



Editorial

THE RELEVANCE OF BLESSED JAMES THE ALMSGIVER

André M. Mutel, a member of the Secular Order and a student of the history and life of the Order has sent COSMO an essay on Blessed James the Almsgiver. This year we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Church approval of his cult. The following is an extract from André's essay. It focuses on the relevance of Blessed James' example for our times.

The 200th anniversary of the Church's approval of devotion to Blessed James is an occasion for our Secular Fraternities to meditate on the example of this holy man who Fra Clodovis M. Boff has called a "martyr for the poor." There is a tradition –not without foundation– that Blessed James was the first tertiary. He can be truly seen as a model and example: moved by love of the Lord "he was not afraid to face death to defend the vulnerable". (*Mass in memory of Blessed James, January 15*).

[...] "James the Almsgiver was a contemporary of St. Peregrine of Forlì and of the Blesseds Francis and Joachim of Siena. He discovered the pearl of great price –the Servite charism– at time marked by violence and selfishness, in so many ways similar to our own time. It was an era characterized by hostility, individualism, oppression and exploitation. He took to heart the words of the Lord, "For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it" (*Matthew 16,25*). As a layman he was committed to a life of service to God and to others; he was a defender of human life and dignity. His entry into the future Servite Secular Order did not remove him from temporal affairs but led him to view worldly concerns from the perspective of a merciful God; he was inspired by Our Lady's YES – and by her poverty and solidarity with the poor. His choice of life reflected Our Lady's consent at the Annunciation: he opened himself up to the Gospel challenge – he was totally receptive to the Will of God. His response to his vocation led him to total integrity in his life as a layman and in his worldly affairs. He was completely available for service to those in need. For the sake of the Kingdom he forgot and gave himself; he offered his own life for his fellow citizens who were being deprived of their legitimate rights by an iniquitous neighbor. Faced with the lethal power that oppressed the weak he did not join the exploiters rather he stood with those who were persecuted for the sake of justice and peace. He became the defender of those who had no one to speak on their behalf. Blessed James gave a whole new dimension to the concept of "fellow citizen," a dimension steeped in solidarity and fraternity.

We, like Blessed James, must come to the defense of the vulnerable, the homeless, the marginalized; we must also come to the defense of the environment whether it is in our neighborhood or far away – it is the patrimony of us all and of future generations. Must not our fraternities reaffirm their loyalty to the teaching of the Church, the ethical values of a society in which individuals are no longer victims of violence and exploitation? If we are genuinely indignant at the spread of poverty (even in post-industrial society) and the increase of different forms of social injustice we must denounce a system that promotes exclusion. We must join our voices to that of Mary in the Magnificat – God will raise up the humble and oppressed (*Luke 1, 52-53*). The secular Servant of Mary has chosen to serve the poor and not the powerful; he must thoroughly reject in his daily life (professional, familial, social) all injustice and exclusion; he must feel take part in Justice and Peace movements that fight for to defend men and women any place their rights are in jeopardy (*Servite General Chapter 1995, nos. 101-103*).

André Philippe M. Mutel, OSSM



In memory of a Pope who called himself "a Servant among the Servants of Mary"

On the first anniversary of Pope **John Paul II**'s death (April 2, 2005) we recall the many signs of affection he showed the Servites during the twenty-five years of his pontificate. This affection led him to say, "I am a Servant among the Servants of Mary."

These are the steps of Pope John Paul's Servite journey:

- ◊ **1979:** December 9 visited the community of "Maria SS. Addolorata" of Villa dei Gordiani (Rome); there were present the General Council and St. Alexis College Students.
- ◊ **1986:** October 19 he visited the Sanctuary of the Santissima Annunziata in Florence;
- ◊ **1988** was the Pope's Servite year: during that year he visited five Servite places. In welcoming him to the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty, Fra **Michel M. Sincerny**, the Prior General, said: "We consider this a singular gift of the Lord that for the fifth time in 1988 the Pope is visiting a house of our Order."
 May 11 he visits the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora del Socavón in Oruro (Bolivia)
 June 6 he visits the Sanctuary of Our Lady della Ghiara at Reggio Emilia (Italy)
 July 17 he visits the Sanctuary of Pietralba/Weissenstein (Bolzano, Italy)
 September 16 he meets with Servites in the diocese of Manzini (Swaziland) where the bishop is a Servite: Msgr. **Louis M. Ndlovu**
 December 10 he visits the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty in Rome
- ◊ **1989:** October 27, the Holy Father received in audience the Servites who took part in the CCIX General Chapter of the Order.
- ◊ **1991:** September 7, he visits the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Monte Berico (Vicenza, Italy)
- ◊ **1994:** February 20, he visits the Parish and Sanctuary of Santa Maria in Via in Rome.

John Paul II's threefold invitation to Servites

In his October 27, 1989 audience with Chapter members in the Vatican, John Paul II directed this threefold invitation to the whole Order

Marian devotion: "The special attention you devote to the mystery of Mary is and remains the specific character of your religious charism, your lifestyle and your mission."

Charism of fraternity: Let me recommend something to you: fraternity. I know that this is a particular demand and strength of your spirituality which was born in an atmosphere of close mutual collaboration, acceptance, understanding, affection and respect – this is what distinguished the Seven Holy Founders."

Missionary spirit: "Never slacken in your missionary fervor; focus on those people who seem most open and receptive to the Gospel light. And these are usually the poor and the oppressed."



PRIOR GENERAL AND GENERAL HOUSES

GENERAL COUNCIL

WHAT SORT OF FORECAST IS THERE FOR THE FUTURE FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL STATUS OF THE ORDER?

For several years now the decreasing number and advanced age of friars have forced us to restrict our activities and close houses. This has caused financial problems. The General Council thinks it prudent to avoid illusions and determine exactly what sort of economic future we can anticipate. Therefore in preparation for the 2007 General Chapter the General Council is endeavoring to work out a financial and statistical forecast for the Order's next twenty years. With this in mind and to carry out the wishes of the mid-term meeting in Vailankanni (India - 2004) the General Council has established a small working group (friars **Reinhold M. Bodner**, **Patrick M. Carroll**, **Piergiorgio M. Mazzoleni** and **Lino M. Pacchin**). The group has prepared a questionnaire to be sent to all the Priors, Vicars and Delegates Provincial of the Order. Responses to this questionnaire are requested before April 30 this year. These responses will be forwarded to the pre-Chapter preparatory commission. In a letter accompanying the questionnaire the Prior General stresses the importance of information on the financial and statistical status of all the Order's jurisdictions for future planning in the Order and for the upcoming General Chapter.

ST. ALEXIS FALCONIERI FORMATION COMMUNITY

A NEW MASTER OF PROFESSED APPOINTED

In its February 2, 2006 session, the General Council appointed fra **Ermanno M. Bernardi** of the Venetian Province Prior and Master of the St. Alexis Falconieri Formation Community. Fra Ermanno M. succeeds fra **Joacir M. Borges** who has been elected Prior Provincial of the Brazilian Province. Working with fra Bernardo in formation will be fra **Ángel M. Camarillo López** of the Mexican Province. In his letter of obedience the Prior General wrote: "Fra Ermanno, I call down on you the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that with wisdom and enthusiasm following the instructions of the

Ratio Institutionis OSM you will lead the young men of the Order in the footsteps of our Seven Holy Fathers. You will enjoy the assistance of your co-worker, the community and the support of the General Council."

Fra Ermanno M. Bernardi was born at San Pietro di Rosà (Vicenza) in 1946 and is the blood brother of Servite friars **Aldo**, **Antonio** and **Giuseppe**.

MARIANUM

THE MARIANUM LIBRARY: A TREASURE THE ORDER MUST COME TO KNOW AND SUPPORT

The present Marianum Library began in 1928-1930 when the International College of St. Alexis Falconieri was built in Rome (Viale Trenta Aprile 6). The library is located at the College. The Prior General, fra **Raffaele M. Baldini** (1932-1938) oversaw creation of the library – he had begun doing this in 1926 when he was Secretary of the Order. At the General Chapter (May 17-24) celebrated at the College in 1932 the intention to create our "own school" was codified. Priors throughout the Order were asked to send worthwhile duplicate books in their possession to the library. On June 3, 1932 the General Council decided to appropriate 3,000 Lire to build bookshelves in the library. The library's first acquisitions consisted of works on theology. These books were either bought or taken from other sources: primarily what remained from San Marcello's library after suppression and confiscation by the state. Other donations came from Cardinal **Alexis Henri M. Lépicier**, **Austin M. Moore** (former Prior General), **Ildebrando M. Calvani** (Procurator General) and various Priors Provincial.

During his six years as General (1932-1938) Father Baldini was devoted to the library. Signs of this concern can be found in the notes he made during canonical visitations. It is important to note that the library was created through the initiative of the Prior General and his Council; it grew thanks to friars who held important positions in the Order.

It was also due to pressure from the center of the Order (General Chapters, Prior General, General Council) that the library moved into the area of Mariology as its specialization (1940-1950) in line with the Order's "identity." The decision to specialize in Mariology influenced what books were chosen for library's collection. Evidence of this can be found in Fra **Alfonso M. Benetti's** long letter, *De stu-*



dio Mariae Virginis in Ordine nostro impensius fovendo, which launched the special course in Mariology as part of the College's theological curriculum and the college faculty's responsibility for the publication of *Marianum* – the first issue appeared in March 1939. The 1947 General Chapter solemnly reaffirmed the Marian character of the Order and required the inclusion of Mariology in the theology curriculum. The Chapter established an international Marian center to promote and foster Marian life through publications and preaching. It hoped one day to see the creation of a *Marian Encyclopedia*.

In 1950 the theology school at St. Alexis International College was created a Theological Faculty. In 1971 the Theological Faculty became a "Pontifical" Theological Faculty.

The library continued to grow in this direction up to present times. Under the leadership of Fra **Giuseppe M. Besutti** (librarian from 1947 to 1990) the library was organized according to the Order's principal interests: we now have the *Servite Library*, the *Marian Library* and the *General Library*.

SERVITE LIBRARY. This area has existed since the creation of the *Marianum* Library. It started with what remained from San Marcello's ancient library and the personal collections of our friars: Cardinal Alexis M. Lépicier, Austin M. Moore, Ildebrando M. Calvani, **Vincenzo M. Buffon, Augustin M. Lépicier, Gabriele M. Roschini**, etc. As of December 2005 the Library of the Order includes 14,000 items in its inventory: books, pamphlets – 948 items belong to the "Ancient Fund" 1500-1799; 468 periodicals – printed reviews and mimeographed material on various subjects from different jurisdictions (both male and female) of the Servite Family; a large quantity of publications (articles, essays, etc) about the Order (pories, friars, news items of various sorts, etc.). Certainly it is the only center in the Order where the bibliographical production of and about the Order is kept, conserved and updated. There are also archives that contain material of and about the Order (posters, photographs, leaflets, pamphlets, etc.) This area of the library deserves greater attention; we would ask all our friars to send in copies of material being published in the Order.

MARIAN LIBRARY. This collection began in the 1940s with 3,000 volumes donated to the li-

brary by Pope **Pius XII** in 1947. It has been continually enriched with publications of a Marian nature (theology, spirituality, devotion, shrines, apparitions, art, literature, music). Since this area of the library does not have deep historical roots we lack abundant material from 1500-1800. As of December 2005 the Marian library includes 23,300 items – of which only 285 pre-date the 19th century. There are 228 Marian bulletins or periodicals. As we said earlier the items in the Marian library are directly connected to the studies and academic degrees of our Faculty. Our Marian library –even if incomplete– is one of the best qualified in the area of Marian studies.

GENERAL LIBRARY. This includes all those books in the *Marianum* Pontifical Theological Faculty collection that are not related to the Order or to Marian studies. In December 2005, this consisted of 82,500 items. 4,289 items were from the 16th-18th centuries and 1,011 were periodicals (420 current). A large portion of these works came from our friars and from San Marcello's library (see above). The works are related to the academic work of our Faculty (Five-year Philosophy and Theology Course, Three-year Theology Course, Licentiate-Doctorate, Religious Studies, etc.). The majority of these books are related to ecclesiastical-theological studies with special emphases on Scripture, Patristics, liturgy, theology, Church history, etc... A student specializing in some specific area has a number of libraries available in Rome (*Alfonsianum*: moral theology; *Sant'Anselmo*: liturgy; *Istituto Biblico*: Sacred Scripture; *Augustinianum* and *Istituto Orientale*: Oriental and Patristic Studies; *Urbaniana*: missiology; *Gregorianum, Angelicum, Antonianum, Salesianum, Santa Croce, Laterano*: Christology, dogmatic theology, spirituality, Church history, philosophy, law, education, psychology, etc).

In the area of periodicals and monographs we have recently emphasized material from those parts of the world from which our students come: Africa, Latin America, India, the Philippines). This is not always easy to achieve; frequently we receive no reciprocal cooperation from different parts of the Order.

SYNTHESIS. Since 1928 –the year the College was built– the library has been located in a large room on the second floor of the north wing. Over time other areas have been added



to the original space and we now have some 236 square meters available. This is the area where library work is currently being done. In 1968 basement areas were remodeled to serve as a back-up storage area for the library – there is no public access to these areas. The two parts of the library (411 square meters) contain 4,140 meters of shelving.

In December 2005 the library contained 119,829 volumes and pamphlets in its catalogue and 1,707 periodicals (552 current). This breaks down into: 23,300 in the Marian Library; 14,000 in the Servite Library; and 82,500 in the General Library. We have in our collection: 23 incunabula; 500 works from the 16th century; 1,260 from the 17th century and 3,760 from the 18th. There is a manuscript section with 1,285 documents – some are works of interest from the 14th to 16th centuries. The library has rich collections of photographs, prints, engravings, copper clichés, posters, leaflets, postcards of a Marian or Servite nature.

In 1992 the Faculty made an important decision: the library would be computerized. It decided to join the *Associazione URBE (Unione Romana Biblioteche Ecclesiastiche)*; our library would be linked to all the other University and Theological Faculty libraries in Rome. Between 1994 and 1998 at great expense (contributions came from the whole Order) and with the help of an outside organization our card catalogue was put on-line and is now available to the public. At present our space and shelving are full and we are forced to re-think the whole philosophy of our library.

Fra Silvano M. Danieli, Librarian

GENERAL SECRETARIATS AND OFFICES

POSTULATION

MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO

MOTHER MADDALENA STARACE APPROVED

On February 21, 2006, the Ordinary Congregation of Cardinals and Bishops of the Pontifical Department for the Causes of the Saints unanimously approved the July 1927 miracle obtained through the intercession of the Venerable Mother **Maddalena Starace**, Foundress of the Compassionist Servite Sisters. Congratulations to our Sisters!

This miracle involved another of our sisters: Sister **Fara Ciaramella** who suffered a hemorrhage on July 18, 1927. The diagnosis was not optimistic. The hemorrhage struck her mouth, gums, nose, throat and skin. She suffered intense anemia, vomiting, internal and gastrointestinal bleeding. There was no available treatment. Her sickness came to an abrupt halt on July 31 after the sisters had covered the dying sister with a towel used by the Servant of God. A few minutes after applying the relic the bleeding stopped abruptly. The attending physician, Dr. **Luigi Colamussi**, verified the cure and commented: "If I had not personally witnessed this abrupt improvement I certainly would not have believed it possible."

Fra Tito M. Sartori

HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

THE HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

"COLLEGIUM" MEETS

The President of the Historical Institute called a meeting of the "*Collegium*" at Ronzano, Bologna (January 30 - February 1). The following members of the "*Collegium*" attended: **Franco Andrea Dal Pino**, **Odir Jacques Dias**, **Corrado Pin** and **Fra Franco M. Azzalli**.

The following agenda items were discussed: **1. Studi Storici OSM Year 2005**. A decision was made to examine all the material submitted and to meet briefly to determine what will be included. A deadline was set for material – March 15, 2006. **Year 2006**: a preliminary list of possible contributions will be evaluated before printing; contributions are



expected no later than December 2006. **2.** 2006 Meeting: all the speakers, presiders and moderators have discussed their availability. There are certain practical matters to be borne in mind and addressed one by one: a *secretariat* for the meeting, *fund raising*, *accommodation* for speakers and moderators; *leaflets and posters*; documentary and photographic displays; *program* for those attending. Father Franco will send a draft of the program as soon as it's ready to all the speakers, moderators and presiders. **3.** Budget for the Institute's publications and expenses during 2006. **4.** Other miscellaneous topics.

Fra Fanco M. Azzalli OSM

THE 2004 VOLUME OF *STUDI STORICI OSM* APPEARS

On December 24, 2004, our dear Fra **Pacifico M. Branchesi** died. He had been president of the Order's Historical Institute for several years (1977-1983); in 1996 he accepted the position of scholarly director of *Studi Storici dell'Ordine dei Servi di Maria* (he had already held this position when he was president of the Historical Institute. He carried out this task with passion and competence. While we are preparing a worthy memorial for our friend and brother, we decided to offer readers in this issue his last contribution which was incomplete at the time of his death. The burden and honor of editorship has once more fallen on my shoulders. The assurance and experience of my colleagues' promised help in this task has made it possible for me to accept.

The death of Father Branchesi has understandably retarded the appearance of this issue. We will make every effort to bring the periodical back up to date shortly.

In the meantime we are offering scholars and readers an issue of *Studi Storici dell'Ordine dei Servi di Maria* that – like previous issues - will examine the times and significant figures who have marked the centuries' long history of the Servite Order. Special attention has been devoted to a special event commemorated in 2004 – the 700th anniversary of the Bull *Dum Levamus* (February 11, 1304) of Pope **Benedict XI** that on the eve of the Avignon papacy gave the Church's definitive approval to the Order. A record of the celebrations will be included in the next issue; in the current issue we are publishing a bi-

lingual version of the document and a contribution from **Franco Dal Pino**. From the same period when the Order received approval (the early 1300s) we are publishing a very serious study by fra **Luca M. Di Girolamo**: a theological interpretation of the *Legenda de Origine Ordinis*.

Some essays are devoted to aspects of the Reformation and the Counter-reformation. Art (**Alessandra Quarto** writes on Fra **Giovanni Vincenzo Casali** who surveys studies on this artist already published in this periodical), Spiritual (**Liliana De Venuto** on Mother **Maria Arcangela Biondini**, Foundress of the cloistered convent at Arco) Culture (**Roberto Rusconi** writes on Servite libraries in 1600 after a Holy Office investigation). Worthy of note is a long 19th century text on the Spanish priory of San Miguel en Las Cuevas de Cañart that was suppressed in 1835 (**Lorente Pérez**). There is a lengthy chronicle that details cultural events and a report on the *Repetite Fontes* project already known to our readers (we published two contributions from this source in 2002 and 2003).

Also worthy of attention are the sections devoted to items on the Order in other periodicals, the "Books Received" by the editor (**Odier Jacques Dias**), book reviews by **Betti, Czortek** and Dal Pino and notices (Czortek). We intend to give greater prominence to these sections in the future. My thanks go to our collaborators who made this issue possible to Fra **Piergiorgio M. Di Domenico** for his precious work on the index. This feature makes the periodical easier to use.

Franco M. Azzalli OSM

GENERAL ARCHIVES

Fra Ubaldo M. Todeschini has done an enormous amount of work in the Current and Storage (Deposito) Archives. He has been in charge of this material since September 1998. We have asked him for a report on the current status of the Archives.

The General Curia Archives are divided into two sections: the Current and the Storage (*Deposito*) Archives. In the *Current Archives* we find material dating from the present generalate (2001-2007) and the previous generalate (1995-2001). The material includes the work of the General Curia – Prior General, General Council, General Secretariats and Offices, Central Financial Administration) and



their relations with the Holy See, communities directly under the Prior General, Regional Conferences of the Order, and certain Servite institutions (Cloistered convents, Congregations of Sisters, Secular Institutes, Secular Order, *Diaconie*, etc. It also covers Curia relations with the jurisdictions of the Order (Provinces, Vicariates, Delegations and Foundations).

The Current Archives has information about all living friars, those who have died this year or last year, and those who have left the Order definitively. The Archives also contains the General Curia Registers (Acts of the Prior General, Acts of the General Council, Books of Protocol).

In the *Storage Archives (Deposito)* is General Curia documentation ordered by generalates beginning with the first generalate of Father **Alfonso M. Montà** (1953-1959) to the first generalate of Father **Hubert M. Moons** (1989-1995); there is also documentation on all jurisdictions from 1953 on. There are also documents from jurisdictions that have been suppressed (Vicariates of Sicily, Venezuela and Acre); documents on deceased friars and on friars who have left the Order.

On May 7, 2004 all the archival material and registers prior to the generalate of Father Alfonso M. Montà – the generalates of Father **Raffaele M. Baldini** (1932-1938) and Father **Alfonso M. Benetti** (1938-1953) – was organized, inventoried and handed over to the Historical Archives of the Order.

In the Storage Archives (*Deposito*) are important documents such as the parchment *Litterae Decretales* of the canonization of Anthony Pucci, December 9, 1962; a collection of photographs of the Priors General and other friars along with other available documentation (on a compact disk) on the Order, e.g. recordings of the last two General Chapters). We have recently installed seven overhead cupboards in the storage room which will provide more space for documents.

With regard to more recent work: a register of all the archival documentation since Father Moons' second term (1995-2001) has been put on computer disk and CD. Use of the computer has greatly facilitated archival research and has made it possible to print a number of volumes. All the material coming from Father Hubert M. Moons' first term as General has been arranged in 43 containers; a detailed index of the contents of these con-

tainers has been created. On the outside of each container is a brief list of its contents.

Data of all sorts (information on persons and institutions) has been updated, standardized and made accessible.

A large number of neglected files scattered here and there have been returned to their appropriate place.

The positions of all our friars have been revised, updated and computerized. All genuine (and therefore useless) duplicates have been eliminated.

Fra Ubaldo M. Todeschini

INTER-PROVINCE COORDINATION

CASA

THE CONFERENCE DEVELOPS ALONG LINES OF "SHARING"

On October 23 the Executive Council of the Conference met at St. Peregrine Shrine in Manila (Philippines). Present were: Fra **Lourdusamy M. Anthonysamy**, General Councilor; **Arokiasamy M. Susaimani**, Coordinator and Vicar Provincial of the Indian Vicariate; **Stephen M. Barker**, Delegate Provincial from Australia; **Rhett M. Sarabia**, Vicar Provincial of the Filipino Vicariate; **David M. Mejia**, delegate from Indonesia. On the subject of collaboration and inter-jurisdiction sharing the Conference discussed the following subjects: **1. RELATIONS. INDIAN VICARIATE.** Fra Susaimani gave a statistical overview of the friars living in India and those abroad. In his view the major problems facing the Vicariate are formation and the pastoral ministry. In the area of formation the friars in the Vicariate must be able to depend on more effective means. As far as the pastoral ministry goes – after the Tsunami disaster our work has been primarily in the area of social welfare. **AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION.** There are 9 friars in the delegation and most of them are elderly. The Delegation has no prospective vocations in spite of the recent priestly ordination of Fra **Oscar M. Aguilera** and the fact that we do have a candidate finishing his studies in the United States. We hope that the Conference can in some way help us continue our pastoral work in St. Denis Parish (Joondanna,



Perth). If possible we would appreciate temporary assistance (two-year stays) from friars in other jurisdictions in the Conference. Currently Fra **Robert M. Anderson** (USA) has come to work with us for two years. **FILIPINO VICARIATE.** There are 38 solemn professed friars in the Vicariate – 8 of whom are having problems. Other members of the Servite Family (Sisters, Secular Order, Lay Groups) are especially active in the Philippines. In the area of collaboration, the Vicariate has sent two friars to serve the Order in the General Curia. We are very much concerned with the reasons why friars leave our Vicariate. The principal reason friars join the diocesan clergy seems to be the need to offer financial support to their families. **INDONESIA FOUNDATION.** We have not yet opened a community – we are in the stage of experimentation. The young university students who have come to live with us have some difficulty accepting the simple, poor and frugal life the friars lead. After a little time they leave us. At present there are only three young men who seem interested in sharing our life. **2. ELECTION OF CONFERENCE OFFICIALS.** The Executive Council confirmed Fra **Christopher M. Ross** in the office of treasurer. It was also determined that the Secretary of the Conference would be responsible for publishing the quarterly bulletin – *CASA-News*. Fra **Samy M. Durai** was elected to this two-fold office. The Council expressed its gratitude to Fra Christopher M. Ross (confirmed as treasurer), Fra **Nady M. Neren** and Fra Samy M. Duria for their generous service in the past three years. **3. UPDATING STATISTICS.** We decided that within the next three months we would compile a catalogue of all the friars of the Conference that includes their photographs. This will help foster mutual acquaintance. **4. AREAS NEEDING URGENT COLLABORATION.** There are two priorities: **a)** the possibility of assisting St. Denis Parish in Australia (within the next year); **b)** commitment to the Myanmar project. Within the year or as soon as possible study the possibility of sending two friars to Myanmar to research the possibility of a foundation. The General Curia has asked the Indian Vicariate to take on this project. **5. MISCELLANEOUS. a)** Fra **Rhett M. Sarabia** informed the Council of the UNIFAS projects in the Philippines; **b)** the Council confirmed amount of money each jurisdiction should contribute to the CASA fund; **c)** for the time being Indonesia will not be in-

cluded in the article 1 of the Conference By-laws – since there has been no official or canonical foundation opened in this country.

From *CASA-NEWS*, vol.4, no.3,
Sept-Dec. 2005.

CONFITES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Conference General Assembly met at the Pietralba/Weissenstein Priory (February 21-24). Twenty-three friars attended: Fra **Cesare M. Antonelli**, *General Councilor*; Fra **Paolo M. Erthler**, *Coordinator*; Priors Provincial and members of their Councils: Annunziata, **Giuseppe M. Galassi**, *Prior Provincial*; Luciano M. De Carolis, **Paolo M. Orlandini** and **Felice M. Pumilia**, *Councilors*; PRG, **Benito M. Fusco**, *Socius Provincial* (the Prior Provincial, **Mario M. Azzario**, was absent because his mother had died), **Venanzio M. Ramasso** and **Bruno M. Castricini**, *Councilors*; VEN: **Ferdinando M. Perri**, *Prior Provincial*, **Piergiorgio M. Di Domenico**, *Socius Provincial*, **Giuseppe M. Baggio**, **Luigi M. De Candido** and **Giuseppe M. Zaupa**, *Councilors*; TYR: **Gottfried M. Wolff**, *Prior Provincial*; **Martin M. Lintner**, *Socius Provincial*; **Christian M. Böckmann**, **Leonhard M. Lanser** and **Fero M. Backorik**, *Councilors*; ESP: **Antonio M. Moreno López**, *Prior Provincial*, **José M. Correcher**, *Councilor*. Others attending were: **Bruno M. Zanirato** and **Moreno M. Versolato**. Fra **Luigi M. De Candido** acted as secretary.

The agenda set out in the convocation letter implied a heavy schedule. Each session began and ended with a Marian prayer (prepared by Fra **Paolo M. Orlandini** and Fra Moreno M. Versolato). The first day – Tuesday the 21st – was devoted entirely to reports (Fra Martin M. Lintner acted as moderator). We began with the Coordinator's overview of planning in the previous three years and possible areas of collaboration in the future; this was followed by a report from the Secretary, reports on youth work (Fra Moreno M. Versolato), vocation work (Fra Giuseppe M. Zaupa), institutional formation (Fra Lucio M. Pinkus); finances (Fra Bruno M. Zanirato); the periodical *Le Missioni dei Servi di Maria* (Fra Luigi M. De Candido – director). On Wednesday the 22nd, there were two sessions: *morning*, work in two groups – as usual one could choose the group to attend; *afternoon*, assembly dis-



discussion of subjects that came up (Fra **Bruno M. Castricini** was the moderator). The presidential board assigned the same topic to both groups: juridical nature of the Conference, its areas of competence and its goals. Discussion of planning was postponed to a later discussion. Almost all the friars intervened in the afternoon session (a discussion of the same subjects – what does the assembly see as the future of the Conference). Some interventions were passionate. Fra Giuseppe M. Zaupa and Fra Piergiorgio M. Di Domenico acted as spokesmen for the two working groups. Although the format of the two reports differed the contents were essentially the same – it was not difficult to combine them. On Thursday the 23rd, both morning and afternoon sessions were devoted to a final discussion of and voting on the combined text – which was to be considered a “statute”. Fr Martin M. Lintner acted as moderator. The session concluded with a final vote. In light of the provisions of this newly approved “statute” future planning was not a task for this assembly. Finally there were some proposals to be forwarded to the General Chapter.

Once the Prior General approves the new statutes they will go into effect. There are ten articles and include a new name. The Conference comprises the current provinces that are willing to merge with other jurisdictions: the Priors and Socii Provincial make up Council which will appoint a Coordinator. Other juridical offices (secretary, treasurer) have not survived this revision.

Besides promoting an increasing inter-provincial, European, missionary mentality, the Conference is committed to supporting a common novitiate. The Council will choose the Master and his co-workers. The Conference will promote specific formation meetings and will discuss the advantages of promoting other common projects.

Further collaboration with other regional conferences, provincial /inter-provincial organizations and other members of the Servite Family will be worked out through the delegated General Councilor. Meetings of provincial secretariats will handle common activities or events (youth work, vocation recruiting, justice and peace projects, mission promotion). Meetings should be arranged to promote mutual acquaintance among the friars in the various jurisdictions. Until a new Coordinator can be appointed Fra Giuseppe M. Galassi (Prior

Provincial) will handle his tasks.

Along with the work outlined on the agenda the days we spent together included prayer, Eucharistic celebrations and Vespers with the local community at this Marian sanctuary. On two evenings we watched a video on Monte Senario and another on the World Youth Day in Cologne sponsored by CONFITES. On the third evening we listened to local music and folk songs. The local friars and the hostelry staff provided generous hospitality.

From a Nota by Fra Luigi M. De Candido

ISAC

FIRST MEETING OF CONFERENCE'S NEW LEADERSHIP BOARD

The first meeting of the Leadership Board described in the ISAC bylaws took place at Inkamana (South Africa) – January 24-27. Present were: **Clement M. Langa**, Coordinator; **Anthony M. O'Connell**, US Prior Provincial; **Giuseppe M. Galassi**, Annunziata Prior Provincial; **Javier M. Badillo**, Spanish Socius Provincial; **Mel M. Loftus** for the Zululand Delegation; **Emmanuel M. Lutaya** representing the Swaziland communities; **Manuel M. Fontanet** for the Mozambican foundation; **Dumisani M. Mazibuko** (SWA) Secretary. Guests were **Patrick M. Carroll**, General Councilor; **Paul M. Novak**, US Socius Provincial; **Sergio M. Ziliani**, Annunziata Socius Provincial and **Antonio M. Nofuentes** from the Spanish Province.

Following the items on the agenda the following decisions were approved: **1. Ongoing (Permanent) Formation.** For the next three years (2006-2008) a seminar will be held annually on subjects appropriate to ongoing formation: history of the Order, tensions in community, fostering flexibility and change in religious life. The ISAC Executive Committee will organize these seminars. **2. Initial Formation.** The current status quo will be maintained (visits to friars, informal contact with the formation personnel in Uganda). The ISAC Executive Committee will organize annual meetings for its formation personnel and those from Uganda. **3. Merrivale property.** For the time being this property will not be sold. The ISAC Executive Committee will hire a firm to maintain the property. **4. ISAC 2006 Budget.** The budget was approved. **5. ISAC Meetings in 2006.** In November 2006 there will be the annual retreat, a seminar and the Confer-



ence's elective assembly. **6. Should Uganda be a member of ISAC?** A non-binding exchange of ideas among the members of the Leadership Board revealed a majority opinion that it was too early for Uganda to join ISAC. We hope that fraternal contact—especially in the area of initial formation—will continue.

PROVINCES, VICARIATES AND DELEGATIONS

SANTISSIMA ANNUNZIATA THE SWAZILAND DELEGATION SUPPRESSED

In its January 5, 2006 session the General Council unanimously confirmed the suppression of the Swaziland Delegation. The General Council took note of the decision of the Santissima Annunziata Provincial Council (January 3, 2006 session) in this matter and recognized the reasons that brought about this decision and the goals the Provincial Council hopes to achieve by taking this step. The General Council evaluated the Provincial Council's decisions in the absence of the faculties described in the Delegation's bylaws and which were about to expire. From January 5, 2006 the bylaws of the Swaziland Delegation and the three communities St. Joseph's Mission, Siteki and Nigel in South Africa have expired. Friars must henceforth refer directly to the Santissima Annunziata Prior Provincial and his council.

The Santissima Annunziata Provincial Council and the General Council both hope that this decision will lead to greater fervor in community life, pastoral work and pursuit of studies among the friars in Swaziland. With regards to vocations – we are especially committed to preparing Swazi friars for work in this area.

CANONICAL CLOSURE OF THE SANT'ANTONIO COMMUNITY IN PISA

In its December 1, 2005 session the General Council approved the canonical suppression of the community of Sant'Antonio in Pisa. The Santissima Annunziata Provincial Council had decided to close the community in its June 16, 2004 meeting; on November 6, 2004 the Prior Provincial communicated this decision to the Prior General and asked that the

General Council canonically suppress this community once the friars had left and the parish had been given back to the Bishop.

The Servites have been in Pisa since the 14th century. Originally they were at Santa Maria in Kinsica but they left there in 1475 and went to the priory of Sant'Antonio which belonged to the Armenians. This priory was the residence of those Servite friars who taught at the University of Pisa; the Grand Duke of Tuscany had entrusted the chair of theology to friars of our Order in perpetuity. The last Servite Friar to hold this chair was the outstanding scholar, fra **Constantino M. Battini** (1757-1832). Both the priory and the church were destroyed during the Second World War. They were re-built after the war and turned into a parish.

SIENA. BLESSED JOACHIM WINE

To mark the seventh centenary of the death of Blessed **Joachim of Siena** (1258-1305) the Azienda Agraria Giovanni Garofano di Montaperti has established a new brand of Tuscan wine (both red and white) named *Beato Gioacchino*. This was in honor of an event in the life of Blessed Joachim: "... *the time of his death was approaching (the Lord had revealed this to him). He prayed to the Almighty that he be called to heaven on the same day the Savior departed from this world. On the eve of his departure from earth, he said to the friars who had gathered to celebrate the Lord's Last Supper: 'My dearest brothers I have been with you thirty-three years, the same time Our Lord spent on earth. I have received many kindnesses and you have always been so keen to meet my needs. I am unable to thank you for what I have received. May the Lord Jesus Christ thank and recompense you for all the kindnesses you have shown me. Tomorrow I will leave you; I ask you to pray to Our Lord that he will receive me, a sinner, into his dwelling. Before my leave-taking I want to perform a gesture of charity.'* He sipped some wine with them." (Legenda of Blessed Joachim, no. 18).



BRAZILIAN PROVINCE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Brazilian Chapter of Elections was celebrated at our priory –Our Lady of Sorrows– in Turvo (January 10-16, 2006). Thirty friars were present and voting. Fra **Honorio M. Martín Sánchez**, the Vicar General and Councilor for Latin America, presided at the Chapter in place of Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, the Prior General, who met with bureaucratic problems and was not allowed to enter Brazil. The Brazilian Province has seven priories, thirty-three solemn professed, seven temporary professed, sixteen postulants (ten are studying philosophy) and twenty-eight aspirants. An atmosphere of calm and sharing marked the Chapter and focused on several different items: approval of several articles in the Directory, the lengthy report of the outgoing Prior Provincial, Fra **Jorge M. Borges**, and several other reports: preparation for the upcoming General Chapter, the Cono Sur region, the regional novitiate in Fátima (Argentina), the document “*The Fraternal Care of Persons*”, planned construction of a Shrine honoring St. Peregrine and several other subjects. The Provincial Secretariat carefully prepared the documentation for all these subjects in a dossier of 216 pages.

Once all the organizational matters were out of the way the Chapter spent half a day devoted to spirituality (Fra **Clodovis M. Boff** led the exercise). He spoke about personal and community Lectio Divina, Eucharistic adoration and recitation of the Seven Dolor rosary. The time spent on these spiritual matters infused the whole atmosphere of the Chapter. A team of 6-8 Servite Seminarians handled the logistics of our meeting.

At the end of the Chapter the Bishop of Crisciúma ordained Fra **Antonio M. Chemin** to the diaconate in the parish church, Our Lady of Prayer, in Turvo.

The following directives came out of the Chapter.

1. Spirituality: we reaffirmed the need to devote time to a daily encounter with the Word of God, the recitation of the Seven Dolor Rosary and other devotional practices; occasional retreats; weekly celebration of community Mass; reinforcing silence, creating personal programs and providing elements for this program.
2. Community Life: the conventual chapter

should provide an occasion for sharing one's faith journey and practicing fraternal correction. Give new impetus to creating a community program and determining its contents.

3. Apostolic Service: reconcile our service with community life; emphasize collegiality; work in union with the local Church and offer hospitality to the faithful.

4. Vocations, formation and studies. Each community should appoint a vocation promoter and dedicate one day a week to prayer for vocations. Formation should include pastoral practice, an understanding of administration and accounting. Our libraries –especially in formation houses– should be updated. We must prepare a catechetical, pastoral and professional training program for non-clerical friars. We must prepare friars for the work of formation.

5. Shrine of St. Peregrine at São José dos Campos. The Chapter decided to move forward in stages beginning with the construction of a chapel that would accommodate 200 faithful.

6. 2007 Pre-Chapter Commission. The Chapter responded to the Pre-Chapter Commission's survey. At the end of the Chapter the Prior Provincial announced the new assignments (this is a Province custom).

The new Province administration is: Prior Provincial: Fra Joacir M. Borges; Socius Provincial: Fra **José M. Milanez**; Provincial Councilors: Fra **Márcio M. Salvaro**, Fra **Charlie M. Leitão de Souza** and Fra **Marcos M. Huk**.

Fra Honorio M. Martín Sánchez, *osm*

PIEDMONT-ROMAGNA PROVINCE GENOA. EXHIBITION OF SERVITE IMAGES

The Servite Vocation Day exhibition of images in Santa Maria dei Servi Church in Genoa has been the object of intense interest. Three hundred images (from our artistic calendars) were displayed on colored panels with descriptions (painter, date, place of origin, explanation) and lighting. The exhibition attracted many viewers curious to know what was going on. Servite Vocation Day and the feast of Our Seven Holy Founders was the occasion. We wanted to present images that have been in our churches from the beginning (1233) up to the present for this family celebration. Among the many painters represented were: **Giotto**, **Cimabue**, **Simone Mar-**



tini, Raffaello, Barnaba da Modena, Guercino, Mantegna, Duccio di Boninsegna, Luca della Robbia and Fra Angelico. Among the visitors to the exhibit was the Archbishop of Genoa, Cardinal **Tarcisio Bertone**. He stayed for lunch with our community. We can only hope that Fra **Girolamo Iotti's** idea (putting Fra **Fiorenzo M. Gobbo's** calendar pictures on panels) will move young people who visit our churches and appreciate art to follow in the footsteps of our Seven Holy Fathers.

Fra Quinto M. Serantoni

TYROLESE PROVINCE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Prior General, Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, presided at the Tyrolese Chapter of at the Maria Hilf Retreat House in Kufsten-Kleinholz, Tyrol, Austria (February 6-10). Twenty-five friars and the Procurator of the Order, Fra **Reinhold M. Bodner** attended. Msgr. Dr. **Manfred Scheuer**, the Bishop of Innsbruck, visited the Chapter on Tuesday, February 7. He expressed his gratitude for the work Servites in three communities performed in his diocese.

After the reports and the elections the Chapter established four committees to discuss four subjects and then made the following decisions: **1. Re-structuring and maintenance of buildings.** The Decree of the 2003 Chapter of Elections was confirmed. It defined the following priorities as priorities: Innsbruck, Vienna, Maria Luggau and Gelsenkirchen-Buer. For the other houses (Maria Waldrast – linked to Innsbruck since 1991– Volders, Gutenstein and Gratzen-Nové Hradý) require solutions that will ensure genuine pastoral continuity. **2. Pastoral Planning and the Servite Family.** **a)** Pastoral planning: in one of the next provincial chapters (2007 or 2008) we will discuss personal and community pastoral plans and focus on integrating friars into the province's pastoral planning and ensuring that our apostolate be genuinely Servite. **b)** We must intensify our collaboration with other members of the Servite Family in province projects. **3. The 2007 General Chapter and Vocation Work.** To prepare for the General Chapter the province and our communities should prepare what we have to say on poverty (supporting ourselves, sharing our possessions, frugal lifestyle); individual communi-

ties should examine how they show solidarity with the poor. Vocation work – this was a priority of the 2003 Chapter. We must increase our contact with young people; encourage them to share our community life and work. **4. Reform and Mission of CONFITES.** The Chapter expressed its appreciation of the work done by CONFITES – especially the common novitiate. We would hope that the smaller European groups would have a chance to express their opinions. We are not in favor of creating a "Single Province." We approved the current allocation of contributions to the missions; we recognized the good work being done by the *Missionkreis Indien* in the Gelsenkirchen-Buer parish.

Hungarian Community in Eger. The Chapter encouraged more shared projects. The Chapter asked the Provincial Council to appoint someone to promote contact with members of the Servite Family (sisters and lay people) in the Czech Republic.

As the Prior General remarked in his closing address, the administration of the Province is in the hands of young people: the Prior Provincial, Fra **Gottfried M. Wolff**, 48 years old; the Socius Provincial, Fra **Martin M. Lintner**, 35; Councilors, Fra **Fero M. Bachorik**, 34; fra **Christian M. Böckmann**, 42; and **Leonhard M. Lanser**, 56.

USA PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, the Prior General, presided at the Provincial Chapter at the Franciscan Retreat Center, Scottsdale, Arizona (February 13-18). Sixty-four voting friars and 14 guests were present. The following were highlights of the Chapter. **1. Reports** (Prior General, outgoing Prior Provincial, Zulu-land Provincial Delegate, Apostolic Vicar Msgr. **Michael M. O'Shea**, Provincial Delegate from Australia, Vocation Promoter, National Assistant for the Secular Order, Provincial Treasurer, NAC Coordinator, Prior Provincial of the Mexican Province and the new US Prior Provincial). **2. Elections.** **3. The friars' US apostolic service in the near future.** Chapter members broke up into work groups directed Sister Kit Gray. The groups discussed subjects that came up in the reports. The following subject were considered urgent for future Council discussion: aging friars and the need to accommodate our priories for older men; the service an elderly friar can provide in



the local church; definition of what it means to be a Servite friar in the society and church of the US; the individual and his service (the personal and community component and the role of the provincial in determining this; streamlining communications within the province. **4. Seminar on spiritual life of friar: how to integrate the various dimensions of human life – especially the sexual aspects.** Brother **James Zullo** FDC gave the keynote address in this area. **5. Seminar on the Praesidium surveillance program.** Presentation – Brother Stan De Boe. Discussion of sex abuse problems and the Dallas Agreement (US Bishops) and the need of a good conduct certificate from *Praesidium* for friars engaged in public ministry. Friars not to be engaged in public ministry should work on internal ministries within the province. **6. Liturgies and Celebrations.** There were special liturgical celebrations for the election of the new council and for ordination and profession anniversaries. The new provincial administration: Fra **Paul M. Novak**, 45 – *Prior Provincial*, he succeeds Fra **Anthony M. O'Connell**; *Socius Provincial*: Fra **John M. Fontana**; *Councilors*: **Gerald M. Horan**, **Luke M. Stano** and **Paul M. Cullen**.

VENETIAN PROVINCE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Venetian Province celebrated its Chapter at the Santa Maria Assunta House at Cavallino at the Venetian Lido (March 24-February 1, 2006).

The beautiful sky and calm waters of the lagoon welcomed the 56 friars who attended the chapter. They came from the Veneto, India, Uganda, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Monte Senario (Delegate from the General Houses). Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, *Prior General*, presided at the Chapter (Fra **Lourdusamy M. Anthony**, *General Councilor*, presided at the closing session). Friars **Tiberio M. Vescia**, **Piergiorgio M. Di Domenico** and **Carlo M. Rossato** worked in the secretariat. Fra **Rémy M. Komi** was in charge of the Liturgy. Fra **Lino M. Pacchin** handled communications with the rest of the Order.

A votive Mass of the Holy Spirit initiated the Chapter's work together. In the afternoon fra **Giancarlo M. Bruni** gave a talk on "Mary, our Guide in Receiving the Holy Spirit." Afterwards there was a general discussion in which the whole assembly took part.

Two entire days (January 25-26) were devoted to hearing and discussing the many places Chapter members came from and what they did there. Time was also devoted to the report delivered by our re-elected *Prior Provincial*, Fra **Ferdinando M. Perri**. Detailed reports were presented by Fra **Giovanni M. Travaglia**, *Director of the Santa Maria di Monte Berico Institute for Religious Studies* and Fra **Giuseppe M. Corradi**, the *Provincial Treasurer*. Fra **Paolo M. Erthler**, *Coordinator*, spoke about the current status and future prospects of CONFITES. Fra **Franco M. Azzalli** reported on the *Historical Institute's* substantial project.

On Friday, the 27th, the committees established by the *Presidential Board* prepared schemes on provincial planning, communion with other jurisdictions of the Order, legal requirements, administration, sharing possessions and the secretariats. The schemes were presented for discussion and a first vote on Saturday the 28th and Monday the 30th. Further discussion and a final vote took place on Tuesday the 31st: special commitments and encouraging prospects informed the chapter discussions. Among these we would mention our special *inspirations*: Mary in the Cenacle waiting for the Holy Spirit – the *Prior Provincial* presented this image to the Province as an example for the next three years; *priorities*: strengthening our communities and caring for elderly and sick friars; *fraternal obligations*: renewing contracts with *Vicariates* and *Delegations*, revising bylaws that govern province management by applying the *Constitutional directives* on organisms that promote sharing and communion – UNIFAS/VEN; *careful management of financial activities*: frugal lifestyle, sharing our possessions; *promotional activity*: vocation work, ongoing formation and culture, preservation of our historical and artistic possessions, the *Monte Berico Institute for Religious Studies* (revise program and organization to conform to new norms of theological education in Italy; logistical updating).

Sessions were devoted to relevant subjects; on the morning of February 1 we spoke and "dreamt" of a new Servite entity in Europe – a single province or autonomous group of priories. We discussed also Fra **Paolo Sarpi**, the *Venetian Consultor*. The local press has monthly notices about events in which he was involved. Other subjects were: the contemplative group in Olfino (Mantua), a new founda-



tion in Myanmar (Burma) and proposals for the 2007 General Chapter.

The Chapter closed on a cloudless morning when the sea was especially calm. This was only one more good sign for the departing friars and the many types of work to which they were returning.

The Provincial administration is as follows: *Prior Provincial*: Fra **Ferdinando M. Perri**; *Socius Provincial*: Fra **Piergiorgio M. Di Domenico**; *Councilors*: **Giuseppe M. Zaupa** (re-elected), **Luigi M. De Candido** and **Giuseppe M. Baggio**.

Luigi M. De Candido

ANDEAN VICARIATE VICARIAL CHAPTER

The Andean Vicariate Chapter of Elections was celebrated at Santa Bernardita Priory in Santiago, Chile (January 2-7, 2006). The Vicariate has communities in Chile, Bolivia and Peru. Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, the Prior General, presided at the chapter. Also present were Fra **Ferdinando M. Perri** (Prior Provincial of the Venetian Province), Fra **Ermes M. Ronchi** (Socius Provincial of the Venetian Province) and Fra **Honorio M. Martín Sánchez** (General Councilor for Latin America). Thirty-two friars from the Andean Vicariate, eleven from the Rio Plata Delegation and several guests (Bishops **Luigi M. Infanti De la Mora** OSM, **Juan M. Agurto Muñoz** OSM and the Regional Coordinator, Fra **Rinaldo M. Stecanela**) were present.

The Andean Vicariate comprises seven communities, thirty-three solemn professed, six temporary professed, one novice and four postulants.

The Chapter was marked by an atmosphere of friendliness and fraternal sharing. Friars from the Rio Plata Delegation (4 communities, 14 solemn professed, 3 temporary professed, 3 aspirant-postulants) attended some of the Chapter sessions.

After complying with the official requirements for opening a Chapter were complied with Fra **Demetrio M. De La Torre**, the new Vicar Provincial, conducted *Lectio Divina* with the assembly. That afternoon there was a spirited discussion on the subject of dialogue. A psychologist acted as facilitator.

Fra **Bernardino M. Zanella**, the outgoing Vicar Provincial, made an extensive Power Point presentation on the current status of the

Vicariate and the challenges it faces. His report was thoughtful and original. Prior to the Chapter the Vicarial Secretariat had compiled two dossiers with all the documents needed for the assembly.

Among the Chapter guidelines and decisions worthy of note are the following: **1.** The Chapter compiled concrete suggestions for achieving a better quality of community life through the community plan. **2.** The Chapter prepared a response to the 2007 Pre-Chapter Commission survey. **3.** Each community made a commitment to promote vocation recruiting with local initiatives. **4.** The Chapter asked the Vicarial Council to choose a permanent community for postulancy formation and to do everything possible to send a friar to the regional pre-novitiate and novitiate community in Fátima, Argentina. **5.** The Vicarial Council was further asked to work with the Rio Plata Delegation to choose a community for professed. **6.** After all the Vicariate communities pronounced in favor of closing the house at Peñalolén the Chapter suggested that the Council should proceed to close the house. **7.** Each friar and community should embrace *Lectio Divina* as a preferred instrument of ongoing formation. **8.** The Chapter was unanimous in the matter of merging the Vicariate and the Rio Plata Delegation.

The Chapter closed with a joyful, fraternal celebration; 30 priests and members of the Servite Family in Santiago took part in the festivities. During the celebration Msgr. **Juan M. Agurto Muñoz** OSM ordained Fra **Marco Antonio M. Herrera** to the priesthood.

The Vicariate's new administration is as follows: *Vicar Provincial*: Fra **Demetrio M. De la Torre**; *Vicarial Socius*: Fra **Ivo M. Solarini**; *Vicarial Councilors*: **Ricardo M. Silva** and **Alex M. Ruiz**.

Fra Honorio M. Martín Sánchez, osm

DISASTROUS FIRE AT KOINOMADELFIA

On Monday, March 6, at 3 PM a fire broke out at Koinomadelfia. It soon spread to the vegetation surrounding the Children's Hogar. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and the intervention of the fire brigade it was quickly brought under control. At 7:15 PM, possibly because of a short circuit in the transformers for the high-power line near our center a series of fires broke out in the Hogar, two residences, and the offices of the secretariat, the



administration and the director. In no time at all the equipment was destroyed. This time, however, the fire was limited. But once more in the middle of the night escaping gas in the "Encuentro" area caused another and more dangerous outbreak of fire – the children were sleeping nearby. "Aunt" **Carmen Muñoz** risked her life and suffered burns but managed to save all the children. The courageous woman is now in hospital and out of dangerous but the burns she sustained on her face and hands will remain with her for life. Television gave the incident broad coverage and the National Electric Company has promised to replace the whole electrical system at its own expense. Damage to the furnishings and equipment of the Hogar were enormous. They amount to some 35,000.00 Euros. This is a very modest estimate if one checks the e-mail list of everything that was lost.

RIO PLATA DELEGATION LAY MISSIONARIES IN ACTION IN QUILMES (BUENOS AIRES)

For sixty years the Servites have been working in Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in the *Armonia Barrio* on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. The parish counts some 30,000 souls. Recently a beautiful new chapel –*Nuestra Señora de los Dolores*– has opened in the parish. The chapel has a history all its own and parishioners called it miraculous. Fra **Roberto M. Pieropan** has published a booklet that recounts the story behind this chapel. He and some eighty laypeople popularly known as *missioneros/missioneras de manzanas* (neighborhood missionaries) have been engaged in the work of re-evangelization. The new chapel has been a focal point of this endeavor. For some years now the parish of the Sacred Heart has been divided into four neighborhoods: *Armonia, Colonia, San José* and *San Mauro*. The *Armonia Barrio* was the only neighborhood that did not possess a chapel and meeting place for Sunday Mass, catechism and central parish office. The lay missionaries and especially the twenty-some who were members of the Servite Secular Order did everything they could to make their dream a reality. After some initial difficulties the Municipality in 2000 gave the parish a parcel of land. In June 2003 under the leadership of Fra **Benito M. Moresco**, the Parish Priest, construction of the new church and catechetical center began. On February 2, 2005 a bell

tower was erected. There is a story behind the tower as well. It is dedicated to the memory of **Rosina Faccio** whose relatives donated the money and to the memory of **Horacio** a young man who died of multiple sclerosis and who long dreamed of such a tower.

SERVITE FAMILY

CLOISTERED NUNS MY EXPERIENCE IN INDIA AND INDONESIA

As President of the Italian Servite Monastic Federation I traveled to Asia (December 4-13, 2005) and visited the Indian states of Tamil and Kerala. I then visited the Indonesian island of Fares – and especially the city of Ruteng. Our Servite brothers and sisters are already working successfully in these Asian nations.

We, the cloistered nuns of the Servite Family, are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our Federation this year. We wanted to explore the possibility of making a foundation in these countries where the world's great religions are practiced and where people are so sensitive to the presence of God in man and nature. We thought we could provide the girls attending Servite schools an example of contemplative religious life in the same Servite Family. If I were obliged to describe my visit in two words I would say: blessing and prophecy.

We shared fraternal encounters and liturgy with the brothers and sisters in the communities we visited and experienced their exquisitely Indian and Indonesian hospitality. We encountered languages and customs that gave us an insight into their understanding of life.

The thought came to me frequently and spontaneously that the Church's theology and theological research breathes with two lungs: Western/Eastern European on the one hand and Far Eastern on the other. Certainly the revelation of Jesus cannot be confined to a Greco-Roman framework. For some time now the contributions of Oriental philosophy have played an important part in the evolution of world culture. We, Italian monastics, are thinking about making a foundation in the Far East. We think that our contemplative presence can do much to inculturate the Servite Charism



and advance the proclamation of the Word and the service of people on this vast continent.

On my return trip to Italy I sat in the airport in Singapore and recited the vespers of Blessed Jerome of Sant'Angelo in Vado. My thoughts went to our sisters in the Vado monastery. I asked our sainted Servite confrère, Blessed Jerome, to guide us in our contemplation and service to the poor in Asia following the footsteps and in conformity to the Will of God. Blessed Jerome was a man of contemplation and service to the people of his time and place.

Sister M. Cecilia Barbaresi

SISTERS

XAI-XAI (MOZAMBIQUE)

HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY FOR ORPHANS

AND THE POOR; SANTA MARIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sister **Alda Macuacua** of the Servite Sisters of the Cenacle writes: "How do we manage to maintain an elementary and secondary school and support the children, elderly and religious who work in our houses? – with farm work, animal husbandry, sewing and the contributions of the sponsors of our children. In spite of the many natural disasters that occur in this country we do not lose courage; we can rely on enough farm produce to guarantee our food supply for most of the year. From May to March we buy neither corn nor rice (the main local foodstuffs). We experience some problems until it is time for the first harvest. Drought forced us to sow later than usual. Our harvest won't be ready until next July. Sewing accounts for some of our income; three sisters work at this full-time and now we must provide uniforms for our students. The school year began in February. The school too will begin to provide some income once we have paid off our building debts. Pay teachers is considerably expensive. But as I wrote above our main support comes from those distant sponsors who have "adopted" our students. This is how we live and how we hope the Cenacle will survive. The children are in good health and are being taken care of in the school. Most of them are doing very well in their studies. They do not have many sandals –they wear out quickly– but each student has at least one pair for school and another for church. This is more or less what other children of the area possess. Building our secondary school was

quite an undertaking. Our benefactors were very generous indeed – especially **Alberto, Adriano**, Seven Holy Founders' Parish in Rome, **Andrea** and his group, the Friends of the Policlinico Italia in Rome, etc. There are five classrooms in our school building, rooms for professors and visitors' room and offices for the principal, the educational and financial staff as well as a depository for records. There are also lavatories.

For the 2004-2005 School Year we had 265 students of whom 181 got good marks. 45 left the school because they could not pay the monthly tuition and 37 failed their exams.

We have an infant school; in the middle school there are four 1st year classes with 44 students in each class and two 2nd year classes. The school opens every morning at 7 AM and closes at 5 PM. This year (school begins in February) we will have two classes of 44 students each for 3rd year middle school.

Each student pays a fee of €10 or \$12 a month. From our income we have put aside €120.00 a month to help students without financial resources. We subsidize twelve students a month. We 26 young teachers, a priest and a nun. We spend €2,166.00 a month on salaries for teachers, secretarial and janitorial staff – about €70.00 each. For myself, the children and the elderly we have only €133.00 left! How do we keep up maintenance on the house, the school, our cars? And the cost of gas / petrol has gone sky-high. I often think, good job we grow our own rice and corn – and we have our own supply of meat and eggs.

We want to keep the school under our management. If we ask the government for assistance they will assume the right to appoint teachers and that's when corruption will begin. We prefer to handle the school ourselves even though it is a burden. Parents prefer entrusting their children to us.

These are the statistics: our life and activity in the village of Chicumbane:

Infant School: 30 children; orphans, abandoned children and old people who live with and depend on the Sisters: 12; children sponsored by people living outside Mozambique: 200; children we take care of in one way or another (school, clothing, food ...): 200; Middle School students: 265. Every day we prepare meals for 60 people. As a congregation we are 9 sisters, 4 novices and 7 candidates in 3 communities.



SERVITE LAITY

PAGANI (SALERNO). ENERGETIC CONFRATERNITY OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

In the small town of Pagani in the Province of Salerno there is a Confraternity of Our Lady of Sorrows that has been aggregated to the Order since its very beginning (XVII Century). Following a long established tradition the men who are members of the Confraternity wear the Servite habit during liturgical celebrations. Women wear a small veil with the Servite crest. The headquarters of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Sorrows are in the church next to the town hall of Pagani.

This year the Confraternity wanted to celebrate the feast of Our Seven Holy Founders (February 14-19) with particular solemnity. A precious reliquary containing a relic of the Seven Holy Founders is placed on the altar. Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, the Prior General, presented them with this relic. Fra **Lourdusamy M. Anthonysamy**, the General Councilor, preached a Triduum before the Feast and presided at the closing Mass on Sunday, February 19. A large representation of the local Servite Family was present for this occasion: the Servite Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows of Nocera, the Reparatrix Servite Sisters of Tramonti, the Secular Order Fraternity Sister **M. Consiglia dello Spirito Santo** from Roccapiemonte and the Gruppo dell'Addolorata from Tramoni. During these festive days Msgr. **Gioacchino Illiano**, Bishop of Nocera Inferiore, blessed the restored organ which was built in the XVI Century. The Confraternity of Our Lady of Sorrows paid for the restoration. The occasion was also marked by several cultural events in which the whole population of Pagani took part. All of these events were reported at length in the *Osservatore Romano*.

A report from Massimo Cuofano

IN BRIEF

BUDRIO (Bologna). The religious community and parish of San Lorenzo di Budrio celebrated the 600th anniversary of the Servite presence in this important center in the province and diocese of Bologna. Various events were scheduled – some were sponsored by the local civic administration. Within the coming year a book entitled *I Servi di Maria da 600 anni a Budrio* [Servants of Mary in Budrio for 600 Years] will be published.

ROME. The Parish-Sanctuary of Santa Maria in Via marked the 750th anniversary of the Miracle of the Well (September 26-27, 1256). The Parish Council, led by Fra Paolo M. Erthler, the Pastor, prepared an ambitious program of liturgical, cultural and charitable events to mark the occasion. Since 1963 the Parish-Sanctuary has published a quarterly bulletin, *La Madonna del Pozzo*.

PUBLICATIONS

I Servi di Maria in Istria (ed. Fra Sergio M. Pachera OSM and Fra Tiberio M. Vescia OSM) Edizioni "Italo Svevo", Trieste 2005, 165 pp., illus.

This book was published with the support and sponsorship of the *Istituto Regionale per la Cultura Istriano-Fiumano-Dalmata* of Trieste in collaboration with the Edizioni Italo Svevo publishing house. The volume is fully annotated and comprises two sections: the First Section (The Order of Servants of Mary, pp. 15-28) tells the story of the Seven Holy Founders and gives an overview of the Order's history, structure, scholarship, liturgy, spirituality, Marian devotion, daily life and relevance of the Servite charism. The Second Section (Servants of Mary in Istria, pp. 29-142) begins with a note on the history of the Servites in Istria and on the province of Istria, and then describes one by one the Order's former priories: Santa Maria dei Servi in Capodistria (1453-1792); San Giacomo di



Umago (1462-1770); Santa Caterina di Isola d'Istria (1473-1783); Santa Caterina di Rovigno (1486-1787) and Santissima Concezione di Montona (1598-1783). For each community there is a description of devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows and the confraternities; there are descriptions of the church and priory with interesting illustrations. A list of priors and officials of each community is also provided as well as an index of names for the whole volume.

ARISTIDE M. SERRA OSM, St. Peregrine Laziosi, Servant of Mary (ca. 1265 – ca. 1345). Translated by Peregrine M. Graffius OSM. Chicago, Order of Friar Servants of Mary, 2005, 238 pp. illus.

This translation of Fra Aristide M. Serra's *San Pellegrino Laziosi de Forlì, dei Servi di Maria (1265c – 1345c) Storia, culto, attualità* was Fra Peregrine M. Graffius' last completed work shortly before his death. This English version is dedicated to Fra Peregrine's memory in the preface by Fra Anthony M. O'Connell, the Prior Provincial of the US Province. Mr. James Foerster, Communications Director of the US Province and Fra Conrad M. Borntrager, Archivist and Historian of the Province oversaw the publication. There are 22 colored illustrations and an English version of the *Legenda* of St. Peregrine by Nicolò Borghese.

ALBERTO M. CAMICI (edit). *Bibliografia di Giovanni Vannucci*. Supplemento al quaderno di Servitium III, 163 (gennaio/febbraio 2006), 89 pp.

This bibliography is being presented on the twentieth anniversary of Fra Giovanni M. Vannucci's death (Pistoia 1913 – Florence 1984). It lists all his writings, the collections he worked on and what has been written about him and his work. There are some 662 titles in four categories. Within each category the works are listed in chronological order. *Part One* (titles 1-550) Father Vannucci's writings: published, mimeographed school notes (History of Religions course, lectures on various subjects, works he edited, writings on the new Constitutions of the Servite Order, scattered articles and articles that have appeared posthumously. *Part Two*

(titles 551-654) writings on Vannucci on various anniversaries, e.g. tenth anniversary of his passage to "life without end", and writings that analyze his thought. This section closes with articles that appeared on the twentieth anniversary of his death. *Part Three* (titles 655-659) doctoral theses from the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty that he directed. *Part Four* (titles 660-662) Licentiate theses that study his religious and spiritual thought. The bibliographical index is preceded by a lengthy biographical note (pp. 11-27). Since it is made up primarily of quotations from his own work it is called a *Nota autobiografica*.

BRUNO M. QUERCETTI OSM, Icone, Misano Adriatico 2006, 63pp. illus.

A compact little volume with 24 icons and captions. Some of the images are details of the same icon. All the images can be found at the Istituto San Pellegrino in Misano Adriatico. Fra Bruno M. Quercetti is the author of this work. Many "friends" contributed to the cost of publishing this work which was offered to the author by the Servite community of Misano Adriatico: a "homage to his 70 years of spirituality." The book begins with a preface by Fra Giancarlo M. Bruni on "*The Way of Beauty*," and a note by the author on the concept of an icon – *to see beauty* and its *deification*. The first cycle of icons are: *Pantocrator, Mother of God, St. John the Baptist, the Ascension, the Transfiguration, the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Holy Trinity, the Baptism of Jesus, the Women at the Sepulchre, the Crucifixion of Jesus with Mary and John the Evangelist*. The second cycle is dedicated to Servites Saints and Blesseds. This series of icons is accompanied by captions: the *Theotokos* surrounded by Our Seven Holy Fathers, the *Cave or Cavern*, the *Dragon*, the *sea and the boat*, the *Mountain*, the *Flute*, the *Tree*, the *Dove*, the *Red Banner*, the *red roofs of temples and the colors of the Eighth Day*, the *Archangels Michael and Gabriel*.



VARIOUS AUTHORS, *L'Addolorata da memoria di dolore a profezia di speranza. Testi raccolti a cura di Gino Alberto Faccioli. Messaggero di S. Antonio Editrice, Padova 2006, 140 pp. illus.*

This book includes a preface by Fra Silvano M. Maggiani, President of the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty along with four essays. The first essay was written by Professor Aristide M. Serra, *Quale spada trafiggerà la tua vita? (Lc 2,35a) Bibbia e tradizione a confronto* (pp. 11-53). The second essay is the work of Professor Luca M. Di Girolamo: *Maria presso la croce: luogo di dolore e di speranza viva per l'uomo* (pp. 55-74). The third and fourth essays were written by Professor Sister Maria Cecilia Visentin: *L'Addolorata nei percorsi della fede e della pietà popolare* (pp. 75-94) and *Il "planctus Mariae" nell'arte iconografica* (pp. 95-102). The volume includes 32 color plates.



SUMMARY

IN MEMORY OF A POPE WHO CALLED HIMSELF "A SERVANT AMONG THE SERVANTS OF MARY"	2
PRIOR GENERAL AND GENERAL HOUSES	
GENERAL COUNCIL	3
ST. ALEXIS FALCONIERI	3
MARIANUM	3
GENERAL SECRETARIATS AND OFFICES	
POSTULATION	5
HISTORICAL INSTITUTE	5
GENERAL ARCHIVES	6
INTER-PROVINCE COORDINATION	
CASA	7
CONFITES	8
ISAC	9
PROVINCES, VICARIATES, DELEGATIONS	
SANTISSIMA ANNUNZIATA	10
BRAZILIAN PROVINCE	11
PIEDMONT-ROMAGNA PROVINCE	11
TYROLESE PROVINCE	12
USA	12
VENETIAN PROVINCE	13
ANDEAN VICARIATE	14
RIO PLATA DELEGATION	15
SERVITE FAMILY	
CLOISTERED NUNS	15
SISTERS	16
SERVITE LAITY	
PAGANI (SALERNO). ENERGETIC CONFRATERNITY OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS	17
IN BRIEF	17
PUBLICATIONS	17
EDITORIAL	1

PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONS

- Vatican, October 27, 1989. John Paul II receives participants in the 209th General Chapter of the Order.
- 3-4-5. John Paul II at the Santissima Annuziata in Florence, the Marianum, Monte Berico and Pietralba.
6. Participants in the Provincial Chapter of the Tyrolese Province.
7. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone visiting the Exhibition of Images at Santa Maria dei Servi in Genoa.
8. Mtubatuba (Zululand). Servite Secular Order Fraternities (mostly men) with the characteristic scapular.
9. Udine. The Prior General with Giuseppe Gianfredo, Prior of the Servite Secular Order.
- 10-11. La Paz (Bolivia). Fra Ugo M. Vargas working in the recovery and training of the countless shoeshine boys in the Bolivian Capital.
12. Quilmes (Argentina). The Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows.
13. Matola (Mozambique). Digging a well: one of our community projects.
14. Ponte della Priula (Treviso). Capital with image of St. Peregrine Laziosi.

COSMO

Piazza San Marcello, 5
00187 ROMA - Italy
tel. (+39) 06 699 30 1
fax (+39) 06 679 2131
Posta elettronica:
cosmo@curiaosm.org

DIRETTORE RESPONSABILE: LINO M. PACCHIN
EDITORE: CASA GENERALIZIA SERVI DI MARIA
AUTORIZZAZIONE DEL TRIBUNALE DI ROMA
N. 55/91 DEL 1° FEBBRAIO 1991
STAMPATO IN PROPRIO

COSMO viene inviato gratuitamente a chiunque ne faccia richiesta. Ogni destinatario è tuttavia pregato a inviare un contributo annuo tramite CCP n. 29430006 intestato a:
Economato generale osm
Piazza San Marcello, 5
00187 ROMA, Italy