



## Meetings of the general Definitory

**R**ome: During the session of 19-30 March, 2007, the general Definitory examined the following points on which it was decided :

- Read some triennial reports, reports on provincial Chapters recently celebrated and on pastoral visitations held during the past months;
- Approved the Decree of the establishment of the Province of Austria and appointed the provincial Minister and the Definitors. The Decree will be published on May 29, 2007;
- Approved the Decree of the establishment of the Custody of Paraguay entrusted to the Province of Paraná and Santa Caterina. The Decree with the names of the regular Superior and the two Councillors will be published on May 12, 2007, in the presence of the general Minister.
- Appointed the IVth Definitor of the Province of Medan: Bro Michael Manurung; he will take the place of Bro Guido Situmorang who had been appointed Director/Animator of the JPE Office.
- Prepared the consultation for the appointment of the new provincial Minister of Sibolga after the appointment of Bro Ludovicus Simanullang as Bishop of Sibolga.

### General Bursar's Office

Approved the consolidated balance of the general Curia for the year 2006 and the estimates for 2007. The Definitory also approved the new forms for the financial administration to prepare the mid-triennium report.

### International Financial Solidarity:

Discussed and approved some urgent projects for the year 2007.

### Solidarity of Personnel

Discussions continue about the possible modalities of collaboration and solidarity of personnel in the Order in relation to our missionary charism.

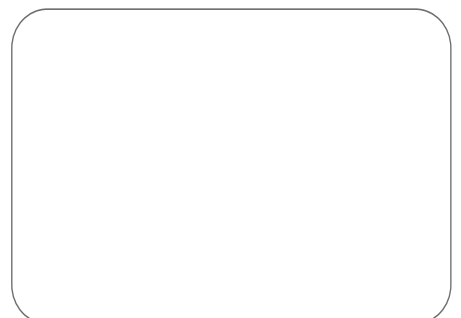
**Meetings with Conferences:** Confirmed the dates of the meetings of the general Definitory with the Conferences:

November 5-7, 2007 : South America (CCA-CONCAM)

November 9-11, 2007 North America (NAPCC).



Curia Generale OFMCap  
Via Piemonte, 70  
00187 Roma · Italia  
Tel. 0039.06.4620121  
Fax 0039.06.4828267  
E-mail: bici@ofmcap.org



Through these pages, we would like to thank wholeheartedly Bro Mariano Di Vito for his service as Rector of the College fraternity. As everybody knows, this is a special fraternity, very numerous and complex because of the diversity of origin of all the brothers. Bro Mariano was always moved with a great spirit of self-sacrifice and that is why we thank him for his generosity, delicacy and attention. On the occasion of the farewell and thanksgiving feast, the general Minister thanked also Bro Cassian Cimes and Bro Dimas J. Lima for their services given at the College.

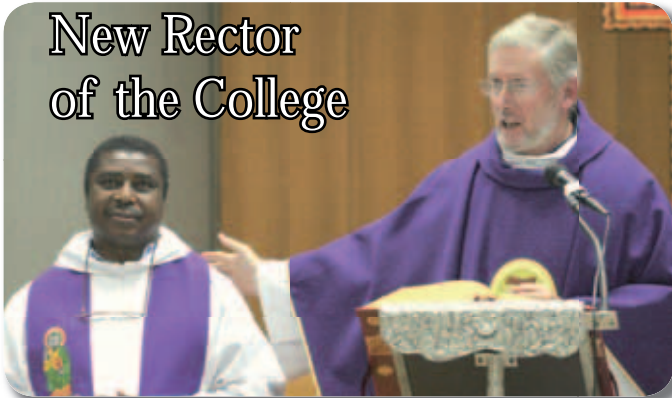


Mariano, Thank you wholeheartedly!

Rome: During the days of March 6-8, 2007, the first meeting of the technical Commission of the general Bursar's Office was held and was presided over by the general Definitor Bro Mark Schenk. The other members of the Commission are: Luis Eduardo Rubiano, general Bursar, Gianfranco Arrighi, assistant general Bursar, GianMaria Digiorgio (Prov. of Foggia), Thomas Egger (Swiss Province) and Giampiero Gambaro (Prov. of Genoa). The Commission examined the estimates presented for the houses and institutions depending on the general Minister and then passed its suggestions to the general Definitory.

Meeting of the technical Commission of the general Bursar's Office

### New Rector of the College



Rome: Bro Agapit J. Mroso of the Tanzanian Province as from April 1, 2007 is the new Rector of St Lawrence of Brindisi International College in Rome. He substitutes Bro Mariano Di Vito who returned to his home province of Foggia after eight years of dedicated service animating the College fraternity. Bro Agapit himself was at the College between 1990 and 1995 while he frequented the Gregorian University. He was born in Moshi (Tanzania) and after his first studies in Tanzania he received a Bursary for further studies in Rome in 1990. He obtained a Licentiate in dogmatic theology in 1992 and then his doctorate in 1995, both from the Gregorian University. Besides that, in 1993, he obtained a Licentiate in spiritual Theology from the Angelicum University.

Vatican City: Bro Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher of the Pontifical Household, continued the reflections he had started in Advent on the Gospel Beatitudes. He focused on the remaining ones trying to point out what they reveal about Christ's holiness and what he demands regarding our own personal sanctity in relation to our christian witness in today's world. As everybody knows, these sermons are held every Friday of Lent (9, 16, 23 and 30 of March) at 9 a.m. at the Vatican in the presence of the Pope, the secretaries of the Roman Congregations, the general Superiors of religious Orders. The last sermon was given during the solemn liturgy of Holy Friday which was presided over by the Pope in St Peter's Basilica.



Lenten Sermons at the Vatican



The special Assembly of the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints which met to discuss the heroicity of virtues of the Servant of God Bro Leopold de Alpandreire (1864-1956) met on March 20, 2007.

At the end of the discussion, the Consultors gave a unanimous positive vote (9 out of 9); the members of the theological Assembly expressed their desire "that the example of this Capuchin religious, if the Holy Father agrees, could soon reach to the glory of Beatification".

## Bro Leopold : positive vote

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## Helping those hit by the earthquake in Sumatra, especially the Muslims



Indonesia: "Love is without boundaries or discriminations", "all our resources have been mobilised for the solidarity with those hit by the earthquake" of Sumatra of March 6 last and which left over 70 people dead and destroyed more than 1000 homes. This was stated by the Capuchin bishop of Padang, Martinus Dogma Situmorang, President of the Indonesian Episcopal Conference. He added that those who will be helped will be mostly Muslims. Many other Indonesian dioceses have given their support together with Caritas of Germany and the Catholic Relief Services. Food, tents and blankets have already been sent. Among the buildings damaged, there are some catholic structures including hospitals, schools and parishes. Some local people have found refuge in buildings of the Catholic community. Besides offering moral support, the local communities give some spiritual help organising moments of prayer.

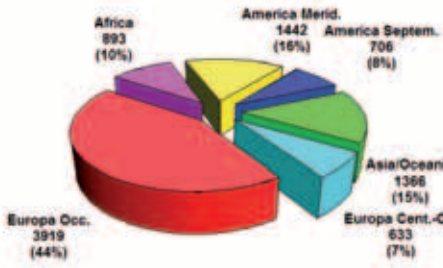
## Franciscans International at the Assembly of the Franciscan Families of Guatemala



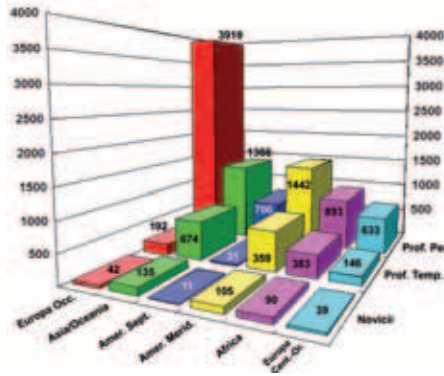
Guatemala City, Guatemala: During the days between 13 and 22 February 2007, Franciscan International (FI) presented its programmes and structures during the general Assembly of the Franciscan Family of Guatemala. In a special way it took the chance to speak about the opportunities that exist there to develop better the cooperation between the two institutions and the provincial Ministers and superiors. Among those present were also the representatives from El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico who expressed their hope that the collaboration between Franciscans International could be extended to Central America as one region. Guided by the general Ministers' document "Instruments of Peace", FI hinted that the greatest challenge in its mission is precisely in relation with the progressive increase of both domestic and social violence which is harming in a special way those mostly vulnerable like the local people, women and youth. Other problems which seem urgent are migrations and the trafficking of persons and the accessibility to clean water; these are areas which FI can support and it can also strengthen initiatives which are already under way in the ground roots. "Thanks to this meeting, we were able to know each other and give the way for a process to deepen our relationships with FI" asserted Bro Bernabé Sagastume, Viceprovincial OFMCap and Julio Morales, provincial Minister OFM. Franciscans International can effectively help and improve the work with the poor and develop contacts with the national authorities and the UN offices that exist in that particular country. This can be done in a special way with the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights" added John Quigley, OFM, executive Director of FI.



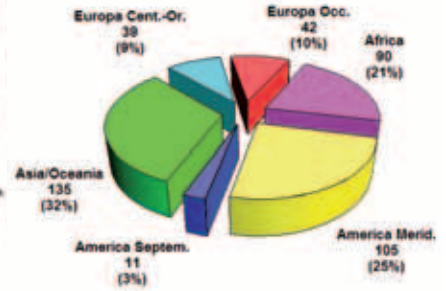
PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS BY CONTINENT



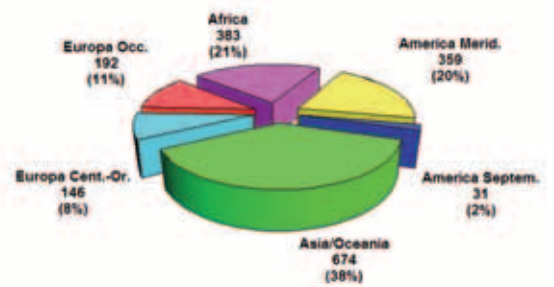
DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FRATERNITY BY CONTINENT



NOVICES BY CONTINENT



TEMPORARY PROFESSIONS BY CONTINENT



As in other years, the statistics of the Order for the year 2006 were very much in time and they are updated to December 31, 2006. All the figures and details of this work can be seen in the forthcoming issue of ANALECTA.

Statistics 2006

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## XXXI Assembly of the provincial Ministers of the Italian Franciscan Families

Genoa: "We would like to go back to our origins and at the same time show how we can put today in practice the message of St Francis. We have to do this by meditating the sources and the thoughts of our holy Founder". This was, in synthesis, using the same words of the secretary Paolo Fiasconaro OFM Conv at the XXXI Assembly of the Union of Conferences of the provincial Ministers of the Franciscan Families of Italy. The Assembly was held between March 5 and 10, 2007, at Arenzano near Genoa. This year's meeting was the first of three important meetings in preparation for the celebration of the VIIIth centenary of the origins of the Franciscan charism. The theme of the Assembly has been the comparison of the "four icons which have marked the human and spiritual experience of Francis", that is: his call, the crucifix, the leper and the mission. These points have all been developed during the Assembly. In the next two years there are further initiatives in preparation for the VIIIth Centenary. "In the year 2008, the Secretary of the Union of Conferences of the provincial Ministers explained, we would like to propose a year of reflection by means of a week of spiritual exercises and of fraternity focusing on the Franciscan sources. In 2009 we will have in Assisi, the city of Francis, a great event which will bring together brothers from all over the world".

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**BICI**  
COLLETTORIO DI INFORMAZIONI CAPPUCCHINE INTERNAZIONALI

- editore  
Curia Generale dei Frati Minori Cappuccini
- responsabile  
Luciano Pastorello
- collaboratori  
Tutti i segretari della Curia OFMCap
- edizioni  
Italiano, francese, inglese, polacco, spagnolo, tedesco, indonesiano, portoghese, croato, ceco
- impaginazione  
Laura Stazi
- stampato  
in proprio
- grafica  
UNIDEA Marketing & Comunicazione