



*Circular
of the
Superior General
Nº 5*

**CONVOCAÇÃO OF THE
XXXIV GENERAL CHAPTER**

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XIV Superior General
Society of Mary
(Marianists)

*February 2, 2011
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Feast of Consecrated Life*

CONVOCAATION

OF THE XXXIV GENERAL CHAPTER

Dear Brothers,

With this *Circular*, in fulfillment of what is establish by the *Rule of Life*, Article 7.26, I officially convoke the Thirty-fourth General Chapter of the Society of Mary, which will take place in Rome at the General Administration, Via Latina 22, beginning in the morning on July 3, 2012.

The *Rule of Life*, in Article 93, reminds us that “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.” It has both legislative and evaluative functions, described in Articles 7.24 and 7.25, which place obligations on all of the religious and all of the communities of the Society.

It is such an important event for our life and for our mission that, beginning even at this early stage, we should pray for the light of the Spirit and the particular guidance of Mary.

Themes of Reflection for the Chapter.

Every General Chapter is an opportunity for each member and each community of the Society to evaluate their own life and discern what it is that the Lord asks of us at this moment in our history. Therefore, it must be open to what the Spirit inspires through the concerns and questions of the brothers. Thus, this convocation does not attempt to set the agenda.

That notwithstanding, and without prejudicing it, I must recall that stemming from the General Leadership Assembly, which met in July of 2009 and examined the present situation in which we live, was the believe that the next General Chapter needs to move the Society towards a global sense of belonging and mission. We live in weak and fragile times, as much in the older Units, which are shrinking, as in the newer ones, which need to be strengthened. In these circumstances our future can only be assured through a global vision of our mission, a greater interdependence and mutual assistance between Units. This supposes, on the one hand, an important task of personal and communitarian conversion, and, on the other, the clarity necessary to give orientation and make concrete decisions about mission, formation, administration of goods, government..., all from a global perspective. This is no easy challenge.

Together with this general theme, the Chapter will concern itself with the issue of *mixed composition* in the Society, a matter that, as you know, was left open for treatment by the last General Chapter, and about which we have dedicated ample reflection during these last years.

The Preparatory Commission.

According to what is established in the *Rule of Life*, Article 7.27, with the consent of the General Council, I have nominated a Preparatory Commission for the purpose of organizing the Chapter. This commission consists of Fr. André Fétis (Assistant General for Religious Life), Fr. José María Arnaiz (Regional Superior of Chile), Bro. Joseph Kamis (Assistant Provincial of the Province of the United States of America) and Bro. Rogelio Núñez (Assistant Provincial of the new Province of Spain). Its function, as indicted in the *Rule of Life*, is “to prepare for the Chapter, to examine propositions received from members of the Society, and to make the necessary material arrangements to allow for the proper functioning of the Chapter.” Fr. André Fétis will serve as the Commission’s coordinator.

Composition of the Chapter.

The composition of the Chapter is determined by the *Rule of Life*, Articles 7.30-7.35. According to the established criteria, the distribution of the capitulants for the General Chapter of 2012 will be as follows:

UNITS	CAPITULANTS			
	By Right	Elected		
		Religious Priests	Religious Laypersons	TOTAL
Argentina				1
Canada				1
Chile				1
Colombia-Ecuador				1
Ivory Coast				1
Eastern Africa				1
Spain	2	2	2	6
France	2	1	1	4
India		1	1	2
Italy		1	1	2
Japan				1
Korea				1
Meribah				1
Mexico				1
Austria-Germany				1
Peru				1
Switzerland				1
Togo				1
USA	2	3	3	8
General Council	4			4
TOTAL				40

Elections can begin from the moment you receive this *circular*, according to the procedures established in Articles 96 and 7.35 of the *Rule of Life*. The final results of these elections should be communicated to the Secretary General of the General Administration **before**

April 1 of this year, with the exception of those in the Province of Spain, whose elections will take place after they have determined their Provincial Council, at a date and in a way set by the new administration of that Province.

Conclusion.

With this convocation, we now enter fully into a period of preparation for the General Chapter. It is a time in which we all are called to participate responsibly in the tasks which pertain to each of us. We do so, united in reflection and prayer, with the ardent desire to respond with enthusiasm and dedication to what the Lord asks of us. The celebration, this year, of the 250th anniversary of the birth of our Founder, offers us a providential framework for this task. May he help us renew our fidelity to the vocation of which he is the mediator!

Manuel J. Cortés, SM
Superior General

Given in Rome this 2nd day of February, 2011
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

