



Chapter Steering Committee

23 July 2007

Dear Brother:

The subcommittee on votation for our provincial chapter's agenda has tabulated the results of the first votation, and we are advising you of the process we will be using to further determine the proposed chapter agenda.

We received a total of 120 ballots (69% return of 174 ballots sent). You will remember that there were eleven possible choices on the ballot. You were asked to rank your *first three* choices (1st, 2nd, and 3rd). We gave a value of 3 points to your first choice, 2 points to your second choice, and 1 point to your third choice. The results were as follows:

Results of ballots, based on point values:

Fraternal life and Capuchin Identity

Total number of value points based on ballots: 166

Collaboration and Ministry

Total number of value points based on ballots: 116

Health Care/Retirement

Total number of value points based on ballots: 107

Provincial Administration

Total number of value points based on ballots: 102

Vocations/Formation

Total number of value points based on ballots: 95

The remaining issues garnered the following value points:

Future of our ministries in light of aging, retirement and diminishing numbers: 46

Environmental concerns: 21

Learning Spanish: 12

Violence in Society: 14

Evangelization: 22

Jubilee Celebrations: 6

Since the first five issues received significantly high value points based on your votations, we are asking you to now consider a second votation on those issues. We do not expect you to have community meetings between now and the next votation; however, you are certainly encouraged to do so, if possible. The next ballot will be sent to you by August 15. Ballots will need to be submitted no later than September 4. We will then send you the results of this second votation so that you can meet with your community to discuss the potential agenda for the chapter and submit any concerns or comments.

The second ballot, to be sent to you by August 15, will include the following issues:

Fraternal life and Capuchin Identity (issues related: friars living situations, Capuchin spirit, younger members/candidates' expectations, inviting foreign friars to live with us, our public image/identity, community vs. fraternity).

Collaboration and Ministry (issues related: defining terms of collaboration, accountability issues, enhancing partnership, parishes as ministry, foreign mission work, provincial planning).

Health care/Retirement (issues related: insurance, status of funds, government programs, legal issues, retirement ministries, prescription drug issues, community styles and future planning).

Provincial Administration (issues related: Provincial Council in relation to the membership, delegate vs. universal chapters, assemblies, mergers/consolidations of jurisdictions, collaborations with other jurisdictions, provincial visitations, styles of leadership).

Vocations/formation (issues related: cultural/generational differences, various styles/locations of formation).

These above five issues received the most support from your first ballot. We ask you now to consider these five issues. When you receive your next ballot, you will be asked to choose *two* (first and second choices) of these five issues.

The Steering Committee feels strongly that the chapter can adequately deal with only two issues during our four-day meeting. This consideration is based on your evaluations from the chapter of 2005, in which you said that you wanted a more expanded time for discernment for elections. Consequently, we will be designing a schedule to extend the elections/discernment over the entire four days of our chapter.

In order to adequately prepare for the two issues to be placed on the proposed agenda, we need to have your preferences no later than September 4. After we receive the results of that ballot, we will forward to you the proposed agenda from the Steering Committee so that you can meet with your local communities and submit any concerns, suggestions, etc.

The Steering Committee is committed to proposing a chapter agenda which *you will own* as a result of these consultations. If you have any concerns or suggestions prior to the next votation (15 August), kindly forward those to us so that they can be considered by the committee.

We are grateful to you all for your participation in this process. Our history indicates that the degree of our involvement in preparing the chapter agenda predicts a successful chapter meeting.

You can look forward to the next ballot on 15 August.

Thanks, again:

Chapter Steering Subcommittee on Agenda:

TL Michael Auman
Mark Carrico
John Celichowski