

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

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Dear Brothers and Sisters!

May the Lord give you his peace!

As you know, the General Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order was due last year, but we could not celebrate it because of the pandemic. We have postponed it with one whole year, and earlier this year we have promised you to take the final decision by July 31st 2021, whether it will be celebrated or not.

The CIOFS Presidency had a zoom meeting on July 26th to take some important decisions.

There are strong signs of hope.

There is a great desire in everyone to meet in person, and in many countries, it is already possible. Some national fraternities – all over the world – have already started to meet, have already organized national elective chapters, being presided by the General Minister or his delegate from abroad.

The OFM Friars have had their General Elective Chapter in July, with a great participation and in a wonderful spirit. The celebration of their Chapter was flawless and without any problem or any health issues. They have shared with us their experiences, and we can learn a lot from them, first of all that it is possible.

These signs are encouraging us.

We have been living together with this pandemic already for a year and a half. We have to decide if we want to continue as until now, or we give hope and strength to our sisters and brothers, accepting from the hand of God not only the difficulties, but also the gift of the immense joy of meeting each other.

We understand that some may have strong concerns, but the worldwide situation is improving. We kindly ask all of you to look to the future, and trust in the goodness of God, for whom nothing is impossible. It will never be like before. We have to overcome our concerns and inconveniences.

We have also considered that the General Elective Chapter has already been postponed with one year, and also on the international level, the mandates shall not be extended too long.

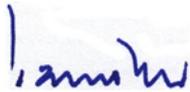
Every member of the CIOFS Presidency was praying for the wisdom to take a decision that is in conformity with the plan of God.

So now I am really happy to communicate to you that the Presidency has decided by unanimity to convoke the General Elective Chapter for the days November 13th-21st. The updating of the official convocation will be sent in a couple of days.

We are in ongoing working contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, and their attitude is very positive, very much helping. They do their best from their part regarding the visas or/and the travel permissions. From our part, we have to provide the necessary data, so I ask you to send them immediately responding to the letter that you will receive within a couple of days.

I can't wait to meet you in November in Rome.

I send you my most heartfelt fraternal greetings
Your minister and your brother,



Tibor Kauser
CIOFS Minister General

