



## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GENERAL VICE PROVINCE OF KENYA

# DECREE

(Prot. N. 00046/03)

The arrival of six Maltese brothers in Garissa, Kenya in January and February 1974 signalled the beginning of the Capuchin work of evangelization in that nation. In the intervening thirty years, the ministry of the brothers has been instrumental in the creation of two dioceses, the Diocese of Garissa on 3 February 1984 with Most Rev. Paul Darmanin, OFM<sup>Cap.</sup>, as the first bishop and the Diocese of Malindi on 2 June 2000 with Most Rev. Francis Baldacchino, OFM<sup>Cap.</sup>, as first bishop.

The Custody of Garissa was created in January 1978. In 1981, the first group of young Kenyans entered an aspirancy program in Garissa. Recognizing the rapid implantation of the Order, the general definitory elevated the Custody of Kenya to the status of a vice province on 3 July 1996. The boundaries of the new vice province included the entire Republic of Kenya. The vice province was entrusted to the Province of Malta. The new vice province included 18 Maltese brothers and 10 Kenyan brothers in perpetual vows as well as 17 in temporary vow. Today, there are 10 finally professed Maltese brothers and 22 Kenyans with an additional 16 in temporary vows indicating that our Order may now begin serious preparations for the creation of a province in Kenya.

This intent was signalled in a letter addressed by the general minister to the provincial minister of Malta on 10 March 2002 (Prot. N. 00134/02):

“We wish to maintain the close fraternal relationship between the Province of Malta and the Vice Province of Kenya;

We wish to establish those structures and supports which best serve the continued implantation of the Order and the establishment of an autonomous province of Kenya.”

A subsequent letter of the general minister addressed to the provincial minister of Malta (Prot. N. 00686/02) proposed that these objectives will best be obtained by the creation of a general vice province in Kenya in which the Province of Malta and the general curia join in a partnership in favour of Kenya. In this partnership, the Province of Malta will continue to embrace Kenya as its primary mission, sustaining it by the presence of Maltese missionary brothers, fraternal visits of the provincial minister and the mission secretary of the province, exchange of bulletins and newsletters and continued financial support. The general minister and his definitory assumes juridic responsibility for the vice province and pledges to exercise that vigilance which is required by the *Constitutions*.

A consultation of the brothers of Kenya conducted during the pastoral visit of Br. Vicente Kiaziku, General Definitory, in May 2002 was favourable to the new general vice province. In a letter dated 24 September 2002 (Prot. N. 00686/02), the provincial minister, with the consent of his definitory, wrote:

“The great majority of our brothers in the province have expressed, in various ways, that they are in favour of this partnership ... . Kenya is the place where we accepted to be present about thirty years ago and we shall continue to cooperate with the general curia in this proposed new partnership in all possible ways.”

Therefore, in accord with all canonical provisions,

**we, with the consent of the general definitory, according to the norms of canon law and our Constitutions (cf. 111.1), constitute and declare established, the General Vice Province of Kenya, with all the rights and obligations of the general vice provinces of the Order.**

This decree will receive legal force on 12 February 2003, the day of its promulgation. The boundaries of the general vice province will be the same as the national boundaries of the Republic of Kenya. The new general vice province shall continue to proclaim the reign of God under the patronage of St. Francis, the little brother of Assisi.

We consider as members of this general vice province:

- all the brothers who, at the time of issuing this decree, have professed as members of the provincial Vice Province of Kenya;
- all the brothers who, at the time of the erection of the General Vice Province of Kenya, have opted to be its members;
- all the brothers who will make their profession as members of this general vice province.

In accord with n. 111.4 of our *Constitutions*, having considered the consultative vote of the perpetually professed brothers of the Vice Province of Kenya, with the consent of the general definitory given during our meeting of 7 January 2003, we hereby appoint as vice provincial minister and councillors, the following brothers:

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Vice Provincial Minister: | Br. Isidor Peterhans |
| First Councillor:         | Br. Moses Mwangi     |
| Second Councillor:        | Br. Joseph Sifuna    |
| Third Councillor:         | Br. Spiro Galea      |
| Fourth Councillor:        | Br. Publius Mair     |

Furthermore, all brothers with perpetual vows who are in the service of the general vice province, shall participate in the first chapter of the general vice province (cf. *Constitutions*, 111.4) to be held within one year. While treating the life and witness of the brothers, the chapter shall update the statute of the vice province as well as the chapter and electoral procedures to reflect the reality of the new general vice province.

The new vice provincial minister and council shall also draw up a fraternal agreement with the

Province of Malta to preserve and strengthen the important fraternal ties with the founding province.

On this occasion we wish to thank the brothers of the Province of Malta for the constant support they have given to the Vice Province of Kenya. We congratulate the brothers of the new vice province and commend them to the care of St. Francis under whose patronage they live and we implore God's blessings in abundance on the life and work of the brothers of the general vice province.

Given at Rome at the General Curia, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2003, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord.

br. Marek Przechowski  
General Secretary, OFMCap.

br. John Corriveau  
General Minister, OFMCap.