



Curia Generalizia dei Marianisti

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Superiore Generale

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Rev. Martin Solma, SM
Brother Joseph Kamis, SM
Society of Mary – Province of the USA
4425 West Pine Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Dear Fr. Marty and Bro. Joe,

At the meeting of the General Council yesterday we reviewed and discussed the proceedings of the twentieth session of the Provincial Chapter held March 1-5, 2012 at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center, Eureka, Missouri. I am happy to report that we ratified all the Acts of the Chapter.

In our review of the Reports and Minutes of the Chapter, it was clear to us that the agenda of the Chapter was extensive and well covered. The progress of Vision 2020 looks to us to be proceeding at a good pace and the Council is carefully attending to its implementation. We are happy to see the Province moving toward appointing an advisory board, a long standing effort since the creation of the Province.

The manner adopted for the election of delegates to the Chapter is complex but we believe it reflects the diversity (age, geography, ministries) of the Province. The method should help the Chapter echo this diversity in its membership. The report of the Province's re-accreditation by Presidium is a positive sign. We thank the Council for their leadership in this process and the brothers for their cooperation and assistance.

We were encouraged to see the discussions of the Province finances at the Chapter. The concise presentation of the income and expense areas of the Province's operational budget in Fr. Paul's report was apposite and sobering.

As we reviewed the report and the Chapter decisions that were linked to finances, we understand that there is no single way to meet the challenges the budget presents. Both income and expenses need attention. To this end we believe, that given the Province's trajectories as reported to the Chapter in

terms of personnel and apostolic works, in the not too distant future, the Province will need to study the services it renders, the style/type of administration it embraces, and the costs associated therein so as to see if a realignment is needed to match its demographics as well as its financial resources.

Know of our prayers and fraternal support for you and for all the members of the Province. As we make our immediate preparations for the General Chapter we echo the lines in the prayer for the Chapter,

Mary, Mother of grace and of mercy, Because we are a family, your family, help us to think, feel and work globally, motivated with one heart and one soul, for the good of this religious institute, which belongs to you.

Give us strength in our faith, confidence in our hope and constancy in love such that abundant and fruitful life might penetrate our members and our apostolates.

Fraternally,

Fr. Manuel J. Cortés, SM
Superior General