

## Commencement of the Pan-American Meeting

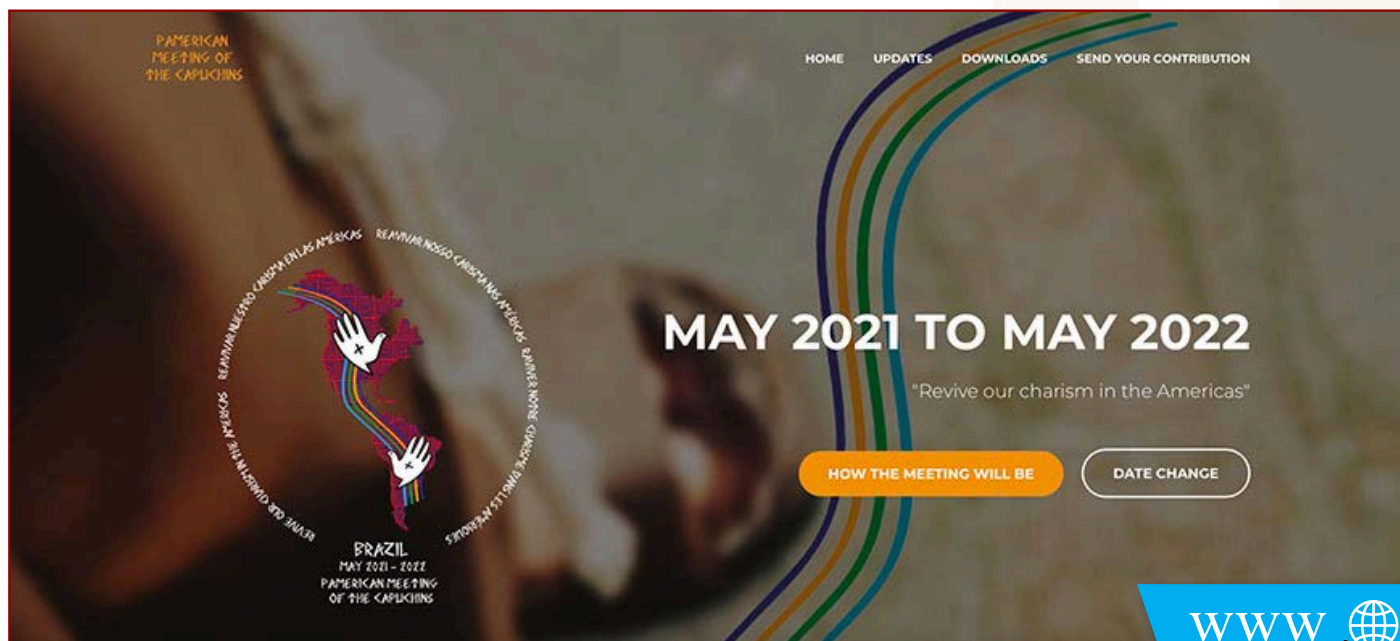
May 3, 2021

On May 3, 2021, at 8:00PM (Rome time) the First Capuchin Pan-American Meeting celebrated its solemn opening exercises. The meeting was held online, with the participation of the major superiors of the American circumscriptions, the delegates, and members of the General Curia. After introductions, a remembrance took place of brothers

Br. Roberto Genuin, then took the stand and reviewed the collected results from the preparatory local chapters; he then offered guidelines targeted to the major issues that will be explored by the delegates during the course of the meeting. After reviewing the schedule and various other details for the next meetings and officially inviting all the

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from the Americas who died as a result of Covid-19. The friars evoked the Holy Spirit, lighting candles that signified the divine presence, upon which the Minister General officially declared the event open.

The councilors from the Americas (Br. José Angel Torres, Br. Celestino Arias and Br. Silvio de Almeida) introduced themselves, as well as the three special guests (Cardinal Sean O'Maley of the USA; Br. Bernardo Molinas of Chile; and Br. Luis Carlos Susin of Brazil). The General Minister,

delegates to actively participate in all the proposed activities, the Minister General invoked a blessing, entrusting to the Lord the success of the gatherings, particularly regarding the Capuchin friars of the Americas who are being considered for canonization. Due to the pandemic, the "in person" meeting scheduled for May 2, 2021 has been postponed until next year (May 1-8, 2022); despite this, it was nonetheless decided to start with virtual meetings online, i.e. gatherings of delegates and selected

groups of friars (friars in pastoral care, in formation, and a special group of friars with less than 10 years of perpetual profession); thus bringing more effective honing of the issues and development of the proposals.

We pray to the Lord that the Capuchin Pan-American Meeting be a time of grace and revival for our presence in that immense continent, and that what happens there will serve as well to enlighten the whole order.



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# Blessed José Gregorio Hernán Cisneros, SFO

*a model of holiness engaged in today's world*

**K**nown as “the People’s Doctor” because of his great commitment to the sick and the poor, José Gregorio Hernán Cisneros, was beatified in Caracas, Venezuela on Friday April 30. He was born on October 26, 1864, and became a highly respected doctor, researcher and university professor. His beatification brings honor to Mother Church because José Gregorio was above all a committed Christian who made the Gospel his rule of life according to the Franciscan charism. But this was not merely by chance as on December 7, 1899 José Gregorio professed as a Franciscan Tertiary associated with the fraternity of the Church of the Madonna della Mercede in Caracas, Venezuela, run by the Capuchin friars. He died on June 29, 1919 following a car accident.

On the occasion of his beatification, Pope Francis published a video message in which he referred to the new blessed as the “Great Foot Washing”, for his great favor and commitment to the poor. José Gregorio not only refused compensation from them, but often gave them money for medicines. The Holy Father recognizes in this new blessed of the Secular Franciscan Order a universal model of holiness for the contemporary world. “Doctor José Gregorio,” said the Holy Father, “offers himself to us Christians and to all people of good will as an example of a believing disciple of Christ, who made the gospel the criterion of his life, sought his vocation, observed the commandments, participated every day in the Eucharist, dedicated time to prayer and believed in eternal life, as a model of personal goodness and civic and religious virtues, openness, sensitivity in the face of pain, modesty and humility in his life and professional career and also as a lover of knowledge, research, science, at the service of health and teaching. He is a model of holiness committed to the defense of life, to the challenges of history and, in particular, as a paradigm of service to others, like a good Samaritan, without excluding anyone. He is a man of universal service<sup>1</sup>.” Blessed José Gregorio Hernán is the fourth blessed to come from Venezuela. His beatification enhances the legacy of the Secular Franciscan Order and brings a particularly current expression of Franciscan holiness to the SFO, as well as to the world at large.

**Br. Francis Bongajum Dor, OFMCap**  
*General Spiritual Assistant, SFO*

<sup>1</sup> For the complete video message from Pope Francis, see L’Osservatore Romano of Friday April 30; pg. 7.



# Elections and Appointments

## Province of Slovakia - elections:

MP: Br. Norbert Pšenčík (confirmed)

VP: Br. Fidel Marko Pagáč

2C: Br. Miroslav Kulich

3C: Br. Lukáš Mikovíny

4C: Br. Tomáš Fusko

Date: 5/18/2021

Location: Pezinok, Slovakia

President: Br. Piotr Stasiński, General Councillor



## Capuchin General Curia Multimedia Opportunities



1. We invite you to use the **OFMCap** mobile app. It is a free app for [Android](#), [Apple iOS](#), and [Windows](#) that lets you see the latest news on [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org) and also makes available a full library of all the most important Capuchin documents. The app is available in Italian, English, Polish, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese.

2. **Documents of the Order in electronic format.** On the website [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org) we have prepared a special section where you can download all the most important documents of the Order, professionally prepared in the most common electronic formats: Word, PDF, EPUB, and MOBI. You will find the Constitutions, the Plenary Councils of the Order, the letters of the general ministers, and more. All of these texts can now be read and studied by means of a smartphone, e-reader, or tablet. The documents are furnished with internal links for easy navigation. Everything can be found at [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org) in the Documents section.

3. **Capuchin Digital Archive** (CDA) is an initiative for the sharing of a single space on Google Drive where all the documents of the Order are available in a professional digitized version. Thanks to this project, it is possible to download all the documents in the most common formats: Word, PDF, EPUB, and MOBI. The collection currently contains 1,600 files and is always growing. We invite you to use the material available. Just click on the link [Capuchin Digital Archive](#).



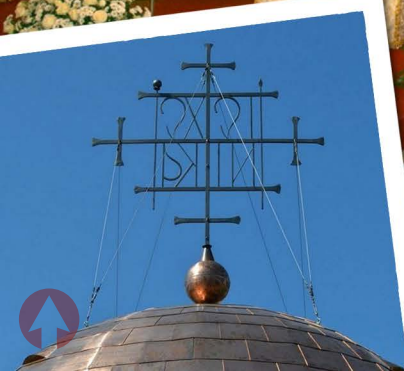
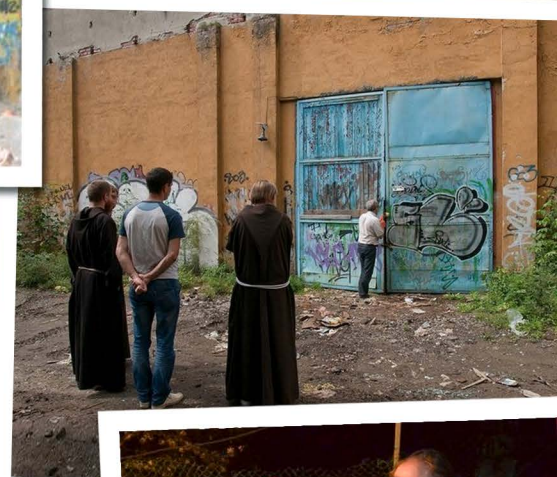


# The Capuchins in **Ukraine** Uzhhorod, Ukraine



**U**zhhorod, Ukraine. The Capuchins of the Custody of Ukraine dedicated to Saint Pio, responding to the invitation of Bishop Milan Shashik of the Greek-Catholic Diocese of Mukachevo (sui iuris) arrived in Uzhhorod, Ukraine on August 15, 2012.

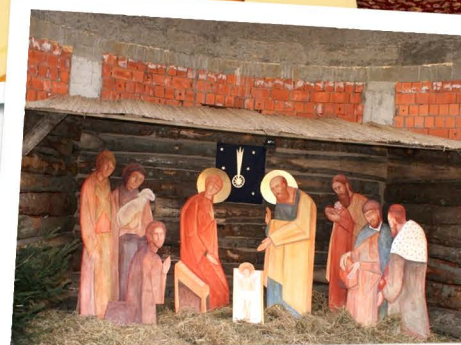
Initially, the community lived in a separate part of the seminary. At that time a small Capuchin structure was being built in the so-called “new area” of the city - a large area with condominiums and apartments. After three years, the friary was consecrated and the friars took residence there. Previously, for about a year, they celebrated the liturgy in the Greek-Catholic church of the monastery. Responding to the bishop’s request, the friars take part in the formation of seminarians and local clergy. Three of the four friars in the community



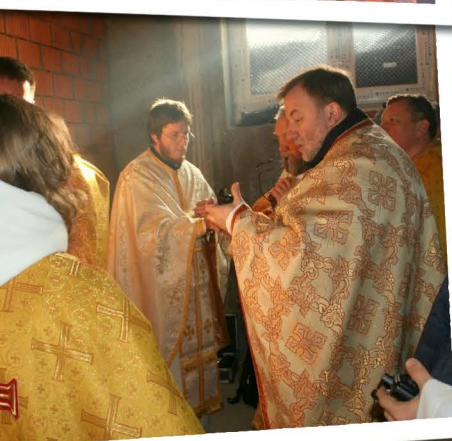




are teachers in the seminary and one is the spiritual director. The friars give retreats, days of spiritual formation and days of theological formation. They also serve the monastery church, which is located next to a parish. The religious community, in line with the Eastern tradition, carries out all domestic work (cooking, washing, cleaning) without the help of lay people.



During the Christmas Season, according to Franciscan tradition, the friars organize the so-called "living nativity scene", in which students take part in the role of actors. The undoubted attraction for children is a live donkey and an ox. The Capuchin friars of Uzhhorod are bi-ritual and, although only one of them is Greek-Catholic since baptism, the entire community has managed to fit into the Byzantine context, understanding and exercising the rite as much as possible. On November 23, 2020, the bishop of the Greek-Catholic diocese of Mukachevo gave his written consent for the erection of a Capuchin house in his diocese, thus nulling the previous consent decree ad experimentum. This first attempt at the presence of the Capuchins in the Byzantine Catholic rite gives hope for the possibility of extending this ministry. In Ukraine, a practically Orthodox country, the majority of the Catholic Church is represented by Greek Catholics (about 7 million believers).

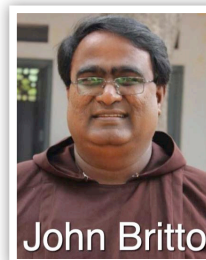
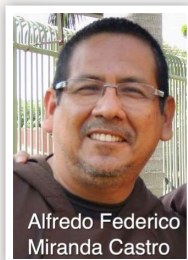
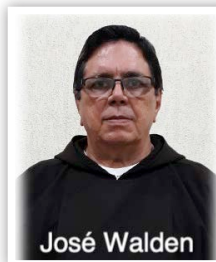
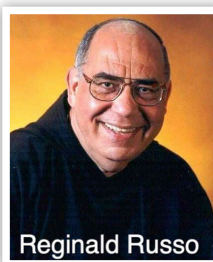
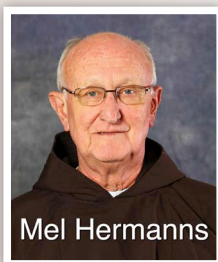




# The Capuchin Friars Minor called to our Father's house as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

**Anno Domini 2021**

	DIES MORTIS	NOMEN ET COGNOMEN	CIRCUMSCRIPTIONIS	PATRIA	AETATE
71.	24.01.2021	Mel Walter Hermanns	Calvariensis	USA	82
72.	08.02.2021	Richard Lubomski	Pennsylvanica	USA	76
73.	15.02.2021	Reginald Russo	Pennsylvanica	USA	79
74.	18.02.2021	José Walden De Oliveira	Brasilae Nordorientalis	Brazil	66
75.	22.02.2021	Angelo Gioia	Neapolitana	Italy	71
76.	24.02.2021	César Pedrosa Pereira Pinto	Lusitaniae	Portugal	80
77.	25.02.2021	José Alberto Taguaruco	Venetiolana	Venezuela	43
78.	05.03.2021	Francesco Saglia	Pedemontana	Italy	84
79.	23.03.2021	Alfredo Federico Miranda Castro	Peruviana	Peru	56
80.	08.04.2021	Corrado Lancione	Mediae Italiae	Italy	86
81.	09.04.2021	Domingo Caliboso Velasco	Philippina	Philippines	70
82.	11.05.2021	John Britto	Tamil Nadu Septemtrionalis	India	54
83.	20.05.2021	Mathew Choondiyanical	Sancti Thomæ Apostoli-Kerala	India	58



*The Constitutions of the Capuchin Friars Minor 51.2:*

"Faith in the risen Christ sustains our hope and keeps alive our communion with brothers and sisters who are resting in the peace of Christ. United with them in an exchange of spiritual gifts, in the celebration of the Eucharist and in our prayers, let us commend all the deceased to the merciful God. With gratitude and charity, let us offer the special suffrages prescribed by the Ordinances of the General Chapters."





Instagram



franciscus

938 post

7,1 MLN follower

## Sentire cum Ecclesia

### Intenzioni del Papa 2021



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



**JUNE:** Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

**JULY:** We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.



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Papa Francesco

I invite all men and women in our world to make good use of the gifts that the Lord has entrusted to us to preserve and make his creation even more beautiful.

All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it. All of us are to be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share.

The family is the harmonious union of the differences between man and woman, capable of opening themselves to life and to others. Let us #PrayTogether for families so that they might remain united throughout these difficult times and lend a hand to those in need.

Praying is not easy. Each time we want to pray, we think of many other activities that seem more important and urgent. Almost always, after putting off #prayer, we realise that those things were not essential at all. This is how the Enemy deceives us.

**BICI**

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edizioni italiano inglese polacco spagnolo francese tedesco portoghese  
autorizzazione del tribunale di Roma n. 690 del 23.11.1990 periodico mensile telematico [www.ofmcap.org](http://www.ofmcap.org)



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