

Capuchin General Curia
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Rome, 4 October 2002

Prot. N°: 00707/02

Re: *VII Plenary Council of the Order*

Dear Brothers,
May the Lord give you peace!

In my circular letter No. 20 of 31 March 2002 (Prot. No. 00158/02) I referred to my intention and that of the General Definitory to convoke a new *Plenary Council of the Order*. I wrote: "In keeping with the consensus of General Chapter 2000, the General Definitory believes that the work of the Sixth Plenary Council would not be comprehensive without a systematic reflection on minority. Therefore, the general definitory intends to convoke a seventh plenary council of the Order to study minority and itinerancy in the light of the theology of communion" (§9).

On April 1, 2002 a working group was constituted with the aim of "preparing material for presentation to the Presidents of the Conferences of the Order in view of the new PCO". Subsequently, the same topic was discussed during the meeting we had with the Presidents of the sixteen Conferences of the Order from 9 - 14 September at San Giovanni Rotondo.

I am now able to inform you of the names of the members of the *preparatory commission*, consisting of the following brothers:

<i>President:</i>	Br. Antonio Ascenzi, General Vicar (Roman Province)
<i>Vice President:</i>	Br. Joseph Nacua, General Definitory (Philippine Province)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Br. Aubert Bertrand (Eastern Canadian Province)
<i>Members:</i>	Br. Niklaus Kuster (Swiss Province)
	Br. Wieslaw Block (Province of Warsaw)
	Br. Fidel Aizpurúa (Province of Navarre, Cantabria, Aragon)
	Br. Francesco Neri (Province of Apulia)
	Br. Vincent Furtado (Province of Karnataka)
	Br. Prudente Lucio Nery (Province of Minas Gerais)
	Br. Próspero Arciniegas (Colombian Province)
	Br. William Hugo (Calvary Province)
	Br. Tewelde Beyene (Eritrean Province)

The next Plenary Council will take place in our friary of the *Risen Christ*, in Assisi. Assisi has always been the "inspirational" place of our Franciscan spirituality.

The new PCO is scheduled to last from 1 - 27 March, 2004.

Inspired by the words of our Rule (cf. Rb VI, 2), the General Definitory has formulated the title of the Plenary Council as: "Our fraternal life in minority". "Pilgrims and strangers in the world, serving the Lord in poverty and humility".

May the spirit of the Lord lead us on his ways in the footsteps of the "poor and humble" Francis.

Faternally,

Br. John Corriveau
General Minister OFM Cap