



Preparation worksheet for the 2027 General Chapter

Local Chapters

This worksheet is provided to individual fraternities as a tool for preparing for the theme of the 2027 General Chapter.

The theme of the Chapter centres on evangelisation and is aimed at opening the Order decisively towards the future. Below, we share the general theme, describe the main axes that should structure the work of the Chapter, and list the topics that we hope may be addressed as subjects for discernment.

**Friars Minor on mission:
following Christ and proclaiming the Gospel today towards God's
future *Following the Gospel of Christ amidst technology, pluralism
and human frailty for a prophetic Franciscan presence in our time.***

*"Behold, I am with you always
until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20)*

This resource is designed for Local Chapters and is structured in three phases, in line with the stages of discernment. The first phase invites us to recognise, on an anthropological and kairological level, the action of the Spirit in the world. The second phase asks us to *interpret* what emerged in the first phase in the light of the charism. Finally, the third phase asks us to draw from what has been shared in the first two phases some prophetic perspectives as Friars Minor on a mission towards God's future.

After sharing the discernment within the fraternities, each fraternity is asked to send to the Provincial Minister, before the end of October 2026, a written summary of no more than 10 lines highlighting three key words.

The Provincial Minister, together with the Provincial Secretary and any others whom they may wish to involve, should prepare a synthesis of no more than two pages, gathering the most recurring ideas and the

aspirations of the friars in order to project the life of the Province and of the Order towards the future.

This work should be sent, together with the syntheses of the other four worksheets, by 1 November 2026 to the Presidents and Secretaries of the Conferences, who in turn will prepare a further synthesis according to the methodological guidelines.

This synthesis must be sent to the Preparatory Commission of the Instrumentum Laboris no later than 29 November 2026.

WORKSHEET FOR THE LOCAL CHAPTER

OPENING PHASE – RECOGNISING



In the light of the signs of the times and places

As we listen to the title of the General Chapter, let us reflect on what resonates within us regarding the following statement:

“Proclaiming the Gospel today amidst technology, pluralism and human frailty”

Some guiding questions:

- What challenges does the world present to us today as Franciscan friars in the places where we live? Cultural, technological, social challenges...
- What frailties do we encounter in the world around us? Which young people? Which poor? Which marginalised?
- What does pluralism and cultural relativity mean we can no longer communicate in the same way as we did in the past? Which words, actions and structures are no longer relevant to life?

Allow 5 minutes of silence for personal reflection

- Sharing round (3 minutes per person)

EXPLORATION PHASE – INTERPRETING



In the light of the charism:

In light of the reflections that emerged in the first round, let us now reflect on the following statement:

Friars Minor on mission: for a prophetic Franciscan presence in our time.

Some guiding questions:

- Which charismatic dimensions can respond in a vital and creative way to the challenges this world presents to us?
- How can minority be lived out in our world?
- How can fraternity be a challenge and a source of meaning for today's reality?

There is a 5-minute period of silence for personal meditation

- A round of sharing on what emerged from the personal reflection (3 minutes per person).

SUMMARY PHASE – CHOOSING



Towards God's future:

We are now called to reflect, in the light of what has emerged so far, on what enlightens us regarding God's future, his ongoing creative action which summons us where we live to active participation in the light of our charism.

Some guiding questions:

- What are we called to place at the centre of our charismatic action?
- Which choices can we no longer put off?
- What are we called to leave behind or abandon?
- What do we feel today, as Franciscan friars on mission, to be more essential, more beautiful, greater, more attractive and at the same time more necessary for the proclamation (EG 35)?

A period of 5 minutes' silence is allowed for personal meditation

- A round of sharing on what emerged from the personal reflection (3 minutes per person).