



K O I N Ō N I A

...together on the journey

CONFERENCE OF THE GENERAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS TO THE OFS-YOUFRA

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OFS AND YOUFRA TODAY IN THE WORLD

OFS AND YOUFRA IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

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Some data

We propose here to account for the presence of OFS and the Franciscan Youth in Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, and Canada. As for OFS, except for the presence of an emerging national fraternity (*) in Haiti, all other national fraternities are established. The list is as follows:

AMERICA LATINA

1. ARGENTINA	7. ECUADOR	13. PANAMA
2. BOLIVIA	8. EL SALVADOR	14. PARAGUAY
3. BRAZIL	9. GUATEMALA	15. PERU
4. CHILE	10. HONDURAS	16. PUERTO RICO
5. COLOMBIA	11. MEXICO	17. URUGUAY
6. COSTA RICA	12. NICARAGUA	18. VENEZUELA

CARIBBEAN

1. CUBA
2. HAITI*
3. PUERTO RICO
4. REPUBBLICA DOMINICANA

OTHER NATIONS

1. CANADA
2. UNITED STATES AMERICA

However, as regards to YouFra, the emerging national fraternities (*) and the established national fraternity are:

LATIN AMERICA

1. ARGENTINA	7. ECUADOR	13. PANAMA
2. BOLIVIA	8. EL SALVADOR	14. PARAGUAY
3. BRAZIL	9. GUATEMALA	15. PERU
4. CHILE	10. HONDURAS	16. PORTO RICO
5. COLOMBIA	11. MEXICO	17. URUGUAY*
6. COSTA RICA	12. NICARAGUA	18. VENEZUELA

CARIBBEAN

1. CUBA
2. PORTO RICO
3. REPUBBLICA DOMINICANA

OTHER NATIONS

STATI UNITI DI AMERICA*

Some Observations

1. With regards to Latin America, with the exception of Uruguay, all other nations the presence of a National Fraternity established by OFS corresponds to the presence of a national fraternity established by YouFra.
2. Also with regards to the Caribbean, except in the case of Haiti, in all other nations, the presence of an established national Fraternity established by OFS corresponds to the presence of a national fraternity established by YouFra.
3. The same cannot be said of Canada and the United States of America, which are actually quite different. They closely resemble the nations of central and northern Europe. However in the U.S. there is now a significant emergence of YouFra.
4. It must be said, however, that even within Latin America and the Caribbean, we come across a great cultural diversity. It can likewise be said that the nations that are members of these two regions, at the same time, have many elements in common. Pope Benedict XVI, in his speech of May 13, 2007 (No. 1) says this in these words, "*Faith in God has animated the life and culture of these nations for more than five centuries. From the encounter between that faith and the indigenous peoples, there has emerged the rich Christian culture of this Continent, expressed in art, music, literature, and above all, in the religious traditions and in the peoples' whole way of being, united as they are by a shared history and a shared creed that give rise to a great underlying harmony, despite the diversity of cultures and languages.*"¹ Most of these nations bear the mark of common problems at the political, social, economic, and religious levels, such as government dictatorships followed by democracies that are too weak, clientelism, social exclusion, favoritism, impoverishment of great masses of people, lack of protection of the most weak and poor, the scandal of the riches of a few, dangerous and indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, pseudo-religious sects, etc. At the same time, initiatives of solidarity are growing everywhere leaving a very positive influence from the social, educational, and religious perspective.

VIII OFS-YouFra Latin-American Congress

To get an idea of how OFS and YouFra propose to walk in the coming years, it would be of great help to take a look at the conclusions of the VIII OFS-YouFra Latin American Congress (<http://congreso.ofs.org.ar>), celebrated in Pilar (Buenos Aires - Argentina) from May 22-27, 2012, presented here in a rather journalistic style.

First there is a listening stance towards a specific commitment:

The OFS-YouFra Latin American Franciscans... we heard the cry of our people, to which we respond with our presence and real commitment, so that our brothers in Latin America may feel that they are not alone and that we share their struggles and hopes to build a more fraternal world.

Then, they are listed in some instances to be seriously considered:

We want to leave a sign of our presence within our fraternities and strive to deepen ongoing formation, ... asking for greater involvement of the Spiritual Assistants ..., and promoting the presence and cooperation of all the Franciscan family.

We want to leave a sign of our presence within our families and fraternities by reflecting on the family according to the documents of the Church; then analyze how to address the questions that young people pose themselves on different subjects; and engage ourselves with creative and courageous initiatives... (some concrete examples follow).

¹ In http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2007/may/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20070513_conference-aparecida_en.html You can read the full speech that his Holiness Benedict XVI delivered during the Inaugural Session of the Fifth General Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We want to leave a sign of our presence in the area of internal communications and with others ... (initiatives for the next two years follow, especially on the web page launched by this Congress).

We want to leave a sign of our presence as a Franciscan Youth in Latin America, staying together as a family in prayer once a month ... (the dates and the countries involved follow) and putting into practice concrete actions to ensure that other young people feel called to participate in OFS and within the Franciscan family.

Some actions of evangelization will be implemented according to the concrete realities of each country and will start from next year, so that we can organize properly.

We want to leave a sign of our presence within the Indo-Afro-American reality in communion with the Franciscan family and working with it in an integrated way. For this we will consider the documents issued by each of the Congress that have been celebrated to this day.

We want to leave a sign of our presence through the preferential option for the poor, for which we will engage ourselves by creating workshops for formation in the manual, technical, and literacy areas, etc., as a concrete service to the most in need of our continent.

We want to leave a sign of our presence within society by promoting mercy on the part of the brothers and sisters; leading everyone to embark on a journey towards God and neighbor; striving to create meaningful spaces for active participation; and strengthening the promotion of vocations to the OFS through pastoral work with youth, especially by accompanying the Franciscan Youth.

NEWS – CHAPTERS – VISITS – MEETINGS

Taiwan - The National Fraternity of OFS is Established

On April 21-22nd, 2012 the National Elective Chapter of Taiwan was held. On this occasion, the National Fraternity of the OFS in Taiwan was officially constituted, in the presence of Lucy Almiranez, OFS, from the Philippines, Councilor of the CIOFS Presidency and Br. Claudio Pegoraro, OFM, Provincial Minister of Taiwan, as a delegate of the Conference of General spiritual assistants (CAS). The Chapter was attended by about 60 chapter members, 35 with voting right. The National Assistant Fr John Baptist Huang, OFM, has presented a theme of the testimony in light of the Paschal Mystery and Fr Claudio Pegoraro, OFM, has presented the historical and spiritual aspects of the Chapter on the Mats. This was followed by several reports: the outgoing National Minister, the National Formator and the National Treasurer. The following persons were elected in the elective session of the Chapter: Teresa Peng both as new National Minister and International Councilor, Rosa Wen as National Vice-minister, Jenny Tan as National Secretary, and five other National Councilors. On April 22nd the new National Council met to outline some guidelines for the next three years: with priority to initial formation, to elaborate the unified material for the spiritual formation of the Fraternity, some suggestions for the 'internal organization, etc.. The National Fraternity of the OFS in Taiwan has three regional fraternities with 12 local fraternities and about 300 professed members.

Venezuela – Pastoral and Fraternal Visit

Encarnación del Pozo, Minister General of OFS, and Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR, General Assistant to OFS and Franciscan Youth made fraternal and pastoral visits to the OFS National Fraternity of Venezuela from April 26-29, 2012. As part of his pastoral visit in the afternoon of

April 26, Amando met at the Church of Chiquinquirá with Br. José Ernesto Romero Rivas OFM Cap, Provincial Vicar and Br. Joel Alcides Castro, OFM, Guardian, to discuss issues relating to spiritual and pastoral assistance to OFS. Later, the visitors moved to Mother Emilia Retreat House in Montalbán, Caracas, to start the National Chapter, where both views were held. The meeting began with the celebration of the Eucharist in the evening. The morning of April 27, the Eucharist was presided by Fernando Castro, Auxiliary Bishop of Caracas. After breakfast he gave a pastoral reflection to the participants. The work continued with the reports of the National Council. In the afternoon, Br. Amando presented a reflection on the meaning and importance of fraternal and pastoral visits in OFS; Encarnita did the same on the theme of service in the OFS. The activity of the visitors continued with a meeting with the National Council, while the Capitulars analyzed in groups the report of the National Council and the proposed plans. On Saturday, April 28, work began with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Br. Alex Arias, OFM, National Assistant to the OFS. Later, there was the report of YouFra and another on the General Chapter of Brazil. They then passed to the comments of the working groups on the reports of the National Council, striking a dialogue with the Assembly. In the afternoon there was another dialogue between the Chapter and Visitors during which there was a friendly visit by the Major Superiors, Br. Ernesto Romero, OFM Cap and Br. Joel Castro, OFM. During those days, Br. Jorge Gonzalez, OFM Cap, a National Assistant recently appointed, was also present in some moments. The day ended with a fraternal and cultural festival. Then, Sunday, April 29, started with an hour of Eucharistic adoration and the celebration of Morning Prayers presided by Br. Alex Arias. Later, the visitors presented their preliminary findings and recommendations. He subsequently held a musical performed by the Franciscan Choral Symphony. The work concluded with the Eucharist, presided by Br. Amando Trujillo.

Spain – OFS National Elective Chapter

The Chapter unfolded normally with a spirit of excellent fraternity. The president of the chapter, Benedetto Lino, Councilor of the OFS Presidency reviewed, with both the outgoing council and the newly elected, the various points recommended in previous fraternal and pastoral visits of 2010, in order to assess their implementation. Not all points have been implemented; therefore, it called for its implementation. It offered formation to the Chapter and worked with generous volunteers for 3 days after the Chapter, to advance the translation of the Formation Manual in Spanish. He also recommended YouFra very much and the interaction with young people (there is no professed). Finally, he recommended the establishment of a school for ongoing formation to be implemented according to the project of formation of Formators by the Presidency. The Delegate to accompany Benedict to the Conference of Assistants General OFS-YouFra was Br. Joaquín Agesta, OFM Conv, Provincial Minister of Spain. The interaction with the Spiritual Assistants to the SFO in Spain was excellent. Alberto Méndez López was elected National Minister and Manuela Berciano, International Councilor.

Br. Daniel Guerra, OFM Cap, returned to the Father's House

On May 3, after a long illness, Br. Daniel Guerra, OFM Cap, returned home to God. Brother Daniel served as Assistant to the local and regional OFS (Lazio) and OFS national (Italy). He served in many qualified roles in his Order, such as Hospital Chaplain, Teacher, Director of Capuchin Student House, 3 times Provincial Definitor, Superior and Master of postulants, Rector of the Shrine of Terracina, Guardian at Orvieto, Monte St. John Campano, etc.. In the OFS, he carried out a ministry of true brotherhood in the most generous giving of himself. The OFS General Constitutions describe the ideal Assistant as "... a witness of Franciscan spirituality and fraternal affection of the religious towards the secular Franciscans, and the bond of communion between his Order and the OFS" (89.3)

Br Daniel's was an example of this and the perfect model! Benedetto Lino was SFO councilor of the CIOFS Presidency, who sent this piece of news about Br. Daniel, said of him: "I had the privilege of sharing with him many things and of this I am convinced and grateful. Now that he's gone to

heaven I can openly say what I think of him. Here, on earth, he would not have liked that because he was a really genuine person and of extraordinary humility. Brother Daniel was a real Franciscan friar: simple, humble, always helpful, friendly, smiling, deeply spiritual, pure, always peaceful, secure, and positive in everything, and I could go. We will miss him greatly. We are consoled that he certainly now enjoys the blissful presence of God, who is our love. May he watch over us and protect us from heaven. To read more, you can download the following PDF file by clicking here: http://www.ofs-sandamiano.com/ofs/documenti/Circolare_padre_Daniele.pdf

Malawi - Fraternal and Pastoral Visits

The fraternal and pastoral visits to the National Fraternity of the SFO in Malawi was conducted by the Minister General SFO, Encarnación del Pozo and the Assistant General, Br. Amanuel Mesgun OFMCap. from May 9-16, 2012. In his meeting with the Seculars, the Minister General set out in brief the purpose of the visits. May 10, after meeting with the Archbishop of Lilongwe, Bishop Remi Ste. Marie, the visitors met with the National Council. After a long trip, the visitors met with the Seculars of the Region of Zomba, Blantyre, as well as Seculars of the Region with their respective Assistants. Before leaving for the Lilongwe capital, there was a meeting with the auxiliary bishop of Blantyre, Msgr. Montfort Stima and we discussed the current situation of OFS in Malawi. On May 12, the visitors, on their return trip to the capital, stopped in Balaka, Mikoke, Dedza, meeting Seculars and Spiritual Assistants. On day 13, was celebrated the final Mass, in which they were presented the members of the Provisional National Council, with whom they then went to visit the Poor Clares in Lilongwe. On July 14, in the meeting with the President of the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, Bishop Joseph Zuza Mkasa, the visitors updated the prelate on the outcome of their respective views. May 15 was spent visiting the OFM Friars in Dowa, OFMConv. in Lilongwe, and the OFMCap in Cagwa. Radio Maria Catholic station in Malawi interviewed the visitors before their departure for Rome.

Canada – The OFS National Elective Chapter

From May 17-22, 2012, in the beautiful town of Chateaugay, near Montreal, the National Elective Chapter of Canada was celebrated. It was chaired by Tibor Kauser, Delegate of the Minister General, accompanied by Br. Martín Bitzer, OFMConv, Assistant General SFO-YouFra. Several meetings were held before and after the elective session of the Chapter: 1. with the outgoing National Council; 2. with the spiritual assistants; and 3. with the newly elected National Council. The total number of Chapter members was 42, belonging to the two components (Francophone and Anglophone) of the country. Debbie Tessier was re-elected National Minister. The new International Councilor, who will represent the SFO in Canada at the next General Chapter is Marion Clorey. The National Spiritual Assistants present were Br. Gerry Clyne, OFM (for the Anglophone), Brother André Chicoine, OFMCap (Francophone), Br. Peter Knaapen, OFMConv, and other Spiritual Assistants, both lay and religious. In addition to presiding over the closing Mass, Br. Martin presented, along with Tibor, the theme of reflection that they were asked to give: "Do Not Be Afraid. Be Bearers of Peace and Love".

Argentina (Buenos Aires-Pilar) – OFS/YouFra Latin American Congress

The Eighth Latin American Congress of the OFS and Franciscan Youth was celebrated from May 22 to 27, 2012, in the "The Montonera" Cenacle House, in Pilar, near Buenos Aires. As to the organization of the Congress, the National Council of the OFS in Argentina did a wonderful job to foster a great working atmosphere, moments of prayer, and deep fraternal communion throughout the Congress. The main theme of the Congress was "Franciscans! Latin America Calls Out... Will We Respond?" With the sub-theme, *Presence and Commitment of Lay Franciscans in Latin America*. Congress was attended by representatives of the various countries of Latin America, such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. The Congress was chaired by the Minister General of the OFS, Encarnación del Pozo, who was accompanied by other members of the CIOFS, namely, María Consuelo Nunez, Ana Fruk, and the

Assistants General Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, Br. Amanuel Mesgun Temelso, OFM^{Cap}, and Br. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR. The Congress was a special time of grace for all participants with intense working days of reflection on the current situation of both the OFS and YouFra in Latin America. The various presentations during the Congress helped the participants in their groups and in the plenary sessions to study in-depth various aspects of the current situation and challenges arising in their path, while trying also to find specific answers to meet these very challenges. For this purpose, the conclusions of the Congress were prepared as a practical aid to the National Fraternities of all Latin America. A very special day for all the participants was Friday, May 25, which is a national holiday in Argentina. In the morning, there was a wonderful meeting with the Sisters of the Poor Clare Monastery near Moreno followed by another major one of the Franciscan family organized in the town of La Reja at the Convent of the Conventual Friars. This meeting was attended by many members of various fraternities of the OFS and Franciscan Youth of Argentina. For more information, go to the website of the Congress at <http://congreso.ofs.org.ar>

Austria – The OFS National Elective Chapter

The OFS National Fraternity of Austria celebrated its Chapter elective in Tainach Tinje from June 1-4. The Chapter was chaired by Michèle Altmeyer, delegate of the Minister General, Encarnación del Pozo. The Conference of Assistants General was represented by Brother Amanuel Mesgun, OFM^{Cap}. The first day of the meeting was devoted to reports of the regional fraternities, a three-year report of the National Minister, and the reports on assistance, formation, finance. On the same day, Ewald Kreuzer, presented the figure of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, OFS, while the International Director, Joakim Stuefer, presented the conclusions of the General Chapter of 2011. On the second day, Ewald and two national assistants. Br. Guido Demez, OFM, and Br. Leszek Nocun, OFM, presented the theme of "Austria, between Secularization and Evangelization." The 30 participants at the Elective Chapter in the afternoon of the same day elected Alfred Obermair as National Minister and International Councilor. The new National Council was confirmed by Michèle and installed at the concluding Mass of Sunday, 03.06.2012. The Austrian National Fraternity is composed of 5 regional fraternities and 32 local fraternities. The Secular Franciscans in Austria are 1,725.

Croatia – Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of YouFra

This year, the Franciscan Youth of Croatia celebrates the 20th anniversary of its birth. For this reason, on Saturday, June 2, 2012, many young Franciscans went to the Marian shrine of Our Lady of Grace of Trsat (Rijeka) with their Spiritual Assistants to celebrate this important anniversary. The celebration was attended by Ana Fruk, Councilor of the CIOFS Presidency for YouFra and Ivan Matić, OFM, Assistant General to the OFS-YouFra. The representatives of the Franciscan Youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia also shared in the celebration of this fraternal joy. The first part of the celebration was dedicated to the presentation of the participants from 5 regional fraternities existing in Croatia with about 70 local fraternities. The welcome address was given by Ivan Bambir, National President of the Croatian Franciscan Youth, whereas Stjepan Kelčić, OFS, National Minister of Croatia presented the current situation of the OFS and the importance of cooperation and communion between the OFS and YouFra. On behalf of the Franciscan Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius of Zagreb, where YouFra began in 1992, Provincial Minister Br. Željko Železnjak, OFM, expressed his welcome greeting to the young and on behalf of both the Province and the entire Franciscan Family of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina congratulated them for their celebration. The heart of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist was celebrated in the Church Shrine, where they are also so many other pilgrims gathered along with the Young Franciscans. Br. Ivan Matić, OFM, presided over the solemn celebration of the Eucharistic. In the afternoon, Ana Fruk and Br. Ivan made brief presentations based on the history of the Franciscan Youth in Croatia, on Franciscan spirituality, and the state of YouFra in the world. This was followed by several videos of best wishes sent by young Franciscans from different countries of the world. All this was accepted by the participants with great joy and a deep feeling of belonging to an international fraternity in which the same Christian and Franciscan values are shared with many brothers and

sisters around the world. A very beautiful and meaningful thing in Croatia is that many young people of YouFra have joined the OFS after their experience in YouFra, several of whom are young married couples. There are also several young men who discovered their religious and priestly vocation thanks to their journey among the Franciscan Youth.

Germany – The OFS National Elective Chapter

From June 8-10, in the town of Zell am Main, near Würzburg, there to the Elective Chapter of the National Fraternity of the SFO in Germany unfolded serenely and joyfully. The Chapter was presided over by Encarnación del Pozo, Minister General, accompanied by Br. Wojciech Szczepanski, OFMConv, Delegate of the Conference of Assistants General. The Capitulars participated very actively and established a very fruitful dialogue with the Minister General, from whom they expected clear and precise answers on different topics. Mechthild Händler was elected National Minister and Gerti Theobald, International Councilor.

Puerto Rico – The OFS National Elective Chapter

The Chapter of the National Fraternity of the SFO in Puerto Rico began on June 8 in Utuado with the Holy Mass presided by Br. Francisco Garcia, Vicar Provincial OFMCap. The Chapter was presided over by Chelito Consuelo Nuñez, councilor of the CIOFS Presidency as delegate of the Minister General and accompanied by Br. Amanuel Mesgun, OFMCap, Assistant General SFO-YouFra. After the welcome address to all the Chapter Members by Juan Carlos Gastón, National Minister, Br. Chelito and Amanuel conveyed to all the greetings of CIOFS. To end the preparatory day, the Chapter members gathered in the chapel for an hour of adoration. The first day started with the votive Mass of the Holy Spirit led by Br. Luis Oscar Padilla, OFM, National Assistant of the OFS. After Mass, the outgoing council members presented their testimony and experiences of the past three years of service. The Minister, in his triennial report, presented all the activities done by the national fraternity in the area of formation, spiritual assistance, finance, and YouFra. After the three-year report, the Chapter met in groups to discuss the report of the Minister. According to the national statutes, the convoked must be 44 (= 36 delegates of the 18 fraternities, plus the National Council which is composed of 8 members). After verifying the presence of 33 Capitulars, we proceeded to the election of the National Council by an absolute majority of 17 and a qualified majority of 22 votes. Juan Carlos Torres Gaston was elected National Minister as well as Director of the OFS International of Puerto Rico, while Lima Isabel Pérez was elected National Vice-Minister and International Councilor substitute.

Czech Republic – The OFS National Elective Chapter

From June 8-10 2012, at the shrine of Velehrad, where the brothers Saints Cyril and Methodius inaugurated their apostolic mission among the Slavs, the National Elective Chapter of the Czech Republic was celebrated. Present were about 90 Chapter members representing 49 fraternities. Tibor Kauser, executive councilor and Ivan Matic, OFM, Assistant General SFO-YouFra, were both present on behalf of the CIOFS Presidency. Present at different times during the Chapter celebration were the Ministers Provincial of the First Franciscan Order present in the Czech Republic: Br. Jeroným Jurka, OFM, Br. Bogdan Sikora, OFMConv, Br. Bonaventure Štivar, OFMCap. Significant and very beautiful were the moments of prayer and the various celebrations in the great Basilica and in the chapel of the house where the National Chapter took place. In addition, several very beautiful meetings of fraternal sharing took place on the life and mission of the OFS today, the importance of solid and ongoing formation for a more active presence in the Church and society. In a particular way also underlined was the 'importance of service to young people especially to groups of young Franciscans in the country. In the afternoon of June 9 the elective session took place during which the new members of the National Council were elected. Jiří Šenkýř was elected as National Minister and as International Councilor Alexandra Tesaříková. The National Fraternity of OFS consists of 49 fraternities with 821 professed members in the Czech Republic.

El Salvador, (Santa Ana) – The OFS National Elective Chapter

The Chapter of the National Fraternity of El Salvador, which took place in "St. Pio of Pietrelcina" Retreat House in Santa Ana, was chaired by José Luis Tzirin Zapeta, International Director of Guatemala and the delegate General of the Minister. The representative of CAS was the National Spiritual Assistant of Puerto Rico, Br. Luis Oscar Padilla, OFM^{Cap}. In the first day of the Chapter (Friday, June 15), the National Assistant, Br. Gregory Jerónimo García OFM^{Cap}., presided over the opening Mass. After the Mass, there was an hour of Eucharistic adoration. In the second Capitular day (Saturday, June 16) two conferences were dictated: the first was "Evangelized in order to Evangelize" by José Luis; the second was "Exhortation of the Church to the OFS" by Br. Alejandro Núñez, OFM^{Cap}. The two conferences were discussed in group works. Before the election, the National Council submitted a report of its last three years. Alberto Zaldaña Napoleon was elected National Minister as well as Director of the OFS International of Puerto Rico, while Oscar Leonel Ortiz was elected Vice-Minister. In the morning of the third day (Sunday, June 17), after the conference of Br. Gregory Jerónimo García, OFM^{Cap}, on the theme, "Responsibility and Availability in the service of OFS", the Chapter members presented their proposals to the new National Council. The representative of the CAS, Br. Luis Oscar Padilla, OFM^{Cap} celebrated the closing Mass on Sunday, during which the new Council was installed.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of YouFra

From June 29 – 1 July 2012, at the shrine of St. Anthony of Padua in Humac (Ljubuški), the Franciscan Youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina with their Spiritual Assistants, gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his birth. The whole organization of the meeting was entrusted to a commission spearheaded by Br. Josip Vlašić, OFM, National Assistant YouFra, with an excellent collaboration of the OFS and their National Assistant, Br. Mato Topić, OFM. The theme of "Dare to live the Gospel" marked the whole course of the meeting with various reflections, testimonies, and presentations. This was the first national meeting since the National fraternity was founded in 2008. In fact, there before this first one, there was only one National fraternity along with that of Croatia. For this very reason, the representatives of the National YouFra of Croatia, with Ana Fruk, Councilor of the CIOFS Presidency for YouFra, and Ivan Matić, OFM, Assistant General OFS-YouFra were all present at the meeting to share the joy of celebration. It was attended by many other members of the Franciscan Family (OFS, Franciscan Sisters, etc.) who gathered to experience this important event with the youth. They were three days of celebration and thanksgiving, bearing witness, and fraternal sharing, with very beautiful liturgical celebrations and well attended. The chorus that entertained the meeting was made up of about 120 young people, members of various fraternities of YouFra who even sang a song especially composed for the anniversary. Also very interesting were the presentations of Br. Mijo Džolan, OFM, President of the Franciscan Institute for Culture of peace on the theme, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." The presence of the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Banjo Luka Msgr. Marko Semren, OFM, and of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Sarajevo, His Eminence Most Rev. Cardinal Vinko Puljić, who presided over the Holy Eucharist on Saturday June 30, was a great joy. Concelebrating with him were the Provincial Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Br. Lovro Gavran, OFM, and Br. Ivan Sesar, OFM, and the Spiritual Assistants who attended the meeting. Sunday morning was dedicated to hearing the witnesses and sharing the experience of YouFra as presented by Ana Fruk and Ivan Matić under the theme "Franciscan Youth: The Experience of Life and Joy." In particular, we went through the history, the experience of life, and the global reality of the OFS and Franciscan Youth today. The meeting concluded with the solemn celebration of the Eucharist with the Provincial Ministers, in the presence of the parish families who hosted the youth in their homes during the three-day meeting. A great support to the organization and flow of the meeting was given by the community of friars in service to the Shrine of St. Anthony Humac. Currently, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are two Regional fraternities with 54 local fraternities and more than 3000 Young Franciscans.