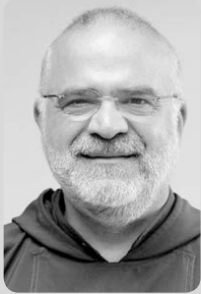


CAPUCHIN EUROPE



I have recently had occasion to visit many of our friaries in Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy. Some, dating back to the XVI century, witness to the vitality our Order has had since its origin. But Capuchin Europe of today, above all in the northwest of the continent, is very different. The particularly elevated median age of the Provinces and the diminishment of the number of candidates raises not a few questions regarding the future of our presence in Europe. The problem is strongly felt both by the Provinces affected and by the General Minister and his Council.

This impoverishment, seen as a test, can nevertheless be also an authentic challenge to re-think the meaning of our presence in a secularized and multiethnic world. If the nostalgia for a time already past is not a fertile attitude, the fundamental aspects of our Capuchin-Franciscan vocation constitute elements that are always current for serving the Church and the world. Fraternity, the seeking of God in prayer, service to the little and the poor, and the evangelical mission toward our contemporaries are signs that



Quo vadis?

They speak today as yesterday. The letter of the General Minister, "Let us Fan the Flame of our Charism" is an explicit appeal to find again a new enthusiasm. For Europe and the Circumscriptions that find themselves in similar situations, it is not about assuring our presence as it once was, but of thinking of a "fraternity-sign" – others, according to the genius of their proper language, speak of a "fraternity-key." – in a way that, living the essentials of our charism, it might commit us to the service of the Church. Clearly we are not thinking of a "pilot fraternity" or a "model fraternity," but of brothers that, convinced of the beauty of our vocation and of its value for our society, accept to blaze with simplicity and trust the path of a presence that is living and evangelically apt. Last June, the Presidents of the Capuchin Conferences of Europe and the General Council reflected on the questions that regard our presence in Europe. They developed the program for all the Ministers – Provincials and Custodes – of Europe who will meet at Fatima from December 1 to 5, 2014. 80 friars from the continent and the Presidents of other Capuchin Conferences will participate in the meeting. There will be space given, more than

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to lecture, to the witness to lived experience and to exchange between the participants. It is foreseen that the work carried out, at the end of the meeting, should flow into concrete proposals for the future.

Our more greatly felt hope is that the meeting of the Ministers of Europe – gathered in this great place of faith – should manifest the reasons for our hope and open us to fertile initiatives for the future.

*Br. Pio Murat, OFM Cap
General Councilor*



Contest for the Logo of PCO VIII

ROME, Italy – On May 18, the feast of St. Felix of Cantalice, the contest to choose the Logo for the next Plenary Council of the Order on the theme of “the grace of working” was called. Br. Štefan Kožuh, General Vicar and President of the Preparatory Commission, in a letter placed on the website (www.ofmcap.net) explains how to participate:



- The Logo must be original. Designs already present on the internet are not admissible.
- It must be a graphic design, in colour, easily reproducible also in black and white.
- It is best to restrict the range of colours used, so that it shows up clearly against both a light and a dark background.
- It is essential that the logo be clearly decipherable, both full size and in reduced format.
- It must also bear the inscription: “VIII PCO”.
- Given the theme: “the grace of working”, the artwork will be fittingly inspired by what various documents of the Order say on the subject (The Testament of St Francis, the Constitutions and the Minister General’s Circular: “The grace of working”).

Entries, either in the original or in high-resolution electronic format, should reach the General Curia by 15 November 2014. They will be presented to the General Council, who will choose one as the official PCO Logo.

Send your entries to: Segreteria VIII CPO – Curia Generale - Via Piemonte, 70 – 00187 - ROMA, Italy; or by e-mail:

cpo8@ofmcap.org



It was the Solemnity of All Saints – the first of November, 2013 – when the General Minister, Br. Mauro Jiri, with his circular letter, “The Grace of Working,” called the whole Capuchin Order to the celebration of PCO VIII – a Plenary Council of the Order. In the same letter, the Minister assigned the Preparatory Commission of the next PCO

patient and attentive preparation of the ground, it is essential that there be this period of listening to the friars. This is what is truly of interest: to listen to the friars, to let them express their thought on what the Minister indicated in his letter, on what St. Francis left us in the Testament on the “grace of working,” on the guide of our Constitutions just renewed and above all read and interpreted in the light of the “spirit of holy prayer,” the signs of our times.

PCO VIII: We have the tools!

Br. Francisco Lopes, OFM Cap
Secretary of the Preparatory
Commission – PCO VIII

that from that moment began to set themselves up to begin working. After the meeting of the Commission at the General Curia and the suggestions that came principally from the General Council and from the same Minister, we can now share what we have developed, with all who are called to this important event of the Order, in other words, with all the brothers.

We can say that we have starting now the tools to begin the common and participatory work with the whole Order. On the feast of St. Felix of Cantalice, this past May 18, the contest opened for the Logo of PCO VIII, for which information is available on the website of the Order. In these days of waiting for Pentecost, the map and design of the Instrumentum laboris will come out in the form of a questionnaire to all the friars, also in interactive form – on line – as the responsibility of the Major Superiors of every Circumscription, that we might hear together what we intend to share about this important topic and what will be finally developed and synthesized by the delegates to PCO VIII in Assisi next year.

That the effort and the joy of gathering not come to be without

All the offices of the General Curia are at the service of every brother spread throughout the world – however impossible it is to meet them all physically – therefore this is the moment in which every brother must participate in this service of fraternal universality, expressing himself, participating actively as a protagonist in the discussions, reflections, and suggestions for the next Plenary Council of the Order. Every contribution will be a precious tile in the one mosaic. Now we pass the ball to you! We have prepared the tools for beginning the work that now await a response from every friar. We thank the Lord who allows us to roll up our sleeves to work as brothers in this field of His vineyard called the Capuchin Order.



Visit of the General Procurator to the CCB

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil – On May 2, 2014, the General Procurator, Br. Antonio Belpiede, at the invitation of the Conference of Brazilian Ministers, animated a day of formation for the secretaries of thirteen Curias, those of the twelve Brazilian Circumscriptions plus that of the Custody of Paraguay.

Br. Antonio illustrated the theme *Juridical Relations and Business in the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin*.



Then Br. Antonio, being special delegate for the Padre Pio Prayer Groups outside Europe, met the Groups of Brazil on April 27 at São Paulo and those of Paraguay at Asunción on April 29 and 30.



International College:
arrival of new student friars 2014

ROME, Italy – In the last days of April and the first of May the “new” friars arrived at the International College ‘San Lorenzo da Brindisi.’ They will study at the pontifical universities in Rome in the next academic year, 2014-2015, but begin now by attending the course in Italian. These friars come a little bit from the whole world: eight from Africa, four from Latin America, sixteen from Asia, one from Papua New Guinea (Oceania) and one from Poland (Europe). Other students, who already speak Italian, will arrive in September.

Meeting of the OFM Cap Office
of Communications

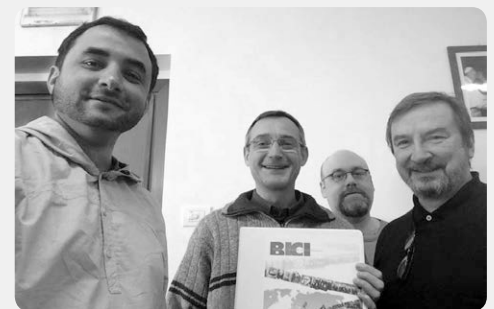
ROME, Italy – This past May 8, in the room of the General Council, the Office of Communications of the General Curia met for a meeting called by Br. Marek Przewzski, current director of the Office. To hear, evaluate, and give suggestions on the activity carried out in this field, beyond Br. Marek, Br. Umberto Losacco (responsible for ANALECTA), Br. Charles Sammons (collaborator on the WEBSITE) and Br. Francisco Lopes (responsible for BICI) participated. Other meetings are also foreseen above all in light of the changes in the site of the Order which will soon be activated.

Formation for Ministers and Bursars

KINSHASA, Congo – Br. Jean-Bertin Nadonye, General Counselor for Africa, participated at the meetings of formation for Ministers and Bursars: in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) from May 5 to 9, in the annual meeting of the Conference of Capuchins of Western Africa (CONCAO), and in Kampala, Uganda, from May 12 to 16, in the meeting of the Conference of Capuchins of Eastern Africa (EACC). Both the meetings saw the participation of almost all the delegates, Custodes and Provincial Ministers, together with their respective Bursars.

The meeting was a privileged moment for fraternal sharing. During the whole week, the Ministers and Bursars, helped by Br. Jo Coz and Br. Alejandro Nñez Ennabe, Secretary of Solidarity, participated in

a seminar of formation on the fraternal economy and the strategies for improving the organization of the Circumscriptions with practical exercises for a transparent and efficient way to manage the resources for our administration. Both the Conferences set new weeks of formation for bursars for 2015, which will be held in Tanzania (English), in Ivory Coast (French), and in Angola (Portuguese/Spanish). The seminar was also an occasion for a talk by Br. Benedict Ayodi, Secretary of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), who put questions to the participants regarding these important aspects of our life. The brothers expressed their gratitude for the support of the General Curia with special thanks also to the friars of Congo and of Uganda for the good organization of the meetings and attention to guests.



Antonianum: Annual JPIC Course

ROME, Italy – The eighth annual Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation course was held at the Pontifical University ‘Antonianum’ from April 29 to May 9. Organized by the JPIC Chair at the University and the General Office of JPIC of the OFM, it developed the theme: “The Excluded and Human Rights: Towards a Church for the Poor.”

Twenty-one people took part in the morning sessions: fifteen OFM animators coming from Canada, Mexico, Italy, Kenya, the Philippines, Egypt, Pakistan, South Africa, Poland, Brazil, Vietnam, Guatemala, and

"Cathedral of the Plains" becomes Minor Basilica



Zimbabwe; one OFM student, the General Director of the Capuchins Br. Benedict Ayodi, two secular Franciscans, and two Dominican sisters. A friar from Ukraine who had planned to be at the course was unable to participate due to the political difficulties in that country. The afternoon sessions saw the participation of about twenty-five people; others participated in one or other session. The complete number of participants, among them various students of the Antonianum, was forty.

83rd Assembly of the USG

ROME, Italy – Union of Superiors General – At the Salesianum in Rome, from May 28 to 30, 2014, the 83rd Assembly of the USG met with the theme: "Wake up the world! Religious in the mission of the Church today." The objectives of the assembly:

1. To offer a space to Major Superiors that they might reflect and share their experience of meeting with Pope Francis, drawing out the implications for the concrete aspects of their service and during canonical visits.
2. To begin a reflection on the family in response to the instruction of the Pope (Cf. Synod).
3. To open a space for reflection and proposals for the Year of Consecrated Life in 2015.

A Vietnamese priest

in the list of the 100 information heroes
The Vietnamese priest Fr. Anton Ngoc Than, working at Vietnam Redemptorist News, a Catholic information service, was included in the list of 100 information heroes compiled by the organization Reporters Without Borders on the occasion of the World Day for Freedom of the Press, celebrated May 3, 2014. It is a recognition of his courageous work that helps the promotion of the freedom to "seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers," as states article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

VICTORIA, Kansas, USA – On this past March 8, Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger of Salina made the announcement: The Church of St. Fidelis in Victoria, Kansas will be erected as a minor basilica. The celebration will be held on June 7, 2014. The church—called the 'Cathedral of the Plains'—has been cared for by the Capuchins since its dedication in 1911. At the time of its dedication it was the largest church in the western United States.

The Order has been present in Kansas since 1878 when Capu-

chins Matthew Hau and Anastasius Miller arrived at the invitation of Bishop Louis Mary Fink, OSB of the Diocese of Leavenworth (now the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.)

The application to the Holy See for St. Fidelis to become of minor basilica began one afternoon when Br. Jeff Ernst, OFM Cap. thought to himself, "This could be a basilica." Br. Jeff continues: "What contributes to its dignity and what was the inspiration behind its construction is the celebration of the Eucharist."



Death of Br. Guglielmo Sghedoni former General Vicar of the Order

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy – Br. Guglielmo Sghedoni, of the Capuchin Province of Emilia-Romagna, former General Vicar of the Order (1970-1976), died at the friary of Reggio Emilia on Monday, May 19, 2014, at the age of 95 years. According to the norms of the Ordinances of the General Chapters (Cap. III 2.2), a Mass shall be celebrated by each fraternity of the group to which the deceased brother belonged (CIMP-Cap).

Br. Guglielmo was born at Corlo di Formigine (Modena) in 1918. He passed 78 years in religious life and exercised the priestly ministry for 72 years. Right away he demonstrated his intellectual gifts and his particular attachment to the Franciscan religious life. After ordination his superiors sent him to study at the Gregorian University in Rome where he graduated in Dogmatic Theology in 1949. Many were his assignments in the Order and in the Diocese

of Reggio. We can remember his assignment as superior in the friary of Reggio, as Provincial Minister of the Parma Province, and as General Vicar of the Order of the Capuchin Friars.

Two years ago, with the worsening of his health, Br. Guglielmo was transferred to the infirmary of the friary. But he continued to be available for confession and to receive those who asked his help. The funeral was held on May 21 in the church of the friary of the Capuchins at Via Ferrari Bonini.

