



O F M - L I N K O F M - L I N K

ORDNI TAL-PATRIJET MINURI - M A L T A
PROVINĠJA FRANGISKANA TA' SAN PAWL APPOSTLU
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Fit-23 ta' Settembru 1850,
instabu partijiet mil-ġisem
ta' S. Klara t' Assisi u
wara tqiegħdu f' urna tal-
kristall, li aktar 'il quddiem
tqiegħdet fil-kripta li
hemm taħt il-Bażilika ta'
S. Klara ġewwa Assisi.
ara p. 5

TIĠDID TAL-VOTI

Fra Aaron Abdilla O.F.M.

PROFESSJONI TEMPORANJA

Fra Clive Camilleri O.F.M.
Fra Andrea Diacono O.F.M.
Fra Ramon Farrugia O.F.M.

VESTIZZJONI RELIĠJUŻA

Gerald Xuereb

5 ta' Settembru 2011 - 6.30 pm
Parroċċa Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor - Tas-Sliema

ORDINAZZJONI DJAKONALI

Fra Walter Vassallo O.F.M.
14 t' Ottubru 2011 - 6.30 pm
Knisja Parrokkjali S. Katerina V.M. - Zejtun
MULTOS ANNOS

P. Joseph Ciappara ġie ordnat presbiteru MULTOS ANNOS ara p. 7



**Il-Katekezi
tal-Papa Benedittu XVI
(29 ta' Diċembru 2010)
fuq S. Katerina minn Bologna, Klarissa (1)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a recent catechesis I spoke about St. Catherine of Siena. Today I would like to present to you another less well known Saint who has the same name: St Catherine of Bologna, a very erudite yet very humble woman. She was dedicated to prayer but was always ready to serve; generous in sacrifice but full of joy in welcoming Christ with the Cross.

Catherine was born in Bologna on 8 September 1413, the eldest child of Benvenuta Mammolini and John de' Vigri, a rich and cultured patrician of Ferrara, a doctor in law and a public lector in Padua, where he carried out diplomatic missions for Nicholas III d' Este, Marquis of Ferrara. Not much information about Catherine's infancy and childhood is available and not all of it is reliable. As a child she lived in her grandparents' house in Bologna, where she was brought up by relatives, especially by her mother who was a woman of deep faith.

With her, Catherine moved to Ferrara when she was about 10 years old and entered the court of Nicholas III d' Este as lady-in-waiting to Margaret, Nicholas' illegitimate daughter. The Marquis was transforming Ferrara into a fine city, summoning artists and scholars from various countries. He encouraged culture and, although his private life was not exemplary, took great care of the spiritual good, moral conduct and education of his subjects.

In Ferrara Catherine was unaware of the negative aspects that are often part and parcel of court life. She enjoyed Margaret's friendship and became her confidante. She developed her culture by studying music, painting and dancing; she learned to write poetry and literary compositions and to play the viola; she became expert in the art of miniature-painting and copying; she perfected her knowledge of Latin. In her future monastic life she was to put to good use the cultural and artistic heritage she had acquired in these years. She learned with ease, enthusiasm and tenacity. She showed great prudence, as well as an unusual modesty, grace and kindness in her behaviour.

However, one absolutely clear trait distinguished her: her spirit, constantly focused on the things of Heaven. In 1427, when she was only 14 years old and subsequent to certain family events, Catherine decided to leave the court to join a group of young noble women who lived a community life dedicating themselves to God. Her mother trustingly consented in spite of having other plans for her daughter.

We know nothing of Catherine's spiritual path prior to this decision. Speaking in the third person, she states that she entered God's service, "illuminated by divine grace... with an upright conscience and great fervour", attentive to holy prayer by night and by day, striving to acquire all the virtues she saw in others, "not out of envy but the better to please God in whom she had placed all her love" (*Le sette armi necessarie alla battaglia spirituale*, [The seven spiritual weapons], VII, 8, Bologna 1998, p. 12). She made considerable spiritual progress in this new phase of her life but her trials, her inner suffering and especially the temptations of the devil were great and terrible. She passed through a profound spiritual crisis and came to the brink of despair (*cf. ibid.*, VII, 2, pp. 12-29). She lived in the night of the spirit, and was also deeply shaken by the temptation of disbelief in the Eucharist. After so much suffering, the Lord comforted her: he gave her, in a vision, a clear awareness of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, an awareness so dazzling that Catherine was

unable to express it in words (*cf. ibid.*, VIII, 2. pp. 42-46). In this same period a sorrowful trial afflicted the community: tension arose between those who wished to follow the Augustinian spirituality and those who had more of an inclination for Franciscan spirituality.

Between 1429 and 1430, Lucia Mascheroni, in charge of the group, decided to found an Augustinian monastery. Catherine, on the other hand chose with others to bind herself to the Rule of St Clare of Assisi. It was a gift of Providence, because the community dwelled in the vicinity of the Church of the Holy Spirit, annexed to the convent of the Friars Minor who had adhered to the movement of the Observance.

Thus Catherine and her companions could take part regularly in liturgical celebrations and receive adequate spiritual assistance. They also had the joy of listening to the preaching of St Bernardine of Siena (*cf. ibid.*, VII, 62, p. 26). Catherine recounts that in 1429 — the third year since her conversion — she went to make her confession to one of the Friars Minor whom she esteemed, she made a good Confession and prayed the Lord intensely to grant her forgiveness for all her sins and the suffering connected with them. In a vision God revealed to her that he had forgiven her everything. It was a very strong experience of divine mercy which left an indelible mark upon her, giving her a fresh impetus to respond generously to God's immense love (*cf. ibid.* IX, 2, pp. 46-48).

In 1431 she had a vision of the Last Judgement. The terrifying spectacle of the damned impelled her to redouble her prayers and penance for the salvation of sinners. The devil continued to assault her and she entrusted herself ever more totally to the Lord and to the Virgin Mary (*cf. ibid.*, X, 3, pp. 53-54).

In her writings, Catherine has left us a few essential notes concerning this mysterious battle from which, with God's grace, she emerged victorious. She did so in order to instruct her sisters and those who intend to set out on the path of perfection: she wanted to put them on their guard against the temptations of the devil who often conceals himself behind deceptive guises, later to sow doubts about faith, vocational uncertainty and sensuality

In her autobiographical and didactic treatise, *The Seven Spiritual Weapons*, Catherine offers in this regard teaching of deep wisdom and profound discernment. She speaks in the third person in reporting the extraordinary graces which the Lord gives to her and in the first person in confessing her sins. From her writing transpires the purity of her faith in God, her profound humility, the simplicity of her heart, her missionary zeal, her passion for the salvation of souls. She identifies seven weapons in the fight against evil, against the devil:

1. always to be careful and diligently strive to do good;
2. to believe that alone we will never be able to do something truly good;
3. to trust in God and, for love of him, never to fear in the battle against evil, either in the world or within ourselves;
4. to meditate often on the events and words of the life of Jesus, and especially on his Passion and his death;
5. to remember that we must die;
6. to focus our minds firmly on memory of the goods of Heaven;
7. to be familiar with Sacred Scripture, always cherishing it in our hearts so that it may give direction to all our thoughts and all our actions. A splendid programme of spiritual life, today too, for each one of us!

In the convent Catherine, in spite of being accustomed to the court in Ferrara, served in the offices of laundress, dressmaker and breadmaker and even looked after the animals. She did everything, even the lowliest tasks, with love and ready obedience, offering her sisters a luminous witness. Indeed she saw disobedience as that spiritual pride which destroys every other virtue. Out of obedience she accepted the office of novice mistress, although she considered herself unfit for this office, and God continued to inspire her with his presence and his gifts: in fact she proved to be a

wise and appreciated mistress.

Later the service of the parlour was entrusted to her. She found it trying to have to interrupt her prayers frequently in order to respond to those who came to the monastery grill, but this time too the Lord did not fail to visit her and to be close to her. With her the monastery became an increasingly prayerful place of self-giving, of silence, of endeavour and of joy. Upon the death of the abbess, the superiors thought immediately of her, but Catherine urged them to turn to the Poor Clares of Mantua who were better instructed in the Constitutions and in religious observance.

Nevertheless, a few years later, in 1456, she was asked at her monastery to open a new foundation in Bologna. Catherine would have preferred to end her days in Ferrara, but the Lord appeared to her and exhorted her to do God's will by going to Bologna as abbess. She prepared herself for the new commitment with fasting, scourging and penance. She went to Bologna with 18 sisters. As superior she set the example in prayer and in service; she lived in deep humility and poverty. At the end of her three-year term as abbess she was glad to be replaced but after a year she was obliged to resume her office because the newly elected abbess became blind. Although she was suffering and was afflicted with serious ailments that tormented her, she carried out her service with generosity and dedication.

For another year she urged her sisters to an evangelical life, to patience and constancy in trial, to fraternal love, to union with the divine Bridegroom, Jesus, so as to prepare her dowry for the eternal nuptials. It was a dowry that Catherine saw as knowing how to share the sufferings of Christ, serenely facing hardship, apprehension, contempt and misunderstanding (*cf. Le sette armi spirituali*, X, 20, pp. 57-58).

At the beginning of 1463 her health deteriorated. For the last time she gathered the sisters in Chapter, to announce her death to them and to recommend the observance of the Rule. Towards the end of February she was harrowed by terrible suffering that was never to leave her, yet despite her pain it was she who comforted her sisters, assuring them that she would also help them from Heaven. After receiving the last Sacraments, she gave her confessor the text she had written: *The Seven Spiritual Weapons*, and entered her agony; her face grew beautiful and translucent; she still looked lovingly at those who surrounded her and died gently, repeating three times the name of Jesus. It was 9 March 1463 (*cf. I. Bembo, Specchio di illuminazione, Vita di S. Caterina a Bologna*, Florence 2001, chap. III). Catherine was to be canonized by Pope Clement XI on 22 May 1712. Her incorrupt body is preserved in the city of Bologna, in the chapel of the monastery of Corpus Domini.

jitkompli fil-harġa li jmiss

>>> IRTIR INTER FRANĠISKAN Dar tal-Irtiri Porzjunkola – Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq

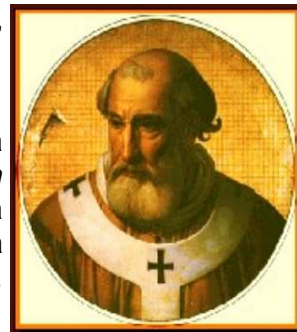
Mit-Tnejn 19 sal-Ġimgħa 23 ta' Settembru
Animatur P. Mark Ciantar O.F.M.

Mit-Tnejn 7 sal-Ġimgħa 11 ta' Novembru
Animatur Kan. Eucharist Sultana.

Fix-xahar ta' Settembru.....

Skond kif naqraw fl-storja ta' Santa Klara t' Assisi, fix-xahar ta' Settembru, nsibu hames grajjiet li jolqtu mill-qrib lil hajjietha.

17 ta' Settembru 1228 : Il-Papa Girgor IX (1227-1241) bil-bulla '*Sicut manifestum est*' jikkonferma l-Privileġġ tal-Faqar - *privilegium pauperitatis* {FSK 211-2113}. Dan huwa wieħed mill-ħafna dokumenti li kiteb dan il-Papa lis-Sorijiet Foqra ta' San Damjan {ara FSK 1227-1242}. L-original taghha jinsab fil-Protomonasteru ta' S. Klara f' Assisi.



F' Settembru tal-1240 : Saret l-invażjoni tat-truppi Saraċini, suldati merċinarji ta' Federiku II, ġewwa l-kunvent ta' San Damjan. Klara titlob u turihom l-Ewkaristija, tant li huma ħarbu u m' għamlux ħsara, la lill-kunvent u lanqas lill-belt ta' Assisi (ara ProcCan 3,18 {FSK 356} eċċ). Għal dan il-fatt u għall-fatt simili, li seħħ is-sena ta' wara, sal-lum nhar it-22 ta' Ġunju tiġi ċċelebrata festa kbira, fil-belt t' Assisi - bl-isem **La festa del voto**.

8 ta' Settembru 1252 : Il-Kardinal Protettur tal-Patrijiet Minuri u tas-Sorijiet Foqra, Rinaldo dei Conti dei Segni - tweled Jenne fl-1199 u miet Viterbo fl-25 ta' Mejju 1261 -(il-futur Papa Alessandru IV) għamel żjara lil Klara, li kienet tinsab marida gravi. Klara titolbu l-approvazzjoni tar-regola li kienet kitbet hi stess (ara LegCI 40 {FSK 641}).

16 ta' Settembru 1252 : L-istess Kardinal jaghti l-approvazzjoni tiegħu lir-Regola ta' S. Klara bl-ittra *Quia vos* (ara FSK 59-61).



23 ta' Settembru 1850 : Wara li fl-1850, l-ġisem ta' S. Franġisk tpoġġa fil-kripta tal-Bażilika tiegħu t' Assisi, ħafna xtaqu li jsir l-istess għal S. Klara. Fil-fatt l-isqof t' Assisi Mons. L. Landi-Vittori, fuq talba tal-Klarissi tal-Protomonastero, mar għand il-Papa B. Piju IX (li tiegħu qeghda tidher xbieha), li kien membru fl-O.F.S., biex jitolbu halli jawtorizzah biex jibdedw l-skavi. Hekk kif sar xi xogħol ta' taħfir fuq in-naħa tal-lemin tal-altar maġġur tal-Bażilika ta' S. Klara, f' dan il-jum instabu xi partijiet mil-ġisem ta' S. Klara. Dan kollu sar taħt l-ghajnejn tal-Isqifijiet tal-Umrja, fosthom kien hemm ukoll Mons. Giacchino Pecci, l-arċisqof ta' Perugia (il-futur Papa Ljun XIII) u l-esperti tal-medicina u tal-arkeloggija. Wara niżlu wkoll is-sorijiet Klarissi tal-Protomonastero biex jagħtuha l-qima. Minn 208 għadma, li bniedem normali ikollu, instabu 57 għadma biss, li kienu għandhom tajbin. Imbghad il-fdal tal-qaddisa tpoġġew go urna tal-kristall. Nhar it-28 tax-xahar, quddiem l-awtoritajiet ekkleżjastiċi, l-esperti poġġew l-għadam skond l-ordni tiegħu. Huma libsuhom b' tonka tal-ħarir. L-għada saret purċissjoni tul it-toroq ta' Assisi b' dawn ir-relikwi. Hekk kif waslu lura, l-urna tqiegħdet fil-kor tas-sorijiet, taħt il-Kurċifiss ta' S. Damjan. Baqghet hemm sas-26 ta' Settembru 1872, jiġifieri sakemm tlestiet il-kripta, biex fiha tilqa' l-urna tal-qaddisa. Sadanitant permezz tal-espert Modesto Scevola ta' Ruma, sar dak kollu li kien meħtieġ biex ma ssirx aktar ħsara lil-fdal tal-qaddisa. Ta' kull sena, fit-23 ta' Settembru, il-Klarissi biss, fil-liturġija tagħhom, jgħamlu tifikira ta' din il-ġrajja storika tas-sejba.

Joe l-Isqof il-ġdid - erba' xhur wara

Monseñor José, el Nuevo Obispo.

Hekk saru jafuh ma' Olancho kollu: Ftit ilu, huna Joe ghalq 4 xhur minn mindu sar isqof. Kien ġie Malta, u milli smajt, għamiltulu FESTA warrab u zul minn nofs..... baned, murtali, purċissjonijiet, pontifikali, salt laqgħat u ikel Malti bil-qnatar. Meta ġie lura Olancho, il-kurdun tat-tonka ma kienx għadu jlahħaq ma' żaqqu! Minn meta ġie lura hawn, forsi xi uħud minn Malta qed jistaqsu: "Min jaf kif inhu sejjer Joe?". Halli ngħidilkom ftit, għax s' issa għadni ngħix miegħu.

L-ewwel li hasdu kien il-palazz ta' l-Isqof, għax ta' PALAZZ, tassew ma għandu XEJN! Meta tagħmel ix-xita – u bħalissa qed tagħmel bil-bramel – ilma ma' kullimkien. Soqfa jqat-tru, kanali mimlijin weraq u xmara shiħa għaddejja minn nofs, dak li ma nafx għaliex baq-ghu jsejhulu Palazz. Il-kamra tiegħu, *mas o menos*, għax qabel ma wasal, bil-għaġla, bid-dilnielha ż-żingu tas-saqaf li kien issadad u li kien sar qisu għarbiel!

Bħalissa jien qed nagħmilha ta' xufier u naqra ta' *body-guard*, għax talabni nakkompanjah fl-ewwel harġiet tiegħu, minħabba li għadu ma jafx il-parroċċi. Mill-ewwel laqtu l-KOBOR immens ta' din id-Djoċesi : 26 elf kilometru.....biżżejjed tgħid li Malta toqgħod f' Olancho 82 darba! Morna Guata, hames siegħat sewqan....u hamsa oħra biex nerġgħu lura! Morna San Esteban.....erba' siegħat u nofs. Wasalna La Balsa, sitt siegħat!!! Meta tasal il-warrani ikun imtarrax u l-għadam kollu jkun jiċċaqlaq minn postu. U.....m' hemmx mistrieħ, għax issib salt nies jistennewk. Satgħejn jew tlieta qrar, quddiesa, u xi 300 żaġħżuġ għal Griżma. It-tajjeb hu li fi 38 sena li ilni hawn, QATT ma tkellimt daqshekk bil-Malti. Iżda xi drabi, aħna u ġejjin lura, ninduna li qed nitkellem waħdi, għax inħares lejn il-lemin u narah rieqed qisu tarbija johlom fuq ix-Xaġhra, bi tbissima fuq wiċċu! Jien inkompli intiha waħdi, għax il-bqija nogħnos bħalu!

Lili, dak li laqatni l-iktar hu l-fatt li n-nies ta' Olancho veru innamraw ma' Joe, l-isqof il-ġdid. Kull fejn imur salt nies jistennewh barra mir-raħal biex jarawh mill-qrib u jifirhulu, u jidhlu miegħu bil-purċissjoni. Trid tifhem li f' Olancho kollu, hadd ma kien jafu, għax f' wieħed u għoxrin sena, li ilu l-Honduras, darba biss ġie hawn, għal-funeral ta' patri. Għalhekk la n-nies u lanqas il-kleru – barra jien – ma kienu jafu x' *tortilla* jjekol! U tridu taraw kif laqgħuh is-saċerdoti ta' Olancho! Hu wkoll għandu ċerti dettalji li jidhlu sa qalbek.....galettina lil dan, ċikkulata lil-ieħor, ċempila lill-ieħor li ilu ma jara, u lilisikwit ġej b' xi grossa sigar-retti u *lempiras* għall-petrol!

Joe ma tantx jitkellem. Iżda għandu tbissima minn hawn sa Kemuna u tassew qalbu f' idu. Il-kelma fost is-saċerdoti kollha hi - "Dan l-Isqof tassew jaf jisma!"

Jidher li sejjer tajjeb. Ġej u sejjer għand il-Klarissi – forsi għax jitmawh tajjeb – hemm waħda Taljana li tagħmel ravjul tajjeb wisq – u sikwit iżur l-orfni. Imbghad minn hemm għal għand tax-xjuħ u jgħaddi l-*bakery*, għax iħobb ferm il-"rawlipawli" li nagħmlu.

Intom Malta, itolbu għalih biex San Frangisk iterraq miegħu fit-triq twila li hemm tistennieh.

P. Alberto Gauci O.F.M. minn Olancho

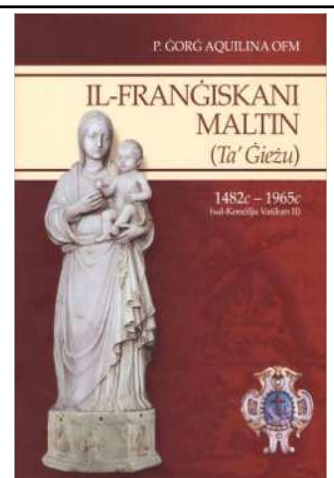
P. Joseph Ciappara O.F.M. ġie ordnat presbiteru

Nhar il-Hadd 3 ta' Lulju fil-Kon-Katidral ta' S. Ġwann, il-Belt Valletta, huna Fra Joseph Ciappara, flimkien ma' hdax djakni ohra, ġie ordnat presbiteru mill-Arcisqof ta' Malta, Mons. P. Cremona O.P. Għal din l-ordinazzjoni, fost l-oħrajn, kien hemm preżenti Mons. Silvestru Magro O.F.M. kif ukoll il-Provinċjal u numru sew ta' patrijiet. Kien hemm ukoll il-ġenituri, ħutu u l-familji tagħhom, flimkien ma' hafna ħbieb, fosthom hafna Rabtin. Fra Joseph għamel in-Novizzjat tiegħu fis-Santwarju ta' S. Damjan, Assisi. Imbgħad kompli l-istudji tiegħu fl-Universita ta' Malta. Nhar il-Hadd 17 ta' Lulju huwa mexxa Quddiesa Solenni Konċelebrata fil-Knisja tagħna ta' S. Marija ta' Ġesu, ir-Rabat. Minn din il-paġna nawgurawlu **MULTOS ANNOS** u nitolbu ghalih, speċjalment issa li se jmur Gerusalem, fejn se jispeċjalizza fl-istudji bibliċi ġewwa l-*Istudium Biblicum Franciscanum*.



Huna P. George Aquilina O.F.M. S.Th.D., Dipl. Arhiv. Christ. għadu kemm ippublika l-ktieb 'Il-Franġiskani Maltin (ta' Ġiezu) 1482c - 1965c'. Dan ġie ppubblikat mill-Klabb Kotba Maltin u huwa frott ta' hidma intensiva dwar il bosta hidmiet li wettqu l-patrijiet tagħna tul l-istorja ta' ġensna. Aktar tagħrif jingħata f' ħarġa ohra.

P. Gorg, prosit tassew u grazzi mill-qalb



MULTOS ANNOS 1986 – 2011

P. Martin Coleiro O.F.M.

Twelid : 9 ta' Novembru 1962, Sta. Venera
Novizzjat : 30 ta' Settembru 1978
Professjoni Tempranja : 7 t' Ottubru 1979
Professjoni Solenni : 17 ta' Settembru 1984
Ordinazzjoni Saċerdotali : 1 ta' Settembru 1986
Hidmiet : Vigarju tal-Fraternita tar-Rabat, Sekond
Mastru tal-Istudenti u Viċi-Direttur tal-Postulanti,
membru tal-Kunsill tal-Formazzjoni, Ekonomu tal-
tal-istess fraternita, Assistent Spiritwali Fraternita
O.F.S. Nazzjonali u Lokali, Sagristan Maġġur u Xoghol
Pastorali.



Filwaqt li nitolbu għalih, nawgurawlu kull ġid u barka

Sett ta' tmien qniepen godda fil-Parroċċa ta' Għajnsielem

Il-Ħamis 11 ta' Awwissu 2011 waslu Għajnsielem sett ta' tmien qniepen mill-funderija *Cornille-Havard* ta' Franza. Dan il-proġett inbena matul dawn l-aħħar erba' snin fejn l-Arcipriet Dun Frankie Bajada habbar li se jibda' jiġbor il-fondi għal dan il-proġett li kien maħsub mill-mibki Arcipriet Emeritus Dun Ġużepp Zerafa.

L-artisti involuti f' dan il-proġett huma Vince Caruana u Paul Stellini għad-disinni, Rudolph Cauchi għall-induratura, Joseph Chetcuti għall-anġli tal-kuruna u Jean-Claude Quinette għall-eżenzjoni skulturali. In-noti mużikali kienu f' idejn il-Mro Dr. John Galea, li bin-noti li ġew mogħtija jistgħu jindaqqu sew l-*Ave Maria* ta' Fatima, dik ta' Lourdes u melodiji oħra, fosthom *Verġni Imbierka* u oħrajn.

Kull qanpiena għandha l-isem tagħha flimkien ma' beatitudni u titlu tal-Madonna, meħud mill-Litanija tal-Madonna. Dawn il-qniepen ġew imbierka nhar il-Ħadd 14 ta' Awwissu, 2011 mill-E.T. Mons Mario Grech, Isqof ta' Għawdex.

Kull qanpiena kellha l-parrinu tagħha, li fosthom, kien hemm il-Gwardjan tal-Kunvent ta' Għawdex, P. Raymond Camilleri O.F.M., (f' dan ir-ritratt jidher qiegħed jiġbed il-ħabel tal-qanpiena biex idoqq tokk) li kien parrinu tat-tielet qanpiena *Maria Antonia*, msemmija propju għall-Qaddis Patrun tagħna Sant'Antnin ta' Padova. Hija tiżen 2150 kg, idoqq in-nota *Do 3* u għandha dijametru ta' 1480mm. Fuqha hemm imnaqaxx il-kliem : *Causa nostra leatitiae* u l-beatitudni : Henjin ta' qalbhom helwa, għax jkollhom b' wirthom l-art" (Mt. 5,5).



800 sena ilu

800 sena ilu, fiż-żmien tas-sajf, Missierna S. Franġisk, peress li kellu xewqa kbira li jiehu l-martirju u jmur jipprietka l-fidi nisranija u l-penitenza lis-Saraċini u infidili oħrajn, ried imur is-Sirja. Hawn il-kelma 'Sirja' ma tindikax biss il-pajjiż proprju, imma l-Lvant Nofsani b' mod ġenerali. Aktar tard meta l-Ordni organizza ruħu fi provincji, waħda minhom bdiet tissejjaħ tas-Sirja jew *Oltremare* kienet tikkonsisti fost l-oħrajn fl-Eġittu, Palestina, Sirja, Ċipru u artijiet oħra tal-Lvant Nofsani. 'Il quddiem bdiet terġa' tissejjaħ il-Kustodja tal-Art Imqaddsa.

Għalhekk huwa x'aktarx mar Ancona, fejn minhekk huwa qabad ġifen li kien sejjer għall-inħawi tas-Sirja. Imma irfwien qawwija dawwru l-ġifen lejn il-kosta tas-Skjavonja – Dalmazja, ġewwa l-Kroazja. Meta ra li kollox sefa fix-xejn, ried imur lura lejn Ancona. Imma peress li kellux flus biex jhallas il-vjaġġ u ma kellhomx ikel biżżejjed, il-baħrin ma hallewhx imur magħhom. Għaliex huwa kellu fiduċja kbira fil-Mulej, rikeb il-ġifen bil-moħbi flimkien ma' wiehed mill-aħwa. L-ebda fonti, li ma jgħidilna min kien dan il-patri. F' ħin minhom jasal bniedem li ma kien jafu hadd u li kien imqanqal mill-providenza divina u ta lil wiehed baħri, li kien jibza minn Alla, xi ikel. Lil dan qallu: "Hu miegħek dan l-ikel u agħtih lil dawk l-fqajrin li huma moħbijin fil-ġifen, kull meta jkunu fil-htieġa".



Wara ftit li l-ġifen halla l-port, qamet tempesta qawwija u l-baħrin damu jiem jithabtu u jaqdfu, tant li l-ikel li kellhom huma spiċċa. Kien fadal biss dak tal-fqajjar Franġisku. Imma bil-grazzja ta' Alla, dak l-ikel tant tkattar li servihom sakemm waslu Ancona. Meta l-baħrin raw li kienu salvaw mill-perikli tal-baħar għall-merti ta' Franġisku, u li kienu irċewew min-għandu dak li huma kienu ċaħdu lilu, raddew ħajr lil Alla li jista' kollox. (ara 1C 20 {FSF 248}; 3C 5 {FSF 965}; LM 7 {FSF1206}; LM 9 {FSF1222}).

Kappillan ġdid

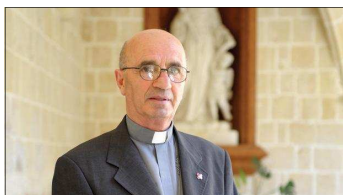


Nhar is-6 ta' Settembru, waqt Quddiesa Solenni Konċelebrata, P. Richard Stanley Grech ha l-pusses bħala l-Kappillan il-ġdid tal-Parroċċa Madonna tas-Sacro Cuor f' Tas-Sliema. Il-quddiesa tmexxiet mill-Arcisqof ta' Malta, Mons. P. Cremona O.P. P. Richard twieled fit-28 t' Ottubru 1955 ġewwa r-Rabat. Fit-22 t' Ottubru 1972 ha l-libsa franġiskana. Fl-14 t' Ottubru 1973 għamel l-professjoni sempliċi u dik solenni fit-8 ta' Diċembru 1976. Ġie ordnat saċerdot nhar il-25 t' Awwissu 1979 fil-knisja parrokkjali ta' Madonna ta' Loreto, Għajnsielem, wara li għamel l-istudji tiegħu ġewwa l-kunvent tagħna tar-Rabat u f'Gerusalem. P. Richard għandu esperjenza kbira pastorali kemm fl-Awstralja, kif ukoll f' bosta skejjet tal-Knisja f' Malta, kemm bħala Direttur Spiritwali, kif ukoll bħala għalliem. Kien ukoll għamel xi żmien bħala Viċi ta' din il-parroċċa. Huwa se jkompli l-hidma tiegħu bħala Viġarju Provincjali, Ekonomu Provincjali, kif wkoll Gwardjan u Ekonomu tal-fraternita ta' Tas-Sliema. Huwa wkoll membru fil-Kunsill tal-Formazzjoni Provincjali. Minn din il-paġna nawgurawlu kull ġid u barka, filwaqt li nitolbu għalih.

Maltese Bishop recounts moments of fear in Benghazi

An article by David Schembri which appeared in the TIMES - 16th June 2011

When everyone was escaping Libya last February, Maltese Bishop Sylvester Magro O.F.M. and the Catholic community in Benghazi decided to stay and face the impending war. “We had a meeting between the clergy and nuns. We assessed the situation, which was grave and getting worse, as war had started. But we concluded we should remain loyal to the Christians and the people of Libya,” Mgr. Magro, in Malta on a short break, said.



“We are not alone there. We have around 30 nuns who are serving as nurses in the hospital and their presence is needed in a time where there are a lot of wounded people. It was not on to leave when the need increased. It is necessary for the Libyans to see us being a witness,” Mgr. Magro.

He said the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Benghazi Transitional National Council and himself had met and he was promised full support in the Church’s mission in Libya, which includes service in the hospital.

“The council recognises the value of the Church and they know first-hand that the Church’s contribution in Libya is practical. They respect our religion and we hope that when things work out we can continue working and keeping our presence there as before,” Mgr. Magro said.

He would not enter into the merits of whether the revolution was justified or not, saying the matter was a complicated one in which it wasn’t his business to interfere. While the bishop was not in the midst of the action, he still suffered the uncertainty and terror of war. “We saw a plane crash on March 19. When the night bombing started, we could not sleep, we were terrified,” he admitted.

“We did not know where the bombing was coming from as we were locked inside. To find solace and refuge, we got together and prayed, as we feared it might be our turn next. But we stayed on to carry out our vocation and, even though the future looks dark, we’ll let God’s providence lead us.” The bishop said the Church had helped refugees from Misurata and, after being treated in hospital, the Catholic Nigerian community welcomed their counterparts from Misurata and provided food and support.

As people evacuated the country – including the staunchly Catholic Filipinos – numbers in the Benghazi Catholic community went down. “But some remained and we spent days locked inside because of fear. We went out and saw each other as all the priests and nuns had stayed. We rejoiced and some cried tears of joy. No one knew if the others had remained,” Mgr. Magro said.

As the Church went back to a semblance of normality, the annual Easter liturgy took on a deeper meaning for Catholics in Libya. “We felt more united by sharing in the Passion of Christ, as now we were living that terror and fear He too went through. This was very present in our minds, along with the hope in resurrection, the hope in God’s power that overcomes death itself,” he said. “So apart from a spiritual effect, it also had a psychological effect on us. It allowed us to share in the passion, hope, in the resurrection and trust in His providence,” the bishop said.

Mgr. Magro, who will be returning to the North African country on July 7, arrived on a UN plane on Thursday night.

AHBARIJET MILL-PROVINĊJA TAGHNA

Nhar il-Hadd 3 ta' Lulju giet iċcelebrata l-festa solenni tas-Sultana taghna tal-Qalb ta' Ġesu ġewwa l-parroċċa taghna ta' Tas-Sliema. Peress li din is-sena ħabat il-100 anniversarju tal-ewwel purċissjoni li saret bil-vara titulari, għalhekk kien hemm programm speċjali. Mons. Silvestru Magro O.F.M. mexxa l-Quddiesa Solenni Pontifikali, filwaqt li l-Provinċjal għamel il-paneġierku. Wara d-dħul solenni tal-vara titulari, il-Provinċjal irringrazzja lil P. Joe Caruana tal-ħidma pastorali li wettaq tul dawn l-aħħar 3 snin bħala Gwardjan/Kappillan. Imbghad huwa ntroduċa lil P. Richard Stanley Grech, li mill-għada beda jmexxi l-parroċċa bħala Amministratur Parrokkjali sakemm ħa l-pusses ta' kappillan fis-6 ta' Settembru.

Mons. Mario Grech, l-isqof ta' Għawdex, ta s-somma ta' €4,000 lill-Isqof Mons. S. Magro u offerta simili lill-Isqof Mons. G. Martinelli. Lil Mons. J. Bonello bghatlu s-somma ta' € 6.500. Grazi mill-qalb lill-Isqof M. Grech u lil dawk kollha li taw l-kontribuzzjonijiet tagħhom. Dawn il-flus ingabru matul ir-Randan b' solidarjeta' ma' min qed jbatu.

Fil-laqgħa tad-Definitorju Provinċjali, li saret fit-8 ta' Lulju fil-kunvent taghna ta' Tas-Sliema, P. Raymond Camilleri ġie mahtur Editor tal-**Edizzjoni TAU**. Merħba u nawgurawlu.

Nhar id-9 ta' Lulju waslet l-aħbar li, l-Provinċjal P. Emmanuel Barbara O.F.M. Cap. nħatar isqof ta' Malindi fil-Kenja. Il-Provinċjal taghna, f' ismna lkoll, bghat jifrahlu u wegħdu t-talb taghna. P. Emmanuel bosta drabi kien jiġi jqaddes fil-knisja taghna ta' Tas-Sliema meta kien jiġi għall-vaganzi, fi żmien li kien missjunarju fl-istess pajjiż. Kien ukoll membru attiv fiċ-ċentru tal-M.U.S.E.U.M. ta' Tas-Sliema, li jinsab fil-limiti tal-Parroċċa taghna.

Minn mindu laħaq isqof ta' Għawdex, Mons. Mario Grech kellu xewqa kbira li fid-djoċesi tiegħu jkollu komunita' ta' sorijiet klawstrali. Fil-fatt nhar l-24 t' Awwissu fis-7.30 pm huwa mexxa vejla ta' talb ġewwa s-Seminarju Veskovili ta' Għawdex, bħala bidu ufficijali tal-ftuħ tal-monasteru ġdid tal-Klarissi ġewwa Għawdex. Wara saret purċissjoni ewkaristika sal-kappella tal-monasteru. Fl-istess jum il-pubbliku seta' jara dan il-post. L-għada l-istess isqof fis-7.00 pm mexxa Quddiesa Konċelebrata fil-Knisja taghna ta' S. Antnin, Għajnsielem. Miegħu jkkonċelebraw il-Provinċjal u bosta saċerdoti oħra. Il-knisja kienet mimlija daqs bajda u saħansitra xi nies kellhom joqgħodu barra fuq iz-zuntier. Dan il-monasteru ġdid ġie msemmi '**Nazaret**' u jinsab bieb ma' bieb tad-Dar tal-Irtiri 'Manresa' fir-Rabat - fi Triq S. Duminka. Żgur li l-poplu Għawdexi se jibda jgawdi mhux biss il-preżenza ta' dawn is-sorijiet, imma fuq kollox tant frott spiritwali li se johroġ minn dan il-monasteru. Diġa bdiet tinhass il-ġenerożita Għawdexija b' risq din l-opra. Għawdex diġa ta bosta minn wliedu lil dan l-Ordni u nittamaw li aktar xebbiet jhossu s-sejha li jaqdu lill-Mulej fil-hajja klarjana. Minn din il-paġna minn qalbna nawguraw lil hutna l-Klarissi kull barka u ġid. Aktar tagħrif jingħata fil-ħarġa li jmiss.



FESTI**OTTUBRU 2011****BIRTHDAYS**

02. P. Angelo Falzon
 09. P. Dionysius Mintoff
 13. P. Edward Pace
 P. Edward Zammit
 Fra Gerald Xuereb
 23. P. Gwann Micallef
 26. P. Alfred Sciberras
 P. Alfred Tabone

07. P. Gwann Azzopardi
 15. P. Angelo Falzon
 16. P. Alexander Borg
 18. P. Joe Caruana
 22. P. Anton Farrugia
 28. P. Richard Stanley Grech

Xewqat qaddisa !!!!!



**FESTA TA' MISSIERN
 S. FRANĠISK T' ASSISI**

**Knisja S. Marija ta' Gesu, Belt Valletta
 Quddiesa Konċelebrata
 6.15 pm**

**L-ahwa kollha huma mhegga
 biex jattendu**

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OFM - LINK

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