

July 21, 2026

“Let us begin again, brothers, for up until now, we have done little or nothing.” This seems a rather fitting quote as we head into a new fraternal year with the election of a new council for ‘Our Lady of the Angels’ Regional Fraternity of Secular Franciscans-Western Canada. This chapter showed a great sign of ‘fraternity and unity’ as 42 voting delegates and a few observers with the national guests gathered for the chapter of election. With the end of the Chapter, real life and mission begin. I am glad to have been part of this chapter, where I had the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist, present spiritual talk, meet, listen and learn from brothers and sisters.

Now that we have returned to our respective fraternities, I would urge the newly elected council and all, ***let us begin again***. Let the Holy Spirit lead us forward from community life to fraternal life, making our Franciscan vocation a witness and way for missionary evangelization. Be willing to start anew, reconcile with each other if there had been differences and conflicts, and let the old self (ego: I, Me, Mine) die so that it can give birth to a new self (one family: We, Ours). Be willing to serve like the Good Shepherd embracing good shepherd leadership; smell of sheep, going to least and lost with support, comfort and accompaniment. Be willing to learn from signs of the time and embrace new thinking and approaches it brings. Be willing to return to Franciscan roots to move forward and when faced with contradictions. Be willing to listen, discern and go forth; living Franciscan vocation in honesty for the love of God and each other. St. Francis, our Seraphic Father, guide and accompany us, as we your children ***begin again***.

Br Manoj Xalxo, ofm