



Missionary Discernment Worksheet

Ongoing Formation - Fragility

Facilitator: Secretary for Initial and Ongoing Formation of the Conference and his counterparts in each of the Entities.

This worksheet is provided as a practical tool to facilitate a process of listening aimed at fostering missionary discernment, which will help to enrich the preparatory journey towards the General Chapter of 2027. The worksheet suggests holding one or more working sessions involving a group of friars previously selected by the facilitator of each Entity (for example: Guardians, friars who have recently made Solemn Profession, or even a group of friars in Initial Formation), namely by the Secretary for Ongoing Formation of the Entity.

Those involved in the work should receive the worksheet before the meeting, together with the Letter of Introduction to the process, so that they may prepare themselves through personal reflection and discernment. The facilitator should establish the timetable before the group gathers to engage in communal discernment.

The worksheet proposes three phases of work, in accordance with the stages of discernment. The first phase, involving personal work, asks participants to share an interpretation of the signs of the times and places, *recognising* in them the initial elements useful for discernment.

The second phase asks participants to *interpret* what emerges in the light of the charism; the third phase calls for an *operational synthesis* of what has been shared in the first two phases, highlighting the guidelines to be proposed to the General Chapter.

Each phase proposes a number of questions to stimulate personal reflection and to identify the elements perceived as important to bring into the discernment. It then suggests engaging in a discussion leading to a synthesis; it is recommended that this synthesis be arrived at by taking into account what recurs with the greatest frequency and convergence, whilst

also considering those prophetic intuitions recognised as valid and bearing evangelical and charismatic potential.

HOW SHALL WE PROCEED?

1. The summary of the work carried out in each Entity (Province or Custody) should be prepared in writing and sent to the facilitator of the Conference by 10 October 2026.
2. The facilitator of the Conference will organise a meeting with his counterparts to discuss the experience of the work carried out in each Entity. As a result of this meeting, which may take place either in person or online, a process of gathering information and preparing a synthesis will be undertaken according to the indications provided by those responsible for the methodology. The deadline for these meetings is 1 November 2026.
3. The facilitator of the Conference will transmit the results of this worksheet to the President and Secretary of the Conference, providing a unified style and preparing a synthesis according to the outline established by the methodological team. This synthesis will be sent to the Preparatory Commission of the Instrumentum Laboris by 29 November 2026.

PRIOR PERSONAL WORK

Fragility is not merely a condition to be overcome, but a theological space to be inhabited, and this sensitivity to fragility challenges the Order of Friars Minor today on multiple levels.

On a personal level: the vocational crises, weariness and departures affecting many entities are not merely problems to be resolved, but signs to be interpreted and accompanied.

At the community level: intercultural tensions, generational conflicts, and the difficulties of communal life are the real terrain where evangelical fraternity is played out.

At the institutional level: the decline in numbers in some areas, economic fragility, and the complexity of governance require not technical solutions, but a conversion of the heart.

OPENING PHASE – RECOGNISING



In the light of the signs of the times and places

In a space of personal prayer, reflect on the following questions:

- How do I live with fragility in my life as a man? How does Franciscan life help me to live with my fragility?
- Where do I experience struggle, loneliness, and a disconnect between my fragility and the Franciscan life?
- What fragilities do I experience at the community level? In intercultural and intergenerational relationships, and in internalised patterns?

Please write a brief reflection (5 lines maximum) below on each of the three questions.

1)

2)

3)





EXPLORATION PHASE – INTERPRETING

In the light of the charism:

- ▶ A round of sharing what has emerged from the personal work (4 minutes per person).

Next

- ▶ Reflect on the most important aspects emerging at a personal and community level.

How should we interpret what has emerged on a personal level (questions 1 and 2)? Summarise with a maximum of 3 points:

1)

2)

3)

How should the findings regarding the community plan (question 3) be interpreted? List a maximum of 3 summary points:

1)

2)

3)



SUMMARY STAGE – CHOOSE

Towards God's future:

We are now called to draw up guidelines for the future, having the courage to inspire choices and raise questions so that the capitulars are enabled to deepen the debate.

► **Guidelines for the Order:**

What suggestions would you bring to the attention of the General Chapter for 'following Christ and proclaiming the Gospel today towards God's future', in light of what emerged from the discussion on the theme of fragility?

