



Order of Ecumenical Franciscans

**J. Frederick Ball, OEF
Minister General**

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11 July 2005
Benedict of Nursia

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace! I write this letter on the heels of a marvelous weekend in St. Louis for our annual Chapter and Convocation. It is tempting to ramble on about the decisions and discussions about our mission as an Order, the spirit of the community, the wonderful resource people who were with us, the and joy in seeing both old faces and new ones. However, this missive has a very specific focus.

I am beginning the final year of my term as Minister General of the Order. Between now and next year's meeting, we must elect from among the professed a new Minister, to be installed at our next Convocation. The Minister is elected to a three-year term of office, and may be any professed member (except me this time, of course, due to term limits).

Though only those who have made final profession with the Order may make nominations and vote in this election, I want all of you to be aware of the election process. Here is the information and procedure for the election:

- The Scribe, Treasurer, and Chaplain serve as the election committee.
- Nominations are made by the Professed and are due by August 10. *Please secure the consent of your nominee ahead of time* – that will save time in the election process.
- Any professed member is eligible to serve.
- Once the deadline for nominations has passed, the Scribe will mail ballots with brief biographical information to the professed members of the Order.
- Votes by return mail will be due by October 4, the Feast of St. Francis.
- The Minister-elect will be installed and begin her/his term at the Convocation next June.

If the procedures need to be altered for some reason, the servant team will make any necessary changes and advise the membership of the changes and the reasons for them. The servants plan to

meet about eight weeks from now, 8-10 September. The dates for our next Chapter and Convocation are 1-4 June 2006, in St. Louis.

Now, I urge you to prayerful consideration of who might lead our Order as Minister for the next three years. Send nominations by return mail to:

Christine Petersen, OEF, Scribe
2228 Nichols Road, Apt. A
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

or e-mail nominations to: cpetersen@franciscans.com.

Peace and all good to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FRED". The letters are stylized and slanted to the right.

Fred Ball, OEF