



SG 30-2022
Rome, 14 June 2022

DARE TO TAKE RISKS FOR GOD AND FOR HUMANITY

Our creative fidelity

Dear Confreres,

First of all, I would like to greet you, renew my closeness to you and assure you of my humble prayers.

I am reaching out to you, once again, with another document. It is for us to continue together the path towards the General Chapter of 2023 with the same motivations with which we began the process in 2021 in the dynamics of communion, participation and acting together. We know that it is a process that is a real *Kairos* for the whole Congregation.

Yes, what we are experiencing is a *Kairos*: that is, a moment of God, a grace and a call that the Lord addresses to the whole Congregation. I hope it will truly be an authentic event of the Spirit that involves the participation of all, including the lay people who work alongside us in the different areas of mission.

For this process to be truly fruitful, it is essential that it be a true journey of discernment, open to the Holy Spirit, carried out in prayer and contemplation. If, along the way, a difficulty arises, it must be faced with serenity and dialogue.

It is therefore in this climate of dialogue, of walking together, as a Congregation on “going out” that we are entering the second phase of our preparation for the General Chapter of 2023.

In the first phase we suggested a theme and you were asked to propose logos, drawings, poems, videos... with the help of texts from Father de Montfort. We thank all those who sent us proposals.

The definitive theme chosen for this General Chapter is therefore “Dare to take risks for God and humanity. Our creative fidelity”. You also have at the top of this letter the retained logo inspired by an expression of Father de Montfort.

For this second phase of preparation, we propose that you reread the acts of the General Chapter of 2017, to begin with what had been decided and to go deeper into what demands new actions and reflections. We also propose that you reread the *Vademecum* which insisted on certain points present in the acts of the General Chapter.

For us to have a real synodal approach, we invite you to mobilize the councils, communities or groups of confreres so that they can do this rereading and be able to respond within the framework of a meeting to this questionnaire that you have in your hands. This shouldn't take more than half a day of reflection. We are counting on you to transmit this document as soon as possible, including lay people if you think it possible. You are invited to send your thoughts **before November 20** to the following address: chaptresmm2023@gmail.com

If in some entities it is easier to centralize responses, thank you to those responsible for collecting the completed forms and sending them to the same address. If postal mail is better, you can send this to the general administration.



If confreres wish, they are invited to do the same with the same final date to respond. A very big thank you to all in advance for taking charge together of the future of our congregation.

In order to live this half-day well and to begin in a spiritual way, we propose for you a Para liturgy which could be of help if you so desire. You will find it at the beginning of the questionnaire. At the end of your work, you could also offer a Marian prayer for the success of the General Chapter and sing, for example, a “Salve Regina”.

The questionnaire makes use of the acts of the General Chapter of 2017 as well as the *Vademecum* by highlighting the convictions expressed there. This is a reminder before responding to the different questions. If you have other convictions, thank you for making them known to us.

Then, we have retained questions that touch on the actions that were suggested in the documents. We have only kept the actions that seemed most important to us. For most of the questions you are invited to say YES/NO or IN PLANNING. It suffices to check off a square, but we ask you to MAKE A COMMENT to illustrate your response in the square provided for that. Your other reflections are also welcome.

The analysis of the answers will lead to the choice of the themes which will be treated during the General Chapter of 2023. This will be the third phase of preparation. These will be complemented by questions expressed during the 2022 EGC in Rome. The idea is to propose a General Chapter as close as possible to the concerns of all while taking into account the diversity that characterizes the congregation.

We are also sending you an image (logo) with the prayer that we are proposing to you to accompany the Chapter. This logo has been selected during the EGC of last May among the five logo proposals that we had received from different entities. It is the same for the prayer which is composed from four other suggestions. This small gift will strengthen our unity since we will all be drawn into the same prayer. This image can be distributed during the half-day of reflection and its use explained so that we move forward together towards the central theme “Dare to take risks for God and humanity. Our creative fidelity”.

The risks in question relate to all the aspects of innovation that we have implemented since the last Chapter to respond better to our missionary vocation, to serve God and humanity better. To risk is to dare, like Father de Montfort, to reach out to those who do not know Christ, it is to be close to the neglected, it is to invent a lifestyle that responds to the challenges of our time, it is to seek ways of being fraternal, it is to be missionary disciples, men of hope.

All these steps that we have taken together as Montfortians are to be celebrated and strengthened from the spiritual treasure that our Founder left us and that the Virgin Mary accompanies. Our tradition is a living resource when it is kindled by the Lord, this is what we will try to specify in a concrete way during our future General Chapter. But this can only be done thanks to your participation in this preliminary phase that we propose to you and to your prayer that the Chapter will be a good moment of missionary fraternity.

For the general administration team,

*Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM
Superior General*