



Rome, 31 August 2021

Rev. Major Superiors and Delegates of the Society of St Paul
and their offices

Dear Superiors and Delegates,

Grace and peace to all of you.

We wish to inform you that the Preparatory Commission of the XI General Chapter had its first meeting on 25 and 26 August in Rome, a few days after the celebration of the 107th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of St Paul.

After the cordial greeting of the Superior General, Fr Valdir José De Castro, we began the work by listening to the report by Fr Vito Fracchiolla, coordinator of the Pre-preparatory Commission, who presented the articulation of the working document (*Instrumentum Laboris*), the fruit of the synodal journey of these months, which will form the basis of the Chapter works. Our sincere thanks goes to him and to the members of the Pre-preparatory Commission for the great and valuable work done.

After the careful analysis of the text, we made some changes and adopted it in the version that we send you as an attachment along with this letter to start the next work that will lead us to the celebration of the XI General Chapter.

As you will notice, the method followed in the working document is the same used in the Synod on the Youth (*recognize, interpret and choose*) in reference to the 5 challenges highlighted by our Major Superiors, which were then organized by the Pre-preparatory Commission into three central thematic groups.

We invite the Superiors and Delegates to make available this document to all members, so that they can make a personal study and deepening of it. We suggest, in line with the synodal path followed so far, that the animation of community meetings – held in view of the election of the Delegates to the Provincial Chapter – and during the celebration of the Chapters and of the Regional Assemblies, be done on the basis of the working document, considering the questions that are mentioned at the end of each section. Such occasions could facilitate in gathering the concerns, insights and suggestions from the confreres which would be a source of inspiration for the prospective chapter members.

With regard to the reports that the Major Superiors will present to the Chapters and Circumscription Assemblies, we propose that all the topics dealt with therein be organized according to three thematic focal points of the working document, also in anticipation of carrying out the Chapter works, which could follow precisely this pattern. In particular,

1. The first focal point ("The Pauline and its charismatic roots") which contains the first two challenges, could include themes inherent to the situation of individuals and communities (including personal and statistical data), liturgical life, prayer life and fraternal life.
2. The second focal point ("The Pauline mission: integral formation for the mission") which deals with the third and fourth challenges, will relate to the apostolate, integral formation (initial and ongoing), economics and administration.
3. The last focal point ("A Synodal Congregation") which emphasizes on the fifth challenge, could examine the broad and complex theme of the laity, the Pauline Family and relations with the local Church.

You will receive the subsequent communications from us with regard to the logistical information and the practical organization of the Chapter. Considering, however, the prevalence of the global pandemic, we invite the ex-officio chapter members and those elected from abroad to carry out the procedures as quickly as possible. Keeping in mind that the General Chapter will begin on 6 February 2022, they are to do their paperwork and health check-ups in view of their trip (entry visas, airline tickets, compliance with the health rules in force in Italy, etc.) and plan their arrival in Rome on time. For any information in this regard, you can consult the Italian Embassy or Consulates in your country or visit the website of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic www.viaggiare Sicuri.it

As we are eager to accompany you step by step on this journey, we inform you that in case of any doubts or concerns, you can contact the Preparatory Commission at any point of time to the following email: capitologenerale@paulus.net

Dear brothers, we have reached a very important moment in our synodal journey towards the XI General Chapter, in which a communitarian effort is required to "allow ourselves to be transformed and to renew our way of thinking", which will require commitment and passion from all. We are confident that through the intercession of our Blessed Founder and assisted by the Holy Spirit, we are moving together towards a new period in our life.

With fraternal affection in St Paul,

The members of the Preparatory Commission

Fr Stefano Stimamiglio (coordinator)

Fr Ampelio Crema

Br Darlei Zanon

Br Naudy Mogollon

Fr Patrick Nshole

Fr Saijth Parapallil

Fr Ulysses Navarro