



ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM
MINISTER GENERALIS

Curia Generale dei Frati Minori (OFM), Via S. Maria Mediatrice 25, 00165 Roma - Italia. Tel. +39.06.684919

Fax. +39.06.632247 - eMail: mingen@ofm.org

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Dear Ministers Provincial and Custodes,
Assistants and Presidents of OSC and OIC Federations

May the Lord give you Peace!

The Commission for the Contemplation of the Order, which aims both to encourage and strengthen the contemplative dimension of the Friars Minor, has prepared a joint proposal to the Contemplative Brothers and Sisters (Poor Clares and Conceptionists), entitled "*Sitting Together. Having the Spirit of the Lord and His Holy Manner of Working*". Its goal is to share the experience of God and the world of faith in fraternity.

In this centenary year of the Founding of the Poor Clares and the fifth centenary of the approval of the Rule of the Order of the Immaculate Conception, I believe this proposal is a good initiative to deepen and strengthen our charismatic ties by attending the school of prayer and contemplation together. If prayer is a dialogue and not a monologue of a man before God, then sharing dialogue of contemplative prayer will open us to a communion in the essentials of our charismatic heritage and will help us expand our external reality. This will be so because we have first looked within, in the depth of the soul, and above, beyond the soul to God. This contemplative gaze in fraternity of Brothers and Sisters, will then become an encounter. Even then, it "is not sufficient to maintain the 'gaze' and 'know the testimonies of God', unless one constantly draws and drinks of the springs of eternal light" (St. Augustine, En. In Ps. 118, XXVI, 6).

I encourage all Brothers and Sisters to endorse passionately this proposal by the Commission, while I urge you to find time for this community gathering of family, so that we can grow in "the Spirit of the Lord and His holy manner of working" (LR, 8).

I enclose here the letter of the President of the Commission for Contemplation of the Order, which presents the proposal and a guide for organizing and scheduling meetings at the Local, Provincial, or Conference level.

Your Minister and Servant,



Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, ofm
Minister General OFM