

The Latest from the General Definitory



ROME – During the meeting of the General Definitory, held from January 7 – 18 at the General Curia, in addition to reviewing the usual reports of pastoral and fraternal visits, the meetings of Conferences, triennial reports, and—this time—also the offices, services, cultural institutions and houses dependent on the General Minister, as well as answers to particular requests coming from the Circumscriptions of the Order, the following decisions were made:

Province of Goa: Br. John Dinesh Mendonca was appointed IV Provincial Definitor;

General Viceprovince of Guatemala-Honduras-El Salvador: Br. Efraín López Santos was named IV Councillor; International College: Requests for admission, study scholarships for 2013, and some extensions of obedience were approved.

New General Secretary



ROME – As of January 1, 2013, Br. Clayton Fernandes is the new General Secretary of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. He succeeds Br. Sidney D. Machado. Holding a licentiate in Sacred Scripture and speaking various languages, he was Vice-Secretary at the last General Chapter. Most recently he has served as Provincial Definitor in his Province of Goa. The Order offers him warm congratulations for the service he is set to carry out.

Appointments for the General Curia:

- Fraternal Service: as of February 1, 2013, Br. Tomasz Gawroński (PR Warsaw);
- Personal Secretary of the General Minister: as of Easter 2013, Br. Massimo Rosina (PR Venice)
- General Postulator: as of Easter 2103, Br. Carlo Calloni (PR Lombardy)
- General Secretary for Missionary Animation: as of June 1, 2013, Br. Cesar Fuentes Acuin, General Definitor (PR Philippines);
- 1st Vice-Secretary General, Br. Oscar Enrique Fernández-Prada Lavado, (PR Peru)
- Secretary for the Portuguese Language, as of March 10, 2013, Br. Francisco Lopes de Sousa Neto (PR Ceará & Piauí).

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Those leaving the Curia...

ROME – In the months of January and February, accompanied by our thanks and warm farewell, some friars will return to their respective provinces or go to other places after having offered their service to the Order at the General Curia. Those leaving are Br. Sidney D. Machado, of the Province of Parana-S. Catarina, who was General Secretary of the Order, Br. Bruno Kesangana, of the General Viceprovince of Congo, who carried out the service of Secretary for the French language, and Br. Tomasz Wroński, of the Province of Warsaw, director of the Office of Communications, who is about to depart to renew the Capuchin presence in Georgia. To these brothers we offer our thanks for their service to the Order and every good wish. ►



...and those arriving



ROME - **Br. Marek Przeczewski**, of the Province of Warsaw, who joined the General Curia at the beginning of January to take charge of the Office of Communications and to be secretary for the Polish language.

Br. Alejandro Núñez Ennabe (General Viceprovince of Guatemala-Honduras-El Salvador) arrived in the General Curia on January

13 to take up the position of Promoter of Solidarity, a service which aims to promote a form of economic equality in the Order. Through these efforts in financial resourcing, the formation, missionary activity, evangelization, and social work of the friars in poor countries have been made possible. To our new brothers in the Curia we offer our most joyful welcome!



TBLISI, Georgia – To determine the opening of a mission in the region, a delegation of the Provincial Ministers of northern Italy traveled to the republic of Georgia in the Caucasus region. Accompanied by bishop Giuseppe Pasatto from the 11 to the 14 of last

November, they visited the city where our presence and pastoral activity should begin, meeting also the religious and clergy already present in the area. Bishop Pasotto, the apostolic administrator for Latin Catholics, requested of the General Minister two years ago that the friars return to this land where they had been present up to 1845. Greeting the friars at the door of the cathedral of Tbilisi, the old church of the Capuchins, the bishop explained why he wished us to return: “You embody a way of life that is fraternal, conventual. This is a perspective that our Catholics see only in the monasteries of the Orthodox, and ask, ‘but is there a similar way of life also in the Catholic Church?’ Meeting the people makes you accessible to all and puts you close to the many situations of poverty that exist, such that you become an instrument of development and evangelization.” It was a brief but intense journey that provided a means to know concretely the reality of this country and to clarify the possibilities for a mission in this land (69,867 square kilometers with about four and a half million people, of which only 0.8% are Catholic). It was agreed that the first missionaries will arrive in March of 2013. Responding to the appeal of the General Minister, the Provincial Ministers have asked other friars to make themselves available to go, following the voice of the Holy Spirit. This news also opens the missionary focus to a different perspective from that in the past, when the classic ‘missions’ were entrusted to a single province; now the idea emerges that we can know how to respond better to missionary needs if we learn to collaborate. It will be necessary to be always attentive to these new challenges, which we imagine will be an important part of the developing future of the Order, and that we want to consider as calls of the Spirit.



Capuchins are safe

Rebellion in Central Africa



Central African Republic – As has been reported in the press, of late there have been new worries in the Central African Republic. In November 2012 three rebel factions who fought in the last phase of central African conflict, dissatisfied that President Bozizé had not kept promises, have joined forces to form a coalition under the name “Seleka” (Alliance). The rebels have organized attacks on government forces and have crossed a large part of the country. We asked Br. Raffaele Maddalena, Viceprovincial Minister of Chad-Central African Republic, for first hand news, and this is what he reports to us: “A few weeks ago there were movements of the rebels, more groups, from the north and north-east towards the south. They have easily occupied half of the country without resistance from the army of the local government. They arrived 80 kilometers from Bangui, the capital, and there found the military of Chad, intervening to keep them from taking the capital. Then other foreign forces also arrived. This moved the government, the opposition, and the rebels to meet in Libreville to seek an agreement. Thanks be to God, after a few days of dialogue, they reached an agreement. Now we hope that what has been decided will be put into practice for the good of the ►

population, which has suffered and is suffering so much. Regarding our friars, only the fraternity of Gofa, which is the most isolated towards the center of the country, was visited by the rebels coming down from the north. They asked for a car to take the wounded to the hospital, and the car was returned in the evening. The brothers did not have any trouble. Let us pray to the Lord that he put into the hearts of the various leaders the wisdom that makes them understand the importance of peace as a basis for the development of the people.”



Orthodox Christmas in the little Community of Adaba

ROBE, Ethiopia – From the mission of Robe, Ethiopia, Br. Angelo Antolini, Capuchin friar and Apostolic Prefect of Robe, reports on the experience of Christmas. “At Adaba - says Br. Angelo - we celebrated a beautiful Christmas with the community. We were about 25. After the Mass we had a little procession with the Infant Jesus carried by the smallest of the children, all the way to our house where everyone shared coffee and sweets. Looking at the poor people, brothers and sisters of the Church of Adaba who were in front me - continues the Prefect - I saw the



letter of St. Paul to Titus (which I had commented upon in the homily) coming true, even though it was in a lighter form. I felt myself a part of this new people, these saints who live by the Spirit and are different from the world, seeking communion always, at all costs, even when it is broken by our weaknesses and our sins.” “Three years ago - concludes Br. Angelo - celebrating the same Eucharist on Christmas eve, there were four people and I remember having a made a serious act of faith in God, putting that community into his hands. Today we are almost thirty!”

What is the future of the Capuchins at Loreto?

The first meeting of the Commission for the Shrine at Loreto

LORETO – The first meeting of the Commission for the Shrine of Loreto was held on December 11. The Commission, consisting of a group of friars charged with rethinking and enhancing our presence and pastoral service at the Shrine, entrusted to the Order by Pope Pius XI, is composed of three members appointed by the General Minister: Br. Francesco Colacelli, Provincial Minister of Foggia and President of CIMPCap, Br. Giulio Criminesi, Provincial Minister of the Marches, and Br. Alessandro Ferrari, guardian of the fraternity of Milan, as well as two members appointed by the Council of the President of CIMPCap: Br. Giuliano Viabile, Rector of Sanctuary of Loreto, and Br. Matteo Siro, Secretary of CIMPCap. In the course of the meeting at Loreto, the Commission noted the reality and the importance of our presence in the place, above all the great, quiet service that the friars of the Province of the Marches, together with other brothers, have carried out for many years with commitment and discretion. The Commission also met with the Territorial Prelate of Loreto, His Excellency Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci,

who praised and thanked the brothers who are currently present at the Shrine. At the same time he also pointed out the need to enhance the activities, especially in certain areas such as hospitality, youth ministry, liturgy, and in updates to



moral theology. Meeting with the Capuchin fraternity of Loreto at the end, the Commission received proposals expressed by the friars and at the same time presented its own for promoting and enhancing our presence. The Commission will report on what emerged during the meeting to the next Assembly of CIMPCap, to be held at Loreto.

A Cappuccino for Africa

One coffee in Poland for ten meals in Africa



KRAKOW, Poland – Several Polish friars have decided to raise funds for the needy in Africa using the drink from the bar that represents them best: cappuccino. Cafes in six Polish cities have joined the three-day initiative being called, ‘A Cappuccino for Africa.’

With this initiative, the friars of Krakow have raised funds that will be sent to the Central African Republic and Chad. The coordinator of the project, Br. Piotr Gajda, explained that he was one of the friars to have the idea, when he was having a coffee last year and asked himself how the association between the Order and the beverage could be used to help the missions in Africa. The friars make it known that for each cappuccino sipped in Poland, ten hot meals could be given to children in the Central African Republic.

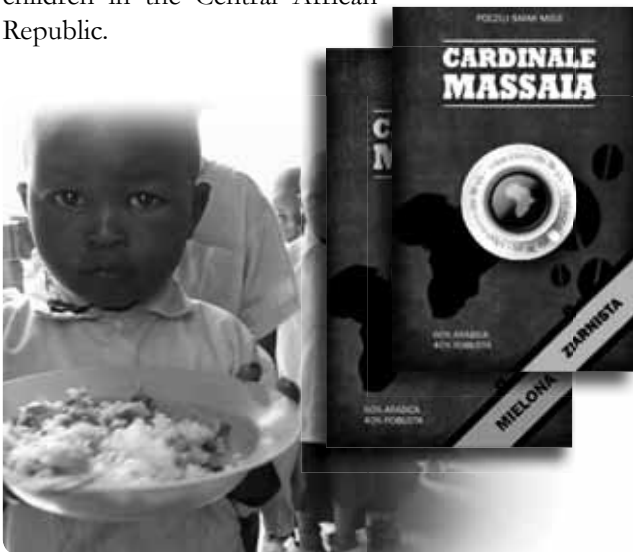


Missionary Michelangelo Serafini dies at 104

Brother Michael (as he was affectionately called by the people) made the friary of Aracaju a veritable pool into which the city poured out its pains, doubts, and anguish in the Sacrament of confession, to which the holy Capuchin dedicated many hours a day. His popularity was so rooted in the people that the state TV followed the phases of his long illness with updates almost every day, which were awaited with anxious emotion. The funeral was an apotheosis for the people who were there, through the emotions that he brought out in everyone and for the characteristic devotion with which he was accompanied by the most devoted “people of the northeast” up to moment of his burial, in the shrine he himself built.

BRAZIL – Father Michelangelo Serafini da Cingoli (Macerata), Capuchin, died on January 9 at Aracaju, capital of the State of Sergipe, in Brazil. He was 104 years old, obviously the senior member of the Capuchin Province of Nossa Senhora da Piedade and Sergipe. Of the 77 years he lived in Brazil, where he arrived at the end of 1935, Father Michelangelo spent almost 50 at Aracaju, where he built the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus the Apostle, venerated in all of Brazil. Concerned for the condition of abandoned children, he founded Gurilandia (City of the child), a school designed especially for them. He built many churches, almost all of his own design.

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Important decisions regarding the Franciscans International



ASSISI – At the beginning of October 2012, the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF) met with the Administrative Council (IBD) of Franciscans International (FI) to discuss the economic problems facing FI. A unanimous decision was made to downsize the organization of FI, reducing it to a core-team of employees: a lawyer in New York, two in Geneva, and one in Bangkok. This team will be guided by Markus Heinze, OFM as head of transition, who took up this responsibility on December 10, 2012. Sr. Denise Boyle, FMDM, current executive director of FI, has offered her resignation, to take effect on January 13, 2013.

