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Very Reverend and dear Father General

Peace and all good.

First, let me congratulate you on your election to this office and assure you of my support and prayers, and gratitude for your acceptance of the burdens and challenges. May the Lord give you peace, sustenance, and the love from the friars that will sustain your efforts.

With this letter I would like to ask your permission to continue to invite Father Martín Carbajo Nuñez OFM, to teach at our Franciscan School of Theology one semester a year for three years (academic years in the Fall 2022, 2023, 2024). 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 the permission of your predecessor, the Franciscan School of Theology has been privileged to have as a Visiting Professor Father 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. Father 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. Father Martín has contributed greatly to our growing relationship with the University.

I have already spoken with Father Martín 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 and friars from the Province of Junípero Serra in Mexico as students. We expect to have students from the Vietnamese Province soon as it was the last trip I made before COVID. Last summer we hosted twelve friars from among the Conventuals, Capuchins, and OFMs in the United States for courses in our new Franciscan Journey Institute, which focuses on Franciscan Philosophy. Courses were taught by William Short, OFM, Tom Nairn, OFM, and Keith Warner, OFM. Once COVID lets up, we are hoping to have more Franciscan students from throughout the world. We also train the diocesan seminarians for the Diocese of San Diego and collaborate closely with Bishop Robert McElroy, the only American invited to the Amazonia Synod.

In the past, our own professors of theology, spirituality, and history have participated in block courses at the Pontifical University Antonianum. Brother William Short has taught spirituality. Dr. Darleen Pryds was scheduled to teach a course in Franciscan women, and Dr. Mary Beth Ingham has lectured at the PAA. All of this has strengthened our international ties and contribution to the Order. I know from following the Bologna Process that the participation of faculty in international programs of teaching and research is also an important criteria for faculty growth and scholarship in Europe as it is here in the United States. Here at the Franciscan School **Father Martín also works 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 10 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. I have developed one of these courses myself and can attest to its high quality.

There are other issues of training for formators in the English Speaking language regions of the Order which I would like to pursue at a future time. We want to be able to contribute to the growth of the Order in many different parts of the world and are now positioned to present to many friars, sisters, and laity the riches of our Franciscan intellectual and pastoral patrimony. Our new online degree can be especially helpful in this process. We are very concerned with the new province that is forming in the U.S. Two friars from outside our province have recently joined the faculty (Mike Blastic – Holy Name Province, Moises Gutierrez Rivas – Sacred Heart Province). We also have two friars as regents on our governing board (Tom Nairn – Sacred Heart Province, Dan Horan – Holy Name Province). We desire to avoid any parochialism and become a faculty and school with contributors from throughout the U.S. and world.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request.

Peace,

Garrett Galvin, OFM  
President and Rector