



Franciscan School of Theology

at the UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego CA 92110-8001

(619) 574-5800 ~ www.fst.edu

Br. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM
Minister General
Curia Generale dei Frati Minori
Via S. Maria Mediatrice, 25
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December 23, 2024

Very Reverend and dear Father General

Peace and all good.

We so enjoyed your visit to the Franciscan School of Theology last June. It was one of the highlights during my time here at FST.

With this letter I would like to ask your permission to continue to invite Brother Martín Carbajo Nuñez OFM, to teach at our Franciscan School of Theology one semester a year for three years (academic years in the Fall 2025, 2026, 2027). The three-year commitment will allow us to do appropriate planning here at the school and will facilitate permission for the necessary government visas. Let me give you some background to this request.

For the past three years, in accordance with your previous permission and in continuance of your predecessor, the Franciscan School of Theology has been privileged to have as a Visiting Professor Brother Martín Carbajo Nuñez, OFM. His lectures at the school in Catholic Social Teaching, Information Technology, Voluntarism, Ethics as well as the Franciscan tradition of economic ethics have been exceptionally well received and add immeasurably to our desire to train friars and lay men and women in the Franciscan spiritual, theological, and social tradition. He is a vital link to an earlier generation of Franciscans who first taught this material for us when we were in Berkeley, California. Yet it is precisely to revitalize and educate people in the riches of our Franciscan heritage that we have established ourselves here at the University of San Diego.

Although independent as a Franciscan School, we are affiliated with the University of San Diego, a Catholic university of fine expertise and witness in particular to Catholic social teaching. Brother Martín's courses in Franciscan social ethics are also attractive to students from the University's School of Leadership and Education Studies and School of Business. The University also houses the Joan Kroc School of Peace and Justice that trains its own students in the challenges of global poverty and peace making. Brother Martín has contributed greatly to our growing



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relationship with the University. We are currently working on joint degree with the University of San Diego. We want to offer a Doctorate of Education in Catholic Social Thought. Martín's expertise in Catholic Social Teaching will be vital here. He has been a part of a meeting with their faculty, and I think it will be a great use of his time as well as furthering our collaboration with the university in a way that enhances their Catholic identity.

I spoke with Brother Martín earlier in the month about this arrangement, and he is very open to it. It definitely has advantages for our own growth here as the only graduate theology school teaching the Franciscan tradition for ministerial training in the English-speaking world. We have had Korean friars as students. We currently have students from the Vietnamese Province as well as St. Junipero Serra Province in Mexico. Last year we hosted a very successful conference: **Re-Imagining The World: Saint Francis and Pope Francis**. We had over 300 people from throughout the country attend as well as over 30 friars from the various branches.

Here at the Franciscan School **Brother Martín also worked on our brand-new online degree in Franciscan Theology.** This is a remarkable degree program that we have developed with the technology experts at the University of San Diego. They already offer 13 online degrees. We have learned from their best practices and are able to offer a degree that can be taken online throughout the world with the highest standards. We have already had close to 30 students graduate with this degree, and it is currently our most subscribed degree. Many friars teach in the program throughout the world as you do not have to reside locally. This means that we have over 15 Franciscans teaching or working at FST.

We are delighted that we are becoming more and more of a Pacific Rim school. Brother Francis Lee, OFM has helped connect us better to both our Asian students and the Asian world. We recently hired another Mexican American professor. We are currently in the process of hiring two more professor as we have concluded the first round of interviews. Our enrollment is up 20% year over year, and we continue to achieve our ambitious and incrementally higher fundraising goals each year. We are able to attain our goals because of your generous support and commitment to Franciscan studies and education throughout the world.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request.

Peace,

Garrett Galvin, OFM
President and Rector