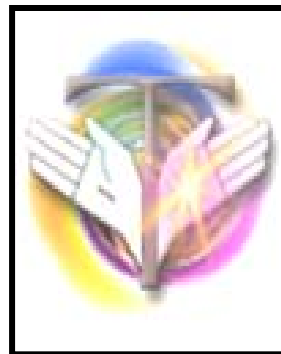


# L-AĦBAR



PROVINĊJA FRANGISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA.

No. 120 1.1.2007



Aqra L-AĦBAR fuq il-website  
ofm.org.mt

## Jingħata l-Midalja ghall-Qadi tar-Repubblika

Nhar l-Erbgha, 13 ta' Diċembru 2006,  
Fra Dijonisju Mintoff, OFM, irċieva l-  
Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika ta'  
Malta mill-President ta' Malta, Dr.  
Edward Fenech Adami, fuq il-parir tal-  
Prim Ministru Dr. Lawrence Gonzi.

Għaċ-ċerimonja li saret fil-Palazz  
tal-President, kien hemm preżenti fost  
l-oħrajn il-Ministru Provincjal Fra Paul  
Galea, OFM.

*ara wkoll dak li deher  
fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern, p. 23*

## Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar

7 - 9 ta' Jannar 2007

Porziuncola Retreat House,  
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq

## Żjara tal-Papa Benedittu XVI f'Assisi 17 ta' Ġunju 2007

*ara paġna 2 u 3*

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# Benedict XVI to Visit Assisi in June

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Pope Benedict XVI plans to make a pastoral visit next June to Assisi, Italy, the birthplace of St. Francis, says the local prelate.

This is expressed in a letter dated Dec. 8, from Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, in which he announced "with great joy" that on Sunday, June 17, the Pope will visit the city and the diocesan community.

"We praise the Lord and express our heartfelt thanks to the Holy Father, who thus manifests his affection for us and his special interest in the mission of Assisi, the Poverello's city, in the Church and in the world," said the prelate.

The papal visit will take place in a special year, as the period October 2006 to October 2007 is the "Year of Conversion," inspired by the eighth centenary of Francis' conversion.

"Several times during these months the Holy Father has spoken of St. Francis, underlining precisely the perspective of his conversion to Christ as the key to read his life, his message, and his timeliness," recalled Archbishop Sorrentino of Assisi-Nocera.

So the Pope's presence and teaching in Assisi "will give us light and from now on, the expectation of this event stimulates us to live our spiritual and pastoral program with enthusiasm, in harmony with the whole Italian Church committed, especially after the Verona

Congress, to give witness of Christ Risen as hope of the world."

## **Arrive by helicopter**

Benedict XVI is scheduled to arrive in Assisi by helicopter at 8:50 a.m. next June 17. He will be welcomed by Archbishop Sorrentino and other religious and civil authorities, according to the program published by the archdiocese.

The Pope will then go by car to the churches of San Damiano and of St. Clare, to spend a brief moment in private prayer.

He will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. in the lower Basilica of St. Francis, deliver a homily and lead the Angelus.

At 1 p.m. he will lunch with the bishops of Umbria, the religious community, and his escorts. He will also greet the German Capuchin Poor Clare nuns.

In the afternoon, he will hold a meeting with the clergy and religious at the Cathedral of St. Rufino.

The day's program will end at St. Mary of the Angels with a private visit to the Portiuncula at 5:30 p.m. and a meeting with young people in the square of the basilica.

As soon as he learned of the papal visit, Father José Rodríguez Carballo, minister general of the Order of Friars Minor, addressed a letter of gratitude to the Pope.

The event is of interest "not only to our Fraternities which live and work in the

diocese of Assisi, but also to our Universal Fraternity," Father Carballo told the Pontiff.

## **"Pilgrimage"**

Because "Assisi is Francis' city ... we were born in Assisi, and from Assisi the Seraphic Doctor sent us 'two by two' around the world to proclaim peace and penance," he said.

"Moreover, your 'pilgrimage' to Assisi is taking place while our order is approaching the eighth centenary of its foundation, and our itinerary had as its starting point Francis' dialogue with the Crucifix of San Damiano, a dialogue that Your Holiness proposed on several occasions as the key to understand the human and evangelical venture of the 'Poverello,'" continued his letter to the Pope.

"Allow me to express my own joy and gratitude and that of the whole Order of Friars Minor for this new gift, which is transformed into a place of reference for our vocation and mission in the Church and in today's world," the Franciscan added.

Just over a year ago, Benedict XVI introduced novelties in Assisi: a papal legate, as a sign of the Apostolic See's bond with Assisi, and the jurisdiction of the local bishop over the two major Franciscan churches: the basilicas of St. Francis and of St. Mary of the Angels.

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# Letter to Pope Benedict XVI thanking him for his pastoral visit to Assisi

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Your Holiness,

*May the Lord give you peace!*

Today, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, I learned from the Bishop of Assisi of the pastoral visit You will make to the city of Assisi and the Diocesan Community on the 7th June 2007.

I can imagine the joy of that local Church for the important event and for the stimulus it will receive from Your presence and Your words in order to live the spiritual and pastoral programme proposed to them on the basis of the VIII Centenary of the conversion of St. Francis (October 2006-October 2007).

Your Holiness, the news, however, involves me and involves not only our Fraternities which live and work in that Diocese, but also our universal Fraternity. Assisi, in fact, is the city of Francis. We were born in Assisi and from Assisi our seraphic father sent us “two by two” into the world to announce “peace and penance”. In addition, Your “pilgrimage” to Assisi will take place while our Order in moving towards the VIII Centenary of its foundation (1209-2009) and our itinerary has, as its starting point, the conversion of Francis with the Crucifix of San Damiano, a conversation which Your Holiness has often stated to be the key for reading in order to understand the human and evangelical adventure of the Poverello.

Through these short and simple words, then, allow me to express to You my joy and gratitude, together with that of the Order of Friars Minor, for this further gift, which will become a reference point for our vocation and mission in the Church and world of today.

While assuring You of our prayers for Your person and Your mission, I express my most heartfelt best wishes for the coming Feast of Christmas and ask Your Apostolic Blessing for me and all my Friars.

Rome, 8th December 2006,  
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

BR. JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ CARBALLO, OFM  
Minister General.  
Prot 097466

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To His Holiness  
Benedict XVI  
Vatican City.

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## CONFERENCE OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

# Living according to the Gospel

**A letter of the Conference of the Franciscan Family in preparation of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the approval of the Rule**

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The Franciscan Family – First, Second and Third Orders, in their diversity and many different forms, the Secular Institutes and other Movements which refer to Francis – are preparing to celebrate a particular historical event in 2009. It is not a question of commemorating a figure, a Francis, Clare or any other person, but rather the calling to mind of the origins of the franciscan charism. In 2009, in effect, it will be 800 years since a dozen men presented themselves before Pope Innocent III to ask for recognition and approval of their gospel life project. Twenty years later, in 1226, the inspirer and guide of the group, Francis of Assisi, would describe what happened when, in his Testament, he says: “and after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me” (Test 14). The men gathered



around Francis asked themselves what they should do, and no one was able to point it out, and so God himself called them, through His Word, to live the Holy Gospel of Christ. Convinced that this was their vocation, they wanted to submit their resolve to the discernment and approval of the Church, represented by the Holy Father in Rome. Prudent and originally oral, the text was not without its faults. The text presented to the Pope, the proto-rule, was a plan and a description of a life-style, rather than a regulation. It

was revised, detailed, and enriched down through the years, first under the form of the *Regula non bullata* (1221), in its different versions, and then definitively confirmed by a pontifical text (*Regula bullata*, 1223) and recalled by Francis in his Testament (1226). Although it concerned, primarily, the group of Friars, as can be seen immediately, it is open to all states of Christian life.

***The heart of the vocation: life according to the Gospel.***

When it is a question of presenting the Rule in a general manner, of pointing out briefly its core content, of giving it a title, it is always the word “Gospel” which stands out: to “live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel” (*Test* 14); “This is the life of the Gospel of Jesus Christ” (*Rnb* 2); “The Rule and Life of the Lesser Brothers is this: to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ” (*Rb* 1:1). A few years later (1253), when Clare adapted the Rule of Francis to the life of the Poor Clare Sisters, she would utilise the same expressions (*RCl* 1:1). In the *Second Letter to the Faithful*, which presented a way of life, Francis asks the penitents to observe “the commands and counsels” given by Christ in His Gospel (*2LtF* 39). It is understood that the term “Gospel” denotes the heart of the Franciscan vocation, it is the key which opens the door to the immense scope of “the Good News” of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. But what content does Francis give to this word and how can and must we, today, understand it and put it into practice?

When we read the Rules, taking account of the entire collection of the texts written by Francis, we see that the Gospel is not only taking seriously the requirements of fraternal life lived in radical poverty – the renunciation of collective and personal

property and money and the recourse to begging –, but is, above all, the assumption of the vision of authority which Francis proposed – of masters who become servants, the washing of feet – with his invitation to make ourselves “minors”, smaller, subject to all creatures, brothers and sisters to all men and women. Here, for Francis, is the heart of the gospel message.

Therefore, rather than the “poverty, humility and Holy Gospel of our Jesus Christ” (*Rb* 12:4; *RCl* 12:12), the friars take the humility of God, of the Word of the Father, holy and glorious, who became flesh in our frail humanity and chose poverty as the model for their behaviour (cf. *2LtF* 4-5). We, therefore, discover that the vision of Francis reveals both the face of God and of man, precisely as they are offered in the Gospel, to us.

As a matter of fact, this “good and joyful news” brings us to the revelation of the mystery of the Trinity, which, through Its holy love opens up access for us to Its life of communion and becomes the primary goal of all our searches and steps. In addition, It then gives us *that self-knowledge* of being the “most worthy of all creatures” (*3LtAg* 21), the image and likeness in the intimacy and body of God and of His Christ, of great loftiness and, paradoxically, of being limited,

poor, diminutive, sinful and, because of that, of being called to a never-ending, always to be begun again, “penance” or conversion to the Gospel. The *Love of Neighbour*, whoever he may be, “friend or enemy, thief or felon, Christian or not” is, through the love of God and in parity with Him, another radical gospel feature. Love needs to be concrete, effective, the result of humble service, marked by “maternal” care, devoid of all forms of domination. This allows for the creation of a true “fraternity”, the name which Francis gave to the first group of brothers. Lived among the brothers, first of all, it must be open to extending itself to all men and women and even to all the beings and elements of the world.

These are, broadly speaking, the basic elements drawn from the Gospel, which Francis proposed as a way of life. Recognizing these as its own and by approving the Rule eight centuries ago, the Church gave origin to the Franciscans movement. These are the values which we are called on to live at the beginning of the third millennium in our strengths and weaknesses. Faced by a technical and computerised world, by its crises of creeping wars, terrorism, poverty and globalization, the Christian faith is exposed to all the questions and challenges about God, about His entering into

history in the Person of Jesus, about the diversity of religions and their relationships, about the nature of the human being and about the meaning to be given to life and death. This situation of crisis is, at the same time, a great challenge to the Church to live the new evangelisation and for the Franciscan Family to live its own identity, aware that its place and influence have become fragile and questioned. Our Franciscan Family has been weakened, particularly in the European world, because of its numerical reduction, of the uncertainty of our identity and through the temptation to turn in on self and to become discouraged. The same Franciscan identity, however, is still a challenge to the world! It is our reference of self to the Gospel, of which the Rule is like a summary, which alone can help us to respond with trust, imagination and courage to the many and multiple challenges.

### **Gospel for all**

The celebration of the 8<sup>th</sup> centenary of the approval of the primitive Rule (or proto-rule) is first of all a celebration for the Friars of the First Order, who, through their profession, commit themselves to making it the basis of their personal and fraternal life. But the core of this text - its reference to the Gospel is, in fact, its continued richness - is addressed to all Christians

and, in a special way, to the children of Francis. The call to radically live the message of Jesus, its promises and demands, which Francis and his companions intended and followed, it still current for all times and states of life.

In fact, barely one year later, in 1212, Clare of Assisi was touched by it and later (in 1252), took the Rule of Francis almost in its entirety in order to set up the Order of the Poor Clares. Besides, very soon some individuals and groups of men and women, while living their own state of life in family or profession, were attracted by the franciscan gospel proposal, as is witnessed to in some writings of Francis addressed to them: the two *Letters to the Faithful* as well as the contents of Chapter 23 of the *Regula non bullata*, which constitute the basis and spiritual reference for what would become, in time, *The Franciscan Third Order*. The Franciscan Family, right up to the present time, consists of these three branches: the Friars Minor (distributed in three obediences), the Poor Clare Sisters, and the more numerous group called the "Third Order" composed of the religious Brothers and Sisters of the TOR and of the secular Brothers and Sisters of the SFO. We must also add to this the many secular Franciscan institutes which have appeared in recent centuries. All explicitly refer to the gospel

inspiration of Francis and accept his spiritual texts as the basis of their legislation. A sign of the universality of the Franciscan gospel proposal is the existence among the Anglican and Lutheran churches, outside communion with the Catholic Church, of communities of men and women who claim to be, and are, of a franciscan inspiration. Many men and women beyond these defined juridical confines are interested in the franciscan charism, study it and are inspired by it. All are friends of Francis.

The spirit which Francis and his Friars gave rise to continues to animate the Church and touches all Christians and "all men of good will". This centenary concerns them all.

### **Three ways to prepare for the centenary**

We are all directly invited to make an *Act of Thanksgiving* for the gift which God gave us and His Church by calling Christians, through the intercession of Francis and his companions, to accept the totality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a new life. This call - the grace of our origins - has not ceased to echo, to be understood or to be expressed in life and now, after eight centuries, is reaches out to a countless number of men and women of every condition and state of life. Through it, many men and women,

illustrious and unknown, have borne fruit of holiness, wisdom, knowledge, closeness to the poor, service to the Church and humanity, and given testimony by shedding their blood. The franciscan spiritual current, like a river, broadening and being enriched in the course of centuries through a variety of contributions, never ceases to irrigate us and the Church itself. Today, as we begin the third millennium, and thanks to a greater knowledge of the writings of Francis, to a more accurate and broader vision of what is at the centre of his original project, his message is presented to us as a stimulus, encouragement and food for a journey.

To this joyful act of thanksgiving it is also necessary to add the humble *recognition of the distance* between the gospel proposal and the way in which it was lived during the course of our long and tumultuous history. Despite the ongoing efforts at beginning again and of “reforms”, our movement is not yet up to the demands of the Gospel. Though we should neither accuse or condemn our predecessors, we must recognise, before the Church and the world, that our history and our patrimony carry with them

some shadows of the past and of the present.

This dual movement, the act of thanksgiving for being called to live the Gospel and the purification of our memory as a recognition of the shadows present in our Family, should lead us to *face the challenge of re-foundation*. The experience of eight centuries has taught us that, like Francis, we always need to begin again our journey of gospel penitence, which is conversion, to put into practice something of the newness and youth of the Gospel and to incarnate these in our daily personal and fraternal life through concrete gestures. From the first century of our history we have not stopped being “reborn” (*Jn. 3:3*), as is testified by our different branches and hundreds of Institutes even today. It is because of this that we must find the roots, the “foundations”, that is to say, discover in wonder the “power of God”, the Gospel (*Rm. 1:16*), the Good News of the Love of God for us and of the communion with Him offered to us. Only on such a foundation can a solid structure be built, a true community in mission in the Church and in the world. This moment of grace, a *kairos*, which we

are experiencing at the present, tests us by revealing weaknesses to us, but it also invites us to rely on the power of God.

## Conclusion

This letter wishes to be a first announcement. We are sending it out three years in advance in order to state that the event we are preparing to celebrate concerns us all: we cannot live this without each other. It is also an invitation to begin immediately the giving of thanks for the gift which God gave to the Church and the world since the project of Francis and of his Friars to live “according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ” was approved, in 1209, by Pope Innocent III. We have, at a distance of eight centuries, the grace to be the inheritors of this project and of the serious task of being those who must continue it.

Brothers and sisters, “let us refer all good to the Lord, God Almighty and Most High,

acknowledge that every good is His, and thank Him, from Whom all good comes for everything” (*Rnb 17:17*).

Rome, 29<sup>th</sup> November  
The Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order

Br. Mauro Jöhri, OFMCap  
General Minister  
President CFF

Br. Joachim Giermek, OFMConv  
General Minister  
Encarnación Del Pozo, OFS  
General Minister

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM  
General Minister

Br. Ilija Živković, TOR  
General Minister  
Sr. Anisia Schneider, OSF  
President IFC-TOR

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# Communication of the General Definitory - December 2006

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The 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st the General Definitory had its “mini” tempo forte” of December. The 18th was a study day of on-going formation for the Definitory. The theme dealt with the various aspects of affectivity. Dr. Roberto Marchesini and Fr. Massimo Rechiglian, OFM directed the day. The 19th, 20th and 21st dealt – among other things, with the following material.

**1. Fraternal Sharing:** As always, the definitors shared some of the things they had done since the last Definitory meeting. The Minister spoke of the sending of Franciscan Missionaries which took place at Brussels, (the Minister and Vincenzo B.). He spoke on the meeting in the Holy Land of the II International Congress of the Commisariates, his fraternal visits with the houses dependent on the Minister General, his meeting with the board of COMPI (with Mario), and his meeting with various members of the Roman Curia at the Vatican. Ignacio and the Minister spoke also of the visits to the Provinces of the Holy Name, Holy Cross and the Custody of the Sacred

Heart of Brazil. Amaral spoke about his visits to the Congo and Mozambique and his participation in a meeting of African formators. The Vicar described the 70th anniversary of the Franciscan parish of Ariccia, the meeting he attended with the brothers of the Province of Benevento and a meeting of the commission for coordination of the PUA. Finian spoke on the progress of a legal suit the Order has had for several years. Jakab visited the friars of Toulouse; Miguel and the Minister attended a meeting of the friars in Portugal. Mario had a Retreat for the Clares; Sime began his visitation of Mostar. Luis, Nestor and Vincenzo worked on the preparation for the Missionary Congress of Latin America to be held in 2008.

## **2. The liturgical calendar of the universal OFM:**

The General Definitory has decided to present once again the Liturgical Calendar proper to the OFMs to the Congregation of the Divine Cult for its approbation. Some saints will be added. It is impossible to present all the saints – only the most

significant.

**3. Budgets 2007:** Having examined with care the budgets for the Houses dependent upon the Minister General in Rome, the General Definitory approved them for 2007.

**4. Works:** The Definitory approved the work to be done on St. Isidore's, San Antonio (via Merulana) and the old orphanage near the General Curia.

**5. Nominations:** The General Definitory named Mathias Doyle, OFM as Delegate General for the Province of India. Mathias is from the Province of the Holy Name in New York, USA. Visitor General for the Province of St. Joseph in Canada will be Dominique Joly, of the Province of the Three Companions in France and Belgium. Fr. Fajdek Bogdan of the Province of the Immaculate Conception in Poland was named treasurer of Grottaferatta.

**6. Statutes for the Canonical Visitation and the Chapter:** The Definitory approved the new statutes for the Visitation and the

Chapter.

**7. Contract with the Archbishop of Khartoum:**

The Definitorium approved an accord between the General Curia and the Archbishop of Khartoum regarding our presence in that archdiocese.

**8. Franciscans**

**International:** The General Definitorium received input about the organization from Fr. Markus, a member of the Franciscans International board. Afterwards, there was a very fine discussion.

**9. Evaluation of the day of study:**

The Definitorium evaluated the day of study they had on the 18th of December. In general the members were quite satisfied.

**10. Evaluation of the most recent workshop for Visitors General:**

The participants of the workshop of November were quite positive about it and felt that it was a help for them.

**11. Files:** As it always does, the Definitorium examined the files containing correspondence from the Provinces about concerns which require either its input or approbation. There were some thirty files.

**12. Meeting with the executive committee of**

**UFME:** The Minister General and the Definitors from Europe met with the executive committee which was having its meeting at the same time. They were planning their next

Assembly which will take place in Sarajevo from the 9 to the 14 of October, 2007 and will have as its theme “Inter-religious Dialogue in Europe especially with Islam”.

The tempo forte concluded with Christmas greetings for the Definitors on the part of the Minister and – for the Minister on the part of the Definitors.

On my part – together with the General Definitorium, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and good.

Fr. Sandro Overend  
Rigillo, ofm  
Secretary General

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## Resource booklet on Chapter IV of the GGCC

In July the General Definitorium decided that a resource booklet be prepared on Chapter IV of the GGCC, so that each friar and each Fraternity might reflect on how best to live today the values presented in the chapter. The task was entrusted to the JPIC Office with the collaboration of the General Secretariats for Formation and Studies, and for Evangelization.

The themes to be studied, taken basically from Chapter IV, are the following: minority (art. 64-67); justice and peace (art. 68-70); integrity of creation (art. 71); “sine proprio” (art. 72, 1-2; solidarity with the poor (art. 72, 3); the value of work (art. 76-82).

Each theme will be elaborated in two parts: the first more inspirational (doctrinal), and the second more practical, with guidelines for our form of life, and for evangelization, formation and JPIC.

For the inspirational part of each theme, we will count on the help of some of our brothers who are “experts”: Javier Garrido, Johannes B. Freyer, José Antonio Merino, Cesare Vaiani, John Hardin and David Flood. The second part will be prepared by the Secretariats and the JPIC Office.

For the practical application of each theme, the following scheme will be employed:

- \* Concrete situations: significant experiences of brothers throughout the world in the areas of minority, justice and peace, the integrity of creation, living without things, solidarity with the poor and work.

- \* Reflection on these significant experiences in light of the Word of God and our spirituality.

- \* Work sheets to help us deepen our awareness of these values both personally and in Fraternity.

A meeting was held with the experts on November 1st, allowing an overview of each of the themes.

This will help to provide greater unity to the booklet, and to avoid repetition and lacunae as far as possible.

Publication of the resource booklet is planned for July 2007.

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# Ċirkulari tal-Ministru Provinċjal

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Prot. 0612\88

## MILIED 2006 *IL-MULEJ ĠEJ IŻURNA F' KAPITLU TAL-ĦSAJJAR*

Ghezież Huti f' San Franġisk,

*Il-Mulej jagħtikom is-sliem!*

Mill-ġdid qed nghixu iż-żmien ta' l-Avvent. Żmien li niftakru fit-thejjija tal-poplu Lhudi biex jiltaqa' mal-Messija. Żmien Liturġiku li jhejjina biex niltaqghu mal-Mulej fiċ-ċirkustanzi tal-hajja ta' kuljum. Żmien li jimliena bit-tama li għad nergħu niltaqghu mal-Mulej fl-aħħar taż-żminijiet. Dan kollu huwa frott tas-Salvazzjoni biex il-Mulej jerga' jagħtina dak li tlifna bid-dnub.

Din is-sena, għalina bhala Provinċja Franġiskana f'Malta, il-festi tal-Milied se jwassluna biex niċcelebraw il-Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar, esperjenza li talabha l-aħħar Kapitlu Ġenerali Straordinarju f'Assisi. Jiena qed inhares lejn dan il-Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar bhala esperjenza fejn il-Mulej se jżur lill-Provinċja tagħna. Esperjenza fejn il-Mulej ser jagħmel lilu nnifsu aktar preżenti fostna. Esperjenza fejn bhala Ahwa ta' l-istess Provinċja ser niltaqghu biex flimkien nitolbu, flimkien nisimghu kelma, flimkien nitkellmu dwar is-sejha tagħna bhala franġiskani fid-dinja tallum. Esperjenza li tobbliga lil kulhadd ikun preżenti għax ilkoll kemm ahna għadna bżonn nitolbu, nisimghu kelma u niġgeddu fis-sejha tagħna.

Ilkoll nafu kemm il-poplu Lhudi kellu jgħaddi minn provi kbar biex ihejji ruħu għal-laqqha mal-Messija. Ilkoll nafu li diversi drabi l-poplu Lhudi kien jitfixxkel u jitbiegħed mill-iskop qaddis ta' l-għazla tiegħu. Imma Alla qatt ma abbandunah, qatt ma naqas li joffrilu dak kollu li kien jehtieg biex jerga' lura fit-triq it-tajba. Hekk ukoll jimxi magħna l-Mulej. Ejjew nithejjew sew għal din il-grazzja li l-Mulej se jagħtina. Ejjew inhejju ruħna sew, mhux biss biex mill-ġdid infakru il-miġja ta' Ġesu' fostna bhala tarbija fl-Għar ta' Betlehem, iżda li se jkun fostna waqt il-Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar biex jisma' it-talb tagħna, biex iwasslilna kelma u biex jagħtina dawl ġdid dwar s-sejha tagħna.

B'din is-sejha għall-Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar, nagħtikom l-isbah xewqat għall-festi tal-Milied. Jalla l-ispiritu tal-Bambin Ġesu' jimlina b'kuraġġ u tama fit-tiġdid ta' hajjitna. Jalla Marija Immakulata, Omm u Patruna tagħna lkoll, tghina nghixu sew l-esperjenza tal-Kapitlu tal-Ħsajjar. Jalla Missierna Franġisku jibqa' isahharna għall-hajja skond il-Vangelu ta' Kristu Sidna. Insellmilkom.

Mahruga mill-Kurja Provinċjalizja  
Il-Belt Valletta  
8 ta' Diċembru 2006



Fra Paul Galea, OFM  
Ministru Provinċjal

Fra Marcellino Micallef, OFM  
Segretarju tal-Provinċja

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# Awguri lil Mons. Pawl Cremona, O.P.

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Prot. No. 0612/86

E.T. Mons. Pawl Cremona O.P., S.Th.L&D.,  
Kunvent ta' Ġesu' Nażżarenu,  
Triq ix-Xatt ta' Tigne',  
Sliema, SLM 15,  
Malta.

8 ta' Diċembru 2006

Għażiż Mons. Pawl Cremona,

*Il-Mulej jagħtik is-sliem!*

L-aħbar ta' l-għażla tiegħek mill-Papa Benedittu XVI, bħala l-Arcisqof il-ġdid ta' Malta, imliet lili u lill-aħwa kollha tal-Patrijiet Minuri f'Malta, b'ferh u entużjażmu.

Il-Mulej żejnek b'hafna doni. Għaraft lill-Mulej u għamiltu magħruf, thobbu tassew u thegġeg biex ikun dejjem maħbub, kontinwament taqdi bil-ferh u tinkoraġġixxi biex jaqduh. Hu żejnek bl-umilta'. Għanik bid-don ta' ħajja kkonsagrata u saċerdotali. Int haddimt il-kariżma pastorali u dejjem offret il-garanzija li "Alla hu mhabba". Fl-istess hin inti kont dejjem *bridge* bejn Alla u l-bniedem u l-bniedmin ma' xulxin.

Inwegħduk it-talb tagħna. Nitolbu lil Alla, li għażlek għall-ħidma ta' l-Episkopat, biex jagħtik li tirgħa l-merħla qaddisa u turih il-milja tas-saċerdozju bla ebda għajb, taqdi lej u nhar, biex il-ħarsa tiegħu fuqna tkun dejjem ħarsa ta' ħniena.

Inwegħduk ukoll l-ubbidjenza tagħna. Kif jinsistu l-istess Kostituzzjonijiet Generali tagħna, "il-patrijiet kollha u kull wiehed minnhom għandhom juru ubbidjenza u qima lejn is-Sinjur Papa... u għandhom joqgħodu għall-awtorita' ta' l-isqfijiet. Huma fid-dmir li juru rispettu u qima lejn l-isqfijiet" (art. 4 #2).

Bi gratitudni lejn Alla li għażel lilek reliġjuż biex tkun ragħaj ta' l-Arcidjoċesi ta' Malta, b'ħajr lill-Provinċja Dumnikana għall-formazzjoni umana, nisranija u Dumnikana, kif ukoll lill-ġenituri tiegħek li rabbew lilek u lill-ħutek fl-għożża u l-imhabba, nitlobok il-barka tiegħek fuq l-aħwa, patrijiet Minuri. Paċi u ġid!

Fra Paul Galea, OFM  
Ministru Provinċjal

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# Ringrazzjament lil Mons. Ġużeppi Mercieca

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Prot. No. 0612/87

E.T. Mons. Ġużeppi Mercieca, B.A. (Lond.), S.Th.D., (Greg.), J.U.D. (Lat.),  
Il-Kurja ta' l-Arċisqof,  
Floriana,  
Malta.

8 ta' Diċembru 2006

Għażiż Mons. Ġużeppi Mercieca,

*Il-Mulej jagħtik is-sliem!*

Nixtieq f'ismi u f'isem l-Ahwa kollha, il-Patrijiet Minuri, niringrazzjak hafna għas-servizz kbir li tajt matul l-Episkopat tiegħek. Hidma li inti wettaqt bil-fedelta', bl-umilta', bis-sabar u bil-prudenza matul it-tletin sena bħala Arċisqof. Hidma ta' missier li inti wettaqt b'risq il-Knisja u s-Socjeta' Maltija.

Bhala Arċisqof inti qatt ma waqaft tħabbar l-Evangelju, u tamministra l-misteri tal-fidi. Bil-għerf u l-għaqal tiegħek waqaft ma' kulhadd, l-aktar mal-morda, mal-foqra, mad-dgħajfa, ma' l-imġarrba, mal-barrinin u l-għorba. U dan fis-skiet u fil-mohbi. Hdimt qatigh u b'sagrificċji personali sabiex il-koll inkunu Ahwa fi Kristu. F'kelma oħra kont ta' ġid għall-oħrajn.

Inti kont għalina, għassies, mexxej u amministratur fidil tal-misteri ta' Kristu. Mexxejt il-familja tiegħu fuq l-eżempju tiegħu, ir-Ragħaj it-tajjeb. Habbejtna bħala hutek u bħala wliedek. U dan żgur li kien ifisser sacrificċji kbar u sofferenza għalik.

F'isem l-Ahwa kollha tal-Provinċja Frangiskana ta' San Pawl Appostlu nixtieq ngħidlek, grazzi hafna. Inroddlok ħajr għax-xogħol kbir li wettaqt, filwaqt li nitlob lill-Mulej jagħtik għomor twil u saħħa biex tkompli tagħti s-sehem tiegħek, waqt li nixtieqlek ukoll mistrieħ li tant jixraqlek.

Nitlob il-barka tiegħek u nixtieqlek paċi u ġid!

Fra Paul Galea, OFM  
Ministru Provinċjal

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**I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind could comprehend it.     Harry Emerson**

# Patrijiet Minuri (O.F.M.)

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1. **Abela** John (*b.*John), *n.* 31.08.1954 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Carmelo & Victoria Micallef, *v.*03.10.1971, *pt.* 01.10.1972, *ps.* 22.08.1976, *s.* 07.07.1979.
2. **Aquilina** Camillus (*b.*Joseph Mary), *n.* 15.01.1919 Valletta (*d.*Malta), *f.*John & Michelina Mifsud, *v.*11.10.1936, *pt.* 12.10.1937, *ps.* 06.01.1941, *s.* 06.04.1946.
3. **Aquilina** George (*b.*Marianus), *n.* 18.07.1939 Qormi (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Rosaria Saliba, *v.*09.10.1955, *pt.* 14.10.1956, *ps.* 31.07.1960, *s.* 14.03.1964.
4. **Attard** Paul (*b.*Paul), *n.* 15.03.1961 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Cathaldus & Maria Dolores Saliba, *v.*02.10.1977, *pt.* 01.10.1978, *ps.* 04.09.1983, *s.* 07.07.1985.
5. **Azzopardi** Arthur (*b.*Paul), *n.* 19.02.1923 Sliema (*d.*Malta), *f.*Arthur & Carmen Pace, *v.*3.10.1937, *pt.* 21.02.1939, *ps.* 01.11.1944, *s.* 13.03.1948.
6. **Azzopardi** John (*b.*John), *n.* 07.10.1945 Gzira (*d.*Malta), *f.*Anthony & Mary Grima, *v.*09.10.1960, *pt.* 10.10.1961, *ps.* 15.01.1967, *s.* 15.03.1970.
7. **Bonello** Joseph (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 04.04.1961 Xaghra (*d.*Gozo), *f.*Victor & Nazzarena Sultana, *v.*02.10.1977, *pt.* 01.10.1978, *ps.* 28.08.1983, *s.* 07.07.1985.
8. **Borg** Alexander (*b.*Alexander), *n.* 16.10.1955 Sliema (*d.*Malta), *f.*Paul & M'anne Calleja, *v.*05.10.1975, *pt.* 26.09.1976, *ps.* 05.09.1981, *s.* 10.07.1983.
9. **Briffa** Anthony (*b.*Anthony), *n.* 07.06.1960 Hamrun (*d.*Malta), *f.*Anthony & Pauline Sant, *v.*30.09.1978, *pt.* 07.10.1979, *ps.* 17.09.1984, *s.* 11.07.1986.
10. **Bugeja** George (*b.*George), *n.* 01.07.1962 Xaghra (*d.*Gozo), *f.*Emmanuel & Mary Attard, *v.*02.10.1977, *pt.* 01.10.1978, *ps.* 28.08.1983, *s.* 05.07.1986.
11. **Cachia** Adrian (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 08.01.1946 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Saviour & Carmen Azzopardi, *v.*23.09.1962, *pt.* 24.11.1963, *ps.* 08.12.1971, *s.* 19.03.1972.
12. **Camilleri** Joseph (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 23.04.1940 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Paul & Carmela Attard, *v.*13.10.1957, *pt.* 14.10.1958, *ps.* 15.10.1961, *s.* 11.03.1967.
13. **Camilleri** Raymond (*b.*Michael Paul), *n.* 04.07.1948 Hamrun (*d.*Malta), *f.*John & Marianne Azzopardi, *v.*22.09.1963, *pt.* 27.09.1964, *ps.* 20.07.1969, *s.* 18.07.1971.
14. **Camilleri** Robert (*b.*Patrick), *n.* 24.04.1951 Hamrun (*d.*Malta), *f.*John & Marianne Azzopardi, *v.*20.10.1967, *pt.* 01.11.1968, *ps.* 08.12.1972, *s.* 29.06.1975, *e.*15.08.2001.
15. **Camilleri** Sebastian (*b.*Emmanuel), *n.* 31.12.1921 Hamrun (*d.*Malta), *f.*Carmelo & Angela Gatt, *v.*01.11.1967, *pt.* 02.11.1968, *ps.* 02.11.1969, *s.* 23.03.1947.
16. **Camilleri** Victor (*b.*Joseph Mary), *n.* 18.11.1944 Hamrun (*d.*Malta), *f.*Philip & Joelle Bugeja, *v.*27.09.1959, *pt.* 20.11.1960, *ps.* 08.12.1965, *s.* 21.03.1969.
17. **Caruana** Joseph (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 18.10.1953 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Carmelo & Pauline Fsadni, *v.*03.10.1971, *pt.* 01.10.1972, *ps.* 22.08.1976, *s.* 07.07.1979.
18. **Cassar** Henry (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 16.02.1924 Msida (*d.*Malta), *f.*Francis Xavier & Mariastella Sammut, *v.*15.10.1939, *pt.* 20.10.1940, *ps.* 29.04.1945, *s.* 11.06.1949.
19. **Chircop** Anthony (*b.*Anthony), *n.* 03.04.1961 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Christiano & Rita Ciappara, *v.*02.10.1977, *pt.* 01.10.1978, *ps.* 04.09.1983, *s.* 07.07.1985.
20. **Ciantar** Leonardus (*b.*Leonardus), *n.* 27.06.1970 Marsa (*d.*Malta), *f.*John & Carmela Ciantar, *v.*19.09.1988, *pt.* 17.09.1989, *ps.* 01.10.1995.
21. **Ciappara** Joseph, *n.* 14.02.1984, (*d.*Malta), *f.* Anthony & Polly Borg, *v.* 02.09.2005, *pt.* 6.10.06
22. **Ciantar** Mark (*b.*Mark), *n.* 08.01.1970 Attard (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Joan Incardona, *v.*19.09.1988, *pt.* 17.09.1989, *ps.* 02.10.1994, *s.* 05.07.1996.
23. **Coleiro** Martin (*b.*Martin), *n.* 09.11.1962 S. Venera (*d.*Malta), *f.*Francis & Rita Mifsud, *v.*30.09.1978, *pt.* 07.10.1979, *ps.* 17.09.1984, *s.* 01.09.1986.

24. **Debono** Joseph (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 07.04.1957 Ghajnsielem (*d.*Gozo), *f.*Saviour & Marianne Camilleri, *v.*01.10.1978, *pt.* 05.10.1980, *ps.* 15.10.1995.
25. **Diacono** Charles (*b.*Charles), *n.* 07.05.1948 Marsa (*d.*Malta), *f.*Emmanuel & Rosaria Caruana, *v.*26.09.1965, *pt.* 02.10.1966, *ps.* 06.01.1970, *s.* 20.07.1974.
26. **Ellul Vincenti** Norbert (*b.*Edwin), *m.* , *n.* 27.06.1937 Gzira (*d.*Malta), *f.*Carmelo & Carmelina Damato, *v.*27.09.1953, *pt.* 02.10.1954, *ps.* 28.06.1958, *s.* 12.03.1960.
27. **Enriquez** Mark (*b.*Carmelo), *n.* 08.05.1940 Valletta (*d.*Malta), *f.*Hugh & Adelina Micallef, *v.*27.09.1959, *pt.* 28.09.1960, *ps.* 08.12.1964, *s.* 22.03.1969.
28. **Falzon** Angelo (*b.*Angelo), *n.* 15.10.1957 Naxxar (*d.*Malta), *f.*Peter & Carmen Agius, *v.*26.09.1976, *pt.* 02.10.1977, *ps.* 10.10.1982, *s.* 29.06.1984.
29. **Falzon** Raymond (*b.*Raymond), *n.* 27.05.1959 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Anthony & Josephine Vella, *v.*05.10.1975, *pt.* 26.09.1976, *ps.* 05.09.1981, *s.* 10.07.1983.
30. **Farrugia** Anton (*b.*Anton), *n.* 22.10.1971 Attard (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Fransina Pisani, *v.*22.09.1989, *pt.* 17.09.1990, *ps.* 17.09.1996, *s.* 12.07.1998.
31. **Farrugia** Christopher (*b.*Christopher), *n.* 17.11.1959 Sliema (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Lynette Mifsud, *v.*06.10.1979, *pt.* 05.10.1980, *ps.* 08.12.1985, *s.* 10.07.1987.
32. **Farrugia** Pierre (*b.*Pierre), *n.* 08.06.1973 Toronto (*d.*Toronto), *f.*Victor & Carmela Buttigieg, *v.*17.09.1998, *pt.* 19.09.1999, *ps.* 05.06.2004, *s.*24.06.2005.
33. **Galea** Benjamin (*b.*Carmelo), *n.* 16.09.1916 Valletta (*d.*Malta), *f.*Carmelo & Antonia Psaila, *v.*26.08.1932, *pt.* 27.08.1933, *ps.* 24.10.1937, *s.* 18.05.1940.
34. **Galea** Cherubin (*b.*Ramirus), *n.* 06.01.1932 Ghajnsielem (*d.*Gozo), *f.*Saviour & Michelina Spiteri, *v.*24.09.1950, *pt.* 30.09.1951, *ps.* 14.11.1954, *s.* 02.04.1960.
35. **Galea** Paul (*b.*Paul), *n.* 27.02.1950 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Vincent & Anastasia Muscat, *v.*02.10.1966, *pt.* 08.10.1967, *ps.* 08.10.1972, *s.* 03.07.1976.
36. **Gauci** Bartholomew (*b.*Carmel), *n.* 07.07.1947 Gharghur (*d.*Malta), *f.*Bartholomew & M Concetta Fenech, *v.*23.09.1962, *pt.* 24.09.1963, *ps.* 02.02.1969, *s.* 14.03.1971.
37. **Ghirlando** Marcello (*b.*Marcello), *n.* 12.04.1962 Sliema (*d.*Malta), *f.*Dionisius & Carmen Borda, *v.*30.09.1978, *pt.* 07.10.1979, *ps.* 17.09.1984, *s.* 05.07.1986.
38. **Grech** Charles (*b.*Charles), *n.* 09.01.1962 Salford (*d.*Salford), *f.*Michael & M'bridget Mc Grath, *v.*30.08.1984, *pt.* 07.09.1985, *ps.* 03.12.198, *s.*12.07.2002.
39. **Grech** Richard Stanley (*b.*Richard Stanley), *n.* 28.10.1955 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Paul & Mary Vella, *v.*22.10.1972, *pt.* 14.10.1973, *ps.* 08.12.1976, *s.* 25.08.1979.
40. **Magro** Joseph (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 11.03.1975 Pietá (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Pauline Camilleri, *v.*13.09.1995, *pt.* 15.09.1996, *ps.* 15.09.2000, *s.*12.07.2002.
41. **Magro** Stephen (*b.*Stephen), *n.* 13.09.1963 Pieta (*d.*Malta), *f.*Albert & Michelina Formosa, *v.*22.09.1989, *pt.* 17.09.1990, *ps.* 01.10.1995.
42. **Magro** Sylvester (*b.*Carmelo), *n.* 14.02.1941 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Emmanuel & Dolores Bonello, *v.*12.10.1957, *pt.* 13.10.1958, *ps.* 18.03.1962, *s.* 26.03.1966, *e.* 11.05.1997.
43. **Meilak** Peter Paul (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 29.12.1921 Nadur (*d.*Gozo), *f.*Francis & Carmen Mizzi, *v.*21.09.1941, *pt.* 27.09.1942, *ps.* 01.11.1945, *s.* 11.06.1949.
44. **Micallef** Albert (*b.*Albert), *n.* 24.08.1950 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Sebastian & Joanne Tonna, *v.*02.10.1966, *pt.* 08.10.1967, *ps.* 08.10.1972, *s.* 03.07.1976.
45. **Micallef** Gabriel (*b.*Stephen), *n.* 24.03.1944 St Lawrence (*d.*Gozo), *f.*Joseph & Mary Apap, *v.*09.10.1960, *pt.* 10.10.1961, *ps.* 01.05.1965, *s.* 22.03.1969.
46. **Micallef** Godfrey (*b.*Anthony), *n.* 19.12.1931 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*Francis & Vincenza Camilleri, *v.*19.09.1948, *pt.* 25.09.1949, *ps.* 28.12.1952, *s.* 06.04.1957.
47. **Micallef** John (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 11.12.1931 St Venera (*d.*Malta), *f.*Vincent & Adelina Barbara, *v.*30.09.1947, *pt.* 02.10.1948, *ps.* 28.12.1952, *s.* 06.04.1957.
48. **Micallef** Marcellino (*b.*Marcellino), *n.* 04.12.1958 Rabat (*d.*Malta), *f.*John & Catherine Schembri, *v.*26.09.1976, *pt.* 02.10.1977, *ps.* 10.10.1982, *s.* 29.06.1984.
49. **Mintoff** Dionisius (*b.*Paul), *n.* 01.04.1931 Cospicua (*d.*Malta), *f.*Lawrence & M'concetta Farrugia, *v.*16.09.1945, *pt.* 08.04.1947, *ps.* 01.11.1952, *s.* 07.08.1955.
50. **Muscat** John (*b.*John), *n.* 19.04.1962 Qormi (*d.*Malta), *f.*Emmanuel & Filomena Spiteri, *v.*06.10.1979, *pt.* 05.10.1980, *ps.* 08.12.1985, *s.* 10.07.1987.

51. **Muscat** Noel (*b.Noel*) , *n.* 03.12.1957 Floriana (*d.Malta*), *f.*Carmel & Carmen Buttigieg, *v.*26.09.1976, *pt.* 02.10.1977, *ps.* 12.09.1982, *s.* 29.06.1984.
52. **Overend** Sandro (*b.Sandro*), *n.* 31.01.1959 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*Edwin & Vincenza Rigillo, *v.*26.09.1976, *pt.* 02.10.1977, *ps.* 12.09.1982, *s.* 29.06.1984.
53. **Pace** Edward (*b.Edward*), *n.* 13.08.1945 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*Carmel & M'stella Lambertini, *v.*09.10.1960, *pt.* 10.10.1961, *ps.* 02.04.1967, *s.* 15.03.1970.
54. **Sammut** Julian (*b.Julian*), *n.* 14.11.1957 St Julians (*d.Malta*), *f.*Carmelo & Catherine Briffa, *v.*05.10.1975, *pt.* 26.09.1976, *ps.* 23.08.1981, *s.* 10.07.1983.
55. **Sant** Bernardino (*b.Joseph*), *n.* 19.06.1930 Mosta (*d.Malta*), *f.*Anthony & Carmen Vella, *v.*24.07.1951, *pt.* 02.10.1952, *ps.* 30.10.1955.
56. **Schembri** Guido (*b.Joseph*), *n.* 29.09.1923 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*Paul & Maria Dolores Gatt, *v.*09.10.1938, *pt.* 15.10.1939, *ps.* 01.11.1944, *s.* 13.03.1948.
57. **Schranz** John Evangelist (*b.Anthony*), *n.* 28.11.1921 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*John & Josephine Grungo, *v.*06.10.1940, *pt.* 12.10.1941, *ps.* 01.11.1944, *s.* 11.06.1949.
58. **Sciberras** Alfred (*b.Alfred*), *n.* 01.12.1937 Zebbug (*d.Malta*), *f.*Saviour & Annunziata Camilleri, *v.*13.10.1957, *pt.* 14.10.1958, *ps.* 15.10.1961, *s.* 11.03.1967.
59. **Sciberras** Stephen (*b.Stephen*), *n.* 01.11.1969 Hamrun (*d.Malta*), *f.*Paul & Maria Costa, *v.*19.09.1988, *pt.* 17.09.1989, *ps.* 01.10.1995, *s.* 05.07.1996.
60. **Scicluna** Raymond (*b.Raymond*), *n.* 17.12.1958 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*Emmanuel & Salvina Puli, *v.*05.10.1975, *pt.* 26.09.1976, *ps.* 05.09.1981, *s.* 10.07.1983.
61. **Sciortino** Justin (*b.Francis*), *n.* 27.07.1943 Valletta (*d.Malta*), *f.*Philip & Rita Mizzi, *v.*28.09.1958, *pt.* 04.10.1959, *ps.* 08.12.1964, *s.* 11.03.1967.
62. **Tabone** Alfred (*b.Alfred*), *n.* 07.02.1934 Valletta (*d.Malta*), *f.*Edward & Rose Portelli, *v.*17.09.1949, *pt.* 25.09.1950, *ps.* 20.03.1955, *s.* 14.03.1959.
63. **Tonna** Charles (*b.Emmanuel*), *n.* 17.12.1935 Rabat (*d.Malta*), *f.*Charles & Antonia Borg, *v.*26.09.1954, *pt.* 09.10.1955, *ps.* 28.12.1958, *s.* 07.04.1962.
64. **Tonna** Ivo (*b.Robert*), *n.* 19.11.1926 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*Edward & Olga Papagiorcopulo, *v.*08.09.1943, *pt.* 10.09.1944, *ps.* 28.12.1947, *s.* 05.08.1951.
65. **Vassallo** Walter, *n.* 21.03.1981 B'Kara (*d.Malta*), *f.* Charles & Josephine Grech, *v.* 02.09.2005, *pt.* 6.10.06
66. **Vella** Anthony (*b.Anthony*), *n.* 04.08.1926 Valletta (*d.Malta*), *f.*Spiridione & Helen Privitera, *v.*08.09.1943, *pt.* 10.09.1944, *ps.* 28.12.1947, *s.* 05.08.1951.
67. **Vella** Joseph (*b.Joseph*), *n.* 04.07.1933 Sliema (*d.Malta*), *f.*Joseph & Carmen Calleja, *v.*25.09.1949, *pt.* 01.10.1950, *ps.* 14.11.1954, *s.* 14.03.1959.
68. **Wickman** Charles (*b.Charles*), *n.* 15.03.1929 Senglea (*d.Malta*), *f.*Carmel & Fortunata Micallef, *v.*30.09.1947, *pt.* 02.10.1948, *ps.* 28.10.1951, *s.* 29.07.1956.
69. **Xuereb** Joseph Benedict (*b.Peter Paul*), *n.* 01.07.1935 Gharghur (*d.Malta*), *f.*Agostino & Carmela Azzopardi, *v.*30.09.1951, *pt.* 02.10.1952, *ps.* 12.08.1956, *s.* 12.03.1960, *e., d., p.*068.
70. **Zammit** Edward (*b.Michael*), *n.* 14.08.1942 Mgarr (*d.Malta*), *f.*John & Bartholomea Grima, *v.*28.09.1958, *pt.* 04.10.1959, *ps.* 06.10.1963, *s.* 11.03.1967.
71. **Zammit** Jimmy (*b.Jimmy*), *n.* 11.08.1955 Toronto (*d.Toronto*), *f.*Joseph & Matilda Farrugia, *v.*14.10.1973, *pt.* 02.10.1974, *ps.* 05.11.1978, *s.* 13.06.1981.
72. **Zerafa** Loreto (*b.Loreto*), *n.* 02.04.1974 Victoria (*d.Gozo*), *f.*Michael & Emmanuela Curmi, *v.*13.09.1995, *pt.* 15.09.1996, *ps.* 13.06.2000.

*b.*=nom. bapt.; *n.*=nativi.; *d.*=dioecesi; *f.*=pater & mater;  
*v.*=novitiatus; *pt.*=prof.temp.; *ps.*=prof.sol.; *s.*=sacerd.; *e.*=episc.

**Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the  
window through which you must see the world.**  
*George Bernard Shaw*

# 125 SENA TA' DEVOZZJONI LEJN IL-MADONNA TAS-SACRO CUOR

Ġuzepp Vella, OFM

Miċ-"CENNI STORICI" li ħallielna Dun Pawl Vella nafu li d-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor xettlet l-għeruq tagħha f' Tas-Sliema nhar it-3 ta' Ġunju 1877. Dakinhar tqeghdet l-Ewwel Ġebli tal-Knisja tagħna taht it-titlu "Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore di Gesu," Sewwa sew 129 sena ilu.

L-ghada ta' din iċ-ċerimonja Dun Pawl qiegħed kwadru mdaqqaq tal-Madonna, taht dan it-titlu, fil-maħžen li kien bena f' nofs l-ghalqa biex il-haddiema jkollhom fejn iqegħdu l-ghodda tagħhom u jiltaqa' il-kumitat. Fih huwa kien ilaqqaq' t-tfal gh at-tagħlim tad-duttrina, u jirakkontalhom xi storja fuq

Saħansitra kien talab il-permess biex iqaddes fih kull nhar ta' Hadd imma l- permess kien miċhud.

Sa mill-1878, f' dan il-maħžen, bdiet tiġi ċċelebrata l-festa tal-Madonna "Nostra Signora" fl-ewwel Hadd ta' Ġunju f' gheluq id-devozzjonijiet ta' matul ix-xahar ta' Mejjun li fih kien jingħad ir-Rużarju kuljum.(1) Tul dawn l-erba' snin, sakemm imbniet il-knisja, servew biex id-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna tal-Qalb ta' Ġesu ixxetlet, kibret, issaħħet u bdiet tghati l-frott tagħha. In-"Nostra Signora" saret il-faraġ u l-ghajn ta' kull grazzja għal kull min kien jirrikorri lejha.

## Wara l-ftuħ tal-knisja

Mal-migja tal-vara devota tal-Madonna fil-knisja tagħna, misserijietna, mill-ewwel issaħħru mill-ġmiel u s-sbuhija tagħha. Hafna devoti tal-Madonna, taht dan it-titlu, kienu issieħbu fil-Konfraternita tagħha li kien waqqaf Dun Pawl. Għalhekk id-devozzjoni tagħhom mill-ewwel daret lejn din l-istatwa ġdida li saħħret lil



Madonna. Dan il-maħžen malajr imbidel f' "Oratorio di Devozione" In-nies bdiet tmur f' dan oratorju biex titlob quddiem ix-xbiha tal-Madonna. L-Innu "Viva viva la Signora" beda jidwi ma l-inħawi kollha. Dun Pawl kiteb hekk: "Il-kwadru kien ikun huġġieġa wahda bix-xema' u bit-tazzi taż-żejt u mzejjen bil-fjuri flimkien ma weġh di ohra prezzjużi."

kulhadd. Għall-ħames xhur il-knisja kienet immexxija mill-Konfraternita.(2) Meta il-patrijiet ħadu t-tmexxija tal-knisja kienu fid-dmir li jkomplu jikkultivaw id-devozzjoni lejn in-*"nostra Signora"* għax fiha raw il-bidu ta' kull inizzjattiva b'risq l-erwieh. Id-devoti komplew jikbru u jaħsbu għal hafna h tigijiet tal-knisja li kienet għadha art u saqaf. Bil-permess ta' Ruma xi wegħdi ta' deheb ġew mibjugħa biex jagħmlu tajjeb għall-ispejjes li kellha bżonn il-knisja.(3) Il-ġrajjet tal-knisja, bla dubju ta' xejn, huma frott tad-devozzjoni li kellhom id-devoti Slimizi. Min illum jidh ol f' dan it-tempju jara fiħ bidla kbira minhabba l-pittura, damask gdid u opri dekorattivi ohra. Kollha huma frott tal-ġenerosita tas-Slimizi u ta' tant devoti ohra, mxerrda ma' Malta, u ta' diversi emigrati maltin. Irnexxielna li dan is-santwarju jkun tassew jixraq lil dik li fis-sema tinsab fuq l-aqwa tron.

## Il-Vara devota

Il-Vara tagħna kienet l-aħħar xogħol tal-artista Ġlormu Darmanin.(4) Hallielna statwa maestuża u li tnissel fik devozzjoni kbira. Il-ħarsa umli tagħha iġġhelna niffukaw il-ħarsa tagħna lejn il-qalb li għandha f' idha - il-Qalb ta' Binha Ġesu. Qisa qegħda tghidilna din il-qalb li tant h abbitkhom ersqu lejha u

għamlu dak li iġhidilkom lbni. Veru għanda ħarsa tal-ġenna. Matul is-snin, il-Madonna, xerdet grazzji kbar fuq id-devoti tagħha. Xieħda ta' dan huma l- ex voto ta' dehebijiet li ingħataw bħala ringrazzjament. Huma dejjem għamlu hilitom biex din ix-xbiha tiżzejjien b' dak li kien meħtieġ. Illum narawha b' ra ġġiera tal-fidda li kien saret fl-1923.(5) Il-kuruna fuq rasha u fuq ras il-Bambin, il-qalb tad-deheb li għandha f' idha, saru wara li l-vara ġiet ipprofanata bis-serqa sagrilega li ġarrbet fid-9 ta' Frar 1949. Din is-serqa sagrilega serviet biex id-devozzjoni lejha kibret iżjed Fl-1960 bdiet tinħadem bradella ġdida minflok ohra li ffarrket bil-gwerra.(6) Fl-1971 inħadmu erba' vażuni tal-fidda bil-fjuri tal-filugranu għal fuq il-bradella.(7) Is-shaba taħt riġleja inksiet bil-fidda fl-1981.(8) Fis-sena 1999 il-Vara ġiet irrestawrata u ndurata mill-ġdid. Hekk ix-xbiha tal-Madonna dehret quddiemna aktar sabiħa u devota.(9)

## Tama w imħabba

Il-poplu malti minn dejjem kien poplu ta' fidi u fiduċja kbira. Fil-kas tagħna il-Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor kienet il-kenn ta' min resaq lejha. Matul is-snin il-knisja tagħna saret iċ-ċentru ta' din id-devozzjoni lejha. Kienu hafna l-okkażjonijiet ta' pellegrinaġġi li ġew izuru lill-Madonna biex jitolbuha xi

grazzja jew jirringrazzjawha għal dak li tkun għamlet magħhom il-festa titulari tal-1940 saret taħt forma ta' pellegrinaġġ nazzjonali bħala talb lil Verġni mbierka biex tbiegħed minn Malta l-flaġġel tal-Gwerra.(10) Kien l-ghada filgħodu kmieni li waqgħu l-ewwel bombi u hallew l-ewwel vittmi tal-gwerra.(11) Wara li għaddew is-snin tal-gwerra pellegrinaġġ mill-Parroċċa ta' Stella Maris għaqqad lis-Slimizi biex ingabru għal darb' ohra f' riġlejn il-Madonna tagħna biex jitolbu maħfra lil Binha Ġesu u jwiegħdu mħabbithom lejn ommna Marija.(12) F' April 1974 Pellegrinaġġ nazzjonali kien organizzat mill-Apostolat tat-Talb. In-nies ingabru f' Dingli Circus u imxew sal-knisja tagħna bit-talba tar-Rużarju. Sar talb għall-bzonnijiet spiritwali ta' Malta f' riġlejn il-Madonna tagħna.(13) Matul is-snin saru hafna pellegrinaġġi li ġew minn diversi postijiet ta' Malta u Ghawdex biex jitolbu lill-Madonna tidhol għalihom quddiem il-Qalb ta' Binha Ġesu.

Meta fl-1959 gie deċiż li l-festa esterna tibda ssir fl-ewwel Hadd ta' Lulju bdew isiru is-Sibtijiet bi tħejjija.(14) Meta fl-1970 il-Quddiesa tas-Sibt filgħaxija bdiet tissodisfa għall-obbligu tal-preċett tal-Hadd, dawn is-sibtijiet. tneħhew u bdew isiru l-Erbgħat minn wara l-Għid il-Kbir. Katina ohra li

ghaqdet lid-devoti flimkien hija n-Novena Perpetwa li ssir kull nhar ta' Erbgħa li fiha jinqraw fiit mill-grazzji li jkunu rċewew id-devoti tagħha. Din bdiet issir fl-1971 flimkien mat-tiġdid tal-Konfraternita tagħha.(15)

Bħala bnedmin dak li nħossu ġo fina rridu nesprimuħ esternament. Missierijietna l-qima u l-imħabba li kellhom f'qalbhom lejn in-*Nostra Signora del S. Cuore* urewħa b' diversi modi. Sa mill-1882 xtaqu li jiċċelebraw il-festa titolari b' sollenita kbira.(16) Dan għamluħ imma mingħajr il-purċissjoni bil-vara. Għaddew ħafna snin imma it-talbiet u l-ġbir ta' firem biex jingħata l-permess saru diversi drabi imma dejjem ġew miċħuda mill-Kurja. Sakemm fl-aħħar tilfu s-sabar u hekk ġrat il-ġrajja ta' nhar id-19 ta' Ġunju 1910 meta l-vara ġiet maħruġa f' dimostrazzjoni spontanea.(17) Il-Ġustizzja kellha tagħmel dmirha u hekk 39 persuna tressqu l-Qorti u ħadu li ħaqqhom.(18) P. Marjanu Vella OFM. Fl-Oratorju, dwar din il-ġrajja kiteb hekk:

" Ma kienx eghmil ta' ħazen Jew saħna ta' kburiġa, Kienet imħabba mghaġġla Li ħadet xebħ ta' ħtiġa.

Imqar jekk min ħariġha qala' l-ehrex ċanfira. tibqa' dil-ġrajja ħelwa, xhieda ta' mħabba kbira."(19)

Is-sena ta' wara u sewwa sew fit-2 tal Lulju 1911 saret l-ewwel puċissjoni bil-

permess tal- Kurja.(20)

Hidma oħra kienet, fl-1909, it-twaqqif ta' kumitat biex jaħdem ħalli l-knisja tagħna issir Parroċċa. Din ix-xewqa kienet ilha tberrem fil-qalb u l-moħħ ta' missierijietna sa mill-1899.(21) Ingabru ħafna firem li ntbaġħtu lil Arcisqof Pietro Pace. Imma kif dejjem ġara kollox waqa' fuq widnejn torox. (22) Dan il-kumitat sa wasal ukoll biex jikteb ittra personali lill-Papa San Pio X indirizzata " *al suo sacro tavolo*". Bħal kull inizzjattiva li inthadet qabel kienet kollu għal xejn.(23) L-Arcisqof Dom Mauro Caruana OSB kellu jistenna l-mewt tal-Kappillan ta' Stella Maris biex ħataf l-okkazzjoni u b' digriet ta' l-24 ta' Settembru 1918 iddikjara " *Erigiamo la chiesa di Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore di Gesu in vera chiesa Parrocchiale con tutte le esenzioni, diritti, privilegi e doveri. . . . .*" Il-Parroċċa bdiet tiffunzjona fid-29 ta' Settembru.

(24) B' hekk ġiet mitmuma mhux biss ix-xewqa tad-devoti tal-Madonna mma wkoll għal ġid spiritwali ta' l-erwieħ. Il-Patrijiet dahlu għal impenji ġodda b' risq il-fidili afdati lilhom. Il-hidma tagħhom kompliet bla taqta anke fl-eqqel snin ta' l-aħħat gwerra.(25) Għaddew 125 sena ta' servizz spiritwali li aħna l-Frangiskani tajna lill-poplu Slimiż. Komplejna dak kollu li Dun Pawl Vella ħalla f' idejna. Id-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna tas-

Sacro Cuor ħarget minn qalb marjana ta' Dun Pawl. Aħna għożzejniha, kebbisniha, u wassalniha li-tfal tagħna bla mittiefsa. Jixraq li f' dan l-anniversarju li aħna l-Patrijiet, għassiesa tas-santwarju tagħha, nissuktaw fil-hidma tagħna kif ukoll id-devoti kollha jibqgħu jgħożžu f' qalbhom. b' qima w imħabba speċjali u fuq kollox niringrazzjaw lill-Madonna għaḥiża tagħna għal tant grazzji li xerdet fuqna mill-Qalb ta' Binha Ġesu.

Jiena ċert li din il-fjamma ta' imħabba u devozzjoni mixgħula minn Dun Pawl Vella mhu se tintefa qatt. Hija fjamma imkebbbsa minn żewġt iqlub li jħabbtu b' ritmu wieħed: il-Qlub ta' Ġesu u Marija.

Nixtieq nagħlaq dan il-ħjiel bil-kliem tal-Poeta, Slimiż, Frangiskan , u bħali iben il-Parroċċa , P. Marjanu Vella OFM meħud mill-Oratorjo li huwa niseġ fl-1985 :

" Quddiem ix-xbiha ħelwa ta' Marija

li fuq il-Qalb ta' Binha, bħal sultana tahkem bil-hlewwa, nifthu l-bieb ta' ruħna biex tidhol Hi, qawwiġa u setghana.

Kollox jista' jintemm ! Dil-ġrajja tibqa'

quddiemna bħala raġġ ta' dawl ħanin

li taħtu nimxu minn triqat imsahħra,.

rebbieħa fuq il-qerda u fuq is-

snin.

Amen.”. (26)

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Fl-okkazjoni tal-pusses ta' l-Arċipriet il-ġdid ta' Ġhajnsielem, Mons. Frankie Bajada, huwa ċċelebra l-Ewkaristija fil-knisja tagħna ta' Sant' Antnin ta' Padova, flimkien ma' l-Aħwa tal-komunita. Nawgurawlu.

# Il-Fonti tal-Magħmudija – l-guf tal-Knisja – sinjal li jidher tal-guf ta' Marija

Anton Farrugia, OFM

F'kull ċelebrazzjoni liturġika li ssir b'Tifkira tal-Misteru ta' Kristu li jiggdedded fil-Knisja u għall-Knisja, nilmħu lill-Imqaddsa Vergni Marija, l-ewwel u l-aqwa waħda fost daww kollha li jemmnu f'Ġesù.

Il-post tal-Vergni mbierka fil-Misteru tal-Knisja huwa konsegwenza tal-fatt li l-insara ħarsu lejn il-fidi tal-Knisja bħala tkompli tal-fidi ta' Marija. Għaldaqstant il-Vergni mqaddsa hija preżenti fiċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-Magħmudija u ta' l-Ewkaristija li jkomplu fi żmien il-Misteru tal-Knisja.

Xhieda ta' dan hija t-Tradizzjoni Appostolika ta' Ippolitu, wieħed mill-eqdem kotba liturġiċi li jmur lura għas-sena 215 w.K. u li fih tissemma l-imqaddsa Vergni Marija. Fil-fatt skond dan ir-ritwal, min ikun se jirċievi l-Magħmudija, qabel ma jinżel fil-ilma għat-tieni darba, jiġi mistoqsi jekk jemminx fi Kristu, l-Iben ta' Alla, mwied minn Marija Vergni, permezz ta' l-Ispirtu s-Santu.

Hawnhekk ta' min jinnota li min ikun se jitgħammed filwaqt li jistqarr li Kristu twieled mill-Vergni Marija permezz ta' l-Ispirtu s-Santu, jitwieled

mill-ilma u mill-istess Spirtu Qaddis (ara *Ġw 5,3*) għall-ħajja ta' Alla.

Fil-ġesti u l-kliem ta' dan ir-rit liturġiku, nistgħu naraw parallel-izmu bejn it-twelid ta' Kristu u t-twelid tan-nisrani fil-Magħmudija. Kif halla miktub tant tajjeb il-Papa San Ljun il-Kbir: *it-tneissil ta' Kristu huwa l-bidu tal-poplu nisrani; jum it-twelid tar-Ras, hu jum it-twelid tal-Ġisem*. (1)

F'dan is-sens ukoll, il-Fonti ta' l-ilma tal-Magħmudija jsir sinjal li jidher tal-guf tal-Knisja, li bhall-Vergni Marija, bil-qawwa ta' l-Ispirtu s-Santu, ssir omm daww kollha li jemmnu fi Kristu. (2)

Fuq hekk, l-istess Papa San Ljun il-Kbir, marjgħid li l-Mulej Ġesù qiegħed fl-ilma tal-Magħmudija l-istess qawwa ta' l-Omm. (3) Hekk kif Marija tat il-ħajja bħala bniedem lill-Iben ta' Alla, hekk il-Knisja tati twelid ġdid fil-grazzja permezz tal-Magħmudija.

L-ilma, fih innifsu, huwa sinjal li jagħti l-ħajja u s-saħħa. Għaldaqstant anke l-mod tiegħu fil-binja tal-knisja għandu importanza kbira. L-għajn ta' l-ilma bħala post liturġiku

għaċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-Magħmudija, jrid ikun tifkira dejjiema tas-Sagrament li fih aħna lkoll twelidna mill-ġdid fi Kristu u ħadna lura saħħitna (salvazzjoni).

Il-forma tal-Fonti tal-Magħmudija tista tgħin ħafna fil-katekezi battesimali, l-istess bhall-ikonografija u kull ma jzejjen mhux biss il-Fonti imma anke l-ambjent ta' madwaru, jekk kemm il-darba dan kollu jkun ispirat mill-Bibbja, l-Liturġija (b'mod partikulari dik tal-Lejl ta' l-Għid) u l-katekezi mistagogika li ħallewlna bil-miktub il-Missirijiet Qaddisa tal-Knisja.

Mal-medda taż-żmien, il-Fonti tal-Magħmudija ħa forom diversi fl-arkittetura liturġika tal-knisja. Il-forma **ottagona-li** tfakkar lin-nisrani fit-tmien jum tal-ġimgħa li fih il-Mulej qam mill-imwiet. Bhal ma jgħid San Pawl: aħna lkoll li tgħammidna fi Kristu Ġesù, tgħammidna fil-mewt tiegħu. (4) *Jekk aħna sirna ħaġa waħda miegħu f'mewt tixbah lil tiegħu, hekk ningħaqdu miegħu fil-qawmien tiegħu mill-mewt*. (5)

Mas-simbologija tat-tmien jum, nistgħu nżidu ukoll is-simbologija

l-oħra tal-ħamiema, li Noè bagħat mill-arka u wara tmint ijiem reġgħet lura għandu, (6) kif ukoll t-tmien beatitudnijiet tal-Vanġelu. (7)

Il-forma **rotunda** tal-Fonti, meqjusa bħala forma tas-sema, tfakkarna mhux biss fil-Misteru tal-qawmien ta' Kristu mill-imwiet imma anke fit-tluġh tiegħu fis-smewwiet. Meta l-Battisteru kien jinbena fit-tond, f'nofsu, l-Fonti tal-Magħmudija kien jiehū forma ottagonali, b'tifkira tat-tmien jum li fih il-Mulej Ġesù qam mill-imwiet. Għall-istess raġuni, meta l-Battisteru kien ikun mibni f'forma ottagonali, fih il-Fonti tal-Magħmudija kien ikun tond, biex ifakkar linnisrani li l-ħajja tiegħu fuq din l-art mhix ħlief mixja lejn is-sema, fejn Kristu mar qabilna iħejjilna post.

Ta' min isemmi ukoll il-Fonti tal-Magħmudija mibni jew imħaffer fl-art bħal **qabar** għax kif jgħid San Pawl aħna *ndfinna ma' Kristu fil-mewt, sabiex kif Kristu kien imqajjem mill-imwiet permezz tal-qawwa glorjuża tal-Missier, hekk aħna ngħixu ħajja ġdida*. (8)

Dan il-Fonti-qabar kien ikun forma ta' **salib** bil-ħsieb preċiż li jiġbed l-għajn lejn is-salib ta' Kristu, bħala sinjal ta' salvazzjoni. Meta l-Battisteru kien jinbena f'din il-forma l-barra mill-knisja, fil-qalba tal-ħajja tal-belt, kien ikun tħabbira minn qabel ta' l-Evanġelju.

Il-Fonti tal-

Magħmudija forma ta'salib, ifakkar għal darb'oħra fis-sehem li għandu n-nisrani fil-Misteru ta' l-Għid ta' Kristu kif jispjega tajjeb San Pawl meta jgħid li fil-Magħmudija *l-bniedem il-qadim tagħna ssallab miegħu* (ma' Kristu) *biex jinqered dan il-ġisem tad-dnub sabiex ma nkunux aktar ilsiera tad-dnub*. (9)

Dan il-Fonti, fuq iż-żewġ naħat tiegħu, kien ikollu tliet targiet. Min ikun se jitgħammed kien jinżel fl-ilma tal-Fonti minn naħa tal-punent u jitla' minn naħa tal-lvant, minn fejn jiġi d-dawl, sinjal ta' Kristu, d-dawl li jdawwal id-dinja. B'dan il-mod l-imghamdin kienu jfissru tajjeb dak li San Pawl jikteb lill-Efesin meta jgħidilhom: *intom darba kontu dlam, imma issa sir-tu dawl fil-Mulej*. (10) Dan id-dawl ifissru tajjeb in-nar tal-Blandun li jista' jiżżejjen bix-xbieha ta' Kristu Rxox u tal-Vergni Marija, xbieha tal-Knisja qiegħda titlob u jkollu post dinjituż maġemb il-Fonti, biex ifakkar lill-insara li fil-Magħmudija rċewew id-dawl veru li jdawwal lil kull bniedem.

Minn fdalijiet arkeoloġiċi, nafu li l-Blandun ġieli kien jitqgħied f'nofs l-ilma tal-Fonti, fuq kolonna li b'xi mod terġa' tagħmel prezenti l-kolonna tan-nar li kien hemm f'nofs l-ilma tal-baħar tal-Qasab.

Minn barra il-Blandun ta' min isemmi ukoll l-ikonografija li matul iż-żminijiet kompliet iżejjen l-għatu tal-Fonti u

l-ambjent ta' madwaru b'pitturi u skulturi mill-isbaħ.

L-ikonografija l-aktar komuni hija dik li tirrapreżenta l-Magħmudija ta' Ġesù minn Ġwanni fil-Ġordan; il-ħamiema, simbolu ta' l-Ispirtu qaddis ta' Alla li kif naqraw fil-ktieb tal-Ġenesi, fil-bidu tal-ħolqien *kien jittajjar fuq wiċċ l-ilma* (12) u li l-Evanġelju jgħidilna li dehret fuq Ġesù huwa u jitgħammed, (13) kif ukoll ta' l-imqaddsa Vergni Marija, xbieha tal-Knisja-Omm li fil-Magħmudija twelled ulied godda fi Kristu.

Minn dak kollu li għedna, jkollna nammettu li sfortunatament illum aħna tlfina ħafna mis-sens tas-sinjal li għandu fih in-nifsu l-Fonti tal-Magħmudija. Hemm bżonn li nerġgħu niskopru l-valur tal-Battisteru, li fil-knejjes parrokkjali tagħna jrid ikun tifkira, li tibqa' anke wara ċ-ċelebrazzjoni, tal-grazzja tal-Magħmudija li lkoll kemm aħna



rċevejna.

Ta' min ifakkar li l-  
Fonti tal-Magħmudija  
mhux postu fuq il-  
presbiterju u l-użu ta' fon-  
ti li jingieb għaċ-  
ċelebrazzjoni u jerga  
jitneħħa wara, għandu  
jkun biss eċċezzjoni u  
mhux norma. Kemm jista'  
jkun, il-Fonti tal-  
Magħmudija għandu jkun  
magħmul b'mod li ċ-

ċelebrazzjoni tal-

Magħmudija tkun tista  
ssir ukoll bl-immersjoni  
biex johroġ aktar ċar is-  
sinjal tat-tishib ta' min  
ikun se jitgħammed fil-  
mewt ta' Kristu u fil-  
qawmien tiegħu mill-  
imwiet

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7. Ara *Mt* 5, 3-11.
8. *Rm* 6, 4.
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11. Ara *Ez* 14, 20 ; 24-25
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11 ; *Lq* 3, 21-22.

## Friars Christmas Party

On 22nd December the Franciscan friars met in the Franciscan fraternity in Rabat to celebrate Christmas together, since they cannot be together on Christmas night, when each friar is engaged in pastoral work.

At 10.30am the friars met in the church, where a prayer celebration took place. This was organised by the students and postulants in formation. Fr. Paul Galea, Minister Provincial, conducted the celebration. This celebration was also animated with the help of a power-point presentation. Afterwards everyone gathered in the refectory for a Christmas party.



## Dionysius Mintoff, OFM

Patri Franġiskan u fundatur tal-*Laboratorju tal-Paċi*, post għal seminars u laqgħat ta' talb. Il-*Laboratorju tal-Paċi* ta' kull sena jorganizza wkoll il-Premju Papa Gwanni XXIII għat-Tjubija. Fl-1968 ingħata l-midalja Pro *Ecclesia et Pontefice* mill-Papa Pawlu VI. Bħala għalliem għalliem il-Malti fl-iskejjel sekondarji u f'St. Michael's Training College u meta kien Uffiċjal Ewlieni ta' l-Edukazzjoni huwa kien responsabbli biex jiddaħhlu l-istudji soċjali fl-iskejjel ta' l-Istat. Kiteb diversi kotba u pubblikazzjonijiet u kien xandar regolari fuq l-istazzjonijiet ta' l-istat għal izjed minn 50 sena. Kien membru u President tal-Kunsill ta' l-Università ta' Malta u ppresieda laqgħat tal-Commonwealth, tal-Kunsill ta' l-Ewropa u ta' l-UNESCO. Huwa wkoll il-fundatur ta' Dar Gubbio, membru tal-Bord tal-Vizitaturi tal-Habs għal dawn l-aħhar 21 sena u għamilha ta' medjatur f'diversi tilwimiet. Huwa wkoll membru ta' l-Akkademja tal-Kittieba tal-Malti. Ilu dawn l-aħhar sentejn jagħti kenn lil bosta refugjati.

### ***Gazzetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta***

L-Erbgħa, 13 ta' Diċembru 2006

#### ***ikompli mill-ewel paġna***

L-ghoti tal-midalji f'Jum ir-Repubblika jmur lura għall-1975 u jservi biex l-

Istat jirrikonoxxi lil daww iċ-ċittadini li jkunu ddistingwew ruħhom f'xi qasam tal-hajja. Dan isir billi l-individwu jingħata

wieħed mit-tliet unuri - l-Ordni Nazzjonali tal-Mertu, il-Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika u l-Midalja tal-Qlubija.

## Parents Christmas Party

Two days after Christmas the Friars' parents accepted the invitation to join in a Christmas reception together with the Friars of the Franciscan Province.

At 6.00 pm the parents gathered at the Porziuncola Retreat House and the evening began with a Mass by the Minister Provincial Fr. Paul Galea OFM, who spoke about the gift of the family and that every friar is thankful for the vocation thanks to the parents who helped us during the initial formation days within the family. The Provincial also told the parents that we, as friars, in a few days time are going to celebrate the Chapter of Mats. This is an important occasion for every friar to renew his vocation in this particular time when the Order is preparing to celebrate it 800 years from the approval of the Franciscan Rule.

After the Mass we gathered in the house refectory and enjoyed the meal prepared! It was another good time to join together Friars and Parents in these



**GIFRA Hamrun**

# Jirbaħ il-Premju Żagħżuġ tas-Sena

Julian Caruana, membru attiv għal dawn l-aħħar 13 il-sena fi hdan il-GIFRA Hamrun, ġie magħżul bħala ż-Żagħżuġ tas-Sena mill-Moviment Kerygma.

Dan iż-żagħżuġ, li għadu kemm iggradwa fil-psikoloġija, għandu hafna kwalitajiet sbieħ. Gentlom u ta' qalb kbira. Jagħti toġhma lill-ħajtu u ta kull min ikun madwaru. Huwa bniedem ta' prinċipji sodi u valuri nsara. Għandu sens kbir ta' impenn, altruwista lejn il-proxxmu u fejn lest li jagħmel kull saġrificċju possibli biex jgħin lil ħaddiehor, l-aktar lill-persuni anqas ixxurtjati minnu.

Julian ma tantx jeħel fejn jidhlu deċizzjonijiet materjali, imma jħalli lil 'l Alla jmexxieh f'kull mument. Żagħżuġ spiritwali. Huwa assertiv u kapaċi jiehu deċizzjoni, mingħajr ma' jkun influwenzat minn dawk ta' madwaru. Huwa wkoll inklussiv, jiġifieri jinkludi lil kulhadd u jinkwieta jekk xi hadd ikun imwarrab. Julian huwa wkoll bniedem modest, konxju tal-kapaċitajiet tiegħu u ma jurix il-kwalitajiet li għandu. . Huwa bniedem energiku, fejn tarah jinvolvi lili

nnifsu f'diversi oqsma u attivitajiet tal-GIFRA.

Julian huwa ġuvni tas-skiet u tas-smigh. F'kelma oħra bniedem li kapaċi jisma' u jibqa' jisma'. Huwa responsabbli, dixxiplinat, matur u intelligenti. Huwa wettaqt diversi esperjenzi ta' voluntarjat kemm

f'Napli, l-Eġittu, l-Algerija, l-Indja, Cagliari u s-sena li għaddiet fl-Indja. Is-sena li għaddiet ikoordina grupp ta' żgħażaġ minn fost il-GIFRA tal-Hamrun u tar-Rabat biex għamlu esperjenza ta' voluntarjat f'Cagliari mas-Sorijiet ta' Madre Tereza, fost it-tfal li ġejjin minn ambjenti diffiċli. Dan innvolva xhur shaħ ta' preparazzjoni minn naħa ta' Julian. Huwa jagħmel *part time* l-YMCA u membru fil-kumitat PUTTINU (tfal u żgħażaġ milquta mill-marda tal-kanċer,



Wonderland, fl-isptar San Luqa). Kemm iż-żgħażaġ tal-Hamrun u tar-Rabat huma nvoluti f'PUTTINU.

Huwwa għandu determinazzjoni li mix-xejn joħloq il-ġid li jħalli hafna frott. Id-doni li Alla tah żgur li ma ħaffirx ħofra fl-art u ħbiehom, imma mmultiplikahom.

Julian ġie nominat minn Fra Marcellino Micallef, OFM, Assistent Spiritwali GIFRA Hamrun.

Il-Ministru Provincjal Fra Paul Galea, kiteb lil Julian ittra ta' awgurju.

# Gustizzja bis-sugu

Dijonisju Mintoff, OFM

Meta wiehed isemmi l-kelma ġustizzja dlonk tiġih f'rasu x-xbieha tal-mara b'għajnejha mghammda, b'xabla f'id waħda u l-mizien fl-id l-oħra. Iżda, fir-realtà, il-kunċett tal-ġustizzja jirriduċi ruħu biss għall-proċess ġudizzjarju fil-qrati? Jew inkella l-kunċett tal-ġustizzja jmur lil hinn minn hekk u jiżboq din l-idea li għandna tal-ġustizzja?

F'soċjeta' moderna, f'soċjeta' dejjem iżjed miftuħa u inqas maqtugħa għaliha nnifisha, il-kunċett tal-ġustizzja għandu jassumi uċuħ ġodda, għandu jinfiltira f'kull qasam tas-soċjeta', f'kull mixja tal-hajja. L-ugwaljanza ta' l-opportunitajiet hi kolonna fundamentali li fuqha għandha tistrieħ soċjeta' ġusta. Kull ċittadin, hu ta' liema twemmin reliġjuż u fidi politika hu, hu ta' liema sess hu, għandux mezz jew le, għandu jkollu l-istess opportunita' li jgawdu cittadini oħrajn biex jikseb livell ta' għajxien diċenti, l-istess opportunitajiet biex jiżviluppa l-personalita' tiegħu u biex iktar ikattar u juża mill-aħjar li jista' t-talenti tiegħu.

Iżda lanqas jekk fis-soċjeta' jintlaħaq dan l-għan ta' ugwaljanza ta' opportunitajiet ma jista' wiehed jorbot idejha fuq zaqqu u jhossu sodisfatt illi

s-soċjeta' li qed jgħix fiha hija waħda ġusta. Dan għaliex mhux kull individwu huwa mzejjen bl-istess talenti. Anki jekk ikollhom l-istess talent, dan it-talent iwarja minn individwu għall-iehor. Fis-soċjeta' insibu hafna li għandhom it-talent li kapaċi jpingu u jpitru iżda mhux kollha għandhom talent daqs Michelangelo bioex insemmu pittur famuż wiehed. Għaldaqstant anke fejn teżisti ugwaljanza ta' opportunitajiet, xorta waħda se ssib faxxa ta' nies fis-soċjeta' illi ser jisfaw emarginati.

Is-soċjeta' ma tistax tagħzel li tinjora l-eżistenza ta' dawn il-persuni; lanqas ma tista' thoss il-kuxjenza f'postha billi tgħid li lil dawn tkun offritilhom l-istess opportunitajiet li offriet lil haddiehor iżda huma ma kinux kapaċi jisfruttawhom u għalhekk issa huma emarginati. Soċjeta' ġusta għandha tkun ukoll, fuq kollox, soċjeta' hanina. Għaldaqstant soċjeta' ġusta għandha tahseb u tipprovdi għall-htigijiet ta' dawn il-persuni li ma jirnexxielhomx jaslu bil-mezzi propji tagħhom.

Barra minn hekk, jehtieg li l-kiunċett tal-ġustizzja jinftehem f'sens iktar wiesa'. Għaddew liġijiet illi jaħsbu dejjem iżjed għar-riforma ta'

min ikun xellef difrejh mal-liġi, milli għall-kundanna tiegħu. Il-qrati ukoll qed jagħtu sehem ferm siewi f'din id-direzzjoni. Xorta waħda fadal xi jsir. Irridu naħsbu f'sistema ta' servizz komunitarju, sistemi li permezz tagħhom iċ-ċittadin onest ikollu protezzjoni effettiva mill-periklu potenzjali li jista' jirrapreżenta l-kriminal, filwaqt li tkun faċilitata wkoll ir-reintegrazzjoni ta' l-istess kriminal fi hdan is-soċjeta'. Iżda l-ġustizzja titlob ukoll li s-soċjeta' thares l-interessi ta' min ikun safa vittma ta' xi reat. U f'dan ir-rispett, is-soċjeta' tagħna hija għal kollox xotta. Jehtieg illi l-istituzzjonijiet jaħsbu għal servizzi personalizzati għal dawn il-persuni – servizz ta' għajnuna, anki ta' natura psikjatrika, għal tfal li jkunu sfaw vittmi ta' stupru jew molestja sesswali, u servizz ta' tagħlim u gwida lill-ġenituri ta' dawn it-tfal, sabiex jgħinuhom fiż-żminijiet diffiċli li jkunu għaddejjin minnhom; servizzi ta' għajnuna lill-armla u lill-iltiema ta' min jisfa vittma ta' omiċidju voluntarju jew involuntarju. F'dan il-każ l-għajnuna għandha tkun anki finanzjarja. Il-pass f'din id-direzzjoni jehtieg li jsir mill-iktar fis possibbli. Is-soċjeta', jekk trid li tkun waħda ġusta,

ghandha illum qabel ghada taghti widen għall-karba maħnuqa ta' dawn il-persuni. Pjaga kbira li tnixxi l-ħin kollu hija l-inkwiet kbir li hawn fil-familji. Pjaga li jekk sejr in alluha tnixxi ser toqtolna f'it f'it. U hawn min ma jistax itemm haġtu f'dak li emmen u ittama u jhalli l-firda twasslu biex ifittex haġja ġdida. Jista' jkun haġja tarraġel. Jista' jkun haġja tal-mara u tista' tkun haġja tat-tnejn li ma għarfux qabel x'kien meħtieġ biex wiehed jintrabat fiż-żwieġ. Għaldaqstant f'pajjiżna ukoll insibu haġna miżżewġin li qed ifittxu l-annullament.

Hawnhekk il-ġustizzja ukoll trid taghti s-sehem tagħha. Xi haġa li qed tinħass u tintalab kullimkien. Saħ ansitra l-Papa Benedittu XVI f'it wara li ha r-riedni tal-Knisja f'idejha wiehed mill-ewwel messagġi tiegħu kien sewwa sew fuq dan is-sugġett. Fi Frar li għadda Insibu li l-Papa Benedittu jappella lill-aqwa u l-oghla qorti tal-knisja – Is-Sacra Rota Romana – it-tribunal tal-Knisja famuż u magħruf ta' kemm jiehu fit-tul biex

jiddikjaraw żwiġijiet invalidi - biex thaffef il-proċess biex jingħata l-annullament jew jiccaħhad lil dawk li jitolbuh. Il-Papa saħaq li thalli Kattolci jistennew snin shaħ deċiżjoni hekk importanti għal haġijthom mhux sewwa. Il-Papa jidher li qed jaqşam ukoll it-tbatija ta' haġna Kattolci li tant jixtiequ jirċievu s-sagrament ta' l-Ewkaristija u ma jistgħux jersqu għal żmien twil minhabba fi żwieġ imfarrak diżastru. Il-Papa Benedittu jixtieq li Kattolci li għaddew minn żwieġ invalidu jkunu jistgħu jirċievu s-sagramenti malajr kemm jista' jkun.

Dan is-sugġett kien tqanqal sewwa wkoll fis-Sinodu ta' l-Isqfijiet f'Ottubru li għadda. Hekk ukoll huma stqarrew l-istess appell tal-Papa. Dan m'għamluhx minhabba it-tixrid kbir li hawn tad-divorzju. Imma sar biex ikun hawn ġustizzja u biex jikber it-tagħlim fuq ir-rabta għal dejjem taż-żwieġ u biex jonqos l-uġiġh fit-tul ta' min jisthoqqlu jiehu l-annullament. L-aqwa li l-verita' sagrosanta tkun il-pern li fuqu jdur il-proċess kollu. Il-liġi ta'

Alla, il-kura pastorali u l-verita' huma s-sisien ta' kull deċiżjoni f'din id-direzzjoni. Il-ħażin – id-divorzju – jibqa' dejjem ħażin u t-tajjeb – iż-żwieġ - jibqa' dejjem tajjeb. "L-imhabba għall-verita' taghti l-aqwa ġustizzja." jgħid il-Papa. Hawn ta' min isemmi ukoll li t-tul tal-proċess tal-ġudizzju ġie li jidum minhabba nuqqas ta' mħalfin li quddiemhom hemm għadd kbir ta' każijiet. Sa f'it ilu kien hemm biss 21 imħallef. Il-Papa ha ħsieb jirdoppja dan in-numru. Il-Papa Pawlu VI ukoll kien għamel l-istess imma l-każijiet kotru dejjem. Fl-2005 il-Papa Gwanni Pawlu II kien ħareġ istruzzjoni b'dokument kbir: Dignitas Connubii – dokument li kellu jiffaċċja għaxar snin b'lura ta' proċessi bħal dawn.

Minn dan li għidna jidher ċar li s-soċjeta' mhix biss il-gvern li jagħmel il-liġijiet, lanqas il-Knisja li tagħha aħna membri, iżda kull għaqda, kull muviment, il-media u kull wiehed u waħda minna. Ilkoll kemm aħna għandna dmir li fis-soċjeta' tagħna naraw li titwettagħ il-ġustizzja.



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# The Custos of the Holy Land receives one million euros from Pope Benedict XVI

**CTS News**

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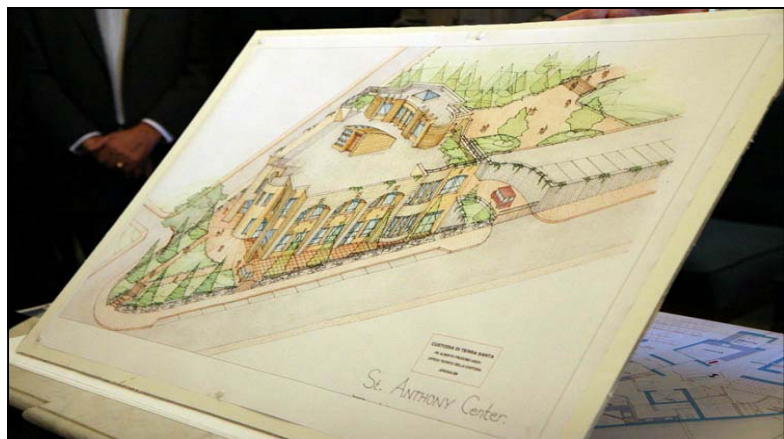
Surrounded by the Nazareth parish council, His Excellence Mgr. Josef Cordes, president of the Cor Unum Pontifical Council gave the Custos of the Holy Land, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, a check for one million euros on behalf of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. Cordes noted that "this money was collected in Germany, more specifically in Bavaria, at the initiative of the dioceses of Munich, Passau and Ratisbonne in the enthusiasm of the Pope's visit to his native country last September. Having received this gift from his compatriots, the Holy Father gave the sum to the Cor Unum Pontifical Council, "the pope's charity", as Mgr. Cordes put it. The pope had confirmed that the sum was to be given to the Christians of the Holy Land in accordance with the desires of the faithful themselves. The Pontifical Council, therefore, sought a project on which to bestow the million euros. "Cor Unum does nothing itself, but always enters into relationship with existing Christian institutions that carry out a plan of action marked by Christian values," continued Mgr. Cordes. The Pontifical Council's search for a beneficiary, then, met with the Holy Land Custody's search for funds to open a large parish center in the city of Nazareth, the largest parish in the Holy Land. "The

Holy Father would like to show the Christians of the Holy Land his support. The country of Christ should not become a museum without any remaining Christian presence. It is important to support Christians here, and to help them live their Christian life." The prelate further stated how much the arrival of pilgrims can also help local Christians.

Addressing Mgr. Cordes, the Custos of the Holy Land thanked the Pope and the German faithful for this concrete support, and added that "the city has not yet had a parish center capable of offering Christians a place of life, encounter and formation." "It has long been a desire of the Custody to build this community space," added Pierbattista Pizzaballa. The Custos announced that the first stone will be laid and blessed as soon as February 2007. The parish priest, Father Maroun Younan ofm, expressed his gratitude in turn and stressed the Custody's desire

that the center should be for all the city's Christians. He also mentioned that Nazareth's relations with Germany were already well established but that this will make them even stronger, and he assured the German faithful of the grateful prayer of the faithful of the local Christian Community.

The parish center will be built on land belonging to the Custody, not far from the Basilica of the Annunciation. It will be three stories high and will include a hall with a 250-person capacity, rooms for catechism and formation, a library, lecture rooms, a gymnasium and all the equipment necessary for it to function. Like the present parish house, too small to meet the community's needs, it will be called Saint Anthony's Center. Mgr. Cordes promised to come for its inauguration. The Christians of the city are already waiting. The Custody needs only to top off the budget for this ambitious project.





### FESTI U BIRTHDAYS

### JANNAR

7 Fra Karlu Tonna  
8 Fra Arturu Azzopardi  
16 Fra Marcello Ghirlando  
20 Fra Sebastian Camilleri  
27 Fra Julian Sammut

7 Fra Kerubin Galea  
8 Fra Adrian J. Cachia  
Fra Mark Ciantar  
9 Fra Charles Grech  
15 Fra Kamillu Aquilina  
31 Fra Sandro Overend

### FRAR

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

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

## Awguri u Xewqat Sbieh!

### CONFERENCE OF THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

### Living according to the Gospel

A letter of the Conference of the Franciscan  
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Jannar 2007

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## L-AĦBAR

### EDITOR

fra marcellino micallef ofm  
provofm@vol.net.mt

Kunvent Tal-Frangiskani  
291, Triq San Pawl,  
Valletta VLT 07

Tel. 21238218 Fax. 21231266