



Il-Ministru Provinċjal fra Sandro Overend O.F.M. qed jjeħu l-gurament f' idejn il-Vizitatur Ġenerali

## *Grazzi ħafna mil-qalb lil.....*

ahwa kollha tal-Provinċja tagħna, tal-preżenza u s-sehem li taw fil-Kapitlu Provinċjali '08 speċjalment lil dawk kollha li, b' xi mod jew ieħor, gheni fit-twettiq tieghu,

ahwa li jinsabu residenti fid-Dar tal-Kleru u l-Arka għat-talb li offrew għalina, kif ukoll tal-preżenza tagħhom waqt il-Kapitlu,

tlett Studenti tagħna, il-Klarissi u s-Sorijiet Franġiskani l-oħra, li flimkien ma' tant persuni oħra ghenuna bit-talb tagħhom,

huna, l-ex Editur ta' din ir-rivista, fra Marcellino Micallef ofm, li tant hadem biex wasslina b' mod aġġornata din ir-rivista,

N.B. Nwegħdkhom li jiena se nagħmel mill-aħjar li nista' biex inkompli dak kollu li għamlu ta' qabli. Tistgħu tghenuni wkoll bis-suggerimenti tagħkhom. *fra Alex*



IL MINISTRO GENERALE  
DELL'ORDINE DEI FRATI MINORI

Prot. MG 175/08

Roma, 13 maggio 2008

Carissimo Fr. Sandro,

il Signore ti dia Pace!

Ho appreso con gioia della tua elezione a ~~Ministro della Provincia di San Paolo~~ Apostolo in Malta e, insieme a tutti i Frati del Definitorio e a quelli della Fraternità della Curia generale, desidero farti i miei più fraterni auguri per questo nuovo servizio a cui la Fraternità provinciale ti ha ora chiamato.

Sono certo che il Signore ti sosterrà e ti donerà con abbondanza lo Spirito di sapienza e di consiglio, per accompagnare i Frati di Malta nel cammino che si apre dinanzi a voi. La Madonna del Divino Amore, che nei tuoi anni "romani" hai servito con fedeltà e devozione, sia ancora tua compagna di viaggio e, in ogni occasione, motivo di consolazione.

Su di te e sui Fratelli del Definitorio provinciale, che con te condivideranno la responsabilità di essere guida e animatore della Fraternità provinciale, invoco la benedizione del serafico padre san Francesco, perché vi doni la grazia di svolgere l'ufficio che avete ricevuto con fedeltà e coraggio, nella letizia e nella gioia.

Fraternamente.



*Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM*  
*Ministro generale*

Fr. Sandro Overend, OFM  
*Ministro provinciale*  
Franciscan Friars  
291 St. Paul Street  
Valletta VLT 07  
MALTA

Via S. Maria Mediatrice, 25  
00165 ROMA (ITALIA)  
Tel. 39.6.684919 / Fax 39.6.6380292



Provincial Curia  
291, St. Paul's Street,  
Valletta, VLT 07,  
Malta.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Dear Sandro and Brethren,

May I express my sincere thanks and appreciation of the welcome I received, without exception, during my stay in the Province, it has been a truly fraternal experience, and one I certainly cherish. Every friary let me feel at home, and indeed every need was quietly anticipated.

I found our time in Chapter a profoundly fraternal experience; it was a joy to be with you at prayer and celebration. Everybody has hopes, that is why we have Chapters, and some hopes are realized, and some are not, which is why we have House Chapters. But it is what happens next that is crucial. We came to the Chapter *equal but not the same*, and we took our leave of each other in like manner, *equal but not the same*.

The Resolutions you made reflects a determination that this equality become more and more a felt experience, highlighting areas where inequality was beginning to intrude. Good resolve is present. What is needed is to make sure that this proceeds into genuine Hope and doesn't divert into merely natural optimism. It is the kind of Hope that is enthusiastic about *doing all things in him who strengthens...* As you, the friars of Malta are men of prayer, you have every reason to live in hope; tremendously helped by the valued prayerful and affective support of our Poor Clare sisters. Given its proper primacy such grace will prevail.

Pray for me, and for our Province which moves into Chapter in July, that we too heed the challenge of St. Francis: *give yourselves totally to him who gave himself to you, totally*.

With gratitude for making it for me a good experience to be a friar minor, I leave you with Mycheal's prayer:

*Lord, take me where you want me to go!  
Show me who you want me to meet!  
Tell me what you want me to say!  
And keep me out of your way!*

Pace e Bene

Austin, ofm  
a brother.

# SANTA MARIJA TA ' ĠESU '

## VALLETTA

**Fra Marcello Ghirlando**

*Gwardjan u Ekonomu, Segretarju Provincjali għall-Formazzjoni u Studji, Direttur għall-Formazzjoni Permanenti, Rappreżentant tal-Provincja fil-Kunsill Presbiterali, Koordinatur Zjajjar Franġiskani, Direttur Spiritwali Arkikonfraternita ' tal-Kurċifiss, Direttur Abbatini, Eżorċista Djoċesan, Lecturer fl-Universita ' ta ' Malta u Visiting Lecturer fis-Seminarju t ' Ghawdex u fl-Istudium Biblicum ta ' Hong Kong*

**Fra Twanny Chircop**

*Vigarju, Kummissarju ta ' I-Art Imqaddsa, Konfessur Sorijiet Klarissi*

**Fra Norbert Ellul Vincenti**

*Kronista, Kittieb u Membru tal-Kummissjoni Djoċesana għall-Patrimonju Kulturali Kattoliku u fil- Kummissjoni Kultura*

**Fra Ġorg Aquilina**

*Biblijotekarju, Arkivista, Storiku, Viċi-Kummissarju ta ' I-Art Imqaddsa u Kappillan Monasteru Sant ' Ursola*

**Fra Ġiustinu Sciortino**

*Kappillan tas-Sorijiet Franġiskani tal-Qalb ta' Ġesu ' ( Sagramentini ) u Xogħol Pastorali*

**Fra Raymond Falzon**

*Viċi-Rettur ta ' Liesse, Assistent Zjajjar Franġiskani u Xogħol Pastorali*

**Fra Leo Ciantar**

*Sagristan, Kura ta ' I-Anzjani u Responsabbli tal-*

# SANTA MARIJA TA ' ĠESU '

## RABAT

**Fra Paul Galea**

*Gwardjan, Mastru ta ' I-istudenti u Direttur tal-Postulanti, Responasabbli Dar t ' Akkoljenza, Membru Kunsill tal-Formazzjoni, Direttur Kor S. S. Franġisk u Direttur Spiritwali Arċikonfraternita ' ta ' S. Ġużep.*

**Fra Martin Coleiro**

*Definitur, Vigarju, Sekond Mastru ta ' I-Istudenti u Viċi-Direttur tal-Postulanti, Membru Kunsill ta ' Formazzjoni, Ekonomu tal-Fraternita ' , Assistent Spiritwali Fraternita ' OFS Nazzjonali u Lokali u Xogħol Pastoral*

**Fra Godfrey Micallef**

*Kronista u Xogħol Pastoral*

**Fra Bernardin Sant**

*Ġardinar*

**Fra Charles Tonna**

*Xogħol Pastoral*

**Fra Ġużep Camilleri**

*Assistent Sagristan, Sartorija u Xogħol Pastoral*

**Fra Joseph Ciappara**

*Student profess temporanju*

# MADONNA TAS-SACRO CUOR

## TAS-SLIEMA

**Fra Sandro Overend**

*Ministru Provincjal u Xogh'ol Pastoral.*

**Fra Joe Caruana**

*Gwardjan, Kappillan, Direttur Ċentru S. Antnin,  
Assistent Spiritwali Fratellanza SS.mu Sagrament, Prokuratur  
Kummissjoni Festi u Assistent Spiritwali Każ in Banda Sliema*

**Fra Ġuzepp Vella**

*Vigarju u Kronista*

**Fra Kamillu Aqlina**

*Xogh'ol Pastoral*

**Fra Sebastian Camilleri**

*Assistent Spiritwali P.F.F. , Assistent Spiritwali Leġjun ta '   
Marija , Religious Counsellor u għalliem Kulleġġ Stella Maris,  
Gżira u Xogh'ol Pastoral*

**Fra Ivo Tonna**

*Membru Kunsill Provincjali tal-Formazzjoni u  
Xogh'ol Pastoral*

**Fra Richard Stanley Grech**

*Vigarju Provincjali, Ekonomu Provincjali, Ekonomu tal-  
Fraternita ' , Rettur Kappella Ġesu ' I-Ħabib, Sliema,*

# SAN FRANĠISK

## ĦAMRUN

**Fra Anton Farrugia**

*Definitur, Gwardjan, Liturġista tal-Provincja, Sagristan  
Direttur ta' l-Abbatini, Membru fis-Segretarjat għal-Liturġija  
Djoċesana, Rappreżentant tas-Segretarjat Ħajja Konsagrata  
fil-Kunsill Pastoralni Djoċesani, Religious Counsellor - Our  
Lady Immaculate School, Ħamrun*

**Fra Ġwann Azzopardi**

*Vigarju, Rettur Kappella Beatu Nazju Falzon B' Kara  
u Kappillan Malta Society for the Blind*

**Fra Anthony Vella**

*Xogħol Pastoralni*

**Fra Dijonsiju Mintoff**

*Direttur Laboratorju tal-Paċi, Equipe Kummissjoni Ġustizzja  
u Paċi u membru Kummissjoni Djoċesana Ambjent*

**Fra Kerubin Galea**

*Assistent Sagristan u Xogħol Pastoralni*

**Fra Ġwann Micallef**

*Kappillan Sorijiet Franġiskani tal-Qalb bla Tebġha ta' Marija  
(ta' l-Eġittu) u Konfessur M.U.S.E.U.M. Hamrun u  
Kronista.*

**Fra Mark Enriquez**

*Kappillan Sorijiet Franġiskani tal-Qalb ta' Ġesu' (Betanja  
– Msida), Għajnuna liturġika lis-Sorijiet Franġiskani  
Missjunarji ta' Marija – Balzan, Assistent Ekklezjastiku ta'  
l-Azzjoni Kattolika Madonna tas-Sokkors Perpetwu u  
Kuncizzjoni - Ħamrun, Religious Counsellor Stella Maris  
College, Gzira, St. Joseph School, Blata l-Bajda*

**SANT ' ANTNIN  
MĠARR  
GĦAWDEX**

**Fra Joseph Magro**

*Gwardjan, Ekonomu, Animatur Provinċjali Vokazzjonali, Direttur Padova Retreat House, Direttur Ċentru Sant' Antnin u Direttur ta' l-Uffiċċju Informatiku Provinċjali.*

**Fra Albert Micallef**

*Vigarju, Assistent Spiritwali P.F.F., u Assistent Kordinatur Zjajjar Franġiskani*

**Fra Alfred Sciberras**

*Xogħol Pastoral*

**Fra Gorg Bugeja**

*Segretarju Provinċjali għall-Missjonijiet u Xogħol Pastoral*

**Fra Stephen Magro**

*Student fis-Seminarju Djoċesan (Maġġuri) t' Għawdex*

**Fra Lorrie Zerafa**

*Viċi Kummissarju ta' l-Art Imqaddsa, Sagristan u Direttur ta' l-Abbatini*

**BAĦAR IĊ-ĊAGĦAQ  
SANTA MARIJA TA' L-ANĠLI  
PORZIUNCOLA RETREAT HOUSE**

# HIDMA PASTORALI

## BARRA MINN MALTA

### L-ART IMQADDSA

Fra Noel Muscat

*Diskriet Kustodjali, Segretarju għall-  
Formazzjoni u Studji u Mastru tan-Novizzi*

### AWSTRALJA

Fra Edward Zammit

Fra Gabriel Micallef

*Kappillan parroċċa Stella Maris, Tasmania  
Kappillan Komunita ' Maltija, Lockleys u  
Adelaide*

### FILIPPINI

Fra John Muscat

*Missjunarju f ' Kawayan, Biliran*

### HONDURAS

Fra Albert Gauci

Fra Angelo Falzon

Fra Joe Bonello

*Vigarju Ġenerali u Missjunarju, Olancho  
Missjunarju u Kappillan , La Paz  
Missjunarju u Kappillan, Comayagua*

### INGLITERRA - LONDRA

Fra Stephen Sciberras

*Superjur, Xogħol Pastoral mal-Morda u l-Qraba Maltin u*



***MUMENTI FRATERNI WAQT IL-KAPITLU '08***



Bejn it-12 u s-16 ta' Mejju ġie ċelebrat il-Kapitlu Provinċjali fid-Dar ta' I-Irtiri tagħna ġewwa Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Fostna għall-ewwel darba ġew żewġ aħwa Filippini - Fra Celso Larracas u Fra Ronnie Asuero bħala rappreżentanti tal-komunitajiet ta' Bengħasi u Tripli – Libja. F' kull jum konna nibdew bit-talb animat mill-kant u '*power-points*'. Fit-tieni jum, wara l-Quddiesa ta' l-Ispirtu s-Santu, saru l-elezzjonijiet li taw dawn ir-rizultati :

**Ministru Provinċjal : Fra Sandro Overend**

**Vigarju Provinċjali :**

**Fra Richard Stanley Grech**

**Definituri Provinċjali :**

**Fra Eddie Pace , Fra Marcellino Micallef ,**

**Fra Martin Coleiro u Fra Anton Farrugia.**

Imbghad fil-jiem ta' wara, l-aħwa tqassmu f' 4 *workshops*, fejn ġew studjati xi riflessjonijiet li għamel il-Vizitatur Ġenerali Fra Austin McCormack. Wara haġġu xi rizzoluzzjonijiet. Fostna kellna lil Fra Gwann Schranz u Fra Arthur Azzopardi, li qegħdin fid-Dar tal-Kleru u lil Fra Victor Camilleri, Fra Gabriel Micallef, Fra Gwann Abela u Fra Stephen Sciberras, li ġew minn barra. Il-Provinċjal ha wkoll l-okkażjoni biex ikellem personalment lil dawn l-aħwa. L-istudenti tagħna Fra Joseph Ciappara u Fra Walter Vassallo ma setgħux jattendu mħabba fl-istudji tagħhom. Prosit lill-aħwa kollha għall-kooperazzjoni u speċjalment lil dawk l-aħwa, li hadmu bis-sħiħ fil-preparazzjoni u fit-twettiq tal-Kapitlu Provinċjali '08.

Fid – 19 ta' Mejju nbeda l-Kunġress Kapitulari fil-kunvent tagħna ta' Tas-Sliema, li ntemm nhar it-23 ta' Mejju. Barra mill-votazzjonijiet biex intgħażlu xi aħwa għal ċerti uffiċċji, saru wkoll il-fraternitajiet il-godda.

*aktar Aħbarijiet .....*

Nhar is-27 ta' Mejju l-Provincjal, flimkien mal-membri l-oħra tad-Definitorju, għamel zjara ta' kortesija lill-Arċisqof fil-Kurja Arċiveskovili, il-Furjana. Il-Provincjal, f' isem l-aħwa kollha, għedded l-impenn tagħna lkoll fil-Knisja lokali u barra. L-Arċisqof faħħar il-preżenza u l-bosta ħidmiet pastorali li jitwettqu minna lkoll. Semma ' b ' m od speċjali l-pellegrinaġġ, li dan l-aħħar għamel fl-Art Imqaddsa, organizzat b ' mod eċċellenti mil-Kummissjarat ta' l-Art Imqaddsa u l-ħidma li qegħda ssir mill-aħwa barra minn xuxtna. Wara l-tqagħu ma ' bosta qassisin u s-sorijiet Franġiskani ta' Malta, li qegħdin jaħdmu fil-Kurja. Grazzi ħafna li Fra Anton talli għamilha ta' gwida. Fra Sandro, Fra Richard u Fra Alex reġgħu għedded l-memorji meta, fi żmien, kienu jattendu l-iskola f' dak il-post, meta kien għadu jsservi ta' Seminarju Minuri. Ta' min ifakkar li ħamest aħwa qed jagħtu s-sehem tagħhom f' bosta organizazzjonijiet tal-Kurja Maltija.



Dak in-nhar stess il-Provincjal mar iżur lil ħutna f' Londra. Fil-jumejn li għamel magħhom, huwa



IL MINISTRO GENERALE  
DELL'ORDINE DEI FRATI MINORI

Prot. MG 163/08

Roma, 5 maggio 2008

Carissimo Fr. Ivo,

il Signore ti dia pace!

Ti ringrazio per avermi inviato il frutto della tua ultima fatica: *Outlines of Franciscan Philosophy*. La traduzione di questa tua opera in lingua inglese è certamente uno dei modi più belli per celebrare l'VIII Centenario della fondazione dell'Ordine.

La conoscenza della nostra grande tradizione culturale è, infatti, uno degli strumenti privilegiati per attuare un autentico rinnovamento della nostra vocazione e missione, così da trovare nuove vie su cui camminare e nuovi modi per vivere un francescanesimo significativo per il mondo di oggi.

San Francesco ti benedica sempre!



*Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo*  
Fr. José Rodríguez Carballo, ofm  
Ministro generale

Fr. Ivo Tonna, OFM  
c/o Franciscan Friars  
291 St Paul Street  
Valletta VLT 07

## Medieval Franciscan philosophy

*Note of the Editor* : This is an article written by Bro Norbert Ellul Vincenti ofm in the Sunday newspaper—*The Sunday Times*— of June 1st, 2008 p. 57. It is a review of the book written by Bro. Ivo Tonna ofm— **Outlines of Franciscan philosophy** , Tau Edition, 290 pp., ISBN 978-99909-48-34-9.

It is not easy to write about the definitive history of Medieval Franciscan philosophy because, apart from its vastness, the texts are still being critically gathered, and consequently the field is changing all the time. Philosopher and author Ivo Tonna explains that the call for the publication of his life's researches and lectures in various parts of the world came precisely because there was nothing of the sort for a very long time.

Fr Tonna is well qualified. He has lectured in Malta, in the Franciscan seminary and spent time as president in the Franciscan International College of St. Bonaventure at Grottaferrata, Rome, which specialises in research work of medieval Franciscan scholars. He has lectured on ancient and medieval philosophy with particular reference to Franciscan thought at the Franciscan Pontifical Athenaeum , now raised to Pontifical University, from 1980 to 2003.

In 1992 he published his work *Lineamenta di filosofia francescana*, a doctrinal synthesis of philosophical thought in the 13th and 14th centuries. He has participated in various philosophical meetings and congresses organised by Franciscan academic institutes and other universities.

*Outlines* is the translation by the author himself of his original Italian version, which is traced back to 1990-1992 : "I committed myself to an accurate revision of my lectures and other useful notes, to eventually produce a doctrinal synthesis of Franciscan philosophical thought of the School at Paris and of the School at Oxford in the 13th and 14th centuries, retracing as far as possible the original texts of the individual thinkers". The only other comparable synthesis dates back to 1933 ( Zacharias van der Woestyne OFM ).

The Franciscan school has its beginnings in the early 13th century with the erection of the Franciscan School at Paris under Alexander of Hales, and the School at Oxford under Robert Grosseteste. It continues to this day. The author discovers six periods, from the origins to the classical era and the first epoch, the schools from 1500-1700, the decadence and the revival from 1800.

In Tonna's study, one meets some big names: Alexander of Hales, Jean de la Rochelle ( John Rupella) , Bonaventure, Matthew of Acquasparta, Peter John Olivi, Robert Grosseteste, Thomas of York, Roger Bacon, John Peckham, Richard of Middleton, John Duns Scouts, and William of Ockham. Each of these names has a chapter dedicated to him, complete with biography, life's work and evaluation.

At the end of the book, there is a further evaluation through a general conclusion. A bibliography follows several pages of full notes and references, and then a general index. Of special interest is the material in the general conclusion, where the author sums up his view of Franciscan philosophy: " Perhaps it would be reasonable to speak of one Franciscan spirit which reveals itself in the particular approach assumed by the thinkers". This spirit, according to Tonna, manifests itself as a critical, scientific, progressive and practical spirit, which finds its fundamental roots in the truths of holy scripture.

Perhaps, opines Tonna, it would be useful that while the original tradition of the Paris school was predominately Platonic-Augustinian, the tendency of the Oxford school was rather Aristotelian and scientific. The author notes that one could also include among the Paris philosophers Peter Aureoli, known as *Doctor Facundus*, and Roger Marston among the Oxford school, who defended the theory of a direct and immediate divine illumination of the human intellect, similar to that proposed by Bonaventure and Roger

Pride of place goes to the last two classical thinkers, Duns Scots and Ockham, after whom no other original synthesis has been brought to light. In William of Ockham we discover the initiator of the new method of philosophical approach. A distinct separation is introduced between the field of faith and the field of reason

The will of God, manifested in His precepts, is the supreme norm of morality. Scotus is remarkable for his interest in the study of the concrete, individual and existing reality; the univocity of being; the *haecceitas* as the principle of individuation and the primacy of the will. He is here remembered for his proof of the existence of god..

Seeking the truth, for Scots ( as for Pope Benedict XVI) , signifies all that God wills. Scotistic teaching , concludes Tonna, has as its foundation 'love'.

" I also know that the work of the Ministers Provincial is not easy either.

But we have to continue taking measures  
to walk together in the revitalisation of our vocation and mission.

This is the great urgency of the moment.

My gratitude and unconditional support go to you and to the Ministers Provincial,  
as well to the Friars  
who sign up for this "march without respite in favour of the revitalisation of our life and  
mission."

**The Provincial**  
**Fr. Sandro Overend O.F.M.**  
**Residence : Franciscan Friars**  
**Church Street**  
**Tas-Sliema SLM 1153**  
**Tel. / Fax 21334685**  
**E-mail : soverend@maltanet.net**  
**Office : Franciscan Friars**  
**291, St. Paul's Street**  
**Valletta VLT**  
**Tel. 21238218 Fax : 21231266**

# FRATERNITAS

Eng Vol. XLI. Nr. 144 - OFM Rome - Email: [rbahcic@ofm.org](mailto:rbahcic@ofm.org) - 01. 06. 2008

## The Pauline Year

The Pauline Year will open in Rome on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008 and will conclude on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009. It is an extraordinary "Jubilee", desired by Benedict XVI to recall and celebrate the Bimillennium of the birth of the Apostle who, together with St. Peter, initiated, by their martyrdom, the Church of Rome founded on the testimony and faith of the two Holy Apostles. The web page <http://www.annopaolino.org> can be consulted by whoever is interested in knowing the full programme of the Pauline Year.

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

"There are Saints in heaven who were never enemies of God through personal sin, such as the many innocent; and many other Saints who, although they had been enemies of God through sin, did penance.

In heaven, it is principally the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who was never an enemy of God through either personal or original sin.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the subject of the excellence of her Son as Redeemer, reconciler and mediator, therefore, never contracted original sin.

The most perfect mediator possesses the most perfect act of mediation possible with respect to the person for whom He mediates. Christ is the most perfect mediator, because He had the most perfect level of mediation possible in favour of the person for whom He was mediator. Christ did not have the same most excellent level of mediation for anyone else as that which He had for Mary. But this would not have happened if Christ had not merited the preservation of Mary from original sin.

I prove it in three ways: a) in reference to God, with whom reconciliation occurred; b) in reference to the evil, from which He liberated; and c) in reference to the debt of the person who was reconciled" (De regno Christi III,1-5).

## Argentina – The Latin-American Missionary Congress

The Latin-American Missionary Congress, with the participation of some 130 Friars from almost all the Entities of the continent, of the Minister General, of those in charge of the General Secretariat for Evangelisation, of the Moderator of Missions, of the Definitors for Latin-America and of some representatives of European Provinces, was held in Cordoba, Argentina, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The presence of 29 lay-people and of 5 Franciscan Sisters was significant.

Promoted by UCLAF, with the collaboration of the SGE, the Congress was celebrated in the context of the Eighth Centenary of the foundation of the Order and of the Conference of the Latin-American Episcopate in Aparecida, in order to awaken a missionary ardour among the Friars and Entities in favour of the continent and of the missions of the Order.

The achievement of this aim was sought through the remembrance of some important events of the past, discourses on the central themes of the Congress, the study of new forms of evangelisation and the description of the essential characteristics of the franciscan missionary. There was sharing on some pre-selected experiences, information about the Amazon Basin and the Course for Evangelisation at the ITF in Petropolis, discussion on the possibility of a House in Latin-American for the preparation of missionaries, and information about the services of JPIC and Dialogue in the Order.

The Congress concluded with a Document, approved by the Assembly, entitled: *Charism and Mission: Urgency and Audacity*.

## Vatican - Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences

The XIV Plenary Session of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences was held in the Vatican from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. The theme was: "Pursuing the Common Good: how Solidarity and Subsidiarity can operate together". The meeting was coordinated by two Academics, Prof. Margaret Archer of the University of Warwick (UK) and Prof. Pierpaolo Donati of the University of Bologna (Italy). Br. Franco Mirri, of the Province of the Sacred Heart of the BVM (Genoa — Italy), participated as an Observer in the name of the Order. The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences was created by Pope John Paul II (1<sup>st</sup> January 1994) with the aim of promoting the study and development of the social, financial, political and legal sciences, in order to offer elements it could use in drawing up its social doctrine to the Church. The Academy, which is autonomous, is closely connected to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, with which it consults and coordinates in order to plan initiatives and activities of various kinds. For full information see the web site:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_academies](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies)

## Visit to the Apostolic Vicariates in Bolivia and Peru

During missionary animation in the Provinces of Bolivia and Peru, at the end of April, Br. Luis Cabrera, Definitor General, and Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli, Moderator General for the Missions, visited the Apostolic Vicariates of El Beni (Bolivia) and of San José del Amazonas (Peru). The two Vicariates are in the territory of the great river Amazon, are animated by the franciscan Bishops, Msgr. Julio Maria Elias Montoya (El Beni) and Msgr. Alberto Campos (San José del Amazonas), and are entrusted to the local franciscan Provinces. They met some local communities of indigenous people, the Friar missionaries and the Bishops and Provincials during the visit to reflect together on the possibilities of increasing the personnel in the Vicariates, of organising and developing financial aid and of drawing up the agreements between the Vicariates and the Provinces. The visit confirmed the conviction that the Apostolic Vicariates are poor Churches, places of real “ad gentes” mission, and that they need new missionaries through the collaboration of all the franciscan Provinces in Latin-America.

Eleven Apostolic Vicariates, of which eight are in Latin-America (three in Bolivia, three in Peru, one in Ecuador and one in Colombia) and three are in the Arab world (two in Libya and one in Syria), as well as the Apostolic Prefecture in the Galapagos, Ecuador, and the Apostolic Prelature of Nayar, Mexico, are entrusted to the Order of Friars Minor.

## 25 years of the Africa Project

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first Friars to begin the “Africa Project” (19<sup>th</sup> April 1983) was celebrated in Nairobi on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Following on the appeal of Br. John Vaughn, “*Africa is calling us*”, 28 volunteers from various Provinces expressed the availability and arrived in Kenya. They settled into a colonial house in the Westland district, they began the study of the Kiswahili language, and shortly afterwards opened a second fraternity in the Subukia Valley. Other Friars arrived in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania a few days later.

The commemoration of the beginning of the Africa Project was celebrated in the “Porziuncola” House of the Franciscan Family with a celebration of thanksgiving for both the new presence of Friars Minor and the grace of vocation. It was presided over by the emeritus Archbishop of Nairobi, Msgr. Raphael Ndingi. Members of various Institutes which form the Franciscan Family in Nairobi participated.

The initial “Africa Project” has now become the Province of St. Francis in Africa, which will celebrate the same jubilee at the end of June with a Chapter of Mats, in which the Minister General will participate. Old missionaries have also been invited.

## The New Liturgical Calendar of the OFM

The new Liturgical Calendar of our Order, approved by the Congregation for Divine Cult on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2008, was promulgated by Decree of the Minister General on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2008.

The new Calendar responds to a need seen by many, that is, to be able to celebrate the saints and Blesseds of our Order who lived in different Entities and in different historical eras from the beginning of the Order up to our times.

There is, therefore, a need to gather the texts proper to the individual memorials into one “**Missal**” and “**Liturgy of the Hours**”. The authorities of the different Entities are asked, therefore, to send the texts already approved and in use in the different Provinces to the General Secretariat at: [secgen@ofm.org](mailto:secgen@ofm.org)

## Lithuania – National Chapter of the SFO

The National Elective Chapter of the SFO in Lithuania was held in the Friary of the Friars Minor in the city of Kretinga from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

During the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> of April there was reflection in groups on the priorities for the National Fraternity for the next three-year period. The elective session, during which the new National Council for Lithuania and the new National Minister, Algimantas Andziulis, were elected, was celebrated in the afternoon. Nerijus Čapas, former National Minister was re-elected International Councillor. A solemn celebration of the Eucharist, presided by the Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Casimir, Br. Astijus Kungys, OFM, concluded the day.

In the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, Wilhelmina Visser-Pelsma, SFO and Br. Ivan Matić held a fraternal meeting with the Minister Provincial and his Definitory in Vilnius to share information and the situation of the SFO and You.Fra in the world and in Lithuania, in particular. Br. Ivan met the Young Franciscans of Vilnius and their National Assistant, Br. Algirdas Malakauskis, OFM, in the evening.

There are 32 local SFO Fraternities, with about 500 members in 6 Regional Fraternities, in Lithuania. There is also a consistent presence of Young Franciscans in various cities: Vilnius, Kretinga, Klaipeda and Kaunas. These young people, aided by their Spiritual Assistants, are preparing the 5<sup>th</sup> European Congress of You.Fra, to be held in Lithuania in August 2009. The Congress is important for two reasons. First, because the You.Fra of Lithuania began thanks to the participation of some young people in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Congress of You.Fra, held in Portugal in 2001. Secondly, because in 2009, the European You.Fra will cele-

## International Chapter of Mats

The Ministers General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Orders and TOR have organised an International Chapter of Mats to commemorate the VIII Centenary of the foundation of the Order of Friars Minor by the approval of the Proto-Rule in 1209. The Chapter will take place from the **15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2009**. It will be celebrated in Assisi and a day is scheduled for a visit to Rome to be received by the Holy Father and to renew our profession into his hands. Friars from the OFM, OFM<sup>Cap</sup>, OFM<sup>Conv</sup>, TOR and members of the rest of the Franciscan Family will participate. The complete programme, with indications about the logistics, will be sent out soon. We now await a good response to this initiative on the part of our Order. See: [www.capitolostuoie2009.org/](http://www.capitolostuoie2009.org/)

## Inter-obediential sabbatical period

A Sabbatical Period, under the aegis of the F+S General Secretariats of the 4 Franciscan Familie, open to Friars of the OFM, OFM<sup>Conv</sup>, OFM<sup>Cap</sup> and TOR with at least 20 years of solemn profession and with a good knowledge of Italian and Spanish, will take place in Assisi and La Verna from the 7<sup>th</sup> of September to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2008. The objective of the course is to offer a sign of the communion and fraternity of the Franciscan Family and to study deeply, in a theoretical and experiential way, our charism regarding the Contemplative-Fraternity-in-Mission. Inscriptions will be received **up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2008** at the General Secretariat for Formation and Studies: [formgen@ofm.org](mailto:formgen@ofm.org).

## Peru - III Congress of Franciscan Educators in Latin-America

The III Congress of Franciscan Educators in Latin-America was held in the city of Cusco, Peru, from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2008. 745 people participated in the Congress. Further information can be found on the web site: [www.3cief.org](http://www.3cief.org).

## Big/small news

**The Franciscan Secular Order**, which will recall the 30 years of the approval of their Rule, approved on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1978 by Pope Paul VI, is preparing for the celebration of its Elective General Chapter, which will be held in Hungary from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2008.

**'Young Franciscans'** is celebrating 60 years since its birth (in 1948) this year. It is a very important celebration in its spiritual journey and for the specific mission of young people in the Church and in society. In addition, the You.Fra, as a member of the Franciscan Family, is also preparing, on all levels, to celebrate the Eighth Centenary of the franciscan charism together with all the members of the Franciscan Family.

**Br. Gualberto Gismondi** of the Franciscan Province of Liguria has completed, on the Internet, his "Commentary on the Old and New Testaments" with "The Catechism of the Catholic Church" in the Italian language. The same commentary is being completed in English and Spanish. The initiative has had enormous success. His site and blog are visited often. The addresses are: [www.eticaescienza.eu](http://www.eticaescienza.eu) ; <http://tecnoscienzaetica.blogspot.com/>

A XIV century franciscan church **of the Province of St. Casimir in Lithuania** has been reopened after 60 years for cult and newly consecrated on the occasion of the liturgical feast of St. George. It was closed and turned into a department store during the Soviet occupation.

**Br. Massimo Reschiglian**, Formator and ex-Minister Provincial of the Seraphic Province of Assisi, presented a discourse on the spiritual direction of young priests and religious following initial formation at the **Seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary**, in the Chancellor's Palace in Rome. The session was presided by Cardinal James Francis Stafford, Grand Penitentiary, and by the Regent, Msgr. Gianfranco Girotti, OFM<sup>Conv</sup>. The Prelates of the Tribunal, as well as the Penitentiaries of the Papal Basilicas in Rome, participated. Among them were our confreres of the Apostolic College of the Latern Penitentiaries and the Friar Penitentiaries of the Vatican Basilica. A session of ongoing formation and up-dating is offered to the Penitentiaries each month.

**The Missionary Community of Brussels** was received by our Conventual confreres in Narbonne, France, on the 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. The Conventuals have lived for ten years in a new evangelising community in the midst of those who do not believe or don't practise their faith any more. Because of the importance of evangelisation in the mission of the Order, the entire community of Brussels went to learn how to evangelise in Europe from our confreres, a method which could also be used on other continents.

**The Friars of the Houses dependent on the Minister General** celebrated the Vigil of Pentecost together in the College of St. Isidore, Rome on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. About 100 Friars from the different fraternities participated in the Vigil presided over by the Minister General.

**The cause of beatification of Br. Bernardine of Portogruaro:** A further significant step was taken on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The Cardinals and Bishops, members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, expressed an unanimous favourable vote on the heroic nature of the virtues practised by the Servant of God, ex-Minister General OFM (1869-1889) and later Titular Archbishop of Sardica, who died in Quaracchi in 1895. We now await the Pontifical Decree "super virtutibus" which will grant him the title of "Venerable".

**Meeting of the Presidents of the Conferences of the OFM:** A meeting of the Presidents of the Conferences of the OFM with the General Definitory was held at the General Curia from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008. 14 Presidents participated in the meeting. See: [www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)

**Day of Study:** Sanctuary of La Verna – The Province of the Friars Minor in Tuscany, in collaboration with the Pontifical University *Antonianum* and the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality, is organising a day of study on the occasion of the twenty-five years of the existence of the hermitage of the Stigmata on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Further information at: [la.verna@libero.it](mailto:la.verna@libero.it); telephone: + 39 05755341.

**The III Stage of Archivist Studies reserved to workers of the Franciscan Family**, organised by the *Higher School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies* at the Pontifical University *Antonianum*, will be held in Rome from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Inscriptions, before the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008, at: [antonianumsssmf@ofm.org](mailto:antonianumsssmf@ofm.org)

**License in Fundamental Theology in Murcia:** The Theological Institute of Murcia in Spain, affiliated to the Pontifical University *Antonianum*, will confer a License in Fundamental Theology from this academic year on.

The Province of Cartagena, on which, together with the Iberian Conference, the Institute depends, is offering three scholarships for OFM students in the next academic year 2008-2009. Further information can be received from: **Istituto Teológico de Murcia**, Plaza Beato Andrés Hibernón - 30001 Murcia (Spain); Telephone 0034968245608, Fax 0034968233162; E-mail [itmsectr@fcu.um.es](mailto:itmsectr@fcu.um.es); <http://www.itmfranciscano.org/>.

## New Ministers Provincial

**Br. Tommaso Leopizzi** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of the Assumption of the B.V.M., Lecce, Italy.

**Br. Giuseppe (Pino) Noto** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Sicily, Italy.

**Br. Sandro Overend** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Paul the Apostle in Malta.

**Br. Francesco Patton** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Vigil in Trent, Italy.

**Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. James in Le Marche, Italy.

## New Visitators General

**Br. Zenon Styś** of the Province of St. Mary of the Angels in Poland, for the Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Poland.

**Br. Azarias Jacek Hess** of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. in Poland, for the Province of St. Hedwig in Poland.

**Br. Cyril Jaroslav Brázda** of the Province of the Holy Redeemer in Slovakia, for the Province of St. Wenceslas of Bohemia and Moravia in the Czech Republic.

**Br. Tarcisio Colombotti** of the Province of St. Charles Borromeo in Italia, for the Province of St. Francis, Stigmatised, in Italy.

**Br. Saverio Biasi** of the Province of St. Vigil in Italy, for the Province of St. Bonaventure in Italy.

**Br. Cristoforo Amanzi** of the Province of Saints Peter and Paul in Italy, for the Province of the Sacred Heart of the B.V.M. in Italy.

**Br. Gabrijel Mioč** of the Province of the Assumption of the B.V.M. in Bosnia-Herzegovina, for the Province of Holy Cross in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Br. Matija Koren** of the Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Croatia, for the Province of the Holy Redeemer in Croatia.

**Br. Manuel Blanco Rodríguez** of the Province of St. Gregory the Great, in Spain, for the Houses and Friars in Syria and Libya.

## Agenda of the Minister General

**01-04 June:** Continuation of the International Congress of the Presidents of the Federations of Conceptionists (Toledo - Spain).

**05-07 June:** Visit to the Province of Arantzazu (Spain).

**12-14 June:** Visit to the Custody of St. Anthony (Singapore)

**16-22 June:** Visit to the Province of St. Benedict the African (Congo).

**23-26 June:** Visit to the Province of St. Francis (Nairobi - Kenya).

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

Work must be carried out “with fidelity and devotion” (*Rb* 5,1) in the franciscan vision. I seem to intuit that Francis asks us to commit ourselves seriously to work (fidelity) through these two terms, which should characterise all the activities of the Friars (manual, pastoral and intellectual), without forgetting that “the spirit of holy prayer and devotion, which all other temporal things should serve” (*Rb* 5,2) cannot be substituted. In other words, work for the Friar Minor is not a facultative option, but a response to a gift, a vocational response, which must be generous and persevering. Besides, work is not an “absolute” in the life of the Friars, because there is a hierarchy of values. The spirit of prayer and devotion occupies the first place, it is the first *work* or commitment of the Friar Minor.

### FRATERNITAS - OFM – Rome

Director responsible: Gino Concetti - Redactor: Robert Bahčič

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

**FĒSTI**

1. Fra Ġustinu Scortino
2. Fra Marcellino Micallef
6. Fra Norbert Ellul Vincenti
13. Fra Anthony Vella  
Fra Anthony Chircop  
Fra Anthony Briffa  
Fra Anton Farrugia
16. Fra Guido Schembri
24. Fra Ġwann Azzopardi  
Fra Ġwann Abela  
Fra John Muscat
29. Fra Pietru Pawl Meliak  
Fra Pierre Farrugia
30. Fra Raymond Camilleri

**ĠUNJU 2008****BIRTHDAYS**

7. Fra Anthony Briffa
8. Fra Pierre Farrugia
19. Fra Bernardin Sant
27. Fra Norbert Ellul Vincenti  
Fra Leo M. Ciantar

**LULJU 2008**

12. Fra Godfrey Micallef
14. Fra Kamillu Aquilina
16. Fra Charles Diacono  
Fra Charles Grech
25. Fra Christopher Farrugia

1. Fra George Bugeja
4. Fra Ġuzepp Vella  
Fra Raymond Camilleri
7. Fra Albert Gauci
18. Fra Ġorg Aquilina
27. Fra Ġustino Sciortino

*Awguri u Xewqat Sbieħ !!*

**F' DIN IL-HARĠA**  
Ġunju 2008

Grazzi mil-qalb	1
Ittra tal-Min. Ġeneral lil Provincjal l-ġdid	2
Ittra tal-Vizitatur Ġenerali Fra Austin McCormack	3
Il-fraternitajiet il-ġodda	4-9
Mumentu fraterni ftal-Kapitlu Provincjali '08	10
Hajjiet il-Provincja	11-12
Ittra tal-Min. Ġeneral lil Fra Ivo	13
Reċensjoni	14-15
Fraternitas	16-19

**L- AĦĦBAR****EDITOR**

Fra Alexander Borg o.f.m.

Patrijiet Frangiskani

Triq il-Knisja

Tas-Sliema SLM 1153

Tel. 21331183

E-mail : provofm@vol.net.mt

borgalexander56@yahoo.co.uk

N.B. Għall-aħħar agornamenti

http: //ofm.org.mt

Grazzi lil fra Joseph Magro o.f.m.