



Dear Brothers,

The celebration of the 85th General Chapter draws near. In the days leading up to this event, let us be united in prayer, aware that ‘unless the LORD builds the house, the who build it labor in vain.’ (Psalm 127)

Here is a prayer that can be used at the end of the intercessions at Morning and Evening Prayer, before the Our Father.

## Prayer for the 85th General Chapter

**B**rothers! Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, of St. Francis and St. Clare, as well as that of the great cohort of our brother saints and blessed, such that we might hold this Chapter with renewed zeal and openness to the Holy Spirit. I invoke the Spirit of the Lord that he may guide us, inspire us, and motivate us to spare no effort in fanning the living flame of our charism.

Let us pray in the very words of St. Francis:

**All-powerful, most holy, most high, supreme God:**

**all good, supreme good, You Who alone are good, may we give You all praise, all glory, all thanks, all honor, all blessing, and all good.**

**So be it! So be it! Amen.**

### Download the material



PDF A4



PDF A5



## INDEX

- 01 Prayer for the 85th General Chapter
- 02 The First Gathering of European Capuchin Post-novices and Students “Concordes Spiritu Volabimus”
- 04 Circular letter of the General Minister. Announcement of the Laurentian Year
- 06 15 Years of the Capuchins in Russia
- 07 Information on the Upcoming General Chapter
- 08 *Sentire cum Ecclesia*

**You Tube**  
ofmcaptv

Mobile app  
**OFMCap**



Download on the  
**App Store**



Get it on  
**Google play**



Download on the  
**Windows Store**

# The First Gathering of European Capuchin Post-novices and Students

## "Concordes Spiritu Volabimus"



**R**ome. "It would be really great if all of our young post-novices and students in Europe could spend some days together." These words of the General Minister, uttered during the September 2016 meeting of the General Council, were the inspiration of the first gathering of all the post-novices and students of Europe, which saw the participation of about two hundred young friars in formation, together with their formators and coming from almost every Capuchin circumscription of Europe. The meeting took place from July 8 to 12, 2018 at our International College 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi.' The motto of the gathering: *Concordes Spiritu Volabimus* – "In the Spirit we shall soar in harmony."

The meeting was prepared by representatives of the post-novices and students themselves from the various European circumscriptions. With orderliness, creativity, and youthful enthusiasm they identified the points that characterized the gathering: prayer, listening, sharing, witness, ideas for the future. Each was treated in an atmosphere of fraternal joyfulness. On Sunday, July 8, the day for arrival, right away it was clear how well things were going. Following vespers, all gathered in the piazza of the Collegio to offer one another a delicious supper made up of foods that each group had brought from their

own land. On Monday morning the General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, recounted different episodes from his twelve years of service. He brought us from the island of Cape Verde to Kenya and then back to Austria. Br. Mauro told us about how the friars, by their life and work, witness to the strength and beauty of a life given to the Lord and the brothers.

In the afternoon Brothers Charles Alphonse and Jaime Rey presented on the Ratio formationis, highlighting the points of interest to young men in formation. Then Br. Pio Murat, General Council, presented on the 'Fraternity for Europe' Project and the criteria of its inspiration. Two friars from the fraternity of Spello (a small town about 10 km from Assisi), which is part of the Project, also spoke. Br. Ivan Scicluna introduced the young friars to the fraternity and Br. Wojciech Głowacki, the guardian, shared on what it has meant for his own vocation to live there.

On the morning of Tuesday, July 10, the group made their way to Assisi. There, in the city of St. Francis, Br. Štefan Kožuh, General Vicar, presided at the Eucharist in the Shrine of Renunciation. Then almost everyone went together to venerate the tomb of St. Francis and to pray for all the brothers of the Order. Then the Provincial Minister of Umbria, Br. Matteo Siro, welcomed everyone to a nice

lunch at the Domus Laetitia. The pilgrimage concluded with some time for prayer at the Portiuncula.

On Wednesday, July 11, Br. Hugo Mejía Morales, General Councilor and General Secretary for Missionary Animation, spoke on the theme of evangelization *ad gentes*. He also presented the initiative of 'Capuchin Volunteers,' which calls volunteers to work with our friars in mission lands. Br. Paweł Szymala, Delegate of Turkey, spoke on our presence in that country, where the Church is not recognized and is subject to various restrictions and control. Br. Carmelo Saia, chaplain of Ucciardone prison in Palermo, spoke and presented a video on what it means to bring the gospel to the incarcerated. The morning concluded with a Mass at which Br. Francisco Neri, Rector of the International College, presided. In the latter part of the day there was some time to visit the Eternal City.

For the final half day of the gathering on Thursday, July 12, the friars gathered in groups to make an evaluation of the meeting. The General Minister presided at the Mass.

Our special thanks go to the friars of the International College for their cooperation and generous assistance in the preparation of the event.

# Video The days of the meeting

8-9 VII 2018 Roma



10 VII 2018 Assisi



11 - 12 VII Roma



# Video Conferences and homilies

br. Mauro Jöhri



br. Charles Alphonse e fr. Jaime Rey



br. Pio Murat



br. Štefan Kožuh



br. Hugo Mejia Morales



br. Francesco Neri



# Photos European Meeting

2018.07.08.



2018.07.09.



2018.07.10.



2018.07.11.



2018.07.12.



European Meeting



European Meeting



Photos: br. Pietro Paolo Sarraco OFMCap, br. Jakub Haracz OFMCap, br. Piotr Zachciał OFMCap



## Circular letter of the **General Minister** **Announcement of the Laurentian Year**

*To all the friars of the Order  
To the Capuchin Poor Clares*

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters,  
It was the month of September in 1993. Wishing to prepare two friars in post-novitiate for perpetual profession, I proposed to them that they make the Camino de Santiago. Arriving in Léon, the friars welcomed us fraternally, as they did also in Pamplona, Estella, and Logroño, and they let us know that in Villafranca del Bierzo we would be able to stay the night at the monastery of the Poor Clares. When we got to the monastery I was surprised when the nuns told me that buried in their church were the remains of our St. Lawrence of Brindisi.

Next year will be the four hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Lawrence and I believe that a year dedicated to his honor on this occasion will be very meaningful. Therefore, with this letter, I call for its celebration from July 21, 2018 to July 21, 2019.

I will give some brief sketch of the man himself; what I wish is that this year dedicated to St. Lawrence see initiatives of various kinds for the study and appreciation of his story and message. I note also that Lawrence of Brindisi is thus far the only General Minister of our Order who has been raised to the altars, and that he has also been proclaimed a Doctor of the Church. Born in Brindisi on July 22, 1559 with the name Giulio Cesare Russo, at the age of seven he lost his father and a few years later his mother as well. In 1574 he went to stay

with his uncle Pietro, a priest, in Venice. About a year later he knocked on the door of the Capuchin friary on Giudecca, one of the islands in the Venetian Lagoon. His request to enter the Capuchins was accepted. The novitiate and the years of study followed, and in January 1582 Br. Lawrence was ordained priest. Completing his theological studies, he dedicated himself to teaching, the formation of novices, and to preaching. Soon enough, however, he was called to the tasks of leadership and governance: in 1590 he was elected provincial minister of Tuscany, in 1594 that of Venice, and in 1596 general definitior. In 1598 we find him as provincial minister of Switzerland and in 1599 general definitior once again. In that same year he was entrusted with the foundation of a friary in Prague. Finally, in the General Chapter of 1602 Br. Lawrence was elected General Minister of the Friars Minor Capuchin on May 24. The service to which he had been called carried with it the task of visiting all the provinces of the Order. In carrying out these visitations during the three years of his mandate as general minister, Br. Lawrence went up and down Italy, traveled through Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, and Spain, all on foot. At the end of his term, popes and various European princes entrusted him with different diplomatic missions. These tasks did not allow him to dedicate himself completely to the contemplative life or the study that he

felt were the important aspects of his vocation. For three years, from 1610 to 1613, Br. Lawrence stayed in MONACO as the representative of the Holy See. These were the years in which the Catholic kingdoms were preparing themselves against the advance of the Protestant princes. In the same years Br. Lawrence was called to peacemaking in the most intricate conflicts. Along with all this intense diplomatic work, he remained a very sought-after preacher and was again elected provincial minister. In fact, having been elected general definitor for the third time in the General Chapter of



1613 he was sent as visitator to the Province of Genoa where he was elected provincial minister. Very well known and appreciated by the people, each time the future saint arrived in a city the population hurried en masse to see him, whereupon many healings were also attributed to him. Notwithstanding all this intense work, Br. Lawrence spent hours absorbed in prayer and even long periods of contemplation during the celebration of Mass. His final diplomatic mission took him to Lisbon where he interceded for the Neapolitan population who felt oppressed by the Spanish Duke of Osuna, who was also Viceroy of Naples. Br. Lawrence died on July 22, 1619 in Lisbon, at the age of sixty. His body was carried to the monastery of the Poor Clares in Villafranca del Bierzo, where he was entombed. Lawrence of Brindisi was beatified in 1783 by Pius VI and canonized in 1881 by Leo XIII.

Even given all the time he spent traveling, the heavy duties of administration and all his diplomatic work,

Br. Lawrence found time and inspiration for many writings, which remained unedited until his Opera omnia was published between 1928 and 1956. This publication of Lawrence's writings played a large role in the decision of Pope St. John XXIII, on March 19, 1959, to declare him a Doctor of the Church with the title Doctor Apostolicus.

I have presented this brief sketch of the life of St. Lawrence, a life rich with travel, with various works, but also rich with study, teaching, and a deep prayer life. As I mentioned at the beginning of the letter, I invite the Order to arrange for a fitting celebration of the holiness of St. Lawrence of Brindisi in this fourth centenary of his death. In particular, I hope that this observance will have a particular importance at our International College 'San Lorenzo da Brindisi' in Rome. Dear Brothers, in this my last letter I am writing to you, I take the opportunity to thank you for your patience and all the kindness you have shown to me. I am aware that it was not possible for me to respond to the hopes and concerns of everyone. I thank you for the welcome I was shown everywhere and I ask humbly that you continue to pray for me.

I am happy to send to each of you my fraternal greetings, together with my Franciscan best wishes of Peace and Good.

Br. Mauro Jöhri  
General Minister OFMCap

*Given in Rome, at our General Curia, 21 July 2018*

## Download the material





# 15 Years of the Capuchins in Russia

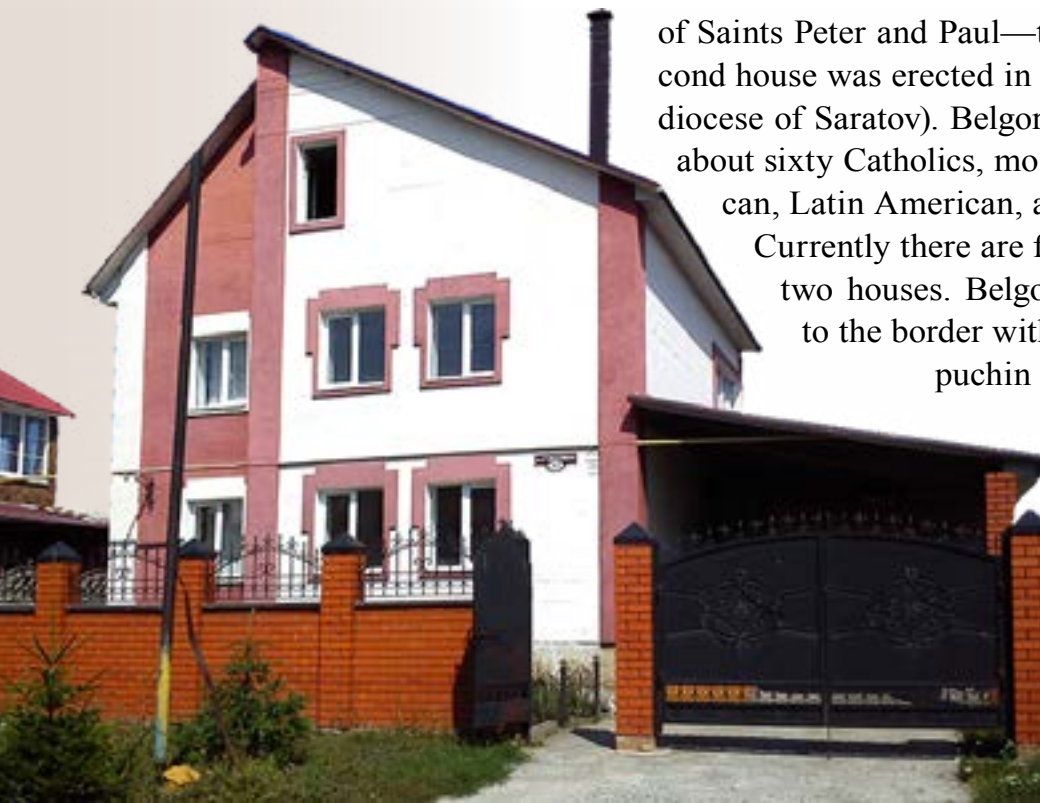
**6** **BICI** **N° 316** Fifteen years ago, in 2003, the first Capuchin house in Russia was opened. It is in the city of Voronezh in the diocese of Saratov, which has a million inhabitants but only 120 Catholics. In this sense ours is a small Catholic presence in a large area of Orthodox majority. This year, 2018, on June 29, the feast



of Saints Peter and Paul—the patrons of the parish—a second house was erected in the city of Belgorod (also in the diocese of Saratov). Belgorod has 350,000 inhabitants and about sixty Catholics, mostly students from various African, Latin American, and Asian countries.

Currently there are five friars total working in these two houses. Belgorod is in eastern Russia, close to the border with Ukraine. Officially and in Capuchin terms, the territory belongs to the Custody of Ukraine and Russia, which is a provincial custody of the Province of Kraków.

Photo galleries of the opening of the house in Belgorod.



There will be 188 capitulars from all over the world participating in the coming General Chapter. In addition, 48 other friars will be present for various tasks: translation, tech support, liturgy, secretariat, etc. The General Chapter is an event for the whole Order; not just for the 236 friars at the event in Rome. Today, thanks to the internet, communication has become easier and more accessible. Therefore we wish to let you know the various ways in which you can follow the General Chapter.



## Information on the Upcoming General Chapter

### Various means and channels are available:

**1. Application Mobile OFMCap.** The simplest way to follow the Chapter is with the OFMCap App. Just search 'OFMCap' in your **Android, Apple iOS e Windows**. app stores. News arrives as soon as it is published. If you're not yet using our free app, we invite to download it.

**2. World Wide Web.** During the Chapter news will be published each day in 7 languages on the website of the Chapter: [www.capitulum2018.ofmcap.org](http://www.capitulum2018.ofmcap.org) and on the site of the Order: [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org).

**3. Youtube.** We will try to publish a new video each day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ofmcaptv> Videos will also be available on the two websites noted above. By subscribing to the YouTube channel, you can receive notifications when new videos are posted.

**4. Flickr and Google Plus.** Each day we will publish photos on the platforms Flickr [https://www.flickr.com/photos/ofmcap\\_org/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ofmcap_org/albums/)

and Google Plus - <https://plus.google.com/+UfficioComunicazioniOFMCap>. On these platforms you can also sign up to receive notifications.

**5. Instagram.** For some months we have also been on Instagram: **frati\_cappuccini**. We invite everyone who is passionate about social media to follow us at [https://www.instagram.com/frati\\_cappuccini/](https://www.instagram.com/frati_cappuccini/).

**6. Twitter.** Follow the news from the website at - **@ofmcapdotorg**. Full address - <https://twitter.com/ofmcapdotorg>.

**7. Facebook.** During the Chapter we will also be on Facebook - **@curiageneraleofmcap**. 'Like' and follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/curiageneraleofmcap>.

**United in prayer for the Chapter which is about to begin, there remains only a short wait until we all participate in this important event in our Capuchin history.**

**Peace and good! See you soon!**



Instagram



franciscus

575 post  
5,7 miln follower



## Sentire cum Ecclesia

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



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



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

**September:** That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.



@Pontifex

Tweets 1.638



Pope Francis

Followers 17,7 MLN

Hear the cry of our many brothers and sisters who are criminally trafficked and exploited. They are not merchandise. They are human beings, and they must be treated as such

Prayer is never in vain: it always brings forth something new that, sooner or later, bears fruit.

Holiness is not only about the spirit: it is also the feet that take us to our brothers and sisters, and the hands that allow us to help them.

Grandparents are a treasure in the family. Please, take care of your grandparents: love them and let them talk to your children!

God wants us to call Him Father, with the trust of children who abandon themselves in the arms of the One who gave them life.

Jesus invites us to build the civilization of love together in the situations we are called to live every day.