St. Dominic bequeathed to his Order a system of community governance based on chapters that promote the mission of the Order and its renewal (Fundamental Constitution §7). Within this system of community government, the General Chapter has ultimate authority.

For this reason, to celebrate the eighth centenary of the Order is also to celebrate a tradition of several centuries of community and democratic government. For example, in 1916, when it was almost impossible to celebrate the seventh centenary of the Order because of the First World War, the Master of the Order, Blessed Hyacinth Mary Cormier, despite the difficulties, decided to convene the General Chapter in Fribourg (Switzerland), where Fr. Ludwig Theissling was elected as his successor. Brothers coming from different countries faced with the war gathered in the chapter to bear witness to the communion and the unanimity of the Order.

The General Chapter of Provincials that will be held during the summer of 2016 has a very special place among the celebrations for the Jubilee. The place chosen for the chapter also has a special meaning: The “Patriarchal” Convent of Bologna preserves the remains of our Father Saint Dominic.

- **Men in White – the Friars visit the Pope**

  **Day X / 4 of August**

  What an eventful day, the 4th of August! The General Chapter culminated in a papal audience and in the feast of St. Dominic, which in Bologna is celebrated by tradition on this day. In 1216, Pope Honorius III confirmed the Order of the Preachers and yesterday, Pope Francis thanked the friars for their 800 years long service to the Church.
The day began rather early. In Bologna, at 5.50 am the sun had not yet risen, but, the Capitular Fathers and your Chronicler were outside the Basilica, boarding the buses which would carry us to the train station. So began our journey to visit His Holiness Pope Francis in Rome.

To wake at such an early hour was not the only feat that our Dominican Friars had to accomplish. No less an achievement was to wear our habits “in nota ordinis” (i.e. with mantel and hood) under the raging Italian sun, which kept us company from Bologna to Rome and back.

At 6.40 we were taking our seats on the “Red Arrow”, the not-so-terribly-slow Italian train, leaving Bologna and heading to Rome. The friars could enjoy the air-conditioning, take the opportunity for a short nap or for a brotherly chat or for praying the rosary. In Rome, the day would become very hectic.

At 9.00 we were outside the train station “Roma Termini” boarding the buses, which would carry us to the Vatican. Since were escorted by the Vatican Police, we were able to pass through the traffic jams and reach our destination with speed. We arrived exactly on time. And so did Pope Francis.

At 10.15 His Holiness Pope Francis addressed us, while we were sweating under our nota ordinis. Your industrious Media & Communication Team provided some live-tweeting and the rest of the friars snatched pictures with their smart phones.

Fr. Bruno briefly addressed the Pope, recalling the main outcomes of our General Chapter.

Then, his Holiness stood up and spoke.

The Pope reminded us that the Preacher is a contemplative of the Word, because “without a deep personal union with Him, preaching may be very perfect, very rational, even admirable, but it will never touch the heart, which is what must change”. When we preach – he underlined – we should remove our shoes, as Moses did in front of the fire, because both the Word that we say and those who are listening to us are holy ground and, therefore, they deserve a deep respect. Pope Francis urged us to be Preachers of truth and mercy, making every effort to give an answer to those who are thirsting for a Word of life. They are the living body of Christ and in meeting them we rediscover of the passion for preaching. His Holiness concluded his speech inviting us to keep in mind these people, as we revise our constitutions.

And everybody promised in his heart that he would do so, whether at the General or next Provincial Chapter.

After his speech, each of us had the chance to greet him personally. With great emotion even I approached the bishop of Rome, introduced myself and asked him for a special prayer, whose content shall remain private.

At 12.00 all mantels, hoods and habits were in our bags, while we were eating and drinking, amazed by the imperial sight of Rome, which you can enjoy from Santa Sabina.

At 15.30 all were sitting and snoozing again in a “Red Arrow” on our way back to Bologna, apart from your Chronicler, who was writing what you are reading right now.

At 18.00 almost everybody was taking a shower.

At 19.30 We were ready for a very solemn Mass with Bishop Matteo Zuppi. Just to be sure, although everybody had the time to take a shower, large amount of incense was used to give a fresh fragrance to the Church.

At 20.30 There was a large buffet for Capitulars and friends and the exhausted Fathers made a last effort to celebrate together the feast of St Dominic and the achievement of the General Chapter.

The Chronicler
As you might expect from Italians, the organization of the General Chapter has been almost spotless. Even the small complications encountered by the brothers have an upside if you look for it. For example, the weather is so hot and humid that the Capitular Fathers wear shorts and T-shirts. Sometimes the internet-speed is slow, but this allows you some extra-time to think about what you are writing (and no... I don't have a superfast connection). There is almost too much pasta to eat, but it will last you until your next journey to the Bel Paese. Definitively #Bologna2016 is an organizational success.

Behind every successful General Chapter there is an efficient General Secretary. And this is the case with #Bologna2016 and its Secretary, Fr. Roberto Giorgis. He studied in Fribourg, has extensive experience as a conventual Prior and took part in the General Chapter in Trogir. Even his degree in Psychology can help the Capitulars with managing conflicts and bearing stressful situations. He is bald and bold, thin and clever. He does cycling, trekking, swimming, jogging and drinks a lot of coffee – but only during General Chapters.

When you have a problem, Fr. Roberto is the man to go to. Is the microphone not working? Ask Roberto! Do you want reimbursing for your travel expenses? Ask Roberto! Has the clean laundry not been delivered yet? Ask Roberto! You are not sure about the correct proceedings for a plenary session? Do you need a dentist? Are you late for your airplane? Ask Roberto!

Indeed, an assembly of a hundred Dominicans requires a lot of planning and work. Undoubtedly, the most important side of his job is coordinating all the participants in the Chapter. Many decisions have to be taken, such as where to meet, to sleep and to eat, or who does what task (cleaning, photocopying, making coffee, taxi driver, media relations, payments...) and when. He attends the plenary sessions and writes the minutes. He is member of the steering committee, which plans the next day’s schedule. He spends the rest of the day in the office doing paperwork and spends the rest of the night doing the same. At the end of proceedings, he is the one who produces the Acts, which the Chapter approves and the Master of the Order validates.

After three weeks of work like that, even a man like Fr. Roberto needs a very long rest in a very peaceful priory, where the climate is pleasant and the prayers well sung. So, if your priory is a suitable destination, step forward! Fr. Roberto deserves it.

Your devoted Chronicler would like to conclude his Chronicle thanking you, my patient Reader, for your kind attention and wishing all the best to the next General Chapter Secretary. May God help him, whoever he will be.

Ps. Dear next General Chapter Secretary, if you need any advice on how to organize a General Chapter, ask Roberto!

The Chronicler

**WYD with the Dominicans in Krakow**

Naturally, one would imagine that the official programme of activities for the World Youth Day would be extensive and busy enough, that planning any “side events” in addition to that would be a fruitless venture. Apart from the official activities of the WYD, there were other side events all over the city of Krakow hosted by different church and state organizations.

In addition to all these, the Dominicans friars of the Convent of Krakow planned an extensive programme of events to run concurrently with all these other events. This would sound competitive but far from it. The friars organized their programme with a unique Dominican character as a complement to the general programme of the WYD. It was tagged “WYD with the Dominicans”.

Indeed, the success of their programme could be measured, among other things, by the amount of visitors they had on a daily basis throughout the time of the WYD. Apart from the large number of Dominican friars from different parts of the world who lodged in their convent, people kept trooping in and out of their church and convent, the young and the old alike from different parts of the world.
What did the friars offer the crowd that kept them coming?

First, the friars brought the reliquary of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (an Italian Dominican layman) to their church for veneration. That was a key attraction because Blessed Frassati is associated with the young and particularly the WYD 2016.

Second, to accompany this, the friars opened a café tagged “Frassati Café” where they offered free coffee, tea, snacks and a place to relax and chat. This was another major attraction and complementary to the first. They did not only provide food for the soul but also food for the body. To enable them do this, the friars threw open their convent garden (which is usually private) to all who came.

Third, on a daily basis, the friars had different liturgical activities beginning with Morning Prayer, Mass at noon and Evening Prayer. Their church was filled each time and they had an average of 50 priests concelebrating at each Mass. The highlight of the liturgical celebrations was the “Vigil of the Dominican Saints” led by the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré. It was a night of adoration, prayer, worship, testimony and teachings on the life of Dominican saints beginning with St Dominic himself. Outside, a movie on the history of the Order was projected on the walls of the convent.

Finally, throughout the WYD celebrations, the Dominican convent and church remained a major spot of attraction for many and the friars themselves where at hand to welcome all who came, offering them tours of their convent and narratives of the history of the Order in general and the Order in Poland in particular. Fr Bruno Cadoré testified to this:

Apart from all these, the friars were also involved in the planning of the WYD at different levels. For instance, fr Dawid Kusz was not only the conductor of the official choir of the WYD, he also played a major role in the composition of the official hymn of the event.

The ingenuity of the friars in planning such a wonderful programme, their sacrifice and their unreserved availability to the people was amazing. Indeed, the people came, they saw and they were happy and satisfied and that made me proud to be a Dominican at the WYD Krakow 2016.

• The Industrious Media & Communication Team
General Chapter Chronicle 8 - Day n°20 - 08/02
Dear Reader,
Please accept the apologies of your dedicated Chronicler for not having been able to write a detailed account of the last day of the Chapter’s work. I had to attend to that small, industrious, band of Frenchmen, the Media & Communication Team. Led by the statuesque fr. Eric, they are making use of every technological trick and modern device to film and give you, revered Reader, the most direct and realistic sense of the Chapter's daily life. No high-tech innovation is spared for this valuable purpose.

So, the night before last we went out to show how outgoing, easy-going and “around going” Dominicans still are. We spent all night strolling through neighbourhoods of uncertain renown, but even with St. Dominic's intercession, we were not able to shoot a single scene worthy of being shown to the general public, for no other reason than bad image quality.

Yesterday morning, I had to get up no later than 5.40 am, in order to be ready in the sacristy of the Patriarchal Priory of St. Dominic in Bologna at 6.20. It had been planned that I wear a secret camera hidden under my habit to film the Holy Liturgy from a very peculiar perspective. But, mercifully for me, our cameraman only descended from his room at 7.45, fifteen minutes after the end of the Mass!

In the afternoon a large group of lay Dominicans gathered for an interview by our energetic crew, eagerly waiting to explain the beauty and significance of their vocation to the whole Church. And their expectations were almost exactly met. The Media & Communication team turned up at the apartment of the generous lay
woman hosting the pious assembly and recorded them having a cup of tea with butter cookies. Yet, typically, after ten minutes the team had already moved on to film another scene.

I reached the end of the day exhausted. But my work was not yet complete. They still had to film the austere cell of your devoted Chronicler (who had removed beforehand every single item that a viewer would not think fit for a friar's cell, such as a poster of a famous rock band and the opera omnia of Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche).

The results of this enthusiastic work are for you to judge. For my part, I do not presume to understand it. I still prefer the classical movies of Carl Theodore Dreyer and, when I have the urge to misbehave a little bit, I watch them in fast forward.

Your Chronicler

• Three Men in a Booth

General Chapter Chronicle 7 - Day n°18 - 07/31

In the large 16th century salon where the Capitular Fathers meet there are three small blue booths. The first is for English, the second is for French and the third is for Spanish. Inside the booths there are two very comfortable stools and a shelf with two headphones, two microphones and a fan. This is the work place of our interpreters.

Their job is to translate orally every word which is said in the plenary sessions and sometimes within the working groups as well. Besides proofreading and translating the Chronicle you are reading, this is probably the toughest job in the Chapter, so I've decided to interview two of them (making me the third of 'three men in a booth'). The first is Matthew, who is English, translates from French and was ordained priest just a week before #Bologna2016. This is his first time as an interpreter for a General Chapter. The second is Carlos, an Argentinian who translates from English to Spanish and works as a chaplain in a school. He has been an interpreter for five Chapters.

Do you understand everything that is said?

Carlos: Almost.

And if you don't understand?

Matthew: You just have to listen as carefully as possible, to think about what the Capitulars are saying and not just the words they use. If they speak too fast or mumble, we bang on the window of the booths and they will be asked to slow down. If we don't know the word or phrase they are using, there is no immediate solution. You just have to look it up and learn it for the next time.

Carlos: When we miss something, we just pause and hope it is not too important.

For how long can you keep translating?

Carlos: We can go on for however long the session lasts, because usually one friar is not speaking all the time in the same language. There are different interventions. So you translate for a bit until the languages change, giving you a rest.

Matthew: We have a rule of thumb, which is 45 minutes on and then at least 15 minutes off.

Is there special training for interpreters?

Carlos: For the Chapter of Providence there was a call for volunteers to work as interpreter. The only requirement was knowing two languages well. We had a hard time translating quickly from one to another, even though we could speak the two languages well separately. We just did what we could and apparently it was good enough.

Matthew: I've noticed a rapid improvement after one or two days of doing it, just tuning in to what they say. First, I had to turn the volume high on my headphones, so that I could hear them very clearly. But then, I have learned quickly to stay with their line of thought, trying to understand what they say, so that I could use more natural English.
It is very tempting to use direct equivalents that may sound a little bit Latin, for example between English, French and Spanish. But normally English would naturally avoid many of those words. A famous example from this Chapter seems to be “restructuration”, which first of all I translated as “restructuration”, but in fact “restructuring” is more correct.

I guess you don't have time to be bored.

Matthew: There is one thing I'm hoping to find time for: I am told there is a tradition of English language interpreters, when they get to the more boring speeches, of providing the results from the cricket test matches. I haven't yet been able to do it, but maybe the time will come.

...I couldn't think of anything more boring than cricket!

Carlos: As interpreters we are supposed to translate only what we hear and not make personal remarks, but I am told that one of the group, every now and then, when somebody is going on and on and is boring, simply stops and says: “Oh, he isn't saying anything important”.

Will this be the last time you are interpreting for a General Chapter?

Carlos: You never know!

Matthew: I hope not! Besides the actual work, which in itself can be incredibly interesting – sometimes – it's just wonderful to be with the brethren and the rest of the Dominican family. It's an amazing thing.

Matthew Jarvis is 29 yrs old. Studied Church history. Has a special devotion to the Dominican saint: Bl. Diane d'Andalò, after whom his mother is named.

Carlos Izaguirre is 56 yrs old. Studied Sacred Scriptures. Has a special devotion to the Dominican saint: Bl. Imelda Lambertini, after whom his sister is named.

The Chronicler

● A day in the life of a Capitular

General Chapter Chronicle 6 - Day n°16 - 07/29

If you think that a General Chapter is boring, you are wrong. Fr. Martin Ganeri explains why in the following interview.

Fr. Martin is the Provincial of England and Scotland. He studies Classical Indian Religions, Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Sacred Scriptures. He's currently reading a historical book about Caesar Augustus. He's a member of the General Chapter Commission for Restructuring and Collaboration. His favorite Italian dish is “Zuppa inglese” (English soup)... and by the way, in England it is known as Italian cream!

How does a day in the life of a Capitular Father looks like?

Every day has the same structure. We start off with lauds and mass at 7.00, followed by breakfast, of course. And then we begin the day's work at 9.00. We have four sessions of work. From 9.00 to 10.30, from 11.00 to 13.00, from 15.30 to 17.00 and then from 17.30 to 19.00. We finish the day with vespers at 19.30 and then dinner at 20.00.

Some of the sessions are plenary. That is when all the capitulars come together to discuss topics in common. The other sessions we work in commissions into which all the capitulars are divided as a member of one commission. The commissions who want to hear what the Chapter as a whole has to say on certain topics are allowed to raise questions.

Towards the end of the process, when the work of the commissions has been done and they have produced a document, each of these documents are discussed in the plenary sessions and then the Chapter will vote either to accept or reject them or will suggest amendments.
It sounds very boring...
No! for me it's fascinating! It is the first time I have come to a General Chapter. I was only elected Provincial 3 months ago, so it's a very new experience. It is a very wonderful experience to meet the Dominicans from all over the world.

At the same time, it is hard work: all committee work, you know, has its frustrating moments, because you are trying to listen to a variety of opinions and to reconcile them. That is quite a challenge. I think all the Dominicans find it hard work to be together in this way for three weeks.

But I also think that you can see how the work of the Chapter takes shape as you go on. You start off with a set of topics to discuss and, indeed, there is a long period of discussion in order to produce a document to become a law of the Order. Then it's introduced to be discussed by everyone and eventually becomes the law. You can see that there is real progress over the days and weeks. And that is what makes it exciting.

Do you allow yourself distractions during your work?
I have kept listening, partly because I have been the secretary of my commission... so I have to take notes.

The type of democratic governance that we have in the Order is one in which we have lots of discussions. It is a matter of humility and of penance: humility, to know that you don't always get what you want done, and penance, in that you do what you may not find all that interesting or agreeable.

What you do in your free time?
Free time? What free time? We have no free time!
Capitulars and student friars are the same, then!
The Chronicler

● Celebrating a General Chapter

General Chapter Chronicle 5 - Day n°11 - 07/25
Dear Reader,
You may have wondered if there are any similarities between World Youth Day in #Krakow2016 and the Dominican General Chapter of #Bologna2016? Certainly, one of them is the challenge of translating the many languages. In the case of documentary material this is easily done through the help of our tireless and competent translators, whose work you will have seen if you have visited our website or, in the case of WYD, that of the Polish Friars Preachers.

But what about the Liturgy?
During the Chapter, the Liturgy is celebrated in three languages in turn. One day it is in English, the next in French and finally in Spanish, before the cycle begins again. So far so good. However, not everybody knows all three languages and rely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to follow the common prayers. Indeed, this special grace was bestowed upon Peter and the Apostles at Pentecost to enable them to speak to and to be understood by people from every nation. The same gift was granted to Dominic who once preached in German.

Our General Chapter has the gift of Fr. Max Cappabianca.
Fr. Max has a German tongue, an Italian name and a Spanish beard. In addition, he talks and sings in a great number of languages, ancient and modern. He works day and night to write, print and distribute books and leaflets in all the three official languages of the Order, so that a small Pentecost can occur for all the 114 participants in the Chapter.

Liturgy does not consist only of words, but gestures too. But in this respect there are even more traditions and customs than languages among the friars; as many as there are Dominican provinces. But do not worry: each Capitular Father is guided by Fr. Daniele Drago through every step of the Liturgy.

Fr. Daniele has Italian blood, French savoir faire and a British thoroughness. Merely by blinking his eyes or raising his eyebrows he directs his acolytes to work like clockwork so that every celebration runs smoothly,
solemnly and with dignity. The only one who occasionally goes astray is the deacon, who – being also your Chronicler – has to overcome the distraction of thinking about his next Chronicle and instead concentrate on the Mass.

There is a third ingredient which must be added to the Liturgy. Sacred art, which shapes the environment where the faithful gather, blends liturgical words and actions into a single divine experience delighting all the senses. For this purpose, the Basilica of St. Dominic provides a setting of great beauty: the marvellous wooden choir carved by Fr. Damiano in the XVI century. Every stall of the choir portrays a scene from the Old or the New Testament, so that you may choose your place according to your favourite book of the Bible.

Giving a more detailed description would detract from the pleasure of discovering it for yourself. So come to Bologna and visit the home of St. Dominic as soon as the Chapter is finished!

The Chronicler

• The Concert

General Chapter Chronicle 4 - Day n°8 - 07/23
The first week at the #Bologna2016 General Chapter concluded, fathers and collaborators alike are already choosing their destinations for a day out on Sunday. But by Friday evening they were in need of relaxation. For this reason, the second-to-none organization of the General Chapter offered the tired friars and all the local friends of St. Dominic a great concert of sparkling classical music.

The Dominican priory of Bologna has three cloisters. The biggest one is now part of a police station and is used as a parking lot. It is called “Cloister Terribilia”, after the nickname of its architect, who used to adorn his buildings with terribilia, i.e. fantastic figures. The smallest cloister used to be the priory graveyard and has now become home for an ever-growing family of turtles. Unfortunately, an industrious prior removed its colonnade and all that has survived is a cross made of stone and three cypresses.

The most ancient and magnificent cloister dates back to the XIV century. It has been renovated several times, but you can still notice some original features, such as frescoes and, now walled-up, doors and windows. Every space which is important to Dominican everyday life looks onto this cloister: the theological and philosophical faculty, the refectory, the ancient chapter and St. Dominic's chapel.

There is nothing more fitting than the harmony of sounds—high and low, treble and bass—to represent how Dominican unity is formed from a colourful variety of theological backgrounds, liturgical sensibilities and pastoral strategies (and favourite football teams). The Preachers' melody is heard across time and space and brings together men and women, saints in heaven and friars on earth. Yes, to be Dominican is to live the unity of the Church in every possible dimension!

The delightful music of Johann Sebastian Bach and Modest Mussorgsky echoed through the vaults of the cloister where the famous canon law scholars of Bologna were once buried in the hope that proximity to the friars and their high-valued prayers would make up for their debauched life. We can imagine that the sweet musical notes reached the ears of St. Dominic, whose chapel is found on one side of the cloister, as well as those of the friars at peace in the underlying crypt.

To soothe the dead and to revive the living, the program offered pieces which called to mind the resurrection (Bach's “Herr Gott, nun schleuß den Himmel auf”) or the quiet life of the catacombs (Mussorgsky’s “Con mortuis in lingua mortua”). Mrs. Bertoglio, a graceful and sensitive pianist, also played some music for dancing to satisfy the most restless friars. The fathers really enjoyed “The Hut on Chicken's Legs” and especially “The Ballet of the Chicks in their Shells” from Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition”.

The concert revived the venerable Capitular Fathers and its “gran finale” was greeted with a deafening ovation, which woke up your Chronicler, who had been snoring under his sheets.

The Chronicler
● When Dominic meets Don Camillo

*General Chapter Chronicle 3 - Day n°4 - 07/18*

“The General Chapter is an exercise in being a community. It is healthy training for both your Order and the whole city of Bologna”. This was the main message delivered by Matteo Zuppi, Archbishop of Bologna, to the Capitular Fathers.

Born in 1955, ordained priest in 1981 and named auxiliary bishop of Rome in 2002, Matteo Zuppi is a real personality. As a chaplain of the Community of Sant'Egidio, a Catholic lay association dedicated to inter-religious dialogue and ecumenism, he helped the peace negotiations in Mozambique and thus was awarded with the honorary citizenship of this African country. In 2015 he was appointed bishop of Bologna and instantly began by visiting every inch of his diocese. A year after his appointment, there is no parish, no association, no prayer group, no priory or convent which has not seen him visit a couple of times at least. He did not just call for a rise in solidarity and friendship towards the poor and the refugees, but he is ensuring that the Church of Bologna can provide even more housing for the homeless than she does now.

Bishop Matteo addressed the faithful and the friars first at Vespers and then during a private meeting with the Capitular Fathers. He sketched out his vision for the future to the Preachers. Like the Hebrews led by Moses – he said – we are about to cross the Red Sea. We should not wait for the waters to be divided to begin our journey towards the Promised Land. We should not expect – he stressed – that God will solve each and every one of our problems. Let us begin our peregrination right now without being afraid of wetting our feet. Only at this point will things work and we will be able to see wonders.

In his diocese there are 400 parishes for 360 priests and many of them are over 70 years old. This is the dire situation of the local Church, but he did not complain about it. The solution – he suggested – cannot be simply aggregating parishes according to the number of priests. Being a parish priest has become a juggling act: if too many balls are juggled, inevitably some will fall! On the contrary, from a spiritual point of view sometimes small parishes are really effective because they are like families: the parishioners know their priest well. Such parishes are living a real life of Christian community, abounding in love and mutual care, whereas vast territorial units are like supermarkets where people are strangers to one another.

The way forward is the greater involvement of the laity in the life of the Church. Moreover, the bishop intends to foster the commitment of his diocese to develop “cult and culture” along the lines already set by his great predecessors. In this way, the Dominican presence in Bologna is crucial not only for the concrete help the friars are giving to secular priests in celebrating the sacraments, but also for their cultural engagement.

Finally, he recalled that Pope Francis asked the intercession of three people: St. Francis, St. Philip Neri and Don Camillo, a popular comedy character from the 50’s. Don Camillo is an example of a priest capable of knowing and being with all the people and of praying to God at the same time. Bishop Matteo invited the Friars Preachers to do like Don Camillo: be with the people and pray to God.

At this point, every Dominican in the room thought: “That is exactly my vocation!” In the Dominican tradition we are used to expressing this with a single motto: “To contemplate and to hand on to others the fruit of contemplation”. Indeed, both Dominic and Don Camillo talked to the people, especially to those who opposed the faith, and they were talking confidentially to God as well – one of them quite literally.

● When Dominic meets Francis

*General Chapter Chronicle 2*

It might seem a daunting task to preach to the Order of Preachers; but not for the Minister General of the Friars Minor, fr. Michael Perry OFM, who confidently addressed the venerable assembly of the Dominican superiors.

So began the Retreat Day at the General Chapter in Bologna. Most of the Capitular fathers spent this restful time in their air-conditioned cells with wi-fi connection. Some strolled around the medieval city meditating on the beauty of the palaces, seeking a moment of spiritual refreshment in a silent church or tasting an exquisite Italian gelato.
In his conferences, Fr. Michael recalled the life of St Francis in great detail and praised his virtues, frequently mentioning his conviction that St Dominic showed the same sanctity. Both followed the inspiration of the one Holy Spirit, after all. Fr. Michael stressed the faithfulness of Francis to the Gospel without being attached to its letter. He gave as an example the fact that Franciscans wear a cord around their waist, even though Jesus let his disciples keep their belt (as, it may be said in passing, Dominicans do) when he had sent them out without copper, bag or staff.

St Francis chose to go to the margins of society, sharing the life of peasants, living like a bird in the sky and like the flowers in the meadows. Quoting St Bonaventure, with whom St Thomas Aquinas was said to be friends, fr. Michael said that religious men and women should “push into the darkness of humanity to bring each and every person into the fullness of life”.

Fr. Michael concluded his conferences remarking that St. Francis did not feel the need to study the Scriptures very closely, since he only needed to know Christ, poor and crucified. At this point many Dominican student friars were seen to nod.

To seal once again the ongoing fraternity between Dominicans and Franciscans, fr. Bruno Cadoré gave fr Michael Perry a fine printed picture of Dominic and Francis embracing each other. Fr. Michael returned the gesture with a magnificent icon, also of Dominic and Francis embracing. Finally, fr. Michael and fr. Bruno themselves exchanged this holy kiss of peace, before all retired into the priory to enjoy some refreshing watermelon, rejoicing in their unique, Dominican vocation.

The Chronicler

• **Every step Dominic took**
  
  *General Chapter Chronicle 1. Day 1 – 16/07 - The Candlelight Procession*
  
  The view from the hills over Bologna is always charming, especially on a Friday evening. The winds had swept all the clouds and the humid fog of the summer away. The air was clean and crystal clear, exactly as the medieval air which should have helped our father Dominic. But, alas, he was about to die!

  His brethren climbed up to the top of Colle dell'Osservanza (the Observation Hill), where Dominic was guest of the local Benedictine abbey, to carry him down to his dear priory on their shoulders. If he had to depart, then it should happen in the company of his spiritual sons, the friars preachers.

  This time the steep ascent to the Osservanza has been much more comfortable due to the help of some buses, which carried the heavy load of about 150 brothers and sisters, the young and the old, big and small alike. Among them were the capitulars friars and the young #thewalkingdomain friars and sisters, who were concluding their long pilgrimage by following the steps of the very last journey of Dominic.

  At the top of the hill, at sunset, the Dominicans gathered to chant some ancient traditional hymns and those of Taizé, to read the legends of the Order and to listen to an historical account given by a local guide. Then, fr Bruno, Master of the Order, gave a short encouraging speech. Candles covered with papers were lit, and the Dominican group began its descent, slower or faster according to the slope and their pace.

  The rite was concluded with Compline at the tomb of our Blessed Father St Dominic. Afterwards the friars went to sleep, except those who visited the pubs of Bologna looking for a beer or an inn-keeper to convert, preferably both.

  The Chronicler

• **IDYM International Meeting and Assembly 2016**
  
  *16 – 24 July 2016 at Toulouse, France*
  
  IDYM International Meeting and Assembly 2016
  Members of the International Dominican Youth Movement (IDYM) are gathering in Toulouse for their international meeting and assembly of representatives.
They are gathering within the Jubilee Year of the Order to celebrate an 800 years old heritage. This will be a special moment for Dominican youths who are continuously inspired by the footprints of our father St Dominic. They intend to celebrate their history and with hope and optimism, look to the future of their mission of evangelization.

The gathering is taking place at an important place in the history of St Dominic and the origin of the Order. In the course of their meeting, the members intend to visit places of important historical significance to the Order in Toulouse and the Monastery of Dominican Nuns in Prouilhe – the first monastery of the Order.

There will be presentations on the activities of the Movement from different parts of the world, as well as various cultural expressions. This is open to all members of the Movement and other youth groups with Dominican Charisms from all parts of the world. For the Assembly of Representatives, only registered leaders or representatives from each country will participate.

The Movements looks forward to an enriching experience of encounter among the young people, most especially a unique experience of Christ in the likeness of St Dominic.

- **Jubilee 2016 - The Annunciation, in the footsteps of Saint Dominic**
  
  Homily preached in the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes July 6, 2016 on the occasion of the Jubilee pilgrimage of young Dominicans.

  Brothers and sisters,

  I am sure you will admit with me that there is something a little bit strange in this stop in Lourdes, at the beginning of your pilgrimage. You are "in the footsteps of St. Dominic" and Our Father saint Dominic has never set a foot here!

  Amazing, isn’t it?
  Is this stop a stop like the others?
  I am convinced of the opposite.

  You have come to Lourdes because over 150 years ago, a child has seen something, "Aquero", in a grotto just under this church, the first to be built, where we find ourselves at this very moment. And this child will guide our pilgrimage today. Not only today, but every day of your life.

  Bernadette is somehow a new Moses, by the River Gave, sent to her stiff-necked people.

  Like Moses, she made a detour to see a strange phenomenon. You have done the same and your pilgrimage will become more Dominican

  Like Moses, she will take off her shoes for the place where she is standing is a holy ground. Lourdes is a piece of heaven that fell on the earth.

  Like Moses, she will find the burning bush. For Bernadette, the burning bush is Mary, the one that bears the one who bears the world, who is like a blazing fire, and does do not consume her.

  Like Moses, she will cross the streams smoothly and without even feeling the cold of the water, as she said, at the end of the first apparition.

  Bernadette looks at us and invites us to enter into the Grotto.

  She is a sign for us because we have to be signs in our world. Signs of contradiction. You heard perfectly: signs of contradiction, not spirits of contradiction.

  So, let’s enter into the grotto of Massabielle.
And the Lord loves grottos: that of the Annunciation in Nazareth, that of the Nativity in Bethlehem, that of Lourdes, certainly. He loves grottos because there you find his mother, because they are a place, sometimes inhospitable certainly, where something intimate is to be found and lived.

Today, in Lourdes, we hear the story of the Annunciation. An exchange that took place in a grotto that will join another grotto, that of our heart. This one is not in the innermost parts of the earth, it is inside us. If only we could find Mary there!

It is no coincidence, brothers and sisters, that you stopped in Lourdes.

Bernadette welcomes you and she will show you Mary.

Our Lady—you may not know—is not a detail among others of the Dominican spirituality. She was loved passionately by Our Father Dominic. Why should his sons and daughters love her differently? Always remember she is not the "cherry on the top" of the Dominican cake. We don’t have to talk about her because we have to, or because it's nice, or—even worse—to have a clear conscience! It is just a matter of love.

Here today, in Lourdes, she will deliver a message to you. On the banks of the River Gave, she becomes Mistress of religious life, of our religious life, whether it is young... or a little bit older.

In a few moments, when you go and visit her in the grotto—but also every day of your life—entrust her your religious life.

Entrust your obedience to the one that answers to the angel: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." Entrust your chastity to this virgin of Nazareth. Entrust your poverty to the one that leaves everything, even what she is, to do the will of the Father. Take Mary as a traveling companion every day. Some will understand. Others will not... even in the Order! Never mind.

As Bernadette said to unbelievers: "I was asked to tell you... not to make you believe."

Mary is the Queen of the most holy Rosary.
She is the patroness of our Order.
You will never love her too much.
Amen.
Fr. Louis-Marie ARÍÑO-DURAND, o.p.

**Neo-Pentecostalism and the Civil Society: Impacts and\ or Complicities**

*Jubilee Congress, 26 to 30 September 2016 at Cachoeira de Campo – MG, Brazil.*

Neo-Pentecostalism and the Civil Society: Impacts and/or Complicities

Pentecostalism is an offshoot of Protestantism and a religious dimension which, among other concepts, is centered on a unique experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It considers the belief in the Holy Spirit and its manifestations as something greater than other established religious practices.

In Brazil, we live with a multitude of Neo-Pentecostal churches, each one with its own mission and proposal, aiming to achieve a "target" not always clear or well defined. Parallel to all these panorama, we have the religious practices of African origin, that came to Brazil during the era of slavery and now coloured by its unique Brazilian components.

Discussing these dynamics is the main objective of this Congress, inserted into the celebrations of the Jubilee of the 800 years of the foundation of the Order of Preachers. How do we preach in the current Brazilian society marked by religious pluralism of different trends? What are the characteristics and constitutive nature of the Brazilian neo-Pentecostalism? How do we communicate Christ and his saving and liberating message in this complex context? These are questions that will guide our discussions during this event.
The Congress will take place from 26 to 30 September 2016 at Cachoeira de Campo, MG, Brazil.

Presenters:

Frei Betto, OP (Carlos Alberto Libânio Christo) – A great exponent of Liberation Theology, active in various social movements and academic and cultural institutions. Paper – “The poor chose neo-Pentecostalism and the Church, the poor”.

Pedro Ribeiro de Oliveira (PhD Sociology) - Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Programme in Religious Studies at the Catholic University of Minas Gerais. Paper - “Religious Market”.

Magali do Nascimento Cunha (PhD Communication Science) - Professor at the Methodist University of São Paulo, linked to the Graduate Program in Communication, which is integrated into the media research programme on Communication in Social Interactions. Paper – “Media, Gender and Pentecostalism”.

Faustino Teixeira (PhD Theology) – Titular Professor in Science of Religion at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora and researcher in the CNPQ Program. Paper - “Challenges for Interreligious Dialogue in Brazil”.

Fr Celio de Padua Garcia, OP (PhD Religious Science) – Adjunct Professor in the Department of Religion and Religious Culture Sciences, PUC Mines. Paper - “Neo-Pentecostalism and African religions in Brazil”

Sinivaldo da Silva Tavares (PhD Fundamental and Systematic Theology) - Professor of Systematic Theology at the Jesuit School of Philosophy and Theology (FAJE) and St. Thomas Aquinas Institute (ISTA), both located in Belo Horizonte (MG).

For registration and participation in the Congress, click here.
Fr. Dr. Celio de Pádua Garcia OP

Official News

- **Pope to Dominican General Chapter: ‘Preaching, witness, charity’**

Pope Francis met with participants in the Dominican General Chapter on Thursday, speaking to them about the need to incarnate the Gospel through preaching, witness, and charity.

The audience with Pope Francis concludes the General Chapter marking 800 years since the founding of the Order of Preachers by St. Dominic.

Beginning with a joke about his day’s activities, Pope Francis laughingly said his day could be called “A Jesuit among Friars”, since it saw him meet with the spiritual children of the contemporaries St. Dominic and St. Francis.

Putting jokes aside, the Holy Father got to the heart of the matter, speaking to the Dominicans gathered about the need to incarnate the Gospel through preaching, witness, and charity.

He said it was God who inspired St. Dominic to found the Order of Preachers and put preaching at the heart of their mission, just as Jesus had taught his disciples.

“It is the Word of God which burns from within and incites us to go out and proclaim Jesus Christ to all peoples. The Founding Father said, ‘First contemplate, and then teach’. Evangelized by God to evangelize.
Without a deep personal union with Him, preaching may be very perfect, very rational, even admirable, but it will never touch the heart, which is what must change.”

The Word of God also requires witness, he said.

“Teachers faithful to the truth and worthy witnesses of the Gospel. The witness incarnates what is taught, makes it tangible, makes it call, and leaves no one indifferent. [The witness] adds to the truth the joy of the Gospel, aware of being loved by God and the object of His infinite mercy.”

Lastly, charity is necessary for the preacher and witness.

Referring to the early life of St. Dominic, the Pope said it was the living, suffering body of Christ which was inscribed in his entire existence.

“It is the body of Christ, alive and suffering, which cries out to the preacher and does not leave him tranquil. The cry of the poor and discarded awakens and makes us understand the compassion which Jesus had for the people. […] It is in the encounter with the living body of Christ that we are evangelizers, that we recover the passion to be preachers and witnesses of His love, and that we free ourselves from the dangerous temptation, extremely actual today, of Gnosticism.”

Preaching, witness, and charity.

Pope’s Address to Dominican General Chapter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we could describe this day as “a Jesuit among friars” in the morning with you and, in the afternoon, in Assisi with the Franciscans: <a day> among friars. I welcome you and thank Friar Bruno Cadore, Master General of the Order, for his greeting in his name and that of all those present, with the General Chapter now culminating in Bologna, where you wish to revive your roots at the sepulcher of the holy Founder.

This year has a special meaning for your Religious Family, upon the completion of eight centuries since Pope Honorius III confirmed the Order of Preachers. On the occasion of the Jubilee, which you celebrate for this reason, I join you in thanksgiving for the abundant fruits received during this time. Moreover, I wish to express my gratitude to the Order for its significant contribution to the Church and for the collaboration it has maintained with the Apostolic See, in a spirit of faithful service, from its origins to today.

And this eighth centenary leads us to remember the men and women of Faith and Letters, of contemplatives and missionaries, martyrs and apostles of charity, who took God’s caress and tenderness everywhere, enriching the Church and showing new possibilities to incarnate the Gospel, through preaching, witness and charity: three pillars that guarantee the Order’s future, keeping the freshness of the foundational charism.

God stimulated Saint Dominic to found an “Order of Preachers,” preaching being the mission that Jesus entrusted to the Apostles. It is the Word of God, which burns within and spurs to go out to proclaim Jesus Christ to all peoples (cf. Matthew 28:19-20). The Founding Father said: “First contemplate and then teach.” Evangelized by God, to evangelize. Without strong personal union with Him, the preaching might be very perfect, very reasoned, even admirable, but it will not touch the heart, which is what must change. So essential is the serious and assiduous study of theological subjects, as is all that enables us to come close to the reality and put our ear in the people of God. The preacher is a contemplative of the Word and also of the people, who hopes to be understood (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 154).

To transmit the Word of God more effectively requires witness: teachers faithful to the truth and courageous witnesses of the Gospel. A witness incarnates the teaching, makes it tangible, convoking, and
leaves no one indifferent; he adds to the truth the joy of the Gospel, of knowing we are loved by God and object of His infinite mercy (cf. Ibid., 142).

Saint Dominic said to his followers: “Let us go out with bare feet to preach.” It reminds us of the passage of the burning bush, when God said to Moses: “put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground” (Exodus 3:5). The good preacher is conscious that he moves on holy ground, because the Word he takes with him is sacred, and so are its recipients. Not only do the faithful need to receive the Word in its integrity, but also see the witness of life of one who preaches (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 171). The Saints obtained abundant fruits because, with their life and mission, they spoke with the language of the heart, which knows not barriers and is comprehensible to all.

Finally, the preacher and the witness must be so in charity. Without it, they will be controversial and suspicious. Saint Dominic had a dilemma at the beginning of his life, which marked his whole existence: “How can I study with dead skin, when Christ’s flesh suffers.” It is the living and suffering body of Christ that cries to the preacher and does not leave him in peace. The cry of the poor and the discarded awakens, and makes one understand the compassion Jesus had for peoples (Matthew 15:32).

Looking around us, we see that today’s men and women are thirsty for God. They are the living flesh of Christ, who cries “I thirst” for a genuine and liberating word, for a fraternal and tender gesture. This cry challenges us and it must be the one that supports the mission and gives life to pastoral structures and programs. Think of this when you reflect on the need to adjust the Order’s organization chart, to discern the answer to be given to this cry of God. The more we go out to slake the thirst of our neighbor, the more we will be preachers of that truth proclaimed out of love and mercy, of which Saint Catherine of Siena speaks (cf. Book of Divine Doctrine, 35). In the encounter with the living flesh of Christ we are evangelized and recover the passion to be preachers and witnesses of His love; and we free ourselves of the dangerous temptation, so present today, of Gnosticism.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, with a grateful heart for the goods received from the Lord for your Order and for the Church, I encourage you to follow joyfully the charism inspired in Saint Dominic and which has been lived with different hues by many men and women Saints of the Dominican Family. Their example is a stimulus to face the future with hope, knowing that God always renews all … and does not let us down. May Our Mother, the Virgin of the Rosary, intercede for you and protect you, so that you are courageous preachers and witnesses of the love of God. Thank you!

(Translation by Zenit.org)

● Apostolic Blessing for the General Chapter of Bologna 2016

The Holy Father Pope Francis has imparted his Apostolic Blessing on the Master of the Order, fr Bruno Cadoré and on all the Capitular friars of the General Chapter of Bologna 2016. He equally extended the said blessing to the entire Order. He did this through a telegram addressed to the Master of Order and signed by his Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

Here is an English translation of the Apostolic Blessing which was originally written in Italian

FR BRUNO CADORE, OP
MASTER GENERAL
ORDER OF PREACHERS
CONVENTO SANTA SABINA
PIAZZA PIETRO D’ILLIRIA, 1
00153 ROMA

SENDING HIS CORDIAL AND GOOD WISHES, INVOKES THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, RECALLING THAT MERCY IS THE PILLAR THAT SUPPORTS THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

ALL OF ITS PASTORAL ACTION MUST BE EMBRACED BY TENDERNESS AND NOTHING OF ITS PROCLAMATION OR WITNESS BEFORE THE WORLD CAN BE WITHOUT MERCY. THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CHURCH COMES THROUGH THE PATH OF MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE LOVE WHICH GIVES NEW LIFE AND THE COURAGE TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE.

THE HOLY FATHER WISHES THAT ALL WHO FOLLOW THE CHARISM OF SAINT DOMINIC - TIREDLESS APOSTLE OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS, COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS THE POOR AND AN ARDENT DEFENDER OF TRUTH - SHOULD TESTIFY TO MERCY, PROFESSING IT AND EMBODYING IT IN LIFE, AND SHOULD BE SIGNS OF THE NEARNESS AND TENDERNESS OF GOD, SO THAT SOCIETY TODAY MIGHT REDISCOVER THE URGENCY OF SOLIDARITY, LOVE AND FORGIVENESS.

WHILE REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS TO SUPPORT HIS PETRINE MINISTRY, HE, THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY AND OF ALL THE SAINTS OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY, IMPARTS TO YOU, AS WELL AS TO ALL THE CAPITULAR FRIARS, THE REQUESTED APOSTOLIC BLESSING, EXTENDING IT GLADLY TO THE ENTIRE ORDER.

FROM THE VATICAN, 15 JULY 2016

CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE HOLY FATHER

The General Chapter of Bologna 2016 will begin on the 16th of July and conclude on the 5th of August 2016 with a special audience with the Holy Father.

- Fr Peter Pham Huong is the New Vicar Provincial of Calgary Vicariate

Fr Peter Pham Huong has been elected as the New Vicar Provincial of the Provincial Vicariate of St Vincent Pham Hieu Liem in Calgary, Canada. The Calgary Vicariate is a Vicariate of the Province of Vietnam.

Fr Pham was born in Vietnam in 1952. He made his first religious profession of vows in the Order in 1973 and went ahead to study philosophy and theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Thu Duc, Vietnam. He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Vinh Son Liem Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada by Bishop Paul O’ Burn in 1985.

After obtaining a Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD) at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) Rome and a Master’s Degree in Psychological Education in Calgary, AB, Canada, he served as the Director of Vocations for his Vicariate (1990-1993).

Father Pham served as a Theology professor at the Dominican College in Go Vap, the Institute for Dominican Sisters in Phu Nhuan, and the Nguyen Van Binh Institute for all Religious Sisters and Nuns in Vietnam (1998-2003).

While serving as Prior at the St Martin De Porres Housefiary in Vancouver BC, Canada, Fr. Peter Pham was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver, BC, Canada and served as the President of the Clergy and Religious Federation of Western Canada (2004-2010).

As Pastor of the Church of The Vietnamese Martyrs (Cac Thanh Tu Dao Vietnam) Parish in Richmond, VA, Father Pham also served as the Vice President of the Federation of the Vietnamese Catholics of the US Mid-Atlantic Region (2010-2014).
Calendar of the Master of the Order for August 2016

July 15-August 5: General Chapter of Bologna 2016
4: Special Audience with Pope Francis
12-14: Bethany Anniversary Celebration in Paris
15-23: Summer Break
25-27: International Congress on Indigenous People in Guatemala
28-31: Visit to Lima, Peru

All articles are available on www.op.org