



FRATERNITAS

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► Humiliter et devote vivere

The Commission for the Service of Dialogue of the Order organised a Seminar about our presence in countries of a Muslim majority at the General Curia from the 18th to the 21st September 2007. 24 Friars from different Entities of the Order participated.

“The franciscan missionary, especially one who lives among Muslims, is he who, on the basis of his adhesion to Christ, gives of himself totally, without reservations or limitations of energies or time; he who gratuitously commits himself; he who lives the logic of gift to the extreme, knowing that nothing belongs to him, that everything is a



gift which is received and, therefore, has to be restored; he who constantly goes out of self in order to go to meet the other, the different (cf. *The Lord speaks with us on the road*, 19 - 25). The franciscan missionary, in particular he who lives among the Muslims, is he who, basing his life on the *beatitudes*, opts for dialogue of life, for a presence in frontier areas, giving witness that “there is no one all-powerful, except Him” (*LtOrd 9*)”

(Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, Minister General)

www.ofm.org

► Franciscan March 2007

This year also, the COMPI Coordinating committee of animators of the pastoral care of vocations offered young people the experience of the “Franciscan March” on occasion of the Feast of the Porziuncola (25th July to 4th August 2007). The initiative, in its 27th edition, saw about 1,350 young people from all the Provinces of Italy and from some European countries arrive on the 2nd of August. Walking with the Italians were 250 Croats, 50 Austrians and 30 Irish. The theme of the March, “The walk becomes pardon”, was aimed at helping the young to be pilgrims, accompanied by the old but ever-new experience of the exodus of the People of Israel.

The young people were received in the square before the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, in an intense climate of prayer and recollection, by Br. José Carballo, Minister General of the Order, who invited them to allow themselves be touched by the love of God. There was the traditional passage through the Porziuncola in the joy of the meeting with the “Father of mercies” after the prayers of the indulgence. This joy was then expressed in dance and

song in the square at the instigation of the animating group of the Umbrian Friars and in which many other people visiting Assisi during those days joined in.

The March also offered another very intense and significant moment of community, a prayer vigil in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in the late evening of the 3rd of August. The concluding celebration of the whole march was the Eucharist in the morning of the 4th, presided by Br. Renato Delbono, National Coordinator of the Animators of Vocations of COMPI.



► Sollemnitatis Sancti Francisci



“Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility” (*Cant*).
Enjoy the Feast of our Seraphic Father St. Francis!

Agenda of the Minister General

- **03 October:** Participation in the Chapter of the Immaculate Conception Province (USA) in Assisi.
Celebration of the Transitus of our Father St. Francis (Assisi).
- **04 October:** Solemnity of St. Francis in Assisi.
- **05-06 October:** Meeting with the Friars of the South Slavic Conference in initial formation.
- **07-09 October:** Visit to the Assumption of the BVM Province (Mostar-Bosnia-Herzegovina).
- **10-13 October:** Participation in UFME (Sarajevo-Bosnia-Herzegovina).
- **14 October:** Opening of the International Congress on Ongoing Formation in Assisi.
- **15-18 October:** Visit to the St. John the Baptist Province (Cincinnati – USA).
- **19 October:** Inauguration of the academic year at the PUA, Rome.
- **21-22 October:** The erection of the new Province in Austria (“St. Leopold”).
- **23-24 October:** Visit to the Province of Murcia (Spain).
- **27-28 October:** Participation in and the conclusion of the International Congress on Ongoing Formation in Assisi.

► Spain – First European Congress of Franciscan Educators

The Conference of Spain and Portugal (CONFRES), in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Evangelisation, will hold the *First European Congress of Franciscan Educators* in the city of Cordoba from the 1st to the 3rd of November 2007. There is a total of 46 study centres in 12 European countries.

The theme proposed is: *800 years of Evangelisation. "Educating Europe with Francis Today"*. The objectives are: a) to know and understand the franciscan educational experience in Europe; b) to analyse the context of young people in Europe today and the challenges to education; and c) to pro-

pose educational guidelines on the basis of the franciscan experience.

Those addressed are the Friars engaged in Educational Institutions in Europe, whether in our own centres or in other educational centres, the teachers of our own educational centres and religious of the Franciscan Family in Europe. The Commission is coordinated by Br. Antonio Herrera, of the Betica Province, the Rectors of Colleges of the OFM in Spain and by Br. Joaquín A. Echeverry, Animator for Educational Pastoral Activity in the Order. Further information can be found on the web site:

<http://www.congresoeducadoresfranciscanos.org>

► Under 10: Testimony

Let us read one of the testimonies after the meeting of the young "Under 10" Friars in the Holy Land.

"Francis worked and he wanted all his Friars to work. Work is not an end in itself, but finds its meaning in living the Gospel. To see my brothers as men who live the Gospel and not only as Franciscans who work, was a key of understanding for me during the Chapter of Mats of the "Under 10" Friars.

Looking at the franciscan life in this way, 'work' is seen as a result of living the Gospel. As the Minister General stressed, the evangelical life is a healthy life. A healthy life or living the Gospel involves the way in which I take care of my body, soul and mind, and what I do in private as well as what I do in public in my daily work. Listening to the efforts and hopes of the Friars in living the Gospel gave me a lot of joy as well as the certainty that I do not walk or make my effort alone.

Wherever we arrived, the Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land received us

with an abundant measure of hospitality and courtesy. At the end of the meeting I no longer felt I was a Friar of the Holy Spirit Province in Australia, representative of Asia/Oceania, but I felt united to the Custody of the Holy Land, or to the Province of Colombia, or Austria... as I did to my mother Province.

What pleased me? The places and the sounds, the smells and the bells, the Fraternity and being able to know my brothers from all the Conferences of the franciscan world. What didn't please me? The heat and the linguistic barriers, the brevity of the time and the impossibility of seeing many other holy places and meeting the local people. What pleased and displeased me come together positively in my awareness of the Order and of the way in which we are called to be in the world.

What message will I remember most? Simply this: the evangelical life is a good life and this is what I want to live"

(Paul Ghanem, Province of the Holy Spirit of Australia and New Zealand).

► Earthquake in Peru

Peru suffered a strong earthquake causing 519 deaths and 1,700 injured on the 15th of August. 70% of the city of Pisco was destroyed. No Friar Minor suffered personal injury, even though the House of the Province of St. Francis Solano in Ica was seriously damaged. The Friars of both Provinces are engaged in helping the victims of the disaster,

especially in the health area, in collaboration with "Missionszentrale der Franziskaner". At the moment a project is being prepared with the whole Franciscan Family. The Minister General wrote a letter to the Friars and assured them of financial solidarity with projects in favour of the victims. Financial help may be sent to the General Curia, indicating the intention clearly.

► Francis, Europe and young people

"Go, dear young people, along the roads of Europe and, with tightened belt and lamps lit, tell of what you have seen and heard. Tell of how, in the city of Assisi 800 years ago, there lived a young man called Francis and a young woman called Clare: two impassioned hearts who allowed themselves to be conquered by Christ and found the full meaning of life by giving themselves without reservations to the love of their life, Jesus Christ, in the radical following of the Lord and in the service of the least of men and of the excluded of that time. Go, and fearlessly invite others to do likewise".



The Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, wished to greet the very many young people who had come to Assisi to celebrate the *European franciscan meeting* with these words, said during the concluding Eucharist in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. The meeting, organised by the Union of Friars Minor in Europe (UFME - *Unio Fratrum Minorum Europae*), was held from the 7th to the 12th of August 2007.

National groups from 19 European countries: Austria, Germany, Holland, France, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, Great Britain, Ireland, Lithuania, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Portugal, Spain and Italy, attended.

The next *European franciscan meeting* will be in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in 2009.

www.assisi2007.org

► World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, on 15th to 20th July

The government of the Holy Spirit Province in Australia is encouraging all the Friars, and groups, who are thinking of participating in the WYD, to take part also in the International Meeting of Young Franciscans which will take place a week before the official events in Sydney. All the pilgrims should enter Australia via Brisbane, where there will be a gathering place.

The Friars manage the Padua College, a high-school for boys in Kedron, a suburb of Brisbane; close by there is Mount Alvernia, a



high-school for girls, managed by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The activities of Brisbane will be concentrated around these buildings in Kedron and will be prepared in common with the events of "Days in the Diocese" organised by the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

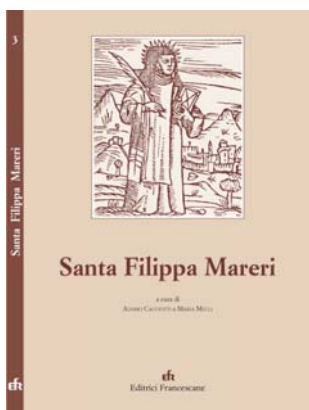
The meeting will provide international oratories, a live concert and a cultural festival, some direct contact with Australian nature and many other things. The cost of the event will be reduced to the mini-

mum and the journey to Sydney will have to be organised by the individual groups which participate. If you are thinking of participating in WYD08 and wish to join the Friars from all over the world, visit the web site:

www.franciscans.org.au/wyd.
Or contact Br. Paul Ghanem wyd08@franciscans.org.au,
or Ben Galea wyd08_sydney@franciscans.org.au,
or Caitlin King wyd08_bne@franciscans.org.au;

The official site of WYD08 is:
www.wyd2008.org

► Franciscan Bookmark



► **Santa Filippa Mareri**, under the care of Alvaro Cacciotti and Maria Meli, Biblioteca di Frate Francesco – 3, Editrici Franciscane, pp. 184.

Filippa Mareri is an interesting figure in the area of spiritual and hagiographical history linked to the upsurge of the female franciscan movement during the twenties and thirties of the XIII century.

In the four accounts of these Acts, followed by an iconographic appendix, the cult and canonisation, the relationship with Clare and the Damianites of the Monastery of Borgo San Pietro, Rieti Valley (Italy) and of how *franciscan* Filippa was, are discussed. (See: <http://www.fratilazio.it/cultura/bibliotecadifratefrancesco.html>)

► **Ikona św. Klary**, Sergiusz M. Bałdyga OFM, Franciszkańskie Wydawnictwo św. Antoniego, Wrocław 2007, pp. 28.

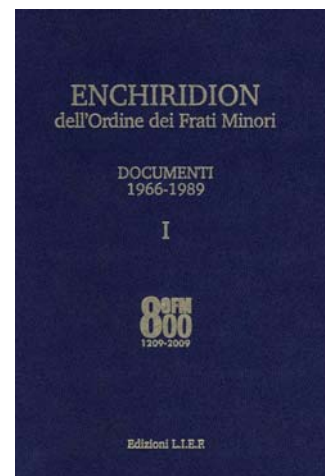
This new publication about St. Clare

of Assisi, in Polish, has its starting point in the famous icon of the saint, painted about 30 years after her death, preserved in the Basilica of St. Clare in Assisi. The author, through a reading of the icon and in a few pages, leads the reader through the history of the life and vocation of the "little plant of St. Francis", allowing him not only to approach the person of St. Clare, but also to draw from her supernatural gift of contemplation. In addition, he teaches the reader, through his brief and profound reflections, to discover the will of God in the Spirit of the Lord.

► **La conversation et Les écoutes difficiles** (*Difficult conversations and listening*), Bernard Forthomme, Éd. Franciscaines, Paris 2007, pp. 204. The book is the result of carrying out difficult conversations during "therapy" and is born of the urgent need for the re-appropriation of confrontation, not only in psychiatric care, but also in everyday life with its lights and shadows.

Conversation is an essential way of speaking of our efforts at human relations, wavering in life, and of the small difficulties present in the life of each one of us.

The author transcribes his experience of the more subtle and insinuating aspects of conversation in order to stimulate and encourage a clearer perception of the favourable moments of interactive dialogue in our life.



► **Enchiridion of the Order of Friars Minor. Documents of 1966-1989, I**, Edizione L.I.E.F., Vicenza 2007, pp. XX+1079. The First Volume of the Enchiridion OFM, with the Documents of the Order, or regarding the Order, from 1966 to 1989, has been issued under the aegis of the Communications Office of the General Curia. The other volumes, three are scheduled, will contain the documents from 1990 to 2006.

The aim is to facilitate, in a practical way, the knowledge of the progress the Order of Friars Minor has made from the II Vatican Council to today. It is a journey which forms part of our *memory* and roots, but which is still able to help us to live our vocation and mission with the hope of transmitting it, still fascinating, to all those who wish to embrace the *forma vitae* of Francis of Assisi.

The Year 2007: Let us dare to live the Gospel!



We live in a world “torn apart by fragmentations and divisions” and often, instead of being engaged in constructing dialogue as the first way of evangelising in our globalised world, we have difficulty even in having relationships between ourselves. There is no shortage of fraternities in which the members live “separated in the house”, as “consumers” of fraternity rather than as “builders” of fraternity.

Filled with a mundane spirit which has invaded our houses, we no longer know how to be together gratuitously; we no longer know how to pray together, not even for one hour a day; we no longer know how to create a space for dialogue because “we have no time or do not want to waste time”. We also run the risk of basing our life on the value of individualistic and self-centred efficiency of the secularised world rather than on the Gospel, Rule or General Constitutions. We know, in theory, the value of fraternity is the proclamation of the Kingdom in our midst and is, therefore, the first announcement of the Good News, especially if we consider the internationality of our fraternities. Often, rather than living the Kingdom, we are engaged in constructing “our own kingdom”! Not to find time for God or for our brothers and not to put them at the centre of our life means refusing to live our vocation and mission. Where can we place things if we have no theocentric life? How can we be consistent with what we professed? What can we announce, teach and proclaim?

► Big/small news

► **Friday 26th October, Rome** – The School of Higher Medieval and Franciscan Studies - Pontifical University Antonianum, 15.30: a study seminar on *Palaeography, philology and history at the service of Thomas of Celano: the Umbrian legend*. A study meeting on the critical edition of JACQUES DALARUN, *Vers une résolution de la question franciscaine. La Légende ombrienne de Thomas de Celano*, Fayard, Paris 2007. Interventions by Giulia Barone, Attilio Bartoli Langeli, Giovanni Miccoli, Carlo Paolazzi. J. Dalarun will be present. Further information at: www.antonianum.eu/medieval.htm.

► **Saturday 10th November 2007, Monastery of Saint Lucy in Folligno (Italy)** – in collaboration with the School of Higher Medieval and Franciscan Studies of the *Pontifical University Antonianum* in Rome – is organising a day of study on **Humanism and the Poor Clares of the Observance**. Intervention by Cécile Caby, Attilio Bartoli Langeli, Patrizia Bertini Malgarini, Ugo Vignuzzi, André Vauchez. Further information at:

antonianumsssmf@ofm.org;
or www.antonianum.ofm.org.

► **Revision of the present structures of the “St. Bonaventure” College in Grottaferrata**: An International Commission for the study and revision of the present structures of St. Bonaventure’s College in

Grottaferrata (to be located in St. Isidore’s College next year) and, in particular, for a greater preparation of the Historical Department for the study of modern and contemporary history of the Order, was established by a letter of the Minister General on the 31st of July 2007 (Prot. 098138), following a decision of the General Definitory.

The members of the Commission are: Br. Massimo Fusarelli: Secretary General for Formation and Studies (President); Br. Giuseppe Buffon, Professor of Church History at the P.U.A.; Br. Michael Cusato, “Sacred Heart” Province in the U.S.A., Director of the “Franciscan Institute” at St. Bonaventure’s University (USA); Br. Benedikt Mertens, Fulda Province in Germany, doctor in Church History; Br. Francisco Morales, Holy Gospel Province in Mexico, historian and librarian; Br. Pacifico Sella, Venetian Province of St. Anthony in Italy, a scholar at St. Bonaventure’s College in Grottaferrata and Director of the Historical Department and of the AFH Review.

► **Professions in the Foundation of Russia-Kazakhstan**: The Minister General received the first profession of two Friars from the Foundation of Russia-Kazakhstan, Br. Vitale and Br. Valerio, on the 1st of September. This brings the number of Friars in temporary profession in the Foundation to 4.

► New Ministers Provincial

► **Br. Dobrosław Kopysterynski** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Michael Archangel (Ukraine).

► **Br. Dennis Vavrek** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of Christ the King (Canada).

► **Br. Emmanuel Musara** was elected Custos of the Custody of “The Good Shepherd” in Zimbabwe.

► New Visitors General

► **Br. Javier Gómez Jiménez**, Province of Blessed Junípero Serra, Mexico, for the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Central America and Panama.

► **Br. Fedele Pradella**, Province of St. Bonaventure in Piedmont, Italy, for the Province of St. Mary of Graces in Sardinia, Italy.

► **Br. José Maria Moreira Pereira Faria**, Province of the Holy Martyrs of Morocco, Portugal, for the Autonomous Custody of St. Clare of Assisi, Mozambique.

► **Br. Luigi Giacometti**, Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, for the Province of The Most Holy Name of Jesus, Sicily, Italy.

► **Br. Aldo La Neve**, Roman Province of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Italy, for the Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi, Italy.

► **Br. Phillip Miscamble**, Province of the Holy Spirit, Australia and New Zealand, for the Custody of St. Francis of Assisi, Papua New Guinea.

► **Br. Aidan McGrath**, Province of Ireland, for the Province of Our Lady Queen of Peace, South Africa.

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