



FRATERNITAS

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The Beginning of the General Chapter 2009



On May 25, the General Chapter was opened by the solemn concelebration of the Eucharist pre-

sided by the Minister General. Throughout that morning, after wrapping up a few formal items, the Capitulars were cordially welcomed by the Provincial Minister of Assisi, Br. Bruno Ottavi. This was followed by welcome greetings by His Excellency Msgr. Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop of Assisi, and Dr. Claudio Ricci, Mayor of the City.

This is a particularly significant Chapter because it coincides with the VIII centenary of the approval of our way of life on the part of Pope Innocent III. We are called to look to the future while being aware of our origins and our ecclesial place in the world. Equally significant is the underlying theme in harmony with previous Chapters, namely, the theme *to be missionaries in the world as Friars Minor who live with the heart turned toward the Lord and able to proclaim the Word of the Lord in the midst of all the people.*

During the course of the first week, there will be time to assess the journey of this last six-year period. The second week will be focused on renewing the administration of the Order. The third and last week will be dedicated to the establishment of guidelines for the next six-year period, in order to relaunch our vocation of bearing witness to the Gospel.

During his homily, the Minister General said the following:

"This is what I feel the Holy Spirit is saying to us, 'Friars Minor,

- Be courageous! Do not fear to allow yourselves to be conquered by Christ (Phil 3:12) and reaching out to humanity unto all the mission outposts.

- Be courageous! Do not fear to enlarge the place of your tent (cfr. Is 54:2) to go to the ends of the earth

and make your own the joy and sorrows of the poorest and those who suffer most.

- Be courageous! Do not fear to live in Christ more deeply daily because, in this way, you will be able to serve him better in others, especially those marked by suffering.

- Be courageous! Do not fear to allow yourselves to be seduced by the "forgotten inhumane cloisters (i.e., the sick and suffering) where the beauty and dignity of the person are continually dishonored (cfr. Rnb 9,2), so that by embracing *the lepers* of today, you may also embrace Christ himself; thus, they will be evangelizing us as we evangelize them.

Be courageous! Do not fear to open and re-establish the dialogue of charity right where the world of today is lacerated by ethnic hatred and homicidal madness. Be peacemakers, instead, and you will thus be witness of God's love.



The Year of the Priesthood

On the Occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Holy Cure of Ars, John Marie Vianney, His Holiness has announced that June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010 will be a special year of the Priesthood with the theme, "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of the Priest". It will be opened by the Holy Father who will also preside at the celebration of Vespers on June 19 on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and World Day for the Sanctification of Priest. The relic of the Cure of Ars will be brought by the Bishop of Belley-Ars for the occasion. After a year, the Pope is expected to bring closure to the Annual World day for Priests on June 19, 2010 as he takes part in a "World Meeting of Priests" on St. Peter's Square. During this jubilee year, Benedict XVI will proclaim St. John M. Vianney "Patron Saint of All Priests of the World"; it will be followed by the publication of a "Directory for Confessors and Spiritual Directors" along with a collection of texts by the Supreme Pontiff regarding essential themes of both the life and mission of the priest in this age.

The Congregation for the Clergy, in agreement with both Diocesan Ordinaries and Superiors of Religious Institute, will take upon themselves to promote and coordinate various spiritual and pastoral initiatives to heighten the important role and mission of the priest in both the Church and contemporary society; it will, likewise, underscore the need for ongoing formation of priests together with those of the seminarians.



Benedict XVI in the Holy Land

From May 8-15, 2009, His Holiness Benedict XVI made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The presence of the Franciscans and the role of their Custody there have always been of utmost importance for the Catholic Church since XIII century – when the missionary vocation of the Order started with the establishment of Missionary Provinces, especially this one beyond the sea, the Holy Land.

The Supreme Pontiffs quickly recognized the Franciscans as representatives of the Church in the Holy Places. There are records that describe the presence of the Franciscans of the Holy Land as a gift of Divine Providence for the Church. In 1342, Clement VI was the first to recognize such a mission by the Franciscan Order; and in the subsequent centuries of relations between the Holy See and the Custody of the Holy Land, the concept that the Church has entrusted the Franciscans with the custody of the Holy Places has always been affirmed.

The Popes acknowledge, for example, that despite the difficulty and sufferings of the Friars – especially the many Friars Martyrs of the faith – they have been faithful to the charism of their Father Francis. For this reason, the Popes reiterate that the Church admires and renders homage to their mission and constantly encourages them to continue their service to all. For more information, go to:

<http://www.custodia.org>;
<http://www.youtube.com/videocustodia>



USA - International Congress on Franciscan Preaching

Br. John Anglin e Br. Raphael Bonanno of the Commission for the Word of the Province of Holy Name, USA, has organized an International Congress on Franciscan Preaching, which will take place from June 10-14, 2009 at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The theme will be "To Fill the Whole World with the Gospel." There will be plenary sessions on topics such as preaching during the first years of the Order, moral preaching, and future goals for a Franciscan preaching. There will also be workshops on preaching and building peace, preaching and formation, preaching to Hispanics and women, preaching by women, centers of spirituality, preaching on Francis and Islam, preaching with music and song, and a host of other topics.

Sister Death

In the early morning of April 25, 2009, at the "Fatebenefratelli" hospital of Naples, **Br. Luca De Rosa, ofm**, passed away; he was the Postulator General of the Order. Born in Afragola on Oct. 30, 1936, Br. Luca made temporary profession on Aug. 29, 1954 and solemn vows on March 19, 1959; he was ordained a priest on April 25, 1962. In his Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Naples, he was Professor of Liturgy, Pastor, and both Provincial Secretary and Vicar. He was summoned to the General Curia in 1989 to work in the General Postulation, first as Vice Postulator and then for the remaining 14 years of his life as Postulator General.



New Franciscan Bishop



Vatican City, April 20, 2009 – Benedict XVI has nominated **Brother Luis Cabrera Herrera, OFM**, Archbishop of Cuenca, Ecuador. The city has a surface of 8,630; population of 654,000; Catholics: 622,000; priests:

119; religious: 345; and permanent deacons: 11. He was born in Azogues on October 11, 1955. He studied in the Minor Seminary of both Azogues and Quito. He did his philosophy and theology at the Catholic University of Ecuador and obtained a Doctorate in Philosophy at the *Antonianum* in Rome. Temporary Profession: September 24, 1976; Solemn Profession: September 4, 1982; Priestly Ordination: September 8, 1983. In the Franciscan Order he has held the following positions: Defintor General, Minister Provincial, President of the "Bolivariana" Conference, Vice Master and Master of Novices, Provincial animator for the care of vocations, Provincial Secretary for Formation and Studies,

Director of the Franciscan Faculty of philosophy and theology at Cardinal Echeverria, Provincial Defintor, President of the Franciscan Family, and Director of the Franciscan Study Center in Quito.

New Ministers Provincial

► **Fr. Jeroným František Jurka** was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Wincellaus of Bohemia and Moravia in the Czech Republic.

► **Fr. Lovro Gavran** new Minister Provincial of the Province of the Holy Cross in Bosnia/Herzegovina.

► **Fr. Mario Vaccari** new Minister Provincial of the Ligurian Province of the Sacred Heart of the BVM in Italy.

► **Fr. José María Sainz Giménez** new Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Gregory the Great of Castile in Spain.

► **Fr. Severino Calderón Martínez** new Minister Provincial of the Province of Granada of our Lady of the Rule in Spain.

► **Fr. Szabolcs Orbán** new Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Steven the King in Romania.

► **Fr. Gergely Magyar** new Minister Provincial of the Province of our Lady of the Hungarians in Hungary.

► **Fr. Juan Telésforo Zuriarrain Urretabizkaia** new Minister Provincial of the Province of Arantzazu in Spain.

► **Fr. Waclaw Stanisław Chomik** new Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Edvige in Poland.

Franciscan Bookmark

► **The Grace of the Origins. Studies on the Occasion of the VIII Centenary of the Approval of the First Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi (1209-2009)** by Paolo Martinielli, Publisher: Dehoniane Edition, Bologna 2009, pp 648.

The Franciscan rule, which was first formulated in the text approved by the "Lord Pope", is defined as wanting to live the Gospel as a way of life in the discipleship of Christ in obedience, poverty, and chastity. By reliving the memory of that initial grace, all the members of the Franciscan family can rediscover with joy the gift of one's vocation and engage themselves in the renewal of his own journey in both the Church and the world.

The contributions made in this volume by experts in Franciscanism, spirituality, and theology of the Consecrated Life are intended to be a passionate witness of that fascination the Saint of Assisi creates in those who wish to follow in his footsteps and study the journey he has made.

► **Colloquial on Jerusalem** by Giuseppe Caffulli. Publisher: Terra Santa, 2008, pp. 180.

Jerusalem is the umbilical cord of the world. This is how the prophet Ezekiel defined it (38:12) according to the tradition of the Septuagint; and this is how millions of people, believers and non-believers, perceive it in every corner of the world. For three thousand years now, the city of Jerusalem, recognized as holy by the

three monotheistic religions, has inspired mystics and poets, attracted pilgrims and the curious, and has always suffered violence from those who attempted to exert exclusive ownership over her. This book looks at several topics such as people of faith, poets and writers, those who lived in Jerusalem, those who contemplate her from afar, those who work for the earthly Jerusalem, and those who await the heavenly one. This is an original, personal way to enter the mystery of the City where we were all born (Ps 87).

Those interviewed here are: Enzo Bianchi, José Rodríguez Carballo, Franco Cardini, Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, Erri De Luca, Stanislaw Dziwisz, Amos Luzzatto, Carlo Maria Martini, Alda Merini, Gianfranco Ravasi, Andrea Riccardi, Michel Sabbah, Pietro Sambì, Angelo Scola, Achille Silvestrini, Susanna Tamaro, and Dionigi Tettamanzi.

► **Visit the International Franciscan Library:**

<http://www.libreriafrancescana.it>

New Visitors General

► **Br. Frans Gerritsma**, from the Province of Holy Martyrs of Gorkum, Holland, will be Visitor General to the Province of St. Joseph in Belgium.

► **Br. Rufin Maryjka**, from the Province of St. Mary of the Angels, VG to the Province of the Assumption of the BVM in Poland.

► **Br. Carlo Serri**, from the Province of Abruzzo of St. Bernardine of Siena in Italy, VG to the Salernitano-Lucan Province of the Immaculate Conception in Italy.

► **Br. Juan Ignacio Muro Aréchiga**, from the Province of Blessed Juniper Serra in Mexico, VG to the Province of St. Philip of Jesus in Mexico.

► **Br. Livio Crisci**, from the Tuscan Province of St. Francis the Stigmatized in Italy, VG to the Venetian Province of St. Anthony of Padua in Italy.

► **Br. Antonio Riccio**, from the Province of Sannito-Irpina Saint Mary of the Graces in Italy, VG to the Province of Abruzzo of St. Bernardine of Siena in Italy.

► **Br. Stipe Nosić**, from the Province of St. Jerome in Croatia, VG to the Province of the Holy Cross in Slovenia.

Great and Small News

►The 5th Course of Ongoing Formation on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue in Istanbul 2009:

The International Fraternity, "Santa Maria Draperis", in Istanbul, in collaboration with the Commission of Service for Dialogue and the General Secretariat for Evangelization, are offering Friars Minor and the members of the Franciscan Family a course of ongoing formation on ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in Istanbul in both Spanish and Italian. This course will unfold from October 16-28, 2009. The themes foreseen to be touched upon are Formation to Dialogue in Franciscan Charism, Ecumenical Dialogue, Islamic-Christian and Judeo-Christian. During the activities of the course, there will be a visit of 3 days to the place of the "Seven Churches of the Apocalypse". The cost of the course is € 500.00.

Those interested can send their request for enrollment to Br. Rubén Tierrablanca rtierrablanca@ofm.org or Br. Gwénolé Jeusset gw.jeusset@yahoo.fr and even by fax: +90-212-2432791 no later than July 31, 2009. The first 20 Friars enrolled will be confirmed and will receive a detail program of the course. So, enroll right away!

►**Portugal:** On March 30-31, the Province of Portugal celebrated with the Franciscan Family the 8th Centenary of the foundation of the Order; it was the first of a series of acts and meetings which will take place throughout the year. The celebration had a religious, social, and cultural projection. The city of Lisbon was full of luminous notices that advertised the event. There were numerous activities throughout, among them were the meeting of the Minister General and his entourage with the President of the Republic; the celebration of the Eucharist in the "Mother of God" Poor Clare Monastery (now today a National Museum of Ceramic) with the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon and the Franciscan Bishop Msgr. Antonio Montes; in a solemn academic act, the nomination of the Minister General as an honorary member by the International Academia of Portuguese Culture in recognition for eight centuries of Franciscan Culture in Portugal; the issuance of a stamp celebrating the centenary; the inaugura-

tion of the "Fraternity Memorial" with a monumental bronze image of St. Francis in the garden of the seminary of Luz; the unveiling of a ceramic mural depicting the send-off of the Friars by St. Francis, and some artistic bronze displays with Franciscan motives; a liturgical celebration of the World; Meeting of the Friars of the Province with the Minister General followed by the liturgy of Eucharist centered on Franciscan vocation. These were, indeed, days that underscored Franciscan presence in the Portuguese's society and culture and expressed gratitude toward the Portuguese people for welcoming the first Franciscans since the beginning of the Order.

►**The Province of Friars Minor in Sicily,** in collaboration with the Medieval School of Higher Studies, the Franciscans of the Pontifical University Antonianum, and the patronage of the Union of the Franciscans Ministers Provincial of Sicily, are organizing the Annual Week of Franciscanism from Aug. 31 – Sept. 5, 2009 entitled, "The Rule and Life of Friars Minor". To enroll no later than July 30, contact Br. Salvatore Ferro by email salvoferro@libero.it. The whole program is available on the website www.ofmsicilia.it

►**"800 Years later...You Too"** is the title chosen for a CD by the Province of St. Michael the Archangel of the Friars Minor of Apulia and Molise, Italy, to celebrate the 8th centenary of the foundation of the Order of Friars Minor; it is a CD with 15 Franciscan tracks to sing "Most High and Almighty Good Lord" for the gift of Vocation and Fraternity, and in order to continue to proclaim, like Francis, the beauty of God. As we welcome the invitation of Benedict XVI addressed to the participants of the Chapter of Mats, let us "repair the house of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church..." and bring to all "the peace and love of Christ the Savior." For further information and requests contact

segretario@fratiminoripugliamolise.it

►**Brussels:** There is a Franciscan Missionary Formation taking place from Sep. – Nov. 2009.

[Read the Program.](#)

►The General Definitory has nominated **Br. Giovangiuseppe Califano**, as new Postulator General; he is a member of the Seraphic Province of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy, who, up to now, served as Vice-Postulator General for the cause of the saints.

►**The next issue of *Fraternitas* will be wholly dedicated to the General Chapter 2009. The special edition will be printed in color and sent to each Entity of the Order.**

►The Faculty of Philosophy of the Pontifical University Antonianum has wanted to celebrate with all the Order the 8th centenary of its foundation. It held a study meeting in the morning of May 7 on "The Symbolic Universe of Franciscanism" in order to rethink and discuss some contributions made by the Friars to culture and society in eight centuries of history. By presenting two professorial reports, both Professors José Antonio Merino and Dario Antiseri animated this engaging discussion between students and teachers. The Faculty was able then to thank both of them for their latest publications, "Knowing John Duns Scotus" by José Antonio Merino. Publisher: Edizioni Porziuncola; and the Relevance of Franciscan Thought: Answers from the Past to Questions of the Present, by Dario Antiseri. Publisher: Edizioni Rubbettino. The book by Antiseri, however, was translated into Spanish, French, and Arabic by professors and students of the Faculty of Philosophy. The small volume is available gratuitously at the Deanery as kind gift by the author and the Rubbettino publisher.



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