



Inter-Franciscan meeting in Rome

The annual meeting of the Franciscan Friars of Rome, organized by the conference of the vicars general of the First Order and the TOR, was held on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Capuchin International College. “Journeying together” was the title of the event which, for the second year in a row, all the Franciscan friars of the First Order and TOR experienced in fraternity. There were about 300 participants.

The meeting began at 9:30 with a video prepared for the occasion on the centenary of the Pardon of Assisi and on current and recent common experiences in those places where the friars are present together. Then, after the greeting from Br. Štefan Kožuh, our General Vicar, there was a moment of prayer leading up to the renewal of religious profession. Following this, Br. Julio Bunader, Gen-

eral Vicar of the OFM, introduced Bishop Rubén Tierrablanca, OFM, Vicar Apostolic of Istanbul, who spoke on the principal theme of the meeting, “intercultural reconciliation.”

After a break, the participants were called back to the auditorium by the sound of song from a musical ensemble of friars calling themselves ‘Fa Minore.’ They then broke up into groups for sharing with the objective of creating a brief occasion of awareness and of study on the topic treated by Bishop Tierrablanca and also took up some points for reflection that had been handed out to each group by the facilitator. The friars found the meeting very positive and it concluded with a lunch shared in fraternity.

[Online photo galleries](#)

[Video – introduction of the meeting](#)



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Pan-African meeting of the major superiors of the Friars Minor Capuchin



Abidjan

Ivory Coast

November 7-10, 2016



02
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Que nous soyons un. (That we may be one.) This was the motto of the Pan-African meeting of the Capuchin Friars Minor present in that continent. The Provincial Ministers, Custodes, and Delegates of our presences in Africa met with the General Minister and General Councilors from November 7-10 at our friary in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Following a packed schedule, the participants worked and studied the most important themes for our presence as Capuchin Friars in Africa: mutual awareness, initial and ongoing formation, collaboration between different circumscriptions in initial formation, personnel, and finances. The various topics were

introduced with a report which was followed by study and discussion in working groups.

The reports and talks of the participants led to a common wish for the future: identifying an 'African path' for living and witnessing to our charism. One of the means to this end is that of intensifying the meetings of the two Conferences of Africa—EACC (Eastern Africa Capuchin Conference) and CONCAO (Conferentia Capuccinorum Africae Occidentalis)—both at the level of the individual conference as well as between the two. Taking up this path will make real demands and the General Minister in his concluding

talk pointed these out, encouraging in a particular way the process of collaboration and an intensification of our identity and sense of belonging.

The work concluded on Thursday, November 10 with a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro. The friars left early, made the pilgrimage through the Holy Door, and visited the Basilica where they concelebrated the Eucharist with Archbishop Joseph Spiteri, Apostolic Nuncio to Ivory Coast. A lunch concluded, in a cordial way, these days marked by joy and hope.

[Detailed photo galleries from Ivory Coast](#)



Video Pan-African meeting in Abidjan, November 7-10, 2016

Sunday Mass in Abidjan



Our mission in Alépé



Our Mission in Abidjan



Pilgrimage to Yamoussoukro



Mauro Jöhri - Italian



Norbert Auberlin - French



Thomas Zulu - English



Afonso Nteka - Portuguese



Photo Pan-African meeting in Abidjan, November 7-10, 2016

2016 11 07 A



2016 11 07 B



2016 11 08 A



2016 11 08 B



2016 11 09



2016 11 10



Sunday Mass in Abidjan



Abidjan - sanctuaries



Abidjan - the city



Our Mission in Abidjan



Alépé - the city



Our mission in Alépé



The ongoing formation that is rediscovering **God** with and in **fraternity**

Ongoing formation and courses for formators are important tools with which the General Minister and his Council, together with the General Secretariat of Formation, seek to prepare the brothers to update and prepare themselves to respond to the invitations of God today. If we want to be witnesses like St. Francis, St. Clare, and Pope Francis, we must form and update ourselves each day. We must begin with an awareness of our roots and of our spiritual traditions, while keeping ourselves abreast of theological perspectives in harmony with the teaching of the Church and biblical studies.

Courses of ongoing formation have been held this year in the Holy Land: in Italian (May 12-18), Spanish (June 5 – July 1), and most recently in English for friars from Ireland, England, the Philippines, and the United States (18 September – 14 October).

Coming to Holy Land is a moment for renewal and experiencing God's presence personally in Jesus. Being here, one always has the experience of 'home coming' to the central place of our faith and rediscovering our roots.

Brothers are given the possibility of visiting the biblical sites for three weeks mostly in the morning with an expert accompanying them. In the evening there are biblical insights, Christological reflections, time



for inner journey and personal integration using spiritual-therapeutic methods. They also spend quality time in sharing their life stories and particularly that of their Capuchin vocation.

One of our objectives is to help our brothers know the history of Christianity, along with the traditions passed on to us for many centuries. The archeological and biblical reflection along with the theology helps one to set aside the exaggeration and go closer to the historical person of Jesus and try God experience. A friar who visits these holy places could be satisfied with the popular interpretations and devotions alone. But, for true ongoing formation one needs to go deeper than that so that we have something to contribute to

the modern society, which tends to throw away everything as not relevant. It could be a good opportunity to try new answers for oneself and to share the personal findings with the searching world.

During the discussion, burning life issues were touched upon and discussed. With the first two weeks centering on visiting and visually experiencing the holy land; the third and fourth weeks are moments of deeper personal reflection along with the inputs and healing sessions for personal growth. Brothers are also inspired to enjoy silent meditation in Jesus' presence and in silent contemplation find new meaning to the fresh challenges of life.

[Read more on the website](#)

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The **Ratio Formationis** takes a step forward

The fourth meeting of the International Formation Council was held at the General Curia from November 20-26, 2016. Guided by the directors of the General Secretariat of Formation and encouraged by the important suggestions of the Salesian Fr. Beppe Roggia, the members of the Council continued the work on the Ratio formationis, which Br. Mauro Jöhri has called for and which will be the signature dish served up at our next General Chapter in 2018.

Where is the process of the Ratio? The first chapter, which is a short life of St. Francis, is already ready and is being translated into the different languages. The second will illustrate the five dimensions that, according to *Vita consecrata* and the other documents of the Church, cannot be lacking within a young person's path of discernment, namely the human, spiritual, intellectual, pastoral-missionary, and charismatic. The Council intends the third chapter to present the different phases of initial formation (postulancy, novitiate, and post-novitiate), highlighting in them their characteristic notes in the light of these five dimensions.

An objective of this recent meeting was to speak about these three stages and identify for each the needs and values that are essential for our Capuchin-Franciscan identity. First the members of the Council discussed the responses given by the friars of the world to the questionnaire. Then they reflected on initial formation both personally and in working groups, according to various talks that were given: Br. Carmine Ranieri spoke on the postulancy, Br. Próspero outlined the nature and purpose of the novitiate, and finally Br. Gaudence spoke on the



post-novitiate considered in its various aspects.

The first fundamental objective, however, was clearly explained by the General Minister in his talk: the Ratio formationis will succeed only if all the brothers of the Order are involved in its preparation and in the creation of such an important document. This is why it was decided to extend the deadline for responses to the questionnaire into the time of Christmas, and why the role of the Councilors has been insisted on many times, such that within their conferences they can encourage and help



everyone to participate, especially the provincial ministers and the formation directors.

To learn more, go to www.ofmcap.org and click on the blog of the General Formation Secretariat under 'our blogs' on the right-hand sidebar, or visit the website of the Secretariat:

www.sgfcap.org.

The following friars participated in the meeting: Br. Tomasz Protasiewicz (CECOC), Br. Eduard Rey (CIC), Br. Evandro Aparecido de Souza (CCB), Br. Gaudence Aikarawa (EACC), Br. Giampiero Cognigni (CIMPCAP), Br. Christi Francis (CCMSI), Br. Juan Pablo Lobos (CONCAM), Br. Kilian Ngitir (CONCAO), Br. Próspero Arciniegas (CCA), Br. Harald Weber (CE-NOC), Br. Clarence Hayat (ASMEN) and Br. Robert Williams (NAPCC). Also present were Br. Sergio Dal Moro, General Councilor, and Br. Mariosvaldo Florentino, who will be taking care of the final editing of the Ratio.

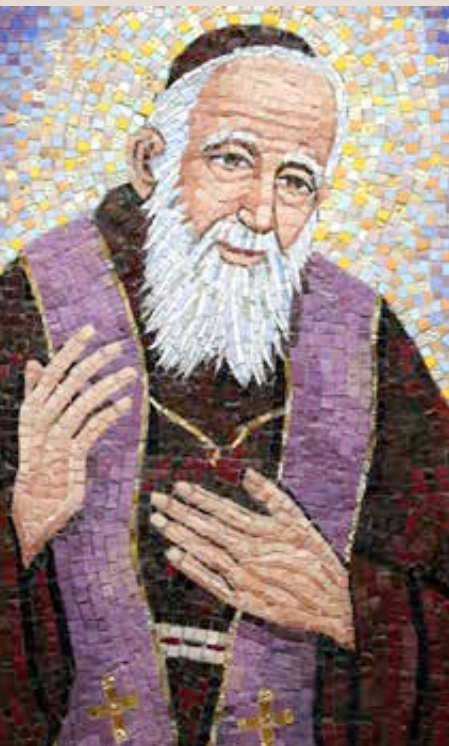
Mauro Scoccia OFM Cap.

[Photo – meeting in Rome](#)

[Photo – visit to the Astalli Center – Jesuit refugee services](#)

[Video – introduction to the meeting](#)





Saint Leopold Mandić

The end of the 2016 anniversary of his birth

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In 2016 we celebrated 150 years since his birth in 1866 in Montenegro—this little Capuchin, whom Pope Francis in the Year of Mercy pointed out to the Universal Church as an example for how to approach the mystery of God’s love. Certainly because of this more people will

now be able to learn about this noble figure.

In this spirit it is important to present him to our brothers and to the faithful who come to our churches and to let them know of his double gift of being a heroic confessor and also a prophet of spiritual ecumenism. Tow-

ard this end the Communications Office has prepared some resources, such as some videos and photo galleries of two important places: the city of his birth, Herceg Novi in Montenegro, and Padua, Italy, where he heard confessions for most of his life and where he died. ▶

Video St. Leopold Mandić - Herceg Novi

St. Leopold Mandić



The house where he was born



Church of his baptism



Chapel



Photo St. Leopold Mandić - Herceg Novi

From the Capuchin friary



Chapel of St. Leopold



Church of St. Jerome



Herceg Novi - house of his birth



► The videos and photos are presented without comments, so to be easy to use in all language groups and countries. In this way, anyone can comment on them by making known – during the presentation – the life of the saint.

All of the materials used for the production are legal and not copyrighted

– this means that they can be used in churches or in any other place.

We truly hope that from this material many will come to know better the figure of our holy confrere and that this will also be an invitation to know better not only his biography, but also the timeless teaching of his writing.

All the video materials are found on YouTube, while the photos may be downloaded and used for any good work of evangelization.

*Communications Office
Capuchin General Curia*

[Read more on the website](#)

Video St. Leopold Mandić – Padua

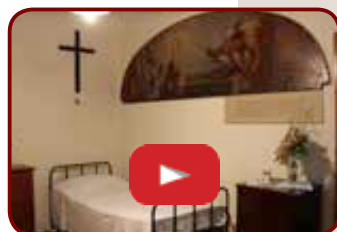
Shrine of Padua



Padua, museum



Padua, chapel and cell



Padua, confessional

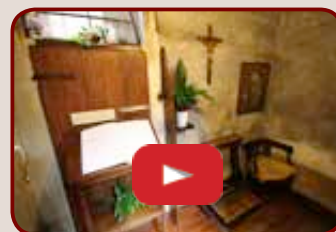


Photo St. Leopold Mandić – Padua

Shrine and museum



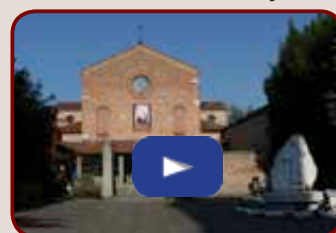
Chapel and cell



Tomb and cell



Church and friary



Lexicon Capuccinum



We would like to let the brothers of the Order know that the new website of the Lexicon Capuccinum – www.lexiconcap.org – has been updated and reactivated. It will publish from time to time the entries that we have edited concerning the circumscriptions of the Order that have already sent complete information, as well as the thematic entries that have already come to us.

By means of the website – which is not the official, definitive, printed version of the work – we propose to:

- Make available and share what comes from the whole Order;
- Invite the friars to let us know of any oversights or typographical errors, as well as to send any updates, news, or additions

- Update the bibliography.

You may send any information to our office:

lexicon@ofmcap.org, which, after review, will serve for the updating of the relative entry.

We thank you in your continued desire to work with us in this way, such that this effort might serve to improve the new Lexicon as we look forward to the definitive, printed edition.

Fraternally,

*Br. José Ángel Echeverría, Director
Br. Roberto Cuvato, Secretary*



Venerable **Maria Costanza Panas**, Capuchin Poor Clare

near Venice. There she met Fr. Luigi Fritz, who accompanied her as spiritual director for her whole life. At the same time she began to write a diary in which she recounts her spiritual development and her arrival at making the vow of the pen: she would not write, except for or about Jesus. After lengthy and strong opposition from her family, she entered the monastery of Fabriano on October 11, 1917. On April 19, 1918, Agnese Panas became Sr. Maria Costanza, having been vested with the habit of a Capuchin Poor Clare.

On May 19, 1927, at age 31, she was elected novice mistress and on June 22, 1936 she was elected abbess, an office she carried out for sixteen consecutive years, until 1952. For many years she welcomed the people who knocked on the door of the monastery, especially priests, some of whom became her spiritual sons. She broadened the ministry of the monastery grille with a voluminous correspondence. She was welcoming, without hurrying anyone, and gave her time to listening with interest and giving counsel in a way that provided a sense of safety and serenity. And all of this without lording it over anyone, but with a full humanity. In the same way, in her letters she taught how to discover the meaning of certain situations, especially of aridity or darkness, with the subtlety and friendliness of someone who had experienced similar purifications and had learned to walk in pure faith. She taught those who went to her how to stay serene and at peace in the midst of one's own limits and weaknesses and how to treat oneself with understanding.

After a break of three years, from 1952 – 1955, the Servant of God was elected abbess once again, an office her sisters gave her by nearly unanimous vote until her death in 1963. Of these last eight years of her earthly life, three were spent bedridden because of crippling arthritis together with asthma and then phlebitis, heart problems and nausea. Nevertheless, during this time she was even elected to the council of the Capuchin Poor Clare Federation of Central Italy.

On May 29, 1963 the *dottoressa del pancotto* died a holy death, surrounded by her sisters in their usual haste to receive the daily instructions of their abbess.

At their ordinary meeting on October 4, 2016, the Cardinals of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized the heroic virtue of Servant of God Maria Costanza Panas (1896 – 1963), Capuchin Poor Clare of the monastery of Fabriano. Pope Francis authorized the Congregation to publish the relative decree on October 10.

Agnese Pacifica Panas was born on January 5, 1896 in Alano di Piava, Belluno, Italy. Her parents, who had lost their jobs as artisans because of industrialization, were forced to emigrate to the United States in 1902. They left Agnese with her uncle Fr. Angelo, chaplain at Asiago and then archpriest at Enego, until they returned in 1910.

From her youth she would not allow herself to be given to any lightheartedness. As she herself recalls, "I always thought that life was a task to be carried out in the most serious way; for it is a preparation for great things."

Educated by her uncle in discipline, she attend the primary school of the Canossians in Feltre and in Vicenza. She then went to St. Alvisè college in Venice and attended the Nicolò Tommaseo Institute and graduated in 1913. She then began to teach in the Conetta neighborhood of Cona,