

Handbook for the Cultural Assets of the Order



ROME: In a letter dated December 8, 2011, the General Minister presented to the whole Order the Handbook for the Cultural Assets of the Order. The text starts with an Introduction which briefly sets out the position of the Church and of the Order with regard to Cultural Assets. It identifies the four main areas of interest covered by the document: Archives, Libraries, Museums and places of our Capuchin presence (nn.1-7). The central portion has norms and guidelines for the founding of new Institutions and their organisation, and the procedures to be followed in cases of relocation and downsizing. It explains in detail the various responsibilities and how they are carried out in practice, and indicates concrete ways of collaboration in the Order in this area (nn. 8-86). At the end there are three Appendices relating to "Forms" to be filled in which the Provinces can use freely,

adapting them to their own situations according to the "Statutes" and "Regulations" prescribed by each Circumscription and Institution. The text has been translated into several languages and sent to all Major Superiors of the Order. It is also available on our WEB site.

New Custody



JUÁREZ, N. L. Mexico: On December 17, in the presence of the General Minister and the two General Definitors Br. Carlos Novoa and Br. Mark Schenk, of the provincial Minister of California and other brothers, our presence in North Mexico was erected as a Custody. The brothers arrived in that part of the country in 1985 as a mission of the California Province when the mission of Yécora, Sonora, was established. After that, the Novitiate house was opened in Tres Ojitos, Chihuahua; then the seminary in Juárez, Nuevo León and finally the friary at Durango. At present the new Custody has 9 friars coming from the United States, Brazil and India, 7 perpetually professed, 10 in temporary vows, 4 novices and 10 postulants.

INDEX

- 01 Handbook for the Cultural Assets of the Order
New Custody
The latest from the General Definitory
- 02 2nd International Week of Reconciliation
Franciscan Sisters and Capuchins in Algeria
- 03 Capuchins speak of freedom to young people
Closing of the diocesan process for Fr Guglielmo Gattiani
Two Lebanese Capuchins on the way to beatification
- 04 Christmas 2011: "100 Cribs"
FI participates in the Durban Conference on climatic change

The latest from the General Definitory

ROME: The General Definitory met between November 28 and December 2, 2011. Several decisions were taken:

Gabon: At the request of the Provincial Minister of Warsaw and with the approval of the CONCAO Conference, permission was given for the establishment of the provincial Delegation of Gabon.

Tamil Nadu: the division of the Province of Tamil Nadu into two new Provinces will go ahead. The establishment of the new Circumscriptions is set for April 25, 2012.

General Curia - refurbishment: after studying the minutes of a meeting of the Commission for the refurbishment of the General Curia, the Cultural Assets ▶

► Commission of Rome City Council conducted an on-site inspection of the works and called for certain details of the plan to be modified. Once the approval of the Cultural Assets Commission has been obtained, the local authorities in Rome will be able to set a date for work to begin. The contract for the first stage of the building works was awarded to the firm Mannelli Costruzioni Ltd. Contracts for the electrical and plumbing works will in all probability be awarded in March 2012.

International College: Approval was given for the preliminary stage of the process leading to selling a portion of the land around the International College. Approval of the Roman city authorities is still required for the sale to proceed.

International Solidarity Commission: requests and projects for 2012 were presented. The Definitory studied the suggestions made by the Project managers and by the Commission with respect to each project.

General Chapter: the minutes of the preparatory and technical Commissions were studied and relevant decisions taken. The proposed schedule for the business of the Chapter was also studied. A decision was also taken regarding which ecclesiastical dignitaries to invite at various points during the chapter.

Church at the College: Work is proceeding well and we expect to finish by the end of December 2011. The Definitory met with Fr. Ivan Marko Rupnik, in charge of producing the icons



which will eventually adorn the church. Dedication of the Church and altar will take place on March 25th 2012, and Mgr. John Corriveau has agreed to preside.

Centenary of Saint Felix of Cantalice:

The Province of Rome has proposed a “Felician Year” on the occasion of the 3rd Centenary of the Canonization of St. Felix of Cantalice. The exact date is May 22, 2012. Possible initiatives were considered, including a Circular Letter, a new biography, celebrations, involving the whole Order, to make St Felix better known as an example worthy of imitation.



2nd International Week of Reconciliation

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO: The second “International Week of Reconciliation” will take place between 13 and 17 February 2012. The theme for this moment of reflection and formation of priests is **The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the New Evangelization**. The initiative is offered to all the Capuchin brothers and to religious and diocesan priests who speak Italian, English or Spanish. The folder for the Week together with the complete programme and other information can be downloaded from the official site of the Order www.ofmcap.org.

Franciscan Sisters and Capuchins in Algeria

TIARET, Algeria - “A slow process of maturation: that is the image that best corresponds to our presence in Algeria. Hidden among a majority Muslim population, we sow seeds of love, peace, solidarity and respect for differences. Our work does not draw attention to itself”. Such is the mission of the Franciscan sisters and the Capuchins in the land of Algeria. They live out this mission in Franciscan style, with characteristic attention to the simple things of life: for the sisters, this means meeting the women during their work of sowing, embroidery and health care...; for the friars, the public places, streets, markets, the café, administration, transport... because North-African women stay at home, while the men are almost always outside. Franciscans, of course, are not the only ones witnessing to the Gospel in Algeria. There are the young Christians of sub-Saharan Africa studying in the universities. At Tiaret, about a hundred of these are working with the Capuchins to make the gospel present in the town among the young university students. The Capuchin fraternity has become a place of hospitality for these young people. Daily they come to enjoy the calm, peaceful atmosphere, to log on to the internet, and to enjoy a few moments of relaxation. They come to the weekly celebration of the Eucharist. In other places there is a small number of Algerians, a few expatriate workers, and undocumented immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa. Christians are a very small minority in Algeria. All the more reason, then, for Franciscans to feel at home there!

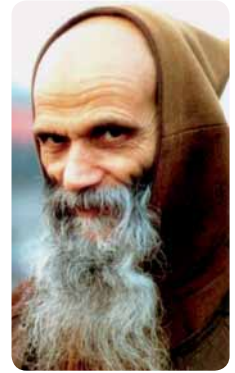




Capuchins speak of freedom to young people

BERGAMO, Italy: On Saturday December 10, four Capuchin friars, accompanied by about twenty young people, launched into the already hectic atmosphere of Christmas shopping at the Oriocenter, bringing a message focussed on the meaning of freedom. This was not the first time that the brothers of Oriocenter had done this. They offered copies of the Gospel and the Ten Commandments, written in accessible language, and an opportunity for the young people to think about where they stood in terms of their goals in life and their spiritual search. Using a touchscreen and a personalised test, with examples from the lives of Jim Morrison and Bob Dylan, the brothers emphasised that the gospel was a “free gift” - in a shopping centre where almost everything was on sale at a price. One friar attracted the crowds by his clown’s red nose and skilful juggling. It was a joyful way of keeping the children entertained and giving joyful witness to our faith.

Closing of the diocesan process for Fr Guglielmo Gattiani



CESENA, Italy: On December 10, in the cathedral of Cesena, the solemn conclusion of the diocesan process of the Capuchin Servant of God Fr Guglielmo Gattiani was celebrated by Bishop Douglas Regattieri. Prest at the event were the Postulator General Br Florio Tessari, the provincial Minister and Brothers of the Province of Emilia-Romagna. “Fr Guglielmo, the bishop said, is a Church man distinguished for many virtues; he was a man committed to prayer and showed a human heart through the sacrament of Reconciliation...”



Two Lebanese Capuchins on the way to beatification



BEYRUT, Lebanon: The Capuchins and the local Church in Lebanon are happy to announce the closure of the second diocesan inquiry into the martyrdom of two Capuchin missionaries of Baabdat: **Br Leonard Melki** (1881-1915) and **Br Thomas Saleh** (1879-1917) who were martyred in Turkey. The tribunal, presided over by Mgr Paul Dahdad, Apostolic Vicar of the Latins in Lebanon in the presence of the Vice-provincial Minister Br Tony Haddad, entrusted

the documents of the case to the Vice-postulator Br Salim Rizkallah, who undertook to transmit them to the Congregation in Rome. The two brothers Leonard and Thomas were arrested and tortured during the genocide of 1915 in Lebanon. Br Leonard Melki refused to apostatise after managing to hide the Blessed Sacrament when the police arrived. He was taken to the desert where he was murdered together with the Armenian Bishop, Blessed Ignace Maloyan and 415 men from Mardine. Br Thomas Saleh was arrested and condemned to death for offering hospitality to an Armenian priest during the genocide ; he was deported in the heart of winter under military escort. He died on the way on January 18, 1917 while courageously repeating “I have full trust in God; I do not fear death”. The Capuchins of



Lebanon ask us to join them in prayer that the beatification of these two brothers will be speedily achieved, so that they can be models of fraternal charity and apostolic zeal for the Church, especially for the Christians of the East. May their intercession obtain peace for this tormented region of the world.

Christmas 2011: "100 Cribs"

ROME: On November 25, the international exhibition of 100 Cribs was inaugurated in the Bramante Hall at Piazza del Popolo in Rome in the presence of Cardinal Angelo Comastri, the Mayor of Rome and the provincial Minister of Umbria, Br Antonio Tofanelli. The exhibition consists of 100 cribs made of palette knives, screws, bolts, matches, ties, palms, reeds, edible pasta, popcorn, and even chocolate, musical instruments, parts of automobiles, Swarovski pearls, porcelain of Limoges, tree roots and pumpkins. This year one could also admire a crib made by the Capuchins of Assisi, underline the religious meaning of the crib to which St Francis paid homage on Christmas night in 1223.



FI participates in the Durban Conference on climatic change

DURBAN, South Africa: The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Durban 2011 (COP 17) from 28 November to 9 December brought together representatives of the world's governments, international organisations and civil society including representatives of the Franciscan Family. Br. Bernd Beerman OFM Cap. represented Franciscans International in discussions on stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

For the first time every county in the world has committed to cutting carbon emissions – although the treaty will not come into force until 2020. In the interim between now and 2020, Europe and a few other countries have committed to a second period of the Kyoto Protocol. It is also planned to set up a Green Climate Fund that will channel around £60bn a year towards helping countries adapt to climate change from 2020.

Some conference participants however fear that this is not enough. Further temperature rise is predicted to cause further flooding, drought and consequently hunger which will most affect the world's poor and vulnerable.

The stakes were high as 194 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) tried to find a consensual agreement. "On Friday it looked like the whole process would simply fall apart as major stakeholders did not want to agree on any obligations to reduce carbon emissions either now or in the future," reported Br. Bernd. "The mere fact that the process was saved, despite there not being any immediate commitments by a number of major nations, can be regarded as a success."



COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA



"The outcome is to a large extent disappointing as no concrete reduction of emissions were agreed on," continued Br. Bernd. "The danger of not meeting the necessary emissions reductions in time is still high, but at least the negotiations are going on. The time to come will be tough and much needs to be done by all stakeholders."