



Bulletin #1

October 30, 2023

To: All members of the Society of Mary

From: The Preparatory Commission of the XXXVI General Chapter

Dear brothers,

We are now eight months until the XXXVI General Chapter begins in Rome, July 5, 2024. We contact you for the first time to greet you and offer some news about the Chapter.

As you know, the General Council began in January a process of preparation for the Chapter 10 months ago, seeking the participation of as many communities and individuals as possible, in a synodal spirit.

The first phase of this process concluded on September 30. As we begin the second phase of the preparatory process, we share these updates:

1. Phase I responses and next step

First of all, we thank you for participating in this important task. Some 200 responses were received from 46 communities of the Society of Mary and about 30 responses from collaborators, or mixed groups (SM-CLM-FMI-collaborators...). The material is very varied and reflects the richness and diversity of our reality.

The Redaction Commission (RedCo), formed by Brothers Timothy Driscoll, S.M. (Province of Meribah) and Rogelio Núñez, S.M. (Province of Spain-Brazil), are working these weeks with



this material to prepare a first *Instrumentum laboris* that will allow us to move forward in this second phase in which we find ourselves.

2. Chapter Logo

We are grateful to Brother Sergio de Miguel, S.M. (Province of Spain), who offered generously his artistic talents by designing this logo to represent our theme, "Pastoral Ministry with and for Youth, in the Context of the Marianist Family." A more detailed explanation about the symbols, colors and his design philosophy is included as an appendix to this bulletin.



3. Prayer for the Chapter

It is important that we open and avail ourselves to the prayer of the General Chapter, invoking our Mother Mary to lead and guide us as we continue this process. We thank Fr. Luis Fernando (Nano) Crespo, S.M. (Province of Spain) for giving us this prayer with its insightful explanations. To unite ourselves together spiritually, we suggest offering this prayer intention in community prayer three times a week.

The prayer, along with an explanation by its author, is included in a second appendix to this bulletin.

Beyond this practice, we ask all of you to pray frequently for the Chapter and its fruits. In this time of preparation for the Chapter, availability and openness to the Spirit on the part of all is essential.



Let us continue to pray for one another and ask Mary to help us open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Your brothers in Christ,

The Preparatory Commission

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