



ORDINE DEI SERVI DI MARIA - CURIA GENERALIZIA  
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*Ave Maria*

Prot. 150/2013

Rome, 13 March 2013

**To all my brothers of the Order**

Dear Brothers,

With this letter and in compliance with art. 255 of our *Constitutions*, from our Priory of San Marcello, I officially convoke the 213<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the Order, the central theme of which will be inspired by the key phrase:

**"BEHOLD, THE SERVANT OF THE LORD: BE IT DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD"**  
(Lk 1, 38)

The General Chapter will be celebrated from Friday, September 13 to Wednesday, October 2, 2013 in our Priory of Pietralba/Weissenstein [via Pietralba, 9 – 39050 Nova Ponente (BZ)], Italy.

*Ordinary General Chapter*

This is an ordinary General Chapter, which will include the prescribed elections and will deal with themes concerning the protection of the Order's spiritual patrimony, its renewal, fostering its unity, updating its legislation, planning for the next six years and other business as established by art. 254 of the *Constitutions*. The Chapter will also examine the proposed text for the new *General Directory O.S.M.* which was requested by the 2007 General Chapter (nn. 65-66): the text comes, primarily, from separating out of the *Constitutions O.S.M.* some non-fundamental norms (not tied to canon 578).

*Instrumentum laboris*

Last September, all the communities of the Order received my letter (Prot. 513/2012 of September 29, 2012) in which I communicated the approximate date of the 2013 General Chapter and explained the process of preparation completed up to that point.

As I write this present letter of convocation, an *ad hoc* commission is working to draw up the *Instrumentum laboris*, inspired by responses received in the consultations carried out by the General Council over the last two years and the reports coming from the O.S.M. jurisdictions and General Secretaries and Officials.

*Election of Delegates*

Eighteen capitulars will participate in the General Chapter by right [the Prior General, the four General Councilors (including the Procurator of the Order), the Secretary of the Order, the Priors Provincial (ANN, BRA, CAN, IND, ISL, MEX, PRG, SMA, TIR, USA, VEN), the Vicar Provincial (PHI)] and, according to the directives given (cf. *Const.* 258; *GC 2007*, n. 77) and the current statistics

O.S.M., thirty two delegates [2 from the general houses, 1 AUS, 3 ANN, 2 BRA, 2 CAN, 1 EAF, 1 ESP, 2 IND, 2 ISL, 2 MEX, 1 PHI, 3 PRG, 2 SMA, 2 TIR, 3 USA, 3 VEN].

You are therefore invited to proceed, as of the date of this letter, to the election of delegates to the Chapter, in conformity with what is established in art. 258 of the *Constitutions*, your provincial directory, and decree n. 77 of the 2007 General Chapter.

Please communicate to the General Curia as soon as possible the names of the elected delegates.

#### *Agenda*

I remind the Provincial and Vicarial Secretaries to give careful attention to implementing what is stated in art. 256 of the *Constitutions*.

The agenda of the General Chapter will be sent - three months before the Chapter - to the friars of the Order and to those who, according to the norms of the *Constitutions*, may participate in the Chapter (cf. *Const.* 256).

#### *Appointment with History*

Dear brothers, every General Chapter is an appointment with history, with our tradition, with the time in which we are living and with the future which is ahead of us. It is a solemn act of evaluation, reflection and planning, which requires prayer, preparation, a sense of responsibility and courage.

As I write these lines, the cardinals are gathered in conclave to elect the new pope, Successor of the Apostle Peter, to whom Jesus entrusted his Church (cf. *Mt* 16, 18-19) and asked to strengthen the faith of his brothers (cf. *Lk* 22, 32).

I invite you therefore to pray and live with particular intensity this season of Lent, in communion with the whole Church and, in particular, with the whole Order. Like Saint Peter, aware of his own fragility in the faith, each of us is called to give a response to the vital question of the Risen Lord: "N. do you love me?" (cf. *Jn* 21, 15. 16. 17), saying: "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you" (*Jn* 21, 17); and each of us rightly receives his share of responsibility from the Living One, the Good Shepherd: "Feed my sheep" (*Jn* 21, 17), that is, "watch over your brothers and sisters", in the Church and in particular in the Servite Family.

Through the intercession of Our Lady and our saints and blessed, may the Lord God watch over the Vine of Senario, surround it with his care and make it fruitful in every land where it has been planted.

Fraternal greetings in *Domina nostra*,

*f. Camille M. Jacques*

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

*fr. Angel M. Ruiz Garnica, o.s.m.*

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

