

2011 CHAPTER PREPARATORY COMMISSION

1 March 2010

Dear Brother:

An important part of every chapter is the election of leadership. Our *Constitutions* state that those who serve in leadership within the fraternity “should use wisely the office given to them, be concerned about the good of the brothers, and take care of all things, especially those which are spiritual.” As a province, we have rightly maintained that in choosing those who would lead us we rely upon the Holy Spirit. Thus, overtly campaigning or obviously seeking election has been rightfully perceived negatively by the brothers.

This year, the Chapter Preparatory Commission is proposing that as part of our pre-chapter discernment it may be helpful if we acknowledge some of the factors that have often played a part when choosing our leaders. While in no way intended to be an exhaustive list, it is hoped that it will spur honest discussion.

It seems that when choosing a provincial minister and members of the Provincial Council, friars — consciously or not — weigh various attributes. By the time we get to the third and fourth counselors, the desire to “balance” the council often becomes more pronounced. The factors that we seem to consider include: *geography* (do we have councilors from “each side of the lake?”); *ministry* (we have one “school person” or “one pastor” or “one formator” already); *lay friar/ordained brothers* (is there at least one lay friar on the council?); *age*; *personality types* (assertive or not); *ideology* (traditional, progressive or middle of the road); etc.

Balancing the individuals chosen for leadership can have its benefits and will no doubt remain a consideration in the election of the provincial minister and council. We need to recognize this up-front so that our personal and communal discernment may inspire us to ask what those benefits are and how to weigh them alongside the personal qualities and skills that a given brother may bring to provincial leadership. In so doing, we can keep — front and center — our understanding of the roles of provincial minister and provincial councilors, and the needs of the province at this moment in our history.

Indeed, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in our preparations for the provincial chapter of 2011, and may those we choose for leadership “use wisely the office given to them.”

Fraternally, The 2011 Chapter Preparatory Commission

TL Michael Auman
John Celichowski
Mark Carrico
Mark Joseph Costello
William Frigo

Steven Kropp
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Basic Outline of Discernment Process

1. By mid-March, a document will be published including a listing of those brothers who stated that they are “willing” to be considered for election (for provincial minister and/or councilor). A listing will also be included of those brothers who indicated their reluctance to be available for election.
2. Local communities are asked to gather for at least one local chapter before the middle of April to discuss possible candidates for election.
3. On 15 April, a “straw ballot” will be sent to each brother (including those brothers in initial formation) to be returned anonymously. The results of that straw ballot will be published prior to chapter.