



Collaboration between Circumscriptions

The 84th General Chapter, beginning from the *Vademecum for Solidarity of Personnel*, has approved the **Guidelines for Fraternal Collaboration between Circumscriptions**. Moreover, it decided to change the expression Solidarity of Personnel to Fraternal Collaboration between Circumscriptions. The Guidelines are to be a help for those who are already involved in this field, but are also an encouragement for those who feel the desire to go to the missions: “As Francis was moved by the Spirit of the Lord to make the world his cloister, we also are called to carry our way of life and our gospel witness to the world of today, overcoming the confines of Circumscriptions and countries. Concretely, this means overcoming every form of provincialism, opening ourselves to each other in mutual concern not only regarding the local fraternity or our own Circumscription, but also regarding the Order, the Church, and the whole world. (...) From the experience of the Order so far, the general impression regarding Fraternal Collaboration between Circumscriptions is positive. We know the generosity and the courage of the friars involved; first of all on the part of those who are sent and accept life in a different culture, but also on the part of those who receive and accept being transformed by the experience. We are truly brothers and minors when we welcome one another gladly in humility, to live in interdependence and to work together for the good of the people of God. Fraternal Collaboration between Circumscriptions is a prophetic commitment of the Order. Through this collaboration we continue to fan the flame of our charism in the different parts of the world.” –from the document, which is available on the website of the Order, www.ofmcap.org in the General Curia section – Offices and services.



Departures from the Curia...

ROME – In the month of December we mark various departures: **Br. Rocco Timpano**, of the Province of Calabria, **Br. Piotr Komorniczak** and **Br. Marek Miszczyński**, of the Province of Krakow, return to their respective Provinces at the end of their service in the General Curia. To them we offer our thanks and our best wishes for the new journey that they are about to undertake.

... and the Historical Institute



The Historical Institute also notes a departure. **Br. Costanzo Cargnoni**, of the Province of Lombardy, after 36 years of commendable work done as a scholar of the Historical Institute, leaves Rome to return to his Province. In thanking Br. Costanzo, the General Minister wrote: “They were 36 years of

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quiet work, from 1976 to today, during which you were able to develop a valuable and thorough investigation of Franciscan spirituality, especially that of the Capuchins from their beginnings down to recent times, with an extensive series of books, articles published in various specialized journals, and in collaborations with dictionaries. Noted is your edition of what we call the “Capuchin Sources,” an imposing work in five volumes containing documents, mostly still unpublished, related to the first century of the history of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. These studies were read with delight, interest, and fruit by friars and scholars and have contributed to the renewal in our hearts of the love of the Capuchin-Franciscan life and charism.”

Third International Week of Reconciliation



SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO – The Third International Reconciliation Week will take place from March 11 to 15, 2013, and will have the theme: “I believe in the forgiveness of sins”. This time of reflection and formation for priests, in this year dedicated to a greater deepening of our faith, seeks to spur consideration of this article of the Creed and the Tradition of the Church as it speaks to the regenerating and saving Mercy of God. The initiative is carried out in a fraternal collaboration between the General Secretariat of Formation and the shrine of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. This year it will see the special participation of major representatives of the Apostolic Penitentiary and the Congregation for the Clergy, as well as the voice of a lay theologian and a roundtable of journalists and laity who will speak to us on the reception of this article of faith in the culture of today. You who receive BICI are invited, and we ask you to promote the initiative by inviting others to participate as well. You can consult the program of the Week at the address of the Shrine www.santuariopadrepio.it or at that of the General Secretariat of Formation, where you will find documents and summaries of previous events www.ugfofmcap.blogspot.com



Advent at the Pontifical Household

VATICAN CITY – *A year acceptable to the Lord* (Luke 4:19) is the theme of the meditations which will be given during Advent (Friday, December 7, 14, and 21) by Br. Raniero Cantalamessa in the presence of Benedict XVI. During the year 2012-2013, the Church lives three graces that are also tasks: the Year of Faith, the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and the call to a renewed missionary effort, following the Synod of Bishops on evangelization and the transmission of the faith. With the preaching of Advent, in the wake of the apostolic letter of Benedict XVI, “Porta Fidei”, Br. Raniero will seek to offer, on each of these three themes, a spiritual reflection, such that this moment, thanks to the anointing of the Holy Spirit, should truly be “a year acceptable to the Lord”, as the one announced by Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth.

ROME – At the top of the Union of Superiors General for the next triennium will be **Br. José Rodríguez Carballo**, General Minister of the OFM, who takes the place of Don Pascual Chávez, Rector Major of the Salesians. The work of the Union of Superiors General closed last November 23 with the presentation of the newly elected President, Vice President and members of the Executive Council. “Religious life is alive and therefore we can face with humility and trust the challenges that await us. We wish to reaffirm ourselves as witnesses and workers in the New Evangelization, in the various areas of life and according to our respective charisms”, said the new president in the

Meeting of the Solidarity Commission



ROME – As an expression of our “fraternal economy”, in the first days of October 2012, the Project Managers joined with the brothers of the Office of Economic Solidarity to study the projects for assistance, which are numerous again this year. Subsequently, on October 16 - 18, the International Commission for Economic Solidarity studied and analyzed the individual projects and expressed their own vote. The General Minister and his Council then made the definitive decisions during their meeting in November. In a fraternal spirit the tested course has sought to respond positively to the requests arriving from different parts of the Order. Particular attention was given to sustaining initial formation and missionary commitment. The sharing of goods is certainly among the dimensions of our fraternal life and a means for announcing the Gospel.



greeting of the presentation. The Vice President and the other members of the Council were also elected. Fr. Adolfo Nicolás Pachón, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, was elected Vice President.

CHENNAI, India – Sewing machines, lessons in English and math, free schools for the little ones, and training for women: these are just some of the initiatives carried out by the Capuchin friars of the Udhayam Peace Centre of Chennai (Tamil Nadu). The idea, explains Br. Nithiya Sagayam, director of the center, is to “dedicate ourselves to the poorest and to the marginalized, bearing our Christian faith in the typical works of an NGO”. Thus, in the last four months the friars have stopped making monetary donations, seeking instead to help people to become independent and to build for themselves a better future. One of the works carried out by the Udhayam Peace Centre concerns refugees: the brothers bring sewing machines into the refugee camps and organize intensive lessons in English and math. The initiatives geared for the children are fundamental, like the free schools or the courses in civic and social education. For women, the Capuchin friars organize motivational sessions, to help them become more aware of their capacity and to help them emancipate themselves economically, socially, and culturally. Finally, a large space is dedicated to the homeless – for whom they set up a night shelter – and for the children of beggars. On weekdays, such young people are left to themselves, so the center provides them with meals and housing during the week.

Helping the poor and the marginalized



The responsibility of religious for evangelization

ACRIREALE, Italy – In continuity with the theme of the XIII Synod of Bishops, the 52nd General Assembly of the Italian Conference of Major Superiors, held from November 5 to 9, 2012, chose to study the theme, “A new time of evangelization: the responsibility of religious”. In the opening speech of the General Secretary, Br. Fidenzio Volpi, OFM Cap, the theme was developed in four ways that emphasized the specificity of the term “new” while always using

the Gospel and thus seeking the new in the different languages, methodologies, and in renewing the enthusiasm that is able to produce *res novae* for an authentic evangelization that makes use of the intelligence of human beings. The Major Superiors put in first place the responsibility of religious of different institutes to express the specific mission of the charism of the Institute as a sign of evangelizing presence in the contemporary world in the fields of education, health care, pastoral care, works of charity for the poor and needy, as well as to be new, practical “laboratories” of Christian witness. In the course of the work of the Assembly, various subjects indicated by the *instrumentum laboris* were updated for a new evangelization, in particular the first announcement of missionaries, the course of Christian initiation, the post-baptismal catechumenate and the sacrament of Confirmation. Catechesis and education, and a response to the widespread problem of a lack of a solid point of reference in the family and in school, remain the cornerstones of a renewed pastoral action which the religious institutes put in place in the service of the Church. Our General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, also spoke at the Assembly, informing the participants of his recent work at the Synod, speaking to the contribution of religious life to the new evangelization. According to Br. Mauro, “The Synod confirmed the goodness of ecclesiastical structures, but also asked that they be reinvigorated with new pastoral forms. It called for a stronger role for parishes and for the sacraments, with an eye turned toward reconciliation. But, above all, at the base of the new evangelization must be the humility and the knowledge that the Church sees the loss of believers every day. Entire regions; it is enough to think of some parts of France, which today are far from the Christian message. The real challenge of the church community – he continued – is to give substance to the words and to avoid that, after having had so much discussion, the new evangelization remains a dead letter soon to be forgotten.”



The telephone killing the Congo

An excerpt from an article by **Br. Bruno Kesangana**, OFM Cap, published in *Nigrizia*, the monthly magazine of the Comboni Missionaries dedicated to the African continent and Africans in the world, and picked up by new agencies and blogs on the internet, which asks the media to raise public awareness of the situation in Congo.



Do you have a cell phone or portable computer or other similar instruments? These technological marvels have a price. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is paying the bill, with continuing conflicts for the hoarding of the goods used for their production. One of these is coltan. The country has from 60 to 80% of the world's reserves of this mineral. The term "coltan" comes from the combination of two minerals: "col" from "colombite" and "tan" from "tantalite". The former is highly valued for its enormous resistance to corrosion. Considered a strategic metal, it is used above all in the manufacture of capacitors for electronic equipment, mobile phones, guided weapons, plasma televisions, video game consoles, mp3, mp4, and cameras..., but it also forms an important part of the composition of alloys with cobalt and nickel in aeronautics and in particular in the manufacture of reactors, missiles, and satellites. The war, above all in the two Kivu, is not only an "ethnic" conflict, but is run above all to procure this mineral. Many reports of the UN and non-governmental organizations, as well as the testimony of bishops and missionaries who work in this region have laid bare this reality. The different guerilla movements operating in the two Congolese provinces are vying for control of the mineral deposits. Behind these movements there are many African countries, among them Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. Some multinationals – like Nokia, Alcatel, Apple, Nikon, and Ericsson – are called into question for the indirect financing of the war since they pay taxes to rebel groups, benefiting from this country with impunity to the detriment of its inhabitants.



Meeting of the CIOFS Presidency

ROME – The second meeting of 2012 of the Presidency of the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS) took place from October 20 to 27 at the International College 'Seraphicum' with Encarnación del Pozo, General Minister of the OFS, presiding. During this meeting the work for the year 2013 was planned. The meeting was characterized by the Canonical Visitation, which was made by Br. Michael Higgins, TOR, in the name of the Conference of Ministers General of the I Order and also in the name of the Church. The questions discussed were: Formation, Communication, Franciscan Youth, World Youth Day 2013, world presence and the fraternities of emerging nations.