

Rome, 5 May 2020

SUBJECT: *Preparation to the XI General Chapter during the Coronavirus*

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Dear Brothers,

We are all aware of the different concerns and harm caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic affects our apostolate, the style of our community life, but also our personal state of mind. The risk we are facing is having to rebuild not only our activities but also our fortitude. This time, however, can also help us to put things right in our personal life, it can help us to see and choose the essentials in our Pauline life, it can help us to refocus our life on the One who is the Resurrection and the Life. It is from Him that we have the hope on which to base our faith in “new heavens and new earth”, a hope that must guide us also in this time of preparation for the General Chapter. The question we have asked ourselves right now is the following: the climate of pandemic that we are experiencing in all our Circumscriptions, where more or where less, will affect the adequate preparation for the next General Chapter scheduled for April 2021?

The Pre-preparatory Commission has planned a course of preparation work. All have received the “**Preparatory Document for the XI General Chapter**” and, together, the relative **Questionnaire** to which each community is invited to respond as a community within the first week of April (already passed).

The *Iter* now requires that the Superiors/Delegates of the Community with their Councils summarize the responses that the members of the community gave when they met in community and send this synthesis to the Circumscription Superior. This work should have already been completed and the Circumscription Superiors should have already received the summaries of each community.

By the end of May, the Circumscription Superiors must send a summary of the responses given by each community, a summary produced and approved by the Circumscription Council and to be sent in the manner described in the “**Preparatory Document for the XI General Chapter**” on page 25.

We ask ourselves: has all this work been done, has it been possible to do it or have there been difficulties and, if so, in what way? Are we in line with the time frame we have set for ourselves or have there been difficulties? We reiterate that we are always at your disposition for any help that may be necessary. For this reason, we ask you to send us information about this to the email [capitologenerale@paulus.net](mailto:capitologenerale@paulus.net) or to the Secretary General.

We are not sure when the pandemic will allow us to have a chance of movement and exit. And in this uncertainty, time passes and we do not know if we can plan, if we will be able to keep faith to the next deadlines, which we list below:

- between the end of June and the beginning of July, the Pre-preparatory Commission will have to meet for 8/10 days to devote itself full time to checking the answers received in the various languages from the various Circumscriptions and, on the basis of these, to elaborate the *Instrumentum laboris* to be delivered to the General Government by mid-July;
- in September the *Instrumentum laboris* will be delivered to the individual Circumscriptions so that each make a reflection and possible additions during the elective Provincial Chapters or Assemblies which are to be celebrated between October 2020 and February 2021;
- lastly, the celebration of the Provincial Chapters and Regional Assemblies, between October 2020 and February 2021, which will elect the chapter fathers.

In the synodal journey that we have started in preparation for the next General Chapter, we can find difficulties that must not catch us unprepared. We have the ability and intelligence to implement all those precautions and techniques to involve and sensitize all our confreres to be ready for the celebration of that event that will determine the next path of our Congregation.

May the Lord help us, guide us and give us the courage of the prophets.

Fraternally,

***The Members of the Pre-preparatory Commission***