L-AĦBAR

PROVINĊJA FRANĠISKANA S. PAWL APPOSTLU , MALTA Nru.140 Diċembru 2008

Affresk ta' l-iskola ta' Giotto (seklu XIV-XV), li jinsab
fil-Kappella tal-Presepju ġewwa s-Santwarju ta' Greccio.
Dan l-affresk juri l-ġrajja tal-Miled ta' l-1223, meta
S. Franġisk iċċelebrah ġewwa Greccio (Ara I Cel. 84-87).

" Ibnu Ġesu' Kristu Sidna li,
skond it–tnissil tal-ġisem,
twieled min-nisel ta' David "
(Rm. 1, 3)

Il-Provinċjal u d-Definitorju
jawguraw lill-aħwa kollha ,
l-familjari tagħhom
u l-benefatturi

Milied Qaddis u Hieni

u

Sena Ġdida 2009

Tagħrif storiku fuq il-Bażilika ta' San Pawl fuori le mura (1)

Bħalissa l-Bażilika ta' S. Pawl *fuori le mura* ġewwa Ruma qegħda tkun iċ-ċentru taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tas - Sena Pawlina. Se nagħtu ħarsa ħafifa lejn l-istorja tagħha.

+ Tissejjaħ ukoll *Basilica Ostiense* għaliex qegħda fi Via Ostiense, it-triq li tgħati lejn il-port ta' Ostia.

+ Fejn indifen S. Pawl kien hemm ċimiterju żgħir u l-insara bnew ' cella memoriae ' f' ġieħu.

+ L-Imperatur Kostantinu bena bażilika, li ġiet kkonsagrata mill-Papa San Silvestru I fit-18 ta' Novembru 324. Fl-istess jum ikkonsagra wkoll dik ta' S. Pietru ġewwa l-Vatikan.

+ Fl-386, b' reskritt imperjali, ġiet imkabbra u kkonsagrata mill-Papa Siricio fl-390. Kellha 5 navati, 80 kolonna u *quadriportico*. Papa Ljun il-Kbir reġa' rrestawrha mħabba xi terremot jew xi nirien. Kienet tissejjaħ ukoll ' l-Bażilika tat-3 Sinjuri' mħabba, li kienet iddedikata wkoll lil S. Taurinius u S. Herculanus, martri ta' Ostia tal-ħames seklu.

+ Fis- sena 739 ġiet mħarbta mill-Longobardi u fis-sena 847 mis-Saraceni. Dan kollu ġara għaliex qegħda barra mill-ħitan ta' Awrelju.

+ Il-Papa Ġwanni VII (872-882) dawwar il-knisja, il- monasterju u dawk l-inħawi b' ħitan għoljin u torrijiet u bdiet tissejjaħ ' *Joannispolis*', li mbgħad inqerdet fl-1349 b' terremot.

+ Fil-lejl ta' bejn il-15 u s-16 ta' Lulju 1823 nar qabad bit-traskuraġni ta' ħaddiem, li kien qiegħed isewwi s-saqaf taċ-ċomb u qered kważi kollox. Kienet l-unika knisja f' Ruma, li baqgħet iżomm il-karattru primittiv tagħha għall-1435 sena. Bosta persuni ħadu d– direzzjoni tax-xogħol fosthom Luigi Poletti (1792-1869). Papa Girgor XVI, fl-4 t' Ottubru 1840, iddedika l-parti ta' wara, filwaqt li, fl-10 ta' Diċembru 1854 il-B. Papa Piju IX ikkonsagraha mill-ġdid fil-presenza ta' tant kardinali u isqfijiet li ġew Ruma għall-proklamazzjoni tad-dogma tal-Kunċizzjoni. Ismijiethom jidhru ħdejn it-tron papali.

Reċensjoni

Il-Bibbja f' idejna

(Nota ta' l-Editur : Dan l-artiklu, miktub minn Michael Caruana, deher fil-ġurnal - *In-Nazzjon* ta' l-5 ta' Novembru 2008, f' paġna 26)

Dan il-ktieb ġdid ta' P. Marcello Ghirlando O.F.M., jiġbor 69 artiklu li bħala skop għandhom li jintroduċu lin-nisrani għall-għarfien dejjem aħjar tal-Kelma ta' Alla. Artikli li huma sinjal ta' kemm wieħed jixtieq li fil-fatt, kif jgħid il-Malti, il-Bibbja tkun f' idejh. F' idejna bħala individwi u f' idejna bħala knisja li għandha widnejha miftuħa għal dak li jrid jgħidilha l-Ispirtu permezz ta' Kristu.

Fid-daħla tiegħu ta' dan il-ktieb, P. Chircop jikteb li sabiħa immens hi d-deskrizzjoni tal-kelma ta' Alla li jagħti l-awtur sagru tal-ittra lil Lhud : " Il-kelma ta' Alla hi ħajja u qawwija, taqta' aktar minn xabla b' żewġ ixfar; hi tinfed sa tifred minn xulxin ir-ruħ u l-ispirtu u l-ġoġi u l-mudullun; u tgħarbel il-ħsibijiet u l-fehmiet tal-qalb. Xejn m' hemm fil-ħolqien li hu moħbi għalih, imma kollox hu miftuħ għal għajnejn Alla, li lilu rridu nagħtu kont " (4: 12-13).

In-nisrani, isostni l-Kummissarju tal-Art Imqaddsa, hu dak li jipprova jkun dejjem qrib il-Kotba Mqaddsa. "Li tkun qrib il-Kotba Mqaddsa jfisser li tagħmel l-almu tiegħek biex tgħix għad-dawl tagħhom u mnebbaħ mill-kelma ħajja u qawwija ta' Alla".

P. Twanny Chircop O.F.M. jikteb li hu b' dan l-iskop li l-Kummissarjat ta' l-Art Imqaddsa f' Malta għandu pjaċir joffri din il-pubblikazzjoni biblika ġdida biex tassew il-kelma tkun musbieħ għal riġlejna u dawl fil-mogħdija tagħna.

Il-pubblikazzjoni ta' dan il-ktieb hu għalhekk opportunita'. Filwaqt li matul ix-xahar li għadda s-sinodu ta' l-Isqfijiet iddiskuta fuq it-tema ' Il-kelma t' Alla fil-ħajja u fil-missjoni tal-Knisja', il-Kummissarjat tal-Art Imqaddsa f' Malta qed joffri lill-pubbliku Malti din il-ġabra ta' artikli introduttivi fuq il-Kotba Mqaddsa, kemm dawk tal-Antik Testment kif ukoll dawk tal-Ġdid Testment.

Dan il-ktieb qed jinbiegħ mingħand il-librara ewlenin. Prezz € 10.00 454 paġna

Min ma jafx il-Bibbja ma jafx lil Kristu . - **S. Ġirolmu**

" Ma kellhix fejn nilgħab, u bnejtli stadium"

Kitba ta' P. Albert Gauci O.F.M,
Vigarju Ġenerali ta' Olancho, Honduras

Ftit xhur ilu, id-djoċesi ta' Olancho, ġewwa l-Honduras, l-Amerika Latina, wara kważi sentejn xogħol, lestiet, inawgurat u bierket il-ħabs il-ġdid ta' Juticalpa għal 800 ruħ. Intefqu 20 miljun Lempira, naqra aktar minn miljun dollaru. Frott ta' dan, illum il-ġurnata, kważi 5,000 ħabsi jinsabu jgħixu, jaħdmu, jistudjaw u anke jilgħabu l-*basketball*, f' ambjent deċenti u skond id-drittijiet umani.

Ftit ġimgħat wara li lestejna l-ħabs, dħalna għal biċċa xogħol oħra, favur it-tfal, iż-żagħażgħ u anke il-familji.

Id-djoċesi ta' Olancho fiha 500 elf ruħ, tlett kwarti minnhom tfal u żgħażagħ, bejn it-8 u l-25 sena. Ix-xorb u d-drogi bħalissa qed jgħamlu STRAĠI sħiħa minn din il-parti tas-soċjeta'. Dawk minna, li naħdmu fil-qrib maż-żagħażagħ, malajr nindunaw li barra x-xorb u d-drogi, iż-żagħżugħ ma għandu XEJN aktar FEJN u FHIX jgħaddi l-ħin liberu tiegħu. Jien ilni Olancho għal dawn l-aħħar 25 sena u daqshekk ilni nisma' lill-politiċi jwegħdu lill-ommijiet, lill-missierjiet u liż-żgħażagħ, li dalwaqt jibnulhom stadium biex ikollhom fejn jilgħabu. Pero' s'issa ……. XEJN !! Hawn il-Honduras, jekk il-Knisja ma tagħmilx xi ħaġa, ftit li xejn isiru affarijiet. Barra minn hekk, hawnhekk il-futbol huwa VERU PASSJONI, jiġri fid-demm ta' dawn in-nies u huwa l-UNIKU passatemp ta' dan il-poplu. Il-Honduras, mħabba l-faqar tagħha, kważi ma tesporta XEJN, barra - *players* tal-futbol. Forsi Malta tiftakru lil Davi Suazo, li kien jilgħab ma' l-*Inter* u issa jinsab mal-*Benfica*. Palacios għamel isem fil-*league* Inġliż mal-*Wigan*. Costly qed jilgħab il-Polonja u hemm salt jilgħabu fil-*MLS* ta' l-Amerika.

Għalhekk wara l-bini tal-ħabs, dħalna għal-bini ta' stadium. L-ewwel iddubbajna b' xejn biċċa art kbira ferm. Sibt arkitett u inġinier u f' xahar għamluli l-pjanti kollha— stadium għal 15 il-elf ruħ, *pitch* skond ir-regoli tal-F.I.F.A., *toilets*, *dressing-rooms* għal 4 teamiijiet, dawl għal

bil-lejl u anke *parking lot* għal 200 karozza. Hekk kif rajt il-pjanti, VERU ġġennejt u ftakart kemm Malta wkoll konna nħobbu l-futbol. Pero’ wisq aktar ġġennejt meta rajt in-nefqa……. 40 miljun Lempira = iktar minn żewġ miljun dollaru !!!! Franġiskan fqir ….. minn fejn se nġib tant flus? U bħas-soltu, bdejna nħabbtu l-bibien, ġbir ma’ Olancho KOLLU - tlielaq taż-żwiemel kull nhar ta’ Ħadd, fieri u anke il-ġabra ta’ kull Quddiesa.

Wara xi tlett xhur ta’ attivitajiet kontinwi, b’ xi 10 t’ elf dollaru f’ idejna, bdejna inhaffru u nlestu l-ewwel ħadid. Kien, is-Sibt 23 ta’ Awwissu 2008 , lejliet il-festa ta’ San Bert, u ftakart li dak il-ħin, ir-raħal tagħna, Ħal-Għargħur, aktarx kienu qed jixorbu l - birra u jaħirqu l-murtali u ċ-ċigifogu !

U issa qed inħabbtu l-bieb tal-Maltin. Malta wkoll inħobbu l - logħob tal-ballun u niżżiħajr ‘l Alla, għandna fejn nilgħabu. Hawnhekk it-tfal jilgħabu fit-triq. Forsi Malta, aktarx qed tgħidu: “ Dan il-Patri Franġiskan fil-Honduras, għalfejn jindaħal għal bini ta’ stadium ? “ Qed ngħamlu, għax wara ĦAFNA ħsieb u meditazzjoni, wasalt għal għal konkluzjoni żgura, illi kieku kellu jiġi Ġesu’ Kristu hawn, illum, il-Honduras, aktarx li lili kien jgħidli : “ Albert, ma kellix fejn nilgħab, u bnejtli stadium !!!! ”.

Naf, żewġ miljun dollar huma ĦAFNA flus, pero’ ninsab ZĠUR li bl-isforz tagħna hawnhekk u bl-għajnuna tagħkom il-Maltin, xi darba, Kristu żagħżugħ fil-Honduras, se jkollu fejn jixxuttja ballun !

Nota ta’ l-Editur : Grazzi mil-qalb P. Bert tal-ħidma li qed tgħamel. Dawk kollha li jixtiequ jgħenuh, jistgħu jkellmu lil P. George Bugeja O.F.M. li qed jieħu ħsieb il-missjunarji tagħna fil-Honduras. Tel. 21556095

Hajjiet il-Provinċja

Il-laqgħat regulari tad-Definitorju Provinċjali qegħdin isiru kull xahar u saru f' postijiet differenti. S' ssa saru fil-kunvent ta' Għawdex, fil-Monasterju tal-Klarissi, fejn qabel il-membri tad-Definitorju Provinċjali ħadu sehem fit-talba ta' nofs il-jum (it-Terza) mal-komunita' tal-Klarissi, fid-Dar ta' l-Irtiri - Portiuncola, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq u f' Tas-Sliema. Kull darba qed tingħata ħarsa lejn il-ħajja tal-fraternitajiet tagħna u ssir diskussjoni dwar xi talbiet li jsiru lid-Definitorju.

Fit-22 t' Ottubru saret l-ewwel laqgħa ta' l' equipe vokazzjonali ġdid. Kien hemm preżenti wkoll il-Provinċjal. Huma tkellmu fit-tul dwar xi jista' jsir aħjar fil-kamp vokazzjonali. Bħalissa fil-Provinċja għandna tlett Studenti, li qegħdin iħejju ruħhom għas-saċerdozju u 4 Postulanti. Fil-preżent m' għandniex novizzi. Inkomplu nitolbu !!!!!

Fid-29 t' Ottubru, fil-kunvent tagħna ta' Tas-Sliema, saret it-tieni laqgħa tal-Gwardjani mal-Provinċjal. Fiha ġew mistiedna l-Ekonomi. Huma tkellmu dwar dak li qed jiġri fil-fraternitajiet in ġenerali. P. Richard Stanley Grech, Vigarju Provinċjali u Ekonomu Provinċjali , kif ukoll is-Sinjur Paul Camilleri, l-*Accountant* tal-Provinċja, tkellmu dwar is-sitwazzjoni ekonomika u dwar xi proġetti li għandhom isiru. Dawn il-laqgħat iservu biex il-Gwardjani flimkien, mal-Provinċjal, jaraw kif il-ħajja fil-fraternitajiet tagħna tista' dejjem titjieb aktar.

Fil-5 u fit-12 ta' Novembru fil-Parroċċa tagħna Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor— Tas-Sliema saret l-Assemblea Parrokkjali, kif mitlub mill-Arċisqof. Bi tħejjija saru ħin ta' Adorazzjoni Ewkaristika u l-parruċċani jintalbu biex jressqu s-suggerimenti tagħhom. Fi tmien tfassal Pjan Pastorali biex jinħadem fil-Parroċċa fis-snin 2009-11.

………… *ikomplu l-Aħbarijiet tal-Provinċja*

Nhar is-16 ta' Novembru, waqt Quddiesa Konċelebrata mill-Provinċjal, fil-Monasterju ta' S. Klara, saret il-vestizzjoni ta' Doris Camilleri mir-Rabat li hadet l-isem ta' Sr. Marie Dolores. *Awguri* !!!!

L-għada ġiet iċċelebrata l-festa ta' S. Elizabetta ta' l-Ungerija, Padruna ta' l-O.F.S., ġewwa l-knisja tal-Kappuċċini fil-Furjana. Din il-laqgħa kienet organizzata mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali ta' l-O.F.S. għal—membri kollha ta' l-O.F.S. Il-Quddiesa Konċelebrata tmexxiet mit-tlett Provinċjali u l-Assistenti Spiritwali tal-fraternitajiet O.F.S. imxerrdin mal-gżejjer Maltin.

Fit-22 ta' Novembru l-aħwa ltaqgħu fil-kappella tagħna fiċ-ċimiterju ta' l-Addolorata fejn saret Quddiesa Konċelebrata, mmexxija mill-Provinċjal. Attendew bosta aħwa flimkien ma' l-Istudenti u l-Postulanti. L-animatur prinċipali kien Fra Leo M. Ciantar O.F.M. Grazzi mil-qalb !!!

Fit-28 ta' Novembru, lejliet il-festa tal-Qaddisin kollha Franġiskani, saret laqgħa speċjali fiċ-ċentru taċ-ĊAK, f' B' Kara. Għaliha attendew l-aħwa tal-fergħat kollha franġiskani - irġiel u nisa. Il-mistieden kien Mons. T. Caputo, n-Nunzju Appostoliku għal Malta u l-Libja, flimkien m' ommu. Wara li sar *power-point* minn P. Arthur OFM Conv., tkanta l-l Għasar. Imbgħad kien hemm bibita. Grazzi mil-qalb, b' mod speċjali, lil P. Gwann Azzopardi OFM (tas-*setting* tal-librett) u lil P. Anton Farrugia OFM (tal-kuntatti u t-tmexxija ta' l-Għasar). Nittamaw li darb' oħra l-presenza tagħna tkun aktar qawwija !!!! Dawn l-okkażjonijiet joffru l-opportunita' biex, il-fergħat kollha franġiskani ġewwa pajjiżna jkomplu jaħdmu flimkien. L-irtir annwali, li sar f' dan ix-xahar fid-Dar ta' l-Irtiri—Portiuncola , fejn aħwa mill-OFM, OFM Cap. u OFM Konv. attendew, kienet okkażjoni oħra fejn inkomplu nsaħħu din l-għaqda. L-irtir tmexxa minn Mons. Charles Cordina.

Fuq talba ta' l-Isqof t' Għawdex, Mons. M. Grech, P. George Bugeja OFM se jibda jaħdem bħala Uditur fit-Tribunal Ekklesjastiku tad-Djoċesi. L-Uditur irid jiġbor bil-miktub ix-xhieda tal--partijiet konċernati - il-koppja konċernata u persuni oħra - biex imbgħad it-Tribunal ikun jista' jqatta' s-sentenza ta' annulament. Bħalissa wkoll P. George qed jiltaqa' mas-seminaristi tas – 6 sena, kull nhar t' Erbgħa, biex jiddiskuti magħhom bosta suġġetti.

FRATERNITAS

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And the Word was made Flesh

In this time of grace, let us, brothers, gaze at Francis, the Little Poor One of Assisi to learn from him to welcome the mystery of both the Incarnation and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo, General Minister OFM*

Towards the General Chapter of 2009

On November 1, 2008, the General Minister has officially convoked the General Ordinary Chapter that will take place at the DOMUS PACIS in Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi from May 24 – June 20, 2009.

In the letter of convocation, the General Minister has anticipated what the guiding theme of the Chapter will be, namely, that we are "**Missionaries in the heart of the world as Friars Minor focused on the Lord**". The Chapter, therefore, will have to reflect and help the entire Order reflect on our being persons who live a radical relationship with God. It is through this means that we may become proclaimers of the Gospel in the whole world after the manner of St. Francis with a special focus on dialogue. We are talking about a choice of merit in a particularly delicate time of the life of our Order.

On a theoretical plane, the Order has exerted a lot of effort to clarify our charismatic identity. Never have we had in our times within hands reach – since the times of St. Francis – inspirational texts as clear and beautiful as that of the last 30 years. Take, for example, the publications of the writings and Franciscan biographies, the General Constitutions, and the amount of documents just flowing from the Order. **On the existential plane**, on the other hand, the disparity between values professed and those lived out is profound, and the crisis is manifested in all its width and breath as a profound crisis of faith, formation, minority, and proclamation.

The General Chapter that we will celebrate is, therefore, both a very special and meaningful event for the life of our Order. It is placed in the 8th centennial of the approval of the rule and recalls us to our 800 years of life, which is not for us a cause for triumphalism, but of conversion to those founding values of our life. Many of our brothers have incarnated our rule and life through the course of eight centuries. Hence, it is our turn to recover it, make it our own, and bear witness to the "heart of the Gospel" in the times God has called us to live.

Blessed John Duns Scotus in the VII Centennial of his Death

The General Ministers OFM, OFMConv, OFMCap, and TOR on November 7, 2008, have published a letter on Scotus. The letter is entitled, "*John Duns Scotus: Ingenious and Daring.* See www.ofm.org

Conventions in Germany

From November 5 – 8, 2008, two Conventions were organized in Germany for the VII Centennial of the death of Blessed John Duns Scotus. One was organized by Fr. Herbert Schneider of the Province of Cologne and director of the Duns Scotus Academy; it took place in the city of Cologne. The other one was organized by the University of Bonn, and was celebrated in the same city. Participants to both Conventions then gathered in Cologne for a joint academic act, during which Cardinal Meisner of Cologne read an Apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI, written on the occasion of VII Centennial of the death of the Subtle and Marian Doctor.

Celebrations in the Holy Land:

On November 9, 2008 in the Basilica of Gethsemane in the Holy Land, the General Minister closed the VII Centennial of the death of Blessed John Duns Scotus with a solemn concelebration in which around 200 Franciscans, many priests and religious participated. See: http://www.custodia.org

Nopoki, Peru – University for the Indigenous in the Peruvian Amazonia

The Franciscan have always concerned themselves in their evangelizing work to establish schools in the eastern region of Peru. The schools are still places of evangelization and of human promotion at the heart of each indigenous community, especially for young indigenous. For this same motive, high schools have also been built for three decades now. Moreover, in order to reach out to many young indigenous who are unable to pursue studies because of either money or distance, Msgr. Gerard Zerdin, promoter and the Apostolic Vicariate of Saint Ramon, initiated a university program of formation at three levels. The first level is *the academic level,* sponsored by the Catholic University "Sedes Sapientiae" with a strong linguistic connotation, so that besides learning Castilian, students can also perfect their own mother tongue with the help of indigenous professors. The second level, *the hotel level,* supported by the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Croatia, offers students, not only specific apprenticeship, but also room and board together with a human

and spiritual formation. The third level, the *business level*, managed by the students themselves, teaches them “the art” of rearing animals, of agricultural cultivation, and other various trades (indigenous artisan, carpentry, etc.). See Photo

Assembly of the UCLAF – Union of the Conference OFM in Latin America

From November 16 – 22, there will take place at Bogota, Colombia, the XX Assembly of UCLAF, centered on the theme of both evangelization and mission in Latin America. Moreover, some significant events must be kept in mind, such as the Conference of Aparecida, the American Missionary Congress in Quito, the Latin-American OFM Missionary Congress at Cordoba (Argentina), and the two Latin-American Congresses for Franciscan Educators (Cordoba and Cusco). The General Minister, Br. Jose R. Carballo, will start the Assembly with his speech, followed by a report by Br. Edgar Santos on “Missions and Evangelization in Latin America beginning with UCLAF 2004 – 2006”.

Hungary – General Chapter of the SFO

The General Chapter of the SFO re-elected **Encarnación del Pozo** as General Minister of the SFO, elected **Doug Clorey** from Canada as Vice-, and 8 Counselors from among 62 Capitulars during the 12th General Chapter celebrated at Manresa from November 15 – 22. There are approximately 450,000 Secular Franciscans, organized in 63 national constituted fraternities and 37 more pending to be constituted. During this Chapter, the celebrative two-year-period of the 8th Centenary of the birth of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary from Nov. 17, 2006 – Nov. 17, 2008 was concluded.
See http://www.ciofs.org

Philippines – International Council for Evangelization

Promoted by the General Secretary for Evangelization (SGE), the International Council for Evangelization (CIE) took place in Manila/Tagaytay from October 20 – 28 in order to do an in – depth analysis of the dimension of *Evangelizing Fraternity.* The objectives of the Councils were those of sharing both the current situation of evangelization and some significant experiences in progress. Other objectives are to reflect on our specific Franciscan way of evangelizing and on the challenges for its renewal, particularly on the collaboration of the laity and of various existing services of leadership in the Order.
Participating at this Council were the delegates for the evangelization of the various Conferences, members of the executive committee of the Council, the staff of the General Secretariat for evangelization and missions, the President of the Commission for Dialogue, the managers of various Secretariat and of offices of the General Curia (i.e. Formation and Studies, Justice and Peace, SFO – YouFra), and the General Definitor, Br. Ambrose Van Si as the main speaker.

Turkey – Istanbul: 4th Course of FoPe on Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue

Eleven Friars from 4 continents have participated at the course of permanent Formation which, by now, has become an annual event. Two of the Friars were from Africa, three from the Americas, one from Asia, and five from Europe. The exchange of diverse and rich experiences by the participants presented quite a complete picture of the importance of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in evangelization today. The group was received by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, his holiness Bartholomew I, the day after his speech at the Synod of Bishops in Rome and also during the days of the Pan – Orthodox Synod. The visit to the region of the Churches of the Apocalypse helped everyone to study the Word of God in depth. The course then concluded with an interreligious prayer with the rotating Dervish brothers (i.e. Sufi mystics of Islam) and the presentation by the President of the Jewish community of Istanbul.

Prague – Meeting of Two Conferences

Provincial Ministers OFM of the Conferences of both North – Slavic and South – Slavic met in Prague, Czech Republic from October 20 – 24, 2008. The aim was that of both sharing experiences in the field of initial formation with the help of a report by the Secretary of Formation and Studies of the Conferences, and that of reflecting together on some questions regarding the General Chapter of 2009. At the meeting was the General Definitor, Br. Šime Samac, who presented the last phase of the preparation for the VIII centennial of the Order. The two Conferences, which number around 3,000 Friars, include the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia (these make up the Conference of South – Slavic), and Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan (Conference of North – Slavic).

Italy – Montefalco: Convention of the Commissaries of the Holy Land

The Commissaries of the Holy Land of Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and Malta gathered together in the Convent of Monefalco (Perugia) from Oct. 6 – 9 for the annual Convention. The convent was recently entrusted to the Custody of the Holy Land. The theme most touched upon was that of pilgrimages in the Holy Land because organizing and leading pilgrimages constitutes one of the main tasks of Commissaries. Among the obvious growing number of questions and changing expectations of pilgrims, what stood out most was the need for greater coordination in planning pilgrimages and making them more Franciscan.

Franciscan Bookmark

Solitudo seraphica. Studien zur Geschichte der Exerzitien im Franziskanerorden der Frühneuzeit (AD 1600-1750), Seraphic Solitude: A study on the history of spiritual exercises in the Order of Friars Minor at the beginning of the modern age). Benedikt H. Mertens OFM, Edition Coelde 2008, pp. 560

This current research deals for the first time with the question of historical conditions, in which the idea of spiritual exercises was both repressed and propagated by the Friars Minor. Once having presented both the introduction and the development of spiritual exercises in a diversified way in the Order of Friars Minor at the beginning of the modern era, the normative texts of the Order and of the Provinces as well as the biographical fragments regarding the theme of the book are explained here. An analysis of books on Franciscan spiritual exercises of a chosen era eventually gives informations on the rapport between ideas burrowed from other spiritual traditions and resorting to a typically Franciscan patrimony. The question dealing properly on "Franciscan" exercises is answered with exactitude based on this broad analysis.

"Care of Creation. A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth" (Cura del Creato. Una spiritualità francescana della Terra), I. Delio, K. D. Warner, P. Wood, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati 2007, pp. 225.

Care for Creation presents four sections on classical themes of Franciscan Tradition (i.e., creation, community, contemplation, and conversion) as a resource to study in – depth our respect for the integrity of creation. Every section initiates with a popular description of ecological ideas, which then changes to a Franciscan theological reflection until it finalizes with a selection of meditations, steps to be taken, and activity of formation of faith. As authors, we want to indicate an important – although yet somewhat little treated – theme in the Franciscan work of JPIC; and, at the same time, make the riches of our Franciscan theological tradition more accessible to different readers. We have specifically aimed this book to assist the Franciscan movement in its formation to care for Creation, but we also incorporated some tools in order to work with a range of other groups who are curious to know why St. Francis is the Patron Saint of cultivators of ecology. This is an ideal source for Friars in initial formation, for secular Franciscans, for groups of social justice, and for those who promote vocations to our way of life. http://catalog.americancatholic.org/product.aspx?prodid=I16838&pcat=73

Big and Small News

The General Curia has a new member, **Br Edwin Joseph Paniagua**, from the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the Unites States; he will be the new translator for the English language. Also, after his service at the Curia, **Br. Valdevino Negherbon** returned to his Province of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM in Brazil.

Retracing the Steps of St. Paul is a video that goes over the 5th update course in Turkey for Friars Minors of both Puglia and Molise.
It is an unforgettable experience in the "Holy Land of the Church", the cradle of Christianity in order to get to know the roots and the historical journey of the Christian faith. "May the Apostle Paul guide and protect us in this BiMillenium celebration, helping us to make progress in the humble and sincere search for full unity of all the members of the Mystical Body of Christ!" (Benedict XVI). May the Apostle of the gentiles be for all of us a master that guides us and a witness that encourages us! To order, please go to: segretario@fratiminoripugliamolise.it

Perù – Lima, 132 children and youth have been baptized: This past Oct.4, on the feast of our Holy Patron, the Lord has made his own 132 children and youth between the ages of 3-16 by incorporating them in the family of his Church through baptism at the educational center, "Saint Francis of Assisi", located in the outskirts of the community of Huaycàn, east of the capital of Lima and belonging to the Franciscan Province of the XII Apostles of Perù. We share this important baptismal celebration because it is lived in our festivity as a visible sign of the fact that it is the Holy Spirit who chooses us, calls us, and continues to call us throughout our lives.

The fraternity of Friars Minor was in charge of its preparation; they are assigned to this year's mission to walk with the laity responsible for the educational project, evangelization, pastoral education, and daily life in common. At the same them, they are to draw support also from a group of teachers engaged in the team of Faith and Pastoral work in the same college.

Bari/Italy – Franciscan Stamp Collection (philatelic) exhibition: On the occasion of the 8th centennial of the approval of the rule, the Friars Minor of the Convent of St. Anthony in Bari mounted an exclusive "philatelic exhibition" , displaying the 800 years of Franciscan adventure through stamps which have been issued throughout the entire world and in all of the last century in order to commemorate the Little Poor One of Assisi and the many men and women whether priests, laity, or religious, married or single who have been inspired by his ideal by being part of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Order. Among the followers of St. Francis that are featured in these stamps, there are personalities more or less known in the world of literature, philosophy, history science, navigation, music, politics, heroism, missions, charity, mysticism, pontificate, etc. For more information, you can go to padredipinto@gmail.com

Gathering in Rome of Visitators General: The annual meeting between the General Definitory and the Visitator General of the Order took place at the General Curia from November 10 – 14. Present to this 5 day gathering were 17 Visitators General. See www.ofm.org

On the home page, it is possible to follow directly the celebrations of feast days as well as the most important events that take place in the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels, such as catechism, concerts, and many others similar events. Visit the site at www.porziuncola.org/webtv.html

Send - Off of New Missionaries: Included in the closing celebration of the meeting of Visitators General at the General Curia on Nov. 14 was the send – off to the missions of two of our friars, Br. Yustinus Damai Wasono from the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia and Fr. Ruin Yurii Razovsky from the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Ukraine. After having taken a training course at the Center for Missions at Brussels, Belgium, they made their way to Thailand and Kenya respectively. Other future missionaries of the Franciscan families, who attended the training course in Brussels, likewise participated at this send – off celebration. Six Conventuals Friars and four Capuchins have received blessings for the missions from the General Vicar of the OFMConv and Secretary General on behalf of their respective General Ministers.

New Visitator General

Fr. Ferdinando Campana from the Picene Province of St. James of the Marches in Italy has been appointed Visitator General for the Province of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Albania.

Schedule of the General Minister

December 01-03: Visit to the Province of St. Anthony of Padua (Bavaria – Germany).
December 04-05: Participation at the First Centenary of Franciscan Presence at Guadalupe, Betic Province of Spain.
December 06-09: Participation at the First Centenary of the Province of Sts. Francisco and James (Jalisco - Mexico).
December 11-13: Visit to the Province of the Immaculate Conception of B.V.M in England.
December 15-19: Meeting of the General Definitory in Rome.
December 19-23: Visit to the Congregations at the Vatican.

Making Restitution to the Lord by Word and Deed! 2008 - 2009

In an effort to give credibility to the message, it is indispensable that there should also be a living witness of charity. Love that is lived out with Gospel radicalness is the most transparent presence of God, a presence that appeals the most and leads us to discover the treasure of faith. In short, both the witness of Gospel life and love, with all of their evangelical demands, are what mostly give credibility to the message that we intend to communicate through evangelization.

FESTI JANNAR 2009 BIRTHDAYS

FESTI

08 P. Arthur Azzopardi
16 P. Marcello Ghirlando
20 P. Sebastian Camilleri
27 P. Julian Sammut

BIRTHDAYS

07 P. Kerubin Galea
08 P. Adrian J. Cachia
P. Mark Ciantar
09 P. Charles Grech
15 P. Kamillu Aquilina
31 P. Sandro Overend - Min. Provincjal

LAQGĦA TAL—MILIED

għall - Patrijiet, Ġenituri u Qraba

2 ta' Jannar 2009
Dar ta' l-Irtiri Porziuncola
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq
Fis-6.00 pm

F' DIN IL-ĦARĠA

Diċembru 2008

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Il-Bibbja f'idejna	3
Jikteb P. A. Gauci O.F.M.	4 - 5
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L - AĦBAR

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