



# FRATERNITAS

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## Meeting of the General Definitory with COMPI

The Conference of Italian Ministers Provincial of both Italy and Albania, aka COMPI, was the first meeting the General Definitory has had with a Conference since the General Chapter; it took place in Assisi from June 7-10, whose president is Br. Francesco Patton. Br. Francesco gave us a clear picture of the current state of the Conference by describing the three main aspects in the agenda, namely, (1) life within the community and formation, (2) evangelization and mission, (3) and collaboration at various levels. Afterwards, the Minister General, Br. Jose R. Carballo, made his contribution by focusing on some essential guidelines of animation and administration. These, in turn, were discussed in-depth in small groups made up of Provincials and Definitors General. They discussed about the Gospel quality of life in fraternity; new fraternities for a new evangelization; Friars in difficult situations; and interprovinciality. The proposals that emerged from the different groups, furthermore, served as guidelines for

the Provincials for the near future and are in harmony with the "COMPI Project" already planned out for the three-year period of 2010-2012.

Three new fraternities in Italy shared their testimonies with the Friars; they are the fraternity of Celled Ligure (a "familiar" and interprovincial welcoming fraternity in minority), the fraternity of Prato (an *intergentes* presence among Chinese immigrants), and the Marcianise (sharing and welcoming the least as Friars Minor). The meeting unfolded in a climate of great fraternity, offering all the Definitors General the opportunity to know both the Provincials and Conferences; to get to know one another; and share experiences and reflections on aspects held and shared in common among themselves.

The official inauguration of the Franciscan Cenacle took place on the last day by COMPI; it was renovated and restructured with the participation of the Mayor of Assisi, the Town Hall, and all personnel. The Minister General then blessed the places, personnel, and all those present.

## Bari, Italy – 3rd International Convention of Phenomenology

The 3rd International Convention of Phenomenology entitled, "*Phenomenology of the Person, Life, and Community. Edith Stein, Hedwig Conrad-Martius, and Gerda Walther*"; took place from May 27-28, 2010, at the "Aldo Cossu" Great Hall of the University of Studies of Bari. It was promoted by the Italian Center of Phenomenological Research of the Bari University and the Academia of Human and Social Sciences of Rome. Furthermore, the Convention has been supported by the President, the Senate of the Republic, the House of Representatives, Ministry of Education, University Studies and Research, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and Pakistan, the Pontifical Council for Culture, the Bayerische

Staatsbibliothek, the Puglia Region, the Province, and the Town Hall of Bari.

The Convention was born to promote the knowledge of phenomenology and put it into action through study and research by University teachers and researchers; it has also made use of gifted speeches delivered by international renowned experts, such as Angela Ales Bello, Anna M. Pezzella, and Patrizia Mangano from the *Pontificia Universitas Lateranensis*, Rome, Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz of the Technische Universität of Dresden, Germany, Michele D'Ambra, Maria Pia Pellegrino, Anselmo Caputo, and Francesco Alfieri, OFM (who was also an organizer) of the Italian Center of Phenomenological Research.

## South Slavic Conference for Formation and Mission

Thanks to the initiative of Br. Lovro Gavran, Provincial Minister of Bosnia, there took place in Sarajevo a meeting of Provincial Secretaries for formation and studies, missions and evangelization. There were about twenty Friars interested and representing the Conference from the Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Slovenia, and three others from Croatia. Also invited by the Provincial were two Secretaries General, Br. Vidal Rodríguez (Formation), and Br. Massimo Tedoldi (Evangelization). The meeting took place at the old convent of St. Anthony of Sarajevo from May 25-27. The fact that two Secretariats were present at the same time brought to light how necessary and enriching it is to have a strict collaboration between these two main areas of our life (Formation & Studies; Evangelization & Mission). In fact, formation has need of a missionary thrust to build true Friars Minor just as missionary evangelization has need of a solid preparation that forms the heart turned toward the Lord and opened to the needs of the brothers. At the end of the meeting, the Friars participating in the meeting met with about 50 young Friars of Bl. Duns Scotus Major Seminary in Sarajevo and with about 30 seminarians and a handful of young postulants from St. Bonaventure Minor Seminary in Visoko.

## Agenda of the Minister General

- **01-02 July:** Erection of the New Province of St. Elizabeth (Munich – Germany).
- **03-05 July:** Annual Retreat of the General Definitory in Camerino, Italy, with the Poor Clare Sisters.
- **06-13 July:** Meeting of the General Definitory in Rome.
- **14-20 July:** Participation in the Elective Chapter and the Capitular Congress of the Custody of the Holy Land.

## Poland – Br. Eusebio J. Huchracki OFM the Martyr of Dachau



**O**n May 5, 2010, the Diocesan Process for the cause of the Be- atification of the Ser- vant of God, Br. Eusebio J.

Huchracki, OFM, was brought to a close at the Convent of Goruszk in Miejska Górka, Poland. The careful work of these past years brought conclusion to this phase of the process at a closing Mass presided over by the Archbishop of Poznań, H. E. Msgr. Stanisław Gądecki. In his homily, he said, "We hope that Br. Eusebio J. Huchracki will become a

sign of renewal during difficult times and historical events of the Church, our country, and the whole world." He thanked the Franciscan Order for producing a man who, by the exam- ple of his life, showed the way of holiness to all those who belong to the Province and will be joining it in the future.

The process was opened seven years ago on Dec. 10, 2003, at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Poznan. In addition to Br. Lucjusz Wojtowicz, the Vice-postulator of the Process, and Fr. Rafal Pajszczyk, promoter of justice, nine witnesses were inter- viewed on the life and virtue of Br. Eusebio, two of which were eyewit- nesses. Br. Eusebius is part of a great number of priests and religious who have borne witness to their faith in Christ with their own lives.

## Meeting of the Permanent Council of UFME with the General Definitory

**I**n February, the IX Assembly of the Union of Friars Minor of Europe (UFME) asked the Per- manent Council to facilitate and co- ordinate "Project Europe" as re- quested by the General Chapter 2009 (Mandate 26 & 27) and in col- laboration with the General Definito- ries of Europe. The first meeting took place in Rome at the General Curia from May 21-22 with the par- ticipation of the Minister General and the Secretariat General for the Mis- sions and Evangelization. They reminisced on some of the undertak- ings of the Order, such as new fra- ternities present in different coun- tries; they also recalled the indica- tions that emerged from two semi- nars in both Assisi (2006) and Fras- cati (2009) concerning "New Francis- can Paths in Europe" as well as those from the General Chapter of Pentecost 2009. Then, they studied the proposals of the UFME Assembly of February which aimed at a re- newed presence of Friars Minor in Europe with a special emphasis on the journey to Santiago and the mis- sionary contribution made by the Fraternity of Palestrina to Europe.

The discussion then focused on the importance of having a "Franciscan Vision" of Project Europe. The first draft of the Project will be sent first to the participants in the meeting and then to the Conferences for fur- ther assessment and reflection; it will then go back to the permanent council for a final revision before being presented at the next Assem- bly of UFME in Oct. of 2011.



## Romania – Pilgrimage in Csiksomlyo

**R**omanian Minister Provincial, Br. Szabolcs Orban, invited Minister General Br. Jose R. Carballo and Definitor General Roger Marchal to participate in the pilgrim- age to the Shrine of our Lady of Csiksomlyo in the northeastern part of the country.

This great event took place on May 22 on the vigil of Pentecost in honor of the Virgin Mary; it drew a huge crowd of 400,000 to 500,000 people on foot to the mountain despite rain and mud. Present were the Archbishop of the Diocese of Alba Lulia, the Auxiliary Bishop, the Apostolic Nuncio, the Minister General and a Definitor General. The fervor displayed by numerous pilgrims was quite moving. In the afternoon, the Minister General met with the Friars of the Province of St. Steven the King.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, Br. Szabolcs, Minister Provincial, pre- sided over the Eucharist in the Marian Shrine before a sizeable crowd. The homily, however, was delivered by the Minister General translated in Hungarian by Br. Szabolcs. In the morning, before the Eucharistic celebration, Br. Jose was able to meet with young Friars in formation, while in the afternoon, he met with the Franciscan family (i.e. the Poor Clares, Franciscan sis- ters, and SFO).

Then, on May 24, as Brs. Jose and Roger were both being taken to the airport of Cluj-Napoca by the same Provincial Minister, they were able to make a brief stop at the Provincial Curia on Emil Zola Street. There, 5 Friars are living in fraternity in a small area because most of the space of the Friary is taken up by a Music School.



## Mexico - Extraordinary Chapter on Evangelization

**F**rom May 24 – 29, 2010, the Province of Sts. Peter and Paul celebrated an Extraordinary Chapter on Evangelization in Moroleon, Mexico. The motto of the celebration was “*Invited as a Fraternity to proclaim the Gospel*” and “*Discern and redirect our evangelizing practice in light of our charism and the challenges within our cultural context, in order to grow as a contemplative fraternity in mission at the service of the Kingdom.*” There were 55 voters present. Invited to the occasion was Br. Arturo Rios, Secretary

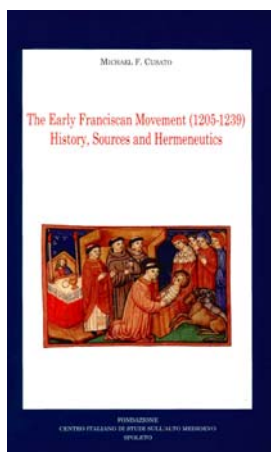
General for Evangelization, Br. Nestor Iacio Schwerz, Definitor General, and Br. Ramiro of the Sieran, an Argentinian Friar who is currently working with the youth.

The main theme of the whole event, “*The Pastoral Conversion from the Franciscan Perspective*” was prepared by the Commission with the support of the Provincial Definitor and the help of a group of specialists in Sociology; it was studied in-depth with the aid of reflections and the sharing of experiences by Br. Nestor, Br. Ramiro, Msgr. Francisco Barron, Dr.

Benjamin Bravo, the Laity, and Religious.

The Chapter then concluded with some proposals, such as preparing a quality formative fraternity; creating a Provincial Center for the formation of lay missionaries; evangelizing the world’s youth with a team of four Friars. The whole Chapter was presided over by Provincial Minister, Br. Eulalio Gomez, and unfolded in an atmosphere of fraternity, communion, prayer, discernment, and the good participation of all those present.

## Franciscan Bookmark



► **The Early Franciscan Movement (1205-1239). History, Sources and Hermeneutics** by Michael F. Cusato, Spoleto 2009, pp. 458.

the controversial history of the first years of Franciscanism from 1205-1239; it touches upon topics such as the Franciscan approach to power and authority; the attitude of Francis toward Islam and the Crusaders; *the Privilege of Poverty*; the connection between the two versions of the *Letter to the Faithful*; the relationship between the *chartula* and the stigmata of Francis; the centrality of the *Sacrum Commercium*; and the fall into disgrace of Elia of Cortona.

Two different kinds of vision of Franciscan life. The early vision of Franciscan life was more attentive and critical of the social-economic reality present in the valley of Spoleto at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. These Friars desired to live together with the *minors* of their times and be at their service. The latter vision, however, preferred a more institutionalized charism that underscores the apostolic and mostly clerical usefulness of the Franciscan Order for the Church and Society through preaching, doctrine, and ascetism. Although these two versions of the Franciscan Charism were complementary to the vision of St. Francis, nonetheless, the two were not that easily compatible with each other. Both may have had a spiritual vision, but the formation and social position of the Friars were not the same. In this way, their different perspectives of the *forma vitae* were conditioned, thus explaining the reason for some of their differences and struggles. This volume both gathers and updates previous essays that pertain to



► **The Grace of Work** by Alvaro Cacciotti and Maria Melli, Biblioteca Franciscana Publishers, Milan, 2010, pp. 198.

This volume puts forward the speeches of the *VII Convention of Greccio* of May of 2009 and zero in on an important subject of the Franciscan movement, i.e., work. If it is true that, since the beginning, the Franciscans have modeled their ministries after the manner indicated by St. Francis of Assisi so as to exercise their profession well (cf. *Early Rule, VII and Later Rule, V*), then it has certainly not been without its challenges. All the speeches aim at understanding the history of the initial command to work and the discussion it has triggered since then. They then measure its effects in our contemporary world between choice

## Malta – Fraternal, Pastoral Visit & Celebration of SFO Elective National Chapter

**T**he Minister General of the SFO, Encarnación del Pozo, and Br. Ivan Matić, Assistant General of the SFO-YouFra were in Malta together from June 2-6, 2010, for a fraternal and pastoral visit of the SFO there, plus to participate in the celebration of their National Elective Chapter. They also met with the Executive National Council, the National Assistants, H. E. Msgr. Paul Cremona, O.P., Archbishop of Malta, and members of the SFO at the “Rivo Torto” house of the Conventual Friars. Furthermore, on the same place on June 4, the National Chapter began with the theme, “To Be Witnesses”. The first day of the Chapter was dedicated to listening to the reports of the outgoing council, to fraternal dialogue, and sharing about the life and mission of the SFO in Malta. The next day on June 5, the elections for the new executive council took place. The Chapter then concluded with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist during which the new official council was confirmed. The National Fraternity of Malta is made up of 10 local fraternities with almost 360 members.

and need, economic world and productivity, repetitiveness and creativity, gift and management of the created world.

## Great and Small News

► **Symposium on St. Clare in Graz, Austria:** In preparation for the celebration of the 800 yrs since the conversion of Clare of Assisi, the fraternity of Friars Minors in Graz, Austria, from Nov. 12-13, 2010 will be organizing a symposium on "Lebendiger Spiegel des Lichtes: Klara von Assisi" ("Living Mirror of Light: Clare of Assisi"). Some of the German experts in attendance on Clare of Assisi and the medieval context in which she lived will be Paul Zahner, OFM, Martina Kreidler-Kos, Irenäus Toczydlowski, OFM, Theresia Heimerl, Niklaus Kuster, OFMcap, Johannes Schneider OFM, and Oliver Ruggenthaler, OFM. The Gregorian chant on the occasion of the Feast of St. Clare will be carried out by Graz's Institute of Sacred Music; it was found in a manuscript of the library of the convent of the Friars Minor. Check out the [programme](#) for more information.

► **Joint Assembly of the Provinces of Assisi and Sardinia:** On May 31, 2010, there took place in Assisi a joint Assembly of Friars of the Provinces of both Assisi and Sardinia. The topic was the "structural collaboration between the two Provinces". After much reflection, it was decided to create a commission made up of five Friars of the two Provinces, in order to draw up a project with statutes to be approved by the next Provincial Chapter of both Provinces. The Minister General participated in the event along with Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli and Br. Aidan McGrath, the latter functioning as President of the Juridical Commission of the Order. More than 150 Friars participated in the Assembly. Both Provincial Ministers briefed the assembly on the steps taken and criteria used to reach a structural collaboration between the two Entities. The Minister General delivered a speech in the morning and in the afternoon gave a summary of the discussion held throughout the day. In the evening, he celebrated vespers and the liturgy of the Eucharist.

► **India – Third Congress of the SFO-YouFra of Asia Oceania.** From May 8-13, 2010, Br. Ivan Matic, Assistant General of the SFO-YouFra, participated in the third Congress of SFO-YouFra of Asia-Oceania held in Karukutty in Kerala. Together with other members of the CIOFS presidency, there were about 100 representatives from different countries of

Asia/Oceania with their Spiritual Assistants in attendance. The main theme of the Congress was "SFO for the Church and the World". During the Congress, there were moments of formation and fraternal sharing about the reality of the SFO-YouFra in different countries of Asia-Oceania. Worth mentioning were the liturgical and cultural celebrations as well as a pilgrimage to the tomb of Puthen Parampil Thommachan, the Founder of the SFO in India.

► **Hong Kong – Taiwan – Formation Course:** Accepting the invitation of the Provincial Minister, Br. Claudio Pegoraro, Assistant General of the SFO-YouFra, and Br. Ivan Matic both participated in the formation courses organized for the Secular Franciscans, the Friars, and Sisters of both Hong Kong and Taiwan. Moreover, they presented the handbook on spiritual and pastoral assistance to the SFO-YouFra, recently translated and published in Chinese. The course was conducted in Hong Kong from April 21-24, 2010, while in Taiwan it ran from May 1-5. The main themes of the course were about the history of the SFO, its identity, secularity, and mission in both the Church and Society. They also discussed about Franciscan youth and the main themes concerning the role of the spiritual and pastoral assistant to the SFO-YouFra.

► **Study Days in Terni, Italy – From the Franciscan Protomartyrs to St. Anthony of Padua:** On June 11, 2010, a study day was held at the Diocesan Museum of Terni on the occasion of the 790<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of the Friars Minor Berardo da Calvi, Pietro da San Gemini, Ottone da Stroncone, Accursio, and Adiuto (1220-2010).

The Dioceses of Terni-Narni-Amelia rendered rightful homage to the saints whom Francis described as "true Friars Minor"; these Dioceses have rediscovered their Christian experience by creating awareness more specifically of its Franciscan roots. This is also being done in general through study and a rich source of memories and witnesses of saints, blessed, and the simple laity who are originally from a land especially dear to St. Francis of Assisi known as the valley of the Protomartyrs. In this valley, the Friars were called to live fully their minority; it is located between the Spoleto Valley and the Rieti

Valley. On such an occasion, the local Church of St. Anthony of the Friars Minor was declared an "Antonian Shrine of the Franciscan Protomartyrs" whose relics still lie there to this day.

► **First International Festival of Sacred Music – Rome:** The Aracoeli Central Cultural of Friars Minor, the City Council of Rome, and the Musical Association Vocalia Consort organized the First International Festival of Sacred Music; it took place from June 4-6 in the Basilica of St. Mary in Aracoeli as a way of highlighting sacred music from Gregorian chant to contemporary times. The underlying theme of the manifestation is represented by the nature of the ensemble guests, the [Consortium Vocale of Oslo](#) directed by Alexander M. Schweitzer and [Vokalna Akademija Ljubljana](#), directed by Stojan Kuret, two male choirs whose repertoire provided ample space for Sacred Music either in its most ancient form (Gregorian Chant) or in its meditative form of contemporary music.

► **San Francis Exhibit – Culture and Spirituality of the Patron Saint of Italy at the Cultural Center Aracoeli:** In Rome from June 14 – July 18, 2010, there will be an exhibition of figures, situations, motives, witnesses, and materials as part of a rich patrimonial documentation rooted in the fabric of a specific territory. For more information go to: [www.centroculturalearacoeli.it/](http://www.centroculturalearacoeli.it/)

► **A meeting on Pastoral Songs and Liturgical Formation** will be offered in the Parish of St. Clare of Petropolis, RJ, Brazil from Sept. 10-12, 2010. It is offered for people interested in the Diocese of Petropolis, of "Baixada Fluminense" and Rio de Janeiro. Its content will be specific melodies of the Our Father, the Salve Regina, entire Masses or parts of it, Masses for the celebration of the Apostles, songs of praise and thanksgiving, songs pertaining to the different ordinary liturgical times, etc. The speakers will Br. José Luiz Prim and Fr. Alberto Beckhäuser.

To know more go to: <http://www.franciscanos.org.br/v3/fraternidades/especiais/2010/>

## Fraternitas - OFM - Rome

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