



Prot. no. 202c/19 SG

Reverend
SUPERIORS OF CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS AND THEIR COUNCILS
DELEGATES OF CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS
SUPERIORS AND DELEGATES OF COMMUNITIES
TO ALL THE CONFRERES
Their Residences

Dear Brothers,
grace and peace!

With this communication, we wish to provide you with some information with regard to the synodal journey towards the XI General Chapter started last 16 June, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, an itinerary that is in its decisive execution.

a) *The synthesis of the Questionnaire of the 1st stage of the pre-preparatory phase*

As you already know, the Meeting of the Superiors of Circumscriptions took place in Rome from 11 to 14 November. Among the work carried out on that occasion was a common reflection on the interpretative reading of the answers to the "Questionnaire" prepared by the Pre-Preparatory Commission.

After analysing the critical points and the positive aspects that appeared in that first survey, the General Government, together with the Circumscription Superiors, focused on the main challenges facing our Congregation. Here is the synthesis born of that reflection, which highlights the crucial points that have emerged and will be the object of further study in the next stage of the journey in preparation for the General Chapter:

1. There is a lack of witnessing and little rootedness in the Pauline spirituality, from which most of the community, formative and apostolic problems arise, in addition to the loss of the sense of our mission in many confreres.
2. There are difficulties in fraternal life and in relationships, existence of the spirit of competition and individualism, which prevent teamwork and availability for service in the Congregation. The aging (physically and of mentality) of the members and the scarcity of vocations must also be kept in mind.
3. Lacking are the perspectives of renewal of the apostolate, creativity and enthusiasm in launching new processes (*Evangelii gaudium*, no. 222) and in seeking new forms of expression of the Pauline apostolate. We need to encourage ap-

apostolic creativity, give more space to young people, and qualify our collaboration with the laity.

4. Aiming at integral Pauline formation, initial and ongoing, more focused on the mission, based on the orientations of the Seminars on the Pauline Publisher and on formation, to favour a change of mentality and establish a fruitful dialogue with today's world.
5. Assume synodality as an ordinary style in the community and apostolic life, in collaboration among the circumscriptions and within them, in relationships with the Pauline Family, to overcome self-importance and be an "outgoing" Congregation.

b) The biblical reference and the theme

In the Meeting of the Superiors of Circumscriptions, confronting ourselves with the reality that emerged from the synthesis reported above, it was agreed that the next General Chapter should give new impetus to the Congregation, in the specificity of its mission and through a synodal way, and to favour a spiritual and charismatic renewal, an apostolic creativity, an attention to formation and collaboration with the laity.

Evaluating our reality there emerged in the first stage of the pre-preparatory phase and taking into account the suggestions received from the individual Paulines and, then, on the occasion of the aforementioned Meeting, the General Government thus defined the theme of the next General Chapter:

«Let yourselves be transformed by renewing your way of thinking» (Rom 12:2)
Called to be artisans of communion
to prophetically announce the joy of the Gospel
in the culture of communication

c) Place and date of the XI General Chapter

After consulting the Superiors of Circumscriptions and with the assent of the General Council, I communicate that the **XI General Chapter will take place at the Casa "Divin Maestro"** in Ariccia from 11 April to 2 May 2021, taking up the practice of our Congregation to celebrate the Chapters during the Easter season.

Dear Brothers, the synthesis and the theme of the XI General Chapter presented above will be the bases on which the Pre-Preparatory Commission, renewed in its components, will work in this second phase, having as its final goal the elaboration of the *Instrumentum laboris*. In this itinerary our communities, the Aggregated Institutes, the Pauline Cooperators and our lay collaborators will be involved.

The Circumscription Superiors with their Councils will be our points of reference and the pivot on which the work of this second stage will rest, since they will be

called to be the true animators of this “synodal” journey, involving all their communities. The next steps of this itinerary will be communicated in the coming days by the Pre-Preparatory Commission.

Let us remember that the General Chapter is a time of listening to each other and, above all, of listening to the Spirit who spoke to our Founder and who continues to speak to our hearts, to challenge us in our experiences and concrete realities. Everyone can open up to his action and give his collaboration in continuing the synodal journey towards the General Chapter, a path that, to be effective, requires, among other things, a continuous renewal of our way of thinking inspired by the Gospel.

We hope that it will be a path travelled in unity, respecting the diversity of ideas and generations. The words of Pope Francis when he affirms are inspirational: *«If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us. To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands»* (Christus vivit, no. 199).

The Time of Advent makes us look to the future with hope, that hope that comes from the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh. It is in him that St. Paul, Blessed Alberione and the many “saints” of the Pauline Family who have preceded us, have deposited their trust. May Mary, whose solemnity of the Immaculate Conception we celebrate today, accompany us with her maternal presence.

Fraternally.

Rome, 8 December 2019

II Sunday of Advent

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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