



MULTOS ANNOS !!!!

Fra Alexander Borg ofm

Fra Julian Sammut ofm

Fra Ray Scicluna ofm

Fra Raymond Falzon ofm

fl -10 ta' Lulju 2008 huma se jfakkru

**l-25 anniversarju ta' l-Ordinazzjoni Saċerdotali taghhom,
li kienet saret**

**fil-Knisja Parrokkjali Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor -
Tas-Sliema**

ara aktar ritratti f' paġna 7

IS-SENA PAWLINA

Fit-28 ta' Ġunju, waqt Għasar Pontifikali, l-Papa Benedittu XVI ta' bidu għas-Sena Pawlina fil-Bażilika ta' S. P awl fuori le Mura, f' Ruma. Il-Papa ried itfakkar l-2,000 anniversarju tat-twelid ta' San Pawl, li skond l-istoriċi, kien bejn is-snin 7 u l-10 W.K. Anke f'pajjiżna, kif kien xi-erag, se jsiru ċelebrazzjonijiet speċjali organizzati miż-żewġ djoċesijiet. Għal dan il-għan f' Malta, l-Arċisqof Mons. Pawl Cremona O.P. mexxa Quddiesa Konċelebrata fil-Pjazza ta' quddiem il-Kattidral ta' l-Imdina u wara fil-bosta knejjes ta' l-Imdina u tar-Rabat saru wirijiet b' tema pawlina. Mad-dawra tal-kjostru tal-Kunvent tagħna ta' Santa Marija ta' Ġesu' ġewwa r-Rabat saret wirja interessanti, fejn ġew murija xi xogholijiet ta' arti li jinsabu fil-knejjes tagħna, li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-Padrun tal-Provincja tagħna bit-tema 'S. Pawl għand il-Franġiskani'. Fost dawn ix-xogholijiet kien hemm pitturi ta' Giuseppe Cali, P. Novelli u artisti oħra mhux magħrufa. Wara fil-knisja sar kuncert ta' mużika sagra.

Bħalissa wkoll il-biblista Fra Marcello Ghirlando ofm qed jiiċteb tagħrif importanti fuq Missierna San Pawl f' paġna 4 tal-fujett 'Jum il-Mulej', mahruġ miċ-ĊAK.

Għal din l-okkażjoni, l-Kummissarjat ta' l-Art Imqaddsa ġewwa Malta qiegħed ippreż enta l-ktieb tal-Professur A. M. Buscemi ofm - San Pawl, il-Hajja, il-Hidma u l-Messaġġ tiegħu. Il-verżjoni maltija saret minn fra Noel Muscat ofm, li wkoll żied tagħrif interessanti dwar il-migja ta' San Pawl fostna. Infakkru li, l-Edizzjoni Tau kienet diġa ppublikat il-ktieb tal-biblista fra Guido Schembri ofm - San Pawl - Tagħrif fuq ħajtu u l-lttri li kiteb. N.B. Aktar tagħrif dwar dawn il-kotba, jinstab fis-sit elettroniku tal-Provincja: ofm.org.mt



“Ngħix,
imma mhux
jien,
iżda jgħix
fija Kristu”.

Gal. 2,20

Is-servizz ta' l-Awtorita' u l-Ubbidjenza

Il-Kongregazzjoni għall-Istituti ta' Hajja Konsagrata u Soċjetajiet ta' Hajja Apostolika, waqt l-71 Assemblea ta' l-Unjoni tas-Superjuri Ġenerali, nhar it-28 ta' Mejju fl-awla tal-Pontificia Università Salesiana ġewwa Ruma, ġiet ipprezentata lis-Superjuri Ġenerali iŋstruzzjoni ġdida bit-titlu 'Is-Servizz ta' l-Awtorita' u l-Ubbidjenza, 'Faciem tuam, Domine, requiram'. Dan id-dokument, li jġib id-data ta' l-11 ta' Mejju 2008, ikompli juri kemm il-Knisja tapprezza d-don tal-ħajja reliġjuża. Huwa juri li, l-ubbidjenza fil-ħajja kkonsagrata hija vjaġġ li fih wieħed jaġraf aktar il-pjan ta' l-imħabba t' Alla. Fuq kollox l-ubbidjenza reliġjuża għandha l-għerq tagħha fit-tfittxija ta' Alla u r-rieda tiegħu. Dan jsir billi wieħed jisma' l-Kelma Tiegħu u jaġraf il-pjan ta' mħabbtu. L-Awtorita' trid tiġi mifumha fid-dawl ta' l-esperjenza fundamentali ta' Kristu li, għax kien iħobb kien ubbidjenti sal-mewt tas-Salib".

F' komunita' reliġjuża kulhadd u qabel kulhadd, anki dawk fl-awtorita', huma msejha għall-ubbidjenza. L-awtorita' qegħda għas-servizz tal-komunita', sabiex kulhadd flimkien ikun jista' jaġmel ir-rieda ta' Alla. L-ubbidjenza tista' tagħti lok għal mumentu diffiċli u għal sitwazzjonijiet ta' tbatija, imma fl-istess waqt l-awtorita' tista' tkun diffiċli. L-ubbidjenza ma tistax tkun waħda passive. Anki f' mumentu diffiċli, min iħaddan il-ħajja reliġjuża jrid jobdi l-awtorita' allavolja din mhux infallibbli. Dan għandu jaġmlu għaliex il-Mulej jitlob dan.

Interessanti l-fatt li f'din l-iŋstruzzjoni nsibu żewġ kwotazzjonijiet mil-kitbiet ta' Missierna S. Franġisk - f'paġna 42, L-ittra lil Ministru, 7-10 u f' paġna 44, it-Twissijiet 5-6,9. Insibu wkoll kwotazzjoni mit-Testment ta' Santa Klara - 61-62 f' paġna 35.

Din l-iŋstruzzjoni tagħlaq b'talba ta' l-awtorita' u lil Madonna.

N. B. Wieħed jista' jaqrha fuq is-sit elettroniku tal-Vatikan - www.vatican.va.

Nitlob ukoll lil dik li għad ikollha t-tmexxija tas-sorijiet,
li tara li tkun qabel l-oħrajn aktar fil-virtujiet u fil-qdusija tal-ħajja milli fid-dinjita',
sabiex is-sorijiet, imħegġa mill-eżempju tagħha,
jobduha mhux tant imħabba l-uffiċċju li għandha, imma imqanqlin mill-imħabba.
Barra dan, jalla tkun mara qalbha f'idejha u għaqlija, bħal omm għal uliedha.

Mit-Testment ta' S. Klara - 61-63

MENDICANTS OF MEANING, LED BY THE WORD

On the 27th March 2008, our Minister General Br. Jose' Rodriguez Carballo O.F. M. sent a letter to us all on the occasion of Pentecoste 2008. He wants us to be ' participants in some reflections on the word of God in our life and more concretely, on the *powerful reading of the word*. Ours is a time of words, if only they were also of the Word!' . He tells us also why he has chosen this topic :- the opening of the Pauline Year, desired by Pope Benedict XVI to commemorate the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul and the XII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will have as its theme: *The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church*.

From this letter I have chosen some questions, as a means of reflection for all of us.

- + The word of God is the best prayer manual in that it helps us to transform all the realities which fill our life into prayer. Do I understand it in this way? Is the word used both personally and in community as a text of prayer or simply as information about God? How does my fraternity live and celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours? What changes do I need to make to my life so that the reading of the word may be changed into a prayer? (12)
- + Our liturgy has to become more alive each day and, to do that, we have to declare war on monotony, that monotony which make us tip-toe around the word, and not out of respect. How can we bring it about that the word has the main role that belongs to it in our liturgical celebrations? How can we open up channels in order to make comment on the word, apply it to life and allow ourselves to be enlightened by it ? (14)
- + How we behave before the text of Sacred Scriptures? What internal attitudes and external behaviours do we have towards the word of God? How we understand the relationship between word of God and Church? Is there genuine listening in faith to the word of God in each one of us and in our fraternities? What aspects will we have to clarify and strengthen in our relationship with the word? (18)

+ What importance does the word of God have in my life ? What place does it occupy in my daily work? (22)

+ In a society like ours, we are called to recover spaces of silence, to create desert, in order to secure our internal and psychological balance, in order to contemplate the world and others with the eyes of the heart, the only ones Which can penetrate to the depths, and, above all, to listen to the voice of God who speaks and has something new to say to us. Are we disposed to do that ?

How often do you dedicate yourself to *the reading of the word* ? Are you Satisfied?

How much faith do we have when we read Sacred Scripture? How do we situate ourselves before the word, is it human word or the word of God?

Do I accept or domesticate the radical demands of the gospel?

Do I allow myself to be enlightened and judged by the word or am I one of those who seek to be justified by it in everything they do or say? (26)

+ What means do I use to guard the word in my heart? (28)



**Niċċelebraw flimkien
il-Festa Solenni ta' S. Kjara t' Assisi,
flimkien mal-Klarissi
fl-okkażjoni tal-
50 anniversarju minn mindu
giet iddikjarta bhala
Padruna tat-televiżjoni**

**11 t' Awissu 2008
6.30 p.m.**

**Quddiesa Konċelebrata
immexxija
mil-Min. Prov.
Fra Sandro Overend O.F.M.
fil-ġnien tal-monasterju**

Kulhadd huwa mistieden

Nhar l-4 ta' Ġunju l-Provincjal, għall-ewwel darba, iltaqa' mal-Gwardjani l-godda fil-kunvent ta' Tas-Sliema.

Nhar id-9 ta' Ġunju l-Provincjal ha sehem f' seminar li organizza l-KSMR dwar: 'Biex il-Kingress Hajja Konsagrata iħalli l-frott. '.

F' dawn il-jiem kellna fostna lil huna Mons. Robert Camilleri ofm, Isqof ta' Comayagua, ġewwa l-Honduras. Huwa għadda Malta qabel ma' tela' Ruma għal-laqgħa (ad limina apostolorum) li, l-isqfijiet tal-Honduras kellhom mal-Papa fil-Vatikan. Huwa il-taqa' miegħu personalment nhar l-24 tax-xahar.

Il-Provincjal, flimkien mal-fraternita' tar-Rabat u xi aħwa oħra, ha sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet, li organizzat l-Arcikonfraternita' ta' S. Ġuzepp fil-knisja tagħna tar-Rabat. Din s-sena qed jiftakar l-500 mitt sena minn meta l-festa ta' S. Ġuzepp, fid-19 ta' Marzu, bdiet tiġi ċċelebrata f' Malta bħala solennita'.

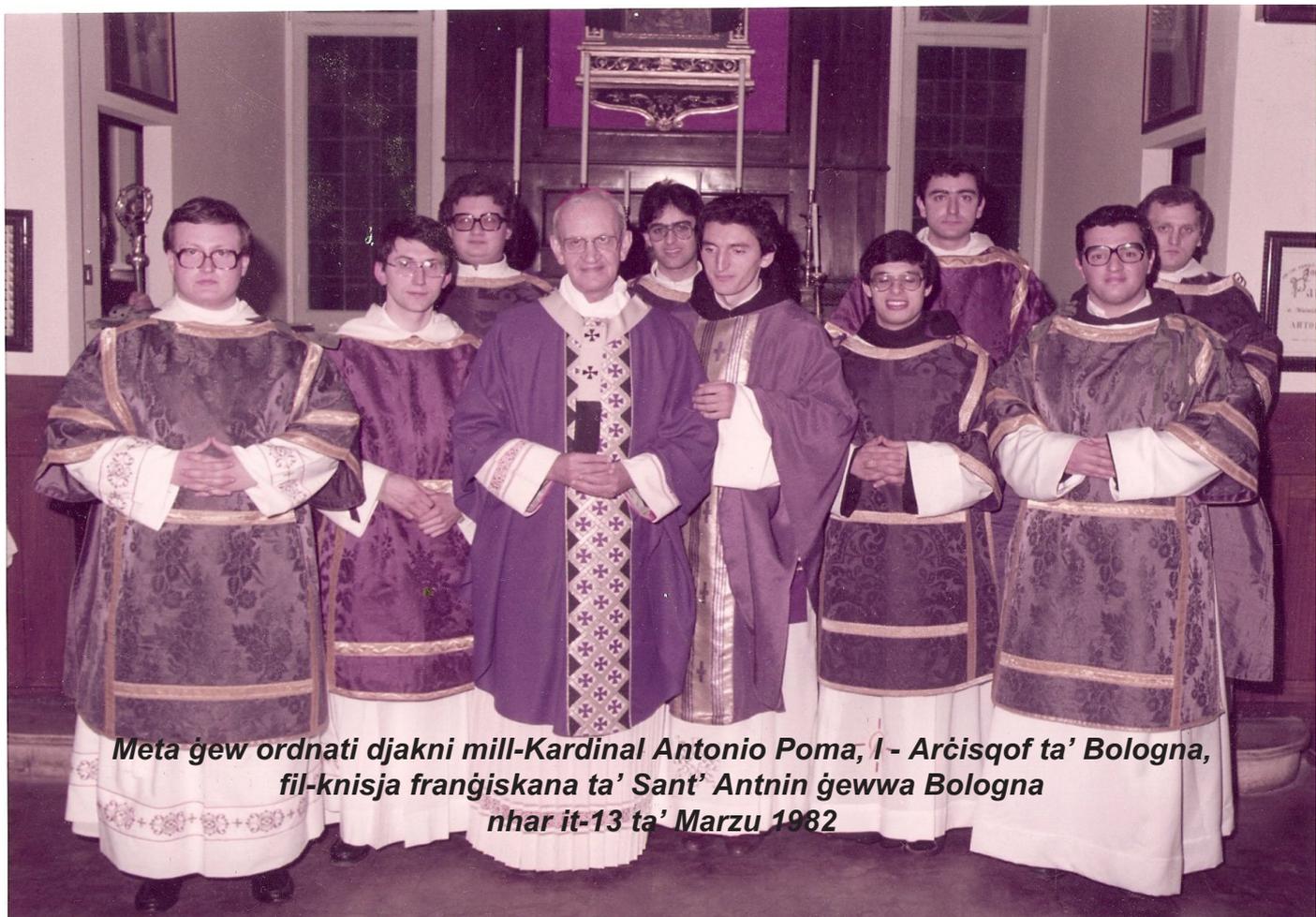
Nhar il-15 ta' Ġunju Mons. Arcisqof Pawl Cremona O.P. ikkonsagra l-altar maġġur tal-knisja tal-Madonna ta' Liesse, li tinsab fix-xatt tal-Belt Valletta. Din il-knisja hija ċ-ċentru nazzjonali tal-Apostolat tal-Baħar. Ir-Rettur huwa fra Paul Attard ofm, mgħejjun minn fra Raymond Falzon ofm. Aktar tard matul ix-xahar ġiet iċċelebrata l-festa tat-titular.

Nhar it-18 ta' Ġunju fil-Palazz Presidenzjali, il-President ta' Malta Dr. E. Fenech Adami ppreżenta l-midalja tad-deheb Premju Papa Ġwanni XXIII lis-studenti ta' l-Year 4 tal-Kulleġġ S. Benedittu. Din iċ-ċerimonija annwali lilha ssir għal dawn l-aħħar 45 sena bidet b' inizjativa ta' fra Dijonsiju Mintoff ofm, Fundatur u Direttur tal-Laboratorju tal-Paċi ġewwa Hal-Far.

Matul dan ix-xahar l-Istudenti tagħna għamlu l-eżaminjiet, hekk kif temmew sena akkademika oħra. Awguri !!!

Fil-25 ta' Ġunju, wara li saret laqgħa tad-Definitorju fil-kunvent ta' Għawdex, il-Provincjal, flimkien mal-membri tad-Definitorju Provincjali, jiltaqa' ma' l-Isqof ta' Għawdex, Mons. Mario Grech fil-Kurja Veskovili u mar-Rettur tas-Seminarju, Dun Danjel Xerri. Wara niżlu jieklu mal-fraternita' tal-Kunvent ta' Għawdex.

Fost iż-żjajjar li sarulna matul dawn iż-żmien, kellna dik tal-Eċċ. Tiegħu Mons. Thomas Andres Mauro Muldoon OFM, isqof ta' Juticalpa, Olancho, Honduras. Huna Fra. Albert Gauci OFM huwa il-Vigarju Ġenerali ta' din id-Djoċesi.



Meta ġew ordnati djakni mill-Kardinal Antonio Poma, I - Arcisqof ta' Bologna, fil-knisja franġiskana ta' Sant' Antnin ġewwa Bologna nhar it-13 ta' Marzu 1982



Fra Raymond Falzon ofm, Fra Ray Scicluna ofm, Fra Julian Sammut ofm, Fra Robert Camilleri ofm (Il-Mastru tan-Novizzjat taghhom - illum Isqof ta' Comayagua, Honduras) u fra Alexander Borg ofm fil-gnien tal-kunvent taghna tar-Rabat Ġunju 1979 - hekk kif temmew t-tlett snin ta' filosofija fl-istess kunvent

FRATERNITAS

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"The service of authority and obedience"

The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life published an instruction entitled "The service of authority and obedience" on the 11th of May 2008.

The document is addressed to members of institutes of consecrated life which practice fraternal life in community, that is, to all men and women who belong to religious institutes and to whom the members of societies of apostolic life come close. Other consecrated people can also draw useful indications from it in relation to their own kind of life. This document tries to offer help and encouragement to all those called to give testimony of the primacy of God through free obedience to His holy will so that they may joyfully live their "yes" to God.

Blessed John Duns Scotus in the VII Centenary of his death

The raising of the mind to God: The first principle of all beings allows me to believe, taste and express all that is pleasing to His majesty and raises our mind to contemplate Him.

Lord, our God, when Moses your servant asked You, as of a fully truthful learned person, what name he should give you before the children of Israel, You, knowing what the human intellect could know about You, responded, revealing your blessed name: I am who am. You, O Lord, are the true Being. You, O Lord are the total Being.

I believe this. And it is what I would like to know, if possible. Help me, Lord, to understand all that our natural reason can understand of your true Being, which You are. Lord, You are the one First Being, and all that is not You, comes from You in the triple order of efficiency, eminence and end, as I have shown according to my possibilities. Lord, our God, with your help I would like to show the perfections which belong – I am certain – to your unique and truly first nature. I believe, Lord, that You are simple, infinite, wise and free-will (Christus rivelat Deum homini, II, 1-7).

100 years of the Review AFH (1908-2008)

On the occasion of the centenary of the Review *Archivum Franciscanum Historicum*, a Day of Study was held under the guidance of the present director, Br. Pacifico Sella, in the presence of the Minister General and part of the General Definitory, in the St. Anthony Hall of the Pontifical University *Antonianum* on the 8th of May. Three high-level scholars spoke of the contribution of the Review to the study of medieval theology and philosophy, its contribution to the publication of the sources of franciscan history and its importance for franciscan historiography. The regular publication of the AFH covers events, personages and documents written by the Franciscan Family in its multiform reality, presenting itself as an indispensable instrument for the study of franciscan history. The Day was also a day to make a grateful memorial of those who had given commitment, effort and days and years of their lives to the Review.

Mexico - I Meeting of the Friar Teachers and Researchers of Our Lady of the Guadalupe Conference

The First Meeting of Friar Teachers and Researchers of Our Lady of Guadalupe Conference, which includes Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, was held in San Juan del Rio de Querétaro, Mexico, from the 17th to the 19th of June. Br. Massimo Fusarelli, GSFS, having visited the Friars and candidates of the Houses of Formation in the Mexican Province of "St. Philip of Jesus", also took part in the meeting. After the presentation of a tool for ongoing formation based on the 7 words of the Final Document of the Extraordinary General Chapter of 2006, the meeting spent time on the situation of studies in the Order and Conference and on the challenges which the contemporary world and the Church present to the intellectual patrimony of the Order. From this good starting point, the Conference could evaluate its commitment to study in order to promote the knowledge and development of the intellectual patrimony of the Order on the occasion of the VIII Centenary of the approval of our form of life.

Mozambique – Visit to the Houses of formation

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, GSFS, met with the Friars and candidates in the Formation Houses of the Autonomous Custody of "St. Clare" in Mozambique from the 28th of May to the 4th of June. The priority of ongoing formation, especially that of caring for the quality of fraternal life in a missionary reality and of insertion into contexts of great poverty and injustice, was stressed during the meetings with the Friars. The meeting with the candidates in initial formation allowed him to know their vivacious reality which is truly African. The presence of missionaries from various parts of the world makes this Custody a true international missionary reality which still depends on the help of other Friars.

Croatia - "Croatian Scotism in the XX century"

The Croatian Provinces, together with the International Scotus Commission and the Pontifical International Marian Academy, celebrated, from the 27th to the 29th of May, an International Congress on "Croatian Scotism in the XX century" on the occasion of the VII Centenary of the death of Blessed John Duns Scotus and of the 30th Anniversary of the death of Br. Carlo Balić. The Congress began in Zagreb, in the presence of Cardinal Josip Bozanić, visited the tomb of Carlo Balić in Katuni, where the Archbishop of Spoleto recalled the figure of the great franciscan Scotist, and concluded in the franciscan house of clerics in Spoleto. The 28 discourses were given by experts in history, theology and philosophy from various countries and from different branches of the Franciscan Family.

Lusaka (Zambia) – The "St. Bonaventure" International Study Centre

The Ministers General of the Franciscan Family – OFM, OFMConv and OFMCap. – began the International Study Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, in 1993. 15 years later, this still represents the most significant initiative of collaboration within the Franciscan Family in Africa. It was a happy intuition for the life and formative journey of young Friars. The Centre has become a real workshop of meetings and inter-cultural/inter-ethnic confrontation and a place in which inter-franciscan and inter-religious collaboration becomes a practical and fruitful event for the Friars in initial formation. This is so thanks to the material structure (common areas and spaces for the use of the three fraternities of the respective obediences), to the make-up of the fraternity (inter-provincial and international), to the formative journey (proper and common programmes), to the variety and number of participants (franciscan feminine congregations present in Zambia and, recently, diocesan, Divine Word and Oblate students) and to the seriousness of studies (the Centre is affiliated to the PUA).

The "Porziuncola" fraternity of the Minors is composed, at the moment, of 29 Friars (3 Formators and 26 Students), from the Prov. of St. Francis in Nairobi (7 Students), the Good Shepherd Custody in Zimbabwe (6 Students) and the Custody of St. Clare in Mozambique (13 Students). Finally, it must be stressed that the quality of the life and formation of our Friars, in various aspects, is very good.

Brazil - SEFRAS: minors among the poor

The Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception, with its headquarters in Sao Paolo, takes in two regions – in the south and south-east of Brazil -, where a population of about 90 million people live. It is a land which offers many opportunities, but is also the land of the great "favelas", of poverty and violence. Here the Friars Minor have created the "Franciscan Service of Solidarity" (SEFRAS), a service which takes care of social assistance, structured in accordance with Brazilian law, and sets out to promote initiatives of solidarity with the poor according to the franciscan style of announcing the Gospel.

"SEFRAS", coordinated by the Friars and supported by various fraternities, exists in 5 States (Sao Paolo, Spirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Paraná and Santa Catarina) and works on 27 big projects in favour of children and adolescents, street people, the old, victims of AIDS, and on formation and training for work. According to what the provincial animator, Br. José Francisco de Cássia dos Santos, says, "SEFRAS" is working with more than 5 thousand people today.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – The National Fraternity of the SFO established

The 10th of May 2008, the vigil of Pentecost, will remain an important date in the rich history of the SFO and You.Fra of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Fraternity of the SFO and the National Fraternity of the You.Fra in Bosnia and Herzegovina were officially established on that day after a long process of preparation.

The solemn act was celebrated in the presence of about 30 representatives of the SFO and You.Fra of the two Regional Fraternities gathered, with their Spiritual Assistants, to celebrate this important moment for the whole Franciscan Family of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Present in the name of the International Fraternity of the SFO were: Encarnación del Pozo, Minister General of the SFO, Xavi Ramos, Councillor to the Presidency for the You.Fra, and Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, Assistant General to the SFO.

The first election of the new National Council, which will guide the Fraternity in the coming three years, was made after the establishment of the Fraternity. Nives Kanevčev, of Sarajevo was elected National Minister, and Iva Penavić di Široki Brijeg was elected International

Chile – National Elective Chapter and Fraternal-Pastoral Visit to the SFO in Chile

The Elective National Chapter and the Fraternal-Pastoral Visit of the Secular Franciscan Order of Chile was held in a fraternal climate with the theme of "Called to serve in Perfect Joy". The Chapter took place from the 30th of May to the 1st of June 2008. It was presided by the Vice-Minister General, Rosalvo G. Mota, OFS. Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, of the Conference of Assistants General, was present as a witness to communion with the First Order, the TOR and the Church.

Br. Rosalvo G. Mota, OFS, thanked the members of the outgoing Council for the service given to the SFO of Chile. The vote was carried out in a cordial and fraternal climate in accordance with the norms. Ingrid Palacios Moreno was elected National Minister and International Councillor and Eduardo Cortes Miranda was elected Vice-Minister and substitute International Councillor. All the other members of the National Council were then elected.

During the Chapter there was a meeting of the Visitors with the National and Regional Spiritual Assistants in the presence of the Ministers Provincial, Br. Rogelio Wouters Duchateau, OFM, and Br. Miguel Ángel Ariz, OFMCap, and then a plenary assembly to bring the Chapter and the Fraternal-Pastoral Visit to a close. .

Franciscan bookmark

Alter Christus Francisco de Asís, signo del amor, (Alter Christus, Francis of Assisi, a sign of love, in Spanish) Francisco Javier Castro Miramontes, Collezione Horizontes, n° 10. Editorial San Pablo, Madrid 2008, pp. 182.

Hundreds of years have passed since Francis changed the plot of his life: a counter-current life, a force of lovable rebellion. Today, as he was then, he is an image of what is most praiseworthy in the human person: a rich young man who left all to dedicate himself to loving his neighbour by following the path of his Master, Jesus of Nazareth. But what was his secret? How is it possible for such a being to make space in the history of humanity?

This book, in a certain way, seeks to be a humble response to this question, presenting, in an ordered manner and in modern language, the life of this saint who achieved glory by bearing the Cross with “perfect joy”, pacifying wild beasts, kissing lepers and spreading love.

This work is addressed to uneasy and anti-conformist young people, which we all have within us, so that they may show themselves to be in favour of peace and justice here and now. Its publication coincides with the VIII Centenary of the foundation of the Franciscan Order.

Jesuscristo y Maria, Beato Juan Duns Escoto (**Jesus Christ and Mary**, Blessed John Duns Scotus, in Spanish) BAC, Madrid 2008, pp. 346.

The “Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos” (BAC) of Madrid has published, in Spanish, “Jesus Christ and Mary”, a translation from the original Latin second critical edition, on the occasion of the seventh centenary of the death of Blessed John Duns Scotus. The translation is by Alejandro Villalmonete, OFM Cap; while the editing, the presentation and the introduction are by José Antonio Merino, OFM.

Big/small news

Br. Vincenzo Brocaneli, Moderator for Missionary Evangelisation of the Order, has been elected Minister of his provincial fraternity of Le Marche in Italy. After fulfilling various Offices in the Province, Br. Vincenzo went to the Africa Project. He was Master of the temporary professed in Rwanda during the terrible years of the civil war and left Africa, in 2000, to go to Brussels as the man responsible for the House of Formation for the missionary projects of the Order. He was summoned to Rome by the Minister General in 2003 to become the Moderator of Missionary Evangelisation. He was also a Visitor General in Congo-DRC and Togo-Ivory Coast. The fraternity of the General Curia thanks him from the heart for his precious work of animation in the service of the whole Order and for his active well-disposed presence in the fraternity and accompanies him in their prayers. His long and worthy experience will certainly sustain him in this new service which the Friars have asked of him. A new way to be a missionary and announcer of the Gospel is beginning for him.

A course in Italian language and culture: A course in Italian language and culture, coordinated by the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies, OFM, and organised by the international franciscan fraternity “Fr. Gabriele M. Allegra” is on offer in the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome.

The course will be given in the PUA from the 31st of August to the 26th of September 2008, from Monday to Friday, for a total of 80 hours. The teachers are native Italian speakers. A certificate of participation will be issued at the end. Guided tours of Rome and participation in the general audience of the Pope are scheduled. The course costs 450.00 euro (including books and material). Board and lodgings are available to Friars Minor at a cost of 28.50 euro a day.

For further information contact: the Rector of Friar Students, Br. Vidal Rodríguez, *Fraternità “Fr. Gabriele Allegra”, Via Merulana 124, 00185 Roma (Italy)*; e-mail: rettorefga@yahoo.it; tel. 0670373686; fax. 0670373716; *Segretaria Generale della Pontificia Università Antonianum, Via Merulana 124, 00185 Roma (Italy)* www.antonianum.ofm.org; ; tel. 0670373502; fax: 0670373604.

The Committee for the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people convoked an international meeting, under the patronage of the United Nations, in Malta on the 3rd and 4th of June 2008. Br. Marcello Ghirlando, of the Province of St. Paul the Apostle, was chosen by the Holy See, through the Nuncio Apostolic - Mons. Tommaso Caputo -, to be its representative at the meeting. Br. Marcello is a noted biblicist and did his biblical studies in Jerusalem. He was also, for some years, the Commissar of the Holy Land in his Province. The meeting not only discussed the problems of the Palestinians, but also the way to find a solution to the problem of Jerusalem.

The **VII meeting of the Italian Centre of Lullism** was held in the Higher School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies of the Pontifical University Antonianum on the 23rd of May 2008. There was a presence of highly qualified scholars from different international research centres: Prof. Josep Perarnau I Espelt of the Faculty of Theology in Catalunya; Prof. Jaume Medina Casanovas of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, as well as researchers of the Raimundus-Lullus-Istitut in Freiburg. Following the intervention of Prof. Paolo Rossi – to whom the meeting was dedicated in homage to his work concerning the art of the memory – and the debate, there emerged the importance of overcoming a rationality closed to the transcendent, in so far as it is held to be all-embracing, in order to accept a reason open to the mystery and to a rational faith.

- Ø **On the occasion of the Pauline year** and to celebrate the feast of the Patrons of the Roman Province of the Friars Minor, a conference by Prof. Lucrezia Spera, under the title of "*The monumental forms of the cult of Peter and Paul in the Paleo-Christian Rome*", was given in the Catacombs of St. Sebastian on the Via Appia in Rome, the place of the apostolic memory, on the 28th of June 2008.
- Ø **“Most Holy Name of Jesus” Province in Sicily:** The Secretariat for Formation and Studies – Ongoing Formation, with the collaboration of the *Higher School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies* of the Pontifical University *Antonianum* is organising the “Week of Franciscanism” in Palermo-Baida, from the 1st to the 6th of September 2008 with the title of “The Origins of Franciscanism of the Chronicles and in the Compilations until the end of the XIV century”.
The week is addressed to all Friars, as well as to members of the Franciscan Family, and to all those who look with interest on the experience of Francis of Assisi.
You may enrol by the 30th of July by contacting Br. Salvatore Ferro: cell. 3358058254 ; fax 090 361276; Email: salvoferro@libero.it . You may also consult the web site: www.ofmsicilia.it.
- Ø **50 years of the Custody of Singapore:** On the 13th of June 2008, the feast of St. Anthony, the Franciscans of Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Custody of St. Anthony (1958-2008), dependent on the Province of the Holy Spirit in Australia and New Zealand. Having arrived for the first time in Singapore on the 28th March 1957, there are now 32 Friars: 20 solemnly professed and 12 in initial formation. The Minister General and the regional Definitor General, Br. Ambrose Van Si, took part in the celebrations.
- Ø **France – Franciscan formation in the summer of 2008:** The French-speaking Franciscan Family organises a study course and a historical period with the aim of knowing and applying our tradition every two years. The course, in French, is addressed in particular to Friars and Sisters in initial formation and also to the laity interested in the franciscan charism.
The theme this year is “Spiritual Requests in the time of the Reform: from the XIV to the XVII century”. For further information contact Br. JB Bamberger, “La Cordele”, 89450 Vilely; France; Tel/Fax: + 33 (0)3 86 333536; Email: jbauberg@club-internet.fr

New franciscan Bishop

Vatican City, 28th May 2008 - Benedict XVI has appointed **Br. Irene Gasser OFM**, of the “St. Francis of Assisi” Province in Brazil, as Bishop of Vacaria (area: 15,932; population: 206,900; Catholics: 187,600; priests: 52; religious: 223; permanent deacons: 1) in Brazil. The Bishop-elect was born in Santa Cruz do Sul (Brazil) in 1942, made his solemn profession in the Order of Friars Minor in 1966 and was ordained priest in 1968.

An ex-Minister Provincial, he is presently Pastor of the “Sao Jao Batista” Parish in the diocese of Cadies do Sul.

New Ministers Provincial

Br. Marc Le Gave was elected Minister Provincial of the St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. Province in Canada.

Br. Jeffrey Schemer was elected Minister Provincial of the St. John the Baptist Province in the U.S.A.

Br. Mike Perry was elected Minister Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province in the U.S.A.

Agenda of the Minister General

01 - 12 July: ‘Tempo forte’ of the General Definitory.

11 July: Meeting at the General Curia with the Friars who work in the Holy See.

13 – 18 July: Visit to the Province in Australia.

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

Our testimony of minority, poverty and solidarity also implies a commitment to justice, peace and reconciliation. This is constitutive of our identity. We cannot renounce this dimension of our life. We cannot just fold our arms in the face of the violations of human rights or remain passive spectators of the different kinds of violence. It would be good to become aware of what our Constitutions say to us: “In protecting the rights of the oppressed, the Friars are to renounce violent action and have recourse to means that are otherwise available even to the powerless... are to denounce in the strongest terms every kind of warlike action and the arms race... and are to spare neither work nor sacrifice to build up God's kingdom of peace” (GGCC 69).

FESTI

4 Fra Jimmy Zammit
 24 Fra Albert Micallef
 31 Fra Ray Scicluna
 Fra Raymond Falzon

AWISSU**BIRTHDAYS**

4 Fra Anthony Vella
 11 Fra Jimmy Zammit
 13 Fra Eddie Pace
 14 Fra Edward Zammit
 24 Fra Albert Micallef
 31 Fra Gwann Abela

FESTI

8 Fra Adrian J. Cachia
 8 Fra Victor Camilleri
 17 Mons. Robert Camilleri
 29 Fra Gabriel Micallef

SETTEMBRU**BIRTHDAYS**

13 Fra Stephen Magro
 16 Fra Benjamin Galea
 29 Fra Guido Schembri

Awguri u Xewqat Sbieh !

L-ART IMQADDSA MAL-FRANGISKANI 2008

Jekk trid tagħmel esperjenza li tibqa' tiftakarha u tara b'għajnejk stess il-postijiet tal-fidwa tagħna, żur l-Art Imqaddsa magħna l-Frangiskani.

Għal aktar tagħrif żur is-sit elettroniku tal-Provinċja - [http:// ofm.org.mt](http://ofm.org.mt) jew ċempel lil fra Twanny Chircop OFM - 21242254 Fax : 21252031

F ' DIN IL-HARĠA Lulju - Awissu 2008

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L-AHĦBAR

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N.B. Għall-ahħar aggornamenti

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