



FINAL DOCUMENTS

PREFACE

MESSAGE

DECISIONS

*General Curia C.Ss.R.
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XXIV General Chapter

***Congregation of the
Most Holy Redeemer***

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PREFACE

MESSAGE

DECISIONS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I

| | |
|--|----------|
| PREFACE BY THE SUPERIOR GENERAL MOST REV. MICHAEL BREHL, C.Ss.R. | 5 |
|--|----------|

Part II

| | |
|---|-----------|
| MESSAGE TO THE CONFRERES FROM THE XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER | 11 |
|---|-----------|

Part III

| | |
|---|-----------|
| DECISIONS OF THE XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER..... | 15 |
|---|-----------|

PART I

PREFACE

Most Rev. Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R., Superior General

'TO PREACH THE GOSPEL EVER ANEW' (ST. CLEMENT) RENEWED HOPE, RENEWED HEARTS, RENEWED STRUCTURES FOR MISSION

Dear Confreres, Sisters, and Lay Associates,

The XXIV General Chapter entrusted the General Council with the task of editing and publishing the documents which are the fruit of its deliberations: the Message and Decisions. These documents are not only the fruit of the capitulars' reflections during the month spent at the Salesianum in Rome from October 19 – November 14, 2009. They are also the result of a process which engaged the whole Congregation throughout the 2003-2009 sexennium.

The theme chosen for the 2009-2015 sexennium reminds all of us that the process of restructuring is a process of conversion and renewal. Restructuring is not merely about organization. It is a call to a renewed spirit and a profound renewal of our *Vita apostolica*. As the Message states clearly: "the more radical our conversion, the more radical and prophetic our *Vita apostolica*" (#8). This invitation to radical conversion and prophetic renewal is the work of the Holy Spirit, through whom the Redeemer continues to 'fulfill the will of his Father by carrying on the redemption through them' (Const. 52). The sexennial theme stresses the all-embracing nature of this conversion and renewal – *for mission!*

To preach the gospel ever anew, one must be prophetic. Prophecy in this sense has little to do with predicting the future. To be prophetic is to scrutinize the signs of the times, personally and as a community, and then to live and act according to the call of God in the present moment and contemporary circumstances. We are prophetic when we hear God call us through the most abandoned, especially the poorest among these, and respond with generous dedication. We are prophetic when we live an authentic community life in an age of immature individualism. We are prophetic when we stand in solidarity with peoples and conferees who differ from us in culture, language, race and ethnicity, and we give this witness of solidarity in a world still divided by chauvinism, racism, tribal mentality and nationalism.

To more fully understand the context and background of the decisions taken by the XXIV General Chapter, I urge you to carefully study Chapters I and II of the *Instrumentum laboris* and the *Report of the Superior General* from Fr. Joseph Tobin. Both these documents are readily available in the Redemptorist area on www.cssr.com ('XXIV General Chapter', Documents). They will also be published in the *Acta integra*. These documents, presented at the General Chapter, were a great resource for the capitulars. They helped to shape our vision of restructuring as a call to radical conversion and prophetic renewal.

The process of restructuring must be guided by the seven principles outlined in the *Decisions* of the XXIV General Chapter. Drawing from the Constitutions, these principles invite each Unit, each local community, each Redemptorist, and each person who shares our spirit and mission, to a deep reflection on our identity and mission.

All seven guiding principles are essential. In this preface, I draw your attention to two in particular. The second guiding principle

approved by the General Chapter calls us to a conversion which not only re-awakens our *Vita apostolica*, but which prompts a *new availability for mission* in each confrere and every community. The third guiding principle reminds us that this availability will lead us to concrete action which will change our lifestyle and ministry. This availability and this change of lifestyle and ministry are prophetic. I believe that they are at the heart of the conversion to which we are called as a Congregation and as individuals.

The General Chapter decided to restructure the Congregation into five Conferences. The primary purpose of these Conferences, as an intermediate structure in the Congregation, is to facilitate a wider missionary discernment and decision-making process. This wider missionary discernment will have concrete implications for the pastoral priorities and concrete projects of each Conference, as well as each Unit. This discernment must lead to decisions about pastoral priorities and missionary works. It will help us to respond more faithfully to where and with whom God calls us to be. This discernment is vitally important if the Congregation is to continue making its unique contribution to the mission of the Church and the coming of the Kingdom today and in the future.

Congregational Networking seeks to build new bridges of communication and collaboration between the Conferences in such a way that the worldwide Redemptorist Mission is more effective and Redemptorist identity is strengthened. This networking, as one visible sign of solidarity, is already growing in the Congregation. The spirit of hope and trust experienced at the XXIV General Chapter will help it to grow still further and deeper.

The decisions taken about future general chapters have as their goal the engagement of the whole Congregation in the chapter process. In this way, the general chapter may become an even more effective instrument for renewal of our *Vita apostolica*.

The Epilogue describes a profile of a Conference and of a Redemptorist formed in this vision. It has a different tone than the Decisions. It is more descriptive than legislative. It reminds us that we need to imagine and to dream as we make decisions if we hope to achieve the renewal of hope, hearts and structures envisioned in the theme for the sexennium.

Of course, there are other important decisions in this document. The choice of theme is a clear reminder of our *Vita apostolica*, ‘which comprises at one and the same time a life specially dedicated to God and a life of missionary work’ (Const. 1). This theme invites us not only to renewed structures, but also to renewed hope and renewed hearts. This renewal is all-embracing. For the Redemptorist, spirituality and mission cannot be separated. *Vita apostolica* is a vital integration of these two dimensions of our vocation: consecration and mission.

Our call to be with and for the most abandoned and the poor is fundamental to the pastoral priorities in each Conference. It also finds a concrete expression in our commitment to Africa and Madagascar. The response of Redemptorists to the earthquake in Haiti and the persecution experienced by our confreres and co-workers in Vietnam reminds us that this call to the abandoned and the poor speaks to our hearts in the changing events of daily life in very different parts of our world.

Missionary formation is essential if we are ‘to preach the Gospel ever anew’. Moral theology is a hallmark of our fidelity to the spirit of St. Alphonsus. Theological reflection on our experience as missionaries is also a gift from our tradition which helps us hear the call of God today and discern how to respond. Communication, economic solidarity, and good leadership are vital to missionary solidarity. All these decisions are important for the implementation of the theme of this sexennium.

I urge every (Vice)Province, Region and Mission, and indeed, every local community and each confrere, to seriously study, reflect upon and pray with these documents. The first meetings of the Conferences will take place in the very near future. The process of breathing new life into these renewed structures will take much longer, and it will involve us all.

It is difficult to adequately describe the atmosphere of hope experienced at the XXIV General Chapter. Hope is a theological virtue which we experience as we faithfully listen to the voice of God and read the signs of the times. More than this, hope is the power of love and compassion at work in us through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit moves us beyond the limits of our horizons to dream of the world as God sees it and to act in accord with this vision. Hope is the tangible expression of the power of the resurrection - of which we are called to be 'signs and witnesses' (Const. 51). Jesus the Redeemer is at the heart of our community (Const. 23). It is he who preaches the Gospel ever anew, so that we can walk in love, 'afame with the apostolic spirit' (Const. 12). Hope strengthens our conviction that change is not only possible. In God's plan, it is inevitable.

May we be guided by the Spirit of Jesus the Redeemer and accompanied by Our Mother of Perpetual Help and St. Alphonsus. May the bold missionary initiative of St. Clement give us courage as we 'preach the gospel ever anew'! Let us not forget that, "[Redemptorists] share in the mystery of Christ, and proclaim it in Gospel simplicity of life and language that they may bring to people plentiful redemption" (Const. 20).

Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R.
Superior General

PART II

MESSAGE OF THE XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER

*To all Redemptorists, Redemptoristines, lay associates
and members of affiliated Institutes*

'TO PREACH THE GOSPEL EVER ANEW' (ST. CLEMENT) RENEWED HOPE, RENEWED HEARTS, RENEWED STRUCTURES FOR MISSION

RENEWED HOPE FOR MISSION...

*Ready to give witness to the hope that is in us. (cf. 1Pet 3,15;
Const.10)*

1. The XXIV General Chapter was celebrated in a spirit of Gospel hope. From the beginning, with the presentations of the life and mission of confreres and lay associates around the world, we had a keen sense of the challenges and crises that people face today. This led us to appreciate and affirm decisively the relevance of the Alphonsian response of compassion for the most abandoned especially the poor.
2. During the Chapter we recognized the dramatic realities of our rapidly changing world. Attentive to the voice of the Spirit and the signs of the times, we felt compelled to respond creatively to the current pastoral needs facing us everywhere we serve, particularly in Africa, Madagascar and other fragile areas. The call to be witnesses of hope for the most abandoned and especially

the poor was reinforced by seeing the missionary zeal of so many confreres and lay associates.

3. The years of reflection, discussion and preparation for this General Chapter helped to focus our attention on new forms of solidarity, giving 'special attention to the poor, the deprived and the oppressed' (Const. 4).
4. A sense of hope, nurtured by the prayer life of the Chapter, flowed through all the discussions. Hope was essential as we faced the discernment of our future as apostles following 'the example of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, by preaching the word of God to the poor' (Const. 1).
5. Significant highlights of hope were the election of Fr Michael Brehl as Superior General and the election of the General Consultors, including, for the first time in our history, a Brother, Jeffrey Rolle.
6. Evangelical hope informed and motivated the decisions made regarding our structures in order to continue to be faithful to our calling. Restructuring is both *gift and task* for the Congregation and not merely a new level of bureaucracy. As missionary disciples of the Redeemer, we face the future with confidence 'as helpers, companions and ministers of Jesus Christ in the great work of redemption' (Const. 2).

RENEWED HEART FOR MISSION...

'I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.' (Ezek. 36,26)

'...conversion of heart and continual renewal of mind should characterize their whole daily life.' (Const. 41)

7. We are confident that the Congregation is being called to respond ever more generously and radically to the call of ongoing conversion. Conversion calls all of us back to our first love (cf. Rev. 2,4), to 'keep our eyes fixed on Jesus' (Heb. 12,2). Conversion is a gift not only to individuals but also to our communities and to the entire Congregation (Const. 12). It leads to a new solidarity in Christ and a new availability to respond with generosity to God's call.
8. Understanding our vocation through the lens of conversion leads to an impassioned zeal for the mission of the Congregation. It involves a 'continuing and total' process of renewal of every aspect of our lives (Const 11). We feel the need to be more open to newness of heart and spirit in order to be faithful to our tradition. We have become acutely aware of the need to let go of what hinders or limits us in living our charism and the call to grow more intensely in our commitment to the Kingdom of God. The more radical our conversion, the more radical and prophetic our *Vita apostolica* (Const. 1).

RENEWED STRUCTURES FOR MISSION...

'Tell the people to march on.' (cf. Ex. 14,15)

'To preach the Gospel ever anew.' (St. Clement)

9. We share in the mission of the Church by 'evangelization in the strict sense together with the choice in favor of the poor' (Const. 5). We also want to be faithful to our tradition to preach the Gospel ever anew. At this time, we are keenly aware of new situations of mission which urgently need evangelization. We addressed some of these situations in our Chapter decisions. We need new structures in order to preach the Gospel anew today and respond to the new areas of urgent pastoral need.

10. Following the seven guiding principles, and to facilitate the missionary life and work of the Congregation, the General Chapter put in place new structures: Conferences, Congregational networking, solidarity in personnel and financial matters. These decisions will affect every confrere and lay associate. As we move from the familiar to new and prophetic missionary opportunities we follow the example of St. Alphonsus himself in his *exodus* from Naples to the abandoned poor of Scala. As with St. Alphonsus, the poor will evangelize us and strengthen us with hope.
11. We invite all Redemptorists, and those who share our mission to 'diligently pioneer new ways of preaching the Gospel to every creature' (Const. 15). It is essential that the restructuring of our Congregation, our communities and our personal lives be guided by the Holy Spirit. We must not be afraid to take risks for the sake of the mission. We hope the new structures will bring greater freedom in the scope and methods of our missionary ventures.
12. May Our Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Alphonsus, the saints and beatified of our Congregation accompany us on this journey of renewal.
13. We have renewed hope, renewed hearts and renewed structures for mission because the Redeemer himself is at the heart of our community (Const. 23). It is God who makes all things new (cf. Rev. 21,5).

PART III

DECISIONS OF THE XXIV GENERAL CHAPTER

I. DECISIONS CONCERNING RESTRUCTURING

**SEVEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF RESTRUCTURING
CONFERENCES
CONGREGATIONAL NETWORKING
THE CELEBRATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER IN
THREE PHASES
GENERAL COUNCIL
EPILOGUE**

II. OTHER DECISIONS

**THE THEME OF THE SEXENNIUM
NEW STRUCTURES FOR AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR
FORMATION
MORAL THEOLOGY
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE CONGREGATION
QUADRIENNIUM FOR SUPERIORS
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND SOLIDARITY
MANAGEMENT OF PATRIMONY**

I. DECISIONS CONCERNING RESTRUCTURING

1. SEVEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF RESTRUCTURING

The following seven principles will guide the Process of Restructuring for Mission.

Principle 1: Restructuring is for Mission.

- 1.1 The starting point of our Redemptorist life is always Christ's mission of plentiful redemption. Following the example of the Redeemer, our Redemptorist mission is to preach the Gospel to the most abandoned, especially the poor (Const. 1).
- 1.2. Fidelity to our mission is the reason for and the goal of authentic restructuring. Fidelity to that mission demands that we establish and implement apostolic priorities. Not every apostolic endeavor, no matter how praiseworthy in itself, can be identified as an expression of our missionary priorities (cf. Consts. 13-17). To draw our apostolic endeavors closer to our priorities will involve ongoing discernment, decision and evaluation.

Principle 2: Restructuring for Mission should stimulate a re-awakening of our *Vita apostolica*. It should prompt a new availability for mission.

- 1.3. "The Redemptorist Congregation truly follows the example of Christ in the apostolic life, which comprises at one and the same time a life specially dedicated to God and a life of missionary work" (Const. 1). *Vita apostolica* in the Constitutions refers to 'The Missionary Work of the Congregation', 'The Apostolic Community' and 'The Apostolic Community Dedicated to Christ the Redeemer,' as well as

to 'Formation' and 'Government'. Restructuring for mission is a call to conversion and to a profound renewal of our *Vita apostolica* in all its dimensions.

- 1.4. This conversion and renewal will invite us to deepen our reflection on culture. We are missionaries who come together from various cultures to form communities based on faith in Jesus Christ. This faith calls today's Redemptorist to esteem and embrace the cultures of others while at the same time recognizing cultural limitations and giving countercultural witness, where appropriate. Restructuring for mission fosters a greater freedom to face the challenges of evangelization in a prophetic way.
- 1.5. Missionary conversion is a challenge to all Redemptorists, irrespective of age. This challenge should be explicit in the directories and in the practice of initial and continuing formation.

Principle 3: Restructuring for mission should seek out and accompany the most abandoned, especially the poor. To this end it should be a restructuring within Units and Conferences, and also across the boundaries of Units and Conferences.

- 1.6. "Preference for situations where there is pastoral need, that is, for evangelization in the strict sense together with the choice in favor of the poor, is the very reason why the congregation exists in the Church" (Const. 5). Our ministry to "the most abandoned, especially the poor" (Const. 1) cannot be so broad as to include every possible form of pastoral work. However, it will always include pastoral concern for those who suffer because of the mass movement of peoples and human trafficking.

- 1.7. Historically, many of our houses were established among the poor. However, social changes and pressures often provoked the departure of the poor from these places, but not the departure of the Redemptorists. Sometimes, we have kept these houses which no longer serve the poor and have justified our presence by doing ordinary ministry. Valuable as this is, it often does not reflect our option for the most abandoned, especially the poor.

Principle 4: Solidarity in mission includes an ability to optimize resources, both human (professed members and lay associates) and financial.

- 1.8. Our resources are first of all human resources: Redemptorist confreres, members of our affiliate religious congregations and lay associates, called by the Holy Spirit to work together in the mission of the Redeemer.
- 1.9. Solidarity in mission will include a special care for Units experiencing fragility with respect to human resources.
- 1.10. Such solidarity will also demand that we seriously examine the present economic system in our congregation and reform it as necessary.

Principle 5: Restructuring for mission requires association among Units, always searching for a common way forward.

- 1.11. Each Unit should carry out its missionary mandate in cooperation with the whole Congregation (Const. 141). Such cooperation is to be conducted in a spirit of mutual harmony (Const. 142).

1.12 To restructure resources for mission today means that no Unit should act in isolation. It also means establishing new associations among Units, always for better service to the mission, overcoming unacceptable rivalries or divisions which can be a source of scandal, and enabling a more fruitful understanding of Redemptorist identity.

Principle 6: A vital part of our mission, both historically and in our time, is theological reflection rooted in spiritual and pastoral experience. New deployment of our theological resources is essential to the challenge of restructuring for mission today.

1.13. To fulfill the mission of the Congregation in our time we need to stimulate the continuing formation of all confreres and to encourage specialization (particularly in moral and pastoral theology). We also need a formation for, and a network of, collaboration in other specific areas of pastoral expertise consistent with our charism.

Principle 7: Participation and Co-Responsibility: the restructuring process will involve all Redemptorist confreres and lay associates and in some way all those people in the midst of whom we exercise our mission. For this, a process of conscientization will accompany the Process of Restructuring.

1.14. Redemptorists will promote a process of conscientization with regard to restructuring in all Units of the Congregation. This process will involve all confreres, students in formation, lay associates and, in some way, all those people in the midst of whom we work.

2. CONFERENCES

- 2.1. In order to facilitate wider missionary discernment and decision making, the Congregation will be organized into Conferences. A Conference will include all Redemptorists who live and work within its borders. Redemptorists living within Conference areas will be represented at Conference Assemblies by Superiors of Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regions and Missions, and vocals as determined by the particular Conference statutes. The Conference Assembly will decide about the frequency of meetings, the possibility of creating Sub-Conferences and the participation of lay associates.
- 2.2. There will be five Conferences:
- Conference of Redemptorists of Asia-Oceania;
 - Conference of Redemptorists of Africa and Madagascar;
 - Conference of Redemptorists of Europe;
 - Conference of Redemptorists of Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - Conference of Redemptorists of North America.
- 2.3. The Conference and its Assembly will be intermediate structures within the Congregation between the General Government and the individual Units. The Coordinator, as chair of the Conference and its Assembly, will be appointed for the sexennium by the General Council from a list of three candidates proposed by the Conference Assembly. The Assembly of the Conference will decide whether or not a Major Superior can be presented as a candidate for Coordinator. The Coordinator will have the authority of a Delegate of the Superior General and will be given such faculties as are necessary or useful for the

discharge of his office. The Conference Statutes will provide for a Council to assist the Coordinator.

- 2.4. The Coordinator, working in a spirit of collegiality with the Assembly, will exercise his delegated authority in the apostolic life of the Conference, in the following areas:
- International and interprovincial communities and initiatives;
 - Initial and ongoing formation;
 - Promotion and implementation of economic solidarity;
 - Development of a social apostolate;
 - Assistance to weaker Units that need help in organizing their structures;
 - Promotion and facilitation of a process of fusion or federation, or other forms of association, where appropriate; and
 - Accompaniment during General Visitations.
- 2.5. Coordinators will participate at least once a year in one of the extraordinary meetings of the General Council.
- 2.6. The principal tasks of the Coordinator are:
- To guide the process of wider missionary discernment in the Conference;
 - To chair the Conference's review of life in a missionary perspective;
 - To act as "animator" and support for new missionary initiatives in the Conference;
 - To be attentive to the needs of fragile Units and to facilitate necessary decisions;
 - To help the Conference find good structures for initial formation;

- To facilitate ongoing formation for confreres called to new initiatives, which may include establishing inter-provincial and international communities; and
 - To act as liaison with the General Council in all matters pertaining to the Conference.
- 2.7. A General Directory of Conferences will be drawn up by the General Council to facilitate each Conference in drawing up its Statutes. Each Conference will prepare its own Statutes to be approved by the General Government. The Statutes of each Conference will indicate specific ways the Conference will function, for example:
- The process of raising and proposing names of potential Coordinators to the General Council;
 - The modalities of representation and participation of Sub-Conferences (if any);
 - The way the office of the Coordinator will be financed;
 - The calling of meetings of the Assembly of the Conference;
 - Involvement in common or local events;
 - How lay associates will be represented, etc.
- 2.8. Other forms of association such as sub-groupings of Units, federations etc., may be established according to need. Such associations would be developed in dialogue with the Conference through its Coordinator.

3. CONGREGATIONAL NETWORKING

- 3.1. The General Government, in dialogue with the Assemblies of the Conferences will develop, during the next sexennium, effective structures, including financial arrangements, to promote essential apostolic work beyond the limits of the Conference, especially in the following areas:

- Ministry to those who suffer because of the mass movement of peoples;
 - Redemptorist Communications (including new forms of mass media);
 - Shrine Ministry;
 - A Network for Africa and Madagascar;
 - Theological Reflection in our Redemptorist tradition;
 - Popular Missions;
 - Youth Ministry;
 - Missionary Parishes;
 - Social Justice Ministry.
- 3.2. The General Government will ensure that these structures will be sufficiently dynamic and flexible, with progressive targets that can be evaluated, so as to respond efficiently to the challenges of a fast changing world.

4. THE CELEBRATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER IN THREE PHASES

- 4.1. Conferences are intrinsic to the dynamic of the General Chapter.
- 4.2. To respond more adequately to the wide scope of the General Chapter's mandate given in the Constitutions, we will treat the General Chapter as a process that takes place over a period of time and in inter-related phases. A General Chapter is tasked to ... 'examine whether the Congregation is giving willing attention to the voice of God who is ever challenging it through the Church and the world' (Const. 108). 'It is the function of the General Chapter to care for the interests of the apostolic life of

the entire Institute, to strengthen the links that bind its individual parts together, and to further the adaptation of the institutions and norms of life in the Congregation to the needs of the Church and humanity' (Const. 107).

- 4.3. The General Chapter will be celebrated as a process in three phases:

Phase 1: The Initial Phase (Pre-Chapter Meeting);

Phase 2: The Canonical Phase of the General Chapter;

Phase 3: The Implementation Phase (Post-Chapter Meeting).

Phase 1 – The Initial Phase (Pre-Chapter Meeting)

- 4.4. The first phase of the General Chapter process will take place at Conference level and deals with the tasks outlined in Constitutions 107 and 108. This will offer the possibility of a broader participation of Units, confreres and lay associates. As an integral part of the General Chapter process, the representatives of the Conference will examine its life, mission and priorities.

4.5. Tasks

- To evaluate the apostolic life of the Units within the Conference, in fidelity to our mission and the signs of the times: looking at common experiences, missionary priorities, new pastoral situations etc.;
- To determine the apostolic priorities of the Conference in line with the Redemptorist mission;
- To examine common initiatives of initial and continuing formation;
- To promote inter-Unit collaboration and possible new initiatives;

- To nominate, for election at the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter, candidates for Superior General;
- To nominate, for election at the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter, at least two candidates for the General Council, not necessarily from that particular Conference;
- To prepare for the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter.

4.6. **Representation and Participation**

Representatives with voting rights:

- Superior General and General Consultor(s);
- Secretary General, Treasurer General and Procurator General participate in one Initial Phase Meeting as designated by the General Government;
- Members of the Canonical Phase belonging to the Conference;
- Superiors of Missions;
- Provinces, Vice Provinces, Regions with more than 20 members which do not already have a vocal for the Canonical Phase will elect one vocal to attend the Initial Phase;
- Provinces with more than 200 but less than 300 confreres will elect one more vocal;
- Other members designated by the General Council and/or Conference Statutes.

Participants without voting rights:

- One moderator from the canonical phase of the General Chapter;

- *Periti*;
- Lay associates; and
- Other persons designated by the General Council and/or Conference Statutes.

Phase 2 – The Canonical Phase of the General Chapter

4.7. Tasks

- To bring together the evaluations and priorities of each Conference and their most important decisions and recommendations in the context of a world-wide discernment of the Congregation's mission;
- To propose to the Congregation the necessary orientations to ensure greater fidelity to its charism, enabling it to renew itself in the service of the Church and humankind;
- To elect the Superior General and the General Council;
- To fulfill any further responsibilities indicated in the Constitutions and Statutes and Directory of Chapters.

4.8. Representation and Participation

The representation and participation at the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter will follow the Directory of Chapters 700, with the addition of the five Conference Coordinators who will be *ex officio* members.

Phase 3 – Implementation Phase (Post-Chapter Meeting)

- 4.9. The Implementation Phase will take place at the Conference level no more than twelve months after the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter.

4.10. Tasks

The primary task will be to convey the message and direction set by the Canonical Phase of the General Chapter as it relates to the mission of the Congregation in the Conference. Other suitable events, such as workshops, retreats, etc., may be organized to facilitate this implementation.

4.11. Representation and Participation

The representation and participation at the Implementation Phase will be determined by the Conference Statutes.

5. GENERAL COUNCIL

5.1. The General Council will meet together with the Coordinators of the Conference at least once a year.

5.2. The General Visitations include the Coordinator of the respective Conference.

6. EPILOGUE

The General Chapter requested that this Epilogue from the Instrumentum laboris be included as a description of a Conference and a Redemptorist confrere shaped and formed by this vision of restructuring.

A Profile of the Conference

6.1. In the past, Units have done courageous work, in some cases through bi-lateral or multi-lateral arrangements with other Units, in consultation with the General Council. However, the pastoral urgencies of our time demand a structure that embraces a broader vision and facilitates wider missionary discernment and decision-making.

- 6.2. A Conference can provide an opportunity for a major review of the life and work of Redemptorists within its boundaries. It is a forum for pastoral discernment in a way that is different from the discernment by a Unit alone or among a few Units. It is a forum where local needs can be taken seriously, but seen in a larger context.
- 6.3. Within a Conference, the challenge of missionary vitality goes beyond immediate national boundaries. This will help us overcome provincialism and broaden our appreciation of the call to evangelize in the world today.
- 6.4. A Conference is better able to give security to new apostolic initiatives. A Conference will also be better able to give a sense of security to fragile Units. (In the past, such security often came from powerful mother Provinces.)
- 6.5. As a structure, a Conference provides greater appreciation for the need to preserve and develop the various liturgical rites within the Congregation.
- 6.6. In terms of economic resources, a Conference could have systems and processes that would allow for greater equity and solidarity, and more effective discernment of the needs of the mission.
- 6.7. A Conference helps discern better the possibilities and priorities of, the initiatives for and the invitations to mission.
- 6.8. A Conference provides a wider horizon for the identity of the next generation of Redemptorists.
- 6.9. A Conference helps provide direction, vision and policy for initial and ongoing formation.
- 6.10. The establishment of and support for international and interprovincial communities is primarily the responsibility of a Conference.

- 6.11. A Conference assists the General Government in its governance of the Congregation as a whole.

**A Profile of the Redemptorist confrere
shaped by this new vision**

- 6.12. The principles of restructuring assure the continuity of our fundamental identity and mission as Redemptorists in the Church and in the world. At the same time, they call for new realities and structures that would give fresh impetus to that mission and identity.
- 6.13. This is a possible profile of a confrere in a re-structured Congregation.
- 6.14. This confrere would participate in a novitiate program of various Units, usually belonging to the same Conference. He would interact with confreres from other countries, cultures, and maybe even languages.
- 6.15. During his initial formation he would learn about the charism of the Congregation and the special gifts and apostolates of his own Unit. He would understand from our history that constant renewal and restructuring have been vital for the continuity and continuation of our mission.
- 6.16. When he makes his vows, his commitment will be to the whole Congregation and not simply to a particular Unit. This commitment will be given practical expression in the Unit and the Conference to which he belongs. He will need to have a wider grasp of the changing circumstances, human realities and apostolic priorities not only of his Unit but of the entire Conference to which his Unit belongs. He will, for example, have to learn about the phenomenon of migrants within the geographic area of his Conference. He will, to give another example, be able to participate in the

ministry of Redemptorist shrines within his Conference, a ministry growing in importance within the modern phenomenon of popular religious devotion.

- 6.17. Above all, he will know that he belongs to and willingly participates in the mission of a world-wide Congregation that takes seriously the challenge of being alert to the signs of the times, and making vital apostolic decisions that respond ever anew to our call to mission.

II. OTHER DECISIONS

THE THEME OF THE SEXENNIUM

7. The theme of the sexennium is:
“To preach the Gospel ever anew” (St. Clement) – renewed hope, renewed hearts, renewed structures for mission.

NEW STRUCTURES FOR AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

8. The Conference of Africa and Madagascar is a priority. In order that this may be realized, the General Government must put new structures in place.
9. The General Government is to set up a fund for Africa and Madagascar in order to support different ventures necessary for the growth of the units in that Conference. Some of these include initial and permanent formation, missionary initiatives, social projects, etc. The General Government must also appoint a procurator and a commission to assist him, whose task will be to establish the fund, to administer it, to distribute the money and to

promote and organize the formation of (V) Provincial, Regional and local treasurers.

FORMATION

10. The Redemptorist Vocation Ministry will be more fully integrated into the Formation Secretariats and formation structures at the General, (Vice)Provincial and Regional levels.
11. The Executive Secretary for Formation is a member of the General Secretariat for Formation. He does not have to be a permanent member, nor reside in the General Curia, unless the General Government considers it convenient and necessary.
12. The courses for Formators initiated by the General Secretariat for Formation will continue in the next sexennium (2009-2015). Special attention will be given to further development of these courses in other languages to meet the needs of all the Conferences. These courses must engage Formators who have not yet participated in any course.

MORAL THEOLOGY

13. The Alphonsian Academy is one of the common apostolates and priorities of the Congregation with which all Units must collaborate generously and effectively. This collaboration includes the choice and composition of the body of Professors and financial aid.
14. The General Government will continue to promote the Redemptorist Congress on Moral Theology in the whole

Congregation in cooperation with the Alphonsian Academy and other Redemptorist Centers of Theology.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE CONGREGATION

15. The XXIV General Chapter accepts the policy and the interpretation proposed by the previous General Council concerning the use of official languages in the Congregation. This policy and interpretation will be followed in the current sexennium and then evaluated at the XXV General Chapter.
16. Italian is one of the official languages of the Congregation.

QUADRIENNIUM FOR SUPERIORS

17. General Statutes 0153d and 0178b are amended to establish a four-year mandate (*quadriennium*) for the (Vice)Provincial, Regional and Local Superiors of the Congregation, as well as their respective councils. All other pertinent general statutes are also amended in conformity with this decision.
18. The elected or nominated (V) Provincial and Regional Superiors and their Councils will take office during the month of January of the new quadriennium. All these elections of (V) Provincial and Regional Superiors will take place to comply with this requirement.

ECONOMIC ISSUES AND SOLIDARITY

19. During the 2009-2015 sexennium, a more satisfactory system should be sought for effective economic solidarity in the Congregation. The General Council is to appoint a

Commission to investigate and study these issues. This Commission will report on its progress at the mid-sexennium meetings. The XXV General Chapter will consider the results of this study and adopt any necessary decisions.

20. During and after the General Chapter, capitulars are to communicate to their respective Units the serious financial challenges that the Congregation faces.
21. As an emergency response to the present crisis, each Unit of the Congregation in a position to do so, is asked to add to its 2009 contribution, the amount given in 2007 as an ordinary contribution to the General Government.
22. The General Treasurer and the General Secretariat for Finance will prepare by June 30, 2010, an updated form for the 'Financial Report of the (Vice)Province'. Using this updated form, all (Vice)Provinces of the Congregation will send more detailed annual financial reports for the past three years (2007-2009) to the General Government by October 31, 2010. With this information, the General Government will continue its efforts to increase its patrimony.
23. The General Government is to reestablish the practice of sending an annual report of its finances to each Unit.

MANAGEMENT OF PATRIMONY

24. The General Government will promote the greater professional formation of some confreres for the management of our finances, according to scientific and ethical principles in the theological context of religious life. The General Government will ensure that the external managers of our investments respect the ethical code in force. This code will be updated and improved opportunely.

