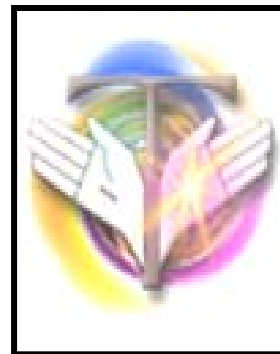


# L-AĦBAR



PROVINĠJA FRANĠISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA.

No. 99 1.2.2005



## Oġhna l-mewt iżżurna mill-ġdid

**The Pontifical  
Athenaeum Antonianum  
becomes a University**

ara Fraternitas p. 15



## Restoration of the Franciscan Church St Mary of Jesus and Friary in Rabat

When Fr. Martin Coleiro OFM was appointed Superior Guardian of the Franciscan Community at Rabat his first concern was the bad condition of the facade of the Jesus of Mary Church known also as Ta' Giezu and convent.

# TO ALL MINISTERS, CUSTODES AND PRESIDENTS OF FOUNDATIONS

Prot. N. 095216

Dear Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Presidents of Foundations,

May the Lord give you peace!

The overwhelming news and images of the terrible tragedy caused by the “tsunami” in the region of South-East Asia (Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand), causing the death of more than 150,000 people, have deeply touched our hearts.



The suffering of so many of our brothers and sisters cannot leave us indifferent. We are also driven by the very many gestures of solidarity made by people of every social class, moved by a common feeling of universal brotherhood.

While we are asked to read the dramatic events of these days with the eyes of faith, allowing ourselves to become involved in them, in profound communion with all the peoples struck by the tragic event and in solidarity with all men and women of good will, with the Church which lives in Asia, with the Conference of Ministers Provincial of Asia/Oceania and, in a particular way, with our Franciscan Brothers and Sisters who are working on the ground to bring help to the suffering, we wish to ask all the Entities of the Order for a gesture of solidarity in this common cause.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2004, immediately after the tragedy, I sent a message from the General Definitory to all the Ministers Provincial and Presidents of the Entities which had suffered. We also opened an account for the reception of aid, which you can find on our web site: [www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org). At this moment, in agreement with the Office for “Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation” here in the General Curia, we are already coordinating the help for the support of some concrete projects in benefit of those peoples.

Dear Brothers, this is an opportune moment to give, in a significant way, witness to our Franciscan spirit of communion and fraternity, as well as to our compassion for the people who are suffering.

I thank you from my heart for your attention and for your concrete response which you may wish to give to this, my appeal.

May the Lord, who comforts us in every tribulation, bless you and give you peace.

Rome, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM  
Minister General

## **Il Ministro Generale DELL' ORDINE DEI FRATI MINORI**

Rome, 6th October 2004  
Prot. N.94944

To the Ministers Provincial and Custodes  
of the entire Order.

Dear Brothers, May the Lord give you Peace!

As you will have seen from the communication of the Definitory General, the work of re-structuring the General Curia was begun on the 1st September last.

During the last General Chapter the Report of the Bursar General, giving the opinion of the study group for the maintenance of the houses dependent on the Minister General, had underlined how "the buildings dependent on the Minister General manifest... a grave state of decline, pointing out also the numerous problems linked especially to the finish... to the technical equipment... and to the technological installations" (Acta Capituli 577) and indicated that the General Curia, among the first of the priorities, absolutely needed an intervention of extraordinary maintenance.

The General Chapter substantially accepted the proposal of proceeding with this architectural-functional readjustment. The Definitory General launched the procedures for the study of the project of extraordinary maintenance of the property of the General Curia and, having received the opinion of the Presidents of the Conferences, decided to present the project to three different construction companies. Having requested the three companies to present tenders in sealed envelopes, the work was entrusted to the "Ditta Castagna".

With this work of re-structuring, according to the report of the Bursar General to the Chapter, "... the General Curia will be perfectly capable of responding in a functional way to the requirements of the Government of the Order and of the related Offices, as well as to the residential organisation of the Friars employed in the life of the House, to the Offices and to the reception of guests" (Acta Capituli 578).

The Chapter discussion pointed out the urgent need to find the funds to begin the work and to have the prospect of setting up a fund to meet the ordinary, regular maintenance of good quality, which would reduce the extraordinary expenditure and guarantee the maximum efficiency of the properties and installations.

Allow me, therefore, through this letter, to solicit the participation of every Entity of the Order in the expenditure for the restructuring of the General Curia. Let each one give according to his possibilities, making himself co-responsible for this onerous financial undertaking which is for the benefit of the entire Order. Assured of your attention and of your disposition, I thank you from my heart in anticipation of all you will be able to do and in the certainty that, through this gesture also, our sense of feeling and of being a universal fraternity will grow.

Fraternally,

Jose' Rodriguez Carballo, OFM  
Minister General

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEFINITORY

## January 2005

The General Definitory met in the General Curia from the 10th to 14th January to deal with the following matters:

- The election of the Definitor General for the “region” of COMPI. Following consultation with COMPI, Fr. Mario Favretto, of the Province of St. Anthony, Venice (Italy), was elected Definitor General for the “region of COMPI” on the 13th January, during the “tempo forte” of the Definitory.
- Reports on Canonical Visitations. The General Definitory studied and approved Reports on Visitation to: the Pontifical Athenaeum Antonianum, the Faculty of Biblical and Archaeological Studies (Jerusalem), the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (Venice) and the Province of the Assumption of the B.V.M. in Argentina.
- Appointment of Assistant Visitor. Br. Paul Miki Murakami, Vicar Provincial of the Province of Japan, was appointed assistant Visitor General to the Holy Name Province of New York, for the Friars of that Province in Japan.
- The erection of Conferences. The General Definitory approved the erection of the new Franciscan Transalpine Conference (= COTAF) which includes the Provinces and Custodies of the former MEFRA and COPEF Conferences. It also erected the Italian/Albanian Conference (=COMPI) which includes the Provinces of Italy and Albania.
- VIII Centenary of the Foundation of the Order. The General Definitory reflected on the way to present, in the Provinces, the document “The grace of our origins”, which contains the project of the celebration of the VIII Centenary of the foundation of the Order. It also set the official opening of the first stage of preparation for the celebration of the centenary for the 29th October 2005, coinciding with the International Congress of Novice Masters of the Order. The celebration will take place in Assisi. The General Definitory, among others, will participate. Each Province should set a date for a similar celebration in its own territory, keeping in mind the programme for this first stage of the Centenary as is contemplated in the document “The grace of our origins”.
- 2006 Extraordinary General Chapter. In the context of the preparation of the 2006 Extraordinary General Chapter, the General Definitory reflected on the way to present and study the document “The vocation of the Order today” which will be sent out soon to the Entities of the Order for study on the part of the Friars. The “Instrumentum laboris” for the upcoming Extraordinary General Chapter, which will be celebrated in Assisi from the 15th September to 1st October 2006 as announced in the previous communication, will be worked out on the basis of the replies received. The General Definitory drew up a programme for the study of the said document and it asks all the Ministers and Custodes to do everything possible to have the document studied in the fraternities of all the Entities and to have the synthesis of the reflections sent in to the General Curia within the time laid down.
- The Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. The General Definitory appointed Br. Luis Cabrera, Definitor General, to be Director of the Office. Br. Luis substitutes Br. Rodrigo who is returning to Brazil at the end of January. The Definitory thanks Br. Rodrigo for his work of animation during this time and Br.

Luis for his availability. The Definitory will complete the personnel of the Office in the near future.

- The Development Office (Fund Raising). The Definitory held a meeting with the Director of the Development Office, Br. James Perluzzi, and a “fund-raising” group made up of some Friars of the Order who have shown a disposition to collaborate with the fund-raising Office of the Curia and approved various suggestions of the “group” for the development of the Office.
- General Secretariat for Formation and Studies. The Secretary General for Formation and Studies, Br. Massimo Fusarelli, presented the programme of the International Congress for the Novices Masters of the Order, which will be held in Assisi next October. The Definitory approved the programme.
- Plichì. As in all “tempo forte”, the Definitory also examined and “dispatched” 30 matters which had arrived from the different Entities of the Order and which required its response or approval.
- The Chapter of “Mats” for the young professed Friars of the Order. The Definitory named the Preparatory Commission for the III Chapter of “Mats” for the young professed Friars of the Order (“under ten”) which will be held from the 1st to 8th July 2007. The Definitory named Br. Juan Ignacio Muro as the “link” between the Definitory and the Preparatory Commission.
- College of St. Isidore. The General Definitory approved the text of the agreement between the Curia and the Province of Ireland through which the latter transfers, for six years, the use of the entire property of the College of St. Isidore to the General Curia. The agreement will be signed in the near future.
- The Service For Dialogue. The General Definitory was informed about the meeting held by the “International Commission for Dialogue” in Rabat (Morocco) from 2nd to 5th January. Br. Miguel Vallecillo and Br. Finian McGinn will present some proposals for the three-year period 2006-2009 during the next “tempo forte”.
- The International Fraternity of Istanbul. Br. Rubén Tierrablanca, the Guardian of the fraternity St. Mary Draperis (Istanbul), informed the Definitory about the situation of the fraternity and about the Friars’ activities in the ecumenical and inter-religious areas.
- Other meetings. During the “tempo forte”, the General Definitory met the Ministers Provincial, Custodes and Presidents elected during the last year. The meeting is being held in the General Curia from the 16th to 26th January. The Minister General also met the Friars of the General Curia and the members of the P. Allegra Fraternity (Fraternity of the Students of the College of St. Anthony, Rome). The Minister and Vicar General met the members of the “Office of communications” of the Curia in order to strengthen communication. During this time, the “Governing Council” of the PAA, in which various members of the Definitory, the Secretary General for Formation and Studies and the Bursar General participate on behalf of the Curia, also met.

In the name of the Minister and of the Definitory, I greet you in St. Francis.

Br. Sandro Overend, ofm  
Secretary General

# PROVINĊJA FRANĠISKANA SAN PAWL APPOSTLU - MALTA

Prot. 0502\12

## ĊIRKULARI

### RANDAN 2005 – VIŻTA KANONIKA

Gheżież Huti f' San Frangisk,

Il-Mulej jaghtikom is-sliem!

Qed nikt b'kom ftit jiem qabel ma' nitlaq għall-vjaġġ lejn l-Afrika t'Isfel, fejn se niehu sehem f'żewġ Konferenzi COMONA u SUBSAHRAIANA. Minhabba ċ-ċirkustanzi ta' din is-sena, il-festa ta' San Pawl, bhala patron tal-Provinċja u tiegħi, se niċċelebrawha s-Sibt, 19 ta' Frar, fil-Kunvent tal-Belt, fil-11.00 a.m. Flimkien nitolbu u niċċelebraw.

Nixtieq infakkarkom biex bhala fraternitajiet niltaqgħu u niddiskutu d-dokument prinċipali tal-Kapitlu Provinċjali Intermedjarju. Dan id-dokument għandu jkun ta' għajjnuna għalina lkoll biex ngħixu l-ispirtu tar-Randan. Id-dokument jurina li l-krizi tal-vokazzjonijiet, mhix semplicement in-nuqqas ta' vokazzjonijiet godda, iżda hija wkoll krizi ta' kif ahna qed ngħixu s-sejha franġiskana fiżminijiet tallum.

Kif tafu, parti mportanti mill-Kapitlu Intermedjarju hija l-Viżta Kanonika tal-Minsitru Provinċjal lill-fraternitajiet. Minn dak li kiteb Missierna Frangisku, jiena rrid niġi fostkom bhala qaddej tagħkom ilkoll. Jiena se niġi biex nisma u nitkellem ma kulhadd. Nixtieq li ż-żjara tiegħi tkun mument ta' riflessjoni u konverżjoni għalina lkoll. Nixtieq innissel kuraġġ u tama quddiem il-qtigh il-qalb tal-ħajja tallum. Nixtieq inkompli inhegġeg is-sens ta' solidarjeta' u koperazzjoni biex ngħixu dejjem aktar bhala ahwa. Nixtieq inkun mezz biex dejjem aktar napprezzaw it-tajjeb ta' xulxin u ngħarf u dejjem aktar is-sabiħ tal-ħajja fraterna.

Lill-Gwardjani u lil dawk l-ahwa li huma responsabbli minn xi amministrazzjoni, nitlobhom biex iħejju l-kotba.

Il-mixja tal-Viżta Kanonika se tkun hekk: 21-22 ta' Frar - S. Maria ta' l-Angli, 23 -24 ta' Frar -il-Porziuncola, 25 – 27 ta' Frar – Ghawdex, 28 ta' Frar-2 ta' Marzu - tas-Sliema, 3-5 ta' Marzu - l-ħamrun, 7-9 ta' Marzu - l-Belt, 11-13 ta' Marzu - r-Rabat.

Jalla id-Dokument *Orjentazzjonijiet għall-Kura Pastorali tal-Vokazzjonijiet* u l-Viżta Kanonika jgħinuna ngħixu l-grazzja tal-konverżjoni personali matul iż-żmien tar-Randan Mqaddes. Insellmilkom.

Maħruġa mill-Kurja Provinċjalizja  
Il-Belt Valletta  
Illum, 1 ta' Frar 2005



Fra Paul Galea ofm  
Ministru Provinċjal

Fra Marcellino Micallef ofm  
Segretarju tal-Provinċja

## TINGHATA L-AĦĦAR TISLIMA LIL HUNA FRA BERNARD BARTOLO, OFM

Nhar it-Tnejn, 9 ta' Jannar, fil-parroċċa tal-Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor, inghatat l-aħħar tislima lil huna Fra Bernard Bartolo, OFM. Għall-quddiesa konċelebrata u li kienet ippreseduta mill-Ministru Provinċjal Fra Paul Galea, OFM u aktar minn 50 saċerdot u fi knisja mimlija qraba u ħbieb ta' Fra Bernard, speċjalment dawk li kienu jiffrekwentaw iċ-Ċentru Pastoral i Ġesu' l-Ħabib.

Fra Bernard ta s-servizz tiegħu kemm bħala mastru, gwardjan, definitur, vigarju provinċjali u ministru provinċjal. Huwa kien magħruf ukoll fost ir-religjużi u saċerdoti għall-predikazzjoni, konferenzi u rtiri, kif ukoll bħala għalliem fejn għal aktar minn 25 sena huwa għallem fl-iskola Immaculate Conception, il-Ħamrun. Huwa kien ta' bidu għal bini tal-kappella u ċ-ċentru pastorali Ġesu' l-Ħabib u li baqa' jagħti s-servizz tiegħu sa' l-aħħar.



# Messaggi ta' Simpatija

Tassew b'soghba kbira u anke hasda, qrajt bl-aħbar tal-mewt ta' sieħbi finnovizzjat P. BERNARD BARTOLO. Inħoss li l-Provincja tilfet religjuż li wettaq dmiru lejn Alla u lejn il-vokazzjoni li għaliha sejjahlu bhala Franġiskan u saċerdot ministru tiegħu.

Bil-qalb kollha ninghaqad ma' ħuti kollha tal-Provincja tagħna f'dan in-niket, u speċjalment waqt il-funeral filwaqt li nibda noffri s-Sagrificċju tal-Quddiesa b'suffragju għalih skond kif jitolbu d-disposizzjonijiet tal-Provincja f'dawn il-kazi.

Inselli għalik u għall-aħwa kollha.

IL-MULEJ JAGHTIK IS-SLIEM.

+ Silvestru Magro ofm

Hasditni hafna l-aħbar tal-mewt ta' Patri Bernard. Nitolbu għalih. Ghandna patri iehor jinterċedi għalina. R.I.P.

Inselli għall-Provincjal u għall-Aħwa kollha.

+ Robert Camilleri ofm

Caro Padre Paolo,

“Il Signore ti doni la Sua Pace!”

Ho appreso da Mons. Silvestro con sorpresa e dolore la morte del caro P. Benardo che molto ha dato con generosità a questa Chiesa, durante il suo provincialato, per la sua attenzione e dedizione alle due fraternità ofm di Benghazi e Tripoli in un momento delicato.

Lo raccomandiamo al Signore perchè gli doni il bacio eterno a premio della sua fedeltà... mentre le assicuriamo la nostra preghiera per la Provincia perchè il Padrone doni santi frati a servizio della sua Chiesa.

Con gratitudine e stima.

+ Fr. Giovanni Martinelli e tutta la fraternità ofm di Tripoli

Dear Fr. Provincial;

We are one with you in praying for the repose of the soul of our brother Bernard Bartolo, ofm.

Fraternally,

Fr. Amado, ofm

Tripoli Fraternity

Carissimo Provincjal,

Qed nikteb għax inħossni ddispjaċut hafna li ma nistax niġi naqsam magħkom dan il-mument. Attakk ta' l-influenza qed izommni ġewwa.

Jekk ma nkunx magħkom għada għall-Quddiesa b'suffragju ta' Huna Bernard li ħalliena, inkun magħkom fl-ispirtu li naqsmu flimkien bhala aħwa.

Bernard u jien għamilna żmien sewwa flimkien fil-laqgħat u anke bhala aħwa fil-kunventi tagħkom u tagħna u dejjem għożżejt u bhala religjuż serju, għaqli u għaref. Hu u jien konna tal-istess eta' u kellna hafna pontijiet komuni fil-ħajja tagħna kemm dik religjuża kif ukoll dik umana bil-mard, saħħa u ferħ tagħha.

Dejjem spiċċajna b'daħqa sinciera li tat il-kuraġġ lilna t-tnejn anki f'mument meta s-salib tad-dmir kien jinħass xi ftit tqil.

Il-Mulej jagħtih il-ferħ ta' dejjem u lilkom u lilna, jagħtina s-sliem.

Fi Kristu Sidi,

P. Crispin Tabone ofmcap

F'isem il-Komunita' tagħna l-Ġiżwiti nixtieq nibgħatlek il-kondoljanzi għall-mewt ta' Patri Bernard Bartolo. Ahna ningħaqdu magħkom fin-niket tagħkom għat-telfa ta' dan il-patri li kien daqstant qaddis u maħbub minn kulhadd.

Napprezzaw hafna l-Ministeru Spiritwali tiegħu li hu kien iwettaq b'dedikazzjoni kbira u li bla dubju kien ta' benefiċċju kbir għal hafna erwieh.

Ningħaqdu magħkom ukoll fit-talb għal ruħu waqt li nerringrazzjaw lil Alla ta' l-ispirazzjoni li Patri Bernard kien għalina lkoll.

Jiddispjaċini li ma kontx naf fil-hin bil-funeral u għalhekk ma stajt inkun preżenti.

Tiegħek fi Kristu,

Fr. Paul Checuti SJ

Provinċjal

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## AN OCEAN OF DESPAIR AND HOPE

INDIAN OCEAN — Although the aftermath of the tsunami has brought an outpouring of support within affected countries and among the international community, the tsunami waves on Sunday, 26 December 2004 will continue to create permanent ripples in the lives of survivors.

In coastal villages, houses lie collapsed, schools torn to shreds, electricity poles down and all the worldly valuables of families washed away. Survivors desire to return to work and rebuild their livelihoods, but they cannot, as industries have been ripped apart.

Franciscans in all of the affected areas have been working with NGO networks to minister to the lasting physical, spiritual and emotional wounds of many victims.

*ikompli p. 20*



## Esperjenza Vokazzjonali

### Il-Mulej isejjah ukoll permezz tal-Mass Media

Sr Marie Carmel Saliba OSC

**F'Awissu li ġej nagħlaq 20 sena fil-Monasteru tas-Sorijiet Klarissi fuq il-gholja tal-Kappara, San Ġiljan. Qisu l-bierah li bdejt nghix din l-avventura sabiha, hajja ta' mhabba u ntimita' mal-Mulej Ġesu' fuq il-passi evangelici ta' Santa Klara u San Frangisk. Ahna l-Klarissi nghixu fil-klawsura fejn bla distrazzjonijiet żejda, niddedikaw hajjitna ghat-talb u l-penitenza fis-solitudni u s-skiet, mehdija b'Alla biss, misjuqa mill-imhabba għall-poplu ta' Alla kollu.**

Peress li r-raba' Hadd ta' l-Għid huwa 'Il-Jum Dinji ta' Talb għall-Vokazzjonijiet' u peress li s-seba' Hadd ta' l-Għid, jew aħjar fit-Tifkira tat-Tluġh il-Mulej fis-Sema huwa 'Il-Jum Dinji tal-Komunikazzjoni Soċjali', f'rabta ma' dawn iż-żewġ ċelebrazzjonijiet tal-Knisja nixtieq naq-sam magħkom, grajja li tmur lura 12-il sena qabel id-dhul tiegħi fil-klawsura u li kienet għalija wahda mill-grajjiet memorabbli fl-istorja vokazzjonali tiegħi.



Kont għadni studenta żgħażuġha, fi żmien meta ma kienx għad hawn il-ħafna stazzjonijiet lokali tar-radju li għandna llum. Il-programm favorit tiegħi kien jismu 'Supersonico', programm, fuq stazzjon Taljan, ta' l-aqwa diski tal-mument, ipprezentat mid-DJ Paolo Testa. Darba minnhom kif kont qed nipprova naqbad l-istazzjon fuq daqsxejn ta' *transistor radio* għall-appuntament tas-soltu, flok smajt lehen Paolo Testa, smajt il-vuċi melodjuża ta' Paolo Sesto. Kien qed jgħid dawn il-preċizi kelmiet : **'Che cosa fa la Chiesa ? La Chiesa prega.'**

X'qal iżjed il-Papa Pawlu VI ma niftakarx. Imma dawk il-kelmtejn baqgħu stampati f'moħħi u f'qalbi. Mhux biss. Kienu wkoll il-bidu ta' hbiberija twila ma' l-istazzjon tar-Radju Vatikan, li skoprejt hekk b'kumbinazzjoni. Imma le, għal Alla ma jeżistux kumbinazzjonijiet. Kienet wahda mit-tqanqiliet tal-grazzja f'ħajti.

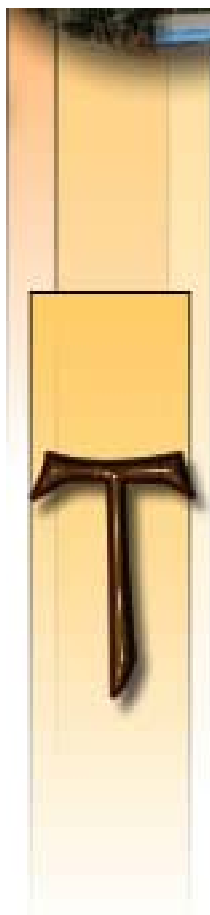
Xi 5 snin wara, fid-djoċesi ta' Ghawdex saret laqgħa bis-sehem ta' l-Isqof Pollakk (illum Kardinal) Andre Deskur li kellu konnessjoni mar-*Radio Vaticana*. Bil-ghajjnuna tat-tagħrif li ksibt, sirt *'fan'* tar-*Radio Vaticana* li bdejt insegwi esklussivament. Nista' ngħid li fetahli orizzonti godda għall-Knisja Universali. Sirt kburiya li jien bint il-Knisja Kattolika u t-talb sar dejjem aktar valur importanti f'ħajti. Bdejt nemmen fil-qawwa enormi tat-talb u fl-Ispirtu tal-Mulej li jahdem b'modi misterjużi fil-qalb tal-bniedem. Ġesu' sar **persuna hajja fiċ-ċentru ta' ħajti**. Kont lesta li nafdah, nemmen fil-Kelma tiegħu u nghixha. Għall-imhabba tiegħu kont lesta li nagħmel kollox.

Meta mbagħad Ġesu' stedinni biex nghix il-hajja nisranija fil-milja tagħha, jew biex nuża kliem il-Papa fil-Messaġġ tiegħu għall-Jum Dinji ta' Talb għall-Vokazzjonijiet, meta wasal 'il-ħin tal-grazzja' u 'l-ħin taż-żjara' (ara Luqa 19,44), dan ma ħlejtux. Kont diġa' ġarrabt il-limitazzjonijiet umani tiegħi u ta' l-oħrajn madwari fl-appostolat u fil-hajja tax-xogħol professjonali u kont issodajt fil-konvinzjoni tiegħi li hajja ta' talb hija hajja ta' min jghixha u ta' min jagħti ħajtu għaliha jew kif jgħidu l-Ingliżi *it's a life worth living*.

Fil-messaġġ tiegħu, il-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II jgħidilna : ‘Il-vokazzjoni biex taqdi lil Ġesu’ biss fil-Knisja tiegħu hija rigal straordinarju tat-tjubija divina u Santa Klara fit-Testment tagħha hallietilna dawn il-kelmiet : ‘Fost il-grazzji kollha li rċevjuna u li kuljum nirċievu minghand il-Benefattur tagħna, il-Missier tal-ħniena (ara 2 Kor 1,3) u li għalihom aħna fid-dmir li rroddulu ħajr minn qalbna, l-ikbar waħda hija dik tal-vokazzjoni tagħna’.

Aktar ma jgħaddu s-snin, aktar qed napprezza l-kobor tas-sejha li Alla għamilli bla ma jisthoqqli. Kif jgħid il-Papa fil-Messaġġ tiegħu, id-don tal-vokazzjoni huwa teżor li qed ingorr f’għarra tal-fuħħar (ara 2 Kor 4,7). Illum il-gurnata, bħala Soru Kontemplattiva fl-Ordni ta’ Santa Klara, nistinka biex nagħti xhieda ta’ Kristu li jitlob fuq il-muntanja u li naqsam bl-aktar mod universali t-toqol, il-miżerji u t-tamiet ta’ l-umanita’ kollha. Il-ferħ tiegħi huwa li ta’ kuljum, għandi l-missjoni speċjali li nagħti qima lil Alla u nfaħħru bil-kant. Waqt il-Liturġija tas-Siġhat, jiena u ħuti s-Sorijiet, nirrappreżentaw **‘il-Knisja li Titlob’** quddiem it-tron ta’ Alla. Dak il-ħin inkunu **‘il-lehen ta’ l-għarusa li tkun tithad-det ma’ l-għarus’**. Kollni ferħana niringrazzja lill-Mulej u ngħidlu : *‘Messni sehem tassew għal qalbi’* (ara Salm 16,6).

Illum il-Mulej isejjaħ ukoll permezz ta’ l-**internet**. Jalla l-istediniet tiegħu isibu ħafna qlub kuraġġjużi u ġenerużi li jgħidulu *‘iva’* b’imħabba.



## **FESTA TAL-PROVINĊJA**

### **U TAL-MINISTRU PROVINĊJAL**

**Is-Sibt, 19 ta’ Frar 2005**

**Kunvent tal-Belt**

**11.00 a.m.**

#### **FIL-HARĠA LI JMISS TA’ L-AĦBAR**

**Intervista’ li l-Lehen is-Sewwa għamel lil Fra Ġorg Aquilina, OFM, awtur tal-ktieb riċenti “Is-Sorijiet Ġerosolmitani, il-Knisja u l-Monasteru Sant’ Ursola, Valletta”.**

# Restoration of the Franciscan Church St Mary of Jesus and Friary in Rabat

**Joseph Muscat**

When Fr. Martin Coleiro was appointed Superior Guardian of the Franciscan Community at Rabat his first concern was the bad condition of the façade of the Jesus of Mary Church known also as Ta' Giezu and convent. Without any loss of time he decided to restore the exterior walls and consulted without further delay expert people as regards the restoration of old buildings. He found in architect Carmel Farrugia not only the main pillar for such a project but also a great benefactor as he declined all remuneration for his services.

Lawrence Mifsud a member of the Arch Confraternity of St Joseph was contracted to work on the project. Lawrence and his team, that is Mario Mifsud, Victor Mifsud Mario G. Mifsud, Domenic Vassallo, and Sebastian Giordmaina executed all the necessary operations required to replace the damaged stone blocks with extreme dexterity.

All eroded blocks were identified and duly indicated on a plan of the walls which was subsequently submitted to the MEPA for examination and approval of the project. After almost 300 years, the limestone blocks used to build the façade of the church and convent showed signs of rapid deterioration due to weathering effect on the stone.

It has been observed that the type of terrazzo mixture applied on the lower courses on all the exterior walls of the Ta' Giezu complex and convent some years ago produced undesirable effects which at that time no one envisaged. The terrazzo covering proved its worth and slowed down visibly the erosion on the exterior blocks of stone, although somewhat anachronistic with the architectural nature of the old building. The excellent mixture of the terrazzo kept well although the deterioration of the stone continued to affect the courses over and above the terrazzo level. Further setbacks such as humidity and the chemical reaction on the stone affected badly the stone courses from the terrazzo level upwards.

The first calculations of the total expenditure for such an extensive project were rather high enough to discourage any responsible person who ventured to undertake it; but not Fr Martin Coleiro! The total sum soared up to LM58, 000 including VAT and at present LM22, 000 are still to be collected and paid to cover all expenses. Most of the funds have been collected principally from the rather small community of the faithful living near and frequenting the church, but then there were further donation collected from the people of Rabat and elsewhere. A further strong effort is required to settle all accounts and Fr Martin deserves all assistance.

The project was launched without almost any type of publicity notwithstanding it being a major restoration work. Subsequently it attracted the attention of well known architects who purposely visited the area together with tourists that happened to pass by the church. They all stopped to watch the hewing of the stone blocks and the fashioning of mouldings with the employment of traditional masonry tools.

When in June 2003 restoration was started it was anticipated that the project would be spread over a good number of years to include three phases of work periods. All work was finished by the first week in December 2004 and it would have been finished earlier, too but unfortunately on 3 November 2004 the workers, while replacing the lower stone blocks of the pilaster which is situated near the niche dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, noticed certain serious cracks which required immediate attention. Most probably the pilaster, an 18th century construction, was added to the medieval wall of the convent but unfortunately it was not completely well incorporated with the rest of the building.



The electrical high tension wired fixed to the upper courses of the pilaster were disconnected while two huge temporary buttresses were erected on either side of it. The operation required the diversion of traffic as the street was blocked but only for a few days. The pilaster was carefully pulled down block by block and new ones put in place, an operation which took only a few days but unfortunately involved further expenses not anticipated in the original quotation.

Keeping in mind the artistic heritage safeguarded in the Franciscan church and convent, the dilapidated state of the outside walls were an eyesore to anybody interested in our religious and artistic heritage.

Perhaps, few realize what a wealth of art is conserved within these buildings. There are works by Favray, Zahra, Hyzler, Parmigianino, Antonello da Saliba and Gagini, just to mention the Old masters. The cloister, with its medieval architectural character, is second only to that of Fort St Angelo, which was erected in the same style.

The year 1533 is carved in one of the roundel medallions found at the apex of a vault. It is believed that Grand Master L'Isle Adam, in view of his close connection with the Franciscans, contributed money to build or refurbish the cloister. He also used one of the small rooms or cells similar to the ones used by the friars, and he died there on August 21, 1534. A marble inscription commemorates that event and another marks the place where his heart and internal organs were buried in one of the pilasters of the old church close to the entrance to the oratory of St Joseph.

This oratory, which is the national Sanctuary of St Joseph, is another place of great artistic interest apart from its devotional connection with the saint. It includes the crowned wooden statue of St Joseph believed to have been brought from Rhodes by the Knights of St John. The oratory also houses the antique statues of the Good Friday procession.

One cannot but remark on the excellence of the workmanship of Lawrence

and his men. Each deteriorated stone slab was replaced by a new one after taking the necessary measurements and the exact profile of each type of mouldings. The old stone blocks were tarred before new ones were inserted in front of them. The men carefully pulled out old weathered blocks of stone, hewed and fashioned new ones and finished the surface of each block.

Watching the craftsmen at work proved to be a novelty to any passer by. Apart from the standard building stone blocks as employed on old buildings huge ones, being sometimes 1.5 metres by 1 metre and weighing approximately two tons each, were required to obtain from them the mouldings of the church and side door and the convent main entrance. A modern stone band saw and router were employed when necessary together with a chain saw to release old badly weathered blocks from their places. But it was a pleasure to watch the senior craftsman employing his old type of gauges to fashion the mouldings. The workmen could be seen meticulously taking measurements of blocks, calculating the correct width between the stone blocks or employing spirit levels to obtain true readings of all the necessary data for the replacement of blocks.

An examination of the side entrance to the church, the side pillars of the main door church entrance and that of the convent shows the expertise of the craftsmen and how one could still find in Malta a high level of the building traditional baroque constructions transmitted from one generation to another. Such a major operation as employed in Rabat reminds you of the great reconstruction program applied to destroyed churches just after World War II. Indeed, the overall pleasing effect of the new facelift applied to the Franciscan church and convent is a credit to all those who contributed to its realization. A marble plaque has been fixed to the pedestal of the statue of Our Lord the Redeemer to commemorate the event.

Fr. Martin remarked with pleasure on the number of volunteers recruited from the ranks of the Arch Confraternity of St Joseph. These installed the new electric lighting on the façade of the church, replaced the wooden cross placed on the tympanum of the façade with a new one and the cross held in the hand of the statue of the Redeemer. They also effected the clearing and cleaning off the coats of old paint from the main antique baroque door of the church. Indeed, volunteers are still found and they are a great help while the efforts of Fr Martin and the Franciscan Fraternity deserve all our appreciation and are reaping their fruit, he deserves all the help he can get. Contributions should be sent to Fr Guardian Martin Coleiro, Franciscan Fathers, St Paul Street, Rabat.



# PROGRAMM TAŻ-ŻJARA F`MALTA TAL-POSTULANTI FRANĠISKANI PROVINĠJA SS.NOMINIS JESU, SICILIAE

*Nhar il-Ħamis 10 ta` Frar 2005, grupp ta` ħdax il-żagħżuġ, kollha postulanti tal-Provinċja tal-Isem Imqaddes ta` Ġesu`, fi` Sqallija, akkumpanjati minn żewġ Diretturi tal-Formazzjoni, ġejjin Malta fuq Pellegrinaġġ Pawlin. Huma se jkunu milqagħua mil-Vigarju Provinċjali Fra Julian Sammut ofm peress li l-Provinċjal ser ikun imsiefer, fid-Dar tal-Irtiri Porziuncola. Magħhom ser jingħaqdu l-Postulanti tagħna Walter u Joseph. Ser ikollhom laqgħat ta` formazzjoni fuq in-nawfraġju ta` San Pawl f`Malta minn Fra Marcello Ghirlando u fuq l-istorja ta` żewġ Provinċji minn Fra Ġorg Aquilina.*

*Huma ser iżuru diversi postijiet ta` interess storiku reliġjuż u kulturali f`Malta u anke f` Għawdex. Sejrjn jaraw diversi kunventi u jiltaqgħu anki mas-sorijiet Klarissi. Din hija okkażjoni sabiħa għall-Provinċja tagħna biex iż-żewġ provinċji jersqu aktar qrib xulxin, ħaġa li tant ilu jishaq fuqha l-Ordni u ser tkun anke ta` esperjenza għall-postulanti tagħna peress li ser ikunu flimkien fis-sena tan-Novizzjat Fonte Colombo. Kemm ser idumu Malta huma ser ikunu akkumpanjati minn Fra Joseph Magro u Fra Stephen Magro.*

## **Il-Ħamis 10 ta` Frar 2005**

Jaslu Malta  
20.30pm Tluq lejn Porziuncola Retreat  
House, Baħar iċ-Ĉagħaq

## **Il-Ġimgħa 11 ta` Frar 2005**

7.30am Talb  
8.00am Breakfast  
8.45am Tluq lejn ir-Rabat  
9.30am Dawra mal-knisja u l-kunvent  
Santa Marija ta` Ġesu`. Spjega minn Mr.  
Joseph Muscat  
10.00am Konferenza minn Fr.Marcello Ghirlando ofm  
11.00am Quddiesa fil-Grotta ta` San Pawl  
12.00pm Pranzu fil-kunvent  
13.30pm Żjara lil Katakombi ta` Sant` Agata. Żjara lil Belt il-Qadima tal-Imdina  
19.30pm Talb  
20.00pm Ĉena, Porziuncola Retreat House



## **Is-Sibt 12 ta` Frar 2005.**

7.00am Quddiesa u Tifhir ta' sbiħ il-jum  
8.00am Breakfast  
8.45am Tluq lejn Għawdex  
9.45am Vjaġġ bil-vapur lejn Għawdex  
10.30am Żjara lis-Santwarju tal-Madonna ta` Pinu u d-Dwejra  
12.00pm Pranzu fil-Kunvent Sant` Antnin  
13.30pm Żjara postijiet storiċi bħal Rabat u Ĉittadella  
16.30pm Ritorn Malta  
17.30pm Waqfa l-Mellieħa, żjara lis-Santwarju tal-Madonna.  
19.30pm Talb  
20.00 pm Ĉena Porziuncola Retreat House

### **Il-Hadd 13 ta` Frar 2005**

7.30am Tifhir ta' sbiħ il-jum  
8.00am Breakfast  
9.30am Żjara San Pawl il-Baħar, il-knisja ta` San Pawl u l-Ġzejjer Pawlini.  
12.00pm Pranzu Porziuncola Retreat House  
14.00pm Dawra ma` Malta  
16.30pm Quddiesa u laqgħa mas-Sorijiet Klarissi  
20.00pm Ċena Porziuncola Retreat House



### **It-Tnejn 14 ta` Frar 2005**

7.00am Quddiesa u Tifhir tas-sbiħ il-jum  
8.00am Breakfast  
8.45am Tluq lejn il-Belt Valletta  
9.30am Żjara lill-Knisja Santa Marija ta` Ġesu`, il-kunvent, il-kummissarjat tat-Terra Santa u l-Arkivju Provinċjali. Konferenza minn Fra Ġeorge Aquilina ofm  
12.30pm Pranzu fil-kunvent  
14.00pm Żjara lil diversi postijiet Storiċi tal-Belt Valletta  
19.30pm Talb  
20.00pm Ċena Porziuncola Retreat Houae

### **It-Tlieta 15 ta` Frar 2005**

Breakfast  
Tluq lejn is-Sea Terminal

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### ***ikompli minn p. 9***

At a meeting of the Franciscan Major Superiors of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, 10 inter-Franciscan communities were formed to stay with affected victims and to supplement the action of church authorities for the months to come.

Nesakkaram, a Franciscan centre for women and children in Chennai, has worked in a network of 31 NGOs to organise aid and rehabilitation in the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry network – the "Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Coordination."

The Franciscan presence aims to ease the victims' pain through listening and providing trauma counselling to the survivors.

At the international level, Franciscans International participated in the Inter-Governmental Organisation meeting on Trafficking to share information about how UN agencies and other NGOs are responding to the tsunami.

The International Organization for Migration, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization and other UN offices have all increased efforts to provide aid, and to give human rights and protection training to relevant officials.

Although UNICEF has only confirmed two cases of child trafficking in affected areas, many officials feel concerned that the tsunami's disastrous economic effects will lead to increased human trafficking, migration and extreme poverty.

As the touching commitment of development professionals and volunteers continues, Franciscans hope to create small waves of solace and hope in a sea of sorrow.

**RETTUR ĊENTRU PASTORALI ĠESU' L-HABIB**  
**Fra Richard S. Grech, OFM, ġie maħtur Rettur taċ-Ċentru Pastoral**  
**Ġesu' l-Habib, f'tas-Sliema.**

## **SENA MILL-WEBSITE TAL-PROVINĠJA**

*On the 25th of January 2005 our web site is one year old. ofm.org.mt was re-launched in January 25 of last year, the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Patron Saint of the Province. The website replaced the one online since 1996. Our aim is to keep you informed on what is happening in our Province.*

*In the past year we kept up with the constant updating of what was going on in our province with information and events. Our main publications have been put online and easy to download, including l-Ahbar, il-Frangiskani, and other important documents. A photo gallery of all the main events is also presented to keep you informed also with pictures.*

*A very interesting section is the Franciscan Studies Corner, wherein studies by Fr. Noel Muscat on Franciscan Spirituality are being added from time to time. Other important links, information on our publications and the guestbook are also present. Lately we have added a new feature, the RSS (Really Simple Syndication). This new feature is used to keep you updated automatically on our website. This feature can be used by any News Reader.*

*We at ofm.org.mt hope that in the future more features and sections will be added to keep you informed with what is going on in our Franciscan Province. In the past year we kept up with the constant updating of what was going on in our province with information and events. Our main publications have been put online and easy to download, including l-Ahbar, il-Frangiskani, and other important documents. A photo gallery of all the main events is also presented to keep you informed also with pictures.*

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*We at ofm.org.mt hope that in the future more features and sections will be added to keep you informed with what is going on in our Franciscan Province.*

To all of you: Prosit! What a fine web site! It is good to keep updated with our Franciscan family in Malta, especially seeing photos of our Sisters (Hamrun and Bahar ic-Caghaq). I also just read about the sudden death of Fr. Bernard Bartolo. I can imagine how much he will be missed by all, especially by the people of the chapel at Patri Marjanu Street! I am writing from New Jersey where I have been for the last 39 years. My home parish in Malta is Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor and my uncle is Patri Nerik Cassar who is presently at Dar tal-Kleru.  
IS-SENA T-TAJBA!  
PAX et BONUM!  
Sr. Dorothy Alosio FMCIM

Hello, I only stumbled over this site yesterday and was ever so pleased to know it existed. It is a site that I will visit often.

Was really sad to read about Fr. Bernard who passed away on The 8th of January (yesterday). I had the pleasure of meeting him during his mission in Toronto, Canada. May he rest in peace.

Adrian Bajada

I read your web-site. Quite interesting. First time I know there are Franciscans who are on-line. But why do you give news in Maltese most of the time? Very few people would be able to read it. English would be much better. Thanks.

Christine  
NEW YORK CITY

## JUM IS-SEJĦA FRANĠISKANA

- Beatu Nazju Falzon, B`Kara: Il-Hadd 3 ta` April 2005
- San Frangisk, Hamrun: Il-Hadd 24 ta` April 2005
- Sant Antnin, Għajnsielem: Il-Hadd 1 ta` Mejju 2005
- Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor, Sliema: Il-Hadd 8 ta` Mejju 2005
- Santa Marija ta` Ġesu`, Rabat: Il-Hadd 15 ta` Mejju 2005
- Santa Marija ta` Ġesu`, Valletta: Il-Hadd 29 ta` Mejju 2005
- Ġesu` l-Habib, Sliema: Il-Hadd 5 ta` Ġunju 2005
- Kappella Madonna ta` Liesse, Valletta: Il-Hadd 12 ta` Ġunju 2005
- Santa Marija ta` l-Angli, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq: Il-Hadd 19 ta` Ġunju 2005

*Bhala preparazzjoni għal dan il-jum, fil-knejjes u ċentri tagħna isir Talb u Adorazzjoni Ewkaristika.*



### Talba Għall-Vokazzjonijiet

**Mulej Ġesu', nitolbuk issejjah aktar zghazagh  
biex joffru hajjithom ghalik**

**u għal huthom fl-Ordni Franġiskan. Nitolbuk  
ghaz-zghazagh li qed iwieġbu ghas-sejha  
Franġiskana. Imliehom bil-kuraġġ u l-fidi.**

**Nitolbuk għall ġenituri. Imliehom bil-ferh meta  
ssejjah lil xi hadd minn uliedhom għall-hajja  
ikkonsagrata lilek.**



The Franciscan Newsletter "Il-Frangiskani" was re-launched in the beginning of the month of February. This newsletter covers information on our local Franciscan Province and the Franciscan Order at large. The Newsletter is published in Maltese. The Main items that are covered are Vocations, Publications and other important news.

The Newsletter is going to be posted again to those interested in our province. The circulation of this newsletter is of about 2,000 copies and it is an eight page publication. The Editor is Fr. George Bugeja OFM currently the Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Sliema.



# FRAR 2005



IT-TNEJN	IT-TLIETA	L-ERBGHA	IL-HAMIS	IL-ĠIMGHA	IS-SIBT	IL-HADD
	1	Preżentazzjoni 2 tal-Mulej	3	4	5	II-V HADD 6
Festa 7 Ta' Fra Richard S. Grech	8	L-Erbgħa 9 Ta' l-Irmiel (Sawm u Astinzenza)	Solennita' 10 ta' l-Appostlu Missierna S. Pawl	11	12	I RANDAN 13
14	15	16	17	18	19	II RANDAN 20
21. Vizja Kanonika Sta. Marija ta' Angli	II-Katedra 22 ta' San Pietru Vizja Kanonika Sta. Marija ta' l-Angli	23. Vizja Kanonika Porziuncola Retreat House Bahar ie-Cagħaq	Vizja Kanonika 24 Porziuncola Retreat House Bahar ie-Cagħaq	Beata 25 M. Adeodara Pisani Vizja Kanonika Ghawdex	Vizja Kanonika 26 Ghawdex	III RANDAN 27
Vizja Kanonika 28 Sliema	<p><b>3 ta' Frar</b></p> <p>Il-Ministru Provinċjal Fra Paul Galea jittaq għall-lageħat ta' COMONA u Subsaharjae li se jsiru fl-Afrika ta' l-sfel. Jirritoma fis-16 ta' Frar 2005.</p>					<p><b>10 ta' Frar</b></p> <p>Festa tal-Ministru Provinċjal Fra Paul Galea u ta' Fra Paul Attard</p>
<p><b>Is-Sibt, 19 ta' Frar</b></p> <p>Festa tal-Provinċja u tal-Ministru Provinċjal 11.00 a.m - Valletta</p>						

# L-AĦBAR



No. 100 1 TA' MARZU 2005

IS-SENA TA' L-EWKARISTIJA

**100 HARĠA TA'  
 L-AĦBAR**

## FESTI U BIRTHDAYS

FRAR

7. Fra Richard S. Grech  
 10. Fra Pawl Galea  
 Fra Paul Attard

7. Fra Alfred Tabone  
 14. Mons. S. Magro  
 16. Fra Nerik Cassar  
 19. Fra Arturu Azzopardi

## Awguri u Xewqat Sbieh!



## F' DIN IL-HARĠA

*Frar 2005*

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# L-AĦBAR

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