

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION AND STUDIES OFM
FIVE PIECES OF GOOD NEWS TO MOVE FROM THE GOOD TO THE BETTER
TRANSLATING CHALLENGES INTO PROPOSALS FOR THE SEXENNIUM 2015-2021

*To continue animation of ongoing and initial formation
on Franciscan identity in the Church*

in an articulation within an evangelical horizon of the "OFM priorities", (mandate n.1 PdV).

1. GOOD NEWS: THERE IS GREATER AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ONGOING FORMATION IN THE LIFE AND VISION OF THE OFM.

- a. Challenge:** There is still noticeable a conception of ongoing formation limited to study or conceived as mere theological-pastoral updating, on a personal level, often only individual.
- b. Objective:** *Continue giving priority to ongoing formation.*
- c. Action:**
 - i. Publish on line resources for ongoing formation according to the *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae* and *You Have Been Called to Freedom*.*
 - ii. Organize experiences of ongoing formation in collaboration with the conferences.*

2. GOOD NEWS: THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESSES HAVE HELPED IN THE GREATER ASSIMILATION OF THE RATIO FORMATIONIS FRANCISCANAE.

- a. Challenge:** There is insufficient understanding of the RFF, still understood only theoretically, requiring better concrete application to reality, and a greater articulation of the stages of formation.
- b. Objective:** *Continue facilitating the understanding and concrete application of the *Ratio Formationis Franciscanae* by continents, regions and conferences.*
- c. Action:**
 - i. The GSFS should organize Congresses by continents, regions or conferences, in collaboration with the Secretariats of Formation and Studies of the Conferences.*
 - ii. The theme: "Accompany to form evangelically in Franciscan identity in the RFF".*
 - iii. Participants: formators and guardians of each region and zone.*

3. GOOD NEWS: THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS ON THE THEME OF FRANCISCAN ACCOMPANIMENT

- a. Challenge:** It can be noted that accompaniment is still very much an open topic, which we need to clarify in order to delineate the quality of formation and Franciscan identity as a key instrument in consecrated life.
- b. Objective:** *Continue reflection and formation on Franciscan accompaniment.*
- c. Action:**
 - i. The GSFS should organize a 2nd International Congress (as a continuation of the 1st on accompaniment)*
 - ii. The theme: Franciscan accompaniment in a formative key.*
 - iii. Participants: Provincial Secretaries for Formation and Studies.*

4. GOOD NEWS: WE ARE MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING STUDIES FOR CULTURAL DIALOGUE IN THE EVANGELIZING MISSION OF THE ORDER.

- a. **Challenge:** Recognizing that the academic level of the Order has increased, we cannot say the same about the cultural level, specifically in regard to the assimilation of our Franciscan tradition.
- b. **Objective:** Continue and support the Order's own Study Centers, particularly the Pontifical University *Antonianum*.
- c. **Action:**
 - i. The GSFS should organize an International Congress on studies.
 - ii. The theme: Study in the formation for the life and mission of the Order today according to the *RFF* and the *RS*.
 - iii. Participants: Representatives of the OFM Study Centers and OFM professors.

5. GOOD NEWS: THE POSITIVE ASPECT OF EXPERIENCES OF INTERNATIONAL, INTERPROVINCIAL AND INTERCULTURAL FORMATION AND MISSION.

- a. **Challenge:** Facing a world of constant migration, social, cultural and economic, the Order, precisely because of its missionary vocation must move forward by favoring within itself greater mutual knowledge and communion.
- b. **Objective:** Continue supporting the international and intercultural Houses and formative experiences, as platforms on which to accompany concrete missions experiences.
- c. **Action:**
 - i. *Accompany the Life-Plan of the International Franciscan Fraternity "Bl. P. Allegra".*
 - ii. *Accompany the various Houses of interprovincial formation and collaboration at other levels, already existing.*
 - iii. *Promote collaboration and a culture of subsidiarity among Entities in the area of formation.*
 - iv. Promote and accompany formation and mission experiences in the international mission projects of the Order.

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