

Rome. October 20, 2011

To Provincial Ministers and Custodes  
and all Assistants and Presidents of the OSC-OIC Presidency

May the Lord give you peace!

I am writing on behalf of the Commission for Contemplation of the Order, in order to present the proposal approved by the Minister General and his Definitory, so as to enhance the contemplative dimension of the Friars Minor guided by the example of St. Francis of Assisi on the occasion of the centenary of St. Clare. In our historical and cultural situation, we must be given time to share our experiences of God in Fraternities, as Friars Minor and Poor Sisters, in the complementary gift of fraternity, minority, contemplation, and mission.

The title of the proposal is:

**SEATED TOGETHER (Cfr. *LFI* XV)**  
**HAVING THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD AND HIS HOLY WORKINGS (*Rb* X, 8)**

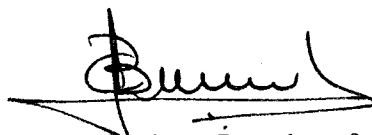
What inspired us to make this proposal were the meeting of St. Francis and St. Clare at Saint Mary of the Angels – as told by the *Little Flowers* XV –, the text of the Gospel of Luke (Lk 10, 38-42), and the Rule of life in hermitages (0.1 to 2 RHer). We recommend that you implement this proposal during the year 2012 to mark the centenary of the founding of the Second Order. In this way, we will be stopping at the feet of Jesus, after the example of Mary of Bethany, in order to taste *our talking about God as our first dish while humbly seated together around the table...* (cf. *LFI* XV). We need to say yes to the desire to meet as brothers and allow us to be shaped by the power of contemplation.

The Commission shall provide to the Provincial Ministers and Custodes, the Assistants and the Presidents of the Federations, a guide (see appendix) to organize and schedule meetings at the local, Provincial or Conference level. The Commission suggests that each meeting should preferably have a small number of participants in order to encourage prayer as well as mutual sharing and enrichment. Furthermore it requests that:

- To send a final summary of each meeting with the assessments and proposals;
- To specify some useful elements to start gradually a Franciscan-Clarian school of prayer (Mandate 9) that is able to propose a Franciscan itinerary of contemplation and help our life in fraternity and minority to be more centered in God and more fruitful in its evangelizing mission (Mand 13).

Another element that can help us revive the contemplative dimension is to get a rich bibliography on the subject according to the Franciscan vision and tradition. For this reason we strongly urge our brothers and sisters to send what has been written in different languages on the subject in order to be able to put it on the website of the Order. The conclusions of the meetings and the bibliographic contributions that you will send to the Commission for Contemplation or to the OFM General Curia or the brothers Definitors will be very much appreciated.

We, therefore, entrust our proposal to the Holy Mother of God, Queen and Protectress of the Franciscan Family.  
Fraternally.



Br. Julio Cesar Bunader, ofm  
*Definitor General*  
*President of the Commission for Contemplation*