

Two Faces of the Same Charism

Circular Letter of the **General Minister** To the Capuchin Poor Clares



Dear Sisters,
May the Lord give you his peace!

This letter is addressed first of all to you, Sisters, because it concerns your life. I would like to begin by giving thanks to God for your presence and contemplative witness, which speaks to us of a seeking of the Lord's face

that is total and profound. By your life you are a gift for the whole Church and especially for our Capuchin family. What would our mission be without the constant help of your faithful prayer, without your discreet and priceless presence at our side?

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Meeting of the **PACC** Conference



Nagahuta **Indonesia**

March 12-18, 2017



“Let us embrace the **future** with **hope**”

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The General Minister and his Councilors met with the Provincial Ministers, Custodes, and Delegates, together with their respective Councils, of PACC – The Pacific and Asia Capuchin Conference. The meeting took place in the ‘Kamerino’ spirituality center of the Capuchin friars in Nagahuta, Indonesia. There were about fifty friars from the various circumscriptions. The days of the meeting were marked by intense work experienced in a fraternal and joyful atmosphere. Common prayer, listening to input, conversation in groups and in the assembly, as well as evening recreation were

the important moments of the days together. The themes on the agenda regarded the question of multiculturalism and the role of ministers and guardians in fraternal animation. Also important were the presentations on formation in a digital, secularized, and materialistic world, the grace of working, mission, and collaboration between circumscriptions. The participants also had a chance to sail on the famous Lake Toba and to see the surrounding beauty of nature. Currently, at the worldwide level, thirty percent of vocations to the Capuchin Friars Minor come from Asia and Ocea-

nia. Evaluations of the meeting were positive; getting to know each other, a good atmosphere in a Franciscan spirit, and the formative offerings all contributed to a broadening of horizons and the lifting up of hope for the future.

To get to know better these presences of our Order, we invite you to listen to interviews with some friars present in the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Korea, and East Timor.

[Read the whole article on the website](#)



Video Nagahuta, Indonesia, March 12-18, 2017

PACC n 1



PACC n 2



Eucharist



Recreation



General Minister



Japan



East Timor



Papua New Guinea



Indonesia



Philippines



Korea



Lake Toba, Indonesia



Photos Nagahuta, Indonesia, March 12-18, 2017

2017 03 13



2017 03 14



2017 03 15-16



Eucharist



Recreation



Lake Toba



Berastagi, museum



Berastagi, the church



Elections and appointments



Custodia di Zimbabwe - elezioni:

C: fr. Herbert Banda

1C: fr. Joseph Mawedze

2C: fr. Jeyaraj Muthusamy

Data: 09.02.2017; St. Francis Capuchin Friary, Matsheumhlope, Zimbabwe.

Presidente: John Arumai Nathan, Min. Prov. Tamil Nadu Sud, India



Provincia dell'Andhra Pradesh-Orissa, India - elezioni:

MP: Melchior Kata

VP: Innaiah Poliseti

2C: Praveen Kumar Gopu

3C: Joseph Michael 4C: Balakishorr Dasani

Data: 22.02.2017; Curia Provinciale, Enikepadu, Vijayawada, India

Presidente: Michael Fernandes, Consigliere Generale



Provincia di Lombardia, Italia - elezioni:

MP: fr. Sergio Pesenti (confermato)

VP: fr. Angelo Borghino

2C: fr. Giampaolo Beghi

3C: fr. Paolo Bottinelli 4C: fr. Roberto Pasolini

Data: 22.02.2017; Casa di spiritualità dei Padri Dehoniani, Albino (Bergamo), Italia

Presidente: fr. Mauro Jöhri, Ministro Generale



Provincia di Tanzania - elezioni:

MP: Kalist Tesha

VP: Paul Shewiyo

2C: Eric Ndumbaro

3C: Paskal Dohho 4C: Mark Mmbando

Data: 23.02.2017; Mbagala, Dar es Salaam.

Presidente: Norbert Solondrazana, Consigliere Generale



Custodia di Venezuela - elezioni:

C: fr. Ricardo Granados Manchola

1C: fr. Rui Pestana

2C: fr. Alfonso Mora, Consejero

3C: fr. Rafael Arroyo, Consejero

4C: fr. Carlos Caripá, Consejero

Data: 23.03.2017; Convento de la Chiquinquirá (Caracas)

Presidente: Fr. Benjamín Echeverría Martínez, Ministro Provinciale di Spagna



training workshop for NAPCC, Michigan

Renewing our Capuchin Franciscan commitment to the values of JPIC

For the first time in many years, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) international commission in collaboration with the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference (NAPCC) held a workshop training for friars engaged in JPIC ministry and social works in North America and Australia. The theme of the workshop was "Renewing our Capuchin Franciscan commitment to the values of JPIC" and was meant to train and form friars of the NAPCC into being JPIC animators in their various provinces. The training held at the Capuchin retreat center in Washington, Michigan, USA, brought together fourteen friars from seven provinces including from New York-New England, New Jersey, Denver, Pittsburg, Detroit, Toronto, Quebec

and Australia. In three days, the participants were trained on the theory and practice of JPIC and empowered to becoming JPIC animators in their various provinces. Brs. Benedict Ayodi and John Celichowski OFM Cap introduced the participants to the basis of our commitment to JPIC including the social teachings of the church, scriptures and constitutions. With the expertise and experience of Br. Joe Rozansky OFM, Br. Michael Lasky OFM Conv and Marcia Lee the friars explored the spirituality, values, functions and application of JPIC in our daily lives and in the society at large. The most interesting part of the workshop was when each participant presented their work in the area of JPIC. It was amazing to learn how much work is being done in the var-

ious provinces of NAPCC. Some provinces run soup kitchens, homes for street families and the homeless, elder care and prison ministry. Others give direct support to the poor, undocumented, migrants and refugees. The St. Joseph Province (Detroit) province has Cap Corps project for volunteers to support social projects. Some provinces collaborate with the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) and the Franciscans International (FI) to do advocacy on human rights both at the National level and the international level. Patrick Carolan the executive director of FAN spoke via skype on the importance of networking and collaboration among the Franciscan families for social transformation. (...)

[Read the whole article on the website](#)

The capuchins living their charism with the migrants



On Friday March 3rd the Franciscan Capuchins in Malta organized the launching of the "Peace and Good Foundation" with its objective to care for the migrants and refugees. This pastoral work had begun since the first group of migrants embarked in Gozo in the year 2001. From the beginning the Capuchins lived their charism as Franciscans helping the poorest among the poor as always they did even with the local population.

The topic chosen for the launching day was "Mental health and spirituality of migrants in Malta". Main speakers were Fr. Philip Cutajar OFM Cap, Project Manager of the said foundation, Fr. Joe Gixti OFM Cap, member of the board, Vanja Vajagic, specialized therapist and Project Coordinator of the foundation; Prof Paul Clough and Dr. Colin Calleja both professors at the Malta University. Besides pastoral and spiritual support to migrants and refugees through the



Special Parish founded for the Eritrean Community in Malta, the Capuchins through the "Peace and Good Foundation" provide free lessons in Maltese and English languages, and also they are followed by a specialized therapist for alcohol and psychoactive substance abuse problems. The Foundation also dedicates much of its time and energy to educate the local population in order to accept and love all the migrants coming to Malta through Christian values.

Venerable Daniel of Samarate



Rome, March 23, 2017. Daniel of Samarate (1876-1924), priest, missionary, and leper.

The Order rejoices to have a new Venerable. On March 23, 2017, Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to issue the decree *super virtutibus* for Daniel of Samarate, priest, missionary, and leper, member of the Province of San Carlo in Lombardy.

Felice Rossini was born in San Macario, a neighborhood of the town of Samarate (diocese of Milan) on June 15, 1876. On January 14, 1890, not yet fourteen years old, he entered the seminary of the Capuchins in Sovere (Bergamo). Entering the novitiate at the friary of Lovere (Bergamo), he was given the name Br. Daniel of Samarate. He then made his first profession on June 24, 1892.

A meeting with Fr. Rinaldo da Paullo, who would be killed in the massacre of Alto Alegre, Brazil on March 13, 1901, marked Daniel with a desire for missionary witness and he was driven to ask to go, with other friars, to the mission of Northeast Brazil, entrusted in 1892 to the Capuchins of Lombardy. The vast territory included the states of Ceará, Piauí, Maranhão, and Pará, with the possibility of expanding even into the state of Amazonas.

Br. Daniel received the missionary crucifix in the church of the Sacred Heart in Milan on August 8, 1898, and left for the Brazil mission, which he reached on August 30. Assigned to Canindé, he was ordained deacon on October 2, 1898 and priest on March 19, 1899.

Assigned then to the Santo Antônio do Prata colony in the state of Pará, he remained there until January 1913 as professor, director, bursar, and superior of the fraternity. It does not seem possible to determine exactly when Fr. Daniel contracted leprosy, though it was per-

haps in 1908 when he was giving last rites to an elderly woman. Returning to Italy for care in 1909, he had the possibility of making a stop at the Marian shrine of Lourdes. He was not cured, but he did receive the grace of a spiritual confirmation that his illness would be for the greater glory of God. Not finding a cure in Italy either, Fr. Daniel returned to Brazil in December 1909 to take up his missionary, pastoral, and educational work anew.

In 1913 Fr. Daniel finally left the Santo Antônio do Prata colony and on April 27, 1914 he was helped to arrive at his new residence, the leprosarium of Tucunduva, which was a difficult place, marked by misery and abandonment, ignored socially, medically, and spiritually. For ten years he exercised an intense and fruitful apostolate and succeeded in transforming the leprosarium from a cursed place of sin into one of blessing and virtue. He was a true martyr of patience and charity.

While the disease advanced and consumed him, Fr. Daniel thanked the Lord for this gift, which for him was similar to his priestly ordination. His frequent *Deo gratias* became condensed in a formula that he coined for praising the Lord, *A Deus louvado*, may God be praised for all that he does.

On March 25, 1924, Fr. Daniel celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary of priestly ordination and on the following May 9 received the sacraments *in articulo mortis*. He remained lucid for ten days of prayer and of complete abandonment to the mercy of God, waiting without fear for the call and reward of God. Fr. Daniel died in peace at 2:30 in the afternoon on May 19, 1924. Fr. Daniel knew how to make his own wounds into a song of gratitude to our Father in heaven. God be praised!



Two extraordinary events for the Order



In October 2017 the Order will experience two extraordinary events: the canonization of Blessed Angelo D'Acri at St. Peter's and the beatification, at the cathedral in Milan, of Venerable Arsenio of Trigolo.

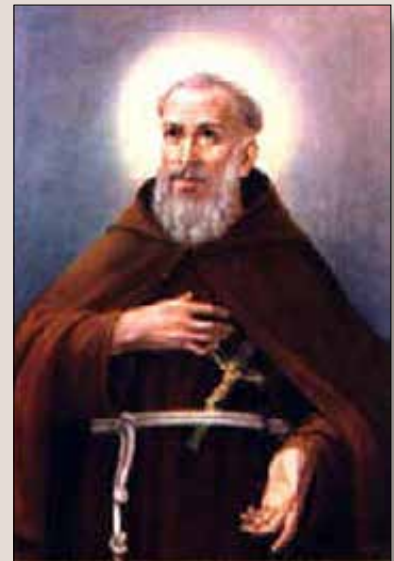
The Order of Capuchin Friars Minor rejoices and thanks the Lord for the upcoming canonization of **Blessed Angelo D'Acri** (1669-1739, in the world Luca Antonio), religious priest of the same Order, a model of fidelity to the Capuchin charism. On March 23, 2017, Pope Francis signed the decree to recognize a miracle attributed to his intercession. The ceremony of canonization will be held in Rome in St. Peter's Square, probably during this coming October. While we await the exact date, which will be communicated during the ordinary consistory scheduled for after Easter, we cannot but give thanks to God together with all the faithful of Acri who have always known our new saint as a powerful intercessor.

The joy and thanks to the Lord will continue with the beatification of Venerable Servant of God **Arsenio of Trigolo** (1849-1909), religious priest of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and founder of the Sisters of Mary Most Holy Consolatrix. The miracle that has brought Venerable Arsenio to beatification is from some time ago; it happened in 1948. The diocesan process that followed, however, was very long and ended only in 1999, followed by the Roman one that has just recently concluded.

The ceremony of beatification will be held in the cathedral of Milan on Saturday, October 7 at 10 a.m.

Once again we give thanks to the Lord who has willed to bless the Order, granting us these two friars and priests as examples. In their own time and in different ways they entrusted their lives to God in service to the Church and the Order for the glory of Christ Crucified and Risen.

Angelo d'Acri



Arsenio of Trigolo





Vicariate in **Arabia** celebrates 100th **Anniversary** of **Tuscan Capuchin Presence**

On 20 March 2017, St. Joseph's Cathedral witnessed an historic celebration: 'The Builders of the Church in Arabia', a centenary of Tuscan Capuchin presence in the Vicariate of Arabia. Fr. Angelo Fiumicelli, 91, retired in Italy and Fr. Eugene Mattioli, 86, still active, both enthusiastic and wise, made the day an unforgettable experience for all. The one-hour solemn outdoor Eucharist was followed by talks and a video presentation. Bishop Paul Hinder, the Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia was assisted by special guests: the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Francisco Padilla, Kuwait; the Minister General of the Capuchins, Fr. Mauro Jöhri, Rome; the Provincial of the Tuscan Capuchins, Fr. Valerio Mauro, Florence, and 43 priests from the

parishes of the Vicariate and about 2000 faithful.

Entrusting a mission to a particular province of religious proved beneficial to the stable development of the Church in a territory: 1) a steady flow of missionaries; 2) team spirit and commitment; 3) active participation of the home church; support and volunteer engagement. In Arabia the aim was not the conversion of the Muslims, but the pastoral care of the millions of labour migrants from all over the world.

Starting from the mission in Aden in 1916, the Capuchins from Tuscany persevered in extremely difficult conditions and steadily built up the church in the peninsula over the last century. With the oil boom, there was a consequent flow of large numbers of expatriate workers to

the Gulf. The generosity and openness of the rulers of the gulf countries enabled the Capuchins to establish new foundations in Bahrain (1939), the UAE and Oman (1960s), and also in the other gulf countries. Later, by the time of Bishop Gremoli, who was Apostolic Vicar from 1976 to 2005, and also the last Bishop of the Vicariate to come from Tuscany, the province had become unable to fulfil the demand for more missionaries to assist the tens of thousands of Catholics who came to the Gulf countries. So Bishop Gremoli turned to other Capuchin provinces from India, Lebanon and the Philippines for assistance. He also sent laymen working in the Gulf for priestly training. (...)

[Read the whole article on the website](#)

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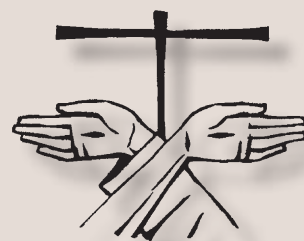


Aggregation is a formal juridical act by which an institute of consecrated life comes to have enduring bonds with another institute, on both the spiritual and relational levels. It is a mutual recognition of having the same spirituality in the sharing of spiritual goods and intercession and, in some cases, of privileges and indulgences.

Aggregation implies a recognition that two congregations of consecrated life are members of the same spiritual family, whether they be religious or secular institutes, lay or clerical, or of diocesan or pontifical right. Aggregation does nothing against the juridical autonomy of the aggregated institute, since it implies no obligation or dependence. “The aggregation of one institute of consecrated life to another is reserved to the competent authority of the aggregating institute; the canonical autonomy of the aggregated institute is always to be preserved.” (can. 580)

Aggregation of institutes to our Order has long tradition in our history. In the most recent list published in the *Analecta* (vol. 91, n. 1 (1975) pp. 47-50) there are ninety-seven institutes listed, of which eighty-eight are of women and nine are of men. Some of these have joined together, others have disappeared, but the larger part continue to exist with remarkable vitality. About 43,000 consecrated men and women are part of the larger Capuchin family. The General Minister with his Council has decided to remember our Capuchin Family each year on July 3, on the occasion of the anniversary of the ecclesiastical approval of our reform with the bull *Religionis zelus* of 1528. Each year, July 3 will be an opportunity to deepen and enliven the bonds that unite us as a spiritual family with our aggregated institutes, and an occasion for celebrating fraternity.

[Read more the website](#)



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Subscribe to BICI, because...

For many years the Bulletin of International Capuchin Information (BICI) has been a means of communication between the General Curia and Capuchin friars all over the world. In recent years, technology has offered us more and more possibilities, such as video, audio, and the possibility of seeing not just a single photo, but an entire photo gallery collected on the internet. Toward this end, for some months BICI has changed, not in the sense of the layout, but in the way it works. BICI is now more than just a newsletter that can be printed and put on the bulletin board of the friary. It has now become interactive for use on a computer or a tablet, such as an iPad. This is why we are inviting the brothers of the Order to subscribe to BICI, so that everyone can receive it personally in their own email. Thus, everyone will be able to use the new functionality that has already been offered for some time. In recent months we have uploaded more than forty videos, many photo galleries, and much audio material. Much of this is only available in the electronic version. We have maintained the layout so that BICI can still be printed, but now the electronic version is much better.

Subscribing to BICI is very easy. Just go to the internet address www.bici.ofmcap.org, choose your language preference from the seven languages available, and sign up with your name and email address. That's it! Everyone who signs up will receive BICI personally, just as it is online each month for the use of the brothers. Let the friars know of this new way to enjoy BICI, which will allow a greater sharing of communication between the General Curia and the friars in the world. We hope that these new means of communication foster fraternal communion among us Capuchins all over the world.

[Watch the video – how to subscribe to BICI](#)



Key:



• A red 'play' button means that there is a video to see. Click to watch the video.



• A blue 'play' button means that there is a photo gallery to see. Click to see the photos.



• A green 'play' button means there is audio to listen to. Click to listen to the audio.

