

Preparing the General Chapter

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Preparation of the 39th General Chapter
Brothers



Questionnaire 1
CONSTITUTIONS
September 15th, 2017

Savor God



along the journey of life

Brothers,

The **first questionnaire** for the preparation of the 39th General Chapter, which will be held next year, was sent to each brother on September 15.

As you will see from the questionnaire, we are hoping for a response from each **local community**. It's not necessary to make a synthesis by province or region. Presently there are 135 local communities of brothers. So we are expecting 135 responses at the Generalate before **November 23**.

The aim of the questionnaire is to bring together the work done on the Constitutions during 2017, when we have been

celebrating the Bicentennial of their approval by the Holy See. Remember each of you received a special edition of the Constitutions, which included a short guide for reading and reflection. In INFO these recent months, we have also offered questions and reflections on the content of the Constitutions, encouraging you to use them as topics for discussion in community meetings.

Therefore, the first step in the preparation of the General Chapter will be to gather the fruit of all the brothers' **rereading the Constitutions**. We are very interested in knowing what this rereading has evoked in you. God speaks to the Congregation through what He whispers in the heart of each brother.

In this first questionnaire, **you are asked two things:**

- 1) To compose a **prayer** of thanksgiving together (the brothers of the local community).
- 2) To describe your **desires**: Of all the things you read in the Constitutions, what do you want to live in a deeper way?

They are two simple exercises that can help us express some things that are both profound and valuable. Please, take the time necessary to respond as a community to the two questions and do it in an atmosphere of prayer. Ask the Lord that, by your reflection and your sharing, he might enlighten the discernment that we have to make as a Congregation as regards the General Chapter.

In **January**, you will receive a second questionnaire, in which we will be looking for the challenges that the exhortation ***Evangelii Gaudium*** presents to us. From rereading the Constitutions and listening to *Evangelii Gaudium*, each brother and each community will also hear the call of today's world to our apostolic mission.

The brothers' thanksgiving, their desires for religious life (Constitutions) and the call of the Church (*Evangelii Gaudium*) will help us imagine how we can **savor God along the journey of life** (Good Father), in our life of faith, in our community life, in our journey with God's people, in the proclamation of the Gospel and in our encounter with the marginalized.

This is the exciting task of the next General Chapter. **We are counting on the participation of each and every one** of you in the preparation of this most important moment in the life of our community. Thank you.

