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Dear readers of BICI

The BICI Bulletin is now in its 200 edition. It was born so that the Provinces, the Missions and the Brothers of the Order in general would be kept informed about all that pertains to the life of the Order itself.

The development of communication and of information technology in recent times has been and is such that it has revolutionised and is still revolutionising all social structures and the psychology of humanity as well.. As men, religious and apostles of our times, it is indispensable for us that we insert ourselves decisively and intelligently in such a movement. This reached also our Bulletin. Thus, we would like to inform you that from our next issue of the BICI, after having consulted the different Conferences, BICI will be sent to all the houses of the Order via Internet only through the web site www.ofmcap.org, and this according to the decision of the general Definitory. Consequently no paper edition will be sent any more from the General Curia to the houses of the Order. The motive behind this decision is to have BICI, a Bulletin of information and communication, to all Brothers in the least possible time to be read immediately but also to print and send it to all our own houses. Some Provinces have already understood this "strategy" and started thinking that way. We are giving this news to express our thanks and also, at the same time, our desire, that other Provinces and Conferences will do the same. This gives us the opportunity to make our communication more speedy since we all know the chronic slowness of the Post. This is not saying good-bye, because – as we said previously – BICI will continue also to address itself to non-Capuchin readers since it will be possible to download it from our Internet site. In this way we are invited to live together in a serene way this further step since it seems to us also important that this instrument of communication allows us to spread a Franciscan-capuchin perspective on the realities which we are living. The inheritance which belongs to each and everyone of us, collected in these pages becomes immediately a proof of our belongingness, a sign that we are Brothers in the world and for the world.



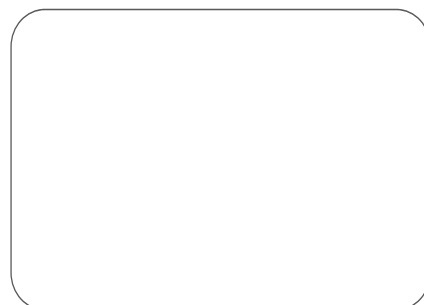
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We take this opportunity to inform you about the inauguration of the Order's new website, always at the address www.ofmcap.org. It will have new options, like the area reserved for the Brothers and the possibility to access the data bank. To do this, one needs to login and have access to the reserved pages; in order to access the BICI one has to register to the Bulletin: then as soon as you make the number, you will receive an e-mail with an announcement.

But we remind you all that the quality of the Bulletin depends also on you in so far as we receive your news so that we may share them with all the Brothers in the world. Thank you for your collaboration!



General Definitory Meetings

In the session of June 18-23 2007, the General Definitory examined various themes and took the following decisions:

- Appointed Bro Sebastian Sihombing, provincial Minister of Sibolga after Bro. Ludovicus Simanullang was appointed bishop.
- Appointed Bro. Tesfai Debras IV th provincial Definitor of the Province of Eritrea;
- Appointed Bro. Gonzales Nadeak, provincial of the Province of Medan after Bro. Guido Situmorang had been appointed Director of the JPE Office;
- Appointed Bro. Guido Situmorang, the Order's Delegate for the initiatives of ecumenical communion among the Franciscans;
- Appointed Bro. Piero Erick Véliz Valencia (Prov. of Perù) new member of the OGF;
- Appointed the International Council for Formation after it received the names to represent all the Conferences. This Council is presided over by Bro. Carlos Novoa, General Definitor;
- Appointed Bro. Edwin Colaco (Prov. of Karnataka) member of the group of Project Managers; he will succeed Bro. Jean-Marc Boulé (Prov. of Eastern Canada);
- Fr. John Celichowski (Prov. of Calvary) has been appointed member of the JPE Office. Bro.

John will reside in the USA and he will be the President of Franciscans International;

- Appointed the new International Commission of JPE. Bro. José Gislon, General Definitor will follow the work of this Commission.
- Appointed the Commission for the Solidarity of Personnel. It will be presided over by Bro. Peter Rodgers, General Definitor. The duties of this Commission will be to help the General Definitory to make the Solidarity of Personnel a priority of the Central Government of the Order during this present sexennium, find the most appropriate ways and means to organise and promote the Solidarity of personnel keeping in mind the lines that emerged during the general Chapter of 2006.
- Established the Commission for Cultural and Formation Institutions. The duties assigned to this Commission are to find and guarantee new forms of financing and efficiently maintaining the Cultural Institutions: Historical Institute, the International College, the Institute of Franciscan Spirituality, the Central Library and the general Archives.

The full list with all the names of those forming these Commissions appointed by the General Definitory is published on the website.

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A discovery trip

Brief reflection by Bro. Peter Rodgers, General Definitor



either Muslim, Greek Orthodox or Jewish. During the meeting the participants shared on the experience of ministering in conditions of minority, the joys and the pains, the opportunities and the dangers. It was heartening to hear them speak of the resilience of the friars, of their ongoing search for suitable pastoral methods, of their disappointments and of the support of the other brothers in helping to overcome them. Not easy, but there is something about Capuchin brotherhood that makes the impossible possible, the difficult worthwhile.

A voyage of discovery is how I would describe my experience so far as a General Definitor – discovery of new places, new situations, new friars. This was brought home to me forcefully during the Spring meeting of ASMEN at the Capuchin friary in Athens, Greece. I know that for many friars, when they hear the name ASMEN, their first question is: what is that? ASMEN is one of the smaller conferences in the Order, made up of the General Vice-Province of Arabia, the General Vice-Province of the Middle East, the Vice-Province of Pakistan, the Custodies of Turkey and Greece, the House of Presence in Jerusalem. The common denominator is that all these jurisdictions are in countries where Catholics are in the minority. They live and work in lands where the majority is

Br. Peter Rodgers

VICTORIA (Kansas, USA): The postulants and the directors of the North American and Pacific Conference met to discuss the programme in preparation for the Novitiate of 2007. The postulants hail from the Province of Pennsylvania (7), Province of Calvary, Detroit (7), the Province of New York-New England (4), three from the Province of Australia, one each from the Provinces of New Jersey, Mid America and Central Canada and one from the Vice Province of Guam-Hawaii.



Pastoral Visit of Pope Benedict XVI in Assisi

ASSISI: H.H. Pope Benedict XVI was in Assisi (Italy) for a Pastoral Visit on the occasion of the 8th centenary of the conversion of Saint Francis. It was Sunday June 17. After a brief visit to the Sanctuary of Rivortorto and the Sanctuary of San Damiano he went to the Basilica of St Clare. There he visited the chapel of the Poor Clares, and after a moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, he stood in veneration before the Crucifix of San Damiano from whom Francis heard the programmatic call which changed his life: "Go, Francis and repair my house". Then, His Holiness went to the Capuchin provincial Curia where he put on the liturgical vestments for the Eucharistic celebration in the inferior square of St. Francis. The General Minister, Bro. Mauro Jöhri, Bro. Ennio Tiacci, provincial Minister and several Brothers from the Umbrian Province were there to welcome Pope Benedict XVI. In the afternoon His Holiness met the German Capuchin Poor Clares in the Capitular Hall of the Holy Convent; after that the Pope met the participants of the General Chapter of the Friars Minor Conventuals and the fraternity of the Holy Convent in the Superior Basilica of St Francis.

Approval of the Financial Manual

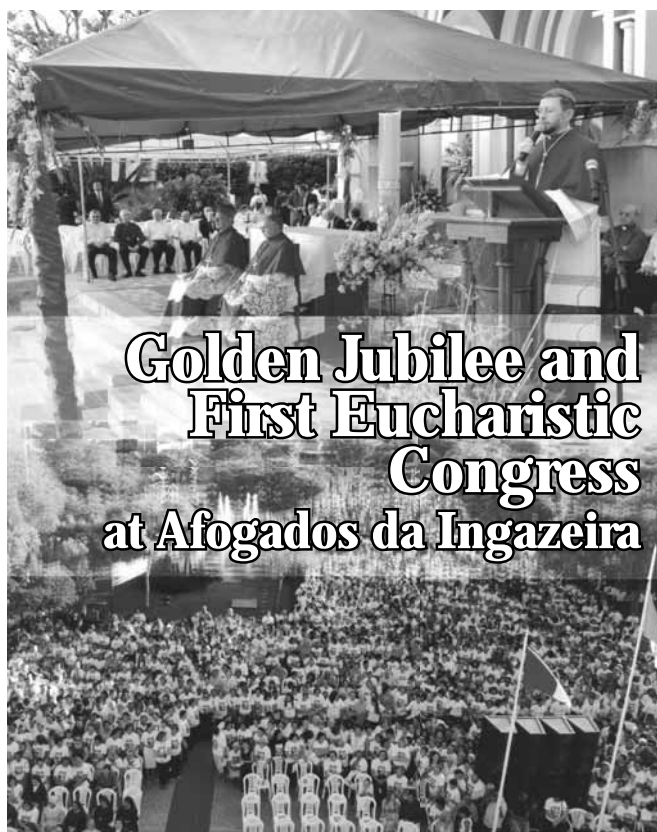
ROME: The financial Manual of the General Curia and of the Houses and Institutions which depend on it was approved - ad experimentum - by the General Definitory. The aim of this Manual is to guarantee that the norms and procedures which rule the auditing processes of the General Curia would be duly guided and documented and at the same time offer to the Houses and Institutions depending on it a guiding document with easy consultation regarding the processes that take place there. The Manual deals also with the responsibility for their execution and running. The auditing procedure described in this document applies to each of the depending entities where there is a Bursar; it allows also, if necessary, the verification and supervision of the processes of payments and incomes of money or other values and the drawing up of the financial and economic situation of the entities. Besides, this Manual refers to the economic principles of the Constitutions and the outlines laid out by the VIth PCO and presents both the auditing principles of the General Curia referring to its structure, the services offered by the Bursar's Office and the roles of each office and establishing the principles, rules and minimum procedures built on the ethics of the administration of the general Curia and its Institutions.

Colloquium of the CIC Provincials

ROME: During the days 22-23 June, the General Minister, Mauro Jöhri, through the General Definitory, Carlos Nova, invited Brothers: Benjamin Echeverría, provincial Minister of Navarra, Cayetano Martínez, provincial Minister of Valencia, Domingo Montero, provincial Minister of Castilla, Mariano Ibáñez, provincial Minister of Andalusia, and Jesús González, secretary of the CIC. The aim of the meeting was about the possibility of unification of the Provinces. In the reunion, the participants examined the process which was started in 2004 after the visit which had been made in the Provinces of the CIC. Some concrete agreements were made which even though they seem small but they are aimed to strengthen the process of unification. For example, it was decided to create a common Newsletter with the aim to spread news from the four Provinces among all the Spanish brothers. Another decision was to start a study on the juridical and financial problems which will have to be faced in the eventuality of unification; strengthen the formation programmes in view of the possibility of a common Post-Novitiate programme for the year 2008-2009 and, finally, prepare common material to be presented to the forthcoming provincial Chapters.



AFOGADOS da INGAZEIRA – PE (Brazil): On Sunday June 10, the Diocese of Afogados da Ingazeira in Sertão do Pajeú (PE), led by our Brother Dom Luís Pepeu, OFMCap, celebrated the 50 years from its foundation and its first diocesan Eucharistic Congress. On the preceding Sunday June 3, Msgr. Pepeu presided over the official inauguration of the Eucharistic Congress which has as its theme: The Eucharist, Nourishment in Mission. The first part of the Congress was celebrated in all the parishes reaching its climax on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. The adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was held in all churches. Besides that, there was a time for instruction and for reflection. On the afternoon of the same Sunday, the Apostolic Nuncio presided at a special Mass concelebrated by more than twenty bishops among whom there were seven Capuchins. There were also a number of priests and deacons, male and female religious, seminarians and a congregation of about 20,000. After that, there was a long show by P. Zezinho with his group. Msgr. Pepeu recalled that the period which follows the Jubilee would be lived very intensely, keeping in mind the permanent mission in the light of the holy popular missions and the Vth Conference of Aparecida: “Disciples and Missionaries of Jesus Christ so that in Him our people would have life”.



ISKENDERUN (Turkey): The XI Symposium of Tarsus on St John Chrysostom, interpreter and disciple of St Paul the Apostle, was held between June 24 and 26 2007 at Iskenderun. The Symposium was promoted by the Institute of Franciscan Spirituality and the Apostolic Vicariate of Anatolia where there is our Msgr. Luigi Padovesi. The meeting wanted to remember the first of the four “Oriental Doctors”, St John Chrysostom, on the 16th centenary of his death which took place in Comana, on the Black Sea on September 14, 407. Starting from the cultural, topographical and archeological aspects of the city where he was born in 349, the scholars who had come together from Italy, Jerusalem and Germany, fixed their attention on the figure, the works and the relationship with the court of Constantinople which had exiled him in 404. They also studied the style of his panegyrics and the various aspects of the controversy he had with the Manichaeans. The Symposium was brought to an end with a liturgy of the Word in the “Grotto of St Peter”. In this liturgy, all the religious confessions who are present in Anatolia took part where they have been living peacefully for centuries.



XI Symposium at Tarsus

International Chapter in Hungary

The XII general Chapter and the V Elective of the SFO will take place between November 15 and 22, 2008 and will be celebrated in Hungary. It will bring to a close two years of celebrations commemorating the 8th Centenary of the birth of St Elizabeth. This was announced to the whole Order by the General Minister, Encarnation Del Pozo. The theme of the Chapter, provisionally up to now, is “The Profession of the Secular Franciscan and the meaning of belongingness to the SFO”.



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