

## General Definitory Meetings

**R**ome : The general Definitory met at the Curia in Rome between January 8 and 20, 2007 and examined the following matters :

- Studied the various reports presented by the different central offices and commissions, the International College and those belonging to the other houses depending on the Curia.
- Continued its reflection on the general programmatic lines of the last general Chapter. The fruit of this reflection is the programmatic letter which will be sent to all the fraternities. Together with this letter the major Superiors will receive the list of the central Offices and Commissions and those responsible for them who have been recently appointed. In those offices where no new appointments were made, the brothers who have held such offices have been confirmed.
- **The General Office of Formation** presented a draft of the project for the GOF. This will be sent to all the Presidents of the Conferences who will study and reflect on it. Their contributions will then be sent to the general Curia and will be studied by the general Definitory. It is thought to establish a permanent Secretariat of three or four brothers with its offices in Frascati and an International Commission. We also intend to have a group to animate and coordinate the various offices and institutions to organise the animation and formation in the Order. The Warsaw Province continues to provide four or five brothers to animate the fraternity.
- **International College of St Lawrence of Brindisi.** A new Rector has been appointed in the person of Bro Agapit Mroso of the Tanzanian Province; he will assume his duties on April 1, 2007.
- **Constitutions and general Statutes.** It is decided to establish a permanent Secretariat and a Commission to accompany all the work in the process of renewal of our basic legislation, to prepare all the drafts and other material to be sent to all the brothers in order to animate and involve them, encouraging all to give their contribution.
- **Circumscriptions.** Decided to elevate into a Custody our presence in Paraguay (May 12, 2007). The present group depends on the Province of Paraná-S. Caterina (Brazil). At present the brothers are being consulted to prepare for the appointment of the regular Superior and his Councillors. The advice of the CCB Conference has been sought as well.
- Decided about the unification of the two Provinces of Austria : Vienna and Northern Tyrol which will take place on May 29, 2007. The consultation among the brothers concerned is going on to prepare for the appointment of the Provincial minister and the Definitors. The advice of the CENOC Conference has been sought as well.
- Examined the triennial reports of some circumscriptions, of those Chapters which were recently celebrated and the fraternal visits performed.



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## Thank you, Bro Tewelde

Rome : Bro Tewelde Beyene, of the Province of Eritrea, left the general Curia on January 14, 2007 after having been serving for a year as Director of the International Office of JPE. He went to Milan for medical care awaiting for a transplant. We will continue to be particularly close to Bro Tewelde with our love, best wishes and above all with our prayers.



Rome : Bro Robert Bernat, of the Warsaw Province, arrived at the general Curia in the first days of January to offer his service as doorkeeper. He will start his duties after studying the Italian language. The direction of BICI welcomes you and wishes you a good stay in Rome.



## New face at the Curia

## Capuchin Anniversary in Turkey

Turkey : The year 2007 is the 80th anniversary of the presence in Turkey of the Capuchins of Parma. It was, in fact, in 1927 that the Holy See entrusted that mission to the Province of Parma (now Emilia-Romagna). To mark this occasion several events are being prepared. The earliest presence of the Capuchins in that country goes back to 1625.

## The return of the Capuchins in the Seychelles



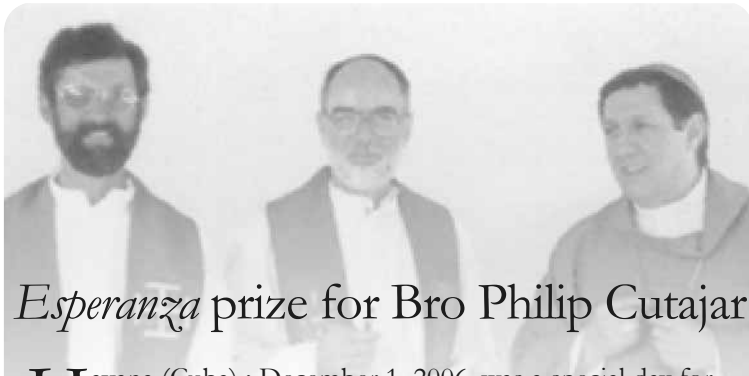
The Capuchin Mission in the Seychelles Islands has been reopened. Up to the year 1852, there were the Capuchins of Savoy; then up to 1922-1995, the capuchins from Switzerland worked there; in the meantime the capuchins of Sardegna were also there in the 1990's. Now the general Curia has entrusted to the young Province of Madagascar this mission in the archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Three brothers (two from Madagascar and one from Italy) are responsible for the mission. It is hoped that next year the number will be increased. First priority at present is given to our fraternal life even though



there are some apostolic activities going on : looking after the diocesan shrine dedicated to the Sacred Heart, the running of the Spirituality Centre and some help in the parishes of Mahe' and in the Islands of Praslin and La Digue. The languages used are English, French and Creole; the latter is a must and must be spoken at all costs. The largest Island of Mahe' is 144 square kms and has a population of 81,000, 93% of which are cristians of whom 88% are catholics. The Superior of the Mission is Bro Jean Pierre Rahasa.

## Information about *Koinōnia*

*Koinōnia* is a quarterly magazine of formation and information published by the Conference of the general Assistants of the SFO; it has good articles and various information about the life of the SFO and the spiritual assistance offered. It is a small instrument to keep alive the communication and formation of the spiritual Assistants and all those who are interested. The recent numbers of *Koinonia* are available in the four main languages of the SFO (Spanish, Italian, English and French) on the Website [www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org).



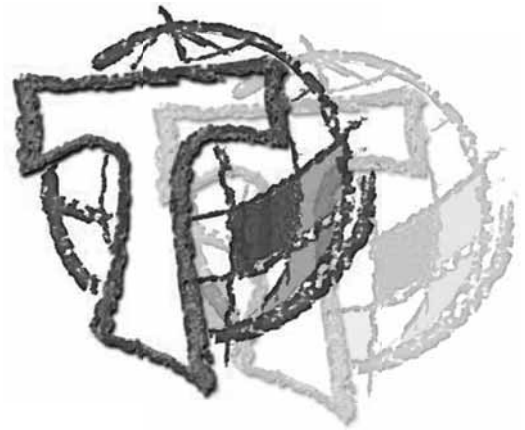
### *Esperanza* prize for Bro Philip Cutajar

Havana (Cuba) : December 1, 2006, was a special day for the Church in Cuba and especially for our missionaries from Spain and Malta who are working there. The Cuban Government honoured the work done by Bro Philip Cutajar who for the last eight years has been working together with the Spanish missionaries. For the last two years, Bro Philip was president of the Episcopal Conference Commission for the sick. Together with a group of catholic medical doctors, nurses and volunteers he dedicates all his time and energy to help the sick with AIDS and their relatives.

The prestigious prize “PREMIO ESPERANZA” was granted to Bro Philip on the occasion of the celebration of World AIDS Day by the Health Minister of the Cuban Government in appreciation for the work that the catholic Church in Cuba is doing for those sick with AIDS. The function was held in the Cathedral of the diocese of Santa Clara during a concelebrated mass by His Grace Mgr Arturo Gonzales Amador, Bro Philip and other priests.

## Seminar for the spiritual Assistants of the SFO- Franciscan Youth

Warsaw (Poland) : During November 20-22, 2006, a seminar was held in the Franciscan Centre in which more than 50 spiritual regional and local Assistants from Poland, Belarus and Ukraine took part. The seminar was organised by the National SFO Council. The workshops, discussions and the round table were the most lively points in the seminar.



03



## New presence in Bolivia

Naranjal (Bolivia) : Bolivia was the only country in Latin America where no Capuchin fraternity was present. But on January 6, 2006, Bro José Alarcón, provincial Minister of Peru' blessed the new fraternity of four brothers which was named after St Pio of Pietralcina. It is established in the locality of Naranjal, about 35 kms away from Ciudad de Santa Cruz. In times past, the house was a monastery of the Capuchin Poor Clares who after leaving the place passed it on to the Capuchin Brothers.

## Within a short time, a presence in Haiti

The capuchin Brothers Lori Vergani, Juan de Dios and Marinito from the Dominican Republic and Armand Blanc, from Haiti, will start within a short time the establishment of a fraternity in Haiti. They will be living in a rented house until the construction of a house in Bereaux will be completed. Bereaux is a small town about 10 kms away from Les Cayes. The aim is to take the responsibility of St Francis of Assisi parish and to be able to accept candidates for religious life.

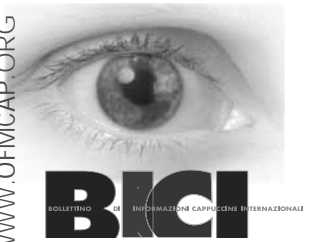
The proposal of the foundation of this new house was started by the ex-general Minister John Corriveau, during the viceprovincial Chapter of 2004 when he asserted that the establishment of a Capuchin presence in that nation was a priority. The provincial Chapter of 2005 confirmed the project since the form of the presence had to be clarified. The general Chapter of 2006 in Rome showed itself in favour to continue with the project of the new mission. The viceprovincial Minister, Bro Demétrio De La Cruz Jiménez, of the viceprovince of Mother of the Divine Shepherd started again to deal with the Bishop of Les Cayes who offered a presence in the town of Bereaux.



The Provinces of Canada and of France together with the Province of Rio Grande do Sul appointed Bro Lori Vergani to give start to the mission.

“The project should start with great hope. It is a sign of our option for the poor. Haiti is the poorest nation of America. A Franciscan presence there is urgent” stated Bro Sidimar Negrini who had visited the place.

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## Theological Forum : A spirituality for a different world

Nairobi (Kenya) : The “World Forum of Theology and Liberation” was held in Nairobi in the house of the Carmelites at Langata from January 16 to 19, 2007. About 250 people who came from all over the world took part. They wanted to reflect in a theological way and to give a critical contribution to the themes presented by the World Social Forum which was to start on the following day, that is January 20.

“Spirituality for a different world is possible” was the sub-

title of the meeting; it was also a slogan which has directed all the themes that the participants wanted to deepen; they were helped to do this by experts who led the discussions and sharing of experiences. Among them was Bro Luiz Susin, professor at the ESTEF, secretary of the World Social Forum of Theology and Liberation. Bro Aldir Crocchi, director and professor of the ESTEF participated at the Franciscan World Social Forum

## In Sweden for 20 years

Stockholm (Sweden) : At the request of Bro Flavio R. Carraro, who had been general Minister, the province of Warsaw decided to go to work in the north of Europe. In fact four brothers arrived in Stocholm on October 8, 1986. Our presence in this secularised country where only 1.1% of the population are Catholics offered a true challenge from the very start. Now our presence there is in three fraternities : in the Capital city, in Göteborg-Angered and in Skövde. The pastoral work there is mainly parish work; the brothers offer spiritual assistance to various groups and religious communities. The celebration of the anniversary event was enriched by the presence of His Lordship Mgr Antoni Pacyfk Dydyecz, who as general Defnitor in 1986 assisted and encouraged the implantation of the Order in Scandinavia.

