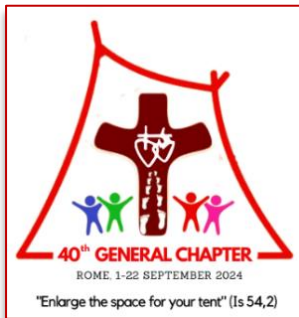




Rome, 18 January 2024



Work for the 40th General Chapter

ECONOMY AND MISSION

I Stage: WHAT WE ARE DOING (January-March 2024)

1. WE HAVE DONE SOME WORK

a. Functioning

In terms of the functioning of the economy, a number of initiatives have been undertaken:

- Various works for governments regarding economic information, investments, real estate.
- Consultation of all local communities of the Congregation on the "common fund" as a system of operation.
- Renewal of the financial report.
- Proposing joint investments to those Provinces that wish to participate.
- Development of tools to make a 5-year economic and financial plan.
- Consolidated information on Congregation-wide data (EGC 2023, Indonesia) and outlining challenges for the future.
- Canonical visits and visits of the General Econome to Mexico, Africa, the Netherlands and Flanders, France, India and Indonesia; assemblies of CEA, CIAL and CAP.

b. Caring for the body of the Congregation

- An explanation was given of the three models that work in the Congregation and bring the greatest benefit: Iberian Province (own management, taking on the investments of other Provinces), Netherlands (management with a group of 13 Dutch congregations), US (management in the investment group of Christian Brothers).
- In Iberia there is common investment: Africa, India, the General House and France. In the Netherlands: Indonesia. In the USA: the US Province and USA West.
- We continue to invite you to participate in these initiatives in order to increase the capital invested and thus the financial return. In this way we will be able to lower the contributions and attend to missionary projects and the care of the brothers, which is the purpose of the proposal.

For dialogue

1. **What does your Province need in the coming years regarding these two issues?**
2. **Identify two concrete initiatives that will help to improve the functioning and care of the Congregation's body.**

2. RESOURCES TO DISCOVER

Looking ahead, we have to look at some difficult areas, one of which is looking for resources. In the work of these past years, and especially in the work leading up to and during the 2023 EGC, some possibilities have emerged that we should explore further:

a. External funding of mission projects. Decision-making processes re projects.

- Some examples already exist, such as the request for help granted by the Italian Bishops' Conference for the construction of the Fr. Eustaquio College in Kinshasa, requested by the Province of Africa. A few other requests have been made to some funding agencies in Germany.
- Submitting projects requires prior work: the willingness of brothers to work on these projects, to respond to the requirements of the sponsoring bodies, to be serious and formal in the applications and their follow-up. To account for each and every one of the expenses that are financed. To do this, it is necessary to dedicate brothers and sisters who are trained in this task and time. We are not aware that this has been done explicitly.
- On the other hand, the EGC called for more involvement of the general government in decision-making. The orientations given indicate that participation in project decision-making is therefore necessary from the outset, not simply informing the government.

b. Search for benefactors

- Some provinces, such as Indonesia and the US, have developed this aspect well. Others had them in the past, for example, for the financing of studies for religious. The aim is to invite participation in the development of the Congregation and the proclamation of the Gospel, to support initial formation and missionary projects.

For dialogue

3. **What projects do we have in the Province that need external support? If so, what do we need to do to seek funding for them?**
4. **Regarding benefactors, we decided on two initiatives that we can practice: increase donations and aid, either to our Province or to other Provinces.**
5. **How can we as a Province help in this area or what suggestions do we make?**

3. PROPOSALS COMING FROM THE EGC 2023

1. A mission-driven economy: matching our needs and commitments

- Currently, we have income to cover our expenses, but the rest has to be obtained from financial investments (our savings) and from our real estate. The fruits of our labour account for 14% of our income, investments for 36% and real estate for 50%, although the real estate value is of a book value, not a market value.
- We have enough assets to live on and to cover contingencies, although normally it would cover us for a few years, we can say "medium term". We have very little debt,

which is positive. We also know that some Provinces are gradually decapitalising, i.e. each year they have more expenses than income. This should keep us on our toes. We live on the income from work and ministry, but for the rest (renovations, care of the elderly, other projects) we need to use investments that come from our savings, those of our predecessors. The conclusion would be that if we decapitalise we can only survive.

- Improved information helps transparency and good decision-making. This path must be continued.
- Visits (canonical, etc) should contribute to medium and long-term economic planning in the provinces. The involvement of the Government and the Econome General should be aimed at improving the economic functioning of the provinces.
- It is affirmed that economics in relation to mission should be an area of interdependence in the Congregation.
- Every idea, project or initiative has a figure attached to it. We must be aware of this and come up with practical ideas for financing them.
- We cannot lose sight of the fact that the "common fund" system (all income belongs to the community) is the one that comes closest to our ideal of religious life. A process of personal conversion is necessary also for this.
- That we on the invitation to propose joint investments, based on mutual trust and the search for resources. Continue the work on real estate, on improving the inventory, on seeking help in the process of selling property. It is especially encouraged to make profitable properties that we have and do not bring profit.
- Rethink international solidarity by seeking alternatives for financing missionary projects.

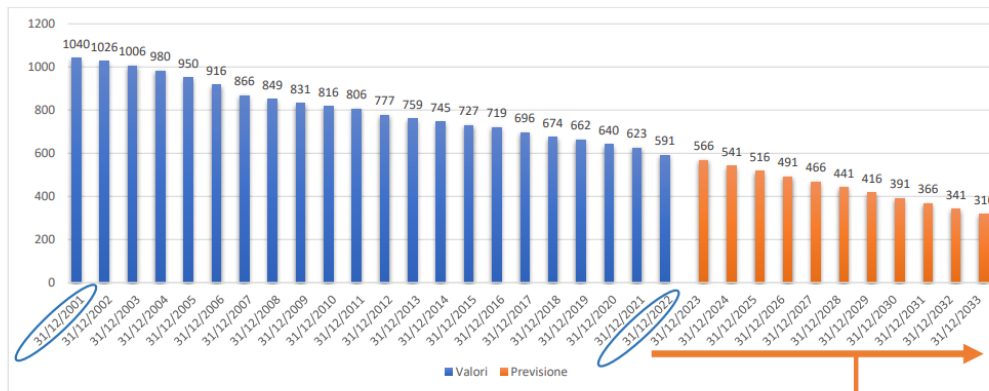
2. A statistic that speaks of the future

_2001-2033 SSSC FORECASTS by Prov-R... [Descargar](#) [Imprimir](#) [Guardar en OneDrive](#)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Africa	40	35	37	39	34	33	33	37	37	38	39	31	28	26	26	27	30	32	29	32	34	36
Andina	64	64	62	62	54	52	49	49	50	47	47	57	56	56	56	52	49	50	50	51	49	50
Brasil	55	53	49	46	46	49	44	37	36	37	36	36	34	31	35	35	31	32	30	32	29	25
Casa Generalizia	9	8	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	14	15	11	11	12	10	9	10	10	10	9	9	9
Chile	84	85	86	84	88	82	73	78	76	73	71	62	65	68	62	60	61	57	54	47	41	40
Deutschland	72	72	66	65	61	54	51	47	46	42	41	43	39	39	38	40	36	30	27	32	31	26
France	82	77	76	72	66	62	60	57	57	57	52	47	43	46	42	40	39	38	37	34	32	32
Ibérica	128	131	124	118	114	113	113	113	112	114	113	106	103	102	98	94	92	86	83	81	71	64
India	4	5	6	7	7	9	10	12	14	22	21	23	19	20	21	25	20	22	21	21	22	22
Indonesia	52	53	58	64	56	68	70	64	63	61	57	55	57	61	60	63	73	74	79	80	81	79
Ireland - England	32	29	29	27	29	28	23	20	21	21	20	20	20	19	19	19	19	19	19	15	15	14
Japan-Philippine	30	32	33	34	47	38	32	38	39	33	30	34	31	29	29	25	26	30	29	34	25	25
México	35	34	34	32	33	33	27	20	18	20	21	20	19	19	16	20	19	18	19	18	19	19
Nederland	77	71	68	59	52	45	37	38	32	28	28	23	21	19	20	19	15	13	10	6	5	5
Paraguay	13	14	13	14	13	11	13	14	11	12	13	12	10	9	9	10	9	10	10	10	11	11
Polska	60	62	61	61	58	58	59	59	58	56	57	56	54	52	52	51	51	45	43	39	40	40
Polynésie Fr.	21	24	23	26	26	23	20	22	22	20	20	19	20	17	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	13
US	116	113	107	101	95	95	88	81	81	74	75	76	83	83	76	75	73	71	73	67	67	63
Vlaanderen	66	64	64	59	62	54	53	51	49	47	45	41	39	39	39	34	29	27	24	21	18	18
	1040	1026	1006	980	950	916	866	849	831	816	806	777	759	746	726	719	696	674	662	640	623	591

In yellow: N. of Brs appearing in SSSC INFO was updated next year

Total of SSCC Brothers: from 31/12/2001 up to 31/12/2022 and statistical forecasting up to 31/12/2033



Year	Total of SSCC Brs
31/12/2001	1040
31/12/2002	1026
31/12/2003	1006
31/12/2004	980
31/12/2005	950
31/12/2006	916
31/12/2007	866
31/12/2008	849
31/12/2009	831
31/12/2010	816
31/12/2011	806

Year	Total of SSCC Brs
31/12/2012	777
31/12/2013	759
31/12/2014	745
31/12/2015	727
31/12/2016	719
31/12/2017	696
31/12/2018	674
31/12/2019	662
31/12/2020	640
31/12/2021	623
31/12/2022	591

Year	Total of SSCC Brs STATISTICAL FORECASTING	Confidence interval (statistical safety)
31/12/2023	566	19
31/12/2024	541	35
31/12/2025	516	52
31/12/2026	491	71
31/12/2027	466	92
31/12/2028	441	114
31/12/2029	416	138
31/12/2030	391	164
31/12/2031	366	191
31/12/2032	341	219
31/12/2033	316	248

- The statistics tell us that we are aware of the fact that we are less and will be less in the future. But our structures are more or less what they were before. Some speak of the need for structural changes (work as conferences and reconfigurations, e.g. becoming only one province per continent, etc.), of reducing governments, reducing apostolic works. We can also speak of confronting priorities, sustaining good and renewed missionary projects, concentrating forces... We speak of the need to adapt our options to the reality that we are and will be in the coming years.
- The Chapter will have to ask itself how to move forward with the Mission and what we can and must change. That is why it will talk about the inner self and pastoral and missionary conversion, themes that the 2018 chapter has already worked on and that we want to continue to work on.
- The question is what we need to do to adapt our resources to the reality of the mission today and in the coming years. We do not know exactly what will happen and what we will be able to do, but we can think about what steps we want to take to adapt our possibilities to what we are experiencing.

3. Brothers in initial formation

- Initial Formation is generally growing in Provinces with fewer financial resources, in others it is growing very little and some provinces have already said that they do not believe anyone will arrive or cannot receive anyone even if they were to appear.

- On the financial side, the ideal is that we bear all the costs of this formation from the moment the candidates enter our house, which we build and expand over the years. The system has so far been financed by the whole Congregation through contributions.
- We wonder if there are other options, if we can introduce changes in this system, for example the possibility for formandees to work outside for some hours, to be trained in professional tasks, to actively collaborate in the maintenance of our houses (not necessarily only the house they live in) and other possible initiatives.
- What is at stake is how we all can, Congregation and candidates or those in formation, make initial formation financially sustainable for the future, bearing in mind that there will be fewer contributors and certainly fewer resources.

For dialogue:

- 6. Identify two possible Provincial initiatives that can help the community to adapt to the situation in the future.**
- 7. Highlight two initiatives for the Congregation in the next 6 years.**
- 8. Point out two possible initiatives regarding the sustainability of initial formation in the Congregation.**

We ask the Communities to write down the initiatives requested in the questions, grouping together those that deal with the same topics and in a synthetic form. We remind the Superiors (Provincial/Regional and of Delegation) that the deadline for sending your answers is **31-3-2024** to the General Secretariat secgen@ssccpicpus.com.

Thank you very much and may this time help us to prepare for the General Chapter with the widest possible participation.

Fraternally,



Nacho Moreno, scc
Econome General