



CURIA GENERALIS
ORDINIS FRATRUM MINORUM CONVENTUALIUM

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Prot. N. 601/18

Rome, August 30, 2018

Dear brother Minister Provincial / Custos,

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, PLACE AND PREPARATION
PROCESS FOR THE 2019 ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER**

Peace and All Good!

We have just celebrated the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter, a time during which we lived and prayed together and revised the text of the Order's Constitutions, thereby contributing to the revival of our life, mission and prophetic vision in the Church following the example of St. Francis. With the consent of the General Definitory, and on its behalf, I would like to give you some information about the celebration of the 2019 Ordinary General Chapter.

1. Date and place of the General Chapter. Having taken into account the preferences expressed by the Capitulars, we have established that the celebration of the General Chapter **shall start on Saturday, May 18, 2019** (as an indication, the closing date will be Tuesday, June 18, 2019). The Chapter will start at the Sacred Convent in Assisi and will continue (May 28) at the Sanctuary of Merciful Love in Collevalenza, Perugia, Italy.

2. Works of the Chapter

A. First of all, we invite all the friars to **invoke the Lord's blessing on the Chapter**. May the Holy Spirit, the "Minister General" of the Order, guide the Chapter's preparation and celebration.

B. **Chapter work.** The Chapter will be carried out according to the instructions of the *Directory for the Celebration of the General Chapter* (Gen Stat. no. 96).

(a) **Evaluating and planning the life of the Order.** The General Chapter is called to make an assessment of the life of the Order (an evaluation of the 2013-2019 Six-Year Plan and of the motions approved in 2013) and to define the priorities for the next six years, in particular, to work on the guidelines for the **2019-2025 Six-Year Plan of the Order** and any specific motions.

(b) **Reports.** According to the instructions of the *Directory for the Celebration of the General Chapter* (Gen. Stat. no. 96) only the following reports (Gen. Stat. 117, §3) will be read in full in the lecture room: (a) the *Report of the Minister General*, which is an expression of the Government of the Order. It is therefore drafted with assistance from the Assistants General and input from the Federations; (b) the *Report of the Procurator of the Order*; and (c) the *Report of the General Econom*. All of the other reports called for in no. 117 of the General Statutes shall be presented in summary form. This may

- (c) be followed by the possibility of briefly discussing the contents with the individual speakers. All complete reports shall be sent in advance.
- (d) ***Specific topics to be discussed*** Unlike Provincial and Custodial Chapters, the General Chapter cannot be divided into two parts. Therefore, it is up to the Minister General with his Definitory to prepare the list of topics to be discussed in the Chapter. As the General Statutes require, *“The topics [shall be] presented in sufficient detail in an instrumentum laboris; which should be sent at least two months before the Chapter so that the voting members may arrive at the Chapter duly prepared for it”* (Gen. Stat. 108 §2).

Approval of the General Statutes The 2019 Ordinary General Chapter is called to carry out the revision of the General Statutes in the light of the changes made to the Constitutions, approved by the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter, and confirmed by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The Executive Committee for the Revision of the Constitutions (CERC) has for some time circulated the draft of the General Statutes among the Federations. CERC will revise the text after taking into account the observations made by the Federations and the decisions made by the 2018 Extraordinary General Chapter.

Other specific topics As indicated in no. 108 § 1 of the General Statutes, a request made to *“all the Ministers Provincial and Custodes to send to the government of the Order proposals concerning topics to be treated in the General Chapter. Individual friars also can propose topics.”*

3. ***Preparation process for the Chapter***

- A. With this letter, I hereby ask the Ministers Provincial and Custodes to send their **proposals for topics** to be discussed at the General Chapter (Gen. Stat. no. 108 §1) to the General Secretariat – segrgen@ofmconv.net - **by December 15, 2018**. I remind you that even individual friars can propose topics. The proposed topics must be presented following a three-part outline, showing: (I) the motivation for the proposal; (II) motion or motions (even as an alternative) formulated in a precise juridical manner; (III) any observations about the motions. One should bear in mind that there must be a limit on the number of topics presented in the Chapter, so they can be adequately discussed. This is especially true since this Chapter must also proceed with the necessary revision of the General Statutes. In particular, the experience of doing Chapter work has taught us that it is good to clearly indicate what issues must absolutely be addressed in Chapter and what issues the Chapter can delegate to the Minister General with his Definitory as part of the mandate for the six-year term.
- B. Furthermore, I ask each Province, Custody and Delegation to **present their report by December 15, 2018**, following the guidelines attached to this letter.
- C. The Area Assistants General will then proceed to summarize the reports received. This summary will be presented to the Federations by **January 15, 2019**, for their evaluation.

- D. Any additions or clarifications that the Federations deem appropriate to make, must be sent to the Area Assistant General by **February 11, 2019**.
- E. The reports received will be merged into the Minister General's report, which should be prepared by **March 16, 2019** together with the *Istrumentum laboris*.

We thought it was appropriate to communicate this information to you immediately and we also look forward to any suggestions or recommendations you may have for the successful celebration of the Chapter.

We must insist that you comply with the deadlines indicated so that we may adequately prepare for this Chapter.

We thank you for your attention and for making your contribution to promote the successful outcome of the next General Chapter.

Fraternally yours in the Lord and in our Father St. Francis,

Friar Marco TASCA
Minister General

Friar Vincenzo MARCOLI
Secretary General

TOWARDS THE 2019 GENERAL CHAPTER

To summarize, the preparation process includes the following deadlines:

1. **August 30, 2018**, the *circular letter* is sent out **announcing the 2013 General Chapter and the preparation process**.
The *outline for the reports* of the Major Superiors and Delegates of the Federations is sent out.
2. **November 16, 2018**, the formal **announcement of the General Chapter** set to begin May 18, 2019, in Assisi-Collevalenza, is issued.
3. **December 15, 2018**, the **reports of the Provinces, Custodies and Provincial Delegations** are sent to the General Secretariat (Curia generale OFMConv. Piazza Ss. Apostoli, 51, 00187 Roma, Italia - segrgen@ofmconv.net) with a copy sent to the Area Assistant General.
4. **December 15, 2018**, the Ministers Provincial, Custodes or individual friars send their **proposals for topics to be discussed at the General Chapter** to the General Secretariat (Curia generale OFMConv. Piazza Ss. Apostoli, 51, 00187 Roma, Italia - segrgen@ofmconv.net -).
5. **January 15, 2019**, each Assistant General sends his respective Federation a **summary of relevant reports** he made about that Federation.
6. **February 11, 2019**, each Federation sends its respective Area Assistant General any **additions or clarifications to be made to his summary**.
7. **February 11, 2019**, the reports called for in no. 117 of the General Statutes are sent to the General Secretariat.
8. **March 16, 2019**, the **Minister General's report**, the **other reports** and the **Istrumentum laboris** are published.
9. Saturday, **May 18, 2019**, the General Chapter begins at the Sacred Convent in Assisi and continues at Collevalenza.

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