will.



FEDERATION OF ASIAN MINOR CONVENTUALS

Friar Benedict Seung Jae BAEK
Assistant General for the FAMC



SOUTH KOREA: CANONICAL VISITATION

■ Friar Jude WINKLER

From June 2 to July 3, 2020, Friar Jude WINKLER conducted a general canonical visitation to the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in South Korea.

After a two-week quarantine [due to the corona virus], he visited the eight friaries of the Province in the country, having previously visited Korea's friary in Torrence, California, USA. The visitation began and ended with a meeting with the Minister Provincial and his Definitory.

The friars in Korea perform a variety of ministries: parish work, serving mentally challenged young men, retreat houses, formation, an international kindergarten, etc. Each friary has confreres who work with the Secular Franciscans (OFS) and the

Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.). The Conventual Franciscan presence in South Korea was founded in 1958 by Italian missionaries (one of whom was Friar Francesco FALDANI, a former missionary in China). Korea became a Province in 2001.

The Province has sixty-three friars in solemn vows at this time along with three novices who recently made their temporary profession of vows. Its Ordinary Provincial Chapter will take place on October 12-17, 2020.



Friar Jude (second from left)

INDONESIA: FORMATION EVENTS

■ Friar Fictorium Natanael GINTING

In July of 2020, the Province of Mary Immaculate in Indonesia saw some important events occur in the formation journey of its student friars.

On July 14, 2020, thirty-seven young friars renewed their religious vows. Three of the confreres professed their vows into the hands of their Minister Provincial, Friar Cornelius Tri Chandra FAJARIYANTO. The ceremony took place at the St. Anthony of Padua Friary in Tiga Dolok. Ten more friars professed their vows into the hands of the Minister Provincial's Delegate, Friar Longinus JUDUNG. The ceremony took place at the St. Bonaventure Friary in Sinaksak – Pematangsiantar. The remaining twenty-four professed their vows into the hands of their Vicar Provincial, Friar Robert Tarcisius Zonpiter SIHOTANG. The ceremony was held at the Friary of St. Catherine of Siena in Tiga Juhar.

On the same day, five friars began their canonical year of probation at the novitiate chapel in Tiga Dolok. They are Friars Boy Sergius TUMANGGOR, Ferdi Ferdinan SITEPU, Mariano Oracio DOUTER, Fernando Ius MANIK and Krisostomus BANGGUL. The Minister Provincial presented each of them with the Franciscan habit and entrusted them to the guidance of their Novice Master, Friar Gilberto Albino Dos Reis DA COSTA, who will be aided by

the Assistant Novice Master, Friar Norbertus Nana MANEK.

On July 15, 2020, the feast of St Bonaventure, four friars professed their solemn vows at the St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. Church in Delitua, North Sumatra. They are Friars Robertus Hermanto BOBY, Baptista PAUF, Sevan Nicolas SEMBIRING and Eriksend Okripo SITEPU. The Minister Provincial presided over the ceremony which was attended by the friars of the Province and the relatives of the newly professed. Attendance by the faithful was limited due to Covid-19. The celebration was animated by the post-novices of Sinaksak – Pematangsiantar, together with the postulants. During the celebration, the Minister Provincial focused his homily on the meaning of consecrated life and the vows. He stressed that we must each try to recognize our identity as Franciscans who must always proclaim the presence of God through the witness of our lives. Finally he mentioned that his guide in this was Mary, who listened and meditated on the Word of God by putting it into practice.



The new novices with the Minister Provincial, Friar Cornelius



Renewal of vows in Pematangsiantar



The new solemnly professed



Renewal of vows in Tiga Dolok

INDIA: PRE-NOVITIATE YEAR

■ Provincial Office of Communications

The 2020-2021 pre-novitiate year has begun for some confreres in the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in India.

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 1, 2020, a ceremony was held for eleven postulants beginning their year of preparation for the novitiate. The event took place at the Friary of St. Anthony of Padua in Puthenchira East, Kerala State, India. The postulants were welcomed by the Minister Provincial of India, Friar Bonaventure KALLUVETTUKUZHIL. Others

at the ceremony included the Vicar Provincial, Friar Antony NALLUKUNNEL; and the Rector of the pre-novitiate, Friar Raphael KANIYAMPALACKAL.

We hope our confreres will live this year of discernment in trusting abandonment to the Lord and we assure them of our closeness in prayer.



The postulants

VIETNAM: FORMATION NEWS

■ Friar James Michael REITER, Provincial Secretary (SJC)

Vesting

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, nine novices from the Provincial Delegation in Vietnam (of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA [SJC]) were vested in the habit. The ceremony took place at the St. Anthony of Padua Friary in Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam.

Acceptance of postulants and simply professed

On August 8, 2020, the Delegation welcomed fourteen new postulants for their first year of discernment and formation. Additionally, four confreres renewed their temporary vows on the same day.

Because of the pandemic and the cancellation of flights into Vietnam, three novices of the Delegation who completed their year of probation in the Philippines, made their simple profession in Tagaytay City in the Philippines, on Saturday, August 15, 2020.



The new postulants



Renewal of vows



The newly ordained

Solemn Profession

On Friday, August 21, Friars Paul TRƯỜNG Văn Mỹ and John Baptist NGUYỄN Phạm Thế made their solemn profession. The ceremony took place during Mass at the new church on Lộ [Highway] 6 in Củ Chi, Vietnam, and was presided over by Friar Joseph Luke VŨ, the Delegate of the Delegation in Vietnam. Friar Luke received the vows on behalf of the Minister Provincial, Friar Victor ABEGG. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent directives issued by the government of Vietnam to limit the number of people at public gatherings, only family members of the newly professed friars were invited.

Priestly and Diaconal Ordinations

On August 28, two of the most elegant and simple ceremonies in recent memory took place at the Pastoral Center in Phú Cường, Vietnam. The Most Reverend Joseph NGUYỄN Tấn Tước, Bishop of Phú Cường, presided over a Mass of Ordination for Friar Giuse Cupertino PHẠM Văn Nhượng who was ordained a priest, and Friars Joseph NGUYỄN Luận Chính, John Baptist NGUYỄN Điền Ngọc and Peter NGUYỄN Duy Ngọc who were ordained deacons. The number of family members and guests attending the Mass of Ordination was limited due to restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

INDONESIA: SECOND NOVITIATE AND ACCEPTANCE OF POSTULANTS

■ Friar Fictorium Natanael GINTING

In July of 2020, three young confreres from the Province of Mary Immaculate in Indonesia took part in their second novitiate experience, in view of solemn profession.

This month of preparation was held in the Santo Antonius dari Padua Formation House and Novitiate in Tiga Dolok, Sumatra. The participating confreres were Friars Agustinus Krisantus KEFI; Abdiwa Agung PERANGINANGIN; and Randy SEMBIRING. The experience was led by the current Novice Master, Friar Albino Dos Reis DA COSTA. The month was quite intensive and was divided into two parts. The first two weeks offered insights into Franciscan life and focused on the choice of one's definitive profession of vows and other topics. The last two weeks, the more spiritual part, was dedicated to undertaking a spiritual retreat. In particular, the friars learned more about various topics. Friar Yoseph Ariwibowo DJAKA gave a lecture on the Conventual Franciscan charism; Friar Antonius Yulius YULIANTO talked about the Constitutions and the Rule; Friar Longinus JUDUNG spoke about the relationship between sexuality and consecrated life; and Friar Fictorium Natanael GINTING lectured on the writings of St.

Francis and the history of the Order. The spiritual retreat was led by Friar Longinus JUDUNG. The experience ended with a meeting with the Minister Provincial, Friar Cornelius Tri Chandra FAJARIYANTO.

On August 6, 2020, the Minister Provincial presided over Mass at the Santa Katarina dari Siena Formation House in Tiga Juhar, Sumatra, where he welcomed the new postulants. There are thirty postulants; nine in their first-year and twenty-one in their second-year. Due to the large group, it was decided to set up new headquarters for the second-year postulants. This year, they will be housed at the Santo Josef Friary in Delitua, Sumatra, under the guidance of Friars Maximus NEPSA and Robertus Hermanto BOBY. The first-year postulants will stay at their current headquarters in Tiga Juhar, led by Friar Yoseph Ariwibowo DJAKA.

We thank God for these brothers of ours and we pray for their perseverance in the Franciscan vocation.



Friars Agustinus, Abdiwa and Randy



The friars with the new postulants

INDIA: AMALOTHBHAVA – KNIGHT OF THE IMMACULATA NOW ONLINE

■ Provincial Office of Communications

After thirty five years, a new chapter has begun in the history of India's *Amalothbhava* magazine (Knight of the Immaculata)—we have just launched the *Amalothbhava* website.

In 1932, St. Maximilian Kolbe visited India's Kerala State, where he planned to build another Niepokalanów (City of the Immaculata) and publish his Knight of the Immaculata Magazine.

In 1980, friars from Malta arrived in Kerala to make St. Maximilian's vision a reality. On August 25, 1984, they founded the "Marian Sena" (Militia of the Immaculata) headed by the late Friar Joseph CILIA. By November of 1984, they had published their first issue of *Amalothbhava* Magazine. It was then a bi-monthly publication with a free subscription. In 1986, subscribers were asked to contribute one rupee per copy to cover expenses. In late 2010, *Amalothbhava* was changed from a bi-monthly to a monthly magazine.

Thirty five years later, we have adapted to today's postmodern means of communication and have

created an online platform for *Amalothbhava* at: <https://amalothbhava.in>

On Friday, August 14, 2020, the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Most Reverend Mar Sebastian VANIYAPURACKAL, Curial Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly, India, led a ceremony to activate the new website. The ceremony was held at the Assisi Shanthi Kendra in Karukutty, Kerala—the Provincialate of the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in India. Due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the event took place with a limited number of friars. Others present included the Minister Provincial, Friar Bonaventure KALLUVETTUKUZHIL; the Vicar Provincial, Friar Antony NALLUKUNNEL; the Editor of *Amalothbhava* Magazine, Friar Mariadas PALATTY; and various friar-priests and brothers.



Launching the website

THE PHILIPPINES: SIMPLE PROFESSION AT THE COMMON NOVITIATE

■ Custodial Office of Communications

On August 15, 2020, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, seven novices of the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC) made their first profession of vows. The event took place at the common novitiate in Tagaytay City, the Philippines.

The newly professed are Friars Martin GABITO, Isidore Ayon-AYON, Augustine ASILO and Samuel BUEN from the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines; and Friars Joachim Vinh Văn PHAN, Joseph Tiễn Quang TRẦN, and John Baptist Lập Văn PHAN from the Delegation in Vietnam. Friar Francis Victor MATEO, the Provincial Custos of the Philippines, received the temporary vows of the friars from the Philippines, for one year. Friar Francis Victor also received the temporary vows of the friars from Vietnam, for three years, having been delegated to do so by Friar Victor ABEGG, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino in the USA.

During the homily, Friar Francis Victor emphasized that in professing their vows, the friars commit themselves to their vocation with the required full understanding of the responsibilities that such a commitment implies. Moreover, they must make this commitment of their own free will, without fear or malice. He also highlighted the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the work of salvation, noting her example of faithfulness to the will of God, and commenting that her assumption is an assurance of our goal, namely, eternal life.

The celebration ended with an agape meal attended by the resident friars, their formators and some friars from Multinational, Paranaque City who also assisted during the Mass.



The newly professed friars from the Philippines



The newly professed friars from Vietnam

INDONESIA: SIMPLE PROFESSION

■ Friar Fictorium Natanael GINTING

On Wednesday, August 19, 2020, three confreres of the Province of Mary Immaculate in Indonesia made their temporary profession of vows at the Church of Santo Josef, next to the Provincial Curia in Delitua, Sumatra.

The young friars from Indonesia completed their novitiate year in Tagaytay City in the Philippines, along with other novices from the Philippines and Vietnam.

The confreres professed their vows into the hands of the Minister Provincial of Indonesia, Friar Cornelius Tri Chandra FAJARIYANTO. The newly

professed are: Friars Yohanes Krisantus UNAB, Selsus BADUR and Rizal Silvester SITOANG.

After the profession ceremony, the three left for the Santo Bonaventura Friary in Sinaksak (Pematangsiantar, Sumatra), where they will continue their initial formation.

We pledge to pray fervently for each of them.



A moment during the profession



The three newly professed

THE PHILIPPINES: SPIRITUAL TWINNING OF TWO ANTONIAN SHRINES

■ Custodial Office of Communications

On September 1, 2020, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated to commemorate the spiritual twinning between the Pontifical Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua and the National Shrine of San Antonio de Padua in Pila, Laguna, the Philippines.

The Conventual Franciscans of Padua approved the spiritual twinning on August 6, 2020, through the efforts of Friar Oliviero SVANERA, OFM Conv. (Padua). The twinning was granted to the National Shrine in the Philippines in order to promote devotion to St. Anthony.

The National Shrine of St. Anthony in the Philippines was the first Antonian church in Asia. It was founded on June 13, 1581, in Pila, as the Parish Church of San Antonio de Padua. On July 9, 2002, Pope John Paul declared it a Diocesan Shrine. In 2016, the relics of St. Anthony were brought to the church through a pilgrimage organized by friars from Italy and the Philippines. In April 23, 2019, the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines declared the church a National Shrine.

Friar Emil URRIQUIA, the Rector and Pastor of the Shrine, invited Friar Francis Victor MATEO, the Provincial Custos of the Philippines, and his confreres, to participate in the Mass of Thanksgiving.

The Most Reverend Buenaventura Malayo

FAMADICO, Bishop of San Pablo, Philippines, presided. Friar Francis Victor read the Solemn Declaration at the beginning of the Mass and presented a framed copy of it to Bishop FAMADICO who, in turn, gave it to the Rector of the Shrine.

During the Rector's address, he emphasized the importance of this *"gemellaggio spirituale"* for all those who are devotees of St. Anthony. He also expressed gratitude to the friars of the Basilica, the friars of the Italian Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Northern Italy), the friars of the Filipino Chaplaincy in Padua, and all those who assisted in the celebration.

After the Mass, the Bishop blessed some commemorative items for the occasion: a plaque which the friars unveiled and a gift from the Custody to the Shrine, namely, a bust of St. Anthony (*replicating the reliquary that visited the Shrine in 2016*). The festivities ended with a simple meal for the bishop, guests, benefactors, organizers, and devotees.



FOEDERATIO EUROPÆ MEDIÆ ET ORIENTALIS

Friar Tomáš LESŇÁK
Assistant General for the FEMO



THE UKRAINE: NEW PROVINCIAL CUSTODY OF THE HOLY CROSS

■ Friar Jan M. SZEWEK

On Wednesday July 8, 2020, the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow) erected the Provincial Custody of the Holy Cross in the Ukraine. The Chapter was celebrated at the St. Maximilian Center in Harmęże, near Oświęcim [Auschwitz], Poland.

The Most Reverend Edward KAWA, OFM Conv., Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv in the Ukraine, participated in this historic moment. He had served as the Provincial Delegate in the Ukraine for nine years. Also attending was Friar Stanisław KAWA, the current Delegate of the Minister Provincial in the Ukraine, together with Friar Stanisław PĘKALA, the Secretary of the Delegation.

The Chapter approved specific tools for the mission and activities of the Provincial Custody in the Ukraine, such as offering service to the Church,

combining the richness of the tradition, liturgy and spirituality of the East and the West, promoting peace and reconciliation in the Ukraine, and carrying out charitable activities characteristic of the Franciscan charism.

With the Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, and the Capitulars looking on, the Minister Provincial, Friar Marian GOŁĄB and the Provincial Secretary, Friar Marian MICHASIÓW, signed the Decree of the erection of the Custody. The Decree will take effect on September 14, 2020, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



From left: Bishop Edward KAWA, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI and Friar Tomáš



Signing the Decree

In the Decree of Erection we read: "Being thankful to God for seven centuries of presence by the spiritual sons of St. Francis of Assisi in this territory known today as the Ukraine; and being mindful of the foundation laid by Duke Władysław Opolczyk in 1372, particularly the construction of the Church of the Holy

Cross and the establishment of the Friary and Church of Saint Anthony of Padua in Lviv, four centuries ago; I now, thirty years after the renewal of the Order's permanent presence in the Ukraine, and under new socio-political conditions, erect the Provincial Custody of the Holy Cross in the Ukraine."

POLAND: MINOR BASILICA IN KALWARIA PAĆLAWSKA

■ Friar Jan M. SZEWEK

By decision of the Holy See, our church in Kalwaria Paćławska, Poland, has been elevated to the dignity of a minor basilica. Located near Przemyśl, the church features the Shrine of the Passion of Christ and the Mother of God.

The decree was solemnly proclaimed on August 13, 2020, during the feast of the "Great Indulgence of Kalwaria" by the Most Reverend Adam Szal, Metropolitan of Przemyśl. Also present were other bishops of Przemyśl, Friar Marian GOŁĄB, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony

and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow), a large number of religious, diocesan clergy and a multitude of pilgrims.

The honorary title of minor basilica is conferred by the Pope on churches noted for their historical, liturgical, and pastoral value as well as their



The church in Kalwaria Pałacowska

importance as pilgrimage sites. Known as the “Jerusalem of the East”, by some, or “Jasna Góra Podkarpacia” [Luminous Mount of Subcarpathia] by others, Kalwaria Pałacowska has been waiting for this moment for almost four centuries.

The Minister Provincial of Cracow mentioned that this is the second distinction that Kalwaria Pałacowska has received from the Holy See. “In the 19th century, the Vatican Chapter issued the Act of Coronation, approved by Pope Leo XIII and on August 15, 1882, the famous icon of Our Lady of Kalwaria was crowned with papal crowns,” he said.

The Apostolic Nuncio to Poland, Archbishop Salvatore PENNACCHIO, sent a special letter for the elevation ceremony.

“Today we witness an extraordinary historical moment, the solemn announcement of the Holy Father’s decision, which, in recognition of the secular tradition and the current importance of the Church of the Finding of the Holy Cross in Kalwaria Pałacowska, raises it to the dignity of a Minor Basilica. It is an indisputable acknowledgement for the crowds of pilgrims who for centuries have prayed in this church and walked the ‘Ways of Calvary’, as well

as for the Conventuals who take pastoral care of this holy place,” he wrote.

At the end of the Mass, the Custodian of the Shrine, Friar Krzysztof HURA, spoke and thanked the Superiors of the Archdiocese and the Province, as well as the clergy, the consecrated persons and of all the faithful. “August 13, 2020, opens a new page in the history of the Shrine of Kalwaria Pałacowska. The elevation of this shrine to the dignity of a minor basilica is a tribute from the Holy See to the millions of pilgrims who, for more than 350 years, have walked the ‘Ways of Calvary’ and have contemplated the miraculous face of the Madonna who patiently listens to them,” he stressed. After the Mass, a symphony orchestra, choir and soloists gave a debut performance of a new oratorio called “Open the Door to Christ”. The oratorio was composed by Andrzej GŁOWIENKA, a composer of sacred melodies and the first Polish tenor to ever sing at the Scala in Milan. He also lectures at the Pontifical Ambrosian Institute of Sacred Music in Milan. Finally, let us remember that Kalwaria Pałacowska is not only a pilgrimage destination, but also a place of rest, with a luxuriant park, a nature reserve and a nature trail with educational and historical elements.

SLOVAKIA: DIACONAL ORDINATION

■ Friar Jaroslav M. CÁR, Custodial Secretary

On Saturday, August 29, 2020, Friar Peter Mária KOZMA of the Provincial Custody of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Slovakia was ordained a deacon at the hands of the Most Reverend Jozef HAL'KO, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bratislava, Slovakia.

The ceremony took place at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Bratislava.

A day earlier, Friar Peter made his profession of faith and took his oath of fidelity in the friary chapel with the Custos, Friar Lucjan M. BOGUCKI, present.

The diaconal ordination was attended by friars from the Custody of Slovakia and the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic. Others present included the new deacon's

hometown pastor, various religious, family members and numerous faithful.

In his homily, Bishop HAL'KO spoke about Pope Francis' thoughts on today's people, who often live in the present moment. He stressed that fidelity is the right way to reach the goal of eternity and salvation. Finally, he encouraged Friar Peter to persevere on the path he has taken.



Bishop HAL'KO imposes his hands upon Friar Peter



The concelebrants

POLAND (GDAŃSK): FORMATION EVENTS

■ Friar Piotr KUREK, Provincial Secretary

On September 12, 2020, the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland (Gdańsk) celebrated two important events in the area of formation: a ceremony for the profession of simple vows and another for the profession of solemn vows.

Eight friars professed their simple vows after recently completing their novitiate year in Smardzewice. Among them was Friar Wojciech MACH from the Province of Gdańsk. The Minister Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw), Friar Grzegorz BARTOSIK, presided over the Mass for the event. The Vicar Provincial of the Province of Gdańsk, Friar Andrzej LENGENFELD, gave the homily. Friar Wojciech professed his vows into the hands of Friar Andrzej who was serving as the Delegate of the Minister Provincial.

Meanwhile, Friar Stanisław ULACZYK professed his solemn vows at the Church of St. Francis in

Ostróda, Poland. The Minister Provincial of Gdańsk, Friar Wojciech KULIG, presided over the ceremony and received Friar Stanisław's vows. Before joining the Order, Friar Stanisław had been a diocesan priest. This year, he celebrated his 40th anniversary of priesthood. Others concelebrating at the solemn vow ceremony included the Provincial Econom, Friar Bogdan WRÓŃSKI and the Guardian and Pastor at the friary in Ostróda, Friar Robert TWARDOKUS. Also present were the Guardians of the friaries where Friar Stanisław received his religious formation: Friars Zenon GARUS, Mariusz FAŁKOWSKI, Wiesław PRZYBYSZ and Paweł KACZMARSKI.



Friar Andrzej receiving Friar Wojciech's vows



Friar Stanisław ULACZYK

THE UKRAINE: INAUGURATION OF THE CUSTODY OF THE HOLY CROSS

■ The friars of the Custody

The new Provincial Custody of the Holy Cross in the Ukraine has been inaugurated. The Custody belongs to the Province of St. Anthony and Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow).

On September 14, 2020, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a solemn Mass was celebrated at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Lviv, the Ukraine. The Most Reverend Edward KAWA, OFM Conv., Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv, presided. During the Mass, the attending Conventual Franciscans and invited guests heard the Provincial Delegate, Friar Stanisław KAWA, read out the Decree of the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Anthony and of Bl. James of Strepar in Poland (Cracow), which proclaimed the erection of the Provincial Custody of the Holy Cross in the Ukraine. Friar Marian GOŁĄB, the Minister Provincial of the Province of Cracow delivered the homily.

After Communion, the participants listened to Friar Stanisław PEKALA present a reflection on "The History of the Franciscans in Modern-Day Ukraine."

Afterwards, a Province award was presented to Wiktor MARENYCZOW, a benefactor from Kremenchuk, the Ukraine.

Next, Friar Marian GOŁĄB took the floor and read the greeting from the Minister General of the

Order, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI. Then, the invited guests spoke, offering their congratulations. They included the Minister Provincial of the Order of Friars Minor in the Ukraine, Friar Daniel BOTWINA; the representative of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Friar Kazimierz GUZIK; and the President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Women in the Catholic Church in Ukraine, Sister Olena BYŚ.

In turn, the local Pastor, Friar Paweł ODÓJ, read a congratulatory letter from the President of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in the Ukraine, the Most Reverend Mieczysław MOKRZYCKI, Archbishop of Lviv.

After Mass in the church, the guests went over to the parish rectory for refreshments.

The Order of Friars Minor Conventual was reborn in Ukraine after 1990, thanks to the commitment and willpower of Bishop Rafał KIERNICKI, OFM Conv., who remained in Lviv after the end of the Second World War and continued to served there for the rest of his life († 1995).



Bishop KAWA with the friars and the faithful



Bishop KAWA



The Minister Provincial, Friar Marian



The concelebrants

■ FEDERAZIONE INTER-MEDITERRANEA MINISTRI PROVINCIALI

Friar Giovanni VOLTAN
Assistant General for the FIMP



ROME: A “THOUSAND PORTIONS” OF SOLIDARITY FOR REGINA COELI PRISONERS

■ Friar Paolo FIASCONARO, Chronicler of the San Giacomo Friary

During July of 2020, even amid the Covid-19 pandemic, a thousand pairs of shoes and a thousand traditional Easter cakes were donated to the thousand inmates housed at the *Regina Coeli* Prison in Rome. This gesture of concrete solidarity was joyfully appreciated by the prisoners.

On the initiative of the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy), the *Aiutiamoli a Vivere* ONG [non-profit] Foundation in Terni, Italy, delivered a thousand pairs of orthopedic shoes to the prison chaplains. “*Aiutiamoli a Vivere*” [help them live] is headed by Dr. Fabrizio PACIFICI. The shoes were donated by the PODARTIS Shoe Factory in Treviso, Italy, and are worth 150 euros each. They will be distributed to the prisoners on the basis of merit and real need. Of course, there were also shoes for our two chaplains, Friar Vittorio TRANI and Renzo DEgni. Each morning, they pass through the prison entrance and walk far and wide covering its eight different sections. The Foundation also donated shoes to the friars of the San Giacomo Friary in

Rome, who occasionally do pastoral ministry at the prison. It also donated hundreds of pairs to prisons in Pesaro, Ancona and Osimo, Italy, where we have Conventual Franciscan chaplains.

Besides the shoes, the *Regina Coeli* Prison received a thousand traditional Easter cakes to sweeten the inmates’ breakfast. The cakes were donated by FIASCONARO SRL, a Sicilian pastry company founded by three brothers in Castelbuono, Italy. The company also donated a thousand cakes to Pope Francis for distribution to the poor of Rome, and another five hundred cakes to the Bishop of Aversa, Italy, for the *Terra dei Fuochi* [Land of Fire] charitable institution. This “solidarity without borders” will certainly provide some relief for the many prisoners now serving their sentences.



The Minister Provincial Friar Franco (center) with the confreres and the volunteers

ROMANIA: SECOND NOVITIATE IN VIIȘOARA

■ Friar Narcis-Leonard LASLĂU

From July 12 to August 8, 2020, a group of thirteen young friars from the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania, undertook their second novitiate experience in Viișoara, Romania. The event was led by Friar Cristian CLOPOȚEL.

During those days, several friars gave their own testimony on Conventual life and presented various topics about the importance of discernment and prayer in religious life. At the end of each week, the participants went on pilgrimages to the Franciscan shrines of Cacica, Șumuleu-Ciuc and Nisiporeșt. During the final week, Friar Cristian preached a

spiritual retreat, focusing on the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians and Pope Francis' encyclical *Gaudete et exultate* and reflecting on holiness in particular.

We thank God for these wonderful days and for Friar Cristian and the confreres who were available to offer their testimony!



The participants with Friars Adrian-Sorin GIURGI and Cristian CLOPOȚEL



The participants with the new Minister Provincial, Friar Damian

LEBANON: FRANCISCAN YOUTH, FRIARS RALLY TO CLEAN UP DESTRUCTION FROM BEIRUT BLAST

■ Friar Andrew Jeylan HOCHSTEDLER

Days after a massive explosion killed 158 and injured thousands in Beirut, Lebanon, young people and friars from the city's Conventual Franciscan parish were still working to clear the rubble.

The blast took place on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. The Boy and Girl Scouts from the St. Anthony of Padua Church in Beirut's Sin-El-Fil district responded by throwing themselves into relief work. Armed with shovels, brooms, buckets, and work gloves, more than fifty youth joined thousands of other volunteers to clean up homes, schools, and shops that had been damaged in the explosion, which was allegedly caused by 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been improperly stored in Beirut's port.

After sweeping up broken glass and covering the shattered windows of their own church building, which was almost 3.7 km [2.25 mi.] from the blast, the friars from St. Anthony's Church joined forces with the young people of the parish in reaching out to others.

"Pools of dried blood smeared the stairs on the way up to one fourth floor apartment of an elderly couple in the Mar Mikhael neighborhood" recounted one of the friars who was working with the youth. "The husband was unable to carry his injured wife down from their home and had to wait for friends to

arrive from the other side of the city." The couple's bedroom was a confusion of mangled window frames and glass shards, with closet doors torn from their hinges and thrown over the bed. The walls and floor of the apartment were splattered with blood stains. "I insisted that we take the time to clean off the dried blood," said one scout leader, Lea SAYEGH, commenting that she was thinking about the now hospital-bound elderly woman's eventual return to the apartment. "If she were to come home from a long stay in the hospital, and such an explosion, and see her own blood on the stairs and walls, it could bring back all the horrible memories."

Although this home was in a terrible condition, its overall structure remained intact; it was actually better off than many of the other buildings in which the scouts and friars worked. Damage occurred up to 9 km [5.6 mi.] away from the center of the explosion. The blast left approximately 300,000 people homeless.

Beirut's impoverished Karantina district is close to the port where the explosion occurred. The situation there was dire. The blast tore away the



A group of volunteers

FEDERATIONS – [FIMP]

exterior of the nearest buildings and caused the collapse of interior walls in more distant structures. Many of the neighborhood's poor inhabitants were still living in the less-damaged homes. They invited the scouts inside to help remove debris and clean.

Despite the horror of the destruction, the scouts' mood was hopeful and at times even joyful. "On the first day [after the blast] we were not able to go out and clean and we were feeling useless, even depressed, because as scouts, we are used to being 'hands on' and assisting everyone," said Group Leader Karen NASR. "But volunteering on the street, you feel like you are making a change, no matter how young you are, by cleaning a house or by comforting someone—and you feel better. You feel solidarity with everyone and it pushes you to do more, to give more."

However, these volunteers also shared that part of their motivation for helping others was that it

helped them cope with their own losses. NASR and SAYEGH both temporarily lost their jobs when the hotel they worked at was hit by the blast. NASR was away that day, but SAYEGH had been working in the hotel's lobby when the explosion tore through the building. NASR reported that homes of more than half of the scouts involved in the group's relief efforts had been damaged in the blast.

"Most of us are probably experiencing shock," she said, reflecting on the suffering that her country has experienced throughout history. "My parents' generation was used to war and terrorism and explosions, but we young people are not. So, this sort of relief work helps us to deal with the shock and to cope."

Finally, the scouts felt compelled to volunteer because so little relief was being offered by the government, which, they said, was even slow to provide minimal waste removal after the blast.



Demonstration in the square in front of the Blue Mosque

Lebanese Bishop Calls on Christians Worldwide for Spiritual, Political, and Financial Aid

Government corruption and gridlock had already led to an economic crisis and the popular protests that began in October of 2019.

In an interview with the Conventual Franciscan friars, the Most Reverend César ESSAYAN, O.F.M. Conv., Vicar Apostolic of Beirut, commented, "Now this explosion has further exposed government corruption and negligence." The Bishop of Lebanon appealed to Christians around the world for financial and spiritual aid. "The country needs financial support in order to get back on its feet," said Bishop ESSAYAN, addressing the immediate needs of his

suffering people. "They must give aid to NGO's, to *Caritas*, to the Red Cross, and to the churches." On a spiritual level, the Bishop pointed out that an overhaul of decades of government corruption could only occur through a change of mindset among individual Lebanese.

"True conversion of the heart can only come from prayer," said Bishop ESSAYAN, offering an analysis of his nation's crisis, a crisis that finds its roots in what he referred to as a mindset of slavery. "Pope John Paul II called the country of Lebanon a 'message of freedom' where different religious groups seek to live together. In part, he gave Lebanon a vocation. But do we Lebanese citizens today truly desire this? For this we need prayer."

ASSISI: FIMP SECOND NOVITIATE

■ Friar Bernardino HOSPITAL POSADA / Friar Giuseppe Franco TONDO

From July 26 to August 23, 2020, twelve young friars of the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP) carried out their second novitiate, in preparation for solemn profession, at the Franciscanum in Assisi.

The participants included Friars Flavio AGOSTINI, Flavio César LAURA CHARCA, Bernardo Maria VANNINI and Salvatore M. SECHI from the Italian Province of St. Francis of Assisi (Central Italy); Friar Paride AMMIRATI from the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo); Friar Robert CALLEJA from the Province of St. Paul the Apostle in Malta; Friars Giuseppe Paolo Maria VANTAGGIATO and Andrea Antonio D'ALESSANDRO from the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia); Friar Nicolas ABOU ANNY from the Provincial Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land; Friars Jonathan MUTUO and Sylvester Eugene KOOMSON from the Provincial Custody of St. Anthony of Padua in Ghana; and finally, Brother Paolo NICOSIA, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement.

The second novitiate was coordinated by Friar Bernardino HOSPITAL POSADA from the Province of Our Lady of Montserrat in Spain and by Friar Giuseppe Franco TONDO from Puglia.

The concern over contagion, which this year limited pilgrimages to some Franciscan places,

did not prevent the participants from consciously savoring the work of the Father. Indeed, He called them to Himself so that they might be near Him and go forth into the world to proclaim—in the style of St. Francis of Assisi—that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Various religious and laity made many valuable contributions to the program. We sincerely thank Sisters Roberta VINERBA and Elena GOZZI, the Poor Clares of Montone, Donatella FORLANI, Friars Giancarlo CORSINI and Giovanni VOLTAN, the Conventual Franciscan General Commission for Initial and Ongoing Formation, Simona SEGOLONI, and, in particular, Friar Antonello M. FANELLI for his fraternal attention, Friar Gianni CAPPELLETTO for his very worthwhile biblical contribution and Friar Francesco SCIALPI for his exemplary liturgical-existential presentation on the rite of solemn profession. We also give special thanks to Sister Giulia LUCCI from the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi for her maternal assistance and to all the sisters of the Hermitage of the Trinity in Assisi.



The participants at the tomb of St. Francis

ROMANIA: SIMPLE PROFESSION

■ Friar Carol-Daniel SABĂU

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, six confreres of the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania made their simple profession of vows. The event took place at the Sfanta Treime [Holy Trinity] Parish Church in Prăjești, Romania.

The Minister Provincial, Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU, presided over the Mass and received the vows of the confreres. The newly professed are: Friars Ștefan GÂRLEANU, Robert-Claudiu LAZAROVICI, Gabriel-Ștefan MUREȘAN, Florin-Marian NISTOR, Eusebiu-Ciprian SOLOMON and

Bogdan TUPIȚĂ.

The celebration ended with a fraternal agape meal shared among the friars, their formators and other confreres who participated in the Mass.

We pledge to pray fervently for our newly professed confreres.



The newly professed



Friar Damian receiving vows

BARI: JOINT SESSION OF THE PROVINCIAL DEFINITORIES

■ Friar Massimo Antonio RUGGIERO

On Monday, September 7, 2020, a joint session of the Provincial Definitories of the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo) and the Province of St. Nicholas and St. Angelo in Italy (Puglia) took place at the San Francesco Center of Spirituality and Sociality in Bari, Italy.

This was the second of two joint sessions; the first was held January 27, 2020, in Pescara, Italy. These meetings were scheduled in view of the upcoming unification of the two Jurisdictions. Their unification was sanctioned by Motion No. 15 of the 2019 General Chapter. The event will take place in 2024.

The Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI and the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, attended this second meeting, as they had the first. This meeting was particularly focused on a systematic and detailed presentation of the numerical strength of the two current Provinces. It also examined the composition and main activities of the existing communities and considered various options for their further development.

Just prior to the joint session, on the afternoon of

Saturday, September 5, 2020, the Minister General blessed the oratory and other areas of the adjacent Mater Ecclesiae Friary, which is the Provincial Curia of the Province of Puglia. The friary also serves as the Franciscan Youth Center of Puglia and Provincial Vocations Guest House. It has recently had some extraordinary interior renovation work done.

Later on Saturday, Friars Carlos and Giovanni visited the Basilica of San Nicola, where they were greeted by the local Dominican fraternity. On Sunday morning, they went to the shrines of Santa Maria della Grottella and San Giuseppe da Copertino, in Copertino, Italy. Later on Sunday, they took part in a session which only included the Provincial Definitory of Puglia.

The next joint session is scheduled for December 14, 2020, in Lucera, Italy.



The participants together with the Minister General

ROMANIA: SOLEMN PROFESSION

■ Friar Carol-Daniel SABĂU

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, thirteen friars of the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania made their solemn profession.

The ceremony took place at the Franciscan Theological Institute in Roman, Romania. Those attending included many friars as well as the friends and family of the newly professed. Mass was presided over by the newly elected Minister Provincial of Romania, Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU. He also gave a homily.

The new solemnly professed are Friars Adrian COBZARU, Alexandru Cosmin SASCĂU, Alexandru

Ionel DIAC, Alexandru Mihai DUMEA, Andrei Iulian CIOBANU, Emanuel PIȚA, Emanuel Petrache ANTICA, Gabriel PAL, Marian Emanuel VĂTĂMĂNELU, Marius Marcel DOBOȘ, Iosif-Mihai SABĂU, Narcis Leonard LASLĂU and Petru VÂRGĂ.

We hope the decision the newly professed have made will be a source of true joy and bear abundant spiritual fruits.



ROMANIA: FRIAR ANTON BIȘOC COMMEMORATED

■ Friar Carol-Daniel SABĂU

On Sunday, September 20, 2020, the community of Hălăucești of the Province of St. Joseph Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania commemorated the 60th anniversary of the death of Friar Anton BIȘOC.

The Most Reverend Petru GHERGHEL, Bishop Emeritus of Iași, celebrated a solemn Mass to commemorate the martyrdom of Friar Anton BIȘOC, who died on July 15, 1960, while under house arrest in the village of Fundata, Ialomița County, Romania.

A new book by Father Fabian DOBOȘ was presented for the occasion, entitled: "Father Anton Benedict Bișoc, OFM Conv., Priest, Teacher, Minister Provincial and Martyr". The book was published in 2020 by the Sapientia Publishing House, Iași, Romania.

Friar Anton BIȘOC was born on August 15, 1888, in Hălăucești, Romania. He completed his studies at the Conventual Franciscan seminary in Hălăucești and went on to Rome, where he specialized in biblical studies and moral theology. Finally, on April 15, 1911, he was ordained to the priesthood. On his return to Romania, he served as a pastor

in Adjudei and Săbăoani. In 1927, he became the Director of Seraphic Publishing in Săbăoani, and edited the popular magazine *Viața*. Working with Friar Benvenut WIENER, he translated and printed the New Testament and left behind a manuscript translation of the entire Vulgate Bible. From 1938-1940, he was a professor of moral theology at the St. Bonaventure Faculty in Rome. He was twice elected Minister Provincial of Romania. He was an excellent preacher at retreats for priests and seminarians and was a worthy advisor to the Bishop of Iași. The Communist regime sentenced him to ten years in prison for teaching catechism to children. He died on July 15, 1960, under house arrest in Fundata. A few years after his burial in Fundata, his remains were transferred to the cemetery of the church in Hălăucești.



A moment during the concelebration

ABRUZZO: SOLEMN PROFESSION

■ Friar Maurizio DI PAOLO

On Saturday afternoon, September 26, 2020, Friar Paride AMMIRATI professed his solemn vows into the hands of the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo), Friar Mauro DE PHILIPPIS.

The event took place at the Church of Sant'Antonio di Padova in Pescara, Italy, the site of the Provincial Curia.

Twenty-six friar-priests from Abruzzo, Rome, the Marches and Assisi participated in the Mass which was attended by several simply professed friars, many family members and friends of Friar Paride, and members of the local Secular Franciscan fraternity, which provided music for the liturgy. After the celebration, refreshments were served in the friary courtyard, but heavy rain forced everyone to take shelter under a large awning.

Friar Paride was born on April 10, 1989. He made his simple profession on August 26, 2017. He is a member of the community in Pescara and will continue his philosophy studies at the University of Chieti while working in the Provincial Secretariat.

The Province of Abruzzo currently has forty solemnly professed friars. In addition, it has two simply professed friars and a postulant. The last solemn vow ceremony hosted by the Province took place in 2014, when Friars Alfonso DI FRANCESCO and Santino VERNA professed their solemn vows at the Basilica-Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta in Atri, Italy.



Friar Paride and the concelebrants



Friar Paride, family members and faithful

■ PROVINCIAL AND CUSTODIAL CHAPTERS

C

POLAND (GDAŃSK): ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER – PART III

■ Provincial Secretariat

From June 29 to July 2, 2020, the Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in Poland held the third and final part of its tenth Ordinary Provincial Chapter in Gdańsk.

This was a special Chapter especially because of the coronavirus pandemic. The first part was held from March 9-13, 2020, and although the second part was scheduled for April, it soon turned out that this would not be possible. The beginning of the second part of the Chapter was postponed several times until finally the decision was made to divide into Parts II and III. Part II concerned the election of the Guardians of the friaries and the heads of various Provincial works. With the approval of the Minister General, it was celebrated on May 26-27, 2020, in the form of a video conference with online voting. This was the first time in our history we had ever voted that way.

Part III of the Chapter took place in Gdańsk, with the permission of the health service authorities. It

was held in the kościół Wieczerzy Pańskiej [Church of the Lord's Supper], which is part of the kościół Świętej Trójcy [Church of the Holy Trinity]. During the Chapter sessions, the friars worked on and approved various Motions and the Province Four-Year Plan.

The Chapter was conducted in a good, fraternal atmosphere, and at the same time, the friars observed the required health care protocols. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the friars from Italy and Canada did not attend. At the end of the Chapter, the Capitulars prayed for the confreres who had died over the last four years, namely, Friars Kalikst SZULIST, Dariusz DEMBKOWSKI, Bolesław MIKA, Stefan MALANDY and Ferdinand ZWOLAK.



The Capitulars

SPAIN: ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

■ Friar Juan Miguel VICENTE VALTUEÑA Chapter Secretary

On July 1-9, 2020, the Province of Our Lady of Monserrat in Spain celebrated its Ordinary Provincial Chapter.

The Chapter was held at the Capuchin Franciscan friary in El Pardo, Madrid.

Due to the Covid-19 health crisis, the first and second parts of the Chapter were combined together. The Minister General, Friar Carlos A. TROVARELLI, presided over the first part (July 1-4, 2020). Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP), had made a canonical visitation to the Province and was present for the entire Chapter.

The Chapter began with a morning of spiritual retreat. A reflection was led by Friar Jesús TORRECILLA IBÁÑEZ, OFM Cap., a member of the Capuchin community at El Pardo. After reading reports, the twenty eight attending Capitulars divided into three work groups to evaluate the life and activities of the Province during the last four years. The work session ended with the approval of a synthesis which served as a starting point, together with the Six-Year Plan of the Order, for drawing up a basic outline of the Provincial Four-Year Plan (PPQ) during the second part of the Chapter.

During Evening Prayer on Friday, July 3, Friar Juan Antonio ADÁNEZ SILVÁN was officially proclaimed Minister Provincial (first term). He had been elected by letter on April 3, 2020. Friar Juan Antonio was born

on September 6, 1958, in Almorox (Toledo, Spain). He made his temporary profession on September 12, 1976, his solemn profession on September 4, 1982, and was ordained a priest on May 12, 1984. During the same celebration of Evening Prayer, the new Minister Provincial made his profession of faith and swore his oath into the hands of the Minister General.

The following day, Saturday, July 4, the new Provincial Definitory was elected. The members are Friars Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS, Vicar; Roberto LLORENTE PIZARRO, Secretary; and Friars Gonzalo FERNÁNDEZ-GALLARDO JIMÉNEZ and Juan Luis CORMENZANA CARPIO, Definitors. Friar Miguel Ángel MARCOS MARCOS was elected Provincial Econom and Friar Antonio Jesús ROYO TOMÁS was elected Provincial Exactor.

During the second part of the Chapter (July 6-9), a number of specific themes were studied, the fundamental points of the PPQ were drawn up, and the Guardians and the Directors of Provincial works were elected. On Wednesday, July 8, the Most Reverend Luis ARGÜELLO GARCÍA, Auxiliary Bishop of Valladolid and Secretary General of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, presided over Mass.



ITALY-ABRUZZO: ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

■ Friar Fulvio PETTI, Chapter Secretary

Part I

On July 13-17, 2020, the first part of the 231st Ordinary Chapter of the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo) was held at the Sant'Antonio di Padova Friary in Pescara. The Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, presided. He was assisted by Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, the Assistant General for the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP).

After reading reports, the twenty-three Capitulars present (apart from the Minister General and the Assistant General) were given the opportunity to express themselves about the past and future of their Provincial fraternity.

Before the elective phase of the Chapter, the Minister General spoke to the Capitulars and proposed that they consider electing a friar from outside the Province as their Minister Provincial, with the hope of offering external and qualified help, in view of the Province's upcoming unification with the Province of Puglia. The unification is scheduled for 2024, as established by the last General Chapter.

On Thursday afternoon, July 16, Friar Mauro DE FILIPPIS DELFICO was elected Minister Provincial by the thirty-three Capitulars present. Friar Mauro was born on March 5, 1968, in Pescara, Italy. He was ordained to the priesthood there on May 6, 2000. Friar Mauro studied in Assisi and in Rome at the

Pontifical Athenaeum Sant'Anselmo. After serving as Provincial Secretary and Econom in Pescara, he was transferred in 2004 to Lanciano, Italy, where he held the office of Guardian for four years, and later, served as the National Assistant of the Militia of the Immaculate.

On July 17, the members of the Provincial Definitory were elected. They are Friars Attilio TERENCE, Vicar; Alfonso DI FRANCESCO and Fabrizio DE LELLIS, Definitors; and Giuseppe ALTIZI, Secretary.

Part II

The second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Italy (Abruzzo) took place on August 17-19, 2020. Friar Benedetto BAEK, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC) was present as the Delegate of the Minister General.

The Capitulars approved the 2020-24 Four-Year Plan of the Province (PPQ) and elected the Guardians of the communities. They are: Friar Alfonso DI FRANCESCO for Castelvechio Subequo; Friar Ugo M. TERRERI for Civitella del Tronto; Friar Fabrizio M. DE LELLIS for Lanciano; Friar Lorenzo MASSACESI for Pescara; Friar Antonio IOSUE for Silvi Marina; and Friar Attilio TERENCE for Tagliacozzo. Finally, Friar Fulvio PETTI was elected Provincial Econom and Exactor.



The Minister General and the Assistant General for the FIMP Federation with the new Definitory

POLAND-WARSAW: ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

■ From: www.franciszkanie-warszawa.pl

From July 27 to August 5, 2020, the 24th Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Immaculate Mother of God in Poland (Warsaw) took place at the Conventual Franciscan Major Seminary in Łódź-Łagiewniki, Poland.

The Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, was present throughout the Chapter. The motto of the Chapter was "Rooted in Christ and Built upon Him."

The Chapter was attended by fifty Capitulars from friaries within the Warsaw Province and others located abroad. Guests present included the Most Reverend Grzegorz RYŚ, Metropolitan Bishop of Łódź, Poland, and the Most Reverend Marian Błażej KRUSZYŁOWICZ, OFM Conv., Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Szczecin-Kamień, Poland.

The first days of the Chapter were dedicated to evaluating the life and activities of the Province over the past four years. The Capitulars listened to reports from the Minister Provincial, Friar Wiesław PYZIO, the Provincial Econom, Friar Wiesław CHABROS and other friars who head the Provincial Delegations and works of the Province.

After a presentation on the status of the Province, the friars divided into working groups to begin discussion. The aim was to indicate the issues that the Capitulars will need to address in the second

part of the Chapter.

In March of this year, the solemnly professed friars had elected the Minister Provincial, Friar Grzegorz BARTOSIK, by letter. During this first part of the Chapter, the new Minister Provincial took his oath of office and made his profession of faith into the hands of the Minister General. Next, the Capitulars offered their obedience to the Minister Provincial.

During the Chapter Assembly, the members of the Provincial Definitory were elected as well. They are: Friars Mirosław BARTOS (Vicar Provincial), Zbigniew KOPEĆ (Provincial Secretary), Damian KARCZMAR (Provincial Econom), and Marek WÓDKA, Friar Piotr ŻURKIEWICZ and Friar Piotr MELDIZON, (Provincial Definitors). In addition, five Delegates were elected to attend the next General Chapter.

Due to the pandemic, the second part of the Chapter was celebrated right after the first. At that time, the Guardians of the friaries and the heads of formation were elected.



The Minister General, the Assistant General for the FEMO Federation, and the new Minister Provincial, Friar Grzegorz (first on the left)



The Capitulars

ROMANIA: 22ND ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

■ Friar Carol Daniel SABĂU

From July 30 to August 7, 2020, the Province of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. in Romania celebrated its 22nd Ordinary Provincial Chapter. The Chapter was held at the Sf. Francisc de Assisi Friary in Roman, Romania.

Due to the pandemic, both parts of the two-part Chapter were celebrated in succession. The Vicar General, Friar Jan MACIEJOWSKI, presided over the first part (July 30 – August 4).

The Chapter began with a morning of reflection, led by Friar Giovanni VOLTAN, the Assistant General for the Federazione Inter-mediterranea Ministri Provinciali (FIMP). After reading the reports, the Capitulars divided into four working groups and evaluated the life and activities of the Province during the previous four years. The friars concluded their work with the approval of a final document that forms the basis of the Province Four-Year Plan during the second part of the Chapter.

During Evening Prayer on Saturday, August 1, the minutes were read concerning the election of the Minister Provincial by letter (June 19, 2020) and his confirmation by the Minister General, Friar

Carlos TROVARELLI. After singing the hymn *Te Deum*, the newly elected Minister Provincial, Friar Damian-Gheorghe PĂTRAȘCU (first term), recited his profession of faith and the oath before the Chapter President.

On Monday, August 3, the members of the new Provincial Definitory were elected. They are Friars Ionel-Emilian DUMEA (Vicar Provincial); Francisc-Lucian GHERVASE (Provincial Secretary); and Cristian BLĂJUȚ, Lucian HORLESCU, Cristian DUMEA and Friar Vlad-Bogdan BEJAN (Definitors). Friar Fabian CĂTĂLIN was elected Provincial Econom and Friar Marius-Nicolaie SAVA, Provincial Exactor.

During the second part of the Chapter (August 5-7), certain specific topics were studied, a basic outline of the Province Four-Year Plan was drawn up and the Guardians were elected as were the heads of various Provincial offices.



The new Definitory



The newly elected Minister Provincial, Friar Damian, making his Profession of Faith



A moment during the work of the Chapter

ZAMBIA: 6TH ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER – PART I

■ Friar Justin MULENGA, Chapter Secretary

On August 24-28, 2020, the first part of the 6th Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs in Zambia was held at the St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Ndola, Zambia. The Minister General, Friar Carlos A. TROVARELLI, presided.

The Capitulars began the Chapter with a day of recollection led by the Most Reverend Charles KASONDE, Bishop of Solwezi, Zambia. Bishop KASONDE presented lectures on self-knowledge and the possibilities of personal growth and stewardship. He also spoke at length about moral vibrancy: faith, hope and love. In addition, he discussed the sacraments, placing particular emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He challenged the Capitulars on the need to have a change of heart and to begin anew.

Forty-four Capitulars attended the Chapter. Also present were the Minister General and Friar Anthony Bezo KUTIERO, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF). After the reports were read, the Capitulars were given an opportunity to examine the life and activities of the Province, namely, its past and future.

On Thursday morning, August 27, 2020, eighty-eight solemnly professed friars of the Province

gathered in the Church of St. Anthony of Padua at the Franciscan Centre in Ndola for the election of the Minister Provincial. Friar Ferdinand Lambert Katolo (Ferena Lambe Katolo) was elected Minister Provincial. Friar Ferena previously served as Minister Provincial from 2012 to 2016. At the time of his election, he had been serving as the Director of the Mission Press.

On Friday, August 28, 2020, the members of the Provincial Definitory were elected. They are Friars Mathew Kayombo MUKOSAYI, Vicar Provincial; Mathews KASONGO, Provincial Secretary (second term); and Linus MULENGA, Charles MUKUKA, Kennedy MUSEKWA, Hilary MULENGA (second term) and Stephen CHISHALA, Definitors.

The second part of the Chapter has been scheduled for October 12-16, 2020. At that time, the Capitulars will approve the Provincial Four-Year Plan and elect the Provincial Econom, the Guardians and the Directors of the Commissions.



The Minister General with the Capitulars



The newly elected Minister Provincial, Friar Ferena

GERMANY: EXTRAORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

■ Friar Mateusz KOTYŁO, Vicar Provincial

On Sunday, September 20, 2020, the Capitulars of the Province of St. Elizabeth in Germany were summoned for an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter. The reason for the Chapter was to discuss the planned erection of a new friary in the Diocese of Osnabrück, Germany.

Due to restrictions imposed by the coronavirus, four confreres residing abroad were unable to participate. One of them was the Minister General, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, who instead sent a letter to the friars. However all of the other Capitulars were present, despite the convocation being issued on such short notice. The government of the Order was represented by the Assistant General for the *Centralis Europae Foederatio* (CEF), Friar Dominique MATHIEU.

Last June, the Minister Provincial, Friar Andreas MURK, learned that the Diocese of Osnabrück was looking for a new community to occupy a convent that formerly belonged to the Dominican Sisters. Friar Andreas contacted the bishop and learned that several religious orders were interested in the convent. Although the ecclesiastical situation in Germany is rather difficult, the Diocese of Osnabrück is known for its appreciation of religious and this convent in Lage-Rieste offered many pastoral possibilities such as parish and shrine ministry, guest house ministry, ministry serving refugees, etc. In particular, the diocese made it clear that it was

looking for a community capable of revitalizing the site as a “spiritual place”.

Having noted the various preliminary discussions held with the diocese and the initial decisions made by the Provincial Definitory, the Capitulars debated the pros and cons of erecting a new friary. It is clear that the Province of Germany cannot manage this new friary alone; therefore, the new friary is being conceived as an international project and as such, shows the eagerness of the Province of Germany for better collaboration at the inter-Jurisdictional level. The Province of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in India very quickly announced its willingness to collaborate. Dialogue with other Provinces is still ongoing.

When the Capitulars unanimously voted to approve the request, they made a historic decision: the last time the Province of Germany erected a friary was sixty-three years ago. At that time, the friars decided to reopen the now closed friary in Bonn, the capital of Western Germany

Let us pray to the Lord to bless the new friary: “New wine for new wineskins” (Mt 9:17).



A moment during the work of the Chapter

THE CZECH REPUBLIC: ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER - PART I

■ Friar Petr MACHÁČEK, Provincial Secretary

On September 21-24, 2020, the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in the Czech Republic was held in Brno.

Nineteen Capitulars participated, with the Minister General of the Order, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, presiding. Also attending was the Assistant General for the *Foederatio Europae Mediae et Orientalis* (FEMO), Friar Tomáš LESŇÁK.

At the beginning of the Chapter, reports concerning the life of the Province were read out. The issues presented in the reports were then discussed.

On the second day of the Chapter, in the evening, the friars elected a new Minister Provincial on the first ballot. He is Friar Piotr PAWLIK, the former Guardian of the friary in Brno.

On the following day, the members of the Provincial Definitory were elected. They are Friars Stanisław GRYŃ, Vicar Provincial; Petr MACHÁČEK, Provincial Secretary; Friar Stanisław STEC, Provincial Econom; and Friar Sebastian GRUCA, Definitor. After the election of the Definitory, the new Guardians were elected.

On the last day of the Chapter, the friars selected some points from the evaluation of the life of the Province and handed them over to the Provincial Definitory. They will be used to prepare the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the second part of the Chapter, which will be celebrated November 23-25, 2020.



The Minister General and the Assistant General for the FEMO Federation with the Capitulars

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

PERSONAL STATISTICS

PROFESSIONES TEMPORANAE

Prov. Americ. Cons. Affi.: GOULD Alexander, MACIAS MARIN Roberto, SHERLS Joshua (2020-07-15)

Prov. Americ. S. Ioseph a Cup.: PHAM Joakim, PHAN John Baptist, TRẦN Joseph (2020-08-15)

Prov. Cechiae: LAJČÁK Kamil (2020-09-19)

Prov. Italicae S. Antonii Patavini: CASTAGNA Damiano Maria, FIORONI Federico, PIOLA Fabio Dionigi, ZANZI Roby Giuseppe (2020-08-29)

Prov. Polonicae B.M.V. Imm.: KABORE Honoré Kionbi (2020-07-25)

Prov. Polonicae S. Antonii: MUSAANYA Francis (2020-07-25), GŁUCH Krystian, IBRAGIMOV Fakhrudin, MEŻYK Miłosz, SCHEFER Artur, SZCZEPANEK Jakub, TURABEKOV Umirbek (2020-09-19)

Prov. Polonicae S. Max. Kolbe: MACH Wojciech (2020-09-12)

Prov. Romaniaae: GÂRLEANU Ștefan, LAZAROVICI Robert-Claudiu, MUREȘAN Gabriel-Ștefan, NISTOR Florin-Marian, SOLOMON Eusebiu-Ciprian, TUPIȚĂ Bogdan (2020-09-05)

Cust. prov. Ghanensis: ACKOM Dominic Kwame, AGYEKUM Dennis Dei, ASAMOAH Isaac, ASSAFUAH Richmond Panyin, DA Guénolé Ziem, ENNIN Nicholas Opiesaw, MENSAH Matthew, MENSAH Clement Nwoza, OSEI Emmanuel, YALLEY Justice Kwame (2020-07-25)

Cust. prov. Slovachiae: PIKULÍK Peter (2020-09-19)

PROFESSIONES PERPETUAE

Prov. Americ. S. Ioseph a Cup.: NGUYỄN John Baptist, TRƯỜNG Paul (2020-08-21)

Prov. Aprutinae: AMMIRATI Paride (2020-09-26)

Prov. Apulae: VANTAGGIATO Giuseppe Paolo Maria (2020-09-19)

Prov. Indonesianae: BOBY Robertus Hermanto, PAUF Babtista, SEMBIRING Sevan Nicolas, SITEPU Eriksend Okripo (2020-07-15)

Prov. Kenianae: KILEMI William Mwirigi, MAWEU Jackson Mbonge, ONYANGO Peter Otieno, OPUBA Vincent Onyango (2020-08-15)

Prov. Romaniaae: ANTICA Emanuel Petrache, CIOBANU Andrei Iulian, COBZARU Adrian, DIAC Alexandru Ionel, DOBOȘ Marius-Marcel, DUMEA Mihai Alexandru, LASLĂU Narcis Leonard, PAL Gabriel, PIȚA Emanuel, SABĂU Iosif-Mihai, SASCĂU Alexandru Cosmin, VÂRGĂ Petru, VĂTĂMĂNELU Marian Emanuel (2020-09-12)

Prov. Zambiae: KAFULA Pethias, LUNDA Davies, MULENGA Patrick (2020-08-15)

Cust. prov. Ghanensis: MENSAH Edward Kutin, NANEWODO Louis Etsey (2020-08-15)

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Prov. Americ. S. Bonaventurae: FETZ Thomas (2020-09-30)

Prov. Americ. S. Ioseph a Cup.: NGUYỄN John Baptist, NGUYỄN Joseph, NGUYỄN Peter (2020-08-28)

Prov. Kenianae: KIO Francis Mutuku, MWANGI Benard Waweru (2020-09-19)

Prov. Zambiae: MUKUKA Ernest, MULENGA Francis (2020-08-29)

Cust. prov. Ghanensis: NSIAH Emmanuel Adjei (2020-09-12)

Cust. prov. Slovachiae: KOZMA Peter Mária (2020-08-29)

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Prov. Italicae S. Francisci: SÁNCHEZ PEÑA Danisandro (2020-07-04)

Prov. Kenianae: WAMBUI John Mungai, WANJIKU Martin Mwangi (2020-09-19)

Cust. prov. Ghanensis: ADUSEI-POKU Francis Atobrah, BRESSEY Derrick Amenyo Yao, NANEWODO Bernard Atsu (2020-09-12)

Cust. prov. Tanzaniensis: MARO Amadeus Cypriano (2020-07-02)

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