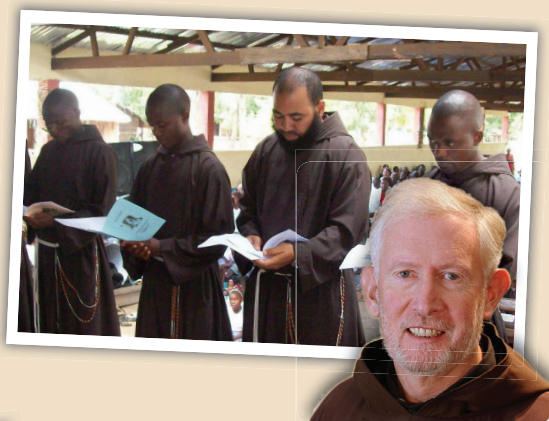


## INDEX

- 01 The General Minister visits Mozambique
  - New Arrivals
  - The importance of transparency
  - Books and uniforms in all the schools
- 02 Schola Fratrum
  - In the Year of Faith, the children who evangelize
  - IV National Meeting of lay brothers
- 03 First chapter of the Custody of Northern Mexico
  - The works of Bishop Padovese in Turkish
  - Franciscan Festival: communion and evangelization
- 04 The Seekers of God
  - Evangelization and communication
  - The General Minister of the OFM Conv. is re-elected
  - Sources for St. Clare

## The General Minister visits Mozambique

**M**OZAMBIQUE – The General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, visited the General Viceprovince of Mozambique for the first time from February 14 to 21, accompanied by Br. Fernando Ventura as Portuguese translator. The Minister visited four fraternities and met with all the friars, either individually or in groups.



## New Arrivals

**R**OME, Italy – During the month of February, two new brothers were added to the staff of the General Curia. **Br. Tomasz Gawroński**, of the Province of Warsaw, will carry out various fraternal services in the General Curia. **Br. Charles Alphonse**, of the Province of Southern Tamil Nadu, has come to Rome for the important task of General Secretary for Formation. The latter will be joined by **Br. Jaime Rey**, of the Province of Spain. To our new brothers goes our most joyous welcome!

## The importance of transparency

Meeting of Capuchin guardians and bursars

**L**USAKA, Zambia – The Chapter of the Custody celebrated in May 2012 decided to convoke meetings for guardians and bursars in order to help them in their service to the individual communities. All of the new fraternities of the Custody of Zambia were represented during one such meeting held on January 15-18 at Lusaka and led by Br. Philip Baxter. Theoretical points were presented as well as practical training on keeping economic records. Sr. Margaret Mweshi (Franciscan Missionary Sisters of As-



sis) led a half-day presentation on self-sustainability. By the end, all the friars were sure of having acquired a better understanding of their roles, of the relations between guardians and bursars and the importance of transparency and accountability. They discussed possible ways to begin projects that could help the individual fraternities, such that in the near future the Custody could become more self-sustaining.

## Books and uniforms in all the schools

**N**AMIBIA – “Uniforms, books, and subsidies have arrived,” affirms Br. Varghese Pulikkiyil, a Capuchin missionary who has lived in Namibia for years. The government, he explains, has already distributed 990,000 books such that in the elementary schools each child has a textbook. In Namibia the project has been spoken of for some time. The Ministry of Education has set as a goal 1,700,000 new textbooks, the necessary number to reach all the schools in this former German colony of southern Africa. According to Br. Varghese, at least thus far the commitment has been taken seriously. Uniforms, pencils, and teaching materials have been delivered also to the two schools run by ▶



the Capuchins in Bukalo, in the northern region of Caprivi. "The distribution – says the missionary—began in June 2012 and should be completed by February 20." According to the data of the United Nations, the government in Windhoek, the capital, invests the equivalent of 6.4% of the GDP in education. In a country of a little more than two million inhabitants, the rate of illiteracy is less than 12%.

## Schola Fratrum

The first stage of the second meeting of the Schola Fratrum, or Franciscan School, was held from January 20 to 31 in Hidrolândia (Central Brazil). The Schola Fratrum aims to facilitate and make available an experience of ongoing formation for the friars working in different stages of formation for our Capuchin-Franciscan life, having as a central axis our fraternal identity. Our intention is to equip the formators, current and future, for the service of formation in the Order and to facilitate the experience, the

sharing, and fraternal integration among the friars working in the formation programs of the CCB (Capuchin Conference of Brazil). Two objectives led to the creation of the Schola Fratrum: To highlight our Capuchin-Franciscan identity and its unity in the formation programs of the CCB and to embrace the needs of the Order, in the sense of "Let us Fan the Flame of our Charism," as pointed out in the Letter of the General Minister. The next stage will be from January 19 to 31, 2014, also at Hidrolândia.



## In the Year of Faith, the children who evangelize



LAHORE, Pakistan – In this Year of Faith proclaimed by the Pope, the Pakistani Church, celebrating on February 17 a "Day of Missionary Childhood," affirms that the work of evangelization in Pakistan takes place through the children. Along their Christian journey and rediscovering their faith, the children of Pakistan become "authentic evangelizers." In the Church of St. Joseph, hundreds of children present under the direction of Br. Francis Nadeem, Capuchin, renewed their commitment to live and deepen their Christian faith on the way of catechesis and study and giving Christian witness in the areas of their

lives: in the family, at school, and in society. "Children have a great role to play within the Christian community and in helping other children in need," emphasized Br. Francis. During the celebration of the Eucharist the children recited the prayer, "Make me an instrument of your peace" and also prayed intensely and in a special way for Pope Benedict XVI.



## IV National Meeting of lay brothers

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil – The IV National Meeting of Capuchin lay friars was held from February 4 – 8 at Porto Alegre, RS, and had the theme: Witness, mysticism, and prophecy. Capuchin friars from the Brazilian circumscriptions were present. Br. Mark Schenk, lay friar and General Definitor, also took part for the second time. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Assembly of the CCB and the meeting of vocation directors of all the circumscriptions of Brazil. The General Definitors Sergio Dal Moro and Hugo Mejía were also present.





## First chapter of the Custody of Northern Mexico

**M**EXICO – The Capuchins of the new Custody of Northern Mexico celebrated their first extraordinary chapter. The statutes that will indicate the pattern of the life in the new Custody were approved. 19 friar capitulars together with 11 friars in temporary vows present as observers experienced this historic and graced moment in their Capuchin life. The Capuchin presence in Northern Mexico began in 1985 with 4 missionary friars of the Province of Our Lady of the Angels in California. Currently there are also missionary friars present from the Province of St. Paul in Brazil and from Goa in India.



## The works of Bishop Padovese in Turkish

A proposal for the Year of Faith

**I**STANBUL, Turkey – To deepen the faith and give inspiration to the mission of Christians in Turkey, “a translation of the works of the Capuchin bishop Luigi Padovese into Turkish would be very useful and a great gift.” Such is the proposal made through the Agenzia Fides by Fr. Martin Kmetec, OFM Conv., director of Pontifical Missions in Turkey. The proposal comes as the Christian communities of Turkey celebrate the Year of Faith with various ecumenical initiatives and, in particular,



by remembering two martyred figures who gave their lives for the mission: Bishop Luigi Padovese, Apostolic Vicar of Anatolia, killed in 2010, and Fr. Andrea Santoro, a Fidei do-

num missionary killed in 2006. Bishop Padovese was a scholar of patristics and most of his writings are about the fathers of the Church and the first centuries of Christianity. Fr. Kmetec affirms: “We continue to feel their loss, but the memory of these two men is a help in the mission today, in this Year of Faith. We are called to deepen their vision of mission. A first step might just be the translation of the works of Bishop Padovese: he loved Turkey, above all recalling it as the land in which the Church was born in the pagan world. The first nine Councils took place here; one finds here the memory of the Church of the first centuries, a memory ready for us to rediscover. We hope that the works of the Bishop can have broad circulation in Turkey, such that the spiritual, cultural, and pastoral heritage of Bishop Padovese may take root in this land.” Of Fr. Santoro, Fr. Martin concludes, “Let us remember in a special way his style of presence and witness, made of simplicity and incarnation in the places he lived.”

03  
BIG

## Franciscan Festival: communion and evangelization

**I**TALY – Every year since 2009, a few days before the feast of St. Francis, the Franciscan Festival is held in Emilia Romagna. Born as a Capuchin friar's idea, it has been made a reality with the collaboration of tertiaries, laity, and scouts associated with their friaries. Since 2010 the Franciscan Festival has been an official expression of the Franciscan Movement in Emilia Romagna. Since then there has been increasing participation by friars of Emilia Romagna from the other branches of the Order, Secular Franciscans, and the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi. This year, 2013, the fifth annual Festival will focus on the theme of journey/pilgrimage/itinerancy. Starting this year there will be an even more structured participation by the Franciscan Movement of Italy. The Franciscan Festival continues to grow and to inspire an interest increasingly national in scope. Interested friars who either live in Italy or are passing through can visit the Festival, where they will enjoy a beautiful experience. They may even have the chance to gather ideas to take home to other national and cultural contexts, namely a concrete way for us friars (with the sisters and Franciscan laity) to return to the streets in the midst of the people, giving witness to the gospel

in a simple way and according to the culture - in the ‘festival’ format - which the people of today seem to appreciate more and more.



## The Seekers of God

A musical and catechetical journey in the Year of Faith

ROME, Italy – the voice of well-known Roman singer Amedeo Minghi narrates an original journey in the company of some of the “Giants of the Faith,” the credible witnesses of the history of salvation and of humanity. It is a concert event offered in theaters and squares, in front of cathedrals, in sanctuaries and churches, and “everywhere art and faith join together to raise the song of faith and of praise to the Creator.” So sings the opera, “The Seekers of God,” sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, the Pontifical Council for the Family, the Italian Bishops’ Conference, and the Franciscan Family of Italy.

The concert is proposed as “evangelization that can bring the faithful into moments of deep reflection by means of a secular songwriter, who helps people, believer and non-believer, to rediscover, develop, and live the gift of the Faith.” The organizers explain the event as an “interesting cultural and religious initiative that calls strongly.” The idea was born in response to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith’s “Note with pastoral recommendations for the Year of Faith”, which invites pastors, drawing on “new styles of communication,” to commit themselves to promoting events for a “wider public” on the theme of the faith and its principles and content by means of the teaching of the saints, as “authentic witnesses of the faith.” “The Seekers of God” that the event proposes for people’s attention are: Abraham, “our father in faith,” Jesus Christ and his Gospel of the Beatitudes, Mary, “the woman of the ‘yes,’” Paul of Tarsus, transformed “from persecutor of Apostle of the Gentiles,” and also Francis of Assisi and his “Canticle of the Creatures,” Maximilian Kolbe, “faith and charity at Auschwitz,” Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her “embrace for the suffering and the poor,” John Paul II and his being “on the streets of the world, a

witness of Peace.” The “journey” closes with Father Pino Puglisi, “first blessed martyr of the mafia” and the Our Father, “the prayer of humanity raised to the Father.”



## Evangelization and communication

three classes for religious



ROME, Italy – A meeting on the theme, “Words and video for the proclamation” on February 19 began a course on Evangelization and Communication, aimed at religious and laity involved in pastoral work. The courses are organized by NOVA-T, the association for communication and multimedia productions of the Italian Capuchin friars, and means to strengthen skills in the use of new, digital means of communication for evangelization and pastoral service. The first meeting had as its theme the proclamation as “communication” and the ‘languages’ that can be utilized, from words to images, from text to video. The next classes will be on March 19, with the theme, “The Gospel can be preached on social networks,” and April 16, on “How to design and manage a website.” The courses meet at the Capuchin fraternity of via Cairoli in Rome.

## The General Minister of the OFM Conv. is re-elected



ASSISI, Italy – On January 29, 2013, Br. Marco Tasca of the Province of St. Anthony (Padua, Italy) was re-elected General Minister of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. He is the 119th General Minister of the Order.

## Sources for St. Clare

ASSISI – In the month of February an Italian translation of a collection of medieval Franciscan texts will be published and joined to the Franciscan Sources. For the first time, a Sources for St. Clare will be published, edited by G. Boccali. (Edizioni Porziuncola, Assisi, 2013. 1472 pp. 60 euro.)

