

Michel Janian, ofs, to the National Chapter 2018

Peace and good, on behalf of our General Minister Tibor Kauser, ofs. You met him previously at the last Spiritual Conference 2016.

My salutation and greetings to each one of you. Greetings from Jenny Harrington from South Africa.

Thank you to all the members of the Outgoing Council: Gilles Métivier, Françoise Malboeuf, Debbie Tessier, Harvey Levesque, Jewel Jasmins, Marion Clorey; for your service, for your patience, for your conscientious work! You have increased quantity and quality.

Thank you also to Doug and Marion Clorey, for their contributions in an active way in the document *Instrumentum laboris*. Thanks to each one of you for being present, travelling from such great distances to meet here.

Thanks from the General Ministers of the First Order, they express their gratitude to the friars for the work with the members of the OFS.

Now you think the Chapter has ended, but it begins now. You all have a role to support the new council. You have been a concrete sign of the OFS. In fraternity, serving a double function:

- being a brother and sister and sharing some of the charism of St. Francis
- being a guide to other brothers and sisters, and helping to foster communion in the Church

Today, during this great Feast Day of Pentecost, the action of Christ is present. The Holy Spirit is the principle of vocations to fraternal life.

A challenge for the new council is to create relations with others in love, truth, loyalty and respect, as capable co-heirs.

We are invited to live the Gospel in Fraternity. Each step of the personal life of Francis is marked with a great love towards the Church:

- believe in the Church
- be Franciscan and live in Fraternity
- live in the Church as you live in fraternity

All of us are sons, daughters, brothers and sisters of the Holy God. When Jesus said you are all one:

-we found Francis in our hearts

-we call Jesus to the center of fraternity life

-we are one in unity of Spirit

-Jesus makes us as one in fraternity at all levels (local, regional, national, international)

-fraternity is where in service we can sacrifice freely

The service we need is to serve others and not wait to be served; an attitude focused on the 'other'. Finally, you are each asked to be united in the service of one's own and all levels of fraternity.