

Letter of Announcement and Convocation of the LXXXIV General Chapter 2012

(Prot. N. 00736/11)

To All Major Superiors
To the Vocals of the General Chapter
To all the Brothers of the Order

Dear Brothers,

Peace and all Goodness in the Lord!

The time has come for me to write to you, with a sense of hope and joy, to convoke the LXXXIV General Chapter of our Order. I call upon us all to entrust ourselves with confidence to the intercession of Our Lady, of Saints Francis and Clare and of all our canonised and beatified brothers: may we live the experience of this Chapter with renewed zeal and in a spirit of total docility to the Holy Spirit.

With this letter, having received the consent of the General Definitory, in accordance with our Constitutions (cf. n. 116,2) and article 47 of the *Ordo Capituli Generalis Celebrandi (OCGC)*, I officially convoke the General Chapter of 2012.

Our Constitutions state that the General Chapter is “an eminent sign of the unity and solidarity of the entire Fraternity gathered together in the persons of its representatives” (*Const.* n. 116, 1). Similarly, we are aware that the Chapter is an opportune time to deal with matters pertaining to “the preservation and renewal of our life as well as the development of apostolic activity” (*Const.* n. 119, 1).

In the light of the above, observing art. 49 of *OCGC*, I now wish to inform you of the decisions taken with the consent of the General Definitory.

1. Time and place of the Chapter

The General Chapter will begin on the morning of August 19, 2012 and will conclude on September 23. It will be held in Rome, at our International College of St. Lawrence of Brindisi. The Chapter is scheduled to last for five weeks because of the need to devote sufficient time to work on the Constitutions and the Complementary Code.

The Capitulars are asked to arrive at the College no later than the evening of August 18. For logistical reasons, access to the Chapter venue will not be possible before August 15. However, if any Capitular needs to arrive before August 15, he should inform the College Rector. To enable the immediate preparatory work of the Chapter to be completed on time, those brothers who are appointed as auxiliary officials of the Chapter will need to arrive at the College sooner, depending on the date indicated in their letter of appointment.

2. Outline program for the Chapter

The Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter was appointed by the General Minister in November 2010 after consultation with the Conference Presidents (cf. *OCGC*, art. 51). In addition, the whole Order was consulted about possible items to be discussed at the Chapter. After meeting the Conference Presidents, a possible outline structure of the Chapter is being prepared, which we estimate will be ready by May 2012. Here are some indications of its “key moments”:

- 1) Presentation and study of the General Minister’s Report;
- 2) Election of the General Minister and his Definitory;
- 3) Treatment of particular topics, chief among which will be: “The Constitutions and the Complementary Code” and “Solidarity of Personnel”.

However, we remind you that it is for the Chapter itself to decide which topics it wishes to discuss. (cf. *Const.* n. 119,3).

3. Participants at the General Chapter

In accordance with our Constitutions (cf. n. 116) and the Ordinances of the General Chapter (cf. *Ord.* 8/7), the capitular brothers are:

- the General Minister;
- the General Definitors;
- the former General Minister from the sexennium immediately preceding;
- the provincial and vice-provincial Ministers
- the General Secretary;
- the General Procurator;
- the Delegates of Provinces (cf. *Const.* n. 116,4) having at least one hundred professed brothers, either perpetually or temporarily (cf. *Ord.* 8/7,1);
- the Delegates of Custodies (cf. *Const.* n. 116,4) having at least thirty professed brothers, either perpetually or temporarily (cf. *Ord.* 8/7,4);
- those brothers appointed by the General Minister and his Definitory in accordance with the Constitutions (cf. n. 116,4) and Ordinances (cf. *Ord.* 8/6).

Therefore, by this letter I summon those brothers who, in accordance with the Constitutions, have the right and duty (cf. *OCGC*, art. 3) to participate in the General Chapter.

4. The election of Delegates

- The election of the Delegates of the Provinces must be conducted in accordance with the provisions given in the Ordinances (cf. *Ord.* 8/7, 3-4).

- The number of professed brothers in each Province and Custody is reckoned at 31 December, 2011.

- Brothers assigned to Vice-provinces, and other brothers who are in another circumscription for reasons of service, for the purpose of electing the Delegates of the Province, are not counted among the brothers of the Province, but among those of the circumscription where they exercise voting rights and in which they actually are (cf. *Const.* n. 113,5).

- brothers assigned to Custodies with fewer than 30 professed brothers are, for the election of Delegates to the General Chapter, included in the number of the brothers of the Province on which they depend (cf. *Ord.* 8/7,4).

The election of Delegates and of their substitutes, in accordance with our proper law (cf. *Ord.* 8/7) is to be conducted at the start of 2012, on the basis of statistics published on 31 December 2011. Once the election is over, the results are to be notified to the General Minister in good time, giving the name, family name and where possible the email address of those elected. These names must reach the General Curia by no later than May 25, 2012.

The Delegates, as soon as they are elected and in virtue of their election, may consider themselves *ipso facto* summoned to attend the Chapter, without the need for a personal invitation (OCGC 48, 2).

5. Brothers who are appointed as Capitulars

In accordance with n. 116,4 of the Constitutions and with Ordinance 8/6, the General Minister with his Definitory has decided to appoint as Capitulars 10 lay brothers to represent the approximately 1200 perpetually-professed lay brothers in the Order (the number was arrived at by including brothers with more than 6 years in perpetual profession). Following the principle of proportionality and taking into account the number of brothers in each continent, these Capitulars will be appointed as follows: 1 brother from Africa (CONCAO and EACC Conferences), 1 brother from Asia (ASMEN, CCMSI and PACC Conferences), 1 brother from North America (NAPCC Conference), 2 brothers from Latin America (CCA, CCB and CONCAM Conferences) and 5 brothers from Europe: 2 representing CIMPCap and 3 from the other Conferences (CECOC, CENOC and CIC).

Each Conference will be asked to nominate one or more perpetually professed lay brothers belonging to the same Conference (one for every 100 or fraction of 100), chosen from the perpetually professed brothers of the Conference itself. It must indicate:

- 1 nomination from each of the Conferences: CONCAO and EACC (in Africa), CCA and CONCAM (in America), ASMEN, CCMSI and PACC (in Asia-Oceania);
- 2 nominations each from: CCB and NAPCC (in America), CECOC and CIC (in Europe);
- 3 nominations each from: CENOC and CIMPCap (in Europe);

Each name should be accompanied by a short *curriculum vitae* of the brother being nominated. Each Conference will cover the expenses of its own appointed delegate.

The above nominations must reach the General Curia no later than March 5, 2012. The General Definitory will proceed to the appointment of the 10 capitular brothers at its March meeting.

6. Provincial and Vice-provincial chapters

I remind you of what I wrote in my letter of November 23 2010: "... those Provinces and Vice-provinces whose terms of office expire in 2012 must plan to hold their chapter on such a date that it concludes by May 15th, 2012. It is also possible to hold the chapter as from October 30th, 2012..."

Dear Brothers, I invite you to live this time of preparation for the General Chapter with prayer and thanksgiving to God. Let us prepare ourselves by being spiritually open and docile at heart, so that we are instruments of His grace. I invite you to make this prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi your own:

*God Almighty, Most Holy, sublime and supreme,
you alone are good, all goodness, the highest good, the fullness of good
may we give all praise, glory, thanks and honour,
every blessing and every good,
to You.*

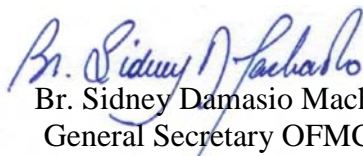
So be it! So be it! Amen

Let us call on the Spirit of the Lord to guide us, to inspire and move us, with all our strength, to fan once more the flame of our charism into a living fire.

Rome, from the General Curia, October 4, 2011.

Solemnity of our Seraphic Father Saint Francis of Assisi

Faternally.


Br. Sidney Damasio Machado
General Secretary OFMCAp.




Br. Mauro Jöhri
General Minister OFMCAp.