



Former General Minister José Rodríguez Carballo lays prostrate in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain during his Mass of Ordination to the Episcopacy Saturday

Former General Minister ordained a bishop in Spain

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN – Capping off a whirlwind of a month, former General Minister of the Order, now His Excellency Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, was ordained bishop in the Holy Apostolic Metropolitan Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

This just a month and a half after being named by Pope Francis to become Titular Archbishop of Belcastro and Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. That announcement of the Holy Father came on April 6.

Archbishop José was ordained by Presiding Bishop, Most Rev. and Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, SDB, Vatican Secretary of State along with co-consecrating Bishops, his Eminence and Most Rev. Cardinal Carlos Amigo Vallejo, OFM, and Most Rev. and Excellency Msgr. Julián Barrio Barrio, Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela.



Cardinal Bertone laying hands on Archbishop Jose

Many Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Friars, Priests and Religious were also present including **Very Rev. John Puodziunas, OFM**, President of the English Speaking Conference; **Very Rev. Michael Perry, OFM**, Vicar General of the Order; and **Rev. Francis Walter, OFM**, General Definitor for the Conference.



Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, presided over a Mass of thanksgiving for his Episcopal ordination in the Church of the Convent of St. Francis in Santiago de Compostela, which serves as the headquarters of the Provincial Curia of the Friars. Many of the same guests remained present for the Mass of Thanksgiving and also present were Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga (a First Order Affiliate of the Immaculate Conception Province USA), Archbishop of Tegucigalpa and head of Pope Francis' Group of Eight Reform Task Force, as was

Brazilian Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Video of Archbishop José's ordination is available at: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/32998643>
A video recalling his service to the Order: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hGAF0y3aIM>

Reflections from the Ordination

By John Puodziunas, OFM, Conference President

After arriving in Rome from Santiago de Compostela, Conference President John Puodziunas, OFM, offered a few thoughts on his experiences attending the ordination to the episcopacy of Archbishop José.

ROME – For a brief moment everyone turned their attention to a very large thurible swinging above our heads, with smoke billowing out and filling the space, the choir singing a hymn to the Apostle James. Except for closing remarks from Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, and the closing prayer from Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, this swinging thurible was the sign that the celebration was coming to a conclusion, two hours and forty-five minutes after it began.



*ESC President
John Puodziunas,
OFM*

According to Aidan McGrath, OFM, General Secretary of the Order, the concelebrants included seven cardinals and 32 bishops and archbishops, as well as most of the friars from the General Curia and many friars from around the world. The friars had gathered at the local friary and processed through the streets to the Cathedral. The liturgy was quite solemn and all in Spanish, leaving me to take in the sounds and sights without much comprehension. The few times the congregation was given the opportunity to sing –

Alabado Seas Mi Señor after the Litany of the Saints and *Pescador de hombres* during communion- the cathedral was filled with joyous song. A number of times from my vantage point I could see José getting choked up, moved by the spirit of the moment – at the beginning of the ordination rite with the singing of *Veni Creator Spiritus* and during the laying of hands by the bishops. His joy was spilling out all over.



Archbishop José places incense in the famous thurible at Santiago

After the liturgy, guests were invited across the piazza from the cathedral to the seminary building for preprandial followed by a banquet meal. José took time to visit every guest. He asked me to convey his regards and blessing to the Provincials of the ESC and the friars of our Provinces, and thanked the Provincials for their support and cooperation with him through his years as General Minister.

As the banquet wound down around midnight, I knew I had had an experience of a lifetime – the great tradition and solemnity of our Church, the hard work and dedication of a friar culminating in great joy, a celebrating fraternity, and a very large thurible swinging overhead – the spirit IS alive, well, and active in our Church, in our Order, in us. It's Pentecost!

Electing a new General Minister

As Archbishop José moves on to his new ventures, the Order turns to the business of electing a new Successor of St. Francis this week.

Following Article 201.1 of the *General Constitutions* of the Order, the General Definitorium will gather in Rome along with the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the 13 Conferences of the Order to conduct the election.

This is currently set to begin on Tuesday, May 21, 2013. As such, John Puodziunas, OFM, and Hugh McKenna, OFM, will be present as President and Vice-President of the ESC. Vicar General of the Order **Michael Perry**, OFM (Sacred Heart Province) will preside over the election.

Tuesday will begin the process as the electors gather to prayerfully prepare for the election. The day will include adoration, a time of examining the state of the Order, time to discuss qualities desired in the new General Minister and opportunities to surface candidates. Wednesday is scheduled as the day for the election to begin.



Members of the General Administration including Vicar General Michael Perry, OFM (2nd from left)

Conference President **John Puodziunas**, OFM, has asked all the friars of the Conference to keep the electors in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit's guidance in choosing a friar to be our new General Minister. He has offered the following prayer:

PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A GENERAL MINISTER

(Following the Intercessions at Mass/Liturgy of the Hours)

*Holy Spirit, true minister and guide of the Order,
we ask you now to be present to the electors gathered in Rome.
Fill them with your spirit of wisdom,
open their minds and hearts to choose a friar to serve as the earthly minister
for the good of the Church and the Order.
May they choose a friar imbued with the spirit of Francis of Assisi,
a friar who has the wisdom to see the needs of the Order today,
who has the desire to serve each brother out of love,
and who has the courage to lead in faith. Amen.*

St Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

Please keep this important moment in the life of our global fraternity in your thoughts and prayers.



Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM and General Definitior Francis Walter, OFM (far right)

Photo's courtesy of the Order's website www.ofm.org