



## **Message from the Minister General to the Participants in the Asia Formation Course**

Seoul, December 4, 2025

Dear Brothers,

*May the Lord give you peace!*

As your Formation Course for Asia concludes here in Singapore, I want to express my deep gratitude and offer you my heartfelt encouragement for the journey ahead.

### **Gratitude and Congratulations**

First, I congratulate all of you for this valuable initiative and for the excellent way it has been conducted. I thank each participant for your commitment, openness, and active engagement throughout this experience. Your dedication to formation ministry is a gift to the Order and to the young brothers entrusted to your care.

### **The Value of In-Person Encounter**

I want to emphasize the importance of the two in-person sessions you have experienced, complementing the remote learning periods. These face-to-face gatherings have been essential for:

- Strengthening fraternal bonds among you
- Creating space for deeper sharing and mutual support
- Building a network of formators across Asia

**This is crucial:** I strongly encourage you to maintain these connections, this dialogue, and this exchange after the course ends. Many formators lack such an environment of peer support in their home fraternities. The relationships you have built here can provide that vital space for ongoing growth, consultation, and fraternal encouragement in your formation ministry.

### **Looking to the Future**

I encourage your respective entities to send other brothers to participate in this course. The work of formation requires well-prepared formators, and this program offers valuable tools and perspectives for this essential service.

### **The Work You Have Done**

During these two weeks, you have worked on concrete and vital aspects of formation:

- How to develop a formative project

- How to write a *Ratio formationis*
- The practice of supervision – both in group settings and personally
- The art of accompaniment – both giving and receiving

These are not merely theoretical topics but practical realities that touch the heart of your ministry. They address a fundamental truth: **formative practice should not drain those who exercise it but rather motivate them to grow even as they accompany others in their growth.**

### The Franciscan Dimension

As you return to your provinces and continue your service, **do not forget the Franciscan dimension of formation.** This is essential for:

- Nourishing our charisma
- Keeping it alive and vital
- Incarnating it ever more deeply in your diverse cultures
- Engaging meaningfully with the pluralistic and multi-religious societies in which you live and serve

Our Franciscan identity, rooted in the Gospel and the example of Saint Francis, must continue to be the heart and soul of all our formative efforts. This identity enables us to be credible witnesses of fraternity, minority, and dialogue in the complex contexts of South and Southeast Asia.

### Final Words

Brothers, your service as formators is one of the most important ministries in our Order. You are helping to shape the future of Franciscan life in Asia. Do this work with joy, with humility, with competence, and always with deep trust in the Holy Spirit, who is the true formator of hearts.

May the Lord bless your ministry. May Our Lady, Patroness of the Order, protect and guide you. And may Saint Francis inspire you always to see Christ in those you accompany. and a blessed Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a serene Advent journey in the hope that does not disappoint.

I remain close to you in prayer and fraternal affection.

Fraternally,



*Fr. Massimo Fusarelli ofm*  
Br. Massimo Fusarelli, ofm  
Minister General

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