



FRATERNITAS

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Rome, PUA – Feast of the PUA and Great Chancellor

This year, the feast of the Pontifical "Antonianum" University and of the Great Chancellor was combined with the Conference on *The Year of Faith: A Contribution to its Celebration*, held on January 15-16, 2013, in the Great Hall of the Pontifical *Antonianum* University.

The first session of the Conference, January 15, was moderated by Br. Vidal Rodríguez López, Secretary General for Formation and Studies of the Order of Friars Minor. The speakers were Br. Jorge Horta, Dean of the Faculty of Canon Law of the PUA, with the report: "*Motu Proprio Porta fidei: its content and Place in the Pontificate of Benedict XVI*", Br. Stéphane Oppes, Professor of the Faculty of Philosophy of the PUA, who spoke about Human Existence *Stabilitate Fidei for Serenitatem Rationis*. The second session, moderated by Br. Marek Wach, Secretary General of the PUA, was held on January 16, 2013, with the presentation of Br. Priamo Etzi, Rector of the

PUA, and a speech by Sr. Mary Melon, SFA, Dean of the Faculty of Theology of the PUA, on *Living the faith between Decision and Responsibility: the Perspective of the Sermons of Anthony of Padua*. The Conference concluded with the message of José Rodríguez Carballo, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor and Great Chancellor of the Pontifical *Antonianum* University. The last session was enriched by the participation of the Italian Polyphonic Quintet, "Clementi Terni" of Florence, who performed liturgical and paraliturgical chants, hymns and melodies of Cortona of the repertory of the troubadours.



Assistant for Dialogue with Islam

The General Definitory appointed Br. Ruben Tierablanca of the Fraternity of Istanbul, Assistant to the Dialogue with Islam. The overall objective of this service is to provide support and encouragement to the Friars who live in countries with a Muslim presence to spread the spirit of dialogue by bearing witness and proclaiming the Gospel through the means at our disposal. Specifically, the Assistant wants to engage in this threefold task: 1) apply the knowledge and study of the socio-religious reality right there where the Friars live with Islam; 2) renew the biblical-theological and spiritual formation of the brothers according to the current vision of Church and the Order in view of being opened to encounter the other; to promote meetings and information networks and collaboration between the various entities, creating regional commissions for



regular meetings. The working proposals from February 2013 to April 2015 are as follows: participate in meetings organized by the Service for Dialogue (Nairobi 2013, Middle East 2014, Europe 2015); broaden the participation of annual courses organized by the Society of Istanbul in the month of 'October; to participate in the specific coordination of the International Congress of Missions and Evangelization (Assisi 2014); and organize specific courses on Islamic-Christian dialogue for the ongoing formation of different areas of life and mission of the entity.

II Franciscan Missionary Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean



The Second Franciscan Missionary Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Canindé, Brazil, from April 21-27, 2013 – which is a continuation of the one held in Cordoba, Argentina, in 2008. The General objective is to reaffirm the primacy of

our Franciscan mission for the New Evangelization in both Latin America and the Caribbean. The specific objectives are to encourage the conversion of the brothers of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to respond to both the New Evangelization and prophetic life

and encourage them to pursue new paths in our evangelizing mission. Link:

<http://www.sifem-cfmb.blogspot.com.br>

Agenda of the Minister General

- **02 February:** Participation with the Religious and the Holy Father on the Feast of Consecrated Life (Vatican).
- **04-12 February:** Visit to the Province of Sts. Francis and James (Jalisco-Mexico) and the Provincial Definitors of Mexico.
- **14-15 February:** Participation in the UFME Council (Rome-Italy).
- **15-26 February:** Visit to the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle (India).
- **28 February:** Start of the meeting with the young friars in formation (Zagreb - Croatia).

Rome – Canticle Hotel, Oasis of Hospitality

On October 4, 2012, the Canticle Hotel was officially opened with 3 Stars; it is owned by the Order of Friars Minor through the Antonian Works Foundation. The hotel has a large outdoor green space of which a part of it is a forest; the rest are gardens, one being an herb garden. The hotel has 71 rooms, of which 7 are single rooms, double or matrimonial rooms, a meeting room for 90 people, a large public restaurant, and a bar accessible to all. The hotel also has a chapel for small groups or individuals who wish to spend moments of prayer.

From the earliest days, by word of mouth, we have had many organizations working in the area of tourism visit us and now we are fully booked. Many organizations have already booked for 2013 and 2014. Everything points to an excellent structure and the familiar and professional atmosphere one breathes inside. Our commitment is to encourage the structure through formative, Christians, and professional

sessions, so as to create an environment attentive to the person both by the style of hospitality and the professionalism of the services. It has been described as "an oasis of hospitality" in the heart of Rome. The ability to reach easily and in a short time by foot both St. Peter's Square and the historical center of Rome is a big plus together with the aesthetic beauty of the area. May the Lord bless this initiative, which over time should help our missionary and formation activities!

To learn more, visit our website: www.ilcantico.it/



Towards a Common Novitiate of Portuguese Language in Africa

Convened and led by the Minister General, Br José Rodríguez Carballo, and coordinated by the Secretary General for Formation and Studies, Br. Vidal Rodríguez López, representatives of the Entities in Portuguese-speaking Africa, who are walking towards the opening of a common novitiate in Africa, gathered together from December 18-20, 2012, at the General Curia OFM (Rome). They are Br. Victor Luis Quematcha, Custos of St. Francis in Guinea-Bissau and dependent on the Province of St. Anthony (Venice) in Italy, and the Minister of this Province, Br. Antonio Scabio, Br. José Manuel Juma, Director of Delegate of the Custody of St. Clare of Assisi in Mozambique; Br. Stefano Ottenbreit, Director of the Foundation of the Mother of God in Angola, dependent on the Province of 'Immaculate Conception BVM in Brazil (Sao Paulo).

The objective of this project was to gain a common novitiate of Portuguese language, to ensure better the quality of formation in the stage of formation of the novitiate, joining

fraternal forces in an international experience that will facilitate greater inculturation of the Franciscan charism in Africa. Following the stages of the process, space will be given according to the particular statutes of the house, which will govern the life, formation, and the economy of the fraternity. They also studied the possible places where the common house can be built in the territories of the Entities involved. A discernment was carried out of the friars called upon to create a fraternity and draw up a formative program to accompany the novices according to the *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae*. In the meantime, the steps to be taken will be studied in order to continue the work to be done in the later stages of formation with their formators.

The Minister General insisted on the convenience of accompanying generously and responsibly this process of discernment, so that having overcome the preliminary difficulties, it may be a serene experience that encourages an incarnated formation in African cultures. The process, he

Interview with Card. Claudio Hummes, OFM, on the New Evangelization

Eminence, what does this term, "New Evangelization" mean?

The term was used by Pope John Paul II, but all the content was already present at the Second Vatican Council, which called us to return to the Gospel and which, in turn must be offered to everyone in updated and dialogue form with the modern world. The Pope himself was a great missionary who realized the need for a new missionary zeal, even before the emergence of new methods and expressions to present the Gospel today. His example calls the missionary aspect of the proclamation not to wait, but go to the people. One must go out and draw close to all, in order to bring the light of the Gospel through an inculturated proclamation that can speak to the people of today. Furthermore, it must be done in the form of dialogue, witness, action, and practice, that is, faith is carried out in charity, which wants to build a world ruled by love. So preaching is made up of works and words, and they illuminate one's life, imparting wisdom. (to be continued)



said, requires a growing collaboration between the Entities of the Portuguese language of this continent with a view to give solidity to the presence of the Franciscan Order in the midst of the people and be "bearers of the gift of the Gospel" in communion with the Church.

Poland - The Plenary Council of the Order

The Plenary Council will take place from November 17-23, 2013, at the Congress Centre of the Pallottines in Konstancin, near Warsaw, Poland. In accordance with mandate n. 45 of the General Chapter of 2009, one of the issues to be discussed and decided by the Plenary Council will be the number and mode of election of the General Definitors at the General Chapter of 2015. The General Definitory appointed as Secretary of the Plenary Council Br. Siniša Balajić, of the Province of the Most Holy Redeemer, Croatia, currently Rector of the Students of the "Blessed Gabriel Allegra" Fraternity at the International College of St. Anthony in Rome.

Franciscan Bookmark

► **Francisci de Marchia o. m. *Quaestiones super Metaphysicam***, critice editae a Nazareno Mariani ofm. Editiones Collegii S. Bonaventurae ad Claras Aquas - Grottaferrata (Rome) 2012, pp. 1100. (Spicilegium Bonaventurianum - Tom. XXXVII. ISBN 978-88-7013-289-2).

This massive volume has recently seen the light of day, after other texts published by the same scholar, a Franciscan Doctor who taught in Paris and known as the *Doctor succinctus*, and which, after centuries of oblivion, is now rediscovered. He lived in a stormy period for the Church and the Order. With William of Ockham and others, he sided with the Minister General, Michael of Cesena, in the famous issue on poverty and was excommunicated. For ten years, he was a fugitive and wanted by the Inquisition after eventually being captured, tried, and acquitted. He lived from 1290 to

1345, these two dates being presumptive). The volume does not have all the issues that arise from the *Metaphysic* of Aristotle because it is not pursued further after Book VII, while the

works of Aristotle is a treatise in 15 books. The issues of the first 7 books are 88; it lives in the hope

Promulgation of Decrees

On December 20, 2012, the Holy Father Benedict XVI received in private audience His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and authorized the Congregation to promulgate the following decrees relating to the Causes of our postulation: The heroic virtues of the Servant of God, **Maria Francisca de las Llagas Cornejo**, founder of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate, was born in Quito, Ecuador, on December 11, 1874, and died there on October 24, 1964.



The heroic virtues of the Servant of God **Giovannina Franks**, foundress of the Infirmarian Sisters of our Lady of Sorrows of Como, born in Como on June 24, 1807, and died on February 23, 1872.

that the future may restore the rest that is missing!

The volume enriches and increases the number of many Franciscan authors, most still unpublished, whom the Order made famous in the late Middle Ages. In fact, the knowledge of Franciscan Medieval Philosophy would require new interpreters and scholars. The ignorance of the scientific heritage that our doctors have left us and which today is devalued, neglected, and ignored, is a sign of decadence. Perhaps the lack of knowledge of Latin is an aggravating factor, guilty of such a situation. The publisher of the book has tried to remedy this fact with a translation of *Quaestiones* into Italian which will be ready soon.

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► **Sainte Claire d'Assise** (St. Clare of Assisi) by Sr. Elisabeth, Illustrated of Marie-Laure Viney, Editions franciscaines, Paris 2012, pp. 35.

A simple and beautiful story for the eighth centenary of the vocation of Clare. Sister Elisabeth, a Poor Clare of Poligny (France) tells us what happened in the small town of Assi-

Br. Marco Tasca Reelected Minister General of the Conventuals

The 200th General Chapter of the Friars Minor Conventual, which is being celebrated at the Sacred Convent of Assisi, from January 19 to February 18, 2013, reelected Br. Marco Tasca as Minister General on January 29.



The IV Seminar on New Forms

The fourth seminar, entitled, "New Forms and Evangelization from a Franciscan Perspective" will be celebrated in Greccio (Rieti) from March 4-8, 2013. In the letter sent to the Provincial Ministers of Europe, the Minister General calls on all fraternities in Europe opened to the so-called "New Forms" of life and mission. In continuity with the previous gathering in Sassone (Rome) back in May 2011, the seminar aims to circulate information among the friars interested and enrich each other, thus promoting collaboration and communion. The next meeting is located in the climate of the Year of Faith and the dynamism of the New Evangelization.

si, in the heart of Italy. A young woman, Clare sees Francis live and proclaim the Gospel with words of fire. Moved by Francis' joy and love for Jesus, she wants to try the same joy and live the same love. Clare leaves everything and reaches Francis and his brothers. So begins the adventure of the Poor Clares, first in San Damiano and then in ten monasteries. Today there are 18,000 sisters everywhere in the world. Hence to know Clare is to discover the secret of joy.

► Visit the website

<http://www.libreriafrancescana.it>

Great and Small News

► **Jerusalem blanketed:** On Monday, January 7, 2013, the Holy Land was hit by one of the worst hail storms in the last twenty years and on January 10, 2013, woke up blanketed in snow. The city was completely blocked; schools and offices were closed.

► **History of the Missions in China** - From Wednesday, February 13 to Wednesday, March 20, 2013, the cycle of public lectures on the history of the missions in China will take place: the Middle Ages, Thirteenth and Fourteenth centuries. It is organized by the School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies in collaboration with the Centre for Chinese Studies at the Pontifical Urban University. Classes will be conducted by prof. Francis of Arelli at the headquarters of the Pontifical *Antonianum* University, on Wednesdays, from 17.00 to 18.35.

► **Meeting of the newly elected Provincial Ministers and Custodes:** the annual meeting of newly elected Provincial Ministers and Custodes took place at the General Curia from January 14-25, 2013. A total of 12 Friars Ministers and Custodes were in attendance. Many and varied were the contributions offered by the speakers on the leadership, government and administration of provincial and Custodial Fraternities. The participants had the opportunity to meet personally with the Minister General and the Definitors and learn more about the work carried out at the General Curia by the various Secretariats and offices. For more information go to <http://www.ofm.org/>

► **The new sections on our site:** we have added a few sections such as: *A Guide for Ongoing Formation for the Franciscan Friars*, which is material ready for the community on ongoing formation. Another section on the Franciscans Saints by the General Postulation updated with information about the latest Franciscan saints, then the section that we called "Did you know ...? Pieces of our History." This includes a simple question with a short answer. Two new sections are the library, where you can find all publications and documents relating to the Order and all documents relating to the 2009 General Chapter and its priorities.

► **The traveling itinerary of St. Bernardine of Siena:** the traveling exhibition of St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) - A man of peace and his vocation of a preacher, theologian, an apostle of Mary, and an image of the true Franciscan friar. It consists of 20 large panels (150x200 cm) of a very light but robust material, color printing in high quality, single-sided supported and connected to each other by joints in metal. The whole exhibition is very flexible, in order to optimize its set-up in any type of environment. The space necessary to house it is about 100 m². To accompany the exhibition, Palumbi publishers provide the elegant catalog edited by Angelo Di Battista which contains in 32 pages the contents of twenty panels, allowing the visitor to take home a reminder to keep always alive the exhibition dedicated to this great figure in Church history. The exhibition will be delivered, assembled, and prepared personally by the technical staff of the Group Monteluce. We just need an enclosed and well guarded area, fairly uniform (rectangular or square), a parish hall, a chapel, and a multipurpose hall, etc. The displays of the exhibition must be agreed with the Province of the Friars Minor of Abruzzo, its owner. For more information please contact the Palumbi Publishers and ask for Justin Perilli, or call the Province of the Friars Minor of Abruzzo.

<http://www.mostrasanbernardino.it>

► **Poland - Books in electronic format:** the Province of the Assumption of the BVM in Katowice (Poland) has made available, in the website page "The Three Companions", a few books in electronic format, entitled, eBooks in EPUB, MOBI, PDF) and for the iPad. Among the proposals are: Franciscan Meditations for each day of the liturgical year by Br. Syrach Janicki, OFM, professor at the major Franciscan seminary and teacher of Franciscan spirituality in Katowice-Panewniki. In addition, the Vocational Youth Center offers a handbook for the "reading" of the Crucifix of San Damiano by Br. Sergiusz Baldyga, OFM. Also in preparation by the same author is the icon of both St. Francis and St. Clare. The link for the Download is:

<http://www.trzejtowarzysze.pl/scriptorium/biblioteka-ebookow.html> (currently available only in Polish).



► **Rome – Br. Philippe Schillings member of the Archconfraternity:**

On December 8, 2012, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, during the Eucharistic celebration presided by Bishop L. Gehrard Mueller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and in the presence of the ambassadors of Germany, Austria, and Slovenia, the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy del Teutonic field has aggregated Br. Philippe Schillings, OFM, Penitentiary in the Vatican Basilica, as a member in recognition for his work in accompanying the students and pilgrims of Flemish and German language. The day before, on December 7, Friar Philippe Schillings was newly appointed for three years by the Rector as Councilor of the Belgian College

► **Fussen, Germany - The Convent of the Friars Minor in flames.** On the Epiphany, in the early morning of January 6, 2013, several rooms of the Franciscan monastery of Füssen (Germany) were on fire. The fire broke out around 6:30. Shortly after, firefighters from the surrounding area were already there and were able to prevent the flames from spreading to the adjacent buildings. It is suspected that the cause of the fire was a faulty lamp, but all the circumstances are still not clear. Despite the dense smoke, helped by rescuers, the Friars were able to seek for safety through the stairways. Five brothers and a firefighter were intoxicated by the smoke and were taken to nearby hospitals. A Friar, who in April 2013, was expected to celebrate his 101st birthday, died. The damage to the monastery is huge, even if not currently quantifiable. Works of art, such as paintings or ancient icons have been surely damaged. The church, thank God, was not touched by the fire.

Fraternitas - OFM - Rome

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