

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace”



Published by : Br. Benoy Joseph

THE CAPUCHIN PROVINCE OF KRIST JYOTI, INDIA

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Provincial Message

Dear Brothers,

Spiritual wellness of our religious life was the theme we discussed in the last issue of the *Brother Sharing*. As we are preparing to celebrate the Feast of our father Francis, it will be fitting to meditate upon the experience of the *first love* which Francis had in his life and how he could overcome the darkness in his life.

When Francis knew the love of God, he had turned completely to Him and in prayer he experienced Him. And we read that Francis was so immersed in prayer so much so he became a prayer. Prayer means entering into communion with the One who loved us before we could love. It is this *first love* that is revealed to Francis in prayer. The more deeply we enter into the house of God, the house whose language is prayer, the less dependent we are on the blame or praise of those who surround us, and the freer we are to let our whole being be filled with that *first love*. As long as we are still wondering what other people say or think about us and trying to act in ways that will elicit a positive response, we are still

victimized and imprisoned by the dark world in which we live. We have to let our surroundings tell us what we are worth. As long as we are in the clutches of that world, we live in darkness, since we do not know our true self. We cling to our false self in the hope that may be more success, more praise, more satisfaction will give us, the experience of being loved, which we crave for. That is the fertile ground of bitterness, greed, violence and war.

Prayer is entering into communion with the One who molded our being in our mother's womb with love and only love. There, in the *first love* lies our true self, a self not made up of the rejections and acceptance of those with whom we live, but solidly rooted in the One who called us into existence. This is what Francis experienced after his conversion. And thereafter he was in the grace of that *first love*.

If we don't experience this *first love* what will happen in our lives? Certainly we will be in darkness, search for acceptance from others, be filled with negative thoughts and as I said

above, we will crave for attention. Francis searched for acceptance from God, filled with thanksgiving in his heart, desired for His mercy and longed for the *first love*. Thus from the fullness of his heart there came the song “Canticle of Sun and Moon”, one of the greatest praise and worship the mankind has ever seen.

In order to help the students to focus on God’s grace and on giving thanks, a teacher asked the students to look around the classroom and focus on one particular colour. The teacher told them to take note of everything that is red in the classroom. After a few moments the teacher asked them to close their eyes and quietly recall all the red items they saw. And then comes the unexpected! While their eyes remain closed she told them to name all the blue things they had seen. Most often, because they were so focused on the red, they missed all the blue.

This exercise is similar to what we focus on in our daily life. We focus on the negative and tend to notice all that is going wrong in the world, and miss God’s grace and presence before us. What we focus on is what we give power to! In focusing on the negative we miss God’s grace.

Dear brothers, I encourage you to take time each night to reflect on

at least two ways you experienced God’s grace that day and give thanks for it. In doing so we will not only be persons of thanksgiving and praise, but it will transform our attitude and actions.

As we continue our journey of religious life let us try to have a spiritual life too. With attentive and grateful hearts may we share the Good News of God’s amazing grace with close encounter with Him. And let’s return the *first love*. Even if we return with empty hands God will receive us. God’s love does not require any explanations about why we are returning. God is glad to see us home and wants to give us all we desire, just for being home. This is what St. Francis did.

May the Lord Jesus bless us all! Let us live under the blessing of our Lord. Let us move into the house of love and share this love to all so that we may become an instrument of peace. May the intercession of our Mother and the accompaniment of our Seraphic Father be with us all.

Wish you a blessed happy feast of St. Francis to you all!

Fraternally,

Br. Benoy Joseph
Provincial Minister



POPE FRANCIS TO CAPUCHINS: **Follow the Example of St. Francis**

‘The true greatness is to become
small and servants.’

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 15:54 ZENIT STAFFFRANCIS

Pope Francis on September 14, 2018, received in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace the participants in the 85th General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, currently underway in Rome at the “San Lorenzo da Brindisi” International College, from August 27 to September 16, 2018. The Pope gave an unscripted address to those present.

The following is the address the Holy Father had prepared in advance, and which was handed to the participants.

Prepared Address of the Holy Father

Dear Friars Minor Capuchin,
I am glad of this meeting, which allows me to greet you personally on the occasion of your General Chapter. I thank the new Minister General, Fra’ Roberto Genuin, and send good wishes to him and his Council. In these days of study and fraternal exchange, you have focused on the theme “Learn from me ... and you will find” (cf. Mt 11: 29), to identify apostolic and formative perspectives

to offer to your confreres scattered throughout the world. In fact, besides the election of the new government of your Fraternity, you have devoted ample space to the Ratio Formationis Ordinis, an important document for leading the consecrated person into the heart of the Gospel, which is the form of life of Jesus, totally spent for God and for your brothers, especially the marginalized and the last among us.

In the footsteps of the Divine Master and following the example of Saint Francis, who learned humbleness and service by encountering lepers, strive to live relationships and religious activity in gratuitousness, humility, and meekness. In this way, you can realize with real and daily gestures the “minority” that characterizes the followers of Francis. It is a precious gift of great necessity to the Church and for the humanity of our time. This is how the Lord acts: He does things simply. Humility and simplicity are the style of God; and it is this style that all of us as Christians are called to assume in our life and in our mission. The true greatness is to become small and servants.

With this minority in your heart and lifestyle, you make your contribution to the Church’s great commitment to evangelization. You do so by generously carrying out the apostolate in direct contact with different peoples and cultures, especially with so many poor and suffering people. I encourage you in this effort, which you have shared at the international level in the Chapter, urging you not to lose heart in the face of difficulties, including the decline in number of friars in certain areas, but rather to renew every day your trust and hope in support of the grace of God. May the joy of the Gospel, which irresistibly fascinated the Poverello of Assisi, be the source of your strength and constancy, because with reference to the

Word of Jesus everything appears in a new light, that of God’s providential love. Every time we draw from the source to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, there emerge new paths, new pastoral approaches and creative methods relevant to current circumstances.

Our time shows signs of obvious spiritual and moral discomfort, due to the loss of the sure and comforting references of faith. How great a need people have today to be welcomed, listened to, illuminated with love! And what a great tradition you Capuchins have of everyday closeness to the people, in sharing in their concrete problems, in spiritual conversation and in the administration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Do not fail to be teachers of prayer, to cultivate a robust spirituality, which communicates to everyone the call of the “things from above”.

In this, you will be more convincing if your communities and structures to express sobriety and parsimony, a visible sign of that primacy of God and of His Spirit, to which consecrated persons commit themselves to bear clear witness. From this perspective, even the transparent and professional management of economic resources is the image of a true family that walks in co-responsibility and in solidarity between its members and with the poor. Another important aspect of the life of your communities is unity and communion, realized by dedi-

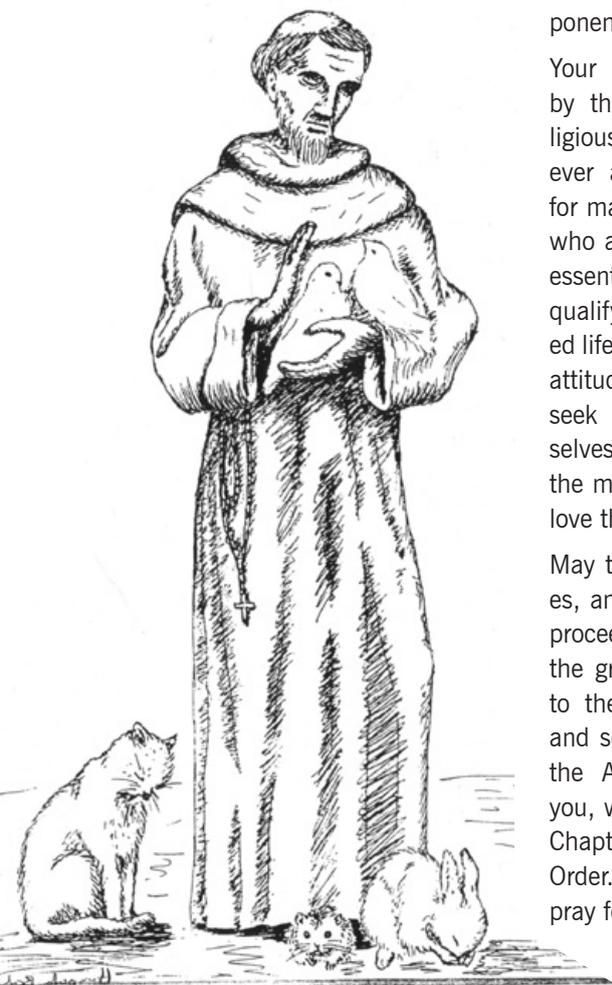
cating ample space to listening and dialogue so as to strengthen fraternal discernment.

The history of your Order is full of many courageous witnesses of Christ and the Gospel, many of whom are proclaimed Saints and Blessed. Their holiness confirms the fruitfulness of your charism and shows the signs of your identity: total consecration to God unto martyrdom, where re-

quired, simple life among people, sensitivity towards the poor, spiritual accompaniment as closeness and humility that allows us to welcome everyone. Following your typical way of life, may you walk inspired by renewed zeal, so that you may be driven with prophetic freedom and wise discernment towards courageous apostolic paths and missionary frontiers, always cultivating collaboration with the Bishops and the other components of the ecclesial community.

Your charismatic identity, enriched by the cultural variety of your religious family, is more valid than ever and is an attractive proposal for many young people of the world, who are looking for authenticity and essentiality. May fraternity shine as a qualifying element of your consecrated life, distancing you from any elitist attitude, encouraging you always to seek an encounter between yourselves and all others, especially with the many who thirst for the merciful love that only Christ can offer us.

May the Lord fill you with His graces, and in the spirit of Saint Francis proceed joyfully and sure, always in the grateful awareness of belonging to the holy faithful People of God and serving Him with humility. May the Apostolic Blessing accompany you, which I cordially impart to you, Chapter Fathers, and to your whole Order. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Thank you!



Secretary's Table

1. Br. K.T James is having his treatment and rest in the Provincialate
2. Br. Thomas Kakuzhiyil is appointed as staff member in Jyotiniketan Minor Seminary
3. Br. Jose M.J is appointed as member at Shantiniketan Sahibabad and Parish Priest of Holy Angels Church Sahibabad. He will continue as Manager of Holy Angels School Shalimar Garden.
4. Br. Thomas Menappattu is transferred to Uday Bhavan Bilaspur as Guardian and Parish priest of St. Thomas Church, Joseph Nagar, Bilaspur.
5. Br. Joseph Lakra is relieved from the Parish and appointed as Farm in charge and the Manager of St. Paul's Academy, Bilaspur.
6. Br. George William is attending the German course prior to his higher studies in Rome in Sacred Scripture. He is continuing as prefect of studies in Jyotiniketan.
7. Br. Paul Bhuria is transferred to St. Joseph Ashram Amritsar as member and Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church Bhariwal.
8. Br. Baiju Chalakkal is appointed as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Assumption Church, Piplera.
9. Br. P.A Joseph is transferred to St. Pio Ashram Gagwana, Ajmer as member.
10. Br. Chacko is transferred to St. Alphonsa Bhavan, Shoranur as member.
11. Br. Sunil Katara is transferred to Shantibhavan, Dayalgarh as member and he will continue as Asst. Parish Priest of St. Francis Church, Batala.
12. Br. Anoop Abraham is appointed as member in St. Francis Friary, Batala.
13. Br. Albin Antony is appointed as member in St. Thomas Ashram, Kalanur.
14. Br. PhilmonMinj is appointed as member in St. Fidelis Ashram, Mastakot.
15. Br. Justin Kattamala is appointed as member in Jyotiniketan till he goes for the Gulf Mission.
16. Br. Jiji Plamparambil is back to the province after the completion of his term in UAE.
17. Br. Girish will be returning to the province by November after his studies in Rome.
18. One of our novices Br. Siljo & Benson from Pre noviciate have left the province for good.
19. Bros. Cyriac George, Anoop Paulose, Jnana Muthu, Sudhir, PhilmonMinj and Albin Antony are pursuing B Ed studies.



KRIST JYOTI

Kaushambi

Happy to meet you through the pages of BrotherSharing.

Coming Home

After 9 years of praiseworthy service Br. Joji Plamparambil was back to the province on 3rd September. Presently he is attending some retreats in Kerala. He will be back in October. Welcome back dear brother and wish you everything best for the ministry in the province.

Brothers from Karnataka

2 brothers - Elvin and Stephen - are doing their studies in NISCORT. They will be joining us every weekend. They are doing a 10-months course in NISCORT.

All is well

Br. K T James was operated on 4th August in Fortis at Noida. The biopsy result shows that he has no cancer in his body now. His urinary bladder is removed and a small bag is attached, which needs to be changed in 15 days. Now he is fine and moving around. Let us continue to pray for him.

Meetings

On 14th August a meeting was held for the principals of Holy Angels' Sahibabad, Holy Angels' Shalimar

Garden and St. Paul's Academy Ghaziabad.

Meeting of the Commission for Media and Communication was held here in the provincial house. Bros. Benoy Joseph, Suresh Mathew, Xavier V, Anoop Paulose, Baiju Chalakkal and Jacob Kani were present.

Members of the Commission for updating Statutes were here for a meeting. Bros. Benoy Joseph, Dominic, P. A. Joseph, Xavier and Jacob Kani are the commission members.

Recollection

After a long gap the brothers of Ghaziabad area had a recollection on 22 August. Br. Benedict OFM Cap, the brother of Xavier, was the resource person. He preached about Jesus and his mission in the present context. Bros Elvin and Stephen conducted the adoration.

Provincial Visits Rome and USA

On 20 August Br. Benoy Joseph, Provincial, went to Rome for General Chapter and after the Chapter he went to visit Bros. Biju Choorapadath and Binoy Augustine at Detroit in USA.

You are Welcome

We were blessed with lot many

guests. Srs. Anjaly and Haizal, the sister and relative of Br. K. T. James paid a visit. Fr. Sebastian MST and his brother Tomy, cousins of Br. K T James, also visited him. Many Friars-visited Br. K T James. Br. Pauly Madassery, the Provincial of St. Thomas province, visited us on the way to

Rome. Br. John Baptist, then Provincial of St Francis Province, paid a visit. Srs. Dhanya FCC and Litty FCC paid a flying visit. Br. Benedict was here for a few days. Br. Deepak of Karnataka Province and his friend Jayand came for Delhi Dharshan.

Holy Angels' School, Shalimar Garden

Happiness knows no bounds

We have this good news to share that the third floor construction is complete. We have 4 Class rooms, five smaller rooms and a large auditorium on this floor. The old auditorium on the third floor is converted into three class rooms. Thus we have 7 class rooms which are more than sufficient to teach children till Class 10. Of the five smaller rooms, one is a staff room, one is First Aid Room, one is School Counsellor's Office, one is Conference Room, and the last one is for Preparatory classes of LKG kids. Science Labs, Library and Computer Lab were ready in 2016-2017.

The floor and wall tiles make the fourth floor look magnificent and we await the day our friars will visit us to bless us. Please make it a point to visit us when you travel to Jyotini-keetan, Masuri for Renewal Chapter. The shaft for the lift is only beginning to take shape. The mechanical portion will take two months to get in-

stalled after the shaft is made ready. So it will be a while before the lift starts functioning.

The Holy Angels' School, Shalimar Garden wished to place on record our sincere gratitude to Fr. Provincial and the Provincial Curia for expediting our request and completing the project in record time. We also thank the Building Commission members and Fr. Jojo Kurian especially who took time out of their busy schedule to visit the site and approve the plan. Fr. Binu facilitated fund transfers at right intervals to help the project complete in record time. We are indebted to you brothers.

Admission Process Started

For 2019-2020, we initiated the Registration process for admissions to LKG on 23 August 2018. We had 62 registrations till 10 September. Last year, we had 66 Admissions to LKG, and 40 to other classes. We open registrations to other classes in January 2019.

NOC Process

Our NOC file has been cleared by ADM at District level and as of now is awaiting DM's nod to be sent to Meerut for final confirmation. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

School Picnic

Picnic is planned for various classes during Dussehara holidays. Drizzling Land, Adventure Island, Kidzania and National Science Centre are our destinations this year.

Flood Fury in Kerala

We were sorry to hear of the news of the demise of the younger brother of Fr. Jose M. J in July. In August he had the first-hand experience of the floods in Kerala. He is back now and is appointed as Parish Priest of Sahibabad. He is ever joyful and ready to help in every need. Our prayers are with his beloved mother who is at home.

Good Bye till we meet again in the next issue.

Jyotinetan, Masuri

Back to Life

After the summer holidays, the second and third year students returned to the seminary in May and June respectively. The first year students also reached by the end of June. The academic year for 2018-19 commenced on July 3, with a concelebrated Mass presided over by the Provincial, and *Lectio Brevis*, in the presence of many friars. The classes started on the following day.

Expanded Community

Our community and seminary staff got expanded with the arrival of Br. Thomas Kakkuzhy on June 23, and Br. Mobin Bose, a Regent, on June 28. It got a further expansion on August 30 with the arrival of Br. Justin Kattamala.

Celebrations

The Feast of Br. Thomas Kakkuzhy was celebrated on July 3 with a prayer service and dinner, attended by the Provincial and Friars from the nearby communities.

On July 12, Br. Anoop Abraham, the newly ordained priest, celebrated his first Mass in the seminary.

On July 22, the students participated in the parish feasts at Sahibabad, and on August 15 at Piplera. On both occasions, they helped the parish communities by being part of the choir.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 5 with a function to mark the occasion. The students felicitated the staff and put up cultural programs.

Fr. Raymond

Fr. Raymond was hospitalized a few times as his health deteriorated. His two religious sisters had come twice within two months and spent some time with him. He is rather stable now, though confined to the bed. The students render a praiseworthy service in giving him the needed care and attention. It's a blessing that this year there is a student here, who was working as a nurse for many years.

St. Paul's Academy Shahabad, Rampur

White washing of ashram, convent and school

During summer holidays, our ashram, convent and school were painted. The exteriors of the School got painted and the interior will be painted as time permits. At present, our compound has a different look. We extend our gratitude to the provincial who has let us to make both outside and inside Shahabad compound shining.

Blessing of New Auditorium

On 29 August, Br. Provincial consented to be available to bless our new hall. On this special day, we invited brothers and sisters of nearby communities who joined us for the blessing. The whole school building was blessed by the brothers along with new hall blessing. We thanked our provincial, sisters and brothers who made this event memorable. Br. Provincial then appreciated the Shahabad community for their selfless service to the institution and community.

Independence Day

We officially began our programme in the new auditorium with lighting

of lamp. Br. Sebastian accepted our invitation to be a chief Guest on this occasion. Students put up two hours programme to honour our patriotic leaders. Chief Guest gave address to the audience. Principal then thanked brother, teachers and students for their hard works and presence with us.

CRI Recollection of Rampur zone

We were almost 30 religious brothers and sisters present for the meeting. We then had community gathering with prayer service. Br. Sebastian animated the recollection. After having adoration, each one shared their experiences. It was a good time to be a community. We also visited some of our Muslim brethren to wish them Happy Eid.

Visitors

Brs. Benoy Joseph, Michael, Binu, George W., Joji, Joban, Byju, Sr. Provincial of ASMI sisters, and diocesan priests paid short visits to Shahabad. Thanks for your kind visit.

St. Francis Ashram, Kartarpur

We are pleased to meet you once again through the pages of our fraternal newsletter. We are already moving towards the end of summer and beginning of the winter. The brothers came back from their holidays by the end of June and now we have two new brothers in the persons of Bros. Sanjay and Sijo. We are also happy to say that Br. Anoop has been ordained a priest. We wish him all the best for his future ministry. The current third years did their final profession and preparatory course at Thopramkudy in the month of April. They made their final profession on the 21 July. The new academic year 2018-19 began on the 9 July. The brothers prepared for the new academic year with a retreat. Fr. Mathew Palachuvattil was the preacher. The brothers were very much edified by his message and presence.

We celebrated the feast of Fr. Dominic on 8 August. The friars of the region had recollection also on the same day. Fr. Joseph Kokkatt ex-

plained for the friars the Apostolic Exhortation *Guadete et Exsultate*. The brothers were invited to the celebration of the Transitus of St. Clare on the 11 August. The programme was held at the FCC Provincialate. The doubly joyous occasion of the Assumption of Our Lady and the Independence day was celebrated on 15 August. The youth and the catechism children of our parish put up a short cultural program after the Holy Eucharistic celebration in the morning. Br. Reuben was invited to be one of the judges for the finals of the Diocesan Mahila Mandal Skit Competition held at Jalandhar Cantonment.

The work of rewiring the house has already begun and is expected to be completed soon. We will hopefully be free of the occasional blasts that we used to experience inside the house. The semester exams for the brothers will be held during the months of September and October.

See you later. God bless us!

Shanti Bhawan, Dayalgarh

Ten Years of God's Blessings

It is ten years since the Shanti Bhawan Project started, so we thank God for his continued presence, love and assistance we received these many years. It is time to count the blessings and thank the Lord.

Franciscan Tradition



Early Franciscans along with the intense prayer have always been at the service of the poor and the sick. Celano speaks about the service of Francis and his early companions at Lazerato-a leper colony outside of Assisi town. The new recruits to the Order worked there and it was an initiation for them to live the Gospel way of life radically. The encounter of Francis with the leper at his early stage of conversion was a deep God experience- a turning point in his conversion journey. Francis says in his testament, "When I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers.

The Lord himself led me among them and I showed a heart full of mercy to them. When I left them what seemed bitter to me was turned to sweetness of soul and body". This tradition of serving the sick had continued in the order. St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the patroness of the Franciscan Third Order, was famous for her service to the poor and sick. All the Franciscan Generals, in their letter to mark the 8th century of her birth, says, "Elizabeth personally served the down-hearted, poor and the sick. She cared for the lepers, the dregs of the society as Francis did". The nascent Capuchin Order was at the heart of heroic service to the plague stricken people. These great traditions have to be carried out in a way that fits in with today's needs.

Inception



Years ago, Br. Martin wrote to the Vice-Provincial and the council of starting a centre for HIV/AIDS patients. Later the chapter of 2005 of the Krist Jyoti Vice-Province endorsed the idea of starting a centre for the destitutes and Aids Patients. Many friars took keen interest in this proposal.

In 2007 the land was bought and building was put up with the help of Swiss Capuchin Province. Friars of the Batala community and people of the locality collaborated with the ministry and the building was put up. On 28 August 2008, the Shanti Bhawan house was blessed by Bp. Anil Couto. CSN sisters collaborated and Sr. Veronica, a nurse, and Sr. Ambrosia were the first CSN sisters who were rendering service to the destitutes. At the time of blessing of the new building, there were five patients.

Motto

God provides us to love and serve

Fruits of love and service are peace and joy.

We are God's children and he provides in all our needs.

Servants of the Poor Brothers

Br. Martin was accompanied at beginning by Br. Lucas and later by Br. Thomas Kakkuzhy and Br. Bellarmine. Several brothers did service here as part of their post novitiate. Four years CSN sisters did service here and when they could not do service here due to lack of personnel they were replaced by FCC Sisters in July 2012. There were some lay volunteers who did service here participating in the liturgy and service of the centre. There are a few paid staff members. And the able bodied 'patients' do contribute by doing service in the upkeep of the centre and farm.

Some statistics

Total number of patients admitted in Shanti Bhawan from Aug 2008 to Aug 2018 is 50



Those returned home with improved health	9
Those left unable to adjust to the place	9
Died here	10
Present number of inmates	22

Social status of the present inmates

Orphans	9
Abandoned by parents or relatives	8
Those picked up from streets	3
Abandoned patients from the hospital	2
Total	22

Franciscan School of Poverty

Mirror of perfection says, St. Francis wanted for initial formation service to the lepers. "At the beginning of the religion, he (St. Francis) wanted the brothers to stay in the hospitals of lepers to serve them, laying the foundation of holy humility in this way. Whenever nobles and commoners came to the Order, they were told, among other things, that they had to serve the lepers humbly and

stay in their houses, as it was prescribed in the first rule." And for the ongoing formation too he prescribes the service to lepers." In The life of Saint Francis by Julian of Speyer, we read, "Truly he used to say: 'Let us begin, brothers, to serve God. Let us begin' he would say. He wished to turn back again to his early simplicity, abjectly to serve the lepers anew."

With this in mind we had deacons from Jalandhar diocese, Candidates, Postulants, Novices and junior sisters from FCC and our own brothers who are undergoing post-novitiate programme doing service and learning the lessons of poverty, humility and service.

Collaborators

Shanti Bhawan has been a platform for the sharing of love with the needy. There are hundreds of people who contribute through various ways. The doctors and staff of Civil Hospital help us whenever we take the patients to the hospital



and a few visit here and give care. A group called the 'Friends of Shanti Bhawan,' namely the staff and students, visit us and contribute with their might. And there are the SFO members, Youth and Mariam Sena of the neighbouring parishes who contribute by their service, prayer and financial assistance. Irrespective of the denomination, several members of the churches come here and contribute by donating food, money and clothings. So families come here to celebrate their children's birthday, marriage anniversary and provide food for these children of God. And there are many who contribute by sharing their little financial savings.

Ultimate Source of help

Our day starts with an hour of adoration followed by Holy Eucharist and on Wednesdays we have half a day allotted for adoration. Our help of course comes from God our Lord.

Several sisters too come here for a week's time doing service and spending time in silence, reflection and prayer.

Brothers and Sisters ...

The whole nature is supporting us and shares with us. We have solar power generating system and Solar water heating system, farms for grains, vegetables, fruits and milk. Bros. earth worms make compost manure. Srs. fowls gives us eggs... Mother earth provides us and shares its own way the love of God.

As Br. Martin was leaving Shanti Bhawan, his vision was slowly but surely being unfolded. May God bless this Franciscan initiative! Hope He has much more to share with us through Shanti Bhawan.

Br. Anand Battley



ST. Francis Friary, Batala

Greetings of Peace and Love from Batala Community! Once again we are here to add our own strings of latest happenings and news at St. Francis Batala!

Friary

The community was happy and sad at the same time welcoming our newly ordained Br. Anoop as member of the community and bidding farewell to Br. Sunil who has shifted to Dayalgarh community to be helping hand to Br. Anand Battley George. Of course Br. Sunil continues to be an important part of Batala Parish as assistant parish priest. Warm welcome was given to Br. Anoop in the parish. He began his ministry here by celebrating solemn mass on 22 July. We wish him all the best.

The community also celebrated the birthday of Fr. Anoop and prayed for him. The community was happy to welcome our brothers who visited us on different occasions. Br. Benoy Joseph our provincial, Br. Martin, Br. Niamath, Br. Mathew, Br. Jose, Br. PA Joseph, Br. Prasanan Paul are some of them. We thank all of them and our neighboring brothers who often visit us. You are all most welcome to our community.

Parish

The parish took out solemn procession of Mother Mary at the conclusion of May Devotion from St. Fran-

cis church to Shanti Bhawan, Prem Nagar reciting the rosary and praying for different intentions. It was a new experience for Catholic community as well as non-Christian community in the area. We plan to do it every year if everything goes on well. Full Bible Reading competition was also conducted in which 26 people participated and 7 of them finished reading in the given time and were duly awarded. Catechetical camp for catechism children was conducted from 11-13 May for classes 3-12. Around 150 catechism students participated in it. Eleven of our youth attended Inner Healing retreat conducted by the diocese and benefitted from it. On 3 June 137 communicants received the Holy Communion for the first time. Msgr. Wilson Peter was the chief celebrant for the occasion; he enlightened the congregation explaining the importance of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

School

St. Francis School added yet another feather in its achievements. Our students bagged 35 gold medals in different categories in Athletic Meet organized by Punjab State Education Board. Our school bagged the highest number of medals for the same. Besides this our children also bagged number of positions in Zonal and Regional level competitions conducted by AICSE. We congratulate the

Principal, staff, and students for their hard work not only in studies but also in all the other fields of students' personality development.

School gave send off to Sr. Martina who was the in charge of the KG wing. We wish her all the best for her future endeavor. At present Sr. Alice SCJM is looking after the KG wing.

Assisi Nilaya Moodubelle

The incessant rain of June is declining, but the surroundings of Moodubelle is still busy with the unfailing chirpings and whispers of sister nature.

New Beginning

The academic year of postulancy was officially inaugurated by Fr. Paul Melwin D'Souza, the Provincial Councillor of Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka on 15 June. We are 19 in the postulancy -12 from Holy Trinity Province and 7 from KristJyoti Province. We are blessed to have three vibrant dynamic friars to guide us. Fr Paul Inashe as the director, Fr. Jason Russel as the assistant director and Fr. Prakash as staff member. We also have an elderly brother Fr. Valerian D'Silva to motivate and propel our journey with his rich experiences. The re-opening day witnessed the edifying recollection talk delivered by Fr. Paul Melwin, marking the new beginning.

Get, Set, Go

Our classroom is an open balcony facing the naked mountain valleys

The preparations are on for the feast of St. Francis. Wishing you all a very Happy Feast of our father St. Francis. May we all be ever inspired to walk on his footsteps and work every day of our life for the spreading of the Kingdom of God, May God bless us all! Bye till the next edition.

and sky. Every day is engulfed with the chirpings of peacocks. The premises of our friary is adorned with the vivid enrichments of nature. We began our garden work by planting our traditional kappa.

Happy Birthday

Fr. Valerian D'silva celebrated his 68th birthday on August 18. The day was good with a festive sumptuous meal and cultural programmes. Fr. Valerian shared his beautiful past experiences with brothers. Obviously, birthdays and candles remind us about the caring hands of God.



We had a day of outing to Mangalore. 'Evening of Parables' was spiritual nourishment prepared by the Capuchin Friars in Mangalore town Hall on July 15. The show was superb, it was boxed with parables and bible messages in a dramatic way.

A Day Out

On August 2 we had our exposure programme to Prasantnivas, Mangalore, a home for the sick and the orphans run by Charity Sisters of Bethany. Brothers performed a programme for the inmates, besides spending time with them.

Portiuncula Feast



On August 2 we were privileged to go for the feast of St. Mary of the Angels (Portiuncula) at St. Anne Friary Mangalore. We had grand celebrations; the Holy Mass was presided over by his Lordship Aloysius Dsouza and other dignitaries.

Monty Fest

We celebrated the nativity of our Mother Mary. The Novenas helped us to recollect the joys and love of our

dear mother. The celebrations in the parish reminded us about the unity of the Holy Family.

A Corner Stone



The foundation stone for the new Chapel for the Postulancy House was laid by Fr. Joseph Dolphy Pious (Provincial Minister) on August 8. Having laid the foundation stone the ground work has also started and is in progress.

Supply...Lift...Smash

We have two new volleyball courts and there are heavy smashes in the evenings. We are grateful for the hard work of our superiors and previous batch. On Sundays we mess with cricket and football.

Healthy Life

The one-day class of Sister Cecilia was not in vain. She introduced us into the various first aid methods that can be given in emergency situations, and she helped us a lot in clearing our doubts and anxieties related to our health. Yes, health is always the biggest wealth.



Self Awareness Classes

Self-awareness leads to personality development. The busy schedules and classes of August were given a break by psychology classes of Sr. Carmelita U.F.S. The classes helped us to reflect for a better future of our vocation journey.

Salve...Vale

English may be the popular language today, but Latin still continues as the official language of the Church. We were introduced to the

basics of Latin by Fr. Rakesh from St. Bonaventure province, Maharashtra. The Classes were worthy of its pain; it helped us a lot to understand the basics of ecclesiastical language. *Gratias Multas* Fr. Rakesh.

We look forward to the feast of our seraphic father St. Francis. We extend warm greetings for the feast of St. Francis to all.

St. Fidelis Friary Monte Mariano

We, the novices from St. Fidelis Friary, Monte Mariano, wish to share our news. There are 15 novices - 10 from Holy Trinity Province and 5 from the Kristiyoti Province.

The Feast of St. Clare

We had the great opportunity to visit the monastery of the Adoration Sisters, situated in the city of Mangalore. We participated in the festal Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, the Apostolic Administrator. As per the tradition, we, the novices, fulfilled the ministry of choir, under the baton of Fr. Joel Lopes, the vice-master. We had the

privilege of meeting the cloistered sisters, including the sister of Fr. Raymond. She was very delighted to see us.

Independence Day Celebration

As our Mother India celebrated the 72nd Independence Day, we manifested our patriotism, by hoisting and venerating the national flag. The brothers gave short messages in Konkani and Kannada.

Inauguration of the Shrine of 'Monti Saibin'

It is said that the devotion to Infant Mary or 'Monti Saibin' which exists in

Konkan region, was commenced from this place. To continue this historical memory, a small shrine for Infant Mary has been erected. It was inaugurated by Fr. Peter Cyprian D'Souza, the provincial councilor, and blessed by Rev. Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, the Apostolic Administrator on Sept. 2. On this occasion, a new book of novena in honour of Infant Mary was released.

Monti Fest – the Nativity of B.V.M.

After the nine days' of novena, we celebrated the Monti Fest, the feast of nativity of B.V.M. In this region, it is celebrated with all grandeur. This day is also the feast of the first fruits. The new paddy was blessed and distributed to the faithful, gathered in large numbers. At lunch, we enjoyed the vegetarian food, prepared from the products of our vegetable garden.

Novitiate Day

On September 5, we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Edwin Colaco, our novice master. It is observed as the Novitiate Day. We had the festive Eucharist with all rituals of greetings and cutting the cake. We enjoyed the birthday lunch with some delicious dishes. As a part of the celebration, we viewed the movie on 'Padre Pio'.

Sister Sickness

We were badly afflicted with viral fever. With timely care and medication, all of us are up again.

We all join together to wish all brothers a Very Happy Feast of Our Father Francis. Keep us in your prayers.

Brs. Rejoice Jose, Dilash Minz, DibashMinz, David Tirky and Tapon-Pani



HUMOUR

The First Charism: Saints Benedict, Dominic, Ignatius, and Francis were in heaven arguing over which of their charisms was most primordial. Saint Benedict said: "All the way in the garden of Eden, all that existed was work and prayer, 'Ora et Labora,' therefore we are first." Dominic jumped in, "Hold on. In order for Eden to be created, God had to speak, and so the Word was first. Dominicans are older." Ignatius, feeling quite confident, said, "But even before that, there was chaos, and the lord gave creation structure and order. The Jesuits are clearly first." Chuckling to himself, Francis agreed: "You're right. First came chaos!"

USA Waves

Greetings and love from Detroit.

We are very happy to be with you once again through 'Brothersharing'.

The summer is coming to an end. The beauty of the fall is that we do find different colors like green, red, yellow and orange on the trees. It is indeed beautiful to look into the woods to see different colors. "Praised be You my Lord through our sister, mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs."

The last couple of months had been highly exceptional to us as Capuchins. Two of the novices made their simple profession in July. This profession, along with renewal of vows and Jubilees, were celebrated at St. Lawrence High School, Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. Then it was the final Profession of two friars in St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit, Michigan. Since one of the final professed members was from India, the team that prepared dinners surprised us with Indian cuisines, with the help of YouTube. Then it was the turn of ordinations. We had one ordination to diaconate and

one to priesthood. In all these it was wonderful to celebrate the Capuchin brotherhood.

I think I am a little jealous of Binoy, as he seems to be becoming more and more prominent here in the community. Though busy with a lot of priestly ministries around, he is THE person the community falls on for any and everything. The recent one being the amount of vegetables he brings in. As snow melted last April, he himself prepared the land, fenced it, planted varieties of vegetables, watered and took care of it. Pumpkins, squash, varieties of beans, tomato, spinach, bitter guard are some to name it.

We were privileged to have the visit of two friars from India. Brs. John Baptist from Premjyoti and Bijoy from St. Thomas Province. It was also nice to be with Brs. Scaria Kalloor (Pavanatma Province) and Joseph Puthenpurackal (St. Joseph Province) when they were in Chicago. We are excited and eagerly waiting for the visitation of Br. Benoy, our provincial, on 17 September.

- Biju Choorapadath



Seven Life Lessons from the **LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS**

As we are celebrating the Feast Day of Our Holy Father St. Francis of Assisi here are seven life lessons we can learn from the "Little Poor Man of Assisi."

Lesson 1: We All Have a Past

Before he was St. Francis of Assisi, he was simply Francis Bernadone, a young man caught up in the spirit of his age and not very concerned with the things of God. The wealthy son of a cloth merchant, Francis wanted for nothing. In many ways he was a pampered and spoiled child. He was the leader of a group of rabble-rousers who indulged in pleasures and donned flamboyant clothing. His earliest biographer, Thomas of Celano, writes in his First Life that, "until the twenty-fifth year of his age he miserably squandered and wasted his time." Celano states that Francis surpassed

all of his peers as an instigator of evil deeds and was a proud young man, given to vanity. Francis would later write of himself simply, "I lived in sin." We all have a past – saints included – and very often we are not proud of every aspect of our past. Certainly Francis of Assisi would later weep for his unfaithfulness to God, but he did not remain paralyzed by his guilt. He moved forward and allowed God to love him despite his sinful past. Each of us must learn to do the same!

"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." – Luke 9: 62

Lesson 2: God Speaks Through Our Suffering

Statues of St. Francis are often found in gardens where the concrete saint is gingerly fingering a stone dove in one hand and a basin of bird-bath-water in the other. Many movies and books about St. Francis exaggerate his fondness for nature and the beauty of creation. While there is truth in all of this, Francis' love of creation must not overshadow his love of the Crucified Christ. Francis of Assisi was a man who endured great suffering and hardship. Francis spent a year in a dark, dank cell in Perugia after being captured in battle. During this time he became very ill and was not released until his father paid his ransom. Later, upon learning of his son's desire to forsake the family business and follow Christ, his father beat him and locked him in the family basement. Later in life, Francis would suffer from a painful eye condition made worse by the barbaric treatment of the times. If all this was not enough, he would bear the stigmata, the nail marks of the Crucifixion in his hands and feet. Like Francis, we will all encounter suffering in our walk with Christ. We must never see suffering as a proof of God's absence. Rather, we must see with St. Francis of Assisi that God works through our suffering, teaching us to love, to trust, and to bear our burden with humility and patience.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." – Matthew 16: 24

Lesson 3: God Calls Us Out of Our Comfort Zones

Like every one of us, Francis of Assisi had his weaknesses. There were things and situations that made St. Francis very uncomfortable. For one, Francis had a strong aversion to lepers. The Legend of the Three Companions states that he "shuddered" at the very sight of them, hiding his eyes and holding his nose. One day, while riding horseback near Assisi, Francis encountered his nightmare: a leper was straying on the fringes of the town. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Francis dismounted and approached what he so vehemently detested, a leper. Throwing his arms around the man, Francis embraced him as a brother. He would later write that at that moment, "what was so bitter was changed into sweetness." Secondly, Francis did not have the gift of organization or natural leadership. Suddenly thrust to the head of a rapidly growing order of brothers, Francis must have felt very ill-equipped. Yet, he made do with what he had, trusting that it was God's work and not his own. Like St. Francis, God will very often call us out of our comfort zones in life. It is in such situations, where we feel inept, incompetent, and afraid, that we must rely on God to do what we cannot. It is outside of our comfort zones that conversion happens!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,

for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1: 9

Lesson 4: It’s Okay to Ease Up Sometimes

Nobody could ever accuse St. Francis of Assisi of laxity in religious observance. The man fasted for long periods, slept on the ground with a stone for a pillow and embraced a rigorous austerity. At the same time, Francis knew there were times when charity called for a moderation of his rigorous routine. One night, while all of the friars were sleeping after a day of fasting, a cry broke the night silence. “I am dying. I am dying,” called one of the friars. Francis, realizing that this man was struggling to maintain the fast, insisted that all of the brothers take something to eat. He did not want this brother marginalized or embarrassed. Like St. Francis, we too may have a very certain and clear approach as to how we are to live and the best course of action to take. Yet, there will arise situations and circumstances in which the Lord is calling us to look to the needs of another before our own, to put aside our own desires for the sake of a suffering brother or sister.

“Whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” – 1 John 4: 20

Lesson 5: It’s Okay to Feel Confused

There were periods in the life of Francis when confusion completely clouded the mind of the saint. At one

point, Francis was sure he was called to seek glory in battle and join the Crusades. After journeying only two days from Assisi in full armor, Francis received a dream in which God told him to return home. This was not his path. Later, in the crumbling ruins of the church at San Damiano, Francis was praying before an icon of Christ. Suddenly, he heard a voice: “Francis, rebuild My Church which is falling into ruin.” The young man jumped to his feet and set about collecting large stones to repair the church. A wiser man looking on might have suggested: “Francis, I don’t quite think that is what God had in mind.” Indeed, Francis would later understand that God was calling him to rebuild the church, the people of God, through the witness of a holy life. In our walk with Christ, we too will encounter periods of deep confusion and doubt. What is God asking of me? What am I to do in this situation? The Lord may feel far from our prayers for guidance. Like St. Francis, we must take a step forward in faith, full of goodwill and trusting that the God of love is guiding our steps.

“All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” – Romans 8: 28

Lesson 6: Saints Struggle with Chastity

As a priest who has the grace to hear confessions, I know that many, many people today – young and old, male and female – struggle with chastity. We live in culture that is saturated

with sexual stimulation. Whether it is the billboards, the magazine racks at the supermarket or the pop-up ads on the internet, temptations against chastity are everywhere. This is a sin which leads to a grave sense of guilt and unworthiness. We should take heart in the fact that great saints like Mary Magdalene, Augustine of Hippo, and yes, Francis of Assisi, struggled with temptations against chastity. On different occasions, when he was severely tempted, Francis of Assisi would throw himself into snow or thorn bushes. One day, feeling particularly lonely and tried, Francis built a mock family for himself out of the snow. The masters of the spiritual life advise us not to fight against a lustful thought, but instead to turn our mind immediately to some indifferent object. If its snowing outside, you just might try St. Francis' approach!

"Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body." – 1 Corinthians 6: 18

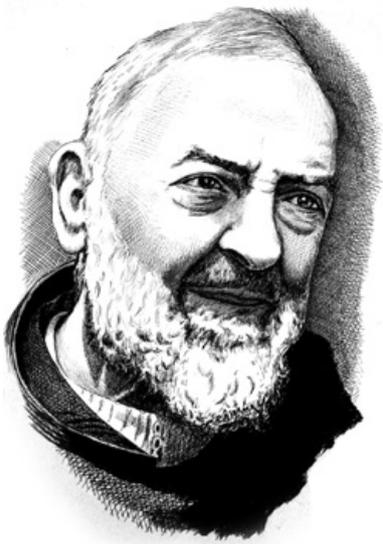
Lesson 7: Prayer is Essential

The Catechism of the Catholic, in no. 2725, states that "The spiritual battle of the Christian's new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer." Francis had discovered a God who loved him, despite his former way of life. Now, Francis wanted to respond to that love and be close to God. The only way this could happen, Francis knew,

was through prayer. Francis learned to pray through praying. As a young man very active in his social circle and learning the family trade as an aspiring cloth merchant, Francis had little time or inclination to silence and interior recollection. These were skills that Francis had to learn through dogged perseverance. Upon his conversion from his former way of life, Francis began to spend long periods in solitude in the fields of Assisi. He would withdraw into isolated caves to be alone with God. Francis was so faithful to prayer that one biographer would write of him at the end of his life: "Francis did not so much pray as he became a prayer." Like St. Francis, God is calling each one of us to a deep and personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. This relationship is realized, grows and finds its nourishment in prayer. At the beginning prayer is a struggle. In our world of instant downloads and ever-present technology, silence can seem scary. Yet, it is through persevering in silence that we will discover the God of love.

"In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God." – Luke 6: 12

*(Source: Fr. Joseph Mary Elder,
O.F.M.Cap. / capuchins.org)*



A Glimpse into the Spirituality of **ST. PADRE PIO, CAPUCHIN**

(This year we celebrate the centenary of receiving the stigmata in the life of St Padre Pio of Pietrelchina)

Perhaps the most important and pivotal centre of Padre Pio was his **spirit of prayer**. Even from the days of his youth we find him fully engrossed in prayer and devout exercises. As Jesus had advised his followers, Jn:15,7 'to make his word our home', Pio had made '*prayer his home*'. He lived in it to the full. He had become a prophet of prayer, and prayer itself. Prayer led him to contemplate the mystery of the **Eucharist**. He spent long time to prepare for the daily Eucharist. Ordinarily he used to take at least 90 minutes for the celebration of the Sacred Mystery, followed by a long period of thanksgiving.

Constant meditation and living the mystery of the Eucharist led him to a life of **suffering**. As we see in his life '*suffering had become bread for him*'. Jesus had imprinted on his body the five sacred wounds called the stigmata which made him a victim of physical and spiritual suffering. This was on August 05, 1918, in a context of mystical experience. The five wounds on his body remained

fresh till he died and vanished after death.

In St. Pio we find **obedience** as answer to all the issues and problems. In the friary he lived, he was always obedient to the guardian and also the local church. For him obedience was searching the will / design / plan of God in his life. There was no soft pedalling in this exercise. One time Pio was misunderstood, forbidden to hear confession and was confined to his cell. He remained there in obedience for three years. When everything was clarified it was revealed that Pio had done no mistake at all. Here we see the beauty of religious obedience. In the **community** of brothers, Pio used to be fully involved in recreation with his companions, and was actively involved with each one in making fun, acting a skit for entertainment etc.. During the spare time one could see Pio in the choir making a visit in the church, or in the veranda saying his rosary.

If the role of theology is to explain the word of God and **impart faith**,

Padre Pio was onewith his cotemporary theologians: Paul Tillich, Karl Bath, Teilard de Chardin, Albert Schweitzer, Rudolf Bultmann, Karl Rahner, Charles Davis and many modern theologians. Pio imparted faith to the really needy souls who flocked to him. He was really Christ centred and church oriented.

He was a martyr of the **confessional**, spending about 16 hrs. daily. Due to overcrowding, the penitents had to book in advance, and remain in hotels to get the sacramental absolution. As a councillor he had to challenge the people to be **sincere with confession**, sometimes asking one to leave the place without absolution. This only shows that he had the gift of **discernment and healing**. He had celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for more than two million people.

It was also reported that he had the gift of **bilocation** and appearing in deadly moments. During the world war-1, Italians had terrible defeat, with the loss of ¼ million men and huge quantity of ammunition. Naturally moral was very low in the Italian army and General Cadrona, the Italian army commander was blamed for the defeat. Broken down, he decided to commit suicide. He sent away his sentries... and entered his tent alone, took his revolver and pointed to his head.

Then he heard a loud voice from behind: "*Such an act is foolish*". He turned back and saw a young capuchin friar who took the revolver from him, left it aside and vanished. The

general was shocked. Time passed, and the fortune of the war changed. Army General Cadrona was promoted. Later on he met Padre Pio in the church and recognised him as the young friar who saved him...

When we look back to St Padre Pio what is most attractive is his spirituality, deeply rooted in Jesus, Church and the people.

He found **space** and **time** for his life and mission, and lived his message to the full.

As we see in the church and in her mission the traditional **space** is shrinking / diminishing. One after other the doors are being closed down, politically, socially, culturally.....A sort of globalization is setting in. We are also being dragged into it even if we do not want. Similarly **time** is another factor. When I say I have no time, it only means I am not interested in it. Hence we have to look into ourselves and discern as to find out where can we find **space and time**. We may have to be creative to deliver the message.

As missionary religious we need to discover the **Rhythm** of mission in ourselves. In our life and activities in the church we need to discover the rhythm, the vision, the goal, the dynamics, the priorities, team spirit, networking, no overlapping, communication, peace building, harmonious blending of issues, critique of the past and shaping the future etc.

Culture. In bygone days church was a carrier of culture and development. The missionaries were even the for-

bearers of reaching out to distant and remote stations. Even the government officers followed the path opened and trodden by the missionaries.

If we just look into the remote past of 50 years, only our priests had motorcycles, and later on jeeps, while the government officers did not have any conveyances. We have the examples of Italian missionaries like Frs. Lan-

frank and Pius in Meerut, Luke in Delhi, Vianny in Gorakhpur, Charles in Rajasthan, etc. These were giants in the mission. Now we have to be attuned to the local culture, discern the need of the time and people, make priorities and move ahead. There are lots to jettison and lots to take up.

P. A. Joseph



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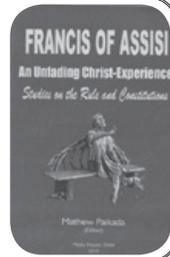
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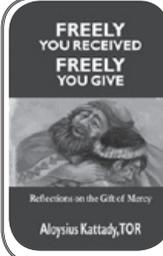


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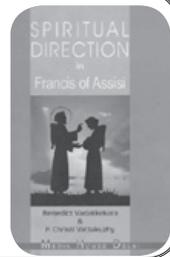


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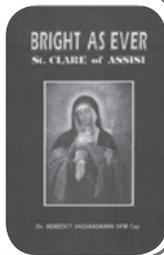
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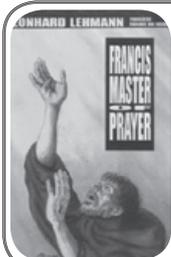
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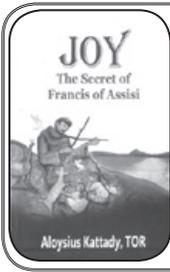
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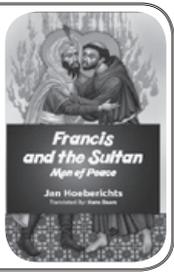
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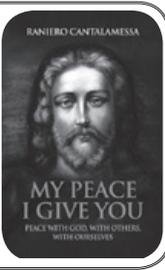
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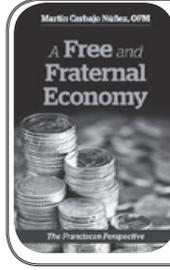
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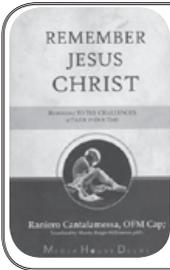
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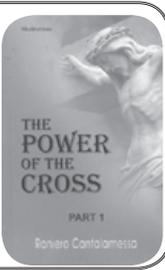
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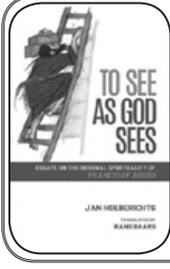
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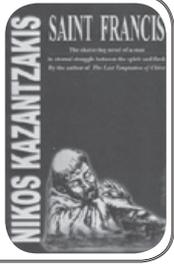
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