



# ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS CONCILIVM INTERNATIONALE (CIOFS)

by Awilda Guadalupe, OFS, International Councilor

## CIOFS Vox Franciscan Newsletter — Summer 2019 Highlights

With the realization that many of our brothers and sisters are not on Facebook or other social networks, I have decided to provide the highlight of the CIOFS VOX Franciscan quarterly newsletter Summer 2019 edition. My hope is to keep us connected with our Franciscan brothers and sisters worldwide.

### **YouFra at World Youth Day**

Franciscan Youth Councilor Andrea Odak Karlović, OFS, reported on the international YouFra gathering at World Youth Day in Panama, and we hope for another OFS-YouFra European Congress, this time in Spain, and for a third International YouFra Assembly in Mexico. The YouFra International Gathering took place on January 17-21, 2019, the days prior to World Youth Day in Panama. The motto for the gathering was, “We are brothers and sisters following the Teacher, as Mary did.” (cf. Mt 23:8). This fraternal gathering consisted of 120 brothers and sisters from around the world. They came from Vietnam, Europe, and North America, as well as from Latin America. We shared moments of prayer, formation, spirituality, reflection, fellowship and, of course, the Holy Eucharist.

### **CIOFS: A Meeting and a Pilgrimage**

The spring meeting of the CIOFS Presidency became a pilgrimage. Members gathered in Rome at the Seraphicum (Pontifical University of St. Bonaventure) and boarded a bus to head 180 miles east through the Apennine Mountains to San Giovanni Rotondo in Puglia (province of Foggia and region of Apulia), not far from the Adriatic Sea. As usual, the business of the order was conducted – reporting on visits to national fraternities, planning for the 2020 General Chapter, and getting updates from the formation, finance, juridical, JPIC, and communications commissions. They were also immersed in the spiritual impact of St. Padre Pio.

During the Presidency meeting (March 16-23), the body of Padre Pio was on display in the crypt under the older church. His body rested at eye level, encased in glass, in the center of the room.

During a break, the members were blessed by a visit to Monte Sant’ Angelo, which houses the underground Sanctuary of St. Michael the

Archangel, and to the tomb of former Minister General Emmanuela de Nunzio, OFS, in Rodi Garganico. Several Presidency members who had met Emmanuela were particularly inspired to visit her resting place in a mausoleum. She was the second minister general of the reorganized worldwide Secular Franciscan Order.

On the final day in San Giovanni Rotondo, Fr. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR, celebrated his last Mass as a member of the Conference of General Assistants, having served 12 years with the Presidency.

### **OFS Action Around Globe**

The 6th Asia-Oceania Congress of the OFS and YouFra will take place in Vietnam in 2020, Presidency Councilor Augustine Yoon reported. With a theme of “Go and Repair My Church,” the congress is expected to attract more than a hundred participants from 17 national fraternities. The congress, which will be held May 20-26, 2020, in the city of Vung Tau, will feature, among other things, talks by the OFS minister general and vice minister general, roundtable discussion on vocation development, and group discussions on spiritual assistance, JPIC, financing, YouFra, membership administration and communications.

There is a newly forming fraternity in Kuwait, presidency councilor Michel Janian reported. He visited Kuwait in January, meeting with members of the group who had petitioned the CIOFS Presidency for support and recognition. The group has been meeting for three years, inspired by a visiting friar, and consists of five people from the Philippines who live and work in Kuwait.

There is a newly forming group in Bahrain, Presidency councilor Michel Janian visited the Kingdom of Bahrain in January 2019 to meet with a group of some 30 aspirants interested in becoming Secular Franciscans.

The “Well4Africa” project, flowing out of the 3rd European OFS and YouFra Congress in Lithuania last year, is moving ahead in various phases in Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Drilling water wells in needed areas was meant to be a special fruit of the congress, with more than 38,000 euros raised at the time.