



## *Superiore generale dei Fratelli Maristi*

Rome, 8th September 2016

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### **TO ALL THE BROTHERS IN THE INSTITUTE**

#### ***Election of delegates to the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter***

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Dear Brothers,

This letter, addressed only to the Brothers of the Institute, complements the Letter of Convocation to the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter, entitled *A New La Valla*, which was addressed to a wider group. In this letter you will find all the necessary instructions to conduct the election of delegates to the General Chapter, according to our proper Law.

#### ***Reflection, prayer, dialogue***

In the first place, I believe it is important to remember that the election process for capitulants should be carried out in an atmosphere of reflection, prayer and dialogue.

I think it would be good if each community could find a moment for a community meeting a few days before carrying out the election to **discuss on the criteria**, which will guide us in the election of the most suitable candidates to attend the General Chapter.

When carrying out the voting, you could set aside a time for **community prayer**, integrating the election within an atmosphere of prayer.

All of this should be carried out in a serious manner, similar to the way we respond to the consultation for a new Provincial. Let us remember that the capitulants will draw up a pathway for the Institute over the coming years, up to the next General Chapter. It would be important to ensure that we elect those most able to carry out this important task.

#### ***Election process***

- ✓ Each Provincial or District Superior will send out a letter to the Brothers of his administrative unit indicating the number of delegates to be elected as well as the dates for the election. Please keep in mind that a second round of voting might be necessary. **November 1<sup>st</sup>** has been fixed as the deadline for all delegates of the Institute to be elected.
- ✓ In addition, the Provincial will send each Brother in his administrative unit the list of Brothers eligible for election and the ballot papers to be used for the election.
- ✓ On the day of the election, each elector will indicate on his ballot paper a number of names equal to the number of delegates assigned to the administrative unit. These names will be

taken from the list of those eligible. The ballot paper will then be placed in a small envelope and sealed. The ballot papers thus prepared will then be placed inside a second envelope, which will be closed and sealed in the presence of all the Brothers. On the front of this second envelope, the names and surnames of each of those who have voted should be written in a legible manner. Each Brother will then put his signature beside his name. Following this, the envelope will be put into a third envelope which will be sent to the Brother Provincial by registered (certified) post.

- ✓ **A scrutiny commission** will be set up, composed of four Brothers appointed by the Brother Provincial and his Council. The Brothers appointed for this must not be members of the Provincial Council. The Brother Provincial will determine the date for the scrutiny of the ballot papers and will preside over the commission.
  - The scrutiny commission will count the total number of votes obtained for each Brother and will draw up the list of those Brothers who have obtained one or more votes, in descending order, according to the number of votes obtained. In accordance with the number of delegates required to be elected, the number of Brothers who obtain the most votes will be declared elected, provided they have obtained an absolute majority.
  - If this provides the number of delegates to be elected, the same number from those who are next on the list will be declared substitutes, on condition that they have obtained at least one third of the votes.
  - After each election the ballot papers will be destroyed.
- ✓ If not all the delegates and substitutes have been elected in the first round, a **second round of voting** will take place. In this case, the scrutiny commission will name those brothers who are next on the list as candidates for the second round. For this, the names of three Brothers will be selected as candidates for each remaining delegate position and three for each substitute position, yet to be filled.
- ✓ From the new list drawn up at the end of the first round of voting, each elector will indicate on a ballot paper as many names as there are delegate positions to be filled.
  - The scrutiny commission will count the number of votes obtained by each Brother and draw up a list of these, in descending order, according to the number of votes obtained.
  - The Brothers who obtain the most votes, equal in number to those delegates still to be elected, will be declared as delegates. Those who are next on the list, equal to the number of substitutes to be elected, will be declared substitutes. In the case of a tied vote in any of the ballots, the eldest will be considered elected.
  - For all the elections, each time the votes are counted, **minutes of the scrutiny session** must be drawn up. These will be signed by all the Brothers present. The Brother Provincial will send a copy of all the minutes to the Brother Secretary General, signed by all the members of the commission. He will inform those Brothers elected of their election, and will communicate the result of the elections to all the Brothers of the Province.
- ✓ In the case of any irregularity, the Brother Superior General and his Council may annul the voting and require that it be repeated. Should this happen, the General Chapter will be informed.

### ***Voting by proxy***

If a Brother is absent from his administrative unit and believes that he has little likelihood of getting his ballot paper to the Brother Provincial by registered (certified) post before the deadline, he can vote by proxy.

In this case, the Brother will inform the Provincial, by the most secure means possible, of:

- the fact that he wishes to vote by proxy and
- the name of the Brother he designates as his representative.

The Brother concerned will come to an understanding with the Brother he has chosen as his representative.

The Brother Provincial will inform the Superior of the community where the Brother chosen as proxy resides.

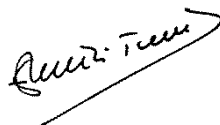
The Brother who votes as a proxy will fill in two ballot papers and sign the envelope twice: once under his own name; the other, *as the proxy of Brother N...*

### ***Statutes of the General Chapter***

The *Statutes of the General Chapter*, which can be found in the Acts of the 21st General Chapter, contain, among other things, all the regulations concerning the elections. For those of you who might like to consult them, I am sending you a copy of these *Statutes* as an attachment to this letter.

On this 8th September, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us give thanks to the Lord for having called us to be *Little Brothers of Mary*, that is, for having called us to be *Mary's presence* in the Church and in society. From today on, let us commend the forthcoming General Chapter to the tender care of our Good Mother.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brother Francis", written over a horizontal line.