



MINISTER GENERALIS
ORDINIS FRATRUM MINORUM CONVENTUALIUM

Prot. No. 127/2020

Rome, February 11, 2020

Subject: Anniversaries related to St. Anthony of Padua and preparations
for World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal,
the birthplace of St. Anthony

Dear Ministers Provincial,
Dear Provincial Custodes,
Dear brothers serving in the field of Youth and Vocation Ministry,

We are writing to inform you about a program for friars and young people that combines two anniversaries related to St. Anthony of Padua and preparations for World Youth Day 2022, in Lisbon, Portugal, St. Anthony's birthplace.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the entrance of Fernando from Lisbon into the Order. He entered the Order in Coimbra, Portugal, taking the name Friar Anthony. Next year marks the 800th anniversary of Friar Anthony's arrival in Italy and his participation at the Chapter of Mats in Assisi.

The General Definitory has decided not to celebrate the International Youth towards Assisi Meeting in 2021. Instead, it will transfer the Order's energy and effort to this meeting of the universal Church in 2022. The St. Anthony anniversaries and WYD in Lisbon are providential celebrations which will help us to create a formation program for friars and young people.

Therefore, we decided to propose a formation week in 2021, one which will be open to all friars in charge of Youth and Vocation Ministry and to all lay leaders of our youth groups scattered around the world. Its objective is to discover or rediscover the person of St. Anthony of Padua and thereby be able to propose him to young people as a model of faith, vocational discernment and mission. Another goal is to prepare for World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon.

In summary, **the purpose of this formation week** is twofold:

1. to prepare for WYD together
2. to get to know each other, better understand how we carry out youth ministry in different areas of the world and find through-lines or a common style connected to St. Francis, all in the context of rediscovering the life of St. Anthony of Padua.

The **method** we will use will be a *synodal* approach, namely, a way of working that puts into practice what was said and experienced at the 2018 Synod on Young People, following the indications of *Christus Vivit*. The program, therefore, will include sharing experiences, learning about the challenges we face in youth ministry today, reexamining the topics of the Youth Synod, making a pilgrimage on foot retracing the footsteps of St. Anthony of Padua, rediscovering various Franciscan elements, workshopping, interacting and discussing.

After taking into consideration who and how many are interested in participating in this project, the dates that have been chosen, and other variables, we will craft a more detailed program of activities, including reflections on St. Anthony and on Franciscan Youth Ministry.

Nevertheless, we can say that this formation week will be carried out in Italy, in an itinerant way, in three stages, mirroring St. Anthony's travels after he left Lisbon: Rome, Assisi (La Verna) and Padua.

Below is a hypothetical schedule for this Formation Week for friars and youth ministers:

- Tuesday: Arrival in Rome
- Wednesday: Introductions and start of work
- Thursday: *Morning*, transfer to Assisi; *afternoon*, activities in the Basilica of St. Francis
- Friday: Work and activities in Assisi (visit to Spoleto where St. Anthony was canonized?)
- Saturday: *Morning*, departure for Padua, stopping at La Verna on the way (St. Anthony stayed here); *afternoon*, arrival in Camposampiero
- Sunday: *Morning*, pilgrimage on foot from Camposampiero to Padua, stopping at the Sanctuary dell'Arcella, where he died; *afternoon*, activities in Padua.
- Monday: Activities in Camposampiero and/or Padua, ending with dinner
- Tuesday: Departure.

Possible dates for this formation week are **August 24-31, 2021** or **September 7-14, 2021**

We ask you to reply to this letter by February 29, 2020, to let us know whether or not you intend to participate in the program and which of the dates you would prefer.

As for WYD in Lisbon, we currently have two hypotheses:

- If all of us can be accommodated within the territory of our parish, we plan to organize a common event near our friary in the spaces offered through the WYD general program and provide additional logistical spiritual support. That way, we could also have some wonderful interaction between the friars and young people from around the world.
- If it is not possible for us to have accommodations in the same area, we can expect to be together for half a day, most likely near our friary, because that way we would be close to other areas being used for WYD events.

As soon as we hear back from the WYD organizing committee, we will be able to make plans accordingly.

To sum up, this is the itinerary we propose:

- May 2020 - Pilgrimage and workshop on St. Anthony of Padua for friars and young people of the FIMP
- August/September 2021 - Pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Anthony and formation in view of WYD in Lisbon for friars and youth ministers
- Summer 2022 - WYD in Lisbon with joint activities between Conventual Franciscan friars and young people

We look forward to your response and any suggestions or ideas you may have. We wish you a fruitful ministry.

May the Lord give you peace!



Friar Carlos A. TROVARELLI

Minister General



Friar Tomáš LESŇÁK

Assistant General for the FEMO

Delegate of the General Definitory
for Youth Ministry



Friar Simone TENUTI

Franciscan Youth Center – Assisi
Itinerary Coordinator