



ORDO PRÆDICATORUM  
CURIA GENERALITIA

Rome, 1 October 2020

Prot. 73/20/476 ICLDF

**To Priors Provincial  
And Presidents of Councils of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic**

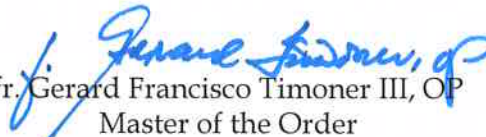
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well with you in the midst of this global health emergency. I understand how the pandemic is disrupting our schedules and other plans. Certainly, the well-being of all is of paramount importance. After consulting some members of the General Curia, I wish to convey to you the responses to the two concerns that the International Council of Lay Dominican Fraternities has presented through Mr. Gabriel Pinto Barbosa da Silva OP, ICLDF Coordinator and fr. Juan Ubaldo López Salamanca OP, our General Promoter for the Dominican Laity. I hope that the following will be useful for your respective councils.

- I. When councils and assemblies could not be convened due to safety concerns or travel restrictions, the respective councils should evaluate their own situation, and as necessary, propose appropriate and suitable solutions to the Master of the Order; (in the case of an international or interprovincial assembly); or to the Prior Provincial (in the case of a provincial assembly).
- II. In situations wherein professions (renewal or perpetual) cannot not be celebrated in the usual manner, i.e., in the presence of the community or chapter, it is sufficient to make this profession before the president, or religious assistant, or delegate in accordance with the form prescribed by the Rule, no. 14. If such is still impossible on account of restrictions, it is important to keep in mind that a professed lay person, who has neither left voluntarily nor been legitimately dismissed, remains incorporated in the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic despite the expiry of temporary vows. The member concerned should renew profession (or make perpetual profession, as the case may be) as soon as circumstances permit. No dispensation or *sanatio* is needed in such cases. Please be mindful that profession cannot be done “virtually” or by electronic means.

May our loving Lord “bring us health and heal our wounds” (Jeremiah 30:17).

Fraternally yours in St. Dominic

  
fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP  
Master of the Order