



**Ifirhu
u
roddu ħajr
lill-Missier,
li
ghamilkom
denji
li
tissieħbu
fil-wirt
tal-
Qaddisin
fis-saltna
tad-dawl.**

Kol. 1, 12



FR. JOSEPHUS RODRIGUEZ CARBALLO
TOTIUS ORDINIS FRATRUM MINORUM MINISTER GENERALIS
ET HUMILIS IN DOMINO SERVUS

RATIFICATION

The General Definitory, during its session of the 9th of July 2008, carefully examined the authentic Acts of the elections of the Provincial Chapter of our Province of St. Paul the Apostle in Malta, regularly celebrated according to the dispositions of Canon Law, at the Porziuncola Retreat House, in Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq, and presided by the Visitor General, Br. Austin McCormack, OFM, on the 13th of May 2008.

FR. SANDRO OVRENDO RIGILLO, OFM,

was elected to the OFFICE OF MINISTER PROVINCIAL
in accordance with Art. 127, §§ 1-3 of the GCSS and
Art. 63 § 1 of the Particular Statutes of the Province.

Taking into account the prescriptions of Arts. 127, § 1-3 and 206, § 3 of the General Statutes of the Order, the following were considered elected, but with an irregularity in the election process due to a discrepancy in the superseded Particular Statutes:

TO THE OFFICES OF VICAR PROVINCIAL:
BR. RICHARD S. GRECH, OFM

TO THE OFFICE OF PROVINCIAL DEFINITOR:
BR. EDDIE PACE, OFM,
BR. ANTON TARKUGGLA, OFM,
BR. MARCELINO MICALIEF, OFM
BR. MARTIN COLIERO, OFM.

Following careful consideration, the General Definitory granted a "votatio" of the elective process and approved the Capitular Elections.

HEREFORE, IN VIRTUE OF THE PRESENT,

I DECREE

THAT THE ~~SANCTIO~~ SANCTIO OF THE ELECTIONS OF THE VICAR AND OF THE DEFINITORS
OF THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN GRANTED.

I ALSO DECLARE ALL THE ELECTIONS OF THE 2008 PROVINCIAL CHAPTER
OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE IN MALTA TO BE VALID
AND IRAHEBY THEM IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LAW AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THAT PRESCRIBED IN ART. 165 § 1 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF THE ORDER.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary.

Given at the General Curia of the Order of Friars Minor
Rome, the 11th of July 2008.



C O P I A
CONFORME ALL'ORIGINALE
5-9-2008

Fr. Ernest K. Siekierka
Br. Ernest K. Siekierka, OFM
Secretary General



Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM
Minister General

Prot. 099/21 / S 259-08

Via S. Maria Maddalena, 25
00165 ROMA (ITALIA)
TEL. 06.684919 / Fax 06.6580292

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FR. IOSEPHUS RODRIGUEZ CARBALLO
TOTIUS ORDINIS FRATRUM MINORUM MINISTER GENERALIS
ET HUMILIS IN DOMINO SERVUS

RATIFICATION

In the Capitular Congress of the Province of Saint Paul the Apostle, in Malta, canonically celebrated at the House of Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Sliema on the 23rd of May 2008, under the presidency of the Visitor General, Br. Austin McCormack, OFM, the elections of Guardians, Vicars and Bursars of Houses and other Office-Holders were duly carried out.

The General Definitorium in its session of the 2nd of September 2008 carefully examined the Acts of these elections and approved them.

THEREFORE,
IN VIRTUE OF THIS DECREE,
I DECLARE THE ABOVE MENTIONED ELECTIONS
VALID AND RATIFIED,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESCRIPTIONS
OF ART. 167 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF THE ORDER.

Given in Rome, at the General Curia of the Order of Friars Minor, on the 3rd of September 2008.



Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo
Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM
Minister General



Br. Ernest K. Siekierka
Br. Ernest K. Siekierka, OFM
Secretary General

Prot. 099140 / S 276-08

COPIA
CONFORME ALL'ORIGINALE

9. 9. 2008

Via S. Maria Maddalena, 45
00155 ROMA (ITALIA)
Tel. 39.06.681919 / Fax 39.06.6850292

N..B. Grazzi mill-qalb lill-Uffiċċju Ġuridiku ta' l-Ordni li ghamliha l-korrezzjonijiet neċessarji ta' l-Istatuti Partikulari tal-Provincja. Aktar taghrif jinghata 'il quddiem.

H a j j i e t i l P r o v i n c j a

Fis- 6 ta' Lulju giet ċelebrata l-festa tal-Madonna tas - Sacro Cuor, fil-parroċċa tagħna ta' Tas-Sliema. Din kienet l-ewwel darba li tmexxiet mill-Provinċjal P. Sandro Overend OFM, iben din il-parroċċa. Fi tmiem il-purċissjoni, sar ir-ringrazzjament lil P. George Bugeja OFM , għall- hidma siwija li wettaq bhala Kappillan u ngħata merħba lill-Kappillan il-ġdid, P. Joe Caruana OFM.

Fit-22 ta' Lulju, fil-Palazz Presidenzjali tal-Balt, il-Provinċjal, flimkien mal-membri tad-Definitorju Provinċjali, għamel żjara ta' kortesija lill-President ta' Malta, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami. Il-President , flimkien ma' martu, fil-ta' Lulju, għamel żjara privata fl – Art Imqaddsa, fejn ngħata l-medalja tad—deheb tal - pellegrin mill - Kustodju ta' l-Art Imqaddsa P. Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM. Preżenti, fost l-oħrajn, kien hemm hutna P. Noel Muscat OFM, Diskritt tal-Kustodja, u P. Twanny Chircop OFM. Din l-aħbar ngħatat prominenza kbira fil-*website* tal-Kustodja. Matul dan is-Sajf il-Kummissarjat ta' l-Art Mqaddsa reġa' organizza bosta pellegrinaggi.

Fl-1 t' Awwissu s-Seminarju Franġiskan tagħna tar-Rabat flimkien maċ-Ċentru Vokazzjonali Provinċjali organizza *Mixja Franġiskana* għaż-żgħażgħ ta' bejn l-14 u t-28 sena . Fis-7.30pm dawk kollha li ħadu sehem telqu mill-knisja parrokkjali ta' l-Għarghur lejn il-Knisja tagħna ta' S. Marija ta' l-Anġli, ġewwa Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. L-ghada, festa tal-Maħfra tal-Porziuncola, dawn iż-żgħażgħ animaw l- Quddiesa tal-11.00 ġewwa l-istess knisja. Din kienet waħda mid-diversi ċelebrazzjonijiet, li l-fraternita' t' hemmhekk organizzat għal din il-festa.

Fil-11 t' Awwissu l-Provinċjal mexxa Quddiesa Konċelebrata fil-monasteru ta' S.Klara ġewwa S. Giljan fl-okkażjoni tal- festa ta' S. Klara t' Assisi. Fl-istess monasteru, nhar l-24 t' Awwissu, waqt Quddiesa Konċelebrata mmexxija mill-Provinċjal tagħna, Sr. Claire Helene Marie O.S.C. għamlet il-professjoni temporanja.

Nhar it-28 ta' Settembru fil-knisja tagħna ta' S. Marija ta' l-Anġli, f' Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq, saret laqgħa għall-aħwa kollha bhala preparazzjoni għall-festa ta' Missierna S. Franġisk. Wara li tkanttat it-talba ta' l-Għasar, l—aħwa iltqagħu għall-festin. Grazzi mill - qalb, speċjalment., lil dawk l-aħwa li organizzaw u lil dawk li setgħu jattendu.

L-ghada fil-knisja tagħna tar-Rabat, waqt Quddiesa Konċelebrata mill-Provinċjal, Andrea Debono (Balzan), Clint Micallef (S. Ġwann) u Emmanuel Said bdew l-ewwel sena tal—Postuandat. Dawn inqgħaqdu flimkien ma' Aaron Abdilla (Mellieha). Fl-istess waqt l-istudenti tagħna ġeddew l-wegħdjet tagħhom. Nitolbu għalihom u nawgurawlhom !!!!!

Aktar ahbarijiet

Jagħtu s-servizz tagħhom barra minn Malta

Matul ix-xhur tas-Sajf numru ta' aħwa marru jagħtu s-servizz pastorali tagħhom barra minn xuxtna :

P. Albert Micallef OFM mar jagħti s-servizz tiegħu, bħala penitenzier, fil-Bażilika ta' *San Giovanni Laterano*, f' Ruma. Hemmhekk insibu numru ta' patrijiet, li ġejjin minn diversi pajjiżi, biex joffru s-servizzi tagħhom tas-sagrament ta' rikonċilazzjoni lil bosta persuni b' lingwi differenti.

P. Ġwann Abela OFM, għal darb' oħra, reġa' mar biex jaħdem fit-thaffir arkelogoliku fuq il-Muntanja Nebo ġewwa l-Gordan.

P. Alexander Borg u P. Julian Sammut OFM marru jagħtu s - servizz tagħhom ta' penitenziera fil-Bażilika ta' S. Marija ta' l-Angli, l-Porziunca, ġewwa Assisi.

P. Marcellino Micallef OFM, flimkien ma' 23 voluntiera oħra, mar l-Mwanza, fit-Tanzanija. Il-'Progett Tama' ġie organizzat mill-*Mission Fund*, li ħadet ħsieb mhux biss il-preparazzjoni tal-grupp ġewwa pajjiżna, imma wkoll il-bini ta' skola mmexxija minn Sr. Domenica Ciliberti.

Aħwa oħra għamluha ta' assistenti spiritwali ma' gruppi, li marru Lourdes u Medjugorje.

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- Il-konvoj ta' Santa Marija -

Fl-14 t' Awwissu l-Appostolat tal-Baħar, immexxi minn P. Pawl Attard OFM, Kappillan tal-Port, u minn P. Raymond Falzon OFM, il-viċi tiegħu, organizza servizz kommemorattiv ħdejn id-Dwana il-qadima ġewwa l-Belt Valletta biex jfakkar fil-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija, li ġara 66 sena ilu. Il-programm kien jikkonsisti f' talb u kant. F' waqt minhom P. Paul, ic- *Chancellor* ta' *St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral*, flimkien ma' persuni oħra, telgħu fuq *patrol boat* u tefgħu kuruni ta' fjuri f' wiċċ il-baħar quddiem il-Forti S. Anglu. Dawn l- Aħwa ma jagħtux biss is-servizz tagħhom fil-knisja tal-Madonna ta' Liesse, li qegħda l-xatt tal-Belt, imma wkoll lil baħhara li jkunu fuq il-vapuri sorguti fit-tarzna.

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- GIEH IR-RABAT -

AWGURI u PROSIT !!!

P. Adrian Jos. Cachia OFM, flimkien ma' **P. Gwann Abela OFM**, ġew mogħtija *Unur ir-Rabat* nhar it-28 ta' Settembru 2008 waqt celebrazzjoni, li saret fil-Kulleġġ S. Agata, ir-Rabat, organizzata mill-Kunsill Lokali tal-lokal.

ikomplu

- Laqgħa missjunarja f' Ruma -

Bejn l-4 u s-6 ta' Settembru ġewwa l-Kurja Ġeneralizja ta' l-Ordni, f'Ruma, saret it-tieni laqgħa dwar il-ħidma li qed isir ġewwa l-Vigarjati Apostoliċi, l-Prefetturi u l-Prelaturi, li huma f' idejn l-Ordni tagħna. Preżenti kien hemm id-Definitorju Ġenerali, l-isqfijiet, fosthom Mons. S. Magro OFM u l-Provinċjali li, il-provinċji tagħhom huma responsabbli minn dawn il-missjonijiet - fosthom kien hemm il-Provinċjal tagħna, peress li l-provinċja tagħna hija ġuridikament responsabbli mill-missjoni ta' l-Libja. Fost is-sugġetti, li ġew diskussi, kien hemm il-formazzjoni permanenti tal - missjunarjii u l - animazzjoni missjunarja fi ħdan l-istess provinċji. Fid-dawl ta' din il-laqgħa, P. Marcello Ghirlando OFM ġie magħżul bħala delegat tal-Provinċja għall-Libja. *Awguri !!!!*

- Team vokazzjonali ġdid -

P. Eddie Pace OFM se jkun il-Promotur Vokazzjonali Nazzjonali, meġġun minn P. Ray Scicluna, Mark Ciantar, Joseph Magro u Fra Walter Ciappara. Grazzi mill-qalb lil P. Joseph Magro għall-ħidma li wettaq bħala Promotur Vokazzjonali Nazzjonali. *Awguri !!!!*

Il-pusses tal-Kappillan - P. Joe Caruana OFM

Fil-25 ta' Settembru ġewwa l-Knisja Parrokkjali Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor f' Tas-Sliema, waqt Quddiesa Konċelebrata minn Mons. Arcisqof Pawl Cremona O.P. , P. Joe ha l-pusses tal-parroċċa, bħala d-19 Kappillan tagħha. Huwa tweled ir-Rabat nhar it - 18 t' Ottubru 1953. Beda n-novizzjat nhar it- 3 t' Ottubru 1971 u għamel il-professjoni temporanja nhar l - 1 t' Ottubru 1971. Fit - 22 t' Awwissu 1976 għamel il-professjoni solenni. Għamel il-kors tal-Filosofija fis- Seminarju tal-provinċja ġewwa r—Rabat u dak teologiku ġewwa s - Seminarju Internazzjoali ta' Ġerusalem. Ġie ordnat saċerdot fl-istess knisja , li tagħha se jkun Gwardjan u Kappillan, nhar is - 7 ta' Lulju 1979. Kien għalliem u *religious counsellor* fis-Seminarju Veskovili t' Għawdex , fl-iskola *St. Elizabeth*, f' Tas—Sliema u fl-iskola *Stella Maris*, il-Ġżira. Fi ħdan il-provinċja huwa diġa wettaq il-ħidma ta' Gwardjan tal - fraternitajiet tal-Belt u Tas—Sliema. Ahna lkoll inwegħduh it-talb tagħna u nawgurawlu minn qiegh qalbna. Fid-29 tax- xahar l-Parroċċa tagħna f' akkret id- 90 sena mit-twaqqif tagħha mill-Arcisqof Mons. Mawru Caruana O.S.B.



+ Aghthom, o Mulej, il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem.....

Ohtna l-mewt, fix-xhur ta' Awwissu u Settembru, żaret lil dawn hutna:

• **Fra Bernardin Sant OFM**

Huwa twieled il-Mosta nhar id-19 ta' Ġunju 1930. Fl-24 ta' Lulju 1951 beda n-novizzjat u fit-2 t' Ottubru għamel il-professjoni temporanja. Fit-30 t' Ottubru 1955 għamel il-professjoni solenni. Bil-ħidma siekta u umli tiegħu huwa ha ħsieb il-ġonna, li għandna fil-kunventi ta' Ghawdex, fid-Dar ta' l-Irtiri ġewwa Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq u r-Rabat. Kien għal xi żmien Vigarju tal-fraternita' tar-Rabat. Huwa miet fil-kunvent tagħna tar-Rabat nhar it-30 t' Awwissu fl-ġhomor ta' 78 sena.

• **Is-Sur Lino (Carmel) Muscat**

s-Sur Lino Muscat miet nhar il-9 t' Awwissu fl-Isptar Sir Paul Boffa fl-ġhomor ta' 75 sena. Huwa l-missier ta' ħuna P. Noel, li bħalissa qed jaħdem fil-Kustodja ta' l- Art Imqaddsa.

• **Is-Sinjura Adelina Enriquez**

Is-Sinjura Adelina Enriquez mietet nhar il-31 t' Awwissu fl-Isptar Mater Dei, fl-ġhomor ta' 93 sena. Hija omm ħuna P. Mark, li bħalissa qed jgħamel parti mil-fraternita' tagħna tal-Hamrun.

MADRE GENERALI MALTJA

Nhar 18 t' Awwissu l-membri tal-Kapitlu Ġenerali tas-Sorijiet Franġiskani Missjunarji tal-Qalb bla tebgħa ta' Marija, magħrufa fostna ta' l-Eġittu, hatru lil Sr. Anne Muscat, bħala Madre Ġenerali tal-kongregazzjoni tagħhom. Hawn Malta jmexxu l-iskola *Our Lady Immaculate* fil-Hamrun u għandhom kunvent ieħor ġewwa Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Nitobu għaliha u nifirħulha !!!!!

FRATERNITAS

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Sollemnitas Sancti Francisci

“And the Lord gave me such faith in churches that I would pray with simplicity in this way and say: We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ, in all Your churches throughout the whole world and we bless You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world” (Test 4-5)

Happy solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis!

Preparing for the General Chapter 2009

The process of preparing for the coming General Chapter includes some closing dates: the names of Delegates from Custodies and of lay-Friar Delegates from the Conferences to the General Chapter 2009, elected according to the norms of the GGSS, should reach the Secretary of the General Chapter by the **30th November 2008**. Summaries of the reflections in the Entities, following the proposed layout, and the names of Candidates for the Office of Minister General, with a curriculum vitae, should reach the Secretary of the General Chapter by the **31st December 2008**. The Secretary of the Chapter will then send the Report of the Minister General, the Reports of the Presidents of Conferences, the list of Candidates for the Office of Minister General, with curriculum vitae, and the articles of the General Statutes submitted for revision and worked on by the Legal Commission specially appointed by the Definitory, to all the Chapter Members **about three months before the beginning of the Chapter**, depending on the time taken for translation.

To get information about the General Chapter, it is enough to enter the Order site <http://www.ofm.org/capgen09>, **within which there is a public area dedicated to the General Chapter** and from which it is possible to download some texts and documents (the questions for reflection in the Entities, the prayers in preparation for the Chapter and some pages on the Prayerful Reading of the Word). There is an area reserved to Chapter Members, <http://www.ofm.org/CG09doc>, for which it is necessary to have a username and password. Any Chapter Members who, for technical reasons, have not received their username and password may ask for them from the Secretary of the Chapter by e-mail, using the address: segrcapitolo@ofm.org.

Communication is a very important aspect of the preparation of the Chapter and the Presidents of Conferences, during their meeting in May last (12-14 May 2008), approved the decision not to send paper documents and to send everything by e-mail or put it on the web site of the Chapter. Each Chapter Member is to send an active and functioning e-mail address to the Secretary of the Chapter at segrcapitolo@ofm.org to make sure that there is a channel of communication for sending materials and indicating the placing of documents on the General Chapter web site.

Blessed John Duns Scotus on the VII Centenary of his death

The primacy of the will: The intellect and the will are two very noble powers, the will especially. To order belongs to the desire or will only. No power of the senses can command the intellect or the will and join them in their acts. Nor can the intellect command itself or the will; the will alone orders itself and the intellect. This regards the intellect, but with regard to the will, however, it orders itself. According to Augustine ‘nothing is so in control of the will as the will itself’ (Christus hominem homini revelat, III, 1-6).

22nd International Marian Mariology Congress

The 22nd International Marian Mariology Congress, with an attendance of 450 and 200 speakers, organised by our International Pontifical Marian Academy under the title of *The apparitions of the Virgin Mary between history, faith and theology*, was celebrated in Lourdes between the 4th and 8th of September. Cardinal Paul Poupard was appointed President of the Congress by Pope Benedict XVI. He, together with our Br. Vincenzo Battaglia, presided at all the academic acts. Scholars from 36 different countries spoke of the Marian apparitions. The Marian apparitions in St. Francis and in some Saints of the Order were also studied. Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, postulator of the causa of St. Juan Diego, presented, in a magnificent way, the apparitions of Guadalupe and the happy contribution given by Franciscans. The Congress, which saw the presence of new National Mariology Societies (India, Middle-East, Philippines) and new groups (Brazil, Ecumenical Society USA) reaffirmed the task of the Academy to coordinate scholars and to be evermore present in the various cultures in order to create new centres of study and Marian devotion. <http://accademiamariana.org>

Indonesia – National elective Chapter of the SFO

The National Elective Chapter of the SFO in Indonesia was held in the city of Sukabumi from the 2nd to 7th of July 2008. About a hundred people, representing the regional and local fraternities of Indonesia, participated.

The Chapter was very well organised through the very active involvement of the participants. The presence of a representative of the Indonesian Government, responsible for relations with the Catholic Church, of a representative of Islam and of the Bishop of the diocese of Bogor, Msgr. Cosmas Michael Angkur, OFM, is to be noted. The members of the new National Council were elected during it. The Chapter concluded with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist, presided by Br. Yan Laju, OFM, National Assistant to the SFO in Indonesia.

Hong Kong – Elective Chapter of the SFO

The Regional Chapter of the SFO in Hong Kong-Macau was celebrated at the house of the Friars Minor in Kowloon, Hong Kong, on the 27th of July 2008. The Chapter was presided by Lucy Almirañes, Councillor of the Presidency CIOFS, accompanied by Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, Assistant General of the SFO.

About 70 members of the SFO from the four local Fraternities of Hong Kong and Macau, with their Spiritual Assistants, were present. Some members of the local fraternity of You.Fra in Hong Kong also took part.

Brazil – The Province of the Immaculate Conception celebrates 333 years!

The Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception, in Brazil, celebrates 333 years of existence this year, having been founded on the 15th of July 1675 by Pope Clement X.

It is an important occasion for the Friars to remember with gratitude the many Confreres who, down through the centuries, overcame all kinds of difficulties to be faithful to the mandate of announcing the Gospel, in the awareness of being inheritors of a great history, of which they have the honour and the onus of writing new pages. It is a history which began more than 500 years ago. The first group of Franciscans reached Brazil in 1500 with the discoverer of the country, the Portuguese Pedro Álvares Cabral. Traces of the ancient presence of Franciscans can be glimpsed in the fascinating baroque convents along the Brazilian coast.

The Franciscans in Brazil were divided into two groups in 1659. One set up in the North and the other in the South. The first group would give birth to the Province of St. Anthony and the second to the Province of the Immaculate Conception.

The history of the Franciscans is so linked to Brazilian history that it can be said, with the great Brazilian anthropologist Gilberto Freire, that “there is no event or glory of the Franciscans that is not an event or glory of Brazil”.

II Meeting of the General Government with the *Vicariates and Prelatures* entrusted to the OFM

The II Meeting of the General Government with the Bishops and Ministers Provincial of the Vicariates and Prelatures entrusted to the Order, convoked by the Minister General, was held at the General Curia from the 4th to the 6th of September 2008. Present at the meeting were: the Minister and Definitory General, 10 Bishops and 5 Ministers Provincial. Participating as invited guests were: the Bishop of Djibouti, the Secretary General for Evangelisation, the Director of the Franciscan Missions, USA, the Director of Missionszentrale der Franziskaner, Germany, and the President of the Franciscan Federation of Morocco.

The Friars, in a climate of fraternity, shared their missionary experiences, the pastoral and juridical results achieved and the need for new personnel and financial collaboration which the presence of Friars Minor in the different Apostolic Vicariates and Prelatures implies. Following a positive assessment of the progress made, especially during the last two years, and in the light of the reflection made on the missionary spirit which animates the Friars Minor, some orientations for the future were given. These re-launched and deepened those identified during the first meeting: the drawing up of agreements between the Vicariates and the Order (Province), missionary formation and animation, finances and solidarity. It was suggested that the Minister General should write a letter to the Entities of the Order inviting them to collaborate on the level of personnel and financial aid and that this gathering should be repeated periodically.

The meeting ended with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided by the Minister General, during which the commitment of the Friars Minor to continue their collaboration on the level of personnel and financial aid to the Apostolic Vicariates and Prefectures entrusted to the Order by the Holy See was renewed as one of the priority choices of the missionary spirit in favour of the most poor.

Quito, Ecuador – Missionary Congress in America

The Third American Missionary Congress, with the theme of “The Church in Missionary Discipleship”, was held in Quito, Ecuador, from the 12th to the 17th of August 2008. More than three thousand people took part. The dynamic of the Congress was varied and inclusive. The first three days were characterised by a central discourse (Card. Oscar Maradiaga, Honduras; Msgr. Luis Augusto Castro, Colombia; and Msgr. Erwin Kräutler, Brazil, spoke in turn), which was followed by comments, testimonies, round tables on various topics such as “ad gentes” missions, mission and globalisation, mission and the family/defence of life, mission and migration/exclusion, mission and laity, mission and youth, etc. The second last day was dedicated to a practical experience of mission in Parishes through visits to families. The Congress concluded in a

football stadium with a celebration marked by some significant gestures as the inauguration of a continental mission proposed by the conference of Aparecida; the sending of a numerous group of missionaries to various parts of the world; and the announcement of the place of the next American Missionary Congress at Maracaibo in Venezuela . The Friars Minor present, about thirty, met after the Congress to share the more significant aspects of the event and to seek together a response to the challenges which emerged during those days. For further information, consult <http://www.cam3ecuador.org>

Mozambique – Solemn Profession of three Friars

The Custody of St. Clare of Assisi in Mozambique experienced important moments during 2008: the Custodial Chapter, celebrated in a climate of quiet harmony and fraternal communion; three ordinations – two to the priesthood and one to the diaconate; and the solemn profession of three young Friars (Br. L. Laquiço, Br. Ricardo José and Br. A. Manjor).

The profession took place on the 10th of August, eve of the Feast of St. Clare and Patroness of the Custody, in the parish church of Sant' António da Polana. The Bishop of Quelimane, Br. Ilario da Cruz Massingue, Br. Amaral Bernardo Amaral, Definitor General, a big number of Friars from different regions of the Custody and a large crowd of faithful took part in the celebration presided by Card. Alexandre José Maria dos Santos, OFM. It was a sign of the vitality of the Custody, which is engaged in offering the treasures of the Gospel, lived according to the franciscan charism, to the Church and society in Mozambique.

Franciscan Bookmark

Francesco a Roma dal signor Papa (Francis with the Lord Pope in Rome), acts of the VI Congress of Greccio, 9-10 of May 2007, by A. Cacciotti and M. Melle, Edizioni Biblioteca Francesca, Milan 2008, pp. 424.

The journey of Francis of Assisi and his first companions to Rome and the Roman Curia was made in May 1209, according to the opinion of historians. The confirmation of their form of life, which Pope Innocent III gave to the group, was recorded by Francis himself and initiated what the Franciscan Family has always considered to be the debut of the Order of Friars Minor.

The Acts here presented are the faithful report of the VI Congress of Greccio – under the patronage of the Centro Culturale Aracoeli of the OFM Provinces of Rome and Abruzzo – held from the 9-10 May 2008 under the title: *Francesco a Roma dal signor Papa*. One of the capital passages in the history of the Order of Friars Minor, the date to celebrate the VIII Centenary, was examined in great anticipation with the help of illustrious scholars. To underline its importance, there is a statement on the event in all the early sources of franciscan history, which report the meeting with Innocent III and the Papal Curia with the obvious aim of narrating the presentation and the subsequent approval of the evangelical intentions of the penitents of Assisi.

It is true that, through the Roman meeting, Francis and his group of Friars gave a broader course to their Christian experience by presenting themselves directly to Papal authority, in a step above the diocesan level.

But how were things really? Did the attempt to have a rule approved come from the premise of founding a canonically erected Order? What were the true intentions? Who were the people involved in this passage and what were the concepts and strategic consequences which were brought into play by the various actors in the event? The factors brought into play by the various people involved in the event and the results was the subject entrusted to the discourses published in the present volume and they distinctly underlie the commemoration of the VIII Centenary of the foundation of the Order of Friars Minor.

Enchiridion of the Order of Friars minor. Documents, 1990-2002, Vol. II., under the care of Br. L. Perugini, Edizioni L.I.E.F., Vicenza 2008, pp. 1260.

The Second Volume of the Enchiridion OFM , with the Documents of the Order, of the Ministers General of the Franciscan Family or regarding the Order, has been issued. The third and final volume (for the moment), 2003-2007, will be issued by the end of 2008.

The Enchiridion “is a kind of diary, through which it is possible to go over or know the recent history of the Order. Each document, each message and each letter is the result of events which mark the journey made by the Friars Minor in recent years. These texts, therefore, are like a key for returning to those facts and seeking to understand how the Friars Minor were present in the history of the Church and world” (From the *Presentation* by Br. José R. Carballo, Minister General).

Big/small news

News from the Sudan: Having fixed up the problems linked to the transfer of the ownership of the land, and following major repairs, the Friars moved to the parish house of Fitihab-Omdurman on the 1st of June 2008. At the same time, they assumed the pastoral care of two parishes, which are made up of twelve centres. The Friars, for the moment, have some difficulty in managing the situation because of the lack of funds to cover some urgent expenses for the various activities.

There are, besides, three schools in each parish and the Friars are responsible for them by the very fact that they are responsible for the parishes. The situation in which the Friars found the schools was not very encouraging, but they are doing their best to save what can be saved.

The fraternal life continues well, even if the responsibility for two parishes is taking up a lot of the time of Friars, who are trying to identify their priorities, given that they also have two communities of Sisters, of whom they have to take spiritual care.

Australia – International Meeting of the You.Fra and the World Youth Day 2008: The International Meeting of the Young Franciscans on the occasion of the World Youth Day (WYD), was held in the church of St. Francis of Assisi, in Paddington, Sydney, from the 12th to the 15th of July 2008. About 70 Young Franciscans, with their Spiritual Assistants, representing 12 countries were present. All the participants were accommodated in the School of St. Francis of Assisi in Paddington. The theme of the meeting was “*Young Franciscans – enlightened and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit*”. [Vedi le foto!](#)

They were days of joy, festival and of special grace for all the participants, above all because it was possible to celebrate, in these unique circumstances, the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Young Franciscans.

Present at the celebrations were: Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, Minister General OFM, Br. Ambrogio Nguyễn Văn Sĩ, OFM, Definitor General, Br. Ivan Matic, OFM, Assistant General of the SFO and You.Fra and Br. Paul Smith, OFM, Minister Provincial of the Province of the Holy Spirit and many other members of the Franciscan Family.

The collaboration by the Friars of the fraternity in Paddington, the authorities of the school and social centre, and the many volunteers from the parish, who gave a really fraternal service and offered extraordinary hospitality and example during the time of the meeting, was much appreciated.

Erection of a new Custody: The necessary documentation having been received, the Definitory confirmed the decision on the new Autonomous Custody of St. Francis, Herald of Peace, in West Papua (presently dependent on the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia), fixing the date of erection for the 21st September 2008.

New member of the General Curia: Br. **Alfredo Vega**, of the Province of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Mexico, is the new Assistant in the General Secretariat for Evangelisation, in place of **Br. Pedro Ramos Guzmán**, who has returned to his Province of St. Francis and James in Jalisco, Mexico.

The diocesan phase of the cause of Br. Alessio Benigar, OFM, have concluded: The Cardinal Vicar, Agostino Vallini, will declare the diocesan phase of the cause of beatification of the Servant of God, Br. Alessio Benigar, a priest of the OFM, born in Zagreb (Croatia) in 1893 and died in Rome (at St. Anthony's College) on the 1st of November 1988, closed in the Latern Palace at 11 o'clock on Friday the 7th of November 2008.

New Visitators General

Br. Arthur Espelage of the Province of St. John the Baptist in the USA, for the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the USA.

Br. Ernesto Palma Henríquez of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central-America and Panama, for the Province of St. Paul the Apostle in Colombia.

New Ministers Provincial

Br. Francisco Morales Valerio was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of the Holy Gospel in Mexico.

Br. Jorge Gustavo Rodríguez Paniagua was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Michael in Argentina.

Agenda of the Minister General

1st – 2nd October: Participation in the General Chapter of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (Grottaferrata – Italy).

3rd – 4th October: Feast of St. Francis in Assisi.

5th – 26th October: Participation in the Twelfth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the topic of *The word of God in the life and mission of the Church* (Rome).

17th October: Inauguration of the academic year of the PUA (Rome).

27th – 31st October: Fraternal Visit to the Province of St. Michael the Archangel (Foggia – Italy) and to the Province of the Assumption of the B.V.M. (Lecce – Italy).

Let us restore all to the Lord by words and life! 2008-2009

In recent years, thanks to the deepening of the awareness of the ‘Fonti Francescane’, we better understand the indissoluble unity there is between evangelisation and the witness of life of all those called to evangelise. The silent proclamation of the Kingdom of God through the witness of their life is the primary way of evangelisation which the Friars offer wherever they live. Evangelisation-mission must begin from existential communion with Christ, knowing that the more we are united to Him, the more fruitful will be our evangelising activity and that the more we live in Christ, the better He can be served in others. I wish to say that all we do in view of evangelisation must find its nourishment in a life of continuous prayer. It is the whole of life that must be immersed in a climate of prayer, adoration, abandonment and thanksgiving.

FESTI

02 P. Anġlu Falzon
09 P. Djonisju Mintoff
13 P. Edward Zammit
13 P. Eddie Pace
23 P. Gwann Micallef
26 P. Alfred Tabone
26. P. Alfred Sciberras

OTTUBRU

BIRTHDAYS

07 P. Gwann Azzopardi
15 P. Anġlu Falzon
16 P. Alexander Borg
18 P. Joe Caruana
22 P. Anton Farrugia
28 P. Richard Stanley Grech

NOVEMBRU

11 P. Martin Coleiro
15 P. Albert Micallef
26 Fra Leo M. Ciantar

01 Fra Stephen Sciberras
09 P. Martin Coleiro
14 P. Julian Sammut
17 P. Christopher Farrugia
18 P. Victor Enriquez
19 P. Ivo Tonna
28 P. Gwann Schranz

Xewqat qaddisa !

50 SENA PROFESSI

P. Ġużepp Camilleri O.F.M. fl-1 t' Ottubru
P. Alfred Sciberras O.F.M. - fl-14 t' Ottubru
Nitolbu ghalihom u nifirhulhom !!!!!!!

F ' DIN IL-HARĠA

Ottubru 2008

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L-AHBAR

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