



Constitutions of the Order in 7 languages

The text of the renewed Constitutions is available on the website of the Order in seven languages, including in EPUB and MOBI versions, so that everyone may enjoy the richness of this text and read it also as an eBook or on a tablet. In these EPUB and MOBI versions there is an interactive index at the end of

each chapter to facilitate navigation between the chapters. For friars who would like to study the text by comparing the different translations, there is also the Constitutions and Ordinances set up in Excel — a table with the text in seven languages.

Happy reading!

Download the material



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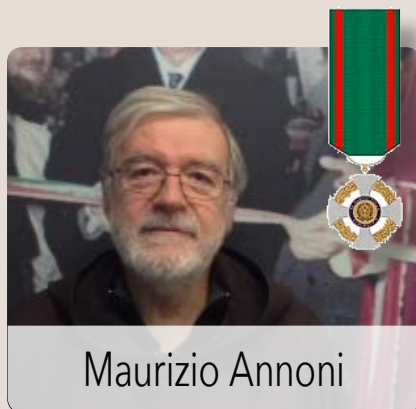
Table Excel



Knights of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic



Francesco Colacelli



Maurizio Annoni

Our confreres, Br. Francesco Colacelli and Br. Maurizio Annoni, have been honored by being named Knights of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic by the President of Italy, in recognition of the friars' efforts in the social and charitable works.

Br. Francesco Colacelli has fostered the work of the Padre Pio Rehabilitation Center and Angels of Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo, which provides high-level medical care to people who are seriously ill with genetic diseases or have been gravely injured.

Br. Maurizio Annoni directs the Opera San Francesco per i Poveri (St. Francis Charity for the Poor) located at our Capuchin friary in Milan. The charity, founded by the Servant of God Br. Cecilio Maria

Cortinovis, distributes 2,600 hot meals at lunch and supper each day, and also provides 160 showers and 50 changes of clothes. Near the Capuchin friary at the Piazzale Diego Velasquez, clinics provide medical visits and services to about 150 people each day. These are served by doctors and other qualified professionals from Milan and the surrounding area.

Thanks to Brothers Francesco and Maurizio for their work that makes visible the mercy that rejoices the heart of God and gives hope to people! Along with you we thank all our Capuchin brothers who serve in our soup kitchens, clinics, and so many other structures that welcome our poor and marginalized brothers and sisters in their struggles.

[Order of Merit of the Italian Republic](#)



Justyn Rusin

Gold Cross of Merit for a Capuchin friar

A ceremony to grant decorations of merit for the Polish Church in the east and for the promotion of Polish culture was held at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, on the vigil of the celebration of the liberation of Poland (1918), November 10, 2016. Among the many decorated there was also Br. Justyn Rusin, a friar of the Capuchin Province of Cracow, currently serving in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, who received the Gold Cross of Merit. The Crosses of Merit were given by the head of the office of the

President, Adam Kwiatkowski, who addressed words of gratitude to all those who had been awarded, but asked them to continue on in their mission.

The Gold Cross of Merit is given to people who have distinguished themselves in service to the country or of their fellow citizens in acts that go beyond the ordinary, and that bring benefit to the country or its citizens. It can also be given for generous public activity and charitable work.



The sea, the fear ... a place to stay

In Cava de' Tirreni, next to the Capuchin friary that serves as the inter-provincial postulancy for southern Italy, there is a rest home belonging to the Province that welcomes people of humble means. For some months now the government of the city of Salerno has requested to manage the house in order to welcome thirty refugee women from Nigeria who reached the coast of Italy after the long and dangerous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea. The friars have offered their help and togeth-

er with the personnel of the house they have prepared a floor of the structure to welcome the women. Among these very young women, one girl lost her mother during the voyage and another two are pregnant. Thanks to our brothers for letting themselves be moved by the anguish that cries out in search of a better tomorrow.

*Br. Raffaele Della Torre,
General Councilor*

[See photos on the website](#)

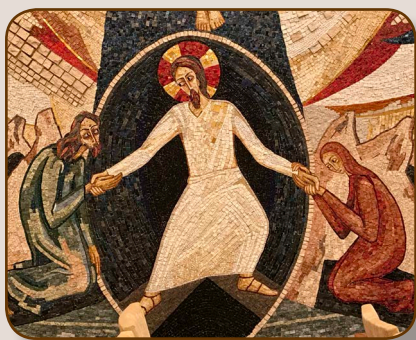


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BICI
N° 300

Rovereto, Italy – Our friary of St. Catherine is opening its doors to refugees. Fifteen women from Ivory Coast and Nigeria, all in their twenties, and three children have been guests since the beginning of December in seven rooms on the second floor, with a bathroom, kitchen, and living room in common, as well as their own entrance. They had been staying in other places, but because of renovations and given the need ... even a Capuchin friary can work! The ladies, as they wait for their requests for asylum to be received, are being assisted by someone in charge and by volunteers, and have been attending courses set up for them.

Doors Open to Refugees





Audio of Br. Raniero's catecheses

As of last month, the sermons that our confrere Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household, gave during this past Advent 2016, have been available in four languages. Now the material can be found only in an audio version recorded live in the Redemptoris Mater chapel with the title, "Let us drink, the sober intoxication of the Spirit." Happy listening!



First sermon
25 XI 2016



Second sermon
2 XII 2016



Third sermon
9 XII 2016



Fourth sermon
16 XII 2016

[See other materials available on the website](#)

[Visit the website of Br. Raniero Cantalamessa](#)

New Brothers in the General Curia



The fraternity of the General Curia is currently made up of thirty-nine friars from twenty countries. This international character represents the lively presence of the Capuchin Friars Minor all over the world. The General Curia has recently welcomed two new friars. They are Br.

Thomas Francis Thattil, from India, who will carry out the service of Vice General Bursar, and Br. Antoine Haddad, from the Custody of Lebanon, who has been appointed Assistant to the General Postulator and Secretary for the French Language. Let us welcome these new brothers and wish them ev-

ery success in their new assignments. Br. Jean-Marcel Rossini, current Assistant to the General Postulator and Secretary for French, will soon depart from the General Curia in order to care for the new international fraternity in Lourdes.

[See the whole community of the Curia on the website](#) [Download the current chart of the community](#)





*All our formators
should have
this experience!*

Course for PACC formators, 2016

The course for formators took place in the Capuchin retreat center in the city of Lipa, Philippines, from December 5 to 15, 2016. Twenty-three friars participated in the meeting, from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Tanzania, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Br. Eugenio, the Provincial Minister of the Philippines, was with us for some days, encouraging the participants with his evocative homilies and reflections. Br. Victorius Dwiardy, General Councilor for the PACC Conference, arrived for the final evaluation. His presence was an encouragement for all the brothers.

During the first week, workshops on mass media and a Capuchin response were offered under the direction of Br. Joaquim Hangalo, IT Director of the General Curia. These meetings were an orientation toward a method for an ever more correct use of the mass media in the various stages of formation. The friars were also introduced to the world of the mass media and its challenges. Br. Charles Alphonse, General Secretary of Formation, guided the friars in an interior exploration that sought to identify the vital center which calls for our

attention. In addition to this, the friars were able to benefit from a therapeutic meditation that leads one to take his own past and his own strengths in hand. The culmination of this experience was a stepping beyond in interior exploration to an inner opening to the contemplation of God in a Franciscan way that allows one to reach a kind of harmonious integration.

Br. Jaime Rey, Vice General Secretary of Formation, helped the friars to venture into the world of Francis and Clare. The richness of a look into the world of Francis, his contemplation, crises, and his thirst for fraternity helped the friars to rekindle a Franciscan spirit of fraternity. Br. Jaime also provided some information on the preparation of the Ratio and its application.

Br. Cesar Acuin supplied information on how to organize programs of study and on the Capuchin formation process at each stage of formation. His experienced vision helped the formators to know the methods of Franciscan discernment and personal accompaniment.

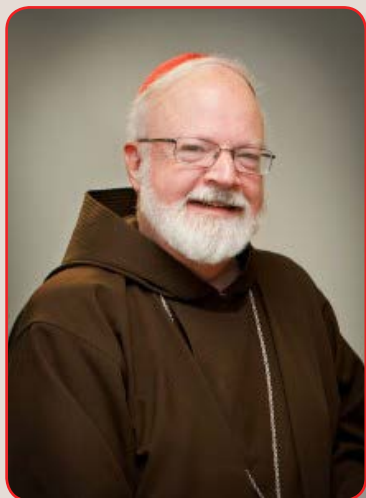
Br. Joel de Jesus was a source of inspiration in his sharing of experiences of life on the peripheries, where he lives as a doctor with the

indigenous people, sharing their experience and accompanying our student friars in experiences there. He also presented the work of the Capuchin Medical Mission.

Our brothers from the Capuchin retreat center were outstanding in Capuchin hospitality. It was a time of Franciscan and biblical updating, of studying the mass media and ethics, of personal growth and experiences of interiority and harmonious integration. The participants experienced ten days of fraternal life, contemplation, and of study on these themes, as well as interior exploration, in order to reach a harmonious spiritual integration in their daily lives. One day was also dedicated to an experience of the difficult situations on the peripheries, where we Capuchins serve according to the needs. There was also the opportunity to visit 'Hidden Valley'; the friars, immersed in natural beauty, spent a day in silent contemplation. The vocation stories and group discussion on our themes helped the friars personalize the material. The participants were of the opinion that every formator should be able to benefit from such an experience.

[See photos on the website](#)

Card. Seán Patrick
O'Malley OFMCap



Member of the **Congregation** for the **Doctrine of the Faith**

On January 14, 2017, Pope Francis appointed His Eminence Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston and President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, as a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

[Source](#)

[Visit Cardinal O'Malley's blog](#)
[Cardinal Seán's profile on his blog](#)
[Archdiocese of Boston](#)



Capuchins on YouTube



YouTube has joined Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as a major means of communication. Since 2009 the Communications Office of the Capuchin General Curia has published videos on its YouTube channel. In the past year (2016), this activity has intensified and fifty-three videos have been posted, a new video about once a week. These videos present the many international meetings of the friars, the messages of the General

Minister, conferences in the larger Franciscan world and from the Capuchin Poor Clare nuns, and moments in the life of the friars in different parts of the world. It is possible to subscribe to the channel in order to receive regular updates of new videos when they are published. Just go to the address www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv and click on Subscribe.

We invite you to visit our channel.

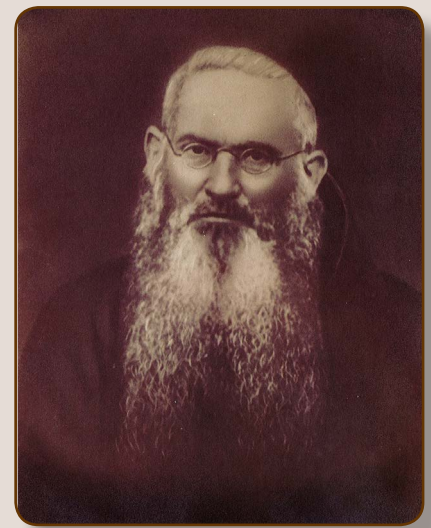
See you there!

“On January 20, 2017, Pope Francis received in audience His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Amato, SDB, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During the audience the Supreme Pontiff authorized the Congregation to publish the decree regarding the miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Arsenio of Trigolo (in the world: Giuseppe Migliavacca), religious priest of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mary Most Holy Consolatrix; born June 13, 1849 and died December 10, 1909.” So reports the Bulletin of the Holy See Press Office. The Order is thus enriched with a new blessed. The news was anticipated, with the Cardinals approving the miracle in their ordinary

Recognition of a **miracle** attributed to Venerable **Arsenio** of Trigolo

session on January 17, 2017, but at the same time was a surprise as four days had passed since the meeting. We cannot but show our thanks to the Lord and those who have prayed and worked for this moment.

There are still, however, some things to do. The commission



for the beatification, made up of certain friars from the Province of Lombardy and sisters of Mary Most Holy Consolatrix, has been charged with setting up whatever is necessary for the celebration, which could take place in Milan by the end of September 2017.

Hope for the **Homeless** from the Holy **House**



As it is every year, December 10 was the great feast day of the Loreto Shrine. Following ancient tradition, this date recalls the ‘angelic flight’ that translated Mary’s House to Loreto. It’s a story made of legend and tradition, of faith and devotion, that has made this Marian Shrine one of the most beloved places for Christians to visit, and not only Christians. Our Capuchin fraternity, which has depended directly upon the General Minister since 2015, wanted to make a grand contribution to the celebration once again this year. The liturgies aimed to express closeness and solidarity with those struck by the earthquake of August 24, many

of whom lost their homes. Two hundred of these are still saying in the buildings of the Pontifical Delegation, and it was to them that the Cardinal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, turned our thoughts as he celebrated Mass with fourteen bishops on the evening of December 9, with the procession of the original statue of Our Lady of Loreto following. On the next day, Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci, Prelate of Loreto, presided at the Mass, which was also animated by cadets of the Italian Air Force, for whom Our Lady of Loreto is heavenly patron.

[See photos 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.

