

Venue of the General Chapter of 2015

26. The venue of the next General Chapter of 2015 should be Assisi at Saint Mary of the Angels (Italy).



## CLOSING PRAYER

O Most Holy Father,  
*Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven:*  
so that we may love you with all our heart, always thinking of you,  
with all our soul, always desiring you,  
with all our mind, orienting all our intentions towards you  
and seeking your honour in all things;  
and with all our strength, spending all our energies  
and senses of soul and body in the service of your love and for no other;  
and so that we may be able to love our neighbours as ourselves,  
drawing all, according to our strength, to your love,  
enjoying the goods of others as our own  
and suffering together with them in evil  
and not causing offense to anyone.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



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# RECOLLECTION GUIDE

Franciscan Province of San Pedro Bautista-Philippines  
JUNE 2014



## NEW WINE

in New  
*Wineskins*

**Note:**

**Beginning this month up until September 2014, the Minister Provincial requests all friars of the Province to prayerfully prepare for the General Chapter of the Order in 2015. This month, we shall be discussing the document produced by the OFM Plenary Council held last November 17-30, 2013 in Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland. The Guardian of each friary is requested to facilitate the discussion on the said document and to send the comments of the friars before June 25, 2014. Comments and reactions of the friars may be sent through the email of the Provincial Secretariat: [ofm\\_provsec@yahoo.com](mailto:ofm_provsec@yahoo.com).**

## OPENING HYMN

**COME BUILD MY CHURCH**

Come, build my church,  
it's falling to ruin  
That's what the Father tells me to do  
Give stones and mortar,  
Let's build together  
This lowly house of God

To every town and village and valley  
Preach what the good  
Lord had done for us  
Tell of his mercy, sing of his love  
And glorify his name.

Be poor in spirit and in your living  
Live like the larks and doves up above  
Care not for what this world can provide us  
Trust in God's loving care.

Praise be the Lord.  
Praise be the Lord.  
Praise be the Lord.  
O my soul, O praise the Lord;

*General Secretariat for the  
Missions and Evangelization*

19. Upon the recommendation of General Definitory, the Secretariat of M & E should promote missionary vocations and a policy of “new” missions and “presences” in the Order and prompt reflection on our presence in the world and how to be more prophetic.

**GENERAL CHAPTER 2015***Themes*

20. The General Chapter of 2015 should deal with a few, but “clear” and “well-defined” issues.

21. The issues to be “considered” in view of the General Chapter should be grouped into the following thematic blocks:

– *The identity of the Order*: the life of union with God, fraternity and minority.

– *Evangelical Counsels - vows*: reflection in the light of the Magisterium of the Church, while keeping in mind contemporary culture and current challenges.

– *Formation*: ongoing formation, formation to the service of authority and of Formators as well as formation for the mission.

– *Presence in the world - Evangelization*: being attentive to the marginalized; social awareness; missionary and evangelizing policy; new presences; parochial

prophetic experience; interculturalism; and inter-religious dialogue.

*Instrumentum laboris*

22. The work of the General Chapter should be accompanied by a specific *Instrumentum laboris*, distinct from the Report of the Minister General; it should prepare and guide the reflection of the Chapter.

*Mandates*

23. It would be good that the mandates that the General Chapter will establish should be few, achievable, and sustainable.

*“Interdisciplinary” Study*

24. The PCO suggests to the General Definitory, by involving the various Entities of the Order, to continue the reflection they started on the multidisciplinary work; it should also create an interpretive correlation of the data obtained with the structure of the values of our own life and mission. The results will be presented to the General Chapter of 2015.

25. The General Definitory, by involving the different entities of the Order, should continue the reflection on the interdisciplinary study of the Order, correlating it with the reports of the Visitor General and the sociological study on the Order.

## THE CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

### Structure of the Conference

12. The General Chapter should clarify the “structural role” of the Conferences based on what is provided in the General Constitutions (Art. 227 § 1).

### Composition of the Conference

13. In the Erection or restructuring of a Conference of Provincial Ministers and Custodes, the General Definitory may depart from the minimum number of Entities provided by Art. 200 § 4 of the GGSS, provided that the Conference itself is composed of at least 500 solemnly professed Friars.

### Term of Office of the President of the Conference

14. In order to improve the quality of the leadership of the Conference of Presidents, the term of office for the President should be of three years.

### President of the Conference

15. It is proposed to amend Art. 204 § 2 of the GGSS, so that the Presidents of the Conferences can be a Provincial Minister or a Custos (whether of an independent or dependent Custody).

16. In Accordance with Art. 201b of GGSS, the Presidents of the Conferences, in meetings with the General Definitory, should be

consulted on matters of greater importance to the Order.

## SECRETARIATS AND OFFICES OF THE GENERAL CURIA

### Reflection on the Secretariats, Offices of the Curia and International Councils

17. The General Definitory should verify the current situation of the two General Secretariats (F&S and M&E) and other offices of the Curia, bearing in mind the new dimensions and the powers delegated to them by the Order, redesigning the structure, nature, composition, objectives, and operation. In this review, the review of the respective International Council should also be inserted.

### General Secretariat for Formation and Studies

18. Within the Secretariat General for Formation and Studies, the General Definitory should establish the figure of the Moderator General for Ongoing Formation, with the specific aim to lead the Conferences and Entities, while focusing especially on the Study Centers of the Order.



## CALL TO PRAYER

Cel: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

C: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, He was, he is and he is to come!

A: «You are our Lord and our God, you are worthy of glory and honour and power, because you made all the universe and it was only by your will that everything was made and exists».

C: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, He was, he is and he is to come!

A: «You are worthy to take the scroll and break the seal of it, because you were sacrificed, and with your blood you bought men for God of every race, language, people and nation and made them a line of kings and priests, to serve our God and to rule the world».

C: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, He was, he is and he is to come!

A: «To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever».  
Amen.

## A PRAYER TO PREDISPOSE US TO LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

Come, O Holy Spirit,  
and give us a new heart,  
that will revive in us the gifts received  
with the joy of being Christians,  
a new heart that is  
ever young and happy.  
Come, O Holy Spirit,  
and give us a pure heart,  
trained to love God,  
a pure heart,  
that knows not evil  
except to define it,  
to combat it and flee from it:  
a pure heart,  
like that of a child,  
capable of enthusiasm and trepidation.  
Come, O Holy Spirit,  
and give us a big heart,  
open to your silence and  
powerful inspiring word,  
and closed to all petty ambition,  
a strong heart to love all,  
to serve all, to suffer with all;  
a big, strong heart,  
blessed only to beat  
with the heart of God.  
Amen.



## GOSPEL READING:

### A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

The disciples of John approached Jesus and said, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast (much), but your disciples do not fast?” Jesus answered them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunk cloth, for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse. People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Note:** *After a brief moment of silence, the friars shall discuss and present their reactions on the following proposals made by the Plenary Council of the Order which shall be presented at the General Chapter in 2015 before they become Capitular decisions.*

## DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSALS

### ELECTION OF A LAY BROTHER

*Election of the solemnly professed lay brother as a legitimate voice at the General Chapter*

1. Each Conference of Provincial Ministers shall elect a laybrother as a legitimate voice to the General Chapter (cf. GGSS 142 §3). Among the Conferences with more than 500 solemnly professed friars a second lay brother per Conference is to be elected, in order to give greater meaning to the number of lay brothers being represented.
2. Each Conference shall determine the procedures for the appointment of

the lay brother (or lay brothers) who will attend the General Chapter.

### MINISTER GENERAL

#### *Term of Office*

3. The office of Minister General has a duration of six years, renewable for another six years. A re-election will require the qualified majority (i.e., two thirds of the votes cast in the first ballot).

#### *Vacancy of the Office*

4. In case of vacancy of the office of the Minister General in the “first three-year period”, the Minister shall be elected in accordance with the current legislation *within two*

*months* (cf. GGCC 201 §1), but with the previous consultation and presentation of candidates by the Conference. If the office becomes vacant in the “second three-year period”, he will be replaced by the Vicar General *ad complendum sessennium*.

#### *Visiting the Entities*

5. The Minister General, during the six-year period, should possibly visit all the Entities of the Order, spending enough quality time with them. To help achieve this – because of the symbolic value which the visit has to strengthen the sense of belonging to the Order and in order to give confidence and hope to the Friars – it is considered important to prepare for the visit. For this reason, it is determined that the General Definitory and the Offices of the General Curia should cooperate in preparing for the visit, stating the contents and topics to be addressed in dialogue with the Entity.

#### *Entities and Dependent House*

6. The Entities and the Houses dependent “directly” on the Minister General should be entrusted by “ordinary government” to the responsibility of the Vicar General, so as to “facilitate” the service of the same Minister to the universal fraternity.
7. The General Definitory should constitute a commission for the study of juridical and legal issues (civil and criminal) of Houses and entities directly dependent on the

Minister General, in order to protect the Order and the same person of the Minister General.

### PROVINCIAL MINISTER AND CUSTOS

#### *Term of office*

8. It is proposed to amend Art. 182 of GGSS, namely, that the Provincial Minister may be re-elected for a second term, for the duration of six years, but on the condition that it has the qualified majority (i.e., two thirds of the votes cast in the first ballot).
9. The term of office of the Custos of an “Autonomous Custody” is equated to that of the Provincial Minister.

#### *Formation of Provincial Ministers and Custodes*

10. The General Definitory should continue to organize formation sessions for the new Provincial Ministers and Custodes at the beginning of the mandate.
11. The General Definitory should provide, during the course of the mandate, an accompaniment/assessment for the service provided.

