



**With Mary, go in haste
to a new land!**

**Document of the
XXI General Chapter**

Rome, September 8 – October 10, 2009

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Publisher:

Institute of the Marist Brother
General House - Rom

Printing:

C.S.C. GRAFICA, s.r.l.

Via A. Meucci 28,
00012 Guidonia,
Roma (Italia)

October 2009





21st General Chapter

new hearts for a new world





Presentation

Br. Emili Turú
Superior general



The document you hold in your hands brings together what the members of the XXI General Chapter decided to publish as an expression of all they experienced during the 33 days they were together, as well as the main courses of action suggested for the Institute for the next 8 years, and the most relevant decisions made.

First, we have the **“Letter of the XXI General Chapter”**, written in reply to the “Letters from the regions”, which were very well received and studied by the members of the Chapter. I believe that the letter is supposed to be a way of con-



tinuing the dialogue which began in the preparatory phase throughout the Institute, and which carried on during the five weeks of the Chapter, not only around the tables in the chapter hall, but also with many other people, thanks especially to the Internet. Written in a direct and simple style, the letter invites us not to stop the dialogue now the General Chapter is over. All the people who, in one way or another, took part in the various phases of the chapter process should feel called to continue this way of listening and dialogue, becoming more familiar with the call of the Lord to the Marist Institute today.

P R E S E N T A T I O N

The capitulants intend their Letter to be distributed as quickly as possible, so that all have in their hands the essentials of the XXI General Chapter, without necessarily going into all the details. For this reason, it is to be noted that there is a certain repetition within the documents that follow, since the letter contains elements from all of them.

The nucleus of the call of the Lord to the Marist Institute, as it was perceived by the chapter assembly, is formulated in various ways in the **“Fundamental Call”**, using several ways to express a very deep collective experience: a slogan in the imperative, placed on the lips of the Lord; a more elaborate text, explaining the slogan; images of Mary and Champagnat setting out on the way, in haste; and finally, a prayer to Mary.



The section we have called “**Future Horizons**” develops the different aspects of this fundamental call, offering some principles and convictions, and suggesting courses of action.

The document ends by summarizing some of the more relevant **decisions** taken by the members of the XXI General Chapter. They concern the Constitutions, the “application of the Gospel to our lives”; the animation and government of the Institute for the next 8 years; the finances of the Institute; the General House. Each of these decisions is preceded by a short introduction, prepared by the team responsible for the publication of the chapter texts, with the aim of situating them in their context and making them easier to understand. As said above, these are only some of the decisions taken. The total collection will be found in the “Acts of the XXI General Chapter,” which will be published next.

Experience tells us that there is no direct relationship between the production of documents and the process of change in individuals and institutions. Therefore, when there was discussion in the chapter hall about how to transmit the Chapter to the Marist Institute, it was clearly perceived that each member of the Chapter would have to be the best message through his personal commitment and his awareness that the decisions taken by each would affect, for good or ill, the whole Institute.

Conversion begins when we recognize that the call of God is addressed to each of us, in a very personal manner, and when we begin to take concrete steps to respond to it. I doubt very much that such an important challenge on the collec-



tive level as “go in haste, with Mary, to a new land” can be carried out, if at the same time there is no movement, no interior journey on the part of each one of us. Do we have the audacity to set out on the way, in the footsteps of Mary of the Visitation, who conceived Jesus in her heart before she did so in her womb?

Let us harvest with faith and confidence the fruit of the discernment of the Marist Institute. The



same Lord who invites us to a radical following of him will give us the means and the strength necessary to do so.

Mary, our good Mother, accompanies us with tenderness and sensitivity. May she bless each one of us.

Emili Turú

Br. Emili Turú SG



Letter



from the Capitulants

**Dear Brothers, Lay Marists,
and Young People**



**With Mary, go in haste
to a new land!**

**Dear Brothers,
Lay Marists,
and Young People,**

Warm and heartfelt greetings from the XXI General Chapter! May the presence of Jesus, the tenderness of our Good Mother, and the boldness of Marcellin Champagnat accompany our life and mission.

For some months now, we have been on the move preparing for the Chapter. We arrived in Rome carrying with us the enthusiasm of many Brothers,



Lay Marists, and young people who participated in the process: *new hearts for a new world!*

Now we direct this message to you, Brothers, Lay Marists, and young people, to share with you the good news that we have experienced and to pass on our passion and hope. With Mary we say, *Magnificat!*

“Behold I make all things new” (Ap. 21:5)

We came together here in Rome, leaving behind the routine of our daily lives, figuratively climbed a hill and pitched our tent. We lived together

as brothers and sisters who enjoyed being part of the same family, the family of Marcellin Champagnat.

The diversity of our vocations and cultures enriched our discussions. We give thanks to God for the variety of lifestyles and ministries that express the charism of Marcellin in the world today.

A spirit of discernment, prayer and sharing enabled us to listen to God who transforms our hearts, opening them to read his presence in the signs of the times and in the lives of our sisters and brothers.

For the dynamics of the Chapter we were seated around tables. This arrangement helped us to listen to one another in the spirit of the Gospel, to enter into fraternal dialogue, to take decisions and put them into practice. The richness of our community life made us aware of the joy of living together in simplicity and joy as brothers and sisters. It's worthwhile to be Marist today!

We are happy and give thanks to God for the election of Br. Emili Turú as our new Superior General and his new team for the animation and government of the Institute.

Mary made her presence felt in our as-



sembly. She took us by the hand, revealing her maternal love and urging us to go in haste to a new land.

A God who surprises us... (Lk. 1: 29)

God has a dream for each one of us, for humankind, and for our Institute. By listening to our hearts, we discover the love, mercy, and tenderness of a God who is both Father and Mother. At the same time, we acknowledge our weaknesses and inconsistencies. It was a similar experience of God's love that drove Marcellin to be enterprising, daring, and to take risks. The essence of his dream was *"to make Jesus Christ known and loved by children and young people"*.

We desire to carry on his dream: as men and women of God, prophets of fraternity in a dehumanized world searching for meaning and thirsty for God. In the light of this Chapter experience, we feel called to respond, as brothers and sisters, witnesses to the loving and maternal face of God.

...and transforms our heart (Ez 36:26)

We have heard the call of the Lord: *"You must be born again"* (Jn 3: 7). Jesus invites us to conversion of heart. This implies making a firm decision to be open to the grace of God and to be transformed. Only if we are open in mind and heart can God change us and teach us to live with God's eyes and heart. God's love urges us to conversion, to rediscover the heart of our respective vocations. The world thirsts for authentic witnesses,



people who risk their lives in order that the Good News is announced to everyone. *“The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”* (Mk 1: 15)

We have looked realistically at our potential, and also at our limits and failings. We see hearts hardened by routine and conformity. The aging and diminishment of our Institute weigh on us. We ask questions about our identity and the future of our style of life. We find it hard to form communities that are truly prophetic. Restructuring has still not been wholeheartedly accepted. Our spiritual poverty is still a concern; we can’t seem to place Jesus and his Gospel at the centre of our lives. And our changing world continually challenges our structures and projects.

But God has surprised us with a visit, just like the Angel did with Mary at the Annunciation. For us, God has asked us to go out into a new land. Little and weak that we are, we’ve asked: *“How can this come about at this stage of our history?”* But our hopes have been buoyed by recalling Mar-

cellin's favourite psalm: *"If the Lord does not build the house ..."* We realize that no matter how small we are, God is standing tall beside us. It is in our weakness that we experience God's tender embrace and strength.

Together we have dreamed about our future and have discovered the fundamental call that God has for us today:

WITH MARY, WE GO IN HASTE TO A NEW LAND!

*We feel driven by the Spirit of God
to go into a new land,
to facilitate the birth of a new epoch
of Marist charism.*

*This presumes a willingness to move on,
to let go of the familiar,
to embark on a journey of both
institutional and personal conversion
over the next eight years.*

*We travel this road with Mary, guide and
companion. Her faith and openness to God's
will inspire us to undertake this pilgrimage.*

*This "new land" is an authentic renewal
of the Institute; it asks
of us a genuine change of heart.*

The spirit of this XXI General Chapter, the closeness of the bicentenary, and a deeper consciousness of our internationality all urge us to:

a. ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

A renewed sense of consecration firmly rooted in the Gospel, urging us to new ways of being Brother.

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During this Chapter, the Spirit has called us to welcome a 'new way of being Brother'. We need to recover the originality of the name that Marcellin gave us - Little Brothers of Mary.

- Brothers, sons of the same Father, called by God to give our lives totally through our religious consecration, anchoring our lives in Jesus Christ. Each Brother is the artisan of his own formation and process of conversion.
- Brothers among Brothers, signs of the Kingdom by our simple style of life, by



sharing life and faith, with a renewed spirit of prayer and mutual forgiveness. Brothers in a community, visible and open, inspired by the enthusiasm of the first community at La Valla, and appropriating for ourselves the boldness of those who built L'Hermitage. Brothers, encouraged by the faithful witness of our martyred Brothers.

- Brothers to poor children and young people, present among them as they search for meaning. Brothers with a passion to be signs of God's love, and bold enough to move to areas where others do not go.
- Brothers without borders, open and available in welcoming the diversity of our Institute. Called to go beyond our borders, allowing ourselves to be evangelised by others.
- Brothers of Mary, walking with her, invited to discover her in the Gospel - the first person to tread the road of faith. Like Marcellin, for whom she was mother and model. *"From that time on, the disciple took her into his home"* (Jn 19:27).

Let us recover the heart of our life as Brothers, as consecrated religious to become for the world living reminders of the Gospel.

b.

A new relationship between Brothers and Lay Marists, based on communion, searching together for a greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world.

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We acknowledge and encourage the vocation of the Lay Marist. We believe that the Spirit is inviting us to live in a new communion of Brothers and Lay Marists. Together we will promote greater vitality of the Marist charism and its mission in our world. We consider this to be a “Kairos”, a key opportunity to share and live with daring the Marist charism, forming together a prophetic and Marian Church.

- The International Marist Mission Assembly in Mendes enabled Brothers and Lay Marists to live an experience of communion. Together we felt called to revitalize our lives and our Marist mission: *“One Heart, One Mission”*.
- We welcome with appreciation the new document *“Gathered around the Same Table”* as a source for reflection and discernment in the coming years.
- We believe in formation processes and experiences involving both Brothers and Lay Marists. These will ensure a solid preparation and help us to be faithful to the intuitions of our founder.



- We support the *Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family* and we welcome other new expressions of Marist life and belonging that are emerging in diverse forms in different parts of the world. At the same time, we feel the need to develop processes that allow all Marists to be co-responsible for our life, spirituality and mission.
- Brothers and Lay Marists, we share the responsibility for seeking new Marist vocations. The cry of Marcellin Champagnat, “*We need Brothers!*” continues to urge us on. May each of us, Brothers and Lay Marists, be daring and invite young people to join us and become Brothers or Lay Marists.

C.

A highly significant presence among poor children and young people.

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Look at the world with the eyes of poor children.

Let's go in haste - with Mary of the Visitation - with Marcellin Champagnat rushing to the side of young Montagne. Bringing Jesus Christ to the young, especially the poorest, *"in all the dioceses of the world"*. In their faces, we will find the face of God.

- To you who are working in our educational and social works, we invite you to encourage your students to transform their hearts, their lives and actions, so that they grow to be persons with respect for life, committed to the building of a just and solidarity-oriented society. Teach the students the importance of ecology, and encourage them to be willing to work towards a better and sustainable world. Realize that the idea of *going out to a new land* carries some implications: sharing the responsibility for mission, giving priority to evangelization, giving preference to the poor and least favored, and transmitting the Marist charism to a new generation of educators.
- We are promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, based on respect, mutual growth and relating as equals among different religions, cultures, and ethnic groups (*cf. Mendes*).



- We are developing an international and intercultural mindset towards our Marist mission. The Ad Gentes Project invites the Institute to recapture its missionary spirit.
- We remember Mary and Joseph fleeing to Egypt to protect the child Jesus. This image urges us to become experts and advocates for the rights of children and young people; speaking bravely and prophetically in public forums. We feel ourselves impelled to challenge social, economic, political, cultural and religious practices that oppress children and young people. Now is the time for us all to join in the work of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI).
- As an international congregation of Brothers, we are all responsible for our Brothers living in difficult economic situations. We are called to enact this responsibility and live solidarity by sharing both material and human resources.

With Mary, go in haste to a new land (Lk 1: 39)

At this stage of our Marist history, God has provided us with the special opportunity of this General Chapter to return to the fundamentals of our charism. After the experience of this Chapter, we feel like the disciples at Emmaus: *“Were not our hearts burning while he spoke to us on the way”* (Lk 24: 32).

We have been transformed and are now sent to tell the good news to the Marist world. This part of our pilgrimage is over, but the journey continues. The message of the Chapter needs to take root throughout the Institute. So now, we the members of the XXI General Chapter say:

- *to you, senior Brother*, who has given the best part of your life to the mission of the Institute, thanks for your fidelity. You have an honored place with us on the journey. We continue to count on you - your witness, your presence, your joy, and your prayer.
- *to you, our Brother in mid-life*, continue on the pilgrimage. Don't be afraid of the new ways that lie ahead. Jesus, Mary, Marcellin and your Brothers are walking with you. Time is short, go ahead and discover your new heart for a new world!
- *to you, our young Brother*, who is beginning Marist life, live in joy and hope for a future where the gift of the sacrifice of your life for God will change the

world of children. We are counting on you, your dynamism, and your faith. The future of Marist life is in your hands!

- *to you, young one in formation, postulant or novice*, live generously the gift of your life to which God is calling you. *God is faithful and loves you always*. Be happy being a Marist!
- *to you, our brother or sister Lay Marist*, who, in your heart, desires to live out the fullness of your baptism within the charism of Marcellin Champagnat - let's walk together!
- *to you, our young Lay Marist*, who dreams of a better world, take time to open your eyes to the realities of the world around you. Listen in your heart to what God is saying to you. Come, join us on the journey!

Mary and Marcellin
have lived this pilgrimage.
Now is the time
for us to undertake
the journey together.
New Marists
towards a “new land”!

*Fraternally,
Marist Brothers of the XXI General Chapter
October, 2009 Rome, Italy*



Fundamental Call

**With Mary, go in haste
to a “new land”**

We feel impelled by God to go out into a new land, to facilitate the birth of a new epoch for the Marist charism. We know that this presupposes a willingness to move on, to let go of the familiar, and to embark on a journey of institutional and personal conversion over the next eight years. We go on our way with Mary as guide and companion. Her faith and openness to the will of God inspire us to undertake this pilgrimage.



The “new land” of an authentic renewal of the Institute invites each of us to a genuine change of heart. The spirit of this XXI Chapter, the approach of the bicentenary of our foundation, and a greater consciousness of our internationality urge us to:

- A new consecrated life, with a strong Gospel identity, that will promote a new way of being Brothers.
- A new relationship between Brothers and Lay people, based on communion, for the sake of greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world today.
- A highly significant presence among poor children and young people.

With Mary, new Marists

*M*ary, you are
our companion
along the way and
the main inspiration
for our pilgrimage
towards our
Marist Bicentenary.

Welcome into our hearts
and homes today.
Your openness,
faith and spontaneity
touch our hearts
to be open in our turn
to the Spirit,
the gift of your Son Jesus.

As Marists of Champagnat,
Lay and Brothers,
we desire to change.

We look to you as model
and companion
in living our vocation
of following Christ,
with the joy, sensitivity,
love and energy
you brought
to educating Jesus.



towards a “new land”

You gather us all and unite us
across the world
into one international
community
bearing your name,
a sign of communion to our
Church and world.

When we contemplate you
as woman filled with faith,
your spirit of intuition and initiative
impels us, as it did Marcellin,
to be Good News for
the poor children
and young people of our world
today, in “new lands”.

In trust we pray,
like Champagnat,
“If the Lord does not build
the house...”
and we say,
“You have done
everything for us”.
Magnificat!

With you, Mary, we go to the
Father, in union with Jesus and in
the Spirit of Love.

Amen





Future Horizons





Marist

A new heart

**A new
consecrated
life which
promotes
a new way
of being
brother**

PRINCIPLES

We long for a newness of heart and consecration that will open us to a new identity as Brothers:

- 1.** a brother, who by consecration, belongs only to God and who from there sets out in haste for the new frontiers of poor children and young people;
- 2.** a brother with a new heart who witnesses to conversion to Jesus Christ through a life of unconditional love and radical availability;
- 3.** a brother who, guided by the Spirit, makes discernment a daily exercise in seeking the will of God in the world;
- 4.** a brother with a missionary heart, journeying with Mary, witnessing to a faith which is down-to-earth and joyful, and which announces the arrival of a new world that began with Jesus.

brother: for a new world



PROPOSAL FOR ACTION

1. To take steps, at Province, regional and Institute levels, to promote networks of spirituality to animate the call to conversion, a spiritual journey we make with Mary, making use of programmes of reflection and accompaniment.
2. To orient the coming revision of the Constitutions towards the birth of a new epoch for the Marist charism. This revision will seek the participation of all the Brothers and will provide the opportunity renewal on three fronts: personal, community and mission so that we become clearer signs of Jesus and his Gospel.





Marist

A new heart

- 3.** To invite all the Brothers and communities to discern the best way for them to be present and close to children and young people so that this presence is more significant and visible.
- 4.** To propose new styles of community, in contact with poor children and young people, which will promote a more simple lifestyle.
- 5.** To be prophetic signs of brotherhood by strengthening our love for one another in the day-to-day life of our communities through gestures of warmth and brotherly care.



brother: for a new world



6. To promote, at the different levels of government, international houses of formation to encourage in new generations the growth of missionary availability, a sense of our internationality, and intercultural sensitivity.
7. To revise existing programmes of youth ministry, vocation promotion, initial and ongoing formation, to promote a better understanding of the identity of the Marist Brother in the world of today, and an integrated growth of all dimensions of the human person.





Brothers in a new

**A new
relationship
among Brothers
and laypeople
looking
together for a
greater vitality**

PRINCIPLES

- 1.** We recognise the value of the vocation of the Lay Marist.
- 2.** We see our Marist future as a communion of people in the charism of Champagnat, where our specific vocations will be mutually enriching.
- 3.** We give priority to formation, both specific and shared.
- 4.** We recognise co-responsibility for the development of Marist life, spirituality and mission.



and lay people, spirit of communion



PROPOSAL FOR ACTION

1. To continue to support the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, and to work actively with other people attracted to our charism in exploring new ways through which their vocations can be recognised and supported in the life of the Church.
2. To support the developing of local communities of Brothers and Lay people to share Marist life, spirituality and mission.
3. To develop, in the AUs and the regions, formation experiences (both specific and shared) which are inspired, amongst other things, by the documents *In The Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat*, *Water from the Rock*, and *Gathered Around the Same Table*.



Brothers in a new



4. To establish an international commission, composed of Brothers and Lay people, with the goal of developing a guide for shared formation, allowing for various cultural and regional differences.
5. To enlarge the operation of the Bureau of Laity and to increase, as appropriate for each place, the involvement of Lay Marists in various

and lay people, spirit of communion



structures of animation at regional and provincial level.

6. To hold another International Marist Mission Assembly, along the lines of Mendes.
7. To enliven vocations ministry through a co-operative effort of Brothers and Lay people.



Marist

**Una
presencia
fuertemente
significativa
entre
los niños
y jóvenes
pobres**

PRINCIPLES

- 1.** We want to see the world through the eyes of poor children and young people and thus change our hearts and attitudes as Mary did.
- 2.** We feel impelled to act with urgency to find new creative ways to educate, evangelize, be advocates for, and be in solidarity with poor young children and young people.
- 3.** We affirm that evangelisation is the focus and priority of our ministries, proclaiming Jesus and his message (Mendes).
- 4.** As Marist Brothers and Lay Marists living in today's globalised world we are called to have hearts and minds that are international in outlook.



Mission in a new world



PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

1. To promote, at all levels of our Institute, the rights of children and young people; and to advocate for these rights in public institutions, both governmental and no-governmental.
2. To develop further our educational ministries as evangelizing centres that promote both human and Christian values while integrating faith and life.
3. To develop programmes in each region that form people to work with the poor and become experts in the evangelisation of poor children and young people.



Marist

4. To develop and integrate into all programmes of formation for Brothers and Lay people, experiences which sensitise them to the needs of the poor children and young people.
5. To establish international and interprovincial communities which will be open to Marists Brothers and Lay Marist and serve in the vanguard of new areas of mission.



Mission in a new world



6. To develop structures to co-ordinate and guide Marist Mission networks throughout the world and develop a plan for the mission initiatives of the General Council for the next eight years.
7. To strengthen the further development of Mission Ad Gentes in Asia and open it out to other areas where a need is discerned.
8. To establish a Marist volunteer service in support of our mission, whose members are available to work in our ministries in need or to be mobilized for emergencies.



Decisions

1. Constitutions
2. Animation and Government



3. Finances **4. General House**



1. Constitutions

The capitular assembly recognizes the value of the Constitutions as the “application of the Gospel to our lives”. Inspired by the work of the pre-chapter commission on the Constitutions, it begins by approving the following two main proposals.

Later, it will give approval to the changes in the articles of the Constitutions and Statutes, which will be published in the Acts of the XXI General Chapter.

- 1.** The XXI General Chapter mandates the General Government to appoint a Publication Team, which will integrate in a single text the various changes effected in the Constitutions and Statutes by this and previous Chapters. This text will be consistent in style, language, numbering and references.
- 1.** The XXI General Chapter believes that for a new world, we need a conversion of heart. A thorough revision of the Constitutions and Statutes, with the full participation of the Brothers, can help to revitalize our vocation. To facilitate this, the XXI General Chapter recommends that the General Government appoint a commission to carry out this revision and that the new text be presented at the XXII General Chapter.



2. Animation and Government 2009-2017

Reflection at the Chapter returned repeatedly to the animation and government of the Institute. A pre-chapter document had prepared the work and a series of organization proposals, with an evaluation of the pros and cons.

This work allowed for more rapid advancement towards a model of government in accord with current requirements, while being flexible enough to respond to the diversity of the Institute.

At the same time, guidelines and recommendations were offered to give greater dynamism and efficacy to the different instances of animation and government of the Institute.

By *animation and government* we understand the service which the General Administration offers the Administrative Units, by means of structures and procedures, to carry out the project of vitality coming from the XXI General Chapter.

The principal mission of the General Administration (2009-2017) is the animation and government of the Institute. With the aim of achieving this mission, the principal focus of the General Administration should be the accompaniment and animation of the leadership of the Provinces and Districts, especially of the Provincials and the District Superiors.

Objectives:

- to encourage at all levels structures of animation, co-ordination and government which prompt the vitality of the Institute in its mission;
- to implement the *Fundamental Call* and set in motion the guidelines coming from the XXI General Chapter;
- to perform the constitutional tasks of animation, co-ordination and government.

Principles:

1. Subsidiarity and Co-responsibility
2. Internationality and multiculturalism
3. Solidarity
4. Discernment
5. Respect for difference
6. Brotherly presence and accompaniment



Means:

General Conference

The General Conference is a consultative assembly composed of the Brother Superior General, the Brother Vicar General, the General Councillors, the Provincials and the District Superiors, if this is provided for in their district statutes.

The General Conference is called:

1. to strengthen the unity of the Institute and to promote favor the direct contact of the Superiors with one another and with the Brother Superior General and the members of his Council;
2. to study matters of general interest and propose solutions.

Brother Superior General convokes the General Conference between two Chapters.

He can invite *other persons to it*, if he judges it appropriate (C 142; c 632; c 633,1)

Region

This is the union of two or more Administrative Units of the Institute which group together to facilitate mutual collaboration (cf. C 125,1).

Council of Provincials and District Superiors on a regional and/or international basis

This is a meeting of a group of Provincials and District Superiors, at the request of the General Council and/or the Provinces and Districts involved, to treat matters that generate dynamism and vitality in a particular region or in the entire the Institute, whenever it is judged opportune.

Extended General Council

This is a means by which the General Council in plenary meets the Councils of a Region, to accompany the Provincial and District Councils, to learn about the actual situation of the Region and to exercise co-responsibility in the animation and government of the Institute.



Visits for Accompaniment

The visits are a means of animating the Administrative Units, in the spirit of the *fundamental call* and the guidelines of the XXI General Chapter. They are offered to all the Brothers, above all to those in charge of Provinces and Districts.

Brother Superior General must visit personally, by his Vicar, by his Councillors or by other delegates, the Provinces and Districts, *at least once* during his mandate (C 130.1, c 628)

Recommendations to the General Council:

1. to have recourse to the creation of secretariats or commissions for specific needs;
2. to impel processes of collaboration and organization between Administrative Units and/or Regions;
3. to evaluate and accompany, according to established criteria, the processes of restructuring the Administrative Units.





3. Finances

Several sessions were devoted to studying the economic and financial situation of the General Administration.

The criteria of solidarity, internationality and mission coming from the fundamental call resonate with special intensity with regard to the use and destination of the resources at the disposal of the Institute.

In addition to learning about the actual state of affairs, the capitulants drew up some principles and recommendations to guide the management of the General Administration and the Administrative Units in relation to finances, for a better and more efficacious service of the mission of the Institute.

Principles:

1. The resources of the Institute serve the life and mission of the Congregation.
2. The government and animation of the Institute are financed principally by the Administrative Units.
3. The Administrative Units are responsible for the ordinary expenses of the General Administration on an equitable basis.
4. Transparency and accountability are respected in the administration of the resources of the Institute.

5. Financial independence and lasting viability are the long-term objectives of the Administrative Units.
6. The Administrative Units, in the spirit of solidarity, are prepared to provide mutual assistance so that these objectives may be realized.

Recommendations:

1. **How are we to finance the expenses of the General Administration?**

That the General Council appoint a team of specialists in finance to draw up a plan for the financing of the General Administration, taking the work of the pre-chapter Finance Commission as their point of departure, and following the call of the XXI General Chapter.



2. How are we to proceed with the financing of the Administrative Units?

That the General Council appoint a team of specialists in finance to draw up a plan for the progressive achievement of the economic autonomy of the Administrative Units, as well as the Mission Ad Gentes Sector, taking the work of the pre-chapter Finance Commission as their point of departure and following the call of the XXI General Chapter.



4. General House

Following other General Chapters which made decisions with regard to the General House, this one also discussed this matter.



In this case, the Chapter considered a previous study on the functioning, services and costs of the General House, in addition to outlining and evaluating some alternatives. With this data in hand, the chapter assembly recommended the General Council to continue with the study and, if they fulfilled the conditions detailed below, to plan for the possible sale and transfer of the General House.

The XXI General Chapter, in conformity with the vision and the calls it has inspired, **recommends** to the General Council:

1. the possible sale of the property and building of Piazzale Champagnat;
2. the subsequent translation of the seat of the General Administration, under the following **conditions**:



The General Council

1. will appoint an international commission of experts to further the study already carried out, to request a second valuation of the property and building, to ask for and evaluate various offers, and to accompany the process of the possible sale and the installation on the new site;
2. will guarantee a profit which the commission of experts considers reasonable;
3. will guarantee adequate information to the whole Institute about the significance of this decision;
4. will decide the destination of the profit,



taking into account the strengthening of the funds of the General Administration and the solidarity fund in favor of the poor.

The XXI General Chapter offers also the following **guidelines**:

The General Council

1. decides the most appropriate site for the new seat, keeping in mind the specific needs of a General House;
2. makes sure that the new seat reflects the values of simplicity, moderation, functionality and promotes/supports the quality of community life.

