

# Basic texts and post-conciliar documents on the CCFMC

## 1. Introduction to the history of the CCFMC

The list of texts and documents regarding the post-conciliar Church and the Franciscan Orders are the basic texts of the CCFMC throughout all 25 Lesson Units. This is a clear indication that the Council mission "Returning to the Sources" has been taken seriously by the Franciscan Family.

[A fascinating Project](#)

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## 2. Documents of the Church

### Dogmatic Constitution of the Church

#### "Lumen gentium"

The main objective of the constitution is putting Christ more at the centre of the Church. In clear biblical language and referring strongly to the theology of the Church Fathers, the Roman-Catholic Church emphasizes her character as the mystical body of Christ and "the travelling People of God" and notably avoids a limitation to the mere institutional character of the Church.

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19641121\\_lumen-gentium\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html)

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### Pastoral Constitution

#### Gaudium et Spes

On 7 December 1965 one of the last documents of Vatican Council II was adopted: the Pastoral Constitution entitled "Gaudium et spes" (GS) – "The Church in the modern world". It is probably the most unusual document that has been adopted during a Council throughout the history of the Church. It was and still is controversial.

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)

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### Nostra Aetate – a far-reaching Council Text

#### Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to non-Christian Religions

For the first time in her history, the Catholic Church makes a much more positive comprehensive statement in this Declaration regarding Her relationship with other religions and especially Judaism

faith. The Council acknowledges that these religions are confronted with the same "unsolved riddles" of life just like the Church: "What is man? What is the meaning, the aim of our life? What is morally good, what is sin? Whence suffering and what purpose does it serve? Which is the road to true happiness? What are death, judgment and retribution after death? What, finally, is that ultimate inexpressible mystery which encompasses our existence: whence do we come, and where are we going?" (Cardinal Lehmann)

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decl\\_19651028\\_nostra-aetate\\_ge.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_ge.html)

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## **Ad Gentes**

**Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church formulated by Vatican Council II and promulgated by Pope Paul VI on 7 December 1965.**

The Church has not really been founded, she is not yet fully alive and she is not the complete sign of Christ among humanity if the hierarchy does not also include laity and its work. The Gospel cannot be deeply rooted in the spirit, existence, and work of the people without the active involvement of laity.

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decree\\_19651207\\_ad-gentes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html)

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## **Apostolic Exhortation – Evangelii Nuntiandi**

The Apostolic **Evangelii nuntiandi** by Pope Paul VI published on 8 December 1975 deals with evangelization in the world of today. It describes Christ as the originator of evangelization, the Church and her religious leaders as the bearers of evangelization, and, furthermore, the contents, ways, methods and the recipients hearing the Good News. The final chapter covers the spirit of evangelization.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_exh\\_19751208\\_evangelii-nuntiandi.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi.html)

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## **Redemptor hominis**

by Pope John Paul II

Apostolic Exhortation to the Episcopate, to the Clergy, and to all the Faithful of the entire world at the beginning of the Pope's Pontifical Era.

The central theme of the newsletter **Christ - Mankind – Church** unfolds in the individual chapters: The secret of salvation – the redeemed human being and his/her situation in the world of today – the mission of the Church and the destiny of mankind. It is the Pope's inaugural encyclical and also outlines His theological program.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_exh\\_19751208\\_evangelii-nuntiandi.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi.html)

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## **Redemptoris Missio**

by John Paul II (7 December 1990)

**Redemptoris Missio** stresses its continued validity; it explicitly emphasizes the significance of laity in mission work and points out the absolute respect that should be shown for cultural and religious tradition in mission areas as a basic principle of today's mission. The Pope's Exhortation is influenced by the Apostolic Exhortation written by his predecessor Paul VI in 1976.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_07121990\\_redemptoris-missio.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio.html)

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## **Dialogue and Proclamation**

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples

Reflection and Orientations on Interreligious Dialogue and the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – 19 May 1991

This document is the result of many reflections and consultations in the plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples. The document deals with the close interconnection between dialogue and mission. Both dialogue and proclamation can each be individually regarded as the complementing elements and the authentic forms of the evangelization mission of the Church. Both features want to announce the truth of salvation by Jesus Christ.

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/interelg/documents/rc\\_pc\\_interelg\\_doc\\_19051991\\_dialogue-and-proclamatio\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_19051991_dialogue-and-proclamatio_en.html)

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## **World Hunger**

**A challenge for all: development in solidarity** (4 October 1996)

This study wants to prepare Christians for their mission to administer to the misery of today's people. The contents presented are highly relevant. They show the hunger in the world as well as the ethical implications of an issue addressing all people of good will. The publication served for the preparation of the Big Jubilee in 2000. The spirit of the statement does not follow any ideology, but it is led by the logic of the Gospel and invites to follow the discipleship of Christ in everyday life.

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/corunum/documents/rc\\_pc\\_corunum\\_doc\\_04101996\\_world-hunger\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/corunum/documents/rc_pc_corunum_doc_04101996_world-hunger_en.html)

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## **For a Future Founded on Solidarity and Justice**

Statement of the Council of the Evangelic Church in Germany and the German Bishops Conference on the economic and social situation in Germany, 1997

The joint statement on the economic and social situation in Germany "For a Future Founded on Solidarity and Justice", the two big Churches are now following a new path. Their goal is the orientation towards dialogue, ecumenism, the Option for the Poor, mysticism, and politics.

<https://www.ekd.de/english/1729.html>

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## **Documents by Pope Francis updating the crucial Lesson Units of the CCFMC:**

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### **The Joy of the Gospel**

The Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* by Pope Francis is an appeal to take a fresh look at the Church's mission of evangelization within the context of the real world and the real experiences of billions of people, in particular the poor and the vulnerable. The entire document contains the "gems" of the wisdom and insights of Pope Francis.

24 November – The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - in the year 2013.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html)

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## **ENCYCLICAL LETTER 'LAUDATO SI'**

by Pope Francis

### **About the Concern for our Common Home.**

Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment can be considered as an important objective of his papacy with the key statement: the fight against global poverty and the destruction of the environment share a common bond.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

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### **Holy Year of Mercy -**

#### **Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy**

The "Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy" begins on 8. December 2015 with the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of St. Mary and will close on 20 November 2016 with the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is to be "a time of mercy for the Church, and it was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction", Pope Francis writes in the Bull of Indiction.

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco\\_bolla\\_20150411\\_misericordiae-vultus.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html)

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## **3. Documents of the Order**

### **Medellin 1971 - The Order of the Friars Minor and mission**

An extraordinary General Chapter was held in Medellin with the objective to rediscover the Franciscan mission charism in the light of the Council and with the focus on the missionary vocation in the world of today.

Our entire fraternity focuses on mission, as it participates in the healing mission of the Church. Yet, it also has its own and specific calling for mission, because there have always been numerous Brothers in our Order, who have received their mission through divine inspiration to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. Therefore, all Brothers consciously are to accept the missionary spirit so that they will directly or indirectly participate in the proclamation of the Gospel among the peoples. Our calling is a sign of Christ, who has been sent by God the Father for the salvation of us all.



Medellin\_gescann

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## **Madrid 1973 - Statement of the General Chapter of the Franciscans**

As Friars Minor, we first declare our confidence in the charism given in the past to Francis of Assisi and recognized by the Church, a charism that is still real and alive today as is witnessed to by many voices inside and outside of Christianity. Submissive to this charism of Francis, who succeeded in grasping some of the deepest aspirations of his times, we are led to look at the present day world, and to listen to the interpellations which come to us from contemporary trends, including their challenges. We owe our existence as a fraternity to the historical experience of Francis and of his Order and we intend to remain faithful to him. Welcoming in faith the Gospel of Christ, Francis was aware that he and his brothers were sent to the world to proclaim, by life-style and word, conversion to the Gospel, the coming of the Kingdom of God and the revelation of his love among men. Awareness of that mission gave him the spiritual dynamism, mobility and the audacity to leave all, and placed him amid men, Christian or not, to share with them, in the concrete situation of their lives, the newness and the joy of the Gospel. The call addressed to this man in the past is our concern and still calls us today; it is up to us to accept it and to live it, thus replying to the expectations and needs of the people of our times.

[CamminoENG.pdf](#)

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## **Mattli 1978 – PCO OFMCAP**

### **Final Document – Missionary Life and Activity**

The document is the result of in-depth discussion during the fourth Plenary Council of the Capuchins in Mattli (Morschach, Switzerland). It covers the most important issues for the future of the mission spirituality and the activities of the order, and the rediscovery of our specific Franciscan mission charism in the light of the post-conciliar mission understanding. The document is to help to develop “in all of us a growth in apostolic awareness, to give a new evangelizing impetus to our missionaries, and, through time, new hope to the peoples to whom the Good News is proclaimed. “

[Mattli 1978.docx](#)

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## **Mattli 1982 – Inter-franciscan Message**

In our 800-year history, Sisters and Brothers of the various Franciscan congregations, mainly from the continents of the South, came together in Mattli (Morschach, Switzerland) to jointly reassess the challenges that Francis poses for us from a Third World perspective. While doing so, we made the joyful experience, that we are all part of one family. An optimistic, even downright juvenile openness prevailed in the rediscovery of the stimulating power of the charisma of our founding Father. He is regarded as the "Brother of all creation" but also as a symbolic figure of true humanity for the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Mattli Declaration is the attempt to discover a true Franciscan perspective for the Third World. The document also drew considerable attention among other congregations.

[The Mattli 1982 Document](#)

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## **Assisi 1982 - The first Islamic Conference of the Franciscans**

The 800th Anniversary of the birth of Francis gave the cause and the opportunity of this get-together. We are convinced that 800 years ago, Francis had already established an example of successful dialogue with the Islam by paying this historical visit to the Sultan in Damietta in 1218. Still today, this can serve as inspiration and motivation to turn our fear-filled relationship with the Islam into a dialogue filled with respect and peace.

<http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?p=1296>

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## **Gubbio 1982 - International Seminar "Terra Mater" on the occasion of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Saint Francis**

The seminar, which was attended by Franciscan theologians and international environmental experts, made an urgent appeal to all responsible parties that the future of mankind and our own home, the planet earth, is endangered and that, despite the warnings that had been announced for 10 years by the UN Assembly in Stockholm that the environmental situation of the world has continued to worsen. The example of Francis of Assisi, who had conjured the unity of the entire creation, in a visionary manner in his Canticle to the Sun, is of fundamental importance today. Without a new spirituality of creation, we will be unable to tackle the ecological crisis. L. White thinks that Francis has been an example for this new understanding and he, therefore, suggested Francis to be the patron Saint of ecology. This was a proposal that was taken up and realized by the Pope in 1979.

[http://www.terra-mater-gubbio.it/Portals/terra\\_mater\\_gubbio/carte\\_di\\_gubbio/CartaDiGubbio\\_1982\\_EN.pdf](http://www.terra-mater-gubbio.it/Portals/terra_mater_gubbio/carte_di_gubbio/CartaDiGubbio_1982_EN.pdf)

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## **Bahía 1983 - Documents III Plenary Council of Bahia**

### **The Gospel challenges us – Reflections on Evangelization**

"We have the information. We have the documentation. We have the inspiration of so many apostolic friars who have opened the path for us. What appears necessary now today is the imagination and the motivation. We can do great things with the help of God and his grace, but we must stand up now and begin to work," the Minister General said during the opening of the Plenary Council.

The message "The Gospel Challenges Us" is intended as a response to his words. We believe it constitutes a step towards our own evangelization. With these reflections, we offer a little of the Good News to you, our brothers spread throughout so many parts of the world., where you live and work amid the people of God."

[Bahía 1983 - III "new evangelization" Order's documents Plenary Council of Bahia ...](#)

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## **THE RULE OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR OF ST. FRANCIS**

[Franciscanum vitae propositum.pdf](#)