



FINAL STATEMENT

Foundation Assembly 2026

OFM Foundation of St. Joseph Vaz – Sri Lanka

Kandy, Sri Lanka | April 27–29, 2026

We, the friars of the OFM Foundation of St. Joseph Vaz in Sri Lanka, gathered in Assembly in Kandy from April 27 to 29, 2026, recognize this moment as a grace-filled encounter with the Lord, who calls us to renewal and to begin again in fidelity to the Gospel. Celebrated within the 8th Centenary of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi, this Chapter has been a time of prayer, discernment, and recommitment to our Franciscan life and mission.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the fidelity and perseverance of the brothers, the steady growth of our presence in a minority Church, and the signs of hope among our aspirants and the young people entrusted to us. At the same time, we recognize the fragility of our situation: limited vocations, shortage of personnel, and the need for a clearer missionary identity. We see the urgency of strengthening our fraternal life through fidelity to common prayer, shared life, and honest communication, as well as ensuring transparency and accountability in the stewardship of our resources.

In the light of the Gospel and inspired by St. Francis, we reaffirm that our first vocation is to be lesser brothers, living the Gospel in fraternity, minority, and simplicity. We recognize that our fraternity itself is our first mission. Thus, we hear anew the call to deeper conversion—to rebuild communion, renew our contemplative life, and begin again from the heart.

Guided by this discernment, we commit ourselves to the following priorities:

Formation. We commit to strengthening holistic and discerning formation, including the restructuring of the aspirancy into a broader pastoral care for young boys, improved recruitment and screening, strengthening of the Formation Team, adequate staffing of formation houses, promotion of ongoing formation, and the implementation of safeguarding measures.

Mission and Evangelization. We commit to prioritizing presence among the poor and marginalized, continuing the Beragala mission and exploring new mission possibilities, promoting interreligious dialogue, and ensuring that all mission partnerships, including the Surol Leper Ministry, are guided by clarity, justice, and fidelity to our charism.

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation. We affirm our commitment to integrate JPIC into all aspects of our life and ministry as an essential expression of our Franciscan vocation.

Fraternal Life and Governance. We commit to renewing the primacy of fraternity through common prayer, shared life, and a concrete Project of Life in each fraternity. We seek to foster a culture of fraternal charity, accountability, and transparent communication, while strengthening leadership in communion with the Province of San Pedro Bautista.



Stewardship and Administration. We commit to establishing a unified financial system, ensuring transparency and accountability in all resources, and promoting simplicity and equity in accordance with our Franciscan values.

With grateful hearts, we thank God for His guiding presence throughout this Chapter. We express our deep gratitude to **Br. Lino Gregorio V. Redoblado, OFM**, Minister Provincial, for his paternal guidance and support, and to **Br. Hippolitus Vinodharshan Benedict, OFM**, for his dedicated service as Foundation President. We thank all the brothers for their fidelity and sacrifices in sustaining the mission.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the aspirants, collaborators, benefactors, and friends who support our life and ministry, as well as the local Church in Sri Lanka for its welcome and partnership. We are especially grateful to the Province of San Pedro Bautista for its continued accompaniment and support.

In humility, we ask forgiveness for our shortcomings and renew our commitment to walk together in unity.

Entrusting ourselves to the Lord, we embrace this Assembly as a true beginning. Renewed in spirit and strengthened in fraternity, we commit ourselves to live as lesser brothers—witnessing to the Gospel in humility, simplicity, and hope.

With St. Francis, we say:

“Let us begin again, brothers, for up to now we have done little.”

May the Lord give us peace.