



ORDINE DEI SERVI DI MARIA - CURIA GENERALIZIA
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Ave Maria

Prot. 513/2012

Rome, 29 September 2012,
Feast of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

To the Priors, Vicar and Delegates Provincial
To the friars of the Order,

Dear Brothers,

in virtue of article 255 of the *Constitutions*, I communicate to you that the celebration of the CCXIII General Chapter is scheduled from 13 September to 2 October 2013 in our priory of Pietralba [via Pietralba, 9 – 39050 Nova Ponente (BZ)], Italy.

The journey thus far

I briefly recall the steps already taken in preparation for the General Chapter:

1. *First letter of consultation.* On 5 June 2011 (Prot. 219/2011) a first letter of consultation was sent to every friar of the Order, so that the 2013 General Chapter might be the fruit of a contribution from each and every friar in the Order.
2. *General Council as preparatory commission.* Even though decree 75 of the last General Chapter (2007) provided for the creation of an “appointed commission” to consult the whole Order in preparation for the CCXIII General Chapter, the General Council, in its meeting on 1 April 2011, decided not to take advantage of such a preparatory Commission, but to conduct this process itself, making use of *ad hoc* collaborators and in particular of three consultations, through which it hoped to reach a significant number – in both quantity and variety of ministry - of friars of our Order.
3. *Second letter of consultation.* On 25 December 2011 (Prot. 544/2011) a second letter of consultation was sent to every friar of the Order which summarized the responses received and took account of the present ecclesial moment (The Year of Faith and the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization).
4. *Some particular occasions of consultation.* In the last two years there were several particularly opportune occasions to consult friars in preparation for the CCXIII General Chapter:
 - a) The common meeting of Secretariats (Rome 11-19 May 2011), in which were gathered friars (involved in various forms of service: shrines, parishes, education, formation, the study of theology) coming from almost every jurisdiction of the Order;
 - b) The third meeting of the General Council with the Priors, Vicar and Delegates Provincial of the Order (Trois-Rivières, 3-12 September 2012), foreseen by the 2007 General Chapter (cf. *GC 2007*, n. 58b);

- c) The General Directory Commission, which met to develop two texts (the *Constitutions* and the *General Directory*) and to complete the tasks described in decree 66d of the 2007 General Chapter;
 - d) The two Servite pilgrimages, carried out in 2011 (English) and 2012 (Spanish), which were occasions for deepening the preparatory journey of the next General Chapter.
5. *Some orientations.* The Council has taken the following orientations:
- a) The theme and motto were chosen: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word” (*Lk* 1, 38);
 - b) The guiding image will be the icon of the Annunciation (fresco from the Santissima Annunziata in Florence);
 - c) The Prayer for the General Chapter with the prayer-reading *To the Virgin of the Fiat* from the *Vigilia de Domina* was published in seven languages (Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German and Indonesian) and given to the Priors, Vicar and Delegates Provincial;
 - d) A Marian document is in preparation, under the care of the Pontifical Theological Faculty “Marianum”;
 - e) A commission will be created to compose an *Instrumentum laboris* to guide the reflection and work of the friars in the chapter;
 - f) The various **Reports** (Priors and Vicar Provincial, General Secretariats and Officials) to be turned in and all the **Proposals** received from the Provincial, Vicarial and Delegation Councils, the communities, particular groups and individual friars should be sent to the Secretary of the Order (segretario.camille@gmail.com; fra Camille M. Jacques, Curia generalizia O.S.M., Piazza San Marcello 5 – 00187 Roma, Italia) **before 31 January 2013**, that is eight – instead of six (cf. *Cons.* 256) – months before the General Chapter, in order to facilitate the work of the Commission drawing up the *Instrumentum laboris*.

The election of Delegates to the General Chapter will begin with the convocation – six months before (cf. *Cons.* 255) the General Chapter.

I invite all of you, beginning now, to pray to the Lord God, through the intercession of Our Lady and our saints and blessed, that He may watch over the Vineyard of Senario, and surround it with His care so that it might bear abundant fruit in every soil where it has been transplanted.

Fraternal greetings *in Domina nostra*,

fr. Angel M. Ruiz Garnica, osm.

fra Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica, O.S.M.
Prior General

f. Camille M. Jacques
fra Camille M. Jacques, O.S.M.
Secretary of the Order

