



ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM

MINISTER GENERALIS

Curia Generale dei Frati Minori (OFM), Via S. Maria Mediatrice 25, 00165 Roma - Italia. Tel. +39.06.684919

Fax. +39.06.632247 - eMail: mingen@ofm.org

Fr. Eleuthere Baharanyi Makuta, OFM
Guardian
Istiklal Caddesi, 429
P.K. 243
34433 Beyoglu- Istanbul

Rome, 15 October 2018

OBJECT: Greetings to all Participants in the Course on Ecumenical, Interreligious, and Intercultural Dialogue

Dear Bro. Eleuthere, Brothers of the Fraternities of Istanbul and Ismir, and all Friars and Other Participants,

May the Lord give you peace!

It is with great joy that I write to you to wish you every spiritual blessing as you begin the Course on Ecumenical, Interreligious, and Intercultural Dialogue. Our Franciscan Order has taken very seriously the call of the Church and the world to prepare friars to continue the tradition begun by St. Francis nearly 800 years ago of embracing encounter and dialogue as a means for opening our lives to the mystery of God at work everywhere in the world.

Since the time of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has taken very seriously the urgent need to open herself to a deepening of affective bonds with the ecumenical churches who do not share full communion at this time. At the same Council, the dignity of other Abrahamic faith traditions was reaffirmed, as was the call for the promotion of religious freedom as a necessary precondition for progress towards improved mutual understanding and, where possible, cooperation for the common good of humanity.

More recently, Pope Francis has invited the Church to reflect on the urgency of promoting interreligious dialogue as the means for achieving peace and the promotion of integral human development. The Pope encourages all Catholics to pursue training in order to open new avenues for understanding, enabling members of the Church to discover what is true and right and just in the religious tradition of Islam (*Evangelii gaudium*, 253).

The encouragement that we have received from our founder St. Francis, from the Council Fathers, and from Pope Francis reinforces the efforts that have been underway in the Order since the 1980s. This course, and the two fraternities in Turkey directly responsible for giving concrete expression to our commitment together with the Franciscan presence in Morocco and the Holy Land, should serve as powerful reminders of our responsibility as Friars Minor to build bridges

in place of walls enabling people of different religious and cultural backgrounds to come together and celebrate those elements that are common to all of us.

Thank you for your participation in this course. May it be a moment of enlightenment and grace for you and for your respective Province or Custody.

Fraternally yours in Christ and St. Francis,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bro. Michael A. Perry, OFM". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bro. Michael A. Perry, OFM
Minister General and Servant

Prot. 124/18



ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM
MINISTER GENERALIS