



Ratio Formationis - Chapter I

We are sending you the Draft of chapter 1 of the Ratio, which you can use for a day of recollection in this Advent season which has just begun, or during Christmastide. You will find more detailed instructions in the introduction.

What is the purpose of reading and reflecting on this chapter? First of all, it is so that each brother may compare his own experiences and images of Saint Francis with those that appear in the proposed text. Secondly, to be able to share as a fraternity not just our im-

pressions of the text, but also the impact and importance of the charismatic figure of Saint Francis in our own lives. Finally, the aim is to see if, in the opinion of the fraternity, some dimension of the figure of Saint Francis is not reflected with sufficient emphasis or clarity, or if some important aspects are either missing or over-emphasised in the text. Please feel free to make whatever comments you feel are appropriate.

[See all the material on the website](http://www.ratio.ofmcap.org)

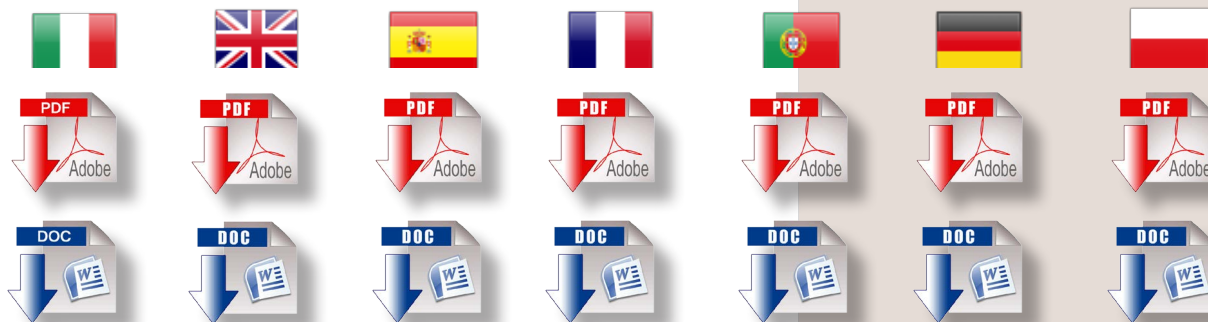
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Ratio Formationis



Letter





Christmas Greeting



Dear Capuchin brothers, it's Christmas again!
As General Minister I want to send greetings and invite you to experience Christmas anew in the spirit of St. Francis.

Surely you will recall the beginning of our Rule, where St. Francis writes: The rule and life of the Lesser Brothers is this: to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This Christmas I'm thinking especially of this verb 'to observe.' To observe means more than 'to keep,' 'to do as we are told.' To observe presumes first of all attention, a taking of a look, a closer look, in order to really know something. Now I would like to remind you of the Gospel, when it says that the angels appeared to the shepherds, saying, I bring you good news of a great joy, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior. And what do the shepherds say? Let us go and see. For you can only love what you have known. And where does this knowledge come from? From seeing. This is why Francis wanted to portray how Jesus was born; he wanted to see, because he wanted to be touched in his heart. There it is, brothers! Christmas is the joyful rediscovery that Jesus has been given to us, that Jesus is the center of our lives. Let us 'observe' Him. Let us follow him with our gaze so as to then live what He has proposed to us. And his first lesson is that of being born in simplicity and poverty.

Brothers! Here is the source, the origin of our choice of a life lived in minority.

I wish you a merry Christmas, a blessed Christmas in fraternity, but also a moment to rediscover in the depths of our hearts this Person, this great Gift that Jesus is for us.

*Br. Mauro Jöhri OFM Cap
General Minister of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin*

[Watch the video](#)



FRATI
FRANCESCANI
IN CAPITOLO

HIGHLIGHTS
GENERAL CURIA

ITE VOS

An inhabited memory for walking together towards the future

The Franciscan Friars in Assisi Coordination Group came into existence with Pope Francis's visit to Assisi on October 4, 2013. At the end of his visit to the Tomb, the Pope turned to the Ministers General and other friars present and said: "Good, you should stay united." The Pope's invitation connected with our already strong desire to "walk together and grow in common vocation and mission."

Franciscan Friars in Chapter was jointly created to prepare for and re-experience the centuries-old events that led to the Pardon of Assisi (celebrating its 800th Anniversary in 2016) and the Papal Bull "Ite vos" (celebrating its 500th Anniversary in 2017), with the goal of planning an even more significant future together.

This initiative was accepted and disseminated by the four Ministers General of the Order. It is being proposed simply as a possible pilot experience for friars who might want to organize similar courses around the world.

At our meeting on June 30, 2015, we updated the Ministers Provincial and those who work closest with them, on encouraging Provincial fraternity as we travel the path toward the 2017 "General Chapter". We also shared ideas and intentions, in view of a Plenary Assembly of all the Franciscan fraternities in the region of Umbria, Italy. We are now at point where we hope everyone is convinced that an authentic and profound reconciliation between the Franciscan families

will let us more powerfully and clearly give witness to the charism of Francis and Clare.

Continued meetings, dialogue and prayer between all of the Friars Minor will yield the fruit of peace and evangelization. By taking this path, we hope create space for prophetic prospects and initiatives that can specifically be developed into one (or more) "missionary" realities which can be lived in communion.

[See all the material on the website](#)



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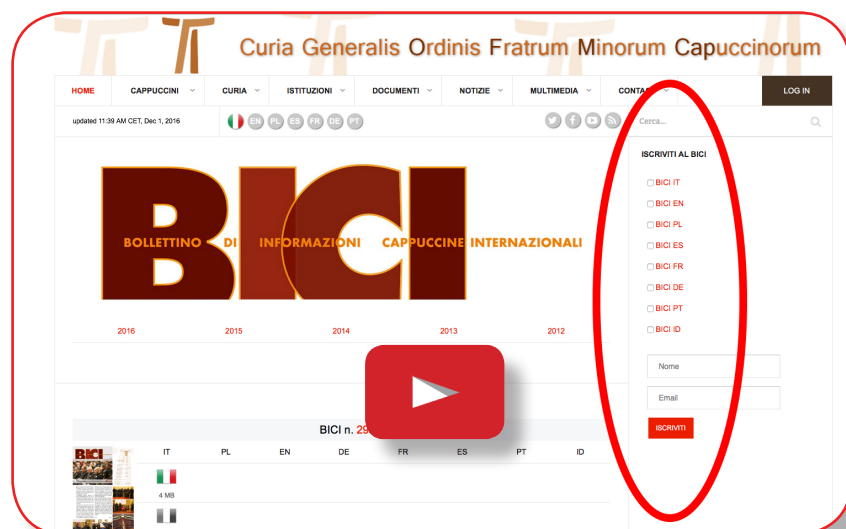
- A red 'play' button means that there is a video to see. Click to watch the video.
- A blue 'play' button means that there is a photo gallery to see. Click to see the photos.
- A green 'play' button means there is audio to listen to. Click to listen to the audio.

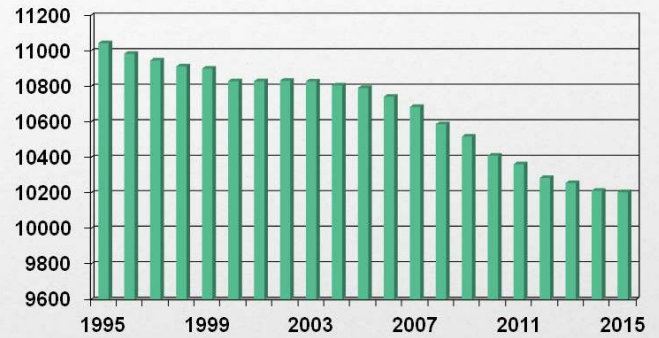
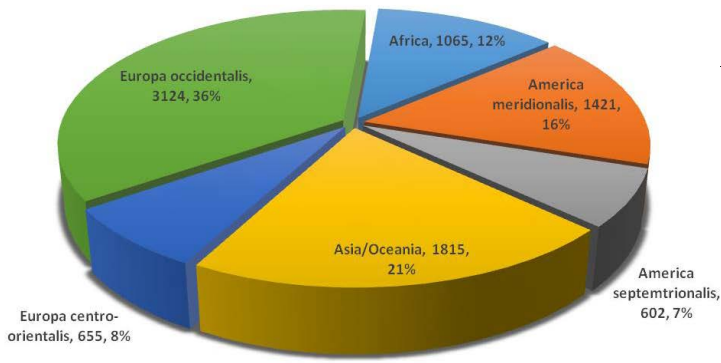
Subscribe to BICI, because...

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, 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.

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





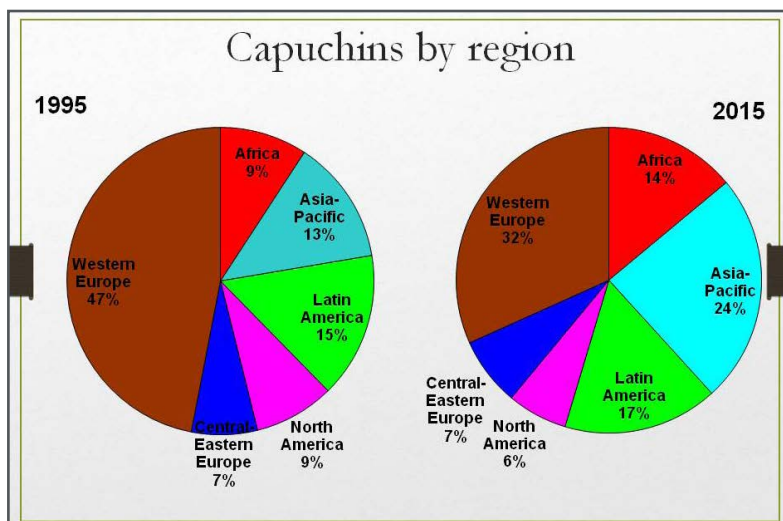
Statistics

of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin

Our website www.ofmcap.org is always being updated. We would like to let you know about some new content on the statistics of the Order which will be appearing in the coming days.

Statistics never tell the truth – so wise people say – but on the other hand they let one see realities under certain categories, counted and measured. Therefore, in the main menu of our website, in the section ‘Capuchins’ there is a new ‘statistics’ section. The data presented there is what is collected by the General Curia and presented each year in the *Analecta*. We mean, however, to present this data in other ways, such as in PowerPoint. Therefore, you will find simple statistical data on the website, but also material to download, such as materials prepared for the various presentations made during the year by the General Minister and his Councilors in different parts of the world. The current statistics are for 2015, but will be updated each year, after the collection of the data relative to the past year. We invite you to visit the website and to study the dynamics of our Order in its presence on the various continents.

[See all the material on the website](http://www.ofmcap.org)



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Statistics 2015

Data presentations



Presentation **A**
PowerPoint

PDF



Presentation **B**
PowerPoint



Brazil



Appointment of bishops

Rubival Cabral Britto OFM Cap

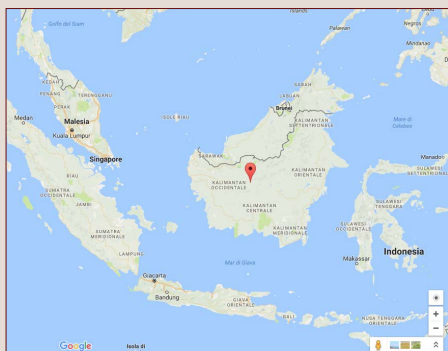
The Holy Father has accepted the resignation Most Rev. Franco Cuter, OFM Cap. from pastoral governance of the diocese of Grajaú (Brazil), and has appointed Fr. P. Rubival Cabral Britto, OFM Cap., current Director of the Colégio Paulo VI in Vitória da Conquista.

Fr. P. Rubival Cabral Britto, OFM Cap., was born on July 21, 1969 in Jaguaquara, in the Brazilian state of Bahia. He studied philosophy at the “Dom Walfredo Tepe” Institute of Theology in Ilhéus (1993-1995) and theology at the Catholic University in Salvador (1996-2000). He also completed a specialization in education management at the Catholic University of Brasília (2011-2012).

He was ordained priest on December 17, 2000 in Jaguaquara. Before ordination, he was provincial secretary (1997-2000) as well as vocation director (1997-2001). As a priest he had the following assignments: Formator and bursar of the postulancy (2001-2002), provincial secretary (2003-2004), parish administrator (2003-2004), provincial definitor for the missions, bursar and novice master (2004-2007), provincial minister (2007-2013), and post-novitiate formator in the community of São Judas Tadeu ad Aracaju, in the state of Sergipe (2013-2015).

He is currently the Director of the Colégio Paulo VI in Vitória da Conquista, in the state of Bahia.

Indonesia



Samuel Oton Sidin OFM Cap

Pope Francis has appointed as bishop of the diocese of Sintang (Indonesia) Rev. Samuel Oton Sidin, OFM Cap., Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Tebet, Jakarta.

Fr. Samuel Oton Sidin, OFM Cap., was born on December 12, 1954 in Pontianka. Following elementary school, he attended the minor seminary in Nyarumkop. Entering the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin in 1977, he completed philosophical and theological studies at the inter-diocesan major seminary in Pematangsiantar in Medan (Sumatra). He professed perpetu-

al vows on July 18, 1982 and was ordained priest on July 1, 1984. Following ordination he held the following assignments: 1984-1985: parochial vicar in Nyarumkop 1985-1990: studies in spirituality at the Antonianum, Rome; 1990-1993: assistant novice master; 1993-1997: novice master; 1997-2003: Provincial Minister of Pontianak; 2003-2008: Director of the Rumah Pelangi and of the project for forest conservation 2009-2012: Provincial Minister of Pontianak; since 2012: Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Tebet, Jakarta.



Raniero Cantalamessa - Advent 2016

The custom of having the general procurators of the four mendicant orders (Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, and Augustinians) take turns preaching before the papal court, on the Sundays of Advent and Lent, goes back to the Middle Ages. The office of papal preacher as a permanent position, however, goes back to the pontificate of Paul IV (1555-1559); over the years various orders were able to offer someone for this assignment. Pope Benedict XIV, in his letter *Inclytum Fratrum Minorum* (1743), reserved this title in an exclusive way to members of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin.

In 1980 Pope John Paul II appointed the theologian Br. Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap., as Apostolic Preacher. Currently the sermons are held on each Friday of Lent and Advent in the Redemptoris Mater chapel in the Apostolic Palace.

This year is the twenty-sixth time that Br. Raniero has preached for the Holy Father and the Papal Household. The title of his preaching this year was, "Let us drink, the sober intoxication of the Spirit."

"The major innovation in theology and in the life of the Church after the Council has a specific name: the Holy Spirit. [...] It has given rise to

the present theological current that is precisely named the 'Theology of the Third Article.' [that is, the third article of the Creed, on the Holy Spirit] I do not think that such a current aims to substitute itself for traditional theology (and it would be mistake if it did); rather it is meant to come alongside of it and reinvigorate it. It proposes to make the Holy Spirit not only the object of one treatise, pneumatology, but also the atmosphere, so to speak, in which the whole life of the Church and all theological research unfolds—for the Holy Spirit is the 'light of dogmas,' as an ancient Church Father described him. [...] With this in view, I would like to offer reflections on some aspects of the Holy Spirit's action in the three meditations for Advent, beginning precisely with the third article of the creed that pertains to him." (from the first Advent sermon for 2016, "I believe in the Holy Spirit.")

[Visit Fr. Raniero's website](#)

See the photo galleries

[Advent 2016](#)

[Redemptoris Mater](#)

Download the four Advent sermons for 2016



Venerable Guglielmo Massaia (1809-1889)



and was invested in the habit on September 6, 1826, taking the name of his own older brother: Guglielmo. Following the studies of philosophy and theology (1827 – 1833), he was ordained priest in Vercelli on June 16, 1832. At first he was a hospital chaplain, where he gained some elementary medical knowledge which would become invaluable later on in Africa. He then taught philosophy and theology from 1836 to 1846. In 1844, he was called to be a councilor of the provincial minister of Piedmont.

These assignments put him in contact with the court of Savoy, with diplomats, doctors, literary figures, and noted members of the Piedmontese clergy. In particular, he was confessor and counselor of Cottolengo, of the Marchioness of Barolo, of Silvio Pellico and the future king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel II.

The year 1846 was decisive for the evangelization of Ethiopia. After the collapse of the Jesuit, Franciscan, and Capuchin missions of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, notwithstanding the erection of the Prefecture of Abyssinia, led by the Vincentian St. Giustino de Jacobis (1800 – 1860), Ethiopia lacked a Catholic hierarchy.

A happy intuition of Gregory XVI succeeded in bringing the missionary project to life. Accepting the suggestion received in a letter from the French explorer Antoine Thomson d'Abbadie, who had reached Lake Tana on March 9, 1845, the Pope entrusted the twentieth territory of the Galla, in southern Ethiopia, to the Capuchin Order. By decree of May 4, 1846, he erected the apostolic vicariate and appointed Massaia—according to the instructions of Fr. Venanzio of Turin, General Minister of the Capuchin Order—titular bishop of Cassia and first Vicar Apostolic of Galla. On the following May 24, the Prefect of the Propaganda Fide consecrated Massaia bishop.

The Order of Capuchin Friars Minor numbers a new venerable among its ranks: Cardinal Guglielmo Massaia. On December 2, 2016, Pope Francis signed the decree to set forth as venerable this son of St. Francis as one who lived heroically both the theological and cardinal virtues. This is the first step of official recognition, on the part of the Church, of the virtuous journey of this Capuchin.

Who was Guglielmo Massaia?

The Servant of God, the seventh of eight children, was born in Piovà in the Italian region of Piedmont—the land of John Bosco—on June 8, 1809. On the same day he was baptized with the names Lorenzo Antonio. His parents were farmers, humble and devout. He lived his childhood with his family and later came under the guidance of his older brother Guglielmo, who was the pastor of the church in Asti. After completing his studies as a seminarian at the Royal College of the same city, in order to follow his missionary ideal he entered the Capuchin Order

[See all the material on the website](#)