



*Circular
of the
Superior General,
#4*

**CONVOCAATION OF THE
XXXVI GENERAL CHAPTER**

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XV Superior General
Missionary Apostolic
Society of Mary
(Marianists)

May 12, 2023

Memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Graces

CONVOCAATION OF THE XXXVI GENERAL CHAPTER

Dear Brothers,

With this Circular, and in conformity with article 7.26 of our Rule of Life, I have the joy of officially convoking the Thirty-Sixth General Chapter of the Society of Mary. It will be held in Rome, in our General Administration, Via Latina 22. It will open on Friday afternoon, July 5, 2024, and conclude on Saturday, July 27.

As we read in Article 93 of the *Rule of Life*: " The General Chapter, held at least once every six years, is the highest authority of the Society. It determines policies and objectives for the entire Society and elects the Superior General and the members of the General Council. Its purpose is to ensure fidelity to the spirit of our foundation, as well as continuing adaptation to the needs of each age." Sections 7.24 and 7.25 describe its legislative and evaluative functions. Its decisions are binding on all the Units, communities and religious (cf. RL 93).

Theme of the General Chapter

During the General Leadership Assembly in July 2022, the superiors gathered on that occasion decided that the XXXVI General Chapter would be dedicated mainly to ***Pastoral care with and for youth, in the context of the Marianist Family.***

This theme pays tribute to the long tradition lived by our Family and our Congregation in the service of the education of young people. It is a continuation of the XXXV General Chapter which invited us to be *a man who does not die: in mission with the Marianist Family.* It comes after a Synod of Bishops dedicated in 2018 to a related theme: *Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment.*

As you know, our General Chapter will be framed by the two sessions of another Synod of Bishops, dedicated to synodality (*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission*). We wanted to inscribe the XXXVI General Chapter in this dynamic by calling upon all the brothers for its preparation, but also by extending it to those in the other branches of the Marianist Family who wish to participate, among our collaborators or among the young people themselves. We are currently in the midst of this process, demanding, sometimes difficult, but rich in lessons, and, we believe, in renewed inspiration for our life and mission. Let us rejoice in this opportunity to reflect on this important area of the Church's life, and on the proper part that our Charism and tradition invite us to play in it. May the Spirit enlighten us and make us burn with the missionary ardor of our Blessed Founder, tireless apostle of youth!

Other questions will also have to be discussed during the General Chapter. Some are statutory and others will be selected progressively in the coming months. They could come from the reflection shared by the General Council in its reports, from the work of the capitulants and from the motions that could be sent in due course.

Composition of the Chapter

The composition of the Chapter is determined by Articles 7.30 to 7.35 of the *Rule of Life*. The following table shows the number of capitulants based on the current composition of the Society of Mary's Units:

UNITS / number of members	CAPITULANTS			
	By right	Elected delegates		
		Priest Religious	Lay Religious	TOTAL
Latin America / 46		1		1
Ivory Coast / 35		1		1
Eastern Africa / 61		1	1	2
Spain / 147	2	1	1	4
France / 77		1	1	2
India / 77		1	1	2
Italy / 33		1		1
Japan / 28		1		1
Korea / 21		1		1
Meribah / 34		1		1
Austria-Germany / 11		1		1
Togo / 39		1		1
USA / 198	2	1	1	4
General Council	4			4
A.C. Canada (observer)		(1)		(1)
A.T. Switzerland (observer)		(1)		(1)
TOTAL (822)				28

In each Unit, elections can be called immediately after receiving this *Circular*, following what is established for them in Articles 96 and 7.35 of the *Rule of Life*. May the Holy Spirit inspire the brothers' choice of those who will have to live and guide this important moment in the life of our Congregation.

The final results should be sent to the General Secretariat (gensecsm@smcuria.it) **before June 15, 2023**.

The composition of the Preparatory Commission (RL 7.27 - 7.28) will be announced during the month of June.

With this *Circular*, the preparation of the General Chapter intensifies a little more. Let us ask for abundant graces upon us all during this time. May our hearts be open to the calls of the Spirit, contemplating the world, the Church, and particularly young people, with the attentive eyes and heart of Blessed Chaminade. May we make our lives more than ever a response to the call of the Virgin Mary in these months: "Do whatever He tells you."

André-Joseph Fétis, SM
Superior General

Rome, May 12, 2023
Memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Graces,
158th Anniversary of the Approbation of the Society of Mary