



**Brothers of the
Christian Schools**

Circular 468
Avril 1st, 2013

Convocation of the 45th General Chapter

General Council
Via Aurelia, Rome, Italy

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Circular 468

**CONVOCAZIONE
OF THE
45th GENERAL CHAPTER**

(2014)

GENERAL COUNCIL

Via Aurelia, 476

Rome, Italy

Rome, 1 April 2013

Brothers:

We are sending you the Circular of Convocation for the 45th General Chapter which we mentioned a year ago in Circular #464 announcing the Chapter.

In Circular 464 *Announcement of the 45th General Chapter*, we called to mind Article 103 of the Rule that the General Chapter is “*the ultimate expression of the communion that exists among all the Brothers*”. In addition, the Chapter must, in its objectives, undertake an evaluation of the life of the Institute, provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal, set out the main guidelines for future action and elect the Brother Superior and the Brother Councilors. Another important objective during this coming 45th General Chapter will be to consider the Revision of the Rule. It is important that the participants be aware of the specific objectives below. In following these objectives, it is important to allow ourselves to be challenged by the Gospel, “*our first and principal Rule*”.

1. Proposal of the Preparatory Commission for the 45th General Chapter

1.1. The Preparatory Commission for the 45th General Chapter, over the course of its several meetings, has taken into account for its work:

1.1.1. The mandate given by the 44th General Chapter of commissioning a revision of the *Rule (The Documents of the 44th General Chapter, Chapter 8, IV)*;

1.1.2. The mandate given by the 44th General Chapter to continue the study of the structures for the Lasallian Educational Mission, the planning for a second International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (May 2013), and a “juridical and canonical research concerning questions relative to the emergence of Lasallian structures with a view to making recommendations to guide this emergence.” (*The Documents of the 44th General Chapter, Chapter 8, III, 3*);

1.1.3. The topics, reflections, and suggestions offered by the members of the Intercapitular Assembly in 2011 relative to the 45th General Chapter (DVD summary/documents of the Assembly);

1.1.4. The *Announcement of the 45th General Chapter*, in which the General Council expresses its conviction “...that what the Institute needs at this time is an inspiring, invigorating, pastoral, and discerning Chapter...” (Circular 464, 4.2.2, 8 May 2012);

1.1.5. The content of the January 2013 Circular 466, *They Will Call Themselves Brothers*, intended to serve as

an inspirational text for personal and community reflection.

1.2. The 45th General Chapter is intended to achieve the following objectives and goals:

1.2.1. To evaluate the life of the Institute (*Announcement of the 45th General Chapter*, Circular 464, 2.1). By reading the current realities of the world, the Church, the Consecrated Life, and the Lasallian Family the Chapter will undertake an evaluation of the life of the Institute in order to provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal.

1.2.2. To receive, approve, and implement the revised Rule following the proposal of the 44th General Chapter (*The Documents of the 44th General Chapter*, Chapter 8, IV; *Announcement of the 45th General Chapter*, 2.2). The Chapter will dedicate an extensive amount of time to the revision of the *Rule* relying principally on the reflections of the capitulants as a result of their individual study of the *Rule* and their knowledge and experience of the life of the Brother in the Institute. The capitulants will study, reflect and meditate on the *Rule* as individual Brothers and as a community that defines itself as the image of the whole Institute.

1.2.3. To promote and sustain Association for the Lasallian Educational Mission (*The Documents of the 44th General Chapter*, Chapter 8, III, 3) Circular 461 *Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an act of Hope*. The Chapter will receive the proceedings of the Second International Assembly for the Lasallian Educa-

tional Mission (AIMEL May 2013) and the International Young Brothers Assembly (July 2013).

1.2.4. To elect the Brother Superior and the General Councilors (*Announcement of the 45th General Chapter*, Circular 464, 2.1.4). Guided by the Holy Spirit the capitulants will discern and elect the Brother Superior General and the Brother General Councilors.

1.2.5. To address the current and future priorities of the General Council as presented during and in the summary documents of the Intercapitular Assembly in 2011 (DVD summary/documents of the Assembly), Circular 466 *They will Call Themselves Brothers*). The Chapter will consider the priorities of the Brother Superior General and the General Council as presented during the Intercapitular Assembly in 2011 in order to respond to the needs and opportunities in the Institute, and to give particular attention to those geographic areas that are of special concern to the Institute.

1.2.6. To review and provide for the service of the animation and governance of the Institute (*Towards the Year 2014*, Circular 456). The Chapter will review, evaluate, and provide for the service of animation and governance of the Institute by the elections required by the *Rule* as well as by an in depth consideration of the structures that promote sustainability and confidence in the ongoing mission of the Institute toward the year 2021.

1.3. Proposed Stages in the Development of the 45th General Chapter.

1.3.1. Based on these objectives and goals, the Chapter Preparatory Commission has designed a proposed six-stage plan for the 45th General Chapter that we summarize in the next section.

1.3.2. The Circular announcing the 45th General Chapter proposes that the Chapter take place in the context of an evaluation of the life of the Institute and the consideration of a draft revision of the *Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*. This evaluation will allow the initiation of continuing adaptation and renewal. This will be reflected above all in the draft revision. The Chapter will also set guidelines for future action by the elected leadership of the Institute. The design proposed for the 45th General Chapter has been based on these considerations. Six stages have been proposed in the design of the Chapter. They are Stage One – OPENING, Stage Two – EVALUATION, Stage Three – VISIONING, Stage Four – ELECTION, Stage Five – RULE, Stage Six – CLOSURE. In preparation for the Chapter a prayer of intercession for God’s blessing and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will be distributed throughout the Institute.

1.3.3. Stage One “OPENING” (22-26 April): Section 4.4 of Circular 464 insists that the process of the Chapter invite “fraternal sharing and moments of prayer, discernment and reflection”. Stage One of the Chapter will be devoted to the facilitation of a sense

of community and association reflected in activities designed to build community. This is to be done in the context of an opening ceremony that celebrates fraternity. A period of retreat and recollection of three days and conducted by a Brother or a person external to the Institute is planned for this Stage. The Retreat Master will lead the delegates through Scripture and personal reflection to be open to the Spirit and conscious that they are on “holy ground” Stage One will also adopt the procedural details necessary to ensure good order and harmony in the Chapter. It is essential that the means by which dialogue occurs and decisions are made are understood, determined by and accepted from the outset by the delegates. **The anticipated outcome for Stage One of the Chapter is a growing awareness of the special community that constitutes the General Chapter (cf. Rule 103).**

1.3.4. Stage Two “EVALUATION” (28 April - 10 May): Stage Two of the 45th General Chapter has been proposed as the EVALUATION phase (cf. Circular 464 2.1.1). The Report of the Brother Superior General will introduce the capitulants to the lived experience of the Institute in the period since the 2007 44th General Chapter. The Brother Superior’s Report will provide the framework for an understanding of the life of the Institute as animated by the General Council and the various services of the central government. The 44th General Chapter called for the International Assembly on the Lasallian Mission (AIMEL 2013) and the International Assembly of Young Brothers. The Re-

ports from both these important events will complement the Report of the Brother Superior.

Stage Two will be a process that permits small group and plenary group reflection conducted in such a manner as to identify converging focuses of opinions and convictions. **The anticipated outcome for Stage Two of the Chapter is a broader and more universal understanding of both the opportunities and challenges that confront the Institute.**

1.3.5. Stage Three “VISIONING” (12-17 May): The essential task of this Stage will be to set the scene for the future direction of the Institute from the present to 2021. This stage identifies the vision of “what could be” based on the challenges and opportunities that have been identified in Stage Two. Its purpose is to set achievable goals for the year 2021 based on the reality of our situation. The ground rules for the conduct of both the small group and plenary sessions will be settled by the Chapter at stage One.

Several key considerations have emerged as likely focuses in this stage, among which are the following. One is what it means to be Brother today. The second is likely to initiate the evaluation of the effectiveness of the structures of central government. A third priority for the future is that of formation for all involved in the Lasallian mission. A preliminary sondage for the identification of possible candidates for consideration in the election of the leadership of the Institute is included in this Stage. **The anticipated outcome for the**

Third Stage of the Chapter is that it will provide a clearly expressed framework of shared ideals and aspirations accompanied by specific proposals as to the manner these ideals can be achieved.

1.3.6. Stage Four “ELECTION” (19-22 May): A day of recollection is proposed as an essential element to precede the election of the leadership of the Institute. The Rule prescribes the conduct of this stage in the Chapter. The Preparatory Commission for the 45th General Chapter is in the process of making recommendations for the election of the leadership of the Institute. These will be formulated in a manner that is consistent with the canon law, efficient in operation and in harmony with such restructuring considerations as may emerge in stage Three of the Chapter. **The anticipated outcome for Stage Four of the Chapter is the election of the general leadership of the Institute.**

1.3.7. Stage Five “REVISION OF THE RULE” (23 May – 4 June): There is an expectation that the requirements of canon law in respect to the approval of a revision of the Rule of the Institute will require explicit votes for and against to determine will of the General Chapter. It will be necessary to use a process that quantifies a numerical majority, either simple or absolute, and to provide the opportunity for debate that may necessitate contrary positions to be stated and held on matters of deep principle. Stage Five will require information to be provided on the canonical process in which the Chapter is engaged. The Chapter

will be required to take note of the impact of decisions made in the previous stages of the Chapter.

Above all the process will require openness to the Spirit to be emphasized by the inclusion of a day of recollection and prayer in the course of Stage Five. **The anticipated outcome for Stage Five of the Chapter is that the Chapter will approve a text that is the basis for the Institute to seek its approval by the Holy See.**

1.3.8. Stage Six “CLOSURE” (5-8 June): Stage Six of the Chapter CLOSURE is intended as the celebration of what has been achieved in the Chapter. The end of the Chapter is marked by an address by the incoming Brother Superior General, the formalities of approving the Acts of the Chapter and the determination of the manner in which the Acts of the Chapter will be publicized and implemented. The Chapter will conclude on Pentecost Sunday. **The outcome for this Stage would be best described as a Journey in Hope towards 2021.**

- 1.4. The Intercapitular Meeting recommended that the 45th General Chapter be as far as possible a “paperless” Chapter. The intention is that the documentation of the Chapter will be communicated electronically. For this reason it is an assumption that each of the capitulants will be in possession of a mobile electronic device (preferably laptop or tablet).
- 1.5. The present intention, subject to the decision of the Chapter is that there will be a daily timetable includ-

ing Mass and community prayer, based on language groups and common celebrations once a week and, especially, of the major liturgical events. The prayer life of the Chapter will be enhanced by the presence of a specialist group of liturgists whose role will be the preparation of the ritual and liturgy for the major events of the Chapter. Members of this group will also provide resources and coordination for the language based daily prayer life of the capitulants.

2. The members of the 45th General Chapter

As the *Rule* stipulates, “the members of the General Chapter are as follows: those by right; those who may possibly be appointed by the Brother Superior and his Council; those, comprising the greater number, who are the delegates of all the Brothers of the Institute” (*Rule* 106).

2.1. The members by right

In accord with the *Rule* (art. 106) the following are members by right:

- the Superior General (1)
- the General Councilors (9)
- the Secretary General of the Institute (1)

The total number of members by right is eleven (11).

2.2. The Capitulants elected by the Districts

2.2.1. From the *Rule*:

106a. *The number of delegates to be elected, based on the statistics of the Institute on the date of the publication of the Circular of Convocation, is determined as follows:*

1° The number of delegates is a function of the number of Brothers in the District. It is fixed at one more than the whole quotient of the number of those Brothers by the number N fixed by Brother Superior and his Council.

2° Each sub-District or Delegation officially constituted elects one delegate.

3° Brother Superior and his Council fix the number (N) in such a way that the total number of elected delegates be

not fewer than one percent and not greater than one and a half percent of the number of Brothers in the Institute.

2.2.2. On the publication date of the Circular of Convocation, the number of Brothers in the Institute is **4,481** (Official Statistics of the Institute, December 31, 2012). This gives us the right to elect a maximum of 67 delegates (which represents 1.5% of the total number of Brothers) and corresponds to a number N equal to 91. By using the number N=91 we can meet the requirements of Rule Article 106a and elect 67 delegates which is not fewer than 1% of Institute and not greater than 1.5%. Therefore, the number of delegates allotted to each District and Delegation is as follows:

District	Number of Brothers	Delegates
ARLEP	796	9
France	552	7
Eastern North America	339	4
Brazil-Chile	196	3
Italy	182	3
Midwest	154	2
Antillas-South Mexico	153	2
Lasallian East Asia	136	2
ANZPPG	128	2
Canada Francophone	123	2
Bogota	113	2
Lwanga	102	2

North Mexico	100	2
Vietnam	90	1
Ireland	88	1
San Francisco	85	1
Central America-Panama	83	1
Antananarivo	65	1
Peru	64	1
Great Britain-Malta	62	1
South Belgium	59	1
Medellin	59	1
Central Europe	59	1
North Belgium	58	1
Poland	58	1
New Orleans-Santa Fe	57	1
Proche Orient	52	1
Colombo	52	1
Africa West	50	1
Ecuador	49	1
Argentina-Paraguay	49	1
Congo-Kinshasa	46	1
Bolivia	41	1
Golf of Benin	32	1
Douala	30	1
Venezuela	26	1
Delegation of India	61	1

Delegation of Rwanda	32	1
Number of Brothers/ Number of Delegates	4481	67

2.3. Delegates who may be designated by the Brother Superior General and his Council.

2.4. The *Rule* indicates in article 106 that “With the consent of his Council, the Brother Superior may name up to ten supplementary delegates so as to ensure a better representation of the diversity of the Institute”.

2.5. The total Capitulants of the 45th General Chapter

11 capitulants by Right

67 Delegates elected by the Districts, and Delegations.

10 Delegates that can possibly be named by Brother Superior.

The maximum possible total is 88 Delegates for the 45th General Chapter.

2.6. Experts or consultants to the 45th General Chapter

Article 109c of the *Rule* states “That the Brother Superior and his Council, as well as the General Chapter, may invite persons to participate in the work of the Chapter as experts or as consultants”.

2.7. Young Brothers

Fully aware of the important role that the young Brothers are called to play in the present and in the future of the Institute and of the significant contribution

with which they bring to the General Chapter, the Brother Superior and his Council will invite young Brothers as appointed delegates or as Consultants to the General Chapter.

3. Election of the Brothers Delegates to the General Chapter

3.1. The *Rule* stipulates that, “Every Brother with vows in the Institute on the date of publication of the Circular of Convocation is an elector. Every Brother perpetually professed in the Institute on the date of publication of the Circular of Convocation can be elected”. (*Rule*, 107)

3.2. The rules of procedure to elect the delegates and the substitutes to the General Chapter are left by *Rule* (107a) to the initiative of the Chapters of each District, Sub-District and Delegation or, failing this, to the initiative of the respective Councils. These rules must be in agreement with the following norms:

“In order to be elected, a delegate must obtain an absolute majority of the votes validly cast. However, if a third ballot is necessary, a relative majority will suffice. Substitutes, in the same number as the delegates, are elected by a separate vote” (*Rule* 107a). The substitutes are elected in the same way as the delegates.

The Brothers can vote only once. This is particularly important for Brothers living outside their District of origin who have not officially changed Districts. Since in some cases their decision may have a bearing on the number of delegates assigned to their District of origin, the Secretary General has asked the Visitors concerned where these Brothers have chosen to vote. The official number of delegates of each District indicated in this Circular takes into account this clarification made to the Secretary General.

3.3. The possible number of ballots may cause considerable delay in completing the voting process. Each sector should consider this as it prepares its calendar of elections. It must be completed in such a way that the official report of all the vote counts and their results, signed and dated, reach Brother Secretary General by 1 September 2013, at the very latest. They may be sent to him by electronic mail at *45capgen@lasalle.org* or by FAX (+39 06 663 8821) or international courier service. If regular mail is employed, a possible delay should be taken into account.

4. Participation of the members of the Lasallian Family

4.1. Representatives of the Institute of the De La Salle Guadalupana Sisters, the Institute of the La Salle Sisters of Vietnam-Thailand and of the “Union of Catechists of Jesus Crucified and Mary Immaculate” Secular Institute are invited to participate in the International Assembly of 2013: ***“ONE FAMILY, ONE MISSION: Lasallians Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor”***.

4.1.1. During the 45th General Chapter, representatives of the 2013 International Assembly will be invited to present their report. The General Chapter will receive the Acts of the Assembly and will decide how to integrate the orientations and lines of action found therein into its own work.

5. Preparatory Documents “Toward the 45th General Chapter” and notes

5.1. As mentioned above, the General Council has expressed its “conviction that what the Institute needs in this moment is an invigorating, stimulating, pastoral and discerning Chapter as it considers the major task of the revision of the *Rule* and other issues as indicated in the objectives. (Circular 464, 4.2.2.).

5.2. To prepare for the Chapter we propose the following documents that will be posted on the Institute website:

5.2.1. Document 1. *Proposed Text for the Revision of the Rule*. This is the proposal of the Commission for the Revision of the Rule, to which we have been able to contribute our personal and communal reflections. Communities, Districts and Regions are invited again to read and discuss the proposed revision of the Rule and inform their Chapter delegates.

5.2.2. Document 2. Circular 455 of the 44th General Chapter *Being Brothers Today: Open Eyes and Burning Hearts*. This is to provide background for the evaluation of the work of the Institute as proposed in the last Chapter.

5.2.3. Document 3. Circular 466 *They Will Call Themselves Brothers*, the circular of the General Council on the priorities of the Institute, January, 2013 which offers the bases for reflection and deepening for community dialog and District and Regional meetings before the Chapter during the years 2013

and 2014.

5.2.4. Document 4. Circular 461 *Associated for the Lasallian Mission...an Act of Hope* that highlights the essential aspects of Lasallian Association.

5.2.5. Document 5. *Report of the International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission*, which will be published in September 2013 and will be presented to the General Chapter.

5.2.6. Document 6. *Report of the International Assembly of Young Brothers* that will be published in October, 2013.

5.2.7. Document 7. *The Report of the Brother Superior General* that will be published in January 2014 and will provide elements for reflection and dialog on the District and Regional levels.

- 5.3.** The personal reflections and that of communities and groups of Brothers will be a support for the capitulants. In addition, notes may be sent to the Secretary General.
- 5.4.** From the study, synthesis and discernment of the Proposal for the Revision of the Rule, Brothers, personally, communally, or as a District can send notes to the Chapter so that the elected delegates can carry the District vision to the Chapter.
- 5.5.** According to the *Rule*: “All the Brothers of the Institute are invited to participate in the work of preparing for an ordinary General Chapter. Each Brother has the right to send to the Brother Superior or the Secretary

General whatever notes or position papers, duly signed, he may judge useful.” (*Rule 110*)

- 5.6.** All personal notes as well as community notes should be sent to the Secretary General, Brother Jose Antolinez by email *45capgen@lasalle.org* or by FAX (+39 06 663 8821) no later than January 1, 2014.

6. Conclusion

Brothers, we will hold our 45th General Chapter during the year that commemorates the 300th anniversary of the sending of the letter to the Founder on the part of the principal Brothers on April 1, 1714 at a dramatic and decisive time in our history. It may be the moment in the Founder's life in which the human side of a man who overcomes a profound crisis appears most strongly, as he looks over his life with the eyes of faith and responds to the call of his Brothers by means of a Gospel discernment of God's will in his regard.

It is in light of this letter and the events that surround it that we wish to live our next Chapter assembly.

It is worth recalling the beginning of this letter:

“Monsieur, our very dear Father: We, the principal Brothers of the Christian Schools, having in view the greater glory of God as well as the good of the Church and of our Society, consider that it is of the greatest importance that you return to the care and general direction of God's holy work, which is also your own, because it has pleased the Lord to make use of you to establish it and to guide it for so many years.”

Our next General Chapter should also be motivated by *the greater glory of God, the good of the Church and of our Society* or of our Institute and its mission of the educational service of the poor. Our next General Chapter should remind us that *God's work is also our work*. Our next General Chapter needs to make us aware of the “corporate we,” one that

is mature and in solidarity with others so that we all feel *responsible for the vitality of the Institute* as the *Rule* (145) reminds us, because the Lord *has placed its destiny in our hands* (*Rule* 142).

We are all invited to upgrade our capacity for discernment, to read our history as a history of salvation so that our next Chapter may be a significant phase that will ensure the future of *God's work*. It is also a propitious time to renew our awareness of *association*, where we are all important, and to live the ultimate *purpose* which unites us and makes us Brothers with new impetus: to procure God's glory in a fraternal community for the educational service of the poor.

The one year that remains until the Chapter should be for us a time of grace, conversion, and renewal. For that reason, Circular 466, *They Will Call Themselves Brothers*, can be for us a very useful tool both on the personal and community levels. This year should also be one of much prayer, insistent and ardent prayer so that the Holy Spirit will enlighten, walk with us and strengthen us: *Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth*.

Fraternally yours in Saint John Baptist de La Salle,

Brother Superior
and the Brothers on the General Council

Timetable for the 45th General Chapter

2013

1 April	Publication of the Circular of Convocation.
5 – 19 May	3 rd Meeting of the General Chapter Preparatory Commission.
6 - 16 May	Second International Assembly on Mission.
28 July – 8 August	International Assembly of Young Brothers.
1 September	Deadline for sending the names of the delegates and substitutes to the Brother Secretary General (<i>45capgen@lasalle.org</i>).
15 September	Publication of the Report of the International Assembly on Mission.
16 – 28 September	4 th Meeting of the General Chapter Preparatory Commission.
29 September	Naming of the designated Capitulants.
1 October	Publication of the Report from the Assembly of Young Brothers.
16 October	Publication of the list of Capitulants.
5 December	Appointment of consultants and experts to the Chapter.

15 December

Final date for capitulants to send biographical data to the Secretary General. (*45capgen@lasalle.org*)

2014

1 January

Last date to receive notes to the Chapter.

10 – 21 February

5th Meeting of the General Chapter Preparatory Commission.

22 April - 2 June

The 45th General Chapter.