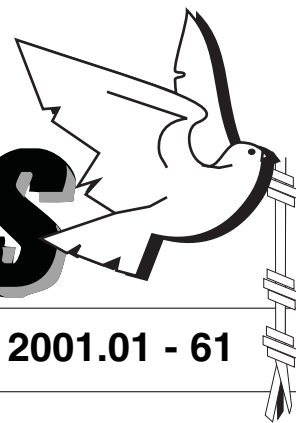


# FRATERNITAS



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## Communicating the vocation of the Friars Minor

Br. Giacomo Bini at the International Congress "In Verbo Tuo" of the Animators of Pastoral Concern for Vocations OFM

If faith is reinforced by sharing it, likewise a vocation accepted is strengthened to the extent that it is communicated to others. The Pastoral Care of Vocations cannot be a simple strategy aimed to guaranty the continuity of our entity and of our ministries, or even a mere instrument to attract new talent, and surely it should not rest on our more or less deep worry about our numbers or our survival. The real pastoral concern for vocations comes from the joy of feeling accepted, enriched and grasped by the Lord. It is a need that comes from a personal encounter with the Lord (Cf. John 1:40,45; 4:39, 12:22).

"Consider your own call" (I Cor. 1:26). All of us are called by the Lord. Dynamic faithfulness to this

call cannot be restricted to one's personal little world, but it has to become an occasion to foster other vocations. The profound joy of someone who has found the hidden treasure (Cf. Mt. 13:44), of someone who experiences the call, nudges him to share his happiness with as many people as possible, "by explicit expression" of the Gospel vocation.

"Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel" (I Cor. 9:16). Anyone who has received the "Good News" of vocation cannot do other than communicate it open-heartedly to others and invite them in plain talk to decide to follow Jesus. I think it is necessary to go beyond a "ministry of waiting" to a "ministry of encouragement", and from a "ministry of

rearguard" to a "ministry of vanguard". The Lord does not quit calling: this is the sure fact at the basis of our hope. But at the same time he wants to use us to have his call spoken and heard; and this urges us to commit ourselves to invite all to follow him.

A vocation lived joyously is always a special attraction, a fascinating story which involves other people. A vocation grasped with awe and lived enthusiastically inevitably becomes the invitation: "Come and see" (John 1:39).

Assisi 10-9-2000

## Czech Republic/Prague Try new avenues without fear

The Minister General, Br. Giacomo Bini, met with the young friars of the Province of the Most Holy Savior and of the Czech Province of St. Wenceslaus at Trnava (Slovakia), and urged them to seek new ways to fearlessly express the Franciscan vocation, and to be credible spokesmen of the Gospel in the world and in today's Church.

At Prague the Minister met nearly all of the friars of the Czech Province. Borrowing the image of St. Francis as the perfect Friar Minor, Br. Giacomo described what a Franciscan fraternity should be, formed by many kinds of personal charisms, and expressed in a variety of pastoral models of availability and of commitments.

And so, said the Minister, "uniformity" is not always a positive thing

for the fraternity in its internal life or in its evangelizing activity.

September 28, Solemnity of St. Wenceslaus, patron of the nation and of the Franciscan Province, the Minister General presided at the Eucharist with the participation of the friars, the Secular Franciscans, and the faithful of the parish tended by the Franciscans.

## Roman Curia

The Holy Father has nominated these members for the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum": Most Rev. Claudio Hummes, OFM, Archbishop of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Most Rev. Angelo Massafra, OFM, Archbishop of Scutari, Albania.

## Engagements of the Minister General

**February 2 - 9**  
Fraternal visit  
to the Republic  
of Central Africa

**February 16 - 20**  
Fraternal visit  
to the Province of India

**February 21 - 25**  
Fraternal visit  
to the Province of Korea

**February 25 - 28**  
Fraternal visit  
to the Province of Taiwan

## Small/Big Notices

• The Vicar General, Br. Stefano Ottenbreit, took part in the inauguration of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Savior in Moscow, August 14, 2000. Br. Stefano was greeted with warm cordiality by the Patriarch of Moscow and by the Patriarch of Rumania, who recalled the recent visit by the Minister General. Br. Stefano and Br. Tommaso Toscho, of the Province of Bologna, with a small delegation, were the only Catholics at the canonization of the 1500 holy martyrs of the Russian Church in this century.

• Br. Tecele Vetrali was invited by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople for a special symposium on the problems concerning creation, on the occasion of 2000 years after the birth of Jesus Christ. Among the four Catholics present, two were Friars Minor: Br. Tecele, president of the Ecumenical Commission of the Order, and Br. Robert Giraldo, president of the St. Bernardine Institute for Ecumenical Studies in Venice. In a private meeting the Patriarch Bartholomew recalled

the long collaboration that has linked the Patriarchate to the Order.

• A delegation, OFM, named by the General Definitorium went to Constantinople November 30 for a fraternal visit to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew II, on occasion of the feast of St. Andrew. The delegation comprised General Definitors Br. Antonio Riccio, Br. Angelo Stellini, ex-Minister Provincial of the Tuscan Province, and Br. Tecele Vetali, president of the Ecumenical Commission of the Order.

• Br. Agostinho Diekmann, of the Vice-Province of the Assumption, Brazil, is the new executive director of *Franciscans International*, elected by the international inter-Franciscan commission. Br. Agostinho was born in Germany in 1956. From 1983 he has worked in the North East of Brazil. He has been president of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the OFM Brazilian Conference and of the Franciscan Family in Brazil.

## Hungary/Budapest

### Visit of the Minister General to the two provinces

From September 20 to 24 the Minister, Br. Giacomo Bini, accompanied by Definitor General Br. Peter Schorr, visited the two Hungarian provinces. The Franciscan history in Hungary received a sharp blow in 1950 from the suppression imposed by the Communist regime. From that moment the two provinces have gone very different ways. St. John Capistran Province obtained "permission to exist" under certain conditions: 72 of the 340 friars were allowed to work in two schools, and the Province could accept two candidates each year. The Province of St. Mary of the Angels was utterly suppressed with the friars forbidden to live in community and to exercise a ministry; many friars transferred to Slovakia.

In 1989, with the collapse of the Communist regime, the Province of St. John opened the doors of their formation houses to the candidates from the Province of St. Mary who were returning to Hungary from Slovakia,

and also to candidates of the Province of Christ the King in Transylvania, Rumania, a Province which is Hungarian in ethnicity.

The Minister General met in Budapest with the Ministers Provincial and Definitories of the two provinces. Together they examined the possibilities for collaboration in initial and ongoing formation programs. There was great participation in the meeting with the friars. Br. Giacomo encouraged them to search for a balance between preserving the old structures and new forms of living the Franciscan charism. Besides meeting with the Franciscan Family of Hungary (the Poor Clares, six congregations of Franciscan women, and the Secular Franciscans), the Minister visited the Cardinal Primate Laszlo Paskai of the Province of Saint John Capistran.

On September 22 Br. Giacomo and Br. Peter traveled to Szentendre and Esztergom to visit the two fraternities which direct two large schools

## East Asia Conference

The provincial ministers of the East Asia Conference (Korea, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam) came together in Seoul, Korea, October 9-11. Also taking part were the Vicar General, Br. Stefano Ottenbreit, and two General Definitors, Br. Xavier Yu and Br. Kapistran Martzall, and the president of the South Asia Conference, Australia and Oceania; Br. Scaria Varanath, Provincial Minister of India. The provincials shared their experiences in realizing the priorities of the Order and of the provinces.

They heard a report on "Service for Dialogue", and the conference of Prof. Hee Sung Keel, Korean, on inter-religious dialogue.

They reserved two sessions to study the structures of the Order.

Br. Peter Ho, Provincial Minister of Taiwan, is the new president of the Conference.

## Book List

### The Sun and Moon over Assisi

of Gerard Thomas Straub,  
St. Anthony Messenger Press,  
Cincinnati, 2000, 614 pages.

The author, expert in movie production, married, Secular Franciscan, lives in North Hollywood, California. The book describes two pilgrimages: the meeting of St. Francis and St. Clare, and their encounter with the faith. In the brilliant style of a writer of television scripts, Gerard shows how Francis and Clare are not only saints of the Middle Ages, but very much saints who speak to today's secular world.

which are well known in Hungary. In Szeged they met 25 students of philosophy and theology from the three Hungarian speaking provinces and at Szécsény they met with the novices.

Before returning Br. Giacomo received the solemn profession of two young friars: Br. Dénes Hesz and Br. Piusz Berhidai, blessed the monument to the eight Friar Martyrs of the Province of Saint John Capistran, and visited the infirmary of the senior friars among whom is Br. Marcellian Madi who on June 25 celebrated 102 years.

# Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

## Conclusions of the International Congress at Vossenack in Germany

At the first International Congress of the Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, 123 participants met from October 1 to 12 to bolster their work of promotion, to give a sharper identity to this Franciscan ministry in the context of the JCIP, and to develop a common strategy. The Congress adjourned after two weeks of effective work. The meeting has energized the commitment to JPIC both within the Church and in collaboration with organizations which work to bring about conditions for a better life for the poorest in society. These are the themes they dealt with: analysis of the causes of poverty and of the ecological crisis in the context of globalization; option for the poor, the effective entities for peace; ways to walk as friends with refugees and emigrants; mandate to save the environment. The conclusions and resolutions are gathered in the final document sent to the Order. Here are the more important points:

a) confirm our option for the poor by establishing more communi-

ties in the midst of the poor,

- b) develop a Gospel message which is more inculturated, to encourage the dignity of each person, and respect for his/her culture and religious expression,
- c) promote more aggressively the campaign to cancel the foreign debt of poor countries, as a way to celebrate the Jubilee year 2000,
- d) commit ourselves as determined workers for peace, for human rights, and for safeguarding creation,
- e) promote participation of friars in the international bodies where the Franciscan Family is present (United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc.), to make the voice of the poor heard, and to move toward a culture that respects the human person and life in its fullness.

At the conclusion of the Congress, the international Council of JPIC met for two days to define some items which had been left un-

decided, to clarify the role of the Conference of the Animators and of the International Council, to give some suggestions to help JPIC offices at various levels of the Order, and to suggest to the General Definitorium names for the new team for animation. The results were presented to the General Definitorium at their "tempo forte" of November.

A copy of the Report in its original language and in some translations, summaries of the work of each day and press releases are available on the web page of the Congress which is reached by the page of the Office of the GPSC at the site of the General Curia [www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org), or at this address: [www.franciscans.de](http://www.franciscans.de).

## Togo/Lomé Possibility of a new Vice-Province

The mission foundation of the West-France Province (Togo, Ivory Coast, Benin), has experienced an historic moment: a gathering of more than 70 friars to verify the possibility of creating a vice-province in western Africa, a possibility discussed throughout the year in various fraternities. Present were General Definitior, Br. Peter Williams, the Provincial Minister of France, Br. Jean Normant, Br. Jean-Pierre Grallet, General Visitor, and Br. Blazej Kurowski, Minister of the Province of Wroclaw, Poland, to which many friar missionaries in West Africa belong.

The first topic treated was "Life in the Fraternity and Pastoral Life". The point is, the missionaries came to the region to implant the Church, not the Order, and so today the problems are about life in fraternity.

The gathering, therefore, decided to give first priority to fraternal life. Other discussions of the meeting: means of support, formation, and the juridical steps to be taken.

"We hope the next reunion may be the Chapter for the foundation of our Vice-Province", writes Br. Pierre Reinhard to *Fraternitas*.

## Poland/Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Worldwide Patrimony of Culture

December 1, 1999, the World Board of Cultural Patrimony of UNESCO, in its XXIII session which was held in Marrakech, Morocco, inscribed the Franciscan Sanctuary of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Poland among the cultural treasures of humanity. The motivation of UNESCO is recorded: "Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is a monument of exceptional cultural value in which the countryside is used as a cornice for the symbolic representation of the events of the Passion of Christ, expressed by chapels and avenues. The effect is an ensemble of rare beauty and great cultural and spiritual value, in which the natural components and the man-made elements come together harmoniously." Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is one of Poland's most beautiful and original shrines. Entrusted to the Franciscans of Immaculate Con-

ception Province already in 1602, its construction was begun in 1600 by commission of Nicolas Zebrzydowska, ruler of the region of Krakow.

It was taken up by his son John and work continued for some centuries. This is an imposing complex comprising the sanctuary, house of the friars, and 42 chapels positioned along the slopes of Mount Zar and in the valley of the Slawink Brook.

The sanctuary is the object of continuous pilgrimages from Poland and beyond, especially for the celebration of the "Calvary Mysteries", and the Assumption of our Lady.

John Paul II came here as a pilgrim in 1979 to pray to the "Madonna of Kalwaria", toward whom he had a special devotion even from his infancy.

## Franciscan Course for Young Friars and Sisters

The French speaking Franciscan Family offers a formation course every two years for young friars and sisters. It focuses on a theme during a certain historical period to bring to life the "wholesome tradition." The theme this year was: "Power and Minority in the XIII Century". Speakers were Marco Bartoli (Italy, History), F.X. Putallaz (Switzerland, Philosophy), Br. Michael Cusato (USA, Writings and Biography of Francis), Benoit Gayet (France, Guillermo de Rubrouck and Mission), Br. Jean-Baptiste Auberger (France, Art and Spirituality), Br. Alain Richard (France, A Testimony of our day on Power and Weakness). At this course, given at Francheville (Lyon) from August 23-30,

participants were 44 students and their formers (9 OFM, 3 OFM.Cap, 17 Poor Clares, 2 Capuchin Poor Clares, 11 Franciscan Third Order Sisters, 2 secular Franciscan men). At the end of the meeting seven groups were formed which will continue their reflection on assigned topics until the next meeting in two years. The French language course is open also to foreigners. This year there were 2 Chinese, 1 Vietnamese, 1 Cambodian, 1 Polish, 1 Brazilian, and 3 Swiss. For further information contact

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## Italy The Meeting Tent

The Franciscan Family of Lombardy, for the Jubilee, promoted a "Meeting Tent", a green military type tent, set up in the squares of seven cities at different times, from May to October. This biblically inspired initiative involved men and women Religious and Franciscan lay people. Day and night they engaged in conversation with those passing by about the ever interesting message of St. Francis and St. Clare about

the Gospel and the poor humble Christ crucified--the very reason for the Jubilee. There were times of prayer, of witness, of reflection and discussing the Word of God and the great social themes. Always on hand were Friars and Sisters to listen to the passing people who enjoyed tarrying to speak or to listen, feeling quite at home. And it all happened in an atmosphere of joy and welcome and hope.

## Vatican Stamps for the Millennium Year

For the four Christmas stamps of the year Two Thousand, the Vatican chose a fresco of Giotto, from the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. It is an honor paid to one of the most famous painters in the history of art, but also an honor paid to the Poverello, who created the Christmas crib, and who considered the Nativity the moment most sublime, sweet, and magnificent of God's love. The stamps come in four denominations: 800, 1200, 1500, and 2000 Italian lire. The first shows the entire fresco; the second shows the head of the Baby Jesus; the third shows the Madonna; and the fourth shows St. Joseph, all from the same fresco. The Vatican Philatelic Office has printed on the folio: "A series planned and realized so it could fill everyone with the same joy which is always felt in this miracle of

joy which is the advent of Jesus." The Vatican "in view of the special bond which unites the Basilica of St. Francis to the See of Peter", wished to record the Basilica with five postcards. The pictures, which are all by Giotto or by his school, show these scenes: St. Francis receives the stigmata; St. Francis appears to the friars on a friary chariot; Pope Honorius III approves the Franciscan Rule; St. Francis appears in a dream to Gregory IX; St. Francis performs the miracle of the spring.

## New Provincials

**Fr. Arturo Daquilanea**, Prov. of St. Peter Baptist, Philippines

**Fr. Fernando Peixoto de Castro**, Vice-Province of the Most Holy Name, Brazil

## Montenegro New Periodical

At Tuzi, headquarters of the Franciscan Mission in Montenegro, in occasion of the Great Jubilee, the first numbers of the monthly "Zani i Shna Ndouat" (Voice of St. Anthony) were published. They printed 500 copies for the Albanian Catholic community in Montenegro (10,00 persons), and for their compatriots in the USA (c. 20,000). It is a religious, cultural, informative, and formative magazine. The three friars of the Tuzi community, and the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate of Montenegro - besides their pastoral work - are building a new convent with the space needed for religious and cultural activity. During the war in Kosovo in 1998, the friars and their parishioners and the Salesian community hosted thousands of Albanian refugees of Kosovo, and even today they lodge refugees of Kosovo.

## Solidarity with Gypsies

Br. Giulio Martorelli, of the Abruzzo Province, is a member of the National Office of the Italian Episcopal conference for Pastoral Ministry Among the Gypsies. On the occasion of the Jubilee the Office sent a letter to the Christian community for a reflection on the identity of the Church considered in the light of the Gypsies. The letter highlights the fact of an ever growing racist and intolerant mentality toward Gypsies, and it asks Christians to be cautious lest their preaching, catechesis and loyalties be contaminated by racist positions, which contradict the message which should be proclaimed.

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