



## PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF 2012

***To Superiors of all Units,  
For transmission to all communities***

### COMMUNICATION #2

Madrid, July 27, 2011

Dear Brothers,

The Preparatory Commission for the next General Chapter met for the second time from July 25-27 in Madrid, Spain.

Among the numerous points on the commission's agenda for its work in preparing the Chapter, perhaps the most important and rewarding task has been the study of all the responses to the consultation regarding the suggestion of a principal theme which many of you sent us. We wish to thank you for your contributions, especially those communities and individual brothers who sent us their reflections. Thank you for the sincerity of your responses and for the clear effort that the individual or communal discernments required. These have been a great help to us and we are convinced that the Spirit is manifested through your concerns and suggestions.

Based on your answers and those of the capitulants, we have developed a draft of what we will propose to the Chapter as a capitular document. It presents the principal theme: *"The fire that enkindles other fires."* *With renewed fervor and missionary momentum in a globalized Society of Mary.* This document is centered on Fr, Chaminade, as an invitation to fervent spiritual renewal and a deep assimilation of the Marianist Charism. We consider it essential that, in order to fulfill our mission today, we must have a more global view of the life and mission of Marianist religious.

These three days of meetings have allowed us to give some form to the structure and contents of the General Chapter, conscious of the responsibility to respond to the expectations that the Society of Mary has placed on the General Chapter. We have made progress planning the agenda, the distribution of time

to be given over to addressing the main issues and the rules for governing the Chapter's procedure. We were also able to clarify many of the practical and technical aspects which, thanks to the invaluable assistance of Michael McAward, SM, will assure that the next General Chapter, to be held in our house at Via Latina 22, will be as efficient and comfortable as in the past, but significantly less expensive.

Beginning on January 22, we propose that you become united, personally and as a community, in your prayer for the preparation of the entire Society of Mary for the celebration of this Chapter. It is an event whose purpose is, as our *Rule of Life* reminds us, *to ensure fidelity to the spirit of our foundation, as well as continuing adaptation to the needs of each age* (R.L. 93). Prior to that date, you will receive the text of the official prayer which, as we pray it in common throughout Marianist world, will call on the Spirit to help us hear and do "whatever He tells us." (Jn. 2:5).

Another good way to contribute to the Chapter would be to send us propositions that you consider interesting and valuable. Your communities will receive the proper forms and instructions for making propositions to be considered at the Chapter. We kindly ask that all such propositions be received by the Secretary General by March 1, 2012.

The next meeting of the Preparatory Commission will take place in Rome from March 12-15, 2012. Until then, and during these next several months, wish to continue working on the planning of the Chapter. We count on and are grateful for your support.

The Preparatory Commission:

José María Arnaiz, SM (Chile)  
André Fétis, SM (GA)  
Joseph Kamis, SM (USA)  
Rogelio Núñez, SM (Spain)

