



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

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Rome, May 8, 2015

*Blessed Virgin Mary, Mediatrix of all graces.*

To the National Councils OFS and Franciscan Youth  
To all brothers and sisters of the OFS and Franciscan Youth

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace and all good, Alleluia!!

I greet you with the renewed joy brought to us by the recent celebrations of Easter, which have nourished our faith in the Risen Lord and strengthen our commitment to our mission, which calls us to face challenges and assume responsibilities in today's world, relying on the permanent grace that flows from Christ's Paschal Mystery.

Following our Circular letter of last February 2nd, which accompanied the Conclusions of our XIV General and VI Elective Chapter of the OFS, I now provide you with the following guidelines for the study of the documents of the Chapter and with the directions on how and when you should be sending your feedback to the CIOFS Presidency:

WORKING METHOD PROPOSED FOR THE FORTHCOMING THREE YEAR PERIOD

- I. The main theme of the Chapter "**How should an Order like the OFS be managed at all its levels**", presented in two parts at the Chapter by Benedetto Lino and Tibor Kauser, is a working material and should not be considered a guideline or mandatory instruction from the CIOFS Presidency. Nevertheless, this document together with the General Chapter Conclusion should become the framework for the formation, reflection, and study of all professed brothers and sisters in the OFS and Franciscan Youth for the next three years. (These documents are attached to this Circular).
- II. Each National Fraternity shall adopt whatever method they deem suitable to realize a joint reflection and shall collect the most workable and significant proposals, along with the corresponding motivations. You will find below some questions which could be used for discussion among brothers and sisters.
- III. Proposals should be sent to the CIOFS Secretariat, [ciofs@ciofs.org](mailto:ciofs@ciofs.org), by May, 2016. These proposals should be submitted in one of the four official languages, English, Spanish, Italian or French, and should not be more than two pages long, containing an average of one thousand words.

- IV. An *ad hoc* Commission appointed by the CIOFS Presidency will integrate the most significant proposals into a conclusive document which will be sent to all National fraternities in preparation for the 2017 General Chapter. This conclusive document will be distributed six months before the 2017 General Chapter, to be circulated among the largest possible number of brothers and sisters.
- V. The conclusive document will be presented as the *Instrumentum Laboris* at the 2017 General Chapter to be discussed and voted in order to become an official document to be implemented throughout the Order.

Questions suggested for discussion among brothers and sisters:

1. In light of the documents sent to you (2014 Chapter's main theme and Conclusions) and based on your own analysis,
  - a. What are the main strengths (5 at the most) of your National Fraternity in terms of managing the Order?
  - b. What are the main weaknesses (5 at the most) of your National Fraternity in terms of managing the Order?
2. What are the five priorities (most important and urgent aspects or areas) that your National Fraternity should work on in order to improve the management of the Order and the concrete goals that you propose in order to carry out those five priorities? (Think of all levels of your National Fraternity).
3. Based on the said documents and your experience of the International Order
  - a. What are the three main **strengths** in the management of the OFS at the International level?
  - b. What are the three main **challenges** in the management of the OFS at the International level?
4. What do you think should be the three priorities for the improvement of the management of the Order at the International level and what specific proposals do you have for each one of those?

Asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts and guide our efforts, so that we may have a fruitful work for the benefit of the whole OFS and Franciscan Youth, I remain,

Fraternally,

Your brother and Minister,



Tibor Kauser,  
OFS General Minister

Att. n. 2