

**ACTS AND DECISIONS  
OF  
THE FIFTH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

**"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES ... (ACTS 1.8)  
WITNESSING CAPUCHIN CALL IN OUR TIMES"**



**HOLY TRINITY PROVINCE  
KARNATAKA, INDIA**

**12-17 APRIL, 2010**

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## **FOREWORD**

The Fifth Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka India was held from the 12 - 17 April, 2010 at Darshan Institute of Theology, Deena Sava Ashram, Bangalore and the 'Acts and Decisions' of the Chapter are now ready for publication so that all the fraternities can have this historical document readily available for their reference. The Provincial Chapters are unique events of the Province which give us an opportunity to reflect and evaluate our life and resume our commitment once again with greater enthusiasm and vigour. The Chapter assemblies also bring together all our missionaries working in different parts of the world. Their reports of achievements and failures are the eye-opener to all the capitulars. Another special feature of this Chapter was the reports from the Chairpersons of all commissions. There was always a complaint that the commissions are ineffective in the Province. The wonderful reports of all the commissions have manifested how virile and vigorous they have been throughout the Triennium.

Now that we have concluded the Chapter and formulated certain resolutions and recommendations; what still remains is to begin again with greater generosity to live our life. We affirmed during the Chapter that we are the witnesses of the Risen Lord and we are convinced that we have no role to play in the society and the Church if we fail to be the witnesses, through our prayer life and through concrete living of our Evangelical Counsels. This conviction should lead us forward to the end of another Triennium. May the Spirit of St. Francis our Seraphic Father be with us during this Triennium to direct and guide us in the right path.

Date: 23 July, 2010

Place: Saccidananda, Bangalore - 10

**Br. Vincent G. Furtado OFM Cap**  
Provincial Minister



Br. Mauro Jöhri  
General Minister  
Curia Generalis  
Via Piemonte 70  
00187 Roma, Italia

September 14, 2009

Subject: Permission to Convoke the Provincial Chapter

Dear Br. Mauro,  
Greetings of peace and joy,

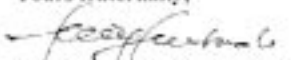
The Fourth Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity of Karnataka was held from 16-21 April 2007. The election of the provincial minister and the Definitors took place on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The triennium of the present Provincial Definitory ends on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

With the consent of the Definitory obtained on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at its meeting, I request your permission to convoke the V Provincial chapter from 12<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The venue of the Chapter would be Darshan Institute of Theology, Deena Seva Ashram Bangalore.

I request you to grant us the permission to convoke the provincial chapter.

Thanking you for the favour, with kind regards,

Yours fraternally,

  
Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado  
Provincial Minister



Br. MAURO JÖHRI

GENERAL MINISTER OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CAPUCHIN

*To my brother in Christ, Vincent Gabriel Furtado, ofm cap  
Provincial Minister of the Province of Holy Trinity, Karnataka*

PEACE AND GREETINGS IN THE LORD!

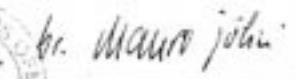
In the month of April 2010 the current triennium of the Province of Karnataka expires. As General Minister, I, with the consent of the General Definitory and in accord with the Constitutions of the Capuchin Friars Minor (n. 124,2), do hereby grant permission to you and your Provincial Definitory to announce and convoke the Chapter of the Province. The friars shall gather from April 12-17, 2010, for the purpose of electing a Provincial Minister and Definitory, and for reviewing the life of the Province.

Br. John Antony, General Definitory, will preside at the Chapter.

It is my prayer that the friars of the Province may proceed toward this assembly in joy and peace. May the clear light of the Holy Spirit illumine your minds that you may see the possibilities presented you by God's grace and find the courage to respond generously.

Given in Rome at the General Curia,  
23 September 2009



  
Br. Mauro Jöhri  
General Minister, OFM Cap.

Prot. N. 00642/09



K.105.4/09

### Letter of Convocation of the Fifth Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka

To  
All the Brothers of our Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka.

My dear Brothers  
Peace and Joy to you in the Lord.

The current triennium of the Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka expires in April 2010. On the request of the Provincial Minister and his Definitory, the General Minister through his letter dated 23 September 2009 (Prot. No. 00642/09), in accordance with the Constitutions of the Capuchin Friars Minor (no. 124, 2), has granted the necessary permission to announce and convocate the fifth Ordinary Provincial Chapter of our Holy Trinity Province from 12 - 17, April 2010 at Darshan Institute of Theology, Deena Seva Ashram, Kengeri, Br. John Antony OFM Cap General Definitory will be presiding over the Chapter. During the chapter we shall elect the Provincial Minister and his Definitors and review the life and activities of the Province.

In order to prepare ourselves duly for the forthcoming significant event, the Provincial Minister and his Definitory have constituted a Pre-Chapter Commission whose names will be announced in a separate Letter. In order to elect the delegates of the Chapter the straw ballot papers have been dispatched. Please choose your delegates and send the Ballot papers back to the Provincialate at the earliest. The local Superiors are requested to take the responsibility to remind the Brothers to return the ballot papers, without fail.

Please note the Theme for the Chapter: "You shall be my witnesses' (Acts 1, 8) : Witnessing our Capuchin Call in our context and in our times."

On this occasion I earnestly request all brothers to cooperate with the entire procedure of preparation for the Chapter, pray hard for a fruitful celebration of the Chapter and remain open to the Holy Spirit so that we can plan well the life and ministries in the Province for the coming triennium.

  
Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado OFM Cap  
Provincial Minister

Saccidananda  
October 7, 2009



15 October, 2009

To,  
All Brothers of our Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka

**Subject: Constitution of the Pre-Chapter Commission**

Dear Brothers,  
Greetings,

The Fifth Provincial Chapter has been convoked. The Chapter begins on 12 April, 2010 at 3.00 p.m. and ends on 17 April, 2010 at 12.30 p.m. The Provincial Definitory has constituted the Pre-Chapter Commission. Instead of usual stereotype agenda, the Provincial Definitory proposes some changes in the Agenda: The Election of the Provincial Minister and his Definitors ends during the morning session of 14 April, 2009. After that following procedure has been proposed:

- > **14th Afternoon sessions:** Discussion on our Spiritual Life: Witnessing our Capuchin Call in our Context and in our Times.
- > **15th April, Morning sessions:** Discussion on the reports of Commissions related to the Propagation of our Charism: Session One: Vocation Promotion, Session Two: Formation.
- > **15th April, Afternoon sessions:** Discussion on reports of the Commissions for Ministries: Session One: Capuchin Education Board; Session Two: Pastoral Commission and SFO
- > **16th April: Morning sessions:** Session one: Discussion on commission for Justice, Peace and Ecology. Session Two: Discussion on the report of the Commission for Finance, Building and Estates (including the Societies)
- > **16th April: Afternoon sessions:** Any other matter regarding the Province, Vice Province, Custody and the three Delegations.
- > **17th April: Morning sessions:** Passing the Resolutions and the concluding session.

Accordingly, all the Secretaries of the Commissions are included in the Pre-Chapter Commission along with a Convener:

Br. Patrick Crasta, Convener	Br. Paul Melwyn D'Souza
Br. Sudeep Santhan Gonsalves	Br. Arun Lobo
Br. Maxim Pinto	Br. Anil D'Costa
Br. Joachim D'Souza	

The Commission while preparing the reports of all the commissions shall also consult all the brothers in the Province in accordance with Const. No. 127. They shall submit the Provisional Agenda to the Definitory along with all the reports of the commissions by Ash Wednesday 17 February, 2010. We would like that all the commissions have their meetings before submitting the Provisional Agenda.

Let me appeal to all brothers to cooperate with the Commission members in the preparation of the Provisional Agenda for the Chapter

  
Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado OFM Cap  
Provincial Minister



## Chapter Committees

## TIME TABLE

Chapter Secretary	: Br. Basil Valerian Joseph	<b>Monday 12 April, 2010</b>	
Assisting Secretaries	: Br. Denis Prakash Lobo Br. Veersus M. Concessao Br. John Peter	<b>Forenoon</b>	<b>Arrival</b>
		03.00 p.m.	Prayer Service
		03.30 p.m.	Tea
		04.00 p.m.	Inaugural Session
		05.00 p.m.	Free Time
Moderators	: Br. J. B. Sequeira Br. Baptist Rodrigues Br. Dolphy Pais Br. Joe Francis	06.00 p.m.	Report of the Provincial Minister
		07.45 p.m.	Evening Prayer
		08.00 p.m.	Supper followed by recreation
		<b>Tuesday 13 April, 2010</b>	
Steering Committee	: President Provincial Minister Moderators	05.40 a.m.	Rising
		06.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer followed by Meditation
		06.30 a.m.	Eucharist
		07.30 a.m.	Breakfast
Drafting Committee	: Br. Denis Gabriel Veigas Br. Alban D' Souza Br. Norbert D' Souza	09.00 a.m.	Discussion on the Report of Provincial Minister
		10.30 a.m.	Tea Break
		11.00 a.m.	Financial Report and discussion + Report of Vice Provincial Minister
Liturgical Committee	: Br. Paul Melwyn D'Souza Br. Albert Lewis Br. Henry D' Souza Br. William Prabhu	12.30 p.m.	Lunch
		03.00 p.m.	Report from the Custody and Delegations
		04.30 p.m.	Tea and Free-Time
		06.00 p.m.	Reports from the Delegations (continued)
		07.15 p.m.	Evening Prayer and Meditation
Technical Committee	: Br. Leo Chetan Lobo Br. Victor Crasta	08.00 p.m.	Supper and Recreation
		<b>Wednesday 14 April, 2010</b>	
Reception Committee	: The Rector Vice rector Staff and Students of DITH	05.40 a.m.	Rising
		06.00 a.m.	Holy Hour
		07.00 a.m.	Breakfast
		08.30 a.m.	Counting the straw ballots for Provincial Minister and Election
Cultural Committee	: Br. Augustine Claude D' Souza Br. Arun Lobo Br. Richard Quadros Br. Godwin George	12.30 p.m.	Lunch
		03.00 p.m.	Discussion on Agenda Session One
		04.30 p.m.	Tea
		06.30 p.m.	Eucharist - Installation of New Definitory - Profession of Faith
		07.30 p.m.	Supper and "Reception" to the New Provincial and the Definitory

**Thursday 15 April, 2010**

05.40 a.m. Rising  
 06.00 a.m. Morning Prayer followed by Meditation  
 06.30 a.m. Eucharist  
 07.30 a.m. Breakfast  
 09.00 a.m. Discussion on the Agenda: Session Two  
 10.30 a.m. Tea Break  
 11.00 a.m. Discussion of the Agenda Session Three  
 12.30 p.m. Lunch  
 03.00 p.m. Discussion on Agenda Session Four  
 04.30 p.m. Tea and Free Time  
 06.00 p.m. Discussion on Agenda session Five  
 07.15 p.m. Evening Prayer and Meditation  
 08.00 p.m. Supper

**Friday 16 April, 2010**

05.40 a.m. Rising  
 06.00 a.m. Morning Prayer followed by Meditation  
 06.30 a.m. Eucharist  
 07.30 a.m. Breakfast  
 09.00 a.m. Discussion on the Agenda: Session Six  
 10.30 a.m. Tea Break  
 11.00 a.m. Discussion of the Agenda Session Seven  
 12.30 p.m. Lunch  
 03.00 p.m. Discussion on Agenda Session Eight  
 04.30 p.m. Tea and Free Time  
 06.00 p.m. Discussion on Agenda Session Nine  
 07.15 p.m. Evening Prayer and Meditation  
 08.00 p.m. Supper and Cultural Programme

**Saturday 17 April, 2010**

05.40 a.m. Rising  
 06.00 a.m. Morning Prayer followed by Meditation  
 06.30 a.m. Eucharist  
 07.30 a.m. Breakfast  
 09.00 a.m. Voting on the Chapter Resolution  
 10.30 a.m. Tea Break  
 11.00 a.m. Concluding Session  
 12.00 a.m. Concluding Prayer Service  
 12.30 a.m. Lunch & Departure

## List of the Capitulars For the Fifth Provincial Chapter

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>I. Chapter President:</b>                         | 1. Br. John Anthony OFM Cap<br>(General Definitor) |
| <b>II. Ex-Officio Members:</b>                       |  |
| Provincial Minister                                  | 2. Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado                     |
| Vicar Provincial                                     | 3. Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira                        |
| Definitor  | 4. Br. Denis Gabriel Veigas                        |
| Definitor  | 5. Br. Edwin Cyprian Colaco                        |
| Definitor  | 6. Br. Cyprian Peter D' Souza                      |
| Vice Provincial of Goa                               | 7. Br. Steve Rodrigues                             |
| Superior Regular of the<br>Custody of Uganda         | 8. Br. John Fernandes                              |
| Provincial Secretary                                 | 9. Br. Basil Valerian Joseph                       |
| Provincial Delegate of<br>Christ the King Delegation | 10. Br. Alban D' Souza                             |
| Provincial Delegate of<br>Infant Jesus Delegation    | 11. Br. Augustine Claude D' Souza                  |
| Provincial Delegate of<br>San Pio Delegation         | 12. Br. Norbert D' Souza                           |
| <b>III. Elected Delegates:</b>                       |  |
| 13. Br. Liguory Noronha                              | 28. Br. Stanley Coelho                             |
| 14. Br. Malcolm Sequeira                             | 29. Br. Joseph Dolphy Pais                         |
| 15. Br. Patrick Crasta                               | 30. Br. Joachim D' Souza                           |
| 16. Br. Cliff Desmond Rebello                        | 31. Br. Leo Chetan Lobo                            |
| 17. Br. Remigius Sequeira                            | 32. Br. Paul Melwyn D' Souza                       |
| 18. Br. Anthony Jossy Fernandes                      | 33. Br. Marian Miranda                             |
| 19. Br. Valerian J Menezes                           | 34. Br. Baptist Rodrigues                          |
| 20. Br. J. B. Sequeira                               | 35. Br. Albert Lewis                               |
| 21. Br. Bona Marcel Rodrigues                        | 36. Br. Charles J. R. Furtado                      |
| 22. Br. Vitus P. Pinto                               | 37. Br. Stephen Arun Lobo                          |
| 23. Br. Cornelius Monteiro                           | 38. Br. Robert Lasrado                             |
| 24. Br. Victor Crasta                                | 39. Br. Robin Minin Lopes                          |
| 25. Br. C. Roshan Menezes                            | 40. Br. Vinod W. Mascarenhas                       |
| 26. Br. Paul D' Souza                                | 41. Br. Denis Saldanha                             |
| 27. Br. Lawrence D. Sequeira                         | 42. Br. Blaize Rodrigues                           |

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 43. Br. Manohar D' Souza      | 52. Br. John Peter           |
| 44. Br. Maxim Pinto           | 53. Br. Richard Quadros      |
| 45. Br. Noel V. D'Almeida     | 54. Br. Vincent Serrao       |
| 46. Br. Veerus M. Concessao   | 55. Br. William Prabhu       |
| 47. Br. Henry D' Souza        | 56. Br. Satish Fernandes     |
| 48. Br. George Godwin M.      | 57. Br. Mathias Dias         |
| 49. Br. Vincent Monis         | 58. Br. Ajit Kumar Rodrigues |
| 50. Br. Anil D' Costa         | 59. Br. Yesudas              |
| 51. Br. Victor Robin D' Souza | 60. Br. Simon Horta          |

**VI. Elected Delegates of the Vice Province and Custody:**

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 61. Br. Waldheim Rodrigues | Vice-Province of Goa |
| 62. Br. George D'Souza     | Custody of Uganda    |

**V. Co-opted members of the Provincial Definitory:**

63. Br. Pius Baretto  
 64. Br. Henry Lobo  
 65. Br. William Andrade  
 66. Br. Anthony Vas  
 67. Br. George Monis  
 68. Br. Joseph Francis

**VI. Special Observers:**

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 69. Br. John McHugh    | Vicar Provincial of New York |
| 70. Br. Claver D'Souza | Definitory, Custody of Japan |

**VII. Student Observer:**

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 71. Philosophy | Br. Darick D' Souza |
|----------------|---------------------|

**Agenda for the Fifth Provincial Chapter  
 Darshan Institute of Theology, Bangalore: 12-17 April, 2010**

**"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES ..... (Acts 1.8) -  
 WITNESSING OUR CAPUCHIN CALL IN OUR TIMES."**

N.B.: Agenda Sessions Two to Seven will begin with the Reports of the Commissions by the respective Chairpersons. The Agenda printed here will be taken up for consideration after discussion on the reports.

1. Agenda Session One: Witness to Capuchin Charism
  - a. How do we bear witness to the core values of our Charism:
    - i. Choosing fraternal life in Minority
    - ii. The Contemplative dimension
    - iii. Closeness to the poor
    - iv. The Charism of Continuous Renewal ("Let us fan the Flame of our Charism" Nos. 15 - 19)
  - b. Concrete suggestions to the Provincial Definitory regarding the Spiritual animation of the Province for the next Triennium.
  
2. Agenda Session Two: Vocation Promotion
  - a. What is that deeply motivates our candidates coming to join us? Is this really a call from the Lord or merely a personal need?
  - b. How can we integrate more effectively the SFO animation and Vocation promotion in the Province?
  
3. Agenda Session Three: Formation
  - a. Do we as brothers live and transmit the core values of our Charism to our younger brothers? ("Let us fan the Flame of our Charism" Nos. 14)
  - b. The Chapter 2007 decided to cancel NIOS and start regular PUC for our Candidates and also recommended to have Initiation in Assisi House. Taking into account the difficulties

- we experienced during this Triennium to implement these points, the present Definitory proposes the following:
- (i) That we have one year of Initiation in Dayalbagh, Ujire
  - (ii) Two years of PUC in St. Francis of Assisi House in Moodubelle  
(For next Ten years)
  - (iii) Postulancy in Assisi House.
- c. In the context St. Fidelis Province and St. Bonaventure Province terminating their participation in our Formation programme, how can we plan our own formation and how can we make use of the formation structures, parts of which may lie vacant in coming years?
  - d. For the vocations we get from North East it is proposed that we organize their Initiation and Aspirancy (PUC) in North East itself.
  - e. What concrete proposals the Chapter has for Ongoing Formation of our friars. In what way can we make use of FISI for our Ongoing Formation?
  - f. Need of Role-Models in our Formation units and in the entire Province.
4. Agenda Session four : SFO and Pastoral Ministries
- a. Do we need a well explicated plan for the ministries of the Province in order to guarantee continuity? (Like pastoral plan in the dioceses).
  - b. How can we revitalize SFO and YOUFRA? Do you wish that our theology and philosophy students be involved in these ministries? Any concrete suggestions?
  - c. Why there are no SFO Fraternities in some of our parishes and in many of our Friaries?
  - d. How can we work for unity and effective pastoral animation in our parishes? Why unrest and delegations over the appointment of parish priests to our parishes.
  - e. How can we develop a 'Team Spirit' in our ministries?

5. Agenda Session Five: Education Ministry
- a. The Educational ministry should help us to be "closer to people" - inspire them through our example and life and thus a genuine means to witness our charism. How can we achieve this goal?
  - b. The Capuchin Education Board and Local Administrative Board have been established to organize Education ministry - what more can we do to make this ministry more vital?
  - c. Do you agree that the self sufficiency of the Province is also to be achieved through Education ministry?
6. Agenda Session Six: Justice, Peace and Ecology - Social Service
- a. Do you feel that the JPE activities are well integrated in the Fraternities where they exist?
  - b. Suggest new avenues, new branches and new ventures where JPE can expand its role.
7. Agenda Session Seven: Civil Matters: (Finance, Building etc.)
- a. There is general lethargy among the brothers towards civil administration which is so important for our survival in the context of rightist government taking over? What could be the reasons for this? How can we remedy it?
  - b. Why some Fraternities fail to submit annual budget and monthly returns?
  - c. What way we can continue to carry on the process of maintaining our land and society documents?
  - d. How can we use the building in Bidar as the Formation programme is not possible there due to scarcity of water?
8. Agenda Session Eight: General Matters
- a. St. Anthony's Vice Province has requested to be raised to the status of a Province. Does the Chapter endorse their request?
  - b. General Curia has asked every Province with missions to have a "Mission Secretariat"? How shall we implement the proposal? What way we can raise funds for our missions?

- c. What steps can we take so that our missionaries are initiated to the culture and language before they take up responsibilities in the missions?
  - d. There is some dissatisfaction in the present procedure of electing delegates to the Chapter- what improvements can be done? Is the Chapter in favour of empowering the Local Superiors by granting them Ex-Officio participation?
  - e. What should be the ideal role of the Definitors?
  - f. Is the purpose of mutual shift of our Theologate and Philosophate achieved?
  - g. Are we lenient towards brothers who err and work against other brothers and the Province?
  - h. Shall we have the election of the Provincial and the Definitory on the penultimate day of the Chapter?
  - i. There is request to establish our houses in Mizoram canonically. Does the Chapter accept the request?
  - j. What is our response to the Rite-Question in India as far as Capuchin Order is concerned? Are we ready to implement the policy of personnel solidarity locally?
  - k. Do we need a "Chapter of Mats" during this Triennium?
9. Agenda Session Nine: Topics added from the Reports

**Triennial Report from the Provincial Minister and his Definitory  
Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka  
2007-2010**

Dear Brother John Antony, the President of the Fifth Ordinary Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity Capuchin Province of Karnataka, my dear Capitulars and Brothers invited as Guests and Observers, Greetings of peace and joy!

**Preamble**

1. Having paid deep reverence to the Most Holy Trinity, the patron of our Province, we, the Provincial Minister and the Definitory, herewith, present our Triennial Report to the assembly gathered here to celebrate the Fifth Ordinary Chapter as required by our Constitutions. At the very outset, we would like to affirm that the report will be very modest in length due to the fact that besides usual reports from the Vice Province, Custody and the Delegations, there will be also six reports from the chairpersons of the respective commissions presented to the same assembly. Hence it is necessary to avoid repetitions. The introduction of the reports of the commissions in the agenda might need some explanation. We know from our past chapters that there is always a complaint that the commissions are ineffective in the province, that they lack empowerment and executive powers. The Capitulars can judge for themselves from their reports how far they were effective during this Triennium, and how far they were able to engage in meaningful activities. When the Capitulars leave the Chapter hall after closing the Chapter, they should have a complete picture of our Province and all that is being done (and also what remains undone) during the past three years.

**Obituary**

2. We would like to begin the Report with a Memento of our Deceased Friars during this Triennium. Br. Herbert Pinto was the first one to become the member of heavenly Kingdom after serving the Province in various capacities. Br. Rudolf D'Souza was the next one to go to his Eternal Reward after a very glorious life as a

capuchin brother. He was Definitior for three times and served the Province in various capacities. Br. Peter Ratos was the next to depart from this earthly sojourn having lived more than 99 years and just missed to hit the century by a few days, a true Capuchin Brother committed to the ministry of healing. Br. Felix Ferrao, who had served St. Anthony's Vice Province as its first Vice Provincial for six years, followed him within a few weeks after a short illness. The untimely and unexpected departure of Br. Stephen Rego has brought lots of sorrow and loss to the Provincial Fraternity. Br. Lucas Mariappa and Br. Johnson Joseph Lopes became the members of the glorious heavenly Kingdom just when they were making a beginning of their journey of religious life. To these we would like to add Br. Bernard Smith, St. Mary's Province, New York who was present for our Chapters twice, went to his eternal reward in March 2010. We remember all these brothers and pay our tributes to them. Br. Liguory Noronha has taken the trouble to compile a New Necrology of our Province, which will remind us of our elder brothers and their contributions to the growth of Capuchin Order in our Province.

### **Historical Landmarks**

3. With great satisfaction we would like to highlight the historical landmarks of the growth of our Province during this Triennium. As per the decision of the previous Chapter the Delegation of Sri Lanka dedicated to St. Pio was duly established on 9 September, 2007. The Chapter 2007 decided to establish the Custody of North East. But after conducting the visitation it was found more functional to have two delegations - accordingly the General Minister founded two delegations : the Provincial Delegation of Nagaland - Manipur dedicated to Infant Jesus on 14 January, 2008 and another Delegation of Mizoram-Tripura-Silchar dedicated to Christ the King on 16 January, 2008. 4 June, 2009 was a red-letter day in the History of Capuchin Presence in Maharashtra, when the General Minister announced the erection of the full-fledged Province of the St. Bonaventure of Maharashtra. There are other events, may be less conspicuous nevertheless, go

to mark the growth of our Province to a great extent. On 30 May, 2007 the Friary dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, named as Anugraha Ashram, was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda at Halbarga, Bidar. On 14 October, 2007 the Parish and the Mission dedicated to St. Joseph was inaugurated by His Grace Rev. Dominic Lumen, the Archbishop of Imphal at Choitar in Manipur, North East. The new Novitiate house in Mawila was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Frank Marcus the Bishop Emeritus of Chilaw Diocese, Sri Lanka on 8 September, 2007. The Blessing of Trinity Mission at Shiggaon in Karnataka took place on 12 December, 2007 when Most Rev. Peter Machado blessed and inaugurated the new Chapel and the Presbytery. The blessing of the beautifully constructed Chapel of Mawila Novitiate House in Sri Lanka was done by Bishop Mendes of Chilaw Diocese on 20 September, 2008. The first Friary of North East Mission came into existence when the St. Pio Friary at Sairang was blessed and inaugurated on 7 November, 2009. The Golden Jubilee of Sevak was celebrated on a grand scale on 11 October, 2009 in the Don Bosco Hall in the presence of eminent dignitaries. Another important land mark of our Mission in Sri Lanka was the blessing and inauguration of St. Francis of Assisi Capuchin House at Kandy by De. Joseph Vianney Fernando on 6 February, 2010. This house being just adjacent to the National Seminary, the brothers undergoing Special Formation will be residing in this house and attending lectures in the National Seminary. Finally the Trinity Central School block has been blessed by Most Rev. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop of Mangalore and inaugurated by Br. John McHugh, the Vicar Provincial of St. Mary's Province, New York on 11 April, 2010. May all these presences become the centres of living Capuchin Charism and bear witness to Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Province Statistics and the Presences of Friars**

4. The enclosed table below provides us information regarding the number of brothers in the Province and their distribution in various missions and presences.

The total number of Professed Friars in the entire Province	- 340
Total number of Perpetually Professed	- 220
Total number of Simple Professed	- 120

#### A. Statistical Data

Category	In Province	In V.P. of Goa	In Custody of Uganda	Delegation of San Pio	Total
Postulants	07	02	02	06	17
Novices	03	01	02	04	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>

#### B. Statistical Data

Category	In Province	In V.P. of Goa	In Custody of Uganda	Delegation of San Pio	Total
Friars in the Temporary Vows	88	17	13	02	120
Friars in Perpetual Vows	158	36	19	07	220
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>340</b>

#### C. Houses

	Friaries, Formation centres, Presences	Parishes	House of Prayer
Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka	21	9	
Infant Jesus Delegation	5	3	
Christ the king Delegation	4	4	
Bhopal Mission	2	2	
San Pio Delegation	4	1	
VP of Goa	5	2	
Custody of Uganda	5	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24</b>	

- During this Triennium we have established two more presences, the first being in Shiggaon in Belgaum Diocese which is temporary and may last only for five years and the second in Shivally. We have also closed down our presence in Mariamangala as there was no written agreement with the Bishop of Mysore regarding our presence. The Bishop has now granted us permission to start a Friary for Spiritual Ministry in the taluk of Kollegal. Meanwhile, there was also a proposal to establish a Friary in Madikeri along the main Road. The Capitulars can express their opinion regarding another presence among these two in the Diocese of Mysore and it can be implemented during the next Triennium.
- Another important development during the Triennium is the demand from Chikmagalur Bishop to return the premises of Bala Yesu Nivas to the Diocese. Though it was painful, we have agreed to hand over the premises and the Diocese compensated the amount we asked (Rs. 50, 37, 660/-). We have to move out on 30 April, 2010 and hand over the premises to the Diocese. The Developments in our Vice Province, Custody and the Delegations will be reported by the respective superiors in their reports.

#### The Province Fraternity

- The Province Fraternity of Karnataka is a complex reality - basically we constitute a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, heterogeneous, diversified fraternity. With deep satisfaction we can affirm that we have reached the ends of Karnataka with our presences. North Karnataka thrust announced by the Catholic Religious of Karnataka has taken us to Pothnal, Chikkodi and Bidar. Capuchins are the only Men Religious congregation which has a Formation centre in North Karnataka. We were adventurous enough to take up difficult Missions in North East, Uganda and Sri Lanka. We need to give credit to our missionaries who have achieved marvellous results in their missionary undertakings. What is necessary now is to affirm our unity, to make a renewal of our commitment to the reality of Karnataka, to become the witnesses of the Gospel to the ends of Karnataka as one brotherhood. It is

really unfortunate that there are some brothers who spend their energies in negative activities and go to the extent of bringing bad repute to their own brothers in religion and make fraternal life miserable.

### **Our Spiritual Witness**

8. Seen from one perspective, the Spiritual Witness of our brothers to the three Evangelical Counsels, to the proclamation of the Word of God and to Prayer life is certainly satisfactory. There are regular Liturgical Services, celebration of the Divine Office, Monthly Recollections and Annual Retreats etc. in most of our fraternities. Most of our friars are aware of Spiritual Renewal and the need to grow in spiritual life.
9. But the greatest and the most acute lacuna in the Province is a witness to contemplative dimension of our charism. The Capuchin reform started when some friars decided to follow Hermitage Rule with maximum time dedicated to Contemplation. In our Province there is no one who claims to be a contemplative, nor do we have - in so far we can see - any friars expressing any desire to be a contemplative. We need urgently a few friars who live the Rule of Hermitage and bear witness to Contemplative Dimension of our Capuchin call and few more friars sharing the same life in turn on a regular basis. Without this we cannot say that we are living our Capuchin Charism in its fullness.
10. As regards the Spiritual Animation by the Provincial Definitory, we can claim that we have made sufficient efforts towards this goal. Two Pastoral Visitations have been conducted and every friar has been met and interviewed personally. The usual animation through circulars, personal letters and personal meetings etc., is carried out without fail. The Superiors had a retreat cum dialogue session at the very beginning of the Triennium. To celebrate the 800th year of the approval of Rule 1209, we had three seminars on the Rule which has provided an opportunity for many friars to recapture the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. Besides, we were fortunate to have the visit of Br. General Minister to our Province

and then that of General Definitors, who visited all the fraternities and met all the brothers individually and encouraged them to live our Capuchin way of life with intense zeal and generosity.

### **Vocation Promotion**

11. The Vocation Promotion is organized by the commission which meets twice in a year. Since most of the vocation promoters are also SFO spiritual assistants and many vocations emerge from the SFO families, we have integrated both the commissions under one chairperson and their meetings too take place simultaneously. The Provincial Vocation Promoter as well as regional vocation promoters have taken keen interest in bringing good vocations to the Order. There are three scrutinizing committees in the Province, one for Bangalore-Mysore, and another for Karwar and the third for Mangalore regions. There are brochures with around 50 questions distributed to the theology students to study the family background of each candidate. What we need to take into account regarding candidates is the changing scenario of the family structure - most of them are becoming nuclear and that has affected the perseverance of the candidates. We have decided not to accept into the Order if the candidate is the "only" child. We need to wait and see how many will persevere among the candidates who are "only two" in the family. Out of 25 students promoted in the Initiation this year 12 are "only two" children, and among these ten are eldest. Among the 15 brothers presently doing their PUC five are "only two" children. When we speak of perseverance, we need to speak also of the atmosphere for formation. We have started regular PUC, the first batch is now in Postulancy - out of 21 who started PUC, and only six have joined Postulancy (65% left for good). We have promoted 14 second PUC students to Postulancy this year - we need to wait and see how many among them will turn up for Postulancy after the results of PUC are announced. The vocation promotion is certainly going to be the biggest challenge in the future.

## Formation

12. There are altogether 14 formation centres in the Province, Vice Province, Custody and Delegations. All of them are manned by able and dedicated Formators who render selfless service to the Order and the Province. The Chapter 2007 gave us the mandate to get ready the "Ratio Formationis", to start regular PUC and to organize Initiation in Assisi House. The first item, "Formation Programme" was not only got ready by the Formation Commission and saw that it is implemented in all stages, but also got a thorough feedback regarding its implementation during the Formators' conference.
13. The resolution to start Regular PUC was executed by registering all the students in two colleges in Ujire: Anugraha PU College and a few in the SDM College. Unfortunately in 2009 after the Tenth standard results the Diocese decided to close down PUC in Anugraha College in Ujire. We were fortunate enough to get admissions in Mundaje College at least for Arts and Commerce. Meanwhile an ad hoc committee was formed to look into PUC programme. The Committee after making a detailed study proposed the best option to be 'Moodubelle' where there is a vacant building of ground plus two floors with enough and more place for study hall, dormitories and for all other needs at least for 60 students. The building is strong and modern with sufficient water supply. The owners of the premises, "Mudarth Trust" by name, agreed to lend the building for our use for Ten years without any rent. Close by we have the St. Lawrence PU College with all three options of Arts, Commerce and Science. Besides, the trust members are ready to "gift" one acre of land to us, just across the street. We have made an agreement with the "Mudarth Trust" for Ten years. .
14. As regards the recommendation of the Chapter to have Initiation in Assisi House, first of all, a new structure was being planned in Assisi House, which had to take its own time to reach completion. Meanwhile, the venue for conducting Postulancy came into

question. The Novitiate community was strongly against having Postulancy in the Novitiate house on a permanent basis. We had to plan both the structures together.

The easiest and cheapest possibility to get ready a structure was at Bidar, the Anugraha Ashram. Here the ground floor and a community hall were completely ready for inauguration. If we could build the first floor, we resolved, the Postulancy can be had on a permanent basis. As the place was very fertile ground for missionary activities, since the students could conduct Sunday liturgy in the villages and catechize the new Christians etc., we got ready the structure as a centre for Postulancy programme of the Province. Meanwhile, on a temporary basis we started Initiation there as the Assisi House was not ready. It is said, 'man proposes but God disposes'; there was a draught in the whole area and all the three bore wells in the compound got dried up. Thirty students and the staff had to face the severe draught in July 2009. We had to find another place for them. Br. Anthony Vas was generous to offer accommodation to all our students for a year in Hosanagar. In the meantime the thinking in St. Anne's Friary is changing. Since the infirmary will be located there, the Postulants will do better to look after the aged friars, especially when they are hospitalized. The Initiation students will not be of any help to the Province Infirmary and hence Postulancy should be located in the Assisi House is the argument now going on. The Chapter can arrive at a decision. In case, Postulancy is established in St. Anne's Friary, the Initiation can be had in Dayalbagh, Ujire.

15. 25 June, 2007 is a day that cannot be forgotten in the history of our Formation houses in Mysore and Bangalore. In accordance with the decision of the Chapter 2007, the Theologate was transferred to Bangalore and Philosophate to Mysore. The mutual transfer itself after some initial complaints and difficulties of adjustments has been well accepted by vast majority of staff and students. But one can ask, whether the reasons for the mutual transfer of study houses been realized. The three years are too

short a time to make a valid assessment. We need to admit that these three years were needed to settle down. Providing residence to OFM Brothers was a problem initially. The project 'Campus Theology' certainly needs more time. The Benedictines are already attending lectures as day scholars; the TOR brothers are requesting admission into our Theologate; the Rosminians too have applied; the Servites are also in the line. Meanwhile we have applied for affiliation to Pontifical University of Antonianum in Rome. The application is being processed in the Vatican and we hope to get affiliation for B.Th, M.Th and Doctorate programmes within a few months. This too will give wider scope for Campus Theology. In Kripalaya, the Philosophical programme got settled down with greater acceleration. The students now do their graduation in the Open University at Mysore. They have been very active at the diocesan level in all activities bringing laurels to the Capuchin tradition. Only question we need to settle here is whether we should implement the IGNOU graduation programme initiated in collaboration with CBCI.

16. The burning issue in our Special Formation is the termination of the contract by St. Fidelis Province (almost univocally) and the decision of St. Bonaventure Province to send their students to SDB Philosophate in Nasik. There will not be any more students from St. Fidelis Province coming to the Province for formation in future. As regards, St. Bonaventure, they are willing to send theologians to DITH. But should we accept them is the question we need to settle once and for all. The argument before us is whether the students who study in SDB College, can their Philosophy integrate easily with the Capuchin Formation in our Theologate. The Chapter can take a serious note of this situation.
17. The effect of the withdrawal of Brothers from other jurisdictions on our already existing Formation structures is to be noted. Kripalaya will have only 21 brothers in June, 2012 and the number can never rise above 45, who can be easily accommodated in the old wing. What can we do with the new wing is the question we need to ponder over.

## Ongoing Formation

18. During this Triennium Br. Deepak Rayappa, Br. Dolphy Pais, Br. Albert Lewis and Br. Chetan Lobo returned from abroad after completing their studies, first in Pastoral Theology in Manila and the second in Franciscan Spirituality in Rome, the third in Systematic Theology in Germany and the fourth in Communications in Rome. Br. Antony Lopes while being full time employed in the Vicariate with various responsibilities has persistently pursued his research and completed his Doctorate in Canon Law in the Royal University of Saint Thomas in Manila. Br. John Peter has completed his B. Ed studies with distinction from Karnataka University. Br. Santa Lopes will return in July, 2010 having obtained Licentiate in Philosophy. Br. Henry Vas will return in September, 2010 after completing Master's degree in "Studies in Justice and Peace" at Fordham University, New York. Three more brothers Br. Jeevan D' Mello, Br. Francis Furtado and Br. Joel Rosario will be back in the Province in October, 2010 after completing their studies, the first two in Franciscan Spirituality and the third in Missiology. All others who are doing their studies abroad are progressing well and will be returning in due time. In India two have applied for MSW and three are doing their M. Sc in Psychological Counselling, one friar is doing LLB and some have applied for Masters Degree in the disciplines of their choice. Several Brothers have attended short term courses in different centres in India. The list attached herewith provides other information on courses and seminars attended by our brothers. Besides these were some seminars and courses organized by the province itself. One seminar was held for the Parish Priests, another for all Treasurers and Principals of the schools on legal matters and still another on Provident Fund. The Commission for Justice and Peace held seminars on "Human Rights" in Kripalaya and DITH. The Pastoral Commission too had a seminar for Pastors and the Junior Priests. Three short seminars have been organized at DITH one on the theme of Inter-religious Dialogue, another on St. Paul and still another on Call to Priesthood.

**BROTHERS WHO ATTENDED DIFFERENT COURSES  
IN INDIA AND IN ABROAD DURING 2007 - 2010**

Sl. No	NAME	NAME OF THE COURSE AND PLACE	DURATION
1.	24 brothers	Self Awareness, Positive Outlook, Team & relationship Building	Three days
2.	Br. Basil Joseph	Course on Counselling at Dindigul	One Month
3.	Br. Arun Kumar	"	"
4.	Br. Martin S. D' Silva	Diploma in Development Leadership, Coady	Five Months
5.	Br. Desmond Rebello	Spiritual Direction in Canada	Six Months
6.	Br. Joel Rosario	Licentiate in Missiology	3 Years
7.	Br. Jeevan D' Mello	Licentiate in Franciscan Spirituality, Rome	"
8.	Br. Valerian Fernandes	Doctorate in Canon Law, Rome	"
9.	Br. Richard Quodras	Leadership	Two Days
10.	Br. John Peter	"	"
11.	Br. Blaize Rodrigues	Social Action	Three Days
12.	Br. Stephen Arun Lobo	"	"
13.	Br. Gerald Viegas	"	"
14.	31 brothers	Seminar on Rule 1209	Four Days
15.	Br. Manohar D'Souza	Spiritual Direction	One Month
16.	Br. Richard D'Souza	Taking charge of your life	"
17.	Br. Lourdsamy	"	"
18.	26 brothers	Seminar on the Rule 1209	Four Days
19.	33 brothers	Seminar on Provident Fund	One Day
20.	36 brothers	Seminar on Legal Aid	"
21.	Br. Lourdsamy	Religious life Diploma Course	Nine Months
22.	Br. Rocky D' Cunha	Doctorate in Philosophy	Three Years
23.	Whole community	JPE Seminar Kripalaya	"
24.	Whole community	JPE Seminar at DITH	"
25.	19 brothers	Seminar on 1209	Two Days
26.	14 Brothers	Junior Priest- Pastoral Seminar	Three Days
27.	Br. Denis Gabriel Veigas	Doctorate in Comparative Religion, Rome	Designated
28.	Br. Robin Victor D' Souza	Licentiate in Philosophy, LYON	"
29.	Br. Arun Lobo	Master's Degree in Human Rights USA	"
30.	Br. Paul Melwyn D' Souza	Doctorate in Philosophy, Luzern	"
31.	Br. Malcolm Sequeira	Spiritual Direction	One month
32.	Br. William Prabhu	"	"
33.	Br. Henry D' Souza	"	"
34.	DITH & Community	Inter-Religious Dialogue	One Day
35.	DITH & Community	St. Paul & Mission	"
36.	DITH & Community	Call to Priesthood	"
37.	3 Brothers	MSC - Psychology & Counselling	Degree
38.	Br. Joachim D' Souza	Civil Law	"

**Brothers in irregular situation**

19. The Province is well aware of the absence of Bros. Ivan Vas and Br. Paul Pinto. We initiated Canonical action against both of them in 2008 and applications have been forwarded to Br. General Minister requesting dispensation from vows for both of them. Eddie Premdas has acknowledged that he has married and agreed to send his Marriage Certificate, but till today it has not reached us in spite of our several reminders. As soon as we get the Marriage Certificate we have to forward his application for de-clericalization. Br. Martin D'Silva has become the member of a Social Service Organization at Kudchi in Belgaum District where he has established a English Medium School. He has been granted one year of Leave of Absence. Meanwhile he has applied for exclausteration to General Minister for three years which can be processed. Br. Agnel D'Cunha is presently working in Tejpur Diocese in Assam with the intention to get incardinated into a Diocese.

**Governance of the Province**

20. The Government of the Province was done by the Provincial Minister and the Definitory at the level of the Province and by the Local Superiors at the level of local fraternities. The Provincial Definitory had 24 meetings during this Triennium to transact all administration of the Province. After every Definitory meeting the Province was informed of all decisions through the circular along with a short Spiritual Message. Provincialate being the centre of all administration; we had Provincial Executive Council consisting of Provincial Minister, Provincial Secretary, Province Secretary/ Administrator and Treasurer which met immediately after every Provincial Definitory meeting to deliberate the execution of all the decisions, and to decide upon the civil procedures of formulating resolutions to be recorded in the minute books of respective societies.

21. The new phenomenon of this Triennium is the creation of a new post in the Provincialate that of Province Administrator or Province Secretary. Many in the Province are aware of the good work done through this office. Nevertheless, a short clarification

regarding the existence of this office may not be out of place. First of all our Province is very vast with many missions and diverse political units having their own laws and regulations. Secondly the civil administration is becoming day by day more and more complex, cumbersome and complicated, with so many new laws being promulgated in every legislative session. Thirdly, the rightist government strongly prejudiced against Christian institutions is waiting for an opportunity to harass us; all these factors demand that we put our house in order and maintain that order.

22. The report by the administrator will enumerate all the civil transactions effected during the Triennium. We were able to set right many irregularities in our land documents, organize thoroughly education ministry and social service ministry. The best example we can cite is the regularization of the Provident Fund obligations. Lot of our energy has been spent to regularize the irregularities, discrepancies and mistakes in our land documents. Some of these irregularities have been rectified and others are in the process of rectification. We should know it is a very cumbersome procedure both time and money consuming to bring order in civil documents. From all this, what we conclude is that all of us should make a habit of reading civil documents like Affidavits, Power of Attorney and Sale Deeds. It is possible that sometimes we hire unreliable advocates and rely too much on them.
23. In this context we would like to bring to the notice of the Capitulars that there are some friars who have sometimes undertaken unauthorized and even illegal dealings regarding the purchase and sale of land and Province assets. We need to take a resolution in this Chapter which forbids the friars to draw contracts or agreements or to sell any property or immovable assets without a written permission from the Provincial Minister. In case of legal deeds they are to be preceded by a resolution of the respective registered society of the Province signed by all the seven members of the Governing Body. At least these measures can reduce irregularities.
24. Through this office we were also able to appropriate following properties: (1) 66 cents of land at Bondel, Mangalore is gifted by

Mrs. Philomena Monteiro through a Will. We can take possession of the land only after the demise of the donor. (2) Two acres of land in Palya, Hassan District is gifted by Mrs. and Mr. Sigmund Sequeira. (3) Three acres, nine cents of land in Madanthyar is gifted by Mrs. Mary Veigas. (4) One acre of land is gifted by Mudartha Trust in Moodubelle, through the Chairperson Mr. Bernard D'Souza. Process of registration is yet to be completed. May God abundantly bless these generous benefactors. Besides these, we have succeeded in purchasing the following pieces of land. (1) Five acres of land in Shivally village, Udupi District. (2) Five cents in one place and 14 cents (actual areas 0.75 cents) in another place in Laila Village, Belthangady Taluk for Vimukti activities.

25. We have also sold following lands. (1) As per the decision of the last Chapter, the Friary building and land at Madikeri (partially). (2) One acre of land opposite to Darshan College after obtaining permission from Holy See through General Minister. (3) Two acres of land at Gavanahalli, Chikmagalur. (4) Regarding the Kengeri Satellite town land (Asha Kiran site), we can make following clarification: We had discussed in the previous Chapters the land notified by the Bangalore Development Authority to the extent of 3 acres 25 guntas in Valagerehalli, Kengeri in 1989. We have tried since 1989 various ways to save the land with no success whatsoever. Now that the rightist government is bent upon acquiring through hook or crook whatever land belonging to Christian institutions in Bangalore, we decided to dispose of a portion of the land and save the rest. Accordingly we made an agreement to sell 2 acres 18 guntas of land and in return get the entire land de-notified and legalized. The de-notification is completed and now the rectification of documents is being done.
26. Administration at the level of local fraternities in most of the cases has been very satisfactory. The Local Superiors were conscious of their duties and obligations and succeeded to animate the fraternities in all respects. But we cannot expect perfect situation anywhere, as usual, there were some conflicts, but we were able to create understanding in such circumstances to a great extent. If

some fraternities were unsuccessful, it is mainly because they have deliberately failed to implement the directives given after the Pastoral Visitation. Nevertheless, we need to be grateful to our Constitutions which provide wonderful opportunity of the celebration of the Triennial Chapter, which in turn provides the best solutions to most of the conflicts as we have to reconstitute new fraternities.

### **The Ministries and Apostolate**

27. The preaching, SFO and parish ministries are continued as usual in the Province. The SFO spiritual assistants constitute an independent commission and collaborate with the Vocation Promotion ministry. Some way the Youfra has not been revived during this Triennium. The next Definitory may have to assign a person full time in charge of Youfra ministry if it has to be revived. Coming to the parishes, we have seven full fledged Parishes and Two Missions (Chikkodi and Shiggaon) in Karnataka, Two Parishes in Bhopal Archdiocese, Six in North East and One in Sri Lanka. Among the parishes in Karnataka, the situation is far from ideal. Actually, the Capuchin Parishes were considered to be ideal some years back. But now the situation has changed. There are divisions, delegations, complaints from the parishioners addressed to the Provincialate now and then. We hope the prevailing situation will change. We need to deliberate intensely on this point during this Chapter. The General Minister in his circular proposes "closeness to the poor/people" as the characteristic mark of our Capuchin Charism. A Parish is an ideal place to be "close to the people" - our closeness to people, by being available, serviceable with an attitude of listening seems to be dwindling. We cannot be close to the people with an attitude of dominating and all the time advising, exhorting, moralizing, administering and managing - all these not Franciscan attitudes. The ideal proposed by St. Francis is that we "be meek, peaceful, modest, gentle and humble, speaking courteously to everyone, as is becoming" (RB 3.11; Test. 19). This is the incarnational approach we need urgently to appropriate to ourselves.

### **Social Service Ministry**

28. The JPE ministry in the Province under the banner of Vimukti Charitable Trust has done remarkable work in the field of Social Service. The brothers working in this ministry have special statutes now besides having a centralized office in Pothnal. The most important achievement during this Triennium was the recognition of our Alcoholic De-addiction ministry in Asha Kiran, Bhadravati by the Union Welfare Ministry in New Delhi. Kudos to Br. Charles Francis Saldanha who pursued the application for grant for half a decade without getting frustrated. If we succeed to receive the grant and the subsidy promised every year the ministry can become financially self-sufficient.

Our attempts to revive our social service activities in Pothnal have borne some results. Through the intervention of Br. Alwyn Dias studying in Paris, some youth have come together to support our programmes in Pothnal under the synonym: "Ensemble Agissons - Vimukti Pothnal". In Ujire, we have succeeded to purchase a small plot for the Vimukti office and in Banakal the Vimukti centre is growing in leaps and bounds.

### **Capuchin Publication Trust**

29. Due to the new Code of Taxes announced by the Finance Ministry, the Auditor asked us to separate all income generating activities from Charitable and Religious societies. Assisi Press being an income generating activity we had to start a separate Trust to which we have annexed the Sevak and all publications through books, CDs, Cassettes etc. There may be a need to form committees one for Musical Creations and the other for Literary Creations, so that the selection, publication and then accounting of all transactions could be done in a systematic manner.

### **School Ministry**

30. The stage of infancy demands utmost care, attention and concern. The School ministry being still in its infancy stage, we had to pay greater attention to it. In 2004, three new schools had been announced by the then Definitory to be established at Pothnal, Chikkodi and Kasarkod. It also initiated the process of establishing

the Darshan College and Research Institute project. The next Definitory implemented the decisions by starting Primary Schools in Pothnal and Chikkodi with necessary infra-structure. Besides continuing the Darshan College project, it also applied to the Department to start a Primary School in Chikmagalur.

31. The urgent need during this Triennium was to organize and stabilize the school ministry. We established a Capuchin Education Board (CEB) at the Province level and a Local Administrative Board (LAB) at the local level. We also formulated the Statutes for the School ministry and Service Rules for the employees. All the friars who are involved in the education ministry are members of the CEB who meet three times a year to submit reports to plan and organize and to share achievements and resolve difficulties. There is also a full-time Educational Secretary at the Province level as liaison between the CEB and the Provincial Definitory. The School ministry is thus well organized and can become effective as a corporate venture if the traditions are continued (Vide: Acts and Decisions 2004, Recommendations, no. 5; p. 141).
32. We would like to enumerate the policies agreed upon by the CEB:
  - (1) We develop all the schools up to PUC as and when convenient.
  - (2) All schools will be registered under Capuchin Friars Service Society.
  - (3) All the assets will be owned by another society which will receive annual rent.
  - (4) The Executive Secretary will organize and guide the School ministry.
  - (5) All the Friars who are members of CEB should follow the province statutes for School ministry.
  - (6) The Definitory will prepare and provide adequate personnel so that there will be at least two brothers serving full time at least in those institutions where there is a high school.
33. The Recommendation Number 13 of Chapter 2004 reads, "The Chapter endorses the decision of the Provincial Minister and his Definitory to establish Darshan College and Research Institute in the land owned by the Bangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society" (Vide: Acts and Decisions, p. 142). Since the Chapter 2007 decided to shift Theology to Bangalore and Franciscan Brothers were without any shelter, the hostel of Darshan College was offered to them and the Counselling course being held in Darshan College

was terminated. Once the number of Franciscan brothers became smaller, there was need to revive the College so that the available structures are put to use again. The CEB after a good study of the situation around Kengeri strongly advised the Definitory to start BBM and BCOM courses in the College. Now that the Bangalore University has granted affiliation to Darshan College and after one year of experience we can certainly evaluate the results and respond to the feedback from the brothers involved in the administration of the College.

34. Meanwhile, the question of starting a PUC came up for discussion in CEB. The minutes of the Chapters 2004 (Vide: Acts and Decisions, p. 134) and 2007 (Vide: Acts and Decisions, p. 184), record discussions and suggestions to establish PUC in Kengeri. The argument against was the presence of Gnanabodhini High School which should have priority to start PUC. But now the Ursuline Sisters themselves came forward encouraging us to start PUC, which will guarantee continuous flow of students to BBM and BCOM in Darshan College. Accordingly we have applied to the PU Board to establish St. Anthony's Pre-University College at the Darshan College premises. If we get permission, PUC in Kengeri will become a reality in the Province.
35. The Trinity Central School project is an extension of St. Anne's Friary project. The previous Definitory has obtained permission from the Bishop of Mangalore to take over Holy Family English Medium School in Brahmavar. The CEB advised the Definitory to make a feasibility study of taking over the school as it was reported that there are 21 schools between Santekatte and Sasthan. The Definitory asked reports from the Parish Priest and the Principal of the School and also a decision from the Parish Council to hand over the school to the Capuchin Province. All three responses were negative. These responses were discussed in the CEB and as per its resolution the Definitory decided not to take over the School in Brahmavar. Meanwhile the suggestion came to start the School in Kasarkod as per decision of the Definitory in 2004. We wrote to the Bishop of Karwar for permission and the Bishop firmly stated the School should belong to the Diocese. Even if we

purchase land for the school it should belong to the Diocese. Such being the case, the idea was given up. Meanwhile, the idea of establishing a school along the coastal line came up strongly during the Pastoral visitation of the Fraternities. St Anne's Friary proposed to finance the project of purchasing the land. As we were in search of a piece of land, a friend of the Capuchins showed us several pieces of properties around Manipal, and our choice fell on a piece of land at Shivally, three Kilometers from Manipal bus stand, which was financially affordable. The School has been partially financed by New York Province; we are indebted to them and we express our gratitude to them. In our planning, we proposed to sell the Pio Mall shops and use the funds for the construction of the school, which in turn should maintain the infirmary expenses.

### **Constructions**

36. We had to first of all continue the constructions which were going on. The focus was providing school infra-structure. We spent good amount of Province money for Bidar to get ready the structure for Postulancy, which some way was not of much use so far. The whole world suffered due to economic recession and our Province cannot be expected to be an exception to this. Our plans of selling an acre of land at DSA and using the amount to complete Darshan College, Assisi House, and Infant Jesus School etc. suffered a severe setback. Now that we have just two months back succeeded to sell some land and with the income we are able to finish half done works within a short time. Nevertheless, we have succeeded to complete the first stage of Infant Jesus School at Chikmagalur, and Trinity Central School in Shivally, Wine press building in Monte Mariano and Sneha-Jyothi Vidyalaya in Pothnal.

### **Contribution at the International Level**

37. Our Province being one of the largest in the whole Order, it is natural that we participate at the international level and contribute our mite whenever we were requested by higher superiors for our share of services. Br. Patrick Crasta served seven years as the member of International Secretariat for Formation. Br. Jossy Fernandes is presently the member of the Commission for

Formation. Br. Edwin Colaco is rendering service to the Office of Economic Solidarity as one of the project managers. Br. Bona Marcel has been appointed as the Vice Rector of San Lorenzo College in Rome. Br. Baptist Rodrigues is active in the preparation of the Lexicon of the Order. The FISU hosted the meeting of all the General Definitors and the Capuchin Major Superiors of India in November, 2008. Br. Jossy Fernandes is the Spiritual Assistant to PCPA Sisters in India and Bangladesh since October, 2009.

### **Missions**

38. Regarding the Missions, we restrict only to the role of Provincial Definitory in the animation as there will be reports from individual jurisdictions. To begin with, we had to respond to the report of General Visitation to Uganda Custody as soon as we took charge in 2007. Br. Denis Veigas went first in August, 2007 to study and analyze the situation followed by Br. Anil in September, 2007 to preach a retreat and to animate the brothers spiritually. Then the Provincial Visitation of the Custody took place in 2008 followed by the visit of Br. Edwin to prepare a studied response to the queries of the General Visitation. The General Definitory was well pleased with our attempts to regularize the administration of the Custody. As regards personnel Br. Antony Alpheus D'Souza has returned to the Province after 22 years of service to the Mission. Br. Francis Furtado has opted to go there as a formator.
39. In Sri Lanka, we had to organize the Formation Programme of Pakistani Brothers. On 6 September, 2007, a meeting was called by Br. Peter Rodgers, the General Definitory in charge, in the presence of the Vice Provincial of Pakistan and the Provincial Minister and Provincial Delegate of Holy Trinity Province. During the meeting it was resolved that the Brothers from Pakistan will come to Sri Lanka for one year of Novitiate and two years of Philosophy up to 2012. As there is full satisfaction in our formation, the programme has been extended now up to 2015.
40. In the North East, we have now one good Friary in Sairang, Mizoram and another is getting ready in Dimapur. The Brothers there have unanimously proposed that they will conduct one year of Initiation in Sairang Friary and two years of PUC in Dimapur.

The Brothers will come down for Postulancy and Novitiate to the Province. There is a suggestion to have Post-Novitiate in their own context. As regards Special Formation, the General Minister is planning to have it in North itself, in which all the five jurisdictions of North India will mutually collaborate. Till the time it gets realized the brothers from our Delegations will be coming down to South.

41. We have five brothers working in the Vice Province of Arabia. As per the agreement drawn up by the General Minister we were supposed to send five brothers to the Vice Province of Arabia; the number is full now and we can expect only replacements in the future. Bishop Paul Hinder has expressed his full satisfaction at the ministry of our brothers there. He has good appreciation for all. In Turkey we have only one friar now, who has agreed to continue for another three years and there is a request for a companion for him. Br. Tarcy Mathias is terminally ill and taking rest in Bologna, Italy.
42. Our collaboration in Japan is going on with full satisfaction. The brothers have surprised everyone by their mastery over Japanese language and the script. As a new friary is being planned in the mainland we are requested to send two more friars this year.
43. All the above missions are to be developed into independent jurisdictions of the Order. This is the task assigned to us. But the mission of Bhopal will remain with Karnataka on a permanent basis. With this understanding all the Superiors gathered together for the meeting after the Chapter 2007 decided to develop it on a priority basis.

### **Conclusion**

44. We, the Provincial Minister and the Definitory would like to sing the praises of God almighty for giving us grace, strength, inspiration and good will to carry out the responsibilities assigned to us during the last three years. May our Triune God be praised. We are highly indebted to all the friars in the Province for their cooperation, collaboration and support extended to us throughout the Triennium. We are very grateful to all the Local Superiors who have joyfully shared the burden of animation and administration at the local level

and faced courageously the challenges of living our charism and carrying out the ministries. We appreciate and praise the selfless service of our missionaries who have volunteered to live and proclaim the Kingdom of God in far off lands among people of alien cultures, languages and backgrounds.

45. If the Provincial Definitory has achieved anything, it is due to the sheer hard work of persons in the Provincial Curia: Br. Edwin Colaco, the Provincial Treasurer and the Superior of Saccidananda, Br. Basil Joseph the Provincial Secretary and Vicar and Br. Joachim D'Souza the Administrator and Province Secretary of the Province. All of you are witnesses to their commitment, dedication and selfless, generous service. They have lightened my burden and have provided me immense support. Last but not the least; we cannot forget the three brothers viz., Bros. Naveen, Sunil and Joel who have spent their precious year of fraternal experience in the Provincialate, have made it a home, where hospitality and friendship were experienced by everyone who visited the Curia.
46. Before we conclude, we thank our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi who had been the source of inspiration and model of service to us, to our Redeemer, the Risen Lord whose deputees we were in carrying out his designs and most of all to the Most Holy Trinity, whose will we were trying to obey. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado OFM Cap, Provincial Minister

Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira OFM Cap, Vicar Provincial

Br. Denis Gabriel Veigas OFM Cap, Definitor

Br. Edwin Cyprian Colaco OFM Cap, Definitor

Br. Peter Cyprian D'Souza OFM Cap, Definitor

Date: 12 April, 2010

Place: Kengeri, Bangalore - 560059

**Br. Vincent G. Furtado OFM Cap**  
Provincial Minister

**Financial Report from the Provincial Treasurer,  
Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka  
2007-2010**

(On the Economy of the Province in General and on the Provincial Fund in Particular)

Dear Br. John Antony, the President of the Chapter, Br. Vincent G. Furtado, the Provincial Minister, the Provincial Definitors and dear brothers,

As we have gathered here for the Fifth Provincial Chapter, here I am, as the Treasurer of the Province, to present to you a short but comprehensive Financial Report of the economic situation of the Province in general and the economic position of the Provincial Fund in particular. Ours is not a single-handed administration of the finance. There is the consultative Commission for Finance and Building, which studies the issues and gives its suggestions to the Provincial Minister and his Definitory, who alone administers the finance. This is the fraternal structure that we have as per the Constitutions.

During this Triennium, it was something unique that the ministry of the Treasurer was also combined with that of the Provincial definitor. Moreover, to my pleasant surprise I received the appointment from the General Minister as the project manager for Asia, to render service at the Office of the Commission for Economic Solidarity, Rome. I fulfil this ministry by participating in two meetings that take place successively in October. This participation at the international level gave me the first-hand experience how our Order tries to administer finance in fraternal way.

The Provincial Minister has already given many of the salient features of the Provincial Economy. Appointed as a steward, it is my bounden duty to give the account of my stewardship by placing before you the facts and figures in a transparent way. I have tried to be objective and critical as well, with the intention of building up a fraternal economy in the Provincial Fraternity.

**General observations**

As our country is favouring the open market economy, any hiccups in world economy has its repercussions in India. The financial institutions in the west have collapsed and the recession started all of a sudden. The Indian economy could not be immune to this. Thus we are experiencing the lean years. At the local level, one might not have felt the impact of economical recession. At the level of the Provincial Fraternity, as any one guess, all our plans are thrown out of gear. The funds did not flow as expected and our projects are indefinitely delayed. We are hoping for the dawning of the 'years of plenty'.

We are not of this world, but in the world. The world we live in affects us a lot. How can one define our country in terms of economy? Here is a short story: A little boy wanted Rs. 50 very badly and prayed for weeks, but nothing happened. Finally he decided to write God a letter requesting for the Rs. 50. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to God, INDIA, they decided to forward it to the President of the India as a joke. The President was so amused, that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy Rs. 20. The President thought this would appear to be a lot of money (Rs. 50) to a little boy and he did not want to spoil the kid. The little boy was delighted with Rs. 20 and decided to write a 'thank you' note to God, which read: "Dear God, thank you very much for sending the money. However, I noticed that you sent it through the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, and those fools deducted Rs. 30 as tax. This tells us of the situation, we are in.

As for our province, it seems to suffer from the identity crisis. We have too many ends in fire. We have many upcoming missions in and outside country. We have taken a big leap towards the school ministry. The socio-developmental works are being expanded day by day. This involves a big finance and also qualified and committed personnel.

**I. THE PROVINCIAL FUND**

**1. The Structure and its administration**

The so called 'Provincial Fund', about which some have wild imaginations, forms just a part of two registered societies: The Bangalore

Capuchin Friars Minor Society (BCFMS) and The Capuchin Friars Service Society (CFSS), which are administered from Saccidananda, Capuchin Provincialate, Bangalore. Both the Societies have mixed charitable objectives. Both have the registration under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976.

At present, 'Capuchin Fathers Provincial Fund' which is the unit of BCFMS is the main account that receives the funds from the foreign agencies and distributes the same to other units. All the funds for the Province-purposes of formation, of buildings, of mass offerings etc. are received and managed by this society.

The CFSS is now designated to manage and administer the educational activities of the Province. The Capuchin Educational Board (CEB) is its executive wing as far as the education is concerned. All our schools in Karnataka are its units. Within the civil state of Karnataka, no property with the school building, except in one case of Pothnal, is owned by the CFSS. The finance of each school unit is centrally administered in as much as the fee structure, the pay scale, the infrastructure etc. are determined by the CEB with the consultation with the local administrative body (LAB). The day-to-day financial administration is also controlled in as much as each unit has to present by the month end the budget forecast for the next month and the amount is disbursed through by the secretary from the centre. All these structures are intended to build up a transparent, responsible and fraternal economic administration.

In the past the CFSS was receiving funds from the foreign agencies on behalf of the Vimukti Charitable Trust and acted as a partner. Now that the Vimukti Charitable Trust has registered itself under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, it is able to stand on its own. The finance of this Trust also centrally controlled in as much as the Provincial Treasurer is one of the signatories for the banking transactions.

The Provincial Minister and the Definitors form the major part of the governing body of these three bodies. The governing body meetings are regularly held and the activities are closely monitored. The annual general meetings are held in compliance with the rules and regulations of Karnataka Society's Act. The annual returns are filed and the renewal

certificates are obtained.

The annual returns of Foreign Contribution accounts are filed with the Ministry of Home Affairs. In compliance with Income Tax Act 1961, the annual returns are regularly filed with the Income Tax authorities.

The government has already announced the coming of the new Income Tax Act 2012, which will be effective thereafter. Nobody knows the exact content of this new regulation. The draft is being studied and discussed, and the suggestions are proposed. What shape it will take, is just a guess. But one can be sure; this new act aims at taxing the incomes of all, both of the individuals and of corporate bodies. As a precaution therefore, we have already registered the Capuchin Publication Trust to take over the activities of Assisi Press, as it is an income generating unit.

## **2. Financial Position of 'The Provincial Fund':**

The Provincial Funds belong to the Province and all of us constitute the Province. Each one has the right not only to ask, but all also has the equal right to contribute to this Corpus. The principal of abundance is that in giving we receive. The Provincial Funds directly reflect the generosity of the individual.

The recession concretely means no receipts or slow inflow of funds while the demands are the same or even more. In short, recession results the depletion of funds. At the same time, the law does not permit us to deplete the funds below certain limit. That has been the tension of the Provincial Treasurer, tension between the meeting the demands and the compliance with the law. As one can guess, the reserves have not increased, rather have depleted.

## **3. Sources of Receipts**

### **3.1 Foreign Sources**

Office of Economic Solidarity: This has been the greatest God's blessings to us all. This commission for economic solidarity contributes generously and substantially towards the formation, the friary building projects, the maintenance of the missionaries in the North East and in Sri Lanka and occasional help in the event of natural calamities. We cannot thank enough the General Minister and his Definitory for their

kind gesture.

Time has come or is coming, when we have to show our gratitude in action by being self-sufficient and less dependent on the commission for economic solidarity. Some jurisdictions in certain countries have been told to raise their own finance and request for less subsidies year by year. One can be sure, the same will be told to us sooner or later. Let us be prepared.

The funds of the economic solidarity are made up partly of the returns on the investments and partly of the contributions from the provinces that can afford. Some of the jurisdictions promised and contributed a certain sum as one time donation. Some others are still contributing, but their contribution is reduced year by year.

St. Mary's Province, New York and New England: The Provincial Fraternity of St. Mary's Province, New York and New England has been continuously supporting us year by year. The school building project of Infant Jesus School, Chikmagalur and of Trinity Central School, Shivally has been for a large extent financed by them. The work of these projects is in progress. They had also contributed for the building project of Darshan College.

Swiss Capuchin Province: The Swiss Capuchin Province has been the big benefactor of our Province in the past and continues to be so. During this Triennium, they have contributed to the building project of Darshan College and of St. Clare School, Akuluto. Our Institute of Franciscan Spirituality was generously helped for the purchase of a vehicle and for the maintenance of the library.

In the past, with the generous help of the Swiss Capuchin Province, we were able to build the St. Anthony's School, Gangondanahalli; Asha Kiran, Badravati; Sneha Jyothi School, Pothnal and St. Francis of Assisi School, Chikkodi and Assisi Library, Deena Seva Ashram.

'Missio' Aachen: Missio, Aachen, has been supporting partially the formation programme in our two major seminaries. We have also received a small subsidy for the erection of St. Francis of Assisi Friary, Chikkodi and a mission house in Kachanpur, Tripura. Missio, Aachen has, also a major share in the building project of Darshan College.

Diocese of Rottenburg: The diocese of Rottenburg has been kind enough to contribute a sizable sum to put up the building of Trinity Vihar at Shivally.

We also now remember other donor agencies such as the Office of Propaganda Fide, 'Missio' Muenchen, 'Aktion Dreikoenigssingen' the archdiocese of Koeln, Missionszentrale der Franciskaner, Kirche-in-Not, St. Therese Mission Centre. These have contributed a lot for the growth of our Province.

Remuneration of our Friars in General Vice Province of Arabia: At present, five of our friars are rendering service in this Mission and they are well remunerated. After the economic recession, the remuneration has been raised. Each friar is monthly receives around Rs. forty thousand. We can expect per year Rs. twenty lakhs approximately.

Msgr. Paul Hinder OFM Cap., the Apostolic Vicar of the Apostolic Vicariate of Arabia contributes annually USD 15,000.00 in appreciation for service rendered by our friars. The Vicariate also sends a small annual subsidy towards the poor. This year, the Vimukti Charitable Trust has received a sizable amount towards the flood-relief project at Pothnal.

Special Subsidies: The General Minister has been very considerate towards our missions by granting annual maintenance subsidy for our brothers in the North-East Mission and in Sri Lanka.

Mass Stipends: The General Curia also helps us by providing the mass intentions at the rate of three Euros. These mass intentions are distributed to our fraternities @ Rs. 100.00. The part of mass stipend retained, goes towards the other provincial needs, as accepted by the Provincial Chapter.

Student Scholarships: At our International College, San Lorenzo da Brindisi, Rome our brothers who went for higher studies were awarded full study burse. Now the policies have changed. At present, only one friar of a jurisdiction is eligible for the student burse, which again is partial. The Province has to bear 20% of the total cost, besides offering 100 masses. We bear that cost by taking upon the obligation of offering 800 masses annually for the intention of the General Curia.

We remember with gratitude the Capuchin provinces, which sponsor the higher studies of our brothers. The Capuchin Province of Muenster has been supporting the studies of one friar. Likewise, the Capuchin Province of Paris has been sponsoring the studies of two friars. In the United States, the St. Mary's Province, New York and New England has been helping the studies of one friar. Msgr. Paul Hinder OFM Cap., the Apostolic Vicar, Arabia has been generous to be the sponsor of a student friar at Rome. Here we have a very good example of fraternal and economic solidarity of our Capuchin brothers.

### **3.2 Local Sources**

Annual contributions from the fraternities: As a norm, all the fraternities have to contribute towards the growth of the Provincial Fund. One or two fraternities are just indifferent. Some offer masses for the intention of the Provincial. Another norm has been introduced during this Triennium. The salaried friars have to offer their masses for the intention of the Provincial. Thanks to the friars of Nagaland-Manipur Delegation for their generosity in offering masses for the intention of the Provincial. The amount thus collected is just about 4,00,000.00 per annum. We are grateful for this sum, though it is just a drop in the ocean.

Assisi Press, Mangalore: The Assisi Press has now grown into a full-pledged one with all necessary facilities and equipments. There is spatial expansion too in as much as the space of two shops has been lent for the use of the Press. It is managed and administered well, taking care of all legal aspects. During this Triennium, a sum of Rs. thirty lakhs has been reinvested on upgrading and acquiring new machinery. The Provincial Fund has received a contribution of Rs. twenty five lakhs.

Assisi Bhavan, Mangalore: The Assisi Bhavan, which shelters the Assisi Press, has some surplus built-up area in the form of shops that are given on rent. The monthly rent collected Rs. 25,000.00. This amount is used for the maintenance of the building. The surplus amount has been invested in banks.

School Building Rents: The schools in the Province are the talk of the town. Some view them with suspicion, some show indifference and

a few see a big future for our schools. At any case, one should not forget the priorities. The main objective of the ministry of Education is to reach out to the poorest of poor. The financial returns for the investment should only be the by-product.

The investment on school building has been very big during this Triennium. (1) St. Antony's School, Gangondanahalli, is full-pledged school. For the present, it is financially viable. For last three years, the school has paid as sum of Rs. 29 lakhs as rent for the building, and a surplus of Rs. 07 lakhs has been transferred to the parent society. (2) Sneha Jyothi School, Pothnal, has a good infrastructure, but badly lacks an adequate animation. It will not be financially viable, unless we make aggressive effort to increase the strength of the school. No returns can be expected. (3) St. Francis of Assisi School, Chikkodi, has been making a steady progress. The No Objection Certificate has been obtained from the State Government to go for ICSC syllabus. The process of affiliation with the ICSC Board is on. No returns could be expected now. (4) The Infant Jesus School, Chikmagalur, is being shifted to the new premises. For the present, it is able to survive. One can predict a bright future and there is the real possibility of getting the school building rent in the near future. (5) Trinity Central School, Shivally, is just at infancy stage. One can expect returns by way of school building rent after a few years.

Sale of Property: (1) The contract of the diocese of Chikmagalur with the Capuchin Province of Karnataka concerning the Bala Yesu Nivas has been cancelled with mutual consent. The actual amount invested on the property has been refunded to us. It amounts to Rs. 50,37,661.00. (2) A piece of the land of Maria Kripa Ashram, Madikeri, having a separate survey number has already been alienated and the sum of Rs. 51 lakhs has been realized by way of sale. (3) The piece of land with survey no 125/1, admeasuring 2 acres 18 guntas, Gavanahalli, Chikmagalur, has been sold and a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been received. (4) A piece of land admeasuring one acre and 14 cents in survey no. 46/4, situated at Kengeri, has been alienated and a sum of Rs. 2 crores has been realized. (5) We have entered into a sale agreement with Mr. Maralu Siddappa, the prospective buyer for the sale of the

notified piece of land bearing the survey no. 36/2A (old Asha Kiran) as and where condition for sale consideration of Rs. 2 crores. An advance of Rs. 43,80,000.00 has been received.

### **3.3 'St. Francis Burse'**

'St. Francis Burse' is the scholarship fund for the formation of the priest-friars. The people of good will have responded generously during the year. The donations are collected at St. Anne's Friary and these receipts become the part of the 'Mangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society' which has been accounted under the title 'St. Francis Burse' with a separate bank account. During this Triennium, the whole amount has been invested in immovable property at Shivally. The donations are also received at the Provincialate and deposited in the designated savings bank account, 'St. Francis Burse', a unit of the 'Bangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society'. The funds so far accumulated are Rs. 1,41,60,000. This amount is not utilized so far, so as to build up this capital to some size.

### **3.4 Seraphic Mission Association - Health Care Fund**

We have been promoting membership for the Seraphic Mission Association. We are grateful to the fraternity of St. Anne's who do this ministry effectively. These contributions become the part of the 'Mangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society', and accounted under the head of account, 'Health Care Fund'. The medical expenditure on major illnesses of friars who are treated at Mangalore is met from this fund. This being the donation for the missions, occasionally contributions are made to our missions in the North East. The Provincial Fund also meets medical expenses of friars when the bills are referred to the Provincialate.

### **4. Payments**

It is to be borne in mind that all the contributions received from the foreign funding agencies are the funds earmarked for some specific projects. Hence, they are always liabilities to be fulfilled. Very little is received towards the general objectives of the societies.

### **4.1 Building Projects**

During this Triennium, many of the building projects have been completed or are in progress. (1) The building of Anugraha has been

completed. The total cost has been Rs.95,00,000 approx. (2) The first phase of Infant Jesus School, Chikmagalur, (having ten class rooms with Principal's and staff room) has been completed, but the final bill is yet to be settled. The total cost may come to Rs. 1.5 crore approx. (3) 'The Bangalore Capuchin Friars Minor Society' is just a partner in the Trinity Central School project. Our share has been Rs. 1,30,00,000 approx. (4) Darshan College, Kengeri, is nearing completion. The cost of second phase may come Rs. 3 crores approx. The total project cost will be Rs. 4.5 crores approx. (5) The work of the Provincial Infirmary and the formation house at Mangalore has been resumed and the work is in progress. (6) The building project of St. Pio Friary, Sairang, in Mizoram-Tripura Delegation has been completed at cost of Rs. 30,00,000 approx. (7) The work of the administrative block cum formation house at Dimapur in Nagaland is in progress. It may cost us around Rs. 50 lakhs. (8) The small friary at Kanchanpur, Tripura is being built, which will also serve as a nursery. (9) The work on incomplete building of St. Francis School, Chikkodi, has been begun. The completion of the present structure will cost us Rs. 1.05.00.000 approximate.

Some funds have been procured from the agencies for the friary-buildings at Banakal, Shivally and Chikkodi.

### **4.2 Formation Expenditure**

This is one of the major expenditures on the annual budget of the Provincial Fund. Thanks be to God, a lion share of this expenditure is contributed by the Office of Economic Solidarity. Lest the Rectors of the major seminaries should suffer from the anxiety and worry of funds, the pattern of subsidy disbursement is different from the other centres of formation. Besides, special annual fees are charged @ Rs. 6,000.00 per head at Major Seminaries

### **4.3 Administrative Expenses**

Our province has spread in dioceses of Karnataka and has missions within and abroad. This has repercussions in the administrative expenses.

### **4.4 Medical Expenses**

The paradox of today's world of progress is that though there are the best of medicines, there are also the worst of illnesses. We are not

spared from these illnesses. Thanks to be God, the majority of our friars are young and not listed among the aged. Sometimes even the young are not spared.

#### **4.5 Repair and Maintenance Expenses**

In general, no fraternity is able to bear the expenditure on repair and maintenance of or some addition to the buildings out of its own funds. One or two fraternities may be able to spare some funds for this purpose. During this triennium, St. Fidelis Friary, Farangipet has been able to mobilize funds for the remodelling of the wine-press and the major repairs of the chapel.

## **II. ECONOMY OF THE FRATERNITIES**

### **1. Legal and Civil Aspects**

All the fraternities are constituted as units of any one of the societies functioning in the Province. The statutory audit of the books of accounts of fraternities and ministries in the Province is carried out and the annual returns are filed before the concerned authorities on time. A copy of the balance sheet is sent to the Provincial Archives.

### **2. Economic Status**

All the fraternities, except a few attached to the parishes depend on the Provincial Fund for mass intentions which guarantees the daily bread of the friars. Except a few fraternities that were newly established, all others are able to meet the overhead expenses out of the local income from remunerations of ministry, local benefactors, garden/farm income etc.

### **3. Economic administration**

The tensions that we face in the fraternities are directly or indirectly related to the economic administration. Where money is involved, our relationships are not redeemed. There is mutual suspicion more than mutual trust. The relationships are strained not because there is not enough, but precisely because there is more than enough. Where protection of money rather than growth of communion, is the central objective, abuses are bound to enter. The Provincial statutes provide ways and means for a fraternal economy. There are structures, but no good will on the part of the friars. Let me mention some of the structures:

### **3.1 Annual Budget**

The annual budget estimate is a fraternal act. The basis is the mutual trust and co-responsibility in the economic administration. A budget is not a jugglery of figures, but a fraternal exercise where all put their heads together to discern the needs of the fraternity during the forthcoming year and find ways and means to raise funds for the same as a fraternity. It is not the superior who determines the need, but he with the fraternity discerns the needs.

It is a matter of satisfaction that most of the fraternities comply with the Provincial statutes and submit the annual budget. In the first place, I wonder whether the fraternity is fully involved in the making of the budget. Fidelity to the budget approved is another question.

### **3.2 Monthly Returns**

Most of the fraternities are faithful to the rule of sending the monthly returns though it may not be always on time. This system of monthly returns helps us to keep the books of accounts and documents up-to-date. It also helps us to keep a check on our funds. It is also a means for our transparency and accountability. Above all, it is a fraternal exercise of maintaining economic relationship with the Provincial Minister. There are some individual friars who are above all this.

### **3.3 Economic Administration of the Schools**

Our schools are growing into sizable institution. The structures are already provided for a uniform, fraternal economic administration. The spirit is to be blown into the structures. But it is a herculean task to animate the persons concerned.

### **4. Self Sufficiency**

We are urged to be self-sufficient and it is good to be so. We count on our schools as the means to it. It all depends who manages the show. Some can spin money, but not all.

### **5. Continuity in the Economic Administration**

We have not realized the importance of the proper documentation. The records are not maintained in a neat and an orderly way. Some not even know the basics of book-keeping. The matter becomes worse

when there is no proper handing over of the charge at the time of transfer.

### **6. Audit by the Economic Commission**

The Provincial statutes make provision for the internal audit of fraternities. This could be done for a better administration of economy. But this exercise is to be understood in its proper perspective. The audit is not for the 'fault-finding' mission, but for a betterment of the economic administration.

### **7. Economic Solidarity**

We are trying to establish a certain economic solidarity among our societies or trust. As the Vimukti Charitable Trust, has the unit of stitching, it has come forward to provide the uniform to our schools at the competitive rates. This will add to their returns. The Assisi Press is providing the exercise books to our schools. Hence there is mutuality in the working of our societies.

The fraternity of St. Anne's has been generous towards the need of other communities. They have substantially helped the project of wine-press building by contributing Rs. 5 lakhs.

## **III. ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION OF TWO DELEGATIONS IN NORTH EAST MISSIONS**

In the Infant Jesus Delegation, Nagaland-Manipur, our brothers are collaborating with the Diocese of Kohima in two places. There are other three institutions which are owned and administered by our brothers and these constitute the units of BCFMS. In like manner, we have four centres in the Christ the King Delegation, Mizoram-Tripura, which are owned and managed by us. And these form the units of the BCFMS. The books of accounts are maintained and the statutory audit is carried out and the accounts are clubbed with that of BCFMS. Except for two centres, others are economically viable.

For a better administration and for the growth of these delegations, since many years we have been exhorting our brothers to form societies or trusts. This will enable the delegations to own the land and other assets. This will lead for gradual autonomy in finance and its administration. This is an immediate necessity for the delegations. This independence will lessen the administrative work of the BCFMS.

## **IV. UNHEALTHY ATTITUDES THAT PREVAIL**

1. There is indifference to or sheer negligence in complying with the structures that exist for the fraternal economy. Some even act 'ultra virus'. There is a misconception that these structures curtail freedom. On the contrary, these structures are the tested means for the right use of the freedom.
2. The individualistic trends are not wanting. Some do a lot of good, but individually. They somehow do not fit into the structures provided.
3. There are some who act like the first son in Gospel. They have a ready 'yes' for all the proposals. Once they are back to their place, they have their own way of going about.
4. Some have crossed the era of needs and wants, and are now in the era of demands. They demand and their demands are to be met. The superiors are simply helpless.
5. What is gifted or inherited follows the old rule of 'come easy, go easy'. We only know the value of what we have, if we have struggled to earn it. We are given everything without our earning. We don't value money and therefore we don't care of gadgets, equipments, vehicles etc. The same attitude is reflected in our non-performing assets, we own.

## **V. SOME SUGGESTIONS**

1. We are in the age of computers and e-governance. The auditors strongly suggest that all our units should computerize the accounts. This will help us to carry on the corrections easily and for the auditors it will save their time.
2. The auditors also suggest that the writing of the accounts need to be centralized. This will bring about uniformity in the heads of accounts.
3. It is good that some friars take keen interest to specialize or to learn more about the civil and legal aspects of finance.

## Conclusion

I hope that my report was long enough to cover up the essentials and short enough to raise your curiosity, and critical enough to challenge your minds. Let me now wind up this Triennial Financial Report with a prayerful word of thanks and gratitude. 'Unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do we labour', Thanks be to the Lord who has empowered me to shoulder and to fulfil this vulnerable responsibility of stewardship of Provincial financial administration. My gratitude to Br. Vincent G. Furtado, the Provincial Minister and the Definitory who placed their confidence in me and therefore I was able to put my heart and soul into it.

Thanks to Bros. Basil Joseph and Joachim D'Souza, the two secretaries whose personal presence made my burden sweet and light. I have the happy memories of the qualitative moments we joyfully spent over the cup of tea, whenever we were at home. Gratitude to my other brothers in the fraternity who also lessened my burden in their own way. Thanks to all local superiors, local treasurers and all who had to deal with me on financial matters, for your understanding, cooperation and patience. My call was to serve you with love. If I have done, thanks be to God.

I have my own personal limitation. Moreover, it is a vulnerable task to be a Treasurer, as one has to serve more than one master. One can therefore expect some tensions and discord. These are inevitable part of our growth-process. Beg to be forgiven for any bitterness created knowingly or unknowingly. But I assure you that I have tried my best that the personal opinions or displeasures might not come on the way of discharging my duties justly and faithfully.

Brothers, I have reflected with you about our fraternal economy and its administration, in which you are actively involved. This is my word, but not the final word. Your word now will surely help in this regard. Thank You for your patient hearing.

**Br. Edwin Colaco OFM Cap**  
Provincial Treasurer

## Triennial Report from the Vice Provincial and his Definitory St. Anthony's Vice Province, Goa 2007-2010

My dear Br. John Antony, President of the Provincial Chapter, Br. Vincent Furtado, the Provincial Minister and my dear brothers. I am happy to present a report of St. Anthony's Vice-Province, Goa, approved by the Vice Provincial Councilors, to the Capitulars gathered here for the celebration of the Fifth Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka.

I would like to begin the report with a memento of our deceased friars. Br. Peter Ratos departed from his earthly sojourn having lived more than 99 years and just missed to hit the century by few months, a true Capuchin Brother committed to the ministry of healing. Br. Felix Ferrao, who had served St. Anthony's Vice Province as its first Vice Provincial for six years, followed him within a gap of two months after a short illness.

### 1. Statistics

Perpetually Professed	36
Theology	11
Philosophy	7
Regency	2
Novitiate	1
Post-Novitiate	2
Postulancy	2
Aspirancy	2
Orientation	3
Prospective Candidates	12

### 2. Formation

#### 2.1 Vocation Promotion

The Vice-Province has a specific program to promote vocations to the Order. To realize our ideas of Vocation Promotion we have set up a Commission for Vocation Promotion with Fr. Dominic Ferrao as

the Chairperson and two full-time vocation promoters: one in the north and one in the south Goa. Besides, each fraternity has one friar who is in-charge of vocation promotion in that area. Apart from this, the students of theology during their pastoral ministries in the parishes during Christmas and summer vacation help in the task of vocation promotion. Young men are contacted directly through schools parishes, regular visits to families and vocation camps are regularly held.

We conduct vocation camps during vacations, during which audio visual aids are used to highlight the life of St. Francis of Assisi and also the challenge to follow it through our Capuchin way of life in our times. To make the camps interesting and lively, value-based talks, games and other activities are organized. In recruiting candidates we stress on quality rather than quantity. The prospective candidates are contacted personally and kept in frequent touch by the friars through letters, regular house visits, phone etc. This year the number of prospective candidates that attended the vocation camp held from October 13 - 15, 2009 at Monte De Guirim was 32. They were interviewed and screened thoroughly.

In carrying out our plans for vocation promotion we encounter a number of difficulties. There are many religious as well as the diocese who try to draw young boys towards them. Due to this scenario there are times when we are unable to get all the students we contact. We also suffer due to insincerity and lack of openness on the part of the students. When we discover their true intentions after they join us, we are forced to take the unpleasant decisions of asking them to leave, but there are also others who leave on their own.

## **2.2 Orientation**

The Orientation is held at Padre Pio Friary, Modi, Navelim. The director gives regular talks and guidance and he accompanies them in the discernment of their vocation by conferences and regular classes on Capuchin Franciscan formation. The students along with the friars pray, work and play as one community. They are given opportunity to learn music, typing and to develop their talents.

## **2.3 Aspirancy**

The Aspirancy is held at Shanti Niwas, Oddy, Cuncolim. Our candidates attend regular pre-degree course. Along with the College studies they are also given guidance and help to deepen their vocation.

## **2.4 Postulancy**

The brothers of our Vice Province join the Mother Province in Mangalore, for the year of Postulancy. The Director and the team of friar's in-charge take good care of our brothers. The Vice-Provincial is kept informed of their growth and all round progress through the evaluation reports. From June 2010 we are going to start Postulancy for the brothers of Goa and Maharashtra at Navelim.

## **2.5 Novitiate**

Our brothers in the Novitiate House at Monte Mariano, Farangipet, are led in the spirit of St. Francis where the Novice Master and the Community help them to imbibe Capuchin Franciscan Values.

## **2.6 Post-Novitiate**

The Post-Novitiate Fraternity at Clara Vihar, Pothnal, assists our brothers in formation, to live the novitiate experience in a rural setting. Through regular input sessions and exposure programmes the brothers are helped to deepen their commitment to the Capuchin way of life.

## **2.7 Philosophical Studies/Graduation**

The community at Kripalaya pays special attention to see to it that the formation proceeds as stipulated in the 'Ratio Formationis' with an emphasis on silence, prayer, study, fraternal living and socio-pastoral involvement in a spirit of service. The Graduation studies are pursued by our brothers at the Karnataka University.

## **2.8 Regency (Fraternity Experience)**

The brothers are placed for one year of fraternity experience in different fraternities of the Vice-Province. The Director of Regents follows up the program of the regents and makes sure that they get community experience that is expected to be received during regency. The regents are envisaged to get two-wheeler as well as four-wheeler license keeping in mind the future need. Along with the programme

chalked out in the 'Ratio Formationis,' they are also asked to learn to Type and to use Computer. The Guardians as well as the students themselves have expressed their happiness about their period of fraternity experience.

### **2.9 Theological Studies**

The Theological formation is imparted to our brothers at the Theologate of the Karnataka Province. The staff and the community pay special attention to their all-round formation. Our students of theology come to the Vice-Province for pastoral experience during their Christmas and summer vacations. This is provided for them in various parishes in Goa.

### **2.10 Higher Studies and On-Going Formation**

Our Vice-Province gives due importance to Higher Studies in view of its growth and development. The Vice-Province has regular ongoing formation for the friars in the form of recollections, seminars, retreats, symposiums, study of the Rule and Constitutions, Spiritual Reading, personal study, updating courses which help them to be simple and authentic, effective and efficient friars in the modern world. We have 2 friars who have done their doctorate: Liturgy and Franciscanism; and other qualified friars in Franciscanism, Pastoral theology, Systematic Theology, Counselling, B.Ed. etc. Two friars studying in Rome will return in September, 2010 with a licentiate: one in Scripture and one in Philosophy. One will be flying to Rome for Licentiate in Moral Theology in April, 2010.

### **3. The Life of Prayer**

In general, the life of Prayer in our fraternities is good. Friars are exhorted to be regular and faithful to the Daily Hours of Prayer and Meditation. They are also asked to be regular for annual retreats and monthly recollections. All the communities observe the major Hours of Prayer in the morning and evening.

It is, however, regrettable to note that there is some resistance by some friars to submit to daily horarium - community prayer is substituted with ministries. There is a struggle to keep up the spirit and to maintain balance between action and contemplation. These brothers are regularly exhorted to be faithful and serious in their prayer life.

### **4. Our Life in the Fraternity**

Evangelical brotherhood is the foundation of our Capuchin charism. Our call to be Franciscan Capuchins is basically a call to live the gospel brotherhood after the life and example of St. Francis of Assisi.

There is a strong fraternal bond among the friars and a great love and concern for the good of the Order and Vice-Province. The life lived by the friars in various friaries is seen to be cordial / smooth / fraternal and evangelical in keeping with the Charism of the Order. There is a wholehearted co-operation and interest in the affairs of the Vice-Province. The brothers are open to change and willing to accept new suggestions keeping in minds the good of the fraternity and the Vice-Province. We have had no serious problems.

The daily horarium in the fraternity is chalked out in consultation with the friars. The local chapters are held at regular intervals wherein the life and activity of the fraternity is reviewed and exhortations and directions are given. The circulars of Br. General, Provincial and the Vice-Provincial are read and the exhortations and suggestions given are fraternally accepted. For the healthy growth of fraternal life various amenities are provided for the friars to live our Capuchin charism. The brothers in our vice-province, both seniors and juniors, are well taken care of.

### **5. The Life of Vows**

The friars are conscious of their consecrated life and brotherhood. They know that they are different from the other religious Institutes, clergy and laity as they observe the Evangelical Counsels after the example of their founder St. Francis of Assisi.

### **Poverty**

The houses in the Vice-Province keeping with the spirit of poverty are simple and poor. Friars are modest and simple in their lifestyle. The tendency to handle money privately and owning of electronic gadgets and other things in the name of greater efficiency in ministry is seen. This needs to be curbed and paid serious attention to. Every one claims his right to get money from the community but they forget their obligation to contribute towards the common purse.

## **Chastity**

In general, the Evangelical Counsel of chastity is well observed and lived by the friars in the Vice-Province. The friars have healthy relationships with all, especially women. However, this is not to say that we are totally free of all dangers to the faithful observance of this Counsel. Hence it is imperative that we give no room for such accusations or doubts and be prudent in our relationships with all.

## **Obedience**

The Vow of Obedience is lived in the Vice-Province not always to the satisfaction of the superiors. The tendency these days is not to seek permission but to give information to the superior about what the friars do. We must note that if we are to live our vow of Obedience in the spirit of our Constitutions and the Gospel, all this need to change. We need to be more careful and faithful in the observance of this vow of Obedience.

## **6. The Life of Apostolate**

The Apostolate undertaken by our Vice -Province is multifaceted.

### **6.1 Ministry of Presence**

The first and the most effective apostolate of the friars is to live their daily life genuinely as Capuchin brothers. In our fraternities we follow the daily horarium. The Liturgy of the Hours is celebrated both in the morning and evening in all our fraternities. The day begins with the meaningful celebration of the Eucharist which guides us to live and bear witness to our Capuchin calling.

### **6.2 Ministry of the Word of God**

The friars are involved in the ministry of Breaking the Word by way of preaching retreats, novenas, Sunday ministry, conferences, writing books and articles etc. We are also actively involved in the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation which is much appreciated by the people in the archdiocese of Goa.

### **6.3 Parishes**

The Vice-Province has three parishes entrusted to it by the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman. These parishes offer much scope to

our brothers for socio-pastoral apostolate to the people in the area and for promotion of genuine local vocations to the Order. Besides this, three friars worked as co-pastors in three different parishes for a period of one year on the request of the Archbishop. The friars are actively involved in parish ministry through BCC, parish Councils and visiting their flock - both Christians and non-Christians. The active participation of the laity in the liturgy and in the administration of the parishes has brought about an all-round development.

### **6.4 Prison Ministry**

The prison ministry done by us is highly appreciated. One friar serves the prison inmates by way of celebrating the Eucharist, visiting the family of the prisoners and counselling both the prisoners as well as their families.

### **6.5 S. F. O. Ministry**

To propagate the S.F.O ministry is our duty and our obligation. We have given due attention to the promotion of SFO in the Vice-Province. Friars are actively involved in the animation of the SFO fraternities in various parishes. The SFO fraternities are divided into two regions (North and South) and animated by two friars. There are thirteen fraternities and we are trying to establish more. The SFO members are guided to be active members of their parish and help the parish in whatever way possible. The required literature for S.F.O. is made available both in English and in Konkani. The life of St. Francis of Assisi, Padre Pio, the S.F.O. Rule and Constitutions and other Franciscan material is provided.

### **6.6 The Ministry of Teaching**

Our friars are engaged in the ministry of teaching in seminaries and other institutes of learning. Time and again friars are requested to update so that their teaching becomes relevant and meaningful. Some friars involve themselves in the Province in the field of formation as visiting professors.

### **6.7 The Ministry of Education**

Educational apostolate has been given due importance in our jurisdiction in response to the popular demand for quality education.

The Capuchins in Goa have been engaged in the field of education since 1945. Catholic education is given top priority. We are known for discipline and quality education/sports. We also reach out to the poor and marginalized with no distinction of creed or class. The Vice-Province administers one high school (primary and secondary) at Monte De Guirim in the English Medium and one primary school at Revora in the vernacular medium. We are offered one private school (primary and secondary) at Colvale the feasibilities of which are needed to be explored before we take it up. We also have intention to start new schools in remote places after having studied the circumstances and situation.

To facilitate better learning in our times, we have improved the infrastructure of our school to enable our students to keep abreast of the changing needs in education and the challenges present before them. The friars work hard to give their best to the growth and development of the young minds entrusted to their care. The hard work is seen in the good results that our school gets in academics and in sports.

### **6.8 National Open School**

The Capuchin Friars were one of the first ones to start the National Open School in Goa. It is located at Porvorim, the strength of which is increasing year by year, bringing smiles to the faces of many students who are drop-outs. We are planning to have other centers of National Open School at Valpoi and Canacona (our new presences). The ministry of the Open School is highly appreciated by all in the society.

### **6.9 The Boarding Ministry**

We have been involved in this ministry since many years. The social situation in Goa has changed considerably. The students that we get in the boarding are from different religions and social backgrounds. To guide and direct them is quite a challenging task. We have been doing our best to give them the best of education and training in all spheres. They need a lot of our time, guidance and counselling and understanding. Two friar and one regent is directly involved in this ministry while the community at Alverno Friary gives the necessary help. We have improved immensely the infrastructure in the boarding. With the help of the brothers of the Swiss Capuchin Province we have succeeded in doing some renovation in the kitchen section of the Boarding House.

### **6.10 Mass Media Apostolate**

Through the medium of slides, photography and writing ministry our friars have been contributing immensely in the archdiocese of Goa and Daman in bringing about a spiritual and social awareness in the society. Our friars show great interest in writing books both in Konkani and English.

### **6.11 Missionary Endeavours**

We are collaborating with the Province of our Lady of Angels/ western America in Mexico. Two of our friars are in Mexico. We are also collaborating with Peter and Paul Capuchin General Vice-Province of Arabia. Three brothers are working in Sharjah, Kuwait and Bahrain.

## **7. Administration**

The spiritual animation of our Vice Province is the priority of the Vice- Provincial and the Council. To this end, regular circulars were sent and the Vice-Provincial visited the fraternities and was present at the evaluation of the students at all stages of formation.

Two pastoral visitations were conducted by me of all our fraternities and brothers in formation. One pastoral visitation was conducted by the Provincial Minister of the Holy Trinity Province.

The Vice-Provincialate office is well organized. All the relevant documents and files are maintained up-to-date. For effective and smooth running of the Vice-Province various commissions are constituted.

The financial administration has been streamlined and better organized. With the hard work of the Friars we have procured 80G form for the Capuchin Friar minor Society, Monte De Guirim.

We have been seriously working to build our Vice-Province Fund. The interest shown by many friars to make known our needs to generous benefactors both in India and abroad is praise worthy.

The office of Economic Solidarity in Rome contributes partially towards the expenses of our students in formation. They have also generously contributed towards the scholarship of the brothers who go for higher studies in Rome. The office of economic solidarity helps us by sending Mass Intentions.

## 8. Buildings and Projects

The Vice-Province has given due importance to the administration of finance and other projects in the Vice Province. A building and Finance commission was formed with one of the Councillors as the Chairperson to guide the Vice-Provincial and his Council in matters relating to finance and projects. Due importance was given by the Vice Province to see to the repairs and building maintenance of our friaries.

A new block at Padre Pio Friary, Navelim, has been built for the purpose of Postulancy for the brothers of Goa and Maharashtra. The Office of the Economic Solidarity has partially sponsored the project. The first floor of the building has been sponsored by the Swiss Province. We are immensely grateful for their generous contribution by which we have successfully completed the work.

The Canacona project after much struggle has almost been completed. Thanks to the Office of the Economic Solidarity for helping us in some way to complete this project. Good amount from our Vice-Province fund has been utilized for the realization of this project.

## 9. Projects to be realized

There are some projects that need our attention for realization.

**a) Porvorim:** The problems we had encountered for our Porvorim Property are over. Since this property is located at a prime area, we have now a plan to build a friary, a computer Institute and some shops for rent in order to generate income for the Vice-Province.

**b) Vice-Provincialate:** The office of the economic solidarity, Rome, has sanctioned the project we had made to build our Vice-Provincialate at Verna. The procedures and official papers to build it are being worked out.

**c) Valpoi:** To extend our presence in the remote North of Goa we had bought property in Valpoi, Sattari Taluka. The house is now ready for friars to dwell. We have in mind to make a project to build a full-fledge friary and a school.

**d) Sanguem:** To establish our presence in Sanguem Taluka, we were in search of buying a property. One generous benefactor came forward to donate to us a big property. We thanked him and promised that we

will establish our presence there very soon. Brothers, let us not forget that property matters take a long time to be processed and executed.

**e) Colvale Parish:** Recently the Archbishop requested us to take up the parish of Colvale which is dedicated to the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi. Discussions are on and very soon we will arrive at a decision.

## 10. Our Request

St. Anthony Vice-Province was raised to the status of a Vice-Province on December 13, 1998. Since then the Vice-Province has celebrated one Extraordinary Chapter in 1999 and three Elective Vice-Provincial Chapters in the year 2002, 2005 and 2008. All these eleven years and four months, as a Vice-Province, it has functioned beautifully taking its own decisions keeping in mind our Capuchin Brotherhood and charism, and showing greater commitment and dedication, proving that it can now stand on its own feet, sure and sturdy, to move forward without looking back

Many years of Capuchin presence here gives us hope and optimism with regard to a bright future. The Vice-Province has grown over in the years in terms of quantity and quality of personnel. The friars of the Vice-Province show a lot of vigour and enthusiasm and hold out a lot of promises. They have expressed their preparedness and are positive and open to new initiatives, new foundations / ventures to new and significant apostolate. The positive growth and development has shown positive signs of being Goa elevated as a full-fledged province.

On October 24, 2009 an official request was made in a written letter giving the salient features to raise St. Anthony Vice-Province, Goa, to the Status of a Province. This request was made so that we experience and exercise greater autonomy to better plan with proper decisions for the fast growth and development of our jurisdiction, in implanting and spreading of the Order in the region keeping also in mind our own culture. The Provincial and the Definitory were kind enough to have studied the situation well and are positive on this matter and asked us to wait till this present Chapter. We sincerely thank them and now look forward for a positive response from the Chapter.

## 11. Gratitude

The friars of the entire Vice-Province in general and the Vice-Provincial Council in particular, express sincere gratitude to Br. General and his Definitory for their timely advice, support, help, encouragement and guidance.

The Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka - which is vast and rich in every way - is one of the Indian Jurisdictions to experience an all-round growth. In a very special way we are grateful to the Provincial and his Definitory for their guidance in living our Capuchin Charism. We thank the Province for catering to our friars in formation right from Postulancy up to Theology and accompanying and helping them grow into dedicated and committed friars.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to every brother of our Province for his collaboration, co-operation, friendship, support and encouragement.

I conclude my report with the words of our Father St. Francis:

"May the Lord bless and keep you; may He let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you and give you His peace."

Date: 14 April, 2010  
Place: Alverno Friary, Goa

**Br. Estevao Rodrigues, OFM Cap**  
Vice-Provincial Minister

## **Triennial Report from the Superior Regular and his Councillors, St. Charles Lwanga Custody, Uganda 2007-2010**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dear Br. John Anthony, the President of the Chapter and my dear Brothers,

With my brother Olowo Francis who is present here and all the brothers of the Custody of St. Charles Lwanga, I greet you peace and goodwill!

In my report I will try to give you a brief picture of the Custody dedicated to the patronage of St. Charles Lwanga and how we as brothers live our Franciscan Capuchin Charism/Mission, in present day Uganda.

My report is divided into Seven Sections:

- Some Statistical Information about our Custody.
- Remembering Major Events which marked our life during the last three years.
- Formation: Initial and On-going.
- Ministries and Apostolic life.
- Animation and Administration of the Custody.
- Challenges, and
- A Vision for the Future.

### **1. OUR CUSTODY FRATERNITY - SOME STATISTICS**

#### **1.1 Our Numbers:**

As per April 10, 2010 we are 32 brothers in the Custody.

- 19 perpetually professed and 13 temporary professed.
- By origin, 12 are Indians and 20 Ugandans.
- Of the 19 perpetually professed friars, 1 lay brother and 18 ordained brothers (15 priests and 3 deacons).

## 1.2 Where we live:

In Uganda we have five fraternities.

- The fraternity of St. Joseph, Busunju, (4 Perpetually Professed friars and 3 Post-Novices).  
**Apostolates:** Parish, Post-Novitiate, Primary and Secondary Schools, Vocational Institute, Health Centre and a Boarding.
- St. Theresa's fraternity, Kakira, (3 Perpetually Professed friars).  
**Apostolates:** Parish, Primary and Secondary School and Vocational Institute.
- Mirembe Novitiate, Kabbega fraternity (3 Perpetually Professed friars). Apostolates: Novitiate, Farm and Diary.
- The fraternity of St. Lawrence, Kanyogoga, (3 Perpetually Professed friars, 8 Postulants and 7 Aspirants).  
**Apostolates:** Parish, Postulancy and a Secondary School
- St. Padre Pio fraternity, Kabulamuliro, (3 Perpetually Professed friars). Apostolates: Custody Curia, retreat centre, shrine and pastoral assistance at the parish and schools.
- 13 brothers are outside the Custody for formation: 6 in St. Bonaventure College, Lusaka, Zambia - Philosophy and 7 in Tangaza College, Nairobi, Kenya - Theology).

## 2. SOME MAJOR EVENTS WHICH MARKED THE PAST THREE YEARS

### 2.1 The Provincial Chapter:

The 4th Ordinary Chapter of the Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka, India was celebrated from April 16 - 21, 2007. New Ministers were elected: Br. Vincent Furtado, Provincial Minister; Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira, Provincial Vicar; Br. Denis Veigas, Br. Edwin Colaco and Br. Peter Cyprian D'Souza as Provincial Definitors.

### 2.2 Visitations:

- a) Br. Vicente Kiaziku, General Definitor conducted the Pastoral Visitation from May 25th to June 3rd, 2007. A few weeks later

Br. John Corriveau, our General Minister, sent us a two-page visitation report of the Visitation conducted by Br Vicente, full of encouragement, fraternal correction and very helpful guidance.

- b) Br. Denis Veigas, Provincial Definitor conducted the economic visitation in the name of the Provincial Minister from August 1 - 14, 2007. The report sent by the Provincial Minister helped us to improve our financial administration and the responsible use of our resources in a spirit of the "fraternal economy" required by CPO VI of the Order.
- c) Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira, Provincial Vicar visited us from August 28th to September 11th, 2007. I would call it a spiritual visitation. He conducted a Seminar cum Retreat on the theme: "Franciscan Mission Charism." The seminar was to assist the brothers of the Custody to recapture the original purpose of our presence in Uganda and to live with renewed vigour our Capuchin Franciscan Charism. During this meeting some important decisions were taken and a few changes were made.
- d) Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado, Provincial Minister: The long awaited visit of our beloved Provincial Minister came into effect from February 24th to March 8th, 2008. He spent time in all our fraternities, talked personally to each one of us and took a keen interest in our life and in our work. He also took time to meet our student friars in Langata, Kenya and Kola, Tanzania. I, sincerely thank our Provincial Minister for his coming, for the time he spent with us, for strengthening the fraternal bonds between the Custody and the Province. The four pages report of the Pastoral Visitation conducted by the Provincial Minister was discussed at length in our fraternal gathering.
- e) Br. Edwin Colaco, Provincial Definitor and Provincial Economist visited us from 13-24 August, 2008. During his visit he participated in the Priestly Ordination of Br. Godwin Ogam and also held a meeting of all the bursars of the Custody. We thank Br. Edwin for giving some practical guidelines and assistance in maintaining our accounts.

### **2.3 Registration of the Capuchins in the Country:**

It was on March 17th 2008 that the Capuchin Friars were registered under the Company Act with the title, "The Ugandan Capuchin Service Institute Limited."

### **2.4 The General Chapter:**

The 83rd General Chapter of the Order was held at our International College, Rome, from September 1 - 25, 2008. Br. Mauro Jöhri was elected as the Minister General and Br. Vicente Kiaziku was re-elected as the General Definitor for Africa.

### **2.5 The Chapter of the Custody:**

The 5th Ordinary Chapter of the Custody was held in July 2009 at St. Padre Pio Friary, Kabulamuliro. I was re-elected as Superior Regular with Br. Maxim D'Silva and Br. Emmanuel Masereka as the First and Second Councillors respectively - to animate and govern the welfare of the Custody. The theme of the Chapter was: "Revitalizing our Charism and Mission." Br. Andrew Anil Sequeira, the Provincial Vicar presided over the Chapter.

### **2.6 Ordinations:**

The good Lord blessed us with five new priests, namely, Godwin Ogam and Richard Ongom who were ordained in 2008, Lawrence Baluku and Francis Olowo were ordained in 2009 and Remigius Kasibante was ordained in January 2010. Joslie D'Silva, Michael Muhasa and Anthony Jakwonga were ordained as Deacons on 9 April, 2010.

### **2.7 20 Years of Capuchin Presence in Uganda:**

On 1 October, 2008 we marked twenty years of the Capuchin presence in the land blessed by the Ugandan Martyrs. Being the feast of St. Theresa of Child Jesus, the Patroness of the Missionaries, we celebrated this day at St. Theresa's Fraternity, Kakira, Jinja. After the holy mass officiated by Msgr. Emmanuel Kawanguzi, the Vicar General of Jinja Diocese, we blessed the new wing of the friary and named it "Assisi Capuchin Friary".

### **2.8 Apostolic Nuncio:**

On November 9th, 2007 the Catholic Church in Uganda received a new Nuncio, His Excellency Paul Tschang In-Nam. We had the joy of having him amidst us on 8 August, 2009 as four of our brothers made their perpetual profession.

### **2.9 PANAF 2008:**

The meeting of the Major Superiors of the two Conferences of African Continent (EACC & CONCAO) along with the General Definitory was held at Mbagala Spiritual Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from October 25th to November 1st, 2008. This was the 4th Pan African Assembly of the two Conferences. The report sent by the General Definitory after the meeting was discussed in the meeting of the brothers as well as in the EACC annual meeting held in Madagascar.

### **2.10 New General Definitor:**

On 23 January, 2009 Br. Agapit Mroso from the Province of Tanzania was appointed as the new General Definitor for Africa. He replaced Br. Vicente Kiaziku who was appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese Mbanza Congo in Angola.

### **2.10 Handing over of CFCA:**

CFCA (Christian Foundation for Children and Aging) is a social project run by the lay volunteers and its headquarters are situated in Kansas City, United States of America. The Capuchin Friars residing at St. Joseph's Fraternity, Busunju rendered their service to this project. Having looked after this project for almost ten years, finally, on March 1, 2009 it was handed over to CFCA Uganda Ltd.

### **2.11 International Chapter of Mats/8th Centenary of the Franciscan Movement:**

The First International Chapter of Mats of the Franciscan Family was held in Rome from April 15-18, 2009. This extra-ordinary celebration was held to commemorate the 8th Centenary of the Approval of the First Rule of St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the great Franciscan Movement. In the Custody we celebrated this event on October 15, 2009 with the rest of the Franciscan brothers and sisters.

All these fraternal visits, meetings and other celebrations have helped us to realize that being a Capuchin and live as a Capuchin in Uganda means also to do so within the worldwide family of our Order and to learn from others and their experiences and challenges.

### **3. FORMATION: INITIAL AND ON-GOING**

#### **3.1 Vocation Promotion:**

The Custody has a full time vocation animator who works hand in hand with the rest of the friars. Different ways and means are used to recruit vocations to the Order. The vocation animator regularly attends meetings, workshops and seminars conducted by DARVAC. We recruit the candidates after their "A" Level (PUC). In March every year we organize one month programme called "Come and See".

#### **3.2 Initial Formation:**

- a) Postulancy: In the Custody we have two years of Postulancy program. A well set program is drawn up to these two years and the help of many friars of the Custody and lay people is sought during the course of the year.
- b) Novitiate: We have our own Novitiate. The Custody of Zimbabwe sends their novices to us for the Novitiate.
- c) Post-Novitiate: During this year the brothers are given opportunities to know the situation of the people. We still do not have a full-time director to this stage.

#### **3.3 Special Formation:**

- a) Philosophy: The brothers of the Custody receive their special formation, namely, Philosophy and Theology, outside the jurisdiction. For philosophy the brothers proceed to St. Bonaventure Formation Centre, Lusaka, Zambia. It is a centre run by the three families of the Franciscan Order. The student friars live in their respective friaries and attend the classes at the college. Our student brothers live at La Verna Capuchin Friary. The fraternity has a staff of five friars coming from various jurisdictions of the Conference. Every year the Capuchin Superiors of the various jurisdictions who send their students to SBC and

stay at La Verna friary participate in the house meeting to discuss on various matters concerning the formation of the student friars.

- b) Theology: For theological studies we send our brothers to Nairobi, Kenya. They live at the Capuchin Friary and attend the classes from Tangaza College. The brothers of the Custody are making their perpetual profession at the end of the second year of theology. Those making perpetual profession go to Kasita Novitiate, Tanzania for a preparation that lasts for two months.

#### **3.4 On-going Formation:**

The brothers of the Custody are provided with ample opportunities to keep themselves up-to-date with the knowledge of the Order and of the Church.

- The brothers are sent to participate in Missionary Awareness Course in Belgium and Heritage Course in Rome
- The Custody organizes annual retreats for the friars. Brothers have participated in these retreats and also some individuals have attended privately within the country and outside during their holidays or courses.
- Seminars on various themes were organized for the student friars during their holidays.
- We have get-together of the friars arranged in different fraternities.

From these above mentioned long and short courses/seminars, the friars have benefited both personally and communally. It has helped them in their apostolate.

### **4. MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLIC LIFE**

First, a word about the health of the brothers in the Custody! In general the brothers are enjoying good health. But we had and still have our share of sufferings, days of pains and worries, and the need to seek the help of doctors and clinics. In days of our sickness we are consoled by the Word of the Lord: "Not the healthy need the doctor but the sick" and that He Himself is our true doctor and source of life." A few of our brothers lost their loved ones. For all of them let us pray to God that they might find peace in his Kingdom.

Coming to our apostolate and ministry, the brothers are engaged in various activities. The first priority of the brothers in the Custody is the formation. Keeping in mind the call to which the brothers were sent to the mission we try to impart the Gospel and Franciscan-Capuchin values to the brothers whom the Lord sends us. The local brothers are slowly introduced into the work of formation.

The second priority is the pastoral ministry. We have three parish fraternities and the pastors are fully engaged in the service of the people. In their own small and big way they try to strengthen the faith of their flock and work towards the betterment of the society. Much is done but much more is to be achieved.

The third priority is the ministry of education and health. Through their ministry they have trained the young, healed the sick and raised the poor of the society. A few of our brothers have given themselves to the welfare of the fraternities by slogging in the farm and dairy, garden and kitchen. Their service is counted not in terms of money but their total giving to the well-being of the fraternity. Others have continued the traditional apostolate like, preaching retreats, ministering to the Secular Franciscans, visiting the sick and the dying and are involved in prison ministry.

## **5. ANIMATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

The animation of the brothers and the administration of the Custody Fraternity at large are the main task and duty of the Superior Regular and the Council. Animation means inspiration. Inspiration is the work of the Holy Spirit. Animation, therefore, would be to help the brothers to let the Holy Spirit work in them.

The principal means used in the animation of the Custody were: personal encounters and conversations, fraternal visits and meetings, sharing in prayer, leading liturgies, circular letters, preparing and leading Council meetings, organizing the get-together of the friars, planning and participating in the annual retreats, conducting seminars to the young professed, preparing brothers for on-going courses, taking classes on Franciscanism and other subjects, etc.

The Custody Council meets once in every two months. Any

information coming from the General Curia or the Provincial Curia was made available to the study and reflection of the brothers. After every Conference meeting and ARU meeting or any other major events, like General/Provincial Chapters, the information and news was shared with the brothers of the Custody. After meeting the Local Ordinary of the respective Dioceses where the brothers are working, the communication is made to the concerned fraternities.

The Commissions of the Custody became very helpful in the governance of the Custody. Their suggestions have helped the Council to take necessary steps in the field of formation and finance, pastoral issues and social projects.

Br. Maxim D'Silva, the Economist of the Custody took care of the money of the Custody. He has kept a neat and clean account and helped the bursars of the fraternities to maintain a proper accountability.

## **6. CHALLENGES**

What are the main challenges that we face today in the Custody? Not an easy question to answer. People of our country suffer with pain and sorrow due to natural calamities, civil war, incurable sicknesses, political harassment and domestic fights. The Church and the NGO's try their utmost to ease human suffering and instil in them a ray of hope. We as Capuchins too have our own challenges and struggles.

The first challenge is the Faith-Formation of our people. The culture of the people dominates the Gospel values. Superstitious beliefs, witchcraft, human sacrifice and other evils are on increase. In such a situation it is not easy to preach the gospel.

The second challenge is the Religious-Formation of our candidates. Many young men join us with a wrong idea. Priesthood is considered as a prestige. The evangelical counsels make no sense. Therefore, a big number of drop-outs of the seminarians should not alarm any.

The third challenge is the Personnel. The number of brothers who have returned to the Province is big. The Province has failed to maintain the magical number (15). Some of the brothers who have returned to the Province have given a bad picture of the Custody. The Custody is facing the problem of sufficient and qualified Formators. It is certainly

true that not each friar has to the same degree the gifts and qualifications for a successful formator. At the same time it is also true that nobody can stand outside this task. We cannot expect to harvest anything if we don't plant and water and weed together.

The fourth challenge is the expansion of the Order. The Custody Council has received several invitations from the bishops of various dioceses. With the return of the many missionary brothers we have failed to give a positive answer to the bishops.

The fifth challenge is the Finance. As Custody, we are solely depending on the Office of Economic Solidarity for financial support.

The sixth challenge is property and land. The local church looks at the missionary congregations in a very narrow way. They want us to develop a place and hand it over to the diocese. As a congregation we have no right over land, property and institutions.

The seventh challenge is the improvement of our Capuchin Franciscan Charism, in building up truly vibrant fraternities and offering genuine pastoral service to the people. It would be possible only when we are fluent in the local language.

If we can overcome these challenges we will be able to do much better in our ministries and apostolate.

## **7. A VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

The "Vision" of the Custody is "to live courageously the Capuchin Franciscan Charism in the Context of Uganda, which can inspire the Ugandans to embrace the Capuchin Franciscan way of life."

We highly desire to expand the Order in Uganda. For long we have been only in three dioceses. Only with the expansion of the Order we can think of having more local vocations.

As Capuchin Franciscans we yearn to build up and strengthen the SFO in the country. We wish to introduce our local brothers to various responsibilities and prepare them to raise the Custody into a Vice-Province.

## **CONCLUSION**

With a grateful heart I pay my homage to the Most Holy Trinity, the Patron of the Province and thanks to St. Charles Lwanga, the Patron of the Custody. I express my sincere thanks to the General Minister and Definitory, the Office of Economic Solidarity, the Provincial Minister and Definitory for their continuous concern, support, visits, financial support and encouragement towards the growth of the Custody. I owe my thanks to all the benefactors and well-wishers who continually support us through prayers and their generous contribution. Thanks to all the brothers who have worked in the Custody and have returned back to the Province.

May Blessed Virgin the Patroness of the Order, St. Francis and St. Clare, our Seraphic Saints and St. Charles Lwanga, our Patron pray for us; and may the Lord bless our Custody and the Country. Thank you dear Brothers!

**Br. John Fernandes, OFM Cap**  
Superior Regular

**A Report from the Provincial Delegate and his Councillors**  
**St. Pio Delegation, Srilanka**  
**(As the Capuchin Mission in Sri Lanka is in the 10th**  
**year, here is a decennial report)**

**Introduction**

The country Sri Lanka, an Island of 25,000 square miles, is at the Southern tip of the Indian sub - continent. As the pearl of the Indian Ocean, it is known for its scenic beauty, warm hospitality, culture and the center of attraction ever since the Colonial period. But after the Independence, for the past thirty years, the country has suffered immensely the loss of human lives and the natural destruction caused by war and violence. In the past two years it has caught the international attention for destructive war, suicide bombs, human rights violations, and demeaning politics.

**The Beginnings**

As Capuchins we were late to reach the Island. Our presence began with the idea of the international solidarity for the Order gathering its momentum. At the request of the then General Minister Br. John Corriveau, who made a personal plea to our Province to assist the Vice Province of Pakistan in the formation of the novices in Sri Lanka, the Provincial Minister, Br. Vincent G. Furtado, met the Archbishop of Colombo to see to the implementation of the proposal. The Archbishop in his letter dated 8 February, 2001 gave the written permission to establish a religious house of the Order in his Archdiocese and an agreement was signed on 27 May, 2001. It envisaged the implantation of the Order and the opening of a novitiate house to form brothers hailing from Pakistan. This house Padre Pio Ashram was canonically established as the novitiate house. Br. Liguory Noronha, the Novice master, Br. Norbert D'Souza and Br. Patrick Samuel as well as 7 novices from Pakistan began their presence in a little house belonging to the TOR's at Katuwapitiya, Negombo.

**Formation**

Our presence in Sri Lanka began with the formation, a rare practice in the history of the Order. Since the formation was to be conducted in a cultural context which was alien to both the formators and the formees certain difficulties were faced. So in order to ensure the continuation of the formation program an agreement was signed in Rome, in the presence of the General Minister between the Provinces of Belgium, Holy Trinity and Vice Province of Pakistan on 19 January, 2003, ensuring that formation of the brothers from Pakistan would continue up to 2012. In 2007 September once again in the presence of the General Definitor and the Provincials of respective Jurisdictions there was renewal of the program, which is followed up to this day.

Meanwhile there was also a move to share the country's mission between the two Provinces of Karnataka and Tamilnadu but the last Chapter in the presence of Br. John Anthony, the President of the Chapter agreed that in the prevailing ethnic situation of the country that Karnataka Province alone extends its missionary activity to the entire island.

**Vocations**

As per the implantation of the Order in Sri Lanka the country is vibrant with religious spirit nurtured by pious devotions, hospitality and simplicity fostered by the Buddhist way of life. The Christian presence in the island was spear headed by the Franciscan missionaries. And in the difficult times, when no missionaries were allowed to enter the island, it was Blessed Joseph Vaz, a great missionary model for Asia and now the apostle of Sri Lanka, who disguised himself as an ordinary coolly worker, sustained the faith of the believers almost single handed for almost 10 years and later others from his congregation followed him and helped in the mission.

In like manner the Capuchins going from this sub-continent were welcomed warmly because of Blessed Joseph Vaz and partly due to the devotion to St. Pio. On the whole there is lot of good will and enthusiasm and the soil is fertile to sow the seeds of vocation. While there are flow of vocations for the dioceses having their strong institutional approach and other vested interests, the religious on the other hand have fewer vocations. The candidates who mostly come

from the Government schools lack discipline and steady mind. So, almost all the congregations and the dioceses adopt a policy of catching them young and admit from grade 9 in spite of the many drop outs. This is also in line with the Buddhist thought prevailing in the country that one is initiated to be a monk at an early age. At Present we have a small structure which can accommodate not more than 10 candidates. So an establishment of a minor seminary is a felt need in order to implant the Order.

### **Mission**

The friars take up ministries in English like retreats and recollections to the diocesan clergy and religious as and when depending on their availability but to be more effective in the mission one needs the fluency of the local language. Some friars already have the fluency while the others are making every attempt to learn the local languages, Singhala and Tamil, which have profound literary background.

The devotion to St. Pio has become the launching pad for us to spread our Capuchin Charism. He is the patron of our mission. Wherever we are, we have the devotion to St. Pio, through which we try to reach out to local people in their spiritual need.

We have not yet gone to Tamil speaking dioceses. The escalated violence, destruction and the destitution especially in the Tamil speaking areas of north and east call our immediate attention. But so far, as foreigners, on grounds of suspicion our movement was limited. Now as the war is ended there is free movement and scope for us to start our mission but again the handicap of the language and our limited number has blocked the initiative.

The Bishops from other Dioceses too are inviting us to take up mission stations in their dioceses. During the previous Triennium the discussion between the Provincial and the Archbishop of Colombo made it possible to avail the services of one brother to serve in a parish called Dalupotha in view of taking up a parish in the diocese. As a result we were able to obtain a place belonging to the Diocese for a period of three years where our postulants were housed. During the last Triennium we have taken up one parish in a missionary Diocese

and our services are well appreciated. But the hesitation and non availability of personnel have forced us to turn down other requests. Our presence and life, express brotherhood and we are making every effort to remain true to the Charism.

### **Finance**

The financial status of the Delegation is fairly good. As most of our brothers are involved in the formation activities, the Economic Solidarity of the Order takes care of the maintenance of the friars. The friars on the other hand without seeking anything extraordinary, for themselves make sacrifices and the same is being utilized in the formation of young candidates.

### **The Houses and the Apostolate**

Place & Diocese	Purpose	Friars
Pallansena - Colombo	Candidacy	Br. Joseph Francis-Superior & Director Br. Sunil D'Souza- Asst. Director
Mawila-Chilaw	Novitiate	Br. William Andrade-Superior & Novice Master Br. Arun Kumar- V. Master
Ampitiya-Kandy	Post Novitiate Philosophy & Theology	Br. Norbert D'Souza-Rector
Wellawa-Kurunegala	Parish	Br. Fredrick Braggs- P. Priest Br. Nishshanka P. Perera-Regent

### **Padre Pio Nivasa, Capuchin Formation House, Pallansena, Negombo**

This is the first house of our presence, in the Archdiocese of Colombo. Having spent two years in the rented house, belonging to the TOR's this house with a property of two and half acres was bought and established primarily with a view to implant the Order in Sri Lanka. But the house served as a novitiate for three years until the new novitiate house in another diocese was built and canonically established. Presently it is a house of candidates with two friars, 2 postulants and 8 candidates.

### **St. Pio Novitiate, Mawila, Nathandiya**

Having lived in the small existing houses for six years in two places, it was felt that a good novitiate structure was necessary to impart a better formation. Hence the new novitiate house was built at the place called Mawila, Nathandiya, in the diocese of Chilaw. The entire project was funded by the Capuchin Province- Belgium. We express our thanks to them for playing a major role in supporting us in every possible way. The house was canonically erected and was inaugurated on 8 September, 2007. There is three acres of land catering to the needs of the novices. Presently there are seven novices from Sri Lanka and Pakistan, with two friars.

### **St. Francis Assisi, Capuchin House, Kandy**

In order to deepen the Capuchin formation given in the novitiate for the brothers, it was decided in the meeting of the Provincials of Belgium, Karnataka, and the General Definitor Br. Peter Rodgers, that the brothers would do two years of Post-Novitiate formation (Philosophy) in Sri Lanka. This third presence began in a rented house belonging to the Claretians in Gurudeniya, Kandy. Then later we moved to another place of our own at a place called Meddepathana. But this house in a residential area bought for this purpose did not cater to our needs as it was away from the seminary. So the house was disposed and a new land was purchased near the seminary. With the help of the Economic Solidarity and the Belgium Province a new building was put up and was inaugurated on the 6th of February 2010. The brothers go to the seminary as day scholars and are able to take part in every activity of the seminary. The availability of other religious houses in the vicinity is of great help to meet the spiritual needs of the brothers. The weekend exposure programs in our parish station help the brothers to deepen their Franciscan Charism.

### **St. Francis Xavier Church Wellawa, Kurunegala**

Being fascinated by St. Francis and the Franciscan spirituality the Bishop of Kurunegala diocese (a predominant Buddhist populated) invited Capuchins to take up a small parish with eighty families. The move was initiated by Br. Jossy Fernandes, the then Provincial Minister.

This is a missionary diocese and in keeping with our charism we took over this parish temporarily. While serving the catholic faithful we are asked to be the chaplain for the Mother Theresa sisters on a full time basis. The place also serves as an experiential venue for the student brothers of philosophy in their exposure programs. Presently two friars, a priest and a regent live there.

### **The Friars serving in the mission of Sri Lanka**

1. Br. William Antony Andrade
2. Br. Norbert D'Souza.
3. Br. Joseph Francis
4. Br. Jeevan Martin D'Mello (Rome)
5. Br. Fredrick Braggs
6. Br. Arun Kumar
7. Br. Sunil D'Souza

### **The Friars served in the mission of Sri Lanka**

1. Br. Liguory Noronha (6 years)
2. Br. Denis Saldanha (2 years)
3. Br. Anand Castelino (3 years)
4. Br. Dilraj Sequeira ( 1 year)
5. Br. Denis Prakash Lobo (3 years)
6. Br. Veerus Concesso (1 year)

### **The Brothers in Formation**

	Srilanka	Pakistan
Postulancy	2	----
Novitiate	4	3
Philosophy	1	7
Regency	1	-----

### Number of Brothers completing their Novitiate in Sri Lanka

Country	Persevering	Discontinued
Pakistan	22	5
India	12	4
Sri Lanka	06	-----

### Our Suggestions:

1. A necessary structure and financial support for the maintenance of the minor seminary.
2. To seek the collaboration of the Province of Tamilnadu to take up pastoral and social activities.
3. To inculcate a proper missionary charism especially at the level of Theology in order to enable the young to venture into missions
4. To send qualified personnel to the missions for social work, counselling etc.
5. To have some self supportive ventures to support the mission.

We remain grateful to Minister Generals and Definitors, the Provincials and the Definitors, the Definitor General Br. John Anthony, the Belgium Province, the Vice Province of Pakistan, the friars who served and are serving in the Delegation and all those who have taken keen interest by way of sending personnel, funding the structures, giving out necessary guidelines and encouragement. Today even in this tenth year of the missionary presence in the Island, the Brothers look forward very hopefully to the Province for its continual support, to consolidate its mission and vision.

Thanks,

Yours fraternally,

**Br. Norbert D'Souza OFM Cap**  
Provincial delegate

### A Report from the Provincial Delegate and his Councillors

#### Christ the King Delegation, Mizoram-Tripura-Barrak Valley in Assam

During the Fourth Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka, India (16-21, April 2007), a proposal was made to make North East missions into one Custody. The Provincial Minister Br. Vincent Furtado held consultation with the friars in the Mission and came up with a different proposal, which is, instead of one Custody to have two Provincial Delegations,

This Proposal was approved by CCMSI. The Provincial Minister and the Definitory also resolved to send two separate applications to General Definitory, one for Mizoram- Tripura-Silchar area and another for Nagaland - Manipur area. Thus Two Provincial Delegations were established: Christ the King Provincial Delegation (Mizoram, Tripura and Barrak Valley) and Infant Jesus Provincial Delegation (Nagaland and Manipur).

By a decree of the Minister General, dated January 16th, 2008 (Prot. No. 00007/08), Christ the King Provincial Delegations was erected. By his letter dated 9 February, 2008, the Provincial Minister, Br. Alban D'Souza was appointed to be the First Provincial Delegate assisted by two Councillors, Br. Felix Pinto and Br. Richard D'Souza.

#### 1. Inauguration of Christ the King Provincial Delegation

During a common gathering of the friars from 28th to 30th April 2009, Br. Anil Sequeira, the Definitor and Provincial Vicar inaugurated the Provincial Delegation and dedicated it to the patronage of Christ the King.

##### 1.1 Mizoram and Barak Valley (Diocese of Aizawl)

##### St. Thomas Friary/ Parish, Ramhlun:

The diocese has taken back St. Thomas Parish, Ramhlun in May, 2009 and given St. Francis of Assisi sub-centre, Durtlang to the Capuchins on a permanent basis.

### **St. Francis of Assisi Friary/Parish/School, Durtlang**

This centre and the friary play a major role in the administration of the Delegation. It also presents a "Capuchin face" in the diocese. Hence, a formal friary needs to be built. Parish Church building exists. School building is complete. Sisters of Charity are collaborating.

### **St. Francis of Assisi Friary/Parish/School, Mamit**

The overall growth of the parish centre, with a magnificent Parish Church building and a Lower Primary School (Kg to Class 4 run by the Capuchins) with a very good School building is a commendable contribution of the Capuchins in Mamit. Bethany Sisters are our collaborators. Mamit is equal distance from both Durtlang (Mizoram) and Gachirampara (Tripura) and hence can serve as the animation centre for the friars of the Delegation. A friary set up is the need of the place.

### **St. Pio Friary/Parish/School, Sairang**

A new Friary was inaugurated on 7 November, 2009 by Br. Vincent Furtado, the Provincial Minister. A good Parish Church exists. Primary school has been built. Many works are yet to be done. Sairang Agreement with the diocese includes starting of a formation house. The new friary is very conducive for an Initial Formation.

### **Silchar in Barak Valley**

The Capuchins have a plot in Silchar town. The diocese has given permission to start a formal school. Plans are yet to be made and friars are yet to be appointed.

### **An Earnest Request**

We propose a little correction to the earlier Document of demarcation. The Aizawl Diocese comprises both the State of Mizoram and the three districts in the south of the State of Assam namely Karimganj, Cachar and Hailakandi. But the Document refers only to the town of Silchar. This needs to be corrected. We request the New Provincial Definitory to take up the matter.

### **1.2 Tripura (Agartala Diocese)**

#### **Assisi Catholic Centre, Gachirampara: Parish/School:**

There is a presbytery and a primary school run by the Capuchins

for the diocese. In the future, a Church building needs to be built.

### **Kanchanpur, Tripura**

This is the only centre that is given to the Capuchins on a permanent basis in the Diocese of Agartala. Land has been purchased and a portion has been levelled. A master plan needs to be made. Provincial Minister has laid "foundation stone" for the construction of the School. Our brothers in Tripura are in the midst of Bru Community displaced due to clash between them and the Mizos.

Brothers make earnest request to provide sufficient funds for all expenses and developmental activities in Gachirampara and Kanchanpur since the Diocese has left all responsibility exclusively to the Capuchins by a Formal Agreement.

### **2. The Friars in Christ the King Provincial Delegation**

In Mamit, Mizoram	: Br. Vincent Monis & Br. Stany Roshan D'Souza
In Durtlang, Mizoram	: Br. Victor Fernandes
In Sairang, Mizoram	: Br. Richard D'Souza and Br. Alban D'Souza
In Gachirampara, Tripura	: Br. Felix Pinto & Br. George Godwin M.
In Kanchanpur, Tripura	: NIL
In Silchar, Barrak Valley Studies	: NIL : In Rome: Joel Rosario (Missiology) : In Dimapur: Santhosh Lobo (BEd.)
In Gachirampara Scholastics/Regents	: Br. George Godwin M. (BEd.) : Br. V. Praveen D'Souza in Durtlang, Mizoram. : Br. Naveen Veigas in Gochirampara, Tripura.

#### **Friars in Formation:**

Theology	: 2	Raymond Lalramthlenga
Philosophy	: 2	Peter Lalrammuana, John Zoduhsanga, Charles Lalremruata Remruata, Simon Thangsianchina
Novitiate	: NIL	
Post- novitiate	: NIL	
Postulancy	: NIL	
PUC- Dimapur	: 1	James Alexis Lalrinliana
Orientation	: 2	David Lalduhkima, Joseph S. Deihgin

### 3. Important matters

1. Friars Needed: Five (5) friars are immediately needed to take up places still vacant.
2. Friaries Needed: It is a distant dream to have three friars in a fraternity. We wish at least to begin with having friaries where we do not yet have.
3. Formators Needed: The Chapter must give us due attention and spare Brothers who should take up formation in the North-East.
4. Collaboration is needed: While both the Delegations could manage initial formation, there is a good possibility to collaborate with other Capuchin Presences working in the North-East.
5. Social Workers Needed: The Bru community as a whole has been displaced from Mizoram. They are a minority and ostracized politically, economically and socially. Their situation is dismal and hopes for their settlement is bleak. They have settled in areas where Capuchin Friars work in Tripura. It is a serious matter of concern. Welfare programmes like CCF or CFCA could be a great help to them. We appeal to the Chapter and the new Provincial Definitory on their behalf.
6. A Serious "Look North-East" Policy is needed: We have taken up parishes, built schools and provide "priestly" care to the needy. We need policies and strategies in areas like Formation and preparing formation personnel, management of finances and assets, pastoral and school, just to mention a few. We look up to the Provincial Chapter and the new Provincial Minister and the Definitory for guidelines.

We are immensely grateful to the Provincial Minister and the Definitory for all the support and encouragement they have given us.

I thank my brothers in the Delegation, especially my Councillors Br. Felix Pinto and Br. Richard D'Souza for their immense support and their great joyful commitment to the missions. Glory and Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity. Thank you one and all.

**Br. Alban D'Souza OFM Cap**  
Provincial delegate

## A Report from the Provincial Delegate and his Councillors Infant Jesus Delegation, Nagaland-Manipur

### Introduction

It was way back in the year 1996 that the Capuchins came to work in Nagaland with Rev. Br. Arthur Prashant Menezes as the first Parish Priest of the newly installed Parish at Lazami and Rev. Br. Augustine Claude D'Souza as Asst. Priest. With a very humble beginning, the Capuchin Mission work grew slowly yet steadily. But with the hard work put up by the Pioneer friars today the Capuchin Presence is widely acknowledged in the Diocese of Kohima and of course lately in the Archdiocese of Imphal. Thanks to the pioneers of this Mission. In the beginning the Mission was organized under one region called 'North East Mission' comprising of four states namely; Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura. Later on, the present Provincial Definitory felt that the mission need to be divided into two regions on the ground that the entire mission geographically very vast for single administration; and also the differences of languages, cultures, in inter- state context. Thus after having considered all the pros and cons of this idea, by the decree of Minister General dated - 16 January, 2008, it was decided that the Nagaland-Manipur Delegation was to be declared. Accordingly, it was during the tenure of Rev. Br. Vincent G. Furtado as Provincial Minister, Rev. Br. Anil Sequeira, the Vicar Provincial officially inaugurated the region as Provincial Delegation under the patronage of 'The Infant Jesus Delegation Nagaland-Manipur' with Br. Augustine Claude D'Souza as the first Provincial Delegate and Br. Vincent Serrao and Br. Mathias Dias as his Councillors. With this brief introduction I would highlight some of the main Pastoral Ministries and the humanitarian services that the Friars of our Delegation are involved.

### 1. St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lazami

#### A. Parish Pastoral Activities

Lazami village is one of the biggest villages in Sema area. The village has more than 679 houses on the whole. St. Francis of Assisi Parish Lazami has 130 Catholic families with more than 700 members. Under

this Parish we have three other villages. The total number of Catholic families in these three villages is 51. At present Br. Mathias Dias, Parish Priest, and Br. Cyril Anand Pereira is the Assistant Parish Priest. The activities that are undertaken by the Brothers here are given below:

### **Faith aspect**

- All the children, youth men and women are helped to strengthen their faith through various seminars, courses and retreats.
- One of the memorable events that took place in December 2009 was "The Catechism Children's Fellowship" of main Parish and substations. It was conducted in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lazami.
- Through the regular house visits we have been able to win the hearts of the People.
- Catechism classes for the children conducted on every Sunday regularly, and separate Mass for the Children is celebrated.
- The good numbers of vocation emerge from this parish. Many boys and girls have joined various congregations.
- The greatest moment in the parish was on 26 April, 2008 when the First Sema Priest (Diocesan) was ordained in the Parish.
- Another memorable event that took place on 14 January, 2010 as Br. Paul Inashe Sumi, a first native capuchin was ordained. In fact, it was a big surprise to many other Religious Congregations who have been working in Kohima Diocese long before our arrival.

### **B. Educational Ministries**

- In the North Eastern States every Parish in the Diocese is attached with minimum one school. Our School in Lazami has undertaken many activities to impart the quality education to the Children. But in the realm of academic field there has been a good result of HSLC in the past three years. Even though the school has been upgraded to class 10 since 8 years, the past 3 years result of HSLC was very significant. It was for the first time in 2008-2009

the School got First Division result in Class 10. This shows the ceaseless commitment and hard labour of our Brothers and Sisters who are working in the place.

- The teachers and the students were updated by organizing Orientation courses, seminars and retreats.
- St. Anthony's Hostel: The newly built hostel was inaugurated on 5 September, 2009 by Most Rev. Jose Mukala the then Bishop of Kohima in the presence of Br. Mathias Dias OFM Cap., the Parish Priest. This hostel has the capacity of accommodating 40 students.
- Self-cooking Hostel: The long awaited dream of Catholic children from the remote villages was fulfilled through the initiatives of Parish Priest and associate Pastor by building 8 rooms for cooking. The Hostel accommodates at least 15 (fifteen) children in the Campus. An effort of our Brothers to be appreciated because this is the first adventure in the whole of Zunheboto District. The parents of these children, extremely happy and also give valuable identity to our Capuchin Franciscan Charism. We are very grateful to Br. Provincial Vincent G. Furtado and Definitors for helping financially for this purpose.
- Aid by our Friar: There has been regular financial aid by our Ex-Provincial Rev. Br. Jossy Fernandes. He is helping at least 10 children for their education. We appreciate his good gesture towards the children. At the same time others also can think of doing such kind of charity.

### **2. St. Peter Church, Atoizu**

- The Mission at Atoizu began in the year 1998 where, Br. Arthur Prashant Menezes was appointed as the first Parish Priest, along with Br. Mathias Dias as a Regent. When the Mission was started, there were only 28 Catholic families. In the recent years we are able to get few more members, thus at present total number of families are 33. This centre has two substations one is Akuhaito and Akuluto. Each village has 16 families.

Here are some of the events that have taken place in the past three years:

#### **A. Pastoral activities**

- Faith aspect: The people are made to affirm their faith through regular catechesis, courses seminars and retreats.
- The regular house visits are made to be with the people.
- The prayer services and rosary conducted in each family strengthened their faith.
- The faith formation programme for youth of all Sumi area was conducted in 2009 in the month of August.
- The Atoizu Catholic community celebrated its Silver Jubilee of reception of Baptism, in the month of January, 2010. There were good number of Capuchin friars and other Priests, for the celebration.

#### **B. Educational ministries**

- The School at Atoizu has the 700 students. Every year it has produced good result. The school is progressing towards the right direction. Since 2003 the School has produced consecutive 4 years 100% result in H.S.L.C. Examination. This shows the effort put by the Friars, Sisters and the Teachers in Atoizu has borne fruit with great satisfaction.
- The students and teachers are given seminars and courses to update themselves.

The new hostel building is being built which has the capacity for 60 students.

#### **3. St. Clare Church, Akuluto**

- The foundation for the new community was laid in the year 2003 when Br. Manohar was the Parish Priest. Thereafter, Br. Augustine and Br. Mathias moulded the people in Catholic faith. At present Br. Prem and Br. Paul Sumi are taking care of the station.
- There are about 18 Catholic families at present.
- People are just getting into the Catholic faith.

- The house visiting, courses, Seminars and faith formation have helped the people to grow in Catholic faith.

#### **Educational Ministries**

- St. Clare School, Akuluto has picked up the enrollment quite fast. Presently there are more than 350 students in 7 classes including nursery section.
- It is the best school in the area, now it is upgraded to Class-5. The School has got official permission from Nagaland Board of School Education. However, for the Official Recognition will be granted only if the proper structure of the School is ready.
- The Provincial Definitory has approved the plan of school building.
- We are sure that the School will run well in Akuluto, but the building up of the Catholic Community is very important. We are grateful for the Province for providing a four wheeler vehicle for Akuluto Mission.
- There are also difficulties in the Mission: Akuluto Community is just a raw one. It is a new Mission Center. The Province has already bought 2 small pieces of land. We have been trying for a bigger piece of land for the High School section and for a sizable play ground but till now dream is not yet fulfilled.
- The agreement with the Diocese is not done as at present the Apostolic See is vacant.

#### **4. Manipur-Mission at Choithar**

- St. Joseph's Parish, Choithar was taken up by Capuchins in the year 2007. Initially Br. Joel Rosario was appointed to take care of the center, and then Br. Augustine was appointed as first the Parish Priest on 14 October, 2007. St. Francis of Assisi School, Choithar was started in the year 2008. Now Br. Thomas is the PP and School is up to class 3. Since, Choithar is only a village there is no much scope for the bigger school. Unless we have boarding facility for the children of other neighboring villages we cannot expect larger number of students in this School. The Mission has a great scope for pastoral work. There are possibilities to get good number of vocations.

- Hardships: Choithar is a place without water. Lack of proper study of the place seems to be the reason of difficulties. At present the Friars are staying in a rented house. The Provincial and the Definitory has approved the plan for Mission house at Choithar.

#### **5. Ministry in Diocesan College, by Br. Santosh Menezes**

- Our service in the Diocesan College is appreciated by many. Br. Santosh Menezes is counsellor for the College Children. His effort to bring out a book in value education is recognized by the Diocese of Kohima. He is available for the spiritual needs of the laity and religious in the Diocese.

#### **6. Capuchin House Dimapur**

- The Dimapur land was bought in 1997. However we could not make use of it for several years due to the lack of personnel. It was only a few years back as Br. Mathias stayed and looked after the campus, by digging a bore for the water as he completed his B.Ed. in Salesian B.Ed. College.
- Present Provincial and Definitors have succeeded in completing the existing house for our immediate stay. At present Br. Augustine Claude, the Provincial Delegate resides in Capuchin House.
- P.U.C. Students: The present Provincial and Definitors decided to keep the North-Eastern Brothers, to do their P.U.C. studies in Dimapur. Presently there are 2 brothers doing their plus two studies. Br. Santosh Lobo is the Director of the students, as he is doing his B. Ed.
- Construction of the New Seminary Block: The work of the Seminary block is completed up to Plinth level. The work is at progress.
- Transit House: The Dimapur Capuchin house is a great use for each and every friar in the Delegation. The Brothers those come for the weekly marketing in Dimapur, feel fraternal atmosphere here in Capuchin House.

#### **7. We make following proposals for our Delegation**

- Finally, Lazami parish and Atoizu are not of the Congregation but of the Diocese. We work, but not supported by the Diocese. Hence the request of the Friars those who work here is this: Let the agreement be terminated immediately or if we have to continue let the Diocese give us at least for fifty years permanently or a new place should be demanded from the Diocese. Working without any plan and vision is seems to be very dangerous for the friars those who stay in Nagaland.
- Immediate Need: Since the Choithar seems to be a great burden for the Province; hence we suggest Provincial and the Definitors can think of another viable place in Manipur. We must hurry up when the Bishop is positive about the Capuchin presence in Manipur.
- One more piece of Land at outskirts of Dimapur: Since the existing land in Dimapur is very small, the brothers in the Delegation feel that we should have a larger piece of land in the outskirts of Dimapur, for the future development.
- As the need of the Capuchin House Dimapur increases day by day, a four wheeler vehicle is seems to be very necessary. Even a petrol Maruti van could cater the immediate need of the house.

**Br. Augustine Claude D'Souza OFM Cap**  
Provincial Delegate

## MINUTES OF THE FIFTH PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

### 1. Inauguration

The Fifth Provincial Chapter of the Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka was celebrated from 12 -17 April, 2010 at Darshan Institute of Theology, Bangalore. The Chapter commenced with a Prayer Service in the chapel at 3 p.m. "YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES" was the theme of the Chapter. Br. Patrick Crasta highlighted the theme and explained nuances of witnessing in his reflection. He also explained what is Jerusalem, Samaria and Judea in our context and how we can be the best witnesses. The unique feature of the Prayer Service was, the lighting of the candles by all the Capitulars from the Paschal candle to signify that they are the witnesses of Jesus who is the light of the world.

After the Prayer Service and Tea all gathered in the Chapter Hall for the inaugural session. Br. John Anthony, the General Definitor for Asia Oceania who was the representative of General Minister presided over the Chapter. The inaugural session began at 4 p.m. After completing the preliminary and Constitutional formalities of the inauguration of the Chapter, the President Br. John Anthony addressed the Capitulars highlighting the purpose & importance of the Provincial Chapter. He emphasized that the Chapter is a call to return to the Gospel & primarily to the charism of the founder.

### 2. Provincial's Report

After completing the formalities of inauguration and the approval of the Time Table Br. Vincent G. Furtado, the Provincial Minister presented his Triennial report, the discussion of which was held on the following day.

On 13th at the beginning of the discussion at 9 a.m. Br. Liguory through proxy thanked the Provincial for the good work done and also voiced his concerns regarding the Novitiate structure in Sri Lanka and some other developments in the Province. The Provincial Minister responded adequately and gave clarifications. All appreciated the initiative taken for the Canonization process of Br. Alfred Roche. There

was an appeal to add the name of Br. Augustine Deenabandhu. The suggestions were made to have an office of grievance in the Province, to conduct the pastoral visitation of brothers undergoing higher studies in Rome and other places and to give priority to the animation of pastoral ministry in our parishes. The discussion went beyond 2 sessions since there were so many points and it was lively.

Thereafter, Br. Edwin Colaco presented the Triennial Financial Report. Majority of the Capitulars appreciated the work done by the Provincial Treasurer.

### 3. Reports of St. Antony's Vice Province, Goa and St. Charles Lwanga Custody, Uganda

During the afternoon session first Br. Estevao Rodrigues, the Vice Provincial of Goa presented the Report of the Vice Province after which discussions were held. All appreciated the report & the work done there and unanimously recommended to the General Minister to raise the Vice Province to the status of province.

Then Br. John Fernandes presented the Report of the Ugandan Custody after which clarifications were invited. During the discussions it was suggested to establish a Mission Secretariat in the Province to facilitate and to co-ordinate the work. The Capitulars generously invited the Missionaries to visit our parishes in the Province & speak to the people on a Sunday on Mission in order to raise funds for the Mission. They also volunteered to organize a Capuchin Mission Sunday in our parishes.

### 4. Findings on the Governance of the Province

During the evening session at 6-00 Br. Remigius Sequeira read out a special report on the Governance of the Province. Two issues were taken up from it.

- (1) Zone wise administration: For the better administration of the Province, Br. Remigius suggested to make four administrative zones in the Province and said that each zone should be under a Definitor for better spiritual animation.
- (2) Representation: The President suggested that the representation should be given to the minority groups in the Province.

Pros and cons of representation were hotly discussed during this session. Br. John Anthony, the President again and again requested the Capitulars to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of minority groups and that the minority group should not be neglected. Br. Provincial appealed to remain as one and work together. During the discussions sufficient awareness was created time and again to be sensitive to the feelings of others.

#### **5. Election of the Provincial Minister and the Definitors**

On 14 April, 2010 the election of the Provincial minister and his Definitory took place from 8-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. The following were the results of the elections:

1. Br. Vincent Gabriel Furtado who received 49 votes in the 3rd scrutiny is declared Provincial Minister.
2. Br. Dolphy Pais who received 59 votes in the 1st scrutiny and 54 votes in the 1st scrutiny for the election of Vicar Provincial Minister is declared the First Definitor and Vicar Provincial Minister.
3. Br. Peter Cyprian D'Souza who received 43 votes in the 1st scrutiny is declared the Second Definitor.
4. Br. Chetan Lobo who received 42 votes in the 3rd scrutiny is declared the Third Definitor.
5. Br. Joe Francis who received 39 votes in the 2nd scrutiny is declared the Fourth Definitor.

#### **6. Reports of the Delegations of Sri Lanka, Mizoram-Tripura, Nagaland-Manipur**

In the afternoon session reports from the three delegations viz., St. Pio Delegation, Srilanka; Christ the King Delegation, Mizoram-Tripura-Barrak valley in Assam and Infant Jesus Delegation, Nagaland-Manipur were read and clarifications were sought after each presentation. In the Sri Lankan Report the Provincial delegate invited the Tamil Nadu Province for sharing the work in North Sri Lanka where there is Tamil majority.

In the Nagaland-Manipur report the hardships and difficulties in the mission and the problem of making permanent contracts with

bishops were highlighted. It was brought to the notice by the delegate of this delegation that the Bishops in these mission areas usually don't give the parishes and institutions permanently to the religious congregations.

The Mizoram-Tripura report presented a better and conducive situation for life and missionary activity. It was the opinion of the members of the delegation that we have to limit our scope of expansion and activity and work to stabilize the existing missions.

#### **7. Eucharistic Celebration by the newly elected Provincial and Definitory**

The maiden Eucharistic Celebration by the newly elected Provincial and Definitory was held at 6.30p.m. in Darshan Institute of Theology Chapel, Bangalore. During the homily Br. Provincial spoken on bearing witness and highlighted the following areas in witnessing.

1. Bearing witness through Prayer: General Minister's remarks that some young friars are lethargic to prayer.
2. Bearing witness through our relationship which should be living and organic.

After the supper around 8.30 p.m felicitation program was arranged for the new Provincial and his team.

#### **8. Report of the Custody of Japan**

Earlier on 15th morning the Eucharistic Celebration was officiated by Br. Mc Hugh, Vicar Provincial of New York Province who was the special observer for the Chapter. His message was "don't worry about achieving success but worry about not making efforts".

At 9 a.m. the Reports from the Custody of Japan were presented by Br. Claver D'Souza and supplemented Br. John McHugh. Br. Claver presented the picture of suffering church in Japan. He said even for missionaries the first 2 years are very frustrating since the language is difficult to learn.

Br. John McHugh spoke about his Province in US. After his talk he was showered with questions and enquiries with regard to their other missions, statistics of friars, vocations and attitude shown to our friars

who went to help there.

## 9. Chapter Agenda

At 10 a.m. the Chapter Agenda was taken up for discussion. Following are the minutes of the Chapter proceedings on Agenda.

### a) Witness to Capuchin Charism

The following points were discussed under this heading:

- i. Contemplative dimension
- ii. Brothers spending energies in negative activities

### b) General Matters

The following points were discussed under this heading:

- i. Raising the Vice Province of Goa to the status of Province
  - ii. Mission Secretariat
  - iii. Initiation of missionaries to the culture and language
  - iv. Bhopal mission (The following were discussed in the afternoon session at 3)
  - v. Election of delegates to the Chapter
  - vi. Ideal role of the Definitors
  - vii. Purpose of shifting our Philosophate and Theologate
  - viii. Establishing houses in Mizoram canonically
  - ix. Rite problem and the policy of Personnel Solidarity
  - x. Chapter of Mats
- ### c) Vocation Promotion
- i. Is it a call from the Lord or merely a personal need?
  - ii. Collaboration between SFO and Vocation Promotion
- ### d) Formation (The following were discussed on 16th morning at 9)
- i. Living & transmitting the core values of our charism
  - ii. NIOS, Initiation, PUC, Postulancy etc
  - iii. Termination of the participation of St. Fidelis, St Bonaventure Provinces
  - iv. Organizing Initiation, Aspirancy & PUC in North East
  - v. FISI for ongoing formation
  - vi. Sending our Theology students abroad for studies

### e) SFO and Pastoral Ministries (The following were discussed in the 2nd Session)

- i. Revitalizing SFO & YOUFRA
- ii. SFO fraternities in some of our parishes & friaries (The following were discussed in the afternoon session at 3)
- iii. Plan for the ministries to guarantee continuity
- iv. Unrest over the appointments of Parish Priests to our parishes
- v. Transparency of accounts in the parish

### f) Education Ministry (discussion was taken up in the anticipated evening session at 5-30)

- i. The education ministry should help us to be "Closer to People
- ii. CEB & LAB. How to make education ministry more vital.
- iii. Self Sufficiency through Education Ministry
- iv. CEB policies

### g) Justice, Peace & Ecology - Social Service

- i. New Avenues, new branches, new ventures to expand the roll of JPE

### h) Civil matters (Finance, Building etc.) (Night session at 8-45)

- i. Lethargy among brothers towards Civil matters
- ii. Failure to submit annual budget & monthly returns

## 10. Resolutions & Recommendations

On 17th April in the 1st session at 9 a.m. Resolutions and Recommendations were taken up and voted upon. All voted unanimously in favour of the resolutions and the recommendations.

## 11. President's Message

In the 2nd session at 11 a.m. the President gave the final message. He said the Visitation has brought him very close to us. He appreciated the discipline saying it is the outstanding quality of our Province. It is easy to co-operate with us he said. He appreciated the spirit of unity. He pointed out that there is an allergy to anything that divides. He said "You fought tooth and nail to maintain the unity" and there was no deviating from the spirit of unity. He appreciated our prayer and fraternal life saying it is sound. He said even in smaller houses there is morning

and evening prayer and celebration of the Eucharist. He said "You give priority for formation. Your initiative for collaborative formation is great". He said that the General Minister and his team is taken up by our high standard of formation. He underlined that we are forming the brothers with dedication. Our support to the daughter Provinces is commendable he said. He also appreciated our mission commitment saying that it is great. The numbers in missions are growing which manifests your keen interest to implant the Order. He said there is very good spirit of co-operation. He praised us saying "You have taken up very seriously the recommendation given after the Previous Chapter about social works. The social service activities are very wonderful. He concluded thanking the previous Definitory and specially Br. Anil Sequeira for his contribution with expertise and Edwin Colaco in the Definitory and as a bursar.

He appealed the brothers to be faithful to Prayer life. He requested to conduct Monthly Recollection and local chapters in every fraternity on a regular basis. He requested the brothers to promptly obey the Provincial and move to the next destinations and facilitate the successors to take up the new responsibilities. Make it easy for the next person to take charge easily. He said that we need to cultivate appreciation of one another and their talents. He thanked us for our hospitality and friendship and concluded with a blessing.

## **12. Thanking**

Br. Chetan Lobo thanked the Almighty God, Holy Trinity the Patron of the Province, the outgoing definitors, New Provincial and his team, and the members of all the commissions and committees. He thanked everybody without leaving anyone.

Br. Vincent G. Furtado the re-elected Provincial also thanked the 3 outgoing definitors from the previous Definitory, the Provincial Secretaries for their hard work and the 3 scholastics who served in the Provincialate during the last Triennium.

## **13. Conclusion**

The Chapter concluded at noon on 17April, 2010 with a Prayer Service.

**Br. Denis Prakash Lobo, Br. Veerus Concesao, Br. John Peter**  
Minuting Secretaries

## **Resolutions and Recommendations of The Fifth Provincial Chapter, Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka**

### **Resolutions**

1. It is resolved to recommend to the General Minister and his Definitory, to raise St. Anthony's Vice Province of Goa to the status of a Province. A Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Formation of Brothers needs to be drawn up.
2. It is resolved that the Provincial Minister and his Definitory conducts a referendum for direct suffrage.
3. It is resolved that no friar be permitted to purchase or to sell the immovable goods without the explicit written permission and authorization of the Provincial Minister. In all such cases, a resolution of the concerned Society or Trust signed by all the Governing Body members is necessary.
4. As per the principles of personnel solidarity, we could keep our houses open to the Capuchin brothers of Syro-Malabar Rite to cater to the faithful of their Rite. But they shall not establish any house of their own in the territory assigned to us through the Decree of Erection of the Province.

### **Recommendations**

1. It is recommended to have a Chapter of Mats during this Triennium on the theme of Formation or any other core values of Capuchin Charism.
2. It is recommended that the Province has a Mission Secretariat and a Definitor could be in-charge.
3. It is recommended that the houses in Mizoram be raised to the canonical status at an opportune time.
4. It is recommended that our candidates have one year of initiation at Dayalbagh, Ujire, two years of PUC at Assisi Nilaya, Moodubelle and Postulancy at Assisi House, Mangalore when it is ready.

5. It is recommended that the North East Delegations have their own Initiation and Aspirancy (PUC) in the North East itself.
6. It is recommended that we draw up a concrete and long term plan for the Province in order to guarantee continuity.
7. It is recommended that we revitalize SFO, Youfra and also start Assisi Children's Club.
8. It is recommended that all our fraternities and parishes have SFO fraternities.
9. It is recommended that all the units of the fraternity including parishes and schools, submit their accounts to the local fraternity as well as to the Provincial Minister.
10. It is recommended that we start a new Capuchin Presence in Madikeri on the Mysore-Mangalore Highway.
11. It is recommended to develop all our schools up to PUC as and when convenient.
12. It is recommended to sell an acre of converted land at DSA, for various needs of the Province.

Election Results of the Holy Trinity Province held at Darshan Institute of Theology, Kengeri, Bangalore, India Chapter celebrated from 12 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> of April 2010 Election was held on 14 <sup>th</sup> of April 2010																			
No	Capitular	Minister Provincial			1st Definitor			2 <sup>nd</sup> Definitor			3 <sup>rd</sup> Definitor			4 <sup>th</sup> Definitor			Vicar Prov.		
		1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	Vincent Furtado	28	42	49															
2	Joseph D.Pais	18	15	14	59														54
3	Peter Cyprian D'Souza				03			43											11
4	Chetan Lobo							02			18	32	42						01
5	Joe Francis							03			13	15	22	33	39				01
6	Patrick Crasta	13	06		03			12			17	13		07	05				
7	Josy Ferns	06	04					01			01								
8	J.B. Sequeira	02						03			05			01					
9	Desmond Rebello				01			01			01								
10	Baptist Rodrigues				01						10	05		19	22				
11	Edwin Colaco							01					01						
12	George Godwin							01						06					
13	Vinod Mascarenhas										01	01							
14	Robin Lopez										01			01	01				
15	Invalid			03										01					
16	Blank			01										02					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>			<b>67</b>			<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>				<b>67</b>

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2010

*Br. John Antony ofm.cap.*  
President of the Chapter  
Definitor General.



*Br. Basil Joseph ofm.cap.*  
Chapter Secretary.



**Br. MAURO JÖHRI**

GENERAL MINISTER OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CAPUCHIN

*To my brother in Christ, Vincent Gabriel Furtado,*

*the Provincial Minister elect of the Province of Karnataka,*

**PEACE AND ALL GOOD IN THE LORD!**

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In the elections of the Provincial chapter of April 14, 2010, held in Bangalore, the capitulars elected you as the Provincial Minister by a majority of votes. I approve and ratify this action by the Chapter and with the present letter I confirm you in office as Provincial Minister of the Province of Karnataka, for the next triennium.

I ask all the friars of your Province to recognize you as the Provincial Minister canonically elected and confirmed, to respect you and to obey you according to our Rule and our other laws.

Given in Rome at the General Curia,

April 20, 2010



*Mauro Jöhri*

Br. Mauro Jöhri,  
General Minister OFM Cap.

Prot. N. 00421/10

