



Rome, January 14, 2019

Dear brothers:

We write to you once again, with the aim of deepening our understanding and appreciation of the essentials of the 39th General Chapter. We believe that a great turning point of the Chapter was the profoundly deep connection made between the understanding of mission as the strengthening of our inner life and finding new ways to be and serve in the Church - seeing both as a **single movement**. Our desire is that this movement does not remain contained to documents, but rather comes alive in us as we visualise better what these new ways of being and serving in the Church might be. As has been said before, we see as a starting point the welcoming of weakness, as grace, as the place where our true inner life manifests itself - Jesus acting in us. Jesus does this through his Word, through adoration, prayer, fraternal exchanges ... and, of course, in mission. May the Lord renew our inner life and our ways of being and serving in the Church.



We offer this simple **guide**:

- 1) A prayerful reading of the **Gospel of Mark 6: 30-42**. This can be accompanied by a reading of three paragraphs of the Superior General's latest letter that you will find in INFO No. 128 (7 January 2019). Under the heading "Five loaves and two fish" these paragraphs are a commentary on the Gospel passage cited. We pray to the Lord for the grace of conversion. May his merciful love purify our motives for doing his work. May he help us to love and serve our brothers and sisters as he does.
- 2) **Guidelines to help in our reading of the document "The Pastoral and Missionary Conversion: New Paths to Emmaus"**.
For personal reflection:
 - a. An exercise in memory and storytelling: think about a time or times when the limited resources you had somehow managed to satisfy "the hunger" of the people you serve or have served pastorally - beyond ever what you thought was possible.



- b. How does the relationship you have with Jesus feature in your pastoral ministry? Do you feel yourself a disciple like the other disciples, finding rest in the Master and in the service of “those who have nothing to eat”?
 - c. Drawing from the proposals and orientations of the Chapter Document, as brothers in community what do you see as the **challenges** that lie ahead? How can we **discern these challenges together**, keeping in mind the hopes and concerns that are present in our Church and our world.
 - d. What **steps** dare we take that could lead us towards new ways of being and serving in the Church?
- 3) **Please share your reflections on the questions at a community meeting** or at some other specific moment (assembly, retreat) that facilitates an open sharing.

By way of conclusion, we cite here the final paragraph of the letter ‘Pastoral Compassion’: “The pastoral and missionary conversion needed to find new ways of being and serving in the Church is nothing other than allowing Jesus, who is our inner life, to love, serve and act through us”. Without a doubt, we have here a positive challenge - to continue our journey of adventure together along the path which our vocation as religious of the Sacred Hearts sets before us.

Fraternally,

The brothers of the General Government