

Winning the Cup

Video message of Pope Francis for the 2014 World Cup

My hope is that, more than a celebration of sport, this World Cup can be a celebration of solidarity among nations. This, however, presupposes that *the football matches should be considered as what they really are: a game* and, at the same time, an opportunity for dialogue, understanding and mutual enrichment of the human person. Sport is not only a form of entertainment, but also \square and I would say above all \square a tool to communicate values which promote the good of the human person and contribute to building a more peaceful and fraternal society. Just think of loyalty, perseverance, friendship, sharing, solidarity. There are, in fact, many values and attitudes which football promotes and which prove to be important not only on the field but in all fields of existence, and specifically in building peace. Sport is a school of peace; it teaches us how to build peace. In this sense, I would like to point out three lessons for practicing sports, three fundamental attitudes for the cause of peace: the need to \square train \square fair play and respect for the opponent. First, sports teach us that it is necessary to train in order to win. In this practice of sports, we can see a metaphor for life. In life it is necessary \square to train \square to strive to achieve important



results. The spirit of sports becomes an image for the necessary sacrifices in order to grow in the virtues that are necessary for the character of a person. For a person to improve, extensive and consistent \square training \square is necessary, and much more is needed to achieve an encounter and peace between \square improved \square peoples! It \square necessary \square to train \square a lot...Football can and should be a school for building a \square culture of encounter \square which allows for peace and harmony among peoples. And here the second lesson of the practice of sports comes to our aid: we learn what fair play in football has to teach us. When we play on a team we must first think of the good of the group, and not of ourselves. In order to win, we must overcome individualism, selfishness, all forms of racism, of intolerance and of the instrumentalization of the human person. It is not only in football that being fominha [individualistic and egoistic] is an obstacle to positive results for the team. Because, in life, when we are fominhas, ignoring those who surround us, the entire society is damaged. The final lesson for sports which bear the fruits of peace is the respect deserved by our opponents. The secret to winning on the field, and

also in life, is to respect my teammates and also my opponent. **No one wins by himself, not on the field or in life!** May no one isolate themselves or feel excluded! Be careful! No segregation, no racism! And if it is true that at the end of the tournament only one national team will win the Cup, likewise, it is also true that, by learning the lessons that sports teach us, we will all be winners, strengthening the bonds that tie us together.

(Vatican Radio)

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Meeting of the General Council

ROME, Italy \square The General Council met in ordinary session in Rome from June 16 to 19. Together with the usually tasks of an administrative-judicial nature there was begun also the meeting of new ministers, on the calendar from June 22 to 29 in Frascati. This is an important annual event of the same Council and of all the organs of the General Curia with the con-

freres who are beginning their ministry of animation of the circumscriptions. Also treated, among current topics in the Order, was an examination of the imminent return of the fraternity of the Curia to the friary on via Piemonte as well as the steps taken so far for the celebration of the next PCO.

Among the decisions made in this meeting

the following are highlighted:

- Noted was the resignation from the office of Provincial Councilor presented by Br. Vojtěch Drahomir;
- Flanders Province: following the resignation of the Provincial Vicar, presented by Br. Hugo Gerard, Br. Luc Vansina was appointed 4th Councilor;



St. Paul, in the First Letter to the Corinthians, wrote: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." (9:24-25) We know how demanding is the life of an athlete at high levels. The demands become ever greater. What was fun and a time for recreation with other people becomes a profession marked by competition. Frequently the other becomes not

vates, includes and excludes, and always demands more physically and emotionally. Nevertheless, the best coach in the world will not succeed in anything if he does not have able athletes, ready to give their own blood for the cause. The athlete much match, outdo, overcome, or be released from the scene. How much sacrifice, how much commitment, how much renunciation and dedication! How much time given, how much training, how much exercise, how much effort to be always better, to be the best! And why all this? For a perishable wreath, a transient glory. It is not my intention to make a moral judgment on this, but only to ask myself: what lesson does all this offer me? What



practice, exercise, and continuous training. But constant exercise, not momentary. The values of our life will be interiorized in the measure in which we exercise them in a regular way, daily and over the long term. In this process, the principal agent is the one being formed. Without his particular commitment, not even the best formator (coach) in the world, and nor the Holy Spirit, first formator, will succeed. The

Formation on the Capuchin Team

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General Councilor*

only an opponent, but a competitor to defeat. This is not about the simple adversary of another team; my own companion can become the opponent who wants to exclude me to take my place in the race. What could have been a time of celebration becomes a real and proper battle, cruel and excluding: in the



field there is only room for eleven. If another arrives, you have to exclude someone. What is important is to win, to defeat, and, if possible, to humiliate the other. For this to be possible there exists a coach will full powers who guides and moti-

teaching can we draw for our life as friars? In a particular way, what does it suggest to me for initial and ongoing formation? We can, indeed we must disagree with many of the things that happen on football fields and apart from them, but we can but realize that our life, compared with this whole reality, lacks luster, vibration with a cause that impels us to a life given to the end. I think of the Christians of the first age of the Church, of the countless martyrs of yesterday and today, of the child Tarcisius, the little girl Agnes, the elderly Ignatius. These have left us a message of radicality without concessions! Some environments, called formative, sometimes give me that feeling of a gray sky, without sun, without hope. Often we fear the challenges and content ourselves with many beautiful reflections that do not motivate or go anywhere. To form for our life becomes possible when reflection is transformed into

formation process for our life, at all its levels, is a grace of the Lord and a human work. Therefore, may the one being formed, the formator, the formative fraternity, in a team, participate with commitment, trust, and perseverance that this process becomes possible. I hope, perhaps naively, that all of this energy of the so-called greatest sports spectacle on earth will contaminate us, will involve us and resonate with our life, with our formation process and our mission. Certainly we will have been a more meaningful presence in the midst of this world, so in need of witnesses and teachers. I conclude: on the team of Jesus Christ, there is no one excluded. Everyone can participate without injury, exclusion, or expelling anyone.



India: First Meeting of New Ministers

BANGALORE, India - At the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality (FISI), from June 1 to 2, was held the meeting of new ministers (7 Provinces) elected between January and June 2014. It was the first time in the history of the Capuchins in India that there was this type of meeting. The an-

imators of the meeting were Br. Štefan Kožuh, General Vicar, Br. Albert D'Souza, Vice Procurator, and Br. Clayton Fernandes, General Secretary. Also present were the President of CCMSI, Br. Raphie Paliakara and the Secretary of the Conference, Br. A.J. Mathew. There were 36 participants in all.



Project Managers: Extraordinary Meeting

ROME, Italy - The Collegio San Lorenzo da Brindisi, in Rome, hosted the extraordinary meeting of the new group of "Project Managers," members of the Office of Economic Solidarity of the Order. The meeting was carried out from June 17 to 20 in a pleasing atmosphere of fraternal collaboration. According to the recent reform of the Statutes of Solidarity, the number of Project Managers was increased from three to seven members, and therefore it was an good opportunity to welcome the new members and also

study in a deeper way the current situation of the Conferences of Capuchins in the whole world and its projection towards the future. We recall that it is the task of the Project Managers and of the Commission of International Economic Solidarity to study and evaluate the requests for support for the missions, initial formation, and projects that arrive each year at the Office of Solidarity. We thank the brothers for the valuable service that they give to the Order.

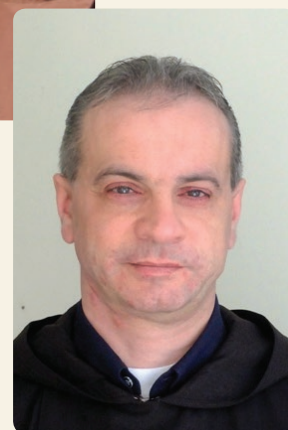


Meeting of the General Council

- The Custody of Turkey will soon become a provincial delegation dependent on the Province of Emilia-Romagna;
- The meeting of June 2015 will be two weeks, from June 8-19, 2015;
- Br. Joaquim Hangalo was appointed Vicar of the fraternity of the Curia, in substitution of Br. Massimo Rosina who will remain in the Curia as the personal secretary of the General Minister.

New Vicar of the Fraternity

ROME, Italy - As usual, the meeting of the General Council coincided with the local Chapter of the fraternity of the General Curia. On this day, June 20, the General Minister, Br. Mauro, announced the appointment of a new Vicar of the fraternity, Br. Joaquim Hangalo, day brother Ó



emphasized the Minister coming from the Custody of Angola and currently responsible from the IT Office of the Curia. We wish our confrere a good path in this new service, and express gratitude to Br. Massimo Rosina, Personal Secretary of the General Minister who carried out this task until now in a fraternal and generous way.

The Questionnaire for PCO VIII has been Sent

ROME, Italy ☐ With a letter of this past June 8, the Solemnity of Pentecost, the General Minister, by means of the Preparatory Commission he established, sent to the Ministers, Custodes, and to all the friars of the Order, the questionnaire for the next Plenary Council of the Order ☐ PCO VIII ☐ on the theme ☐ The Grace of Working. ☐ This tool is intended to listen to every brother on this important event, involving all in the reflection and preparation of the instrumentum laboris to offer an ever-broader view for the delegates to the PCO. Two types of questions are proposed: personal ☐ reserved to the reflection of each individual friar – and for the fraternity, shared in a local chapter or assembly, for which the summary will be given in the on line form (www.ofmcap.org & www.ofmcap.net) available only to the Major Superiors, as indicated in the same letter of the Minister. The responses must arrive for the commission by next October 4.

A Street Dedicated to a Capuchin

CORDOBA, Spain ☐ On May 31 in the area of Sotogordo (Puente Genil ☐ Córdoba), a street of the city was dedicated to a Capuchin priest, journalist, and founder of the ☐ Asociaci3n Paz y Bien, ☐ Br. Rafael Pozo. It was a proposal welcomed unanimously by the whole group of the politicians of the city. Together with the mayor, Br. Rafael cut the ribbon in the presence of various civil representatives who admire him and thank him for his social work carried out above for disabled persons. In his words of thanks Br. Rafael recalled above all the need to not lose ☐ The way ☐ of values, the only path that really counts in life.

Apostolic Administrator Appointed

CHAPEC3, Brazil ☐ The Holy Father has appointed as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese of Chapec3—in the south of Brazil our confrere, former General Definitor of the Order, Most. Rev. Jos3 Gisl3n, ordinary of Erechim. For him, our prayer and good wishes for good pastoral work in his dioceses and success in his new charge as Apostolic Administrator.



Assisi Pax Mundi: International Festival of Franciscan Sacred Music

ASSISI, Italy ☐ Assisi is preparing the first “ASSISI: PAX MUNDIO” international festival of Franciscan Sacred Music, which will be held from October 16-19, 2014 in the Franciscan places of Assisi. The event is sponsored and organized by the Franciscan Family in collaboration with the choir of the Papal Basilica of St. Francis. It is a non-competitive event in which choral and instrumental groups of any country or nation can participate. The purpose of the festival is to contribute to the

promotion of a culture of sacred music, and music that is linked by composition or inspiration to the figure of St. Francis and the Franciscan world in particular. The meeting of various choral and instrumental groups means to show that it is possible, in the spirit of Assisi, to grow and develop a culture of peace and cooperation among different peoples and cultures. To participate and to sign up:

www.fraticappucciniassisi.it
assisipaxmundi@libero.it

The Face of St. Anthony is Reconstructed

PADUA, Italy ☐ The face of St. Anthony of Padua was reconstructed and presented publicly in Padua from June 12-22, 2014. It wasn't a miracle, but the result of technology and of the collaboration between specialists. The Brazilian 3D designer Cicero Moraes reconstructed the face of the saint without knowing his identity. When it was revealed to him that this was not a philosopher or a knight but St. Anthony of Padua he was at first shocked and then deeply moved. ☐ And really, this is what strikes ☐ he comments ☐ the strength and the force of that face ☐ a window to an intense and passionate life for the Kingdom! ☐ And he continues ☐ ☐ was sent a message that said this was the name of the reconstructed face: ☐ St. Anthony of Padua. ☐ At the moment I did not understand ☐ it felt like an electric shock. For me it was a great honor and also a great fear to look into the eyes of the saint. Also my colleagues when I let them know the identity of that face, very

Portuguese, were astonished. They had communicated to me only the essential data: male, 36 years old, Caucasian. At every step I wondered who this man was. When I heard, I was speechless. Although I am not particularly religious, I felt a great responsibility. Millions of people in the world would see the face of their Saint. ☐

