

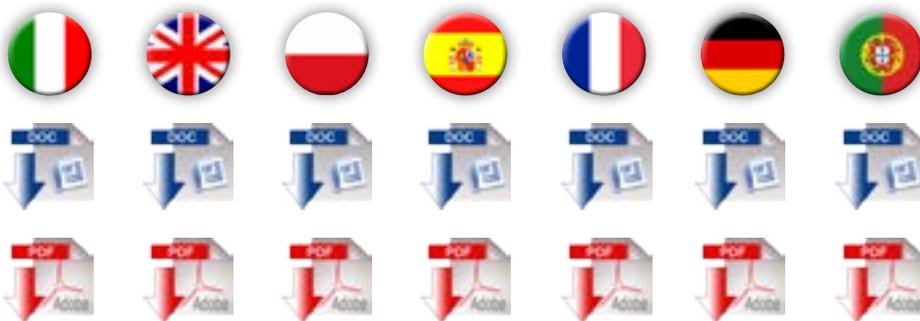
## Ratio Formationis - Chapter III

**D**ear Brothers,  
The moment has now come to focus on the work of completing a comprehensive draft of chapter III of the Ratio, which aims to present the stages of formation in the light of the key concept of initiation.

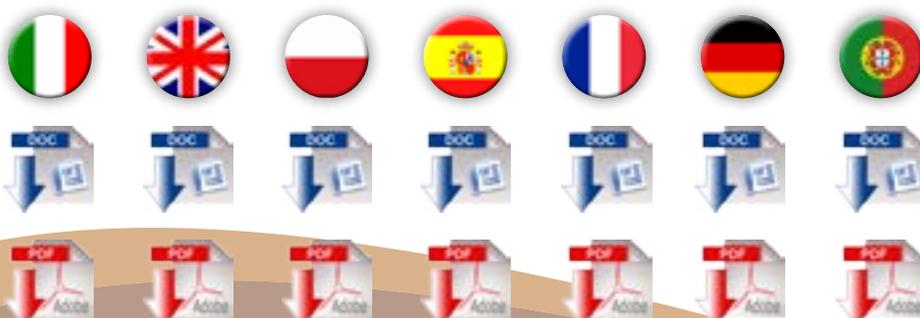
It is the responsibility of the Major Superiors, not only of the formators, to continue to motivate and accompany their brothers, and to make sure that this process of reflection is participative and fraternal. What we are asking from you is this: check to see whether the five dimensions of formation which we studied in chapter II can be found in all the formation stages, as a true process of initiation. This is a task for all the brothers and for each fraternity, but in particular for the formators and all the brothers who are in initial formation.

*Br. Mauro Jöhri*  
General Minister OFMCap

### Ratio Formationis - Chapter III



### Letter



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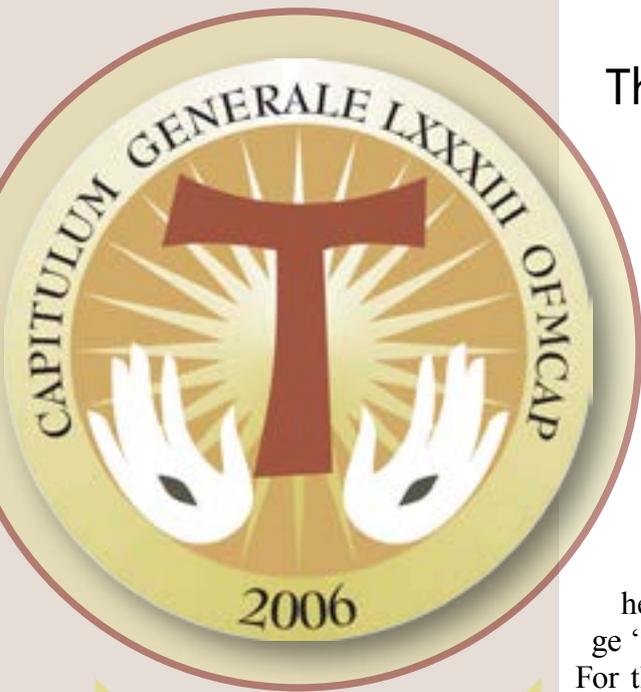
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## The General Chapters of the new Millennium **General Chapter LXXXIII**

Rome, 28 August-17 September 2006

**R**ome. General Chapter LXXXIII of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin took place, as have most Chapters, in Rome, from August 28 to September 17, 2006, and was held at the International College 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi.'

For the record, it was the second General Chapter of the new millennium. Coming at the end of the General Minister's second term, everyone wondered who would be elected. An Italian? A European? An American? An Asian? An African? These were the questions that everyone was asking.

That statistics at the time of the celebration of the Chapter report that the Order was made up of 10,793 professed friars (109 fewer than at the beginning of the preceding sexennium) present in 101 countries and belonging to 149 circumscriptions.

The election of the General Minister was held on Monday, September 4. Br. Mauro Jöhri, Provincial Minister of the Province of Switzerland, was elected on the first ballot. Some days later, on September 7, the Definitors and the General Vicar were elected.

Some particular notes on the Chapter: Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley presided at the opening Eucharist. On September 9 all the capitulars traveled to Assisi, where they first celebrated Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis and sought the blessing of our Seraphic Father, and then went to Our Lady of Angels, cradle of the Friars Minor.

On Wednesday, September 13 the Chapter received a visit from Archbishop Agostino Gardin, OFM Conv., Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life.

Beyond the elections, the Chapter took time to treat various topics, such as solidarity of personnel, planning for PCO VI, the availability of all the friars for all kinds of service in the Order, and the Constitutions and General Statutes.

Another significant event, which was at the end of the work of the Chapter, was the inauguration of the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation monument, presented together with its founder, Mr. Livio Camozzi.

See below all the archived video and photographic documentation of the Chapter.

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**BICI**  
N° 312



### General Chapter A.D. 2006

Video n. 1



Video n. 2



Video n. 3





## Course in **Franciscan** Spiritual Accompaniment

**P**orto Alegre (Brazil). The XXII Course in Franciscan Spiritual Accompaniment (AEFRAN) was hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Aparecida, in the São José neighborhood of

Porte Alegre. The course is held each year around this time.

This year's course was a full six weeks of work, beginning on January 21 and ran until March 2. The purpose of the course is to

prepare its participants to offer spiritual direction to the religious and laity who request it. The seven men and nine women religious who participated in the course were from all over Brazil. There was also a participant each from Angola and Mozambique. Among the total were six Capuchins, one Conventual friar, and two Poor Clares.

Anyone who wishes to be a spiritual guide must first have his own authentic experience of faith. For this reason AEFRAN is a very experiential course and demands an integration of the Franciscan tradition, the Word of God, and psychology in the journey of faith.

*Br. Sergio Dal Moro,  
General Councilor*

## Meeting of Latin American **JPIC** Animators



**S**ão Paulo (Brazil). The Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission of the Capuchin Order has already held a couple of meetings for formation in this part of the world, on the following topics: Migration, in September 2011 in Lima, Peru; 'Protecting Creation and Laudato si' in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in June 2016. The purpose has always been to 'inspire, inform, and integrate'. In the past three years there have also been various meetings via Skype for friars interested in JPIC.

This most recent meeting, for Capuchin JPIC animators, was held in São Paulo, Brazil from February 17 to 26, 2018. The topic was 'Ecological spirituality and human rights'. Thirty friars from twenty-one circumscriptions participated, coming from three different Conferences: CONCAM (North and South Mexico, Northern Central America, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and Haiti), CCA (Paraguay, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia), and CCB (eleven circumscriptions of Brazil).

The Pope's encyclical was the foundation of the whole meeting: "The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty." (Laudato si', 246). We shared the particular situation of our places with reference to violations against human rights and creation. These same situations were also described by excellent speakers. Guided by the OFM Cap. JPIC Handbook, we discussed projects to propose to the circumscriptions, especially those that are in collaboration with the Franciscan family, other institutes of consecrated life, and the Church. (E.g. Iglesia y Minería, Red Eclesial Panamazónica (REPAM), and Catholic Climate Movement, among many others). At the end of the meeting the results were announced to the friars of ALAC (Asamblea Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Cappuchinos) and in support of the 'Capuchin fraternity' project in the Amazon.

*Br. Benedict Ayodi*

Vatican Basilica

Friday, 2 February 2018

# FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 22nd WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE EUCCHARISTIC CONCELEBRATION



**F**orty days after Christmas, we celebrate the Lord who enters the Temple and comes to encounter his people. In the Christian East, this feast is called the “Feast of Encounter”: it is the encounter between God, who became a child to bring newness to our world, and an expectant humanity, represented by the elderly man and woman in the Temple.

In the Temple, there is also an encounter between two couples: the young Mary and Joseph, and the elderly Simeon and Anna. The old receive from the young, while the young draw upon the old. In the Temple, Mary and Joseph find the roots of their people. This is important, because God’s promise does not come to fulfilment merely in individuals, once for all, but within a community and throughout history. There too, Mary and Joseph find the roots of their faith, for faith is not something learned from a book, but the art of living with God, learned from the experience of those who have gone before us. The two young people, in meeting the two older people, thus find themselves. And the two older people, nearing the end of their days, receive Jesus, the meaning of their lives. This event fulfils the prophecy of Joel: “Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions” (2:28). In this encounter, the young see their mission and the elderly realize their dreams. All because, at the centre of the encounter, is Jesus.

Let us look to our own lives, dear consecrated brothers and sisters. Everything started in an encounter with the Lord. Our journey of consecration was born of an encounter and a call. We need to keep this in mind. And if we remember aright, we will realize that in that encounter we were not alone with Jesus; there was also the people of God, the Church, young and old, just as in today’s Gospel. It is striking too, that while the young Mary and Joseph faithfully observe the Law – the Gospel tells us this

four times – and never speak, the elderly Simeon and Anna come running up and prophesy. It seems it should be the other way around. Generally, it is the young who speak enthusiastically about the future, while the elderly protect the past. In the Gospel, the very opposite occurs, because when we meet one another in the Lord, God’s surprises immediately follow. For this to occur in the consecrated life, we have to remember that we can never renew our encounter with the Lord without others; we can never leave others behind, never pass over generations, but must accompany one another daily, keeping the Lord always at the centre. For if the young are called to open new doors, the elderly hold the keys. An institute remains youthful by going back to its roots, by listening to its older members. There is no future without this encounter between the old and the young. There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds. There is never prophecy without memory, or memory without prophecy. And constant encounter.

Today’s frantic pace leads us to close many doors to encounter, often for fear of others. Only shopping malls and internet connections are always open. Yet that is not how it should be with consecrated life: the brother and the sister given to me by God are a part of my history, gifts to be cherished. May we never look at the screen of our cellphone more than the eyes of our brothers or sisters, or

**HOMILY  
OF HIS HOLINESS  
POPE FRANCIS**

focus more on our software than on the Lord. For whenever we put our own projects, methods and organization at the centre, consecrated life stops being attractive; it no longer speaks to others; it no longer flourishes because it forgets its very foundations, its very roots.

Consecrated life is born and reborn of an encounter with Jesus as he is: poor, chaste and obedient. We journey along a double track: on the one hand, God's loving initiative, from which everything starts and to which we must always return; on the other, our own response, which is truly loving when it has no "ifs" or "buts", when it imitates Jesus in his poverty, chastity and obedience. Whereas the life of this world attempts to take hold of us, the consecrated life turns from fleeting riches to embrace the One who endures forever. The life of this world pursues selfish pleasures and desires; the consecrated life frees our affections of every possession in order fully to love God and other people. Worldly life aims to do whatever we want; consecrated life chooses humble obedience as the greater freedom. And while worldly life soon leaves our hands and hearts empty, life in Jesus fills us with peace to the very end, as in the Gospel, where Simeon and Anna come happily to the sunset of their lives with the Lord in their arms and joy in their hearts.

How good it is for us to hold the Lord "in our arms" (Lk 2:28), like Simeon. Not only in our heads and in our hearts, but also "in our hands", in all that we do: in prayer, at work, at the table, on the telepho-

ne, at school, with the poor, everywhere. Having the Lord "in our hands" is an antidote to insular mysticism and frenetic activism, since a genuine encounter with Jesus corrects both saccharine piety and frazzled hyperactivity. Savouring the encounter with Jesus is also the remedy for the paralysis of routine, for it opens us up to the daily "havoc" of grace. The secret to fanning the flame of our spiritual life is a willingness to allow ourselves to encounter Jesus and to be encountered by him; otherwise we fall into a stifling life, where disgruntlement, bitterness and inevitable disappointments get the better of us. To encounter one another in Jesus as brothers and sisters, young and old, and thus to abandon the barren rhetoric of "the good old days" – a nostalgia that kills the soul – and to silence those who think that "everything is falling apart". If we encounter Jesus and our brothers and sisters in the everyday events of our life, our hearts will no longer be set on the past or the future, but will experience the "today of God" in peace with everyone.

At the end of the Gospels, there is another encounter with Jesus that can inspire the consecrated life. It is that of the women before the tomb. They had gone to encounter the dead; their journey seemed pointless. You too are journeying against the current: the life of the world easily rejects poverty, chastity and obedience. But like those women, keep moving forward, without worrying about whatever heavy stones need to be removed (cf. Mk 16:3). And like those women, be the first to meet the Lord, risen and alive. Cling to him (cf. Mt 28:9) and go off immediately to tell your brothers and sisters, your eyes brimming with joy (cf. v. 8). In this way, you are the Church's perennial dawn. You, dear consecrated brothers and sisters, are the Church's perennial dawn! I ask you to renew this very day your encounter with Jesus, to walk together towards him. And this will give light to your eyes and strength to your steps.

## HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



# XIII Assembly of ALAC - Lima, Peru



27 January - 3 February 2018

**F**ormation and mission in a new culture: this was the motto that gathered the brother provincial ministers, custodes, and delegates for the XIII Assembly of ALAC from January 27 to February 3, 2018 in Lima, Peru (ALAC – Asamblea Latinoamericana de Capuchinos).

The meeting was characterized by listening, sharing, and seeking adequate responses to the problems and difficulties facing our presences in Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula. All the General Councilors participated in the meeting. The General Minister was not able to be there, as he was still recovering from a recent surgery. After Br. Štefan Kožuh, General Vicar, greeted all the participants, Br. Hugo Mejía presented the statistics of the Order with emphasis on changes in recent years and how these influence plans for evangelization and formation. Br. Sergio Dal Moro presented a reflection on the lack of vocational perseverance, treating one of the most difficult and problematic issues

for religious life. The presentation developed around three points: 1. The phenomenon of those who leave, 2. An attempt at analysis, and 3. How to proceed, in the form of ‘see, judge, act.’

A very engaging reflection was offered by Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez. With humility and depth this famous theologian shared the experience of a wisdom figure, now in his nineties, who has spent many years of his life in theological research.

Br. David Beaumont, Custos of North Mexico, offered his witness as a missionary in very rural areas. In his talk he spoke of experiences with people and presented the faces of those who have marked deeply his own missionary journey.

Br. Hugo Mejía also presented the Capuchin Lay Volunteers, an initiative promoted by the Order that offers people known by our fraternities, as well as others, the opportunity to spend some time in volunteer service in our missions in Asia and Africa.

Worth noting is also the current project of building an international fraternity in the Amazon in order to serve people who live in rural and forgotten areas. May this good intention soon become a reality!

Beyond these presentations and sharing, which were studied in group work, the participants also gathered as a Conference to discuss current issues in their circumscriptions and to prepare themselves for the upcoming celebration of the General Chapter.

A half day was given to visiting the historical part of Lima, where everyone had a chance to appreciate the places and buildings that testify to the work of the Church and the holiness of St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres. The meeting was carried out in a friendly and engaging atmosphere. The wonderful hospitality of the friars of the Province of Peru was a great support to the work. Thanks to them!

*Photos and video –  
Br. Paulo Henrique OFM Cap.*



# Video XIII Assembly of ALAC

ALAC n. 1



ALAC n. 2



ALAC n. 3



ALAC n. 4



Ñaña, o bairro da XIII ALAC



# Foto XIII Assembly of ALAC

ALAC n. 1 Lima, Peru, 2018.02.



ALAC n. 2 Lima, Peru, 2018.02.



ALAC n. 3 Lima, Peru, 2018.02.



ALAC n. 4 Lima, Peru, 2018.02.



## Br. Oktavian Schmucki has passed from this life

Rome. The news has reached us that today, February 12, at the hospital of Schwyz, Switzerland, the Lord called Br. Oktavian Schmucki to himself. He was a well-known and highly esteemed friar in the whole Order for his study of St. Francis and his role in the renewal of our Constitutions.

We do not yet have first-hand news of the last days, so at this time we can only recall the principal moments of his life: born on January 8, 1927, he made simple and then solemn vows on September 8 in 1948 and 1951, respectively. He was ordained priest on July 6, 1952. Nevertheless, we do have before us a letter written to him by Br. John Corriveau, then General Minister, on October 14, 1997, at the time of Br. Oktavian's return to his Province at the end of his service in Rome. The letter gives us a good idea of Br. Oktavian's extensive contribution:

"These have been more than forty years of silent work, from 1956 until today, during which you have built up an invaluable and profound study of the spirituality of St. Francis, by means of a long series of articles published in various

specialized journals, with the aim of understanding more deeply the Christological devotion of the Poverello, with particular attention to his stigmata and illnesses, his spirit of prayer, and his contemplative aspect. These studies, which amount to a good 349 titles, have been read with enthusiasm, interest, and profit by both friars and scholars and have contributed to a renewed love for the Franciscan life and charism in the hearts of many." The General Minister also notes that as Secretary for the Legislative Commission of the Order from 1964 to 1968, Br. Oktavian prepared an immense contribution of documentary material, which was very important for the renewal of our Constitutions after Vatican II. At the time of the General Minister's letter, Br. Oktavian was also completing a collected bibliography on St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen.

Beyond all this we cannot pass over in silence how Br. Oktavian, for a good sixteen years between 1972 and 1987, was the distinguished director of our international journal *Collectanea Franciscana*. Returning to his Province, Br. Oktavian



did not cease his work of scholarship and research. It is enough to consult the pages of *Helvetia Franciscana* to see that his name still appears among the authors and collaborators of the journal. One of the most recent contains a profile that he wrote of his confrere Br. Anton Rotzetter, another great Franciscan scholar, who died in 2016. It is striking to see the precision and comprehensiveness of his study, in which he cites a good 721 titles of which the deceased was author or collaborator.

He was thus a man given to study and research, who never tired of giving the best of himself in a spirit of service and of love for St. Francis and his Order.

May everyone who knew him and had the opportunity of appreciating Br. Oktavian now give thanks to the Lord and pray that he might be welcomed into contemplation of the Face of God.

## Elections and appointments



### Custodia del Messico Nord – elections:

CU: fr. David Joseph Beaumont Pfeifer (reelected)

1C: fr. Julio César Amparanza de los Ángeles

2C: fr. Ricardo Guadalupe Valadez Martínez

Date: 11.01.2018

Place: Monterey, Messico

President: fr. Harold Snider, Ministro Provinciale, California.

## **Custodia di Giappone – elections:**

CU: fr. Denis Baptist Fernandes  
1C: fr. Maxim D'Souza  
2C: fr. Johnson D'Souza

Date: 02.02.2018

Place: Okinawa, Giappone

President: fr. Michael Greco, Ministro Provinciale, New York-New England.



## **Provincia di Francia – elections:**

PR: fr. Eric Bidot (reelected)  
VP: fr. Daniel Painblanc  
2C: fr. Prabu Pitchai  
3C: fr. Joseph Dossmann  
4C: fr. Raffaele Ruffo

Date: 07.02.2018

Place: Bon Pasteur, Angers, Francia

President: fr. Pio Murat, Consigliere Generale



## **Provincia del Pontianak, Indonesia – elections:**

PR: fr. Hermanus Mayong  
VP: fr. William Chang  
2C: fr. Josephus Erwin  
3C: fr. Andrianus Dery  
4C: fr. Joseph Juwono

Date: 07.02.2018

Place: Tirta Ria Sungai Raya, Pontianak, Indonesia.

President: fr. Victorius Dwiardy, Consigliere Generale



## **Il 10 febbraio 2018, la Custodia Generale dell'Etiopia è stata eretta Provincia e sono stati nominati:**

MP: fr. Gebrewold Gebretsadik (nominato)  
VP: fr. Abera Makebo  
2C: fr. Daniel Asefa  
3C: fr. Hailegabriel Meleku Delbato  
4C: fr. Abera Ferju Muanye

Date: 10.02.2018

Place: Addis Ababa, Etiopia

President: fr. Norbert Auberlin Solondrazana e Raffaele Della Torre, Consiglieri Generali



## **Custodia di Bielorussia son- elections:**

CU: fr. Aleh Shenda (reelected)  
1C: fr. Andrei Kviatsinski  
2C: fr. Vitali Yurkevich

Date: 12.02.2018

Place: Dokszyce, Bielorussia

President: fr. Andrzej Kiejza, Min. Provinciale, Varsavia, Polonia





## Franciscan and Capuchin places

**A**lbacina, Camerino, Cantalice, Celle di Cortona, Foligno, etc. are places that call out to every Capuchin friar. Historically speaking, they are our roots. This is why we have added another 670 photographs, in high resolution, of these Franciscan and Capuchin places to our collection of photos of Assisi. We have made an effort to organize the material in order to facilitate searches within the collection. All of this is at your disposal, with the hope that it is useful and will help to improve our internet and print publications.

In the photo collection of the Franciscan places you can now find: Assisi,

Albacina, Camerino, Cantalice, Celle di Cortona, Città di Castello, Foligno, Fonte Colombo, Greccio, La Foresta, La Verna, Monte Casale, Perugia, Poggio Bustone, San Sepolcro and Spello.

Everything can be found on Google Disk in the [Capuchin Creative Commons](#) section – Foto – Franciscan places, luoghi francescani. Just click on the link '[Foto – Franciscan places](#)' to get to the material.

If you use any of the photos we ask that you kindly indicate the source: Archivio [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org).

*Br. Paweł Teperski OFM Cap – photographer, Communications Office*



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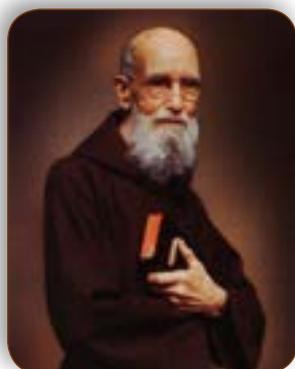
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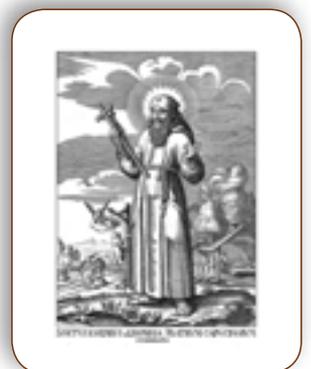
Saint Angelo d'Acri



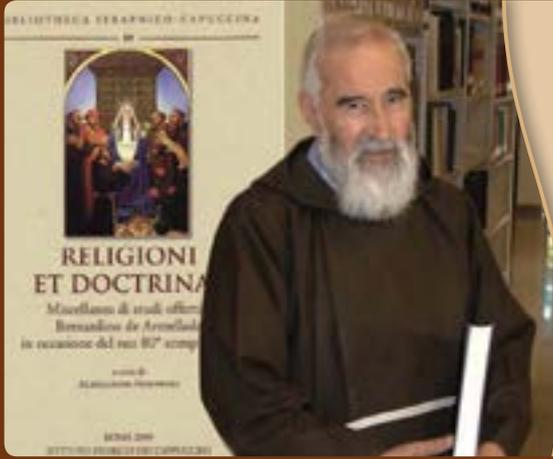
Assisi



Blessed Solanus Casey



Saints and Blesseds



## This world bids farewell to **Br. Bernardino de Armellada**

**R**ome. Following the loss of Oktavian Schmucki, the great scholar of St. Francis and Franciscanism, another noted confrere has left us, one who also was an extensive writer and worked in Rome as well. Br. Bernardino de Armellada, born Agostino García Perez, was eighty-eight years old. Seventy of these years were lived in religious life and sixty-four in the priesthood. He spent his last days in the infirmary in Madrid. The friars there who assisted him tell of his declining health, of which he was well aware. Two months ago they were surprised by his words of farewell: “Blessed be God. Goodbye, brothers.” Then on this past February 22, Br. Bernardino went peacefully to meet Sister Death.

In 2010, on the occasion of Br. Bernardino’s eightieth birthday, the Pontifical University ‘Antonianum’ published, in his honor, the volume *Religioni et Doctrinae*, edited by Br. Aleksander Horowski, President of the Capuchin Historical Institute. There he presented Br. Bernardino as an “expert in Duns Scotus, a fertile historian, and an appreciated and sought-after professor.” Philosophy and history were his two main fields of research.

Born into a family of workers, the fourth of eight children, his love

of study was revealed at an early age. At seventeen he entered the novitiate in Bilbao. The years of philosophy that followed, three in Montehano and one in León, encouraged him, as he himself says, in the *búsqueda de Dios a través de las últimas causas* – the quest for God by means of final causes. He then studied for the licentiate in theology at the University of Salamanca. Then, at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, he was awarded the doctorate for his work on Scotus and the primacy of love with the respect to the ultimate end of human life. In Rome, Br. Bernardino attended the courses of the noted theologians Fr. Zoltán Alszeghy and Fr. Juan Alfaro, arriving even at the correction of some of the latter’s assertions on the gratuity of supernatural gifts. In 1964 in Germany he was in contact with the famous theologian Karl Rahner, to whom he presented a work on the doctrine of the supernatural.

The greater part of his scholarship was on the great figures of the Franciscan world, Bonaventure, Scotus, Ockham, Lawrence of Brindisi. On the occasion of the VII centenary of the birth of Scotus in 1966, he held a conference in Oxford, and on the occasion of the VII centenary of his death in 2008 he participated in the work

of a Scotistic Congress in Milan. Among other topics of his scholarship was Mariology, with particular focus on the Immaculate Conception, according to different Franciscan authors. As he said in an interview, “Ever since the years of seminary the Virgin Mary has been a maternal presence in my spirituality.”

Held to be the greatest scholar of the theology of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, he published the *Mariale of the ‘Doctor Apostolicus.’* (Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos)

In 1985 Br. Bernardino was sent to Rome as professor at the Institute of Spirituality and secretary for the Spanish language at the General Curia, as well as vice postulator for the cause of the Spanish martyrs of the Province of Castile.

Br. Bernardino was known for his love, dedication, and fidelity to the Church, as well as her doctrine. As Br. Benedict Vadekkekara writes, “He was very bonded to the Capuchin Order and was proud to wear the habit wherever he went.”

With such fidelity to God, his Church, and the Capuchin Order, he is now presented at his appointment with Sister Death, who has certainly found him with what it takes to be admitted, by sheer grace, to the contemplation of the Face of God. (m.m.)

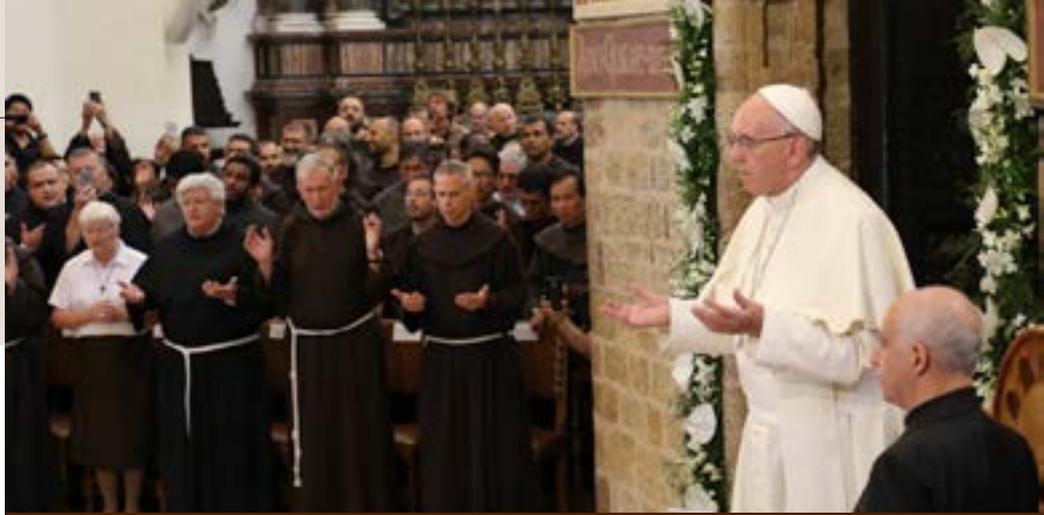


Instagram



franciscus

502 post  
5,1 mill follower



## Sentire cum Ecclesia

### The **Pope's** prayer intentions for 2018



**THE POPE VIDEO**  
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

**March:** That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



**April:** That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.



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TWETTS 1469



Papa Francesco

Followers 16,7 mln

A faith that does not trouble us is a troubled faith. A faith that does not make us grow is a faith that needs to grow.

As we grow in our spiritual lives, we realize how Grace comes to us and to others, and must be shared with everyone.

A life of faith means wanting to be with the Lord, and that means constantly searching for Him wherever He is.

We need the Holy Spirit to transmit the faith. We cannot do it alone.

Jesus wants to be found by those who look for Him. But to look for Him we have to get up and go out.

When we confess our sins with humility and sincerity, we receive forgiveness and are reunited with God and our brothers and sisters.