

L-AHBAR



PROVINĊJA FRANġISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA.

No. 116 1.9.2006



Fra Charles Wickman, OFM, jiċċelebra l-50 sena tas-Saċerdozju. Ara paġni 8 u 9.

25th Anniversary of Edizzjoni TUA

In order to prepare itself for the 25th anniversary of its foundation, the Franciscan Publishing House, Edizzjoni TAU, has already published the two-volume "Fonti ghall-Hajja ta' San Frangisk ta' Assisi" (Sources for the Life of Saint Francis of Assisi) in 2005. The next publication, which will be out in autumn 2006, is entitled "Fonti ghall-Hajja ta' Santa Klara ta' Assisi" (Sources for the Life of Saint Clare of Assisi), and will be published jointly by the Franciscan friars and the Poor Clares. Edizzjoni TAU was founded on 4th October 1982, during the 800 anniversary celebrations of the birth of Saint Francis. The founder and director of Edizzjoni TAU for many years was Fr. Raymond Camilleri OFM. He founded Edizzjoni TAU with the explicit aim of providing the Maltese public with books and reviews specializing uniquely in two particular fields, namely, the Biblical-

ikompli paġna 7

IL MINISTRO GENERALE
DELL'ORDINE DEI FRATI MINORI

Rome, July 26, 2006

Prot. 097131

To the Ministers Provincial and Custodes

Dear Brothers

The Lord give you peace

With joy and gratitude I present this report on the Order's Jubilee Fund for Formation and Evangelization. The Jubilee Fund was initiated in September of 1999, and has grown to the amount of 4.489.198, 44 euro on December 31. 2005. It is a true endowment fund, managed according to the norms promulgated on June 18, 2000.

After the General Definitorium reviewed the minutes of the Administrative Council for the Jubilee Fund held on May 5, 2006, I am urged to share this information with you. Of special concern is the use of the interest gained,

From 2000 to 2003 All interest was "re-invested" in the Fund.

In 2004 The interest gained in 2003 totaled 144.358,00 euro. Accepting the recommendations of the Administrative Council for the Jubilee Fund the General Definitorium applied the interest thusly:

- 50.000,00 euro for formation programs and needs (Specifically 30.000,00 euro for the Province of the Annunciation in Albania for initial formation, 15.000,00 euro to the Province of the Immaculate Conception in Poland for the renovation of the Province's major seminary, 5.000,00 euro to the Conference of Mexico and Central America for a workshop for friars serving as formators),
- 50.000,00 euro for evangelizing programs and needs (15.000,00 euro to the International Fraternity for Dialogue in Istanbul, 5.000,00 euro to Franciscans International so that friars from needy entities could participate in the work of Human Rights Commission of the UN in Geneva, 30.000,00 euro for the implantation of the Order and formation house in Haiti).
- 44.358,00 euro was re-invested in the Fund.

In 2005 The interest gained in 2004 was re-invested in the Fund

In 2006 The interest gained in 2005 totaled 127.000,00. Of this amount 50% will be used for formation and 50% for evangelization according to recommendations from the General Curia Commission for Financial Requests.

The experience of these few years confirms the wisdom of this initiative. I want to thank one and all who have contributed in some way to the Jubilee Fund. Our experience also underlines the need to expand the capital to increase the interest. This is our intention and hope. Contributions from the Provinces, the Custodes and friends are welcome now and in the future.

Fraternally,



Br. Jose' Rodriguez Carballo, OFM
Minister General

The Feast of the Porziuncola

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, ofm
Minister General

Saint Mary of the Angels,
2006
Si 24, 1-4; 22-31, Ps-Lk 1,
46-55, Gal 4, 3-7, Lk 1,
26-33

Dear Brothers and Sisters from far and near, young, adult and old, healthy and infirm: I welcome you all in the name of Francis to this place, the Porziuncola, blessed by the presence of the Lord, and I greet you all with the words the Most High revealed to him as a greeting: "May the Lord give you peace!"

Yet another year we have felt the need to set out as pilgrims and come to this "holy place", loved above all others by the "Poverello" because it was a "small portion (porziuncola) of the world" (2Cel 18), an abandoned and semi-ruined place outside the city, frequented by the "excluded" of those times, the lepers, and because it was dedicated to the Mother of God and our Mother, the "virgin made Church", the "palace", "tabernacle" and "robe" of our very God, as he loved to salute her (cf. SalBVM). Here, exactly 800 years ago, the young Francis, on listening to the Gospel, understood the vocation to which he was called. Here, Francis received his first



companions and here he founded the Order of the Friars Minor. Here, through the "investiture" of Saint Clare, the Order of the Poor Clares was also born. From here he sent his first companions to preach throughout the entire world and here he gathered them in Chapter. Here, in the evening of the 3rd October 1226, Francis welcomed corporal "sister death" in song. It was with reason that Francis loved this place so much, and it is with reason that we Friars Minor feel at home as soon as we cross the threshold of this temple. You too should feel at home, dear Brother and Sister pilgrims of the Porziuncola indulgence. It is the house of our Mother, the house of everyone.

Today, however, we come to Saint Mary of the Angels above all because Francis, who had tasted, like few others, the love and mercy of the "Deus Caritas", made this place into "a gate to eternal life", as can be read at the entrance to the church, an "always open holy door" in ongoing celebration of pardon and grace, due to the "Porziuncola indulgences", an indulgence plucked from the heart of Innocent III by Francis because of his great love for souls and because he ardently wished "to send all to paradise". This is, since then, a "reality of spirit and of faith", as the then Cardinal Ratzinger defined it, in which we believers meet the God of love and experience that love, manifested in the

forgiveness which the Lord Himself gives us if we accompany our pilgrimage with the firm decision to change our lives and “be born anew”, as the same Jesus asks (cf. Jn 3, 3).

Those of us who experience the burden of our sins and tasted the bitter chalice after eating of “the forbidden fruit”; those of us who constantly feel the temptation to believe we are like God and have the pride to consider ourselves good by the simple fact of not being like sinners (cf. Lk 18, 9ss); those of us who very often say we love God, whom we do not see, and hate our brother or sister whom we meet on the path of life (cf. 1Jn 4, 20); those of us who live according to the flesh and not according to the spirit..., we, sinners, feel the need to return to our “first love”, as the prophet would say, we feel the need to be washed and purified, as the Psalmist confessed; we feel the need for forgiveness, the need to taste the joy of salvation.

The “God who is love” (1Jn 4, 8) grants us this pardon, not at a price in money, as the concession document of the indulgence on the part of Francis underlines, but as a reward for our simple faith, as a response to our confident prayer, as a gift to our frail, but sincere, disposition to live according to the Gospel in

everyday life and in the vocation to which each one of us has been called. These, my dear Brothers and Sisters, are the only “requirements” for the forgiveness of God: the faith of a poor man, like that of Abraham who trusted and believed against all evidence; confident prayer, like that of the Publican, who knew he merited nothing; total availability so that the will of the Lord may always be realised in us; a disposition like that of Mary, who responded to the proposal of the angels, saying: “let what you have said be done to me” (Lk 1, 38), or like Francis, who, having listened to the Gospel about the mission in this very chapel 800 years ago, promptly responded: “This is what I want, this is what I seek, this is what I desire with all my heart” (1Cel 22).

“God is love” and that impassioned love of God for humanity was made into pardon (cf. Benedict XVI, Deus caritas est, 10). “God is love” and, in the person of the Son, who went in search of the “lost sheep”, it is God Himself who goes out to meet all of us who confess to be sinners and in need of divine mercy. “God is love” in His most radical form, as we can contemplate in the pierced side of Christ, of which John speaks (cf. Jn 19, 37). “God is love” and we can find orientation for our living and loving on

the basis of this extraordinary discovery.

On the basis of this certainty, dear Brother and Sister pilgrims, the words of the angel to Mary receive all their power: “Do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour” (Lk 1, 30). Yes, Brothers and Sisters, our faith, like that of the people of Israel, confesses that the God we believe in is “tenderness and compassion” (cf. Ex. 34, 6ff), whom we, moved by the Spirit, can call “Abba” (Gal 4, 6); a Father who sent His Son into the world so that “we could have life through Him” (1Jn 4, 9); a Father whose “mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear Him [including us]” (Lk 1, 50). It is true that sin, as the Psalmist reminds us, accompanies us from our mother’s womb, but faith leads us to confess that our God “does not keep His resentment for ever” (Jer 3, 12) and, above all, that “Christ died for us” (Rm 5, 8), that He ransomed us (cf Gal 4, 5) and that “however great the number of sins committed, grace is even greater” (Rm 5, 20).

Let us rejoice, then, Brothers and Sisters, because we also are graced by mercy and pardon for our sins. Let us rejoice with Mary, proclaiming the greatness of the Lord (cf. Lk 1, 46), knowing that “there will be more rejoicing in heaven

over one repentant sinner that over ninety-nine virtuous who have no need of repentance" (Lk 15, 7). Let us celebrate, celebrate the feast of forgiveness. Today the arms of the Father are spread wide to embrace us all and He has already prepared the banquet table. Let us confess our sins and celebrate because the love

of God is stronger than our sin (cf. Hos 11, 8).

On returning to our homes, to our work, to everyday life, let us announce through our lives that "God is love", pardon, reconciliation and peace. And let us offer pardon to those who have offended us. Let us go into the squares of our cities

and cry out, as Francis did, that "Love is not loved", and let us invite all to come close to the Lord so that they also may satisfy themselves with the same fruits (cf. Si 24, 26). "God is love", God is pardon, God is tender and compassionate. Let us celebrate, celebrate the feast of pardon.

Il-Kappella fil-Valletta Waterfront issir oazi spiritwali u kulturali

Il-Kappella tal-Harba lejn 1- Egħiġi mill-Familja Mqaddsa li tinsab fil-Valletta Waterfront infethet uffiċjalment nhar il-Ġimgħa, 28 ta' Lulju 2006 b'lejla mužika sagra ta' Mozart, Verdi u Schubert.

Il-Kappella mibnija taħt ir-renju tal-Gran Mastru Pinto fis-snin 1750, kienet tintuża minn baħrin li kienu ġejjin u sejrin minn Malta sakemm imbagħad għiet abbandunata.

Flimkien ma' avvenimenti kulturali, il-Kappella qed tiġi cċelebrata quddiesa kull nhar ta' sibt filgħaxija minn Fra Paul Attard, OFM, ir-Rettur tal-Kappella.



Il-ftuħ tal-Kappella, li sar taħt il-patroċinju tal-Prim Ministro, ħadu sehem is-sopran Marita Bezzina u l-flawtisti Silvio Zammit u Ramona Zammit Formosa.

L-istorja tal-Kappella magħrufa bhala Tal-Harba, tmur lura lejn nofs is-Seklu Tmintax, meta Malta għaddiet minn perjodu meta saret hafna kostruzzjoni ta' palazzi, fortifikazzjonijiet u facilitajiet merkantili taħt il-patroċinju tal-Gran Mastru Emmanuel Pinto. Fl-1752 il-Gran Mastru ordna 1-bini ta' dsatax il-mahżen kbir ghall-użu kemm tan-negozjanti lokali kif ukoll ta' l-iskwadra naval ta' l-Ordni. Il-

Kappella, li tinsab biswit dawn l-imhażen, inbniet bhala parti mill-estensjoni ta' dan il-kumpless merkantili magħruf bhala Magazzini ta' Forni.

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KAPITLU ĜENERALI – FESTA SAN FRANĢISK – 2006

Prot. No. 0608/55

ĊIRKULARI

“Ser niltaqgħu fī żmien ta’ deċiżjonijiet dwar il-hajja ta’ l-Ordni”

Huti f’San Franġisk,

Din il-kelma meħuda mir-relazzjoni li l-Ministru Ĝeneral ser jaqra fil-Kapitlu Ĝeneral Straordinarju, turina l-importanza ta’ dawn iż-żminijiet li għaddejjin minnhom bhala l-Ordni tal-Patrijiet Minuri. Il-Ministru Ĝeneral ma qghadx jintilef f’ħafna kliem fieragh, iżda jistqarr li ‘l-Ordni, wara 800 sena ta’ hajja, jinsab għaddej minn križi, križi ta’ identita’, križi ta’ vokazzjonijiet. Iżda fl-istess hin jistqarr ukoll li l-križi tista’ tkun posittiva jekk ngħarfū nkunu sinċiera u determinati.

Qed niktbilkom qabel ma’ nitlaq lejn l-Italja, fejn ser inkun preżenti fit-tmiem is-sena tan-novizzjat ta’ hutna Walter u Joseph, nieħu sehem f’laqgħa fil-Kurja Ĝeneralizja tal-Provinċji li jaħdmu ma’ Vigarjati, se tiltaqa’ l-Konferenza Ingliżza, nieħu sehem fil-Kapitlu Ĝenerali, niċċelebra l-festa ta’ Missierna San Franġisk f’Assisi u niġi lura fil-5 ta’ Ottubru. Fis-6 ta’ Ottubru, niltaqgħu fil-Knisja tagħna tal-Belt biex nassistu ghall-Professjoni Temporanja taż-żewġ novizzi tagħna, Fra Walter Vassallo u Fra Joseph Ciappara.

Għalhekk nitlobkom biex mill-1 ta’ Settembru sas-6 ta’ Ottubru, flimkien ninghaqdu f’talba wahda għal-ġid ta’ l-Ordni Frangiskan. Hija haġa naturali li wara hajja ta’ 800 sena, l-Ordni Frangiskan għandu bżonn li jiġgedded. L-Ordni għandu bżonn li jirritorna mill-ġdid lejn l-ġheruq tal-Vanġelu u tal-figura karismatika ta’ Frangisku t’Assisi. L-isfida tal-Ordni hi, kif Jasal jikkonkretizza u jghix l-ispirtu tal-Vanġelu u ta’ Frangisku għaż-żminijiet tallum.

Meta nitkellmu mill-Ordni, qed nitkellmu mill-hajja personali ta’ kull wieħed minna. Iva ħuti, hemm bżonn li nitolbu għal-xulxin, għax kull wieħed minna għandu bżonn li jiġgedded fis-sejħha Frangiskana. Fl-ahħar mill-ahħar, it-tiġidid ta’ l-Ordni jiddependi mit-tiġidid tal-hajja personali ta’ kull wieħed minna. Hemm bżonn li nkunu sinċiera magħna nfusna u nammettu li sirna wisq maħkumin mill-individwalizmu. L-individwalizmu qed ifixkilna li nghixu l-veru spirtu kemm tal-Vanġelu kif ukoll tas-sejħha Frangiskana.

Nitlobkom biex ninghaqdu f’talb ta’ tifhir lil ‘l Alla ghax fid-Dar tal-Formazzjoni tar-Rabat sejkollna żewġ studenti Professi Temporanji u tlett Postulanti. Din hija barka missema u frott ta’ hafna talb u sagrifikkji u ta’ hidma għaqlija fil-qasam tal-vokazzjonijiet. Din hija realta’ li titlob minn kull wieħed minna r-responsabilita’ għax fl-ahħar mill-ahħar kull wieħed minna rridu nkunu xhieda vera tas-sejħha Frangiskana. Din hija esperjenza li fost il-qtigh il-qalb tal-hajja tallum, tnissel kuraggi u tama fil-hajja tal-Provinċja tagħna.

Jixraq ukoll li din is-sena il-Festa ta’ Missierna San Franġisk tkun radd il-hajr lil ‘l Alla għal avvenimenti speċjali li qed infakkru matul din is-sena. Fit-28 ta’ Awissu, għalaq 100 sena mejjet l-isqof frangiskan Mons. Pio Vidi, li miet tas-Sliema u midfun ir-Rabat. Fit-28 ta’ Ottubru, il-knisja ta’ Sant’Antnin, f’Għajnsielem, tagħlaq 100 sena miftuħha u imbierka. Fit-13 ta’ Novembru nghalqu 125 sena ta’ preżenza frangiskana f’Tas-Sliema.

Wara 436 sena, il-fdalijiet tar-ruħ qaddisa ta' Fra Dumink Mifsud mill-Għargħur, se jingiebu mill-knisja Santa Maria di Gesu di Noto għall-knisja tagħna tal-Belt. Fra Dumink huwa msemmi fl-aqwa kotba ta' l-istorja kemm ta' l-Ordni kif ukoll ta' Malta u huwa magħruf għal hafna mirakli tad-don tal-profezija. Dawn l-avvenimenti huma kollha frott ta' qdusija, għaqal u bżulija ta' dawk li ġew qabilna. Filwaqt li nfakkruhom b'ammirazzjoni, nitolbu 'l Alla Sidna li nimitawhom fil-kuragg tagħhom quddiem is-sinjali ta' żminijiet-hom u fil-fedelta' tagħhom lejn is-sejħa frangiskana.

Nitlobkom biex matul il-jiem tal-festa ta' Missierna Frangisku, nitolbu biex bhala ahwa fl-Ordni Frangiskan, bis-sinċerita' kollha u bl-akbar konvinzjoni nkunu disposti li nilqghu dak li l-Ispirtu se jurina mill-Kapitlu Straordinarju. Nitolbu l-grazzja li bħal Missierna Frangisku naslu nikkontrollaw dak kollu li huwa personali biex inkunu dejjem aktar miftuħa għar-rieda t'Alla. Missierna Frangisku jurina sew xi tfisser li wieħed ikun dispost quddiem il-pjanijiet ta' Alla. Jiena naf li din mhix haġa daqshekk faċli. Irridu nikkumbattu. Irridu ma naqtgħux qalbna quddiem ir-realta' tad-djufiha umana. Irridu nkunu ta' kuraġġ għalina nfusna u għal xulxin. Irridu nhossu l-bżonn li kontinwament nitolbu l-ghajnuna mis-sema. Din is-sena, jiena se jkoll l-grazzja li niċċelebra l-festa ta' Missierna Frangisku f'Assisi. Inwegħedtkom li qabel xejn se jkunu jiem ta'talb għal ġid tal-Provinċja tagħna. Se nitlob għal kull wieħed minna, ghax ilkoll kemm aħna għandna bżonn li nis-sahħu dejjem iżżejjed fil-veru spirtu tal-Vanelu u tas-sejħa frangiskana. Ilkoll kemm aħna, għandna bżonn li ninħelsu mis-sens individwalistiku tal-hajja. Ilkoll kemm aħna għandna bżonn li naċċettaw u nagħdru lil xulxin kontinwament. Ilkoll kemm aħna għandna bżonn li nhossu l-htiegħa u ssabiħ tat-talb komunitarju u tal-hajja fraterna. Ilkoll kemm aħna għandna bżonn li nitheġġu fil-kura u l-attenzjoni lejn il-morda u l-anzjani tagħna. Ilkoll kemm aħna għandna bżonn li wara r-rizultat ta' l-ahħar censiment dwar l-attendenza fil-quddies tal-Hadd, nifħmu r-responsabilita' li aħna għandna quddiem din is-sitwazzjoni f'pajjiżna mil-mod kif aħna bhala ahwa frangiskani ngħixu d-don ta' l-Ewkaristija .

Filwaqt li nsellmilkom, bħal Frangisku nixtieq inrodd ħajr lil Alla li tani likom ilkoll biex nghix id-don tal-hajja tal-fraternita'. Inrodd ħajr ukoll lil kull wieħed minnkom għal dak kollu li twettqu b'risq is-sejħa frangiskana, b'risq il-Knisja ta' Kristu.

Il-Mulej jagħtikom is-sliem tiegħu.
Missierna Frangisku jseddaqqkom fis-sejħa reliġuża.

Maħruġa mill-Kurja Provinċjalizja
Il-Belt Valletta
Illum, 1 ta' Settembru 2006



Fra Paul Galea, OFM
Ministru Provinċjal

Fra Marcellino Micallef, OFM
Segretarju tal-Provinċja

ikompli mill-ewwel pagħna Archaeological field linked with the Franciscans in the Custody of the Holy Land, and the Franciscan studies field linked with Franciscan culture, history and spirituality. For this reason Edizzjoni TAU publishes two quarterly reviews, "L-Art Imqaddsa" and "Spirtu u Hajja". Since 1982 Edizzjoni TAU has been publishing between 2 to 3 books a year. During the last 10 years it has been directed by Fr. George Bugeja OFM and currently by Fr. Joseph Magro OFM.

50 Sena Presbiteru

Basilica Patriarcale e Protoconvento della Porziuncola

29 luglio 2006

Carissimo P. Charles,

a nome dell'intera fraternità della Porziuncola sento il desiderio di ringraziarla ancora una volta per il prezioso servizio svolto la scorsa estate nel nostro Santuario e per lo stile semplice e fraterno con cui si era inserito nella nostra fraternità.

Lo scorso anno, nel salutarla, al momento della sua partenza, le davo l'arrivederci a quest'anno, adiuvante Deo!, dicevo. Invece la Provvidenza amorosa del Padre ha permesso diversamente: una piccola croce che lei, con un po' di sofferenza, sta portando da qualche mese nella sua carne; è anche questo un prezioso servizio che questa volta il Signore sta rendendo alla sua persona perché si rafforzi la sua fede; è infatti in questo meraviglioso laboratorio, la fede, che ci è data la possibilità di far risplendere le nostre croci dello splendore della croce gloriosa del Signore risorto.

Diciamo allora, anche noi, insieme a lei: sia fatta la tua volontà, Signore! E nei suoi cinquant'anni di sacerdozio chissà quante volte l'avrà detto e insegnato a dire ai numerosi fedeli che il Signore le ha fatto incontrare!

Il motivo di questo mio breve scritto è proprio quello di esprimere l'affettuosa vicinanza e il fraterno affetto di tutti i frati della nostra fraternità, dal momento che un angelo del Signore ci ha detto che lei oggi festeggia il suo giubileo sacerdotale. Cinquant'anni di onorato servizio nella vigna del Signore: quanto bene! Quanti meriti! E quanta grazia dal Signore e nel nome del Signore! Allora auguri con tutto il cuore e sempre avanti rendendo grazie a Dio per mezzo del Signore nostro Gesù Cristo.

Noi continueremo ad accompagnarla con la nostra preghiera, mentre ora la salutiamo con fraterno affetto e sincera gratitudine.

Il p. Custode

Fr. Alfredo Bucaioni ofm

Provincia OFM dell' Umbria

Caro P. Charles, il Signore ti doni la sua pace!

In occasione del tuo 50° anniversario di sacerdozio non poteva mancare un augurio proveniente dalla Porziuncola di S. Maria degli Angeli in Assisi. La fedeltà con la quale hai servito il Signore con gioia e generosità in questi anni è segno della sua benedizione su di te e della tua risposta di amore a Lui; anche noi, frati dell'Umbria, abbiamo potuto vederli nel servizio che con tanta cortesia hai offerto in questo importante Santuario del perdono. Il tuo stile semplice, la tua amicizia lieta, il tuo servizio sereno ci fanno ringraziare il Signore con te per questi 50 anni di grazia, di doni, di luce. Grazie Signore, perché ti sei servito anche di Fr. Charles per far conoscere agli uomini il tuo amore e la tua tenerezza. Grazie per il dono della vita, della vocazione, del sacerdozio che gli hai fatto. Grazie perché lo hai sostenuto sempre e accompagnato lungo il cammino!

Che Lui ti dia ancora tanta forza e tanta speranza per gioire con i tuoi cari in questo giorno e nel tempo che verrà.

Fr. Massimo Reschigian, ministro provinciale

Is-sacerdot frangiskan għadu apprezzat

Il-jum tas-Sibt, 29 ta' mument ta' solidarjeta' ma' sodisfazzjon il-preżenza sabi-Lulju 2006, kien il-jum meta dan Hunu li ta' kuljum qed ha tagħna l-ahwa frangiskani, bhala Provinċja fakkret il-50 iż-ġorr is-salib tal-mard. L-iż-żewġ messaġġi ta' awguri anniversarju mill-Ordinazz-attenzjoni minn naha tal-joni Saċċerdotali ta' Fra Familja ta' huh Victor ma' mill-Kustodju tal-Porziun-Charles Wickman, OFM. tonqos qatt. Huma wkoll cola, il-preżenza ta' l-Arci-priet ta' Ghajnsielem, il-Kor San Frangisk tal-Hamrun, l-Abbatini tal-Knisja tagħna Kien il-jum meta bhala ahwa ġħamlu minn kolloks biex din l-okkażżjoni tkun mument ta' ġinni "Little Sisters of the Poor", il-koperazzjoni mheġġa kemm t'Għawdex, ex kollegi tiegħu Hamrun, biex biċ-ċeleb-tas-sorijiet kif ukoll ta' l-razzjoni tas-sagħiċċju tal-istaff u l-istess anzjani l-quddiesa, inroddu hajr lill-ohra, kienet xi haġa ta' Alla għad don tas-sacerdozu inkoraggiament. Il-fatt, li l-mument ta' apprezzament ta' hunu Charles. Nghid għurnata ta' qabel, dawn lejn id-doni kemm tas-sejha għalija personali, kien organizzaw festin bejniet-mument fejn b'ghajnejja stess hom u anke tawh rigal rajt kemm is-sacerdot miġbur bejniethom, juri frangiskan għadu daqshekk kemm qed japprezzaw il-apprezzat anke f'dinja preżenza ta' hunu Fra Pawl Galea ofm daqshekk materjalista. Kien Charles. Kienu mumenti ta' Ministru Provinċjal.



informazzjoni

Mill-Attie tad-Definitorju.

Id-Definitorju ddecieda li 1-kunvent tar-Rabat ikun id-Dar tal-Formazzjoni inizjali, kemm għall-postulandat u anke għall-istudentat. Bhala Ceotus tal-Formazzjoni inizjali se jkun iffurmat minn dawn l-Aħwa: Fra Martin Coleiro Gwardjan tal-fraternita', Fra Stephen Magro Mastru, Fra Ġużepp Benedikt Xuereb Viċi Mastru u Fra Joseph Magro Animatur Vokazzjoni.

Il-Vigarju Ģenerali ta' l-Ordn, Fra Francesco Bravi, OFM laqa' t-talba tal-Ministru Provinċjal biex Fra Pierre Farrugia jiġi milqugħ fil-fraternita' ta' l-istudenti ta' l-Antonianum.

B'konsultazzjoni ma' l-Ekonому Provinċjali, d-Definitorju laqa' t-talba tal-fraternita' tal-Hamrun biex il-provinċja tidħol għall-ispejjeż tax-xiri tal-madum tal-ħajt u l-art tal-kċina tal-Hamrun.

Tistrieh fis-Sliem!

Sr. Marie Carmel Saliba, OSC ingħaqdet mal-Hallieg li fih hi ttamat u emmnet nhar l-Erbgħha, 26 ta' Lulju 2006, fl-eta' ta' 53 sena. F'dawn l-aħħar snin din is-sorū Klarissa kitbet diversi artikli li dehru fl-AHBAR.
Agħtiha, O, Mulej il-mistriek ta' dejjem.

64 sena ilu daħal l-"Ohio" u salva lil Malta

Memorji li qatt ma nista' ninsa

- Alan Shaw, membru ta' l-ekwipaġġ



Meta l-Ohio daħal Malta kellu biss 18-il sena. Alan Shaw, li llum għandu 82 sena u huwa l-uniku membru ta' l-ekwipaġġ ta' l-Ohio li nhar Santa Marija ta' 64 sena ilu daħal Malta u salva lill-Maltin, kien jinsab f'pajjiżna biex jieħu sehem fiċ-ċeremonja ta' tifkira li saret nhar it-Tnejn, 14 ta'

Awissu 2006. Għal din iċ-ċeremonja li għalija kien hemm preżenti fost l-oħrajn il-Viċi Prim Ministru Dr. Tonio Borg, il-Kappillan tal-Port Fra Paul Attard, u l-Ministru Provinċjali Fra Paul Galea, OFM.

F'kumment li ta, Shaw qal li "kienet *ikompli fil-pażna li jmiss*

Ċensiment dwar l-attendenza tal-quddies tal-Hadd

Knejjes mhux Parrokjali bl-akbar attendenza

Santwarju ta' Santa Tereża (B'Kara)	5,566
San Frangisk, (Hamrun)	1,252
Sghajtar (Naxxar)	1,206
San Frangisk (B'Kara)	1,098
San Duminku (Rabat)	1,077
Ta' l-Erwieħ (Hal Tarxien)	1,055
Saint Patrick (Tas-Sliema)	1,040
San Frangisk (Valletta)	1,026

okkażjoni mill-isbaħ aħna u deħlin fil-port ta' Malta. Minkejja jiem ta' bombardament, niftakar nara lill-poplu ta' Malta fi briju shiħ u jċapċpulna. Nirringrazzja lill-Maltin ta' din il-laqgħa sabiha. Il-vapur kien qiesu fantażma wara attakki kontinwi ta' l-għadu, imma konna kollha fuqu." Huwa kompla qal li "nieħu gost li qiegħed lura Malta nara l-Port il-Kbir, niftakar b'mod ċar x'ġara dak in-nhar. Huma tifkriet ta' avvenimenti li għalkemm ġraw bosta snin ilu, huma tifkriet li qatt ma nista' ninsa."

Alan Shaw kien fuq 1-Ohio meta fit-12 ta'

Awissu 1942, għal ġabta ta' 8 p.m., intlaqat minn torpedo. Jumejn wara kkraxxjaw fuq il-vapur żewġ ajrulpani ta' l-għadu Ĝermaniżi bil-ġhan li jagħrquh.

Waqt li fil-jumejn ta' qabel daħlu Malta 1-Melbourne Star, il-Brisbane Star, il-Port Castle u Rochester Castle, kien kurucjali mmens li l-Ohio jasal ukoll fil-Port il-Kbir. Kellu fuqu provvista ta' ikel u fjuwil li kienu bżonnjuži hafna.

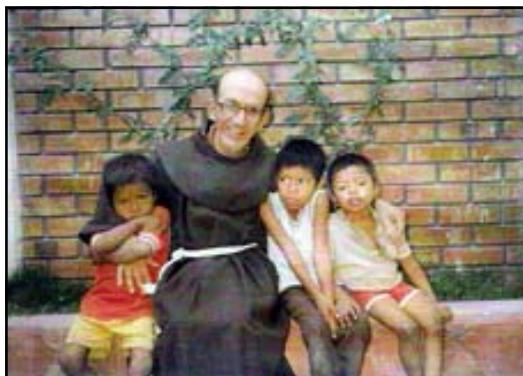
B'miraklu kbir ta' Santa Marija, l-Ohio—mgħejjun minn żewġ destroyers- beda dieħel fil-Port il-Kbir fid-9.30 a.m.,

fil-15 ta' Awissu 1942. Malta kienet fi' festa kbira. B'hekk il-wasla ta' dawn il-ħames vapuri baqgħu magħrufin mal-Maltin bhala l-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija.

Għaċ-ċerimonja ta' tifkira li saret fid-Dwana l-antika attendew numru sabiħ ta' mistednin, kif ukoll il-pubbliku Malti.

Il-qofol ta' din l-attività kien minuta silenzju fejn kien sparati tiri ta' salut permezz ta' kanuni li jinsabu fil-Barrakka ta' Fuq. Dawn kien segwiti bit-tokki tal-Qanpiena ta' l-Assedju fil-Barrakka t'Isfel.

Jirtira mill-ħidma



Nixtieq ngħid li Fra Peter Paul Meilak, OFM mar sew aktar milli stennew it-tobba. Attwalment hu qiegħed jimxi bil-bastun. It-tobba huma kuntenti hafna li mexa daqshekk 'il quddiem fi żmien qasir. Kollex ma kollex, huwa sejjer tajjeb hafna. Issa qed joqghod fl-Instituto San Francisco, Comayagua. Minħabba l-eta' tiegħu u numru ta' problemi ohra, il-Kardinal ħaseb li jkun aħjar li Fra Peter Paul jirtira. Jidher li issa ssetilja. Huwa jista' joqghod il-kunvent fejn jkun ta' għajjnuna fil-quddies u qrar. Hemm sitwazzjoni tajba għaliex qiegħed f'komunita' ma 6 patrijet ohra.

Electronic Bells at Baħar ic-Ċagħaq



On 2 August, feast of Saint Mary of the Angels, or Porziuncola, a new set of electronic bells was inaugurated at our Franciscan church at Bahar ic-Cagħaq. Fr. Eddie Pace OFM, Rector of the church, had been planning this new idea for a long time, and with the generous help of the people who form part of the congregation which prays in this church, his dream has now come true. The electronic system is played every hour during the day and can also be planned to be played manually.

The Christian School: the place of education and sanctification

Sebastian Camilleri, OFM

The current widespread cultural trend, is secularism which evidently, is hell-bent to defeat moral values and religiosity.

The Catholic Church laments this prevalent attack on the faithful, who, regrettably seem to be overwhelmed and weakened by the pagan pressure exerted, on them in educational and civic quarters.

Somehow, the victim of this unholy crusade is the Holy Mass. Through the centuries, good catholic homes and even whole civilisations were built and motivated by the strict attendance of the Sunday Eucharistic celebration and catholic teaching.

In recent years, we have been witnessing the collapse of the christian infrastructure based on sound moral values and religious observance. In the guise of modern updating of education, many schools have become the primary target of this moral onslaught; generations have now been tutored and brought up without "a sense of sin and moral responsibility."

Taking in consideration catholic Malta, with due respect, one is bewildered by the mass of teenagers and

youth, who mix freedom with moral licence and miss Holy Mass, without any remorse of conscience of committing a serious sin. This includes the unbridled sexual behaviour. The Sunday Mass obligation and sound morality of any kind in our daily life, is endemic to our lives.

The work of our schools is about nothing less than seeing and living Jesus Christ in the midst of everything we do. No excuses. Let us not apologise about we being Christ-like. Condoning and the "every body it does, it syndrome" "get us no where; we need our faith.

From the early years of education, students deserve to receive their learning in a context of spiritual formation. Academic excellence is not enough. Priests and lay catholic teachers are here to do something much more. Our schools must be thoroughly and unashamedly catholic. Day after day, in a way that permeates all the teaching and learning that take place, we are charged to proclaim a Pentecost message of Jesus Christ with enthusiasm, faithful perseverance and steady determination.

The practice of "that



will do for now" or the sentimentality of "appealing good" won't hold any water"; they won't combine successfully in the spiritual realm of formation. Thus the essential goal of our schools is to lead the students to Christ. We cannot be casual or squeamish about saying his name lovingly and reverently, always being conscious of the commandment: "Thou shall not take my name in vain."

Students cannot leave before they meet him, hear him, know that he loves them and duly acknowledge his law in their lives. Proclaiming the total love of Christ is not always a "feeling good message"; this love is

honesty, chastity; it is sobriety; it is a commitment to a continuing conversion in combatting temptations that lurk, ones, from God and the Church where they are tenderly groomed to be responsible christians in words and deeds.

This pertinent christian education, initiated by the parents in the home and carried out faithfully at schools, ought to be learned in religious class, in maths, on the sports field and tendered, earnestly, by committed teachers Principals and priests. Simply complaining about catholics, alarmingly, withdrawing from the Church and Sacraments, without going directly to uproot the malady and provide the real remedy, will be only wasting time and the rot keeps sleeping

in!

We have to be willing to teach what the authentic Church teaches without ambiguity that could cause confusion in the essential tenets of the faith and our holy tradition: our precious family customs.

There will come a time when scientific knowledge and clever words will not cut it. There will come a time when no amount of money or wordly success will relieve our students agonies. Paper Diploma alone, which they can receive from any school, will not be sufficient preparation for life. To-day's students want and need certainty. We live in an age of relativism when respect for life, the true meaning of marriage and the evils of materialism and sexual gratification are twisted and florified, not only in

the Media but even among the so called professed believers.

A frequent spiritual means of guidance, love and forgiveness is reconciliation (Confession). In this context, we are duty bound to teach our young people moral truths, right and wrong, to avoid evil but also to do good, to cultivate life of virtues and to construct, in the very midst of a culture of death, a civilisation of life.

It is pertinent that the spiritual goal in our schools is to make saints out of the students. That is what salvation in Jesus Christ means: parents and teachers must be collaborators in the work of saving our young generation from the fast moving current of secularism. Neither side can afford to let the other down.



Jicċelebraw ir-rebħa tat-Taljani!

Dan ir-ritratt juri lil Fra Nerik Cassar, OFM, fid-Dar tal-Kleru, bis-soltu spirtu ferriehi jicċelebra r-rebħa tal-World Cup mit-team Taljan. Fir-ritratt jidher ukoll Fra Arthur Azzopardi, OFM, kif ukoll P. Ġiljan Calleja, OCarm li ngħaqad mal-Hallieq propju xahar eż-żarr wara li ttieħed dan ir-ritratt.

Ta' min jgħid ukoll li Fra Nerik riċentement għamel l-operazzjoni tal-katarretti.

Sr. Herminia Cruz, FMM

Testimony from Lebanon

Thanks for the interest you have shown for the Lebanese people. Yet at the same time, I noticed you have given importance on the situation of the migrant workers in Lebanon.

In Bourj Hammoud, we welcomed the workers into our house. The different embassies and organisations opened centres for the refugees and migrant workers.

We work directly with these families in the area and in the different centres. In Bourj Hammoud, we are present with different Lebanes families and they are all coming from the bombarded areas from the south and Beirut. In Achkout, there are Sudanese, Ethiopians and Irakiens brought into homes. Saida has also welcomed families from the affected areas.

What to say ... people were panicked today, the offensive was announced by paper parachuted to the population to leave the area of Chya, Bourj

Brajneh, the neighbourhood of de Silloum. These areas are in Beirut. We do not know where is a SAFE PLACE to go...Hope that PEACE will come for the people...

There are migrant workers who are locked in, left by their employers who have travelled outside the country to safety, or beaten and not allowed to leave the country ... or they are threatened by their employers, or asked to pay the employers a certain amount of money which the migrant could not pay. Some pleaded to their employers to be allowed to travel. They were frightened by the bombings, especially those coming from the affected area. After being assured to travel, some workers were stopped and taken from the borders. They were imprisoned and released after several days or the embassy lost the traces of some people.

Question: since these migrant workers travelled and were brought by the embassy to travel home safely because of the terrifying situation in

Lebanon, why are not they allowed to leave? Some of them were taken to the agencies and were beaten or imprisoned. It seems money is more important than the lives of the workers.

Some employers ordered the police to hold them but they were not returned to their respective embassies. If the decision of the judge is to investigate them because they escaped, and most of them were judged as thieves, why not return them to their respective embassies and had undergone a full investigation?

herminia



Fil-harġa li jmiss ta'

L-AHBAR

Fra Noel
Muscat, OFM
intervistat
minn Walter
Sultana dwar
il-ħidma
tiegħu fl-Art
Imqaddsa.



Study on the Book of Job by Guido Schembri, OFM

Fr. Guido Schembri OFM, a renowned Maltese biblical scholar, has published a new translation of the Book of Job from the original Hebrew text.

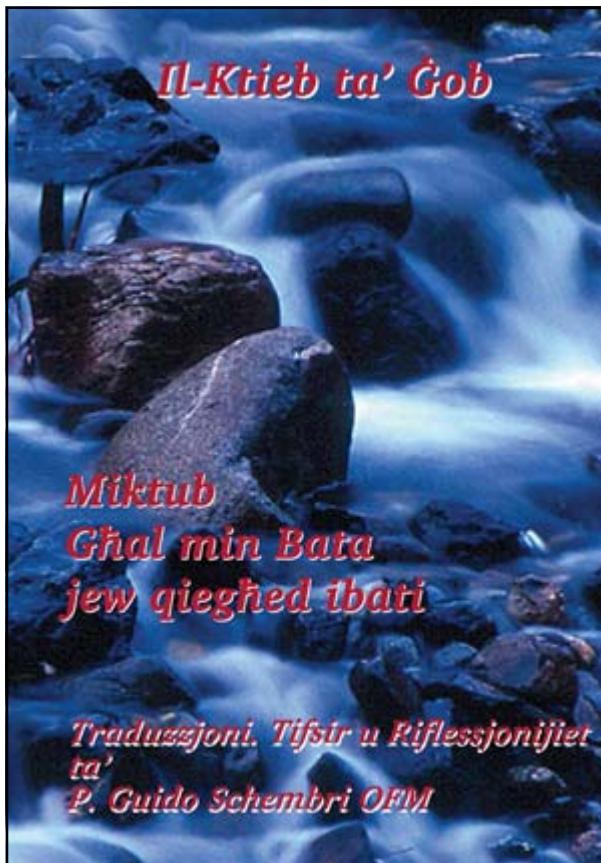
The Book of Job deals with the problem of the suffering of the just man. On the back cover the author quotes the scholar Gianfranco Ravasi, who writes: "Why does suffering exist? Why do the innocent suffer? Job asks these questions which every man of every age asks. The Lord answers Job, but without giving him a final solution, except for the fact that during suffering, man comes face to face with God and encounters him. Job says: 'Before, I knew you only by hearsay but now I have seen you with my own eyes' (Job 42:5)."

The publication has a forward by Dr. Oliver Friggieri, who writes: "The Book of Job is one of the many books which Fr. Schembri has offered to the Maltese public during a long career. This

contribution in the Christian Library of Malta is certainly a dignified one and merits all our appreciation. With an effort to arrive to the roots of the words, and with a choice of Maltese idioms full of wisdom, he offers a translation which respects the classic aspect of the original

words, which we believe are the Words of God.

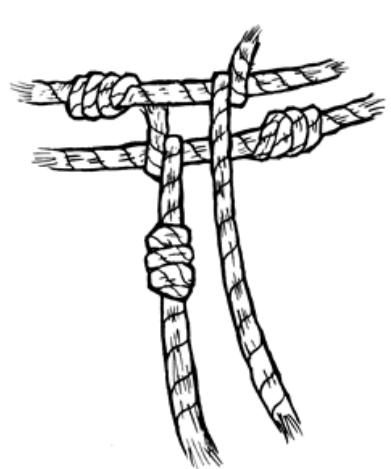
At the same time the author keeps in mind the modern spoken language of our people. The Book of Job is one of the most necessary books for our age. We need to reflect, more than before, about the value of suffering and the divine protection. This



publication, therefore, is not only another manifestation of the expertise of Father Schembri in the biblical field here in Malta, but it is also an invitation to rediscover the greatness and universality of the physical and spiritual journey of man, which is timeless and which always grows in reverence."

ikompli minn p.5

Il-Kappella tal-Harba lejn l-Eğġitu mill-Familja Mqaddsa hi tassew post li jsaħħar ghall-avvenimenti religjuzi u kulturali. Hi ta' stil barokk, li tinsab fwieħed mill-iktar portijiet sbieħ fil-Mediterran, hi bini importanti ħafna fl-istorja ta' Malta. Matul is-snini hi laqgħet l-ekwipaġġi tax-xwieni tal-Kavallieri ta' San Ģwann u ghadd kbir ta' baħħara internazzjonali u negozjanti li għaddew mill-port tal-Belt



**Professjoni
Temporanja ta'**
Fra Joseph Ciappara u
Fra Walter Vassallo
Il-Ġimgħa, 6 ta'
Ottubru 2006
Knisja Santa Marija ta'
Ġesu', Valletta.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 Fra Adrian J. Cachia | 13 Fra Stephen Magro |
| 8 Fra Victor Camilleri | 16 Fra Benjamin Galea |
| 17 Mons. Robert Camilleri | 29 Fra Gwido Schembri |
| 29 Fra Gabriel Micallef | |

OTTUBRU

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Fra Angelo Falzon | 7 Fra Ģwann Azzopardi |
| 9 Fra Dijonisju Mintoff | 15 Fra Angelo Falzon |
| 13 Fra Edward Zammit | 16 Fra Alexander Borg |
| 13 Fra Eddie Pace | 18 Fra Joe Caruana |
| 23 Fra Ģwann Micallef | 22 Fra Anton Farrugia |
| 26 Fra Alfred Tabone | 28 Fra Richard S. Grech |
| 26 Fra Alfred Sciberras | |

Awguri u Xewqat Sbieħ!

L-AHBAR

EDITUR

*fra marcellino micallef ofm
 provofm@vol.net.mt*

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

Tel. 21238218 Fax. 21231266