



Report of SCOR Province/Configuration

1. DATA

✓ Number and name of the Provinces (in this case a single Province)

For the past six years (prior to the General Chapter), we have been a SINGLE PROVINCE: **THE SACRED HEART (SCOR)**. We joined legal entities emanating from a common root that were collaborating in one way or another since their origins and more closely during the past 30 years, i.e. the former provinces of CORI, FAM, SANG and FID. We have presences in 13 countries.

✓ Number of religious

Currently the Province consists of 369 religious.

Age categories:

- from 90 years or older, 26;
- between 80 and 90, 70;
- between 70 and 80, 75;
- between 60 and 70, 35;
- between 50 and 60, 37;
- between 40 and 50, 47;
- between 30 and 40, 52;
- between 20 and 30, 27.

✓ Median age: 61

✓ Number of houses:

- Canonical: 44
- Residencies: 10
- Missionary Stations: 6

✓ Students:

- Novices: 10
- Professed: 34

2. ANALYSIS

✓ The Strengths of the Province/Configuration

- In general, religious are developing their sense of belonging. There is a revitalization of positive attitudes of hope and openness to the new situation.
- There is true exchange of personnel. The communities have been reorganized beyond the structures of the old provinces and numerous religious have become part of a community that they did not belong to in their old ex-Province.
- We have achieved a unique and common financial reality.
- We have organized the stages and locations of initial formation: Aspirancy by countries; Postulancy by Zones; a single novitiate; two Theologates; and a common initial formation programme. The formation teams were restructured.
- Since the beginning, we have provided monthly publications on continuing formation.
- We have made decisions regarding suppression, continuity or modification of some communities-presences – a project that will continue after the second Provincial Chapter and Zone Assemblies.
- We have taken and will continue to take the necessary steps to organize provincial infirmaries in order to attend our sick and elderly.
- We have established a period of pastoral experience prior to definitive commitments (perpetual vows or ordination).
- The common language facilitates our relationships.

✓ Weaknesses of the Province/Configuration

- The internal life of some communities regarding fraternal life and the common apostolic ministry.
- With some religious, there is a lack of human and spiritual maturity that impedes self-sacrifice and facilitates individualism, dispersion and, sometimes living a double life.
- Some religious have been unable to connect and be engaged in the new reality because they think they will lose their self-identity in a large structure in which they feel overwhelmed because they have lost some of their former points of references.

- Attitudes change much more slowly than decisions and external activities... We are not at the end of something that is concluding; we are at the beginning of something new. It is a process that needs time.

✓ **Opportunities for the on-going development of the Province/Configuration:**

- Now we can address vocation promotion and initial formation with greater organization and better prepared teams.
- Now we can continue the Mission with a greater sense of stability, and we can renew the forms or expressions of the charism.
- Now there are better means to deepen the Passionist charismatic and intellectual formation of the young religious.
- Now we have people and means available to inspire hopes and intuitions: continuing formation, the Passionist Family, volunteering, JPIC, MCS and new pastoral forms.
- Now it is easier to address key priorities, including attention to our elderly and sick.

✓ **Threats to the Province/Configuration:**

- Convert the religious life into a comfortable style of living.
- Enclose ourselves in negativism and yearn for any past reality that was better.
- The lack of religious superiors who are living examples, and who propose, motivate and lead with inspiring projects and criteria for community life and team ministry.

3. PROPHETIC AND HOPEFUL ASPECTS

✓ **Successful initiatives:**

- Daring to unite the four former provinces into one achieving the objective of solidarity in three dimensions (personnel, formation and finances) proposed by Restructuring.
- Reorganization of initial formation and vocation promotion.
- Offer a sense of normalcy and commonality to the international reality, by integrating cultural differences.

✓ **Hopeful Expectations for the future:**

- That the SCOR province youth acquire a solid formation, fall in love with the Passionist charism and become enthusiastically incorporated into the continuity and renewal of the Mission.
- That, above all, we desire to make our communities fraternal, happy and vibrant places from which to minister.
- That our senior religious feel happy, proud of their vocation and that they are duly cared for, valued and loved.
- That we continue the consolidation of the sole legal entity that defines us: common finances, sense of belonging, organization and structure, openness to new pastoral, vocational and formation possibilities.
- The clarification of the goal and the process of Restructuring of the Congregation. Will the two preferred Configuration models remain?
- Ensure the updating/revitalization of our Charism, the Memory of the Passion and its significance for today.
- Discover forms of collaboration with other Configurations and Provinces to promote union in the Congregation.
- Establish, on a provincial level, a team and solid Plan for ongoing formation.
- Continue taking intelligent and consensual steps in light of the prospect of having to reduce communities and commitments; or changing forms of presence to try to respond to the needs of the modern world: outwardly oriented communities and Church toward physical and existential peripheries.
- That laypeople and religious agree on concrete expressions of the Passionist Family, sharing charism, life and mission.
- Establish an adequate volunteer system.

4. CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS TO PRESENT TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER

✓ **Three challenges facing the Configuration that I want to share:**

- Revitalize community life from evangelistic, charismatic and human dimensions.
- Work at clarifying and developing the Passionist Family (religious and lay people with the same charism).

- Develop the option for the poor (JPIC) as a charismatic expression of our identity as Passionists religious.

✓ **Three questions or concerns that I want to present to the General Chapter:**

- After the experiences we have had since the last General Chapter, are we going to continue with the two proposed models of Configuration to ensure Restructuring based on Solidarity? Problems and solutions.
- Since it seems that meaningful community life is still problematic, would it not be advisable to establish a minimum number of religious that compose a Passionist community, that would ensure viability and facilitate fraternal lifestyle, superseding what is determined by Canon Law? Would it not be advisable to do the same in the case of the “superior” [older] juridical entities?
- What practical and realistic models of interrelationship between Configurations might exist, in addition to participation in the Extended Council, to promote unity and consciousness of identity as a Congregation?

- Fr. José María Sáez
Provincial Superior