



News from the General Council Meeting Rome, 29 May - 1 June 2017

The General Council met in Rome from 29th May till 1st June 2017. The meeting included sessions with both the General Econome, Fr Vincenzo Carletti and the Rector of the Community, Fr Matteo Nonini.

In the past months Fr Joachim and members of the General Council have been present at Chapters, Congresses or meetings and have conducted visits to our brothers in India, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and within Italy and Spain.

On 31st May, the General Council and the Community of Ss Giovanni e Paolo celebrated the closure of the Month of Mary with a Rosary procession and Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady in the garden. This was also an occasion to thank and farewell Sr Maria Piedad, Sr Lourdes and Fr Paul Cherukoduth, Secretary General who has been elected Vice Provincial of THOM Vice Province, India.

Appointments

Secretary General

The Superior General, with the consent of the Council has appointed Fr Fernando Ruiz Saldarriaga (SCOR) as the new Secretary General. Fr Fernando (49) from Colombia recently joined the Curia as translator from English to Spanish. We extend our thanks to Fr Fernando for accepting this role and wish him every success in his service of the Congregation.

**Passionists
International**

Fr Mirosław (Mirek) Lesiecki (ASSUM) has been appointed for a second three-year term till May 2020, as Executive Director of Passionists International, our NGO (Non-Government Organization) presence at the United Nations in New York. We thank Fr Mirek for his willingness to continue in this important role of advocacy and communication.

**A Study Group
for the Review
of our
Procedural
Norms**

Frs Leonello Leidi (MAPRAES), Arthur Carrillo (CRUC) and Antonio Munduate (SCOR/CURIA) have been appointed to this group. After 35 years since the approval of General Regulations, some points need to be revised to account for changes in our practices, to accommodate the existence of Configurations, and to review obsolete norms. It is not envisaged that this group would revise all the Regulations, but merely update or edit those that require modification in light of new developments. A report is expected to be ready for presentation to the General Chapter 2018. We thank the members for their willingness to undertake this work.

**Appointment
to 3rd
Centenary
Committee**

Fr Francisco das Chagas (CALV) has been appointed to this Committee to represent the Configuration of Jesus Crucified to substitute Fr Vitor Hugo (CALV).

Other News

**Electoral
Norms for
Configurations**

The General Procurator, Fr Antonio Munduate will be communicating with each Configuration regarding the norms for voting for delegates for the coming General Chapter (October 2018). A key issue to be clarified is the fact that delegates are now representatives of the Configuration (not of a Province within the Configuration) and thus voting methods need to reflect this. A further issue concerns the participation of all members of each Configuration in all elections of every delegate.

The Extended Council

This Council (comprised of the six Configuration Presidents, the Secretary General and the six General Consultors) will meet with Fr General in Rome on 25th - 27th September 2017. As part of this meeting the Extended Council will share some sessions with the General Chapter Preparatory Committee and the Committee for the 300th Anniversary of the Congregation.

Information on Ss Giovanni e Paolo

A new Commission for the study of future options for the use of our Generalate building has been formed. The Commission members are Fr Adiantus Aloysius (Vicar & Econome, Community), Fr Vito Patera (Director, Retreat House), Fr Vincenzo Carletti (General Econome) and Fr Giuseppe Adobati (General Consultor and President of the Commission). Expert advice will be provided by Andrea Monceli (Architect) and Vincenzo Mosca (Engineer).

At the same time, Fr Giuseppe Adobati and Fr Antonio Munduate will form a committee to update the present norms for the General House (in light of the departure of students and of today's needs). This work needs to state the principles and values underlying the norms as well as the norms themselves.

Highgate

Fr Joachim has written to the Community in the International House, Highgate (London) to begin the process of registering our community as a 'sponsoring' body in UK law. This will facilitate the process of gaining approval for entry of Passionist religious from non-EU entities to work as 'Ministers of Religion' and 'Religious Workers' in the United Kingdom.

General Council Retreat

The General Council will be on retreat from October 6-10 at our monastery in Ischia.

**The Chapel
of St Paul of
Cross**

Apart from repairs to the roof of our Founder's Chapel in the Basilica of Ss Giovanni e Paolo, additional work to make safe other areas of this building has been discovered and evaluated as urgent. This repair work has been approved and will take place over the next months.

**Stauros
Fund**

The monies remaining in the Stauros Account has been transferred into a new category named: 'Attività Culturale'. The Funds will still be used to promote activity and study related to the original goals of Stauros.

Bethany

An update on renovation and maintenance of St Martha House, Bethany (Israel) was presented to the General Council. The plans for the proposed renovation of this international house have been sent to the General Econome for further evaluation by our technical advisor in Rome.

**Vice Province
of SALV
(Congo)**

Following the invitation from the Bishop and considering the decision of the recent SALV Vice Province Congress, the General Council has granted permission to SALV for accepting a parish in the Diocese of Créteil (Val-de-Marne), Paris (France).

Paul Cherukoduth, CP
(out-going) *Secretary General*