



**PREPCO Communication #4**

5 December 2005

To: Communities/Individuals of the Society of Mary

From: PREPCO

Re: *Rule of Life*, Book II, Chapter VII

Following the General Chapter of 2001, a Post-Chapter Commission on Governance began a process of revising the *Rule of Life*, Book II, Chapter VII. The process and timeline for this project is outlined in Appendix I of *Sent by the Spirit*.

A provisional text was approved “ad experimentum” by the General Leadership Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, in February of 2004. The upcoming General Chapter of 2006 will make a final decision about this text.

In order to organize a suitable process for approval and in order to make optimal use of time at the General Chapter, the Preparatory Commission seeks your help and assistance on the text. We realize that much of this new version of Chapter VII takes into account the decisions of the General Chapters since the approval of the *Rule of Life* in 1983, as well as changes in Canon Law and the Society of Mary since then.

After various consultations and experimental approval by the General Leadership Assembly, we do not expect major changes. However, there may be issues which would profit from further debate, e.g., the length of time between General Chapters, the length of the mandate of the General Council, the nomenclature of Units, the changes in the Regional Council and Chapter, the fuller description of Zones, and the amplification of Unit Chapters.

In order to develop a procedure to finalize the text, and in order to allot the necessary time at the General Chapter for adequate discussion of debatable issues, we seek your counsel. Please let us know, by January 31, 2006, if you see any particular debatable issues in the text that will demand more extensive discussion. Also include why you see this to be the case. We hope you will be able to discuss this as a community and send in a single response. However, individuals should also feel free to respond as well. Please send your responses to the Secretary General, Brother Peter Pontolillo, at Via Latina. You can use either email [gensec@smcuria.it], fax or letter.

Thank you for your prayerful reflection on this important matter for our future. Your feedback will be of immense help to us in the fruitful use of our time at the General Chapter. May this Advent season bring you a deep sense of hope and expectation for God's reign! May Mary, our model of faith, give us courage and boldness in spreading the Marianist charism wherever we are!