



K O I N Ō N I A

...together on the journey

CONFERENCE OF THE GENERAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS TO THE OFS-YOUFRA

2012 - 1

Year 19

n. 73

OFS AND YOUFRA IN THE WORLD TODAY

THE PRESENCE OF THE OFS AND YOUFRA IN AFRICA

Br. Amanuel Mesgun Temelso, OFM Cap

INTRODUCTION

The main theme of our virtual magazine this year will be the description of the current situation of the OFS and the YouFra in five continents: Africa, America, Europe, Asia and Oceania. The annual program of our magazine will follow this sequence:

"The Presence of the OFS and YouFra in Africa" (I quarter 2012),

"The Presence of the OFS and YouFra in the American Continent" (II quarter 2012),

"The Presence of the OFS and YouFra in Europe" (III quarter 2012),

"The Presence of the OFS and YouFra in Asia and Oceania" (IV Quarter 2012).

The Secular Franciscans in the world are just under 450,000. The national fraternity (those officially established and recognized and emerging) are present in all five continents: in Europe thirty-five nations (23 established and 12 emerging), 3 countries in North America (3 established), Central and South America 22 countries (19 established and 3 emerging), 30 countries in Africa (12 established and 18 emerging) 19 countries in Asia (7 established and emerging 12), 3 nations in Oceania (2 established and emerging 1).

In its interim report to the General Chapter in Brazil (22-29 October 2011), Encarnación del Pozo, Minister General, as she explained the current situation of the OFS and the Franciscan Youth, wrote: "The OFS is present in 112 countries world: 66 established national fraternities, 42 national fraternities emerging, the 4 presences where the OFS is in the stage of the canonical erection of some communities in the local or even in the earlier stage of waiting for the creation of the first local fraternity ... the Franciscan Youth is present in 66 countries, with 35 recognized national fraternities and 31 emerging. There is the possibility of creating local YouFra fraternities, including some that already exist in 26 other countries."

About the general framework of the OFS and the World Franciscan Youth, the General Minister said: "During the visits and the presidencies of Chapter we have noticed the persistent decline in numbers as well as aging in the OFS in Central, Western and Southern Europe and the lack of interest or initiatives to promote the Franciscan Youth. This causes fatigue and discouragement in the National Councils who do not know how to tackle it because it seems that the primacy lies is in ideologies, possession (consumerism), and comfort and not on human and Gospel values – although they are perceiving signs of

hope in those National Fraternities that created a vocational commission to work creatively. In these national fraternities new fraternities are being erected with some rejuvenation of existing ones. They deal with groups of young people and guide them to Franciscan spirituality. It's a challenge that requires patience and a fervent desire to revitalize our Order."

OFS AND YOUFRA IN AFRICA

The Catholic Church and the Socio-Political Situation in Africa

Africa was evangelized in three phases: first phase of evangelization stretched from the first century until the advent of Islam, the second phase of both the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and the third phase of systematic evangelization in the nineteenth century.

The first African synod celebrated in the month of April 1994 was a sign of the roots and growth of the Catholic Church in African territory. In fact, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Africa*, the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II declared, "*The fact that for over almost two centuries the number of Catholics in Africa has grown quickly is in itself an outstanding achievement by any standards. Confirmed, in particular, are the consolidation of the Church on the continent, elements such as the sensitive and rapid increase in the number of the dioceses, the growth of a native clergy, seminarians and candidates for Institutes of Consecrated Life, the progressive extension of the network of catechists, whose contribution to spreading the Gospel among the peoples of Africa is well known to all. Of fundamental importance is, finally, the high percentage of indigenous Bishops who now make up the Hierarchy in the continent ... Although Catholics constitute only fourteen percent of the African population, Catholic institutions in the field of health make up seventeen percent of 'all health facilities across the continent.'*"¹

The Synod Fathers of that age did not keep hiding the fact that Africa is full of problems, because in almost all countries there is abject poverty, tragic mismanagement of scarce resources, political instability, and social disorientation. On the threshold of the year 2000 in Africa, according to the analysis of the Synod Fathers, the Bible was compared to the man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho fell among robbers and was left half dead by the roadside.

In 2012 the socio-political situation does not seem improved, but Africa remains a continent of hope, because it has a wide variety of cultural values and priceless human qualities, which can offer the Church and humanity, such as a profound religious sense, the sense of the sacred, the certainty of the existence of God the Creator and of a spiritual world, the love of family, life and children, respect for solidarity and community life and nature.

Pope Benedict XVI in his well-contextualized post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Africae Munus*, though not keeping silence over the many dramatic challenges that Africa faces in many sectors (health, politics, economics, ecology, society), nonetheless, expresses a deep sense of confidence in the ability of Africans: "*A precious treasure is the soul of Africa, where I see an immense spiritual" lung "for humanity that appears in a crisis of faith and hope, thanks to its great wealth and human spiritual needs of its children, its colorful culture, land and its subsoil with huge resources"*²

THE OFS AND YOUFRA IN AFRICA ACCORDING TO LANGUAGE

It's very important to be aware of the socio-political situation of Africa, to know in depth the current situation of the OFS in Africa, because it is in this ecclesial and socio-political that the OFS in Africa seeks to live and witness secular Franciscan spirituality. The Africa in the administration of the OFS is divided into: Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa and Portuguese-speaking Africa. Therefore, its

¹ Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Africa*, # 38.

² http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20111119_africae-munus_en.html

representation in the presidency OFS is implemented by the three representatives of languages: English, French and Portuguese.

ESTABLISHED FRATERNITY = 12	EMERGING FRATERNITY = 18
OFS Portuguese-speaking Africa	
1. Angola	1. Mozambique 2. Cape Verde 3. Guinea Bissau
OFS French-Speaking Africa	
2. Central African Republic 3. Chad 4. R. D. Congo (DRC) 5. Mauritius Islands 6. Madagascar	4. Benin 5. Burundi 6. Burkina Faso 7. Cameroon 8. Côte d'Ivoire 9. Congo Brazzaville 10. Rwanda 11. Togo
OFS English-Speaking Africa	
7. Kenya 8. Malawi 9. South Africa 10. Tanzania 11. Zambia 12. Zimbabwe	12. Egypt 13. Eritrea 14. Ethiopia 15. Lesotho 16. Namibia 17. Nigeria 18. Uganda

The history of the OFS in Africa, I think, is as old as the history of the Franciscan presence in Africa. Generally speaking, the African OFS does not oversee or form YouFra. This phenomenon could be caused by a lack of organization on the new structures of the OFS and Franciscan Youth. Most national fraternities of the OFS in Africa have yet to adopt the new structure and organization of the OFS that the new normative texts reflect of the OFS and Franciscan Youth. Looking at the statistical of the OFS of Africa, we see that there are more emerging fraternities than those canonically established. Therefore, just as has been said of the Church in general, so for the OFS: "Africa remains always a continent of hope".

Portuguese-speaking OFS in Africa

The presence of the Secular Franciscans Portuguese-speaking Africa seems to be the oldest, because the evangelization of the African countries of Portuguese language is from the fifteenth or sixteenth century. It seems that in countries like Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde the presence of the OFS is centuries-long. The OFS African Portuguese-speaking, which at this time is the most numerous, has about 16.000 members. Although limited to a few countries (4), it seems to be the most robust and highly developed.

Established Fraternities = 1		Emerging Fraternities = 3
1. Angola		1. Guinea Bissau
		2. Mozambique
		3. Cape Verde

OFS Francophone in Africa

The presence of the OFS in Francophone countries such as Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Cameroon (West Africa), Burundi and Rwanda, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, DRC Congo (Central Africa), Madagascar, and Mauritius Islands (Insular Africa), begins with the third phase of the evangelization of Africa since the nineteenth century. Francophone Secular Franciscans are about 4.000 in Africa.

Concerning the general situation of the OFS in Africa and especially the current situation of this OFS area of Africa, the Minister General, in her aforementioned report to the Chapter of Brazil, said: *"We are deeply concerned about the situation of the Fraternity established and emerging in Africa, especially in the French-speaking region, where the absolute lack of resources makes it almost impossible for many fraternities to grow properly. Another important challenge is to extend our solidarity with the Order of the sector in which our brothers and sisters are totally destitute, while in the western world many of our brothers and sisters who, despite the economic crisis, live in some abundance, complain when they are asked to help the Order with 10 euro cents per month"*.

Established Fraternities = 5		Emerging Fraternities = 8
1. Chad		1. Benin
2. Mauritius Islands		2. Burkina Faso
3. Madagascar		3. Burundi
4. R. D. Congo (DRC)		4. Cameroon
5. Central Africa		5. Côte d'Ivoire
		6. Congo Brazzaville
		7. Rwanda
		8. Togo

OFS Anglophone in Africa

The evangelization of the Anglophone African countries, except Egypt, Ethiopia and Eritrea, is recent. The Anglophone Secular Franciscans are in East Africa (Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda), in West Africa (Nigeria), and South Africa (South Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). Anglophone Secular Franciscans are about 10.000. The Anglophone OFS in Africa seems more active, because in recent years, they have managed to organize and gather five times. The latest and final assembly was done in Zambia in June last year.

Established Fraternities = 6		Emerging Fraternities = 7
1. Kenya		1. Egypt
2. Malawi		2. Eritrea
3. South Africa		3. Ethiopia
4. Tanzania		4. Lesotho
5. Zambia		5. Namibia
6. Zimbabwe		6. Nigeria
		7. Uganda

PROJECT AFRICA

The CIOFS Presidency, in order to reach out to the Secular Africans, and to facilitate the animation of the OFS in Africa, created the "Project Africa" in its first annual meeting of 2010.

At that meeting, the CIOFS Presidency decided: *"To form the working group for the coordination of a specific project. Doug (coordinator), Michèle, Lucy, and Br. Amanuel will be members of this group. The first phase of this project will be a period of sensitization by the project team and for the Presidency. The project will focus on the Secular Franciscans, Franciscan Spiritual Assistants and Youth. Once the project is more concrete, it can be offered to the national fraternity. The group will consider the opportunity to publish articles on the website to provide news on the situation of the OFS in Africa "*³

In the second annual meeting of 2010, **Br. Vincenzo Brocanelli, OFM**, General Definitor, sensitized both the workgroup and the CIOFS presidency with the overall theme "How to act and serve to form the OFS in Africa". During this sensitization phase, the working group sought opinion of several secular Franciscans who could enlighten them with their experiences. During this second phase of work, the group realized that to help our African secular brothers, it is necessary to *"Know and listen to them and assess their needs with them."*

Marie-Odile Blanty, OFS, in a letter dated March 2010, advised that, "Our brothers in Africa ... live in a secular environment so different from ours, at all points of view. Consequently, it is impossible to project onto them our way of thinking and doing. We must be able to make use of... people at the crossroads, who know both the African and Western cultures where our Church and Franciscan documents are known. This is real inculturation..."

These people can be:

1. lay people who have traveled or studied abroad,
2. the brothers of the First Order,
3. in many cases, we can count on the Poor Clares and the Franciscan Sisters often present.

And 'with these' people we have to consider ways of formation, putting in first place the same means of formation."

It's only in the V Congress of the OFS and Anglophone Franciscan Youth of Africa that "Project Africa" was presented to direct actors, namely the Secular Africans.⁴ The Fifth Congress of the OFS and YouFra that took place in Lusaka (Zambia) from June 1 to 7 2011 accepted with enthusiasm the project and its conclusions and, among other things, expressed itself by stating the following:

"The Congress has agreed that we need a project in Africa, namely a project to

- Create structures and coordinate better communications between the national fraternities in Africa,
- increase support for emerging fraternities,
- strengthen the established Fraternities,
- deal with formation as a priority,
- Initiate and intensify formation of formators and the provision of initial formation.

The Congress also recommended that the Africa Project Team include representatives of the different regions and language groups in Africa. They, in turn, will be responsible for coordinating an initiative to raise funds to finance the project. It was also recommended that the project team put into consideration the possibility of holding a Conference open to all national fraternities of Africa "⁵

CONCLUSION

Both numerically and qualitatively, the OFS in Africa seems to be well under way for a bright future. This, surely, will require more animation and accompaniment of emerging fraternities. We must insist on the formation and organization of the established fraternities made of Africa, which will prompt more time and sacrifice by members of the CIOFS Presidency. The result, however, is guaranteed, because, as Pope

³ CIOFS Presidency Meeting, April 10-17, 2010, decision # 1004-38.

⁴ <http://ciofs.org/doc/EN%20African%20Congress.htm>.

⁵ *Idem*.

Benedict XVI stated that just as the African continent is "a 'spiritual lung' for humanity ", so it will also be for the OFS.

It's my opinion that a special representative should be appointed for the African continent with the language of communication always being English, French and Portuguese. This does not mean that the international councilor in the Presidency should be an African, because it may not be easy to find one. "Project Africa" is certainly a good start, but there must be a continuity, more acceleration and vitality to follow the aspirations expressed by the Seculars at the conclusion of the Congress of Zambia.

Here we have not talked much about YouFra of Africa because it does not appear in the statistics. In fact, it is rarely seen and almost forgotten by many fraternities in the continent, but is to be hoped that with the development and consolidation of the OFS in Africa, this reality can emerge. There's also a strong commitment in Africa among the Secular Franciscans toward YouFra. In fact, at the conclusions of the last African Congress in Zambia we read: "*We are committed to promoting Franciscan Youth in all national fraternities in Africa, and to support and accompany them on their journey, so they can be better organized, better formed and represented at all levels: local, regional, national and international. We also support the proposal made by the delegate of the Franciscan Youth to hold a Congress of Franciscan Youth for Africa at the most suitable time in the future.*"⁶

NEWS – CHAPTERS – VISITS – MEETINGS

Paraguay (Itaiguá) - Course for Assistants to the OFS-YouFra

From January 21 to 22, 2012, a course was conducted on spiritual and pastoral assistance to the OFS-YouFra; it was organized by the Franciscan Family in Paraguay. The course was held at the Franciscan Retreat House of the Oasis of the Franciscan Sisters of Mercy in the city of Itaiguá, which is located on the outskirts of Asuncion. To moderate the course was Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR, Assistant General of the OFS. There were two provincial ministers: Br. Federico Gayoso, TOR, and Honoria Sr. Paredes, of the Franciscan Sisters of Mercy. Other participants included the following assistants: Br. Peter Simon Samudio, OFM, Br. Luis Otazua, OFM, Sr. Toti Cristaldo, FMM, Sr. Teresita Rojas, FMM, Sr. Elisa Rodriguez EF, Sr. Elisa EF, and Br. Mark Arguello Willck, OFMConv. Six other men and women religious were present along with 35 brothers and sisters of the OFS and the outgoing National President of the Franciscan Youth, Edelina Soto. The course focused on issues of the Handbook for assistance to the OFS, the Statute for the assistance and the Guidelines for the formation of a new OFS fraternity, etc. Participants showed a keen interest in sharing and mutual learning. The fraternal atmosphere of dialogue, and faith, helped the success of the course.

Assisi – Course for OFS-YouFra Assistants of Italy

With the Holy Mass, presided by Br. Martin Bitzer, OFMConv, Assistant General to OFS-YouFra, the Course for Assistants to the OFS-YouFra of Italy was brought to conclusion in St. Mary of the Angels; it was held from January 23 to 26 in the "B. Micarelli" Spirituality Center of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Child Jesus, which this year had as its central theme: "OFS-YouFra, Heralds: Spiritual Assistant and Educational Activity." The event gathered a hundred Friars from the 1st Order and TOR, animated by the conference of spiritual assistants of Italy (CASIT). It is worth mentioning the presence of the Franciscan Youth Assistants, starting with the respective National Conference. The homily of Br. Martin was focused on teaching the faith.

Korea – The OFS National Elective Chapter

From January 27-29, 2012, in the city of Seoul was celebrated the National Elective Chapter of Korea. There were about 80 capitulars and their Assistants. To preside over the election was Almiranez Lucy, Councilor of the CIOFS Presidency, accompanied by Br. Michael Woo, OFM, as delegate of the Conference of Assistants General of the OFS-YouFra. During the Chapter various reports were presented by the outgoing National Council on their service to the national fraternity. The celebration for the election

⁶ *Idem.*

of the new National Council was held on January 28. Catherine Lee was elected as the new National Minister and Augustine Yoon as International Councilor.

Lithuania - Formation Course for OFS-YouFra Spiritual Assistants and National Meeting of YouFra

From February 7-9 2012, the first Formation course for Spiritual Assistants to the OFS and Franciscan Youth of Lithuania was held in the convent of the Friars Minor at the Hill of the Crosses. There were about 20 people coordinated by the OFS National Spiritual Assistants, Br. Paulius Bytautas Saulius, OFM, and YouFra National Assistant, Br. Algirdas Malakauskis, OFM. The Formation course was led by Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, OFS-YouFra Assistant General; he discussed the following topics: "OFS: Origin, History, and Present"; "Spiritual Assistance to the OFS", "Franciscan Spirituality: life and Mission", and "Franciscan Youth: Living the Gospel". The meeting was also attended by Nerijus Čapas, OFS National Minister, Virginija Mickutė, YouFra National President, and Monika Midverite, National Vice-President. Following the Formation course from February 10-12, the national meeting of Lithuanian Franciscan Youth unfolded in the city of Jonava. Approximately 100 young people with their Spiritual Assistants gathered to celebrate the fraternity. Also present were representatives of the Franciscan Youth of Poland and Belarus. Young Franciscans wished that the theme of the meeting should refer to the celebration of the Eighth Centenary of the Consecration of St. Clare of Assisi. Therefore, the title is taken from a sentence of St. Clare, drawn from her fourth letter to Agnes of Prague, stating, "Look into this mirror every day - Jesus Christ - and constantly examine your face thoroughly in him." This topic was presented by Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, Assistant General OFS-YouFra.

South Africa - Pastoral Visit

From February 9-10, 2012, Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR, Assistant General to the OFS, conducted a pastoral visit to the National Fraternity of the OFS in South Africa. The visit took place at the *La Verna Retreat Center* in Vanderbijlpark. Although preparation for the visit was marked by numerous difficulties in communication, nonetheless, the meetings held during the two days, allowed the Visitor to have a clear picture of the strengths and challenges of the national fraternity. During the visit, Br. Amando met with the following spiritual assistants: Br. Dominic Hession, OFM, National Spiritual Assistant; Deacon Br. Evenie Turner, OFM, Br. Luke Bambazela and Ivan Strčić, OFM; Encarnacion del Pozo, Minister General of the OFS; the former OFM Minister Provincial, Br. Makhomba Khanyile and the current one, Br. David Barnard, OFM, who communicated a fraternal message on the occasion of the opening of the National Assembly. On the second day of the visitation, there was a meeting with three members of the outgoing National Executive Council and with other delegates to the National Assembly who were present.

South Africa – The OFS National Elective Chapter

The National Assembly of the OFS in South Africa was held from February 10 - 11 at the *La Verna Retreat Center* in Vanderbijlpark with the participation of 13 Secular Franciscans Spiritual Assistants and the following: Br. Dominic Hession, OFM, Br. Evenie Turner, OFM, Br. Mnelisi Khathi, TOR, and Sr. Winifred Mosoli, FSS. The meeting was chaired by Encarnacion del Pozo, Minister General of the OFS, accompanied by Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR, Assistant General to the OFS-YouFra. During the afternoon of the 10th, the reports of the Vice National Minister, the Spiritual Assistant, and the fraternal Animator of both YouFra and the regional fraternities were presented. There was also a reflection by Br. Amando on the meaning and importance of the pastoral visit to the OFS. On Saturday 11, the report of the National Treasurer was presented and the Minister General of the OFS offered a reflection on the meaning of the service of authority of the OFS. Since there was no quorum for the National Elective Chapter, a consultative vote was held, the results of which served to appoint a new National Executive Council by the Minister General. Bennett Matela was appointed National Minister and Mary Evers as International Councilor. In the afternoon the celebration of the Eucharist was presided by Br. Amando, during which the Minister General established the new National Executive Council. Then there was a dialogue between the Council and the Assembly. Br. Amando finally submitted its observations and recommendations of the interim pastoral visit. Later, Encarnacion and Br. Amando met with the new Executive Council, thus ending the day with a fraternal party.

Croatia – Formation Course for the OFS-YouFra Spiritual Assistants

The Conference of the OFS-YouFra National Assistants of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina organized the VI Formation Course for Spiritual Assistants to the OFS and Franciscan Youth of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, from February 14-16, 2012, at the "Tabor Retreat House" in the city of Samobor. More than 40 Assistants were in attendance. The first day of the course was devoted to the presentation of the conclusions of the last OFS General Chapter by Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, Assistant General OFS-YouFra as well as the presentation of the document on the "Fraternal Animator" by Ana Fruk, Councilor of the CIOFS Presidency for YouFra. The next day, Br. Vlatko Badurina, TOR, made a presentation entitled: "Elements of Communication when Assisting the OFS and Franciscan Youth". The last day was dedicated to the Franciscan Youth, with a special consideration of the celebration of 20th anniversary of the birth of the Franciscan Youth in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Br. Ivan Matić presented the topic, "20 years of YouFra – The Experience of Evangelization of the Youth". The Franciscan Youth in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are preparing to celebrate this anniversary in their own national meetings scheduled for 2012.

Cuba – The OFS National Elective Chapter

The National Elective Chapter of Cuba took place in Havana from February 17-19, 2012, at the Priests House of St. John Marie Vianney. Presiding over this Chapter was Alejandro Albornoz, delegate of the Minister General of both OFS and YouFra. Br. Gregory Gomes Lopez, OFM, was the representative of the Conference of Assistants General. On February 18, 2012, Lionel Perez was elected both as National Minister and International Councilor substitute; Airan Negrin both as Vice National Minister and International Councilor, Daniel Niño, as Responsible for formation; Mónica García as Secretary and Elena Dieguez as Treasurer. last On the last day of the Chapter, there were three activities. The first was the presentation of the theme, "Jubilee and Reconciliation" by Br. Luis Chilan, OFM Cap. Then, Alejandro Albornoz, Airan Negrin, and Br. Gregory spoke about the OFS General Chapter held in Brazil in 2011. The closing of the Chapter took place during the celebration of Holy Mass. The OFS of Cuba has 15 established fraternities and 5 of other emerging ones. There is also the National YouFra. Secular Franciscans are collegially assisted by the Friars of the Franciscan Order.

Japan - The OFS National Elective Chapter

The Chapter of the OFS National Fraternity of Japan was held in Nagoya, at the *Nanzan University Kenshu Center*, on March 4, 2012. Benedetto Lino was the delegate of the OFS Minister General and Fr. Linus Takeshi Odaka OFM was the delegate of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants. The constituency included 15 members and they were all present. In the presence of both delegates, the Chapter elected: Noriko Kyo as National Minister; Tsutao Nagayama as National Vice-Minister; Shoko Kato as Secretary and International Councilor substitute; Masami Ueno as Formator and International Councilor, and Yasuko Terada as Treasurer.

Some days before the elective Chapter, Benedetto Lino conducted a formation course in Kyoto. As a conclusion, he made two presentations to the Chapter participants: "The Presence of the Secular Franciscans in the World: Identity, Profession, and Sense of Belonging" and "Called to serve on the footsteps of St. Francis."

Roma – CIOFS Presidency Meeting

The first annual meeting of the CIOFS Presidency took place at Seraphicum, at the International College of Friars Minor Conventual, from March 24 – 31, 2012. During this meeting forty decisions were made, work done during the last six months (October-March) was assessed and the work yet to be done in the future spelt out. The issues discussed with depth were the five priorities of the last Elective General Chapter of 2008: Formation, Communication, YouFra, Presence in the world, and emerging fraternities. We assessed the progress made with each priority while planning a strategy for the future. Also, among other things, an assessment was made regarding the General Chapter of Brazil (October 22-29, 2011). We also had the visit of Sr. Denise Boyle, FMDM, executive director of *Franciscans International*. The members of the Presidency had also a day of leisure (Wednesday March 28) by visiting the sites of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica in Subiaco, and the Shrine of the Friars Minor in Bellegra.