

# NEWS BULLETIN



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## SPECIAL EDITION: XXII GENERAL CHAPTER RIO NEGRO, COLOMBIA SEPTEMBER 08 – OCTOBER 20, 2017

**DAY 3: Sunday, September 10, 2017:** Developing an awareness of the role of capitulants



On Day 3, Sunday, September 10, 2017, the capitulants continued their work inspired by the day's Gospel: "If two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

The first session began at 9.30 am after the Eucharistic celebration. Matthieu Daum, the facilitator, invited the participants, at their table groups, to reflect on and share their responses to four questions that related to introducing oneself, one's experience of previous chapters, which previous Chapter most marked one's life, and what kind of Chapter one has in mind for this General Chapter.

The second session began with feedback from the table conversations, focused mainly on participants' hopes and expectations for this

General Chapter. Below are some shared thoughts:

- There is a very fraternal climate. There is no rush in determining topics to be dealt with ... There is a very contemplative attitude, an openness to the new, to the spirit of the Lord; being docile, letting the Spirit lead wherever the Spirit wants to lead;
- The Chapter should take up the process proposed by the preparatory commission, principally regarding the mission, so that it may reflect on the charism of Champagnat and the demands of today;
- The new, suggested by the Chapter logo, is not distant, but already exists, it is germinating;
- Discernment happens first individually and then in the group, without being a matter of authority, which imposes a process;
- What is the place of lay vocation in the Institute? The chapter should help answer this question;
- As Marist Brothers, what does the Lord ask about the theme of ecology?
- Let us open ourselves to the will of God, who brings the new, even if sometimes we do not see it.

The second session also took up the theme of the "General Movement of the General Chapter" proposed by the Preparatory Commission.

### Programming and process of the XXII General Chapter



The first afternoon session began with a Marian Moment, led by Brother Anselmo Kim. Assisted by the technical staff from Curitiba, the voting system, which will be conducted through an APP, was again tested.

The proposal for the "Overall movement of the Chapter", was then put to a vote and approved by a majority of the participants.

At the fourth session of the day, the assembly discussed the document, "The Chapter Process of the 22nd General Chapter", which was prepared and presented by a commission that

reviewed the "Rules of Procedure of the General Chapter". This conversation concluded with a sounding that positively verified the Assembly agreed with the implementation of the proposal.

Mathieu then informed the participants that they are no longer "delegates" or "members by law", but had become "capitulants" or, for the guests, participants in the Chapter. Conscious of this reality, participants were asked: "What is the difference between the role that was played before the 8th September and the one assumed now here in Rionegro?" "What must one leave behind inherent to the former role and what now to embrace as a "capitulant"? These provocative questions were the basis for pairs to spend some time sharing together.



The final day's activity, before dinner, was for fraternity groups to share on the talk Brother Emili gave on the opening day of the Chapter.



**DAY 4: Monday, September 11, 2017:** Leave something behind and open up to the world around us



On Day 4, Monday, September 11, 2017, the focus moved to participants having an awareness of what they needed to leave behind so they could fully embrace the work of being capitulant; to be open to the newness of the Spirit that invites them to “Enter New Territory” and to create a “New La Valla”.

After the Morning Prayer, the Provisional Commission sought to clarify a number of issues that had been raised by participants the previous day regarding the movement of the Chapter and the Chapter Process. Some of the issues addressed were: the need for a clearer plan of what topics will be treated during the Chapter; the provision of translations into French and Portuguese; the frequency with which Eucharist is celebrated; the presence of a wider representation of young people's voices in the Chapter; a concern the consensus approach might limit hearing all opinions in the decision-making processes.

Various members of the Provisional Committee spoke to each of the issues by giving the Commissions considered response and what action was possible. The assembly then voted to approve two

documents, “Overall Movement of the Chapter” and “The Chapter Process of the 22nd General Chapter”.

### **Leave something behind to fully enter this chapter**

The facilitator, Mr Matthieu Daum, then invited the capitulants to reflect on what attitudes or concerns they needed to leave behind to be able to enter more fully into the Chapter dynamic. After some time of personal reflection in fraternities, each person then wrote what he or she needed to leave behind on a piece of paper. The Fraternity groups then moved to the courtyard, where they received a small orange tree seedling, some earth and a vase. Each person then mixed his or her piece of paper in the wet earth as a sign of letting go of certain attitudes or concerns. The orange tree was then planted in the soil that will serve as compost, feeding the plant and giving it life. The fraternities then returned with their plants to the Chapter Hall. These orange trees will remain in the light of the Chapter Hall window during the next six weeks as a symbol of the commitment made by each capitulant to build a “New La Valla”, giving new life to the Marist charism.







### Open to the world around us

The first afternoon session began with the Marian Moment. Brother Emili then notified the assembly of some messages of that had been received. One message was sent by the president of CLAR, Sister Mercedes L. Casas Sánchez, fsp:

*Thank you for the fidelity of your vocation as Marist Brothers. Not because you are diminishing in numbers, that is of little regard. It is because of who you are as Brothers; your sense of humility, simplicity and modesty that brings to life the presence of the Kingdom of God among those who come into your presence.*

Matthieu then continued the process by inviting participants to discover and open themselves to the world around us. This reflection related to the experiences of immersion or entering a new territory or people that was part of the Pre-Chapter Process:

*We are invited to go out to meet new realities, for example people or things on the margins, opening our minds and hearts to what the Spirit may wish to say to us through them.*

Participants were invited to recall their immersion experience made during the pre-chapter process, by reflecting on the following questions:

- What have I discovered about the world around me?
- What did I discover when I went out to meet the world?
- What's new in the world around me? How I've been touched by this world?

This time of personal reflection took place at the tables.

### Facilitation Commission for the 22nd General Chapter

The last session of the day began the process of creating a Facilitation Commission for the 22nd General Chapter. The Preparatory Commission presented to the assembly a proposal that detailed the purpose, functions and tasks of the Facilitation Commission. It was also proposed that the Commission consist of 8 capitulants. Once elected, this Commission will be responsible for overseeing the general development of the Chapter. This proposal was put to the vote. The proposal was accepted. The work of the day concluded with each table suggesting names for the Facilitation Commission in view of the election on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.