



MINISTER GENERALIS
ORDINIS FRATRUM MINORUM CONVENTUALIUM

Prot. N. 480/2020

Rome, June 13, 2020

**Presentation of the Project Office
of the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation
(Implementation of Motion No. 2 of the General Chapter of 2019)**

Dear brothers,

May the Lord give you peace!

I am writing this letter to present the status of the work done on one of the most important points of the Chapter mandate that the Government of the Order received. I want to talk to you about what the Chapter embraced as a priority, namely, Mission.

Motions No. 1 & 2 of the Ordinary General Chapter

During the last Ordinary General Chapter (May 18-27, 2019, in Assisi; May 27–June 17, 2019, in Collevalenza) the Order wanted, in the broadest sense of the expression, to give a new impetus to its missions, and a new face to the animation structures supporting those missions.

Intensive discernment on this topic resulted in the approval of two specific Motions that are linked together; namely, *“Mission: Twinning among Provinces, Studying New Models, Restructuring of the General Secretariat for Mission Animation”* (Motion No. 1) and *“Missionary Projects”* (Motion No. 2).

The Status of the Implementation of Motions No. 1 & 2

The restructuring of SGAM, the General Secretariat for Missionary Animation (required by Motion No. 1) is already underway. It is not the purpose of this letter to dwell on the details of this restructuring; I only mention that the SGAM will be organized into three divisions, one of which will be the *Project Office*.

In fact, in order to implement Motion No. 2, after thorough discernment among several parties, together with the General Definitory, we have approved the creation of a *Project Office*, which, with this letter, we now present to the Order.

A Brief History of Motion No. 2

Discernment on this theme began during the celebration of the General Chapter, with a proposal to create a “Fund for the Missions”. However, this was considered impracticable and the idea evolved into Motion No. 2. The Capitulars moved from the static concept of a “Fund” to the more dynamic and engaging idea of “promoting projects.” The goal has remained the same: to rescue and assist missions.

The Project Office

Guided by a Coordinator, the main activity of the *Project Office* will be “providing coordination at various *levels*: On a *general level*, it will define how to carry out the planning. On an *external level*, it will determine if the feedback on the projects validates them as socio-charitable activities. On an *internal level*, it will promote reflection on the works and activities in the Order and how to manage them more effectively.” This also includes important services such as formation.

As you will appreciate in the material attached to this letter of introduction, we offer the Order a very wide range of possibilities for the support and development of our missions.

The “Project Office Data Sheet” and its attachments (the “Project Presentation Data Sheet”; the “Called to Live from Our Work” article and the “BYNODE” document), together serve as an introduction to the new Project Office. The Project Office is not being started from scratch; it is based upon, and benefits from, many, longstanding experiences in the Order.

A Synergy of Efforts

I think it is important to mention that the material presented in this letter is only intended as a support for the true goal of our common effort, namely, the promotion of the missions of the Order in their work of proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and giving witness to the justice of the Kingdom of God.

Finally, I must reiterate that we do not offer any easy or “permanent” solutions, but rather friars and lay people who make themselves available, who work alongside local “actors” under a coordinating organization that can accommodate and guide them all, in a complete synergy of efforts, for the “needs” of the missions.

Above all, I ask the Major Superiors, the Provincial Delegates, the Directors of the mission houses and the Heads of the Provincial Secretariats of the Missions, to study this material and - simultaneously - promote among the religious and the laity this “new” and indispensable perspective, which lays the foundations for the integral support of missions on one’s own work and openness toward collaboration.



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