



Rome, January 07 2021
PROT. N° 0000 002/2021

Decree Regarding Postulata to be submitted to the XXVI General Chapter

Dear Confreres,

All Redemptorists are invited to participate actively in the next General Chapter of the Congregation, which will be held in three phases (Decisions of the XXIV General Chapter, #4). There are different ways in which your views may be expressed and your proposals considered. The planned virtual gatherings between January and May 2021 provide a wonderful opportunity for you to engage in an active way in the process of the 26th General Chapter and we hope that as many of you as possible will be in a position to participate.

Another way of representing all the members of the Congregation in the General Chapter is the process of selection of capitulars and *vocals*, which is determined by our proper law. This process will be further elaborated in the Decree of Convocation to be issued later.

In addition to these principal ways by which all confreres may contribute to the work of the General Chapter, number 805 of the *Directory of Chapters (DC)* stipulates "All members of the Congregation are free to send their wishes and suggestions to the general chapter according to the norms in the proper law (CIC c. 631 §3; CCEO c. 512 §2)". These "wishes and suggestions" include proposals for action commonly known as *postulata* which are governed by the norms in *DC* 806-807.

After considering the suggestions from the Central Preparatory Commission for the next General Chapter, the General Council,

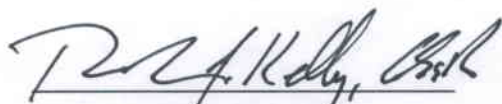
DECREES

the following norms in relation to numbers 806-807 of the *Directory of Chapters*:

1. A *postulatum* is a formal proposal
 - for some action by the General Chapter,
 - which refers to an issue affecting the Congregation as such,
 - which must be titled "Proposal for Action by the General Chapter" or in similar words,
 - which is formulated as a clear summary statement that can be voted on,
 - which states reasons (motives) for the action proposed,
 - which identifies to which area (from the five chapters of the C&S) the *postulatum* applies primarily, recognizing that some issues may overlap.

- which is written in one of the official languages of the Chapter (the Commission for *Postulata* will clearly indicate the original language of the official text)
 - and is signed by one or more confreres.
2. The Chapter will also consider other submissions (suggestions, statements of concern, opinions etc.), which give information or advice, but do not request a specific action. These should be written as succinctly as possible and sent to the Central Preparatory Commission, either directly by the author or through the (vice-) provincial preparatory commission. The Central Preparatory Commission must receive all such submissions no later than August 31, 2021. These submissions will be collected in a volume to be made available to capitulars for consultation and inspiration.
 3. A confrere may submit *postulata* directly to the Central Preparatory Commission or through the respective (vice-) provincial preparatory commission, which will collect and forward all the *postulata* received in a given Unit. The Central Preparatory Commission must receive all *postulata* no later than August 31, 2021.
 4. An individual chapter member may submit *postulata* during the first two weeks of Phase II of the General Chapter.
 5. At each celebration of Phase I of the General Chapter, at Conference level, *postulata* legitimately submitted will be discussed and a vote taken to decide which *postulata* should be further considered by Phase II of the General Chapter. *Postulata* that have received an absolute majority of the valid votes at Phase I of at least three Conferences will be forwarded to Phase II of the General Chapter for its consideration.
 6. Conferences, at Phase I of the General Chapter, can, by an absolute majority vote, submit their own *postulata* to Phase II of the General Chapter.
 7. All *postulata* legitimately submitted to the General Chapter in accordance with n° 5 and n° 6 will be brought to the chapter assembly in Phase II.
 8. The General Council will name a Commission for *Postulata*, which will work in close collaboration with the Central Preparatory Commission in order to coordinate the presentation of *postulata* to the Conferences for Phase I of the General Chapter.
 9. The Commission for *Postulata* will have the freedom to edit the text of a *postulatum*, in consultation with the author(s), and is hereby given the authority to decide whether a proposal fulfils the criteria set forth in n. 1 and can therefore be presented as a *postulatum*.
 10. The Norms of Procedure, which will be approved at Conference level at Phase I of the General Chapter, will govern the treatment of *postulata* during Phase II of the General Chapter itself.
 11. This decree will have effect in accordance with Constitution 119 §3.

Given at Rome on 07 January, 2021


 Brendan Kelly, C.Ss.R.
 Secretary General


 Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R.
 Superior General


 Seal of the Congregation

**26th General Chapter
Form for Postulatum
Proposal for Action by the General Chapter**

Criteria for a Postulatum

A *postulatum* is a formal proposal

- for some action by the General Chapter,
 - which refers to an issue affecting the Congregation as such,
 - which must be titled "Proposal for Action by the General Chapter" or in similar words,
 - which is formulated as a clear summary statement that can be voted on (specific proposal),
 - which states reasons (motives) for the action proposed,
 - which identifies to which area (from the five chapters of the C&S) the *postulatum* applies primarily, recognizing that issues may overlap.
 - which is written in one of the official languages of the Chapter (the Commission for *Postulata* will clearly indicate the language of the official text)
 - and is signed by one or more confreres.
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Subject Matter:

Specific Proposal:

Reasons:

Submitted by:

Date:

Area from the C&S to Which the Postulatum Applies Principally:

Chapter 1 (): Chapter 2 (): Chapter 3 (): Chapter 4 (4): Chapter 5 ()