

**ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR
EAST ASIA CONFERENCE
YOUNG FRIARS GATHERING 2025
FINAL STATEMENT AND RESOLUTIONS**



PROVINCE OF THE HOLY KOREAN MARTYRS · SOUTH KOREA
SEPTEMBER 4-13, 2025

**“FROM PRAISE TO MISSION:
YOUNG FRANCISCANS IN ASIA
JOURNEYING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE
TOWARD A RENEWED CREATION**

Order of Friars Minor – East Asia Conference
Young Friars Gathering 2025
Final Statement and Resolutions
Province of the Holy Korean Martyrs – South Korea
September 4–13, 2025

Theme: “From Praise to Mission: Young Franciscans in Asia Journeying as Pilgrims of Hope Toward a Renewed Creation”

“Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (Rom 5:5)

We, the 16 young friars of the East Asia Conference, coming from the Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea, representing our provinces and missionary entities, gathered here in the land of faith and sacrifice to renew our Franciscan calling as pilgrims of hope. In this Jubilee Year of Hope and on the 800th anniversary of the Canticum of the Creatures, we came not as isolated provinces but as one international fraternity, carrying the wounds and dreams of our peoples, the cries of creation, and the hopes of the universal Church.

During these days in South Korea, we encountered not only one another but also the living faith of the Korean people. In the shrines of the martyrs, we were reminded of the courage of those who bore witness to Christ even to the shedding of blood. In the nursing homes and the leprosarium, we touched the wounds of Christ in the vulnerable, learning that true fraternity is born when we dare to embrace weakness with compassion. In the novitiate house and parish communities, we witnessed the hope and vitality of the friars who continue to plant the Franciscan charism in Korean soil despite challenges of secularization and decline. At the Franciscan Education Center and formation houses, we saw the friars’ quiet yet powerful contribution to the life of the Church and society. These encounters revealed to us that fraternity is not bound by geography but animated by the Spirit, who makes us one.

Walking as pilgrims through Seoul, Incheon, Daejeon, Jangseong, Sancheong, and Haemi, we discovered along the way the beauty of Franciscan life lived in diverse contexts. Each visit, each prayer, each shared meal and recreation became a moment of grace. The faces of the Korean people and the witness of our brothers serving here spoke to us with prophetic clarity: that the Franciscan way of life—grounded in minority, simplicity, and joyful presence—remains a powerful sign of hope.

Seeing these realities, we discerned them in the light of the Gospel and our Franciscan charism. We were reminded that our vocation is not to remain enclosed but to live among the people, in solidarity with the poor, in dialogue with cultures and religions, and in joyful witness even in places where Christians are a minority. We recognized the challenges of our Order: vibrant growth in some regions, fragility in others, and the call to ensure that our witness is measured not in numbers but in the quality of our life—simplicity, fraternity, and compassion. We rediscovered that vulnerability is not a hindrance but a privileged space for encounter with God and with one another. Weakness shared becomes fraternity, and fraternity becomes hope. Creation itself spoke to us through the words of *Laudato Si’* and the Canticum of the Creatures: the earth is not a resource to be exploited but our family, calling us to a radical ecological conversion. And through the words of our Minister General, we were invited to remember that our true General is the Holy Spirit as St. Francis of Assisi taught us, and still teaching us to listen, to discern, and to have missionary courage.

As the fruit of our gathering, prayer, immersion, and reflection, we the EAC young friars of under ten resolves to:

- Deepen inter-provincial collaboration, through shared formation, missionary exchanges, and cooperation, moving beyond provincialism toward a stronger Asian Franciscan witness.
- Live ecological conversion in our daily life, by practicing simplicity, reducing consumption, recycling, and advocating for creation, embracing kinship with all creatures.
- Embody prophetic witnesses of fraternity, living minority and simplicity, and standing with the poor, the youth, and the marginalized as signs of hope.
- Foster dialogue and peacebuilding, promoting reconciliation across cultures and contexts, making our international and missionary fraternities prophetic signs of unity.
- Commit to ongoing formation and support, nurturing one another through prayer, mentoring, accompaniment, and safe spaces for growth.
- Live the Gospel joyfully, proclaiming hope, love, and peace with courage and creativity, carrying the Jubilee 2025 message that “hope does not disappoint.”
- Proclaim as young Franciscans in Asia that we are pilgrims of hope, committed to fraternity without borders, ecological conversion, and prophetic witness for justice, peace, and creation.

We give thanks to the Province of the Holy Korean Martyrs for their warm hospitality and generous witness, which allowed us to walk in the footsteps of the martyrs and experience the richness of Korean Franciscan life. We are deeply grateful to the leadership of the East Asian Conference and the EAC Ministers, whose support and encouragement made this gathering possible. We acknowledge with fraternal appreciation the service of the EAC Secretariat for Formation and Studies, for their commitment and initiatives. We also thank the Provincial Secretariat, the Secretariat for Formation and Studies, and the friars of Korea for their service, dedication, generosity, and fraternal care in hosting us. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the friars, formators, and communities who welcomed us into their fraternities, parishes, and ministries, and to the people of South Korea who opened their hearts to us with kindness and faith. We are especially grateful to our Minister General for his message and fraternal prayers, and to the Definitor General for Asia and Oceania for his presence and inspiration during his talk. We thank the speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise, helping us discern and reflect during these days. Finally, we are grateful to our provinces and missionary entities for sending us to this gathering, strengthening our bonds as brothers and deepening our shared mission.

As young Franciscans in Asia, we affirm with St. Francis that our life begins in praise and flows into mission. With courage and humility, we go forth renewed committed to being brothers to all, defenders of creation, companions of the poor, and witnesses of hope. Hope is born when we dare to be vulnerable, to listen deeply, and to live as brothers to all creation. In communion with the universal Church celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope and the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures, we pledge to journey From Praise to Mission.

"Let us begin again, for up to now we have done little." – St. Francis of Assisi

Order of Friars Minor

East Asia Conference Young Friars Gathering 2025 Delegates