



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI': LIVING OUR FRANCISCAN CHARISM AUTHENTICALLY

Marking the fifth anniversary of the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, on the care of the common home, and at a time when humanity is going through one of the greatest health crises, Pope Francis has declared a special *Laudato Si'* anniversary year. The themes addressed in the encyclical take on greater importance in the current context, where social and ecological crises have become evident and acute. One need only look at the shameful inequality in access to health care in many countries.

Integral ecological conversion is one of the proposals made by the Pope in his letter, since the problems are not presented in an isolated way, but are interconnected. An integral conversion should encompass, among other things, the political, social, environmental and economic aspects. In this way, it will be possible to face the tremendous socio-environmental crisis that we are experiencing.

The [Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) calls on all humanity "to celebrate a special anniversary year of *Laudato Si'* between 21 May 2020 and 24 May 2021. "We hope that the anniversary year and the ensuing decade will indeed be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for the Earth, and for humanity, and for all God's

creatures". For this purpose, the DPIHD offers a programme highlighting the *Laudato Si'* platform of initiatives as a call to various institutions to get involved and commit themselves to a long-term plan - 7 years - as a path towards full sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.

Also, in June, the Interdicasterial Desk of the Holy See on Integral Ecology presented the document "[On the way to the care of the common home - Five years after *Laudato Si'*](#)". The text is a call to action, providing elements that will guide and contribute to bringing the plans and projects on the care of the common home to life.

These two initiatives of the Holy See encourage and challenge us as Franciscans to commit ourselves to our way of life and our mission of care and safeguarding. Furthermore, we see with joy that, with the [Laudato Si' Revolution campaign](#), promoted by the JPIC offices of the Order and of the Franciscan Family, we are in full communion and harmony with the whole Church. "As individuals, fraternities, entities and as an international order, we feel strongly challenged to make a clear and radical option in the direction of the ways of living indicated by *Laudato Si'*" (PCO/18 n. 154).

OTHER NEWS



Appointment for Collegium Sancti Bonaventurae

Br. Bill Short (Province of St. Barbara, USA) was renamed Director of the Collegium Sancti Bonaventurae and Br. Benedikt Mertens (Province of St. Elizabeth, Germany) was appointed First Vice-Director. The Collegium is located in Sant'Isidoro (Rome) and specialises in making medieval Franciscan manuscripts available to modern readers and in the publication of *Archivum Franciscanum Historicum*, a prestigious academic journal. For more information about their work: www.quaracchi.org

Albania: Franciscan parish awarded for humanitarian work

On 7 June 2020 the Franciscan Parish "San Michele" of Laç in Albania was awarded by Mr Ilir Meta, President of the Republic, with the "Mother Teresa" Medal for the commitment shown after the earthquake and during the Covid-19 pandemic: "With appreciation and great gratitude from the state for the humanitarian, material and spiritual contribution given to help the families affected by the earthquake of 26 November 2019, as an example of solidarity and human and religious kindness".

The President gave the Medal to the parish priest, Br Ndue Toplana together with Br Sokol Pepushaj. In his speech, he thanked the friars, sisters, volunteers and donors for their service during this time, not only for the material help they



offered but above all for the spiritual support they have always given to the faithful.

USA: Franciscan Magazines honoured for excellence

On 7 July 2020, Franciscan Media (Province of St John the Baptist, USA) announced that *St. Anthony Messenger* was recognised as the magazine of the year at the 2020 Catholic Press Association Awards. And the *Holy Land Review*, which supports the mission of The Holy Land Franciscans, was named Magazine of the Year-Mission Magazines.

The Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada, an association of journalists and media specialists, has more than 600 member organisations. A complete list of this year's winners is available at: Catholicpress.org.

Update: General Chapter

The General Definitory examined the responses received from the Conference Presidents and decided that the Chapter would take place in Rome, in a reduced form and, depending on the evolution of the pandemic, close to the Solemnity of Pentecost or, at the latest, in September/October 2021.

New General Delegate promonialibus

With the approval of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Br Ignacio CEJA JIMÉNEZ, Definitor General, was elected "General Delegate *promonialibus*", to replace Br Fernando MENDOZA LAGUNA, who returns under the obedience of his Minister, to the Province of Saints Peter and Paul in Mexico.



Poland: Formation Course for the Friars of the North Slavic Conference

From 28 June to 11 July, the formation course for friars preparing to take perpetual vows in the Order took place in Dursztyn, Poland.

The meeting was attended by 14 friars from four provinces of Poland and Ukraine, accompanied by their respective formators.

The central point of the course was the Eucharist and daily prayers. The brothers were able to deepen their knowledge by participating in lectures on various topics such as interpersonal communication, human maturity, religious vows (in multiple aspects), ongoing formation, missions, service in the Holy Land and family ministry.

Philippines: Pope designates oldest Franciscan Church in Quezon City as Minor Basilica

Franciscan-run Santuario de San Pedro Bautista, the oldest Church in Quezon City, has been declared a minor basilica by Pope Francis, a rare honour for a Catholic parish in the Philippines. Nationwide, there are just 17 churches that carry this designation.

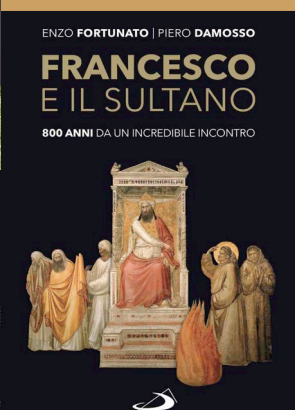
The shrine is one of the oldest churches in the country, which dates back to 1590.

The location of the Church is the same area where the parish's patron saint, San Pedro Bautista, had stayed when he was assigned in the Philippines.

St. Pedro Bautista, a Franciscan missionary and a known theologian, served in the country for ten years before he was sent to Japan where he was martyred.

Source: cbcpnews.net

FRANCISCAN BOOKMARK



ENZO FORTUNATO, PIERO DAMOSSO, *Francesco e il sultano. 800 anni da un incredibile incontro (Francis and the sultan. 800 years since an incredible encounter)*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo 2019, pp. 180.

800 YEARS AGO — The Fifth Crusade that would take the Crusaders to new territories far from Jerusalem was being fought; the clash with the Sultanate of the

Ayyubids on the Nile delta was underway, near the city of Damietta. Saint Francis of Assisi undertook a journey to Egypt as revolutionary as it was dangerous and with an uncertain outcome, to meet the Sultan al-Kamil. It was prayer that sustained him and the authentic will for peace. An event that is still full of meaning today ever relevant.

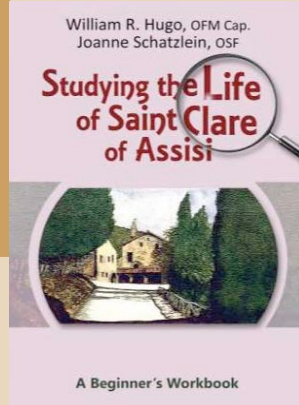
The meeting took place; the content of the dialogue is not known to us. Still, it is enough for us to understand that that encounter took place and was fruitful, demonstrating the richness that can arise from the intersection of different cultures when there is the will for openness and understanding. Here, Enzo Fortunato retraces the stages of the journey of Francis and the Franciscans, starting from that fateful journey when the Gospel encountered the Koran. Piero Damosso examines the recent steps of Christian dialogue supported by Pope Francis, Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II, leading to the decisive and fruitful declaration of Abu Dhabi on “human brotherhood” of 2019. He shows the need to rediscover, from the Franciscan example, love for our brothers and sisters, respect for other cultures in recognition of the freedom of others and the equal right to life, desired by God.

ELISABETTA LO IACONO (editor), *Frate Francesco e la spogliazione. Ieri e oggi (Brother Francis and the Renunciation. Yesterday and today)*, Edizioni Franciscane Italiane, Perugia 2019, 192 pp.

What is the meaning of renouncing ourselves in the times in which we are living? Starting from the self-emptying of Jesus Christ, from where everything originates, we retrace and analyse

the renunciation of Francis of Assisi, through a variety of readings that go beyond the historical and hagiographic sphere reaching us, with an unexpected relevance, in our daily search for meaning and confirmation in faith.

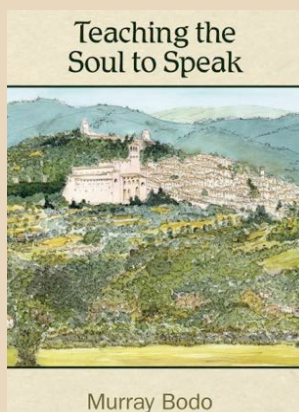
A cura di Elisabetta Lo Iacono
**FRATE FRANCESCO
E LA SPOGLIAZIONE**
Ieri e oggi



WILLIAM R. HUGO OFM CAP, JOANNE SCHATZLEIN OSF, *Studying the Life of Saint Clare of Assisi: A Beginner's Workbook (Studiare la Vita di Santa Chiara d'Assisi: una Cartella*

***di Lavoro per Principianti*), New City Press, Hyde Park 2019, 318 pp.**

This one-of-a-kind resource helps readers discover St. Clare through a series of crisp chapters that first teach them about the sources for St. Clare's life and writings and then apply that knowledge to manageable topics from her life. This workbook has been successful with high school graduates and Ph.Ds. It works for anyone who wants to do a guided study of the life of St. Clare of Assisi using primary sources. Those benefiting from this unique approach include Franciscans of all kinds, especially those in formation programmes, students of medieval or female spirituality, historians of religious life, women and men working in Franciscan ministries, former pilgrims who have visited Assisi and anyone wanting to learn how different people in the history of the Church responded to its changing circumstances. Studying the Life of St. Clare helps readers understand the Franciscan intuition in ways that move beyond St. Francis of Assisi.



MURRAY BODO OFM, *Teaching the Soul to Speak*, Tau Publishing, Phoenix 2020.

Through the book's five sections, Bodo assembles seventy-three finely tuned word-songs of body and soul in a musical exchange of lyrical intensity as he explores the complexities of one's existence, from a boy wishing to please a father during a

hunting trip to the deterioration of our planet from global warming. Bodo's poems are precise, inventive, at times pensive, and necessary.

The Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote, “A good poem induces an experience that could not be produced by any other combination of words.” This quintessential collection is such an experience for the contemporary reader.

EVENTS



THE PARDON OF ASSISI 2020

The Portiuncula is an “ever open door” for all those - pilgrims and locals - who want to draw on God’s grace through the experience of Reconciliation.

1 August 2020 will be the opening day of the Solemnity of the Pardon. As usual, Br. Michael Perry, Minister General, will preside over the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration which will end with the Procession of the “Opening of Pardon”: so-called because from that moment, that is, from 1 August at noon until midnight on 2 August, the Plenary Indulgence granted to the Portiuncula daily extends to all the parish churches throughout the world and also to all the Franciscan churches.

It will be possible to follow all the main events live through the Portiuncula’s WebTV, the free App “Fрати Assisi” and the social channels “Fрати Assisi” on Facebook and YouTube. For further information: www.assisi ofm.it

COURSES OF THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF MEDIEVAL AND FRANCISCAN STUDIES 2020-2021

The Higher School of Medieval and Franciscan Studies will launch in the coming academic year:

- Diploma of Specialisation in Medieval Studies
- Second Level University Master’s Degree in Franciscan Medieval Studies.

Classes will be held in attendance and online, Monday to Wednesday (15:15-18:35).

REGISTRATIONS: From 14 September to 16 October 2020. It is possible to enrol in individual courses.

The detailed description of the courses is available online in the Academic Yearbook 2020-2021 of the Pontifical University Antonianum: <http://www.antonianum.eu/it/orientamento/download>.



SCUOLA SUPERIORE
DI STUDI MEDIEVALI
E FRANCESCANI

VISITATOR GENERAL

for the Province of the Holy Cross,
in Brazil (Belo Horizonte)

BR. REGINALDO RÔMULO
MONTE CANTO

of the Custody of Saint Benedict
of the Amazon in Brazil

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY ONLINE COURSES

The OFM JPIC Office is offering a series of online courses on the encyclical *Laudato Si’* and Integral Ecology as part of the *Laudato Si’* Revolution. The classes are offered in four languages and open to the public to help everyone deepen their perspectives on the current ecological crises and the mission for the Christians, especially the Franciscans.

Each course consists of video lectures, reading materials, and tests for ten weeks. The English course will begin on 7 September. Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, organised the curriculum, where theologians, teachers, and activists are participating. The registrants to the course will learn about integral ecology and its implementation in terms of Franciscan perspectives, Jewish and Muslim viewpoints, ecological lifestyle, and environmental activism from diverse speakers. For more information: www.laudatosirevolution.org.

