

Interview with **Br. John Corriveau** OFMCap



John Corriveau – Capuchin Friar Minor, General Minister of the Order in the years 1994-2006, and since 2008 Bishop of the diocese of Nelson, BC, Canada.

What were the Lord's gifts of grace during your service as General Minister? What, on the other hand, were the challenges? How did the development of the Franciscan charism of the Order go in that period and how did you see it as General Minister? Br. John responds to these questions during an interview held at our General Curia in Rome in January 2017.

“We are an Order of brothers – Br. John affirms – and our incarnation of the theology of communion is found in the fraternal, gospel life. Today we have become a truly global fraternity, and this is a great benefit. There's another great benefit. The materially rich churches have become dependent on the poor churches and for Franciscans to depend on their poorer brothers is not a bad thing. [...] Serving as General Minister was the greatest privilege of my life, because in the Franciscan tradition the General Minister is not a commander, but

the charismatic successor of St. Francis. Francis was never one who commanded everybody. He was the one who called people to the centrality of Gospel life. [...] I have seen a great development of the charism in these years. It began in the year 1982, with the new Constitutions. In that period we began to assimilate the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council and to redefine the identity of the Church in our Order into a vision of communion. [...] In our Order we also anticipated the ideas of John Paul II. In the year 2000, in *Novo Millennio Ineunte* 43, the Pope writes that we have to incarnate a theology of communion in a spirituality of communion. Without this spirituality of communion the structures of communion will be a mask rather than a reality. [...] I think that this was a true and authentic sign of the Holy Spirit working in us and calling us to be who we are to be. And this had had many strong and practical examples in our fraternal life and in the way in which we work in the world. [...]

[Watch the interview with Br. John](#)

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www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv



Raniero Cantalamessa on TV2000



[Watch the interview with Br. Raniero on TV2000](#)

Raniero Cantalamessa is a well-known Capuchin friar and for years has been on television, commenting on the gospel in his 'Reasons to Hope.' He is the Papal Preacher, as we know, but is also a theologian and university professor. Above all he considers himself as a preacher who doesn't 'preach sermons', rather he simply announces the Gospel. For some time now, being more than eighty years old, he has retreated to a hermitage, 'because before speaking one needs to listen' and notwithstanding the more than 300 books he has written, he does not tire of listening to the Word of God. From the Marches and born in Colli del Tronto, Father Raniero has never doubted his vocation.

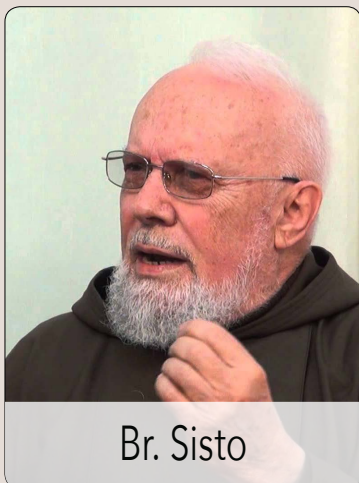
Passed over to the Father

Br. Sisto Zarpellon

Br. Sisto Zarpellon, OFM Cap. died on January 2, 2017. After studying education at the University of Padua, he was an enthusiastic formator, teacher, and president of seminaries in Rovigo, Thiene, and Verona. For twenty years (1995-2014) he was spiritual father at our International College 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi' in Rome and a minister of the limitless mercy of God. Many young friars appreciated him as a guide on their journey of faith because he assisted them in a particular way by his useful advice. He was a tireless preacher and animator of retreats for men and women religious, priests. He even served as the announcer of the Sunday gospel on the television program, 'Friar Sisto's Counsels.' He returned to his Province in 2014, to the fraternity of the inter-provincial postulancy in Lendinara, with the mission of confessor.

Br. Benitius Brevoort

On January 16 we lost Br. Benitius Brevoort, OFM Cap., who was 78 years old. Ethnically Dutch, but born and raised in Indonesia, Br. Ben, as we was affectionately known. He made perpetual profession in the Capuchin Order in Indonesia in 1960 and was General Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order and Franciscan Youth for twelve years (1990-2002). Following this he served as guardian in the General Curia and of the friary in Garbatella, Rome. For some years he had been back in Indonesia, in his Province of Medan, where he was busy with Christian-Islamic dialogue, translations, interpreting, and many other things. He was very knowledgeable in information technology and in the study of languages, and had spent time at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies from 2006 to 2008, where he earned a licentiate in Arabic and Islamic Studies with a thesis on Al-Ghazali.



Br. Sisto



Dr. Benitius

From all over the world

Our friars are all over the world living the Capuchin-Franciscan vocation. The Lord grants us to live the same charism, even though the life of the people in the many countries where we are can be very different. In this way the richness of the diversity of our charism flourishes in its diffusion all over the world. We invite you to check out some materials the friars from different continents have published.



Young men continue to sense the call to consecrate themselves to

God in religious life. The [novitiate is the second stage of formation](#) for Capuchin friars, during which they live a period of more intense initiation and a deeper experience of the gospel life according to the Capuchin-Franciscan charism – so we read in the description of the video that the North American Capuchin novices and staff have made.



Video presentation of the 125th anniversary of Capuchin presence in [Yonkers, New York, USA](#)



[‘Capuchin Friars in Mission’](#): a video that shows the missionary life of the friars from Padre Pio TV

This video describes briefly the life of the [Capuchin Friars Minor](#) in the Custody of North Mexico



We also present a booklet prepared by the friars of Germany for the year 2017. As we read in the beginning: In 2017, Germany marks 500 years of the Protestant Reformation. The Augustinian monk Martin Luther wanted to reform the Church, but instead of a renewal there arose a division. Recently Jochaim Wanke, bishop emeritus of Erfurt, asked, “Do Catholics have something to celebration in the jubilee of the Reformation in 2017?” He continues, “No, nevertheless Catholics can and will wish to remember the Reformation, to understand it better, to know its prominent figures, supporting ideas, and effects on the movement of history.” [...] 2017 therefore has a double meaning, in the sense that it presents us with a continuous reform in the Church and the Order. *Ecclesia semper reformanda est*, admonishes the Second Vatican Council, ‘the Church must always be reforming itself.’ [The author is perhaps thinking of Lumen gentium 8, “... the Church ... [is] at the same time holy and always in need of being purified” –translator.] In this anniversary, Brothers, let us be involved in the events and the renewal of the German Province. We thank you for every gesture of communion and for all your support as we express our best wishes in the words of St. Francis: Peace and good.



[Download the material](#)

Elections and appointments



Provincia della Calabria

MP: fr. Pietro Ammendola

VP: Giovanni Loria

2C: fr. Ippolito Fortino

3C: fr. Antonello Castagnello

4C: fr. Francesco Donato

Data: 08.02.2017; Amantea (Cosenza), Italia

Presidente: fr. Raffaele Della Torre, Consigliere Generale



Provincia di Basilicata e Salerno

MP: fr. Valentino Incampo

VP: fr. Salvatore Mancino

2C: fr. Massimo Poppiti

3C: fr. Aniello Scaramella

4C: fr. Giacomo Santarsieri

Data: 15.02.2017; Visciano, Napoli, Italia

Presidente: fr. Raffaele Della Torre, Consigliere Generale



Custodia del Porto Rico

C: fr. José Ángel Torres Rivera

1C: fr. Ramón Hiram Negrón Cruz

2C: fr. José Antonio Cruz Collazo

Data: 15.02.2017; Puerto Rico

Presidente: Thomas Betz, Min. Prov. Province of St. Augustin, Pennsylvania, USA

Br. Giovanni Salonia



Appointment of auxiliary bishop of **Palermo** (Italy)

Pope Francis has appointed as auxiliary bishop of Palermo Br. Giovanni Salonia, OFM Cap., current director of ongoing formation for the Capuchin Province of Syracuse. He will be assigned to titular see of Buthrotum.

Br. Giovanni Salonia was born in Ragusa on September 27, 1947.

He entered the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin on September 29, 1962.

He professed temporary vows on October 4, 1963, and perpetual vows on November 1, 1968.

He studied in institutes of the Capuchin Order.

He was ordained priest on July 3, 1971.

He completed the licentiate in theology with a concentration in spirituality at the Pontifical University 'Antoniano' and the licentiate in education at the Pontifical University 'Salesianum', both in Rome, and a specialization in Gestalt Therapy at the Gestalt Training Center in San Diego, California, USA.

He has published variously in the fields of formation and psychotherapy. He is from the diocese of Ragusa and has lived in Noto in recent years.

[Read the whole article on the website](#)

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](#)

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.

