

L-AĦBAR



PROVINĠJA FRANĠISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA.

No. 88 01.01.2004



Il-ġurnali lokali kollha taw bi prominenza l-hidma li Fra Dionisju wettaq favur ir-refuġjati u l-emigranti klandestini. Qed nippublikaw parti minn artiklu li deher fil-The Malta Independent. Ara wkoll paġni

**The best Christmas present ever
75 Asylum seekers receive the best Christmas
present – freedom**

The joy on the faces of asylum seekers just minutes after they had been let free is priceless.

There is no way to describe how 75 Eritreans and Ethiopians must have felt to be given their freedom once again, after having been in detention for almost two years.

“We’re free, we’re free,” they shouted, jumping up and down and hugging Father Dijonisju Mintoff, OFM, from the Peace Lab, who has long been campaigning for the rights of asylum seekers.



«*Diebus istis locutus est nobis Deus in Filio*»

(Heb 1, 2)

**Letter of the Minister General on the occasion of the solemnity of the birth of our
Lord Jesus Christ**

**TO ALL THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS:
MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU PEACE!**

Practically all of us that, responding to a divine call, have committed ourselves to God through the profession of obedience, poverty and chastity and form part of the Franciscan Family, have had the good fortune of having been born to the Christian faith almost at the same time that we were born into the light of day. And so, year after year, with our families and in the liturgical assemblies of our parishes and, once in the Order, in the warm bosom of our fraternities, we have been able to celebrate the mysteries of the life of the Lord: His happy manifestation in the Nativity as a light that shines in the night of darkness and His glorious resurrection at Easter as life that loosens and breaks for ever the bonds of death.

Our personal history, the world that surrounds us, everything in us is marked by the light of Christ and by the life that is Christ. We cannot look at ourselves without meeting Him. We cannot interpret our existence if it is not from Him. We are incapable of imagining our world if it is not illuminated by the light of Christ, adorned by the grace of Christ, given refuge by the tenderness of Christ, blessed by the love of Christ and penetrated by the life of Christ.

But it is also true that the Liturgy, through the solemn celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, brings to mind the novelty of the mystery each year. We can say that He, who at another time offered Himself to all by being really born of the Virgin Mary, is born for us today in the Eucharist, as if today were the first day of our encounter *in Christ* through the salvation that comes to us from God, through the joy because He is announced to the poor, through the pardon that is offered to sinners, through the peace that reaches those that love the Lord, through the reward that comes to those that God has justified.

“A Saviour has been born to you, the Messiah, the Lord” (Lk 2, 11)

Indeed, at this time of grace what was announced to the shepherds that watched over their flocks in Bethlehem on the holy night of the birth of Jesus is announced to us: “*Do not be afraid, I*

bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the Town of David, a Saviour has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2, 10-11).

This is, for the shepherds and for us, a night filled with fulfilled promises, of satisfied hopes, of words of grace. Everything seems to be wrapped in the light of the glory of the Glory on this night.

The shepherds saw those promises and hopes converted into Gospel, the grace of God and His glory already present in the world, when they, seeking *the sign* that the Angel of the Lord had revealed to them, found Mary and Joseph and saw the *child*, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. They saw the child and they found the Saviour! They saw the child and marvelled at the Messiah! They saw the child and they prostrated themselves before the Lord!

Promises and hopes that today become Gospel for us, who, celebrating the divine Eucharist, listen to the Word of God and receive into our hearts the God of the Word. We see the bread of our act of thanksgiving and we contemplate the Bread of heaven that our God gives us. We communicate at the altar of the Lord and, transformed into Him whom we receive, we offer ourselves to the glory of God the Father.

In the mystery of the incarnation, when the Word of God became flesh and pitched His tent among us, the process of the revelation of God to mankind entered into its final stage since, in Jesus Christ, God gave Himself over fully to us and mankind gave itself fully to God.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews expressed with inspired words this characteristic of the finality of the times and of revelation, the fulness of grace and gift of God, by saying: “*At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the last days, he has spoken to us through His Son, the Son that he has anointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is*” (Heb 1, 1-2).

And St. John of the Cross, commenting on this text of Scripture, wrote: “*In which it is given to understand that God remains mute and has nothing more to say, because what he had spoken in parts through the prophets, he has spoken fully in Him, giving us All, who is His Son*”.

In the humble and sublime littleness of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, and in the humble and sublime littleness of the sacrament of the Eucharist, the most high Son of God is given up to us, the plenitude of revelation is given to us, mercy is offered to us sinners, truth is offered to those that have gone astray and life itself is offered to the dead.

In truth, “*on that day the Lord sent His mercy and in the night His song*”.

But it will be necessary to underline that if the mystery of the incarnation is the objective of the journey of God towards man, it is also the objective on the path that, from the beginning and moved by grace, man has been travelling towards God.

In the humble and sublime littleness of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, and in the littleness of the sacrament of the Eucharist a Son of man, similar to His brothers in all except sin, is offered to God the Father through the perfect surrender of the Son.

In Jesus of Nazareth, the incarnate Word of God, mankind receives the life of God and God is glorified in the life of man.

“The form of life of Jesus of Nazareth”

That perfect surrender of man to God that was realised in the mystery of the incarnate Word had an epiphany in the concrete form of the life that Jesus of Nazareth chose for Himself. That obedient, trusting, filial surrender, present in the most intimate of the consciousness of Jesus, was the reason of being of all His options and actions.

The disciples of Jesus referred in many ways to this form of life and in each one of them, in every gospel account, we hear a call resound for us to follow the footprints of the Lord, to imitate Him in His options and to continue His mission in the world.

He is the Word that was with God (cf. Jn 1, 1), who came to His own and His own did not receive Him (cf. Jn 1, 11). He is the Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord, whom His mother “*wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger because there was no room in the inn*” (Lk 2, 7). He is the Son of Man, who had nowhere to lay His head (cf. Lk 9, 58).

“*This Word of the Father, so worthy, so holy and glorious, in the womb of the holy and glorious Virgin Mary, from whose womb He received the flesh of our humanity and frailty. Though He*

was rich, He wished, together with the most Blessed Virgin, His mother, to choose poverty in the world beyond all else”.

This incarnate Word *“is the splendour of eternal glory, the brilliance of eternal light and the mirror without blemish”... in which “blessed poverty, holy humility and ineffable charity are reflected”.*

The liturgical celebration of the Nativity invites us to look attentively *“at the parameters of this mirror”* and to admire in wonder *“the poverty”* and humility of Him, who *“was placed in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes”.*

The poverty, humility and charity that shone out at the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ would reach the fulness of splendour when, on the altar of the cross, all our lights having been blacked out and all our offerings nullified, the incarnate Word offered Himself as the immaculate host and holy sacrifice.

What this offering would end in began with that birth and, between one and the other, we consider, with attentive gaze and all the affections of the heart, the works and hardships that He suffered for our redemption. He who, to redeem us, took flesh.

“Our form of life: the following of Christ”

This form of life, which the most high Son of God chose for Himself, is what we are asked to follow and which, moved by divine inspiration, we chose as our rule and life when we promised *“to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by living in obedience, without anything of one’s own and in chastity”.* We wish, in this way, *“to follow the doctrine and footprints”*, the word and example of *“Our Lord Jesus Christ”.*

In the profession of our religious vows, we religious brothers and sisters promised, with humble confidence, to imitate the loving self-giving of Christ in our lives by fulfilling the will of the heavenly Father, by announcing the Kingdom of God and in the service of needy people. And if any should reduce the vows to obligations that we have to fulfil, it would be good to remind them that we all, through religious profession, committed ourselves to imitating the self-giving of Christ during our lives and that, despite the firmness of proposal and because we are all sinners, we will never succeed in living fully the commitment we professed.

In any case, the constant desire to make perfect the gift of self to God and to the brothers, the firm will to come closer to Christ by obeying His word and following in His footprints, will be indispensable conditions for our religious vows to have a necessary existential dimension beyond the reduced juridical dimension since they have, in fact and by nature, an astonishing and stimulating theological dimension.

Let us turn, with our brother Francis, our eyes to the mystery of Christ in the incarnation, the mystery of which we make a solemn memorial during this time of the Nativity and which we celebrate and live every day in the Eucharist. *“Brothers, look at the humility of God and pour out your hearts before Him.. Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him. Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally”.* In reality, we do not belong to ourselves since we belong to Him, who, through love, wished to be fully ours.

And because we do not belong to ourselves, every brother and sister must seek, in obedience, poverty and chastity, the freedom that is necessary to belong to Christ, totally to Christ, only to Christ and, in this way, to succeed in belonging totally to God in Christ, loving Him *“ with every effort, with every affection, every emotion, every desire and every wish”.* Through profession we no longer belong to ourselves. We are totally for Him, we belong totally to Him. It is the Nativity, there is no place for mediocrity. It is the nativity, our donation must be total and unconditional. He gave everything for us. Have we the courage to give Him what belongs to Him?

Conclusion

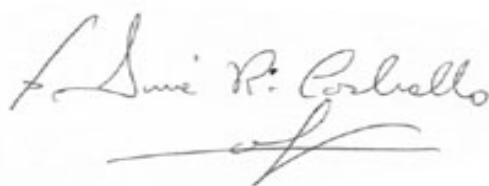
Dear Brothers and Sisters, through Christ, the incarnate Word, the Father has said everything to us. In Christ, the committed Son of God, the Father has given us everything. In Christ, the first born of all creatures, the first of many brothers, we wish to say everything to the Father through our praise and we wish to give everything through the offering of our life in obedience, without property and in chastity.

The vocation to which the love of God calls us is very high and the condition of us that have been called is very miserable. Let us make, Brothers and Sisters, the words of the prayer of our brother Francis our own then:

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, give us miserable ones the grace to do for You alone what we know you want us to do and always to desire what pleases You. Inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we be able to follow in the footprints of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and, by Your grace alone, may we make our way to You, Most High, Who live and rule in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and are glorified God almighty, forever and ever. Amen.

A Happy Christmas and may the blessing of the Seraphic Father accompany us always.

Rome, the 24th of November, 2003.

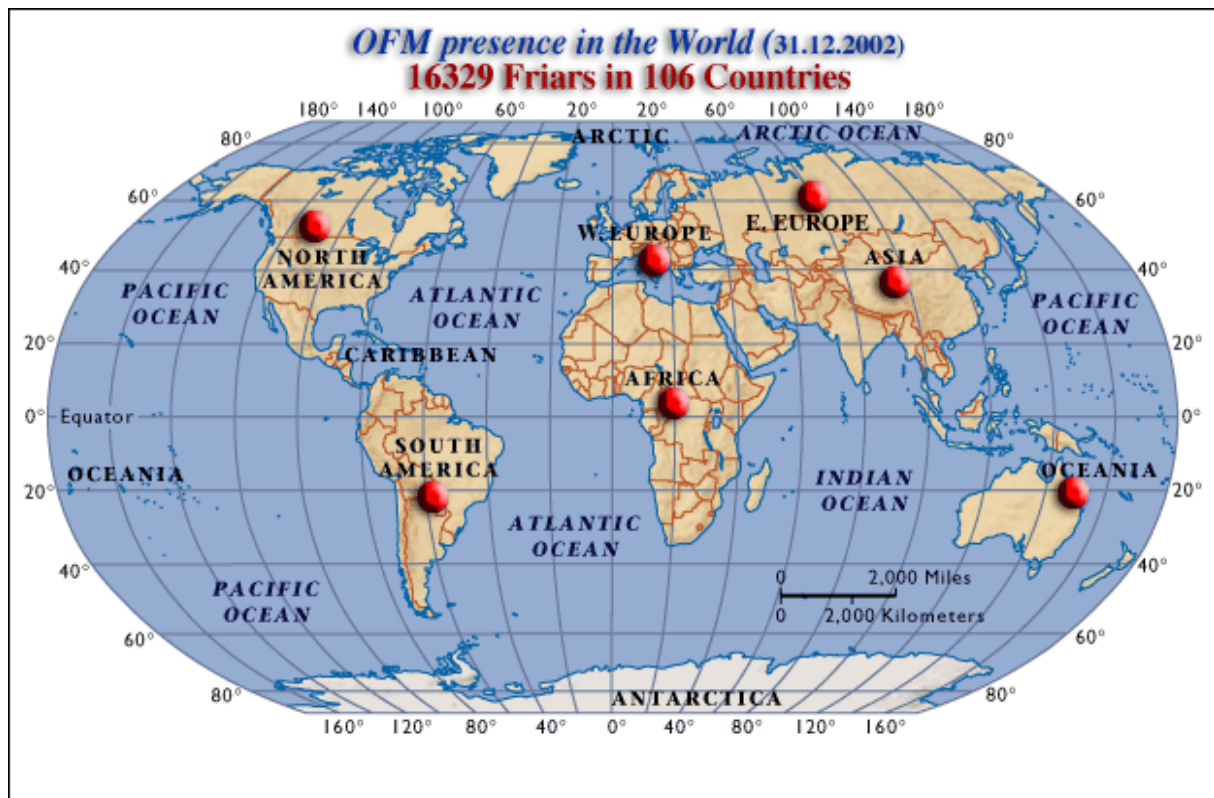


Br. José Rodríguez Carballo
Minister General

Prot. 093626

**PATRIJET IWETTQU
HIDMA PASTORALI
BARRA MINN MALTA**

L-eta' tas-17 il-patri -	
30-39 sena	1
40-49 sena	7
50-59 sena	5
60-69 sena	2
70-79 sena	-
80-89 sena	2



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| Asia | Estonia | Malaysia | Slovenia |
| Australia | Europe | Malta | South Africa |
| Austria | France | Mauritius | South America |
| Belarus | Georgia Republic | Mexico | Spain |
| Belgium | Germany | Morocco | Sri Lanka |
| Benin | Greece | Mozambique | Sweden |
| Bolivia | Guatemala | Netherlands | Switzerland |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | Guinea-Bissau | New Zealand | Syria |
| Brazil | Haiti | Nicaragua | Taiwan |
| Brunei | Honduras | North America | Tanzania |
| Burundi | Hong Kong | Norway | Thailand |
| Canada | Hungary | Oceania | Togo |
| Central African Republic | India | Pakistan | Turkey |
| Chile | Indonesia | Palau | Uganda |
| Colombia | Ireland | Panama | Ukraine |
| Congo, Dem. Rep. of the | Israel (Holy Land) | Papua New Guinea | United Kingdom |
| Congo, Republic of the | Italy | Paraguay | United States |
| Costa Rica | Jamaica | Peru | Uruguay |
| Cote d'Ivoire | Japan | Philippines | Venezuela |
| Croatia | Jordan | Pitcairn Islands | World |
| Cuba | Kazakhstan | Poland | Yugoslavia |
| Cyprus | Kenya | Portugal | Zambia |
| Czech Republic | Lebanon | Puerto Rico | Zimbabwe |
| Djibouti | Libya | Romania | |

PATRIJET MINURI (O.F.M.), 2004

Qeghdin nippublikaw il-lista ta' l-Ahwa kollha tal-Provincja kif bdejna s-sena 2004.

Il-lista hija alfabetika u tigbor 74 frangiskan, inkluzi z-żewg isqfijiet.

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. **Bartolo** Bernard (*b.*Joseph Mary), *n.* 12.10.1934 Sliema (*d.*Malta), *f.*John & Mary Mallia, *v.*13.10.1957, *pt.* 14.10.1958, *ps.* 01.11.1961, *s.* 19.03.1964.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **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.
16. **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.
17. **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.
18. **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.
19. **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.
20. **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.
21. **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.
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.
- 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. Galea** Vincent (*b.*Anthony), *n.* 20.11.1923 Valletta (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Pauline Ciarlo, *v.*21.09.1941, *pt.* 27.09.1942, *ps.* 01.11.1945, *s.* 11.06.1949.
- 37. 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.
- 38. 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.
- 39. 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.
- 40. Grech** Jack (*b.*Cajetan), *n.* 20.02.1931 Hamrun (*d.*Malta), *f.*Lewis & Antonia Bonavia, *v.*29.09.1946, *pt.* 30.09.1947, *ps.* 01.06.1952, *s.* 29.07.1956.
- 41. 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.
- 42. 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.
- 43. Magro** Stephen (*b.*Stephen), *n.* 13.09.1963 Pietá (*d.*Malta), *f.*Albert & Michelina Formosa, *v.*22.09.1989, *pt.* 17.09.1990, *ps.* 01.10.1995.
- 44. 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.
- 45. 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.
- 46. 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.
- 47. 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.
- 48. 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.
- 49. 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.
- 50. Micallef** Joseph (*b.*Joseph), *n.* 02.02.1935 Zebbug (*d.*Malta), *f.*Joseph & Maria Dolores Cauchi, *v.*30.09.1951, *pt.* 02.10.1952, *ps.* 22.04.1956, *s.* 18.03.1961.

51. **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.
52. **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.
53. **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.
54. **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.
55. **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.
56. **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.
57. **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.
58. **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.
59. **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.
60. **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.
61. **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.
62. **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.
63. **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.
64. **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.
65. **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.
66. **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.
67. **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.
68. **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.
69. **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.
70. **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.
71. **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.
72. **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.
73. **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.
74. **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.

ĊIRKULARI

ŻJARA FRATERNA TAL-MINISTRU PROVINĊJAL Mill-10 sat-23 ta' Jannar, 2004

<i>Is-Sibt , il-Hadd u t-Tnejn 10 , 11 u 12 ta' Jannar</i>	Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor, Sliema
<i>I t-Tlieta u l-Erbgħa 13 u 14 ta' Jannar</i>	Santa Marija ta' Ġesu', Rabat
<i>I l-Hamis u l-Ġimgħa 15 u 16 ta' Jannar</i>	Sant' Antnin, Ghawdex
<i>Is-Sibt u l-Hadd 17 u 18 ta' Jannar</i>	Santa Marija ta' l-Angli, Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq
<i>It-Tnejn 19 ta' Jannar</i>	Porziuncola, Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq
<i>It-Tlieta u l-Erbgħa 20 u 21 ta' Jannar</i>	San Frangisk, Hamrun
<i>Il-Hamis u l-Ġimgħa 22 u 23 ta' Jannar</i>	Santa Marija ta' Ġesu, Valletta

FESTA TA' L-EPIFANIJA TAL-MULEJ

It-Tlieta, 6 ta' Jannar 2004, Monasteru Santa Klara: 5.00 p.m.

FESTA TAL-PROVINĊJA U TAL-MINISTRU PROVINĊJAL

Is-Sibt, 24 ta' Jannar, 2004, Kunvent tal-Belt: 10.30 a.m.

Mahruġa mill-Kurja Provinċjali l-Belt Valletta
Illum, 19 ta' Diċembru 2003



Fr. Paul Galea, OFM
Ministru Provinċjal

Fr. Marcellino Micallef, OFM
Segretarju tal-Provinċja

Il-Bidu ta' Mixja

Tyrone Grima

Sa minn ċkuniti dejjem niftakar li kelli ammirazzjoni kbira lejn il-figura ta' San Frangisk. Ghalija hu kien il-qaddis li kien ihobb l-animali u li kellu qima għall-holqien. Niftakarni wkoll ngħid ta' tnaħ-il sena li la nikber, nixtieq insir patri Frangiskan. Illum il-ġurnata ma nafx jekk dawn ix-xewqat kienux il-bidu ta' sejha jew biss il-frott ta' imaginazzjoni ta' tfajjel. Li naf żgur kien li malli dhalt fl-adolessenza, ftit li xejn hsibt dwar din il-possibiltà f'hajti.

Meta kont is-Sixth Form fil-Kulleġġ ta' De La Salle, kont hadt sehem f'*rock opera* dwar il-hajja ta' San Frangisk. Il-parti tiegħi kienet ta' wiehed miż-żgħażaġh li mexa wara l-passi ta' San Frangisk. Minkejja dan kollu, kellhom jgħaddu tliet snin qabel ma bdejt nahseb bis-serjeta' dwar il-possibiltà li nidhol mal-Frangiskani. In fatti, malli temmejt l-istudji fil-Fakulta' ta' l-Arti, bdejt nahseb fuq x'seta' jrid minni l-Mulej. F'dan iż-żmien kelli wkoll ix-xorti li nara l-film klassiku ta' Franco Zeffirelli *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, film li influwenzani bil-bosta. Qtajtha li navvicina lil xi hadd biex inkellmu dwar il-vokazzjoni Frangiskana. Pero' dan il-pass jiena qatt m'għamiltu. Ta' wiehed u ghoxrin sena għaddej minn kriżi kbira fil-hajja personali tiegħi, u minhabba dan l-episodju warrabt fil-ġenb il-possibiltà ta' vokazzjoni reliġjuża.

Erba' snin wara mort inżur habib tiegħi l-Irlanda. Meta konna qegħdin Dublin, morna naraw il-Wax Museum. F'dan il-bini kien hemm *tunnel* ċkejken magħmul għat-tfal. F'nofs dan il-passaġġ kien hemm parti baxxa hafna li bilkemm seta' joqghod bilwieqfa fiha tifel. Jiena u siehbi waqafna hemm u poġġejna bilqieghda. Qbadna diskussjoni fuq l-ispiritwalita' u l-fidi. Hu stqarri li xtaq jidhol mal-Knisja tal-Mormoni. (In fatti, illum il-ġurnata dan il-ġuvni huwa missjunarju magħhom.) Jiena min-naħa tiegħi, għidtlu li forsi kien wasal iż-żmien li nfittejt iktar fil-fond dwar l-interess li għandi dwar l-ispiritwalita' Frangiskana. Kellimt lid-direttur spiritwali tiegħi, Fr Etienne Caruana u hu tani ktieb dwar il-hajja ta' San Frangisk.

Sadanittant, bdejt nahdem bhala għalliem fil-Kulleġġ ta' Stella Maris. Fl-ewwel sena tiegħi

bhala għalliem kelli bosta hwejjeġ x'nipprepara ta' kuljum. Għalhekk ftit li xejn kelli ċans għall-affarijiet ohrajn. Imma darba wahda, meta kont fuq l-Internet infittex xi materjal għat-tfal ta' l-iskola, dhalt fil-website tal-Frangiskani, u xi haġa ġo fija webblitni biex inhalli messaġġ. Għaddej xi ġimghatejn, u ma hadtx risposta. Bejni u bejn ruhi għidt li sinjal li ma kienx immn'Alla. Li ma kontx naf kien li l-animatur vokazzjonali, Fra Stehen Magro kien qieghed konferenza fl-Istati Uniti, u li kien biss wara l-miġja tiegħu li qara l-e-mail u li seta' jikkuntatjani.

Wara l-ewwel kuntatt, għamilt sena nagħmel esperjenzi qosra fil-kunvent tar-Rabat. Kont konfuż, u ma kontx ċert jekk din kienitx it-triq li l-Mulej kien qieghed isejjahli għaliha. Kull darba li kont nitla' l-kunvent kont nimtela b'ansjeta', u darba kelli anki nhassar l-appuntament għax fil-lejl ta' qabel ma stajtx norqod u ma kontx qomt f'sikti. Fis-sajf, Fra Stephen kien hadni *weekend* fil-kunvent ta' Ghajnsielem. Hemmhekk hadt deċizzjoni importanti hafna. Għidt lil Fra Stephen li qabel ma nagħmel esperjenza shiha ma' komunita' Frangiskana, ma stajtx inkun naf jekk Alla kienx qieghed isejjahli jew le. Fi tmiem is-sajf staqsejt lil Fra Stephen jekk stajtx nibda l-postulandat.

Il-bidu tal-postulandat ma kienx pass hafif. Bil-kontra ta' hafna żgħażaġh ohrajn li jidhlu f'ordni reliġjuża, id-deċizzjoni tiegħi ma kienitx imsejsa fuq il-heġġa, jew l-entuzjażmu imma fuq il-hsieb li sa minn tfuliti dejjem kelli ammirazzjoni lejn din l-għamla ta' hajja u lejn San Frangisk. Id-direttur spiritwali, il-mastru u n-nies ta' madwari dejjem kienu ta' ghajnuna kbira biex nipprova nifhem u nobdi l-pjan ta' Alla, u matul dawn il-hmistax-il xahar inhossni li tghallimt hafna, u li kelli nidhol sewwa fija nnifsi u nistudja ahjar ir-relazzjoni tiegħi ma' Alla. Illum niringrazzja lil Alla li tani din l-esperjenza f'hajti u nitolbu li dejjem jghinni biex naċċetta l-isfidi li jqieghdli quddiemni fil-mixja tiegħi.

It-triq hija twila. It-triq taf tkun tqila. It-triq hija mimlija tfixkil. Imma t-Triq lejha hija sabiha għaliex hija t-triq li għaliha ġejna maħluqin.

The best Christmas present ever

75 Asylum seekers receive the best Christmas present – freedom

Cynthia Busuttil

The joy on the faces of asylum seekers just minutes after they had been let free is priceless.

There is no way to describe how 75 Eritreans and Ethiopians must have felt to be given their freedom once again, after having been in detention for almost two years.

“We’re free, we’re free,” they shouted, jumping up and down and hugging Father Dijonisju Mintoff, from the Peace Lab, who has long been campaigning for the rights of asylum seekers.

Children, with their inquisitive nature, could not help looking around, and running all over the place. After all, they have been locked inside for a long time.

But as from yesterday the life of these asylum seekers, who fled their countries in search of a better life, changed drastically. “It’s going to be a good Christmas,” one of them said.

Home Affairs Ministry spokesman Joe Azzopardi said the immigrants had been in Malta since March last year. They had applied for refugee status but this had been refused, and even their appeal was turned down. A constitutional case about the issue had been filed, and Mr Azzopardi said the government felt that this had been going for a long time and thus decided to let the asylum seekers free.

Among the immigrants there are 26 children, their ages ranging from four months to 10 years. Most of them are families. A month-old baby, carried on his mother’s back, couldn’t help looking all around him, probably seeing the outside world for the first time.

Mahari is one of the immigrants from Eritrea who has been in Malta for a year and 10 months – time that he, his wife and two children spent in a detention centre.

“We are very happy to be out. It’s going to be a very good Christmas this year,” he said. Last year’s was not so good as they spent it in a deten-

tion centre.

The asylum seekers could not help but thank Fr Mintoff over and over again. Children hugged him and jumped up and down all around him, and all the time he was telling them: “I told you it would happen.”

Mahari appealed for more people to help Fr Mintoff, so that he will be better able to help the asylum seekers in need.

“I ask the authorities to set the detainees asylum seekers free because they are living in very bad conditions,” he said, very obviously overwhelmed with emotion.

“We are already frustrated because we had to leave our country, and imagine how it feels to be locked in day after day not knowing what your future holds,” he told me, while his daughter was busy trying to take a peek at my notebook.

The children were probably not thoroughly understanding what was happening around them, but they joined in the joy. After all, which children are not affected by their parents’ obvious joy?

I asked Mahari, who speaks perfect English, why he left Eritrea. His answer was prompt: “The government was persecuting our people – we had to get away.”

Life in Eritrea was difficult, he explained, but this did not make leaving his homeland any easier. But now the future looks better, he said, and he is hoping to be able to make a better life for him and his family.

“It’s a very good day – I couldn’t be happier,” he said.

Like many other asylum seekers, Mahari did not intend to come to Malta, but to Italy. However,

fate brought him to Maltese shores. He has no hard feelings, and in fact, thanked the Maltese people for their help.

Earlier on, Fr Mintoff had spoken about the hardships at detention centres, and how the asylum seekers are just waiting day after day without any ray of hope that their life will get better.

“These people have left their countries because they couldn’t live there anymore. Their greatest wish is to get out – they want to go to Italy,” he said.

Why Italy? Fr Mintoff explained that considering that for years Eritrea and Ethiopia were Italian colonies, the people can speak Italian, and some have also received sponsorships to study in Italy.

“There are doctors among them who were qualified in Italy. The head of the obstetric unit in Florence is actually an asylum seeker,” he said.

Fr Mintoff explained that usually the husband leaves the country to go and find a better life in another country. Once he is settled and has a job and a place to live, he will send for his wife and children.



“Some travelled for 11 months, and walked all through the desert to leave their country. They paid thousands of dollars to be able to flee their country and find a better life. That is the extent of their suffering in their homeland,” he said.

Fr Mintoff said Eritrean bishops have appealed to their Maltese counterparts to help send the asylum seekers to Italy. Fr Mintoff himself has been in contact with Eritrean bishops. Fr Mintoff said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that the UN does not force anyone to go back to Eritrea.



And the Peace Lab has been up in arms with the authorities because Fr Mintoff insisted that when the asylum seekers applied for refugee status and this was turned down, they did not get a fair hearing.

Fr Mintoff stressed the unfairness that when the asylum seekers are told their application has been turned down just by a two-line letter, whereas anywhere else in the world the immigrants are told exactly why their application has been refused.

Labour MP Joseph Abela is also helping Fr Mintoff at the Peace Lab. He said it is madness to think that these people leave their country with the aim of coming to Malta. He said it was also untrue to think that the asylum seekers would not come to Malta if the local authorities kept the illegal immigrants who came to Malta under lock.

Meanwhile tonight a number of asylum seekers will be putting up a play about the birth of Jesus. Fr Mintoff said that at first they were reluctant to take part, but once they started, they got very much into the spirit and were having a lot of fun. After all this was a way to get their mind off their suffering at being away from their homeland.

Other asylum seekers to spend Christmas in detention. However, tens of other asylum seekers are still being kept in detention centres in Malta and will spend their Christmas away from their loved ones. Jesuit Refugee Services director Pierre Grech Marguerat said for some this will be their second Christmas in detention...

THE MALTA INDEPENDENT
24.12.03

Silenzju u paci fil-kunvent tal-Klarissi

Katia Grima

Fost il-hafna xoghlijiet li bdejt nahseb fihom biex naghmel intervista hsibt fix-xoghol importanti li jaghmlu s-sorijiet tal-klawsura.

Mort ghand il-Klarissi u x'hin wasalt fil-kunvent taghhom hassejtni qisni dhalt f'genna ta' l-art. Laqghuni bl-ahjar mod possibbli Madre Rose Therese Ellis u iktar tard giet tiltaqa' maghna sor Clare Agnès Xerri li qasmet mieghi l-esperjenza tal-vokazzjoni taghha.

Hassejtni msahhra bil-paci li ghandhom fil-kunvent li tixhed il-paci li ghandhom f'qalbhom. Il-gurnata tibda billi jqumu fil-hamsa u kwart ta' filghodu u fis-sitta jkollhom talb flimkien. Imbaghad fis-sitta u nofs tibda l-quddiesa li tkun miftuha ghan-nies fil-

kappella publika u nhar ta' Hadd din il-quddiesa ssir fil-hdax u jattendu hafna nies.

Fil-granet ta' matul il-gimgha wara l-quddiesa s-sorijiet jaghmlu kwarta ta' ringrazzjament fis-skiet qabel ma jmorru jiehdu l-kolazzjon kollha f'daqqa. Il-gurnata tas-sorijiet fiha diversi mumenti ta' skiet u stajt ninnota li huma japprez-zaw dan il-kwiet biex jaghmlu t-talb taghhom ghas-socjeta' Maltija u ghall-persuni kollha li jkollhom bzonn it-talb ta' dawn is-sorijiet li ghandhom tant imhabba x'joffru. Wara dan, bejn is-sebgha u nofs u t-tmienja jkollhom adorazzjoni ohra fil-kwiet. Wara jfahru 'l Alla bil-qalb bis-salmi li jissejhu 'Terza' (wahda mis-sighat iz-zghar).

Wara t-talb u l-mumenti ghas-skiet jasal il-hin ukoll ghax-xoghol li hafna nies ma jafux li jaghmlu dawn is-sorijiet. Il-pubbliku jkollu hafna mistoqsijiet dwar il-hajja ta' soru tal-klawsura u wahda mill-iktar mistoqsijiet komuni hija dwar ix-xoghol li jaghmlu. Bejn it-tmienja u l-hdax u nofs min jibda jipprepara l-ikel, min jirakkma, min ihit, min jaghmel l-istatwetti tal-gibs, min

jahdem l-art fil-gnien u jkun hemm soru kuljum li tiehu hsieb li tirrispondi t-telefon. Huma jghixu minn dak li jkabbru huma stess u mill-providenza tan-nies ghax ma ghandhom kontribuzzjonijiet minghand hadd. La minghand il-gvern u lanqas minn entitajiet ohra. Ghalhekk hafna nies, speċjalment mill-madwar, imorru jaghtuhom kull tip ta' ikel u necessitajiet ohra. B'hekk il-hidma li jaghmlu hija importanti hafna ghax jiddependu minn dak li jkabbru huma wkoll.



Wara l-hidma jasal il-hin ghar-ruzarju u anke 'bible study' li huma jsejhulu 'lectio divina'. Minbarra r-ruzarju mbaghad jingabru ghat-talba ta' nofs il-jum u wara johorgu ghall-ikel. Meta tkun gurnata sabiha, speċjalment filghaxija, jieklu fil-gnien man-natura. Sor Clare Agnes Xerri li semmejt iktar 'il quddiem qattli li jieklu

pizez, chips u burgers ghall-kuntrarju li jahsbu hafna nies. Dan ikunu jistghu jaghmluh minhabba li n-nies jibaghtulhom l-ikel kollu li wiehed jista' jimmagina. Sor Clare qattli li fil-kunvent kielek ikel li barra ma kinetx daqitu. L-ikel jiehdu hsiebu f'rosters differenti u b'hekk kull ftit zmien ikun imiss lil kulhadd. Il-Madre u sor Clare bdew jispjegawli li jkollhom granet meta jkun bil-vaganzi u ghalhekk jaghmlu l-ikla iktar ferrieha bil-muzika. Wara l-ikel jahslu l-platti flimkien u emfasizzaw kemm ikollhom ambjent ta' familja u jaqsmu kemm is-sabih u kif ukoll dak inqas sabih flimkien.

Wara l-ikla ta' nofs il-jum

Matul il-gurnata l-Klarissi jkollhom ukoll siegha ghall-mistrieħ taghhom li jehduha wara l-ikel. Wara l-mistrieħ jergghu jkomplu bil-hidma taghhom u fl-erbgha jergghu jingabru ghar-rikreazzjoni u din tvarja hafna. Jaghmlu zfin, recti u mimi. Ikun hemm sorijiet minnhom bhal Sor Clare li ghadha zghira u ghalhekk torganizza dawn l-affarijiet kreattivi u sbieh hi. Minbarra dan il-Klarissi jaghmlu wkoll 'pic-nics' fil-gnien

il-kbir li ghandhom u fis-sajf gieli jghumu fil-pool ukoll waqt dan il-hin ta' rikreazzjoni. Il-Madre qaltli li l-Hadd filghaxija jieklu fil-gnien u kulhadd ikun qed jistenniha ghax jiehd u gost hafna.

Wara li jkunu hadu gost u rrilassaw flimkien jergghu jingabru ghat-talba ta' filghaxija li huma jsejnhulha l-ghasar. Wara t-talba ta' filghaxija jkollhom siegħa adorazzjoni fis-skiet izda darba f'xahar jorganizzawha darba kull wiehed. Mill-adorazzjoni jghaddu għal kwarta mistrieh u jergghu jiltaqghu fis-sebgha biex jieklu u jaqsmu flimkien il-gurnata tagħhom. Jghaddu sat-tmienja jitekellmu u jieklu f'atmosfera sabiha ta' familja kbira. Dan minhabba li fil-kunvent qegħdin madwar 25 soru. Jergghu jahslu l-platti, jghidu l-ahhar talba li tkun kantata u tissejjah kumpieta u fid-disgħa u nofs jitfu d-dawl.

Minbarra li l-gurnata tal-Klarissi hija kif għadni kif spjegajt, għandhom ukoll granet differenti bħal ngħidu ahna meta jkollhom ir-ruzarju 'live' fuq l-RTK darba f'gimgha u meta l-Madre tagħti-hom gurnata vaganza biex jagħmlu affarijiet differenti mir-rutina tas-soltu.

Xi haga interessanti hija li kull nhar ta' Sib t-billejl bejn in-12.30 u s-13.30 ta' filghodu jgħumu jagħmlu t-talb tagħhom. Kif wiehed jista' jara, il-vokazzjoni tas-sorijiet Klarissi hija ddedikata għat-talb. Fil-fatt l-apostolat tagħhom huwa li jintercedu quddiem Alla għall-bzonnijiet ta' l-umanità. Il-Madre qaltli, "Huma hafna dawk li jcemplulna u jirrikorru għall-ghajjnuna tat-talb tagħna."

Il-vokazzjoni ta' Sor Clare Agnès Xerri

Sor Clare Agnès Xerri qaltli li kienet ilha thoss il-vokazzjoni għal soru tal-klawura minn età zghira hafna. Fil-fatt meta għamlet il-pracet kienet imliet formola li kienet tistaqsi x'jixtiequ jsiru meta jikbru u hi kitbet soru tal-klawura. Hi kienet għadha ma taf x'jigifieri ezatt izda hasset li kellha tikteb hekk. Dak iz-zmien kien hemm Dun Anton Gouder li qal lill-genituri tagħha biex jiehd u hsieb din il-vokazzjoni tagħha. Imbagħad iktar 'il quddiem f'hajjitha, fil-Grizma kien hemm haga li għamlet impatt kbir fuq hajjitha.

Dak iz-zmien kien hemm Mons. Carmelo Xuereb li waqqafha u qalilha "Kem għandek ismek sabih. Taf min hi l-qaddisa tiegħek, u taf li hemm

monasteru għaliha" L-iktar sinjal importanti li kellha dakinhar kien li l-Monsinjur ried jiehu ritratt magħha minhabba li kien devot hafna ta' Santa Klara.

Meta għadha iktar zmien u saret tfajla ta' 17-il sena, Kapuccin mill-parrocca ta' Ghajn Dwieli kien cempel lil Madre Immacolata Bellizzi u Sor Clare kienet marret tagħmel gurnata esperjenza mal-Klarissi. L-iktar haga li kienet laqitha kien is-silenzju, l-hena u l-armonija li kien hemm fil-kunvent u fis-sorijiet infushom.

Izda haga ta' l-iskantament kienet li meta telqet id-dar u l-genituri staqsewha kif marret hi qisha bezgħet u qaltlihom, "Issem muli xejn, ma rrid naf b'xejn iktar." Dan gara minhabba li kienet taf li postha huwa fil-kunvent tal-Klarissi u bezgħet minhabba li kienet għadha zghira u riedet tgawdi.

Wara dan ippruvat tinsa kollox u tkompli hajja ta' zagħzuga normali. B'hekk marret is-'6th form' u hadmet tliet snin il-Water Services bhala skrivana. F'dan iz-zmien bdiet ukoll tkellem guvni u kienet tilgħab il-volleyball mal-Hibernians. Kienet tagħmel kull ma tagħmel tfajla fl-aqwa tagħha. Tgawdi l-hajja u tagħmel l-isport li kien għal qalbha hafna. Minbarra t-tgawdija hi marret il-Pakistan u Assisi bhala voluntiera u hemmhekk hassitha kuntenta li setgħet tifhem iktar u tmiss il-faqar b'idejha.

Matul dan iz-zmien u dawn l-avvenimenti kollha hi xorta wahda kienet thoss il-vokazzjoni tngizgħa. Dejjem kienet thoss li tixtieq tghix bhala Kristu izda baqgħet izzomm l-iva ripressata għal tul ta' zmien. B'hekk bdiet tattendi Grupp } ghazagh Frangiskani (:IFRA) u kabbret id-devozzjoni tagħha lejn San Frangisk u Santa Klara. Meta hasset minn mal-guvni li kienet qed tkellem kienet marret il-festa ta' Santa Klara li ssir fil-kunvent tal-Klarissi f'Awissu.

Hemmhekk reggħet hasset li postha huwa fil-kunvent. Izda l-akbar sinjal kien meta kienet marret :erusalem. Marret fi knisja fejn kien hemm Kapuccin qed idoqq l-orgni. Dak il-hin talbet lill-Mulej, "Mulej inti taf kemm inhobb il-muzika, jekk vera tixtieqni ningħaqad mas-sorijiet tal-klawura, aghmel li l-patri jdoqqli l-ghanja tal-tal-hlejjaq." U qaltli li qisu bhala waqaf u beda jdoqq dak l-innu. Hi bdiet tibki u ma setgħetx tieqaf daqs kemm kienet kuntenta. Dan kien il-mument deciziv tagħha.

ikompli pagna 19

internetfr@ngisan

Nomina del Vescovo di Armenia (Colombia)

Giovanni Paolo II ha nominato Vescovo di Armenia (Colombia) Fr. Fabio Duque Jaramillo, OFM, finora Sottosegretario del Pontificio Consiglio della Cultura. Fr. Fabio Duque Jaramillo, OFM è nato in Armenia (Colombia) il 12 maggio 1950. Ha ricevuto il saio francescano il 15 dicembre 1970 ed ha emesso la professione religiosa a Bogotá il 1 febbraio 1975; il 29 novembre 1975 è stato ordinato sacerdote in Armenia. Ha compiuto il suo iter formativo a Bogotá. Ha ottenuto la Licenza in Filosofia e Teologia presso l'Università San Buenaventura di Bogotá, e il Dottorato in Liturgia presso il Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo di Roma.

Ha svolto successivamente i seguenti incarichi: Vice-Maestro dei Novizi, Parroco di Chiachagua in César, Direttore del Dipartimento per la Vita Consacrata e Direttore del Dipartimento per la Catechesi della Conferenza Episcopale Colombiana, Decano di Teologia dell'Università San Buenaventura di Bogotá, Professore di Liturgia nel Seminario Maggiore di Barranquilla. Chiamato al servizio della Santa Sede presso il Pontificio Consiglio della Cultura ne è stato Ufficiale dal 1994 e, dal 1997, Sotto-Segretario.

General Postulation Office for the Causes of Saints

In the course of special congresses celebrated during the month of December 2003, the Theological Consultants to the Congregation for Saints examined, with a favourable outcome, the "Positio" on the Martyrdom of the Servants of God Victor Chumillas Fernandez and his 21 companions, Friars Minor of the Province of St. Gregory in Castille (Spain), killed in the course of the religious persecutions of 1936 and on the virtues of the Servant of God Seraphina Gregoris (†1935), a Franciscan Sister of Christ the King, and of the Servant of God Francis Mary Greco (†1931), a Diocesan Priest and Founder of the Little Working Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Aciri (Cosenza, Italy).

The Historical Consultants in turn examined, during two different Sittings, the "Positio" on the martyrdom of the Servants of God Frederick Bachstein and his 13 companions, Friars Minor of

different European Provinces, killed in defence of the Catholic faith in Prague in 1611, as well as on the life and virtues of the Servant of God Mary Hueber († 1705), Foundress of the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters of Bressanone.

Bruxelles: invio di sei nuovi missionari



Un terzo gruppo di nuovi frati missionari ha terminato la preparazione specifica nella fraternità "Notre Dame des Nations" a Bruxelles. Alla

fine del periodo di formazione, il Ministro generale, fra José R. Carballo, il 10 dicembre 2003 si è recato nella fraternità ed ha celebrato l' "invio missionario" consegnando ad ognuno il testo della Regola di S. Francesco, come guida per la missione. I missionari "inviati" sono: fra Carmelo Giannone, italiano, e fra Drago Gveric, croato, missionari nella Vice Provincia di Nairobi; fra Francisco Stilano, messicano, missionario nello Zimbabwe; fra Drago Vujevic, croato bosniaco, missionario in Africa del Sud; fra Alessandro Chistolini, italiano, missionario in Congo-Brazzaville; fra Eleuthère Baharanyi Makuta, congolese, missionario a Istanbul. Alla celebrazione hanno partecipato diversi frati che vivono nei conventi vicini e la famiglia francescana. Il Ministro generale, che era accompagnato da fra Vincenzo Brocanelli, ha avuto anche un incontro personale con ciascuno dei missionari in partenza, un incontro molto fraterno con le comunità dei frati belgi e delle clarisse che abitano nello stesso convento, e ancora una riunione proficua con la fraternità stabile che accoglie e accom-



pagna i missionari, per fare una valutazione e soprattutto riflettere insieme sulle prospettive per il futuro di questo servizio tanto importante per l'Ordine.

Gunmen murder friar in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA. Honduras (AP) -- Four men armed with pistols shot and killed Franciscan friar Guillermo Salgado early Thursday while stealing the Christmas bonuses for workers at a home for the elderly in eastern Honduras.

"The thieves silently entered Salgado's bedroom. He awoke, struggled with the men and ran down a hall where he was hit by bullets," police Commissioner Gustavo Fajardo told the Associated Press. The center, which houses 100 people, is located in the Olancho province city of Juticalpa, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) east of the capital. The region of ranchlands and forests is also noted for disputes over land and timber and for banditry. A resident of the home was slightly wounded by a gunshot after hearing cries and going to investigate.

Fajardo said a police search outside the rest home turned up a small safe which had been forced open. He said Fajardo had used it to store salaries for workers and petty cash. The archbishop of Juticalpa, Thomas Moldoon, said US\$3,000 for the workers' Christmas bonuses had been taken.

"Salgado was a good man who dedicated himself to doing the work of God," Moldoon said. "The violence that rules the country caused his death." "Guillermo dedicated his life to the elderly," said Father Alberto Gauche, who worked with Salgado at the shelter and is priest at Santa Gertrudis church in Juticalpa.

Salgado, 49 and a native of Honduras, had been ordained as a friar in the Franciscan order in 1981, but had not become a priest. He was a member of the New York-based Province of the Immaculate Conception.

Franciscans in Sub-Saharan Africa Focus on AIDS, Post-Conflict Reconciliation

PRETORIA — Franciscans in Africa's Sub-Saharan region have recommitted themselves to combating the spread and stigma of AIDS on a continent where as many as 35% of the people are infected with the HIV virus that causes the disease.

Justice and Peace officers from the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) in several countries – including

Zimbabwe, Togo, Kenya, and Angola – met from 1-6 December in Pretoria, South Africa where they discussed ways of working together on such issues as post-conflict resolution, ministry in repressive political environments, and care for refugees.



An informal settlement near Johannesburg, South Africa

But the main issue was the unabated pandemic of AIDS. The friars showed solidarity with people living with HIV-AIDS by being voluntarily undergoing tests for the virus at a local hospital. They hoped the action would also encourage others to do the same in an effort to stop the spread of the virus.

Among the final resolutions was a commitment to strengthen programmes that promote sexual responsibility – including chastity and fidelity – among young people.

The meeting was organised by Friar Edward "Teddy" Lennon OFM, Vice-Provincial of South Africa. The FI Communications Officer – Robert Mickens – presented an overview of FI activities in New York and Geneva.

One of the highlights of the weeklong gathering was a two-day field visit to black townships and communities where Franciscans have long been ministering – including Soweto, Sharpeville, and Sebokeng. The places were flashpoints in the historical struggle that toppled South Africa's apartheid system of legal racial discrimination.

Participants also visited the regionally acclaimed St Francis House in Boksburg – a burgeoning centre that offers housing and care to HIV-infected men, women, and children.

ikompli minn pagna 15

Il-process ta' formazzjoni

Kull tfajla li tiddeciedi li ssir Klarissa l-ewwel tghaddi sentejn tipprova l-hajja bhala postulenta. Imbaghad taghmel sentejn novizzjat u tiehu l-velu abjad u l-ljbsa. F'dan il-jum ikun hemm festa fejn tintlibes libsa bajda tat-tieg. Matul dawn l-erba' snin ma jkun hemm l-ebda rabta. Imbaghad tiehu l-ewwel voti ghal tliet snin u jkollha professjoni temporanja. Meta tispicca dawn it-tliet snin tiehu

l-voti ghal hajjitha.

MARTIROLOGJU TAL-KNISJA 2003

Matul din is-sena li ghada kemm intemmet, gew maqtula 29 missjunarju, fosthom: Fra Manus Campbell, OFM, patri Irlandiz li gie maqtul f'Durban, is-South Afrika, fil-21 ta' Gunju, kif ukoll Fra Taddeo Gabrieli, OFM, Taljan u fi safa' maqtul f'Imperatriz, il-Brazil fid-19 ta' Awissu.

INFORMAZZJONI

- **Fra Ivo Tonna, OFM se jirritorna Malta wara temm l-impenn tieghu bhala professor tal-Filosofija, l-Antonianum, Ruma. Huwa se jinghaqad mal-fraternita' ta' Tas-Sliema.**
- **Fra Noel Muscat, OFM jinsab l-Art Imqaddsa biex flimkien mad-Diskretorju jithejja l-programm tal-Vista Kanonika.**
- **Fra Marcello Ghirlando, OFM irritorna Malta wara s-servizz li ta lill-komunitajiet reliġjuzi f'Benghazi u Tripli.**
- **Nhar il-Hadd, 28 ta' Diċembru sar riċeviment ghall-familjari ta' l-Ahwa, f'Porziuncola Retreat House, Bahar iċ-Ċaghaq. Qabel ir-riċeviment giet ċelebrata quddiesa mill-Ministru Provinċjal. L-ahwa tal-Provinċja ltaqghu s-Sibt ta' qabel, ghal mument ta' talb u r-riċeviment li sar fil-kunvent tal-Hamrun.**
- **Il-Kunsill tas-Superjuri Maġġuri Rġiel u Nisa (KSMR) iltaqghu ghal mument ta' talb u riflessjoni fil-Monasteru ta' Santa Klara. Il-Ministru Provinċjal ha schem u tenna li kienet esperjenza sabiha hafna ghall-provinċjali kollha.**

Patri Bonaventura Scicluna OFM Library

The Branch Library in Anton Cassar Primary School was re-opened on Wednesday December 10th and given the name of "Librerija Patri Bonaventura Scicluna".

Born in Ghajnsielem in 1891, Patri Bonaventura Scicluna was a Franciscan Priest who taught Theology, Church History and Philosophy.

Thanks to the Ghajnsielem Local Council this library has been given a new look, which consists of a new main door directly to the street, new shelving, a new desk and a computer. The Council has also donated a considerable number of books.

Among those present was the Director of Local Councils Department Mr. Natalino Attard. Director of National Library Philip Borg, Mayor of Tofla Sig. Alessandro Battilochio accompanied by two Councilors Sig. Egidio Verdirosi and Sig. Valerio Finori and the Head Mistress of Anton Cassar Primary School Mrs. Josephine Bonnett.

The Library was inaugurated by Major Francis Cauchi and blessed by Arch. Joseph Zerafa. Fr. George Bugeja, OFM presented an amount of books published by the Edizzjoni TAU.



FORMAZZJONI PERMANENTI

Nisimghu kelma matul ir-Randan 2004 Is-Sitt Valuri tas-Sinodu Djoċesan Ċentru San Frangisk, Hamrun 4.00 p.m.

Il-Ġimgħa, 27 ta' Frar - L-Evangelizazzjoni
Il-Ġimgħa, 5 ta' Marzu - Il-Komunjoni
Il-Ġimgħa, 12 ta' Marzu - Il-Formazzjoni u d-Djalogu
Il-Ġimgħa, 26 ta' Marzu - Il-Qadi u s-Solidarjeta' ma' l-imbegħdin u l-emarginati

EJJEW NITOLBU

... *ghall-ohtna li hallietna*

- Ms. Josephine Vella, oht Fra Ġużepp Vella, li bdiet tisrieh fil-Mulej għal de-ġjem, fl-eta' ta' 59 sena.

... *ghall-hutna morda u nagħmlu l-hin inżuruhom*

- Fra Alex Borg, OFM, li jinsab rikoverat fil-kunvent ta' Tas-Sliema.
- Fra Jack Grech, OFM, li jinsab fl-isptar San Vincenz de Paule. Sahħtu komplet te hżien.
- Fra Arturu Azzopardi, OFM u Fra Nerik Cassar, OFM li jinsabu fid-Dar tal-Kleru.

FESTI U BIRTHDAYS

JANNAR

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

JANNAR U FRAR

- 7. Fra Kerubin Galea
- 8. Fra Adrrian 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

- 2. Fra Ġużepp Micallef
- 7. Fra Alfred Tabone
- 14. Mons. S. Magro
- 16. Fra Nerik Cassar
- 19. Fra Arturu Azzopardi

Auguri a Xewqat Sbieta!

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L-AHBAR

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