

# L-AHBAR



PROVINĊJA FRANĢISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU, MALTA. No. 133 1. 4. 2008



Pasquette għall-Familja Franġiskana, Monasteru Santa Klara, l-Erbgħa, 26 ta' Marzu 2008

## L-Arċisqof ta' Malta f'pellegrinagg fl-Art Imqaddsa

L-Arċisqof ta' Malta, Mons. Pawl Cremona O.P. qed imexxi pellegrinagg fl-Art Imqaddsa, bis-sehem ta' 168 pellegrin. Il-pellegrinagg, organizzat mill-Kummissarjat ta' l-Art Imqaddsa, beda fit-30 ta' Marzu u jintemm fis-7 ta' April.

Għal dan il-pellegrinagg gew mistiedna ukoll it-tlett Ministri Provinċjali tal-familja Franġiskana, Paul Galea, OFM, Joe Alessandro OFMCap u Samwel Chetcuti, OFMConv.

Fl-ewwel parti tal-pellegrinagg, il-pellegrini qed iżzuru Nażaret, il-Muntanja Tabor, l-Għolja tal-Vergni Marija tal-Karmelu f'Haifa, Kafarnahum, is-Santwarji tal-Primat ta' San Pietru u tat-Tkattir tal-Hobż f'Tabgha, l-Għolja tal-Beatitudnijiet, il-Baħar tal-Galilija, ix-Xmara ġordan u Kana.

*ikompli paġna 10*



**MESSAGġ TAL-QDUSIJA TIEGHU IL-PAPA BENEDITTU XVI  
GHALL-45 JUM DINJI TA' TALB GHALL-VOKAZZJONIJIET**

## **Vokazzjonijiet għas-servizz tal-Knisja fuq missjoni**

Egħżej ġuti,

Din is-sena, ghall-Jum Dinji ta' Talb ghall-Vokazzjonijiet, li se jkun iċċelebrat fit-13 ta' April, għażiit it-tēma: *Vokazzjonijiet għas-servizz tal-Knisja-fuq-missjoni*. Il-Mulej Ĝesù mqajjem mill-mewt, ta lill-Appostli tiegħi il-kmand: “Morru, mela, agħmlu dixxipli mill-ġnus kollha, u għammduhom fl-isem tal-Missier u ta' l-İben u ta' l-Ispritu s-Santu” (Matt 28, 19), waqt li żgurahom: “U ara, jiena magħkom dejjem, sa l-aħħar taż-żmien” (Matt 28, 20). Il-Knisja hija missjunarja min-natura tagħha, u anke fil-persuna ta' kull membru. Permezz tas-sagamenti tal-Magħmudija u Grīzma ta' l-Isqof, kull Nisrani hu msejjah biex jagħti xhieda u biex iħabbar l-Evanġelju; imma din id-dimensjoni missjunarja hija marbuta, b'mod tassew speċjali u mill-qrib, mal-vokazzjoni saċċerdotali. Fil-patt tiegħi ma' Izrael, Alla mar jafda lil xi rgiel – msejħha minn u minn u mi b għut in fismu lill-poplu – missjoni partikolari bhala profeti u saċċerdoti. Dan għamlu, per-eżempju, ma' Mosè: “Ejja – qallu Alla – ha n i b a għtek għand il-Fargħun biex toħroġ lil ulied Izrael, il-poplu tiegħi, mill-Egħittu ... U meta tkun ħriġt il-poplu mill-Egħittu, intom tqimu lil Alla fuq din il-muntanja” (Ez 3, 10 u 12). L-istess ġara mal-profeti l-oħra.



Il-wegħdiet li saru lil missirijietna twettqu kompletament fi Kristu Ĝesù. F'dan ir-riġward, il-Koncilio Vatikan II jgħid: “L-İben għalhekk gie fid-dinja, mibgħut mill-Missier li għażilna fih qabel il-ħolqien tad-dinja u ppredestinana biex fih inkunu wlied adottivi ... Għalhekk, biex itemm ir-rieda tal-Missier, Kristu inawgura fl-art is-Saltna tas-sema u rrivelalna l-misteru tagħha, u bl-ubbidjenza tiegħi temm il-fidwa” (Kostituzzjoni Dommatika *Lumen Gentium*, 3). Digħi, fil-ħajja pubblika tiegħi, waqt li kien jippriedka fil-Galilija, Ĝesù kien għażel lil xi dixxipli biex ikunu kollaboraturi mill-qrib miegħu fil-ministeru messjaniku tiegħi. Per eżempju, dakinhar li għamel il-miraklu tat-tkattir tal-ħobż, qal lill-Appostli: “agħtuhom intom x’jekku” (Matt 14,16), waqt li għamlilhom il-qalb biex jidħlu huma u jipprovdu għall-folol tan-nies, li lilhom Gesù ried joffri sostenn; ried ukoll li huma jiżvelaw dak l-ikel “li jibqa' għall-ħajja ta' dejjem” (Gw 6, 27). Huwa tqanqal bil-kompassjoni lejn il-

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poplu, għax waqt li kien idur l-ibljet u rħula sab folol kbar, għajjiena u bla għajnuna ta' ħadd, bħal nagħaq bla ragħaj (ara *Mt* 9, 36). Din il-ħarsa ta' mħabba li Ĝesù xeħet fuq dawn in-nies wasslet għall-istedina lid-dixxipli: "Itolbu mela lil Sid il-ħasad biex jibgħat ħaddiema għall-ħasad tiegħu" (*Mt* 9, 38), u biex lit-Tanax jibgħathom, għall-ewwel, għand "in-nġhaġ mitlufa tad-dar ta' Israel" bi struzzjonijiet eżatti dwar x'għandhom jagħmlu. Jekk nieqfu nimmeditaw fuq dan il-passaġġ mill-Evangelju ta' Mattew – hekk imsejjah id-“diskors missjunarju” – nistgħu niddistingwu fih dawk l-aspetti li jimmarkaw il-ħidma missjunarja ta' kull komunità Nisranija li għandha xewqa kbira li timxi fuq l-eżempju u t-tagħlim ta' Ĝesù. Li twieġeb għas-sejħa tal-Mulej ifisser li tiffaċċja, bi prudenza u b'sempliċità, kull periklu u anke persekuzzjoni, għax "ma hemmx dixxiplu aqwa mill-imgħallem" (*Mt* 10, 24). Magħmulin haġa waħda ma' l-Imgħallem tagħhom, id-dixxipli m'humiex aktar waħedhom waqt li jħabru s-Saltna tas-sema; Ĝesù nnifsu qed jaġixxi fihom: "Min jilqa' lilkom jilqa' lili, u min jilqa' lili jkun jilqa' lil dak li bagħatnī" (*Mt* 10, 40). Mhux biss imma, bħala xhieda awtentici, imlibbsin "bil-qawwa mill-ġholi" (*Lq* 24, 49), huma jippridkaw "l-indiema għall-mahfrah tad-dnubiet" (*Lq* 24, 47) lill-ġnus kollha.

Preċiżament għax mibgħutin mill-Mulej Ĝesù, it-Tanax jissejħu "Appostli", iddestinati li jterqu madwar id-dinja jħabbru l-Evangelju waqt li jaġħtu xhieda tal-mewt u l-qawmien ta' Kristu. San Pawl, huwa u jikteb lill-insara f'Korintu, jghid: "aħna – l-Appostli – nxandru 'i Kristu msallab" (*1 Kor* 1, 23). Fil-Ktieb ta' l-*Atti ta' l-Appostli* nsibu li, f'din il-ħidma ta' evanġelizzazzjoni, għandhom rwol ferm importanti dawk id-dixxipli li s-sejħa tagħhom għarfuhha permezz ta' cirkustanzi providenzjali, kultant iebsin, bħal dawk li jiġu mkeċċijin minn art twelidhom għax ikunu qed jimxu wara Ĝesù (ara *Atti* 8, 1-4). L-Ispirtu s-Santu jibdel prova bħal din f'opportunità ta' grazzja, u jinqeda biha sabiex isem il-Mulej ikun jista' jithabbar f'artijiet oħra; b'hekk testendi ruħha u tinfirex il-komunità Nisranija. Dawn huma rġiel u nisa li, bħalma jikteb Luqa fl-*Atti ta' l-Appostli*, "iddedikaw hajjithom għall-isem ta' Sidna Ĝesù Kristu" (15, 26). Fuq quddiem hemm, bla dubju, Pawlu minn Tarsu, imsejjah mill-Mulej innifsu, u b'hekk Appostlu veru. Mill-istorja ta' Pawlu, l-akbar missjunarju ta' kull żmien, joħorgu d-diversi forom tar-rabta li hemm bejn vokazzjoni u missjoni. Meta akkużat mill-avversarji tiegħu li ma kienx ġie awtorizzat biex ikun apostlu, jappella diversi drabi għas-sejħa li kien irċieva direttament mill-Mulej (ara *Rum* 1, 1; *Gal* 1, 11-12 u 15-17).

Fil-bidu, u f'kull ma ġie wara, dak li "jgiegħel" lill-Appostli (ara *2 Kor* 5, 14) kienet dejjem "l-imħabba lejn Kristu". Missjunarji bla ghadd, mal-medda tas-sekli, bħala dixxipli fidili tal-Knisja, doċli għall-ħidma ta' l-Ipsirtu s-Santu, imxew fuq il-passi ta' dawn l-ewwel dixxipli. Il-Konċilju Vatikan II jinnota: "Għalkemm kull dixxiplu ta' Kristu għandu l-impenn li jaġħmel li jista' biex ixerred il-fidi, iżda Kristu l-Mulej isejjah dejjem minn fost id-dixxipli tiegħu lil dawk li hu jridhom jibqgħu miegħu u li jibgħathom jippridkaw lill-ġnus [ara *Mk* 3, 13-15]" (Digriet *Ad Gentes*, 23). Fil-fatt, hija din l-imħabba lejn Kristu li trid tasal għand l-aħwa, ikkomunikata permezz tal-kliem, bl-eżempju u bil-hajja kollha kemm hi. Il-venerabbli predeċessur tiegħi Ġwanni Pawlu II kiteb: "Il-vokazzjoni speċjali ta' dawk li huma missjunarji 'għal għomorhom' għadha żżomm il-validità kollha tagħha: fuq dan il-mudell irid jissawwar l-impenn missjunarju tal-Knisja, li dejjem jeħtieg għotja totali u radikali, u thabrik ta' forma ġidha u kuraġġuża" (Enċiklika *Redemptoris Missio*, 66).

Fost dawk iddedikati kompletament għas-servizz tal-Evangelju insibu lis-saċerdoti, imsejħin biex jippridkaw il-kelma t'Alla, jamministraw is-sagamenti, speċjalment l-Ewkaristija u r-Rikonċilazzjoni, impenjati biex jgħinu liċ-ċkejknin, il-morda, il-batuti, il-fqar, u dawk li għandhom ħajja iebsa f'partijiet tad-din ja fejn għad hemm ħafna li ma kellhomx laqgħa vera ma' Ĝesù Kristu. Il-missjunarji jħabbru għall-ewwel darba lil dawn in-nies, l-imħabba ta' Kristu li kien lest iħallas il-prezz għad-dnubiet. L-istatistika turi li n-numru ta' nies li jitgħammdu qed jiżdied kull sena, frott anke tal-ħidma pastorali ta' dawn is-saċerdoti, ikkonsagrati kollhom kemm huma għas-salvazzjoni ta' ħuthom. F'dan il-kuntest trid tingħad kelma ta' ringrażżjament "lis-

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sacerdoti tal-*fidei donum* li jaħdmu b'tant ġenerożitā u b'fedeltà kbira, huma u jibnu l-komunità bil-proklamazzjoni tal-kelma ta' Alla u bil-qsim tal-Ħobż tal-Ħajja, u jiddedikaw l-enerġija kollha tagħhom għas-servizz tal-missjoni tal-Knisja. Ejjew niżżu ħajr lil Alla għas-sacerdoti kollha li waslu biex offrew sa ħajjithom b'sagħificċju biex ikomplu jservu lil Kristu ... Tagħhom hija xhieda qawwija li għandha tqanqal ħafna żgħażaq biex jimxu wara Kristu u jagħmlu minn hajjithom don ghall-oħrajn, u b'dan il-mod jiskopru l-vera ħajja" (Eżortazzjoni Appostolika *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 26).

Dejjem kien hemm fil-Knisja ħafna, irġiel u nisa, li mnnebbhīn mill-Ispirtu s-Santu, għażlu li jgħixu l-Evanġelu b'mod radikali, bil-professjoni tal-voti tal-kastitħa, faqar u ubbidjenza. Din il-ġemgħa ta' religjużi rġiel u nisa, ġejjin minn tant Istituti ta' ħajja kontemplattiva u attiva, għadu jaqdi "parti importanti ħafna fl-evangelizzazzjoni tad-dinja" (*Ad Gentes*, 40). Bit-talb tagħhom kontinwu, u fil-komunità, il-kontemplattivi jinterċedu bla heda għall-umanità kollha. Ir-religjużi ta' ħajja attiva, bid-diversi ħidmiet tagħhom ta' karitħa, iwasslu lil kulhadd xhieda ħajja ta' l-imħabba u l-ħniex ta' Alla. Il-Qaddej ta' Alla Pawlu VI, dwar dawn l-appostli ta' żmienna, għid li: "fuq kollex huma tar-rieda u hielsa li jħallu kollex u jitilqu biex ixandru l-Evanġelu anke sat-trufijiet ta' l-art, frott il-konsagrazzjoni tagħhom. Huma ġabrieħa u l-appostolat tagħhom huwa spiss ferm originali, immarkat b'inġenwitat li titlob ammirazzjoni. Huma ġenerużi: spiss jinstabu fuq il-fruntieri tal-ħidma missjunarja, u kontinwament jieħdu riskji mill-akbar għal saħħithom u anke għal ħajjithom. Tassew li l-Knisja hija ferm obbligata lejhom" (Eżortazzjoni Appostolika *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 69).

Sabiex il-Knisja tkompli twettaq il-missjoni li fdalha Kristu, u ma tkunx nieqsa minn dawk li jressqu l-proposti ta' l-Evanġelu – tant meħtieġa mid-dinja – il-komunitajiet Insara għandhom ifittxu li ma jonqsux milli jipprovdu edukazzjoni kontinwa fil-fidi, sew lit-tfal kif ukoll lill-adulti. Hu meħtieġ li jinżamm ħaj fil-fidili l-impenn ta' responsabbiltà missjunarja u solidarjetà ġabrieħa mal-popli tad-dinja. Id-don tal-fidi jitlob lill-Insara kollha biex jikkoperaw fil-ħidma ta' evangeliżazzjoni. L-gharfien ta' dan kollu jeħtieġ li jisséħħah bil-predikazzjoni u l-katekeżi, bil-liturgija, u b'taħriġ kontinwu fit-talb. Jeħtieġ jikber waqt li nipprattikaw l-akkoljenza, nilqgħu lil-haddieħor billi noffru l-imħabba tagħna u l-akkumpanjament spiritwali, permezz ta' riflessjoni u dixxerniment, kif ukoll bl-ippjanar tal-ħidma pastorali – fejn l-attenzjoni lejn il-vokazzjonijiet għandha dejjem titqies bhala parti integrali minn din il-ħidma.

Vokazzjonijiet għas-sacerdozju ministerjali u għall-ħajja konsagrata jistgħu jifforixxu biss f'art spiritwali li qed tīgi kkultivata tajjeb. Dawk il-komunitajiet Insara li qed jgħixu l-aspett missjunarju tal-misteru tal-Knisja b'mod profond ma jistgħu qatt isibu ruħhom "magħluqin" iħarsu l-ġewwa. Il-missjoni, bħala mod ta' xhieda għall-imħabba divina, tqum tassew fuq tagħha meta tkun qed tingħex flimkien f'komunità, "biex hekk id-dinja temmen" (ara *Għw* 17, 21). Il-Knisja titlob kuljum lill-Ispirtu s-Santu għad-don ta' aktar vokazzjonijiet. Migburin madwar il-Vergni Marija, Sultana ta' l-Appostli, bħalma sar fil-bidunett, il-komunità ekklejżjali titgħallek minnha kif għandha ssejjah lill-Mulej bil-qawwa kollha, halli jifforixxu apostli ġoddha, mixgħulin bil-fidi u l-imħabba li huma tant meħtieġa għall-missjoni.

Waqt li nerhi din ir-riflessjoni lill-komunitajiet ekkla jżali madwar id-dinja biex jaġħmluha tagħhom u joħorgu minnha ispirazzjoni għat-talb; waqt li nagħmel kuraġġ l-lid dawk li, bil-fidi u l-ġenerożitā tagħhom, huma mpenjati għas-servizz tal-vokazzjonijiet, nibgħat b'qalbi kollha – lill-edukaturi, katekisti u lil-kulhadd, speċjalment żgħażaq biex qiegħdin fil-vjaġġ vokazzjonali tagħhom – Barka Appostolika speċjali.

Mill-Vatikan, 3 ta' Dicembru 2007

## BENEDITTU XVI

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*Do the very best you can; and then put up your old umbrella and keep the rain of criticism from running down the back of your neck.*

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## Easter greetings of the Minister General

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is Easter: The passing from death to life.

It is Easter: The feast of the non-resigned.

It is Easter: The feast of witnesses to the incredible.

Fear has been conquered, night has ended, a new world has been born.

The stone, which had confined us within our old world, has been thrown far away by Christ.

Weakness has overcome power, violence and hatred.

Pardon has had its revenge on betrayal, abandonment, cowardice and wise calculations.

Everything begins anew.

It is now up to us to leave our prison, to get used to the light, to cut off the bridges to the past, to divisions, to egotism.

Christ asks us to proclaim life along the blood-stained paths of our world, wherever there is death, wherever mankind is still being thrown into the dirt.

Christ is alive! We, who met Him on the road to Emmaus, announce this Good News to all the men and women we meet on the journey of life. Let us proclaim it through word and life, as our Father and Brother Francis wished.

Christ is alive! We are witnesses to the incredible. God has kept His word. God is the master of the impossible.

Happy Easter!

Your brother

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, ofm,  
Minister General



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### Let us restore all to the Lord through word and life! 2008-2009

*The vow of poverty should be interpreted and lived as a vow of freedom which leads us to really live “with nothing of our own”, as Francis wished and we promised. Evangelical and franciscan poverty frees us from all that holds back and obstructs our total self-giving to the Lord and liberating service to our brothers, especially to the most needy. In this sense, only the poor can be, like Francis, open to the surprises of the Lord because they are authentically free from the worries of tomorrow, the main worry of pagans (cf. Mt 6,31-32), from the superfluous which is accumulated in our “granaries”, from many ideas which tie us to the past, and from the individualistic projects carried out on the margins of the fraternity.*

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# Communication from the General Definitory

## March 2008

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1. The second 'Tempo Forte' (TF) of the year was held from the 3rd to 13th March. In accordance with a previous decision, which scheduled a day of study during the TF of March and December, the Definitory dedicated a day to reflection on the word of God. The "Lineamenta" for the next Synod of Bishops (October 2008) were used as a basic text. The next day of study, on the theme "Communications in the International Community", in December, will be held together with the Guardians, Vicars and Delegates of the Houses dependent on the Minister General.

2. As is already customary, the TF began with sharing by the Definitors on the various visits, meetings and celebrations with the Friars of the different Entities since the last TF. They evaluated two meetings in which they participated: the Meeting with the New Ministers Provincial and Custodes, held in the Curia

from the 14th to 22nd of January 2008, and the Meeting of the Presidents of the Federations of Poor Clare Sisters, held in St. Mary of the Angels (Assisi) from the 26th of January to the 6th February 2008.

3. It was the turn of Br. Ambrose Van Si to present the franciscan presence in his region of the world, Asia and Oceania, to the Definitors. Besides the topics usually touched on, the following subjects were dealt with: the presence of Friars resident in the territory of another Entity; the approval of the aid on Chapter IV of the GGCC; suggestions from the International Commission for the Development of the College of St. Bonaventure of Quaracchi; the agreement between the General Government and the Province of Tuscany regarding the House in Istanbul; the restructuring of the Province of St. Thomas, in India (with the presence of Br. Mathias Doyle, Delegate General);

the Custody of the Holy Land (with the presence of Br. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos); the fraternity of the Curia (with the presence of Br. Robert Bahcic, Guardian).

4. In view of the Meeting with the Presidents of the Conferences OFM, to be held in the General Curia during the next TF (12th to 14th May), the Definitory, together with the Secretary of the Chapter 2009, Br. Francesco Patton, prepared the material for the Chapter to be proposed and dealt with together with the Presidents. The Definitory also began to seek and propose names for the various services during the Chapter 2009; all the appointments will be approved during the next TF. Taking into account the resignation from the office of Vice-Secretary of the Chapter and member of the Preparatory Commission, for reasons given, by Br. Walter de Carvalho Júnior, of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of

the B.V.M. in Brazil, the General Definitory accepted his request and appointed Br. Edwin de Jesús Alvarado Sánchez, of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Central America, at the moment serving in Morocco, to replace him.

5. The Vicar and Procurator General, Br. Francesco Bravi, and the Secretary of the Procuration, Br. Valentino Menegatti, presented the Report of the General Procuration for 2007.

The Bursar General, Br. Giancarlo Lati, presented the financial accounts for 2007 and received the approval of the report on finances and patrimony. He also informed the Definitory about the progress of work in the various building sites.

6. The Particular Statutes of the following Entities were approved: the Provinces of St. Michael the Archangel, in Indonesia; the Assumption of the B.V.M., in Brazil; the VII Holy Martyrs in Calabria, Italy; Santiago of Compostela, in Spain; the Assumption of the B.V.M. in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Christ the

King in Canada; and the Custody of St. John the Baptist in Pakistan.

7. The reports sent in by the Visitators who have completed their services in the following Entities, the Province of St. Francis Solano, in Peru, and the Province of St. Leopold, in Austria, were studied and evaluated.

8. Br. Jorge Enrique Concha Cayuqueo, of the Province of the Holy Trinity, in Chile, has been appointed Visitator to the Province of St. Francis in Quito, Ecuador.

9. The Definitory decided to organise a meeting of the Government with the Friars who work in the Roman Curia in the afternoon of the 11th of July, the feast of St. Benedict and feast day of the Holy Father.

The programme and topics of the Meeting of the Presidents of the Federations of Conceptionists, to be held in Toledo from the 24th of May to the 6th June, under the tutelage of the Pro Monialibus Office, were also approved.

A draft programme for the Second Meeting of the

Minister and Definitory General with the Vicars, Prefects and Prelates of Vicariates, Prefectures and Prelatures entrusted to the OFM, which will be held in the General Curia from the 4th to the 6th September 2008, was approved.

10. The Definitory accepted the request of the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Indonesia and approved the erection of a Foundation in East Timor, dependent on the Province. The official erection will take place on the 13th June 2008 and the Foundation will have the title of 'St. Anthony of Lisbon'.

11. 58 administrative matters regarding the issue of decrees, ratifications, dispensations and clarifications, and 12 financial requests were examined.

12. The next TF is scheduled for the 5th to 15th May, during which there will be a meeting with the Presidents of the OFM Conferences (12th to 14th May).

Br. Ernest Karol Siekierka, ofm  
Secretary General

### **Jistrieh fis-sliem**

Luqa Falzon, hu P. Anglu (Honduras), li nghaqad mal-Mulej fil-hajja ta' dejjem, nhar Hadd il-Palm - 16 ta' Marzu 2008, fl-ghomor ta' 51 sena.

***Agħtih, O Mulej, il-mistrieh ta' dejjem.***

**Albert Gauci, OFM: 26 ta' Frar 1983 – 26 ta' Frar 2008**

# **25 sena jaħdem fl-ġħalqa tad-dwieli tal-Mulej**



Fix-xahar ta' Jannar 1983, il-Papa ġwanni Pawlu II gie jzur il-Honduras. F'laqgha li kellu ma' l-Isqofijiet induna li d-Djocesi ta' Olancho, territorju ta' 25 elf kilometru kwadrat u nofs miljun ruh, kien ilha 8 snin bla isqof.

Minnufih, Patri Mauro Muldoon, ex-Missjunarju Franġiskan tal-Provinċja Amerikana ta' l-Immaculate Conception, gie msejjah lura lejn il-Honduras u ikkonsagrat Isqof ta' Olancho.

Fis-26 ta' Frar 1983, Mons. Mauro wasal Juticalpa, belt kapitali ta' l-

istat ta' Oloncho. Sab knisja litteralment imfarrka! Tempji imgarrfin; kappelli imwaqqfa u djar tal-kappillani mimljin haxix, grieden u briefet il-lejl. Wara 8 snin mingħajr ragħaj, innagħaq kienu tferrxu sewwa.

Mons. Mauro irnexxilu jiġbor madwaru xi 5 sacerdoti:

Fr. Michael Brown, OFMConv., li ghereq fi xmara wara li weħel fiha bil-karozza. Padre Milo Rivera, OFM li miet 4 snin ilu u jinsab midfun Manto. Fr. Nicolus Schiel, SJ, ta' 83 sena, illum irtirat. Padre Virgilio Lepež, OFM li wara

sar Isqof ta' Trujillo u li miet meta nqaleb bil-karozza. U Patri Albert Gauci, OFM li għadu jaħdem Olancho.

Isqof u hames sacerdoti għal territorju immens u nofs miljun ruh! Kien bidu veru tal-ġenn! Pero' wara kollo, kull bidu frangiskan kważi dejjem ikun tal-ġenn.

Patrijiet jiġru minn hawn għal hemm fuq dawn il-muntanji, jippruvaw jilħqu ma' l-elf haġa f'daqqa. Parroċċi li ħadd ma kien jaf fejn jibdew u wisq inqas fejn jispiċċaw. Vjaġġi ta' siegħat fuq iż-żiemel bil-kenura, bil-mixi u jeeps 4-

wheel drive. Padre Michael Brown jegħreq fi xmara waqt li prova jaqsama bil-karozza. Patri Albert Gauci, OFM maħtu minn qattiel famuż jismu Canuto Montalban, bla ma ħadd jaf x'sar minnu għal 3 ijiem! U l-malaria u d-deugne li ġħamlu straġi mis-sacerdoti u kwazi qatlu lill-isqof.

Pero' fl-istess hin kien bidu mimli bit-tama, imħabba u sagrifċċju! Wara ffit snin waslu l-ewwel 4 sorijiet Frangiskani biex jgħinu fix-xogħol pastorali. Naqra naqra, 3 žgħażagh minn Olancho stess waslu sa l-ortal bħala sacerdoti. Twieldet Radio Catolica De Olancho, stazzjon tar-radju li jaħdem 24 siegħa kull jum u li fi ffit snin għamel tant ġid. Dar għax-xjuh "Pazy Bien". Dar ghall-Orfni "Santa Maria De Los Angeles". Klinika f'kull parroċċa. *Nutritional Centres* biex nagħtu jieklu lit-tfal foqra. Il-pastorali taż-żgħażagh u l-pastorali tal-familja. Iktar minn elf Celebrados De Pelebradores De La Palabra u l-famuži Comunidades Eclesiales De Base. U saħansitra f'dawn 1 -ahħar xħur, il-Knisja

Kattolika ta' Olancho irnexxilha tibni ħabs modern għal 800 ħabsi li qam iktar minn miljun dollaru.

## **Kien bidu mimli bit-tama, imħabba u sagrifċċju.**

Illum, 25 sena wara, l-Isqof Mauro Muldoon,



OFM għandu 70 sena. Gismu naqra imfarrik, għadmu beda jgħejja u ma għadux ħafif kif kien 25 sena ilu. Pero illum, Mons Mauro għandu 22 sacerdot jgħinuh, 42 soru jakkumpanjawh, 17 il-

żgħażugh minn Olancho fis-seminarju u eluf ta' lajci fimpenn serju.

Olancho, għalkemm tant bogħod minn Malta, għandu jiġi fih demm Malti:

Hawn hadem għal ħafna snin u saħansitra jinsab midfun Diegu Vella, OFM, Kurradu Sammut, OFM(RIP).

Hawn halleyw saħħithom Ģwann Schranz, OFM u Pietru Pawl Meilaq, OFM.

Hawn stinka u għereq Manwel Vella, OFM. Hawn tgħallek jirkeb iż-żiemel il-mibki Felic Mansueto, OFM.

U hawn ergajt iltqajt ma sieħbi, ħabibi u hija, ma min tant ħlomna fis-seminarju fuq li xi darba niġu l-missjoni, il-qatt minsi Ewgenju Fenech, OFM.

Fil-quddiesa ta' ringrażżjament lil Alla li ser inqaddes f'dawn il-granet niftakru fihom, ħutna Maltin... u fikom, il-benefatturi tagħna, għax mingħajr kom, dawn il-25 sena ta' xogħol spiritwali u socjali qatt ma kienu jkunu possibli.



Habs li Albert Guaci, OFM bena reċenti u li ġie jiswa aktar minn miljun dollaru.

# informazzjoni

*ikompli mill-ewwel paġna*

Fil-bidu tat-tieni parti tal-pellegrinagg, issir waqfa quddiem il-Muntanja tal-Kwaratena f'Geriko u żjarat lill-Baħar il-Mejjet, Qumran, id-Deżert ta' Ĝuda u Betanja.

Dan qed ikun segwit minn żara f'Betlem u f'Għajnej Karem. Il-pellegrini jżuru l-Bažilika tan-Natività, is-Santwarju tal-Grotta tal-Halib, is-Santwarju tar-Rgħajja, is-Santwarju tat-Twelid ta' San Ģwann Battista u s-Santwarju tal-Viżitazzjoni.

L-aħħar fazi tal-pellegrinagg tkun ikkonċentrata f'Gerusalemm, fejn l-attivitajiet jibdew b'Ora Santa fil-Bažilika



## Kapitlu Provinċjali

**12 - 16 ta' Mejju**

**Porziuncola**

**Retreat House**

**Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq**

ta' l-Agunija fil-Ġetsemani. Impenji oħrajn f'Gerusalemm u madwarha jinkludu żjara fis-Santwarju ta' Betfage (il-post minn fejn Kristu beda l-mixja tiegħu ta' Hadd il-Palm), kif ukoll żjarat fil-lokalitajiet ta' l-Axxensjoni, tal-Pater Noster, Dominus Flevit (knijsa bl-isem ta' "Il-Mulej Beka" li tinsab fuq l-Ġholja taż-Żebbuġ faċċata ta' Gerusalemm), il-Grotta ta' l-Appostoli u l-Qabar tal-Madonna.

Il-pellegrini se jieħdu sehem ukoll f'quddiesa fil-Bažilika tal-Ġetsemani u f'Via Sagra f'Via Dolorosa. Fi tmiem il-Via Sagra, Mons. Arcisqof u l-pellegrini jidħlu solennement fil-Bažilika tal-Qabar ta' Kristu, fejn hemm ukoll il-Golgota. Fil-Bažilika tal-Qabar ta' Kristu, il-pellegrini jkollhom ukoll l-okkażjoni jattendu għal quddiesa solenni, jieħdu sehem f'purċissjoni Frangiskana u f'meditazzjoni, u jżuru l-Bažilika.

Il-pellegrinagg jintemm bi żjara f'Emmaus, l-Ġholja ta' Sijon u l-Kwartier Lhudi.

Mons. Arcisqof se jippresiedi c-ċelebrazzjoni tal-quddiesa li se ssir fil-Bažilika ta' l-Annunzjazzjoni f'Nażaret, fil-Memorjal ta' San Pietru f'Kafarnaum, fis-Santwarju ta' Betanja, fil-Grotta tan-Natività, fil-Knisja ta' Santa Katerina f'Betlem, fil-Bažilika ta' l-Agunija fil-Ġetsemani, quddiem l-Edikola tal-Qabar ta' Kristu u fis-Santwarju tal-Manifestazzjoni ta' Ĝesù Rxox f'Emmaws.

Mons. Arcisqof se jagħmel żjara ta' korteżija lill-Patrijarka Latin ta' Gerusalemm, Mons. Michel Sabbah. Mons. Cremona se jiltaqa' wkoll mar-reliġjużi u lajci Maltin li jgħixu fl-Art Imqaddsa.

Twanny Chircop, OFM, Marcello Ghirlando, OFM, Ģwann Abela, OFM u Noel Muscat, OFM qed jagħmluha ta' gwidi f'dan il-pellegrinagg.

## **Raymond Falzon, OFM**

Il-quddiem se jirritorna Malta u se jingħaqad mal-fraternita' tal-Belt. Huwa se jagħti s-servizz fl-Apostolat tal-Baħar u hidmiet oħra.



## Hamis ix-Xirka 2008

Bħal kull sena kienu mistiedna numru ta' saċerdoti mill-Belt ghall-ikla ta' nofs il-jum. Din is-sena issieħeb magħħna wkoll Mons. Arċisqof Pawlu Cremona, OP u ss-aċcerdoti li jgħixu miegħu: Dun Anton Gouder, Dun Dione Cutajer, Dun René Camilleri u Dun Michael Bellizzi.



# Document reveals sculptor of miraculous crucifix

Kurt Bugeja Coster

A document that identifies the sculptor of the miraculous crucifix of the Franciscan church of St Mary of Jesus (Ta' Ģiežu) has been unearthed. The crucifix draws countless pilgrims. Legend has it that upon waking from a night's sleep, the sculptor found the statue's head miraculously complete.

Historian Fr Ĝorg Aquilina OFM, who unearthed the document, said that the crucifix is the work of Frate Innocenzo da Petralia, concluding a debate among scholars that has been going for centuries.

It has always been thought that the crucifix was the work of Frate Umile Pintorno, a Sicilian Franciscan from Petralia Soprana who occupied the same workshop as Frate Innocenzo within the Franciscan convent in Palermo.

However, Fr Aquilina came across a contract, dating back to 1648, which states that the effigy was commissioned to Frate Innocenzo.

It also says that Fra Marco Rosset, then conventional parish priest of St John, allocated the required funds for the project, conditioning that the crucifix is not to be transferred to any church or convent other than that

of Ta' Ģiežu, where it hangs behind a thick sheet of glass on the right-hand side of the main door. But the saga doesn't end here.

Fr Aquilina was not doing research on the crucifix when he found the contract but about the church's Ecce Homo (Behold the Man). There is a striking resemblance between the figures of Jesus featuring in the crucifix

and in the statue but could not come to a definite conclusion as a result of the countless modifications made to the statue during earlier restoration works. Until the Konfraternitâ Tal-Kurċifiss commissioned Fr Charles Vella to repair the statue.

During the renovation process, Fr Vella, an expert in the sphere, decided to examine a number of samples.

The original features of the statue became clearer. In fact, Fr Vella



said that the statue was altered to resemble the rest of the set of statues. For instance, Jesus's hair and beard were extended using a mixture of paper and glue.

Both Fr Aquilina and Fr Vella conducted a number of studies, suspecting that the statue might be the work of either Frate Umile or Frate Innocenzo, friend and disciple of the former. However, following tests on the medium used on the statue, the scholars



## Pasquette For Franciscans

On Wednesday 26 the Franciscan family gathered at the Poor Clares Monastery in St. Julian's to celebrate Pasquette together in a fraternal way.

It began with a moment of prayer and a liturgical dance by the religious in formation. Afterwards some games were organised, as a means to relax together after the hectic period of Lent and Easter. After the celebration and games we were invited in the Clares garden for a meal.



concluded that the Ecce Homo is the work of Frate Umile.

Although documentation is sparse, the little found suggest that it was Frate Umile's father that taught him sculpture. He then continued his studies in Palermo, achieving the level of

maestro and obtaining the right to a bottega, or workshop.

As a result of the cooperation between both friars in the convent's workshop, their works are confused without authentic documentation related to them.

**15.03.08**  
**TIMESOF  
MALTA.COM**

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## **Kungress Nazzjonali tal-ħajja konsagrata**

profeti  
għan-nies  
tal-lum

**It-Tnejn, 07.04.08**

**Profeti fid-Dinja tal-lum**

Fr. Eddie Mercieca, SJ  
Sala Santa Monika,  
B'Kara  
6.00 pm

**It-Tnejn, 14.04.08**

**Profeti fil-Knisja tal-Lum**

Mons. Ġorġ Frendo, OP  
Sala Santa Monika,  
B'Kara  
6.00 pm

**It-Tnejn, 21.04.08**

**Profeti fid-Dinja ta' Ghada**

Sr. Gemma Simmonds, CJ  
Sala Santa Monika,  
B'Kara  
6.00 pm

**Il-Hadd, 27.04.08**

Čelebrazzjoni ma'

Mons. Arċijsqof

Pawl Cremona, OP., Santa Agata, Rabat, 6.00 pm





# FRATERNITAS

Eng Vol. XL. Nr. 137 - OFM Rome - Email: rbahcic@ofm.org - 01. 04. 2008

## Coming canonisations

Pope Benedict XVI announced the decision to canonise four Blessed on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008 during the Public Consistory celebrated in the Vatican on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Among them are two Franciscan Sisters, Bl. Maria Bernarda Bütler (1924), Foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady Help of Sinners, of Colombia, and Bl. Alfonsa of the Immaculate Conception (1946) of the Poor Clares in India, whose cause was entrusted to our Postulation.

## Blessed John Duns Scotus in the VII Centenary of his death

The word of God is not a store of crystallised propositions: it is a living word. It is the truth of God and, therefore, inexhaustible in its understanding and significance. It is a dynamic force which continues to be revealed in history, which is enriched through reflection, experience and the historical events of the Church. The presence of the Spirit, who guides us to the "fullness of the truth", is, at the same time, a stimulus for ever new and creative understanding and fidelity in reading and interpreting which flees from every adventurous human accommodation. John Duns Scotus dedicated special attention to such developing truths and was able to formulate opinions, supported, however, by solid biblical and magisterial patristic arguments in such a way that knowledge of them became ever clearer, acceptable and definable. Such a goal was reached with regards to the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption, after centuries of study, reflection and observations. Such truths were in perfect harmony with the other truths of faith and spring from them directly.

## Missionary Congress of the OFM for Latin-America and the Caribbean

The Congress will be held in Cordoba, Argentina, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The objectives are to encourage the Friars of Latin-America to pursue new ways of evangelising, to recover their missionary awareness on the basis of their historical memory, to animate the life and the new initiatives of evangelisation of the Entities, and to awaken the specifically "ad gentes" missionary vocation. All the Provinces, Custodies and Entities of the OFM in Latin-America are invited to participate and to involve lay people who collaborate and are active in the local reality of evangelisation and mission. See: <http://www.congresomisioneroofmla.blogspot.com/>

## Seminar on Evangelisation and Mission in Amazonia

A Seminar on Evangelisation and Mission in Amazonia was held in the city of Manaus, Brazil, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of February. The event was organised by the Brazilian Conference, the Custody of St. Benedict in Amazonia and by the General Secretariat for Evangelisation and had the objective of discussing and establishing a missionary project for the two Conferences of our Order which are located in this part of the world. The participants reflected on the challenges which are presented by the region, considered by the leaders of the world to be a highly strategic region for the life of our planet: in addition to the ecological balance and potable water, the different indigenous peoples and cultures of the region are threatened by extinction, poverty, and economic and social policies which instrumentalise, ignore or wish to eliminate them. The participants in the Seminar defined Amazonia as a place of frontier, one of

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region of conflicts which will intensify in the future. In fact, the greed of the big cattle breeders has caused the disappearance of thousands of acres of forest and the elimination of hundreds of indigenous villages. Defence of the rights of the population has cost the lives of many people, among them Dorothy Stang, a Catholic missionary, who was assassinated in February 2005. The Seminar worked out a mission project which will be submitted to the Ministers Provincial.

## New missionaries in Brussels

The Fraternity of Notre Dame des Nations in Brussels (Belgium) received a new group of French-speaking missionaries for a period of three-months preparation and missionary accompaniment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. The Moderator General for the OFM Missions, Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli, attended. The group is composed of six Capuchin missionaries from India, Italy, Poland and the D.R. of Congo, who are destined for missions in Gabon, Benin, Congo Brazzaville and Switzerland. There are also two Friar Minor missionaries: Br. Loris D'Alessandro, from Sicily (Italy), destined for the Missionary Foundation in Congo Brazzaville, and Br. Carlos Omar Duran, from El Salvador, destined for the mission in Haiti. We remind you that one of the main objectives of the course for new missionaries is that of offering an experience of multi-cultural and inter-franciscan fraternity, vision and spirituality of mission.

Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli recalled that the formative activity in Brussels was desired by the Ministers General of the four Orders of Franciscans (OFM, OFMConv, OFMCap, and TOR) to prepare good franciscan missionaries. Each missionary will complete the specific and particular aspects in his own Order and in the place to which he is sent.

## Testimony of Br. Dominique Joly

I am Br. Dominique, a member of the Province of the Three Companions, living in the fraternity of Villeurbanne (Lyon, France), a chaplain to "the festival artisans", i.e., to fun-fair, circus and street artistes. In France, as in other European countries, these are "the artistes" of fetes, which began as patron feasts and then combined with various civil manifestations. On such occasions, the people liked to gather to drink, eat, and be entertained to the rhythm of songs, music and dance, while acrobats, clowns, animal trainers and puppets performed.

Alongside them there are the Circus people, who, beginning in England at the end of the XVII century, spread throughout the world and offer, at certain times, spectacles of real artistes for the enjoyment and diversion of children and adults.

The "festival artisans" are itinerant and do not belong to any ethnic group, but come from all countries of the world. They are not always looked upon with a friendly eye by the people of the Church because of the risks inherent in spectacles regarded as frivolous. Thanks, however, to the establishment of "itinerant chaplains", these "special people" have come in from the margins and have been able to make use of various helps such as schools for their children and access to catechism and the sacraments.

Regarding my mission as their chaplain, working and living in my country, I think it is a question of a real and proper "ad gentes" mission, because the "festival artisans" are itinerant and this greatly influences their identity, style of life and mentality. I began in 1982, partly by accident, but I later became the national chaplain for six years and now I am the chaplain in the Diocese and region of Lyon. I have the hope of continuing for a long time still, because I believe that this world accepts the announcement of the Gospel in a franciscan style: being in their midst in simplicity. I often think of the admonition of Francis to his Friars who go to the land of Islam: they "are not to engage in arguments or disputes, but to be subject to every human creature for God's sake and to acknowledge that they are Christians". That which characterises this world – festivity, itinerancy – makes it very close to the Gospel.

## The Philippines – Meeting of the International Council of

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## **JPIC**

The meeting of the International Council of JPIC of the Order was held in Cebú, the Philippines, between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2008. The Council is composed of the JPIC Presidents from the 13 Conferences, of the Animation Committee, of the two Friars who work in the Rome Office, and of the link Definitor.

Reports were presented on the continental meetings, held between September 2007 and February 2008, which had the task of evaluating the work done since the last General Chapter and of pointing out some priorities to be presented to the next Chapter. Emphasis was put on the reality of Asia, its great religions and what they have to do with JPIC. A day was dedicated to the topic of collaboration with the Secretariats for Formation and Evangelisation, with particular attention to the latter. Another day was taken up by some workshops on the following topics: social analysis and reading the signs of the times; reading Scripture from the point of view of the poor; collaboration with social movements. The visit to some situations of poverty and of the struggle for human rights and a dignified life gave us a greater understanding of the reality of the Philippines and of the pastoral work of the Friars. Finally, the Council worked out some proposals for the General Chapter of 2009 and established priorities and strategies for the future work of JPIC in the Order.

### **Bosnia Herzegovina – Formation course for Spiritual Assistants to SFO and You.Fra**

The second course of formation for the Spiritual Assistants to the SFO and You.Fra of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia was held in the royal city of Jajce in Bosnia-Herzegovina, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2008. About 80 Spiritual Assistants to the SFO and You.Fra were present at the course and there was a very active and animated participation. Br. Fabrizio Ciampicali, OFM, National Assistant to the SFO in Italy, who arrived with the General Assistant to the SFO, was also present at the course.

The aim of this second course of formation was that of presenting the book “Manual for Spiritual Assistance to the SFO and You.Fra”, recently published in Croatian. This is the first edition of the book in another language since it was published in Italian by the Conference of General Assistants to the SFO. Many thanks to all those who collaborated in the translation and publication of the manual in Croatian, as the manual will be a great help to the Spiritual Assistants, Secular Franciscans and to the Young Franciscans in their initial and ongoing formation. The formation course closed with a solemn concelebration of the Eucharist in the famous sanctuary of St. John the Baptist in Podmilačje.

### **Turkey – In the footsteps of St. Paul**

A course of updating, guided by Br. Ruben Tierrablanca and Br. Massimo Fusarelli, Secretary General for Formation and Studies, held in Turkey from the 24<sup>th</sup> January to the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008, was organised for 16 Friars from the Province of Puglia and Molise, and 3 diocesan priests, in order for them to have a significant experience “in the footsteps of Paul... an encounter with Orthodoxy” during the Pauline year declared by Pope Benedict XVI. It was lived as a time of grace, in the joy of being to Tarsus on the feast of the Conversion of the Apostle to the Gentiles, of having met the Patriarch, His Holiness Bartholomew I, and of being enriched by the ecumenical prayer meetings and special conferences with Br. Tecle Vetrali and Br. Gwenolé Jeusset.

### **The Czech Republic – Formation Course for Spiritual Assistants to SFO and You.Fra**

A formation course for Spiritual Assistants to the SFO and You.Fra of the Czech Republic and Slovakia was held at the sanctuary of Svatý Hostýn, Czech Republic, from the 28<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008. The course was organised by the Conference

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of Assistants General in collaboration with the Conferences of Spiritual Assistants of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Some Secular Franciscans from both countries also participated in the course. Approximately 70 people in all, between Spiritual Assistants and Secular Franciscans, were present. It was very nice to see the participation of the Ministers Provincial of the First Order from both countries.

The topics of the course were presented by the Assistants General as follows: "The importance of the knowledge of the SFO documents" (Fr. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR); "Collegial Assistance to the SFO" (Br. Martin Bitzer, OFMConv); "The presentation of the Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO" (Br. Ivan Matić, OFM); "The role of the Spiritual Assistant in the local fraternity" (Br. Samy Irudaya, OFMCap); "Franciscan Youth and its spiritual assistance" (Br. Ivan Matić, OFM).

## Franciscan Bookmark

- **The Gospel in the East**, *John of Montecorvino, Friar Minor and first Bishop in the land of China*, Pacifico Sella, (Viator, 5), Ed. Porziuncola, Assisi 2008, pp. 200 (in Italian).  
Pope Innocent IV and the King of France, Louis IX, very often sent Franciscans and Dominicans to the Court of the Great Khan, under the dynasty of Yuan, in the XIII century. It was not a question of true and proper missionaries, but of sending them to gather news and to initiate diplomatic contact. Remembered among them are Br. John of Pian del Carpine, who reached Karakorum (1245-47), the Flemish Friar William of Rubruck (1253-55) and especially Br. John of Montecorvino who reached Kambalik (close to the present Beijing) in 1294, helped by some Friars.  
Montecorvino stayed in China until his death in 1328. Pope Clement V appointed him Archbishop of Beijing and Patriarch of the East in 1307, a title which the Patriotic Bishop of Beijing, Msgr. Michael Fu Tieshan, who died last year, gloried in. The mission of Montecorvino had a discrete success. In an account to his superiors he wrote of "six thousand Baptisms; 150 children formed in school".
- **The face of friends. Military witnesses to Christ**, Fr. Giulio Cerchietti, Ed. S. Paolo, 2007, pp. 406 (in Italian).  
The author offers a list of saints and martyrs who, directly or indirectly, for a short or long time, had something to do with military life and who, in it, or after it, gave heroic witness to their Christian faith. It deals, in great part, with martyrs and saints of the early centuries and then of numerous figures of Russian and Slav saints in general, among them princes and kings, as well as known figures of European, especially Italian, saints. All are listed, independently of the era, in alphabetic order, as shown in the index. Fr. Giulio Cerchietti is, at the moment, an official of the Congregation for Bishops, where he is also responsible for the International Office of Military Ordinaries.
- **Little Francis (5 puzzles for children)**, written by Julie Hanna, illustrated by Sr. Chiara Amata, *Franciscan Missions, Inc.* Waterford (USA), 2007.  
The mind needs training, just like the body, to stay healthy. Doing puzzles is a good training and Little Francis is aimed at keeping the mind full of edifying thoughts. Each puzzle in the book has a message that is good for you. Complete the puzzle and make your mind grow.
- **Blessed Camilla Battista of Varano**, Poor Clare. The 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her birth (1458-2008) began in Camerino (Italy) on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and will end on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009. There will be various cultural events organised

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in collaboration with the Higher School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies of the PUA during the year. Highlighted among them is the IV Day of Study on the feminine franciscan Observance entitled "Bl. Camilla Battista Varano and the monastery of St. Clare in Camerino". The book 'Bl. Battista of Varano, The happy passing of Bl. Pietro of Mogliano', under the care of A. Gatticci, Edizioni Sismel, Florence 2007, has been published In conjunction with the Centenary. Further information may be had from the Monastery of St. Clare, Camerino: [clarissecamerino@tiscali.it](mailto:clarissecamerino@tiscali.it)

- **A study meeting on the book of Joseph Ratzinger, 'St. Bonaventure: The theology of History', was held in the Antonianum on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Some important concluding words from Barbara Faes de Mottoni:** "The book of Joseph Ratzinger on the theology of history in St. Bonaventure would not have been born if there had not been a text [...]. Thanks to the critical edition of the Friars of Quaracchi who composed, after many decades – the 20 years from 1882 to 1902 - of preparation and research in codices found in libraries throughout Europe, the edition of the Opera Omnia of Bonaventure was published. [...] We must now thank the Franciscans of the 1800s, whom no one now names, but who gave an incalculable service to research and the development of theology and whom I feel the obligation to recall: Br. Fedele of Fanna, who died in 1881 at 44 years of age, broken by hard work and toil, without seeing his dream, the printing of at least the first volume of the Opera Omnia, realised. He, during the final days of his life, had himself carried to the study hall where his collaborators worked, and he "was seen on various occasions to go down with great effort from his sick-bed to write at his desk, to note down the memories which occurred to him and which were worth communicating to his collaborators"; Br. Ignaz Jeiler who would continue the work of Br. Fedele and the Vicar General of the Order, Br. Bernardine of Portogruaro, the great protector of franciscan studies in the second half of the 1800s, to whom we owe the project of the critical edition, and also this building of the Antonianum which received us today".
- **German language course:** Duration: summer months (July, August and September 2008).  
**Lodgings:** (1) **Fulda, Guest House:** 6 places from the 7<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August; 2 places outside the above mentioned time; (2) **Berlin-Pankow:** 1 place in July, August and September; (3) **Hofheim, Retreat House:** 2 places from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September; (4) **Bonn, Missionszentrale** 2 places in July, August and September.  
There is a language school, ("inlingua"), in the neighbourhood of these Houses.  
**Cost:** The students only pay for their journey and personal expenses. The language course, board and lodgings are free. Authorisation from the Minister Provincial of the Friar student is required.  
**Inscription:** Contact Br. Ingbert Ziegler, the Provincial Secretary of Fulda, directly, indicating the exact period and place. Br. Ingbert will look after the organisation. E-mail: [prov.fulda@franziskaner.de](mailto:prov.fulda@franziskaner.de)
- **DVD: One Voice in Prayer:** presents the commitment of the Franciscan Family to the poor of Nairobi, Kenya. The Friars of Nairobi live in the poor districts, visit the lepers and the victims of AIDS, procure food and shelter for street children, accompany young marginalised and share meetings with members of other religions. The list of social, spiritual and charitable activities in which the more than 50 franciscan entities in the city of Nairobi are involved, is long. The greater part of the work which the Sisters and Friars carry out in the spirit of St. Francis remains hidden. The DVD is available in English from

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the Portiuncula Office of the Franciscan Centre - [ffakenya@gmail.com](mailto:ffakenya@gmail.com)

- **Br. Benjamín Agulló enters the Royal Academy of Culture of Valencia:** Br. Benjamín Agulló (of the Province of Valencia, Spain) became an ordinary academic of the Royal Academy of Culture in Valencia on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March last with a discourse on the Franciscan Br. Luis Fullana and his relations with the same institution.  
The ceremony was held in the Hall of the Cultural Centre “La Beneficencia” in the city of Valencia, which was full of people who wished to hear the discourse of the Franciscan Friar.  
It is an honour for the Province and for the Order that one of our Friars should be admitted to this institution, dedicated to studying and recovering all that refers to Valencia and to what was produced by it.
- **The Friar Editors of Quaracchi are offering a 50% discount on the cover price** of all books in their catalogue up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. For further information contact: [quaracchi@ofm.org](mailto:quaracchi@ofm.org); website: [www.fratiquaracchi.it](http://www.fratiquaracchi.it).
- **Agostino Gemelli ordained a priest one hundred years ago:** A day of study, promoted by the Friars Minor of the Lombardy Province and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, was held in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Milan on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2008, to commemorate the Centenary of the priestly ordination of the Friar Minor Agostino Gemelli (1878 - 1959), founder of the same University, of three Secular Institutes, of the Editorial House “Vita e Pensiero”, and of the ‘Opera della Regalità’ for the liturgical formation of the people, and inspirer of multiple initiatives in the cultural and ecclesiastical field, which made him an outstanding figure in the history of the Order of Friars Minor and of the Church in the XX century.
- **The “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice”** medal was awarded to our Br. Rafael Dorado Quesada, of the Province of Our Lady of Regola (Granada – Spain), for his services in favour of the Church and Order of Friars Minor, especially in the Sanctuaries of Nazareth and Gethsemane in the Holy Land, by the Holy Father Benedict XVI, on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. We rejoice with our brother and ask the Lord, the Giver of all good, to allow him to continue to help and serve all with ever faithful generosity.

#### **Agenda of the Minister General**

**01-02 April:** Continuation of the fraternal meeting of the Minister General and his Definitor with the English-speaking Conference (New York - USA).

**04 April:** Participation in the XXXIV Franciscan Inter-provincial Week of CONFRES (Madrid – Spain).

**07-13 April:** Visit to the Province of the Assumption of the B.V.M, the Custody of St. Benedict of Amazonia and to the Foundation of Our Lady of Graces (Brazil).

**14-18 April:** Participation in the Missionary Congress (Argentina).

**20-24 April:** Visit to the Province of St. Jerome (Zadar – Croatia).

**27-30 April:** Visit to the Provinces of St. Joseph and of Christ the King (Canada).

#### **FRATERNITAS - OFM - Rome**

**Director responsible: Gino Concetti - Redactor: Robert Bahćić**

**Internet: <http://www.ofm.org/fraternitas>. Email: [rbahcic@ofm.org](mailto:rbahcic@ofm.org)**

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## **Fraternity among the displaced in Colombia**

Sincelejo is a small city on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. Its population is 350,000, and 64,000 of these people are refugees created by the internal war being waged in the country.

Those who live in the belts of misery that encircle the city lack basic public services. Electricity is obtained illegally and phone service is nonexistent. There is a complete lack of drinkable water, which has led to dramatic health problems, especially skin and stomach diseases.

In the midst of these people there is a fraternity of OFM friars from the province of Saint Paul the Apostle. It is called San Damia-no, and the four friars who live there seek to honor the name of their friary by constantly re-calling the words Jesus spoke to brother Francis: "Repair my Church, which is falling into ruin."

In their re-reading of this passage from the sources, these four brothers continue to hear the voice of the Lord which says to them today: "Brothers, repair my Church, which is falling into ruin; repair the social fabric torn by violence; repair the lives torn by violence; repair the social organizations torn by violence; repair the collective dreams of those who were campesinos before all this violence began; repair their confidence".

These brothers understand that the needed repairs can only be done through use of the social sciences, and by establishment of a micro-economy that is truly based on solidarity. They also know that no tools will work without tapping into and living in the strength of the Spirit of God, as did Francis and Clare, and as described and practiced by Saint Thomas More in his well-known Utopia.

It is in this spirit that a group of lay people, inspired by Francis and Clare, have created a foundation named after Saint Thomas More. They work at the task of re-construction. Francis and Clare knew that they were not building something new, but were rather about the task of re-constructing upon the apostolic foundations already laid by Jesus. In similar fashion, the brothers of San Damiano and the lay people of Saint Thomas More know that they are re-building on the cultural heritage of the people. The roots and wisdom of this people have arisen over time, and are based on the ancestral traditions of the indigenous Zenú culture, of the Afro-Colombians who have been in the region since Spanish colonization, and of the mestizos and sambos (children of the indigenous peoples and the Spanish, and of the blacks and the mestizos).

In this context Justice and Peace are born once again, and they kiss as in the psalm. Justice cannot be built on impunity, and Peace cannot be built while covering over injustice. For Justice and Peace to be present, truth must flourish; truth, by the light of the Spirit, will show up the cruelty that exists. Truth will show forth peace like a rainbow, a wonderful symbol of diversity and respect. Victims will once again be able to lift their eyes to the horizon where they will see the birth of a new Utopia. It will be a Utopia of peace with dignity, which radiates from the heart of the people, a heart of solidarity, a heart of tenderness.

The brothers of San Damiano and the lay people of Saint Thomas More Franciscan Foundation will continue to walk hand in hand with these Colombians who are victims of violence, and are strangers in their own land.

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## **Gobachev jitlob quddiem il-qabar ta' San Frangisk**

Michael Gorbachev, l-aħħar mexxej komunista ta' dik li kienet l-Unjoni Sovjetika recenti għamel żjara fil-Porziuncola u l-Bażilika fejn hemm midfun San Frangisk. Akkumpanjat minn bintu, Gobachev dam madwar nofs siegħa fuq irkubbtejh jitlob f-silenzju. Huwa stqarr li hu affaxxinat minn San Frangisk, u dan il-qaddis kellu rwol fundamentali f'hajtu.



the “forgotten cloisters”, a



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tad-dwieli

tal-Mulej

fil-Honduras

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## FESTI U BIRTHDAYS

### APRIL

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 23. Fra Ġorġ Aquilina    | 1. Fra Dijonisju Mintoff   |
| Fra George Bugeja        | 2. Fra Loreto Zerafa       |
| 25. Fra Mark Enriquez    | 3. Fra Twanny Chircop      |
| Fra Mark Ciantar         | 4. Fra Joe Bonello         |
| 30. Fra Ĝużepp B. Xuereb | 12. Fra Marcello Ghirlando |
|                          | 19. Fra John Muscat        |
|                          | 23. Fra Ĝużepp Camilleri   |
|                          | 24. Mons. Robert Camilleri |

### M E J J U

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

## L-ISBAH XEWQAT

Rapporti Kapitlu Provinċjali 2008  
 Is-Segreterija tal-Provinċja, fl-1 ta' Mejju se tqassam lill-ahwa kollha dokument bit-talb u r-rapporti kollha tal-kapitlu.

### F' DIN IL-HARĞA

April 2008

L-Arcisqof fl-Art Imqaddsa	1
Messaġġ tal-Papa ghall-45 Jum Dinji ta' Talb ghall-Vokazzjonijiet	2
Messaġġ tal-Għid mill-Ministru Ģeneral	5
Mid-Definitorju ġenerali	6
25 Sena ta' Hidma Pastorali fil-Honduras	8
Informazzjoni	10
Fraternitas	14

## L-AĦBAR

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