



ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

SECRETARIATUS GENERALIS PRO EVANGELIZATIONE

Curia Generale dei Frati Minori (OFM)

Via di Santa Maria Mediatrix 25, 00165 Roma - Italia. Tel. +39 06 68491.232/338/201

Secretariat Evangelizationis Missionalis: eMail: missgen@ofm.org - evangen@ofm.org

Rome, 8th December 2023

TO BROTHERS MEMBERS of CEME and CIME,

Dear Brothers,

A warm Franciscan greeting of Peace and All good!

This letter convokes all 13 Secretaries of the Conferences forming the International Council for Mission Evangelization (CIME) along with the 4 members of the Executive Commission for Missions and Evangelization (CEME) for a **joint CIME-CEME meeting** with the main goal of continuing the crafting of the **Ratio Evangelization for the Order** (REO) which we started in our last gathering on March 22-24, 2022, in the General Curia, Rome. As mandated by the OFM General Chapter 2021 (Guideline 20), we convene with the following instructions:

Date: May 26 to June 2, 2024

Place: House of the Fraternity in Istanbul, Turkey

Theme: *"Having the Spirit of the Lord and his holy operations (Reg B 10:8) – an invitation to reflect on the proposed Ratio Evangelization of the Order given our context..."*

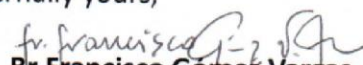
Objectives:

1. To review the Particular Statutes of the General Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization, especially on the identity of existing structures, as well as the present directions it now pursues.
2. To be able to continue drafting the REO as guided by the working structure approved by the General Administration in the circumstances of our context, to strengthen its different relevant dimensions, and to challenge and make an appeal to the global fraternity for a renewed impetus to do distinctively our Franciscan evangelizing mission.

Task: The guide questions with detailed instructions are given as an attachment for all the Secretaries of Missions and Evangelization in each entity of your Conference to answer and follow. You are to distribute, collect, and summarize their answers, to present them for not more than 15 minutes during this meeting. A detailed program of activities for the meeting will be sent later. We are giving you these materials this early so that you can immediately start processing your needed travel documents, as well as do the requested tasks for this joint meeting.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Fraternally yours,


Br Francisco Gomez Vargas, OFM




Br Dennis Tupas Tayo, OFM

JOINT CIME - CEME MEETING

After the CIME meeting in March 2022 and after the appointment of the Executive Commission for Mission and Evangelization (CEME), the instrumentum laboris for the Ratio Evangelizationis was presented to the whole Order and 70 OFM Entities sent in their responses. From these responses, a proposed structure was drafted and presented by a group of experts and submitted to the General Government, a structure consisting of two main parts. We are sending the structure approved by the General Government as an attachment, which the various experts are still processing to prepare a draft document.

REO, PART 1

Part 1 deals with the principles common to all, and please answer the following questions:

1. Do you think the first part of the structure of the Ratio Evangelizationis for the Order (REO) is useful, applicable, and challenging in your context? Please explain your answer.
2. Are there any clarifications, suggestions, or comments to report on the structure presented?

REO, PART 2.

Part 2 considers the context of the Fraternity. From the second part of this structure, we invite you to:

1. List the possible avenues of missionary evangelization in which your entity/conference is involved.
2. In your entity/conference, how do you strengthen and/or enable this ministry from the charismatic identity? For example, with regard to youth culture and the digital continent, parishes/sanctuaries, in the world of health, education, culture and science, etc.
3. How can you strengthen Franciscan missionary evangelization in these dimensions in your context? If possible, cite Order or Church documents to support your responses/reflections, e.g., silent witness of life that renews our presences, presence and proclamation among and with the poor our teachers, presence in post-secularized and post-Christian environments, presence and dialogue between Christians and non-Christians, mission for reconciliation and peace, co-responsibility in mission with the laity and with the Franciscan Family.
4. How should you witness, proclaim, and do your mission as Friars Minor in your realities? What do you want to appeal to challenge the world fraternity for a "renewed impetus" to carry out a "distinctively Franciscan" evangelizing mission?
5. How do you witness the Gospel in an entity or a fraternity of elderly or "burned out" brothers?

Finally, we kindly ask you to also submit a written summary of all the responses collected, by **May 02, 2024**. This is in addition to submitting a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation for the Joint Meeting.

The development of the REO is a great challenge that we all face. Alone we can do little, but together we can do much more. Thank you for your cooperation.

Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization

PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE *RATIO EVANGELIZATIONIS*

(Minister and General Definitory)

FIRST PART

I. THE FRATERNAL SPIRITUALITY OF FRANCIS

"THE LORD REVEALED TO ME THAT I MUST LIVE ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL".
(2TEST 14)

- The call to live according to the Gospel: *witnesses as brothers*
- Subject and subservient to every creature under heaven: *witnesses as minors*
- Sent to proclaim the gospel on the road: *witnesses and missionary disciples*

Chapter I presents the roots and motivations of evangelization from the fraternal call of Francis and his companions, in the style of minors, sent as witnesses through life and as missionary disciples when it pleases the Lord.

II. LETTING ONESELF BE EVANGELIZED

"THE LORD CONDUCTED ME AMONG THEM AND MADE MISERICORDY WITH THEM" (2Test 2)

- The source of the evangelizing mission: *the missio Dei and Jesus' plan*
- The call to evangelizing mission: *baptized and sent into the Church*
- The space of evangelizing mission: *our cloister is the world*

Chapter II presents the missio Dei as the source of evangelization, in which we participate through baptism, open to the world, which God loves, and in which his Spirit precedes us in mission.

III. IN THE WORLD AND THE CULTURES IN WHICH WE LIVE

"THE LORD HAS SENT YOU ALL OVER THE WORLD" (LOrd 9)

- The method of missionary evangelization: *contemplative in reality*
- The subjects of missionary evangelization: *with all the baptized*
- The style of missionary evangelization: *listening to the Spirit in cultures*

Chapter III presents the world as the field of evangelizing mission, which asks us to be contemplatives among the diversity, complexity, and richness of the signs of the times, protagonists with all the baptized in a truly synodal sense and open to listening to the Spirit, who from within cultures lets the newness of the Gospel and the call to faith emerge.

IV. WITNESSING IN THE NEWNESS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"AND THEY MUST REJOICE WHEN THEY LIVE AMONG PEOPLE OF LITTLE WORTH, FRAIL, DESPISED, INFIRM, LEPERS AND BEGGARS IN THE STREETS."

(Reg NB 9:2)

- Evangelization and witness: *behaving spiritually among men*
- Evangelization and life: *caring for life/creation-ecology*
- Evangelization as brothers and minors: *prophetic fraternity in the world*

Chapter IV presents the newness of the call to evangelization as a fraternity in the perspective of the Kingdom of God, which makes us pilgrims among all, capable of care for each other and the common home, and ready to accept and respond to the prophetic call to proclaim God's word about the world, for the salvation of all.

V. ON THE ROAD TO FORMATION

"LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?" (3Comp 6, FF 1070)

- Called and sent: *integrating formation and evangelizing mission*
- Ongoing formation: *in evangelizing mission with the people of God*
- Initial formation: *to learn a style of communion and synodality*

Chapter V presents the link between formation and evangelization, to be deepened in our mentality and practices.

SECOND PART

I. CHOICES.

"HAVING THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD AND HIS HOLY OPERATION." (RegB 10:8)

- The places of our evangelizing mission
 - *Evangelizing in youth cultures and the digital continent*
 - *Evangelize in parishes*
 - *Evangelize in sanctuaries*
 - *Evangelize in education*
 - *Evangelize in the world of culture and science*
 - *Evangelize in the world of health*
- Some dimensions of our evangelizing mission
 - *The silent witness of life by renewing our presences.*
 - *Presence and proclamation among and with the poor, our teachers*
 - *Presence in post-secularized and post-Christian environments*
 - *The presence and dialogue between Christians and non-Christians*
 - *The mission for reconciliation and peace*
 - *Co-responsibility for mission with the laity and with the Franciscan Family*

II. CONCLUSIONS, APPEALS AND INVITATIONS

"I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO, MAY THE LORD TEACH YOU YOURS" (LM XIV3, 1239)

- Witness, proclamation, and mission: different faces of evangelization
- Our evangelizing mission in different contexts and realities in the world
- A renewed impetus for the evangelizing mission