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Greccio 2017

Br. Mauro's Christmas Greetings

Dear brothers all over the world, it's Christmas, and I want to send you my good wishes for this celebration. And I recall to you what Pope Francis said on November 23. Imagine: we were four hundred friars from the whole of the Franciscan family. The Pope spoke on minority. That we are friars, friars minor. Listen to a little of what he said:

"[I]n all certainty we can say that minority [for St. Francis] ... was born from contemplation of the incarnation of the Son of God, and is summarized in the image of making oneself small, like a seed."

Therefore, brothers, Christmas for St. Francis is the heart of his life-choice. The eternal Son of God became man, not in a palace, not surrounded by riches and ease, but did so making himself little and poor. And this is important: the Most High makes

himself the smallest, but also makes himself a seed, that is, the beginning of a new life.

My wish is that we might contemplate in the Nativity, at this feast of Christmas, something that is part of our life, our being lesser brothers. And being lesser brothers also means embracing another important phrase of Jesus: the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, to give his life. Let us imagine and seek to keep in mind how blessed it is that we are able to serve, that we can make ourselves useful to each other, not looking down from on high, but as little ones, as lesser ones.

It is in this sense, dear brothers, that I wish you, this year once again, a happy and holy Christmas.

*Br. Mauro Jöhri,
General Minister
of the Friars Minor Capuchin*



Video -
Br. Mauro's Christmas Greetings

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Advent Day of Recollection with Br. Raniero Cantalamessa



Watch! was the exhortation of Br. Raniero Cantalamessa, Capuchin and Preacher to the Papal Household, at the day of recollection he gave this past December 5. His reflection was given to the brothers of the

Capuchin General Curia for the beginning of Advent. We are happy to make available the written text and the audio (conference and homily).

Materials for download:

- [Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap – Advent 2017 – word \(Italian\)](#)
- [Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap – Advent 2017 – audio \(Italian\)](#)
- [Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap – Homily – audio \(Italian\)](#)

Marana Tha!



[Raniero Cantalamessa – Google Drive](#)



Fr. Raniero's Sermons at the Vatican



All things were created through him and for him (Col 1:16) is the theme of this year's Advent sermons of Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap., Preacher to the Papal Household. Given the calendar this year, there will be only two sermons. The meditations this Advent aim to put the person of Christ at the center, between the great realities of the cosmos and history, space and time, and humanity and the creation. The theme, Fr. Raniero explains, is motivated by how a scientific vision, "even takes Christ away from the center of the universe with one blow. He is reduced, to use the words of M. Blondel, to 'a historical incident, isolated from the cosmos as a false episode, an intruder or a lost soul in the crushing and hostile immensity of the Universe.'" The practical aim is that of putting Christ again at the 'center,' above all in our personal life and through the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.



Creation of the New Diocese of Siuna, Nicaragua

Elevation of the diocese of the Apostolic Vicariate of Bluefields; creation of the new diocese of Siuna (Nicaragua) and appointment of the first bishops.

Pope Francis has elevated the Apostolic Vicariate of Bluefields to a diocese and appointed as bishop Most Rev. Paul Schmitz, OFM Cap., until now Apostolic Vicar of the same see.

At the same time, the Pope has approved the creation of the new diocese of Siuna and has appointed

as the first bishop Most Rev. David Albin Zywiec Sidor, OFM Cap., until now auxiliary bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Bluefields.

The new diocese of Bluefields remains in the southern region, with nine civil districts, and will be a suffragan see of the metropolitan see of Managua.

The new diocese of Siuna (Siunaënsis) is located in the northern region, at least for now, with eleven civil districts. For now the



seat will be the parish church of Siuna. The new diocese will also be a suffragan see of the Archdiocese of Managua.

A New Capuchin Bishop in Japan

Vatican City. Pope Francis, after having accepted the resignation from pastoral governance of the diocese of Naha (Japan) of Most Rev. Berard Toshio Oshikawa OFM Conv., has appointed Br. Wayne Berndt, OFM Cap. as the new Bishop. Br. Wayne is currently pastor in Yonabaru. Br. Wayne Berndt, OFM Cap., was born on May 15, 1954 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, USA (diocese of Worcester). He entered the Capuchin Order in the Province of New York-New England, USA and made temporary and then perpetual religious profes-

sion on August 16, 1976 and June 28, 1980, respectively. Arriving in Japan in 1981, he first studied the Japanese language for two years in Tokyo. He was ordained priest on May 21, 1983 in Yonkers, New York.

Following ordination, Br. Wayne served in the following ministries: parochial vicar in Miyako (Naha diocese, 1983-1984), parochial vicar in Koza/Futenma/Awase (Naha diocese, 1984-1986), pastor of Futenma (Naha diocese, 1986-1997), professor at the University of the Ryukyus (Naha diocese, 1986-1998), Vice Provincial Mi-

nister (1994-2000), pastor of Kumagaya (Saitama diocese, 2000-2002), Open House migrant center (Saitama diocese, 2001-2005), pastor of Higashi Matsuyama (Saitama diocese, 2002-2005), pastor of Omiya and migrant ministry (Saitama diocese, 2005-2010), Vice Provincial Minister/Custos (2009-2014), pastor of Oruku (Naha diocese, 2010-2014). Since 2014 he has been pastor of Yonabaru (Naha diocese).

One can therefore see that the bishop-elect arrives at this new service to the Church with extensive pastoral experience. Furthermore, having been in Japan for more than thirty years, he will be well equipped by his ability in the Japanese language and his knowledge of the history, culture, and traditions of the country. The Capuchin Order is honored to have one of its sons raised to this challenging service for the glory of God and the good of the Church in Japan. All the best to the new bishop!



Elections and appointments



Custodia dell'Ecuador – elections:

- CU: fr. José Dick Ramírez Chalán
- 1C: fr. Germán Aníbal Arteaga Badillo
- 2C: fr. Darwin Francisco Orozco Orozco
- 3C: fr. Juan José Jima Lalangui
- 4C: fr. Leandro Denis Delgado Vélez

Date: 17.11.2017

Place: Casa de Espiritualidad “La Inmaculada” de Quito, Ecuador

President: fr. Benjamín Echeverría Martínez, Min. Prov. Spagna



Custodia Generale di Guatemala - Honduras - El Salvador – elections:

- CU: fr. Hugo Estuardo Quezada Foronda (confermato)
- 1C: fr. Oscar Arnoldo Méndez Santos
- 2C: fr. Jorge Humberto Aguilar Linarez
- 3C: fr. Milton Alirio Jordán Chigua
- 4C: fr. Juan Pablo Lobos Mendoza

Date: 06.12.2017

Place: Casa de Retiro Claret - Ciudad de Guatemala.

President: fr. Hugo Mejía Morales, Cons. Gen.



Custodia Generale di Nicaragua - Costa Rica – Panamá – elections:

- CU: fr. Benigno Varela Castro
- 1C: fr. Alex Sánchez Obando
- 2C: fr. Berman Bans Arce
- 3C: fr. Mauricio Monge Rivera
- 4C: fr. Amado Flores Saavedra

Date: 13.12.2017

Place: Casa de retiros Alvernia, Cartago - Costa Rica

President: fr. Štefan Kožuh, Vicario Generale



Provincia di Maranhão-Pará-Amapá, Brasile – elections:

- MP: fr. Sílvio do Socorro de Almeida Pereira
- VP: fr. José Nilton Leandro Costa
- 2C: fr. Hugo César Sousa de Oliveira
- 3C: fr. Francisco Ezequiel Páscoa da Silva
- 4C: fr. Raphael Hattyla Reis Araújo

Date: 14.12.2017

Place: Convento “Nossa Senhora Auxiliadora” Belém do Pará, Brasile

President: fr. Sergio M. Dal Moro, Consigliere Generale

Capuchin General Curia Multimedia Opportunities



1. We invite you to use the **OFMCap** mobile app. It is a free app for [Android](#), [Apple iOS](#), and [Windows](#) that lets you see the latest news on www.ofmcap.org and also makes available a full library of all the most important Capuchin documents. The app is available in Italian, English, Polish, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese.

www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv

2. Check out our **YouTube** channel at www.youtube.com/ofmcaptv. There you can find almost 200 videos that present the most important recent events of the Capuchin General Curia. A new video appears on the channel each week. We invite you to subscribe!

3. Google Plus. The various Capuchin meetings are accurately recorded photographically, such that you can see all the brothers from all over the world who participate in the various events of the Order at the international level. All the photos provided by the Capuchin General Curia are available by means of Google Plus. We invite you to visit and wish you a pleasant viewing of our photo galleries. The address is <https://plus.google.com/+UfficioComunicazioniOFMCap>

4. Are you on Twitter? So are we. Follow us at [@ofmcapdotorg](https://twitter.com/ofmcapdotorg)
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5
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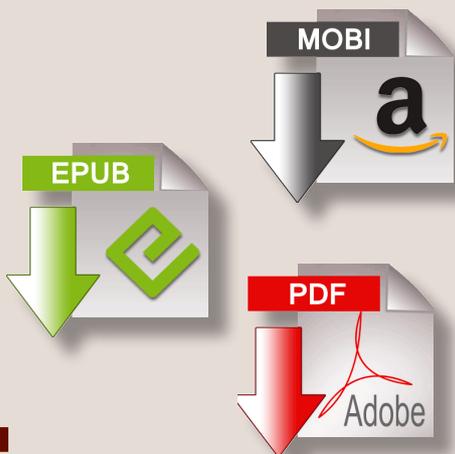
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5. The **BICI Bulletin of International Capuchin Information**: is a multimedia electronic newsletter published monthly in seven languages, containing the latest news of the life and activity of the Capuchin General Curia as well as important information on the life of the Order. The interactive elements offer a rich multimedia experience, enriching the material presented on the pages. If you are not subscribed to BICI, you can sign up in any of the seven available languages. Just go to www.bici.ofmcap.org and select the language from the box at the right, entering your name and email and then clicking subscribe. We wish you happy reading as you keep up with the news of the life of the Order.

6. **Documents of the Order in electronic format.** On the website www.ofmcap.org we have prepared a special section where you can download all the most important documents of the Order, professionally prepared in the most common electronic formats: Word, PDF, EPUB, and MOBI. You will find the Constitutions, the Plenary Councils of the Order, the letters of the general ministers, and more. All of these texts can now be read and studied by means of a smartphone, e-reader, or tablet. The documents are furnished with internal links for easy navigation. Everything can be found at www.ofmcap.org in the Documents section.

7. **Capuchin Creative Commons (CCC)** is an initiative for brothers who manage provincial and parochial websites and publications. It is a shared archive on Google Drive, where you will find a collection of high-resolution material, made available for free by our brothers and sisters for use in the creation of websites and publications. The collection is constantly updated and always growing. The material is available without having to register or sign up; all you have to do is click on the link for [Capuchin Creative Commons](#). Welcome!

8. **Capuchin Digital Archive (CDA)** is an initiative for the sharing of a single space on Google Drive where all the documents of the Order are available in a professional digitized version. Thanks to this project, it is possible to download all the documents in the most common formats: Word, PDF, EPUB, and MOBI. The collection currently contains 1,600 files and is always growing. We invite you to use the material available. Just click on the link [Capuchin Digital Archive](#).



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