

CG ★ 17
Precapitular committee

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Dear fellow delegates,

A Pre-Capitular Committee appointed by the Superior General met in Rome, 20 – 21 February. The members are: Martin McAnaney (chair), Larry Duffy, Alejandro Muñoz, Tony Kennedy and Albert Kabala. We were joined by the Br Michael French the facilitator for the Chapter and assisted by Antony Corcoran, secretary.

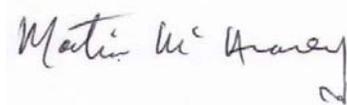
The committee's task was to draw up a schedule for the opening days of the General Chapter, a broad outline for the Chapter itself and to make whatever other immediate preparations are necessary.

We are aware that the General Chapter is a privileged moment in the life of our international congregation. Its task is to evaluate the Society's "fidelity to its spirit and mission, to resolve important questions concerning the Society as a whole, to decide on directions to be followed for the future, and to elect the superior general and his council" (C.163). Each of us comes as a delegate to make a contribution to achieving this aim. For this reason, it is important to be in conversation with confreres and others as to how we can best further our mission as the Society of Mary. As a committee, we want to do all that we can to enable a conversation to take place in which we listen to and share with each other. The conversation will be enhanced if, by the time we gather for Chapter, the major areas of concern will have already been reflected upon by each of us and some exchanges has taken place.

The Pre-Capitular Committee was asked to take into account the results of the extensive consultation survey of the Society which took place between October 2015 and June 2016, the results of which were presented to major superiors at the ARC meeting, September 2016. The main issues emerging from the survey of 2015 -2016 are the subject of the report presented to ARC 2016 and contained in it (the report accompanies this letter). There are also proposals and postulata received from chapters and individuals. When it gathers, General Chapter 2017 will select the topics it considers it needs to address as its agenda. However, it would be beneficial to the discernment of the Chapter if you share with confreres the thoughts you may have on these topics. Other material will soon be available when the Chapter website is up and running (www.maristinter.org).

Let us set the scene for deeper discernment and reflection during the Chapter itself and encourage other to pray for its success.

Fraternally in the Society of Mary



Martin McAnaney, SM
Chairman, Pre-Capitular Committee