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Al Superiore Generale

Prot.n 038/2022/JR

LETTER OF CONVOCATION OF THE XVI GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE PASSION

Dear Brothers, Sisters and friends in the Passionist family,

Greetings from Rome and prayerful best wishes as you journey with Christ in this Holy Week. May it be an opportunity to appreciate once again the unconditional love God has for you and so move you to an ever deeper renewal of your discipleship and mission in Christ.

I write this letter to formally convoke the XVI General Synod of the Congregation in accordance with the norms of our Constitutions nn. 144 – 147 (amended by the 46th General Chapter and approved by the Holy See) which states that: *“The Superior General will convoke a General Synod once in every six years, three years after the General Chapter.”*

As you know, this General Synod was scheduled to be held last year in October 2021. However, because of the difficulties and health threats posed for travel and group gatherings due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided, after consultation, to postpone the Synod for a year.

Thus, with this letter I am announcing that the XVI General Synod will take place at the General House of Saints John and Paul in Rome from 11 – 21 September 2022.

I ask that all participants of the Synod arrive in Rome by Saturday, 10th September and plan your departure after the 21st September. Please inform the Secretary General (Fr. Rafael Blasco) of your arrival and departure details by email:

segretariogen@passiochristi.org

Please note that citizens of certain countries have to comply with specific formalities in order to obtain a VISA to enter Italy. The General Secretariat can provide the necessary documentation required. However, you are asked to make preparations for this in good time.

The **members of the General Synod** are those who participate *ex officio* at the General Chapter, or their substitutes (cf. Const. n. 147), i.e. the Superior General, the former Superiors General, the General Consultors, the Procurator General, the Secretary General, the Secretary General for Solidarity & the Missions, the Econome General, the Provincial and Vice Provincial Superiors, the Presidents of the Configurations who are not Major Superiors (cf. amended Const. n. 129), as well as the Provincial Consultors of those Provinces that are Configurations (cf. Reg. 81).

Besides these, the following are **invited members**: Fr. Martin Coffey, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for Formation, who will be presenting the General Plan for Formation; and Fr. Martin Newell and Fr. Mark White, the former Provincial and Consultor respectively of the “suspended” Province of St. Joseph (IOS) which is seeking the consent of the Synod for the “suppression” of the Province.

I take this opportunity to remind you what is prescribed by our Constitutions n. 144 in regard to the General Synod:

The General Synod is primarily an assembly that acts as a consultative body to help the Superior General.

It will examine the programmes proposed by the General Chapter and evaluate their implementation. Further, it will suggest initiatives to keep the Congregation continually up to date; it will propose means of settling problems in a spirit of brotherly harmony, and will call the attention of the various Provinces to their duties towards one another.

The **General Synod Preparatory Commission**, composed of Fr. Giuseppe Adobati, Fr. Alessandro Foppoli and Fr. Rafael Blasco, was appointed in December 2020 and have been sending progressively to the members of the Synod the principal documents which are to be approved by the Synod. The Synod members are asked to study these documents and send their feedback. In the spirit of “synodality”, we ask that other members and groups of the entities be encouraged to participate in the review of these documents.

Further information will be communicated in due time. However, please be informed that any topics Synod members would like to propose be discussed at the Synod (Const. n. 146) must be sent to the Secretary General by the deadline date of 30 June 2022.

The theme: ***Renewing our Mission – Gratitude, Prophecy, Hope***, which has guided our reflection since the 47th General Chapter and throughout the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation, will continue as the theme which will enlighten our focus during the General Synod.

Hopefully the diverse coloured threads of our reflection and experience woven since the Chapter will connect and unfold for us a tapestry displaying the spiritual fruits of the call of renewal flowing from our charism of the *memoria passionis*.

In these times of great need and uncertainty we are encountering, let us not lose heart, but ask for the grace to strengthen our confidence and trust in seeking ever more to discover God's plan as we discern the path on which the Spirit is guiding us. Amongst the many needs, let us keep the preparation work of the XVI General Synod in our prayer, asking God's blessing through the intercession of St. Paul of the Cross and all our holy Passionist men and women.

“May the Passion of Jesus be always in our hearts”

Fraternally,



Rome, 11 April 2022
Retreat of Saints John and Paul