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The website of the Order with a new 'habit'

The solemnity of our Seraphic Father offers us once again the opportunity to send to each of you our fraternal greetings, together with our hope that the celebration of the feast of St. Francis moves each of us to a renewed witness of gospel life. This year the feast of St. Francis is also the occasion of the publication of the new layout of the website of the General Curia, www.ofmcap.org. It's not a new website, but a continuation with certain changes to better serve the needs of the brothers who visit, following closely the different ways in which users today approach the web and, above all, to let them know more easily what the Order does and how it functions at the international level.

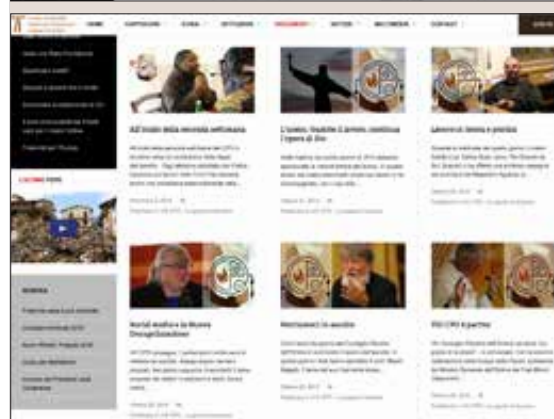
The updated website looks to be simpler from the point of view of navigation. The multimedia aspect has been broadened and we hope to add to it many videos, audio files, and photos of

the various Capuchin events. The area that regards the documents of the Order is also being reconstructed. The section with the documents of the PCOs is already ready in various formats: DOC, PDF, EPUB, and MOBI. We also hope to be able to help the brothers to have the documents of the Order available in mobile versions that work as e-books, or on tablets such as an iPad. A website is never finished, but like everything it can always be improved. The website is for the Order: an open space at the service of the life of the Order, a space that we hope can foster the sense of belonging to an international fraternity among 'digital brothers', and that will also help to circulate ideas, initiatives, and good networking, always with the good odor of the gospel.

We are also grateful for all the suggestions that you will send to the Communications Office by email – info@ofmcap.org

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Proclamation of the Capuchin Province of **Angola**



The Capuchin Province of Angola was proclaimed on Sunday, August 28, 2016 during a Mass at the parish of Our Lady of Fatima. August 2, the feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, had been a memorable day for the Capuchins of Angola; it was on this day that the festivities began for the proclamation of their new Province.

The August 28 erection of the Province of Angola out of the preceding Custody came after 68 years of Capuchin presence in recent times and 190 years in an earlier mission. The current presence began when the Capuchins arrived in 1948. The older Capuchin presence was from 1645 to 1835.

The Capuchins in Angola have traveled a long path in which they have had a broad experience by means of many glories and tragedies. Angola has known times of peace and of war, periods of crisis and of prosperity. It has been a story of growth down to our own day.

The superiors, in an evaluation made at various levels, have recognized a maturing growth which was ready for a new title. The new Capuchin Province is a daughter of the mother Provinces of Venice and Portugal; now it lives by its own strength, always united to the great family present in the whole world and having its center of universal unity in Rome, always faithful to the Church.

The presence in Angola from 1645 to 1835: In Luanda, the Capuchins are a traditional presence, in the parish

of Fatima, where there is St. Anthony's seminary; nevertheless they are known as a fraternity of Portuguese Capuchins, and beside Fatima, considered to be from Venice.

At the beginning it was not so. The principal place was found in Caxito, in the capital of the province of Bengo, 60 km to the north. In this place there was some farmland called Tentativa, which produced sugarcane and employed five thousand workers. Even today there is a shrine there dedicated to St. Anne. We speak of the beginnings. The first two Capuchins, who left from Lisbon on August 22, 1954 on the Rita Maria and passed the equator to arrive in Angola, were the Brazilian Br. Cirilo Vargas and the Portuguese Br. Lourenço Torres Lima, both about thirty years old. After sixteen days of travel by sea the two missionaries entered the charming port of Luanda before sunset of September 6, while the fleeting rays of the sun passed over the young leaves of the surrounding palms.

The idea of opening a mission in Angola had been made by the Portuguese Capuchins on January 22 of the same year and was happily approved on the following July 30. With the growth in the number of friars, in 1955 they advanced north and set up the mission of Nambuanguongo, 120 km from Luanda.

[View the photo gallery on the website-1](#)

[View the photo gallery on the website-2](#)



Meeting for Capuchin Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Directors

International College 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi', August 28 – September 3, 2016

Following good and established tradition, the course for archivists, librarians, and directors of Capuchin museums was held this year at our International College in Rome during the week of August 28 to September 3. This year there were four fundamental topics: the most common damage to, as well as the restoration and conservations of cultural assets, as presented by experts from the Tor Vergata University in Rome; protection from and prevention of crimes against historical-artistic patrimony, as presented by the Carabinieri from the Department of the Protection of Cultural Patrimony in Rome; relations with religious and civil authorities, which was treated by scholars from the Vatican Secret Archives; and the Koha software for library cataloguing, which was presented by those working in the Capuchin Central Library.

There was also time for some specific presentations on the cultural realities at work in our circumscriptions, particularly in Brazil and in Southern Italy, as well as for a guided visit, on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 31, of the general archives of the Fabric of St. Peter. At the end of the visit, everyone present was given the chance to make a pilgrimage through the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter. Thus was celebrated our 'Jubilee of Capuchin Cultural Workers.'

The thirty-five participants, both Capuchin friars and their lay coworkers, were mostly Italian, but there were also those from North and South America, Africa, and Asia, and thus there was an opportunity to reflect together in a fraternal way on the principal themes of our service and to study, as we do from year to year, certain specific questions. This initiative, begun annually in the year 2000, has touched upon various aspects of the cultural service carried out in our institutions both at the gene-

ral level as well as at the level of individual circumscriptions, highlighting in this way certain specific issues that come from the diversity of historical and linguistic contexts of both our older and more recent foundations.

As usual there was the occasion, or better the opportunity, to update the cumulative catalogue of Capuchin libraries, especially in Franciscanism, in which thirty-nine of our institutions currently participate. With over a million records, the online record or directory for the registry of Capuchin Cultural Institutions and the Authoritative File of Capuchin authors can be found at www.ibisweb.it/bcc. The course, as in the past, was held in Italian and English, with simultaneous translation.

[View the video n. 1](#)

[View the video n. 2](#)

[View the photo gallery on the website n. 1](#)

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CCMSI Conference



The CCMSI Conference met from August 29 to September 1, 2016, at Anugraha Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. All the Provincial Ministers were present except for three, who sent their vicars for various and valid reasons. The meeting came eight months after

our Chapter of Mats in Kerala, where we met for five days of discussion on how to make our Capuchin charism flourish in India. The current meeting was decided upon in agreement between the Provincial Ministers of the First and Third Orders. The prin-

cipal subject of our discussion was our role with and responsibility for the OFS in India. We also discussed various problems and difficulties that the OFS finds itself facing. CCMSI had various important problems to discuss and upon which to deliberate, such as messages and instructions from the General Council, the approval of dates for provincial chapters in 2017, information from the International Formation Council (including ongoing formation), the use of mobile phones in formation houses, the approval and acceptance of a policy on sexual abuse, the updating of the Franciscan Supplement, the preparatory course for perpetual profession at Kotagiri, and various other issues. The atmosphere during the meeting was very fraternal and all the Ministers participated with heart and soul. The arrangements for the meeting in Anugraha were excellent and the local Provincial Minister and the fraternity did everything possible to make our stay comfortable and pleasant. The participants also had a chance to visit some social works of the Province of Mary the Queen and to go to a house of hospitality called Kodaikannal. The meeting ended early on the afternoon of September 1 because of a labor union strike. Our next meeting will be in August 2017 in Kerala.

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Duty of human beings toward creation is to lend it a voice

“Praying for creation or praying with creation?” that was the question posed by the preacher of the Papal Household, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa at Vespers on Thursday evening.

Against the majestic backdrop of St Peter’s Basilica and with Pope Francis looking on, Fr Cantalamessa told those present that “God did not program creation as if it were a clock or a computer in which every movement is programmed from the beginning, except, he added, maybe for some periodic updates.”

The Papal Preacher underlined that the primary duty of human beings toward creation was to lend it a voice, adding that the sovereignty of human beings over the cosmos does not entail the triumphalism of our species, but the assumption of responsibility toward the weak, the poor, the defenseless.

[Read the whole article](#)

[View the video](#)





Meeting of CECOC post-novices in Prague

The second meeting of the post-novices of the CECOC Conference took place from September 1-3, 2016, at our Capuchin friary in Prague. The meeting aimed to foster awareness, collaboration, and the sharing of experiences among the participants. Present also was our General Vicar, Br. Štefan Kožuh. The first meeting was held two years ago in Lublin, Poland. The friary of Prague was chosen this time, not only because it was founded in 1599 by our saintly brother Lawrence of Brindisi, but also because it was a good meeting place, in the heart of Europe, accessible to all and with sufficient space to receive and welcome a large number of friars. In fact, the young friars, accompanied by their formators, were from many countries of Eastern Europe, among them Romania, Croatia, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.

The theme of this year's meeting was, "The personality and the life of St. Agnes of Prague." Br. Pacifico, the speaker, presented the story of her life while Sr. Rachel, a Capuchin sister from the Convent of Šternberk, spoke on theme of contemplative prayer. The friars also looked forward to the arrival of the General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, who was available for questions, responding with a sincerity and warmth that made the atmosphere pleasant and friendly. Some friars had the chance to express their thoughts on the most interesting topics of the days spent together. Cristiano, a Capuchin friar from the Province of Slovakia, who participated for the first time, expressed joy for the ways in which the friars communicated with one another, and for how prayer and recreation was experienced in common.

Naturally the Liturgy of the Hours was prayed in common, chanting the

rhythm of the psalms, even with sixty-five friars from different countries. Thus was our prayer, with the psalms and canticles resounding from one choir but in many different languages. It was truly beautiful to hear the diversity and the variety of cultures and different languages, but all gathered under the one 'heart' of prayer turned to God.

The meeting was a 'Splendid experience of fraternity,' said one young friar, in which the linguistic and cultural barriers were overcome quickly. Having recreation together was also a beautiful moment of sharing and joy. To the desire to meet and share our own experiences as young religious was also added the cultural aspect, and thus the meeting became ever richer as an experience of the friendly and fraternal style of our charism.

In all this – the young friar continues – I see that Jesus was not joking when he prayed to the Father, saying, *As you, Father, are in me and I in you, may these also be one in us ...* I have understood and experienced that this is possible even among different cultures and nations.

[View the photo gallery on the website](#)



A summary of Three JPIC activities since June- for BICI

Capuchin Friars Minor as Custodians of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, JPIC animation meeting in San Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 5-12, 2016

Miranda non se vende! La Loma se defiend! This was the common chant as the Capuchin friars from Latin America protested against the destruction and commercialization of the environment. With the alarming rate of the destruction of the Amazon and other rain forests around the world, the JPIC friars meeting in San Domingos, the Dominican Republic decided to take concrete actions to advocate for and care for our common home, our mother and sister Earth. Representing the three conferences of CCA, CCB and CONCAM, the 20

friars were drawn from Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemaly-Honduras-El Salvador, Haiti, Brazil and the host the Dominican Republic.

At the conclusion of the of the one week workshop- training on the values of JPIC in the light of Laudato si, the friars decided to take concrete actions in order to Inform, Integrate and Inspire friars in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a follow up the friars decided to cultivate a deep Capuchin Franciscan spirituality that puts us on track to ecological conversion. This would

be done through formation and the establishment of an international house in the Amazon to focus on ecological issue.

bonds and collaborations that resulted from it, the PACC JPIC Delegates look forward to a promising future where the existing apostolate and in-



Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor: The JPIC Capuchin friars Assembly for Asia-Pacific Conference-PACC, Pontianak, Indonesia July 24-31, 2016

“Cry of the Earth, Cry of the poor” was the theme of the JPIC- Asia Pacific Capuchin Conference, PACC annual assembly in Indonesia. The Assembly held at Tirta Ria Retreat house in Pontianak, brought together 20 participants from the circumscriptions of Indonesia (Pontianak, Medan, Sibolga, Kepulauan Nias), Philippines, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea (and the Solomon Islands), South Korea and Malaysia (OFS). They were joined by facilitators from the JPIC office in Rome and Franciscans International in Geneva. A heavy police presence characterized the meeting with over 15 policemen and women assigned to guard the venue. The objective of the assembly was to animate- Inform, Integrate and Inspire friars of the PACC in values of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Moreover the assembly was intended to facilitate stronger solidarity and collaboration among the JPIC animators of the PACC and create a regional network with a common purpose and mission.

Empowered by the success of the assembly and the increased fraternal

stitutions of the different circumscriptions of the PACC would be further strengthened and improved and newer forms of expressing solidarity with the poor and for creation be ventured upon with enthusiasm.

Indeed, the presence of a great number of security personnel at first made us feel unease but by the end of the meeting it became an enriching experience for both the participants and the police men and women. Majority being Muslims, they learnt a lot about our Capuchin charism and especially our JPIC values. Moreover, the policemen and women participated in some of our activities including visiting the poor and planting trees together. So our theme of “Cry for the Earth and cry of the poor” became a living reality not only to the participants but also to the many policemen and women present.

[Read the whole article](#)



Meeting of the Conference Presidents



- [Video - Meeting of the Conference Presidents](#)
- [Online photo gallery](#)

The Presidents of the Conferences of the Order met at the General Curia in Rome from September 14 to 16, 2016, on the topic, Towards the General Chapter of 2018. After the opening greeting from the General Minister, the able presentation of the statistics by Br. Mark Schenk highlighted the growth and diminishment of the friars in the various areas of the Order. Over the three days, the Presidents and the General Council discussed various topics:

- Fraternal collaboration between circumscriptions: where we are;
- The Ratio formationis;

- Guidelines on the protection of minors;
- Questions regarding the International College;
- Juridical questions;
- The carrying out of PCO VIII;
- Topics for the 2018 Chapter.

The principal purpose of the meeting was to confirm together with the Presidents how the General Minister and his Council had carried out the mandate of the last General Chapter and to ask the Conferences to formulate the subjects that they would like to see treated at the next General Chapter in 2018.



The Conferences and the Presidents:

ASMEN, Assemblée des Supérieurs Majeurs Méditerranée Nord-Est - fr. Paul Koenig
CCA, Conferencia Capuchina Andina - fr. Ramón Morillo Morale,
CCB, Conferência dos Capuchinhos do Brasil -fr. Liomar Pereira da Silva
CCMSI, Capuchin Conference of Major Superiors in India - fr. Chinnu Polisetty
CECOC, Conferentia Europae Centro-Orientalis OFM-Cap - fr. Andrzej Kiejza
CENOC, Conferentia Europae Nordico-Occidentalis Capuccinorum - fr. Adrian Curran
CIC, Conferencia Ibérica de Capuchinos - fr. Benjamín Echeverría
CIMPCAP, Conferenza Italiana Ministri Provinciali Capuccini - fr. Francesco Colacelli
CONCAM, Conferencia de Capuchinos de América Central y México - fr. David Beaumont

CONCAO, Conferentia Capuccinorum Africae Occidentalis - fr. Afonso André Nteka
EACC, Eastern Africa Capuchin Conference - fr. Thomas Zulu
NAPCC, North America Pacific Capuchin Conference - fr. Francis Gasparik
PACC, Pacific-Asia Capuchin Conference - fr. Eugenio Lopez



The Friars and the Earthquake



Office of the General Curia, made the same trip.

Leaving Rome, the friars were welcomed in Leonessa, birthplace of St. Joseph, which is about forty kilometers from Amatrice and Accumoli in the province of Rieti, the places struck hardest by the earthquake. Br. Orazio Renzetti, the Guardian and coordinator of our presence, showed us what the friars are doing among those affected.

In the words that follow I avoid any exaggeration which gives offense to people's pain and I relate only what I have seen and heard. I present a summary of what our brothers have told us, especially during the meeting they had with the General Minister.

Our friars from Leonessa and the post-novices and students from Viterbo made their efforts available to help where there was need. The Bishop of Rieti, whose diocese includes the places that were hit the hardest, had asked the Provincial Minister of Rome, Br. Gianfranco Palmisani, for the presence of the Capuchins.

Our friars made themselves present and listened to the pain, anger, and distress of the people. Some of them were close by the survivors in the agonizing moments of the identification of victims: bodies torn apart and

disfigured, sometimes identifiable only by a watch, by the color of their pajamas, or by a toy that a child kept close in the night. They went into the half-destroyed and unstable churches in order to recover the Blessed Sacrament. They responded to the request to organize moments of prayer, above all for the motivation and support of the many volunteers who arrived from every part of Italy. Then there was the simple company given to seniors, the playing with children. I saw our friars standing clear-eyed and with discretion in the midst of the people, with a silence full of respect and welcome. I perceived in them their desire to say that even in the rubble, in this deep pain, in the confusion of someone who has lost everything, God continues to be with us and at the same time He can receive and accompany the suffering and the distress even of those who no longer see Him.

Before going to Amatrice the General Minister met with the Bishop of Rieti, Most Rev. Domenico Pompili, who expressed his gratitude for the work of the friars in the area of the earthquake. May gratitude and prayer sustain the work of our brothers.

[View the photo gallery on the website](#)

Wednesday, August 24, 3:36 a.m.: the earth shook in almost all of central Italy. People awoke, startled out of sleep on this hot summer night, and their eyes opened on a devastating terror, the pain of a very violent earthquake felt in a great many places. As I write these lines the press is giving notice of more than three hundred dead and a still unknown number of injured.

On this past September 6, Br. Martín Torres, Guardian of the General Curia, and Br. Raffaele Della Torre, General Councilor, went up to Amatrice to visit our confreres, who from the first days of the tragedy have been present among the people in the tent camps and in the streets. Some days later on September 10, the General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, Br. Štefan Kožuh, the General Vicar, and Br. Paweł Teperiski, Director of the Communications

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