

Annual Report of Franciscan St. John the Baptist Pakistan

July 2023 – June 2024

Annual Retreat for capacity building:

In July, 2023 all the professed and simple professed student friars gathered together at Portiuncula Friary for their annual retreat for capacity building. The retreat master was given by Fr. Clarence Hayat OFM Cap.

Renewal of the Vows and the Vestiation of Student friars:

On 1st August 2023, Novitiate house had vestiation of new Novices, namely Anosha, Rohit and Sharoon at friary chapel. The holy mass offered by the custos Fr. Azeem Lawrence.

On 2 August, 2023, our friary students renew their vows in the morning prayers and at 10:30 we had holy mass in friary chapel. Our three novices made simple vows. Followed by lunch.

Feast of the Portiuncula Friary:

On 2nd August 2023, in evening all the friars celebrated the feast of Portiuncula friary. Friars came in Procession singing hymn of mother Mary. We honored our mother Mary and recite rosary and then we had evening prayers. Followed by festive dinner.



Franciscan Religious Course / Philosophy Course: September, 2023 to May, 2024

Franciscan Religious Course / Philosophy Course is an institute which is the part of Franciscan Formation plan. In this institute the Religious Life, especially vows are studied. It gives a kind of base to the candidates for their religious life and broadens their philosophical views. It provides two years program for every candidate. There are total four semesters divided as vow of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Koinonia (Community Life); it also includes philosophical subjects as follows: Introduction to Philosophy, Greek Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Contemporary Philosophy, Existentialism and Logic. Br. Saleem Amir OFM is the master of the Religious Course studies. This institute is run by the order's support. Friars, Saleem Amir OFM, Louis Mascarenhas, Pervaiz Daniel OFM, Victor Sawera OFM, Clifford Norhona OFM and Azeem Lawrence OFM contributed their lectures for students. We were blessed with the other professors also namely Sister Alvina Barkat OP, Fr. Gasper James OMI and Fr. Kamran Taj. In previous year September, 2023 to May, 2024 there were seven candidates namely Aqeel Saleem OFM, Matti Wishram OFM, Moosa Javed OFM, Raheel Boota OFM, Sana Pervaiz FMCK, Simithia Immanuel FMCK and Sunil Iqbal OFM.



They studied the vow of Poverty and chastity. The candidates were also encouraged to go for their expositors with the wounded humanity at MALC (Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre, Karachi) and St. Vincent's Senior Citizens House, Karachi. Br. Matti Wishram have completed the Religious course studies. Br. Aqeel Saleem, Moosa Javed, Raheel Boota and Sunil Iqbal will start second year for two semesters Obedience and Koinonia. The year closed with the annual examinations in May, 2024.

The Cricket Match Day:

The friary community had a cricket tournament in the honor of the upcoming feast St. Francis of Assisi. The match was held among the Dominicans, Oblates, Capuchins, Franciscans and Seminarians.



Feast of St. Francis: October 3 & 4, 2023

On 03 October 2023, we had feast celebration of Transitus of Saint Francis at FMCK homes. All the Franciscan families were present there. We had evening prayer service and social evening followed by festive dinner.

On 4 October 2023, we celebrated the Feast of Saint Francis at Portiuncula friar at 10:00 Am. CKS campus and all the religious formation houses students and priest participated in it. The holy mass was offered by Dominican order. Guardian Pervaz Daniel thanked all of them. We had social program followed by festive dinner.



Health Care Programme:

During the period of July 2023 to June 2024, the health awareness in outreach programme were organized in different areas and community development programme was part of health project.



All Saints and All Souls Day: November 2023

On the All Souls the friary students went to *Gora Qabristanto* visit the diseased friars and relatives to pray for their souls may rest in peace.



Christmas party with co-workers:

On 19 December 2023, we friary student community had Christmas party with domestic staff. Friary community gave them Christmas gifts to each family. Followed by festive lunch.



Combine Christmas celebration:

In evening on 19th December, 2023 novitiate house and Portiuncula friary friar's students and friars celebrated the Christmas. We gave gift to each other followed by social evening and festive dinner together with Fr. Azeem Lawrence.



Annual Assembly of Franciscans of St. John the Baptist

On 3 to 5 January 2024, we had our annual assembly. The theme was the “Financial Accountability in the light of the Rule of 1223”. All the friars were participated in annual assembly. Accommodation was done by Portiuncula friary community.



Easter Celebration

On 2nd April 2024, Novitiate house and portiuncula friary friar's students and solemn profession friars were invited by custos house for Easter party. Followed by social evening and festive dinner.



Franciscan Centre for mentally and Physically Children: April 2024

The Franciscan Center organized a program for the special children on 27th April, 2024. The program was organized by Br.Khushi Lal OFM. The families of the special children participated in the program. Cardinal Joseph Coutts, Fr. Azeem Lawrence, friary community and Darakhshan community was also invited to participate.



Studies at National Catholic Institute of Theology Karachi, Pakistan

NCIT provides theological studies to the candidates preparing themselves for priestly ministry. Those friar students who wish to be ordained ministers are sent there for their theological studies. Last year the academic year at NCIT started in September, 2023. There were

11 student friars who were studying at NCIT. Brs. Arsalan Isaac, Asif Maqbool and Joseph Sahmoo started first year theology. Brs. Adnan Sikandar and Patras Ashiq started second year theology. Brs. Irfan Arshad and Shahrukh Sarfraz started third year theology. Brs. Arslan Amanat, Ashiq Pervaiz and Samson Peter started fourth year theology. Br. Saleem Amir OFM was teaching theology of laity, sacrament of Initiation at NCIT.



During the year the institute provided opportunities to the candidates to go to parishes and institutes for pastoral experiences. Br. Irfan Arshad and Shahrukh Sarfraz successfully completed their thesis. The academic year closed in May 2024 with the annual examinations. Our three brothers namely: Arsalan Amanat, Ashiq Pervaiz and Samson Peter completed their theological studies and got diplomas in theological studies. Their Graduation ceremony was held on 10th of June 2024.

Annual Picnic June 2024

On 11th June, 2024 the student friars of Portiuncula Friary and Darakhshan Novitiate House went to Hawksbay beach for their annual picnic. There were 14 friars from Friary community, 2

Novices and a novice master from Darakhshan Novitiate house. There were other friars also from

Different communities namely: Brs. Gul Daniel, Sarfraz Grifen, Adnan Barkat and Adnan Sikandar. We departed at 9:00 am. All the brothers had great fun on the beach whole day.



Feast of St. the Baptist: June 26, 2024

On 26th June, 2024 the Friars celebrated the feast of St. John the Baptist at custody house. The guardian organized the get together of the friars.



Note: This picture is for cover page.

