



Convocation of the General Chapter

To all members of the General Chapter 2027

"All ministers who are overseas and in foreign lands shall come [...] to the Pentecost Chapter at Saint Mary of the Porziuncola, unless otherwise ordered by the minister and servant of the entire fraternity [...] to address matters concerning God."
(Rule of 1221, XVIII, 2)

Dear Brothers,

May the Lord grant you His peace!

In this year in which we commemorate the eighth centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis, these words of the earlier Rule have renewed significance for us. The General Chapter will once again be the place where we come together fraternally "to address matters concerning God": to consider our mission and discern together how best to follow Christ and proclaim the Gospel today, as we entrust the future of the Order to the Lord.

This gathering will afford us the opportunity to celebrate fraternity as we give thanks for over eight centuries of fraternal life and ministry and discern together a path to the future.

Convocation of the General Chapter

With a similar desire and excitement as Saint Francis, in accordance with art. 141 §1 of the General Statutes, observing what has been established by the Rule (Chap. VIII) and the General Constitutions, art. 190 §1, **I hereby officially convoke the ordinary General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor, which will be held at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Núi Cúi, Đồng Nai, Vietnam, from May 5 to 30, 2027.**

All members listed in our General Constitutions, art. 192, and our General Statutes, art. 143 are to attend the Chapter. Each of these individuals is therefore personally summoned and required to participate for the entire duration of the Chapter.

Chapter delegates must arrive at the Chapter venue according to the Secretariat's instructions. They should plan on arriving on **May 3 or 4, 2027**, so that everyone will be present for the Chapter's official opening. Further instruction, practical information, and pre-Chapter materials will be distributed in due time by the Chapter Secretary.



Theme of the Chapter

The theme for the General Chapter is:

**“Friars Minor on Mission:
following Christ and proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord today and into the future.”
“Behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Mt. 28:20)**

We will also consider what it means to:

**“follow the Gospel of Christ in a world of significant technological advancements,
pluralism, and human fragility, being a prophetic Franciscan presence during these
complex times in which we live.”**

Chapter participants will discuss the challenges of living the Gospel of the Lord today, in the midst of these complicated times. The Chapter will be a time of listening, discernment, and decision-making, as we look together at our lives and the opportunities before us in these unique times. We will formulate questions and identify the choices before us as we strive to renew our mission and reinvigorate our presence as Friars Minor in the Church and in the world.

Prayer for the Chapter

Trusting in the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit, I decree that **from the beginning of Lent 2027**, throughout the entire Order, daily prayers be offered for the successful outcome of the General Chapter and, in particular, for the election of the Minister General and the General Definitory. The intercessions to be included in the Liturgy of the Hours will be published on the Order's website and sent to the provincial ministers and custodians, so that they reach every fraternity and every brother.

The election of the Minister General is scheduled for May 17, 2027. On that day, in all the fraternities of the Order, the Eucharist should be celebrated with the specific intention of invoking the light of the Holy Spirit on the Chapter and the election of the Minister General, using, where liturgical norms permit, the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

I invite all the brothers to pray from now until then and to prepare spiritually for this important stage in the life of the Order. A special invocation, to be prayed by all Friars and in all fraternities, will be available from today on the [Chapter's webpage](#).

We will celebrate this Chapter in Asia, for the first time in the history of the Order, at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Núi Cúi in Vietnam, under the protection of Mary, Mother of the Lord and Patroness of the Order. To her, we entrust our Chapter journey, that she may accompany us in listening to the Word and to the Spirit and teach us radical availability which makes it possible to receive with confidence whatever it is that God has planned for us.



The eighth centenary of the Transitus reminds us that fidelity to our charism does not consist in simply preserving what we have received, but in allowing ourselves to be led by the Lord, with evangelical freedom, toward God's future.

May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Seraphic Father Saint Francis, Saint Clare, and all the saints of the Order, sustain us on this journey and help us to live with fidelity and generosity all that we have promised to the Lord.

Given in Rome, at the General Curia of the Order,
on October 4, 2026, Solemnity of our Seraphic Father St. Francis

Fraternally,



Fr. Massimo Fusarelli OFM

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM
Minister General

Sergiusz Bałdyga OFM

Br. Sergiusz Bałdyga, OFM
Secretary of the General Chapter

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