

# REPORT OF THE GSME FOR THE MINISTER GENERAL

(Bangalore, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014)

## 1. Introduction

The 2009 general Chapter has given our Secretariat a new name: *general Secretariat for Missions and Evangelization*. Such name had previously been changed 4 times in the last two decades (*Secretariat: of Missions, of missionary Evangelization, of Evangelization, for Missions and Evangelization*) which sends us back to the constantly renewed attempt of announcing the Gospel in our times of continuous changes, which is going on within the Church and the Order. The Chapter has conveyed to the whole Order the document *Bearer of the gift of the Gospel (BGG)* thus requesting the GSME to encourage missionary Projects (mandates 21 – 27) and to promote a Franciscan style of evangelization capable of incarnating the expectations of today's world. Moreover, in its mandate 1, the Chapter has requested that *"in the coming years Priorities be proposed anew in the a perspective of evangelizing mission and openness to the world, so that they might continue to be the fundamental values of reference in the animation of our life and mission."* (BGG 1).

In accordance with GGSS 49, the SGME is composed of two branches: one for the missions and the other for evangelization, with two respective Animators general (fr. Massimo Tedoldi and fr. Arturo Rios Lara), and is regulated by specific Statutes, approved in 2005. The Assistant general, whose tasks are established by the same Statutes (cf. *specific Statutes of the Secretariat*, 3.4) also works within the GSME (fr. Carlos Santos for the first three years, and fr. Adriano Busatto for the second three-year term).

## 2. Animation

- 2.1 The first above-mentioned capitular mandate has introduced an "outgoing dynamism" in the animation of the GSME, the tasks of which are defined by the general Statutes as follows:
- to help the Minister general, by both advice and action, in anything which may concern evangelization and missions (cf. GGSS47),
  - to support the testimony of the Franciscan presence and encourage the evangelization work through proper means and initiatives; to discern, in the light of the Franciscan charisma and the needs of our times, each of the activities of the evangelization and missionary work of the Order and of the Provinces; to promote a growingly closer collaboration among the Provinces and among the Conferences of provincial Ministers (cf. GGSS48 and 154).
- 2.2 The animation of the GSME has headed in particular towards the following fields of apostolate:
- missionary projects of the Order and other missions depending upon Entities;
  - ordinary evangelization, with particular attention to educational pastoral, dialogue, parish services, sanctuaries, young people, predication...
  - new evangelization, and more specifically the New Forms of life and mission.
  - formation of the Entities to the evangelizing mission of the Order (formation to the "outgoing").

2.3 In the fulfillment of its tasks the GSME has availed itself of a wide range of different meetings:

- with the executive Committee of the GSME (6 meetings)<sup>1</sup>
- with the International Council (3 times over the six-year term)<sup>2</sup>
- with almost all the Conferences, upon specific issues also in view of facilitating the organization of the Secretariat's structure within Entities and Conferences<sup>3</sup>
- with many Entities in respect of the animation of the evangelizing mission under its various aspects.
- Other meetings, seminars, conventions, congresses, some of which including attendance, some others including organization only.
- A constant commitment was that of establishing connections between the Entities and Conferences and the SGME in order to try and reach for a number of shared fundamental criteria, while making sure that capitular document *BGG* and handbooks had been received in good order.

2.4 The First international Congress for Missions and Evangelization held in Sassone, Rome, from 18 to 28 May 2014, has somewhat completed the work done with the Conferences by offering reports and testimonies to meet the expectations of the over one hundred members attending, coming from the various Entities, and in the presence of the Minister general, our brothers from the Definitory and the Curia. The richness of the background material published on the website of the Order was synthesized by the Assembly in its final Message: "*Go, mend my house*", published in the three languages.

<sup>1</sup> At the Rabat Assembly the nominations for the renewal of the Executive Committee of the GSME have been proposed, and the following nominees have successively been elected by the Definitory General : Fr. Estevao Ottenbreit, Fr. Amaral Bemardo, Fr. Tom Cole, Fr. Pascal Robert, Fr. Adriano Apollonio, Fr. Gerardo Crespo and Fr. Luis Gallardo. The main goal of the ECME was the preparation of ICME assembly sessions and most of all the preparation of the 2014 International Congress.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. GGSS50§1: *The International Council for Missions and Evangelization (ICME), composed by Delegates from all Conferences, Ministers Provincial and other friars, in accordance with the specific Statutes, lends its help to) the GSME; and §2: Each Conference of the Ministers Provincial should elect one Delegate in accordance with the rules of its respective Conference and the specific Statutes of the ICME.*

The ICME Assembly sessions have been held in: Rio de Janeiro (Petropolis), Brazil: October 2010 (Meeting, knowledge, integration of the International Council of the GSME. Sharing of the *Delegates' Report*. Situation of the Evangelization within each Conference. How should Animation be carried out. Care of the "Mandates" of the general Chapter regarding the GSME. Verification of the welcoming of "*Envoys sent to evangelize in fraternity and minority within the Parish*" for the parish pastoral, "*Go and teach*" in respect of the educational Pastoral, and the general Chapter's document "*Bearers of the gift of the gospel*". Organization of the Council/Secretariat – planning of the Order's animation. Draft Programme. Rabat, Morocco: February 2012. Main issues: the preparation of the 2014 International Congress; the Handbook on Chapter V of the general Constitutions under preparation by the Secretariat; information and verification in respect of Conference Meetings; Reports by Conference Delegates are considered as most important and central. Ontario, Canada: September 2013: preparation of the 1st General Congress to be held in Assisi in May 2014. A Continuous improvement in the Conferences' participation has been noted, Delegates being the actual animators of the Conferences.

<sup>3</sup> Meetings with the Conferences are listed as follows: African Conference: 22 – 30 June 2012, Brazzaville, Congo; Bolivarian: 15 – 20 August 2011, Lima, Peru; Brazilian: 16 – 20 April 2012, Campo Grande, Brazil; Southern Horn: 23 – 27 May 2011, Cordoba, Argentina and 30 April – 4 May, Santiago de Chile; COTAF: 28 November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, Hofheim-am Taunus, Frankfurt, Germany; ESC: 24-27 October 2011, Washington DC, USA; EAC: 1- 5 July 2011; SAAOC: 18 – 21 July 2011, Lamsai, Thailand; Saint Mary of Guadeloupe: 21 – 25 May, 2012, Acambo, Gto. Mexico; Southern-Slavian: (*Domus Pacis*) 12 – 13 October 2011, Medjugorje, Bosnia Srebrena. Meetings with the following Conferences: COMPI, COMFRES, Northern-Slavian, Holy Land. At meetings with Conferences Information on each Entity have been gathered. Main objectives of the meetings: mutual familiarity, establishment of a connection and of proper communication with the GSME, setting up of the framework of the Secretariat. The programme included: pastoral, educational, and young people parish pastoral activity, JPIC, new forms of evangelizing presence, migrants, ill people etc. Mandate 13 of the *BGG* has always been the primary criterion. The Animator of Evangelization has attended the UCLAF Assembly and has taken the opportunity given by the presence of the provincial Ministers of Latin America to present the programmes and activity of the GSME and to encourage connection, communication and participation from Entities' Animators. Other relevant meetings have been held in IQUITOS, Peru, 2 – 6 June 2013, in the Amazonian Region, in the presence of franciscan missionaries. At the end of the meeting the Assembly has launched its message entitled: "*Where does the Spirit push our Franciscan Presence towards?*"; in CANINDE (21 – 27 April 2013) almost as a closing of the Conference Meetings in Latin America (4 conferences): this was the II franciscan missionary Congress of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Canindé, a great franciscan sanctuary, "San Francisco as Chagas, near Fortaleza, Brazil, with the character of a mission shared with great participation. Further to the issuing of the highly appreciated document "*New franciscans for the new evangelization*", the meeting has favoured the growth of communications and the improvement in connection among Friars for a better animation.

### 3. Missionary Projects

3.1. In accordance with mandates 21 – 27 of capitular Document *BGG*, missionary Projects have been studied, followed and evaluated by the general Definitory along with the GSME, the Conferences and involved Entities.

3.2. The GSME took particular care of the formation of friars having joined the Projects over the last six years, especially in Africa and Asia. Such formation has requested preparatory periods within their respective Entities of origin, language training courses, attendance in Brussels (March-May: francophone course; September-November: anglophone course), mission-based experiences and meetings among candidates to a specific mission. GSME Animators and, at times, some members of the Definitory general have been present during those preparatory periods.

3.3 Missionaries having received obedience from the Minister general over this six-year period are about one hundred (Holy Land: 35 – Morocco: 10 – Amazonia: 6 – Russia: 4 – Myanmar: 4 – South Sudan: 5 – Istanbul: 3 – Thailand: 2 – plus Nairobi, the Republic of Congo, Brussels, Palestrina, Libya, China, Haiti) in addition to all those missionaries who have received obedience directly from the relevant Ministers.

3.4 Considerable developments have taken place in the Projects over this six-year period:

- The many obediences given by the Minister to those friars who have given their availability to serve in the Holy Land prove the interest of all the Entities to manage the “custody” of the holy places which was entrusted to the Friars Minors by the Apostolic See. However, the number of new missionaries, although considerable, still remains insufficient.

- As for Africa, the mission in Morocco has become a Custody and has benefitted from a great number of volunteers also thanks to the appeal addressed by the Minister general in 2011;

- moreover, following the division of Sudan into two different Countries, a new presence has been opened in the South, in Juba, where three missionaries have first arrived in 2013 (two others have joined in January 2015),

- in response to mandate *BGG* 23 exhorting “African Entities to be missionaries to their own Continent”, some friars have left their home Country to reach other Countries in the Continent;

- the new presence in Amazonia, long prepared and defined in detail in *BGG* (mandate 24) has gone through various difficulties and is now facing a moment of reflection in view of a new relaunch;

- As for Asia, our presence in Myanmar, Thailand and China have been continued with a slight increase in the number of missionaries, while the opening of a presence in Laos and Cambodia expressively wished for by *BGG* 25 still remains problematic:

- the Foundation in Russia-Kazakhstan has regularly held its annual meeting with the Minister general, the area definator and the missions’ animator general;

- In Europe, the project of giving birth to new forms of evangelization to respond the context of strong secularization has been developed through a series of meetings and through the creation of a good number of Fraternities in accordance with Project Europe (*BGG* mandate 26).

3.5 These Projects have offered many friars and young people under formation moments of experience and sharing, also viewed at stimulating new missionary vocations. Sometimes the precept of GGSS 70: “*if the Province has no mission of its own, the provincial Minister, should offer friars, through the GSME, the possibility of entering the new missionary initiatives of the Order or of a different Province*”. Such indication may become growingly relevant in the future, since Entities having no mission of their own are continuously increasing. Document *BGG* encourages the Order in this direction (mandate 30).

#### 4. Ordinary Evangelization

4.1 Capitular mandate 13 was the inspiring source of animation in the various fields of the pastoral. The hierarchy of values and the balance it holds have been the constant inspiration animating the evangelizing mission of the Order: strong experience of God, testimony of fraternal life, character of *inter gentes*, itinerancy and closeness to the poorest, sharing with the laity and with the Franciscan Family, attention for the local Church. The GSME has constantly been encouraging to living in harmony with such elements in each field of the pastoral and of the mission.

4.2 More particularly, the educational pastoral and the parish service have been animated thanks to the two Handbooks prepared at the end of the last six-year term, namely: *Go and teach* and *Sent to evangelize within the parish*. The educational Pastoral has benefitted from the service carried out by the Assistant general appointed for this specific task<sup>4</sup>, whereas coordination of Parishes (which include almost half of the friars of the Order, according to the recent survey carried out for us by the Salesians) lays under the responsibility of Entities and Conferences; we must admit that the Franciscan charisma still remains scarcely visible in parish service.

4.3 The GSME animation has been looking into the various fields of ordinary evangelization, in accordance with Mandate 19 of *BGG*: “*parish service, sanctuaries and conventual churches, preaching and popular missions, and other traditional forms of pastoral work (hospitals, prisons, immigrants, schools and universities)*”. In-depth study (and the preparation of related handbooks) of those forms of apostolate had been wished for, but the attention of the GSME was particularly focused on the study of Chapter V of the *GGCC* on which the apostolate is based; this study is subsequently being carried out by a specific commission.

4.4 The great challenge in the various fields of evangelization has always been that of announcing the Gospel according to the Franciscan *proprium*, lived in the fraternal testimony of minority and in communion with the laity as well as with the whole Franciscan Family (*BGG*, mandate 13 and 19).

#### Dialogue

5.1. “Promoting ecumenical, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, as a fundamental aspect of our life and of our evangelizing mission” is the vision which the general Chapter has conveyed to the Order and specifically to the GSME (*BGG*, mandate 28), while recommending that the Spirit of Assisi be valued inside every Entity (mandate 29), which was mainly taken care for by the GIPC Office.

5.2. Through its ad-hoc Commission and in connection with the GSME, the Service for Dialogue has carried out its activity which could be summarized in the holding of ad-hoc thematic annual Meetings, with particular reference to Islam, in carefully selected territories closely linked to the theme chosen (the Commission prepares a specific report thereupon).

5.3. An Assistant general for Islam has been nominated in view of encouraging friars to dialogue with Islam particularly in Entities co-existing with Muslims<sup>5</sup>.

4. On 12 March 2010, the Definitory general has nominated the international Commission for Educational Pastoral. Fr. Antonio Herrera has been nominated Assistant to GSME for educational Pastoral. The Commission has met during Conference meetings and Congress sessions and has kept in touch by e-mail, on the website of the Order etc. 2 Congresses of Latin American educators have been held: IV, Cholula, Mexico, 2010 and V, at Quito, Ecuador, 2012 (the possibility of a new Congress to be held in 2016 is also foreseen).

5. On July 27 2012, the Minister general has nominated fr. Ruben Tierrabianca, Guardian of Istanbul, as Assistant to the Animator general of the Mission for Dialogue with Islam.

## 6. The New Forms of life and mission

6.1. Capitular mandate 20 has favoured a deep reflection over the so-called new Fraternities, also called *New Forms of life and mission* (cf. GGCC 115,2)<sup>6</sup> which have gradually come to set the fundamental characteristics of their physiognomy<sup>7</sup>.

6.2. During the last six-year term, the GSME has prepared two Seminars to facilitate exchange among interested friars, to offer in-depth analysis and clarification, and, finally, to stimulate the Provinces to dare creating new evangelizing Presences. The III Seminar<sup>8</sup> was held in Sassone, Rome, and the IV<sup>9</sup> in Greccio. The need to have a handbook giving some guidelines both for already existing Fraternities and Entities wishing to open themselves to these new Forms emerged from those meetings. The Minister general along with his Definitory subsequently requested the GSME to prepare such guidelines which came out at Eastern 2014 under the title *Ite, nuntiate...* the text has already been translated into eight languages (English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French, German, Polish and Croatian).

## 7. Formation

7.1. The capitular Document attaches a great importance to the preparation of missionaries requesting the Ministers to “*accompany the discernment of future missionaries and provide for their formation along with on-going formation of those who have already served for years in mission territory*”(mandate 15). We note that previous preparation is good while on-going formation of missionaries still remains incomplete to a considerable extent (cfr. *BGG* 17 – 20).

7.2 The Brussels Course – both in its anglophone and francophone versions – was indeed positive also thanks to the enriching presence of other branches of the Franciscan Family. While encouraging the evaluation of this important formative moment for missionaries, Mandate 16 also expresses the wish of having “*guidelines for work in the missions that will serve the entire Order*”. However, the drafting of such Guidelines has not been produced yet, although a reflection is going on.

7.3. Mandate 17 has recalled the need to include the evangelizing mission in formation programmes, both on-going and initial, stressing the need for a concrete experimental preparation, not only for a theoretical training, and also for “having missionary formative experiences” (mandate 18). We note in this connection that many young people under formation spend their summer period and the so-called Franciscan year in mission territories obtaining good results, although experience still needs receiving better preparation, accompaniment and subsequent verification.

<sup>6</sup> *BGG*, Mandate 20. “Without neglecting the activities of ordinary evangelization, preference should be given to new initiatives. In order to privilege the missionary and evangelizing dimension, with special attention to new horizons and forms of itinerant evangelization and “inserted” fraternities, the General Definitory, with the participation of the respective Conferences, should promote typically Franciscan formative programs for friars and lay people together”. Cf. also capitular Mandates 13 and 26 and the GGCC 115§2.

<sup>7</sup> The 7 characteristics: 1. Primacy of the life of prayer and listening to the Word (both at the personal and community level) – 2. Care for authentic and deep fraternal relations – 3. Simple and sober lifestyle, translated into concrete choices of minority and evangelical testimony. – 4. Welcoming and life sharing with people, especially the poorest and the “far” ones. – 5. Communion with the local Church. – 6. Evangelizing mission with special attention to borderline places and with new forms of itinerant evangelization and “integrated” Fraternities. – 7. Availability vis-à-vis new forms of collaboration and connection among Fraternities, both at the provincial and international level.

<sup>8</sup> From 2 to 6 May 2011, with the following objectives: experience sharing, fraternal verification over the seven characterizing points, formative in-depth analysis, sourcing new growth motivations for Fraternities heading towards the New Forms, search for forms of collaboration and connection between the various New Forms and seek of involvement from Entities.

<sup>9</sup> From 4 to 8 March 2013, when the following theme was developed: our life is called to be evangelic and evangelizing, and the following question was put forward: thinking of the New Evangelization with particular reference to Europe, are our actual lifestyle and activities inside the Fraternities in which we live consistent with one another? Which tensions can be noted?

7.4. Several language Courses offered by the GSME to tenths of missionaries, often including hospitality at convenient structures, are to be mentioned in the framework of preparation to mission.

7.5. A qualified Master course in Evangelization is also run at Petropolis, aimed at the in-depth study of the announcement and open in particular to the Brazilian and Latin American Provinces. Attendance for a period of two-year is foreseen and the course is open to the whole Franciscan Family.

7.6. The following reference material prepared is also to be mentioned as part of the formation: *Reports* for the various meetings; *Power Point Presentations*, such as the *Messages* of Iquitos and Canindé, and of the International Congress; *publications* related to the Handbook on the NF and in honour of Giacomo Bini. A lot of material in addition to that coming from the magisterium of the Church further appears on the website of the Order and is published in *Fraternitas* and in *Acta Ordinis*. Furthermore, the Animator for Evangelization takes care of sending out the Sunday homely in several languages each week.

7.7. In all Conference meetings a formation time has always been dedicated to the animators of the Entities.

## **Finance**

8.1. Participation from all Entities in the evangelizing mission of the Order is foreseen by the general Statutes<sup>10</sup>. The 2009 Chapter has decided to help in this sense through the “format based upon the present categories” so that each Entity may collaborate according to its resources (mandate 56).

8.2 The contribution offered by the Order covers almost completely the aid which the GSME, in agreement with the Minister and the Definitory, sends over to about 20 Entities considered in need (many of which are depending directly on the Minister general). In addition to the above-mentioned periodic dispatches regularly effected by the Assistant general of the Secretariat, aid is provided for the language training courses, for school attendance and for other initiatives in favour of missionaries, as well as for the GSME expenses whose most relevant expenditure item is represented by the Animators’ journey to reach the various missions and meeting places.

8.3. Further to the aid offered for the leading of everyday life, support for the formation of friars and for the making of works for several Entities is also provided: extraordinary requests in this connection are coming from all over the world. In such cases the GSME requests the help of our Franciscan Organizations, generously willing to meet the needs of poor realities, and that of other Foundations showing sensitivity towards the needs of missions.

## **Proposals**

### **1. New features of the Secretariat:**

1.1 Having taken stock of the path followed by the Church over these latest years (especially through apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*) and of the experience acquired during the last six years, a change in the name and structure of the Secretariat is proposed.

<sup>10</sup> The GSME “must be financially supported by all the Entities of the Order. The form and methodology of such support must be established by the general Chapter” GGSS72,2.

- 1.2 The name: *Secretariat for Evangelization*.
- 1.3 The composition: the *Secretary*, the *Vice-Secretary* and the *Assistants to the Secretariat* (the number of which shall be established by the Definitory in consideration of the Members of the Executive Committee for the animation of specific sectors as well as of the management of financial resources).
- 1.4 Members of the Executive Committee: *Friars having the responsibility of animating specific sectors of the evangelization at the Order's level: missionary Projects – educational Pastoral – Justice, peace and the integrity of creation – OFS Assistance – Dialogue – Pastoral care of the parish - Young people – Communications – Sanctuaries and conventual churches – Migrants – New Forms.*  
 The main goal of the Committee is that of providing effective integral animation at the level of evangelization. A minimum of two annual meetings shall therefore be required.  
 The general Definitory shall entrust the friars of the Secretariat (Secretary, Vice-Secretary, Assistants) with the responsibility of some of these sectors and shall appoint other friars – not necessarily residing at the Curia – for the animation of the others.
- 1.5 The international Council is composed of the *Executive Committee, one Delegate from each Conference* (the Secretary of the Conference for Evangelization) *and the Secretary general of Formation and Studies* (or a delegate of the latter).
- 1.6 In order to guarantee an actual communion of work between the Secretariat and the general Definitory, it is hereby proposed that for the next Chapter the Secretary be appointed general Definitory.  
 Meanwhile, the Secretary should be regularly convoked during the *Tempo Forte* of the Definitory.

## **2. Relations between the two Secretariats (Evangelization and Formation and studies)**

- 2.1 The general Statutes shall establish the inclusion of the Secretary general for formation and studies within the Council for Evangelization and vice-versa. Similarly, this proposal shall be included in the specific Statutes of each Entity.
- 2.2 *Missionary experiences during initial formation.* The Secretary general along with the Secretary general FS shall identify a number of appropriate missionary territories where friars requesting to have a formative missionary experience will be posted. A community having the capacity of welcoming and accompanying the friars and of evaluating their missionary experience will be present in each of these locations.

## **3. Collaboration and communion of work.**

In order to implement mandate 32 of BGG and in accordance with its exhortation that “*collaboration and interactive processes between Secretariats, Offices and Commissions be deepened or initiated. This collaboration should be coordinated by the Definitory on the general or provincial level, and is meant to assist our life and our evangelizing mission*”, it is hereby proposed to:

- 3.1. organize such interactive processes upon a detailed schedule set by the Definitory itself.
- 3.2. facilitate mutual communication and common reflection between the Secretariat and the Definitory by all means, through a clear programme so as to attain an actual and shared animation inside the Order.

#### **4. Finance**

4.1. *The path to self-financing.* As from the beginning of the new six-year term, the general Definitory shall effectively pave the way to reach for the *self-financing of Entities* having received help from the Order up to now. This progress shall be accompanied by an appropriate animation and will have to be carried out gradually, taking into consideration the actual resources of each Entity in order to set a deadline for the help received.

4.2. *Contributions form Entities.* Contributions sent to the Secretariat by Entities are directed to:

- missionary projects, more specifically to formation projects with particular regard to formation to a shared evangelization with both the Family and the laity.
- specific and urgent projects, always in agreement with the Secretariat.

4.3. *Extraordinary financial requests.* The general Definitory along with the Secretariat will set an agreement for a closer collaboration with Organizations such as the MZF.

4.4. *Collaboration.* Clarifying the collaboration relationship and specific duties of the Secretariat and the general Finance Office in respect of contributions sent by the Entities of the Order and of the aid granted. The Secretariat will:

- receive timely information concerning all Entities,
- analyse the projects,
- participate in the Commission of the general Definitory for financial requests,
- keep in touch with the person in charge of the Project and with the general Finance Office in respect of the approval or rejection of the Project itself.

4.5. *Information.* All the Entities of the Order are due to inform the Secretariat yearly in respect of the allocation of resources directed to missions by re-transmission of a form previously sent over by the Secretariat. On its side, the Secretariat will transmit to Entities its annual report of contributions received and granted.

#### **5. Revision of art. 118 of the GGCC and of the specific Statutes**

5.1. Cancellation of expression “de opportunitate” included in article 118 of the general Constitutions is hereby proposed as it is not in line with the precept of the Rule in chapter 12, which, however, it refers to, thus creating confusion in the discernment of missionary vocations.

5.2. The specific Statutes of the Secretariat which have expired in 2009 shall be revised at the beginning of the next six-year term. These Statutes concern the composition and the organization of the Secretariat, of the International Council and of the Executive Committee.

#### **6. Brussels**

6.1. The preparation obtained through the bilingual courses offered in Brussels to new missionaries is considered as good. The presence of minor, conventual and capuchin friars was very enriching.

6.2. Attendance to courses is to be encouraged:

- from new missionaries,
- from long-serving friars (as an opportunity for on-going formation),
- from friars sent to missions depending on the Provinces,
- and finally to friars sent to other Provinces in view of reinforcing the latter through their presence in a genuine missionary spirit.

6.3. the possibility should be considered to change the location of the courses for the two following reasons: a more effective inseting in a missionary territory and a subsequent reduction of the financial cost. The change of the location is to be studied and implemented along with the other branches of the Franciscan Family.



6.4. A course in Latin America is proposed, involving the provincial Ministers of the Conferences.

#### **7. The international Congresses.**

In accordance with the request of the Congress of Sassone, the Secretariat general shall organize the international Congress for Evangelization at least once during the six-year term, with the possibility of organizing it in a different continent each time.

#### **8. The missionary Projects of the Order.**

In view of consolidating the missionary Projects of the Order and of encouraging the birth of new ones, the general Government along with the Secretariat shall bear in mind the following guidelines (cf. BGG 16):

##### *8.1. The Missionaries*

- Discernment of the candidates along with their respective Ministers, in accordance with the Rule stated in chapter 12.
- Identification of the mission according to the vocation of candidates and the needs of the Church and of the Order.
- Initial contacts with the respective responsible persons (of the Entity, of the Order, of the Church).

##### *8.2. Preparation*

- Formation for the mission in the Province: study of the language, knowledge of the Project, missionary experience.
- Attendance to the missionary course held in Brussels up to now.
- Specific preparation of missionaries travelling to the same place: deep mutual knowledge, meetings among them and with the responsible persons, draft of the common life project.

##### *8.3. Implementation*

- In view of the implementation of the Project, close links need to be established with the local Church and the neighbouring Entities as well as with the general Curia, in order for the friars of the Project to actually be inserted in the local Church and to feel like a living part of the international Fraternity.
- Each Project shall be accompanied and evaluated by the Delegate of the Minister general, in a communion of work with the Secretariat and with a contact person, wherever the case.
- In order to guarantee the growth the Fraternity in the mission, an annual evaluation of the Project of life and mission and a schedule of the visits of the Minister or of his Delegate and of the GSME, to be prepared and implemented effectively and timely, are needed.

#### **9. Secretariat and missions depending from the Province.**

In response to capitular mandate 16, the Minister general shall accompany the missions depending on Provinces in the following ways:

9.1. Through mutual communication, particularly with the provincial Secretaries for Evangelization,

9.2. By offering accompaniment to a new mission with regard to the location to be chosen and through the follow-up of the successive steps of its development, encouraging to the fundamental principles of new missionaryity and of the Franciscan specificity.

9.3. By proposing the preparatory course for the new missionaries,

9.4. Through his presence in missions and Entities for moments of formation, where invited to do so,

9.5. By giving indications to the provincial Ministers in respect of the possibility of having their friars join the missionary initiatives of the Order or of a different Entity (cf. GGSS 70 and BGG 30),

9.6. By offering a number of annual “formative missionary experiences” (cf. mandate 18), especially for young friars.