

## **Michel Versteegh, OFS, invites us to reflect on the daily life of the Secular Franciscan**



Press release

ROME, November 6, 2017 -- Michel Versteegh, a Secular Franciscan from the Netherlands, invited the capitulars today to reflect on the daily life of the Secular Franciscan.

While a cardio-vascular surgeon by profession, he finds time to serve the OFS at its different levels. At the beginning of his speech, Michel offered a life testimony based on the fact that others (patients, colleagues, family, siblings) are truly people.

But Michel didn't stop there. He went further, offering ten keys that can and should help Secular Franciscans face personal and fraternity challenges in daily living, and even the much-desired global management of the Order.

The first of these keys is formation, starting at the moment when we first welcome a brother or a sister. This gives rise to other key elements such as valuing testimonies, seeking and accepting one's talents, perseverance, commitment, prayer, giving value to others, always remembering our roots, being reborn every day and bringing God to everything that happens in life.

In short, it was a presentation that delved into the theme of the Chapter - "As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world" (Jn 17.18) - that has been very well received by the capitulars.

Subsequent group work and dialogue with the speaker, reinforced the importance of the fraternal welcome and the encounter with the brother/sister. Together with formation, these can help the brothers and sisters identify their own talents and later put them at the service of the fraternity as a part of the team.

The international councilors also placed their focus on the importance of the family as the nucleus of the Secular Franciscan life and of the daily conversion of the person.

