



CONGREGAZIONE
RELIGIOSE FRANCESCANE DI S. ANTONIO
Via Cicerone, 60 - 00072 ARICCIA (Roma)
Tel. 06. 9331766 - Fax 06. 93393127

ArICCIA, april 12, 2021

Dear Sisters,

the renewed Constitutions are the fruit of years of "an in-depth study carried out with the view of a greater adherence to the Charism of foundation", a study that involved all the Fraternities and in particular the XV General Chapter 2007 "that underwent a revision of the Constitutional Text, approved by the Holy See on 4th October 1985".

In obedience to the Church, that once again confirmed us in the faith, we want to assume, with our responsible response to life the new Constitutions as a concrete itinerary to live the Gospel and to render it legible, in History and for History, with coherence of our life, the identity of the Religious Franciscan Sisters of St Anthony.

We ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of docile, humble and attentive listening: listening to God, listening to History, listening to humanity, listening to the muted situations of our religious Family.

This will allow us to live in an attitude of prayer, of inner freedom and of gratitude to accept the Constitutions as a reference text to orient always our vocation as disciples of the Christ Crucified and Risen.

Our Constitutions are a concrete translation, today and for us, of the evangelical foundations, read in the light of the charismatic, spiritual and apostolic experiences of Francis of Assisi and Mother Miradio of the Divine Providence. These strengthen our belonging to God, the Church and to our religious Family, to live the common calling to love and serve mankind, to whom we have been sent and, in preferential choice of the poor.

The Constitutions contain the evangelical features that render us credible witnesses to the Lord and sisters and mothers whom we encounter along our journey. For each one of us they draw a path of life that guides us to a right equilibrium and to a profound synthesis between contemplation, fraternal life and evangelizing mission.

Together with the Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St Francis and the Directory, the Constitutions are for us a Law that is a proposal for life, instrument for growth, support for fidelity, a guide for a journey of evangelical freedom to follow with radicality and coherence our Lord Jesus

The Congregation of the Religious wishes to all “that the observance of the Constitution by the *Religious Franciscan Sisters of St Anthony*, is a precious help in the realization of a religious vocation, in being faithful to the Franciscan Charism, according to the spirit of the Foundress, Mother Miradio of the Divine Providence”.

Let us continue our journey, Sisters, in trust, and let us repeat with the psalmist: “*Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord*” (Psalm 118), in the certainty that the norms contained in the Constitutions make us free and responsible women, if their observance is an expression of the total gift of ourselves and is animated by the love for God the Father, only One and Supreme and Good.

To the praise of God!

Sister Tanina Nicolaio
Superior General