



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Celebrating the feast of Pentecost, I invite all of you to pray and ask God to grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that we may live our vocation and our fraternal spirit, and serve the fraternities and those who need our service, in an always better way.

Let us ask the **seven gifts of the Holy Spirit** focusing now on fraternal life, on our vocation, on our identity.

Let us ask for the gift of **wisdom**, so that we may test the things we face to see whether they are from God and thus for the good of our brothers and sisters, or not.

Let us ask for the gift of **insight**, recalling what pp St. John Paul II told us: *Duc in altum!* Let us go, and be not afraid of the depth, let us do not remain on the surface, in the shallow! Let us discover the beautiful depth of our vocation!

Let us ask for the gift of **council**, because in this world it so often is really hard to discern, to speak properly, to stand for the right and just. Let us ask the grace of this gift, which helps us to do the best for our brothers and sisters.

Let us ask for the gift of **strength**, amidst the many things that want to weaken us, that want to take away our conviction, that want us to give up our firm position, even to give up our Secular Franciscan identity. Let us ask for this gift specially for those who are living in extremely great difficulty, in war or in any kinds of crisis.

Let us ask for the gift of **knowledge**, so that we may know what is good and what is evil, what should we do to strengthen our fraternities and what should we avoid.

Let us ask for the gift of **piety**, in order to put always God into the focus of our thoughts and of our acts, into the focus of the life of our fraternities. Let us *put prayer and contemplation be the soul of all* what we are and what we do. (cf. OFS Rule 8.)

Finally, let us ask for the gift of the **fear of God**, because our fraternities need brothers and sisters, who put the will of God above their personal interests and plans.

With these simple thoughts I wish you a blessed feast of Pentecost!

Tibor Kauser
CIOFS general minister

