

Letter

from the Minister General for

PENTECOST 2025



To all Friars Minor of the Order
To the Poor Clare and Conceptionist Sisters
To the Franciscan Sisters affiliated with the Order
To Franciscan lay men and women



ORDO FRATRUM
MINORUM



Rome, 29th May, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you His peace!

We prepare to celebrate Pentecost, a day so dear to Saint Francis who saw in the Holy Spirit the true Minister General of the Order. On this day we entrust ourselves once again to the “Lord who gives life” and invoke with faith his holy operation (Rule 10,8) upon us and upon all humanity: *Praised be You, my Lord, for those who forgive for Your love!*

The Spirit who makes all things new

In this hour of history, when humanity is crossed by the dense clouds of war, violence and injustice, we urgently need the Spirit who “*makes all things new.*” Our heart turns with particular sorrow and tenderness toward the little ones and the marginalized of history: defenceless civilians and especially children in Gaza, in Ukraine, in Eastern Congo, in Myanmar, in Haiti, in Sudan and in so many other places where most serious conflicts are being fought, together with many stories of resistance and peace.

It is not easy to continue hoping while we are pilgrims in this painful history that, humanly speaking, seems without meaning and way out. We witness peace tables that conclude nothing, and we don’t know what to expect. But it is precisely here that the Spirit of the Lord reaches us to shake us from habituation, resignation and indifference. Let us unite in different ways with people of good will so as not to forget the victims of every conflict and the cry for peace that rises from the human desert in which we walk. Let us say with faith: *Praised be You, my Lord, for all Your creatures!*

Jerusalem, city of peace

The Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon Jerusalem, city of peace. What is being consumed in that blessed Land has particular weight for the entire world. We believe that peace must begin precisely from Jerusalem: from the little and great ones of Gaza imprisoned in their own land, from the hostages who invoke freedom, from those who cry peace and hear only the noise of war and see no future.

As children of Brother Francis, who made himself a pilgrim of peace in the Holy Land and in the midst of the noise of arms, we cannot remain indifferent. Our strategy of peace is first of all humble and constant prayer, accompanied by fasting and education to reject the logic of rearmament and violence that penetrates and conditions us. For this reason, we also learn to raise our voice, however weak it may sound before the powerful of the world: *Praised be You, my Lord!*



Moved by the Holy Spirit

Moved by the Holy Spirit, we ask the Father for the gift of peace and justice, which is Jesus Christ himself, humble Prince of Peace. In this time of preparation for Pentecost, during which we will live the International Chapter of the Mats (2nd-8th June) and the Plenary Council of the Order at the Porziuncola (8th-11th June), we renew our trust in the Spirit who blows where he wills and when he wills, to make hope flourish again even in the most arid deserts of human history, including our own. During these meetings we will invoke the gift of peace. May this dramatic context also courageously illuminate our discernment for the Order on its way toward the General Chapter 2027.

May the Spirit of the Lord make us instruments of his peace, workers of reconciliation, credible witnesses of that fraternity beyond every wall and discrimination that the world awaits.

With the blessing of Saint Francis and the intercession of Saint Clare, I greet you fraternally in joyful expectation of Pentecost.

Veni, Creator Spiritus!

Your brother and servant



Fr. Massimo Fusarelli OFM

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Minister General

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