

L-AĦBAR



PROVINĊJA FRANĠISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA.

No. 102 1.5.2005

Benedittu XVI



Nhar it-Tlieta, 19 ta' April 2005, il-kardinali miġbura għall-konklavi, għażlu lil Prelat Ġermaniż Joseph Ratzinger bhala l-Papa l-ġdid tal-Knisja Kattolika Rumana. Huwa għażel l-isem ta' Benedittu XVI.

Għall-konklavi hadu sehem 115 il-kardinal, fosthom 4 franġiskani. F'din il-harġa ta' L-AĦBAR qeghdin nippublikaw informazzjoni mhux biss dwar dawn l-4 kardinali li hadu sehem fil-konklavi, iżda tas-7 kardinali franġiskani, anke dawk li għandhom aktar minn 80 sena. Ta' minn jghid li fost ir-reliġjużi kollha, l-Ordni tal-Patrijiet Minuri kellu l-akbar ammont ta' kardinali fil-konklavi.

KAPITLU PROVINĊJALI

Nhar it-Tnejn, 16 ta' Mejju se jinghata bidu għall-Kapitlu Provinċjali 2005. It-tema ta' dan il-Kapitlu hija: "Il-Vokazzjonijiet, niġgeddu biex nitkattru", fid-dawl tad-Dokument tal-Ordni: Orjentazzjonijiet għall-kura pastorali tal-Vokazzjonijiet, "Ejja u Ara" (Gw 1, 39)

The Order of Friars Minor is the Order with the greatest number of Cardinals at the moment. It was present in the Conclave through four Cardinals:

H.Em. Card. László Paskai OFM, Archbishop Emeritus of Esztergom-Budapest (Hungary), was born in Szeged on the 8th May 1927. He received priestly ordination on the 3rd March 1951 and Episcopal ordination on the 5th April 1978. John Paul II made him a Cardinal during the Consistory of the 28th June 1986.



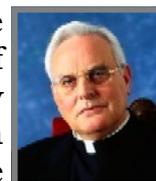
H.Em. Card. Claudio Hummes OFM, Archbishop of Sao Paulo (Brazil) was born in Montenegro, the Archdiocese of Porto Alegre, on the 8th August 1934. He was ordained priest on the 3rd August 1958 and bishop on 25th May 1975. John Paul II made him Cardinal during the Consistory of the 21st February 2001.



H.Em. Card. Wilfrid Fox Napier OFM, Archbishop of Durban (South Africa) was born in Swartzberg, diocese of Kokstad, on the 8th March 1941. He received priestly ordination on 25th July 1970 and Episcopal ordination on 28th February 1981. John Paul II made him Cardinal during the Consistory of 21st February 2001.



H.Em. Card. Carlos Amigo Vallejo OFM, Archbishop of Seville (Spain), was born in Medina de Rioseco, the Archdiocese of Valladolid, on the 23rd August 1934. He received priestly ordination on the 17th August 1960 and Episcopal ordination on 28th April 1974. John Paul II made him Cardinal during the Consistory of 21st October 2003.



The Order of Friars Minor has three other Cardinals who, because they have completed 80 years of age, do not go into the Conclave: **H.Em. Card. Paulo Evaristo Arns OFM**, **H.Em. Card. Aloísio Lorscheider OFM (Brazil)** e **H.Em. Card. Alexandre José Maria dos Santos OFM (Mozambique)**.

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Telegram to the new elected Pope

The Friars Minor spread throughout the entire world thank the Lord for giving a new Universal Pastor to His Church. While we express our most fervent best wishes to the Supreme Pontiff, Benedict XVI, for a fruitful Pontificate, we renew our promise of “obedience and reverence” to “The Lord Pope” and, as St. Francis did, we ask him to confirm us in the service of Christ so that we can continue what we have begun. I humbly ask you to bless me and all the Friars Minor.

Rome, 19th April 2005

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, ofm
Minister General

Letter from General Minister to the Order

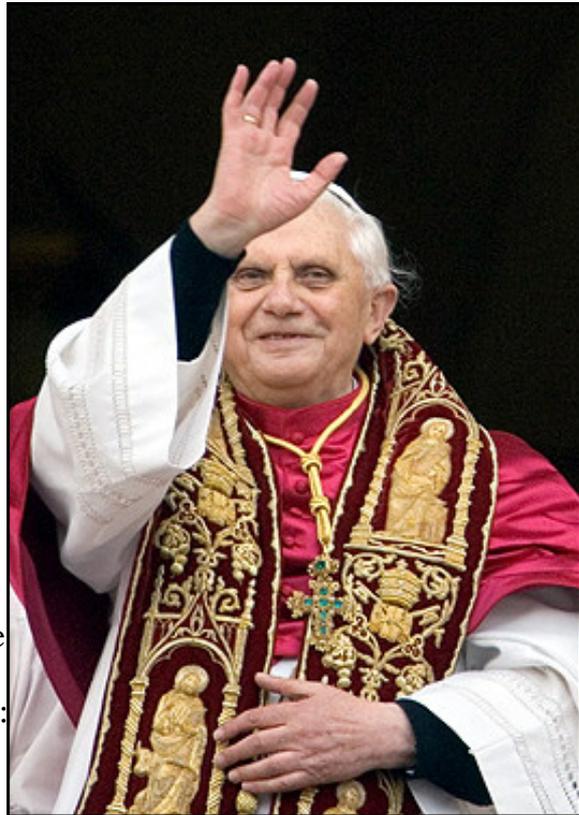
Rome, 20th April 2005

Dear Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace!

Te Deum laudamus! Yes, the hymn of praise and thanksgiving has been raised up from our hearts and lips today because the “community responsible for the assignment of the keys of the Kingdom“, together with the Holy Spirit, has chosen the 265th successor of Peter in the person of Benedict XVI.

Following days of silence, commotion, reflection and grateful memory for the long Pontificate of John Paul II, the Great, who led us by the hand during the final decade of the XX century, the Christian community is living the present with intense joy and gratitude: the Lord has granted it a new Pastor according to His heart, a Pastor who will have the task of leading it as “it sets out” at the beginning of the third millennium.



A new season of grace for the Church has blossomed. In the Sistine Chapel, in fact, the invitation of the Risen One, Follow me!, has sounded once again. This time the invitation was addressed to Card. Joseph Ratzinger, who, adhering to the plan of the divine will, has “abandoned” everything and accepted to guide the Church towards the future, trusting only in the promise of the Risen One: “Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time” (Mt 28,20).

At the dawn of this new journey, we Friars Minor, in communion with the whole Church and sharing in the expectations of men of good will, wish to assure Pope Benedict XVI of our obedience and reverence, in accordance with the heart of St. Francis, and of our disposition to go along with his wishes. We promise “the simple and humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord” never to let him lack our prayers, our affection and our cooperation. May the Risen Lord bless Benedict XVI and, with His grace, support the ministry entrusted to him so that he may be able to guide us “in the knowledge of Christ, to His love and to true joy”.

I greet you all fraternally.

BR. JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ CARBALLO, OFM
Minister General

Brazil Cardinal Cladio Hummes, OFM

Pope Can Accomplish a Lot

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope Benedict XVI realizes his papacy could be a short one, given his advanced age, but plans to accomplish a lot -- and the Roman Catholic Church has great hopes for him, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes said.

Hummes, one of Latin America's leading churchmen, was among the cardinals participating in the secret conclave that elected the 78-year-old German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as pope. Thought "Age isn't important. There were some very short papacies which did great work," Hummes told reporters. He cited John XXIII, who served from October 1958 to June 1963.

In his five-year papacy, John XXIII "changed the church, reformed the church, updated the church," he said.

Addressing cardinals in the pope's first Mass on Wednesday, Benedict indicated he would draw on John XXIII's work in modernizing the church.

The new pope named himself after Benedict XV, who led the church for not quite 7 1/2 years spanning World War I in the early 20th century.

Benedict XVI told the cardinals he was taking the name of a pontiff who "had a very short papacy, but he worked a lot," said the Brazilian prelate.

John Paul's health failed in this last years, making it difficult for him to travel, lead long ceremonies and in the last weeks, even speak to the faithful. Benedict XVI is fond of walking, speaks in a clear, strong voice and has stood through long ceremonies he led in recent months, including John Paul's funeral. According to a biography by respected Vatican watcher John Allen, Ratzinger suffered a cerebral hemorrhage in 1991, but without lasting effects.

Asked whether age was a concern in the selection of the pope, Hummes

was evasive.

"Health? Life? Who knows? No one knows," said Hummes, 70.

"Today, medicine is very capable of sustaining life even until -- who knows -- 90, 95, even in good condition."

"We hope a lot in this new pope," said Hummes, who many had hoped would become Latin America's first pontiff. He said the media helped whip up those hopes.

"It's not an important question where the pope comes from," he said at an informal news conference.

Vatican watchers have said they expect Benedict XVI, who as cardinal served more than 20 years as John Paul's watchdog on moral teaching, will concentrate much of his energy and attention on the moral state of health of Europe, where many have rejected the church's positions on such issues as euthanasia and gay marriage.

Hummes said Europe's crisis in faith was "strongly growing" and "needs special attention." But the cardinal added that he didn't think a Vatican campaign to shore up flagging faith and moral values in Europe would come at other continents' expense.

Hummes seemed confident that Benedict, despite his reputation as a doctrinal conservative, would work to modernize the church.

"History goes ahead, progress has happened at an incredible speed, humanity has changed rapidly," the cardinal said.

Hummes was asked if he thought the church would one day revise its ban



on artificial birth control.

"I'm sure that the church will continue a deeper dialogue with science, with new sciences like biotechnology, biogenetics," said Hummes, adding that he didn't want to get into the "theological question" behind the ban.

Church teaching holds that married couples shouldn't use contraceptives because they should be open to new life.

HOLY LAND - "Our hope is already a certainty: this Pope will build bridges and a be prophet of peace for the Holy Land"

Franciscan Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Holy Land Custodian told Fides.

Jerusalem (Fides Service) - "It is no longer a hope, it is a certainty: Pope Benedict XVI will be a builder of bridges and prophet of peace for the Holy Land" Franciscan Father di Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Holy Land Custodian told Fides. "All of a sudden the bells of all the different Christian churches, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox rang in sign of jubilation", the priest told Fides. "I was not in the house and when I heard the bells I realised something special had happened, the new Pope had been elected.

We are very happy, the entire Christian community here is rejoicing. There is however some apprehension in Jewish circles. Some media operators asked me if a German Pope might change the Holy See's attitude to Israel. I dispelled their fears: Pope Ratzinger will work in continuity with his predecessor, he too will be a builder of peace. For my part I am certain Benedict 16th will continue to show concern and closeness on behalf of the Church and the Holy See towards the Holy Land. I know he will speak words of peace and build bridges of reconciliation".



Il-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II fl-Art Imqaddsa wara li ntemm il-Konċilju Vatikan II. Il-Papa Pawlu VI offrielu, flimkien ma' isqfijiet ohra, sabiex iżur l-Art Imqaddsa għax-xogħol li għamel matul il-Konċilju.

Hawn tidher il-firma ta' Karol Wojtyła, il-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II matul l-istess zjara.

12	Wojtyła Karol	Ep. arch.	Opole	Polonia
9	Jan Świątek	Ep. aux.	Katowice	Polonia
12	Jan Świątek	Ep. aux.	Janina	Polonia
18	Karol Wojtyła	Ep. vic. cap.	Krakow (Cracovia)	Polonia
19	Świątek Bp.	Ep. aux.	Lomża	Polonia

AMIGO VALLEJO Card. Carlos, O.F.M.

Cardinal Carlos Amigo Vallejo, O.F.M., Archbishop of Seville (Spain), was born in Medina de Rioseco, Valladolid, Spain, on 23 August 1934. He was ordained a priest for the Order of Friars Minor on 17 August 1960.



In 1970 he was appointed Superior of his order's Santiago Province. On 17 December 1973 he was appointed Archbishop of Tangiers, Morocco; he was ordained Bishop on 28 April 1974. He took part as a member of the Holy See Delegation in the Meeting for Islamic-Christian Dialogue in Tripoli, Libya, in 1976. On many occasions he served as mediator in disputes between nations, and encouraged the creation of centres for the social promotion of Muslim women; he also sought to improve Christian, Muslim and Jewish relations. He was appointed Archbishop of Seville on 22 May 1982.

In June 1993, he welcomed the Pope to Seville, for the second time, in occasion of the closing of the 45th International Eucharistic Congress. As member of the Bishops' Conference, he participated in the 1994 Synod of Bishops on Consecrated Life.

Cardinal Amigo Vallejo has been Archbishop of Seville since 1982.

Created and proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the Consistory of 21 October 2003, of the Title of Holy Mary in Monserrato of the Spaniards.

HUMMES Card. Cláudio, O.F.M.

Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, O.F.M., Archbishop of São Paulo, Brazil, was born on 8 August 1934 in Montenegro, Brazil. He was ordained for the Franciscans on 3 August 1958 and holds a doctorate in philosophy from the Antonianum, Rome, and a specialization in ecumenism from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Geneva, Switzerland.



He taught philosophy at the Franciscan seminary in Garibaldi, at the major seminary of Viamão and at the Pontifical Catholic University of Porto Alegre. He was adviser for ecumenical affairs to the National Bishops' Conference of Brazil, Provincial of Rio Grande do Sul (1972-75) and president of the Union of Latin American Conferences of Franciscans.

On 22 March 1975 he was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Santo André and received episcopal ordination on 25 May. He became Diocesan Bishop of the see on 29 December. On 29 May 1996 he was promoted to Archbishop of Fortaleza and was transferred to São Paulo on 15 April 1998.

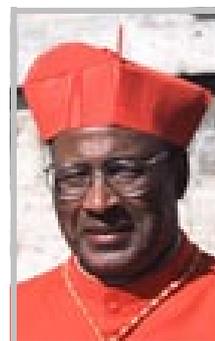
Created and proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the Consistory of 21 February 2001. Titular church St. Anthony of Padua in Via Merulana.

Curial membership:

- Divine Worship and Sacraments, Doctrine of the Faith, Bishops (congregations)
- Laity, Family, Cor Unum, Interreligious Dialogue, Culture (councils)
- Latin America (commission)
- X Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops
- Council of Cardinals for the Study of Organizational and Economic Affairs of the Holy See.

NAPIER Card. Wilfrid Fox, O.F.M.

Cardinal Wilfrid Fox Napier, O.F.M., Archbishop of Durban, South Africa, Apostolic Administrator sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis of Umzimkulu, was born on 8 March 1941 in Swartberg, South Africa. He was ordained for the Franciscans on 25 July 1970 following philosophical and theological studies at the Catholic University of Louvain.



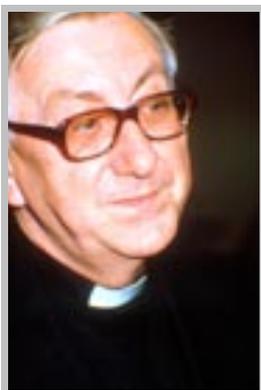
After learning Xhosa, he worked in the parish of Lusikisiki and did pastoral work in Tabankulu. In 1978 he was named Apostolic Administrator of Kokstad and appointed Bishop of the same see on 29 November 1980, receiving episcopal ordination on 28 February 1981. During the turbulent changes that marked the South African political scene, he was deeply involved in mediation and negotiation work along with other national and provincial Church leaders. He served as President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference from 1987 to 1994.

On 29 May 1992 he was promoted to Archbishop of Durban and on 1 August 1994 was named Apostolic Administrator sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis of Umzimkulu. Since November 1999, he is President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC).

Created and proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the consistory of 21 February 2001. Titular church St. Francis of Assisi in Acilia.

Curial membership:

- Evangelization of Peoples, Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (congregations)
- Special Council for Africa of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops



PASKAI Card. László, O.F.M.

Cardinal László Paskai, O.F.M., Archbishop emeritus of Esztergom-Budapest, Primate of Hungary, was born on 8 May 1927 in Szeged, in the south-eastern zone of Hungary. He entered the Order of Friars Minor and studied theology in Gyoongyos and at the seminary of Budapest.

He was ordained a priest on 3 May 1951, and began his pastoral ministry in the diocese of Nagyvarad. The following year, he obtained a doctorate in theology from the Bucharest Academy, and then returned to his native city to serve as the bishop's master of ceremonies.

From 1955 to 1962, he was a professor of theology and philosophy at the seminary of Szeged. He was also a librarian. He was Prefect of the interdiocesan seminary and then in 1962 was spiritual director and professor of philosophy, ascetical theology and liturgy.

Always as spiritual director, in 1965 he was transferred to the seminary of Budapest and in 1973 he became rector.

On 2 March 1978, Paul VI appointed him titular Bishop of Bavagliana and apostolic administrator of Veszprém. He received episcopal ordination on 5 April 1978. About a year later, on 31 March 1979, he became Bishop of Veszprém. Three years later, on 5 April 1982, he was promoted to Coadjutor Archbishop of Kalocsa. On 8 July 1986 (until 1990), he was elected president of the Hungarian Episcopal Conference and then on 3 March 1987 he was transferred to the Metropolitan see of Esztergom. He took possession of the archdiocese and also was given the title of Primate of Hungary.

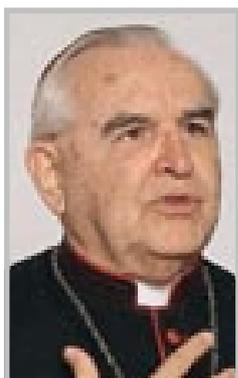
As Archbishop, he committed his pastoral ministry to the promotion of the spiritual humanity of priests, the participation of the laity in the pastoral service – helping, above all, parishes to become live communities - the family apostolate and catholic education for the young.

Created and proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the consistory of 28 June 1988. Titular church St. Theresa (al Corso d'Italia).

Archbishop emeritus of Esztergom-Budapest , Primate of Hungary, December 2002.

Curial membership:

- Oriental Churches, Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (congregations)
- Legislative Texts (council)



ARNS Card. Paulo Evaristo, O.F.M.

Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, O.F.M, Archbishop emeritus of São Paulo, Brazil, was born of humble parentage on 14 September 1921, in Forquilha, Municipal of Crisciuma, State of Santa Catarina, Diocese of Tubarão. After finishing the normal formation courses at the Franciscan Order in Brazil, he entered the Order of the Friars Minor. In 1946 he studied at the Sorbonne, where he earned a doctorate in classical languages with high honours.

He made his solemn profession on 10 December 1943, and was ordained to the priesthood on 30 November 1945, assuming varied teaching responsibilities in the houses of the province and elsewhere. On 12 January 1961 he was elected vice-provincial of the province of the Immaculate Conception of the Friars Minor. He was the director of the monthly review for religious *Sponsa Christi* and of the editorial centre of the Franciscans at Petropolis, *Vozes*, which is one of the most important Catholic publishing groups in Brazil.

He then studied at the faculty of philosophy at Curitiba. After finishing his theology

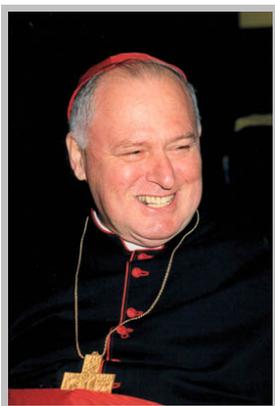
studies at Petropolis, State of Rio, he earned a Doctor of Letters at the Sorbonne in Paris, writing a dissertation on : La Tèchnique du Livre d'après Saint Jérôme. In Brazil, Cardinal Arns was a professor at the minor seminary of Agudos, State of São Paulo; on the faculty of Philosophy, Science and Letters of Bauru; at the Theological Institute of the Franciscans at Petropolis; and, at the Catholic University of the same city.

On 2 May 1966 he was nominated by Paul VI Auxiliary Bishop of São Paulo and received episcopal ordination on 3 July 1966. In the Archdiocese of São Paulo, as auxiliary bishop and episcopal vicar, he won the sympathy and admiration of all the clergy and faithful.

On 22 October 1970 he was promoted to Archbishop of São Paulo. Created and proclaimed Cardinal by Paul VI in the consistory of 5 March 1973. Titular church, St. Anthony of Padua in Via Tuscolana.

Archbishop emeritus of São Paulo, 15 April 1998

Cardinal Arns is a journalist and writer. He is also the author of the following books: A quem iremos, Senhor? (To Whom Shall We Go, Lord?); A humanidade caminha para a fraternidade (Humanity on the Road toward Fraternity); Paul VI: voce é contra ou a favor? (Paul VI: Are you for or against?) Cartes de Santo Inhácio: Introdução, Tradução e Notas (Letters of Saint Ignatius: Introduction, Translation, and Notes); Cartas de São Clemente Romano: Introdução, Tradução e Notas (Letters of St. Clement of Rome: Introduction, Translation, and Notes); A guerra acabrà se você quiser (Wars Will End If You Want); Comunidade: união e acção (Community: Union and Action). In addition, he translated the works, "A Corresponsabilidade na Igreja de hoje" (The Coresponsibility of the Church today) by Cardinal Suenes and "Nova Historia da Igreja" (A New History of the Church) by Cardinal Danielou.



LORSCHIEDER Card. Aloisio, O.F.M.

Cardinal Aloísio Lorscheider, O.F.M., Archbishop emeritus of Aparecida (Brazil), was born on 8 October 1924 in Estrela, archdiocese of Porto Alegre; ordained on 22 August 1948; ordained bishop of Santo Angelo, Brazil, on 22 May 1962; archbishop of Fortaleza, 26 March 1973; created and proclaimed Cardinal by Paul VI in the consistory of 24 May 1976, titular church S. Pietro in Montorio.

Parents were immigrants of German descent. At the age of 9 he entered the minor seminary of the Franciscans Fathers of Taquari, passing later to Divinópolis to study philosophy and theology. At 18 years of age he took the Franciscan habit and 4 years later on 13 March 1946 he made his solemn profession. After having been ordained a priest (22 August 1948) he taught Latin, German and mathematics in the seminary of Taquari and here he remained until his superiors sent him to specialize in theology at the Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome, where he received his doctorate in 1952.

Returning to Brazil, he taught theology at the Franciscan seminary of Divinópolis in the state of Minas Gerais. He taught there until 1958. During the same period he

held various positions, and wrote essays for Brazilian magazines on the fundamental problems of theology.

His scientific work made his major superiors recall him to Rome to teach at the Pontifical Antonianum University. During his 4 years in Italy, he worked actively in the catholic youth organizations, one of which was the Italian Catholic University Federation.

On 3 February 1962 he was nominated Bishop of Santo Angelo and consecrated on 20 May 1962. In the diocese of Santo Angelo, where he stayed for 11 years, he showed great organizational capacity and notable pastoral dedication: he revitalized the seminary, created a relationship with the priests and faithful, kept constant and systematic visits to the parishes in which he personally administered the sacraments, including penance. Already member of the theological commission of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, he was successively called to cover always more important positions until he was elected president, a position which was reconfirmed many times. Since 1971 he was a member of the council of the general secretary of the Synod of Bishops.

Nominated Archbishop of Fortaleza (26 March 1973 until 11 July 1995) he continued his pastoral ministry, giving particular care to the clergy. Already vice-president of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) he became president in 1975 until 1980, succeeding Archbishop Pironio who was called to Rome.

Archbishop of Aparecida, 11 July 1975

Relator of the 4th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (1977).

Archbishop emeritus of Aparecida, 28 January 2004.

Created and proclaimed Cardinal by Paul VI in the consistory of 24 May 1976.

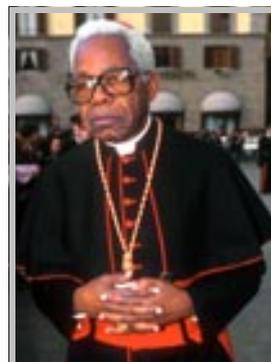
Titular church S. Pietro in Montorio.

Curial membership:

- Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (congregation).

SANTOS Card. Alexandre José Maria dos, O.F.M.

Cardinal Alexandre José Maria dos Santos, O.F.M., Archbishop emeritus of Maputo (Mozambique), was born on 18 March 1924 in Zavala, diocese of Inhambane, Mozambique. He attended the minor seminary of the Franciscans in Amatongas, in the central zone of Mozambique. He was then sent to Nyasaland, today known as Malawi, to study philosophy. At that time, in fact, a major seminary still did not exist in Mozambique.



In 1947 he was admitted to the novitiate of the Portuguese province of the Franciscans in Varatojo, near Lisbon. In 1948 he studied theology at Lisbon. Having made his solemn profession, he was ordained a priest on 25 June 1953. He returned to his country in 1954 and carried out his pastoral ministry in the Franciscan missions of the Inhambane region. In 1972 he became councilor of the

Franciscan province of Mozambique and rector of the new minor seminary of the country in Vila Pery, today Chimoio.

After Mozambique gained independence from Portugal, on 23 December 1974 he was elected Archbishop of Maputo. He received his episcopal ordination on 9 March 1975. He became very dedicated in favor of the peoples afflicted by civil war and natural calamities. He founded the Caritas of Mozambique and was its first president. He promoted programs to help the poor, refugees and victims of drought. He was also dedicated to promoting new relations among the ecclesial communities of countries which were Portuguese colonies: Angola Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

On 22 August 1981 he founded the "Franciscanas de Nossa Senhora de Mae de Africa". It is an African religious institute for Mozambican girls with the aim of making religious life flourish in the country.

In September 1988 he welcomed John Paul II in his pastoral visit to Mozambique. Created and proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the consistory of 28 June 1988. Titular church, St. Frumentius (ai Prati Fiscali).

Cardinal Santos was ordained the first priest, first Bishop and also first Cardinal native of Mozambique.

Archbishop emeritus of Maputo, 22 February 2003.

Curial membership:

- Divine Worship and Sacraments (congregation).

Il-Bieb tal-Knisja ta' Santa Marija ta' Ġesu', Rabat

Joseph Muscat

Dan l-aħħar il-bieb prinċipali tal-Knisja ta' Santa Marija ta' Ġesu' irrestawrawh u ha dehra tassew sabiħa li tixraq ir-restawr tal-gebla tal-faċċata ta' l-istess knisja.

Il-bieb barokk b'disinn klassiku, akkademiku hu ta' l-injam ta' l-aħmar u hu miżgħud bl-iskultura u x'aktarx hu dak tal-1757 meta sar il-bini mill-ġdid tal-knisja.

Id-disinn tal-bieb juri salib kbir minn fuq s'isfel magħmul mill-paranti u l-kuċbiniet tiegħu u fl-erba' spazji tas-salib in-naha ta' fuq tara l-armi ta' San Franġisk u tat-Terra Santa waqt li isfel hemm panewijiet imżewġin bl-iskultura.

Minn wara, il-bieb hu mfassal bil-panewijiet magħmulin mit-tilar tiegħu u l-ħadid kollu l-antik hu f'postu u ma jurix l-iċken ħjiel ta' sadid. Il-bieb jinfetaħ fi tnejn. Jinfetaħ sħiħ għall-festi l-kbar li jsiru fil-knisja u jinfetaħ biċċa minnu għal kuljum.

Walter Vassallo jikteb dwar l-esperjenza ta' Ġimghatejn l-Art Mqaddsa – Esperjenza ta' Fidi

Kull jum li għexna fl-Art Mqaddsa talab minni att ta' fidi. F'kull post dejjem kienet titla' il-mistoqsija – Imma verament dan huwa l-post? Kull santwarju jfakkar grajja partikolari u jistiednek temmen b'mod iktar sħiħ xi verità tal-fidi.

Konna grupp sabiħ ta' 30, bejn saċerdoti, seminaristi Ghawdxin u aħna l-postulanti. Dan għen biex inżommu atmosfera ta' pellegrinaġġ u nħarsu lejn is-santwarji mill-lenti tal-fidi. Minbarra l-Ewkaristija li konna niċċelebraw kuljum fis-santwarji konna nitolbu t-Tifhir ta' Sbieħ il-Jum u l-Għasar u ħafna drabi r-rużarju.

L-ewwel santwarju li żorna kienet l-Għolja tal-Karmelu fejn irriflettejna fuq is-sbuhija. Dan fethilna qalbna għal Alla u għal li kellu jiġi. Tassew, konna ser ngħixu mument ta' grazzja.

Minn hawn morna fit-tarf l-iehor ta' din il-katina ta' għoljiet fejn hemm mafkar tal-profeta Elija. Hawn ħarisna lejn il-ħegġa li kellu dan il-profeta għal Alla, ħegġa li f'dan il-pellegrinaġġ għandu jkollna biex tassew nagħmlu mixja spiritwali.

Ara, inti tnissel fil-guf u jkollok iben u ssemjih Ġesù. (Lq 1,31)

Il-pellegrinaġġ laqqagħna mal-presuna ta' Ġesù wara nżul ix-xemx fl-Għar ta' Nazaret, fejn ikkontemplajna it-tnissil ta' Ġesù.

L-għada fil-għodu għidniha lejn l-Għolja ta' Tabor fejn komplejna nimmeditaw *il-wiċċ ta' Kristu*, din id-darba fil-glorja, hekk kif muri lilna fl-Evangelju skond S. Matthew. Wara mument ta' talb, qattajna f'it hin friflessjoni fuq dan il-misteru u qsamna l-ħsibijiet tagħna flimkien. Wara dan kollu ikla tajba kellna bżonnha u anqas ma naqset il-ħegġa għas-souvenirs tal-post! Wara nofs inhar irritornajna Nazaret



biex nixorbu ftit iktar mill-ispirtu ta' dan il-post u niċcelebraw l-Ewkaristija.

U dar il-Galilija kollha jgħallem fis-sinagogi tagħhom, ixandar l-Evangēlju tas-Saltna Mt 4,23

Fit-tielet jum iffukajna fuq il-ministeru pubbliku ta' Ġesù. Bdejna b'celebrazzjoni tal-Ewkaristija f'Kafarnaum – iċ-ċentru tal-ministeru pubbliku tiegħu. Ftakarna fit-tkattir tal-ħobż, t-tiet stqarrijiet ta' Pietru, id-diskors tal-muntanja, id-diversi grajjiet li sehħew fuq il-Baħar tal-Galilija u ma setax jonqos l-ewwel miraklu li sehħ f'Kana tal-Galilija, li *bih wera l-glorja tiegħu*.

U qalilhom: “Jehtieg li Bin il-Bniedem ibati ħafna, jiċhdud ix-xjuħ u l-qassisin il-kbar u l-kittieba, joqtluh u fit-tielet jum iqum.” Lq 9,22

Wara dan kien imiss li niffukaw fuq il-missjoni salvifika ta' Ġesù. Għalhekk tlaqna mill-Galilija u tlajna Ġerusalemm. Fi triqtna introduċejna dan il-misteru permezz ta' waqfa l-għolja tal-Kwarantena, ftit il-barra minn Ġeriko fit-tarf tad-deżert ta' Ġuda, fejn għibna quddiem għajnejna t-tigrib ta' Ġesù fid-deżert. Wara ikkontemplajna l-għala ta' dan il-misteru f'Betanja – Ġesù li jqajjimna mill-mewt għall-ħajja.

Fil-għaxija l-pellegrinaġġ ha togħma għida mal-wasla tagħna Ġerusalemm, belt il-fidwa, belt rikka f'santwarji li jfakkru l-grajjiet l-iktar importanti fl-istorja tal-fidi tagħna. Ma tistax ma tintebaħx bid-diversità li teżisti fil-kultura. Belt meqjusa qaddisa mill-Kristjani, Lhud u Musulmani. Terga' u tgħid din il-belt tħaddan diversi sfumaturi ta' dawn ir-religjonijiet! Sabiħ wiehed jahseb li xi darba dawn in-nies kienu jgħixu fil-paċi flimkien. Illum minħabba nuqqas ta' tolleranza, oppressjoni u ingustizzji tinħass tensjoni kbira bejn il-popli. Suldati Iżraeljani u puluzija Palestinjani għajjenin, poplu mwegġa'. It-twemmin sar mezz li jgħib il-firda minflok strument ta' paċi u ftehim. Bħala turisti ftit li xejn kellna problemi però għan-nies tal-post huwa żmien iebes ħafna.

Ma sbieħ il-jum żorna Betlehem, fejn għal ftit mumentu ergajna irringrazzajna lil Alla għall-imħabba hekk kbira li wera lejna meta Ibnu twieled fostna biex ikollna l-ħajja.

Il-kumpliment tal-ġranet iffukajna fuq il-misteru tal-fidwa li sehħet f'Ġerusalemm. Hawn ħafna santwarji, kull wiehed minnhom ifakkar grajja partikolari. Is-santwarji principali huma l-Ġetsemani, iċ-Ċenaklu, il-Qabar ta' Kristu u l-qabar tal-Madonna. Għal darb' oħra sibt ruħi bbumbardjat minn grajjiet li talbu minni stqarrijiet ta' fidi.

Minix ser nidhol fil-fond f'dawn is-santwarji għax intawwal ħafna. Kull imkien jistieden għal riflessjoni fuq sfumatura partikolari ta' misteru kbir – l-imħabba ta' Alla għall-bniedem.

Sakemm konna hemm kellna wkoll ix-xorti li mmorru l-Ġordan ma patri Noel Muscat. Minn hawn żorna l-għolja tan-Nebo minn fejn skond it-tradizzjoni Alla wera lil Mosè l-art imwiegħda. Aspett ta' akbar valur għalija kienet l-esperjenza possittiva tad-dimensjoni internazzjonali u l-ħidma internazzjonali ta' l-Ordni.

Il-Mulej iqaddiskom f'kollox u jzommkom sħaħ bla mittiefsa sa ma tingħaqdu għal dejjem miegħu fis-sema pajjiżkom.

Sicily Provincial Chapter

The Franciscan Province of the Holy Name of Jesus in Sicily celebrated their Provincial Chapter between the 4th and the 16th of April.

Fr. Carmelo Finocchiaro ofm was re-elected Minister Provincial for the coming three years. This is the second time in a row that he is being elected to the office of Minister Provincial.

Fr. Armando Cicchello ofm was elected as Vicar Provincial. The Provincial definitors are: Fr. Vincenzo Bruccoleri, Fr. Carmelo Latteri, Fr. Domenico Di Liberto ofm (Master of Postulants whom we met lately on our vocational experience in Sicily) and Fr. Salvo La Rocca ofm

Recently, after the Chapter, Fr. Carmelo paid a visit to Malta while at the same time taking the opportunity to retreat.

May God help them and guide them in their mission.



ORDINAZZJONI PRESBITERALI TA' FRA PIERRE FARRUGIA, OFM

Il-Ġimgħa, 24 ta' Ġunju 2005
Fil-Knisja Katidrali ta' Ġhawdex
Fis-7.00 p.m.

L-Ewwel Quddiesa Solenni
It-Tlieta, 28 ta' Ġunju 2005
Knisja Santa Marija ta' l-Angli, Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq

Programm Kapitlu Provinċjali 2005

16 - 20 ta' Mejju
9.00 a.m.

It-Tnejn, l-Ewwel ġurnata.

- Talb, Tifhir ta` Sbiħ il-Jum
- Rapport tal-Ministru Provinċjal
- Hin għad-domandi
- Brejk
- Rapport mill-Ekonomu tal-Provinċja
- Hin għad-domandi
- Kjarifika dwar ir-rapporti tal-Gwardjani u rapporti oħra
- Pranzu

It-Tlieta, it-Tieni ġurnata.

- Talb, Tifhir ta` Sbiħ il-Jum
- Rapport mill-Animatur Provinċjali tal-Vokazzjonijiet
- Hin għad-domandi
- Brejk
- Diskors mis-Segretarju tal-Formazzjoni u Studji tal-Ordni, Fra Massimo Fusarelli ofm dwar it-tema tal-kapitlu "Il-Vokazzjonijiet, niġgeddu biex nitkattru", fid-dawl tad-Dokument tal-Ordni: Orjentazzjonijiet għall-kura pastorali tal-Vokazzjonijiet, "Ejja u Ara" (Ġw 1, 39)
- Il-kelliem jagħti proposti għall-riflessjonijiet prattiċi u domandi biex jiġu mitkellma waqt il-workshops
- Hin għad-domandi
- Workshops
- Pranzu

l-Erbgħa, it-Tielet ġurnata.

- Talb, Tifhir ta` Sbiħ il-Jum
- Diskors mill-Animatur tal-Vokazzjonijiet tal-Provinċja ta` Sqallija, Fra Giuseppe di Fatta ofm. Tema : Struttura u Strategija għall-Vokazzjonijiet. Il-kelliem jagħtina minn qabel domandi biex jiġu mitkellma waqt il-workshops
- Hin għad-domandi
- Brejk
- Workshops
- Pranzu

Il-Ħamis, ir-Raba` ġurnata.

- Quddiesa
- Brejk
- Elezzjonijiet
- Pranzu

Il-Ġimgħa, il-Ħames ġurnata.

Il-Ministru Provinċjal flimkien mad-Definitorju l-ġdid, jiltaqa` mas-Segretarju tal-Formazzjoni u Studji tal-Ordni u mal-Animatur tal-Vokazzjonijiet ta` Sqallija, fejn dawn l-aħwa mistiedna, jagħtu pariri u *feedback* dwar dak li jkun intqal fil-Kapitlu.

ŻJARA TAL-MINISTRU PROVINĊJAL FIL-LIBYA

Nhar l-Erbgħa, 20 ta' April, il-Ministru Provinċjal Fra Paul Galea, OFM, mar il-Libya sabiex jiltaqa' ma' l-aħwa kollha li qegħdin iwettqu hidma missjunarja fil-Libya. Attwalment, barra ż-żewġ isqfijiet, Mons. Giovanni Martinelli, OFM u Mons. Sylvester Magro, OFM hemm ħames patrijiet fraŋgiskani. L-aħwa kollha, kemm dawk li hemm Benghazi u anke Tripli ltaqgħu fil-kunvent ta' Tripli. Il-Ministru Provinċjal irritorna Malta l-Ġimgħa, 22 ta' April.

Din iż-żjara saret fid-dawl tal-Kapitlu Provinċjali li se jiġi ċcelebrat f'Mejju li ġej. Guridikament ir-responsabilta' taż-żewġ fraternitajiet li hemm fil-Libya, taqa' f'idejn il-Provinċja Fraŋgiskana Maltija.

FESTI U BIRTHDAYS

MEJJU

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 3. Fra Alexander Borg | 7. Fra Charles Diacono |
| Fra Sandro Overend | 8. Fra Mark Enriquez |
| 12. Fra Godfrey Micallef | 27. Fra Raymond Falzon |
| 19. Fra Ivo Tonna | |
| 20. Fra Bernardin Sant | |

Awguri u Xewqat Sbieh!



F' DIN IL-HARĠA

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L-AĦBAR

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FRA ABELA John
FRA AQUILINA Kamillu
FRA AQUILINA Ġorg
FRA ATTARD Paul
FRA AZZOPARDI Arthur
FRA AZZOPARDI John
FRA BORG Alexander
FRA BRIFFA Tony
FRA BUGEJA George
FRA CACHIA Adrian J.
FRA CAMILLERI Joseph
FRA CAMILLERI Raymond
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FRA ENRIQUEZ Mark
FRA FALZON Raymond
FRA FARRUGIA Anton
FRA FARRUGIA Christopher
FRA FARRUGIA Pierre
FRA GALEA Benjamin
FRA GALEA Kerubin
FRA GALEA Vincent
FRA GAUCI Bartilmew
FRA GHIRLANDO Marcello
FRA GRECH Charles
FRA GRECH Richard S.
FRA MAGRO Stephen
FRA MAGRO Joseph
FRA MICALLEF Albert
FRA MICALLEF Gabriel
FRA MICALLEF Godfrey
FRA MICALLEF Ġwann
FRA MICALLEF Marcellino
FRA MINTOFF Dijonisju
FRA MUSCAT John
FRA PACE Eddie
FRA SANT Bernardin
FRA SCHRANZ John
FRA SCIBERRAS Alfred
FRA SCIBERRAS Stephen
FRA SCICLUNA Ray
FRA SCIORTINO Ġustinu
FRA TABONE Alfred
FRA TONNA Charles
FRA TONNA Ivo
FRA VELLA Anthony
FRA VELLA Joseph
FRA WICKMAN Charles
FRA XUEREB Joseph Benedict
FRA ZERAFA Lorrie

F'dawn l-aħħar snin, Fra Noel Muscat u Fra Ivo Tonna ġew mistiedna sabiex jagħtu diversi korisijiet fl-ispiritwalita' franġiskana u l-filosofija franġiskana fil-Franciscan International Study Centre, li jinsab f'Canterbury. Anke Fra Ġużepp Beneditt Xuereb jagħmel sena studju f'dan iċ-ċentru franġiskan.

The Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury

The first Franciscans arrived in Canterbury in 1224, and quickly founded a house here. They moved from Canterbury on to London and then Oxford, where they founded a school of theology renowned throughout the medieval world. Driven out in the religious disturbances under King Henry VIII in 1538, the English Province established its studium in Douai in France, continuing to send missionaries back to England.

When the friars could again organise in England they established study houses first in London and then in East Bergholt. In 1973 they returned to Canterbury and established a Franciscan house of studies here. The Franciscan Study Centre initially provided formation for students preparing for ordination and ministry in the Franciscan tradition. It quickly widened its scope to offer courses in theological, scriptural and spiritual renewal in the years after the Second Vatican Council. Since then it has developed and widened its mission to Franciscans all over the world, becoming the Franciscan International Study Centre in 1999 and today FISC is one of the key institutions in the world offering Franciscan studies and formation, as well as a popular place for sabbatical time.

In 2004 FISC entered into a partnership with the University of Wales, Lampeter, which enables us to offer certificate and degree courses in Franciscan Studies, Franciscan Formation and theology, philosophy and ministry accredited by a UK university.

At present FISC is part of the ongoing worldwide study of the support and development of the Franciscan intellectual tradition within the whole Franciscan movement.

Students and teachers at FISC come from all over the world and from many different backgrounds. Although most are part of the Franciscan family, there are also a number of lay people who have chosen to live and work according to the Franciscan ethos in a Franciscan setting close to one of Europe's most historic cities.

The Centre is situated on a hill overlooking the ancient city of Canterbury, renowned as a place of pilgrimage since the martyrdom of St Thomas Becket in 1170. It is close to the campus of the University of Kent, with whom it shares some facilities. Canterbury itself is in the south-east of England, around 70 miles from London and within reach of airports and ferries.

