



Prot. No. 2c/22 SG

**TO SUPERIORS AND DELEGATES OF CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL**

Their respective Seats

Dear Brothers,

Grace and Peace!

I extend to you my fraternal greetings, also in the name of the General Government, in the hope that you will find yourselves in good health in this time of distress due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We also wish a speedy recovery to those who, unfortunately, have been infected in recent days, including three of our confreres from the Generalate and, according to information received, some confreres from the communities of Manila and Paris, fortunately all without particular consequences. Let us entrust them to the Lord in their journey of healing!

We believe you are aware of the troubled world health situation which, especially in the last month, has worsened, especially because of the Omicron variant, although less virulent but, nevertheless, more contagious. Considering this grave reality, we listened to the Preparatory Commission of the XI General Chapter and to all the Superiors and Delegates of the Circumscriptions concerning the realization of the General Chapter on the established date, that is, from 6 to 27 February 2022.

In the sharing that we did with the Circumscription Superiors and Delegates, we noted that the majority, while willing to make the trip to Rome for the celebration of the General Chapter, were nonetheless fearful, aware of the risks of contagion, both during the trip and on arrival in Europe. In fact, in Italy alone, according to official data, the average number of contaminations in the last week has reached about 200,000 per day, which, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, is very high.

For this reason, not wanting to put our member Capitulars at risk and to ensure that the General Chapter takes place in an atmosphere of greater security and serenity, untroubled by other feelings and fears that arise from this situation, and considering the provisions of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (2 April 2020), together with the General Council, **we have decided that the XI General Chapter be postponed to another date, namely, from 29 May to 19 June 2022, always at the Divine Master House in Ariccia.**

None of us has any certainty as to how the epidemic will develop and, as things stand today, there are risks today and, probably, in the future as well. The decision we felt prudent to take is to choose the period when the intensity of the epidemic is least aggressive. From the experiences of the last two years, the data tell us that it is less strong, in Italy and in Europe, during the summer.

Other information will be sent to you by the Preparatory Commission, including the complete list of Participants by right and of our confreres who have been elected (Delegates and Substitutes) at Provincial Chapters and Regional Assemblies to participate in this important congregational event. Regarding the Preparatory Commission, we inform you that we have appointed a new member in the person of Fr. Celso Godilano, General Councilor.

May the journey of four months that separates us from the beginning of the General Chapter be lived serenely and prudently, carrying out our commitments and working in synodality, as “communicator apostles and consecrated persons”. For our part, as General Government, we will continue our contacts with the circumscription Governments, sharing their concerns and hopes, offering animation aids to the Congregation, always inspired by the theme: *«Let yourselves be transformed by renewing your way of thinking» (Rom 12:2). Called to be artisans of communion to prophetically proclaim the joy of the Gospel in the culture of communication».*


In the Word of God and in the Eucharist we can find the nourishment and strength we need to face, with creativity, during this turbulent time in our history. Thanking you for your understanding and patience, we count on the prayers of each of you for the success of our General Chapter. Aware that the Pauline Family is also close to us, we entrust everything to Jesus who tells us: *«Remain in me and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me» (Jn 15:4).*

May Mary Queen of the Apostles, Saint Paul the Apostle and Blessed James Alberione accompany us on our journey.

Faternally,

Rome, 14 January 2022




Father Valdir José De Castro, ssp
Superior General