

The Provincial Chapter Election of 2007

(Ratified by the Superior General and his Council)

I. The Ordinary Election of Ten Chapter Members: the Nucleus

According to the *Rule of Life*, there must be at least one more elected delegate than the members of the Provincial Council and the District superiors, who are members by right (see chart below). Therefore, given the fact that currently there are nine members by right, the *Rule of Life* requires that the number of elected chapter members must be at least ten, five brothers and five priests. The province will nominate for five year terms ten priests and ten brothers; then, in a second round of voting, five priests and five brothers from that pool of twenty nominees will be elected. The electing body in both the nominating and electing rounds is all the members of the province, all who are perpetually professed and all who are temporary professed for at least four years (but not the brothers who are assigned to any of the Province's Districts since they vote in their District Chapter elections). This group of ten elected members, required by the *Rule of Life*, is called the nucleus.

II. The Election of Additional Chapter Members beyond the Nucleus

In order to ensure the participation in the Chapter of brothers who reside in the various geographical areas of the province, the election of the nucleus will be followed with an additional election. This process will ensure that, including the nucleus already elected, there are Chapter members from all the following geographical areas that reflect the geographical distribution of the brothers. To that end, further delegates will be elected to ensure that a minimum number of brothers will be elected who reside in the following geographical areas:

- Two who reside in Hawaii;
- Two who reside in California;
- Three who reside in Texas;
- Two who reside in Missouri-Illinois-Indiana;
- Three who reside in Ohio-Michigan;
- Two who reside in the East Coast(Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina)-Puerto Rico-Ireland.

II A. First Step: Nomination by Geographical Areas

Since the nucleus will include only ten delegates, there will be a need to elect other delegates so that all geographical areas are represented according to the minimums listed above. In situations where the minimum number of Brothers from the geographical area is not present in the nucleus, the members of those geographical areas will nominate from their own geographical area twice the number of candidates for election to the Chapter. The official list of the brothers eligible for nomination who reside in a specific geographical area will be provided before this first step of the process by the Provincial Administration.

II B. Second Step: Province-Wide election of Geographical Nominees

In the second round of this election, members of the entire province (perpetually professed and temporary professed for at least four years, but not including those brothers assigned to the Districts) will elect to the Chapter a person or persons from those nominated by the brothers from those geographical areas which did not have a sufficient number of brothers elected among those of the nucleus. These additional chapter members who were not elected to the nucleus will serve a three-year term.

III. Some Examples to Clarify the Process

Some examples will make clearer the election of the additional chapter members actually works. Suppose it is found that, after the election of the nucleus of ten, the geographical area of Ohio-Michigan has only one delegate in that group; then, in this second election, members of that same area will nominate four of their own members, regardless of category; once the four are nominated, then the entire province will elect two of the four to be added to the Chapter, thereby ensuring that Ohio has, in addition to the one member already elected to the nucleus, two additional members, for a total of at least three elected members on the Chapter. All members of the Province, even those who will not be nominating brothers from their own area, will vote in the final round of this election.

Or, to offer a second example, if in the nucleus there is no delegate from the geographical area of Missouri-Illinois-Indiana, then the members of that geographical area will conduct an election to nominate, again regardless of category, four persons; this nomination round will be followed by another round in which all the eligible members of the province will vote for two of the four nominees from the geographical

area of Missouri-Illinois-Indiana, both of whom will be added for three year terms to the Chapter. Again all brothers of the Province vote in the second round.

Or, to add one final example: If the election of the nucleus resulted in two delegates from Hawaii, there will be no need to conduct a second nominating election in that geographical area, since Hawaii will already have a sufficient number of delegates. However, though the brothers of the area of Hawaii are already represented in the nucleus, they will vote in the second round for nominees in those geographical area not sufficiently represented in the nucleus.

All of this will become much clearer once the nucleus is elected and it becomes obvious in which geographical areas additional members need to be elected.

The Provincial Chapter currently numbers 23 members. This new process may result in a new total number of Chapter members from at least 23 to perhaps as many as 31, but will most likely be a number between these two.

IV. Conclusion

The Chapter will continue to work with the Chapter Structures Commission to evaluate and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of provincial governance, especially the Provincial Chapter.

Chart

Members of right—nine

- Provincial
- Assistant Provincial
- Assistant for Religious Life
- Assistant for Education
- Assistant for Temporalities
- Assistant for Developing Regions
- District Superior—Eastern Africa
- District Superior—India
- District Superior—Mexico

Nucleus—ten

- Five lay members
- Five priest members

Additional members—4 – 12

At least two from Hawaii including nucleus

At least two from California including nucleus

At least three from Texas including nucleus

At least two from Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois including nucleus

At least three from Ohio and Michigan including nucleus

At least two from the East Coast (Florida, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and North Carolina), Puerto Rico, and Ireland