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January 1, 2024
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Dear Brothers:

Peace and all good!

Our Capuchin *Ratio Formationis* recalls the Emmaus event (Lk 24: 13-35), where two disciples move from confusion, disorientation, and disappointment to an encounter with the Lord present in person, word, and the breaking of bread (c.f., 181). “From the disciples of Emmaus,” the *Ratio* concludes, “we learn that it is always possible to start afresh, that we must never consider our formation as complete. The whole person is subject to renewal at every stage of life. This is why ongoing formation, as a continual process, is a necessary and intrinsic part of our vocation” (182).

Please consider a plan and budget for your continuing formation for the 2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025).

We again invite *communities* to submit requests for continuing formation. If you are a guardian and would like to organize a community outing to a play, concert, or lecture, purchase a streaming subscription for a video series, or create a book club for your fraternity, please include that in your budget. Feel free to be creative, keeping in mind our vows and the timeless principle of “the minimum necessary, not the maximum allowed.”

You will find that the format of the Continuing Formation Budget Request Form is virtually the same as in previous years. ***Please submit your Continuing Formation Budget Form by February 15, 2024.*** It may be submitted via e-mail or “snail mail” (USPS). If you have any questions or concerns about the form or process, please do not hesitate to contact me at jcelichowski@thecapuchins.org or (313) 579-2100 Ext. 1184. Thanks for your consideration and for your efforts to grow as a friar and minister in the Church.

Fraternally yours,

John Celichowski, OFM Cap., Director
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