



The first meeting of the coordinating group for the new project of lay volunteers for our missions, especially for those places where there have never been lay collaborators, was held at our General Curia in Rome from September 24-25, 2016.

This initiative is being promoted by the Order to offer people from our communities as well as others the possibility of being part of some of our missions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The order recognizes the importance of bringing many people into the services, such as health, education, development projects, and of course evangelization, that are offered in the missions throughout the world. For those who are interested in being part of our missions, a time of preparation is being offered according to the different destinations and languages, as well as the accompaniment of the Capuchin friars who will welcome people into our fraternities. In order to help get to know well the local reality and to integrate oneself into service with our Capuchin brothers, stays in mission are offered from one to three months.

The coordination group has planned the first destinations as Burkina Faso and Ghana in Africa and Assam in

northeast India. First they themselves will visit these places to study well the different works that can be done and how to coordinate with the Capuchin friars present in these missions. In the first semester of 2017, they hope to see the first volunteers already there in mission. They hope that before long they will be able to offer other destinations as well.

The needs of the Capuchin missions are many, and with the cooperation of friars and lay volunteers much can be done. This project is also a response to the call of the Pope to go to the poorest, and a response to the last Plenary Council of the Order, which says at number 58, *Let us value and promote the participation of the lay faithful in the life of the Church* (missions). But above all this is an opportunity to offer the Capuchins' gifts and an experience that can enrich and transform, and which is a grace!

To keep in contact for all the updates and preparations, you can write to mission@ofmcap.org.

Mission is waiting for you!

Br. Hugo Mejía Morales

[Watch the video](#)

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Download CPO VIII



CPO VIII - The grace of working... ...one year later

It's said that time flies. It's true ... a year has passed since the celebration of PCO VIII, which was truly a moment of grace and an occasion of growth for the whole Order! But it's also said that Verba volant, scripta manent. So what has happened in your fraternity with the document on the grace of working with that simple title, Proposals? We hope that it has not landed in some forgotten pile or been placed on the shelf in the reading room. We hope rather that this document becomes something to read and to reflect and act upon in the local fraternities and in the Custodies and Provinces. Some have let us know that in some Provinces, Custodies, and local fraternities, an awareness of the

Proposals has led to a review of our life that has produced renewal and change in lifestyle. In some other Provinces they have taken up domestic work anew with more participation; in another they are reading the Proposals together for the second time; in another still they are preparing to review them for application. With the hope, therefore, that you can do the same or more, we are offering a collection of material—audio, video, and texts—to help you respond concretely and generously to the gift of the grace of working and to so give praise and witness to the God who has loved us first.

*Br. Štefan Kožuh
General Vicar*

Word

VIII Plenary Council of the Order:

Instrumentum laboris

IT PT EN DE ES PL FR

Br. Štefan Kožuh OFM Cap

Introduction to the first session

IT

Br. Mauro Jöhri OFM Cap

Opening talk (WORD)

IT PT EN DE ES FR

Mauro Magatti

Human activity in the anthropocene era

IT EN PT FR ES

Br. Luiz Carlos Susin OFM Cap

Work in the magisterium of the Church

IT EN PT

Br. Fernando Ventura OFM Cap

Work in the Bible

IT EN PT FR ES DE

Bishop Felice Accrocca

Work in the Franciscan Sources

IT EN

Br. Pio Murat OFM Cap

Review of the PCOs, Constitutions, and... on work

IT FR EN PT

Br. Giuseppe Buffon OFM

manual work between mission and identity

IT EN FR DE ES PT

Video

2015 10 26



Rino Fisichella

2015 10 27



2015 11 11



Dominique Pacreau

2015 10 28



2015 11 12



Carmelo Tonino Saia

2015 10 29



2015 11 19



Christophorus Goedereis



Henryk Cisowski



Audio

Štefan Kožuh, Mauro Jöhri



Ventura, Ayodi, Cisowski

M. Magatti, Pedro Opeka



Accrocca, Murat, Hangalo

M. Hess, R. Fisichella



Mauro Jöhri

Susin, Godereis, Pacreau



Riflessioni e testimonianze



Foto

2015 10 26



Collegio San Lorenzo

2015 10 29



2015 11 11



2015 11 03



CPO Spirituale

2015 11 04



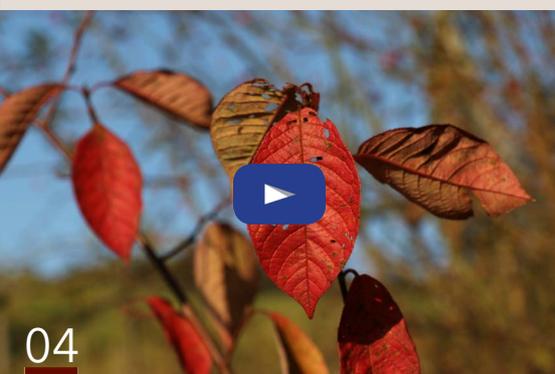
2015 11 13





CECOC

In Poland



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The Capuchin Conference of Central and Eastern Europe (CECOC) met from October 11-14, 2016 at the Padre Pio retreat house in Skomielna Czarna, Poland, near Cracow. The friars were gathered near the places of Pope St. John Paul II and St. Faustina Kowalska, whose sanctuaries the friars also visited during the meeting.

The members of the Conference meet twice a year.

During this meeting the Provincial Ministers reported on the fraternal life and the activities carried out in the different circumscriptions, sharing joys, sufferings, and hopes. Ministers were present from all the circumscriptions: Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, and Hungary. As always, also present was the General Vicar, Br. Štefan Kožuh.

Some of the topics treated were the sharing of life, the Europe Project, the translation of the Constitutions, the meeting

of post-novices in Prague, a look at the current statistics of the Order, and the Ratio formationis Ordinis. The updated website of the General Curia was also presented. As always the meeting was a good time to catch up on happenings in the Capuchin world, especially in listening to the General Vicar, who brought news from the central administration, such as on the recent letter of the General Minister on prayer.

Brothers Andrzej Włodarczyk and Robert Rabka were the interpreters for the meetings of the assembly. The next meeting of the Conference will be from May 29 to June 2, 2017, in Serpelice, Poland.

[Info](#)

[Photo – CECOC meeting in Skomielna](#)

[Photo – Skomielna Czarna, Poland – Autumn](#)

[Photo – Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Cracow](#)





Letter of the General Minister of the Friars Minor Capuchin

St. Francis of Assisi: a man transformed in prayer

To all the friars of the Order
To the Capuchin Poor Clare sisters

A reflection that has been developing during my service
among you

I am reaching out to you with this letter with which I want to share some reflections on prayer. I write as I am moved by a thought that has been with me for a long time and that pushes me to face a situation that, together with the brother General Councilors, I find in my visits to the circumscriptions of the Order: difficulty in the practice of prayer. I am certain that we can all agree among ourselves, as also we would say to those we meet in our ministry and our work, that prayer is a central element in the life of every baptized person and, in particular way, in the experience of someone who has embraced the religious life. But the reality does not confirm this significance. It is not my intention to add anything to the treatises and manuals on prayer; the literary production on this theme is rich and abundant. I do, however, ask you to read this letter together with chapter III of our Constitutions, where you will find a deep and beautiful synthesis, rooted precisely in the values of the Capuchin Franciscan tradition.

On July 2, 2016, Pope Francis, thanking me for the gift that our General Curia had given him for the feast of St. Peter, wrote these very words: “Prayer, as a humble entrusting of oneself to God and his will, is always the way out of the ways we are closed in on ourselves both personally and in common. It is the great way for opening ourselves to the Gospel and witnessing to hope with the enthusiasm of disciples who are faithful to Jesus.” What, then, is the intention behind these words? I would like to encourage each of you to take a look at your relationship with God; not in the theory of ideas, but in the concreteness of the every day. Our brokenness and struggles are not spotted so much in our convictions about prayer, but rather in our daily practice. The Franciscan Sources tell of the sorrowful cry of St. Francis, “Love is not loved.” To me comes the phrase, ‘Prayer is not loved, and is little lived and practiced!’

[Info](#)

Download



Capuchin Poor Clares: "Pax et Bonum"



“Remembering the promise of Saint Francis to Clare and to the Poor Sisters of San Damiano, we must always show loving care and special concern for our sisters of the Second Order. In the contemplative life, they offer each day the sacrifice of praise, seek union with God in solitude and silence, and spread the Church far and wide with a hidden apostolic fruitfulness.” (Constitutions OFM Cap. 101,3)

One of the forms available to us in our journeying together with our contemplative Capuchin Poor Clare Sisters is that of offering them information, thanks to the digital means of communication, so that the autonomous monasteries may truly feel a part of the Capuchin family as it exists in its various forms.

Pax et Bonum is the bulletin of the Office of the General Assistant to the Capuchin Poor Clares, which,

from its beginning in the General Curia in 1970, has offered the contemplatives of the Second Order information and motivation for living the charism in our current realities, by reporting on the different situations of the sisters all over the world and in close communion with the Capuchin friars. It is published twice a year in Italian, English, and Spanish. For some time it has also been sent to the individual federations and monasteries in a digital format.

Beyond the bulletin, on the blog Capuchinas y Capuchinos, you can find more frequent updates on all the news from our Office, including the reviews, photos, and various materials from the previous editions of the Pax et Bonum bulletin in the various languages.

*Br. Leonardo Ariel González
Delegate of the General Minister
for the Capuchin Poor Clares*

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<http://frleonardogonzalez.blogspot.com>

Capuchinas y Capuchinos

Delegado del Ministro General para las Capuchinas y los Institutos agregados a la Orden

