



**HOLY TRINITY PROVINCE
KARNATAKA, INDIA**

Saccidananda, Capuchin Provincialate, P.B. No. 1060, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560010

PC 18/18

K.101.11

THE 85TH GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE ORDER

Br. Roberto Genuin was elected General Minister. He is from the region of Venice, is 57 years old, a ‘*doctor utriusque juris*’, and has served multiple terms as provincial minister. He is the 73rd General Minister of the Capuchin Order, and the third of this millennium – after John Corriveau and Mauro Jöhri – and is from Venice as was Br. Flavio Roberto Carraro, who was General Minister from 1982 to 1994. Br. Roberto will be assisted in his service by the General Council, made up of ten friars representing the whole Order according to different geographical areas: Br. José Angel Torres Rivera of the Custody of Puerto Rico, one of the ten councillors, was elected General Vicar. The others are Carlos Silva (Brazil), Celestino Arias (USA), Francesco Neri (Italy), John Baptist Palliparambil (India), Kilian Ngitir (Cameroon), Norbert Auberlin Solondrazana (Madagascar), Pio Murat (France), Piotr Stasinski (Poland) and Victorius Dwiardy (Indonesia).

188 friars from 106 countries of the world participated in the General Chapter, in addition to about fifty more friars who assisted as officials and in other services. More specifically, the capitulars were from Europe (69), Asia (43), Africa (27), South America (33), North America (13), and Oceania (3). Thirteen of the capitulars were delegates of the Conferences of Major Superiors. Eighteen friars served as interpreters and translators; the seven languages used at the Chapter were Italian, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Polish, and Indonesian. Three friars made up the Chapter Secretariat, three served as recording secretaries, Br. Jossy Fernandes from our province is one of them, four were in charge of liturgy, three in Communications, and others in IT.

The work of the Chapter began on August 27 with the celebration of the Eucharist in the ample and beautiful chapel of the College. Br. Andrés Stanovnik, Capuchin archbishop of Corrientes, Argentina, presided. In his homily, he recalled to the capitulars that, “the central axis around which the heart of the friars should revolve” is – as St. Francis writes in the Earlier Rule, to “be about what regards God.” This is to say what inspires the brothers to “live the gospel life in the world in truth, simplicity, and joy.” (Const. 147, 2) Br. Andrés concluded his homily by recalling that the key to renewal in our form of life today, in the Church and in the world, is mercy: “That mercy that we experienced when the Lord gave us,

as he did to St. Francis of Assisi in his time, to begin a life of penance and then be led among the lepers, to practice mercy among them, not as a duty, but as a debt that we can never pay, for the infinite mercy of the Father has come also to us.”

The first and most important event of any Chapter is the report of the outgoing General Minister, who presents the state and activity of the Order in the past sexennium. Br. Mauro Jöhri, the outgoing General Minister at this Chapter, arranged his report in twelve points that came together to present a picture of the Order. Taking up the topic of PCO VIII, held in 2015, he observed that “the seeking of union with God is the first work of the friars” and thus invited them to examine themselves on “the primacy of the life of prayer.”

The General Minister also gave some time to speak on changes and developments in the Order in recent years, using statistical data to which he also gave his interpretation. At the end of 2017 there were 10,127 friars, 237 fewer than six years ago. The decrease in the number of friars has various causes – death, leaving the Order, transfer to the secular clergy, dismissals, etc. On the other hand, the number of friars in formation has increased, above all in Asia (+381) and in Africa (+138), where the Order is betting on its future. The situation in Eastern Europe is stable (+32), but in Western Europe and the America there is a decrease. The Italian Capuchins remain the largest single group with 1,855 all together, followed by the Indian Capuchins with 1,792.

The Order also has many bishops. Fifteen of them, from all over the world, have been appointed during this last sexennium. Seventeen retired during the sexennium and twelve died.

In these past six years we have also had brothers beatified and one canonized. Let us recall Blessed Thomas of Olera (2013), Blessed Andrew Palazuelo and thirty-two Companion Martyrs (2013), Blessed Frederick of Berga and thirty-six Companion Martyrs (2015), Blessed Arsenius of Trigolo (2017), St. Angelo of Acri (2017), and Blessed Solanus Casey (2017).

The General Minister’s report also touched on many other points, such as the administration and animation of the Order, the General Curia, the institutions of cultural heritage, the houses dependent on the General Minister, and finally the journey of the Franciscan Family. The third day of the General Chapter was given for hearing the Economic Report presented by the General Bursar of the Order, Br. Alejandro José Nuñez Ennabe. Br. Alejandro emphasized how economic realities in the Order must be marked by the *transparency* that should also characterize our personal and fraternal lives, and by the *co-responsibility* of all the friars in the management of the goods of the Order. Br. Alejandro presented with clarity and competence, making use also of figures and graphs. The warm applause at the end of the presentation showed the approval of the capitulars for the precision of the report and the work it represented.

Later that same morning, after the Economic Report, was the time for the Eucharist with Most Rev. José Rodríguez Carballo, Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and General Minister of the OFM (2003-2009) before his current appointment. The liturgy of the day recalls the martyrdom and beheading of St. John the Baptist. Taking inspiration from the two readings, the homily can be summed up in the triptych: truth, prophecy, and hope. *Truth*, as John always announced

in his preaching, courageously and without regard for human respect, and which led him to martyrdom by Herod. *Prophecy*, to which the Forerunner witnessed with his life and not with the chatter of ideology. *Hope*, which must always accompany the announcement of the Gospel of Jesus, which is a Gospel of joy, never allowing itself to be overcome by pessimism or fatalism. May truth, prophecy, and hope be with our capitulars as they work, that they may be guided by the Spirit.

Two days later the Chapter celebrated Mass with Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. “Consecrated life in the Church,” the Cardinal exhorted, “has a very important place. God has arranged for the Spirit to speak to the Church through the multiplicity of charisms. And this journey in the life of the Church will never end. The charism does not come from human beings, but from God. God knows how long it will remain in the Church. The Franciscan charism, instead of declining, grows and multiplies into other charisms. This is a great gift for the Church.”

After the election of the new General Minister on September 3 and his Council on the 6, the General Chapter made the traditional pilgrimage to Assisi where, before tomb of the Seraphic Father, the capitulars prayed that his light might continue to illuminate and guide the Order.

On September 14 the capitulars had an audience with Pope Francis. The outgoing General Minister, Br. Mauro Jöhri, presented his successor, Br. Roberto Genuin. Br. Roberto gave the Holy Father a brief and precise greeting, to which the Pope replied with his own unscripted remarks. He recalled that the Capuchin friars are always friars of the people, close to them even in the difficulties of daily life, always approaching others with simplicity. The friars must always be close to the poor and the suffering like Father Cristoforo in the novel *The Betrothed*, and like the Capuchins the Pope met recently in Dublin, Ireland. They must be apostles of the confessional, of reconciliation. They must be men of prayer, of a prayer that is simple and joyous, as well as being peacemakers in the midst of the people. Pope Francis then gave his apostolic blessing and greeted the friars one by one.

The work of the Chapter concluded during the evening on September 15, the day dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. This was ahead of schedule – the Chapter was to conclude on September 16 – thanks to the quickness with which this Chapter has worked, and thanks above all to the use of the tablets for voting in the plenary assembly.

The morning of this final day was given to voting on texts prepared by the commissions. After remarks from the secretaries of the *coetus*, who synthesized what had been said in these groups, texts were presented and motions were put to a vote. The motions were on modifications to the Statutes of the General Curia, on fraternal collaboration, and on solidarity among the circumscriptions. All of the motions were approved by a broad majority.

The final act of the Chapter was an evening Eucharist at which the General Minister, Br. Roberto Genuin, presided, flanked by all the members of the General Council. The liturgy was enriched by song in various languages: Portuguese, Swahili, Indonesian, Spanish, etc. In his homily the General Minister reflected on the title of an important letter of his predecessor, *Let us Fan the Flame of our Charism*, and invoked the intercession of the

Blessed Virgin Mary on the whole Order. After the homily the brother capitulars were invited to renew their religious profession, each in his own language, and their commitment to the vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity. At the end of the celebration, the *Te Deum* was sung to thank the Lord for the support of his grace during all the work of the Chapter. *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam!*

Communications

1. Election Results of the 85th General Chapter of the Order.

As we know the 85th General Chapter of the Order took place from 26th August 16th September 2018 in Rome. Following friars are the newly elected general minister and his council members.



Minister General

- Br. Roberto Genuin

Councilors

- Br. Jose Angel Torres Rivera of CCA-CIC CONCAM (Also Vicar General) (Latin America)
- Br. Carlos Silva of CCB (Brazil)
- Br. Celestino Arias of NAPCC (USA)
- Br. Francesco Neri of CIMPCAP (Italy)
- Br. John Baptist Palliparambil of CCMSI (India)
- Br. Kilian Ngitir of CONCAO (Africa)
- Br. Norbert Auberlin Solondrazana of EACC (Africa)
- Br. Pio Murat of CENOC – ASMEN (France)
- Br. Piotr Stasinski of CECOC (Poland)
- Br. Victorius Dwiardy of PACC (Indonesia)

The names of the conferences of major superiors are indicated after the names of the councilors. We congratulate the newly elected Minister General and his Council and wish all the best in their animation/administration of the Capuchin Order.

2. Election results of the Chapter of the Custody of Charles Lwanga, Uganda

The Custody Chapter of Uganda was held from 22nd to 26th October 2018 in which Br. Godwin Ogam was re-elected as the Custos and Br. Leo Lobo as the First Councilor and Br. John Baluku as the Second Councilor. While congratulating the brothers on being elected we also wish them all the best a fruitful and effective animation of the custody in the coming days. We also thank the outgoing officials for their tireless service to the custody.

3. Diaconal Ordination:

The Diaconal Ordination of Br. Warnakula Suriya Tiron Jesus Fernando from St. Pio Delegation, Sri Lanka, will take place on 4th November 2018 at St. Paul Minor Seminary, Marawila Chilaw at 4.00 p.m. during the holy Eucharist. His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Devsritha Valence Mendis, Bishop of Chilaw will confer the diaconal ordination. While wishing him fruitful preparation we congratulate him on the occasion of his diaconal ordination.

4. Inauguration and blessing of Nongdam Friary

The new friary at Nongdam will be inaugurated and blessed on 21st November 2018. We congratulate and thank the delegate and all the friars in the delegation for all their efforts and sacrifice to get ready the structure of friary at Nongdam.

5. Visit of Provincial and his Council to North East Delegations

The Provincial and his council shall visit the North East delegations from 14th to 22nd November 2018 in view of having a common meeting at Mizoram and to inaugurate and bless the friary at Nongdam. The programme of visitation as follows:

Christ the King Delegation, Mizoram

14th November – arrival to Silchar – discussion on the property matters

15th November – Mizoram and Durthlang – Jubilee celebration of Br. Alban D'Souza

16th November – common meeting at Sairang

Infant Jesus delegation, Nagaland

17th November – arrival to Dimapur

18th November – Visit to St. Clare's friary Akuluto

19th November – Visit to the new parish at Choithar

20th November – Arrival to Nongdam

21st November – inauguration of Friary at Nongdam

22nd November – departure to Bangalore

6. Appointments/Transfers

- Br. Peter Mendonca – Chaplain at Nirmala Hospital, Bhadravati, with effect from 22nd October 2018
- Br. Denis Saldanha – St. Mary's Parish, Dubai
- Br. Maxim Pinto – St. Ann's Friary, Pastoral Service to Bajal Parish
- Br. Robert Lasrado – Renewal course, Manila

- Br. Anil Sunil D'Souza – Shanthi Sadhana, FISl, Bengaluru, with effect from 3rd November 2018.
- Br. Prakash Pinto – Director of Asha Kiran, Badhravati with effect from 22nd October 2018
- Br. Lancy Rebello – Animator of St. Pio Devotions, St. Ann's Friary, Mangalore, with effect from 3rd November 2018.
- Br. Salvador D'Cunha – Saudi Arabia
- Br. Edwin Rakesh D'Souza – Treasurer, Dayalbagh, Ashram, Ujire, with effect from 1st January 2019.
- Br. Derek D'Souza – Treasurer, Assisi Press, with effect from November 1, 2018.

7. Commission to re-evaluate the slab system:

As per the decision of the 7th Provincial chapter (Recommendation n. 28) the council has appointed the following commission to re-evaluate the slab system. Following are the members of the commission.

- Br. Anil Sequeira – Chair person
- Br. George Olivera
- Br. Gerald Lobo
- Br. Albert D'Silva
- Br. Paul Sema
- Br. Anthony Raj (Kudlur)
- Br. Anil D'Costa

The commission will make a study and propose a suitable proposal to the provincial chapter of April 2019.

8. Society Meetings

Kindly take note of the dates for meeting of Societies and Trusts. We request concerned persons to be available and make necessary preparation for the same.

Capuchin Krishik Seva Kendra	13 th October	Dayalbagh Ashram
Sruvith Trust – Asha Kiran, Heroor	29 th October	Asha Kiran, Heroor, Brahmavar
Monthu Mary Coventhu Devaru Trust	6 th November	Monte Mariano
St. Fidelis Friary Trust	6 th November	Monte Mariano
Athma Jyoti Trust	6 th November	Atma Jyoti Friary. (afternoon)
Capuchin Publication Trust	7 th November	St. Anne's Friary
St. Anne's Friary Trust	7 th November	St. Anne's Friary
The Mangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society	7 th November	St. Anne's Friary
Karunalaya Trust	8 th November	Karunalaya, Brahmavar
Vimukthi Charitable Trust	10 th November	Saccidananda
Capuchin Friars Service Society	11 th November	Saccidananda
Capuchin Education Board	11 th November	Saccidananda (afternoon)
The Bangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society	13 th November	DSA, Bangalore
Shanthi Sadhana Trust	13 th November	Shanthi Sadhana, (afternoon)

9. Condolences

We express our heartfelt sympathies to

- Br. Alex Daniel who lost his loving sister Mrs. Margret Rathna and his beloved mother Mrs. Josephine.
- Br. Maxim D'Silva who lost his beloved mother Magdelene Fernandes.

- Br. David L. who lost his loving brother Mr. Peter Lalmalsawma.
- Br. Mathias Dias who lost his sister-in-law Mrs. Veronica Dias.
- Br. Alban D'Souza who lost his beloved mother Mrs. Cecilia D'Souza.

May God grant eternal rest to them and may their soul rest in peace.

10. Next Council Meeting:

The Next Meeting of Provincial Council will be held from 4th to 7th December 2018 at Vianney Sadan, Bhopal. Your suggestions are welcome.



1ST NOVEMBER 2018.

WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY SOLEMNITY OF
ALL SAINTS

11. Provincial's Programme

OCTOBER 2018	
20-21	Visitation Shanthi Nivas – Darshan College
22-26	Classes in FISi
29 - 30	Sruvith Trust Meeting & Visitation
NOVEMBER - 2018	
01-02	Saccidananda
03-05	Visitation: Dayalbagh Ashram
06-08	Society/Trust Meeting in Mangalore & Udupi
10	VCT Meeting, Saccidananda
11	CFSS & CEB Meeting in Saccidananda
13	BCFMS & Trust Meeting at Kengeri
14-22	Provincial council's visit to North East Delegations
23-24	Saccidananda
25	Don Bosco Hall and St. Anne's Friary - Jubilee Celebrations – Br. V. J. Menezes.
26-29	Saccidananda
30	Jubilee Celebration of Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira DSA
DECEMBER – 2018	
01-03	Saccidananda
04-07	Provincial Council Meeting, Bhopal
05-07	Saccidananda
08	OFS 90 years celebration Udupi
10	Golden Jubilee – Petri, Brahmavar
11-14	Saccidananda
15	Decennial Celebration at Trinity Central School
16	Sevak – 60 th Anniversary at St. Anne's Friary,
17-18	AFFI Executive Meeting, Saccidananda
19-24	Saccidananda – Arrival of Italian guests
25	Christmas Day
27	Holy Family Feast, Brahmavar
28	Brahmavar – Mass for Fr. Alfred Roche
30	Mangalore – Sr. Vinaya's Jubilee
31	Saccidananda



Date: 28th October 2018
Place: Saccidananda, Bangalore

Br. Joseph DolphyPais OFM Cap
Provincial Minister