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La Curia Generale

Rome, July 30, 2018

RE: LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PREPARATORY COMMISSION

to all the Members of the Congregation of the Passion
in preparation of our 47th General Chapter
(Rome, 6th – 27th October 2018)

Dear Brethren,

Over the last ten months we have been working in close collaboration with the General Council for the preparation of our upcoming General Chapter. As you know, the theme of this Chapter is:

“Renewing Our Mission, -Gratitude, Prophecy, Hope”

In order not to have this theme as a mere slogan, but as a directive for the way in which we discuss and share as we meet in our Chapter, we wanted to design a programme in which renewal of our Mission as Passionists in this world and in the Church would be the focus of our Chapter and beyond.

In order to involve all our Brethren in the preparations, we sent out a survey and encouraged you to share in your communities about the questions and respond to us. We have read your thoughts, desires, ideas and experiences about the joys of being a Passionist, how our charism gives meaning and direction to our life and ministry. We have also read your concerns, especially about our mission, (ongoing) formation and community life.

Your responses have helped us to make the choice to focus in our Chapter on what we are about as Passionists. We all know that in a Chapter financial and juridical issues must be discussed, but we will set out by reflecting on mission and on our Passionist mission, on initial and ongoing formation and on the question of how the Passionist charism that is entrusted to us, directs the choices that we make in life and apostolate. This awareness may then be the frame of our further reflections and discussions of themes and issues.

Thus, our Chapter and the documents that come from it could become a source of new inspiration for our life and work. At home, after the Chapter, the capitulars may share the information, their experiences and the spirit of the Chapter with their Brethren and with the people with whom and for whom we work.

In the preparations of the Chapter, we also connected with the Jubilee Commission. After all, the Chapter is meant to be the starting point of the preparations of the tercentennial jubilee of the foundation of our Congregation by Saint Paul of the Cross. Just like the Chapter, the Jubilee is not seen as just an event or just a celebration. The upcoming jubilee is a great opportunity for us to be renewed and to renew our mission in the world and in the Church: in gratitude for the past, as prophets for today and with hope for the future.

As we journey together towards the 6th October, we ask all our Brethren, the Nuns/Sisters, all who are part of the Passionist Family and all who feel connected with us, to accompany the process and all who are involved in it with your prayers. May we, through the intercession of Saint Paul of the Cross, receive what we need in order to have an inspiring Chapter and renew our mission with gratitude, as prophets and in hope.

With every best wish,

The Chapter Preparatory Commission