



Editorial

The present number of BICI will reach you after the summer brief rest and while the 83rd general Chapter is going on. This is an elective Chapter and was inaugurated in Rome on August 28 and is scheduled to end by September 17. Every Chapter is a great event in the Order and even if it is considered a fixed occurrence in the life of the fraternity and an event "of ordinary administration"; but it is always an occasion of great importance. It is a moment of life which interests all the brothers and all the fraternities of the Order and promotes internally: study, research, reflection, expectations, hopes. It is an experience lived with special intensity by the Capitular brothers; but not only by them ... It is a fact which is under the attention of the Church and of other Institutes; it is an event which has its place in the history of the Order with all its characteristics, its verifications, its richness and limitations; it is a stage which indicates and marks with its choices and decisions the present journey and the future expectations of the brothers.

General Curia



- 01 Editorial
- 01 Two new Bishops appointed
- 02 Thank you, Antonio!
- 02 New face in the Curia
- 02 New edition of the "Masses proper of the Order" and its correspondent "Lectionary"
- 02 Third Group of Missionaries
- 03 In the heart of Africa to serve the poor, proclaim the Gospel and live with Islam
- 03 Perpetual Profession ... and priestly ordination
- 03 The Commune of Granada proclaims Bro Leopold its adoptive son
- 04 Damietta initiative
- 04 "The Canticle of the Creatures" in photos

Two new Bishops appointed

Vatican City: H.H. Pope Benedict XVI recently appointed two brothers to serve as bishops: Bro **Manoel Delson Pedreira da Cruz**, general Definitor for Latin America has been appointed bishop of Caicó (Brazil);



Bro **João Alves dos Santos**, who was Provincial Minister of the capuchin province of São Paulo (Brazil) has been appointed bishop of Paranaguá (Brazil).

To these two Brothers we offer our heartfelt congratulations



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Rome : The family at the general Curia has been enriched by a new face in the person of Bro Tomasz K. Wronski who arrived recently from his home Province of Warsaw. He will serve in the Communications Office. We welcome him greatly amongst us.



New face
in the Curia

Rome : Bro Antonio Castagnera of the Province of Central Brazil returned to the Province on July 26, 2006. He came to Rome three years ago to work as secretary of the Portuguese language. Thank you, Antonio, for your joyful availability which you gave us!

We wish you all God's blessings and also a good health.



Thank you, Antonio!

Rome : At the vigil of the general Chapter 2006, two Liturgical Books have been sent to the press. They are destined for all the Brothers of the Order so that following the liturgical norms of the Church they can celebrate with dignity the memories of our Blesseds and Saints and the Blesseds and Saints of the Capuchin Poor Clares. These are not official publications but they are intended to be a help and to be used for internal use only. The new edition of the two Liturgical Books has matured within the general Definitory to meet the wide demand in the whole Order. The project which foresaw the preparation of the publications in the main languages in use in the Order, has been made possible only in part and is for the time being limited to the Italian language. However, the publication of a similar edition in the other languages now will be much easier and we hope it will be available in a short time. The two Books have been prepared by the Office of the General Postulator of the Order.

New edition of the "Masses proper of the Order" and its correspondent "Lectionary"

Third Group of Missionaries

Brussels (Belgium) : Twelve new franciscan missionaries belonging to the Friars Minor, Conventuals and Capuchins start on September 4 a period of common formation in Brussels. The experience will end on November 25. They hail from three continents: Europe (Poland, Spain and Italy), Asia (Indonesia, China, India) and Africa (Zambia, Madagascar) and are to be destined later in Africa and Asia. They will be guided by an "équipe" composed of Brothers from the three Orders who have missionary and formation experience. During the three months of immediate preparation for the mission, the brothers will be helped to deepen the Franciscan vision of mission. They will learn more about the different cultures which they will have to face, the necessary instruments to develop their mission in a different culture and they will meet some of the most important missionary organizations.



In the heart of Africa to serve the poor, proclaim the Gospel and live with Islam



Ciad : In Ciad, the country in the heart of Africa which suffered Civil War in the 1980's, people of various ethnic groups and religions live together. For 40 years, the Capuchins of the Province of Saint Angelo and Padre Pio have been working in schools, dispensaries, hospitals and keeping alive the dialogue with numerous muslims. "The local Church has grown since we arrived here, asserts Bro Aldo Broccato, the Provincial Minister of the said Province; there are many diocesan priests and we have a good number of capuchins from Ciad itself. From the old diocese of Moundou, a new one was first established : that of Doba and then another one, in Goré, whose bishop is our Brother Rosario Pio Romolo". A great difficulty which the missionaries are facing is that there are several villages in the hinterland which are very difficult to reach; and thus the priests go there to celebrate Mass only once a year.

Perù : On June 23, 2006, feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Capuchin Brothers of the Province of Perú celebrated with joy the perpetual profession of four brothers : Eusebio Sánchez, Max Álvarez, Héctor Bueno and Francisco Morales. The celebration took place in the parish of "San Pedro" of Chorrillos which was the first parish that the Capuchins accepted on their arrival in Perú and where the first Capuchin fraternity was founded in that country.

Always in the Province of Perú : two new priests were ordained. They are Bro. Miguel Àngel and Bro Oscar. The ordination was presided over by the Capuchin Bishop Lino Panizza in the parish church of "Cristo Salvador" on July 21, 2006, feast of St Lawrence of Brindisi.

Perpetual Profession ... and priestly ordination



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Granada (Spain) : The Mayor of the Commune of Granada, at the start of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the death of Bro Leopold Alpandere, publicly announced : "The Administration of the Commune of Granada, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death, proclaims him as the adopted son of this city; and I, as Mayor and in the name of so many citizens of Granada who respect, admire and venerate his human personality and the example of his untiring life as a benefactor, welcome all who come to Granada from other places. I also encourage all citizens of Granada to participate in the celebrations which are being held in our city during this year on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death".

The celebration was held on June 23 last in the "Salón de Plenos" of the Commune. The proclamation was accepted in the name of the Capuchin Brothers of Andalusia by Bro Mariano Ibáñez Velásquez, Provincial Minister. Besides a great number of Capuchins, there were also present other personalities and organizations of Granada. On the same occasion, a splendid publication on Bro Leopold was published. It includes a biography prepared by the Vice-Postulator, Bro Alfonso Ramírez Peralbo, and numerous testimonies by Capuchins and many other people who have known Bro Leopold during the years he went out daily to collect alms through the streets of Granada.



The Commune of Granada proclaims Bro Leopold its adoptive son

Damietta initiative

Pretoria (South Africa) : The activity of the Capuchin Franciscan Centre for Conflict Transformation (The Damietta Initiative), is aimed to animate the laity of the African christian communities

to commit themselves and to grow in dialogue and in the culture of non-violence in the heart of numerous situations of conflict (ethnic, social, religious, etc) which are present in that Continent. The Centre which has its headquarters in Pretoria is planning to open other centres even in other African States and thus could widen its collaboration with all members of the Franciscan Family. For this aim, it has asked the patronage of the CFF (Conference of the Franciscan Family) which has unanimously approved the initiative acknowledging it fully in line with the spirit of Francis of Assisi. Damietta has aroused great interest and support in many quarters in a relatively short time. The Franciscan Family considers it a very important activity both for the Franciscans themselves and even for the carrying out of their own charism and this both on the continent and on international level. The sponsors and other groups whose aims are programmes of peace and social justice have shown their support and availability to work with Damietta. However, the support and first contacts are not enough to carry out the Project's aims to create strong and vital community groups which sustain a preventive presence of peace and social justice in the area. It is important that these different local communities assure that Damietta can produce the desired impacts on the whole continent.

The most necessary condition to ensure this passage from support/first contact is the possibility for Damietta to form, communicate, give logistic support and help after the formation of PACT (Pan African Conciliation Teams) in all the places where it works especially if it will be established in other regions of Africa. To ensure the success of the Project human and financial resources are necessary. In part, the success of Damietta will be determined by the amount of financial help they will receive from the sponsors; but in a more essential way it will be determined by the quality and availability of the personnel committed in the project.



“The Canticle of the Creatures” in photos

Assisi : The photographer Fulvio Roiter, after having published a book on Umbria, remained enchanted by “The Poor Man” of Assisi. That is how the exhibition “The Canticle of the Creatures” was born. It was opened on August 1, 2006 and will remain on show till September 10 in the Exhibition Hall of the Capuchins of Assisi. There are 25 shots which Roiter took in the last 50 years to illustrate “The Canticle of the Creatures” of St Francis. Roiter is one of the most admired masters in Italian photography. Thus, from the amazement of man in front of the vastness of creation to the beauty of nature, from the horror of suffering and death, the images of Roiter reflect the Franciscan spirit enlightened by the verses of the canticle as written by St Francis. The exhibition was set up by Luca Temolo dall’Igna and by Riccardo Mazzoni and is being promoted by the Capuchin Province of Umbria.

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