



General Chapter Final preparations

The 83rd General Chapter which will take place in our International College in Rome from August 28 to September 17 is now at the door. All the Brother Capitulars have to be at the College a few days before the opening of the Chapter which is scheduled for August 28. The preparatory work, translations and the printing of the different booklets is really a massive work. We are duty bound to thank all the brothers who have offered such a precious and concrete collaboration. In the meantime, the various appointments have been completed and this augurs an efficient running of the capitular works.

Themes to be dealt with

Besides the elections for the General Minister and the Definitory, several points will be presented for discussion: The General Minister's report together with the financial report will describe the journey made and the present situation of the Order.

These will serve as basis for reflection and a starting point for further discussion. Then, the Chapter will have to consider particular topics among which the following are of primary importance: "The Constitutions and the General Statutes", "Solidarity of personnel" and "Putting in practice the PCO VI". These themes have special interest for the life of the Order. But then it is due to the Chapter itself to decide both the items of the agenda, and when and how to discuss them.

Participants: Never so many

The celebration of the Ordinary General Chapter, as everybody knows, requires adequate preparation and the contribution of a great number of personnel who work "behind the scenes" but which is indispensable. There will be 175 brothers this time: 11 from the General Curia, 82 Provincial Ministers, 37 elected delegates from the Provinces, 31 Viceprovincial Ministers, 4 delegates from the Custodies, 10 delegates appointed by the General Minister and the Definitory. Besides these, there will be 40 other brothers with specific assignments like secretaries, translators, technicians) together with 15 helpers bringing a total of 230 in all ●

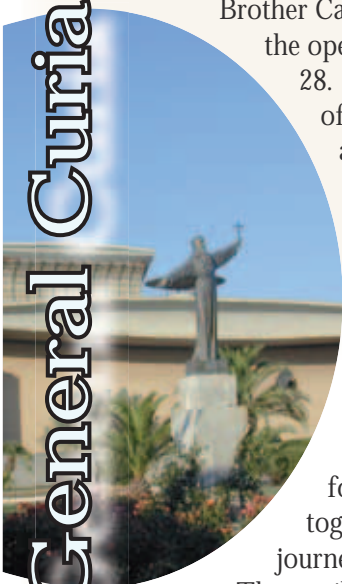


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General Curia





General Definitory Meetings

Rome: The General Definitory held its last plenary reunion between June 19 and 23 before the celebration of the General Chapter. The items dealt with were very numerous and of outstanding importance. Here is a brief summary of the most significant decisions taken :

- Appointment of Bro Antonio Belpiede, from the Foggia Province, as Assistant to the Legal Representative of the Order. He will be working together with Bro Giampiero Gambaro, Legal Representative, and both will see for the legal aspects of our Order.
- Preparations for the 83rd General Chapter (provisional programme, points and method for the discussion, daily time-table).
- The letter to be sent to all the Capitulars informing them about the time of arrival and departure together with the documents already prepared.
- Appointment of Bro Aurelio Biundo as IVth Definitor of the Messina Province to substitute Bro Giuseppe Remigio Targia who died on April 18.
- Reading and examining the triennial reports, the summaries of the pastoral visitations concluded by the General Definitors in the various Circumscriptions and information about the last Chapters recently celebrated and the latest reunions of the Conferences.
- Granting the permission to celebrate the Ordinary Chapter after the General Chapter to those Circumscriptions which had already asked but under condition that since such Chapters will have to be celebrated so close after the General Chapter, they have to ask again the new General Definitory with whom the Provinces would have to confirm their request.
- Approval of the Statute, as an addenda to the Regulations for the “St. Francis of Assisi Foundation”.
- Approval of some extraordinary projects within the International Economic Solidarity ●

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Rome - During the last meeting of the Conference of the Franciscan Family held in Rome, a long moment of sharing was dedicated to the preparations of two Centenaries which the Franciscan Family is preparing to celebrate, namely : The 8th Centenary of the Birth of St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-2007) and the 8th Centenary of the Approval of the Franciscan Charism on the part of the Church. The first Centenary Celebrations are already fixed in four special events: The inauguration on November 17, 2006, in Assisi; a Symposium of Studies to be held on February 23, 2007, at the Antonianum Pontifical University in Rome; an iconographical exhibition which will be opened the following day and will remain open throughout the whole month of March. This will be held in the Basilica of St Cosma and St Damian. The Celebrations of St Elizabeth will be concluded on November 16 and 17 in Assisi. The second Centenary will reach its climax in 2009; for this each branch

Two Centenaries in preparation

of the Franciscan Family will follow its own programme during the preparatory period. But then some joint celebrations will be held during the Centenary year. For both Centenaries, the Franciscan Family is preparing a Letter in which all the members of the Family will be asked to unite in celebrating these two important events which are so vital for our history and identity. Bro John Corriveau invited all the members of the Franciscan Family to be present on the morning of the coming September 14 during the Capuchin General Chapter for a brief meeting with the Capitulars and for a Eucharistic Celebration ●

Vatican City : On June 10, 2006, H.H. the Pope appointed Bro Paolo Martinelli Consultor of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Bro Martinelli is at present the President of the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality at the Pontifical University Antonianum, in Rome. We fraternally congratulate Bro Paolo for his new service ●

Appointment by the Holy See



New Bishop appointed

Vatican City: On May 31, 2006, H.H. Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bro Mário Marquez as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Vitória, Brazil. Before his appointment, Bro Mario was parish priest of the Cathedral "Rainha da Paz" of the Brazilian Military Ordinariate. He was assigned with the titular See of Nasai. Bro Mario was born on November 23, 1952 at Lucerna, in the diocese of Lages, in the State of Santa Catarina. He attended the Seminary of "Santa Maria" in Engenheiro Gutierrez and completed his philosophy course in the Friary "Bom Jesus" at Ponta Grossa and in the ITESC ("Theological Institute of Santa Caterina") in Florianopolis. He completed his theological studies in the same Institute. As a member of the Paraná and Santa Catarina Province, he entered the Novitiate on February 23, 1975, and made his first profession on February 22 of the following year. On October 6, 1979, he made his perpetual profession and then was ordained a priest on November 22, 1980. He was then appointed parish priest of "São Pedro" in Rancho Alegre and in 1981 was parish priest of "Nossa Senhora Aparecida" in Uraí. In 1985 was appointed Military Chaplain of the Air Force and two years later was Chaplain of the Military Base in Curitiba. In 1990 he served as Chaplain of the Air Base and was Vicar of the Parishes of "Nossa Senhora das Mercês" and "Nossa Senhora da Luz" in Curitiba. In 1994 he was Chaplain of the 2nd Regional Air Command of Recife and since 1996 Parish Priest of the Regional IInd Air Comando of Recife and since 1996, Parish Priest of "Rainha da Paz" Cathedral of the Military Ordinariate of Brasilia ●



New Postulants in Thailand



Samphran (Thailand): May 31, 2006, was a festive moment of grace for the members of the Thaiandese Delegation. The occasion was held in the Friary of Samphran. Seven young men have been accepted in the Order as Postulants. The celebration which was presided over by Bro Antonio Valsecchi, Superior of the Delegation, was attended by all the Brothers and the young aspirants of the circumscription. Four of the candidates hail from the House for Aspirants in Bangtan where they had completed their higher studies and lived a full year of particular discernment in their vocation. The other three have done their experience in the Friary of Samphran and completed their studies in the major seminary. We have to thank all the brothers of Thailand who are so dedicated in formation ●

03



The Capuchins celebrate their golden Jubilee in Papua New Guinea

Mendi (Papua – New Guinea) : With deep devotion and festive spirit, the people joined the friars to celebrate the 50 years of capuchin presence in Papua New Guinea. Several brothers from the U.S.A. were present at Mendi for this Golden Jubilee ●





Blessing of the square of St Lawrence Int. College and the Centenary of the Franciscan Missionaries of Christ Sisters

Rome: On Saturday June 24, Bro John Corriveau presided over a Eucharistic concelebration just in front of St Lawrence of Brindisi International College. Bro General was assisted by the General Vicar, Bro Aurelio Laita, and some General Definitors. There were present the Franciscan Missionaries of Christ Sisters of Rimini who have known and served the Brothers at the College for years. It was also an occasion to commemorate the Centenary of the aggregation of the said Sisters to the Capuchin Order in 1906. For 27 full years, they have also offered their most precious help, even though hidden but has been very important and significant in an International Community as that at the College. Thank you very much, Sisters ●

Fortaleza (Brazil): The Capuchin Brothers of the Province of "São Francisco das Chagas" of Ceará and Piauí set up for the second time in the city of Fortaleza, in Ceará, the "II MACC". The event was promoted also by the same Capuchin Brothers. The exhibition puts together the following categories : paintings, sculptures, designs, photos, installations, crafts, music and literature. Responsible for the Exhibition is the artist and sculptor Bro Ricardo Regis Ferreira Sales of the Capuchin province Ceará and Piauí. Other provinces as well are invited to take part and they can do so by contacting Bro Ricardo Regis: regisricardo@zipmail.com.br ●

Second Art Exhibition



Sacred Art in Wood of Othmar Winkler

Trento (Italy): The town council and the diocesan museum of Trent have promoted an exhibition of sacred art in wood of the artist Othmar Winkler (1907 – 1999). This will be held later this coming summer. Among the many artistic productions of the

sculptor, one needs to mention the cycle of 12 wooden statues representing saints and blessed of our capuchin Order which are preserved in the chapel of the General Curia. In fact two of this set of statues are at present on loan in the Trento exhibition ●

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Sant'Elia a Pianisi (Italy) : On June 17, 2006, the diocesan process on the life, virtues and sanctity of the Servant of God Raffaele da Sant'Elia a Pianisi, Capuchin spiritual director of Saint Pio of Pietralcina was solemnly closed. The closing session was presided over by the Bishop of Benevento. Among others present for the ceremony, there were the General Postulator Bro Florio Tessari, the provincial Minister, Bro Aldo Broccato, the vice-postulator Bro Camillo Colavita, who is responsible for the Canonization Cause, together with a large number of brothers from the Province of Saint Angelo and Padre Pio. This year, in fact, fall the 70th anniversary of the translation of the mortal remains of Bro Raffaele and the 190th anniversary of his birth ●

Diocesan Process Closed