

# NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CONSULTA

**Rome, 17-26 June 2019**

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## News From The General Consulta from 17 to 26 June

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The General Council met from 17 to 26 June. Some Council sessions were devoted to the meeting with the Procurator General, Fr. Antonio Munduate, the General Econome, Fr. Vincenzo Carletti and the Secretary for Formation, Fr. Martin Coffey.

The Council also met with Dr. Juan della Torre, the Argentine founder and administrator of a communications company "La Machi, communication for good causes" with offices in Barcelona, San Francisco and Rome to gather ideas on how to organize communications of the Congregation, internal and external, also in view of the Passionist Jubilee.

The General Consultor, Fr. Mirek Lesiecki reported on his canonical visit to the CRUC Province (United States) in anticipation of its Chapter. The General Consultor, Fr. Rafael Vivanco, informed Fr. General about the CRUC Chapter (June 6-11). The General Consultor, Fr. Gwen Barde presented a report on the canonical visit to the SPIR Province (Australia) in anticipation of the Provincial Chapter (July 7-13). Fr. Juan Ignacio Villar reported on his fraternal visit to Venezuela and Cuba. Fr. Aloysius Nguma reported on the CPA Assembly in Gaborone, Botswana (May 27-28).

In addition to his visit to Highgate community (London), Fr. Mirek reported on the process for choosing the new Executive Director of Passionists International, a process involving the three Congregations-- The Daughters of the Passion (Mexico), the Sisters of the Cross and Passion (England) and of course ours.

## **THE FORMER GABR PROVINCE (BELGIUM)**

Following the decision of the 47<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, the GABR Province (Belgium) has been suppressed and, at the moment, is the direct responsibility of the Superior General.

Fr. Joachim reported to the Council on his visit to the Belgian religious from 14 to 18 May to assure them of the fraternal closeness of the Congregation, to identify the best legal solution for them, in accordance with the decree of the General Chapter that entrusts this task to the "Superior General, with his Council, in dialogue with the concerned parties". Currently, there are two monasteries of the former Province - Kortrijk and Wezembeek-Oppem.

The Superior General appointed Fr. Frans Damen as the Superior Delegate, who was also entrusted with the task of gathering, within the year, all the religious into the monastery of Kortrijk so that they can be better assisted. The Extended Council in September may suggest the fate of the Wezembeek-Oppem monastery.

## **THE LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO THE PASSIONIST BISHOPS CONCERNING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE JUBILEE**

Repeatedly, some Passionist bishops have discreetly expressed their desire to meet in Rome on the occasion of the Third Centenary of the Congregation. The Superior General welcomed this request and wrote a letter to the 11 Passionist bishops inviting them to attend the solemn opening of the Jubilee in Rome on 22 November 2020. In addition to the pilgrimage to the places of St. Paul of the Cross, there is also be a meeting with the General Council and the group of Passionist Formators who will be meeting in Rome during that time.

The organization of the meeting is entrusted to the Commission for the Third Centenary of the foundation of the Congregation.

## THE SECRETARIAT FOR FORMATION COURSE FOR FORMATORS

The Executive Secretary for Formation, Fr. Martin Coffey, presented the General Council with a draft for the Course for Formators which, on the occasion of the Passionist Jubilee, will take place in Rome from 01-22 November 2020. In addition to the novice masters and student directors, the Council suggested also inviting the directors of postulants, totaling ca. 50 religious. The topics are: St. Paul of the Cross and the mission of the Congregation; the ministry of guidance and the Passionist apostolic community. The course would include a pilgrimage to the places associated with St. Paul of the Cross. The Council suggested not using the traditional format for meetings of this type (presentations followed by discussions) and instead to try a new “self-experiential” approach that entails personal involvement and extensive interaction. This follows the model of the process that occurs in formation.

## THE THIRD CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION / JUBILEE

Fr. Juan Ignacio and Fr. Ciro, both members of both the Council and the Commission for the Third Centenary reported on the preparation for the Jubilee. The report began remembering Fr. John Pearce (SPIR), who had been appointed a member of the Commission for just a few months and who died on 5 May, just as he was about to embark for Rome for his second Commission meeting.

The first reactions to the "pilgrimage" of the Jubilee Icon in the Charles Houben Configuration (Northern Europe) were positive. It was positively received by the religious and the people. The provincials interviewed gave

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flattering testimonies. However, there were some difficulties caused by the uniqueness of the event and a lack of liturgical and pastoral materials which were not immediately available.

There were also delays in the preparation of the Jubilee site. For this reason, the professional graphic designer, the Spaniard David Isac, who does the graphic design of the Jubilee Bulletin and who is located in Zaragoza, Spain and is webmaster of the Jubilee website, was invited to the meeting of the committee. Together with him the scheme of the site was revised, both in the information part and in the "*spacecloud*" part enabling sharing where everyone can upload texts, images, movies (there will obviously be a filter) and where everyone can take what he deems useful.

The Council also discussed the draft of a letter of the Superior General to the Major Penitentiary to request that for the Jubilee, in those places and occasions where it is possible, we may be granted a plenary indulgence and the specifics for obtaining it.

## APPOINTMENTS IN THE CURIA AND GENERALATE COMMUNITY

The Council has begun to consider personnel appointments in the General Curia, in the community of Sts. John and Paul and in the houses directly dependent on the Superior General. Nearly twenty positions await confirmation or new appointments.

## FAREWELL OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, FR. FERNANDO RUIZ

This was the last Consulta Meeting for Fr. Fernando Alfredo Ruiz Saldarriaga, Secretary General for two years. Afflicted by SLA disease, he preferred to return home. The Council expressed their heartfelt thanks not only for the excellent work he did but also for the serenity and great faith he has shown in the acceptance of the disease.

## OTHER TOPICS

- Approval of the final texts for the publication in the three languages of the Congregation of the Acts of the 47th General Chapter and also the Legislative Texts approved by the Chapter;
- A first list of topics to be discussed in the next Extended Council to be held in Rome from 9 to 13 September has been prepared and sent to Provincials and Presidents of the Configuration;
- **Retreat of the General Council.** The Council will have a retreat from 4 to 8 November led by the General Consultor Fr. Rafael Vivanco according to the Castellazzo method.
- A decision was made to purchase a portable interactive screen for the Consulta Room to facilitate the sharing and viewing of digital material.