

CONCLUDING MESSAGE

Vilnius, January 21st, 2026

Dear brothers,

dear sisters, oblate brothers and sisters, dear friends,

“Remember the long pathway the Lord has led you along (...) He brought you through hunger (...) to teach you that man does not live of bread alone. Dt. 8:2-3

He carried you as a father carries his son. Dt. 1:31

Acknowledge in your heart that the Lord teaches you as a son.” Dt. 8:5



Heartfelt greetings and blessings in the Lord from a snowy, chilly and bright Vilnius, city of Divine Mercy! The brothers present at Chapter all wanted to send you this message, knowing how you have been with us in mind and heart and assisting us through your prayer. Thank you for this and especially to the brothers remaining in the priories for carrying the extra priory and missionary tasks these past ten days. We have been thinking of you.

How it began...

Chapter began as usual with a one-day retreat where we used the spiritual-conversations approach to meditate individually and together on passages from God's Word on other reference texts, much as all we brothers have been doing in our priories these past months. We thus began Chapter by first listening to the Holy Spirit speaking in prayer and sharing the fruits received.

Some elections...

We then proceeded to the task of electing a Provincial Prior. The deliberations on the various brothers the chapter chose to consider for this task were thoughtful moments where qualities, gifts, but also limitations and circumstances were considered in a remarkably brotherly way. After a night of sleep and Holy Mass, Br Ignaz Maria was re-elected. Our gratitude to him for accepting and fulfilling this task continues, as does surely the prayer we all can offer to support him. Thank you, brother, and may the Lord be with you!

This deliberation and election were swiftly followed by those for a Provincial Director of Formation, responsible not just for young brothers' studies but for facilitating the on-going formation of all brothers in the province. We discussed the tasks and priorities of this job, especially the need to proceed with formation for brothers in the giving of spiritual guidance, and the challenges involved in finding ways for brothers who are already seasoned missionaries to renew their training in this domain. Br Philip Thomas was re-elected to this post and to him also we offer our thanks and encouragement along with our prayer and confidence!

Visits from Bishops and Oblates...

We were honoured to receive two evening visits, one from Archbishop Gintaras Grušas of Vilnius, President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences, and one from Archbishop Georg Gänswein, Papal Nuncio to the Baltic states and former personal secretary to Pope Benedict XVI.



Archbishop Grušas emphasised the need for “Missionary oriented evangelisation” in the West. Archbishop Gänswein shared joyfully with us many pearls of encouraging and inspiring wisdom from his life with Pope Benedict, demonstrating an abiding Faith and Hope in God’s Church so often put to the test, not least from within.

Two Lithuanian oblates, Agnė Paulekiene and Aušra Šmitienė, members of the Regional Counsel of Oblates of Europe, took the time to join us for a session where they gave us valuable insights into the

new organization among oblates world-wide, their request for support from the brothers, and their continued desire to share in our common spirituality and missions.



Topics worked on...

Chapter then entered a longer phase of working through current topics concerning brothers' life and missions in the province. These areas of work had been prepared over the past months by commissions tasked with providing Chapter with the necessary clarity and organisation to work well and to come to good decisions. The areas were:

- **Common Life** - in particular the question of how to deepen the quality of brothers' relationships with each other.
- **Missions** - we discerned 3 areas to afford particular attention to: our cooperation with the laity, formation in the pastoral domain, and how mission and the conventual life should fit together.
- **Safeguarding** - how to continue preventing abuse, developing healthy environments in our priories and missions, and letting the Gospel shine?
- **Restructuring** - strategic planning regarding our presence in Europe.
- **Temporal Affairs** - finances and the care of elderly or sick brothers.
- **A Patron Saint** - the chapter chose St John Paul II as patron saint for our province.

More elections...

To end with, Chapter chose Br Jurek as councilor for the Provincial Prior. Br Ignaz Maria then chose a councilor himself, Br John Mary Jesus. These two brothers will join the Provincial Director of Formation and the Provincial Prior in forming the Counsel of the Provincial Prior. A councilor is called to work closely with the Provincial Prior, compliment him in the tasks of governance and join him in uniting the brothers of the province. We thank all the councilors for their service and include them in our prayers! Chapter also chose the stipulated 4 representatives from the province to go to General Chapter 2029, along with 3 brothers in reserve for this task.

Deep thanks...

We would like to end this report by sharing with you our deep thanks to those who, behind the scenes, made this chapter possible, peaceful, worthwhile and, we trust, fruitful. Br Léopold, Secretary, has worked tirelessly leading up to and during the chapter, and responding with competence, generosity and kindness to the many unexpected needs. Thank you, brother! We are also very grateful to the brothers in Vilnius, as well as to their volunteers and staff, for the wonderful welcome we received in this beautiful priory. Thank you! Finally, thank you to our Contemplative Sisters who were supporting us with their prayer and with the familiar kind welcome they too offered us. Our gratitude goes above all to The Lord Himself and to His Blessed Mother, that we have been called to live and work in God's vineyard in Europe. We entrust everything to them through the intercession of Our Lady, St John and St John-Paul II.

The capitular brothers,



Alexis	Éloi	Johannes-Elias	Mattheus
Arnaud-Charbel	Ignaz-Maria	John Luke	Paul-Raphaël
Benedict-Charbel	Jean-Philippe	John Mary Jesus	Philip-Thomas
Brice	Johannes	Jurek	Renaud-Marie