



## **Message of the Minister General**

FCAO Ministers' Meeting  
Jakarta, Indonesia – July 10-14, 2014

My dear brothers of FCAO,

May the Lord give you peace!

The meeting of a Franciscan Conference is always a great moment to renew energy and passion for our Evangelical life, deepen bonds of fraternal solidarity, analyze changing realities in Asia and Oceania, and creatively explore new avenues for collaboration precisely in order to respond with creativity to a world and a Church desperately in need of dreamers, lovers, and prophets.

As you are aware, the Order will begin a preparatory process for the next Plenary Council, involving various stages of preparation. Our hope is that all members of the Order might participate in this three-fold process of Listening and Discernment in order that we, the members of the General Definitory might identify the key areas where the Order should dedicate its energies and resources. We hope that this participative process, employing the Plenary Delegates, might help us also to prepare for the next General Chapter of the Order in 2021. The changing world context, and changes taking place within the Church and Order, require that we also enter into a process of conversion, and also that our central or essential values and priorities guide us as we recreate for this generation the face of an Order that is constantly on the move with God and God's people. This is not only the central message of Pope Francis but also is at the heart of our Gospel itinerary and itinerancy. Choose wisely those who will serve as Delegates to the Plenary Council. It will require much work and attention on their part and on the part of all Ministers, all friars of the Conference.

Be courageous! Be daring! Be even a little 'crazy' for the sake of the Kingdom of God. After all, wasn't Mary crazy when she believed in God's promise and gave her consent to allow God to take complete control of her life? The Magnificat is the Magna Carta of God's 'craziness', His unlimited and uncontrollable love and mercy towards all people and all of creation.

Thanks to each of the entities who have helped the General Curia to resolve the economic tsunami and to rebuild viable systems of financial control and the trust of the brothers. If other entities still wish to participate in the debt restructuring process to cancel the remaining debt, you are most welcome! Thanks also for your generosity in helping member entities of your Conference, other Provinces, and the Order with human and material resources. I also must prepare you because I will continue to ask for assistance from you with our missionary projects. God will provide! Do not fear!

You remain in my prayers and those of the General Definitory and the Curia fraternity.

**Br. Michael Perry, OFM**  
*Minister General and Servant*  
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