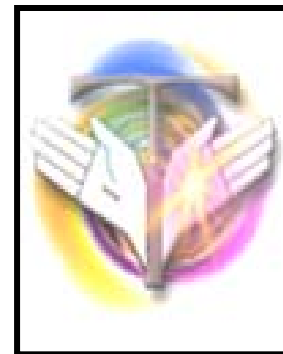


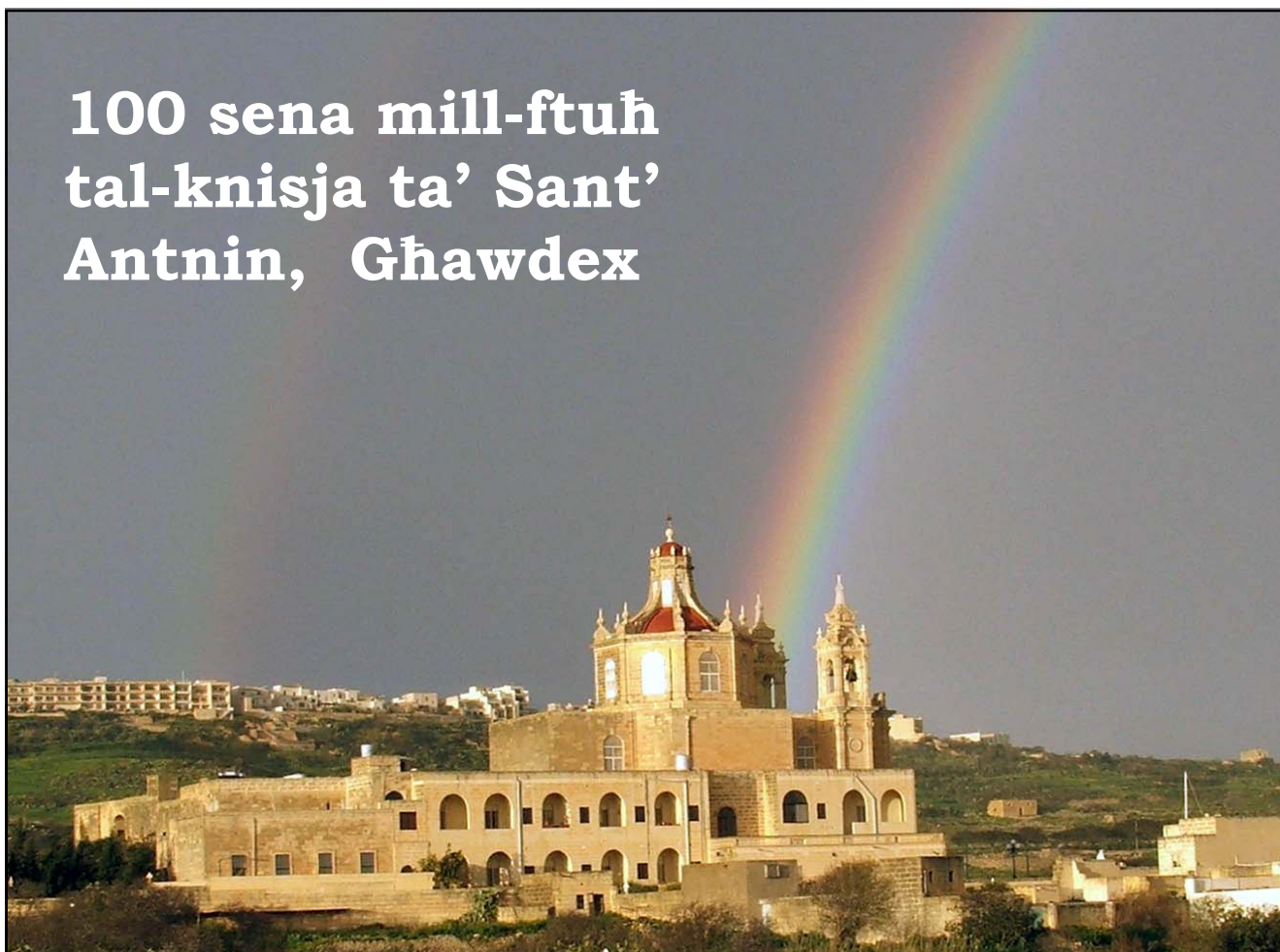
# L-AĦBAR



PROVINĊJA FRANĠISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA.

No. 118 1.11.2006

## 100 sena mill-ftuħ tal-knisja ta' Sant' Antnin, Għawdex



*Ritratt li juri dehra tal-Kunvent u l-Knisja ta' Sant' Antnin, Mġarr, Għawdex. Ara paġna 27*



*ara paġni 19 u 20*

## Professjoni Temporanja ta' Fra Joseph Ciappara u Fra Walter Vassallo

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# Papal Message Recalls Assisi Meeting of '86

## "Religion Must Be a Herald of Peace"

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To my Venerable Brother  
Bishop Domenico Sorrentino of Assisi-  
Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Interreligious Meeting of Prayer for Peace, desired by my venerable Predecessor John Paul II on 27 October 1986 in Assisi...

For his daring and prophetic initiative John Paul II desired to choose the evocative setting of this town of Assisi, known across the world on account of St. Francis.

In fact, the "Poverello" embodied in an exemplary way the Beatitude proclaimed by Jesus in the Gospel: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Mt 5:9). The witness Francis bore in his time makes him a natural reference point today for people who are fostering the ideal of peace, respect for nature and dialogue between people, religions and cultures. It is important, however, to recall, if one does not want to betray his message, that it was Christ's radical decision that provided him with a key to understanding the brotherhood to which

all people are called, and in which inanimate creatures -- from "brother sun" to "sister moon" -- also in a certain way participate.



I would therefore like to recall that the eighth centenary of the conversion of St Francis coincides with this 20th anniversary of John Paul II's Prayer Meeting for Peace. The two commemorations shed light upon each other. In the words addressed to him by the Crucifix of St Damian: "Francis, go, repair my house"; in his choice of radical poverty, in the kiss of the leper that expresses his new capacity to see and love Christ in his suffering brethren, began that human and Christian adventure which continues to fascinate so many people in our day and to make this town the destination of countless pilgrims.

I entrust to you, Venerable Brother, Pastor of this Church of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino, the task of making these reflections known to the participants in the various celebrations planned to commemorate the 20th anniversary of that historic event, the Interreligious Meeting of 27 October 1986. Also kindly impart to everyone my affectionate greeting and my Blessing, which I accompany with the greeting and prayer of the "Poverello" of Assisi: "May the Lord grant you peace!".

## Il Papa: i giovani seguano la strada di San Francesco



*“San Francesco non era solo un ambientalista e un pacifista, ma soprattutto un convertito”. Prima “era una specie di play boy; poi ascoltando il Signore ha compreso la sua via” e così va proposto ai giovani. Lo ha detto il Papa incontrando i sacerdoti della diocesi di Albano.*

26.09.06



## Kapitlu Ġenerali Straordinaju 2006





**Closing Message  
Minister General  
Br. José Rodríguez  
Carballo, ofm**

# **WIDEN THE SPACE OF YOUR TENT**



Dear Brother Ministers and Custodes: May the Lord give you peace!

Through the kindness of the Lord we have come to the end of the Extraordinary General Chapter, convoked in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the VIII Centenary of the foundation of our Order. It is a centenary which we wish to live as “an act of thanksgiving and joy” as the Instrumentum Laboris of this Chapter asks us to do.

It is an act of thanksgiving because, 800 years ago, the Most High granted Francis the grace to begin to do penance (cf. *Test* 1) and to live the “*vita evangelii Iesu Christi*” (*RnB* prol.). It is an act of thanksgiving because the Lord called each one of us to share the same vocation and mission of the *Poverello*.

It is joy because the Lord has been good to us and given us the grace to contemplate and retell a great history of love and grace, realised by the Lord through the brothers and sisters who preceded us. It is joy because the Lord offered each one of us today the opportunity to continue to write the same history of grace and love, of which He Himself is the protagonist.

### Thanks

At this time, I wish, first of all, to thank the Lord for having given us this occasion to be together, to reflect together, to pray together and to celebrate together the gift of our franciscan vocation. Blessed be the Lord, Who called us! Blessed be the Lord, who called us to this event of grace from the far corners of the earth! Blessed be the Lord! Great are His goodness

and mercy towards us!

I also thank you Brother Chapter Members for all the work you have done in listening, reflecting, sharing and praying. I am sure that we all will go from this Chapter richer than when we came. A miracle of mutual enrichment took place when each one of us opened up to the Spirit of the Lord and its holy operation, when each one of us shared with others in a family and free manner, without prejudices and without any complex of having answers to every question, when each one of us opened up to that part of the truth which the Lord put into the heart of our brothers. One is enriched by giving and, at the same time, enriches others by giving of oneself. We all became more aware of the need that each one of us had of the other in order to be more ourselves, to be better Friars Minor.

I thank all who made the Extraordinary General Chapter, which we conclude today, to develop in a climate of great fraternity and intense work possible. I thank the General Definitors for having enthusiastically accepted the idea of celebrating it and for having prepared it carefully together with the “*forma vitae*” Commission. I thank the members of the Preparatory Commission, the Secretary and members of the Chapter Secretariat, the actuaries, interpreters and translators, the members of the Liturgical Commission, the members of the Communications Commission and the Bursar of the Chapter. I thank the Commission for drawing up the final document for its good work. I thank the Province of St. Francis, Stigmatised; in Tuscany, the Seraphic Province of Umbria and the Province of Saints Peter and Paul of Rome

for having received us in the Sanctuaries of La Verna, Assisi and the Holy Valley of Rieti and for their generosity. I thank the Province of St. Charles in Lombardy for having offered office materials. I also thank the personnel of Domus Pacis, who make us feel at home.

### Going forward together

We have concluded the Extraordinary General Chapter, “*a true and proper moment of grace in favour of the “re-foundation” of the Order itself, in view of new beginnings, of new life*” (*I.L.* 3). Motivated by the icon of the disciples of Emmaus, we also travelled together, prayed together, shared our faith and our vocational history and, especially, listened to the Lord, in His Word, and to Francis, who continues to speak to us in his writings, particularly in the “open text” of the Rule and in the places where what we now recognise and celebrate as “the grace of our origins” took on a concrete form. We also had other members of the Franciscan Family present at our Chapter – the Poor Clares Sisters in particular through their prayer and sacrifice-, and, thanks to the voice of many Friars, we also had the voice of “the poor and weak, the ill and the lepers, and the beggars who lie on the edge of the path” (*RnB* 9, 2) present among us. And, of course, all the Friars of our Provinces and Custodies were present. We felt in full communion with the local Church, thanks to the presence of the Bishop of Assisi, Msgr. Domenico Sorrentino, and with the universal Church, thanks to the telegram and blessing which “our lord Pope”, Benedict XVI, had the goodness to send us. We felt they all were our travelling companions and we wish to

journey with them.

### **Our form of life**

The Chapter's attention was centred on the form of gospel life *inspired* in Francis by the Most High. It is a form of life which each one of us promised to *observe faithfully* all the days of our life. It is a form of life which proposes the Gospel as the heart of the franciscan project and as the *Rule and life* (2R 1, 2) of all those who, *moved by the Spirit of the Lord*, feel called to assume this form of life and accept the totality of the message of Jesus and ardently wish to remain faithful to His words, life and doctrine and to the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a form of life which puts the very person of Jesus at its centre and which, if it is observed faithfully, offers us the possibility to share His life (cf. RnB 27; 23). It is a form of life, finally, which drives us to have a profound experience of God in the knowledge and acceptance of ourselves and in the love of others.

Faced by this *revelation*, the first response to give is, in the words of Sister Clare, that of *knowing our vocation* (cf. TestCl 4; 1Cor 1, 26). Yes, Brothers, we need to constantly remember, day after day, that time of grace in which we became aware that the Lord loved us with a love of predilection (cf. Mk 10, 21), and of when, at His invitation to follow Him, we responded with the generosity of the prophet: *Here I am* (cf. Is 6, 8), I will follow you *with my whole heart, with my whole soul and with all my strength* (Dt 6, 4). Great is the gift we received from the Lord when He called us to live the Gospel according to the form of life which Francis left us and by which we are all

the more obliged to give thanks in word and deed to the *Father of mercies* (cf. TestCl 2). Through the knowledge of our vocation we also feel called to put the *proposal* of life we embraced in practice (cf. 2LtCl 11) so that, *with swift pace, light step* (2LtCl 12), without allowing ourselves to be *overwhelmed by any cloud of sadness* (cf. 3CtaCl 11), we may be able to *walk more securely in the way of the commands of the Lord* (2LtCl 15).

*I recommend, as a first tool in making a constant memorial of our vocation and putting our proposal of life into practice, the reading of the formula of profession and renewing it in our hearts in an attitude of re-viewing our life every day.*

This putting into practice has to take into account what the Spirit says to us and asks of us at this time. The Chapter which we just celebrated was a time of grace, a propitious time for listening. During it, in the careful listening to the Word and to the Friars, we experienced, like Francis, a visit of the Lord *through the sweetness of His grace* (cf. LegMj II, 1). The Lord does not remain deaf to the question *Lord, what do you want me to do?* He spoke to us in our silent prayer. He spoke to us through those who enlightened us with their reflections and He spoke to us in our fraternal sharing.

During the Chapter, I personally felt I was often questioned and called to conversion, to enter into a process in order to *pass from the good to the better*, to continue to grow in my commitment to the Lord and to the brothers in order to follow Christ better. I also think that the Spirit pointed out some aspects which should help us to

clarify, even more, our identity of Friars Minor today. Without trying in any way to be complete, I, at the end of the Chapter, wish to share with you some of those aspects which resounded most strongly in the Chapter Hall and, surely, in our hearts also.

### **Let us set out**

The Chapter, which we bring to a close today, has been a powerful and pressing call to live our life to the full; a call to conversion, to live in faith and on the basis of faith; to return to the Gospel in order to return to Christ; to re-live the founding experience of our Fraternity with the aim of re-identifying and re-possessing the original intuitions of Francis. It was a loud awakening call to improve our communications, especially on the level of faith and vocational living; to "open ourselves" to each other in order to break down barriers and prejudices; to accept each other on the basis of mutual listening; to overcome provincialisms, ethnocentrisms, castes and regionalisms; and to open wide our hearts to the world dimension. The Chapter made an urgent call to us not to allow ourselves to be gripped by crisis and fear; not to close in on ourselves; not to reduce our presences to the comfortable and secure spaces of our convents; but to go out, to de-centre in order to re-centre, to de-locate in order to re-locate, to uproot in order to replant; to feel we are itinerants moving towards liminality, the frontier, the periphery, towards the "forgotten cloisters" inhabited by the "lepers of today. The Chapter reminds us Friars, at this time, that we must be careful not to give cult to the idols of activism and efficiency in order

to preserve the prophetic frame of mind of our life. The Chapter, in this context, calls on us to move our focus from the urgent in order to return to the essential and to give a gospel quality to our life.

All this, dear Brothers, has a lot to do with on-going formation. During the Chapter we spoke more about initial formation than about on-going formation. However, we should forget that the latter has priority over the former in so far as it is necessary to nourish "creative fidelity". Neither should we forget that on-going formation is the "humus" of initial formation as it consists of transmitting a form of life and not simply concepts.

*I therefore ask all the Entities to draw up a Project of On-going Formation which would include all aspects of franciscan life: vocation, fraternity/minority and evangelisation.*

### **We are a Fraternity**

The conviction that we are a Fraternity was reinforced, in my opinion, during this Chapter. I think that, during the Chapter, the Spirit called us all, on various occasions, to continue to grow in fraternity, to build fraternity and to respond to our vocation as brothers.

Fraternity, it was very often repeated during the Chapter, is one of the founding and essential elements of our vocation and mission. Just as fraternity shaped the life and mission of Francis and his first companions, so also should communion of life in fraternity shape our life and mission. We can no longer speak of a franciscan life without life in fraternity. We can no longer speak of franciscan mission without thinking about and

living it in fraternity.

However, the Chapter, in addition to ratifying all we have just said, defined our fraternity through some features which I believe are important to remember: a fraternity of believers, a fraternity of equals, an international and inter-cultural fraternity lived in complementarity, a fraternity in dialogue and mission, a fraternity in movement.

As a **fraternity of believers**: Christ must be placed at the centre of our life and mission and, as a "family united in Christ", our fraternal life must be nourished and encouraged through a profound life of faith. As I said in my Report: "the progress of fraternal life goes hand in hand with the journey of faith of each Friar and with the journey of faith of the fraternity". We spoke, on various occasions, about the crisis of faith through which the religious life in general and we, as a part of it, are going through. Because of that, perhaps, the centrality of faith in our life, as well as the need to question ourselves about our own faith and the need to renew and nourish it constantly, was a central topic of the Chapter; just as the topic and practice of personal and fraternal prayer was central. If our life can only be understood as an experience of faith, it cannot be hidden from anyone that faith and prayer are inseparable realities. Dear Brothers, on returning to your Entities, pass on the rich experience we lived during these days. In particular pass on that unease which the Spirit put in our hearts: the need to grow in faith, both personally and in community, and the need for and beauty of communicating and sharing our experiences of

faith in fraternity. Transmit the need to keep ourselves always in an attitude of seeking.

*To do this, I consider it important, as a means, that the life projects of our fraternities should guarantee the means and times for personal and communal prayer and should create space for sharing our faith with the Friars with whom we live from day to day.*

*I ask the Ministers and Guardians to be vigilant that the Friars take the necessary time to learn how to give time to God (vacare Deo) and to take care of the quality of their life. This is a responsibility that we cannot delegate or abdicate. I ask the formators to take care of the quality of prayer from the early stages of formation so that it may be a real encounter with the Lord.*

The life in fraternity to which we have called is a **fraternity of equals**, made up of lay and clerical brothers with the same rights and obligations (CCGG 3, 1; 41), after the example of the fraternity lived by Francis and his first companions. The Chapter, on various occasions and through the voices which reached it from different situations and "regions" asking that everything possible be done so that the said equality, and all its effects, might be recognised legally, underlined the importance of this value in our form of life in order to be really a *signum fraternitatis*.

Everything does not depend on us, but a lot is left in our hands. Therefore, *while we, in close collaboration with the other Friars of the First Order, have renewed our petition to the Holy See to have our Order recognised as a "Mixed Institute", in accordance with what the*

*Post-Synodal Exhortation Vita Consecrata* says, we have to concentrate our efforts on two aspects: A basic common formation for clerics and lay, keeping in mind the personal conditions of each Friar, just as is provided for in our Constitutions and *Ratio Formationis*; and on the review of our pastoral activity, which has been fundamentally clerical up to now, so that there would be a role for the lay Friars in it.

Friars from almost every country took part in the Chapter, which shows that we are an **international and inter-cultural fraternity**. This is one of the great riches of our Fraternity which we not only have to protect, but must also encourage and strengthen in all its expressions. Only in this way will we be signs to an evermore divided world.

We need to cultivate the sense of belonging to the universal Fraternity by overcoming provincialisms and particularisms in order to strengthen the living of the international and inter-cultural Fraternity. Besides, given that the sense of belonging to the universal fraternity and the “overcoming of barriers” have to be considered an integral part of growing in fraternity, it is necessary for this dimension to enter fully into initial and on-going formation.

*To do this, I consider it important that the erection of houses of formation common to various Provinces should be encouraged and that sessions of on-going formation be intensified between various Entities, especially for Guardians and Formators. I also think it is important that meetings of an inter-provincial or international nature should be organised for our young Friars as well as en-*



*couraging the study of languages as a means of communication between the Friars of the different regions.*

Our vocation as Friars, as I stated in my Report to the Chapter, has to be lived in **complimentarity**. The Chapter reinforced this idea even more. Collaboration with the Franciscan Family, especially on the local level, is an imperative for each one of us.

*It is to be desired that the celebration of the VIII Centenary of the foundation of our Order and of the birth of the franciscan charism should encourage and strengthen collaboration between all the followers of Francis.* No matter how much we do in the area of collaboration, there is always a lot still to be done.

We were called to be sent. We are a **fraternity-in-dialogue/mission**. We exist for the mission; we are “Friars of the people”. We also, like the Friars down through the 800 years of our history, have to go out in order to meet the other, to cross borders in such a way that the “radically other” is changed into “the radically close”.

*I think that a solid intel-*

*lectual formation, which would permit us to establish a fruitful dialogue with present-day culture and open us up to the “ad gentes” mission, is, among other things, fundamental for doing this.*

We always say, correctly, that fraternity is a gift, is a grace, but it is also a task. The ideal and perfect fraternity does not exist. “*Ours is the time for edification and constant*” (FLC 26). Our fraternity is a **fraternity in a process**. We are, by vocation, builders of fraternity.

In the light of the experience of the disciples of Emmaus, as a fraternity in a process, we felt the need to grow in communication; in a communication that would lead us to give a name to what we are living, to enter into solidarity with the fate of others, to entrust our poverty to others, to speak of our life and of the intimacy of our heart without reservation and in total trust.

It is necessary, even urgent, to create an atmosphere in our fraternities in which a more profound communication, born of the truth of our being, realised in words and authentic gestures from the heart and ex-

pressed in a renewed language rooted in the essential, should be possible.

*I ask that particular attention should be paid to the celebration of local chapters and other meetings, such as the Chapters of Mats which the Definitory suggested should be celebrated in the Entities as a continuation of this Extraordinary General Chapter, as privileged instruments for creating a culture of communication among us in order to grow in communication and, through it, to grow in fraternity. It should be possible to retell our own human and vocational stories in them. The fraternal life project should contemplate these areas of fraternal communication.*

It is indispensable to have a solid human formation in order to grow in fraternity. It is necessary, therefore, to pay particular attention to this dimension by creating a favourable climate in our fraternities for living human virtues such as homeliness, friendship, sincerity, mutual trust, capacity to dialogue, a sense of humour, etc.

All that has been said above must be a motive for constant evaluation in our communal meetings.

### **From the signs of the times to the time of signs**

During the Chapter some “concrete signs” of our being a universal Fraternity were asked for on many occasions. I wish to make two appeals on this question to all you Ministers and Custodes and,

through you, to all the Friars of the Order. I do so in the context of the celebration of “The Grace of Our Origins”, which will find its culminating point in the celebration of the VIII Centenary of the foundation of our Order.

I feel that it is urgent to reinforce our missionary projects and Study Centres with suitable personnel. At the same time, I feel the urgency to create “significant fraternities”. We need Friars to do this. Besides, there are Entities which, because of their financial situations, can-



not afford to take care of the needs of their sick Friars, of formation or evangelisation for any length of time. The same can be said of some activities of the General Curia in favour of the spirit of the Order. Financial means are necessary for all of this.

My appeal is for each Province to place one Friar at the disposition of the Minister General for the missionary projects, the Study Centres and “significant fraternities” of the Order as a sign of solidarity during these years in which we celebrate “*The Grace of Our Origins*”. In addition, I ask each Province to collaborate, in accordance with its possibilities,

with the “Solidarity Fund” of the General Curia, through which the more urgent needs of poor Entities and of the different projects of the Order in the intellectual area are met.

### **Everything for everyone**

Before I finish, I feel obliged to publicly thank the Lord, who called me to be part of this great family of Friars, and the Friars who, three years ago, placed their trust in me by calling me to serve the universal Fraternity as Minister and servant. I must confess that I was often surprised during this period by the goodness and mercy of the Lord and by the affection I received from the Friars throughout the world. This obliges me not only to continue giving of my best to the Lord and to the Friars, but also to give myself totally. I am aware that I do not belong to myself and, therefore, I

repeat my firm proposal to continue to commit myself fully and without reservation to the Lord and to my brothers. However, given that I am still a long way from this, because of my weakness and mediocrity, I ask pardon of the Lord and understanding from all of you, my dear Brothers.

In this context, I feel the need to thank you my dear Brother Ministers and Custodes, for the many of you who shared your joys and your sorrows with me during the Chapter Thank you. I feel very close to you. You are not alone. The Lord accompanies us, He makes Himself our travelling companion and breaks bread for us.

**Go, brothers, with the blessing of the Lord**

The Chapter is about to conclude. And so, my dear Brother Ministers and Custodes:

Go and invite the tired friars to set out once again by showing them, through your light step (cf. *Lk* 1, 39; *2LtCl* 12), the beauty of

feeling you are on the way towards the goal, reminding them of the need to be adequately nourished in order not to grow weak on the journey (cf. *IK* 19, 7).

Go and announce the Easter message of the Gospel to the sad Friars so that their tears may not impede them in seeing the Risen One (cf. *Jn* 20, 11ss). Go and announce the Gospel of mercy to the Friars who have sinned.

Go and announce the Gospel of the fidelity of God to the Friars who are looking back and, perhaps, thinking of defecting. Lead and accompany them into the desert so that they may listen once again to the voice of their "first love" and commit themselves to Him with the ardour they felt when they were young (cf. *Hos* 2, 16-17).

Go and announce the gospel of fraternal life, of communion, beauty and splendour when Friars live united to the divided fraternities.



God and announce the gospel of evangelical radicalism, of the radical discipleship of Jesus, to the young Friars and the gospel of total, unreserved self-giving and unconditional commitment to the old Friars.

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**Go and announce the Easter message of the Gospel to ...**

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Go to the Friars, the many Friars, who joyfully and radically live the demands of their vocation and tell them that they are those "whom the Lord loves" (*2Thess* 2, 13) and exhort them to remain firm always, not to grow weak in their pledge.

Go to the Friars you meet and tell them they are the blessed of God, tell them that nothing is impossible to God

and that what Paul said is, therefore, also valid for them; "There is nothing I cannot do in the One who strengthens me" (*Phil* 4.13).

Go and make your lives into a constant announcement of the Good News which is Jesus. Go and greet all the Friars on behalf of the Minister and Definitory General.

Go, and may the Lord accompany you always and make your efforts fruitful!

The Chapter is closing and, at the same time, remains open since what we have lived and reflected on here must now be brought to the Friars. Be creative also in seeking the means to transmit this rich experience to them.

May the Lord give you His strength to put into action all that He has inspired in us during these days of grace. I embrace you all in the Lord Jesus and in our father St. Francis, and through you, I embrace all the Friars of the Order.

**Il-Ministru Provincjal jikteb dwar**

# **L-Għeluq tal-Kapitlu Generali Straordinarju**

Inselmilkom. Din id-darba mill-Kunvent tal-Belt. L-ahhar li ktibt permezz ta' Ġwann Abela, kien il-Hadd filghodu qabel l-għeluq tal-Kapitlu Straordinarju. Fl-ahhar Assemblea, il-Ministru Ġeneral għamel l-ahhar diskors tiegħu fejn nistgħu nġid li għabar il-qofol tal-Kapitlu kollu. Wara kellna konċelebrazzjoni fil-Porziuncola u pranzu. Wara nofs in-nhar kul hadd beda jahseb biex jirritorna lura. Jiena sellimt lil Sandro u lil Ġwann u qbadt it-triq lejn Bologna għax wiehed mit-traditturi P. Alessandro Caspoli, hajjarni biex nitla sa Bologna miegħu u niltaqgħa ma l-ex-provincjal Giuseppe Ferrari, li konna studenti flimkien f'Ġerusalem. Wasalna għal habta tas-6.00 pm. Kellna ċans nitkellmu sew. Hadt gost nitkellem ma Fra Marco Zanotti, segretarju, li bhala psikologu imexxi laqgħat ta' tiġdid fil-hajja fraterna. Huwa lest li jkun ta' servizz anke għal Provincja tagħna. F'Bologna għadhom jiftakru sew l-ahhar studenti li kien hemm, Julian Sammut,

Ray Scicluna, Alex Borg, Ray Falzon u Noel Muscat.

It-Tnejn filghodu hriġt harġa sa ċ-ċentru storiku u wara l-ikel qbadt it-triq lura lejn Assisi. It-Tlieta, 3 ta' Ottubru, fil-11.30 am hadt sehem fil-konċelebrazzjoni ta' Jum it-Transitu. Jippar-teċipaw ukoll l-awtoritajiet ċivili u rappreżentanza ta' Kongregazzjoni ta' Sorijiet Frangiskani b'tifkira ta'

sena kien imiss il-Kalabrija. B'kollox jahsbu li kien hemm mat-3000. Fil-bitha tal-Kunvent ikun hemm il-Kardinal Delegat, l-Isqfijiet, Ministri Ġenerali, l-ahwa frangiskani mit-tlett ordnijiet, sacerdoti djoċesani u sorijiet. Fis-6.15 pm tibda il-funzjoni tat-Transitu magħqud mat-talba ta' l-Għasar. Il-Porziuncola tkun ippakkjata. Wara



ċena li jkunu mistednin il-Kardinal, l-isqfijiet u l-Ministri Ġenerali. Fid-9.30 pm il-Ministru Ġeneral tal-Kappuccini jmexxi Velja Aux Flambeaux fil-Porziuncola. F'nhar il-festa, il-Ministru Ġeneral imexxi konċelebrazzjoni fis-7.00 am u wara tlaqna lejn Assisi fuq għal quddiesa ta' l-10.00 am. Wara konna mistiedna għal

pranzu fis-Sacro Convento. Il-festi jiġu fit-tmiem bit-talba ta' l-Għasar fis-7.00 pm. Haga li gibtitli l-attenzjoni kienet li waqt li a hna konna l-Porziuncola għat-talba ta' l-Għasar, l-animaturi tal-Vokazzjonijiet kellhom laqgħa għaž-żgħažgħ fis-sala ta' l-assemblea.

Wara li spiċċajna aħna, iż-żgħażaġh ġew il-Porziuncola. Wara ċ-ċena, il-Kustodju lili ha paċenzja jwassalni San Damiano biex filghodu kmieni naqbad it-triq lejn l-airport flimkien ma' l-aħwa Ambrogio u Gianfranco li ġew Malta biex jieħdu sehem fil-professjoni ta' Walter u Joseph. Wara li strihajt f'it il-Belt, tlajt ir-Rabat għall-velja ta' talb. Filghaxija iltqajna s-Seminarju fejn tkellimna fuq l-esperjenza tal-Kapitlu u l-festa f'Assisi. Il-Ġingħa filghodu nżilna lkoll il-Belt għall-aħħar preparazzjonijiet.

Ix-xita habtitna hafna għax



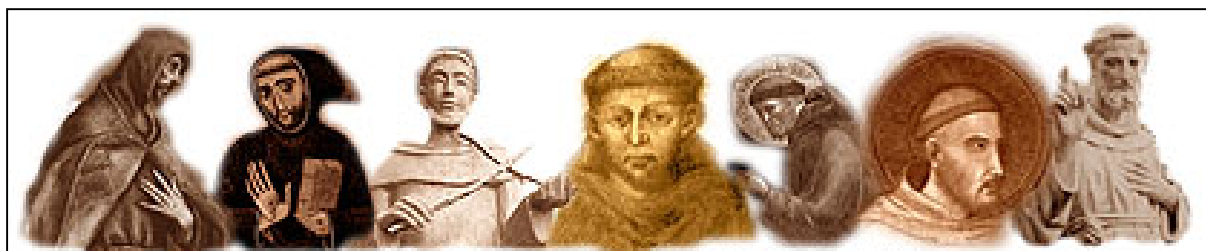
sal 5.00 pm konna ghadna nixxottaw l-ilma. Nghid għalija il-Professjoni kienet esperjenza mill-isbah, speċjalment meta tara l-knisja ippakkjata bin-nies. Il-hasra

hi li wiehed jistenna aktar attendenza min naha tagħna bhala aħwa Frangiskani. Il-fatti juru li n-nies donnhom aktar japprezzaw id-don tal-vokazzjoni għax anke għal velja ta' talb, il-fraternita' tar-Rabat biss kienet preżenti. Jiena nibża li din l-indiferenza hija frott ta' krizi fil-hajja fraterna tal-Provincja. Jalla d-don ta' żewġ postulanti u ta' żewġ studenti jkun okkażjoni ta' tiġdid fil-hajja fraterna tal-provincja. Fil-granet li ġejjin niġi nżurkom u nitkellmu f'it dwar l-esperjenza tal-Kapitlu. Il-Mulej jagħtikom is-sliem.

## Sunday Mass Attendance Census

<b>Frate Francesco (Nazju Falzon Chapel)</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Pastoral Centre Ġesu' l-Ħabib</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Our Lady of Graces Church (ta' Ċejlu)</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Ta' Liesse Church, Valletta</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>St. Mary of Jesus Church, Valletta</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>St. Mary of the Angels Church, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>St. Anthony's Church, Mgarr-Gozo</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>St. Mary of Jesus Church, Rabat</b>	<b>689</b>
<b>Sacro Cuor Church, Sliema</b>	<b>1,137</b>
<b>St. Francis Church, Ħamrun***</b>	<b>1,252</b>

\*\*\* (not included three masses at St. Francis Centre, Ħamrun)



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# Ċirkularijiet tal-Ministru Provincjal

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Prot. No. 0610\70

17 ta' Ottubru 2006.

## BIEX NISSAĦĦU FIL-HAJJA FRATERNA

*Il-Mulej jagħtikom is-sliem!*

Wahda mit-temi prinċipali ta' matul il-Kapitlu Straordinarju, kienet il-Hajja Fraterna fis-sejha Frangiskana. Il-Ministru Ġeneral fid-diskors ta' l-gheluq, fost l-ohrajn qal, "*Ma nistghux nitkellmu minn hajja frangiskana mingħajr il-hajja fraterna. Ma nistghux nitkellmu minn hidma frangiskana jekk mhux fl-ambjent ta' hajja fraterna*". Il-Ministru spicċa d-diskors tiegħu b'diversi ezortazzjonijiet lilna bhala Ministri Provincjali. Fost l-ohrajn talabna "*Morru u habbru l-vangelu tal-hajja fraterna u s-sabiħ ta' meta l-ahwa jghixu magħqudin, lill-fraternitajiet mifruda*". Mill-mod kif esprima ruħu, il-Ministru deher li qed jitkellem minn esperjenzi li għaddej minnhom l-Ordni.

Ahna, bhala Provincja, m'ahniex ahjar minn haddiehor. In-nuqqas tal-hajja fraterna insibuh kemm fl-ambjent tal-fraternitajiet partikulari kif ukoll fuq livell provincjali. Ghalkemm ngħixu taħt saqaf wiehed, qed jizdied in-numru ta' dawk li jghixu għal rashom. Ghalkemm ahna fraternitajiet ta' l-istess Ordni, hafna drabi kull fraternita' qed tghix għal rasha. Ghalkemm ahna ahwa fl-istess provincja, dejjem qed jonqos l-interess lejn dak kollu li huwa marbut mal-hajja tal-provincja. Quddiem din ir-realta', jiena bhala Ministru Provincjal inhoss id-dmir li nagħmel dak kollu li nista' biex ma nkomplux nitbghedu mis-sens tal-hajja fraterna. Fil-ġimghat li ġejjin se jkollna diversi attivitajiet li għandhom iservu ta' għajjnuna biex insaħħu l-hajja fraterna ta' bejnietna. Jiena nhoss li kulhadd għandu jagħmel mill-ahjar li jista' biex nibzghu għal dan id-don tal-hajja fraterna li faċli nitilfuh, allavolja nkunu qed ngħixu taħt saqaf wiehed.

Mill-20 sat-28 ta' Ottubru, il-fraternita' ta' Ghawdex se tfakkar il-100 sena mill-ftuħ tal-knisja. Se jsiru diversi ċelebrazzjonijiet u tajjeb li wiehed jara kif f'xi ġurnata minnhom jissieheb mal-fraternita'.

Is-Sibt, 28 ta' Ottubru, is-Segretarjat tal-Formazzjoni Permanenti se jorganizza nofs ta' nhar Seminar f'Porziuncola Retreat House. Fid-9.30 am niltaqgħu għat-talb flimkien. Fl-10.00 am riflessjoni mill-Provincjal dwar il-Kapitlu Ġenerali Straordinarju. Break u fil-11.15 am l-istorja tal-Provincja minn Fra Ġorġ Aquilina. Fin-12.30 pm ikel. *Il-gwardjani huma mitluba li jikkuntattjaw lil Fra Julian Sammut biex iġhidulu kemm ġejjin patrijiet mill-fraternita' tagħhom, mhux aktar tard mill-Hamis, 26 ta' Ottubru.*

Mit-13-18 ta' Novembru, il-fraternita' ta' tas-Sliema se tfakkar il-125 sena mill-wasla tal-Frangiskani f'tas-Sliema. Bhala Provincja se niehdu sehem biż-Żjara Frangiskana billi niċċelebraw l-Ewkaristija fid-djar ta' l-anzjani. B'kollox hemm madwar 70. Din għandha tkun opportunita' biex b'hala Provincja nwasslu kelma dwar l-importanza tal-Ewkaristija fil-hajja tan-nisrani. Bhala ahwa frangiskani nibdew b'konċelebrazzjoni fil-jum tal-wasla, it-Tnejn, 13 ta' Novembru u wara nieklu xi haġa flimkien mal-fraternita'. L-gheluq se jkun is-Sibt, 18 ta' Novembru, bis-sehem ta' l-Ecc. Tiegħu Mons. Mario Grech, Isqof ta' Ghawdex.

Is-Sibt, 25 ta' Novembru, fl-10.30 am niltaqgħu fil-kappella taċ-ċimiterju biex niftakkru u nitolbu għall-hutna li telqu' qabilna u qed jistrieħu fis-sliem.

Insellmilkom.

Fra Pawl Galea, OFM  
Ministru Provincjal

Fra Marcellino Micallef, OFM  
Segretarju tal-Provincja

# KAPITLU TAL-ĦSAJJAR

Ghezież Ħuti San Frangisk,

*Il-Mulej jagħtikom is-sliem!*

Fuq talba tal-Kapitlu Ġenerali Straordinarju, kull Provinċja ta' l-Ordni giet mitluba biex sa' s-sena 2009 tiċċelebra Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar bi thejjija għal għeluq it-800 sena ta' l-approvazzjoni tar-Regula Frangiskana.

Hija xewqa tal-Kapitlu Ġenerali, li kull frangiskan ikollu l-opportunita' li jisma' kelma tajba u hin biex jiddixxerni dwar ir-relazzjoni personali tiegħu ma' Alla, ma' l-ahwa u miegħu nnifsu.

Ahna bhala Provinċja, se niċċelebraw dan il-Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar bejn is-7 u 9 ta' Jannar 2007, f'Porziuncola Retreat House, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Dan huwa mument ta' grazzja! Dan il-Kapitlu se jkun animat minn Fra Giacomo Bini, OFM, ex-Ministru Ġeneral flimkien ma' kelliema ohra.

Biex jitfassal il-programm, jiena flimkien mad-Definitorju Provinċjali nistieden lill-Gwardjani u lill-membri tal-Kunsill tal-Formazzjoni biex nhar it-Tnejn 6 ta' Novembru, niltaqghu f'Porziuncola Retreat House, fid-9.30 am.

Inhegġgikom biex kulhadd jagħmel l-almu tiegħu biex jipparteċipa għal dan il-Kapitlu. Kull min isib xi diffikulta', nitlobkom tikkomunikaw miegħi. Niehu l-okkażjoni wkoll biex nerga' nhegġgikom tipparteċipaw fis-seminar ta' nhar is-Sibt li ġej, fl-Irtir Interkomunitarju, fix-xahar ta' Novembru u anke fl-Agġornament tal-Kleru 2006. Dawn huma kollha mumenti ta' grazzja li qed joffrilna il-Mulej.

Mahruga mill-Kurja Provinċjalizja  
Valletta  
23 ta' Ottubru 2006

Fra Paul Galea, OFM  
Ministru Provinċjal

Fra Marcellino Micallef, OFM  
Segretarju tal-Provinċja

**Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.**  
*Henry Ward Beecher*

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# informazzjoni

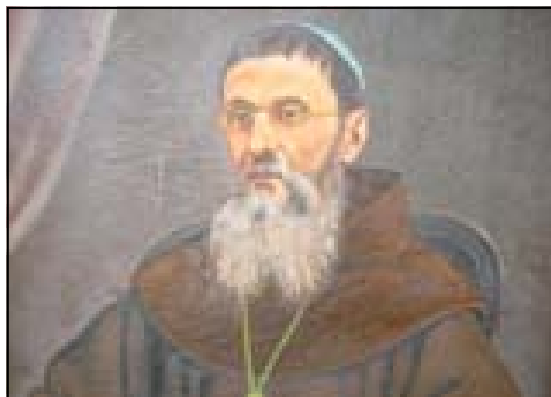
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## Mgr. Pio Vidi OFM commemorated

On the 30th September, in the Franciscan Church at Rabat, a celebration took place to commemorate the 100 years from the death of Mgr. Pio Vidi OFM who was a Franciscan missionary in China, and who died in Malta, in the friary of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Sliema.

The celebration was presided by Fr. George Aquilina OFM who, during the homily, described very well the life of this Bishop who spent many years in China in the end of the 19th century. He left the Far East because of an illness, just when the

Boxer revolution was breaking. In this revolution, in 1900, a group of Franciscans were killed and are now venerated as martyr saints. Among them were three Franciscan bishops, companions of Pio Vidi, namely, Francesco Fogolla, Antonino Fantosati and Gregorio Grassi, together with other Franciscans and 7 Franciscan Missionaries of Mary sisters. Pio Vidi, who was a member of the Venice Franciscan



Province, retired in Malta. When he died he was buried in the crypt of the church of Saint Mary of Jesus in Rabat.

After the Mass the remains of Pio Vidi were transported in a processional way to the new grave in the Church where a marble plaque commemorating this Franciscan personage will be placed.



# New Postulants



young men who are generous and answer God's calling. All we need is an open heart to accept God's call. He gave various examples with the life of St. Francis and St. Clare, saying that these

the cross which was very dear to Saint Francis. Then there was the blessing of the TAU and of the candidates. After the celebration the families of these candidates were invited for a small reception and to see the seminary where Joseph and Aaron will live.

On 2nd October two new Postulants began their journey in the Franciscan Order. Joseph Cilia from Qormi and Aaron Abdilla from Mellieħa, after a good number of years part of the Vocational team and after discerning their call, have decided to begin their two years of postulancy.

During a concelebrated Mass Fr. Julian Sammut OFM, vicar provincial, said that in today's world young people who have the courage to say yes to God's call are diminishing and gave the example of Joseph and Aaron of two

two Saints, in spite of the difficulties of their times, left everything and followed God's Call.

After the Mass a simple celebration of the giving of the TAU to these new Candidates took place. The TAU sign is a Biblical symbol of



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# L-Esperjenza Vokazzjonali tiegħi

Postulant Joseph Cilia.

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Meta kelli madwar ħmistax –il sena, kont għal xi raġuni jew oħra inħoss ġibda ġo fija, ġibda lejn xi haġa ikbar, aħjar milli din id-dinja setgħat qatt toffrili. Jiena, għal xi raġuni jew oħra identifikajt din il- ġibda interjuri, din il- qawwa li kienet bdiet tinbet bil- hlewwa ġewwa fija ma' Alla.

Matul dan iż-żmien proprju lil dan l-Alla li bdejt inh ossu dejjem iġbidni lejH u dejjem fuq ħsiebi, tant li kull minuta kull fejn immur kont nara l-ħidma tiegħu jew inħoss ġo fija bħall-ġamar li kien dejjem jaqbad, ġamar li isahh anli qalbi, ġamar li inibbet ġewwa fija ferħ, ġamar li iktar ma bdejt infittex lil Alla iktar donnu beda jikber. L-Ewkaristija saret għalija l- iktar haġa li lili tagħtini gost; għaldaqstant, iktar ma bdejt immur il-quddies iktar bdejt inh ossni imhegġeg sabiex ningħ ata lil Alla fix- xogħol tiegħu.

Matul dan iż- żmien ta' sikwit kont infittex li niskopri iktar lil dan Alla li kien qed ji ġbidni, kont ta' sikwit inhobb naqra' l- Evangelji, mod speċjali dak ta' San Luqa fejn Ġesu' jibgħat l-Appostli tejn tnejn biex iġhallmu u r-rakkont tal- passjoni ta' San Ġwann. Kont

naqrahom mhux għax kont qed nifhem xi messa ġġ partikolari, pero' sempliciment għaliex kienu jogħġbuni u kont inhosshom jolqtuni partikolarment. Iktar ma beda' jgħaddi ż-żmien jiena iktar bdejt nistaqsi lil Mulej u ngħidlu: "Mulej urini xi trid minni?"

Inzerta li l-iskola kien iqararna Patri Franġiskan, Fr. Paul Attard, darba kull ġimgħa. Darba minnhom kont sejjer inqerr u ħassejt ġewwa l- profond ta' qalbi vuċi u din il- vuċi qallti "Mur u għidlu b' kollox." Jiena mort u kellimtu u għedtlu ċar u tond b' dak kollu li kien għaddej ġewwa fija, u dan il-Patri qabbadni mal- Animatur tal-Vokazzjonijiet tal-Fran ġiskani li dak iż-żmien kien Fra Stephen Magro.

Fra Stephen kien ta' sikwit iġhidli biex nitla l-kunvent tar- Rabat għal xi esperjenza. Matul dawn l-esperjenzi jiena tgh- alimt x' tinvolvi l-ħajja Fran- ġiskana u xi fisser tkun Fran ġiskan, sirt naf aktar lil Fran ġisku f' Assisi, imma fuq kollox tghallimt nitlob bis-salmi, sibb aħwa godda li kienu qed iġhamlu l-istess esperjenza tiegħi. Kont inhossni qiegħed

ġewwa posti. Kont – u għadni – nħossni tajjeb minn ġewwa.

Ma rridx infisser li inqajt minn shabi tal- iskola, ħajti kemm xejn baqgħat l-istess f' dan l-aspett, għalkemm shabi lkoll bdew jindunaw li kont inbdilt. Li f' daqqa waħda sirt iktar ferħan, iktar dahqan, u l- ferħ tiegħi mhux dak il-ferħ sempliċi ta' erbgħa minuti u jgħaddi, iżda huwa ferħ li jibqa'.

Sadattant għaddiet sena u ta madwar sittax –il sena bdejt nattendi grupp Karizmatiku. Hawnehkk jiena sibt teżor għas- sempliċi fatt li f' din l- għaqda il- Mulej laqqgħ ani ma nies li lili għenuni biex iktar nirrelata miegħu u inkompli niskoprih iktar. Għenuni anke għal- fatt illi parti minn dan il- grupp kien mgħ amul għaz-żgħażaġh u fih kont inkun involut sew; b'hekk jiena bħala persuna infiaħt iktar, kont għamilt hbieb godda li bħali – għalkemm b' mod differenti – kienu fittxu li jsiru jafu lil Alla.

Bdejt ukoll ngħamel xi xogħol ta' volontarjat mas- sorijiet Missjunarji tal- Karita' (ta' Madre Tereza) ġewwa Bormla. Dawn l- esperjenzi ta' volontarjat kienu iġhinuni immens kemm biex

niddixxerni is- sejha personali li Alla qieghed jghamilli lili personalment, kif ukoll biex nikber iktar lejn Alla. Dawn is-sorijiet lili hallewli f' hajti impressjoni ta' Ġesu' tant sabiha; kienu u ghadhom jgħa gbuni, dejjem bit- tbissima fuq fommhom, ma jzommu xejn għalihom – jghixu mill-providenza. Kienu jbellhuni lili kull meta kienu jaqilgħu xi haġa tarahom jġru jġibu basket u jghadduha lil xi hadd fil- bżonn. Permezz ta' dawn is- sorijiet Alla tani grazzja qawwiya għaliex tghallimt xi tfigħer li thobb, li proprju kif tghid Madre Tereza "Il- frott tal- imħabba huwa il- qadi."

S'issa kollox kien donnu sejjer harir, iżda darba minnhom wara nofs in- nhar Missieri kellu aċċident u miet. Din il- ġrajja litteralment immarkatli hajti, u għalkemm minn barra kont nitbissem u ngħati kuragġ kemm lil ommi kif ukoll lil hija ż-żghir, kont inħossni verament waħdi. M'iniex ser ngħid li kont tliet il-fidi dak iż-żmien (pjuttost bil- kontra), pero ma stajtix nifhem eżatt kif Alla qed jghaddini minn żmien li għaliha kien aħrax. Il-ħaġa li l- iktar kienet tirrabjani kienet illi Alla f' daqqa waħda donnu sparixxa – id- dar konnha (u xi kultant ghadna) ngħixu fuq il-providenza. Jiena kelli xogħol pero' ma kienx biż-żejjed biex iżzomm erba' minn nies. Dan il-fatt ta' dipendenza kien jirrabjani hafna, kont inħoss illi

l-hajja kienet ingusta hafna. Il-fidi f' Alla (anke jekk jiena ma kontx qed nammettiha) kienet tghini hafna, għaliex issa ngħid li kieku ma kienx Alla għaliha f'dak iż-żmien, kieku ma kontx nkun kapaci ngħix.

Bqajt immur il- grupp karizmatiku, għand is- sorijiet u anke l- esperjenzi bqajt immur ukoll. Biż- żmien imbagħad aċċettajt il- hajja kif inhi u ppreferejt nimxi il-quddiem. Pero' issa meta nħares lura, ma ngħazel li nibdel xejn minn hajti, għaliex nagħraf li Alla tant kien viċin tiegħi f' dawk il- jiem. Xorta xi kultant għadni ma nifhimx kif għaddew il- ġranet u s- snin, ma nifhimx il- għaliex tal- mod kif Alla jahdem, pero ngħaraf li l- ewwel nett il- għaliex mhux importanti, iżda x' ngħamel jiena fiz - żmien ta' dlam, iva dak importanti. Tghallimt li l-hajja hi kif inhi, mimlija bl-inżul kif ukoll it- tlajja', l-importanti li tghixha proprju kif inhi mingħajr taħbit żejjed u bil- fidi.

Huwa dan l- aspekk ta' faqar spiritwali li l-Mulej għeni nagħraf, bil- għajnuna tal- animatur vokazzjonali prezenti Fr. Joseph Magro, li segwieni matul l- aħħar sena l- iktar li lili jġbidni mill-hajja Frangiskana. Kemm hu sabiħ li tghix il- hajja hieles mill-affarijiet li tant jidhru bżonnjużi pero' fir-realta' jorbtona bi ħbula li ma jidhrux; u proprju din hija waħda mill- iktar affarijiet sbieħ li l-Mulej urieni proprju f' dawn it- tliet

ġimgħat tal-postulandat li l- affarijiet li jiena kont nahseb li huma bżonn għaliha fir-realta' mhux verament bżonn u iktar ma wiehed jicċaħhad minnhom iktar fir-realta' jkun hieles.

Biex nikkonkludi, f' dawn l-aħħar erba' snin, kemm mit-tagħlim ta' Madre Tereza, kif ukoll mill- hajja tal- fqajjar Frangisku għaraft iktar aħjar xi jfissru il-kliem ta' Ġesu' "Għandi l- għatx..." L- għatx ta' Ġesu', mhux sempliċi għatx għall- ilma biex itaffi daqsxejn l-inxif, iżda għatx għall-imħabba veru, għatx għad-dinjita' umana li iktar ma jghaddi ż- żmien iktar il-valur tagħha jitbaxxa u jġi ddegradat sal- punt li jsir biss sempliċi kalkolu ta' flus. Il- mistoqsija kienet u hija waħda – quddiem dan il- faqar, materjali u bil- wisq iktar spiritwali, jiena x' ser ngħamel?

Huwa b' dan il-ħsieb li jiena fl-aħħar mill-aħħar iddeċidejt li nibda din il-mixja ta' mħabba ma' Alla, għaliex għaliha din li hi il-vokazzjoni, mixja ta' mħabba ( u mħabba li titmewwet) bejn Alla u l- imsejjah, imħabba reciprokata lura mill-imsejjah lejn Alla, li finalment tingħata għal kull- hadd. Lil dawk li jaqraw din l- esperjenza, nixtieq ngħamilhom kuragġ biex jekk huma wkoll jisimgħu l-lehen helu ta' Ġesu' isejjilhom ma jibz- għux, ma jaqtgħux qalbhom, iżda fuq kollox jifthulu l-bieb tal- qalb tagħhom.

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# Professjoni Temporanja ta' Fra Walter Vassallo u Fra Joseph Ciappara

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Huwa diffiċli ħafna li tiġbor fi ftit kliem esperjenza daqsekk vasta u profonda b'hal m'hi dik tal-professjoni. Fuq kolloxx hi fiha nfisha misteru, għax qabel kolloxx huwa Alla li jsejjaħ u jpoġġi f'qalbna iż-żerriegħa tal-vokazzjoni. Kif jgħid Kristu "Mhux intom għażiltu lili, imma



Jien għażilt lilkom". (Gw 15,16). meta tħares lejn it-tlett voti li wiegħedt taħseb fuq li taħseb. Bil-mod il-mod tibda tirrealizza x'don u x'teżor kbir huma dawn it-tlett voti issimbolizzati fit-tlett għoqod tal-kurdun. Kull meta nħares lejhom dan niftakar: "Fwejjeġ kbar wegħdna aħna, akbar twiegħdu lilna" (Exhortatio Sancti Francisci. Fjuretti 18) kif jgħid Missierna San Franġisk, u dan fhimtu tajjeb meta l-provincjal, wara li tennejt il-formola tal-professjoni wegħibni "u nwiegħdek li jekk tiġħx dan kollu, min-naħa ta' Alla li li jista' kolloxx, ikollok il-ħajja ta' dejjem". Dawn huma fwejjeġ li bniedem qajla jasal biex jibda jifhimhom, jekk ma tkunx l-id ta' Alla li tigwidah. Hu proprju minħabba dan li l-bniedem li jidħol għall-konsagrazzjoni jeħtieġ preparazzjoni tajba. Dan aħna lħaqniħ grazzi għall-formazzjoni li kellna.



In-novizzjat kien diġà pass importanti ħafna, u apparti l-grazzja tal-post –kelna x-xorti li nagħmlu n-novizzjat ġewwa San Damjan f'Assisi– kelna wkoll formazzjoni tajba ħafna. Fil-fatt sa mill-bidu qalulna li in-novizzjat ser jiġi mpost fuq it-tmien kapitlu tad-Dewteronomju. "Ftakar fil-mixja kollha li mexxiek il-Mulej, Alla tiegħek, matul dawn l-erbgħin sena fid-deżert, biex iċekknek u jgarrbek, ħalli jkun jaf x'għandek f'qalbek, jekk tridx toqgħod għall-kmandamenti tiegħu jew le. Huwa iċekknek, ried li tbatu l-ġuħ, mbagħad temgħek il-manna, li la int u lanqas missirijietek ma kontu tafu biha, biex jurik li mhux bil-ħobż biss jgħix il-bniedem, imma b'dak kollu li joħroġ minn fomm il-Mulej" (Dt 8, 2-3). U kienet verament eperjenza b'hal din. Is-sagħtejn kuljum li kellna nqattgħuh fis-silenzju u l-

kontemplazzjoni kienu biċċa għodda tajba li dewquna l-esperjenza tad-deżert. Is-skiet u s-solitudni joħolqu insigurtà fil-bniedem, tant, li l-istorbju tad-dinja li wieħed ikun kiseb tul is-snin jibda ñiereg f'dawn il-mument. Din hi ñaġa posittiva għax il-persuna bil-mod il-mod tissaffa mill-istorbju interjuri li tkun kisbet tul is-snin u b'hekk ikollha inqas xi jtellifha milli toqgħod siekta quddiem Alla, tisma' LILU. F'dan l-istadju l-persuna tagħraf lil Alla aktar mill-qrib u f'dan id-dawl tasal tagħraf u tifhem lilha nfisha. B'hekk il-persuna tkun tista' bil-għajnuna t'Alla u tal-formaturi, tañdem fuq il-personalità tagħha.

Kellna ukoll l-irtir tal-professjoni ta' ñutna it-taljani. Kienu eżerċizzji tajbin ferm għaliex fihom rajna kif Alla sejjañ u dañal f'patt mal-patrijarki fl-Iskrittura. Permezz ta' skrutinju tajjeb tal-kelma rajna kif il-bniedem jasal jidñol f'patt mal-Mulej u kif minkejja forsi l-infedeltà minn naña tal-bniedem, il-Mulej jibqa dejjem fidil u lest li jañfer tant li wara l-indiema

jagħti aktar sañña biex dak li jkun jitqaddes. Rajna l-għajnuna u l-azzjoni ta' Alla fil-prova ta' Abraham, fl-infedeltà ta' David, u fid-diffikultajiet fraterni ta' Ġakobb.

Importanti ñafna kien ukoll l-irtir tal-professjoni; din id-darba li għamilna hawn Malta, ippriedkat minn Patri Ġuzepp Beneditt Xuereb ofm. Dan l-irtir kien importanti ñafna għalina għaliex kellu ñarsa prattika fuq il-ñajja. B'hekk stajna nifmu sewwa x'inhu mitlub minna llum bñala reliġjuzi Franġiskani. Rajna kemm hi essenzjali 'maintenance' tal-vokazzjoni permezz tal-formazzjoni permanenti u kemm it-talb hu l-qofol ta' kollox jekk wieħed irid jindokra l-vokazzjoni u jaqdi lill Alla tajjeb. Rajna ukoll r-rwol importanti li l-fraternità għandha fil-ñajja tagħna Franġiskana. Frai li laqitni kienet "Filwaqt li nagħmlu x-xogħol tal-Mulej, ninsew lil Mulej tax-xogħol", hawn patri Ġuzepp Beneditt ikkwotalna lil Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II biex jurina kemm hu faċli li x-xogħol pastorali u l-

apostolat jassorbu l-persuna tant li jaljenawha mill-fonti principali li hu Alla, u b'hekk il-vokazzjoni ssib ruhah f'bañar imaqalleb.

Wara dan dñalna fil-festa ta' Missierna San Franġisk, fejn stajna nippreparaw ruñna bit-talb u l-liturġija. Nista' ngiñd li kienet ġimġha intensiva ñafna li wasslitna għall-professjoni imñejjija sew. Nhar San Franġisk filgħodu, wara t-talb fratern, kellna nofs ta' nhar deert, fejn għal kwiet tal-kampanja Maltija stajna nitolbu u nimmeditaw ir-regola. Fil-għaxija tlabna fil-pellegrinaġġ li kellna bl-istatwa ta' San Franġisk u biċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-Quddiesa solenni. L-għada ilqajna magħna žewġ Patrijiet Taljani, il-Mastru Patri Ambrogio u Patri Gianfranco li ġew minn San Damjan biex jingħaqdu magħna fit-talb f'dan il-mument tant importanti għalina. Filgħaxija kellna ukoll velja bi tñejjija għall-professjoni. Kien mument ta' intimità mal-Mulej u ta' komunjoni fraterna fit-talb.

*ikompli f'paġna 34*



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# Sources of Saint Clare in Maltese

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<Fonti għall-Hajja ta' Santa Klara t'Assisi» (Sources for the Life of Saint Clare of Assisi) are historical documents about Saint Clare (1193-1253) and the origins of the Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano (Poor Clares), written in the period 1212-1263. These documents are witnesses of the feminine characteristics of

Franciscan life, as this life has been expressed and understood by Clare, the «little plant» of Saint Francis, as she preferred to call herself.

The celebrations of important anniversaries opened new opportunities for more profound studies regarding Saint Clare and the spirituality of the Second Franciscan Order. In particular we remember the 700 anniversary of the

death of Saint Clare (1953), the 800 anniversary of her birth (1993), and the 750 anniversary of the approval of the Rule of Saint Clare (2003). These important dates prompted various scholars to delve deeper into the writings and medieval biographies of Saint Clare, in order to arrive at the conclusion that Clare was not simply a faithful copy of Saint Francis, but that she developed a typical spirituality which we can rightly call her very own.

In Malta, the Franciscan Friars Minor and the Sisters of Saint Clare have worked together as a team in order to publish the Writings and some of the Sources of Saint Clare, on the occasion of the 1993 centenary celebrations. In 1986 they had already published the Maltese translation of the critical edition of the Writings of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. In 1993 they translated the Acts of the Process of Canonization of Saint Clare and the Life (in Latin «Legenda») of Saint Clare. Since then they have continued working to present this new and complete edition of the medieval Sources for the Life of Saint Clare. This volume follows upon, and



the 2 volume edition of the Sources for the Life of Saint Francis, published by the Maltese Franciscan Province and Edizzjoni TAU in 2005.

The volume is divided into four sections. After a general introduction to Saint Clare's writings and biographies, section 1 covers the Writings of Saint Clare, namely her Letters, Rule of 1253, and Testament. Section 2 is concerned with the main medieval Sources of the Life of Clare, particularly the Privilege of Poverty, the Rules given by Cardinal Hugolino (1218), Pope Innocent IV (1247), and Pope Urban IV (1263), the Acts of the Process of Canonization, the Bull of Canonization, and the «Legenda» of Saint Clare. Section 3 is a collage of texts from the Sources of Saint Francis which speak about Saint Clare and the Order of Poor Ladies of San Damiano. Section 4 is dedicated to the Papal

documents given to Clare and to the various monasteries of Poor Clares in the 13th century. The volume also includes an updated biography of sources and studies about Saint Clare, and various indexes of biblical references, persons, places, and themes.

Marija Immakulata Bellizzi OSC is still living at Saint Clare's Monastery. For many years she was Mother Abbess of the said monastery at Saint Julians. Together with the Franciscan Friars she worked upon the translation of the Writings of Saint Clare, and was of expert help through her preparation and life-experience in the cloister of the Sisters of Saint Clare.

Noel Muscat OFM and Guzepp Beneditt Xuereb OFM already worked upon the presentation of the 2 volume edition of the

Sources of Saint Francis. They have taken the task of translating the greater parts of the medieval documents from the Latin originals. Noel Muscat OFM has particularly translated all the documents after the 1993 edition, and taken care of the introductions, footnotes and indexes.

This volume is the second contribution which the Franciscan Province of Friars Minor (OFM) in Malta is making towards the celebrations of 800 years of the foundation of the Order of Friars Minor (1209-2009), as well as towards the 25 anniversary of the founding of Edizzjoni TAU (1982-2007) by Fr. Raymond Camilleri OFM, with the aim of specializing in publications dealing with Sacred Scripture and the Franciscans of the Holy Land Custody, as well as with Franciscan studies in general.

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# Ġrajjet Ewlenin F'Tas-Sliema

Ġuzepp Vella, OFM

Mija u ħamsa u għoxrin sena ilu f'Tas-Sliema sehħew tlett ġrajjet gloriużi nhar is-26 ta' Ġunju 1881. Dakinhar ir-Rev. Dun Pawl Vella D.D.ra il-holma qaddisa tiegħu ssir realta'. Ġrajjet li ħadd ma' jista' jħassarhom mill-istorja ta' Tas-Sliema; u wisq aktar mill-kronaka tal-knisja għażiża tagħna. Il-Ġrajja ta' dak il-jum tinqasam fi tlett avvenimenti li huma dawn:

1. Filgħodu kmieni l-Arcisqof ta' Malta Mons Carmelo Xikluna ġie jbierek il-knisja u qaddes l-ewwel Quddiesa.

2. Dun Pawl, flimkien mal-Kumitat tal-konfraternita' ddecieda li jagħmel l-ewwel Festa titolari tan- "Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore di Gesu" u għalhekk fid-9.00 am. qaddes sollennement bil-mużika u għamel l-ewwel pane ġierku.

3. Il-qofol ta' din il-ġrajja unika ntlahqet, filgħaxija, meta waslet il-vara għażiża tal-Madonna. Kienet lejha ta' devozzjoni kbira. Il-Madonna daħlet fis Santwarju tagħha

biex tibqa viċin lejn dawk li jirrikorru lejha.

Il-ġrajja kollha ta' dan il-jum imbierek hija mnizzla, bid-dettalji kollha, fid-djarju li Dun Pawl Vella ħallielna. Dan huwa bit-taljan u jgib l-isem "Cenni storici della chiesa di N.S. del

ġrajja storika, Dun Pawl Vella kiteb hekk : " Ma jistax wiehed ifisser il-ferħ u s-sodisfazzjon tan-nies ta' dawn l-inħawi. Ma kienx hemm anqas persuna wahda li ma kkoperatx u ma tatx is-sehem tagħha biex il-festa tkun splendida u ferriha.

It-toroq kollha ġew imzejjna bil-bnadar, il-gallariji armati con damasco. Il-faċċata tal-knisja ġdida ġiet imzejjna bil-liedna u fjuri flimkien ma girlandi. Il-bandiera tal-Papa tperper fuq il-kampnar tal-lemin filwaqt li fuq l-iehor hemm il-bandiera maltija. Fuq il-bjut kollha ittellgħu bnadar ta' diversi nazzjonijiet. Imsomma kif qaltli persuna anzjana li Tas-Sliema qatt ma' rat daqstant armar sabiħ bh al dan. Qabel it-tieni Ave Maria l-qniepen daqqew fit-tul biex iħabbru s-solennita' kbira li se sseħħ għada. L-isparar tal-

murtali wrew il-ferħ tal-popolazzjoni."

## It-Tberik u l-Ftuħ tal-Knisja

Fuq talba ta' Dun Pawl, nhar it-18 ta' Ġunju, l-Arcisqof ġie biex jara l-knisja privata-

Il-Faċċata l-antika tal-Knisja



Sacro Cuore di Gesu nella Sliema - Monumento a S.S. Pio IX P.M." Jiena se naqleb għall-malti din il-ġrajja ewlenija. Inħalli lil Dun Pawl itina kwadru shiħ tal-emozzjonijiet li huwa għadda minnhom. Lejlet din il-

ment. Huwa baqa' mistgħageb bis-sbuhija u ssempliċta' tagħha.

Nhar il-25 ta' Ġunju, fil-knisja, tqiegħed kwadru żgħir tal-Madonna Nostra Signora bħala titular provizorju wara l-altar maġġur. Inkwadru ieħor imdaqqas tal Papa Pio Nono tpoġġa mal-gallarija ta' l-orgni bi skrizzjoni, bil-latin. tahtu. Kitba ohra bil-latin, kellha titqiegħed fuq il-bieb il-kbir mal faċċata tal-knisja imma it-tilar kbir għaliha ma tlestiex. F' din il-ġurnata ngiebet il-vara tal-Madonna mill-knisja ta' Sant' Ursola, il-Belt, fejn kienet miżmuma mill-1879 sakemm titlesta l-knisja. L-istatwa ġiet mqegħda taht pavaljun kbir fil-Villa Falzon, quddiem il-baħar, ġo Via Msida. F' dan il-jum ukoll, Dun Pawl irċieva d-delega mingħand l-Arcisqof biex ibierek it-Tabernaklu. Il-Pissidi u t-trieħi ta' l-altari kollha. Din iċ-ċerimonja saret nhar is-26 ta' Ġunju fil-5.30 am quddiem xi membri tal-kumitat. Hawn Dun Pawl niżżel nota personali : "Il-Mulej tani l-grazzja li kif qabel ma bdiet timbena l-knisja kont berikt is-salib ta' l-injam u qegħdu fejn kellu jkun l-altar maġġur, hekk issa kelli x-xorti u l-grazzja li nbierək l-aktar parti prinċipali tal-Knisja - it-Tabernaklu."

Fis-6.00 am. it-toroq bdew jimtlew bin-nies biex jistennew il-miġja ta' Mons Arcisqof Carmelo Xikluna. Fis-6.30 am. l-Arcisqof wasal ix-

Xatt ta' Tas-sliema fost ċapċip u għajjat ta' Viva l-Papa. Viva Nostra Signora, Viva l-Arcisqof. In-nies ħallew iż-żwiemel mill-karozzella u l-arcisqof, bil-ħbula, ġie miġbud sa quddiem il-knisja imdawwar b' kotra kbira ta' nies iġorru f'idejhom bnadar tal-Papa u ta' Malta. Kif wasal daħal mill-ewwel fil-knisja, ingħalqu l-bibien, u beda jilbes l-abiti sagri għall-funzjoni. Kien mghejjun mill-Monsinjuri Dun Felice Cutajar, Dun Michelangelo Sammut u ċ-ċerimonier Dun Giovanni Stafrace. Kienu prezenti l-Uffiċċjali tal-Konfraternita' tal-Madonna "Nostra Signora", Dun Pawl flimkien ma' l-abbatini tal-Konfraternita' lebsin suttana ċelesti bil-bordura ħamra. Ilkoll ħarġu fuq iż-zuntier tal-knisja, fejn wiehed mill-abbatini iben is-sur Riccardo Soler qara diskors ta' merħba. L-Arcisqof deher li apprezza ħafna dan id-diskors. Sadanintant waslu aktar saċerdoti mistiedna li kienu : il-Vigarju Kurat tal-Parroċċa Stella Maris libes is-suttana, l-aħwa saċerdoti Debono, Dun Ġużepp Fabri u Dun Anton Vella. L-Arcisqof beda it-talb tat-tberik u għamel dawra mal-knisja, minn barra jbierek il-ħitan tagħha bl-ilma mbierek. Wara daħal fil-knisja flimkien, mas-saċerdoti msemija, l-abbatini u l-Uffiċċjali tal-Konfraternita', u ingħalqu l-bibien filwaqt li sar it-tberik tal-knisja minn ġewwa waqt il-kant tal-Litanija tal-

Qaddisin kollha u wara ġie kantat it-"Te Deum". Infethu l-bibien biex jidhlu n-nies li kienet għadha barra tistenna. In-nies ġiet bi ħġara u mlew kull rokna tal-knisja. Beda jintrama l-altar maġġur bil-gandlieri u t-trieħi kif ukoll l-altari l-oħra kollha. Mons Arcisqof kien fuq il-faldistorju fuq il-presbiterju libes il-pjaneta u beda biex qaddes l-ewwel Quddiesa. Fiha tqarbnu numru kbir ta-nisa, irġiel u tfal. Wara li ntemmet il-Quddiesa Dun Pawl, flimkien mal-President tal-Konfraternita', irringrazzja lil Arcisqof u pprezentawlu buk-kett, li ġie mogħti lilhom b' xejn mill-Vigarju Ġenerali tad-Djoċesi. Is-sur Paolo Souchet għamel diskors, f' isem is-Slimiżi, li fiha talab lill-Arcisqof biex il-kura spiritwali tiġi afdana f-idejn il-Patrijiet Minuri Osservanti. Hawn l-Arcisqof wieġeb li din kienet l-intenzjoni tiegħu imma l-ewwel isir dak li għandu jsir u jispera li fi żmien qasir jitwettaq dak li kien meh tiegħ. Wara, l-Arcisqof ġie mistieden għall-kafe' fil-lukanda Imperial. Huwa ma aċċettax u mar lura lejn il-Belt. Kif l-Arcisqof halla l-knisja Dun Anton Vella qaddes it-tieni Quddiesa fl-altar maġġur u s-Saċerdoti l-oħra qaddsu fuq l-altari l-oħra kollha tal-ġnub.

### **Il-Quddiesa solenni ta' l-ewwel Festa Titulari**

Fit-8.30 il-qniepen ħabbru l-ewwel Quddiesa

solenni tal-Festa titolari. Fid-9.00 am, Dun Pawl Vella, assistit minn Dun Salv Zanghi bħala djaknu u Dun Salv Xuereb bħala suddjaknu u Dun Anton Vella cerimonier, flimkien ma żewġ abbatini bl-akkolti ħarġu mill-oratorju tal-Konfraternita'. Il-presbiterju kien imdawwar bl-abbatini lebsin celesti. Taht il-presbiterju. fl-ewwel fillieri kien hemm il-membri tal-kumitat u l-membri tal-Konfraternita flimkien ma għadd kbir ta' devoti li ħanqu l-knisja. Billi kienet ġurnata tal-Ħadd, qabel il-Quddiesa, sar il-kant ta' l-"Asperges" u tberik tan-nies bl-ilma mbierek. Hawn Dun Pawl jirrakonta episodju li ġara. Kiteb hekk " Meta dhalt fil-kor biex nilbes il-pjaneta rajt lil Vigarju Kurat ta' Stella Maris, kontra l-projbizzjoni li kellu mill-Arcisqof, ried li jattendi għal funzjoni liebes l-ispellizza bl-istola fuqu li tisser li kellu ġurisdizzjoni. Għalhekk qabel ma lbist il-pjaneta, iprotestajt miegħu u għidtlu li ma kellux id-dritt li jġi bl-istola fuqu f' din il-knisja. Wara, lbist il-pjaneta u hriġt fuq l-altar maġġur biex nibda l-Quddiesa".

Il-Quddiesa kienet bl-orkestra taht it-tmexxija tal-magħruf Maestro Antonio Nani li ta is-servizz tiegħu b' xejn. Wara l-Vanġelu, Dun Pawl, niseġ l-ewwel Panegjierku bit-test mill-Iskrittura mil-tieni Ktieb tal-Kronaki par.7 vers 16 " Elegi locum istum. . . . . ut permaneat ibi cor meum

omnibus diebus " Bil-Malti jfissru " Ghazilt dan il-post biex. . . . . qalbi tibqa' fih għal dejjem. Beda b' dan il-kliem biex juri kemm verament Alla għażel dan dan il-post 1.kemm minħabba il-mirakli li graw waqt ix-xogħol tal-bini, kemm minħabba l-Providenza divina qatt ma naqset tipprovdi l-flus u kemm għax dan it-tempju mbena fi żmien qasir. 2. Alla bena dan it-tempju biex fih iqiegħed Qalbu kemm minħabba t-titular u d-devozzjoni ġdida li qabdet gheruq tajba, kif ukoll minħabba t-twaqqif tal-Konfraternita' tal-Madonna *Nostra Signora*.

Wara li ntemmet il-Quddiesa solenni Dun Salvatore Zanghi qaddes fl-altar ta' San Vincenz biex jitwettaq il-Legat li kien imħolli minn neguzjant Vincenzo Bondin. F' nofs inhar il-qniepen daqqew fit tul biex iħabbu l-purċissjoni popolari li filgħaxija kellha twassal l-istatwa devota tal-Madonna "Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore di Gesu' " biex tidhol u tieħu pussess tas-santwarju tagħha.

### **Il-Miġja tal-Vara fil-Knisja**

Kmieni wara nofs inhar id-daqq tal-qniepen fit-tul flimkien mal-mużika tal-baned fit-toroq ta' l-inħawi jixhdu l-radd il-ħajr u l-ferħ tal-poplu slimiz. It-toroq bdew jimtlew bin-nies u l-knisja imtliet daqs bajda. Fit-3.30 pm. waslu l-membri tal-Istitut tal-knisja tal-

Vitorja, tal-Belt, taht l-isem tal-Bon Pastur bil-bandalora bis-simbolu tal-Qalb ta' Ġesu' l-tfal lebsin l-ispellizza qaqħdu fil-kor ikantaw l-Innu tan-Nostra Signora li magħhom ingħaqdu fil-kant it-tfal tad-duttrina tal-Konfraternita' tal-Madonna Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore di Gesu' li kellhom il-bandalora bis-simbolu tan nome di Maria. Wara waslu it-tfal tad-duttrina tal-Parroċċa ta' Stella Maris li fuq il-bandalora kellhom ix-xbiha ta' San Ġużepp. Kienu preżenti wkoll l-istitut tad-Duluri mwaqqfa fil-knisja tal-Pieta' li kellhom il-bandalora bix-xbiha tal-Madonna. Il-Konfraternita' tal-Madonna Nostra Signora flimkien mat-tfal, bl-ispellizza, kellhom il-bandalora bis-simbolu tal-Qalb ta' Marija.

Wara d-daqq tal-tielet mota tal-qniepen, fil-5.15 pm. bdiet hierġa l-purċissjoni mill-Knisja b'dan l-ordni : 1. l-Istitut tal-Pieta', 2 Istitut tad-Duluri, 3 l-istitut tal-Bon Pastur. 4 Il-Konfraternita' tal-Madonna Nostra Signora flimkien mal-abbatini bl-ispellizza u l-membri tal-kumitat flimkien ma għadd kbir ta' saċerdoti. Wara imxew it-tfal bniet maż-żelatrici ta' l-istess Konfraternita'. Il-purċissjoni għaddiet minn triq San Trofimo għal triq San Ġwann Battista għal triq Sant' Agata, triq Marina għal via Msida. Kulhadd waqaf quddiem il-Villa Falzon. Id-Direttur tal-Bon Pastur intona l-Innu " A Nostra Signora" waqt li

I-vara bdiet miexja biex toħ-roġ mill-Villa. Wara li ntemm il-kant ta' l-innu Dun Guglielmu Mamo beda r-reċita tar-Rużarju mqaddes. Wara kull posta tar-Rużarju tkantaw strofi mill-Innu popolari "Viva Viva". Minn Via Msida, il-purċissjoni għaddiet għal Prince of Wales



Road. Id-dehra tagħha b' hafna bandieri, gallariji armati bid-damask u bid-dwal kienet qisha sala kbira, mžejna. Is-silenzju kien kbir u profund li kien miksura biss bit-talb u l-kant ta' l-innijiet marjani. Mill-gallariji, twieqi u bjut intefghu f'juri, karti minn kull kulur, tal-fidda u deheb li bdew ileqqu qishom stilel u karti bil-kitba ta' xi sunett jew kliem ieħor ta' tiffhir lil Madonna. Quddiem id-djar ta' xi devoti giet sparata musketterija.

Wara li għaddiet mill-parti ta' Prince of Wales il-purċissjoni daret għal triq San Ġwann Battista u wara għal triq San Trofimo sal-knisja. Hawn

kien hawn folla kbira ta' nies u rassa tal-ghageb. Kif l-istatwa dahlet fil-knisja il-Viċi Direttur tal-Konfraternita', Dun Antonio Vella, għamel diskors imqanqal ta-merħba lil vara tal-Madonna. Wara, Dun Pawl, mgħejjun minn Dun Salv Zanghi, libes il-kappa u flimkien ma erba abbatini bit-torċi ħareġ mill-oratorju għall-altar maġġur. Ġiet intonata s-Salve Regina li tkompletat bl-orkestra. Tkantat ukoll il-Litanija tal-Madonna u wara l-antifona "beata Mater". Ġie espost is-Sagrament, tkanta it-Te Deum u ingħatat l-ewwel Barka Sagramentali. Hekk intemmet l-ewwel funzjoni bil-kwiet u trankwillita' kollha. Wara nżul ix-xemx il-baned bdew idoqqu marċi madwar it-toroq ta' l-inħawi. It-tempju ġie mdawwal bil-fjakkli kif ukoll it-toroq ta' madwaru; hekk li wara t-tieni Ave Maria, din il-parti ta' Tas-Sliema kienet tidher qisa hu ġġieġa waħda. Fl-10.00pm kien hemm loġħob tan-nar sabiħ. Hekk intemmet l-ewwel festa titolari tan-Nostra Signora fil-knisja ġdida tagħna.

Dun Pawl kiteb li kienet ġurnata ta' temp sabiħ hafna. Meta saqsa lil tal-karozzini u l-barklori tad-dgħajjes li jaħdmu bejn il-Belt u Tas-Sliema ikkalkulaw li madwar 50.000 persuna ġew Tas-Sliema għal din l-ewwel funzjoni. Fl-aħħar paġna taç- "Cenni Storici" hemm parti mill-gazzetta "Fede e Azione" li fuqha hemm din il-

poezija, bit-taljan, miktuba mir-Rev. Dun Antonio Vella. Hija din :

Quando il sole. Dall' Indiche sponde,  
Lo splendor di sua luce diffonde,  
Tutto in festa la terra si detesta,  
Fra gli olezzi dell' aure e dei fior :

Quando Aprile, dall' ispidio gelo,  
Manda in terra le grazie del cielo,  
L'aure molli, le selve ed i colli.  
Tutto echeggia in un senso d' amor.

Così Tu desti,  
Pastor diletto,  
Gaudio perenne  
Nel nostro petto,  
Sensi d' amor;

Quando con rito  
Solenne ognora,  
Tu sacri il tempio  
Alla Signora  
Del Sacro Cuor.

Referenzi :

Cenni Storici ta' Dun Pawl Vella. . . . .P.70, 73, 77 - 85

*Fil-ħarġa li jmiss*

**L-AĦBAR**

**IL-MIĠJA TAL-  
PATRIJET**

**13 TA' NOVEMBRU  
1881**

# 100 sena mill-ftuħ tal-knisja ta' Sant' Antnin, Għawdex

*Dan id-diskors ta' Fra Ġorg Aquilina, OFM sar fl-okkażjoni tal-100 sena mit-tberik tal-knisja, fid-9 ta' Ġunju 2006.*

Għaddew mitt sena mit-28 ta' Ottubru 1906, minn mindu ta' qabilna kienu hawn għal ftuħ ta' din il-knisja u t-tberik tagħha li sar mill-isqof Mons. Giovanni Maria Camilleri. Dak inhar anki s-sema ingħaqad fiċ-ċerimonja tat-tberik ... kienet ix-xita! Il-Knisja u l-kunvent li nbnew bit-tħabrik ta' Patri Tonin Cesal, imma fuq kollox bil-għajnuna ta' Alla, tal-benefattur speċjali Ġużeppi Sultana minn Nadur, ta' missirijietkom, u xejn anqas tagħkom, li bis-saħħa ta' kulhadd din il-ġawhra ta' knisja hija kif qed narawha llum. Meta sitt snin ilu ktibt il-ġrajja tal-patrijiet tagħna f'Għajnsielem, għedt li dak inhar tal-ftuħ tal-Knisja, Patri Ġorg Xerri, li kien preżenti lemaħ lil P.Tonin Cesal jibki bil-ferh. Tabilhaqq malli l-provincjal ta' dak iż-żmien P. Lwiġ Attard, intona t-*Te Deum*, flimkien mal-fwieħa ta' l-incens b'ringrazzjament lil Alla, thallat miegħu id-dmugh ta' ferħ ta' dawk ta' qabilna. Dak inhar kien seħħ il-miraklu ta' Sant' Antnin, li l-proġett li kien beda bla sold,

kien lest.

Il-Mulej jaf jagħzel Hu lil dawk li jridhom iwettqu l-proġetti tiegħu. Patri Cesal, kien bniedem li kellu fiduċja għamja f'Alla; bniedem li jaf xi jrid, jaf jaqra s-sinjali taż-żminijiet, jitqabad mall-kuntrarju, konvint minn dak li jagħmel, u għalhekk kien jgħaddas rasu fix-xogħol, u f'isem Alla jibqa' miexi. Minkejja d-diffikultajiet li sab ma wiċċu, minn min ma tistenniehx, ha f'idej il-Knisja, illum parroċċa tas-Sacro Cuor f'tas-Sliema, u fl-istess żmien tefa' harstu fuq Għawdex. Meta l-ewwel patrijiet ġew f'Ta' Gliex, lanqas biss kellu minfejn iħallas tmien liri kera, ħareġ jittallabhom, aħseb u ara kemm kellu f'idu biex jibni knisja u kunvent! X'ma jibkix P. Cesal meta ra lesta l-knisja, bla sold dejn: jekk mhux ma Sant' Antnin. Ma niżbaljawx jekk ngħidu li Sant' Antnin ried din l-unika knisja f'ismu hawn ġewwa Għawdex. Kemm ħabbat



wiċċu ma nkwiet P. Cesal, meta kellu jagħzel bejn hawn jew San Pawl il-Baħar. Ma kienx bniedem li jaqta' qalbu: kieku riedhom it-tnejn, imma kellu jbaxxi rasu għar-rieda tas-superjuri godda, li ma kienux ta' l-istess fibra tiegħu, u l-għażla waqgħet fuq Sant' Antnin f'Għajnsielem. Dan qed ngħiduh, biex wiehed jifhem minn xhiex wiehed ikollu jgħaddi jekk irid jagħmel xi haġa ġdida, u b'kemm taqtiegħ ta' qalb. P.Cesal iggranfa mar-rieda ta' Alla, u

jhallih jagħmel hu. U aħna illum, mitt sena wara, qegħdin inroddu ħajr lil Alla ta' dan il-miraklu ħaj ta' Sant'Antnin u li għadu sejjer.

Ser nieqaf hawn. Dawn il-grajjiet huma miktubin, u ser jibqgħu hemm biex jgħidu lil ta' wrajna x'għamlu għalina ta' qabilna.

F'din it-tifkira ta' illum, ta' min iħalli lil Sant'Antnin jitkellem hu, inħalluh jgħidilna xi tfisser il-knisja:

1. S. Antnin iqabbel il-Knisja ma' l-arka ta' Noe. Li fiha tigbor il-magħżulin ta' Alla. Noe jfisser "mistrieh", u Ġesù qal: "Ejjew għandi intom li tinsabu mħabbtin, u jiena nserrahkom;
2. Il-Knisja tixbaħ lill-ħagra prezzjuża, taf il-bidu tagħha wara l-mewt u l-qawmien ta' Kristu u iddum sa l-aħħar taż-żmien;
3. Il-Knisja tigborna flimkien bit-tagħlim u bis-Sagramenti. B'idejh miftuħa fuq u s-salib Ġesù, "jigbor flimkien lil ulied Alla li huma mferrxin".
4. Il-Knisja tixbağ lil mara ta' l-Apokalissi. "Deher sinjal kbir fis-sema, mara imlibbsa x-xemx". Mara li twelled bl-ilma u l-Ispirtu s-Santu. Imlibbsa x-xemx, jigifieri Kristu li hu d-dawl veru li gie fid-dinja. Il-knisja tilbes dan id-dawl, tilbes lil Kristu
5. Il-Knisja hija bħaż-

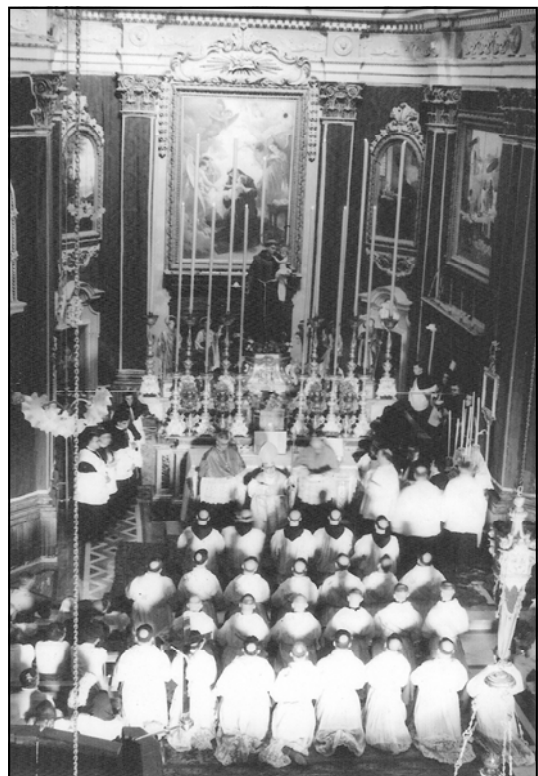
zerriegħa tnibbet u tagħti l-frott bil-kelma tagħha, u jiddispjaciha għal dawk ulieda li jitbegħdu minnha: igġarrab l-uġiegh tal-ħlas biex treġġa' lura lil midinbin.

6. Il-Knisja nxebbħuha ma Betlem. Betlem id-Dar tal-ħobż. Hawn Ġesù jgħajjixna bil-ħobż li jagħtina.
7. Il-Knisja hija d-dgħajsa ta' Kristu, li halla t-tmun tagħha f'idejn Pietru biex imexxiha.
8. Il-Knisja tixbaħ it-tron ta' Salamun, tron ta' l-għerf, tal-Paċi u Sliem
9. Il-Knisja hija bħal belt żgħira, imma imqegħda fis-sod. Żgħira meta tqis in-numru kbir ta' dawk li ma jemmnux. Kif jgħidilna l-Ktieb ta' l-Gherf: "Kbir bla qies hu n-numru tal-boloh".
10. Il-Knisja hija d-dar tat-talb, "malli tidhol f'dari ... ma ssibx imrar, inti u qieghed ma ġenbi, ma jgiblekx dwejjaq tagħmilha mieghi, izda ferħ u hena.

Hekk illum aħna li ningabru hawn, irridu nibnu Knisja, bil-għajjnuna ta' Alla u taħt il-ħarsien ta' S. Antnin:

- Knisja li

- temmen: - insara li jjsimghu l-kelma ta' Alla u jagħmluha;
- Knisja li titlob: ma xulxin u għal xulxin;
- Knisja li tħabbar: insara li jagħtu xhieda bil-kelma u b'ħajjithom;
- Knisja li tittama: tama ċerta, rizultat ta' fidi vera;
- Knisja li tħobb: fejn titwarrab il-pika, u kulhadd ikun kapaċi jaċċetta lil ħaddieħor
- Knisja hajja: fejn l-Ispirtu s-Santu jqassam id-doni tiegħu;
- Knisja Frangiskana: minfejn nitrawmu u nsiru strumenti ta' Paċi u Ġid.
- Knisja Antonjana: Fejn nemmnu li l-Evangeliu jagħmel il-mirakli permezz tagħna.



**Ordinazzjoni 50 sena ilu, fosthom Fra Charles Wickman, OFM**

# Wirja dwar Għawdex u Sant' Antnin



Nhar il-Ġimgħa 20 t'Ottubru, infetħet exhibition fiċ-Ċentru S. Antnin bit-titlu ta' "Għawdex u Sant'Antnin". Peress li dis-sena, fit-28 t'Ottubru, taħbat il-mitt sena minn meta l-knisja ddedikata lil Sant'Antnin f'Għawdex għet imbierka, intweriet ix-xewqa li niġbru flimkien esibizzjoni ta' tifikriet fotografici, kif ukoll ta' devozzjoni lejn il-qaddis mingħand in-nies li huma midħla tagħna: statwetti u

statwi, kwadri, pittura, santiu kull haġa oħra li tfakkar lil dan il-franġiskan ċelebri.

L-esibizzjoni għet miftuha mill-Ministru għal Għawdex, l-On. Giovanna Debono u kien hemm ukoll l-ispeaker tal-Parlament u membru tal-Partit Laburista f'Għawdex, barra minn għadd sabih ta' nies oħra li kroll urew l-apprezzament tagħhom għal dan l-attivita' li aħna għamilna. L-Onor. Debono stqarret li hi kellha rabta familjari mal-knisja tagħna ta' Sant'Antnin, għaliex ommha u missierha kienu ta' spiss iżuru din il-knisja bħala harġa u mistrieh għalihom. Il-Ministru qalet li ommha u missierha ma kinux imorru Paceville, imma hawn kien il-mistrieh tagħhom.

Il-Provincjal imbagħad bierek l-exhibition u ġew mogħtija kwadri bir-ritratt tal-knisja tagħna u fl-isfond l-istatwa ta' Sant'Antnin meqjuma hanwhekk lill-Ministru, kif ukoll lis-Sindku ta' Għajnsielem u lill-caterer mill-Grand Hotel li offrew ir-rinfresk b'xejn.

**Fra Raymond Camilleri, OFM**



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# Libya a place of mission

**Charles Grech, OFM**

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The thought of going to Libya was absurd especially in the times of the embargo with the fatigue of the travelling means by ship which took hours and lots of hassle. I remember, when we used to have a provincial gathering during Christmas or Easter, we were offered a ticket and this was for Libya. At that time no one had any enthusiasm to go. Well times have changed since then and now that the embargo has been lifted it is easy to go.

The first time I was asked to go to Libya was five years ago to give a helping hand in the electrical wiring of the church together with another friar but because of my priestly ordination the plan of one day going seemed to have diminished. The new ministry, teaching at De La Salle College, somehow blocked my eagerness to go. So one day while H.E. Mons. Sylvester Magro ofm was here in Malta for the celebrations of the centenary of the Christian Brothers in Malta himself being a student at Stella Maris College asked me if I would give him a helping hand during the summer months. In the presence of Brother Martin Borg, Director of the college of

De La Salle I could not refuse, I was encouraged by many of my colleagues and therefore I accepted knowing that it will give me new experiences and broader pastoral horizons through my interactions with new denominations of belief and culture.

The news that I was going to Libya spread rapidly with the consequence of having various opinions in favor and against which created in me a sense of tension with the possibility of giving up. However, I suppose, and so it was, I fought every negative opinion taking in consideration that the negative ness was due to the past experience of people/friars who went to Libya during the embargo.

The procedures to go to Libya have changed since Malta entered the European Union and therefore a visa is now needed to enter. Having everything in order, that was it. I was going!!! Many thoughts haunted me. Questions arouse about health, physical and cultural. What was I to do apart from the daily mass? How well will I endure the heat? Etc...Trying to stuff my luggage with all the necessary things making sure that I did not leave anything that I might

need, thank God we can have a hand luggage besides the 20kg allocated.

This was my sixth time going. Two weeks between Palm Sunday and the weeks after Easter (this time while on holidays from school) and when the school summer holidays starts for two months, during this time H.E. Mons. Sylvester Magro ofm is on his annual vacation which I must say, is needed.

The work in Libya varies from pastoral to whatever is needed in the friary that is if you have the initiative and the know how. When I am talking about pastoral I am looking at a 600sqm km stretch. From Benghazi to Tobruk nearing the Egyptian boarder, from Benghazi to Sirt half way to Tripoli. In between there are places in which one visits Camps and Hospitals in which people from the Philippines, Poland, and Korea. Sometimes, one could even find Maltese too. So Confessions and Mass celebrated there would take more than the normal time to which we are accustomed to since they are not that lucky to have mass every Sunday. After mass they get together and celebrate the **Agape**,

with all the singing and news sharing. I must say that the respect for us and for our ministry is greatly appreciated which encourages you to admit that such missions are needed.

Other works are within the City of Benghazi in short distances catering for the communities of nuns; Italians, Polish, and Africans who work in hospitals. With these communities in hospitals every morning three priests leave at around quarter to six to celebrate lauds and the Holy Eucharist and after having breakfast with them one is able to return back to the Parish/Friary.

At the Parish, one can give a helping hand with the Catechism (some are still doing their First Holy communion or the Confirmation). This is mainly done on Mondays and Thursday evenings. Baptism, weddings and funerals all take place in the parish and therefore lots of preparation is needed. Tuesdays is mainly kept for Bible sharing with the Philipinos and this is mainly done at their homes when they get together. Masses with the Philipinos on Wednesdays is to celebrate Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The Mass on Thursdays for the Arabic community. Friday

mornings for the whole Christian community which is a must to attend since it is a multi cultural celebration with all the singing, dancing and prayers which makes you feel as though you are really in some other part of the world besides Libya. One must take into account that the masses on Thursdays and Fridays replaces those of Saturday



and Sunday since Friday is their holiday and therefore Christians can only attend on such days. There are two masses on Sunday afternoon, one in Polish and the other in Italian.

The other pastoral work is visiting the other communities outside Benghazi. One community in El-Merj is just about 100km away, two communities in Beida coming from Italy and the other from India 230 km. The above mentioned is a different task. One would have to stay in the place for two or three days and then there would be a change meaning another friar would give the service. The community in

Derna is composed from nuns coming from Italy which is 380km away from Benghazi and 540km to Tobruk which is the last and furthest community. All the nun are coming from India. The latter two communities are being catered by the Vicar Fr. Tadeus a Salesian priest and Fr. Virgilio, a Franciscan Friar. The best thing is that when a visiting friar goes to Libya/Benghazi one has to do this round trip in order to visit these communities and give talks and many times confessions. I can say that you will always feel welcomed and at home.

What more can I say... Every time I have to come back all the Christians are

saddened as they know that we can be of great support and I encourage any friar who would like to try out this experience is more than welcome and I can assure you that it will become a second home to you. I take this opportunity to thank all the friars who have given their service before me as they are highly spoken by the Christian community of their dedication and service they have given. I call this a credit to the Maltese Province and hope that more will follow. The secret.....? Initiative, willingness and creativity are the ingredients of a happy and fruitful mission in Libya Benghazi!

# L-esperjenza tiegħi għewwa l-Porzjunkola

Alex Borg, OFM

Meta nhar is-27 ta' Lulju fit-3.30 pm inżilt mit-tren, li minn Ruma hadni għewwa Assisi u h' arist lejn il-koppla tal-Porzjunkola, mall-ewwel ergajt ftakart meta seba' u għoxrien sena qabel, kont wasalt hemm, għall-ewwel darba, flimkien ma' tlett shabi biex nagħtu bidu ta' l-istudju teologiku. Ġara wkoll li, mħabba li f' żewġ kuraturi tal-kunvent għadu għaddej ix-xogħol, tawni kamra fis-seminarju. Mur għidli li wara dak iż-żmien kollu, kelli nerġa' noqgħod fl-istess post., s' intendi b' tibdil kbir, fosthom kamra bil-*computers*! H'afna mill-istudenti ma kienux hemm, peress li fis-sajf, imorru jgħamlu esperjenzi pastorali barra minn Assisi. Kollha diġa' għandhom eta' kbira u edukazjoni terzjarja. Ergajt iltqajt ma' xi patrijiet li konna għexna magħhom. Xi whud qegħdin għewwa l-infermerija li sakemm domt hemm, tnejn minnhom mietu.

L-għada, li wasalt, bdejt inqarar. Sakemm dam hemm P. Gustinu, l-hin tal-Qrar qassammih bejnietna. Il-konfessjonarji t'hemm, minn barra, jidhru bħal tagħna. Imma minn għewwa, minn naħa



hemm tidhol minn bieb għal-post fejn joqgħod is-sacerdot fuq siggu komdu u minn naħa l-oħra hemm bieb ieħor għal-post fejn il-penitent jista' jew joqgħod bilqegħda jew gharrkuptejh. Fih għandek ukoll l-arja kondizzjonata – speċjalment meta trid taqta' mill-inqas sagħtejn fih magħluq u fis-shana tas-sajf.

Bejn il-31 ta' Lulju u t-3 f' Awissu, in-numru tan-nies, li ġew biex iqerru, ma' qata' xejn. Ġieli konna xi għoxrien sacerdot inqarru. Imħabba f' hekk ma' stajt x niehu sehem fil-funzjonijiet kollha li saru fit-2 f' Awissu. Rajt biss li fra Joseph u Walter jagħtu s-servizz tagħhom fil-Pontifikal mal-

Kardinal Legat (żammew l-mitra u l-baklu). Għall-ikla tas-1.00 pm, f' refettorju mimli daqs bajda, kien hemm h'afna mistiednin distinti. Wara xi nofs siegħa mistrieħ, ergajna komplejna inqarru sa' tard filgħaxija. Fl-4.00 pm waslu ż-żagħażaġh li hadu sehem fis-26 *Marcia francescana* – għajjiena, imma mimlija b' hegħga kbira. L-ispirtu ta' San Franġisk għadu haj !!!

Bħala hinijiet, kull konfessur kuljum kellu l-hinijiet propjri tiegħu – ġeneralment sagħtejn filgħodu u sagħtejn filgħaxija imma mhux l-ewwel darba li għamilt aktar minn hekk. Ġieli kellna nqarru wkoll, wara d-9.00 pm, lil gruppi ta'

zghazagh Taljani li kienu attendew ghal kors li jissejjah *Alfa e Zero*. Dan il-kors, organizzat minn grupp ta' patrijiet tal-lokal, qieghed ghal dawk li tbeghdu xi ftiit mil-Knisja u li jixtiequ jerqgghu jqaqjmu l-fidi taghhom. Kien jgri l-istess haqa, meta zghazagh ohra kienu jigu ghal korsijiet ohra, fosthom dak vokazzjonali. Gieli spiccajna ghal xi l-11.00 pm.

Lejliet l-Assunta, filghaxija, fil-pjazza tal-*Porzjunkola* saret huggiega kbira fejn nharqu l-karti kollha li fuqhom il-pellegrini, matul is-sena kollha, kienu kitbu l-grazzji li xtaq jaqilghu minghand il-Madonna. Wara saret purcissjoni *aux flambeaux* u vejla ta' talb u kant għewwa s-santwarju.

Kemm kienet haqa sabiha li tara tant nies – speċjalment hafna zghazagh – jieħdu sehem, b'mod attiv, fil-kant tal-liturġija tas-sieghat fis-6.30 am u fis-7.00 pm, flimkien mal-komunita'. Kull nhar ta' Sibt fid-9.00 pm jintalab ir-rużarju u wara, waqt il-kant tal-litanija,

fil-pjazza ssir purcissjoni *aux flambeaux* bl-istatwa zghira tal-Madonna.

Fil-11 t' Awissu filghaxija kelli l-okkazjoni li niehu sehem l-ewwel ghal Għasar, li sar għewwa d-*Duomo*, u mbghad wara, ghal purcissjoni bil-bust ta' S. Rufino tul it-toroq t' Assisi. Hadu sehem membri ta' bosta fratellanzi (l-irgjel u n-nisa libsin l-istess), sorijiet, patrijiet, sacerdoti bil-kamzjiet u stola hamra, l-Isqof, l-awtoritajiet civili u l-poplu. Sar talb u kant flimkien mad-daqq tal-banda. Saru waqfiet quddiem S. Kjara u fil-pjazza tal-*Comune*. Hekk kif dhalna fil-Knisja, saret priedka mill-Isqof u wara sar riceviment quddiem id-*Duomo*, imma li ghalih ma stajnix noqghodu, mhabba li ken sar hafna hin.

Fil-hin liberu li kelli hadt ic-cans li nzur lil fra Joseph u Walter fil-kunvent ta' S. Damjan. Tlabt mal-komunita' u wara kilt maghhom. Kulhadd kien hafna kuntent bihom u dejjem dehru ferhanin u biezla.

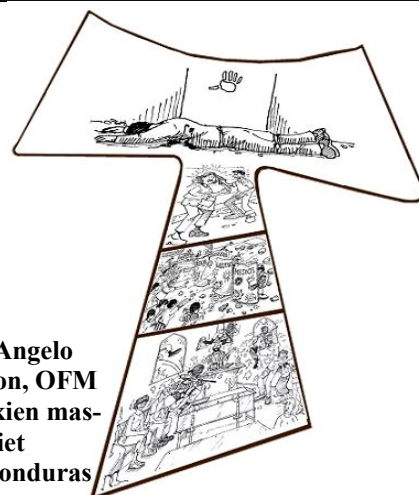
Wara xahar hallejt dan il-post qaddis b'esperjenza qawwiya ta' l-imhabba t'Alla u tal-fragilita' tal-bniedem – miż-zghar sal-kbar. Numru kbir ta' Taljani li resqu ghal qrar, hafna minnhom ta' xhur u ta' snin. Dik il-kappella ckejkna, taht il-koppla tal-*Porzjunkola*, kienet ittihom messagg qawwi ta' tama u fejqan. Il-patrijiet t' Assisi minn dejjem kellhom rispetta lejna l-Maltin u dan ergajt ghextu. Għadhom jiftakru sew lil P. Kamillu, P. Charles Wickman u lil huna P. Bernard – R.I.P.

Ma setax jonqos li nagħmel jumejn Ruma fejn zort lill-komunita' ta' S. Giovanni ( fejn kien hemm P. Albert ) u dik ta' S. Antnin fejn iltqajt ma' P. Pierre. P. Sandro dawwarni dawra *by night* il-Kurja Generalizja.

Xtaqt li niringrazzja lil Mulej, li wara tlett snin, reqa' kelli l-okkazjoni biex inwettaq servizz importanti barra minn Malta u lil dawk l-aħwa li tawni l-ghajnuna mehtiega.



**Fra Angelo Falzon, OFM flimkien mas-sorijiet fil-Honduras**



# Konferenza Ewropeja ta' l-Apostolat tal-Baħar

Ruma, 17 – 21 ta' Settembru 2006

Paul Attard, OFM

## It-Tema kienet :

"F'Solidarjeta' mall-Baħhara biex inkunu għalihom Xhieda ta' Tama billi nħabbrulhom il-Kelma, permezz tal-Liturġija u servizz ta' Djakonija.

**Il-Kungress sar Mondo Migliore**, Rocca di Papa qrib Castel Gandolfo. Panorama tal-ġenn, post qalb il-foresta, biswit ir-residenza estiva tal-Papa. Tifridna kien l-għadira kbira u Ruma li kienet tidher fl-isfond.

**Partecipanti konna :** 57 nazzjonalita' minn 13 il-pajjiż : Olanda, Irlanda, Franza, Spanja, Belgju, Ġermanja, Italja, Sqallija, Malta, Polonja, Ukraina, Kroazja, Inġilterra u Greċja.

## Mistiedna speċjali kellna lil :

- Rappreżentant tal-Vatikan Fr. **Jacques Harel**.
- Il-Kardinal **Renato Raffaele Martino**, il-President tal-Kunsill Pontifiċju għal kura pastorali ta' l-Emigranti u l-Itineranti.
- L-Arcisqof **Tadeusz Gocłowski** ta' Gydnia, il-Polonja fejn ser isir il-Kungress Mondjali f'Ġunju tas-sena 2007.
- L-Isqof Inġliż **Tom Burns**, saċerdot sportiv hafna li huwa l-Kappillan Internazzjonali tal-Militar. (Ftit ilu kien Malta fuq

btala).

Kif ukoll **Kappillani** u diversi **lajċi mpenjati** fl-apostolat tal-baħar. Uħud minnhom jagħmlu xogħol volontarju, oħrajn huma mqabbdha mid-djoċesi biex jagħmlu dan ix-xogħol speċjalment fejn hemm in-nuqqas ta' saċerdoti.

**Ir-Rapport ta' Malta ntogħġob hafna**. Kellna kummenti pożittivi hafna u nkuraġġanti. Urew ukoll l-apprezzament tagħhom li Malta reġgħet ipartecipat wara 14 il-sena.

## Personalment irċevejt hafna.

Għaliya kienet okkażjoni li wrietni l-kobor tax-xogħol ta' l-Apostolat tal-Baħar. Issa għandi diversi kuntatti ma' Port Chaplains kif ukoll ma' lajċi mpenjati f'dan il-qasam f'dawn il-pajjiżi li semmejt. Nista' ngħid li għandi diversi destinazzjonijiet godda għal vaganzi li jmiss!!

## Laqgħa Dinjija ta' l-AOS f'Gydnia, il-Polonja

F'Ġunju li ġej ġejna mistiedna għal Laqgħa Dinjija ta' l-

Apostolat tal-Baħar li ser issir f'Gydnia, il-Polonja. Il-Pollakki kienu bi ħgarhom għal dan il-kungress għax l-organizzatur Fr. Edward Pracz huwa Pollakk. Huma nies ħabrieċa hafna u għandhom diversi zghazagh jahdmu f'dan il-qasam, kemm fl-uffiċċji kif ukoll fost il-baħhara.

**Barka tal-Papa Benedittu XVI** Nghalaq bil-kliem li qalilna l-Papa Benedittu XVI, nhar l-Erbgħa 20 ta' Settembru, wara l-Udjenza Ġenerali fi Pjazza ta' San Pietru:

*"Jiena qrib tagħkom hafna. Komplu għamlu dan ix-xogħol siewi mall-baħhara u jiena nagħtikom il-barka apostolika tiegħi".*



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# Mill-gurnali lokali

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*Talking Point*

THE TIMES, 29.09.06

## Why Francis remains on top

Dionysius Mintoff, OFM

Why is it that some saints are able to appeal to people hundreds of years after their deaths while others fade in the background?

We celebrate a feast day or a memorial of a saint or more than one saint every day, yet many do not seem to have that transcendent quality which speaks to all generations.

There is, however, one saint who not only speaks to today's generation, but has inspired men and women of all faiths and none, for the last 800 years: St Francis of Assisi.

Every year newspapers and television are filled with profiles of candidates for their Man or Woman of the Year. I do not think I ever saw the name of Francis suggested as possible candidate. Yet, it can be argued, certainly in the life of the Church, that no one had a more profound influence and appeal than he. What is beyond argument is that St Francis of Assisi is the best-known and best-loved Christian saint who ever lived.

He is loved by Catholics and other Christians and admired by Jews, Hindus, Muslims

and Buddhists alike. He is, of course, so popular because of his love of creation and his unique relationship with animals.

But Francis is much more than a 13th century Dr Doolittle. Pope John Paul II named St Francis the Patron of Ecology precisely because his message and spirituality manage to transcend time and speak powerfully to every generation. Francis was not a nature worshipper or a pantheist, a dangerous heresy that many in the environmental movement are susceptible to. Rather, as his early biographer wrote: "Aroused by all things to the love of God, he rejoiced in all the works of the Lord's hands and from these joy-producing manifestations he rose to their life-giving principle and cause. In beautiful things he saw Beauty itself".

St Francis understood the secret of the heart of creation; that creation was born out of love and, consequently, should be revered and received with love.

Because the world is created by a loving God, to abuse or destroy his creation is actually a sin. It

was this profound insight that enabled Francis to find glory in the created world and compose his famous Cantic of Creation in which he sang of the brotherhood of all creation, including the sun, moon, water, earth and even "Sister Bodily Death".

St Francis was "green" 800 years before it became fashionable!

St Francis also continues to speak to a consumerist society with the alternative and counter-cultural message of voluntary poverty and simplicity. Francis discovered that, so often, the more possessions we have, the more they possess us, which is why he wanted his Brothers to possess nothing.

It can be argued that today Francis would probably not recognise his own order. But, at the same time as some of his friars are using the latest electronic equipment, reform and renewal are still alive in the order.

Even though the time has passed to choose our man of the millennium, St Francis will certainly be our guide for the new one.

# **Animal Awareness Day - a reflection**

Fr Dionysius Mintoff, OFM director of the John XXIII Peace Laboratory, last week wrote an article about the power of the evergreen saint, Francis of Assisi. Among other things, one of St Francis's greatest and most impressionable attributes was his love for God's creation. Brother Sun, Sister Moon, made into a film in the 1970s by Franco Zeffirelli, epitomises the Canticle of the Sun, a moving, eternally youthful paean to the splendour and perfection of God and his creation.

Because of this, St Francis has come to be associated with man's relationship with the animal world, especially dogs and birds.

In other religions, like Hinduism and Buddhism, the possibility of reincarnation makes vegetarians out of the various higher sects. We in the west have taken a rather different view of the animal world.

While watching a documentary about wildlife in the various continents one cannot but be fascinated by the perfection of nature and its almost preordained exactness. However, it is the domestic animals headed by man's best friend, the dog, that are part and parcel of our

daily lives. It is our attitude to them that reflects the level of our civilisation. While for the most part domestic pets are well treated especially if they have a family tree that would make a Bourbon blush, it is the mutts that really must face the luck of the draw.

There are the lucky ones that even should they look like the product of Heinz 57 Varieties find themselves in a loving home; and then there are the ones that are abandoned at best and killed and tortured at worst. The horror stories that can be recounted by the dedicated people who work for the SPCA are a case in point.

However, with more awareness and the cooperation not only of the various NGOs that have animal welfare at heart but also of the Church - which every January celebrates the Feast of St Anthony the Abbot during which animals both domestic and farmyard are blessed as part of God's creation - the situation in Malta will improve and we will have fewer abandoned dogs and cats running around the streets.

The feeling that dogs have towards man is not naturally reciprocal and it

is through education that man can become animals' best friend in return. Today being Animal Awareness Day, one is reminded of the final chapter of one of the greatest books ever written in the last century, *The Story of San Michele* by Axel Munthe.

In it, Munthe, a renowned physician and surgeon, explains his love for the animal world which he fought to protect all his life. In the final chapter he imagines his death and his appearance in the forecourt of Heaven.

As the great Saints, Prophets, Martyrs and Doctors of the Church hummed and hawed about whether Dr Munthe should be admitted or not, just when all seemed lost, a little man in a dirty and torn brown cassock appeared and with just a little smile won the day by gently sending all the great and the good about their business without another word.

Our attitude towards animals will certainly weigh heavily on the scales when we come to be judged. St Francis, as we have seen, is, in his simplicity and humility, a most powerful saint and his is an example to be followed all our lives.

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# Animal Awareness Day

## 4 ta' Ottubru, 2006

Richard Stanley Grech, OFM

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Din is-sena wkoll, bhasnjin ta' qabel, il-Provincja taghna flimkien mal-**ISTUDENT SERVICES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**, fi hdan id-dipartiment ta' l-**edukazzjoni**, organizzat l-Animal Awareness Day nhar l-4 ta' Ottubru, 2006, jum is-Solennita' ta' Missierna San Frangisk, qaddis patrun ta' l-**ekologija** kif kien iddikkjara il-mibki imma qatt minsi Papa Gwanni Pawlu II nhar id-29 ta' Novembru ta' 1979.

Il-preparattivi ghal dan il-Jum Internazzjonali li huwa imhares mad-dinja kollha jibdew sa mit-tielet term tas-sena akkademika li tkun ghaddiet. Infatti xi haga ghdida li kellna din is-sena kienet kompetizzjoni fost l-istudenti mill-hames sena

tal-primarja sat-tieni sena tas-sekondarja, li fiha kellhom ipingu bookmark b'tema u messagg marbutin mal-figura ta' San Frangisk. kienu hafna dawk l-iskejjel u studenti li hadu sehem, u ma kienx facli taghzel il-bookmark rebbieha imma eventwalment kellna naghzlu il-bookmark ta' Anna Oleinik, studenta tas-sitt klassi tal-primarja Dun Anton Manche' Primary C, Gzira, liema skola rebhet ukoll il-premju ghall akbar numru ta' *entries* fil-kompetizzjoni. Bhala premju, kemm lill-istudenta kif ukoll lill-iskola, il-Provincja taghna rregalat zewg kopji tal-Fonti Ghall-Hajja ta' San Frangisk t' Assisi. Il-prezentazzjoni kellha 'ssir gewwa l-iskola Primarja ta' Hal Lija, Annibale Preca,

dak inhar ta' l-4 ta' Ottubru 2006, imma ghal xi raguni, kienu bosta dawk li kellhom ikunu prezenti, li baqghu ma gewx, fosthom l-istess studenta rebbieha, rapprezentanti mill-iskola rebbieha kif ukoll il-Ministru ta' l-Edukazzjoni u s-Segretarju Permanenti fl-istess Ministeru. Hija hasra li wara ix-xoghol li numru ta' nies ikunu ghamlu ghal tul ta' zmien konsiderevoli, wiehed ikollu jinnota li mhux dejjem isib l-appogg, speċjalment minn fejn wiehed ikun l-aktar qieghed jistennieh!

Il-Jum ta' l-Animal Awareness Day 2006 beda' b'quddiesa celebrata fil-knisja ta' Hal Lija, li qaddes Fr. Richard Stanley Grech ofm, il-*link person* bejn il-Provincja taghna u d-dipartiment tas-servizzi ta' l-istudenti u relazzjonijiet internazzjonali. Ghal din il-quddiesa, li bdiet fid-9.15am, kienu mistiedna jikkoncelebraw il-kappillani tal-parrocchi ta' Hal Lija u Hal Balzan peress l-iskola primarja ta' Hal Lija tilqa' fiha principalment studenti minn dawn iz-zewg lokalitajiet. Wiehed jiddispjacih jinnota li ebda' wiehed minn dawn ma kien prezenti,



ghalkemm kienu avzati minn hafna qabel! Prezenti ghal quddiesa kien hemm l-istudenti ta' l-iskola Annibale Preca li hadu hsieb il-qari, it-talbiet tal-komunita' u l-kant. Il-prezenza u l-partecipazzjoni ta' dawn kienet ezemplari speċjalment ukoll bil-ghajjnuna ta' l-ghalliema tagħhom, b'mod partikolari tas-Sur Paul Rapa. Il-quddiesa intemmet fl-10.15am kif kien ipplanat.

Wara, lura l-iskola, fil-11.00am kellu jibda' programm ta' kant, qari ta' poeziji, plays u puppet show ippreparat għall-okkazjoni. Ghalkemm domna nistennew u nittamaw li forsi jifaccaw il-mistednin distinti, kemm il-Ministru, kif ukoll is-Segretarju Permanenti għal xi raguni, ma gewx u peres li wiehed ma setghax jistenna aktar il-programm beda fil-11.30am. Prezenti għal dan il-programm kien hemm fost l-ohrajn Miss

Mifsud, Direttur Servizzi Studenti u Relazzjonijiet Internazzjonali, u Miss C. Borg, Direttur Generali ta' l-Edukazzjoni, kif ukoll numru ta' mistednin u rappreżentanti ta' għaqdiet non governattivi li jahdmu favur l-animali. Il-programm intemm għal xi s-1.00pm.

Wiehed irid ifakkar ukoll li dan il-Jum ma giex iccelebrat biss f'din l-iskola, imma wkoll f'diversi skejjel ohra kemm privati, tal-knisja u governattivi. Għal dan il-ghan, numru ta' ahwa kienu impenjati biex jagħtu servizz fl-iskejjel li talbu jew għamlu arrangamenti individwali. Wiehed irid fl-ahhar imma zgur mhux l-inqas, irodd hajr il-dawk l-ahwa kollha li b'hafna sens ta' disponibilita' u dedikazzjoni, ghalkemm il-jum ta' l-4 ta' Ottubru huwa jum partikolari ta' tahbit u impenji, din is-sena wkoll, bhal snin ohra, offrew is-servizz tagħhom min b'quddies,

min bi tberik ta' animali jew esibizzjonijiet u min imqar b'erbgha kelmiet fuq San Frangisk lill-istudenti migburin waqt l-assembly tagħhom. Naturalment il-hidma ta' *Animal Awareness* ma jibdiex u jintemm permezz ta' dan il-jum biss, imma l-programm ikompli matul is-sena skolastika b'attivitajiet ohra.

Għal li gej wiehed jemmen u jittama li dan il-jum ikompli jigi iccelebrat, ghalkemm ma jonqosx li wiehed ukoll jixtieq li persuni aktar il-fuq f'pozizzjonijiet ta' awtorita' u responsabbilta' minn naha tal-ministeru u tad-dipartiment ta' l-educazzjoni juru l-impenn u d-dedikazzjoni f'dan il-qasam, li juru l-istess studenti, l-educaturi u membri ohra impenjati f'din il-hidma immirata biex iggib il-quddiem u ssahhah dawk il-valuri li jagħmlu minna lkoll u mis-socjeta' li nghixu fiha, aktar civili, aktar umani!

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### ikompli minn paġna 17

B'hekk jum wara jum waslet il-ġurnata tant mistenija li għexna b'tant profondità. Dik it-tnejn kollha issa tat il-frott tagħha. Ma nistax insib il-kliem biex nesprimi l-ferħ u l-emozzjoni qawwija li kelli f'dak il-mument li jien d'halt f'patt mal-Mulej. Aktar ma jgħaddu l-ġranet nirrealizza dejjem aktar il-kobor ta' din il-ħaġa u kemm il-Mulej tagħni don kbir. Nibda biex forsi nesprimi il-ferħ u l-gratitudni lil Alla permezz tas-Salm 116 "Faħħru l-Mulej intom ġnus kollha, sebħuh popli kollha għax kbira hi t-tjeba tiegħu magħna u **l-fedelta' tal-Mulej tibqa' għal dejjem.**

Nagħlaq billi nringrazzja lill Alla tal-ħwejjeg kbar li għamel miegħi, u wkoll lil aħwa kollha li bil-ghajjnuna tagħhom wasalt sa hawn.

**Joseph Ciappara, OFM**

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**Il-vjaġġ veru għal sejbiet godda ma jikkonsistix f'veduti godda imma li jkollok għajnejn godda.**

**- Marcel Proust**

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# Novitiate house reopened in Bethlehem

CTS News

Noel Mucat, OFM

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On 15 March 2006 the Minister General, Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo OFM, issued the decree for the transfer of the Novitiate house of the Custody from the friary of Saint John «in Montana» in Ain Karem to that of Saint Catherine «ad Nativitatem» in Bethlehem.

On 1 July, the Custodial Discretorium appointed the formation staff of the new Novitiate house, composed of Fr. Noel Muscat, Master of Novices, Fr. Marcello Badalamenti, Vice-Master, and the members of the «coetus formatorum», Fr. Justo Artaraz, Guardian, Fr. Amjad Sabbara, Parish Priest, and Fr. George Lewett. The group of novices for the year 2006-2007 is made up of six young men. Three have concluded their postulancy year in Ain Karem. They are Br. Jean Choupin (USA), Br. Ariel Dubè (Argentina) and Br. Sergio Galdi (Italy). The other three have concluded their postulancy year and the two-year course in philosophy at the friary of Harissa, Lebanon. They are all Lebanese, Br. Ziad Assaf, Br. Jihad Krayem, and Br. William Makary. The young men were vested by the Fr. Custos

on 2 September, during the celebration of the feast of the prophet St. Moses, on Mount Nebo. Three of the novices arrived in Bethlehem on 11 September, while another three came over from Amman, Jordan, on 29 September. The canonical novitiate year started officially on Sunday 17 September. The arrival of the novices is a welcome event in Bethlehem. This friary was a house of formation for temporary professed philosophy students until 2004. Since then the student quarters have remained empty. Now they are back to life as living quarters for novices.

The novices and their formators were cordially welcomed by the Guardian of Bethlehem, Fr. Justo and by all the friars. The presence of young men in the fraternity is certainly a boost to fraternal life and to the importance which the sanctuary of Bethlehem has in the Custody. The project of life of the novices has been structured upon the requirements laid down in the Order's documents, particularly the General Constitutions and Statutes and the «Ratio

Formationis Franciscanae». It is essentially made up of the following points:

**(1) Life of prayer.** The novices take part in all the moments of prayer of the fraternity, including the Eucharist, Morning and Evening prayer, Meditation and the daily procession to the Nativity Grotto. They also pray together the other canonical hours of the Liturgy. On Thursday morning they take part in the sung Mass in the Nativity Grotto and in the evening they have one hour Eucharistic Adoration. On Friday afternoons they pray the «Via Crucis». On Saturday mornings they have Mass in the Novitiate chapel, presided by their formators. All novices are bound to go regularly to a spiritual director. Once a month the novices have a one-day retreat, and an experience of the Franciscan Rule for Hermitages will be organized in spring at St. John in the Desert. The programme also includes participation in the various moments of «peregrinatio» to the sanctuaries of the Custody, in the «Via Crucis» and in the

celebrations at the Holy Sepulchre.

**(2) Fraternal life.** The novices are fully inserted into the life of the Bethlehem fraternity, through participation at meals, recreation and moments of manual work. Although the formators have insisted upon the privacy of the living quarters of the novices, all the friars are most welcome to join them for recreation on the occasions of feasts.

**(3) Minority, poverty, evangelization.** The Novitiate is not the year for apostolic activities. The Order, however, invites the novices to undertake a minimum of apostolate of charity in favour of the poor, as part of their calling to minority. The novices will be dedicating Wednesday afternoons for this aim. Arrangements have already been made for them to go regularly to the creche of St. Vicent.

**(4) Formation.** The formation programme includes regular lessons four days a week. Lessons will formally start on 11 October in the following subjects: The Franciscan Rule; Writings of St. Francis and Franciscan Sources; Franciscan History; Theology of Consecrated life; Lectio Divina; History of the Holy Land Custody; Franciscan presence in the Holy Land; Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. A week-long intense period of formation in the Admonitions and Testament of St. Francis is planned for the period February-March 2007, for which a Franciscan lecturer from Italy will be invited.

Last but not least, the Novitiate project of life dedicates time for a holistic formation of the novices. On Thursdays after Mass they are free to follow a varied programme, including one monthly outing together,

and one day of personal freedom, with the aim of helping them to develop maturity in the use of free time. There is time for sports in the small gym as well as with the students in Jerusalem. The novices can also make use of internet at specific moments, particularly during the weekends. The parish of Bethlehem can also offer limited possibilities, particularly for the Arab-speaking novices. They will serve in the Sunday Masses of the parish. The novices have also started being introduced to the other realities of the apostolate of the friars of Bethlehem, particularly the parish, the Terra Sancta school, the work for justice and peace, the sanctuaries of Shepherds' Field and the Milk Grotto, as well as to the reality of the local Church in Bethlehem.

**Ritratt: Fra Noel Muscat, OFM flimkien ma' novizzi.**



# Dwar il-Limbu

Norbert Ellul-Vincenti, OFM

Tafu x'inhu limbo?

Ha nfakkarkom. Qatt rajtu xi zeffien jinzel 'l isfel mghawweg tnejn, biex jghaddi, jizfen fuq irkuptejha mirwija tnejn, taht habel jew hadida minghajr ma jmissha b'idejh? Dik hija "limbo jew Caribbean Dance". Il-kelma gejjja minn limber, li tfisser, titghawweg, thaddem.

Imma hemm limbu iehor, skur, imdallam, imbieghed, kiesah, misterjuz, dubbjuz, imcajpar.

Meta, fid-diskursati taghna, nghidu li xi ideja waqghet f'limbo, irridu nfissru post jew stat, ftit maghruf, fejn facli tinsa jew tintesa, imma mhux titwarrab ghal kollox, ghalkemm ftit li xejn hemm tama li terga' tiehu r-ruh. "Condition of neglect or oblivion", jghid wiehed mid-dizzjunarji tieghi, li qallibt ghall-kurzita'.

Fil-Kredu insemmu "limbu" biex infissru l-istennija ta' dawk in-nies gusti li gew qabel ma Ġesu' gie biex jifthilna l-bieb tal-genna. L-ewwel opra ta' Ġesu' wara mewtu, kienet li jinzel il-limbu u jtella' minn hemm dawk l-erwieh qed jistennew is-salvazzjoni tieghu. L-Inglizi juzaw il-kelma "Hell" ghall-istess haga, speċjalment fl-espressjoni, gejjja mid-drammi medjevali, "The

Harrowing of Hell", b'referenza ghal dak l-apparat qisu xibka jew moxt bid-dwiefer 'l isfel, li l-hmar ikaxkar warajh, fl-ghalqa, biex jigbor dak kollu li jinqabad.

Il-katekizmu Kattoliku, dak il-limbu biss isemmi, li nizel fih Ġesu' wara mewtu. Il-Penny Catechism, dak li studjajna fuqu t-ftal, tista' tghid kollha, ta' certu zmien, ghandu biss dan il-limbu ta' stennija ta' dawk il-gusti adulti li gew qabel Kristu.

Nu 1261 tal-Katekizmu Kattoliku, dak il-ktieb li hafna ghandhom id-dar (anke jekk forsi ftit jaqrawh), jghid hekk, dwar it-trabi li jmutu minghajr Maghmudija, "Il-Knisja ma tistax taghmel hag'ohra hlief tafdahom lill-hniena ta' Alla, kif taghmel fir-rit tal-funerali taghhom. Il-hniena kbira ta' Alla, li jrid li l-bnedmin kollha jsalvaw ... igegluna nittamaw li hemm ukoll triq ghas-salvazzjoni tat-trabi li jmutu minghajr Maghmudija. Wisq aktar hi importanti l-istedina tal-Knisja biex it-trabi ma jinzammux li jmorru ghand Ġesu' permezz tad-don tal-Maghmudija."

Dari konna nghidu li dawn it-ftal imorru l-Limbu, imma niftakar, meta jien kont tifel zghir (ilu daqsxejn) kienu diga' qalulna, li l-limbu mhux bilfors temmen fih. Hekk

tghallimtha jien. Il-limbu qatt ma kien taghlim ufficcjali tal-Knisja. Gie ivvintat minn xi studjuzi, hassiba, jew teologi, fil-medjuevu, biex jispjegaw il-htiega tal-Maghmudija malajr mat-twelid. Ma ninsewx li hafna trabi kienu jmutu ta' ftit granet.

U allura kien importanti li wiehed jghammed it-ftal tieghu kemm jista' jkun malajr, ghax Ġesu' ikmandana, "Morru, mela, aghmlu dixxipli mill-gnus kollha, u ghammduhom fl-isem tal-Missier u ta' l-Iben u ta' l-Ispirtu s-Santu, u ghallmuhom iharsu dak kollu li ordnajtilkom jien. U ara jien maghkom dejjem, sa l-ahhar taz-zmien." (Mattew, 28,20)

Mela ahna obbligati li nitghammdu u li nghammdu. Fejn ma nlahhqux ahna, jilhaq Alla zgur bil-mezzi kbar tieghu. Imma jekk ahna nitraskuraw, se jkollna htija li ma tajniex kaz ta' dak li jrid Alla. Ma nistghu nghidu, Alla hanin u ma naghmlux dak li nistghu naghmlu.

Dan l-ahhar kien hemm artiklu fuq il-Limbu fit-Times ta' Londra, interessanti hafna, imma qabad l-argument minghajr simpatija lejn il-Knisja, u b'certu sensazzjonalizmu. "Pope tries to win hearts and minds by saving souls of unbaptised babies," qalu l-headlines. "The Pope will

cast aside centuries of Catholic belief later this week by abolishing formally the concept of limbo, in a gesture calculated to help to win souls of millions of babies in the developing world.” Ukoll!!!

Xi gurnali u gurnalisti jinterpretaw kollox f'xejra politika, jew kilba ghall-voti, popolarita' u poter. Forsi minn jixtieq il-poter, dak biss jara f'kollox.

Il-fatti huma pero' li mhux biss il-Limbu qatt ma kien ufficcjali, imma qatt ma ssodisfana, u dejjem baqa' ideja mtappna, mdallma, u ncerta. Il-kelma gejja minn “lembus” bil-Latin, li tfisser, jew burdura li

ssebbah arkitettura, jew zigarella irqiqa. U vera hekk, ghax il-Limbo dejjem baqa' bordura tat-twemmin u qatt twemmin.

Fis-7 ta' Ottubru 2004, Il-Papa Gwanni Pawlu II waqqaf kummissjoni biex tistudja is-sitwazzjoni, u malajr sar maghruf li l-kummissjoni kienet tal-fehma li titwaqqa' ghal kollox din l-ideja tal-Limbu tat-tfal mit-tagħlim kollu. U l-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II fis-7 ta' Ottubru tal-2004 stqarr li din mhiex problema teologika isolata imma xi haga li tmiss mat-twemmin fuq id-dnub originali, l-importanza tal-Maghmudija u x-xewqa universali ta' Alla li jsalva

lil kulhadd.

It-tfal li jmutu qabel il-Maghmudija, jew qabel it-twelid ghal raguni jew ohra inkluzi dawk maqtula f'aborti, jibqghu mahbubin b'ghozza mill-Missier hanin, Missier ta' kulhadd. M'ghandux ikollna dubbju. Dak l-istess Alla li halaq l-imhabba tal-omm u tal-missier, mhux se jkun hu li jhobbhom inqas mill-istess genituri.

Huwa ferm diffiċli ghal omm li taccetta li xi hadd jista' jhobb lill-uliedha aktar minnha. Imma meta tkun taf li dan huwa l-istess Alla, tista' thallieh ihobbhom, u anzi tinqgħaqad mieghu fit-talb, biex izommhomlha dejjem fi hdanu kif jaf hu.

## St. Francis and Nature

On 25th of October, the Ministry of Education and Culture in Floriana organized an exhibition regarding St Francis and the nature. This was an exhibition of drawings by the students of various schools round Malta.

During the Summer Vacation students who attend the 'Skola Sajf' had the opportunity to think on the figure of St. Francis and draw some images.

The idea came from the director of the Peace Lab Fr. Dionysus Mintoff OFM who invited students to be creative on this saint. The exhibition opened with a feature on St. Francis and Nature, followed by some speeches. The choir of the school of Floriana sang some songs related to nature. At the end certificates and price were distributed to the winners of 'Skola Sajf' and the exhibition was inaugurated. Fr. Provincial was also present at this event.



**Żur il-website tal-Provincja u ara**

**L-AĦBAR**

**bil-kulur. Heġġeg aktar nies iżuru l-website: <http://www.ofm.org.mt>**



# Ittra lill-Editur



Conventual Franciscans

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1 ta' Ottubru 2006

Fra Marcellino Micallef OFM  
Editur L-AHBAR  
Kunvent tal-Frangiskani  
Villambrosa - Hamrun.

Ghażiż Fra Marcellino,

Irċevejt l-ahhar haġġa tal-Bullettin Provincjali: L-AHBAR u nixtieq inwassal lilek u lill-hutek ir-religjużi tal-Provincja r-radd il-hajr tiegħi u tar-religjużi tiegħi tal-pubblikazzjoni tal-kitba dwar huna P. Alessandru Bonnici, miktub minn P. Norbert Ellul-Vincenti OFM. Jien inhoss li din hija sensibbilta' frangiskana li turi mhux biss il-ghaqda bejn l-Ahwa Frangiskani Maltin imma wkoll kemm ngħożżu t-tajjed u s-sabih tar-religjużi tagħna. Jien inhossni ferhan hafna b'dawn il-kwalitajiet umani sbiħ li, għall-grazzja t'Alla, ghadna napprezzawhom. Din hija xhieda li nagħtu lill-poplu tagħna ta' Familja magħquda u li nemmnu li l-kulur u l-ghamla tal-lisba frangiskana mhumiex l-elementi l-aktar importanti fil-hajja religjuża frangiskana. Is-sentimenti tagħna jridu jkunu sentimenti ġenwini mibnijin fuq pedamenti aktar sodi u profondi li jgħaqqduna u jsaħhuna dejjem aktar. Nixtieq niringrazzja minn qalbi lilek u lill-P. Norbert .

Niehu din l-okkażjoni biex nawguralkom il-Festa t-tajba tal-Patrijarka Missierna San Frangisk.

Inselli għalik hafna.

Fra Alfred Calleja OFMConv.  
Ministru Provincjal



Fost l-Ahwa ta' l-Ordni li taw is-sehem tagħhom fl-organizzazzjoni tal-Kapiltu Ġenerali Straordinarju, kien hemm Fra Ġwann Abela, OFM, Segretarju Komunikazzjoni ta' l-Ordni.

Ta' min jgħid li matul il-Kapiltu aktar minn 60,000 daħlu fil-website ta' l-Ordni.



## FESTI U BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBRU

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 Fra Martin Coleiro  | 01 Fra Stephen Sciberras    |
| 15 Fra Albert Micallef | 09 Fra Martin Coleiro       |
| 26 Fra Leo M. Ciantar  | 14 Fra Julian Sammut        |
|                        | 17 Fra Christopher Farrugia |
|                        | 18 Fra Victor Camilleri     |
|                        | 19 Fra Ivo Tonna            |
|                        | 28 Fra Ġwann Schranz        |

### DIĊEMBRU

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10 Fra Lorrie Zerafa     | 1 Fra Alfred Sciberras     |
| 25 Fra Noel Muscat       | 3 Fra Noel Muscat          |
| 26 Fra Stephen Sciberras | 4 Fra Marcellino Micallef  |
| 26 Fra Stephen Magro     | 11 Fra Ġwann Micallef      |
| 27 Fra Ġwann Schranz     | 17 Fra Charles Tonna       |
| 31 Mons. Sylvester Magro | 17 Fra Ray Scicluna        |
|                          | 19 Fra Godfrey Micallef    |
|                          | 29 Fra Pietru Pawl Meilak  |
|                          | 31 Fra Sebastian Camilleri |

## Awguri u Xewqat Sbieħ!

### F' DIN IL-HARĠA Novembru 2006

Religion must be a herald of peace	2
Gheluq tal-Kapiltu: Widen the space of your tent	4
Il-Ministru Provinċjal jkompli jikteb dwar il-Kapiltu	11
Ċirkulari tal-Ministru Provinċjal	13
Jitfakkar Mons. Pio Vidi, OFM	15
Żewġ postulanti godda	16
L-esperjenza vokazzjonali tiegħi	17
Professjoni Temporanja	19
Ghejjun ta' Santa Klara	21
Ġrajjet ewlenin f'tas-Sliema	23
100 sena mill-ftuh tal-knisja tagħna f'Għawdex	27
Libya a place of mission	30
L-esperjenza tiegħi ġewwa l-Porziuncola	32
Konferenza Ewropea ta' l-Apostolat tal-Baħar	34
Mill-ġurnali lokali	35
Animal Awareness Day	37
Dar tan-novizzjat f' Betlehem	39
Dwar il-Limbu	41
Ittra lill-Editur	44

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