

INDEX

- 01 The Northern Outposts
News from the General Curia
- 02 The Childrens' City of the Immaculate
- 03 25 years of Capuchin presence in Paraguay
Easter in East Timor
A Catholic Easter more than a month late
Initiatives for self-sufficiency
Franciscans and WYD Rio 2013
Br. Pawel Bielecki OFMCap recognized
- 04 Course in Franciscan spiritual accompaniment in Brazil
Faculty Council of the Lusaka College
New General Minister of the OFM
Br. Nicholas Polichnowski elected General Minister of the TOR

The Northern Outposts

The General Minister visits our brothers in Sweden and Iceland

“The trip to our friars in Sweden was really a lovely surprise for me”—confesses the General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, after the visit to our Capuchin places, together with Br. Štefan Kožuh, General Vicar, first in Sweden and then in Iceland during the first days of May. The Capuchin friars in Sweden are originally from the Province of Warsaw and have been present in the country since 1987. There are 10, but during this year two more should arrive. They are there to serve the local Church, first of all the immigrants of the Catholic faith and wish to witness to our fraternal life as Capuchins. From this point of view, as Br. Mauro



in Sweden...



Henryk Józef Nowacki, who met with the General Minister in Stockholm.

In Iceland, on the other hand, the friars who live and work there are from the Province of Slovakia. They have been there since 2007 and currently there are three of them. A large parish in the eastern part of the island has been entrusted to the Capuchins, where the living conditions are very difficult on account of the isolation and distance from the capital. In a matter of just a few years the friars have acquired buildings and transformed them into a parish center and a small chapel for the faithful. “Our presence in the east—explains Br. Mauro—is due to the new aluminum plant and the massive presence of im-

migrant workers, primarily from Poland. The brothers are busy because there is an openness to everyone. Their mastery of the Polish language helps them in the pastoral work.” “What we are doing here—summarizes the Minister—represents the principle of willingness to go where nobody wants to go.” Our presence needs to be reinforced with more personnel and the bishop is ready to give us a house and entrust to us a service in the capital. Iceland is an open island and awaits more courageous Capuchins.



...and in Iceland



News from the General Curia

ROME, Italy – On this past May 20 there was a celebration of thanksgiving and farewell for three of our brothers who have served in our General Curia in recent years. Br. Helmut Rakowski, having originally arrived from the Rhine-Westphalian Province and now of the Province of Germany, has worked for almost ten years as General Secretary for Missionary Animation and (until 2009) also as Promoter of Solidarity. Br. José Ángel Torres Rivera, of the Viceprovince of Puerto Rico, has been Vice Procura-



tor and Secretary of the Office of the General Procurator since 2008, but has also served as vicar and finally as guardian and bursar of the fraternity of the Curia. Finally, Br. Wiesław Hajduczenia, of the Province of Warsaw, after having first come to Italy to be assigned to the fraternity of Frascati in 2007, was then transferred to the General Curia and carried out various fraternal services, above all as porter. The new guardian of the General Curia is Br. Marek Przechowski of the Province of Warsaw.



Dear brothers, from the city of San Martín de Porres y Santa Rosa de Lima I would like to share with you some information about the Childrens' City of the Immaculate, an emblematic social service of the Capuchin Province of Peru.

Our founder...

Father Illuminato was a light for abandoned children. Born into the Minasso Preve family, he was given the name Francis, but in the Capuchin world he was called Father Illuminato of Riva Ligure. But for the people of Lima he was just Padre Illuminato. For the little ones of Childrens' City he was everything: Father, teacher, friend... Father Illuminato left Italy for Peru on August 8, 1949, at age 47, to work in the parish of St. Peter in Chorrillos. Very soon he realized that the poverty and misery of the outskirts made for street children without guidance and in grave moral danger. For their sake he dedicated himself body and soul to create a refuge for these children. To reach his goal he was not ashamed to beg in public places: fairs, markets, on the streets. It was his constant commitment. The refuge, the Childrens' City, began to emerge like an oasis in the middle of the sand. In 1953 he was sick following a bicycle accident and had to return to Genoa, where he died on April 11, 1969, leaving as a testament his living example of generosity and solidarity with poor and abandoned children.

Our story

The Childrens' City of the Immaculate was founded on October 29, 1955 by our Capuchin brother Padre Illuminato. His social awareness led him to create this work for the youth that were abandoned and without family at that time, so as to give them moral protection and education. With a group of children he occupied some Peruvian state land to begin his project. After a few years he succeeded in having the state award him 145 hectares to cultivate, raise animals and to build the first places for the children to stay and workshops for

their work. Upon the death of Father Illuminato in 1969, the Capuchins left the project and the work passed to the direction and administration of the city of Lima and other administrators. In 1992 the Capuchin friars returned to direct and administer the Childrens' City with the same enthusiasm and the same faith as the founder. Currently we have only 20 hectares of land, in which there



by Br. Sergio Ramos ofmcap

The Childrens' City of the Immaculate

Our goal... better young people...

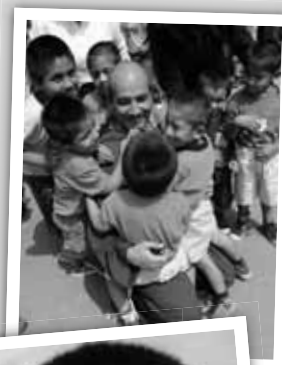
are nine halls – where about 250 children and young people stay, divided according to age and level of study – the chapel – where we celebrate the Eucharist every day and have moments of adoration and praise of the Lord – the refectory, sports fields, green areas and workshops in carpentry, shoemaking, baking, sewing, auto mechanics, mechanical production and computation. We have a school bearing the name of the founder, "Padre Illuminato" that welcomes more than 900 students, boys and girls, in the initial, primary, and secondary levels.

Childrens' City of the Immaculate...

It is a non-profit institution that seeks the integral development of the children and young people that come to it, giving them a Christian and human formation, besides food, basic health care, psychological attention, basic education, the technical training for work that allows them to become independently employed, programs of promotion and protection that help them remove themselves from social and moral dangers, and spiritual accompaniment to strengthen the faith—based in Franciscan spirituality.

Our goal... better young people...

Our desire is that the young people who leave Childrens' City should have learned to love God and to thank him, will live with a comportment based on Christian values, have the will to improve themselves and the capacity to do it, know how to take advantage of their own gifts and ability to realize their goals in life, that they want to commit themselves to serving the community, can be successfully employed in the technical area in which they have specialized, and



will be committed Christians in the Catholic faith and in the church and live brotherhood as the principle of Franciscan spirituality.

Thank you, Jesus!



25 years of Capuchin presence in Paraguay



PARAGUAY – The Capuchin Custody of Paraguay has celebrated 25 years of presence. The first friars arrived on March 11, 1987 (Custody since 2007). By their presence in Paraguay, in this short span of time, the Capuchins have made an incisive and fruitful implantation. It can be said that the Capuchins are known today not only where they have their residences (Asuncion, Pastoreo and Ciudad del Este), but in the whole country, thanks to their choice of working through the means of social communication (radio, television, the press.) They are known and loved at the ecclesial, socio-political, and popular levels. Currently the Custody of the Capuchins in Paraguay has 11 Brazilians and fifteen Paraguayans among the priests and professed. About 25 young aspirants and postulants, the fruit of a committed and intense vocation outreach, allows them to look with optimism towards the future of the Order in this South American context.

East TIMOR - Br. Ben Johnson (PR Australia) visited East Timor with a small group of young people from Melbourne. The trip offered young people an immersion experience closely associated with the Capuchin missionaries that live in East Timor. Visiting various villages and ministering to the sick and elderly in their homes during Holy Week, in Samelai the group was “particularly struck by the beauty and universality of the Mass in the open chapel on the top of the hill, surrounded by the children of the village”—as they say in a reflection on the experience published on the website of the Province of Australia (capuchins.org.au). They go on to describe the joy of joining in the celebration of the Christ Mass in Bacau and the Easter Vigil in Samelai: “It is an amazing experience to celebrate the Easter liturgies in a culture vastly different from our own. In saying that, however, we recognized the true universality of the church through these liturgies.” The group concludes its reflection

Easter in East Timor

by saying that, “all in all it has been enlightening to step out of ourselves and enter into the greatly different reality of one of our poorest neighbors.”



A Catholic Easter more than a month late GREECE – The Catholics of Greece, among them also ours brothers of the Custody, celebrated Easter only on this past May 15, following the Orthodox calendar for social and ecumenical reasons, delaying the feast over a month with respect to the West. “Despite the ‘delay’ – says the newsletter of the Capuchins of Trivento – everything went well.”

Initiatives for self-sufficiency

MOZAMBIQUE – In the current situation of the diminishment of ‘missionary’ friars in Mozambique and the growth of the local clergy and religious life, things are also changing in the economic aspects of our life. In order to face the demands of greater self-sufficiency, the Mozambican brothers have plans, recently approved by the Council of the same Viceprovince, whereby a friar can work and at the same time do his apostolate. The first initiative is a small auto workshop to be set up at our house in Quelimane. It is a work in great demand in a city where the use of second-hand cars is growing. Br. Samuel Ofinar has been charged with starting the project. The second initiative consists in revitalizing the small carpentry workshop of the fraternity of Mocuba, but which still requires some important machines.

Franciscans and WYD Rio 2013

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Unlike at the last WYD in Madrid, in Rio there will be an exclusive meeting of young people with the General Ministers of the branches of the Franciscan Order, organized by the FFB (Familia Franciscana do Brasil). The meeting will take place at the Capuchin Church (St. Sebastian – Tijuca) in Rio de Janeiro on July 24 and will be open to all without the need to sign up. Changes to the times are possible to adapt to the schedule of Pope Francis. For detailed information see: www.jmjfranciscanos.com

Br. Paweł Bielecki OFMCap recognized

NEW YORK, USA – Br. Paweł Bielecki OFMCap, of the Province of Krakow, having served many years in the General Viceprovince of Near-East and currently a student of Islamic studies in New York, USA, has recently received an award of recognition “for his important contribution to the current struggle against hatred and intolerance in America.” The award is from the Southern Poverty Law Center, founded by Morris Dees, a prominent human-rights activist in the USA. In recognition of the work of our brother for human rights in the Near East and in America, his name will be written on the Wall of Tolerance in Montgomery, Alabama – for many years a place that has seen many violent acts of racial and religious strife – “to be an inspiration for all who choose to take a position...



against hate.” Following this recognition, Br. Pawel has also been invited to take part in the conference of the ACRL-RfP (African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace), to be held on May 17-20, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. This council is the largest and most representative inter-religious platform in Africa, with a mission to mobilize the African religious community and their leaders for the building, in common, of peaceful, just, and harmonious societies.

New General Minister of the OFM



Br. Michael Anthony Perry has been elected General Minister of the Order of Friars Minor ad complementum sexennium. Born in Indianapolis (USA) in 1954, Br. Michael has been General Vicar and Procurator of the Order. He has also been Provincial Minister of the Sacred Heart Province (USA), and has served his Province in the theological formation of young friars and those in post-novitiate formation. He has worked in the International Commission for JPIC and was a missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for ten years. He has also worked for Catholic Relief Services and at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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Br. Nicholas Polichnowski elected General Minister of the TOR

GAMING, Austria – Br. Nicholas Polichnowski of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (USA) has been elected as General Minister to lead the TOR for the next six years. The CXI General Chapter of the TOR, which began on May 12,



took as its theme, “Franciscan Fraternity: The Privileged Place of our Life of Faith.” The Third Order Regular of St. Francis is present today in Italy, Croatia, Spain, France, Germany, the USA, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Paraguay, Mexico, Peru, Sweden, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Their places and friaries are 248 in all. The works of the apostolate carried out by the TOR are many: parish ministry, works of mercy for the needy, schools for youth, catechesis and preaching, teaching, the apostolate of the press, and missions.

Course in Franciscan spiritual accompaniment in Brazil

PASSO FUNDO, Brazil – The sixth AEFran course (Acompanhamento Espiritual Franciscano) took place from April 15 to May 15, led by Br. Sergio Dal Moro,

AEFRAN course is designed to form men and women religious in spiritual accompaniment according to Franciscan spirituality, following St. Bonaventure’s “The Journey of the Mind to God.” In this sixth course there were 13 participants: 8 friars and 5 sisters. There was one OFM and 7 Capuchins from Amazonia, West Brazil, Ceará-Piauí and Rio Grande do Sul. The AEFran course is an extension of ESTEF, which is the Franciscan school of theology and spirituality of the Province of Rio Grande do Sul, recognized by the Brazilian ministry of education. The seventh AEFran course will take place after Easter 2014.



General Definitor of the Order for Brazil, Sr. Maria Kuisne, OSF, and Sr. Maria das Graças, SMIC. The

ministry of education. The seventh AEFran course will take place after Easter 2014.

Faculty Council of the Lusaka College

LUSAKA, Zambia – The College, the only of its kind, serves the study and formation of young friars of the three Franciscan Orders. Every year the general definitories of the Franciscan family and the superiors of the Franciscan circumscriptions working in Africa—which have students studying there—take part in the Faculty Council. In addition to the general definitors, the following major superiors and provincial delegates took part in the meeting: 5 Conventual Friars, 4 OFM, 4 Capuchins, and also 4 Superiors of other Congregations affiliated with the school (SVD, Marian Hill, Oblates, SMA). In all there were 19 participants. Presiding at the assembly this year was the Viceprovincial Minister of the Capuchins in Zambia, Br. Thomas Zulu. The most important points of the day were the following: 1) Review of the teach-

ing staff. At the College, affiliated to the Pontifical University “Antoniano” in Rome, 13 professors are currently teaching, among them 2 OFMConv, 1 OFM, 3 OFMCap, 3 of other Congregations and 4 women (of whom 3 are religious). 2) The situation of the students. In



the academic year 2012-2013 there were 145 students.