

1216

2016

Eighth Centenary of the Pardon of Assisi

800 years ago Francis of Assisi asked Pope Honorius III for what is known and celebrated all over the world today as the 'Pardon of Assisi.' In fact, this year, during the Extraordinary Holy Year, is the eighth centenary (1216-2016) of the Portiuncula Indulgence. We want to let everyone know

about this important anniversary that comes this August 2. The film in different languages is an invitation to celebrate this event in our local communities.

[The translation of the text of the film is under the video.](#)

L'Aquila – blessing of the rebuilt friary

On April 6, 2009, the city of L'Aquila was struck hard by a terrible earthquake, which brought with it a tremendous loss in both human and economic terms.

This event did not spare the Capuchin friary, which was seriously damaged. Nevertheless, despite the difficulties, the friars did not abandon L'Aquila,

staying close to the people, in tents, in railroad cars, and finally in a small, prefabricated structure. On May 23, 2016, on the opening day of the Provincial Chapter of the Capuchins of Abruzzo, the rebuilt friary was blessed.

The ceremony began with the celebration of the Eucharist, at which Most Rev. Giuseppe Petrocchi, Metropolitan Archbishop of L'Aquila presided, in the presence of the management of the work that was done and the owner of the company that did the restoration. At the end of the Eucharist, the friars went in procession to the entrance of the friary, where the General Minister of the Capuchin friars, Br. Mauro Jöhri, led the rite for the blessing of a religious house.

[See the photos-story in more detail](#)



INDEX

- 01 Eighth Centenary of the Pardon of Assisi
L'Aquila - blessing of the rebuilt friary
- 02 ASMEN Conference in Rome
CECOC in Dubrovnik
- 03 CIMPCAP Conference in Savona
- 04 Indian Capuchins to work for justice, peace and ecology
- 05 JPIC commission meeting 2016
- 06 Italian-language Ongoing Formation Course in Jerusalem
End of the Academic Year
- 07 The Capuchins of Cape Verde are going to São Tomé and Príncipe in mission
St. Felix of Cantalice
- 08 Second International Meeting of Capuchin Sisters

ASMEN Conference in Rome



The ASMEN Conference (Assemblée des Supérieurs Majeurs Méditerranée Nord-Est) began a meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at the General Curia of the Friars Minor Capuchin in Rome. Each of the participants presented the situation in his country: problems, hopes, and perspectives on the future. Then, after a brief presentation of the General Minister's letter on identity and the sense of belonging, there was a discussion of a reflection made in the respective countries based on the preparatory work of a commission. On Wednesday, May 18, the participants shared in the solemn celebration in honor of St. Felix of Cantalice at the friary on Via Veneto in Rome. There were also talks from Br. Paweł Teperski on

the Office of Communications and from Br. Clarence Hayat and Br. Charles Alphonse regarding ongoing formation. On Thursday morning there was a meeting with the General Minister, who updated the participants on various topics.

Present at the meeting:

Br. Pio Murat, General Councilor; Br. Paul Koenig, President of ASMEN; Br. Abdallah El Noufaily, Secretary of the Conference; Br. Tanius Rizk, Custos of Lebanon; Br. Eugenio Scalco, from the Jerusalem house; Br. Luca Romani, Delegate of Greece; Br. Paweł Szymala, Delegate of Turkey; Br. Morris Jalal, Custody of Pakistan; Br. Clarence Hayat, Director of Formation.

[See the photos-story in more detail](#)

02
BICI

N° 294

CECOC in Dubrovnik



The Capuchin Conference of Central and Eastern Europe (CECOC) met from May 30 to June 3, 2016 at the Capuchin friary in Dubrovnik (Croatia). The friars gathered not far from the birthplace of St. Leopold Mandić, the famous Capuchin confessor. The members of the Conference meet regularly twice a year. During this meeting the Provincial Ministers took some time for sharing on the fraternal life and the activities carried out in the different circumscriptions, sharing joys, sufferings, and hopes. Ministers were present from all the circumscriptions: Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, and Hungary. As always, the General Vicar, Br. Štefan Kožuh, was also present. Br. Alejandro Núñez, the General

Bursar, was invited to give a talk on the fraternal economy.

The following topics were treated: the sharing of life, the Europe Project, the translation of the Constitutions, the future meeting of post-novices in Prague, the presentation of the proposals of PCO VIII on the grace of working, and the presentation of plans for the eighth centenary of the Pardon of Assisi.

The bishop of the diocese of Dubrovnik, Most Rev. Mate Uzinić, came to visit and greeted us.

The interpreter during the reports to the assembly was Br. Tomasz Wroński. The next meeting of the Conference will be October 9 to 13, 2016 in Skomielna Czarna, Poland.

[See the photos-report in more detail](#)



CIMPCAP Conference in Savona

The Italian provincial ministers study the apostolic exhortation **Amoris Laetitia**

03

BICI

N° 294

During the 137th Assembly of CIMP Cap., scheduled from June 8 to 11, 2016 in Savona, the Italian Provincial Ministers experienced a meaningful moment of ongoing formation through Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation *Amoris laetitia*. Paolo Tassinari, a permanent deacon of the diocese of Fossano, married and the father of three children, offered a series of points that can be summarized as follows:

1. A key for reading the path of the Synod
2. Some snapshots of the two sessions of the Synod on the family, with particular attention to the positions of the various bishops' conferences and of individual bishops
3. The essential content of *Amoris laetitia* with particular reference to chapter VIII: *Accompanying, discerning, and integrating weakness*

Another much appreciated and useful moment of the Assembly was the sharing of the Provincial Ministers

on the situations of their different circumscriptions. Some of the most common topics were: commitment to the vocation ministry, plans for downsizing and improving our presences, the current journeys of collaboration with particular reference to initial formation, and our presence among the poor and the migrants.

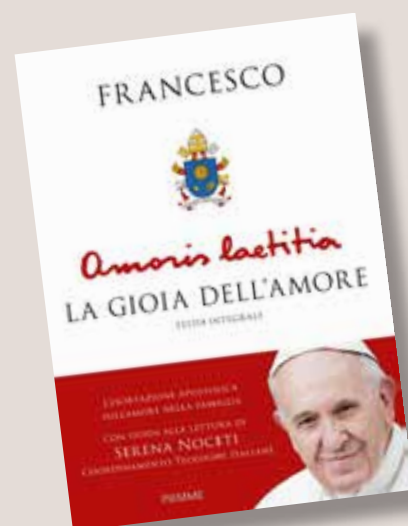
Responding to the request of the General Minister to all the circumscriptions of the Order, the Assembly examined the draft of the document, *Guidelines on the abuse of minors and vulnerable persons*. The hope is for the document to be approved in the next meeting in October.

There then followed reports by a national councilor from YouFra and their National Assistant, Br. Francesco D'Incecco, from Br. Claudio Passavanti, director of the fraternity and formation secretariats, and Br. Giordano Ferri, director of fraternity and mission. At the end Br. Giampiero Cognigni, member of the General Formation Council, upda-

ted us on the progress of the *Ratio formationis*.

We had the joy of having with us our confrere Most Rev. Giovanni Roncari, Bishop of Pitigliano-Sovrana-Orbetello, who presided at the Eucharist.

A visit to the city of Genoa was a nice moment of recreation, which concluded with a supper at the 'Padre Santo' friary, which is the provincial curia of the Genoa Province.



Indian Capuchins to work for justice, peace and ecology



Kotagiri: The Capuchins in India have decided to take matters of justice, peace and ecology seriously in their lives and ministry.

They came to this decision at the end of a week-long national workshop cum training program organized by the Office of Capuchins' International Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) at Kotagiri Friary, Tamil Nadu.

As many as 21 Capuchins from different provinces and regions in India participated in the May 2-8 program, aimed at preparing them, and through them other members of different provinces, to be effective animators in the ministry of JPIC in India.

Capuchin Father Benedict Ayodi of Kenya Kenya province and the director of the Rome-based JPIC Commission, opened the program exhorting his confreres in India to be involved in the issues of the people, especially the poor and the marginalized, in ensuring them justice at all levels, in peace building, and in caring for the environment which is facing serious and manifold threats for its healthy existence.

The Kenyan priest animated various sessions and motivated the participants to follow the examples of Capuchins and other Franciscans in different parts of the world who are seriously engaged in JPIC activities, as demanded by Pope Francis.

Indian Capuchin Jacob Kani, the former editor of Indian Currents weekly and currently the editor of Youth Action magazine, and the Asian representative in the 7-member international JPIC Commission, organized the Kotagiri program.

He clarified that JPIC is not an optional thing but an integral part of every Capuchin's life and ministry, and that the JPIC values need to be part of the whole formation system of the Capuchins. He explained the commission's work under the framework of 'Inform, Inspire, and Inte-

grate.' Similar training programs were already held in Quito (Equador) and Cebu (Philippines). Europe, Africa and America will organize them later this year.

Other resource persons included Capuchin Father Nithiya, Jesuit Father James Mascarenhas, and Bethany Sister Mariola. They enlightened the participants on how to be active in Rights-based JPIC matters. They enabled the participants to move from charity-based activities to human rights-based JPIC activities in India.

New legislations such as Right to Information, Right to Education and Right To Food provide ample opportunities for the socially-conscious religious to work for the rights and dignity of the poor people in the country, they pointed out.

The participants formed a National JPIC Coordinating Team of Capuchins for further plans and actions in various provinces and regions in India.

The participants appreciated the JPIC Commission initiative in organizing such a program for Indian Capuchins, who they said are mostly engaged in traditional pastoral and spiritual ministry, school ministry, social works etc. Some are also engaged in media and publications work.

Many participants are of the view that a paradigm shift is required from the age old works of religious to address the issues affecting the poor and marginalized people today, harmoniously combining spiritual life and active ministry, following the example of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis, so that the religious remain relevant to the needs of the time.

The Capuchins, the second largest group within the international Franciscan Order and known for their pioneering work in remote areas, are spread across the country in 15 provinces.

[Read it all on the website](#)



JPIC commission meeting 2016

The annual meeting of the International Commission of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin was held from 18 - 20 April, 2016 at the Capuchin General Curia in Rome.

Br. Benedict Ayodi, Director of the Commission, Br. Jim Donegan, Br. Henryk Cisowski, Br. Jacob Kani, Br. Darwin Orozco and Br. John Sulle attended the meeting. Br. John Celichowski, the President of the Commission, participated from the USA by Skype.

The meeting evaluated the Commission's work in 2015, which included the JPIC meeting in Cebu, Philippines, the meeting for formators in Lusaka, the refugee crisis meeting in Frascati, PCO VIII, the

COP21 report, the manual on *Laudato Si'*, and the refugee programs in Malta and Lebanon.

The Commission discussed its proposed activities and programs for 2016. They include the finalization and presentation of the JPIC Handbook to the General Council, various JPIC training programs and other important meetings to be held in India, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Ivory Coast, WSF-Canada, and Europe, and planning a JPIC International Summit.

A highlight of the meeting was the visit of Mrs. Victoria Alvarado, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy to the Holy See. She spoke to the Commission on the Church-State relationship and the US government's global com-

mitment to the value of religious freedom. "Freedom of religion is not the same as freedom from religion," she said. She also emphasized the correlations between freedom of religion and prosperity and community development.

The JPIC Commission expressed solidarity the migrants, refugees, and the victims of the earthquake in Peru. It concluded with the firm decision to work relentlessly for the issues of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, following the teaching and example of Pope Francis, and according to the decisions of PCO VIII.

[See the photos-report in more detail](#)



Italian-language Ongoing Formation Course in Jerusalem



The ongoing formation course for Italian-speaking friars was held in the Holy Land from May 1-28, 2016. For three weeks a group of nine friars made a formative journey of biblical updating (archaeological visits and lectures) to strengthen them in their human and spiritual growth. The course, guided by Br. Giampiero M. Cognigni (International Formation Council) and Br. Roberto Tadiello (professor of Sacred Scripture, PR Venice), was meant to offer content that would let the friars take account of and evaluate their lives, and to ignite anew their image of God after many years of consecrated life. The varied schedule of study days was also enriched by some biblical trips. The contact with the biblical places and the afternoon meetings on Sacred Scripture helped the friars to rediscover the history of salvation in a deeper and more living way. Also particularly touching were the celebrations of the Eucharist

experienced in the different places recalled in many pages of the gospels, which assisted in grasping a truly 'incarnate' connection with the revelation of the God-with-us. Furthermore, during this month the friars had the grace of experiencing the holy week of the Orthodox brethren, thus tasting the greatest mystery of our faith by means of these rites, through which they breathed the greatness and richness of a faith that transcends the boundaries of time, of nations, and of the Church in her historical divisions.

The grace of this month is priceless – said the brothers at the end of the course – and perhaps we will only understand its importance and force when we take up again our daily lives in Italy, but we will never finish thanking the Lord who has called us to stay and rest with him (cf. Mk 6:31) after so many years of the apostolate. May our greeting and prayer from Jerusalem go out to the whole Order.

BICI 06

N° 294



End of the Academic Year



The traditional grateful party to end the academic year was held this past June 18 at the International College 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi.' A year of lectures, of cultural and spiritual growth, always in that fruitful tension between 'wisdom' and real life. Holy Mass with the General Minister presiding was celebrated at 6:30 p.m.

and there followed the convivial moments of the supper on the piazza of the Collegio, where delectable foods were shared in the company of many friars, friends, and supporters. Štefan Kožuh, General Vicar and Delegate of the General Minister for the Collegio, was also present along with various friars of the General Curia. Among

the many guests present there was also Mrs. Maria Manuela Lucas, Ambassador of Mozambique in Italy. The community of the International College is currently composed of 135 friars: 19 friars of the stable community, 87 students, 21 friars studying Italian, and 7 friars of the Historical Institute.

[Web page of the Collegio 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi'](#)

[Photo gallery of the Mass](#)

[Photo gallery of the party on the piazza](#)

[Video 1 – Minister's homily](#)

[Video 2 – Holy Mass](#)

The Capuchins of **Cape Verde** are going to **São Tomé and Príncipe** in mission

Three Capuchin friars will begin to work in São Tomé at the beginning of the pastoral year.

The mission, requested by Bishop Manuel Santos, will already be a reality this year thanks to the Custos of the Capuchins of Cape Verde, Br. Antonio Fidalgo.

Br. Antonio has just returned from São Tomé, where he went with a delegation to get to know the territory. The parish to be taken, Santa Cruz, boasts a diverse community and is found on the island of São Tomé. During the trip, Br. Antonio tried to get to know the environment that the friars will encounter. It is a place, as they say, where people live in misery in the middle of paradise.

It has not yet been determined who will be the volunteers or who will be in charge of those who will take responsibility for the mission. This move of three sons of St. Francis to São Tomé is happening

at the same time as Br. Bernardino Lima's upcoming move to the United States. "It is not an easy event for the Capuchins," affirms Br. Antonio.

During his travels on the African Continent, Br. Antonio took part

in the meeting of CONCAO which was held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast from the 11 to 16 of this past May. CONCAO unites the countries of western and central Africa.

(Radio Nova – Cape Verde)



500th anniversary of the birth of **St. Felix of Cantalice**

May 18, 2016, Via Veneto, Rome, Church of the Capuchin Friars Minor

[See the photos-report in more detail](#)



Second International Meeting of Capuchin Sisters

Br. Leonardo Ariel González
Delegate of the General Minister for the Capuchin Sisters



The international meeting of Capuchin sisters was held in Mexico from May 30 to June 10, 2016. On this occasion the presidents of the sisters' federations were invited in a particular way as well as the religious who assist the federations of Capuchin Poor Clares. The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration also participated and we received greetings and the promise of prayer from the Capuchin Sisters of Penitence in Switzerland. In one way or another and in mutual communion of life with the friars, the whole Capuchin contemplative family was present.

The theme of the meeting was taken from the Testament of St. Clare: "Recognize your vocation: the Son of God has made himself the Way." The specific topic that gathered us was: "The Constitutions of the Capuchin Poor Clares: current experience and critical points for consideration in a particular way, as well as the planning of the process of updating and enriching the text."

We dedicated some days to contemplation of current issues with the eyes of faith, listening to the reports of the presidents and the assistants regarding their respective federations, and in a particular way to post-conciliar changes, the

current experience of the Constitutions, and the critical points for which we realize that a renewal of the text is necessary.

Following this we took up a process of discernment, beginning from our vocation, thanks to two conferences of the General Minister along with the contributions made during the last international meeting in 2006, as well as the varied experiences and goals. We also had a day of retreat in order to place ourselves in a place of prayer and of reflection on the Constitutions.

The third stage was dedicated to mapping out the concrete paths towards the future, in a particular way the planning of the process of the revision of the text of the Constitutions. The first decision of the presidents was unanimous: this is the right time to take up this work! Given that the work would have to be shared, focused on certain concrete points, and a global revision, a clear agreement did not emerge. Therefore it was decided to proceed by a middle way, working in a particular way on certain focal points, in order to then look again at the text and its language so that these might be more purposeful and direct. An international commission of sisters will be appointed to do this.

Beyond this there was a consensus on certain general criteria regarding new foundations, the sisters' solidarity and on resources, as well as on the constitutions of new federations.

A study was also proposed on the possibility of an international confederation that would gather all the federations, including the associations of Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration and the Capuchin Sisters of Penitence, toward a common animation and coordination for all the Capuchin sisters.

We experienced intense days of communion in which brothers and sisters participated in a common discernment that brought us to marking out some interesting steps towards the future, with the purpose of giving new life to the charism. We are all invited to continue to walk in the footsteps of Francis and Clare, living in one family, accepting our differences and diverse points of view as a richness and giving ourselves to fraternal relationships without domination or subordination, in the seeking journey of each, following him 'who for us made himself the Way.'

[See the photos-story in more detail](#)