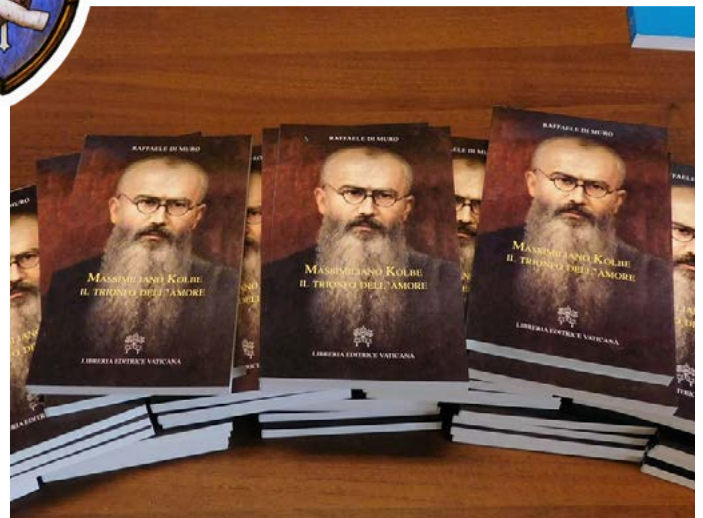


2016

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# fraternus NUNTIUS

Notitiarium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium



April – May – June  
ENGLISH EDITION

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## FRATERNUS NUNTIUS: Notitium Fratrum Minorum Conventualium [2/2016]

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## MINISTER GENERAL

Friar Marco TASCA



## CALENDAR OF THE MINISTER GENERAL

### APRIL

- 04-06: Rome: General Definitory session
- 11-16: Warsaw (Poland): Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 17: Ales (Sardinia): Episcopal Ordination of Friar Roberto Carboni
- 18-22: Gdansk (Poland): Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 25-27: Krnov (Czech Republic): Ordinary Provincial Chapter

### MAY

- 02-06: Madrid (Spain): Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 10-12: Bari (Italy): Meeting with the Provincial Definitors of the Provinces of South Italy
- 16-21: Rome: General Definitory session
- 25-27: Rome: Assembly of the Union of Superiors General
- 30-

### JUNE

- 05: Warsaw (Poland): second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 13-17: Ndola (Zambia): Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 20-25: Romania second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter
- 27-2/07: Rome: General Definitory session

## GENERAL DEFINITORY

## General Secretariat

Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI  
Secretary General



## Session April 4-8, 2016

**At its session held at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome, the General Definitory:**

- approved the minutes of its meetings held February 29-March 5, 2016;
- was updated on the particular situation with certain friaries;
- looked at six "video-clips" on the revision of the Constitutions;
- listened to the reports on a series of visits conducted by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
  - from the Assistant General for the CFF, Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of
    - his fraternal visit to the community in Chicago (March 7-10, 2016);
    - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the USA Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino (March 14-15, 2016);

## GENERAL DEFINITORY

- from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of
  - the “Juniorentreffen” meeting held in Vienna (March 29–April 2, 2016);
- from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of
  - his meeting with the Definitory of the Provincial Custody of Venezuela (March 15-16, 2016);
  - his meeting with the Definitory of the Provincial Custody of Colombia (March 17-18, 2016);
- from the Assistant General for the AFCOF, Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI, on the occasion of
  - the celebration of the General Assembly of the friars of the Province of Zambia (March 29-31, 2016);
- from the Assistant General for the CEO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of
  - the first part of the Provincial Chapter of the Polish Province of Cracow (March 7-11, 2016);
  - the second part of the Provincial Chapter of the Province of Hungary and Transylvania (March 16-17, 2016);
  - his fraternal meeting in Albania with the friars of the mission, the Minister Provincial of Cracow and the Provincial Custos of the Custody of Slovakia (March 29, 2016);
- from the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedict BAEK, on the occasion of
  - his fraternal visit to his native Province of Korea on the occasion of its Assembly of the Guardians (March 15-16, 2016);
  - his meeting with the Provincial Definitory of the USA Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino (March 14-15, 2016);
- accepted the request of the Province of Romania to launch a diocesan inquest into the life, virtue and reputation of holiness of Friar Anton DEMETER;
- accepted the request of the USA Province of St. Bonaventure to take on the pastoral care of two parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago: the Parish of St. Ita and the Parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury;
- suppressed the friary of San Francesco d’Assisi in Iglesias, Diocese of Iglesias, Sardinia, Italy (May 15, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Giuseppe in Tempio Pausania, Diocese of Tempio-Ampurias, Sardinia, Italy (June 30, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Francesco d’Assisi in Cagliari, Diocese of Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy (June 30, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Francesco in Pistoia, Diocese of Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy (September 30, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Francesco in San Miniato, Diocese of San Miniato, Tuscany, Italy (September 30, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Francesco in Tirrenia, Diocese of Pisa, Tuscany, Italy (September 30, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Bonaventura a Torre Spaccata, Diocese of Rome, Rome, Italy (September 1, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Marco Evangelista in Agro Laurentino, Rome, Diocese of Rome, Italy (September 30, 2016);
- declared the changes made by Provincial Chapter of the Province of Germany to its Provincial Statutes to be in conformity with the law of the Order;
- established the dates (July 24-August 14, 2018) and the place (the Ad Gentes Retreat Center in Nemi, Rome, Italy) for the Extraordinary General Chapter of 2018;
- confirmed and appointed the members of the Seraphicum formation team: Rector Friar Adam MAŁCZKA; Vice Rector: Friar Emanuele RIMOLI, Friar Jesús Aléxer RAMÍREZ DURÁN, Friar Igor SALMIĆ, Friar Enzo GALLI; Pastoral Activities Coordinator for students in their sixth year of studies, Friar Francesco SCIALPI;
- planned some meetings of the General Definitory with the members of the Provincial Definitories of some Provinces;
- supported the Minister General’s appointment of ten General Visitators, (eight of whom are not members of the General Definitory), to conduct general canonical visitations to ten Italian Jurisdictions in 2016; Friar Nicola SCARLATINO for the General Custody of Assisi; Friar Joaquín AGESTA for the Italian Province of St. Anthony; Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI for the Ital-

## GENERAL DEFINITORY

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ian Province of the Marches, Friar Luciano FANIN for the Italian Province of Naples; Friar Giovanni MEDDA for the Italian Province of Puglia; Friar Massimiliano MARSICO for the Italian Province of Rome; Friar Ion CIURARU for the Italian Province of Sardinia; Friar Leopoldo FIOR for the Italian Province of Sicily; Friar Giuseppe SIMBULA for the Italian Province of Tuscany; and Friar Aurelio ERCOLI for the Italian Province of Umbria;

- was updated on the students of the Order residing in the General Houses;
  - examined some personal cases;
- 

### Session May 16-21, 2016

**At its session held at the friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles in Rome, the General Definitory:**

- approved the minutes of its meetings held April 4-8, 2016;
- was updated by the Vicar General on the project for an inter-Franciscan presence in Jerusalem;
- listened to a report on the meeting in Bari, Italy, May 10-12, 2016, between some members of the General Definitory and the members of the Definitories of the Jurisdictions of southern Italy (the Italian Provinces of Naples, Puglia, Sicily and the Provincial Custody of Calabria) and agreed on some instructions for the preparation of Provincial Chapters;
- met with the College of Ministers Provincial of the soon-to-be-founded Italian Province of St. Francis (which will come into being in 2017 with the unification of the Italian Provinces of the Marches, Rome, Tuscany, Umbria and Sardinia), and agreed on some proposals and procedures for celebrating its first unified Chapter;
- with CERC Coordinator Friar Valentín REDONDO and CERC Secretary Timothy KULBICKI present, defined the draft of Chapter V of the Constitutions to send out to the communities of the Order;
- met with the General Visitors for the Italian Jurisdictions; Friar César BUNADER. The Vicar General of the Friars Minor was present for the first part of the meeting;
- met with the General Custos of Assisi, Friar Mauro GAMBETTI, and discussed the China Project;
- met with the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL and Vice-Secretary, Friar Giulio CESAREO;
- with the General Econom Friar Nicola ROSA present, dealt with some financial issues;
- listened to, and commented on, the reports of the General Visitors at the end of their canonical visitations. Reports were given by:
  - Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, regarding the Provincial Delegation of Chile;
  - Friar Benedetto BAEK, regarding the Province of Japan;
  - Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, regarding the Italian Province of Abruzzo;
- listened to the reports on a series of visits conducted by the Assistants General to various Jurisdictions:
  - from the Assistant General for the FIMP, Friar Joaquín AGESTA CUEVAS, on the occasion of
    - the first part of the Provincial Chapter of the Province of Spain (May 2-6, 2016);
    - the Extraordinary Custodial Chapter of the Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land (April 12-14, 2016);
  - from the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos TROVARELLI, on the occasion of
    - the meeting of the Union of the Conventuals of Brazil (UCOB) on the topic of common formation in Brazil;
    - his visit to the formation houses of the Province of Mexico;
  - from the Assistant General for the CFF, Friar Jude WINKLER, on the occasion of
    - his fraternal visit to the Provincial Definitory of the USA Province of St. Bonaventure (April 17-18, 2016);
  - from the Assistant General for the CEF, Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ, on the occasion of
    - the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Croatia (April 10-13, 2016);
    - the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Slovenia (April 20, 2016);
    - his fraternal visit to the community of Brussels (April 24-27, 2016);
    - his visit to the Bishop of Copenhagen (April 28-29, 2016) made together with the Min-

- Minister Provincial of Croatia, Friar Josip BLAŽEVIĆ; the Minister Provincial of Slovenia, Friar Milan KOS; and Friars Tomaž MAJČEN and Tomislav CVETKO;
- the Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of the Province of Germany (May 10, 2016);
- from the Assistant General for the CEO, Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI, on the occasion of
  - the first part of the Provincial Chapter of the Polish Province of Warsaw (April 11-16, 2016);
  - the first part of the Provincial Chapter of the Polish Province of Gdansk (April 18-22, 2016);
  - the first part of the Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Czech Republic (April 25-27, 2016);
  - the second part of the Provincial Chapter of the Polish Province of Cracow (May 2-7, 2016);
- suppressed the friary of San Francesco in Pescia, Diocese of Pescia, Tuscany, Italy (September 30, 2016);
- was informed about the publishing proposal to print a new edition of the writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Italian;
- reworked the program agenda for the meeting of the General Definitory with about half of the members of the Assemblies of the Conferences and Federations, to be held September 18-24, 2016, in Rome and Assisi;
- with the General Econom Friar Nicola ROSA present, dealt with some financial issues;
- planned activities in relation to World Youth Day 2016, in Cracow;
- examined some personal cases.

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## NEWS

### The CIRC in Rome

— Friar Timothy Kulbicki, CERC / CIRC Secretary

**The International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions (CIRC) met in Rome, at the Seraphicum, on April 4-8, 2016.**

In a joint meeting with the Executive Committee, the members of the CIRC shared summaries of the discussions that took place in the friaries on the draft of Chapter III of the revised Constitutions. Overall, there seemed to be good participation from the friaries around the world. Some Jurisdictions participated more, others less. The Executive Committee collected all of the suggestions made in the friaries to prepare a second draft of Chapter III for the General Definitory's approval.

The International Commission then examined the draft of Chapter V of the Constitutions, which was prepared by the Executive Committee and reviewed by the International Formation Commission, suggesting some revisions. These revisions were then incorporated into a further draft prepared by the CERC. This, in turn, was submitted to the General Definitory in May for its approval. The draft of Chapter V (Ongoing Formation) was approved by the General Definitory and was formatted into Friary Chapter Guides for use in local friaries as continuing formation beginning in July of 2016.

The meeting wrapped up with a day trip around Castel Gandolfo.

As always, please contact us at [constitutiones@ofmconv.net](mailto:constitutiones@ofmconv.net).

**constitutiones@ofmconv.net**

### Episcopal Ordination of Friar Roberto Carboni

— The General Secretariat

**On Sunday, April 17, 2016, Friar Roberto Carboni, the former Secretary General for Formation, was ordained Bishop of Ales-Terralba in Sardinia, Italy. The event was held in the Piazza Bishop Antonio Tedde in Ales, a town in the Italian province of Oristano.**

Friar Roberto Carboni was ordained by the Most Reverend Paolo Atzei, Archbishop of Sassari (the principal ordaining bishop); the Most Reverend Giovanni Dettori, Apostolic Administrator of Ales-Terralba; and the Most Reverend Mauro Maria Morfino, Bishop of Alghero-Bosa.

The celebration was attended by the Bishops of the Episcopal Conference of Sardinia; the Most Reverend Giuseppe Piemontese, Bishop of Terni-Narni-Amelia; the Most Reverend Gianfranco Girotti, Regent Emeritus of the Apostolic Penitentiary; Friar Marco Tasca, Minister General of the OFM Conv.; Friar Salvatore Sanna, Minister Provincial of the Friars Minor Conventual of Sardinia; many confreres; priests, men and women religious, and thousands of lay faithful.

The ordination rite was followed by Friar Roberto's inauguration of ministry in the Cathedral of Ales. The new bishop greeted everyone with an address that was quite beautiful and filled with gratitude. The Mayor of Ales, Simonetta Zedda, made a speech that was also particularly appreciated, as was the address delivered by a representative of the youth of the Diocese, which right from the start, prompted affection and closeness from Bishop Carboni.

The motto of the new Bishop of Ales-Terralba is: "Through love serve one another" (Gal 5:13).



Bishop Roberto Carboni

## NEWS

### Meeting of the Board of Directors of FI

— Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

**The International Board of Directors of Franciscans International (FI) held its semi-annual meeting at the Geneva office of FI, from April 22-25, 2016.**

Friar Jude Winkler, the representative for the Conventual Franciscans, was present. Ruth Marcus, the newly appointed representative of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), a lawyer from Malaysia, was welcomed to the Board. Doug Clorey, the previous representative of the OFS on the Board, completed his four-year term as President of the Board. Friar Joe Rozansky, OFM, was elected as the new President and Carla Casadei was voted to continue her service as Treasurer. The President's report spoke of the evaluation process underway to establish a sense of the current status of the organization in view of planning for the future.

The present financial stability of Franciscans International makes it possible to take a long-term view of its activities and possibilities for the coming years.

Two areas discussed were the possible redefinition of the presence of Franciscans International in New York and the establishment of an Advisory Group of Franciscans interested in the promotion of JPIC issues at the UN.



The members of the Board

### New Bishop of Parramatta, Australia

— Vatican Bulletin

**On Thursday, May 5, 2016, the Holy Father Francis appointed the Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen, O.F.M. Conv., as Bishop of Parramatta, Australia.**

Until now, Bishop Nguyen had been the Titular Bishop of Tala and the Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Australia.

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, O.F.M. Conv., was born in Gia-Kiem, in the Diocese of Xuân Lộc, Vietnam, on December 3, 1961. He left Vietnam to seek refuge in Australia. He entered the Order in 1983 and went through the stages of formation in Australia and in Rome at the Seraphicum.

Back in Australia, he held various positions and offices, including that of General Custos from 2005 to 2008. In 2008, he joined the General Definitory, serving as the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC). On May 20, 2011, he was appointed Titular Bishop of Tala and Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne.





## Seraphicum - Celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy

— Text: Friar Felice Fiasconaro, guardian; Photo: Vincenzo Arpaia

On the evening of May 10, 2016, the friars of the Seraphicum fraternity took part in a communal celebration of the Jubilee of the Holy Year of Mercy.

At 6:00 p.m., everyone gathered in the courtyard of the local Church of the Immaculate (Cittadella). After a brief introductory prayer, the Litany of the Saints was sung and a procession was made to the holy door of the nearby Cave of the Revelation.

From there, having prayed according to the proposed rite, they went back to the church to celebrate Mass presided by the guardian, Friar Felice Fiasconaro.

It was a solemn celebration, made even more so by the beautiful songs performed by the youth of the Seraphicum formation community. It was, indeed, an afternoon of intense prayer and immersion reflecting on the mercy of the Father as definitively revealed in the face of the Son.



The participants in front of the Holy Door

## Bishop Carboni Celebrates Mass at Twelve Holy Apostles

— The General Secretariat

On Thursday, May 19, 2016, the Most Reverend Roberto Carboni, the new Bishop of Ales-Terralba (Sardinia, Italy), presided over solemn Mass at the Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles, in Rome. Before his episcopal ordination, he had been serving as the Order's General Secretary for Formation.

Many friars, especially those from the General Houses in Rome, attended the solemn Mass. There were around one hundred concelebrants. At the beginning of the celebration, the Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca, thanked Bishop Carboni for his service to the Order in the various offices he held prior to his appointment as bishop. The date for the celebration was chosen in keeping with Bishop Carboni's other commitments. He was in Rome for the Plenary Assembly of the CEI (Italian Episcopal Conference).

At the end of the Mass, the participants gathered in the friary for a dinner buffet offered by the General Curia.



Bishop Roberto Carboni  
presiding at Mass

## Seraphicum – Trip to Cerveteri and Tarquinia

— Text: Friar Felice Fiasconaro; Photo: Friar Franciszek Czarnowski

**On May 21, practically at the end of the academic year, the friars of the Seraphicum's stable community spent the day together on a fraternal outing. Friars Roberto Tamanti and Igor Salmić organized the event.**

The day's goal was to visit the necropolises at Cerveteri and Tarquinia. The friars followed local guides along an interesting route, which started from the Villanovan period and continued through the Etruscan period right up to the pre-Roman period.

The two necropolises were different, but they were both rich in history and culture. The cult of the dead of these peoples and their vision of the afterlife was quite surprising.

After lunch, some stopped to admire the beauty of Tarquinia, while others visited the town museum, housed in the fifteenth-century Palazzo Vitelleschi. It had quite an amazing collection of archaeological finds belonging to the two necropolises. The high-relief of the two "Winged Horses" was particularly spectacular.

It was a beautiful day of culture and fraternity.



The participants

## Seraphicum – Spiritual Retreat at Cave

— Text: Friar Felice Fiasconaro; Photo: Friar Franciszek Czarnowski

From May 29 to June 2, 2016, the friars of the stable community of the Seraphicum went on their annual spiritual retreat. It took place, like last year, in the period between the end of the academic year and the start of exams.

This year as well, the retreat was held at Cave (near Rome), at the center run by the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus. Friar Augusto Drago, a Conventual Franciscan from the Province of Sicily, led the meditations. He engaged the participants on the theme of mercy, especially from the biblical perspective, but also from the Franciscan point of view. The retreat was characterized by intense reflection and carefully executed prayer that was enhanced with singing.

Once again, heartfelt thanks go to Friar Augusto and the sisters who welcomed us with true fraternal spirit.



The participants

## In the Footsteps of Kolbe

— Friar Raffaele Di Muro

In June of 2016, the friars of the Community went on an impressive and moving spiritual retreat to Poland where they prayed, meditated and visited the places where St. Maximilian lived and worked.

The friars of Rome's St. Maximilian Kolbe Community presently live in a friary named after the martyr confrere. The friary itself preserves a precious reminder of Kolbe's journey, the cell where he founded the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.).

The itinerary began with stops at places from little Rajmund Kolbe's childhood—the village of Zduńska Wola, where he was born, and Pabianice, the town where the Immaculate presented him with the famous two crowns (one white and one red).

Later, the friars spent time in Niepokalanów admiring the evidence of Kolbe's apostolic activity and prophetic insights.

Then, they went on to Cracow, to the illustrious Basilica of St. Francis where other miracles from the martyr's life were recalled.

The spiritual retreat reached its culmination with a visit to Auschwitz. There were moments of great emotion and fervor during their prayer at the extermination camp. There was an intense experience of Kolbe's love. He reached the summit of charity when he gave the gift of his life in that terrible place.

The friars also meditated on the mystery of Divine Mercy in places linked to St. Faustina Kowalska. They pondered the prophecy of John Paul II in his hometown of Wadowice; and they reflected on Mary's maternal protection at the famous shrine of Czestochowa. Friar Raffaele Di Muro led the retreat.



In front of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa



At the basilica in Niepokalanów



At the church in Pabianice

## General Secretariat for Formation [SGF]

Friar Louis PANTHIRUVELIL  
Secretary General of the SGF



## Course for FAMC Formators

— Friar Louis Panthiruvellil, Secretary General for Formation

**On June 22-29, 2016, the “Duc in Altum program was held at the Seraphicum. This is a traditional formation week for formators of the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC). It was led by members of the General Secretariat for Formation (SGAM).**

The event was coordinated by the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis Panthiruvellil; the Assistant General for the FAMC, Friar Benedict Baek; the SGAM Vice-Secretary, Friar Giulio Cesareo; and the Course Secretary, Friar Kuriakose Mattathil.

Eleven friars participated, mostly from the Asian Jurisdictions of the Order: India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, China and Korea. The friars took part in an intensive program of coursework that was focused directly on the formator and the personal qualities he must cultivate at the fraternal, psychological, pedagogical, cultural, legal, and practical levels.

Experts from within and without the Order offered lessons on these dimensions. Discussions with the speakers followed and there was further study in small workshop groups. Among the more significant activities of the week was an educational pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Francis and, at the end, a meeting with the Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca.

As a final document of the course, the formators themselves thought about, shared, and listed ten qualities that an Asian formator should embody: 1) A simple lifestyle; 2) Humility and



The participants with Friar Benedict Baek



The participants with Friar Louis Panthiruvellil

## GENERAL OFFICES – [SGF]

compassion; 3) A life that testifies; 4) Determination; 5) Depth in the spiritual and missionary life; 6) The ability to collaborate; 7) Asian and theological wisdom; 8) Balance and equivalence; 9) Intuition and creativity; 10) Guidance and fatherhood.

On the last day of the course, the participants gave the meeting a positive evaluation. This was for many reasons: for having the opportunity to listen to lectures from experts, for being able to hear about and share formation experiences, and above all, for creating bonds of fraternity among the formators of the FAMC.



The participants with the Minister General



The participants with the Custos of the Sacro Convento

## Activities during the April-June Quarter

— Friar Louis Panthiruvellil, Secretary General for Formation

**During the months of April, May and June of 2016, the members of the General Secretariat for Formation (SGAM) met on several occasions and took part in various activities.**

From March 29 to April 2, the SGAM Secretary, Friar Renzo Degni, participated in a meeting of young people in formation (“Juniorentreffen”) from the Central European Federation (CEF). The meeting was held in Vienna.

After the Episcopal appointment of the former Secretary General for Formation, Friar Roberto Carboni, the new members of the Secretariat (Friars Louis Panthiruvellil, Renzo Degni, Zbigniew Wójcik, and Giulio Cesareo) held two meetings. They met once on April 23, at the Secretariat’s headquarters, the St. Maximilian Kolbe friary, and again on May 7, at the Seraphicum.

The Franciscan University Commission held several meetings. The General Secretary for Formation is a member. The Commission met on May 5, at the General Curia of the OFM, May 24, at the Seraphicum, June 1, at the Laurentianum (International Capuchin College) and June 10, at the Antonianum.

Finally, members of the General Secretariat for Formation held a formation week called “Duc in Altum. It was aimed at formators of the Federation of Asian Minors Conventual (FAMC). The event was held June 21- 29 at the Seraphicum. It was led by the Secretary General for Formation, Friar Louis Panthiruvellil, the Vice-Secretary, Friar Giulio Cesareo, and the course secretary, Friar Kuriakose Mattathil.

## General Secretariat for Mission Animation [SGAM]

Friar Jarosław WYSOCZAŃSKI  
Secretary General of the SGAM



## Prayer Vigil in the Convent of the Poor Clares

— Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, SGAM Secretary General

On April 1, 2016, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, made a fraternal visit to the Poor Clares of Scigliano, Italy, to lead a missionary prayer vigil.

While there, Friar Jarosław had the opportunity to give a presentation on the missionary experience of the Martyrs of Peru during the 24th Day of Prayer and Fasting in Memory of Missionary Martyrs, which took place in the Archdiocese of Cosenza-Bisignano.

The vigil was presided over by the Most Reverend Franciscantonio Nolè, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cosenza-Bisignano, along with attending priests, religious and various youth.

It was a good opportunity for sharing enthusiasm for missionary activity with a real passion for the Gospel.

On the following day, Friar Jarek gave a presentation on the newly beatified Bl. Michał Tomaszek and Bl. Zbigniew Strzałkowski. This took place at the parish community of Amantea where our friars from the Custody of Calabria serve.



The Poor Clares of Scigliano

[sgam@ofmconv.net](mailto:sgam@ofmconv.net)

## Tenth Edition of the “Mission Together” Project

— Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, SGAM Secretary General

**On Tuesday, April 5, 2015, the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM) held its first meeting for this year’s “Mission Together” Project.**

The Project helps our friars in formation get training in Franciscan intercultural mission. The meeting took place at the Seraphicum, in Rome

During the meeting, Friar Jarosław Wysoczański presented the goals of the project and shared some personal and practical experiences.

This year’s “Mission Together” Project will be held in Bolivia and will be guided by Friar Alphonse Vazhappanady from the SGAM.

The participating friars include formator Enzo Galli (Italy); Teofil Ciuches (Romania); Stjepan Brcina (Croatia) and Antolin Ramos de La Cruz (Mexico). Their mission experience will take place in Bolivia.

In the coming months, the project participants will be meeting again to study the theology of mission and the current situation in the country. They will cover issues related to the presence of the Order, learn Spanish, etc.

The four friars will leave for Bolivia in August.



The participants

## Mission Animation at the Franciscanum and the FIMP Novitiate

— Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, SGAM Secretary General

**On April 22, 2016, Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, the Secretary General for Missionary Animation (SGAM) and Friar Alphonse Arun Sebastian Vazhappanady, were in Assisi to make a fraternal visit to the Franciscanum College and the novitiate of the FIMP Federation and Italy.**

Friar Jarosław took the opportunity to relay information about new missions of the Order and to discuss the beatification and the missionary experience of the Martyrs of Peru, Michał Tomaszek and Zbigniew Strzałkowski.

His main objective was to get the novices to discover stronger and more profound reasons for mission, to help them get excited about missionary work and to experience it as true passion for the Gospel.

The meeting was attended by 15 novice friars from various parts of Italy and Europe.



## GENERAL OFFICES – [SGAM]

At the Franciscanum, the meeting was held with all the friars in formation, the formation team and the guardian, Friar Egidio Canil. We discussed the life and beatification of the Martyrs of Pariacoto-Peru.



The participants

## SEDOS Seminar

— Friar Alphonse Vazhappanady, Member of SGAM

From May 2-6, 2016, SEDOS (Service of Documentation and Study) hosted a residential seminar on the theme “Interculturality: Living and Mission”. The seminar took place at Casa Divin Maestro Ariccia in Rome.

The goal of the seminar was to give the participants an opportunity to study, pray, reflect and talk about “Interculturality: Living and Mission” and its implications for Missionary Congregations that are SEDOS members. Special attention was given to new missionary presences and their challenges regarding community life and global immigration.

Other objectives of the seminar were to study the cultural context and concerns of cultural interactions; to reflect on the psychological and relational aspects of intercultural community life; to rediscover what it means to live in an intercultural community in a globalized world; and to reflect on various forms of Intercultural Mission.

There were 120 religious in attendance from various places in the world and from different cultures and languages, providing a rich intercultural experience. Friar Alphonse Vazhappanady participated as the delegate for the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM).



The participants

## Missionary Animation in the Formation Houses of Poland

— Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, SGAM Secretary General

From May 28 to June 12, 2016, Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, the Secretary General for Mission Animation (SGAM), carried out mission animation in our novitiates in Smardzewice and Kalwaria Paclawska, Poland.

He also gave testimony on our newly beatified friars: Blessed Michał Tomaszek and Blessed Zbigniew Strzałkowski at the communities of Poznań and Radziejów and at the postulancy community in Gniezno.

The following objectives were presented at all of the formation houses: 1. Expanding horizons with regard to missions by giving out information and sharing the key elements of Franciscan spirituality; 2. Awakening passion and enthusiasm for missionary work; and, 3. Sharing testimony on the life and martyrdom of the Blessed Friars Michał Tomaszek and Zbigniew Strzałkowski.

Friar Jarosław held a series of meetings with groups and conducted personal interviews with the friars.



The novices of Kalwaria Paclawska



The postulants of Gniezno

General Secretariat for Justice, Peace, and the Safeguarding of Creation [GPSC]

Friar Joseph BLAY  
General Delegate for GPSC



## Global Seminar on Development and Work

— Friar Joseph Blay, General Secretary for GPSC

Under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and Caritas International organized a global seminar on the theme “Sustainable Development and the Future of Work in the Context of the Jubilee of Mercy”.

The seminar was held May 2-5, 2016, in Rome.

Friar Joseph Blay, the Secretary and Delegate General for Justice, Peace and Safeguarding Creation (GPSC), participated fully in this seminar.

The full document produced by this seminar can be found at the Justice and Peace link on the Order’s website.



The participants

## Conference against Sexual Violence

— Friar Joseph Blay, General Secretary for GPSC

On May 21, 2016, the General Delegate/Secretary for Justice, Peace and Safeguarding of Creation attended a conference in Rome, which called for more solidarity and assistance for victims of rape and sexual violence, especially women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Not only rebel militants and warlords perpetrate this evil; sometimes the culprits can be peacekeepers and people in normal situations. The Baroness Anelay, a Minister of State at the UK’s Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, addressed the conference. The British Government’s protocol for approaching the problem was also presented. Some missionaries shared their experiences in working among victims of sexual abuse. Participants discussed different strategic approaches for rehabilitating both victims and perpetrators.

Friar Joseph Blay and his Capuchin counterpart, Friar Benedict Ayodi, took a picture with the Baroness.

## General Delegate for Ecumensim and Interreligious Dialogue [EDI]

Friar Silvestro BEJAN  
General Delegate EDI



## Eighth “Pro Dialogue” Meeting of the OFM Conv

— Friar Silvestro Bejan, OFM Conv.

**On June 15-19, 2016, the eighth “Pro Dialogue” formation meeting of the Friars Minor Conventual was held on the Greek island of Corfu.**

The conference brought together friars from various parts of the world: Albania, France, Ghana, Germany, Malta, India, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey.

The meeting was sponsored by the International Franciscan Center for Dialogue of the Friars Minor Conventual (CEFID) and was headed by the Delegate General for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, Friar Silvestro Bejan. The theme of the meeting was “Migration and Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue”.

The conference started with a very interesting report by the Most Reverend Yannis Spiteris, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Corfu, Zakynthos and Kefalonia. He spoke on the topic: “The Catholic Church in Greece: Relations with the Orthodox Church and the Pan-Orthodox Synod of June 19, 2016, in Crete”.

During the afternoon, two more reports were presented. One was “Immigration, Dialogue and Crisis in Europe from the Perspective of a Greek Orthodox Christian” by Dr. Ioannis Chrysaifis. The other was “Saint Francis and the Friars Minor Conventual in Greece: Between History and Memory” by Friar Silvestro Bejan. A fraternal discussion followed concerning commitment to dialogue. Next, there was a presentation by two friars from the Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land on the migration and refugee problem in the Middle East.

June 17 was entirely devoted to visiting the old town of Corfu, also called Kerkyra. The friars visited the Catholic Cathedral of St. James and St. Christopher, the Church of St. Spyridon (patron saint of the city) and the Orthodox Cathedral of Panagia Spileotissa, which houses the relics of St. Theodora Augusta. She was a defender of the veneration of icons. The most significant visit was the one made to a former friary and church of the Friars Minor Conventual of St. Francis of the 14th Century. The cult of St. Anthony of Padua is still alive there and devotion to him continues. In the afternoon, the friars visited Paleokastritsa, the last place Ulysses landed before returning to Ithaca. It is also the site of the Paleokastritsa Orthodox monastery, founded in 1225.

Activities on the third and final day began with more discussion on the commitment to dialogue. Then, some European friars made a presentation on the migration problem in Europe. In the afternoon, the friars heard testimony from Mr. Rino Pistone. He was the director of the Caritas Hellas program and now heads the refugee camps at Oreokastro and Redestos near Thessaloniki. In conclusion, there was a summary of the meeting’s earlier discussions, pointing out a Franciscan response to the current immigration and refugee problem. Finally, there was talk of collaborative projects and proposals for the future



The participants

## Office of the Postulator General

Friar Angelo PALERI  
Postulator General



## Decree on the Heroicity of Virtue of Servant of God Venanzio Katarzyniec

— Friar Angelo Paleri, Postulator General

**On April 26, 2016, during a meeting with the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis gave permission for the publication of the Decree of the Heroicity of Virtue of Servant of God Venanzio Katarzyniec.**

Venanzio was born Joseph Katarzyniec on October 7, 1889 in Obydów, in the parish and district of Kamionka Strumiłowa, 50 km (31 miles) north of Lviv, in today's Ukraine. After finishing primary school in in Obidów and Kamionka, he attended his first year of high school in Radziechów and completed the rest of his high school education at a specialized "teacher-training" high school in Lviv. In 1908, he began his novitiate year with the Friars Minor Conventual, in Lviv, and took the name "Venanzio". The next year, he professed his temporary vows on September 26, 1909, and was sent to study philosophy and theology in Cracow, where he was later ordained a priest, on June 2, 1914.

For one year, he was assigned as an Assistant Pastor in Czyszki (southwest of Lviv) and was then called upon to carry out the delicate work of Novice Master, although he did not meet the required age, and was performing this task on behalf of other friars. From 1916 to 1919, he was also a formator for young, temporarily professed friars. Having a frail constitution, he soon contracted tuberculosis. However, in no way did this lessen his penances and formation commitments, although there were times when he was sent away for short periods of rest at Hanaczów and Kalwaria Paławska.

In 1920, he was sent to recuperate at the Shrine of Kalwaria Paławska, where he died on March 31, 1921. His body was buried in the Shrine's cemetery on April 2, 1940, and was later transferred to the portico of the Church on August 16, 1950. The diocesan inquiry took place in Przemyśl from June 27, 1950 to April 30, 1951 and the Positio was completed on January 2, 1996. The Special Congress of the Theologian Consultors examined the Positio on April 30, 2013, and the Ordinary Assembly of Cardinals and Bishops voted favorably to validate it on April 5, 2016.

While the Servant of God may be called by the title 'Venerable', we are all invited to encourage people with serious illnesses to ask for his intercession, because their doing so might soon bring about his beatification.



Servant of God  
Venanzio Katarzyniec

## Decree on the Heroicity of Virtue of Servant of God Luigi Lo Verde

— Friar Angelo Paleri, Postulator General

**On June 14, 2016, during a meeting with the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis gave permission to publish the Decree of the Heroicity of Virtue of Servant of God Luigi Lo Verde.**

The Servant of God was born Filippo Lo Verde on December 20, 1910, in Tébourba, on the outskirts of Tunis, Tunisia. Filippo was the youngest of twelve children born to Giovanni

## GENERAL OFFICES – [POSTULATOR]

and Rosa Macaluso. His family, originally from Palermo, Sicily, moved to Tunisia for work, but moved back to Palermo in September of the following year. In 1917, Filippo began attending elementary school. At the same time, the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart prepared him for receiving the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation. These years were important for the child, who, after experiencing his first call from the Lord, he went further and told his family he wanted to consecrate his life to Him.

In October of 1922, thanks to a meeting with Friar Girolamo Giardina, the then Minister Provincial of the Friars Minor Conventual in Sicily, Filippo entered the middle school in Mussomeli, in the Sicilian Province of Caltanissetta. He attended there for two years. During the second year, took the Franciscan habit and changed his name to Luigi. His characteristic desire to give himself completely to the Lord continued to find expression. It registered in his intentions and was frequently mentioned in correspondence with his family.

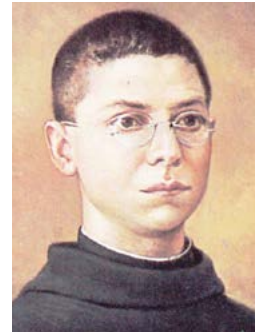
In October of 1924, the entire student body of his school was transferred to Montevago, in the Sicilian Province of Agrigento. There, the Servant of God completed his 'gymnasium' [high school] studies. He began his canonical novitiate year on December 7, 1926, and professed his temporary vows on December 8, 1927.

He returned immediately after to Mussomeli to complete philosophy studies at the high school level and in 1928, continued to study philosophy at the College of the Sacred Heart on Via Noce in Palermo. The following year, he began theology studies and attended classes at the diocesan seminary. However, in June of 1930, he contracted an illness that would soon lead to his death! Long periods of enforced rest followed. There were admissions to hospitals and various kinds of treatment. He was forced to interrupt his studies. Luigi became noted for his patience in enduring suffering, for his generosity in helping others, and for his total reliance on the Lord in prayer.

At the end of his first three years in temporary vows, he renewed his religious vows "up until solemn profession". His condition seemed to improve slightly and in the months that followed, he received the tonsure and the initial ministries of porter and lector. However, on October 15, 1931, his illness returned violently. This time it came with the additional complications of pleurisy, peritonitis and intestinal obstruction. For nearly four months, he remained bedridden in his family home. It was there, on February 9, 1932, that he died, with friars and family at his bedside.

The diocesan inquiry took place from March 30, 1985, to October 19, 1988, at the diocesan curia of Palermo. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized its legal validity on February 21, 1992. The *positio* (completed in 1997) was discussed at a special meeting of the Theological Consultors, on May 8, 2014. After hearing the Postulation's response to their questions, the Consultors ruled heroicity of virtue proven. The Cardinals and Bishops validated the same conclusion at their Ordinary Session on May 17, 2016.

While the Servant of God can be called by the title 'Venerable', we are all invited to encourage people with serious illness to ask for his intercession, because their doing so may also hasten his beatification.



Servant of God  
Luigi Lo Verde

### Information to request saints' relics

Requests for relics are taken into consideration only if:

1. Written on headed paper, with the official stamp and signature of the person in charge. Requests sent by fax or email will not be considered.

2. Only parish priests or superiors of religious communities may ask for them, always mentioning that the relics are "for public veneration by the faithful"; requests by lay people are not taken into consideration, whatever their ministry in the Church; nor those by seminarians!

3. Usually saints' relics are sent where devotion for them already exists, or where one wishes to enhance it; they are not sent by the dozens, nor for "collection": therefore avoid asking for more relics, even after some time.

4. A postulator keeps only the relics of the saints/blessed of his own institute, while for those of others institutes, one must contact the corresponding postulator.

5. Nowadays, the Church demands "eminent" relics for the consecration of altars; one no longer talks about "first class", "second class", or "third class relics".

## The International President of the Militia of the Immaculate [M.I.]

Friar Raffaele DI MURO  
International M.I. President

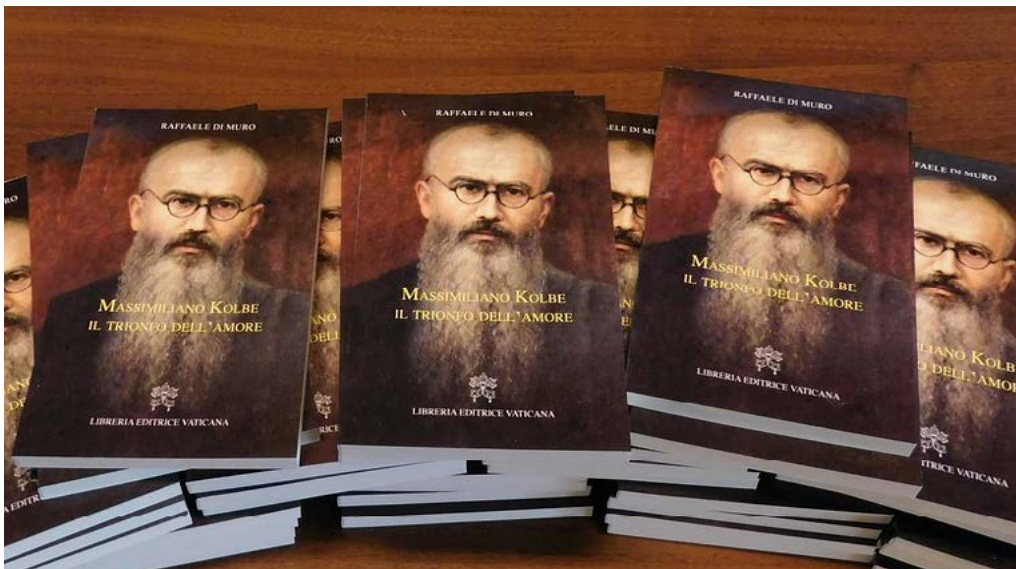


## A New Book on Maximilian Kolbe

— Text: Maria Grazia Maddaluno; Photo: Friar Franciszek Czarnowski, OFM Conv.

**The energy, force and charm of Saint Maximilian Kolbe's love was once again explained during a presentation of the latest publication from Libreria Editrice Vaticana: Friar Raffaele Di Muro's "Maximilian Kolbe: The Triumph of Love",**

Friar Raffaele paid tribute to the humble Polish friar on the afternoon of April 20, 2016, in the presence of a large audience at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure. Other speakers included Father Giuseppe Costa, Director of the Vatican Library; Friar Luca Bianchi, Director of the Institute of Spirituality at the Antonianum Pontifical University; Friar Zdzislaw Kijas, an official of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints; Father Alessandro Saraco, an official of the Apostolic Penitentiary; and Friar Ugo Sartorio, moderator. All of the speakers offered significant insights and provided deeper understanding of the love that the holy martyr expressed throughout his life and how he has become a gracious gift of God for us, even today, 75 years after his death.



The new book

## Kolbe among the Martyrs

— Friar Raffaele Di Muro, Director of the Kolbean Chair

**On Saturday, May 7, 2016, an annual conference was held at the Seraphicum in Rome called: "Kolbe among the Martyrs: A reflection on the martyrdom of Maximilian Kolbe on its 75th Anniversary".**

The conference was organized by the Kolbean Chair of Rome and took place at the Sixtus V Lecture Hall with Minister General Friar Marco Tasca in attendance.

## GENERAL OFFICES – [M. I.]

This conference was the second in a series of initiatives taking place during this year to commemorate and revitalize the undying posterity of this very relevant saint of the twentieth century, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. While imprisoned at the Auschwitz concentration camp, St. Maximilian offered up his own life to save the father of a family from certain death.

The speakers' presentations were much appreciated. Friar Raffaele Di Muro, Director of the Kolbean Chair and International President of the Militia of the Immaculate, opened the proceedings. He also gave his own speech entitled: "The Martyrdom of Maximilian Kolbe: The apotheosis of a journey of charity". Friar Aleksander Horowski, OFM Cap., Director of Collectanea Francescana and member of the Capuchin Historical Institute, spoke on "Martyrdom in the Theological Reflection and Preaching of Thirteenth Century Franciscan Masters." The final presentation featured Sr. Mary Melone, Rector of the Antonianum Pontifical University. She spoke about "Martyrdom, Martyrdoms and New Martyrs: The martyrs of the twentieth century".

The event was concluded by Friar Dinh Anh Nhue Nguyen, President of the St. Bonaventure Pontifical Theological Faculty.



The participants

## National Assembly of the M.I. of Spain

— Friar Raffaele Di Muro, OFM Conv.

**On May 21, 2016, the Seventh National Elective Assembly of the M.I. of Spain was held at the parish Church of the Rosary in Madrid.**

The meeting was centered on the election of the new National President, Dr. Miquel Bordas and the National Council, composed of members representing the local Spanish centers. The atmosphere was peaceful and at times exciting, thanks to the underlying spirit of fraternity one could sense there.

The Assembly began with Eucharistic adoration, led by National Assistant, Friar Gonzalo Fernández Gallardo. It was followed by a reflection on the journey of the M.I. in the world today led by International President, Friar Raffaele Di Muro.

The meeting was attended by the Minister Provincial of Spain, Friar Angel Mariano Guzman, who expressed his encouragement.





The participants

## Elective Assembly of the M.I. in the United States

— Friar Raffaele Di Muro, OFM Conv.

**On June 3-5, 2016, the United States held its first Elective Assembly of the Militia of the Immaculate. The Assembly took place at Marytown in Libertyville, near Chicago, in an atmosphere of prayer and harmony.**

In addition to evaluating the work done in recent years, and plotting a course for the future, the Assembly Delegates elected John Galten as President of the Association in the United States.

He will be joined by the Presidential Council composed of the following members: Michael Wick (Vice-President), Kathleen O'Brien (Secretary), Antonella Di Piazza, Juliann Elkinton and Roy Samson (Youth Delegates).

The meeting was chaired by the International President, Friar Raffaele Di Muro, who thanked Friar Patrick Greenough (International Vice-President) for his important and long-standing work in fostering the growth of the M.I. in the USA. Then he "passed the baton" onto the new council which has proposed a Kolbean path that will clearly feature missionary work along with significant youth ministry.



The participants

General Financial Office



SOME THANK YOU NOTES...

**FOR OFFERING HOLY MASSES:**

- The Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- The Cust. of Assisi, Italy
- The Prov. of Slovenia

**FOR THE NEEDS OF THE ORDER:**

- The Prov. of Spain
- The Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- The Prov. of O.L.C., USA
- "The Great Water Spectacular"

**FOR THE MISSIONS:**

- The Prov. of Germany

**FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- The Prov. of Croatia
- The Prov. of Korea
- The Cust. of Canada

**FOR THE FORMATION FUND:**

- The Prov. of Gdansk, Poland
- The Prov. of India
- The Prov. of the Czech Republic
- The Prov. of Croatia
- The Prov. of St. Anthony, Italy
- The Cust. of Canada

**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 [AFCOF]

Friar Tadeusz ŚWIĄTKOWSKI  
Assistant General for the AFCOF



### Provincial Assembly in Zambia

— Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, Assistant General for the AFCOF

On March 29-31, 2016, the Province of Zambia held an assembly of all solemnly professed friars at the Franciscan Center in Ndola.

The Assembly was organized in view of the upcoming Ordinary Provincial Chapter, which is to be held in June and July of 2016.

The theme of the Assembly embraced the following topics: Franciscan Minority, Leadership, and Fraternal Collaboration. The Assembly gave the friars an opportunity to reflect on certain Provincial issues in preparation for the next Ordinary Chapter.

Eighty-four solemnly professed friars attended the Assembly. The work undertaken at the Assembly was led by three friars from the General Curia: Friar Jude Winkler, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF); Friar Wojciech Kulig, the General Exactor; and Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF).

The Assembly, which occurred within the context of Easter, created opportunity for reflection, prayer and fraternity.



The participants

[afcof@ofmconv.net](mailto:afcof@ofmconv.net)

## Closing of the Academic Year in Lusaka

— Friar Wojciech Kulig, General Exactor

**On Friday, May 20, 2016, student friars of the three Franciscan families (OFM, OFM Cap. and OFM Conv.) received their Bachelor's Degrees in Philosophy and celebrated the closing of the academic year at the Inter-Franciscan Formation Center and Faculty of Philosophy in Lusaka/Zambia.**

The event began with Mass presided over by Friar Thomas Zulu, OFM Cap. During the festive celebration that followed, 77 student friars were awarded the academic degree of Bachelor of Arts. Among the recipients were 27 Franciscan friars from the various jurisdictions of the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF). These included five friars from Zambia, ten from Ghana, six from Kenya, five from Tanzania and one from Malawi.

The celebration was attended by many people from various countries in Africa and other continents, along with the friars' family members and area residents.

In the days leading up to the celebration, the Major Superiors of the three Franciscan families present in Africa met for a three-day Assembly. The friars undergoing formation and studies at the Center are under their care. The purpose of the meeting was to rate the Faculty's performance thus far and to set up the program for the next academic year 2016/2017.



The choir of the College



The Ministers Provincial of the three Franciscan families

Conferentia Europae Orientalis [CEO]

Friar Jacek CIUPIŃSKI  
Assistant General for the CEO



## New Marian Shrine in Bulgaria

— Friar Jarosław Bartkiewicz

**On Saturday, May 14, 2016, the Franciscan Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Pleven, Bulgaria, was proclaimed a Marian Shrine. It was a special and solemn event for the parishioners and their guests who attended.**

The church was filled with faithful from different countries. Among those participating were: the Most Reverend Pietro Marini, Archbishop of Martirano and President of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses; Monsignor Duarte Nuno Queiroz de Barros da Cunha, the General Secretary of the European Bishops’ Conferences (CCEE); Friar Wiesław Pyzio, the Minister Provincial of the Polish Province of the Immaculate Mother of God (Warsaw); the bishops of Bulgaria; several priests, consecrated persons and faithful from all over Bulgaria.

At the beginning of the Mass, the Most Reverend Petko Hristov, OFM, Bishop of Nicopolis, read the Decree designating the church of Our Lady of Fatima of Pleven as a Marian Shrine.

In his homily, Archbishop Marini said, among other things, “The new shrine has been created so that we might have the opportunity to come here and gaze upon Mary. Adoring her at the cross, we can obtain the grace and strength needed to follow Jesus in our lives.”

After the Mass, a plaque was blessed dedicated to the late Archbishop Januariusz Bolonek. He had been the Apostolic Nuncio in Bulgaria and Macedonia from 2008 to 2013.



The participants

[ceo@ofmconv.net](mailto:ceo@ofmconv.net)

Centralis Europae Foederatio [CEF]

Friar Miljenko HONTIĆ  
Assistant General for the CEF



“Juniorentreffen” of the CEF in Vienna

— Friar Miljenko HontiĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

From March 29 to April 2, 2016, a meeting of the post-novices of the Central European Federation (CEF) was held at the Holy Trinity friary in Vienna. The meeting, also called “Juniorentreffen”, included the post-novices of England and Ireland.

All 27 post-novices of the Federation attended, including those mentioned from England and Ireland. Attendance by nationality lists as follows: Croatia (7), Slovenia (4), Austria - Switzerland (2), England (7) with their respective formators. Also attending were: the CEF President, Friar Milan Kos; the Custos of Austria-Switzerland, Friar Daniele Brocca; the Custos of England-Ireland, Friar Peter Damian Massengill, the Delegate for Formation in the CEF, Friar Josef Fischer; and the Assistant General for the CEF, Miljenko HontiĆ.

The conference speaker was Friar Renzo Degni, a member of the General Secretariat for Formation. For two full days of the conference, he covered three topics entitled: “Franciscan Discipleship”, “The Digital Environment and Formation” and “Being a Friar Minor Conventual Today – “New” Paradigms in Franciscanism That Challenge Our Formation”.

One day of the conference was dedicated to a group tour of the Benedictine monasteries and shrines of the area—Melk, Maria Lach, Dürstein and Kirchberg. Also during the conference, there was a meeting between the formators and the Superiors of the CEF Jurisdictions. The Custody gave all of the participants a warm welcome and showed them fraternal hospitality.



The participants

Fraternal Visit to Belgium

— Friar Miljenko HontiĆ, Assistant General for the CEF

On April 24-27, 2016, Friar Miljenko HontiĆ, the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), visited our friars’ community in Brussels, Belgium.

The Brussels community currently consists of six friars from five different nations, led by Friar Daniel Thevenet. In addition to visiting and meeting with the Brussels community, the Assistant General participated in a meeting of the Custodial Definitory of the Custody of France. The meeting took place in Brussels on April 25, headed by the Custos, Friar François Bustillo.

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The main issue discussed at both of these meetings was focused on a proposal/project by Friar Jack Mardesic concerning itinerant mission in Europe. Friar Jack is a member of the Provincial Delegation of Australia and currently a member of the Brussels community. After the meetings, the Assistant General, the Custos of France and the guardian of Brussels visited the friary church to inspect the ongoing construction. The church's lighting and heating are being finished and the restoration of some adjacent spaces is being completed (the church's basement and entrance hall).

The Assistant General also met with some Belgian friars (Friar Remy, who resides in Landen, and Friar Mark, who is in a nursing home in Halle). They currently belong to the Provincial Delegation of the Netherlands, but reside in Belgium.



The friars of the community in Brussels

## Meeting with the Bishop of Denmark

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On April 28-29, 2016, Friar Miljenko Hontić, the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), met with the Most Reverend Czeslaw Kozon, Bishop of Denmark, at his curial headquarters in Copenhagen.**

The meeting was also attended by the Minister Provincial of Slovenia, Friar Milan Kos, who was accompanied by a member of his Province, Friar Tomaž Majcen, and the Minister Provincial of Croatia, Friar Josip Blažević, with a member of his Province, Friar Tomislav Cvetko. The Vicar General of the Diocese of Copenhagen was present as well (the Diocese covers all of Denmark).

The purpose of the meeting was to reflect on the Order's upcoming return to this area. This return is expected to come about through the collaboration of the Provinces of Slovenia and Croatia and will hopefully take place as early as next year, 2017. During the meeting, various times and places for opening our future presence were hypothesized. The Bishop and the Vicar General showed us some churches that might work well for us.



The participants

## Assembly of the Delegation of Holland

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, the first Assembly of the Provincial Delegation of Holland was held at the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Dongen, Holland (where two of our friars carry out their apostolate).**

The Provincial Delegation of Holland is a Delegation of the Province of Germany.

This was the first Assembly to take place after the transformation of the Province of Holland into the Provincial Delegation of Germany. The Assembly was convened on February 1, 2015. Those attending included the Provincial Delegate, Friar Thijs Moons; the Minister Provincial of Germany, Friar Bernhardin Seither; the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Miljenko Hontić; and almost all the friars of the Delegation (some were absent due to illness).

The main topics covered were the evaluation of the Provincial Delegation's first year of existence and some plans for the future. The Provincial Delegate made a report to the friars on the Delegation's most important events over the past year (its fraternal and economic status). At the end of the Assembly, the participants expressed their views about the new Delegate and his council. This same council has been in office since the new Delegation began.

The Assembly concluded with Mass and a festive lunch in a fraternal and peaceful setting.



The participants

## Meeting of the Croatian Provincial Definitory

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On May 23, 2016, the Definitory of the Croatian Province of San Girolamo met at the Holy Spirit Friary in Zagreb, Croatia.**

All five Definitors participated along with the Minister Provincial, Friar Josip Blažević and the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Miljenko Hontić.

The meeting started at 8:30, in the post-novice chapel, with a rosary prayed for all the friars of the Province.

Since the Assistant General was present, the main item on the agenda was to evaluate the first part of the current Provincial government's term in office, as well as to evaluate the progress the Province had made so far in carrying out its Province Four-Year Plan (PPQ). The PPQ



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was approved during the last Ordinary Provincial Chapter. In addition, after discussion and discernment, the participants indicated guidelines for the rest of the term and determined what actions needed to be taken to implement the projects still not completed.

At present, the Province has sixty-three friars in solemn vows, four post-novices in temporary vows, three novices and some candidates.



The Assistant General with the Custodial Definitory

## Custodial Definitory of Austria-Switzerland

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On June 6-8, 2016, Friar Miljenko Hontić, the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), met with the Definitory of the Custody of Austria-Switzerland. The meeting took place at the Holy Trinity friary in Vienna, Austria.**

All of the Definitors were present. They were: Friar Bernhard Lang (Vicar), Friar Vincenzo Cosatti and Friar Valentin Solomon led by the Custos, Friar Daniele Brocca.



The Assistant General with the Custodial Definitory

The main theme was the preparation for the upcoming second part of the Ordinary Custodial Chapter, which is scheduled for June 20-24 of this year.

Along with some special topics, there was discussion about the Instrumentum laboris that the Definitory had to prepare for this second part of the Chapter. Over the next few days, in addition to doing the work that had been planned for the meeting, the Definitory and the Assistant General also took the opportunity to meet with members of the Vienna community and some young friars from India and Romania who are studying or taking a German language course.

## Meeting of the Definitories of Croatia and Slovenia

— Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On June 15, 2016, the Definitories of the Provinces of Slovenia and Croatia met together at the Holy Spirit Friary in Zagreb, Croatia.**

Those attending from Croatia included Friars Josip Blažević (Minister Provincial), Martin Jaković (Vicar Provincial), Tomislav Glavnik (Provincial Econom) and Nikola Šantek (Provincial Secretary). From Slovenia, only the Minister Provincial attended, Friar Milan Kos. Also taking part were the Secretary General of the Order, Friar Vincenzo Marcoli and the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Miljenko Hontić.

The focus of the meeting was to clarify issues regarding the opening of the mission in Denmark. In particular, the friars examined the procedures for opening the mission and they discussed how the mission should be managed in the future. Preparations were also made for a future agreement between the two Provinces and a decision about the legal responsibilities that one of them will be taking.

During this meeting, the Secretary General and the Assistant General met with a group of post-novices from the Province of Croatia and celebrated Mass with them.



The participants

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Conventual Franciscan Federation [CFF]

Friar Jude WINKLER  
Assistant General for the CFF



**Fraternal Visit to the Province of St. Bonaventure, USA**

— Friar Jude Winkler, the Assistant General for the CFF

**On April 17-18, 2016, Friar Jude Winkler, the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), paid a fraternal visit to the Minister Provincial and his Definitory of St. Bonaventure Province at the St. Hedwig friary in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.**

The Definitory was having its regularly scheduled meeting and Friar Jude was visiting to mark the halfway point of their mandate and to thank them for their attention to the recommendations that he had made during his last canonical visitation. He took part in discussions dealing with the plans for the Province in light of its upcoming Ordinary Provincial Chapter (two years from now).

Friar Jude was also able to greet the staff of the St. Hedwig Cemetery. They are a highly motivated team that provides great service to those who use the cemetery and is mindful of the goals and needs of the friars.



The participants

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## Federación Conventuales America Latina [FALC]

Friar Carlos TROVARELLI  
Assistant General for the FALC



## Canonical Visitation to the Delegation of Chile

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

**On April 10-17, 2016, Friar Carlos Trovarelli, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), conducted a canonical visitation to the Provincial Delegation of Chile, which belongs to the Italian Province of St. Anthony.**

The Assistant General was able to visit the three friaries of the Delegation, and dialogue with all of the solemn professed friars, as well as the friars in formation.

Our presence in Chile is comprised of three communities: the Inmaculada Concepción friary in Chile's capitol city of Santiago, the Jesús de Nazaret friary in the city of Curico and the San Francisco friary in the city of Copiapó.

In addition to its missionary and pastoral commitment, the Delegation is characterized as having a full and carefully maintained ongoing formation program and all of the friars diligently and joyfully adhere to it. The Mother Province, in turn, guides this program with commitment and dedication.



The friars with the Assistant General

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## Course for Guardians of the UCOB

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

On April 11-15, 2016, a course for guardians of the UCOB (Union of the Conventuals of Brazil) took place at the San Francisco de Asís Retreat House in Campo Largo, Paraná, Brazil. The course was held in accord with the instructions of the last Ordinary General Chapter.

The course was led by Friar Lindor Tófful of the Río Plata Province and guided by Friar Gilson Miguel Nunes, the Minister Provincial of the St. Francis of Assisi Province (São Paulo) and the President of the UCOB. Seventeen guardians from Brazil's four Jurisdictions took part in it.

It was particularly noteworthy seeing young friars, and those with many years of experience, coming together.

The friars gave the course a positive evaluation, for both its methodology and its content, so it proved to be an important and timely event in the Order's life in Brazil.



The participants

## Meeting of the UCOB Formators

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

On April 18-22, 2016, the scheduled meeting of formators of the UCOB (Union of Conventuals of Brazil) was held at the San Francisco de Asís Retreat House in Campo Largo, Paraná (Brazil).

Nine formators from Brazil's four Jurisdictions participated in the meeting, which was organized by Friar Franklin Durán, a formator from the Custody of Venezuela and a member of the International Commission on Formation. Also attending were Friar Gilson Miguel Nunes, the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Francis of Assisi (São Paulo) and President of the UCOB, and Friar Carlos Trovarelli, the Assistant General for the area.

During the meeting, the friars worked on the latest version of the document Franciscan Discipleship and made contributions to it. They also covered other topics such as the "Chal-

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allenges of Franciscan Formation in Today's World", "Media and Formation", the "Development of a Common Formation Directory for the UCOB", and an "Approach to the Ratio Studiorum of the Order", etc. The meeting took place in a climate of great fraternity and concluded with a community walk.



The participants

## Franciscan Youth Day in Brazil

— The Provincial Secretary

**On April 21-24, 2016, the Friars Minor Conventual of the St. Francis Province in Brazil organized a Franciscan Youth Day for the youth of their parishes.**

The event took place at the Casa Kolbe retreat center in Caçapava (São Paulo state), Brazil.

The event was intended to convey the Franciscan charism and life to young people through formation, volunteer work, mission and prayer. The young people were able to perceive that the Franciscan life is a way of being humble, simple and joyful.



Young people with the friars

## Visit to the Formation Houses in Mexico

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

**On April 24-30, 2016, Friar Carlos Trovarelli, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), visited the houses of formation in Mexico's Our Lady of Guadalupe Province.**

While there, he responded to various concerns indicated in the Six-Year Plan of the Order (PSO) and directed the animation of the Federations and Jurisdictions (cf. PSO § 1.3 a, b, "Guiding the guides").

The visit began with a meeting of the Assistant General with the Minister Provincial of Mexico, Friar Francisco Díaz Valdéz and the Province formation team. Next, he went on to visit the four formation houses and to dialogue with the formators, those in formation and the rest of the friars of the communities.

The Province has 53 men in formation, 32 of whom are philosophy or theology students – including solemnly professed. There are four novices. Together with the postulants and aspirants, the total comes to 17.



The friars of Cuautitlán Izcalli



The friars of León



The friars of Totolapan

## Fraternal Visit to the Postulancy Program in Costa Rica

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

**On May 3, 2016, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC) visited the unified Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe postulancy program in Belén, Heredia Province, Costa Rica.**

Taking advantage of the meeting of the unified Definitory of the Custody of Maria, Madre de los Pobres and the Delegation of Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles, the Assistant General for the FALC, Friar Carlos Trovarelli, also visited the unified Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe postulancy program in Belén, Heredia, Costa Rica. The postulancy program is under the direction of Friars Erik Marin and Edgar Ramírez Arias. There are seven men in their first year of postulancy and four in their second. The postulants originate from various Central American countries: Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Observing the postulants, the Assistant General noted their professed love for the Church and the Order; their special inclination towards the Franciscan charism, particularly the simplicity of life in following Christ; fraternity; the life of the Gospel; their closeness to the “outskirts”, their political-ecological commitment (natural and human ecology), service, and joy.



The postulants of Costa Rica with the Assistant General

## Meeting of the “Unified Definitory” of Central America

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

**On May 4-5, 2016, the La Asunción friary in Alajuela, Costa Rica, hosted the first meeting of the “Unified Definitory” of the Delegation of Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles and the Custody of Maria, Madre de los Pobres, Central America, with a view towards the unification of the two Jurisdictions.**

The Ministers Provincial of their respective Mother Provinces (Our Lady of the Angels and Our Lady of Consolation, USA) signed a special Modus operandi document granting them the opportunity to deliberate together.

Those attending the meeting on behalf of “OLA” Province were Friars James McCurry (Minister Provincial); Russell Governale; Jorge Dobles (Delegate); and Marco Umaña and Marcos Quesada (Counselors). Those representing “OLC” were Friars Jim Kent, (Minister Provincial) and Thomas Merrill. Those representing the Custody were Isidoro Mejía (Custos); Enoch Zeledón, Arturo Vallejo and Erick Marin (Counselors). Also present was Friar Carlos Trovarelli, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC).



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The so-called “Unified Definitory” will meet every two months, as far as possible, until the Chapter of Unification, scheduled for December of 2017, when it will constitute a new Central American Custodial entity.



The participants

### Chile: Meeting and Sharing

— Friar Jack Ginting

**On May 9-12, 2016, the friars of the Delegation of Chile, including those in formation, gathered together for the first time at the friary in Curicó.**

On the opening day, the friars reflected on the Yearly Plan. It invited them to examine their lifestyles and make them more consistent with Franciscan values. The points determining the lifestyle of a Chilean friar are these: spirituality, fraternity, sober life, the apostolate and the pastoral care of vocations. Each community had an opportunity to present its own life plan. Also during the meeting, the Delegation’s finances were examined, information was shared about vocational ministry and some dates were highlighted as priorities for 2017.

The second and third days were devoted to shared walks and fraternal recreation time.

On May 12, at Evening Prayer, a young man named Augusto officially began his postulancy year. It was a wonderful experience of fraternity within the simplicity of Franciscan life; a gift transformed into an occasion for strengthening the bonds of communion among all the members of the Delegation.



The participants

# Canonical Visitation to the Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil

— Friar Carlos Trovarelli, Assistant General for the FALC

From June 1 to 18, 2016, Friar Carlos Trovarelli, the Assistant General for the Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC), made a canonical visitation to the Custody of St. Bonaventure in Brazil.

The Custody lies within the states of Maranhão and Ceará and is part of the Province of Rome.

The Visitor got the opportunity to talk to all the friars and a few Secular Franciscans as well. He also spoke to the Most Reverend José Belizario da Silva, OFM, Archbishop of São Luis and the Most Reverend João Kot, OMI, Bishop of Zé Doca. Their dioceses contain the friaries and parishes entrusted to us.

The Custody has five friaries. One of them is a formation house. Four of the five friaries are located in the State of Maranhão. Three of those four are in São Luis, a city with over one



The community of the N. Jesús de Praga friary in São Luis



The community of the San Francisco friary in São Luis



The community of the Fortaleza friary



The community of the Bom Jardim friary

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million inhabitants. One friary is called the Friary of San Antonio; another is named the Friary of Niño Jesús de Praga; and the third is called the Friary of San Francisco. The fourth friary is also named the Friary of San Francisco, but it is located in Bom Jardim, a city with some 40,000 residents. The fifth friary, dedicated to Duns Scotus, is in Fortaleza, a city with 2.5 million inhabitants. It is located in the state of Ceará.

The main apostolate of the Custody revolves around parishes. The parish of Bom Jardim covers a very large mission territory, almost completely rural with several dozen small communities. Many of those are in hard to reach places. The other parishes in the Custody are urban and are noted for their large turnout of faithful, both in the parish churches themselves and in their “chapels”, many of which are located in humble areas.

During the visitation, the Assistant General got the opportunity to meet with the Custodial Definitory, which is composed of Friars Clevis Mafra, Provincial Custos; Valdo Raimundo Nogueira, Custodial Vicar; Carlito do Nascimento Silva, Custodial Secretary; José Augusto Santos Silva, Custodial Econom, and David do Nascimento Rodrigues.



The Visitor (far left) with the Custodial Definitory

## Digital MiReFALC Magazine

— Friar Segundo Anacona (Colombia) MiReFALC editorial board

**On Monday, June 27, 2016, the Ministry of Reflection of the Federación Conventuales America Latina (MiReFALC) made the first digital issue of its “Decires Magazine” available on social networks.**

The digital format of the magazine arrives after seven years of being published in the traditional format.

The Federación Conventuales America Latina (FALC) unites all the Conventual Franciscan Jurisdictions of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Ten years ago, the Federation decided to provide a service that would foster reflection. Starting in Latin America, it would engage itself in dialogue with today’s world.

This gave rise to the “Ministry of Reflection of the Federation of Friars Minor Conventual in Latin America” (MiReFALC). The MiReFALC quickly realized it needed to have a publication. Thus, “Decires Magazine” was born. The magazine deals with Franciscan themes and covers theological, educational and pastoral concerns. The magazine’s special goal is to further the understanding and sharing of the Conventual Franciscan identity in Latin America. After publishing seven issues in the traditional format, the MiReFALC decided to continue publication in digital form. The latest digital issue has just been released. The Magazine’s website address is [www.revistadecires.com](http://www.revistadecires.com) Its Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/revistadecires>



One of the magazine’s covers

Federation of Asian Minor Conventuales [FAMC]

Friar Benedict Seung Jae BAEK  
Assistant General for the FAMC



Course for Guardians in Indonesia

— Friar Benedict Baek, Assistant General for the FAMC

On April 11-13, 2016, an annual formation meeting was held for the guardians, Vicars and Superiors belonging to the friaries, filial houses and missions of Indonesia’s Custody of the Immaculate Conception.

The meeting took place at the Tirta Momy Inn, in the town of Ambarita.

Ambarita is in Sumatra, Indonesia, and is located on the coast of Samosir Island. Samosir Island rises up from the center of a volcanic crater lake called Danau Toba. The crater lake measures 630 square kilometers, or 243 square miles, and the island boasts a population of 92,238 inhabitants.

Those attending the meeting included Friars Maximilianus Sembiring, Simon Kemit, Thom-as Tarigan, Bonifacio Ezequel, Sebastianus Ginting, Antonius Arifintus, Andreas Gurusinga, Ma-rio Lumban Gaol, Marselinus Damanik, Robert Sihotang, and Florentinus Sembiring.

The meeting was organized by Friar Fransiskus Mardan Ginting, President of the Commis-sion for Ongoing Formation in the Custody of Indonesia. He was also one of the speakers.

The theme of the meeting was St. Francis’ Letter to a Minister. Everyone reflected, discussed and shared thoughts about the Letter. It was presented as a reference point for the way Supe-riors in Franciscan communities should conduct themselves.

At the end of the meeting, each guardian and superior signed his own name as a recipient of the same Letter.



The participants

## Franciscan Celebrations in the Philippines

— Friar Emmanuel L. Giva Jr., Custodial Secretary

**On Tuesday May 31, 2016, the Custody of the Immaculate Conception and Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza in the Philippines celebrated some solemn vow professions and ordinations to the diaconate.**

Four friars made their profession of solemn vows during Mass on the feast day of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The ceremony was held in the oratory of the St. Maximilian Friary in Parañaque City.

The Provincial Custos, Friar Francis Victor Mateo, received the vows of Friars Joachim Paz, Jeremiah Arguelles, Lorenzo Avelino and Christopher Baptista. The occasion was graced by the presence of Friar Benedict Baek, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minor Conventuals (FAMC). He gave the homily.

In the afternoon, Friars Jeremiah Arguelles and Joachim Paz were ordained to the Order of Deacons by the Most Reverend Teodoro J. Buhain Jr., Auxiliary Bishop-Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Manila. The all-day event was attended by friars, family, friends, benefactors and all those in formation in the Custody.



The new deacons



The solemn vows ceremony

## Canonical Visitation in Korea

— Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv., the Assistant General for the CFF

**Friar Jude Winkler, OFM Conv., the Assistant General for the Conventual Franciscan Federation (CFF), conducted a canonical visitation in the Korean Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe.**

The visitation took place from May 25 to June 13, 2016, in preparation for their Ordinary Provincial Chapter to be held in October of this year.

Friar Jude made this visitation in place of Friar Benedict Baek, the Assistant General for the Federation of Asian Minor Conventuals (FAMC). Friar Benedict is from the Korean Province and was thus unable to make the visitation to his home Province.

Friar Jude visited the eight friaries of this Province in Korea and its friary in Torrance, California.

In addition, he either visited or contacted the various friars from the Province living outside of the country (including Australia, China, Great Britain, Italy, the Philippines, the United States and Uzbekistan).

There are approximately 80 friars in the Province now.

The friars of the Province are involved in a number of varied apostolates, including parishes; an international kindergarten; retreat houses; homes for the handicapped and homes for the elderly; service to the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS); and service to the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.)

There are also individual friars who assist the community with their work of producing an herbal medicinal drink, pressing sesame oil, making ceramics, creating art and providing funeral services.



The Provincial Definitory

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## Federazione Inter- mediterranea Ministri Provinciali OFMConv [FIMP]

Friar Joaquín Ángel AGESTA CUEVAS  
Assistant General for the FIMP



## Meeting of the General Definitory with the Definitories of Southern Italy

— Friar Joaquín Agesta, Assistant General for the FIMP

**On May 10-12, 2016, the Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca and members of his Definitory met with the Ministers Provincial and Provincial Custodes of southern Italy.**

These included the Provinces of Puglia, Naples and Sicily and the Custody of Calabria, along with their respective Definitories. The meeting took place in Bari, at the retreat house of the Province of Puglia.

Also present at the meeting were the General Visitators who, in the coming months, will be conducting canonical visitations to these Provinces and the Custody of Calabria

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for canonical visitations, the respective Provincial Chapters, and start reflecting on a process for the unification of the Provinces of southern Italy. The atmosphere of the meeting was both challenging and fraternal.



The participants

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## The General Definitory with the Visitators to the Italian Jurisdictions

— The General Secretariat

**On Thursday, May 19, 2016, the General Definitory met with eight General Visitators. Although they are not members of the General Definitory, they will shortly be conducting general canonical visitations to the Italian Jurisdictions.**

The eight Visitators are: Friar Nicola Scarlatino (to visit the General Custody of Assisi); Friar Luciano Fanin (to visit the Province of Naples); Friar Giovanni Medda (to visit the Province of Puglia); Friar Massimiliano Marsico (to visit the Province of Rome); Friar Ion Ciuraru (to visit the Province of Sardinia); Friar Leopoldo Fior (to visit the Province of Sicily); Friar Giuseppe Simbula (to visit the Province of Tuscany); and Friar Aurelio Ercoli, (to visit the Province of Umbria).

The Directory for Canonical Visitations, currently in force, provides that, before conducting a general visitation, the Visitor shall review the report of the previous visitation and other documents concerning the life of the Jurisdiction, and consult with the Minister General and the Assistant General for the area. (cf. no. 11 § 1 and no. 26b of the Directory for Canonical Visitations). To carry out this important and essential phase of the preparation, the Minister General held a meeting with the 2016 General Visitators of the Italian Jurisdictions. The meeting was divided into three participatory areas with time allowed for questions and sharing. There was:

- An initial presentation by Friar Julio César Bunader, Vicar General OFM;
- A presentation by Friar Vincenzo Marcoli, Secretary General, on certain aspects of the Directory for Canonical Visitations;
- Priorities of the Canonical Visitations to the Italian Jurisdictions, presented by Friar Joaquín Agesta, Assistant General for the FIMP (Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali OFM Conv.).



The participants



The participants



## 25 Years of Missionary Group Service in Spain

— Friar Paolo Fiasconaro, FIMP Missionary Center

**On Sunday, May 22, 2016, a Mass was celebrated to give thanks for Missionary Group's 25 years of intense activity. The solemn liturgy took place at our Church of St Francis of Assisi in Barcelona.**

Those present included the Minister Provincial of Spain, Friar Angel Mariano Guzmán, who presided over the Mass; Friar Paolo Fiasconaro, the Director of the Missionary Center for the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali OFM Conv. (FIMP); the Mission Animator for Spain, Friar Jordi Alcaraz Cuenca; the friars of the local community and their guardian, Friar Juan Antonio Adánez; and many faithful who joined together in prayer for Missionary Group.

Today, Missionary Group has more than 30 members.

The celebration was preceded by two charity evenings and Mission Day to benefit our mission in Colombia.

Missionary Group began its operations in 1991, in a small room in the old friary. After the Pastoral Center was built, they were given a new workshop-room. Every Thursday, members would gather there to package certain items, gifts, souvenirs and various materials used at different times of the year for exhibitions, raffles and events to benefit Franciscan Missions. Over these last years, they have shown loyalty and missionary commitment. The proceeds from their charitable activities have made a significant contribution to the growth of our Colombian mission. Members of Missionary Group have visited the mission several times.



The members of the group

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## CHAPTERS

### Croatia: Extraordinary Provincial Chapter

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On April 10-13, 2016, an Extraordinary Chapter of the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia was celebrated at the Marijin Dvor retreat house in Lužnica.**

The theme of the Chapter was “Omnis Franciscanus Missionarius Est” [Every Franciscan is a Missionary]. All solemnly professed friars of the Province were invited. Sixty-three friars participated while another twelve friars were unable to attend due to various impediments.

The Chapter began with a prayer vigil presided over by the Master of Post-Novices, Friar Nikola Šantek, and the two deacons of the Province (Friar Milan and Friar Josip).

The second day started with an introductory lecture by the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Miljenko Hontić. His lecture highlighted some important points on the theme of the Chapter. This was followed later by a presentation by Friar Timothy Kulbicki, on the progress of the revision of the Constitutions. His conference emphasized the theme “Growing in Their Own Identity.” Next, Friar Jarosław Wysoczański, the Secretary General for Mission Animation, spoke on the theme “Every Franciscan is a Missionary”.

In the afternoon, there were some short testimonies and presentations from various speakers. Friar Ambroz Knežić, a member of the Croatian Province and a former missionary in Zambia, spoke about his experience as a missionary “ad gentes”. Friar Ivan Matić, OFM, from the Province of Zagreb, spoke about his experience with Provincial missions to the people. Friars Miljenko Hontić and Tomislav Cvetko made a presentation on the importance of the future mission in Denmark. After each presentation, there was an opportunity for brief discussion. The day ended with Mass presided over by the Assistant General for the CEF.

The next day, the Minister Provincial of the Croatian Province, Friar Josip Blažević, spoke about the priorities of the Province. He was followed by presentations on various topics such as “Status Questionis” by Friar Ljudevit Maračić, and the results of various questionnaires, which were designed to evaluate today’s presences. The presentations were followed by work in groups, which ended with a vote to close various friaries and parishes in the Province. All the friars attended Mass on the 5th Tuesday before the Feast of St. Anthony. The Mass was celebrated in St. Anthony’s Church in Zagreb with His Eminence Josip Cardinal Bozanić, Archbishop of Zagreb, presiding.

The Chapter concluded with the traditional annual meeting with the Friars of the Province of Slovenia. At that time Friars Augustin Kordić and Anđelko Sesar, members of the Croatian Province, celebrated their 50th anniversaries of priestly ordination.



The Capitulars

## CHAPTERS

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### Orient and the Holy Land: Extraordinary Custodial Chapter

— Friar Joaquin Agesta Assistant General for the FIMP

**Conventual Franciscan friars from the Middle East met in Iskenderun, Turkey, this week for an extraordinary Chapter of the Custody of the Orient and the Holy Land.**

Discussion of some proposed Custodial Statutes was at the top of the agenda during the meetings, which ran from Tuesday, April 12, to Friday, April 15, 2016. In addition, the 20 friars, representing a fraternity of 11 nationalities living in five communities in Turkey and Lebanon, took time to do some sharing and brainstorming for the future.

The Chapter was led by Custos Friar Cesar Essayan and members of the Custody's Definitory Council, while Delegate General, Friar Joaquin Agesta Cuevas, and Romanian Minister Provincial, Friar Teofil Petrisor, participated in offering guidance on behalf of the Order. The friars also benefited from the presence of the Most Reverend Paolo Bizzeti, the newly ordained Bishop of Anatolia, whose diocesan headquarters in Iskenderun house the local friary of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe. Bishop Bizzeti opened the meetings on Tuesday morning with a meditation.

On the final evening of the Chapter, the friars gathered after supper to celebrate and thank Friar Adam Kompa prior to his departure this month. Friar Adam will return to his home Province of Warsaw, after eight years of service in Turkey.



The Capitulars

### Warsaw, Poland: Ordinary Provincial Chapter

— Province Communications Office

**On April 11-16, 2016, the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Polish Province of the Immaculate Mother of God was celebrated at Niepokalanów, Poland.**

Fifty-five delegates participated, coming from various friaries in Poland and abroad. The motto behind the delegates' work was "Following You, the Light of Life."

The first days of the Chapter were devoted to evaluating the life and works of the Province over the last four years. The friars listened to reports from the Visitor, Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF); the Minister Provincial, Friar Wiesław Pyzio; the Provincial Econom, Friar Wiesław Chabros; and reports prepared by the friars in charge of the Provincial Delegations. After a presentation on the state of the Province, the Capitulars started working in groups, with the goal of presenting issues that need to be addressed during the second part of the Chapter.

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In March of this year, and for the first time in the history of the Province of Warsaw, the friars elected a Minister Provincial by voting through letter. Friar Wiesław Pyzio was elected for a second term. On Friday, April 15, 2016, the Minister Provincial took an oath and made his profession of faith into the hands of the Minister General. Then the friars made their expressions of obedience to the Minister Provincial.

The Provincial Definitors were elected on the same day. They are Friars Edward Mastalerek, Mirosław Bartos, Marek Gąsiorowski, Wiesław Chabros, Piotr Szczepański and Piotr Żurkiewicz.

Friar Piotr Szczepański, was elected Vicar Provincial, Friar Piotr Żurkiewicz was elected Provincial Secretary, and Friar Wiesław Chabros was elected Provincial Econom and Exactor.

On the last day, the General Chapter Delegates were elected. There will be five Delegates representing the Province.

The second part of the Chapter will take place from May 30 to June 11, 2016, at Niepokalanów.



The Provincial Definitory



The Capitulars

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### Slovenia: Extraordinary Provincial Chapter

— Friar Milijenko Hontič, Assistant General for the CEF

**On April 20, 2016, the Province of St. Joseph of Slovenia held its Extraordinary Provincial Chapter at the Friary of Saints Peter and Paul in Ptuj.**

Twenty-one Capitulars participated in the Chapter, which was headed by the Minister Provincial of Slovenia. Also present was the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Milijenko Hontič. The theme of the Chapter had been proposed two years prior, at the Ordinary Chapter, namely the restructuring of the presences in Ptuj.

The government of the Province, with the help of an ad hoc committee (chaired by Committee President Dominik Tikvič), prepared an “instrumentum laboris” which the Capitulars could discuss, first in their communities and then in Chapter throughout the morning and afternoon. At the end, three motions were voted on: a) Closure of the friary of San Vittorino in Ptuj; b) taking on the former Capuchin parish of St. Oswald along with the pastoral care of the hospital and nursing home in Ptuj; c) Managing the St. Oswald and St. George parishes under the administration of the principal parish of Saints Peter and Paul.

The Chapter concluded by mentioning the friars who were celebrating their birthday in April.



The Capitulars

### Gdansk, Poland: Ordinary Provincial Chapter

— Friar Mateusz Stachowski, Province Spokesman

**On April 18-22, 2016, the Province of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Poland celebrated the first part of its ninth Ordinary Provincial Chapter. The second part was celebrated on May 23-28, 2016, in Koszalin (Poland).**

The Chapter was held at the Center for Education and Formation, run by the Diocese of Koszalin-Kołobrzeg, in the city of Koszalin-Wilkowo.

On April 21, Friar Jan Maciejowski was sworn in for his second term as Minister Provincial. He had been elected earlier on December 20, 2015 through voting by letter. The Provincial Definitors were chosen as well; they are: Friar Tomasz Ryłko, Vicar Provincial; Friar Grzegorz Kordek, Provincial Secretary; Friar Leszek Łuczkanin, Provincial Econom and Exactor; and Friars Manswet Wardyn, Rafał Zarzycki and Piotr Matuszak, Definitors.

At the beginning of the second part of the Chapter, the friars worked in small groups preparing the Four-Year Plan of the Province (PPQ). They also worked on changes to the Provincial Statutes and on proposals for Chapter motions.

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After taking a day off to participate in ceremonies for the solemnity of Corpus Christi, they came back to their meeting room and voted on the above-mentioned proposals.

On the last day, they elected Superiors (guardians), formators, the heads of various committees and those in charge of particular works of the Province.

The swearing in of the new guardians took place in the chapel during the Liturgy of the Hours. At the end of the Chapter, the Capitulars solemnly sang the Te Deum. Then, they read out the names of the friars who had passed on to the House of the Father over the last four years and prayed for them.



The Capitulars

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## Czech Republic: Ordinary Provincial Chapter

### — The Chapter Secretary

On April 25-27, the Czech Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius celebrated the first part of its Ordinary Provincial Chapter in Krnov, in the Czech Republic. The second part of the Chapter was also held in Krnov on June 14-17, 2016.

Eighteen friars attended along with the Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca, and the Assistant General for the Conferentia Europae Orientalis (CEO), Friar Jacek Ciupiński. At the second part of the Chapter, the Assistant General for the CEO represented the Minister General.

During the first two days of the Chapter, the friars evaluated the life and activity of the Province over the last four years. Friar Jacek Ciupiński made a report on the general canonical visitation and other reports were heard from the Minister Provincial, Friar Bogdan Sikora; the Provincial Econom, Friar Stanisław Gryń; and the heads of several important offices in the Province.

On the afternoon of the second day, the friars worked in groups to assess the situation in the friaries and to evaluate the implementation of proposals made during the Provincial Chapter of 2012. Various topics were put forward to be discussed during the second part of the Chapter. On the evening of the same day (April 26), Friar Stanisław Gryń was elected to his first term as Minister Provincial.

On the third day, the Capitulars elected the members of the Provincial Definitory. They are, Friars Piotr Pawlik (Vicar Provincial); Karel Koblížek, (Provincial Secretary); Krzysztof Skibiński (Provincial Econom and Exactor); and Friar Bohdan Heczko, Definitor. The Definitors were sworn in before the Minister General.

The second part of the Chapter opened with a spiritual segment. All of the Capitulars passed through the Holy Door located at the Shrine of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows near Mount Ćwilin. Next, they listened to a lecture by the Vicar Provincial, Friar Piotr Pawlik, about mercy in the life of St. Francis. During the first two rounds of the Chapter, the friars prepared and voted on certain motions and worked on the Four-Year Plan of the Province. On the third day, the Capitulars elected the guardians of the five friaries and the heads of various Provincial works. The Chapter concluded with the creed, the swearing in of the new guardians and a solemn blessing.



Friar Stanisław Gryń,  
Minister Provincial



The Provincial Definitory



The Capitulars

## CHAPTERS

### Spain: Ordinary Provincial Chapter, Part I

— Friar Juan Miguel Vicente, Chapter Secretary

**On May 2-6, 2016, the first part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of Spain's Our Lady of Montserrat Province was held at the Capuchin friar in El Pardo (Madrid). The Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca, oversaw the work of the Chapter.**

The Chapter began with a morning retreat and reflection led by the Minister Provincial of the Capuchin Province of Spain, Friar Benjamín Echeverría, OFM Cap. Next came various reports. After listening to all the reports, the thirty friar-capitulars divided into three working groups to evaluate the life and activities of the Province during the last four years. This session ended with the approval of the "2012-2016 Quadrennial Evaluation Document", a starting point for next working on the Instrumentum laboris for the second part of the Chapter.

On Thursday, May 5, Friar Ángel Mariano Guzmán was officially announced as Minister Provincial. He had been elected to his first term, by letter, on February 6, 2016.

During Evening Prayer, the new Minister Provincial made his profession of faith and was sworn in by the Minister General.

Finally, on Friday, May 6, the members of the new Provincial Definitory were elected. They are: Friars Juan Antonio Adánez, Vicar Provincial; Miguel Ángel Marcos, Provincial Secretary; Antonio Jesús Royo and Juan Luis Cormenzana, Definitors. The Provincial Econom and Exactor will be elected during the second part of the Chapter, which will be held in the same place on July 4-8, 2016.



The Capitulars

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## CHAPTERS

### Cracow: Ordinary Provincial Chapter – Part II

— Jan Maria Szewek, Province Spokesman, Photos: Wojciech Kasprowicz / Jan Maria Szewek

**On May 2-7, 2016, the second part of the Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Polish Province of St. Anthony of Padua and Blessed James of Strepar (Cracow) took place at Kalwaria Pałacowska in Przemyśl, Poland.**

The Provincial Chapter was presided over by the Minister Provincial, Friar Marian Gołąb. The Assistant General for the Conferentia Europae Orientalis (CEO), Friar Jacek Ciupiński, represented the Minister General.

The Capitulars discussed and then voted on the Province Four-Year Plan. They accepted some 30 motions. In addition, they chose the guardians and formation house directors.

On Thursday, May 5, 2016, the Capitulars joined up with confreres coming from all over the Province to have a so-called “Chapter of Mats” - that is, to pray, talk and celebrate together.

At the beginning, the friars prayed in the church containing the tomb of Servant of God Friar Wenantý Katarzyniec and solemnly sang the Te Deum.

Immediately after that, the Minister Provincial began a prayer crusade for world peace and defense against terrorism. It took place in front of the miraculous painting of Our Lady of Kalwaria. The friars prayed a “Little Crown” of the Holy Rosary, which contained second-degree relics of the Franciscan Martyrs of Peru, Friars Zbigniew Strzałkowski and Michał Tomaszek. Both are considered protectors against terrorism.

During the Mass, two friars were given their missionary crosses: Friar Stanisław Strojceki (63) will go to Uganda and Friar Zbigniew Świerczek (62) will go to Peru.

After an outdoor lunch, the friars prayed Evening Prayer and took part in a para-liturgý dedicated to Our Lady (traditional in May). Then they headed back to their friaries. The Capitulars, however, remained for two more days.

The Chapter ended on Saturday, May 7, with Mass, during which the new guardians professed their faith. There was also a commemoration for members of the Province who had died during the last four years. It was followed by the Te Deum and a final blessing.



The Capitulars

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### Germany: Extraordinary Chapter

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, an Extraordinary Chapter of the St. Elizabeth Province of Germany was held at the Holy Cross friary in Würzburg, Germany.**

Sixteen of the twenty-one eligible Capitulars were present, headed by the Minister Provincial, Friar Bernhardin Seither. Also attending was the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Miljenko Hontić.

The main theme of the Chapter was the restoration of the building that once housed the Province's former St. Valentin Seminary.

Initially a decision was made during the Ordinary Provincial Chapter to make just a few of the more necessary repairs at different stages. However, since then, the Minister Provincial with his Definitory determined that more substantial and expensive renovations were needed, but at the same time, these would also serve to make the building more profitable as a home. Since the building no longer serves as a seminary, it will be rented out. Prospective tenants include the Community of Sant'Egidio and a state school. The Chapter also called in an expert architect, who helped explain the building's situation and its needed repairs.

After the explanation and some discussion, the Capitulars made the unanimous decision to proceed with the repairs.

The Chapter took place in a calm and fraternal atmosphere.



The Capitulars

### Zambia: Ordinary Provincial Chapter - Part I

— Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, Assistant General for the AFCOF

**On June 13-17, 2016, the Zambian Province of the Franciscan Protomartyrs celebrated its fifth Ordinary Provincial Chapter at the "Franciscan Center" in Ndola, Zambia.**

The Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca, presided over the Chapter. Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF) and Visitor of the Province, was present as well.

The fraternal event was attended by 53 solemnly professed friars affiliated with the Province. 47 of them are Zambians. The Chapter was preceded by a day of spiritual reflection on

## CHAPTERS

the theme “Brothers, while we have time, let us do good.” It included two lectures and some sharing in groups.

On June 16-17, the Chapter elected the new Provincial Government: Minister Provincial - Friar Richard Francis Chimfwembe (first term); Vicar Provincial - Friar Joseph Kachelewa (second term); Provincial Secretary - Friar Matthew Kasongo, (first term); Definitor - Friar Massimiliano Marozzi (third term); Definitor - Friar Innocent Mubanga (first term); Definitor - Friar Hillary Mulenga (first term); Definitor - Friar James Chishimba (first term) and Definitor - Friar Timothy Kayula (first term).

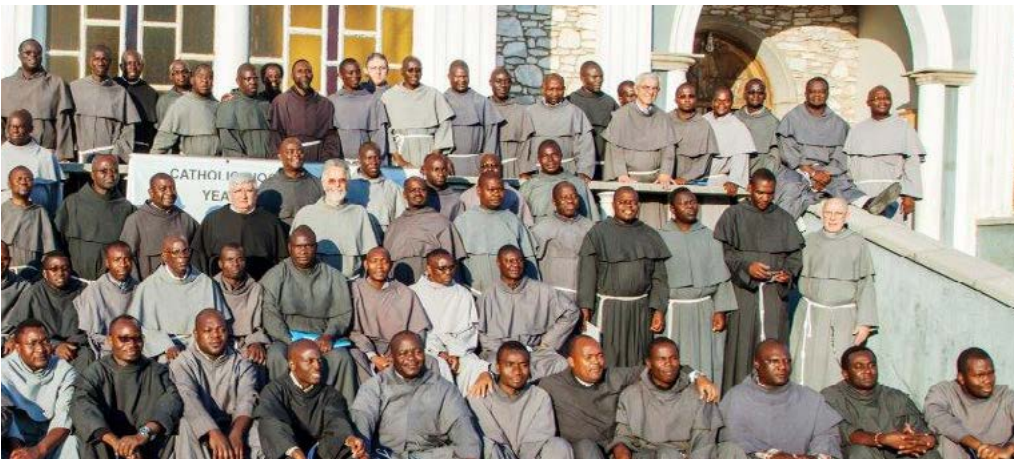
The Provincial Econom will be elected during the second part of the Chapter, which is scheduled for this July 18. At that time, the friars will have discussions and make decisions on the Four-Year Plan of the Province. They will also elect new guardians and other office holders.



Friar Richard Francis Chimfwembe,  
Minister Provincial



The Provincial Definitory



The Capitulars

# CHAPTERS

## Italy (Abruzzo): Ordinary Provincial Chapter – Part I

— Friar Giuseppe Altizii, Provincial Secretary

On June 6-10, 2016, the Province of St. Bernardine and St. Angelo in Abruzzo, Italy, held its 230th Ordinary Provincial Chapter. The Chapter took place at the St. Anthony of Padua friary in Pescara.

Friar Massimo Ruggiero, OFM, gave the Chapter’s opening speech. He engaged the friars in prayer and got them started on ascertaining and discerning God’s will for the next four years, for the good of the Province, the Order and the Church.

Those elected to various offices included Friar Franco Maria Rapacchiale, Minister Provincial (first term); Friar Maurizio Erasmì, Vicar Provincial; Friar Francesco Di Salvatore, Definitor; Friar Fulvio Petti, Provincial Councilor and Econom; Friar Giuseppe Altizii, Definitor and Provincial Secretary.

The Chapter was presided over by the Vicar General and delegate of the Minister General, Friar Jerzy Norel. The Assistant General for the Federazione Intermediterranea Ministri Provinciali OFM Conv. (FIMP), Friar Joaquín Agesta, also participated.



Friar Franco Maria Rapacchiale, Minister Provincial



The Provincial Definitor



The Capitulars

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## Kenya: Ordinary Custodial Chapter - Part I

— Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, Assistant General for the AFCOF

On June 20-23, 2016, the Custody of St. Francis of Assisi, in Kenya, celebrated the first part of its fourth Ordinary Custodial Chapter. The Chapter was held at the friary and formation house in Nairobi (Lang'ata). Thirty-four solemnly professed friars of the Custody attended.

The Chapter was presided over by Friar Jan Maciejowski, the Minister Provincial of the St. Maximilian M. Kolbe Province in Gdansk, Poland. Friar Tadeusz Świątkowski, the Assistant General for the African Federation of Conventual Franciscans (AFCOF), was also present. The Chapter took place in a fraternal atmosphere.

On Wednesday, June 22, 2016, the Provincial Custos was elected. His Definitory was elected the next day. The newly elected are: Friar Kazimierz Szulc, Provincial Custos (second term); Friar Joseph Kikuyu, Custodial Vicar - (first term), Friar Hilary Omondi Raduk, Custodial Secretary (second term); Friar Blasio Ooko, Definitor (first term), Friar Bernard Waweru, Definitor (first term); and Friar Sławomir Klein, Custodial Econom (first term).

Part II of the Chapter will be celebrated on July 4, 2016, when the Capitulars will discuss the future development of the Custody and make decisions on the Four-Year Plan. New guardians and other office holders will be elected at the end of the Chapter.



Friar Kazimierz Szulc,  
Provincial Custos



The Custodial Definitory



The Capitulars

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### Austria-Switzerland: Ordinary Custodial Chapter–Part II

— Friar Miljenko Hontić, Assistant General for the CEF

**On June 20-23, 2016, the Custody of St. Leopold and St. Nicholas of Flüe, in Austria-Switzerland, held the second part of its Ordinary Custodial Chapter. The Chapter took place at the Holy Trinity friary in Vienna, Austria.**

All of the Capitulars were present except for one who was ill. The new Custos, Friar Daniele Brocca, presided. Also present were the Minister Provincial of the “mother” Province of Germany, Friar Bernhardin Seither, and the Assistant General for the Central European Federation (CEF), Friar Miljenko Hontić.

For the first two days, the friars met in assembly and smaller groups to work on the new Custodial Four-Year Plan and to discuss different topics set forth in the Instrumentum laboris of the Chapter. On the third day, they voted on six motions and the Custodial Four-Year Plan (QCP). On the fourth and last day of the Chapter, they elected new guardians, new Presidents of the Commissions, Delegates or Representatives for various Custodial duties, and the new Custodial Econom/Exactor, who had not been elected during part one of the Chapter. The Capitulars decided to establish an ad hoc Committee, headed by Friar Thomas Manalil, to revise the Custodial Statutes for the next Extraordinary Chapter.

The Custody has seven communities and a rectory (Minoritenkirche in Vienna). The newly elected guardians are Friar Dariusz Zajac, Vienna; Friar Tomasz Zegan, Graz; Friar Bernhard Lang, Neunkirchen; Friar Nicholas Thenammakkal, Asparn; Friar Pascal Marquard, Freiburg; Friar Klaus Renggli, Flüeli; and Friar Vincenzo Cosatti, Chulex. The new Custodial Econom/Exactor is Friar Tomasz Zagan. The Chapter was celebrated in a fraternal and peaceful atmosphere.



The Capitulars

### Romania: Chapter, Part II

— Friar Virgil Blaj, OFM Conv.

**On June 20-23, 2016, the Province of St. Joseph, Romania, celebrated the second part of its Ordinary Provincial Chapter. The Chapter was held at the St. Francis of Assisi friary in Roman, Romania.**

The Chapter began on Monday morning with the celebration of a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, presided over by the Procurator General, Friar Maurizio Di Paolo. Friar Maurizio had been delegated by the Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca, who joined the assembly in the evening

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of the same day. On other days, Mass was presided over by the Minister General, Friar Marco Tasca; the Minister Provincial, Friar Teofil Petrisor; and the Provincial Custos of the Orient and the Holy Land, Friar Cesar Essayan.

The work of the Chapter continued with a presentation of a draft of the Province Four-Year Plan (PPQ) and a discussion of the Plan's content, which was to indicate the line the Province would take for the next four years. After group discussions, a final draft of the PPQ was submitted, voted on and approved by a majority of Capitulars. The same took place with the motions that had been formulated for the Chapter.

During Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, the Capitulars elected the guardians, the heads of the formation houses, the Presidents of the various Provincial Commissions and the Assistant for the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.)

The second part of the Provincial Chapter concluded with the celebration of Midday Prayer presided over by the Minister Provincial, Friar Teofil Petrisor. At that time, he named all the friars who had gone to the Lord over the last four years. At the end of the prayer, he thanked all those present for their active participation in the Chapter and gave them his solemn blessing.

During Evening Prayer on Thursday, the new guardians professed their faith and were sworn in.



The new guardians



The Capitulars

## Office of Statistics

Friar Antonio M. PARISI  
Head of Statistics



## Professiones temporaneae

**Prov. Americana S. Bonaventurae**  
HOFFMAN James (2016-05-29)

## Professiones sollemnes

**Prov. Brasilensis S. Francisci**  
BARROS Josimar Oliveira de,  
SILVA Alexandre Domiciano da (2016-03-13)

**Prov. Neapolitana**  
SCHIAVONE Simone (2016-04-02)

## Ordinationes diaconales

**Cust. prov. Keniana**  
KAARU Simon Mwendu, MBAYA Gifton Kiwo,  
MUSYOKA Pius Mutisya, MUTUA Aquinas Mutunga,  
MUTUA Emmanuel Mutune (2016-05-14)

**Prov. Polonica B.M.V. Immacolatae**  
ŚLIWIŃSKI Daniel (2016-05-21)

## Ordinationes sacerdotales

**Cust. Prov. Calabriae**  
PREDOTI Rocco (2016-04-02)

**Prov. Zambiae**  
BANDA Vincent, BWALYA Robert, MUTAYOMBA Ryan Chilambwe,  
NGOSA Andrew Mwansa PHIRI EIAM Kondwami (2016-04-23)

**Prov. Polonica B.M.V. Immacolatae (Deleg. Prov. Bielorussiae)**  
RAMANCHUK Pavel (2016-05-07)

**Prov. Polonica B.M.V. Immacolatae**  
KWAPISIEWICZ Bogdan; ORŁOWSKI Mateusz (2016-05-21)

**Prov. Polonica S. Antonii Patavini et B. Iacobi a Strepā**  
ŻELECHOWSKI Arkadiusz Adam, CHMIEŁOWSKI Piotr,  
JACKIEWICZ Krzysztof (2016-05-28)

**Prov. Romaniae**  
BALINT Marius, BEJAN Andrei, DANCĂ Iosif sr., FERENȚ Gabriel Anton,  
GAL Daniel, HORTOLOMEI Mihai Ciprian, NANEA Cezar,  
ROBU Iulian, VĂTĂMĂNELU Dan-Ciprian (2016-06-24)

## Consacrationes episcopales

**Prov. Sardiniae**  
CARBONI Roberto (2016-04-17)

## RESTING IN GOD

DEFUNCTI [NOMEN]	CIRCUMSCRIPTIO	DIES	LOCUS	AETAS
ENRIETTI Piergiorgio	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patavini	2016-04-16	Toulouse (Francia)	78
DI MICHELE Carmine	Prov. Romana	2016-04-18	Tivoli (RM)	78
RUFFOLO Raphael (Michael)	Prov. Americ. S. Bonaventurae	2016-04-19	Chicago, IL	97
ZICHICHI Andrea	Prov. Siciliae	2016-05-11	Palermo	54
KEEFE Jeffrey (Francis)	Prov. Americ. D. N. Angelorum	2016-05-11	Enfield, CT	89
BAGGIO Ermenegildo (Giuseppe)	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patavini	2016-05-18	Camposampiero (PD)	90
FICAROTTA Domenico (Rosario)	Prov. Siciliae	2016-05-20	Palermo	76
DI FEBO Giorgio	Prov. Aprutiorum	2016-05-24	Chieti	77
CARRATINO Francesco	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patavini	2016-06-07	Genova	94
BRENTARI Alessandro	Prov. Italica S. Antonii Patavini	2016-06-10	Feltre (BL)	85
WESOŁOWSKI Jarosław (Marian)	Prov. Polonica B. M. V. Immacolatae	2016-06-12	Niepokalanów	87
BŁOCISZ Zygmunt	Prov. Polonica B. M. V. Immacolatae	2016-06-22	Łódź	61