



MINISTER GENERALIS

ORDINIS FRATRUM MINORUM CONVENTUALIUM

Prot. N. 0261/2026

Rome, March 25, 2026

Amendments to the *Constitutions* and *General Statutes* – Approval and Transmission

1. The 203rd Ordinary General Chapter of our Order of Friars Minor Conventual approved, through Motion No 1, certain amendments to the *Constitutions*, as previously specified in the letter from the Minister General, dated July 21, 2025 (Prot. n. 0656/2025). The letter transmitted all of the *Motions* that had been approved by the Chapter Assembly. The same motions were also included in the Order's Six-Year Plan (Prot. No. 0001/2026, dated January 1, 2026), which was sent to everyone in electronic form at the beginning of the year and was also available on the Order's website.

2. In accordance with art. 6, §2 of the *Constitutions*, we submitted a proposal to amend the *Constitutions* to the Holy See and have received the required consent.

In a letter dated September 12, 2025 (Prot. No. C. 86-1/2018), signed by the Pro-Prefect, Cardinal Ángel F. ARTIME, S.D.B., the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has:

- approved the amendment introduced by the Chapter to art. 78, §1, e), according to the text submitted;

- approved the amendment to Art. 133, §1 with the following correction: to insert the phrase “with the consent of” before the expression “his Definitory.”

Accordingly, the updated text of Articles 78 and 133 of the *Constitutions* is hereby transmitted to the Order.

3. We also take this opportunity to send the text of the numbered articles of the *General Statutes* that have been modified.

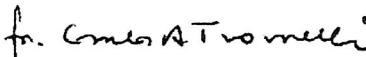
4. It should also be noted, for the sake of clarity and *ad abundantiam*, that the correction added by the Dicastery to Article 133, §1 of the *Constitutions* does not introduce any changes to the text of *Franciscan Discipleship*.

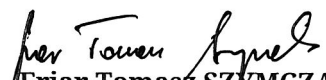
Franciscan Discipleship, in fact, was approved by the General Chapter without any changes compared to the form previously approved *ad experimentum* on December 13, 2022, by the Minister General and his Definitory (Prot. No. 0950/2022).

Thus, the 2022 edition of *Franciscan Discipleship* is the currently valid version and is available on the Order's official website. We also hereby inform you that the Spanish translation of the Document has been updated, while the other versions remain unchanged.

I would like to express my hope that this updated legislation will help us live out our charism with renewed serenity, effectiveness, and impact.

With fraternal regards,


Friar Carlos A. TROVARELLI
Minister General


Friar Tomasz SZYMCAK
Secretary General



Amendments to the *Constitutions* and *General Statutes*
– Approval and Transmission

UPDATED TEXT OF ARTICLE 78 OF THE CONSTITUTIONS:

78. §1. The following lack active and passive voice:

a) one who is exclaustated for any reason, for a verified period of six months after his return to the Order; the time period may be prolonged at the judgment of the competent Minister or Custos with the consent of his Definitory, but for no more than one year;

b) one who has requested from his Minister or Custos a dispensation from the obligations derived from sacred ordination or an indult of secularization, from the moment in which he made the request to ecclesiastical superiors;¹

c) one who is illegitimately absent from the Friary for a period of up to three months, on the basis of a written declaration from his respective Minister or Custos,² as long as he remains outside the Friary, and then after his re-entry for a period of six months; the time period may be prolonged at the judgment of the competent Minister or Custos

with the consent of his Definitory, but for no more than two years;

d) one who has been received back into the Order after having left it unlawfully for a period greater than three months, for a period of four years from the time of his return.

e) one who, due to severe mental and/or physical incapacity, proven by medical expertise, in the judgment of the Minister Provincial and his Definitory, is declared by special decree to be temporarily or permanently unable to cast a valid vote³.

§2. In the imposition of other canonical sanctions, universal law is to be observed.⁴

UPDATED TEXT OF ARTICLE 133 OF THE CONSTITUTIONS:

133. §1. There shall be for the entire Order a *Ratio formationis* (*Franciscan Discipleship*), periodically revised and approved by the Minister General with his Definitory, after consultation with the Presidents of the Federations.

§2. Each Province and Custody is to have its own directory of formation, approved by the Provincial or Custodial Chapter and by the Minister General with his Definitory. A Conference or Federation directory of formation is to follow the guidelines of the Constitutions 223, §2.⁵

§3. Each Provincial or Custodial house of formation is to have its own formation guidelines, approved by the Minister or Custos with his Definitory.

¹ Cf. CIC, canons 290 no. 3 and 691.

² Cf. CIC canons 665, §2; 696, §2.

³ Cf. CIC, canons 99; 171, §1.1°; 172.

⁴ Cf. CIC, canons 1336-1340.

⁵ Cf. CIC, canon 659, §2.



Amendments to the *Constitutions* and *General Statutes*
– Approval and Transmission

§4. Each house of formation common to more than one Province or Custody is to have its own formation guidelines, approved by the interested Ministers and Custodes.

UPDATED TEXT OF NO. 23 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES

23. §1. The Guardian, for a good reason, may give permission to be absent from the Friary but within the borders of the same Province, Custody, or nation, but not beyond thirty consecutive days. Permission beyond these limits is given by the Minister or Custos for his own subjects, unless the Provincial or Custodial Statutes provide otherwise, and by the Minister General for friars in friaries immediately subject to him.

§2. The Minister Provincial, with the consent of his Definitory, may grant a religious who requests it for a just and serious cause, the indult of absence from the religious house under CIC, can. 665, §1. However, this dispensation may not exceed one year and is not renewable, unless it is for reasons of personal illness, study or apostolate to be carried out in the name of the Institute, which would be incompatible with residing in the friary. The granting of the indult must be communicated to the Minister General and to the Ordinary of the place where the religious will reside. (CONGREGATION FOR INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND THE SOCIETIES OF APOSTOLIC LIFE, *The Gift of Fidelity, The Joy of Perseverance, Manete in dilectione mea (Jn 15:9). Guidelines*, February 2, 2020; no. 67).

UPDATED TEXT OF NO. 91 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES

91. §1. It is good that before elections the Capitulars discuss, responsibly and charitably among themselves, and with the Presider of the Chapter, the best qualified candidates..

§2. If the Chapter or Definitory deems a non-clerical religious brother suitable for the office of government, it shall postulate his election by a qualified majority vote. The postulation of the Guardian or his Vicar shall be confirmed by the Minister General with his Definitory; the postulation of the Minister Provincial or Custos, or their respective Vicars, shall be endorsed by the Minister General and his Definitory, and presented to the Apostolic See. In this case, the Vicar must necessarily be a priest in order to carry out functions that require the authority of Holy Orders and to exercise ordinary governance until the elected individual is confirmed. Candidates are required to have sufficient theological preparation and meet the requirements set forth in Canon Law (Const., articles 168 and 214).



Amendments to the *Constitutions* and *General Statutes*
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UPDATED TEXT OF NO. 145 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES

145. The principal offices and assignments of the General Curia are: the General Procuration, the General Secretariat, the General Finance Office, the General Postulation for the Causes of Saints, the General Archivist, the General Delegate for Mission Animation in the Order, the General Delegate for Formation, the General Assistant for the Poor Clares and aggregated congregations, the General Spiritual Assistant for the Secular Franciscan Order, the International Assistant of the Militia of Mary Immaculate, the General Delegate for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, the General Delegate for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation, the General Delegate for Communications (Constitutions, 189, §1 and 208).

UPDATED TEXT OF NO. 148 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES

148. §1. Each Province and Custody shall have an archive, following the indications of CIC, can. 486 §§1-3.

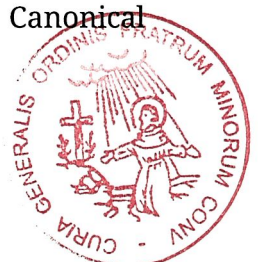
§2. A copy of any business carried on with the General Curia shall be kept in the Provincial or Custodial archives.

§3. The Current Archives, which contain the files on each friar and each friary, must be kept in a secure location, under the care of the Provincial or Custodial Secretary, who ensures the confidentiality of the data contained within and prevents the removal of any documents. The Historical Archives, which hold the files of deceased friars or those who have permanently left the Order, as well as older documents, is managed by the Provincial or Custodial Archivist, or, in their absence, by the Provincial or Custodial Secretary.

§4. In each Curia there shall be a confidential archive [organized] according to the norms of universal law (CIC, can. 489; 490), in accordance with applicable civil laws and particular instructions from the government of the Order.

UPDATED TEXT OF NO. 157 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES

157. §1. In conducting a canonical visitation legitimately constituted visitators, in a team if there is one, are to proceed in a manner that is both fraternal and pastoral. Their first concern is to be the religious observance and the spirit of fraternal communion, following the indications of the Directory for Canonical Visitation (CIC, canon 628 §1).



Amendments to the *Constitutions* and *General Statutes*
– Approval and Transmission

§2. Each Conference and Federation is to propose to the Minister General a list of agreed-upon, available, and suitable friars possessing the needed qualities for service as General Visitors (see the Directory for Canonical Visitation).

§3. The Minister General with the consent of his Definitory may decree an extraordinary visitation of any Province or Custody when there are serious concerns.

§4. A general canonical visitation is due each Provincial term, preferably around the mid-point.

§5. It is recommended that a year following the conclusion of a general canonical visitation, the General Definitory for the region meets with the Minister or Custos and his Definitory to verify that the recommendations contained in the final report have been addressed.

