

## Documents of the Order in electronic format



For about five months, several people have been working full time to realize a demanding project for the General Curia website, [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org).

The idea of the General Minister and Council was to set up and make available to the brothers the latest documents of the Order in an easily accessible digital format.

The project has been realized and presents all the Plenary Councils of the Order and the letters of the General Ministers since 1994. These documents are now available on the website in seven languages, in the most widely used electronic formats of Word, PDF, EPUB, and MOBI.

All the documents have been set up and formatted for electronic use; they contain electronic indexes that make it possible to navigate within each document according to the device used.

So now the documents of the Order can be read and studied as an e-book, on a tablet or smartphone. We hope that this project is useful for the friars, offering the possibility for reading, reflection, and study of the documents, to the end of a deepened awareness of our Capuchin life by means of what has been published in recent years by the Plenary Councils and written by the General Ministers. The documents are found on the website [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org) in the 'documents' section.

Happy reading and study!

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## Documents

Plenary Councils



Letters of the General Minister

fr. Mauro Jöhri

2012-2018

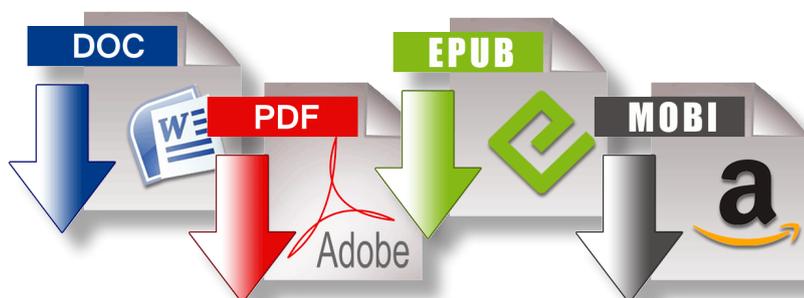
2006-2012

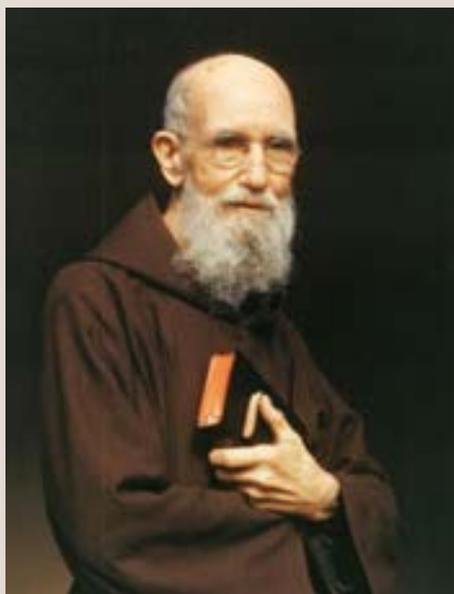


fr. John Corriveau

2000-2006

1994-2000





# A new **Blessed** for the Order

Francesco  
Solanus  
Casey



**O**n April 25, 2017, the ordinary meeting of the Cardinals and Bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized the extraordinary healing attributed to the intercession of Venerable Francis Solanus Casey (1870-1957), Capuchin priest of the Province of Calvary (USA). On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis authorized the signed decree that opens the doors to the beatification that we hope to celebrate towards the end of 2017 in Detroit. Bernard Francis Casey, the sixth of sixteen children, was born in Prescott, Wisconsin (USA) on November 25, 1870 to Bernard James Casey and Ellen Elisabeth Murphy, immigrants from Ireland.

Bernard had a strong and feisty spirit, but was also gifted with an altruistic spirit and a good sense of humor. He loved sports, becoming particularly good at baseball. Before entering religious life he worked as a farmhand, lumberjack, kiln operator, prison guard, and streetcar operator. In 1892, at the age of twenty-two, he entered the diocesan seminary of Francis de Sales in Milwaukee. Not being able to pay the full room and board, he worked as a barber for his class-

mates. Because he was no longer a very young seminarian by the standards of the time and also because of his inadequate preparation, he encountered great difficulty in the studies, and after five years in the seminary he was counseled to abandon the idea of priesthood and to perhaps become a religious.

With humility and trust, Bernard accepted the idea and was invested in the Capuchin habit on January 14, 1897 in the friary of St. Bonaventure in Detroit and took the religious name Francis Solanus. At the end of novitiate he professed on July 21, 1898 and returned to theological study in the Seraphic Seminary in Milwaukee. The languages used in teaching, German and Latin, made it difficult for him to learn. Nevertheless, despite the difficulty the superiors decided to ordain him priest at the word of the rector: "We will ordain Br. Francis Solanus and as a priest he will be for the people a kind of Curé of Ars." On July 24, 1904 he received priestly ordination as a simplex priest, with the heavy restriction of not hearing confessions or preaching publicly.

He was always given assignments ordinarily reserved for lay friars,

and so was soon given the office of sacristan, director of altar servers, and then porter. After being in various houses of the Province, his last assignment was as porter at the friary of St. Bonaventure in Detroit, where for a good twenty years he attracted a constant flow of people who came to him, drawn by the reputation of his virtue and the extraordinary graces attributed to his prayer.

He would pass up to ten hours a day by the door, without granting himself a break or a vacation, exercising his apostolate of the good word, charity, patience, and obedience.

On July 28, 1954 Father Solanus celebrated his fiftieth jubilee of priesthood. His health, however, began to decline. After several recoveries in the hospital, on July 31, 1957, he died at St. Bonaventure friary in Detroit.

On May 15, 2017, Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, accepted the proposal of the Archbishop of Detroit, Most Rev. Allen Henry Vigneron and the Capuchin friars of the Province of Calvary to celebrate the rite of beatification of Venerable Solanus Casey on November 18, 2017 in Detroit.

# Franciscan Tertiary: **Blessed**

## Lucien Botovasoa



On May 2, 2017, the ordinary session of the Cardinals and Bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized the martyrdom of Lucien Botovasoa (1908-1947), layman, father, and schoolteacher, who, with evangelical serenity, after having reassured his wife and children and while praying for his persecutors, fulfilled his conformity to Christ even to the shedding of his blood.

On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis signed the decree that acknowledges his martyrdom, opening the path to his beatification, which could be celebrated this November 2017 in Madagascar.

Lucien Botovasoa was born in 1908 in Vohipeno, a rural town in the southeast of Madagascar, the province of Fianarantsoa.

In 1918 he began studies in the state school and then proceeded to the Jesuit College of St. Joseph in Ambozontany. In 1928 he concluded the studies and was awarded the teaching diploma and in the same year became a parish teacher in Vohipeno, making his own the motto of the Society of Jesus: *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*.

On October 10, 1930 he married Suzanna Soazana in the parish church of Vohipeno and on the following September 12 was born Vincent de Paul Hermann,

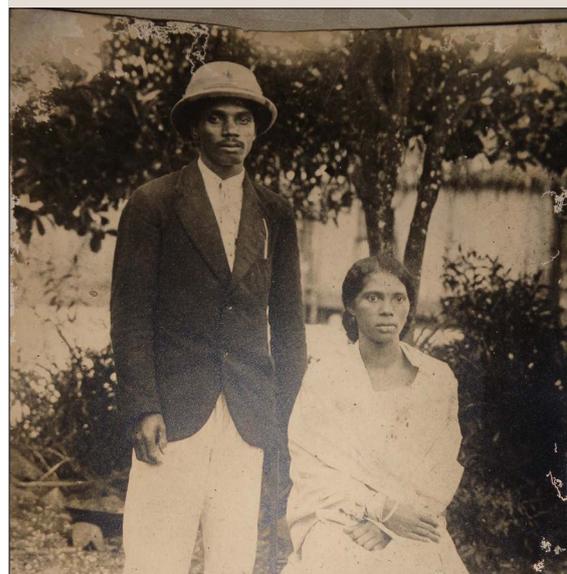
the first of their eight children, of which only five survived. The Servant of God was an excellent educator, working not only as the village teacher but also in the parish, with generous availability to the needy. In addition to Malagasy, he knew French, Latin, German, and Chinese. He was an exceptional musician and appreciated as a singer, becoming also the director of the parish choir. He was also an athlete, and is described as always smiling and joyful.

In 1940 the Servant of God stumbled upon the Rule of the Franciscan Third Order and it became for him a text for study and meditation. He decided to take up himself this following of Christ, with investiture in the habit of the Franciscan Third Order on December 18, 1944. He thus began to live a poor life of Franciscan spirituality, characterized by a deep piety and by the burning desire to bring the gospel everywhere.

After the Second World War, in the years 1946-1947, there grew in Madagascar the desire for independence from France. In 1946, as supporter of independence, Tsimihoño, from the Clan of Ambohimananarivo, became king (Mpanjaka). At Vohipeno there were also violent clashes between

the two factions. On March 30, 1947, Palm Sunday, the parish church was burned and so began the king's hunt for the 'Christian teacher,' Lucien Botovasoa, who was respected by both the Catholics and others in Vohipeno. Lucien was commanded to appear, or his family would be massacred.

The Servant of God, realizing what was happening, entrusted his wife and children to his brother and returned to Vohipeno. Around nine o'clock in the evening of April 17, 1947, his brother André and two cousins, under threat of death, were charged with arresting Lucien. Brought to the house of the king Tsimihoño, he was condemned to death without any trial. Arriving at the place of execution he knelt and was beheaded while he was praying for his murderers. His body was thrown in the river.



## Elections and appointments



### Provincia dell'Emilia Romagna, Italia – elezioni

MP: fr. Lorenzo Motti  
VP: fr. Francesco Maria Pavani  
2C: fr. Fabrizio Zaccarini  
3C: fr. Giacomo Franchini  
4C: fr. Paolo Mai

Data: 27.04.2017

Luogo: Casa di spiritualità “Villa Santa Maria”,  
Tossignano (Bologna), Italia

Presidente: fr. Mauro Jöhri, Ministro Generale



### Custodia di Svezia – elezioni:

CU: fr. Ryszard Zielinski (confermato)  
1C: fr. Marek Gil  
2C: Jan Nowosielski

Data: 02.05.2017

Luogo: Djursholm (Stoccolma), Svezia

Presidente: fr. Andrzej Kiejza, Provinciale di Varsavia,  
Polonia



### Provincia di Kristjyoti, Nord India - elezioni

MP: fr. Benoy Joseph  
VP: fr. Dominic Thirunilath  
2C: fr. Prasannan Paul  
3C: fr. John Paul  
4C: fr. S. Arockia Alex

Data: 03.05.2017

Luogo: Jyotiniketan Minor Seminary Dasna Masuri,  
UP, India

Presidente: fr. Michael Fernandes, Consigliere Generale



### Provincia di Foggia, Italia - elezioni

MP: fr. Maurizio Placentino  
VP: fr. Francesco Dileo  
2C: fr. Matteo Lecce  
3C: fr. Giuseppe D'Onofrio  
4C: fr. Antonio Salvatore

Data: 03.05.2017

Luogo: San Giovanni Rotondo,  
Domus Francescana "L'Approdo", Italia

Presidente: fr. Mauro Jöhri, Ministro Generale



### Provincia di Aluva, Kerala India - elezioni

MP: fr. Pully Madassery  
VP: fr. Joy Menachery  
2C: fr. Davis Vithayathil  
3C: fr. Jaison Vadackan  
4C: fr. Lijoy Chiriyankandath

Data: 09.05.2017

Luogo: St. Thomas Provincialate, Aluva, Kerala, India  
Presidente: Mauro Jöhri, Ministro Generale

# Elections and appointments

## Provincia di Slovenia - elezioni:

MP: fr. Vlado Kolenko (confermato)

VP: fr. Milan Kvas

2C: fr. Primož Kovač

3C: fr. Matej Nastran

4C: fr. Jože Smukavec

Eletti: 11.05.2017

Data: Kančevci – Slovenia

Presidente: Mark Schenk, Consigliere Generale



## Provincia del Piemonte, Italia – elezioni:

MP: fr. Michele Mottura (confermato)

VP: fr. Claudio Passavanti

2C: fr. Francesco Daniele

3C: fr. Luca Margaria

4C: fr. Fausto Panepinto

Data: 11.05.2017

Luogo: Armeno (Novara), Italia

Presidente: fr. Raffaele Della Torre, Consigliere Generale



## Provincia di Maharashtra – elezioni:

MP: fr. Philip Gonsalves

VP: fr. Sebastian Kinny

2C: fr. Wilson D'Souza

3C: fr. Victor Bandy

4C: fr. Leo D'Monte

Data: 17.05.2017

Luogo: Capuchin Provincialate Fatima Campus, Kirool, Mumbai, India

Presidente: Mauro Jöhri, Ministro Generale



## Provincia della Puglia - elezioni:

MP: fr. Alfredo Marchello (confermato)

VP: fr. Raffaele Massari

2C: fr. Ruggiero Doronzo

3C: fr. Flaviano Ricciardi

4C: fr. Umberto Polimeno

Data: 17.05.2017

Luogo: Centro di spiritualità "Oasi Beati Martiri Idruntini", Santa Cesarea Terme (Lecce), Italia

Presidente: fr. Raffaele Della Torre, Consigliere Generale



## Provincia di New York-New England - elezioni:

MP: fr. Michael Greco

VP: fr. Robert Abbatiello

2C: fr. Lake Herman

3C: fr. James Peterson

4C: fr. Salvatore Cordaro

Data: 18.05.2017

Luogo: Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford, Connecticut

Presidente: Mark Schenk, Consigliere Generale





## Br. Carlos Cartagena, rest in peace

**B**r. Carlos Cartagena died on April 26, 2017 in the friary of St. Anthony of Padua in Santiago de Chile. He had entered the Order on March 4, 1945, professed temporary vows on February 11, 1952 and perpetual vows the following year. He was ordained priest on September 21, 1957.

Br. Carlos studied at the University of Salamanca, where he earned a doctorate in philosophy and classical letters as well as a licentiate in sacred music. He then taught in the seminary and high school in Paine, Chile.

In 1979 he was called to Rome as Latinist for the General Curia and then served in this same invaluable capacity at the Holy See, from 1994 to 2012. His competence and dedication to Latin was greatly appreciated, and he enjoyed the trust and esteem of many. In 1998 he became also the secretary of the LATINITAS Foundation, instituted by Pope Blessed Paul VI in 1976.

With the whole Province of Chile we thank the Lord for the gift of Br. Carlos and his shining witness of Franciscan religious life.



# July 3

## Capuchin Family Day

**J**uly 3 is a special day in the Capuchin calendar, for it is the date of the papal bull *Religionis zelus* (1528) by which the Capuchin reform was recognized officially 489 years ago.

Each year on this day we are able to remember that we are a Capuchin family and we celebrate the spiritual bonds that unite us with about a hundred institutes of consecrated life that are part of the Capuchin story.

There are many members of our Capuchin family: the contemplative Capuchin Poor Clares, the Poor Clare Sacramentines, the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, the Capuchin nuns of the III Order, as well as the spiritual

family of sisters and brothers of congregations aggregated to our Order, sharing our spirituality, many of them founded and accompanied by Capuchin friars.

Laity too are part of our family, especially the fraternities of the Secular Franciscan Order assisted by Capuchin friars and also many movements, institutions, and NGOs that take inspiration from our tradition in the realization of their varied service.

Therefore on July 3 we invite everyone to gather as one family in order to:

- Thank God in common prayer or in the celebration of the Eucharist for the gifts received as a

spiritual family and to remember our founders;

- Break bread together fraternally and in dialogue, highlighting our identity as brothers and sisters and sharing our current situations;

- Plan some simple steps to strengthen our bonds, such as collaborations and mutual awareness of our activity.

Each friary, fraternity, and place is asked to take up this simple initiative and to keep alive the gift the being a family, adapted to different realities. Another, more convenient date may be chosen, but with the same purpose of communion and mutual rapport.

# Forty years of the OFS Rule

This year is the fortieth anniversary of the publication of the Rule of the OFS (Secular Franciscan Order) by Pope Blessed Paul VI with the apostolic letter *Seraphicus Patriarcha* on June 24, 1978. For the occasion this year, the four General Assistants to the OFS are dedicating their *Koinonia* bulletin to the anniversary with the general theme, “Living the Secular Franciscan charism in the world of today: forty years after *Seraphicus Patriarcha*.” In the first issue, already published this past April, Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR writes on the topic, “Seduced by

God, seekers of Christ: Secular Franciscans and their relationship with God.”

“The highest human dignity is the vocation of the human being to union with God and from birth the human person is invited to enter into dialogue with Him. The human being exists purely and simply for the love of the God who has created him and preserves him in being.” (GS 19) It is God who, in his love, seeks the human being first. It is a seeking that the prophet Jeremiah experiences as an irresistible seduction of the heart: You seduced me, LORD, and I let myself be



seduced; you were too strong for me, and you prevailed.” (Jer 20:7) In his Testament, St. Francis of Assisi too reveals how his conversion began with the initiative of God. In this way Br. Armando demonstrates how the OFS Rule also follows this logic, in which the Secular Franciscans, seduced by the love of God, find in it the way to respond in the Spirit of Christ in order to become courageous witnesses of the Risen Christ.

Read the articles published four times a year here: [www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org)

[www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv](http://www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv)

 **Subscribe**

YouTube has joined Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as a major means of communication. Since 2009 the Communications Office of the Capuchin General Curia has published videos on its YouTube channel. In the past year (2016), this activity has intensified and fifty-three videos have been posted, a new video about once a week. These videos present the many international meetings of the friars, the messages of the General Minister, conferences in the larg-

er Franciscan world and from the Capuchin Poor Clare nuns, and moments in the life of the friars in different parts of the world. It is possible to subscribe to the channel in order to receive regular updates of new videos when they are published. Just go to the address [www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv](http://www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv) and click on Subscribe.

We invite you to visit our channel.

See you there!



**You Tube**





## A taste of Indonesia

At the meeting of the PACC (Pacific Asia Capuchin Conference) this past February 2017 in Indonesia – where interviews were also recorded with the friars of Japan, East Timor, the Philippines, Korea, and Papua New Guinea, as well as other places – we had the opportunity to know better the life of the Capuchin friars in this part of the world.

The video and photo galleries shown here present in part the activity of the friars of the Province of Medan and how the Capuchins live on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

Two houses, the postulancy community, the clinic founded by the

friars in Medan, two Catholic radio stations (Medan and Naga-huta), the formation houses for philosophy and theology...

A look at the context and the culture of this country – recreation animated by the friars, typical Indonesian churches, the famous lake Toba in Indonesia, the Marian shrine in Medan, as well as the daily life of the people, such as a day at the market or the research of a doctor in a hospital.

These materials can bring us closer to the daily life of our Capuchin brothers in this part of the world. Let us wish them the best!

Enjoy your virtual visit to Indonesia!



# Video Indonesia, February 2017

Postulancy, Medan



Postulancy, Nagahuta



Eucharist



Recreation



Pematang Siantar



Shrine of Our Lady



Clinic and radio



Sinaksak - formation houses



The friars sing



PACC meeting



Museum and the church



Lake Toba, Indonesia



# Photos Indonesia, February 2017

Postulancy, Medan



Postulancy, Nagahuta



Shrine of Our Lady



Nagahuta, clinic



Pematand Siantar



Lake Toba



Berastagi, the museum



Berastagi, the church



# 2017 ongoing formation course



## in Spanish and Portuguese



**T**he General Secretariat of Formation of the Capuchin Order promotes an annual formation course that provides an accompanied pilgrimage to the holy places in Rome and Assisi, together with formation in Franciscan spirituality through an ongoing formation lens. This year, for the first time, the course will see the participation of both Capuchin brothers and sisters, this time of the Spanish and Portuguese languages from the USA, Guatemala, Brazil, Mozambique, Ecuador, and Argentina. In addition to the friars, three Capuchin Poor Clares and

two Capuchin Sisters of Mother Rubatto will participate. This is a good opportunity to learn from one another and journey together as a family.

The course will include the following themes:

- The historical coordinates of Francis and Clare
- Franciscanism and art
- Writings of Francis
- Clare of Assisi and the Poor Sisters
- Franciscan thought
- The Capuchin reform
- Elements of affective maturity



www.bici.ofmcap.org

# Subscribe to BICI, because...

For many years the Bulletin of International Capuchin Information (BICI) has been a means of communication between the General Curia and Capuchin friars all over the world. In recent years, technology has offered us more and more possibilities, such as video, audio, and the possibility of seeing not just a single photo, but an entire photo gallery collected on the internet. Toward this end, for some months BICI has changed, not in the sense of the layout, but in the way it works. BICI is now more than just a newsletter that can be printed and put on the bulletin board of the friary. It has now become interactive for use on a computer or a tablet, such as an iPad. This is why we are inviting the brothers of the Order to subscribe to BICI, so that everyone can receive it personally in their own email. Thus, everyone will be able to use the new functionality that has already been offered for some time. In recent months we have uploaded more than forty videos, many photo galleries, and much audio material. Much of this is only available in the electronic version. We have maintained the layout so that BICI can still be printed, but now the electronic version is much better.

Subscribing to BICI is very easy. Just go to the internet address [www.bici.ofmcap.org](http://www.bici.ofmcap.org), choose your language preference from the seven languages available, and sign up with your name and email address. That's it! Everyone who signs up will receive BICI personally, just as it is online each month for the use of the brothers. Let the friars know of this new way to enjoy BICI, which will allow a greater sharing of communication between the General Curia and the friars in the world. We hope that these new means of communication foster fraternal communion among us Capuchins all over the world.



## Key:

-  • A red 'play' button means that there is a video to see. Click to watch the video.
-  • A blue 'play' button means that there is a photo gallery to see. Click to see the photos.
-  • A green 'play' button means there is audio to listen to. Click to listen to the audio.

[Watch the video – how to subscribe to BICI](#)

