

Brothers of the Christian Schools



Announcement of 46th General Chapter

Circular 473
May 2, 2019

BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

CIRCULAR 473

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF
46th GENERAL CHAPTER
(2021)**



ROMA, ITALIA

FRATRES SCHOLARVM CHRISTIANARVM

CASA GENERALIZIA

Brothers of the Christian Schools
Via Aurelia, 476
Rome, Italy
www.lasalle.org

Rome, May 2, 2019

Dear Brothers:

1. Introduction

“One heart, one commitment, one life” is the motto with which we are celebrating, with enthusiasm, the tercentenary of the Easter of our Holy Founder. This is a privileged time, declared by the Church as **“Lasallian Jubilee Year”** in which we feel, in a very special way, the action of the Spirit in our Institute, in each one of us and in those associated for the Lasallian educational mission.

This is a mission that we, as proposed in Circular 470 after the experience of the 45th General Chapter, are called to live together and with joy, responding with burning hearts to today’s challenges in the pluralistic society in which we live and where we carry out our educational ministry.

Brothers, five years have passed since the closing of the 45th General Chapter that marked the way forward and gave us our revised 2015 Rule. Since then, we celebrated an Intercapitular Assembly that reflected on the journey before setting new priorities. We were also witnesses, in communion with the whole Church, of the Synod on *“Youth, faith and*

vocational discernment”, whose final message directed “a word of hope, of trust, and of consolation”.

And in recent months we have found ourselves following in the footsteps of Saint La Salle while celebrating the “**Year of Lasallian Vocations**”—of which the formation programs “**Walking with Young People: A Gospel Adventure**” and the **Meeting of District Leaders of Youth and Vocation Ministry**, both held in Nairobi, were joyful occasions.

2. Announcement

In this creative context in which we are immersed, and through this Circular, we announce the celebration of the 46th General Chapter that will take place in May 2021. We make this announcement, aware that:

- *“Constituted to represent the whole Institute, the General Chapter has been since the days of the Founder the ultimate expression of the communion that exists among all the Brothers. It perpetuates among them the living fidelity to the special charism of the Institute”* (Rule, 112).

And following the indications of the Rule that establish:

- *“An ordinary General Chapter is held once every seven years. It is normally convoked by the Brother Superior General”* (Rule, 113).
- *“About two years before an ordinary General Chapter is to be held, the Brother Superior General announces an approximate date for its opening. At the same time, he informs the Institute of the measures being taken to ensure its preparation.*
- *For this purpose, the Brother Superior General and his Council appoint a Preparatory Commission to study and organise the preparation of the Chapter”* (Rule, 114.1).

3. Aims

As the *Rule* in Article 112 and the *Administrator's Directory* in Article 2 indicate, the objectives of the General Chapter are:

- to undertake an evaluation of the life of the Institute,
- to provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal, strengthening the mission and promoting Lasallian Association,
- to set out the main guidelines for future action,
- the election of the Brother Superior and Brother Councillors,
- to take, if deemed appropriate, any other legislative or administrative actions that concern the establishments and its members.

On the way...

Additionally, as we draw near to the 46th Chapter, we have some recommendations or suggestions that were born after the March 2018 Intercapitular Assembly with its theme “*On the Way*”, namely, to respond to the many challenges that have arisen in diverse areas: *association for the mission, formation and accompaniment, “Beyond the Borders” projects, issues related to solidarity and development, Lasallian research, communication, promotion of a culture of vocations, life of the Brothers, community life, etc.* (Letter of the

Brother Superior General and the Council to the members of the Intercapitular Assembly, June 2018). This letter further noted that the Chapter will:

1. *Safeguard and advance the life of the mission and life of the Brothers, as far as we are able, in places where Lasallians are present and beyond the borders.*
2. *Renew our attitudes and behaviors in fraternal life (or, providing a pedagogy of fraternity) as a ground for lifelong formation and key to effective growth towards a life of witness, service and communion for others.*
3. *Empower CIAMEL (and District Mission Councils) to meet their responsibilities concerning Association and the Lasallian educational mission.*
4. *Give fresh impetus to the Lasallian movement, while respecting diversity and seeking dynamic communion and fostering the movement and family around the charism and story as a key feature in discovering and developing one's vocation with respect to association for educational service of the poor.*
5. *Engage men and women in a variety of vibrant resources, services, and experiences that bring our rich Lasallian charism and heritage into interaction with the contemporary and cultural realities of our world.*

The General Council recommends that the Chapter focus on only two or three priority areas and will provide the Preparatory Commission with a list of desired activities and results to guide its organization.

4. Meetings and Events that will prepare the Chapter

The 46th General Chapter will be preceded by various formative meetings.

In addition, we will celebrate:

- The 3rd International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (AIMEL) in May 2020,
- The 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians, and
- The Assembly of Young Brothers, in November 2020.

5. Documents that will follow this announcement

Approximately within a year (May 2020), you will receive the Circular of Convocation for the Chapter that will include:

- the names of the members by right and the number of delegates to be elected in the Districts and Delegations.
- all the necessary indications for the election of delegates,
- rules for sending notes to the Preparatory Commission, etc.

Following the convocation you will receive:

- The International Council for Lasallian Association and the Educational Mission (CIAMEL) Report,
- Report of the 3rd AIMEL,
- Report of the 4th International Symposium of Young Lasallians,
- Report of the Assembly of Young Brothers,
- Report of the International Strategy Committee, and
- The Report of the Brother Superior General.

Before the Chapter, we will have also received new documents: the **Declaration on Lasallian Educational Mission in the 21st century, Lasallian**

Formation for Mission: the Pilgrim's Handbook, Criteria for Lasallian Identity and Vitality, the Circular on Lasallian Vocations, and possibly others.

6. The Preparatory Commission

In article 114.1, the *Rule* establishes that *the Brother Superior General and his Council appoint a Preparatory Commission to study and organise the preparation of the Chapter.*

This Commission collects all the information considered appropriate from the Brothers and from the various administrative units of the Institute, as well as from study groups or specially appointed commissions.

Brothers, in appointing the members of this preparatory commission, we have tried to take into account the different ages, a balanced representation of Regions and cultures, Chapter experience, solid formation in theology of the religious life, capacity for “out of the box” thinking, familiarity with the organization of meetings, etc. Accordingly, these are the preparatory commission members:

- Br. Christy Croos (PARC)
- Br. Téfio Raoul Traoré (RELAF)
- Br. Julio Enrique Herrera Paz (RELAL)
- Br. Ernest Miller (RELAN)
- Br. Jorge Sierra (RELEM)
- Br. Daniel Elzière (RELEM)
- Br. Antxon Andueza (Secretary general)

The Preparatory Commission may seek the help of as many people as it deems appropriate, but must necessarily consult CIAMEL and the International Strategy Committee.

7. Calendar

In accordance with the provisions of Circular 470, the official opening of the 46th General Chapter will take place on Sunday, May 2, 2021 and the closing ceremony will be on Saturday, May 29.

For the meetings of the Preparatory Commission we consider the following dates appropriate:

- 16th – 21st September 2019
- 3rd – 8th February 2020
- 8th – 12th June 2020
- 7th – 12th September 2020
- 1st to 8th February 2021

8. Conclusion

Brothers, we encourage you to prepare mentally and spiritually to participate actively in the preparation of this Chapter.

All of you, your communities, the Districts and Delegations to which you belong or in which you live and work, constitute the Institute that today carries in its hands and in its heart the flame that Saint La Salle left us when he died 300 years ago.

All of us, whether we are delegates or not, whether we are present in the Chapter Hall or not, must feel this Chapter as ours and commit ourselves to work to fulfil its objectives and serve as light to illuminate our steps as **consecrated men** and as **Associated for the Lasallian Educational Mission**. Prayer, participation in all those activities organized by your District or Delegation, and the submission of notes, will be privileged means to live this event with a burning heart.

Together in De La Salle,
Brother Superior General and
Brothers General Councillor



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