

Retreat and Professions ~ Arkley 28th October, 2023



Bottom row: Guay Tan (2nd from left) and Renata Turrell (4th from left) with their Ministers, Formation Ministers and Fraternity brothers and sisters.

Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM lead the Retreat day as well as celebrating the Mass and Professions. He explored and explained the letter that the Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM (1) addressed to Catholics of his Diocese on 24th October, 2023. Fr Patrick's talk was bang up to date, thought-provoking, moving and gave plenty to take away and meditate upon and contemplate on in the future.

His second talk was about comparison between Lectio Divina and the Eucharist. Each element was compared to the other and gave in-depth insights that challenged us to think, live and be fully engaged.

During the Mass Guay Tan from Kingston Fraternity and Renata Turrell from Waterloo Fraternity were Professed into the Secula Franciscan Order. The celebration of this wonderful event was enjoyed by the 60+ Franciscans who attended the day. The London Region Fraternities were very well represented as well as brothers and sisters from South East, South West, Midlands, East Anglia and North West Regions. Fr Patrick said that this was a truly Franciscan gathering having not only the OFS members but also the Poor Clare Sisters and himself from the OFM.

As usual the Poor Clare Sisters from Arkley gave everyone a warm welcome and provided transport, refreshments and a lovely buffet lunch.

We were truly blessed.

(1) Created cardinal, 30 September 2023 by Pope Francis. Custodian of the Holy Places. The Custody of the Holy Land (Latin: Custodia Terræ Sanctæ) is a custodian priory of the Order of Friars Minor in Jerusalem, founded as the Province of the Holy Land in 1217 by Saint Francis of Assisi, who had also founded the Franciscan Order in 1209. In 1342, the Franciscans were declared by two papal bulls as the official custodians of the Holy Places in the name of the Catholic Church.