

## **Fr. Pedro Zitha, OFM to the delegates of the National Chapter 2018**

Pax et bonum!

It is so good to be here! It makes me sad that it is time to have to return to Rome. Thank you, to all of you! It is always a great joy to meet with the brothers and sisters. Coming to Canada, I bring you all greetings of the Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFM and the Conference of Spiritual Assistants. Our Chapter ends here on the Feast of Pentecost. We need the Holy Spirit. Lord, rekindle the Spirit in us!

### **Chapter-Celebration-Reflection**

“Let us begin again, as up to now we have done nothing.”<sup>i</sup>

Enjoy and benefit from fraternal life as brothers and sisters. Don't forget where we are in life. We are always in ongoing formation: to love and to serve, that is what Francis means. Take Francis' message and connect with Christ. Before being a Franciscan we are Christians first. Francis saw the lepers and identified Christ in them.

Rebuild my church<sup>ii</sup>: rebuild the church, for as in Francis' time the Church is falling; Francis began his journey after seeing Jesus on the Cross. As we end the Chapter today, let us rebuild the Church of Christ. How do we rebuild the Church today? How is the Church falling apart?

---Being charity at home, and then in the Church. Do our spouses see us as Franciscan? If both spouses are Franciscans, does the family (children, relatives) see us as Franciscans?

---When we are called to begin again, we are called to our core again. The disciples fell in love with Christ. Only when we understand these simple things, then we can begin again.

---We all have the Spirit of the Lord to drive us. In order to fulfill this we must be courageous and honest with ourselves. Recognize our mistakes-how can I solve this in a humble and kind way.

There is beauty in the Franciscan charism: Live the Gospel. Relive the Gospel. In our fraternities read the Rule 4 and digest it. Let us take the Bible and read a passage and reflect on it. Being too ritualistic results in forgetfulness. Don't forget that we are Christians and we are inspired to be Franciscan. Begin to be the Franciscans of the Resurrection, not of the tomb of ignorance: ignorance of the Bible, the Rule, the General Constitutions.

Having then the joyful gifts of the Holy Spirit we will be able to attract others to the OFS.

Don't complain and worry about what you are not attracting, eg, Youfra and new members

Remember that when two or more are gathered, there is great celebration!

Be courageous, honest and begin again!

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<sup>i</sup> Saint Bonaventure, Legenda Major 14, 1.

<sup>ii</sup> Paul VI, Allocution to Tertiaries (“Salutiamo voluntieri”), #3 (May 19, 1971) AAS, vol. 63, pp. 545-546