



COSMO - CAPITULUM GENERALE 4

ENG PIETRALBA / WEIßENSTEIN

ELECTION OF THE PRIOR GENERAL AND HIS TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE.

On Saturday 21 September 2013 at 10.00am the *Rite for the Election of the Prior General of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary* began. The Ritual used covered the liturgical, juridical and normative aspects of this process, which is so important in the life of the Order.

After the senior friar by Profession, **fra Lorenzo M. Tanganelli**, a member of the Sanctissima Annunziata Province, had received from the outgoing Prior General the symbols of office, the Seal of the Order and the Constitutions OSM, the hymn to the Holy Spirit, the *Veini Creator Spiritus*, was sung, and we then passed onto the juridical part of the process.

On the second ballot, **fra Gottfried M. Wolff**, Provincial of the Tyrolese Province was elected Prior General and the assembly expressed their acceptance and joy with sustained applause. As the Sanctuary was being used at this time, the Chapter had to wait until 11.30am to process into the church for the Taking of the Oath by the Prior General. At 11.30am the procession began from the Chapter Room, with the friars waiving in procession chanting the *Litany of the Servants of Mary*. Upon his arrival in the Sanctuary, the newly elected Prior General took the Oath of Office, professing his faith in the Holy Catholic Church, and pronounced his Oath, after which he was presented with the *Constitutions of the order of Friar Servants of Mary* and the *Seal (Sigillo) of the Order*.

Applause broke out immediately and every friar went up to embrace and be embraced by the new elected Prior General, **fra Gottfried Maria Wolff**, after which there was a “semi-official” photograph taken on the front steps of the Sanctuary.

The celebrations continued at lunch along with a “*brindisi*” or toast with various types of wine, pasties, cake, all in a festive atmosphere, appropriate to the occasion.

PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT FOR THE ELECTION OF THE GENERAL COUNCILLORS.

During the afternoon session of Saturday 21st September the Capitulars had the opportunity to reflect on the characteristics necessary for a General Councilor, according to the needs of the Order and of the world today, with the possibility of the group suggesting names of possible candidates. After sufficient time of reflection and the possibility of suggesting names of possible candidates, the election was scheduled for Monday 23rd September.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF LUGGAU.

Very early on the morning of Sunday 22nd September, the Capitulars departed by bus to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Laggau, which is in Austria. One reason for this visit was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ordination of **fr Nobet M. Harm** and the 40th anniversary of Ordination of **fr Andrea M. Baur** and the communal thanksgiving for the “gifts of the earth” at harvest time, and, not least of all, to celebrate the **500th anniversary of the foundation of the Sanctuary** after the apparition of Our Lady to the people.

The Sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Solemn Mass, which was followed by a procession with the statue of the Virgin, followed by the Most Blessed Sacrament. This was a wonderful experience of the popular devotion of the people of Carinzia. After the Procession the Capitulars were offered a special meal which was specially prepared for them. After this visit to Maria Laggau, the Capitulars were taken to Bressanone where, in the Diocesan Seminary, they listened to a multi-media presentation on the theme of **Ötzi**, the “ice man”, which is the body of a man found mummified encased in ice about twenty years ago in Val Senales, and who death

the scientists date took place c.5,300 years ago. The presentation was given by a professor of archeology from the University of Innsburck. The trip finished at Termeno with the evening meal, after which the Capitulars returned to the site of the Chapter.

NOTE OF INTEREST.

The Holy See has sent to the former Prior General, **fra Angel M. Ruiz Garnica**, informing him that **fra Silvano M. Maggiani** has been chosen to assist in the **Office of the Litirgical Celebrations of the Pope**. This news was received with great joy by the friars at the Chapter because our dear Brother will continue to contribute to the Church in the name of the Order, as was the case in other Pontificates.

FIRST MESSAGE OF THE PRIOR GENERAL.



The Prior General offered words to the Capitulars:

On this occasion, in the face of grand words and of things done,. I want only to say a few things, which is not all that I would like to say. I promise to place myself, with all the strengths I have, but also with my weaknesses and sins, at your service. I pray that you will be near be during these next six years, so as together as Friar Servants of Mary, we will go forward together. For our Order, Mary, in a certain sense, is our Founder of our Order: and we are able to work together with Mary for the good of our Order, and for the good of the Church.