We are pleased to announce to the brothers of the Order that the website for the upcoming General Chapter will be launched at www.capitulum2018.ofmcap.org.

The website will have all the information and news both before and after the General Chapter. For the capitulars themselves, there will be a secure section where they will be able to find the report of the General Minister, the economic report, as well as other useful reports and documents for the work of the Chapter.

Each capitular will receive, at the email address he has provided, a username and password for the secure area. The link to the secure area will be on the right part of the menu.

We invite all the brothers of the Order to follow the celebration of the General Chapter by means of the website, by social media, and by means of the OFM Cap App, which can be downloaded from Google Play or from the Apple Store.
Rome. On Saturday, June 16, 2018 the whole Capuchin fraternity of our International College celebrated a special jubilee. The College was founded in 1908 by the will of Pope Pius X, and from 1911 was located on the Via Sicilia in Rome. From there, for various reasons, the College moved to its current location on the Grande Raccordo Anulare (Rome’s ring road) in 1968. The celebration marked therefore the 110th anniversary of the College and the 50th anniversary of its current location. The festivities were joined to the annual party for the end of the academic year, and began at 4 p.m. with the gathering of all present in the great hall of the College for the presentation of the logo of the jubilee, prepared by Br. Kilian Ngitiir.

Beginning at 4:30, a roundtable on the event provided a moment of study and reflection. There were three speakers: Br. Vincenzo Criscuolo, who spoke on the historical journey of the College in its 110 years, Br. Luca Bianchi, who developed the theme of the value of study in the Franciscan vocation, and Br. Francesco Neri, who took up the topic of the identity and mission of the College in the Capuchin Order. The General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhrri, also spoke, offering his conclusions on the importance of the College in its richness and diversity. This first moment of the event concluded with a video, after which all gathered in the great corridor of the College where a documentary presentation had been prepared by Br. Gianluca Crudo.

The central moment of the event, the Eucharist with the General Minister presiding, began at 6:45, and saw the participation of many invited guests and friends. After the Mass, everyone went to the plaza of the College for the festive supper of dishes from all over the world, prepared by the student friars themselves. Around 9 o’clock there was a concert of singing and dance by some of the language and cultural groups of the friars of the College. The evening concluded with the final blessing of the Rector.

We remain grateful to the Lord for these 110 years of the College at the service of our Order and we pray that its mission might continue to bear much fruit in the future.
INFORMATION BULLETIN
JULY 2018

Video
San Lorenzo College 16 VI 2018

San Lorenzo College: 1908 - 1968 - 2018
Day of celebration
Br. Vincenzo Criscuolo OFMCap

Br. Luca Bianchi OFMCap
Br. Francesco Neri OFMCap
Br. Mauro Jöhri OFMCap

Photos
San Lorenzo College 16 VI 2018

Hall
Eucharist
Festivities

Key:
• A red ‘play’ button means that the 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.
It was one o’clock in the morning on August 24, 2016 in central Italy, in the territory of the diocese of Rieti, that a violent earthquake completely destroyed the city of Amatrice and the surrounding villages. On the very next day the nearby Capuchin friars decided to assist the victims, those who in an instant had lost everything: family, neighbors, homes. The friars assisted the people spiritually but did not stop there; at the request of the bishop they lived in temporary structures with the people.

In this way the Roman province of the Capuchins responded right away and was soon joined by the Capuchin Conference of Italy. The friars decided to stay with the victims of the earthquake for two years, living first in tents and then in the temporary structures. Beyond the pastoral service of the celebration of the sacraments and funerals, the friars also committed themselves to material assistance with their manual labor. The group of friars changed each month and was made up of two to five brothers.

We would like to invite you to watch a video that shows how the friars have served. It is in seven languages with subtitles. To activate the subtitles, click on the lower right button – ‘subtitles’ – and choose a language.

We invite you also to watch the other videos (only in Italian) of interviews and witness of the friars and the bishop who served in this place that has suffered so much on account of the earthquake. At the same time we are making available to you the galleries of photos taken after the earthquake in September 2016 as well as others taken in November 2017, which show the nature of the disaster.

Video with translation in 7 languages:

Amatrice. A year after the earthquake. Witness.
Video
From Amatrice

Orazio Renzetti OFMCap

Ugo Maria Brogno OFMCap

Mons. Domenico Pompili

Maurizio Lenti OFMCap

Alberto Cimini OFMCap

Photos

Amatrice 2016.09.

Amatrice 2017.11.

Amatrice / San Angelo 2017.11.

Amatrice / Cascello 2017.11.

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.
The Capuchin fraternity of Tiaret, Algeria had the privilege of welcoming our General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, for the better part of Holy Week and a good half of the Easter Octave. It was a great joy for us, together with the parish community—made up of students from sub-Saharan Africa, far from home, and three sisters, missionaries of Mary from Aïn Séfra—to celebrate Easter with him.

Beyond the areas in which our fraternity works, we took the opportunity of the Minister’s presence to show him the place where the bishop of Oran, Most Rev. Jean-Paul Vesco, OP, would like us to live our charism of welcome: the Aï El Turk house on the seaside, near Oran, where it would be possible to serve at the basilica of Notre Dame de Santa Cruz, a destination for both Christian pilgrims and curious Muslims.

We also had a chance to spend some time at the monastery of Tibhirine, where Christian life is kept alive by the memory of the Trappist monks—as we look forward also to their beatification—and the charism of a Chemin Neuf community.

We believe that our fraternity’s simple life of prayer offered our Minister some time to relax and also to experience how sweet and evangelical is the mission “among the Saracens.” Other friars who would like to have the same experience for a few days or a longer period are welcome to visit us in Algeria.

The Capuchin friars of Tiaret
Franciscans are ‘One Family with a Focus on the Heart’

Inter-Franciscan School for Formators in Africa - 2018

The Franciscan School of Formation for Formators in Africa is a new initiative of the four branches of the Franciscan First Order. This Inter-Franciscan Formation Course for Formators was held at St. Bonaventure College, Lusaka, Zambia from May 27 to June 10, 2018. The idea of having a common formative course for the formators emerged spontaneously when all the General Secretaries for Formation of the four branches came together for the common University initiative in Rome last year.

St. Bonaventure College is a Model to Follow

Fifty-three formators from all the four branches were present, from the OFM Conv., OFM, Capuchins, and TOR. They came together to prepare themselves to discern and to tune themselves to be effective formators. The animators helped the brothers to train themselves to become passionately integrated persons. It helped them to know each other and experience Franciscan brotherhood.

At St. Bonaventure the three branches of the friars minor have been living and forming brothers since 1992, jointly attempting to form the student friars on the same campus. There are constant common activities while each group has its own respective simple dwelling. They come together for prayer, Mass, social work, and cultural activities apart from the studies done together at the College. Therefore this is indeed a very fitting place to inspire the formators on the value of joint fraternal formation.

The course was designed to have three parts, each running for two weeks. This year’s first part had inputs on the anthropological, psychological, Franciscan theological, and practical dimensions of formation. Every morning we had two inputs and in the afternoon there were group discussions based on the talks where formators had the opportunity to share their formative experiences and suggest ways to have integral spiritual formation. Sessions included: Franciscan Dimension of Formation, Franciscan Spirituality, inner journey, Affective Psycho-sexual Maturity, insights from neuroscience, core-issue identification, self-care through Brain Gym and Dance, healing sessions with love and spirituality with a focus for integral spiritual optimism.

Experiencing different cultures

The participants were from more than twenty African countries and so experienced the cultural richness, diversity, and common unity of Franciscan brotherhood. Listening to different languages began the moments of respecting one another’s uniqueness and an introduction to the Integral Optimistic Way. It was enriching to know each of the cultures and its richness. It is good to adjust to the need and diversity of other cultures. The brothers were united by the Franciscan will to do good in Jesus name.

A Day of prayer & Contemplation

On June 3 we had a day of recollection to strengthen ourselves through prayer and reflection. Br. Agustine OFM Cap., the Custos of Zambia, inspired us with his deep insights on how God chooses us ordinary persons to become His instruments. We need to serve him through our humble service in and through ordinary ways. Br. Amando, Vicar General of the TOR, inspired us on the need to be spiritual and fraternal.

“God’s call is amazing when we discover meaning in following Jesus by being a Franciscan and maybe sometimes our own family members may not understand why we became a religious. But later on they get inspired by our choice and mission.”

Testimony of Br. Adolphus Nwandu, OFM Cap.

“The workshops were truly so enlightening and enriching. They were grace moments of sharing of experiences and ideas, and profound fraternal interaction. It was so beautiful and consoling to realize that we are facing similar challenges in the work of formation, irrespective of the diversity of places and affiliations in the Throughout the period of the program the relationship among the brothers portrayed a deep sense of oneness, irrespective of the fact that we belong to different families within the Franciscan Order. This, in my own assessment, shows clearly that, for the African friars, the age-old controversies, as ‘providential’ though they were somehow, that gave rise to the divisions in the one family of our Seraphic father St. Francis, has become only a history. May this spirit of unity sustained by seraphic love continue to be our strength as we face the challenge of witnessing to the Franciscan charism in our great continent.”

On Monday June 4, as we all watched the video of the Canticle of Brother Sun we were touched to see the Franciscan passion and yearning manifested in the gaze and yearnings of the brothers. They watched the video with deep love and interest.

We need to ignite this passion, first and foremost, in the formators and then in others such that we prepare ourselves well to respond to the call of God.

Brs. Charles Alphonse & Jaime Rey OFM Cap
Capuchins on Instagram

A picture is worth a thousand words. In this age of social media, encouraged by Pope Francis and wishing to bring the events of the Order and the life of the General Curia to friars all over the world, we invite you to follow us on Instagram. Our account is frati_cappuccini. The full, direct link is https://www.instagram.com/frati_cappuccini/

The distinctive Tau logo of the General Curia accompanies our profile.

On our Instagram there are already 640 photos of events from our Capuchin life over from the last two years. Given especially the upcoming General Chapter, we invite you to sign up and follow our Instagram profile in order to follow these important events in the life of the Order.

Instagram: frati_cappuccini

Capuchin photos on Flickr

There is a complete photographic record of the many Capuchin meetings and events through which friars all over the world can stay informed about the various events of the Order at the international level. All the photos provided by our General Curia are now available on Flickr.

The 20,000 photos are organized well into 250 folders. Each folder has a title and date in order to make finding the event that interests you easier.

This photographic resource is always being updated. We invite to sign up for our channel: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ofmcap_org/albums/

Flickr: ofmcap_org

Our photos and videos are also available on Google +: https://plus.google.com/+UfficioComunicazioniOFMCap
July: That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

August: That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

Faith in Jesus Christ frees us from sin, sadness, emptiness, isolation. It is the source of a joy that no one can ever take away.

Let us ask our Lord to help us understand that love is service, love means taking care of others.

We encounter Jesus in those who are poor, rejected, or refugees. Do not let fear get in the way of welcoming our neighbour in need.

A person’s dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity.

Love is always at the service of others. Because love is seen in actions, not words.

No one is so poor they cannot give what they have, but first and foremost, who they are.