

JUNE 13, 2020 



Project Office

ORDER OF FRIARS
MINOR CONVENTUAL



Implementation of Motions 1 & 2
of the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter

ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL

Presentation

PROJECT OFFICE

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR MISSION ANIMATION**

**Implementation of Motions 1 & 2
of the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter**

Rome, 2020

MINISTER GENERAL

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.

Fr. Carlos A. Trovarelli
Minister general

PROJECT OFFICE DATA SHEET

Introduction

The Order, on the initiative of local communities or individual friars, has always promoted projects of solidarity, charity and assistance for those in need. These projects range from “St. Anthony’s Bread for the Poor” to works benefitting orphans, lepers, seniors living alone and people needing access to water or adequate healthcare. In addition, the friars have always preached about and made appeals for a world ruled by justice, solidarity and charity among people. In our day, social initiatives are mainly sponsored by governments, but this is not always done in a satisfactory manner. Part of the mission of the Church and the Order is to engage in these activities with a spirit of charity¹.

The Minister General, together with his Definitory, in response to Motion No. 2² and partly to Motion No. 1³ (both were voted for during the 2019 General Chapter), has evaluated the creation of a *Project Office*⁴. On one hand, the *Office* is meant to immediately assist the friars

¹ Cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 29-31, 33. “Between evangelization and human advancement—development and liberation— there are in fact profound links...They include links of the eminently evangelical order, which is that of charity: how in fact can one proclaim the new commandment without promoting in justice and in peace the true, authentic advancement of man?” (*EN* 31). Human promotion is one of the ways of mission: “The Church and her missionaries also promote development through schools, hospitals, printing presses, universities and experimental farms. But a people’s development does not derive primarily from money, material assistance or technological means, but from the formation of consciences and the gradual maturing of ways of thinking and patterns of behavior.” (*Redemptoris missio* 58).

² Cf. 2019 GENERAL CHAPTER, *Motions Approved*; Motion No. 2: **Missionary Projects**: The General Chapter asks the Minister General with his Definitory to consider and evaluate the creation of an office to promote missionary projects in the Order, as part of the reorganization of the General Secretariat for Mission Animation.

³ Cf. 2019 GENERAL CHAPTER, *Motions Approved*; Motion No. 1: **Mission: Twinning among Provinces, Studying New Models, Restructuring of the General Secretariat for Mission Animation**. The Government of the Order shall:

- a) Foster twinning among Provinces to promote the consolidation of some existing missions. The collaboration includes staff and economic solidarity. To ensure such collaboration is more firmly established, contracts should be made.
- b) Study and propose Franciscan models of *Missio ad Gentes* and *Implantatio Ordinis*, which are characterized by a choice of adequate means, bearing in mind the virtue of poverty in the charism of the Order, and when possible, promoting the direct involvement of the laity in missionary activity;
- c) Proceed to the restructuring of the General Secretariat for Mission Animation (SGAM), so that it may be of greater help to the Government of the Order and the Provinces and Custodies, by:
 - Collecting and analyzing information on the state of our missions and on New Evangelization initiatives underway in our Order.
 - Proposing development programs for existing missions of the Order and drawing up plans for new missionary presences as well as presences for New Evangelization;
 - Indicating the areas where cooperation and solidarity are needed between the Provinces/Custodies, both in the field of *Missio ad Gentes* and New Evangelization.
- d) Setting up a qualified working group in the Secretariat to achieve the objectives listed above.

⁴ From here on, the “*Project Office*” shall be referred to as the “*Office*.”

in the various *realities of the Order*⁵ to grow in their proclamation of the *Gospel* through concrete signs of *charity* and thereby promote a service for “integral human development.” On the other hand, it is meant to promote new models of planning which will enable networking and dialogue between the various offices (and Secretariats) of the Order and local realities.

The main activity of the *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.

Organization

The *Office* will be composed as follows:

- ✓ a Coordinator (a member of the SGAM) **Friar Valerio Folli**
- ✓ some permanent consultants:
 - a member of the General Financial Office **Friar Leszek Łuczkanin**
 - a General Definitor **Friar Dominique Mathieu**
 - the President of BYNODE⁶ **Friar Agnello Stoia**

In addition, the Coordinator shall have a General Definitor as a reference person⁷. The other members of the General Definitory and the General Curia will be involved whenever projects are related to their respective Federations. They shall also be involved at the internal level.

In order to achieve some of the objectives of the *Office*, the Coordinator may also make use of consultants and paid staff.

⁵ By “*realities of the Order*” we mean: the General Curia, the General Secretariats, the Provinces, the Custodies, the Delegations and the new missions.

⁶ See **ATTACHMENT 3 – BYNODE**.

⁷ Within the General Definitory, the theme of the missions is entrusted to Friars Tomáš Lesňák and Anthony Bezo.

Headquarters and Contact Numbers

The headquarters of the *Office* shall be at the

GENERAL CURIA

Friary of the Twelve Holy Apostles - Address: Piazza Ss. Apostoli, 51 - 00187 Roma

The contact numbers for the *Office* are:

E-mail: pro@ofmconv.net

E-mail: frate.valerio.sgam@gmail.com

Cell: (+39) 351.769.9204

Objectives

The objectives of the *Office* are:

1. *To coordinate planning at the **general level** by:*
 - a. Presenting and explaining the projects data sheet⁸ to the various “realities of the Order”;
 - b. Guiding the drafting of the data sheet; evaluating the projects according to certain criteria⁹ (charism and mission¹⁰; sustainability¹¹ and self-sufficiency; joint participation¹², the decision-making *process*¹³, the involvement of the friars¹⁴, etc.);

⁸ See **ATTACHMENT 1**.

⁹ Criteria for a project to be accepted:

1. The project should start as a grass-roots initiative, that is, it should come from the real needs of the friars and the people (to benefit the needy in the local area);
2. The project should adhere to the local culture and the local ecclesial tradition;
3. The project should involve the local people (lay persons);
4. The project should offer work opportunities for the friars themselves;
5. The project should be simple and linear;
6. The project should be legally and financially secure (not overly costly);
7. The project should be open to being managed peacefully;
8. The project should be open to being evaluated once it has been launched;
9. The project should be rooted in a local Jurisdiction of the Order, (consultations made, permits obtained, etc.);
10. The project should be attuned to the encyclical *Laudato Si'* (the need to build an integral ecology, where the defense of the Human, the Living and the defense of Mother Earth becomes a new paradigm of justice, justice that is founded on hearing the cry of the Earth and the poor);
11. The project should promote human rights.

¹⁰ We should ask whether or not this project will manifest the charism we have professed and whether or not it will correspond with the mission that the Church/Order has entrusted to us.

¹¹ The sustainability of a project is understood as the requirement that a project first be examined and confirmed as an initiative that can maintain both fidelity to the charism and economic stability at the same time. The project being

- c. Presenting projects to the General Definitory for approval;
- d. Promoting approved projects: to the entities able to finance them (if necessary) and through the means available to the Order;
- e. Guiding the “*realities of the Order*” in the implementation of the project (drafting the interim reports necessary to present the progress of the work and drafting the final report once the project is completed);
- f. Following up on the continuity of the project when it is finished.

realized should support the social context, so that the promotion of work is encouraged and those projects that create welfarism are avoided. (See **ATTACHMENT 2 – Called to Live from Our Work**)

¹² We should encourage the search for financial support for both internal and external projects, trying to promote the existing resources in the missions or Jurisdictions themselves. We can distinguish different types of participation:

1) Participation of the “*locals*”: the involvement of the local population; the local Church (Diocese, parishes); possible collaboration with other groups, associations or governmental structures operating in the area.

2) Participation of the “*local Jurisdiction*”: paying a minimum contribution, at least 5% compared to the total cost documented in the project’s estimated budget.

3) Participation of the “Mother Province”: in case the Jurisdiction is still dependent on the Mother Province, the Mother Province should pay a minimum contribution, at least 5% compared to the total cost documented in the project’s estimated budget.

¹³ The Proper Law of the Order (Rule, Constitutions, Provincial and Custodial Statutes) regulate and indicate the practice to be followed. Each decision must be:

1. Communally made
2. Reviewed at the local levels (Cf. Constitutions, art. 114-119):
 - a) At the community level,
 - b) At the level of the Major Superior and his Definitory,
 - c) At the level of the Provincial or Custodial Chapter,
 - d) Be ratified by the Minister Provincial with his Definitory (or Provincial Chapter) for the projects of the Daughter Custody.

Certain requirements are indicated for:

1) The “*proposer*”: The “proposer” of a project could be the local community (a letter should be attached showing the section of the minutes from the House Chapter in which the project to be carried out was proposed and accepted). The “proposer” could also be the Superior of the Jurisdiction with his Definitory (the Definitory’s letter of approval should be attached, showing an extract of the minutes, along with an acceptance letter from the community in which the project will be carried out. In cases where the project is proposed for a parish administered by the friars, there must also be a letter from the Pastoral Council and a letter of approval from the local bishop.

2) *The Minister Provincial/Custos/Delegate*: A project must be formally approved by the Superior of the Jurisdiction in which it will be carried out; therefore the Superior must provide a letter which contains the section of the minutes of the Definitory meeting in which the project was accepted. In the case of a Delegation or Custody, the project must also have the endorsement of the Mother Province, again producing a letter showing an extract of the minutes of the Definitory meeting.

¹⁴ See **ATTACHMENT 2 - Called to Live from Our Work**

2. To coordinate planning at the external level by:

- a. Developing social¹⁵, charitable, health¹⁶, educational¹⁷ and projects within an international network¹⁸;
- b. Promoting projects to the entities of the Order such as BYNODE, the *Caritas Sant'Antonio* ONLUS [Non-Profit Organization for Social Use], the Franciscan Missionary Center ONLUS, the *Con il Cuore* benefit concert in Assisi, the Provincial Missionary Centers and other entities outside the Order;
- c. Assisting, in particular, Jurisdictions which are having difficulty drafting and realizing projects. Helping them find funding, while being open to the possibility of creating networks of collaboration between those Jurisdictions and others that are autonomous;
- d. Supporting projects already underway or being conceived in the various financially autonomous Jurisdictions. Assuring their *progress* continues, as usual, through Provincial Missionary Secretariats, parishes, missionary groups, non-profit and State entities. Continuing to promote social projects independently of the General Curia, as has often been done and shall continue to be done.

3. To coordinate planning at the internal level by:

- a. Supporting formation (initial¹⁹ and ongoing²⁰); new missionary presences, and encouraging the financial autonomy and sustainability of the Jurisdiction with regard to its initial formation expenses, etc. Supporting the Jurisdiction's activities and works with regard to its technical, financial and personnel needs, etc.;
- b. Promoting projects proposed directly by the General Government, the Jurisdictions, or the *Project Office* itself;
- c. Promoting projects to entities inside the Order (General Curia, Formation Fund, Provincial Curiae, Provincial Missionary Centers, BYNODE, etc.) and to outside

¹⁵ For example:

1. Private schools, on two conditions:

a) That a percentage of students who otherwise would not be able to attend due to their family's unstable financial situation, be granted enrollment;

b) That some friars be employed there, both as administrators and teachers;

2) Retirement homes, kindergartens, micro credit projects or small farms;

3) Cultural projects such as libraries, works of art, museums, exhibitions, etc.

¹⁶ For example: health care facilities and medical clinics.

¹⁷ For example: scholarships, work scholarships, formation scholarships (formation proposals regarding Christian doctrine or professional education).

¹⁸ For example: an educational project, an education program in schools, or a program on work ethics.

¹⁹ Projects benefiting initial formation would be aimed at helping Jurisdictions identify local level activities that can boost financial autonomy in this field.

²⁰ Human promotion, aimed at fostering some important experiences and helping the friars acquire a new mindset regarding their approach to work (See ATTACHMENT 2 – Called to Live from Our Work)

entities such as Episcopal Conferences, Foundations, organizations carrying out fundraising activities, etc.

4. *To coordinate with BYNODE;*

5. *To coordinate with SGAM:*

- a. In order to define planning criteria at different levels;
- b. In order to map-out and promote the activities carried out by the friars:
 - i. By collecting data²¹ on the various pastoral and socio-charitable activities ongoing in the Jurisdictions of the Order.
 - ii. By promoting knowledge of this information, using the various instruments in the Order and possibly creating new ones as needed.
- c. In order to promote missionary animation, particularly by acting as a liaison between the Jurisdictions of the Order in the southern hemisphere and the Missionary Secretariats of the Federations as well as the Provincial Mission Centers. This could be a way of making the projects known to Jurisdictions that have no missions of their own, but which could contribute support to other missions. It could be a means of organizing Franciscan Mission Days at the local level with individual communities.

6. *To conduct feasibility studies:*

- a. regarding “*fundraising*” activities at the internal level
- b. regarding financial activities of the Order

7. *To define the Project Office and the work it carries out:*

The organization of the *Office* is still being determined, therefore, this *data sheet*²² should be considered a “first draft” for getting started on the activities and ideas it contains. Over the course of this six-year term, the *Office* will more completely define its organization and tasks. In addition, it will form Regulations/Statutes as needed.

Padua, June 13, 2020


Friar Valerio Folli
Project Office Coordinator

²¹ Determine how many friars, friaries, parishes, ongoing socio-charitable-educational activities there are; how many friars are involved in the activities and how is economic autonomy achieved in both the communities and the activities. This update could be made by the Major Superior of the Jurisdiction and possibly confirmed by the General Assistant of the Area.

²² The *Project Office* Data Sheet

ATTACHMENT 1

Project Presentation Data Sheet

		
<i>PROJECT OFFICE</i> <i>ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL</i>		
	PROJECT PRESENTATION DATA SHEET	No. __/__
Before drafting this data sheet, read the Project Office Data Sheet with its relative <i>explanatory notes</i> .		

Type of Request		
For help finding benefactors ²³ <input type="checkbox"/>	For help finding donations ²⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>	For information ²⁵ <input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the OFM Conv. Jurisdiction	
Country/nation	
Diocese	
City/town	
Title of the project	
Presentation date	
Period for implementation	

²³ Project developed directly by a Province or one of its Jurisdictions, which is unable to cover at least 10% of the project's cost.

²⁴ The Jurisdiction can cover a large part of the project's cost, but not 100%.

²⁵ To include the project on the website of the Order's charitable activities.

PROJECT PROPOSERS AND PROJECT DIRECTORS				
	First and last name	E-mail address	Landline and cell phone number	Mailing address
Proposer ²⁶				
DIRECTOR(s) responsible for the implementation of the Project (at the organizational, financial, and managerial levels)				
Provincial/Custos/Delegate ²⁷				

TYPE OF PROJECT ²⁸

GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND ²⁹
--

ORIGIN AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE REQUEST (Why is this project needed?)

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (D) ³⁰ AND INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES (I)	
Minors	People with mental /physical handicaps <input type="checkbox"/>
Disadvantaged / destitute families	Drug addicts / alcohol addicts
Senior citizens	Students <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (Specific actions/activities required)

²⁶ See Note 13 of the *Project Office* Data Sheet.

²⁷ See Note 13 of the *Project Office* Data Sheet.

²⁸ Give a brief description of the aim of the project, does it serve health needs, social needs, educational needs, etc.

²⁹ Indicate the name of the place where the project will be implemented. Insert a map showing the area where the project will take place. Give a brief description of the area's demographic, social, economic and cultural characteristics.

³⁰ Please indicate the NUMBER of people in each category who will benefit from this project.

OBJECTIVES

- *General*
- *Specific*

EXPECTED RESULTS**CHARISM-MISSION³¹ AND SUSTAINABILITY³²****CO-PARTICIPATION³³****ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE PROJECT**

The project must be completed within no. ____ months of receipt of the approved grant. Delays due to any unforeseen events must be promptly reported, in writing, to the SGAM office by the Director in charge of the project.

ACTIVITIES	MONTH 1	MONTH 2	MONTH 3	MONTH 4	NOTES
1.					
2.					
3.					

ESTIMATED COSTS

ITEM Article (Attach pro forma invoices)	COST	NOTE
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Total cost of the project		

³¹ See Note 10 of the *Project Office* Data Sheet

³² See Note 11 of the *Project Office* Data Sheet

³³ See Note 12 of the *Project Office* Data Sheet

GRANT REQUESTED		
	Expenditures	Income
Total project costs	€	
Co-financing		€
Amount requested		€
Local currency exchange rate-Euro: 1 Euro = _____, Date of exchange rate:		

PROJECT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS ³⁴

BANK DETAILS	
Name of the bank	
Bank address (<i>street/city</i>)	
Account holder (<i>beneficiary</i>)	
Account No.	
IBAN (<i>if any</i>)	
Account currency	
SWIFT code	
Other	
(if applicable) Banking through Holder, account, SWIFT, etc.	

Place, dd/mm/yyyy

Project Director and signature
(*First and last name*)

³⁴ Send a video (or videos) a few minutes in length, which present the proposal and the value of the project (this video will be published on the Order's website). In addition, send some high-resolution photos taken BEFORE the implementation of the project (in order to show the current situation), DURING the implementation of the project and AT THE END of the implementation of the project.

ATTACHMENT 2

Called to Live from Our Work³⁵

- 1) We friars, by Rule and Tradition, are called to live from our work and, if that is not enough, to rely on the generosity of benefactors.
- 2) Many friars make a living by performing priestly ministry and some make a living by doing work within our communities; a small number do work paid for by third parties.
Some communities and local Jurisdictions earn income from the management of various enterprises (for example publishing houses) or the management of buildings. The proceeds are aimed at supporting works that are in keeping with our charism. Sometimes it seems the friars are unaware of the importance and, above all, the potential, of the common financial management of the stable patrimony in their possession (buildings and works); there are, for example, unused buildings that are left to deteriorate.
These potentialities should be studied and verified. If they can be utilized in accordance with our charism then they should be put to good use. However, they should not become some sort of *for-profit multinational corporation*.
- 3) Some Jurisdictions of the Order, especially the more recent ones which are often in the southern hemisphere, are not financially self-sufficient or are unable to generate funds locally for their own support, especially for formation expenses or for developing charitable or human development projects.
- 4) The theme of the financial self-sufficiency of new Jurisdictions is often debated in Provincial and Custodial Chapters. In particular, two levels are noted. One is an initial phase of local financial dependence, which occurs when a new community is started. The second is a phase of local financial independence, which is achieved later, through the work of the friars. Nevertheless, the formation expenses for friars are often prohibitive for new Jurisdictions and the lack of funds can only be overcome by solidarity within the Order or sometimes even by other institutions and benefactors.

³⁵ Cf. *Later Rule*, Chapter V: “Those brothers to whom the Lord has given the grace of working may work faithfully and devotedly so that, while avoiding idleness, the enemy of the soul, they do not extinguish (Cf. 1 Th 5:19) the Spirit of holy prayer and devotion to which all temporal things must contribute. In payment for their work they may receive whatever is necessary for the bodily support of themselves and their brothers, excepting coin or money, and let them do this humbly as is becoming for servants of God and followers of most holy poverty.”

Cf. *Earlier Rule*, Chapter VII: “None of the brothers may be treasurers or overseers in any of those places where they are staying to serve or work among others. They may not be in charge in the houses in which they serve nor accept any office which would generate scandal or be harmful to their souls (Cf. Mk 8:36); but they should be minors and subject to all those who are in that same house (Cf. Lk 22:26);

Let the brothers who know how to work do so and exercise that trade they have learned, provided it is not contrary to the good of their souls and can be performed honestly.

... And when it is necessary, they may seek alms like other poor people.”

5) The contemporary world offers the opportunity of living on invested capital or income. At the same time, this can also be a real temptation.

- (a) In fact, various religious Orders and diocese have adopted the practice of creating interest bearing funds or forms of equity investment (using the proceeds generated by the solidarity of the friars and benefactors) and investing them in an ethical way. These earnings allow them to supplement what is lacking in annual solidarity among the Jurisdictions, especially for formation expenses.³⁶.
- (b) However, one goes from opportunity to “temptation” when friars no longer depend on their work to support their daily lives, but on annuities, rents and investments. Some new Jurisdictions of the Order are tempted to build schools, clinics and buildings in order to rent them out to third parties and to live off the proceeds rather than to promote projects in which the friars carry out a ministry that enables them to support themselves³⁷.
- (c) “In initial formation,” reads the final letter of the 2011 International Congress, “there should be a sense of self-sufficiency. *Those in formation* should work for the upkeep of the fraternity.... All of the friars should try to develop a life style, which takes care of their needs but is not above that of those who live around them, remembering that our Seraphic Father urged us to be “minors” in society. This means that we should not be living an upper-middle class life style (based upon how people live in one’s own area). It is essential that friars continue to keep contact with those who are genuinely poor (however that poverty might be defined), starting with their earliest formational experiences”³⁸.

³⁶ Cf. Motion No. 4 approved by the General Chapter of 2013, *Fraternal Solidarity*:

1. The General Chapter encourages, as it already did in the General Chapter of 2007, the creation of a *Fund Designated for Formation Expenses* in the poorer areas of the Order.

2. The General Chapter exhorts all the Jurisdictions to make a voluntary donation through an annual collection or a voluntary expropriation for the to-be established *Fund Designated for Formation Expenses* in the poorer areas of the Order.

3. The General Chapter decides that, as a rule, when a property is sold and/or an inheritance or donation is received, the jurisdictions, in dialogue with the General Definitory, are to pass on a percentage of the sum for the to-be established *Fund Designated for Formation Expenses* in the poorer areas of the Order, always respecting the intention of the donor.

4. The General Chapter decides that each jurisdiction, in its quadrennial planning, beginning at its next Ordinary Chapter, is to define, approve and enact a concrete plan and commitment to contribute annually to the to-be established *Fund Designated for Formation Expenses* in the poorer areas of the Order.

³⁷ *Message of the Holy Father Francis to the Second International Symposium* (on the economy of Institutes), September 25-27, 2016: It is crucial that “we ask ourselves whether or not our works express the charism we have professed, whether or not they fulfill the mission entrusted to us by the Church. The most important criterion for evaluating works is not their profitability, but whether or not they correspond to the charism and mission which the Institute is called to carry out...”

³⁸ Final letter of the 2011 International Congress of the OFM Conv. in Nairobi, Kenya

6) A Jurisdiction, in accordance with the indications of the local Church³⁹, may decide to initiate a project of human promotion. It may also wish to ensure that the project provides ministerial and employment opportunities for the friars. However, there are two rules that our Capuchin Brothers remind us to follow:

- (a) Structures built with contributions from the economic solidarity of the Order - and of possible benefactors - must become self-supporting by the labor of the friars that work there.⁴⁰.
- (b) Structures shall not be built if the friars are not willing to work there and support it themselves⁴¹.

³⁹ On November 25-27, 2016, the Most Reverend José Rodríguez Carballo, Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, indicated the criteria which must be the basis of future practical choices: “Fidelity to the charism: the use of the works and resources of the Institute at the service of the charism; Safeguarding the ecclesial goods: safeguarding the stable patrimony (and therefore, all the goods needed to guarantee the economic self-sufficiency of the Institute as well as assuring the continuation of its aims); Sustainability of the works: understood as the need for prior examination and confirmation of the capacity of the works to maintain both fidelity to the charism and economic stability at the same time; Capacity of accountability: indicating the objectives and specifying practical ways to achieve them; respecting canon and civil law; being able give an account of the results of the management; Poverty: using goods according to the purposes for which they are intended; distancing from the perception of assets being owned.”

⁴⁰ Cf. OFM Cap. *Eighth Plenary Council of the Order: We Live from Our Work*, no. 28.

⁴¹ *Ibid.* no. 28.

ATTACHMENT 3

BYNODE

The *BYNODE* Development & Cooperation ONLUS [Non-Profit Organization for Social Use] is an initiative of the Order's General Curia. It offers **an innovative way to be faithful to the charism** we inherited from our Seraphic Father St. Francis. In August of 2017, *BYNODE* was legally constituted as an Association and is based at the Seraphicum College in Rome. Its founding members are:

- The General Curia of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual
- The Collegio Serafico San Francesco Association
- The John Paul II Foundation for Development and International Cooperation ONLUS

The Order is a large network with over 600 active friaries around the world. The JP II Foundation has been developing social projects in the Middle East for over 20 years. These two entities have joined their special potential and intentions together. They have *tied the knot*—creating a synergy, which can weave a network of collaboration, in order to implement new projects in the field of Franciscan social entrepreneurship.

BYNODE currently follows three projects in Latin America. Its activity of discerning and verifying proposals together with the Order's *Project Office* is aimed at giving the friars **a new mindset on how to approach their work** in the spirit of the “Manner of Working” set forth in our Rule of Life and the new Constitutions.

These are entrepreneurial projects with social repercussions. They began in **response to the needs in the areas** where the friars live and work. The projects are structured to be **independent and self-supporting** through the work of the friars and the lay people involved. They also aim to provide some significant experiences, to undertake initiatives that help us better understand the world by letting the friars more effectively evangelize the people in this society.

In this way, the General Curia is offering the friars **an effective tool** to expand their horizons, experience and professionalism by **working together with the laity** in a creative way.

The current President of *BYNODE* is Friar Agnello Stoia, Pastor at Rome's Basilica of the Twelve Holy Apostles.

Structurally, *BYNODE* is an operational arm of the Minister General and his Definitory: its operations are carried out through the *Project Office*, which has its own Regulations approved by the General Government.

Once the *BYNODE* Association has received a project from the *Project Office*, which has been approved by the General Definitory, it will make every effort to:

- i. create projects to raise funds from various *donors*;
- ii. implement the work or project;
- iii. follow the project at every stage.