FOURTH

INTER-FRANCISCAN

ONLINE COURSE

of missionary training for Europe

Evangelizing Together: Friars and Laity Inspired by the Same Charism,"

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you peace!

We still cherish in our hearts the celebrations marking the 800th anniversary of Francis's death, which we experienced in Assisi and everywhere else we are present, and we now wish to carry on his legacy: I have done my part; may Christ teach you yours.

Christ sent everyone out to evangelize: the apostles, the seventy-two disciples, and, we might say, all the baptized. All Christians are sent by the Lord to evangelize. The mission must not be limited to priests alone. The laity cannot be viewed merely as the recipients of evangelization, for whoever welcomes the Gospel and makes it a way of life is called to evangelize. Let us consider how important it is to evangelize together: friars, consecrated sisters, and laypeople.

In this spirit, we would like to invite you to the Fourth Inter-Franciscan Online Course, organized by the Secretaries of Missions of the First Order and TOR, which this year invites us to reflect on the theme: "Evangelizing Together: Friars and Laity Inspired by the Same Charism," to be held on November 17, 18 and 19, 2026, in the morning (from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Rome time). You will be able to follow the course by selecting translations in Italian, English, French, Spanish, and Polish.

There will be three mornings dedicated to reflecting on how to evangelize together. Men and women religious, laypeople, young people, and volunteers are called to share our diverse experiences, perspectives, and gifts. We will reflect on the foundations of this journey, on the specific contribution each of us can offer, and on the difficulties that still hinder its full realization. Indeed, it is not a matter of distinguishing between leaders and collaborators, but of recognizing that we are all jointly responsible, each according to our own vocation and gifts.

Since the Gospel fosters brotherhood, as Francis testified, proclaiming it means learning to listen to one another, to share one's gifts, and to allow oneself to be enriched by the experiences of others. This gathering aims to provide a space for listening, witness, and reflection, in order to seek concrete ways to breathe new life into the Franciscan charism today and make it vibrant within the Church and the world.

We invite all of you, brothers and sisters of our Franciscan Family, to take part in these events.

May the Lord grant us the creativity and courage to proclaim the Gospel—not merely side by side, but together. And may the Gospel increasingly shape our lives.

Fraternal regards

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Date: November 17-18-19, 2026

Hours: 9:00 all 12:00

SCHEDULE

DAY	SCHEDULE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	*"The Foundations of Collaboration between Friars and Laity in Evangelization"* ***Carmelo Vitello, OFS (Regional Minister of Sicily)***
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18	*"The Franciscan Contribution to Evangelization Together: Friars and Laity"* ***Br. Johannes Freyer, OFM*** *(Franciscan theologian)*
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19	Round Table: "Opportunities and Challenges in Collaboration between Friars and Laity for Mission and Evangelization" Speakers: **Br. Giovanni B. De Rossi, OFMCap (Venice, Italy)** **Mrs. Emilie Rey (OFM Collaborator, France)** **Carmelo Vitello, OFS (Regional Minister for Sicily)**

As in previous years, each day will open with greetings from the General Ministers of the OFM, OFMConv, OFMCap, and TOR. The first part of the meeting will be dedicated to presentations, while the second will be dedicated to discussion with the speakers.

Registration form