

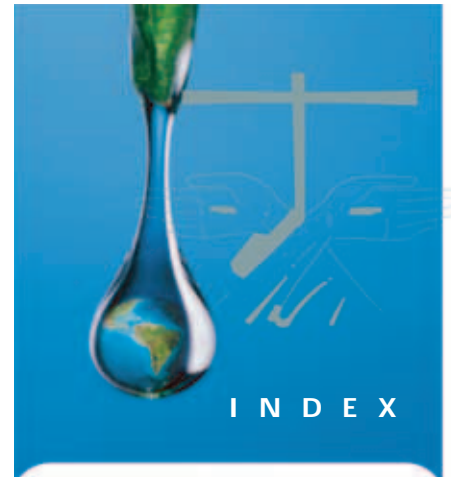


A Capuchin among the new Cardinals

H.H. Pope Benedict XVI held his first Consistory on March 24, 2006, for the creation of 15 new cardinals among whom 12 are "electors" and three are over 80 years. These three have been chosen after considering the service they had given to the Church. It was the Pope himself who announced the names on February 22 last at the end of the Wednesday general audience. Pope Benedict said : " With the creation of the new Cardinals, therefore, I intend to bring to 120 the number of Member Electors of the College of Cardinals, as fixed by Pope Paul VI of venerable memory. It is appropriate to make this announcement on the Feast of the Chair because the task of Cardinals is to sustain and assist the Successor of Peter in carrying out the apostolic office that has been entrusted to him at the service of the Church. Among the new cardinals there is our brother Msgr Sean Patrick O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston. Cardinal O' Malley is the tenth Capuchin cardinal in the history of the Order. The last one was Antonio Maria Barbieri (1892-1979) who was Archbishop of Montevideo, Uruguay. He was created cardinal by Pope John XXIII on December 15, 1958 ●



2006 consistory

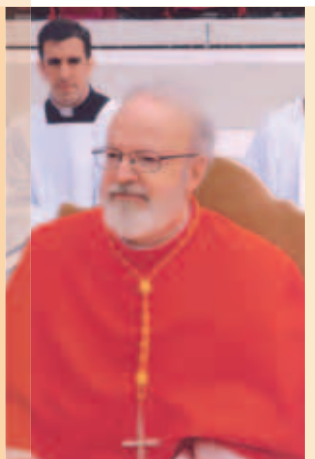


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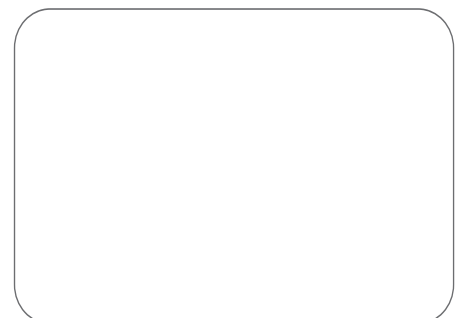
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Sean Patrick O'Malley

He was born in Lakewood on June 29, 1944; ordained priest in 1970. In 1984, he was appointed Bishop Co-adjutor of St Thomas diocese, in the Virgin Islands. In 1992, he was transferred to the diocese of Fall River, Massachussets. In September 2002, Pope John Paul II sent him to Florida, Palm Beach, and since 2003 he has been Metropolitan Archbishop of Boston. To our Brother, we express our congratulations and best wishes in the name of all the staff of BICI ●



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Quito (Ecuador) - The Ministers and Delegates of the Latin American continent met for their Tenth Assembly of the ALAC in Quito, Ecuador, on March 5-12, 2006, in preparation for the general Chapter of 2006. It is our vocation as friars minor which unites us, it was asserted. This gift of God which had been manifested to our brother Francis of Assisi eight centuries ago is coming in a special way to us, the capuchins who are living in Latin America, as a reminder and a prophesy, as lived faith and witness of martyrdom. Reunited these days in the ALAC, we gave a look of deep contemplation and profound commitment to the realities of our people and the challenges which we have to face. At the same time we are conscious that "another world is possible" because it is this that God wants and we adhere to his will. Starting from this reflection, the participants elaborated some proposals which will help to live more faithfully the call to be friars minor :

1. As minors, we take with humility the place of those put aside by our world;
2. With our Gospel options, we support the struggles and the demands of our peoples, especially the most poor;
3. Propose dialogue in all its forms as an instrument of communion and proclamation of universal salvation of which we are collaborators;
4. Proclaim with courage that "sister creation" is in fact our sister and cannot be transformed in an instrument of dominion and of future wars;
5. Remember that Christian love demands that we arrive to the heart of the immediate and concrete needs of our all;
6. Proclaim with transparency and humility that we are signs of hope and agents and promoters of peace and joy (cfr VII PCO, 45);
7. Take into consideration that the diversity of cultures is a richness which we have to accept with respect, because all the cultures are sisters;
8. Come closer to those people who show a special sensibility for justice, peace and ecology, and work in communion with them.

We are confident that our contributions can help to animate all the brothers of the other circumscriptions and conferences to move together along the same road of Francis of Assisi ●

Xth Assembly of ALAC



Meeting of ASMEN



Lahore (Pakistan) - The brothers forming the ASMEN Conference living and working in the Middle East met to share their experiences and try to find together the best way to answer to the challenges which they have to face and how to renew their commitment to live in peace and solidarity : the two pillars of Franciscan-Capuchin spirituality. The meeting, presided over by Brother Ephrem Bucher, General Definitor, was held in Lahore, Pakistan, between February 21 and 24. Among the various points discussed, each circumscription shared the present situation in which the brothers are living, the relation with the muslim world and the possibility of exchange among the brothers in the various jurisdictions. The dialogue with the Muslims is a great challenge for us Capuchins. At present the dialogue is only possible at the level of shared experiences of life, of human values (like tolerance, peace and love), and so forth. But we cannot discuss anything on doctrinal level. As Franciscans, we have to live the missionary experience of St Francis : that is to live with them in respect, simplicity and humility : a behaviour of peace and respect which renders our witness and our proclamation credible. The participants in the Conference were very happy with the meeting and especially with the fraternal and generous welcome on the part of the brothers of the Pakistan Viceprovince ●



Bro Leopoldo of Alpandei

Granada (Spain) – The 50th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Leopold of Alpandei was celebrated by the Province of Andalusia on February 8-9, 2006. With this celebration which was presided over by Card. Saraiva, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the Province gave the start of the Jubilee Year. His Eminence who came purposely from Rome was assisted by Br. Aurelio Laita, General Vicar, who represented the General Minister, Br. Alfonso Ramírez Peralbo, the Vice-Postulator, the provincial Ministers of the CIC and the Archbishop of Granada. Present also were the highest civil authorities.

The provincial Minister of Andalusia, Br. Mariano Ibañez, in the name of all the capuchins, expressed his thanks to all those present in the celebration.

The address given by Tico Medina, Br. Leopold's great devotee, merits special mention; he gave the overall note to the celebrations when he enthusiastically moved the audience to stand at the opening of his talk quoting the poet Francisco A. de Icaza whose citation hangs against the old wall of the Alcazaba in Alhambra which state "Woman, give your offering, because there is nothing in life, nothing in my life, as the joy to speak to Br. Leopold of Granada". The celebration on the following day, started at 8.00 in the morning with a Eucharistic concelebration presided over by the Archbishop of Granada, Msgr Mons. Francisco Javier,



and numerous Capuchins. The celebrations were brought to an end by a talk given by Mr José María Javierre who spoke about "Br. Leopold, the carrier of human needs"

The manifestations at Granada

reached their climax at Madrid on February 20. At

7 p.m. on that evening,

in the crypt-chapel of the Capuchin church at

Medinaceli the official opening of the Process

on the miracle attributed to the intercession of

Br. Leopold was held: the diocesan Tribunal,

presided over by the Delegate Judge, Fr Ricardo

Quintana, representing Madrid's Archbishop,

Card. Antonio María Rouco Varela, was constituted. This was

followed by the taking of the oath on the part of the members of the Tribunal

who signed the relative document. The witnesses

who are called to give their testimony, their relatives, friends and the numerous Capuchin brothers of the Provinces of Andalusia and Castilla followed the whole ceremony with great attention.

They all lived the intense event with great joy ●



50th anniversary from the death of Br. Leopoldo of Alpandei and official opening of the Process "on the miracle" at Madrid

First Profession

Mirembe (Uganda) : On January 9, 2006, seven novices (four from the General Viceprovince of Ethiopia and three from the Custody of Uganda) made their first profession in the hands of Brother William Andrade, Regular Superior of the Custody. The celebration was held in the novitiate of Mirembe among the joy of the Capuchin brothers, parents, relatives and many friends who participated fully in the event and prayed together for these our young brothers ●



Krakow (Poland) : In a society marked by deep contrasts, today the Capuchins interest themselves in poverty and offer a hot meal and a shelter to those who have nothing. They remain close to people who are alone or old, to the youth who are in disarray and to those who are forced to live emarginated and lose good values in life. These are the daily activities of the Social Work of Padre Pio which the Capuchin brothers of Krakow offer to those in need. For years, their friary in the city has been a point of reference to all the hundreds in need and call at the door asking material and spiritual assistance. In 2002, the friars thought that when the help given to others is more organized the results that follow would be greater. Thus near the friary they built The Kitchen of Saint Lazarus and founded the Social Work of Padre Pio with a special Statute which is inspired by the examples and the teachings of Saint Pio of Pietralcina. The friary is a place of contact for all those living in a vast range of material and spiritual poverty. The duty of the Capuchins is to help the open expressions of poverty and to discover those hidden in order to assist everyone beyond the needs of emergency; thus those who are in need can recover their lost dignity.

Today, the Social Work of Padre Pio expresses itself through its various services : the dining room is a welcoming, functional, clean and beautiful place capable of receiving many people everyday; there are showers and wardrobes. The aim is to give the basic needs and restore dignity to those who have nothing at all. Those who do not have a home cannot have a place for their personal hygiene. Neither can the needy families pay the medicine, energy, water and gas bills; they cannot organize festivities when Christmas and Easter approach. Besides

all this, the Work of Padre Pio supports socio-therapeutic groups for children near our friaries and helps young students with bursaries. The project tries to establish with everyone a contact which goes beyond material needs that can be done or given. Through such fraternal contact it is possible to find



God and this gives the true meaning of the service offered by the brothers. In the future we want to extend the building complex of the Project in the friary of Krakow to create a special place for advisers. The Social Work of Padre Pio is sponsored in part by the Krakow Province; but above all it is supported financially by the offerings deducted from the taxes of the citizens. The Capuchin brothers together with voluntary lay people and sympathizers offer their services and their prayers ●

Centenary from the Birth of Padre Mariano of Turin



Rome - The first centenary of the birth of Padre Mariano Rodsenda falls on May 22, 2006. In fact he was born in Turin in 1906. With his smile and his greeting : "Peace and Good to all", Padre Mariano entered very naturally in the hearts of so many Italians who, in the mid-1950's, started to discover television with emotion. He dedicated himself to spread the gospel on the radio and above all on television. He died in Rome on March 27, 1972, in concept of holiness and from that day he was always seen as the "founder" of all those priests who speak on television. In order to commemorate this joyful event, many initiatives have been programmed and organized by the Capuchin Roman province ●

Br. Raniero Cantalamessa, who is somehow the heir of Padre Mariano, both for the habit he wears and for the themes he broadcasts every Saturday afternoon in the programme on Raiuno "Le ragioni della speranza" (The reasons for hope), asserts : "The model to whom we refer is without comparison, because Jesus was the most televised of all preachers. His gospel is full of short stories, parables, images, which immediately recall the daily life of the people. It is our only duty as priests who go on TV to increase the effort in order to transfer on the little screen that which Jesus made orally".



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