

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2010 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

FRIDAY, 20 AUGUST 2010

### FOR CROSIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE CHAPTER AS CAPITULARS, PERITI AND STAFF

This Communication is to convey to Capitulars, Periti and Staff some key information about the upcoming 2010 Extraordinary General Chapter. The Chapter will hold its assemblies on Fri 10, Sat 11, Mon 13 and Tue 14 September. The information indicates what is needed to get prepared for this Chapter. Further elaborated details about agenda, processes, etc. will be communicated at the beginning, and in the course of the Chapter. This Communiqué has also practical information.

**Wednesday, 8 September 2010:** Capitulars and Periti arrive at the latest on 8 September, and be at Saint Agatha's Priory at 03:00PM. Staff arrives according to agreements with the co-chairs of the General Chapter Planning Committee. Further program, for all Crosiers and Jubilee Guests: at 5.00PM a social is planned, followed at 6.00PM by a light dinner, and –at 7.00PM- an Evening Prayer Service.

On **Thursday, 9 September 2010**, at 5.30PM, after a Jubilee Day of Spiritual Reflection for all Crosiers and Jubilee Guests, celebrating the Gains of the Decade of Transformation (see previous message with details about Reflection Day), the Master General will open the 2010 Extraordinary General Chapter with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist. Capitulars will present their credentials.

On **Friday, 10 September 2010**, the work of the Extraordinary General Chapter starts. A main agenda issue is the presentation and discussion of the State of the Order Report, from the Master General (see: [http://www.oscgeneralchapter.info/chapter\\_docs/documents/docs.html](http://www.oscgeneralchapter.info/chapter_docs/documents/docs.html)). The Master General's report concerns the planning and implementation of the 2009 General Chapter. Also Major Superiors will in short inform the chapter about initial follow-through points on implementing the 2009 General Chapter in their respective province or proprovince. The aim of presenting and discussing the Master General's report, is to stimulate capitulars to accept ownership of the implementation work to be done, and to reinforce the 2009 General Chapter implementation.

Next to studying ❶ the State of the Order Report, it is also recommended that Capitulars and other chapter participants do carefully re-read ❷ the directives included in the 2009 General Chapter Relict, as well as ❸ the 2009 General Chapter Implementation Plan. This document will be accessible via the same link copied above, or via <http://oscgeneral.org/en/resources/other/index.html>.

Next to reading tasks, some initial information about how to process the State of the Order Report might be helpful, in order for capitulars and participants to further get prepared for discussions.

- Four assemblies: ❶ 9.00AM - 10.15AM; ❷ 10:45AM – 12:00AM; ❸ 3.00PM – 4.00PM; ❹ 4.15PM – 5.15PM.
- After presenting a section of the report by the Master General, small group discussions will occur, followed by a plenary sessions to report back.
- Chapter discussions in small groups and in plenum could focus on questions as there are:
  - What are the real and major challenges the Order of the Holy Cross is facing now, and what are the implications and consequences of these challenges?
  - What will help the Order to move ahead into a longer term future?

- What is needed for the longer term provision for Crosier religious life?
- How to work concretely at the stage of implementation of the 2009 directives?
- What can this Extraordinary General Chapter advise or recommend to be discussed at the next Ordinary General Chapter in 2015?
  - Ongoing membership diminishment.
  - Vocation Recruitment.
  - Interprovincial Strategies for Formation.
  - Leadership needs.
  - Expansion of the Order into new areas.

On **Saturday, 11 September 2010**, in the MORNING assemblies, the work of the Extraordinary General Chapter focuses on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Approval of the Crosier Constitutions. The General Chapter Planning Committee wishes capitulars and other chapter participants to be well informed about this Jubilee Chapter act and decision, with the help of background presentations and clarifications:

- Content of today's Constitutions, in substance still the Constitutions of 1967.
- Approving Constitutions in the Order of the Holy Cross: the meaning of the Crosier Privilege (Cons. 35.6), and the meaning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Approval of the Order's Constitutions.

After these introductory background presentations, the General Chapter moves into a discussion on a concrete proposal regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Approval of the Constitutions. The hoped for outcome of this discussion is for the chapter to reach a consensus regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Approval of the Constitutions. The formal voting is planned for Monday afternoon, 13 September 2010 (see further). In the AFTERNOON, other possible proposals for decision making by this Extraordinary General Chapter will be presented for discussion and deliberation. Also here, the end-term of the discussion is to come to a chapter consensus. Formal decision making is again planned for Monday afternoon, 13 September (see further). In the EVENING, at 7.00PM, Crosiers will celebrate the Eucharist with all parishioners of Saint Agatha, especially invited to join in the Crosier Jubilee Celebration.

For Crosiers who are not at Chapter and for Jubilee Guests, the Jubilee Committee organizes two Crosier Tour Days: 10 Sept. (Kloster Bentlage) & 11 Sept. (Maaseik, Kolen-Kerniel and Maastricht)

On **Sunday, 12 September 2010**, a Public Jubilee Day is planned, with a Solemn Eucharist in the Priory Church at 10:30AM, where invited guests will be present. In the afternoon, other guests will join the Crosiers for an Open House (01.00PM – 04.45PM). Program details will be made available.

On **Monday, 13 September 2010**: at 10.00AM, Guided Tours in Library Foundation S. Aegten. For the afternoon, the Chapter Planning Committee proposes to have 2 Open Chapter Assemblies (1.30PM - 2.45PM & 3.15PM – 4.30PM). Other Crosiers & Guests are invited to attend. Proposed agenda:

- Moment of prayer and welcome.
- Introduction –for the sake of our Guests- about the meaning of holding a Chapter in the Order of the Holy Cross, and more in particular about the purpose of this Jubilee Chapter.
- Overview of the work of this Extraordinary General Chapter.
- Formal voting by Capitulars on proposals for decision making, discussed earlier at Chapter.
- Invited guests speak to the Chapter: supportive, congratulatory, challenging, indicating ways for implementation, etc. An open exchange follows.

At 5.00PM, Crosiers and Guests celebrate the First Vespers for the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Three novices for the Province of Blessed Theodore de Celles receive the Crosier Habit.

On **Tuesday, 14 September 2010**, Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Church Leaders and other male and female Religious are invited to join the Crosiers for the 14 September Crosier Solemnity, and also to attend the final Chapter Assembly (10.00AM – 10.45AM). This Chapter moment which will have a solemn character, including the signing of the Relict, the presentation of a Letter of the Apostolic See, an address by the Bishop of Liège. Further details will be communicated.

**OTHER INFORMATION FOR CAPITULARS, PERITI AND STAFF:**

- Fri. 10 & Sat. 11 Sept.: Chapter Room is located in facilities of the Foundation “Erfgoed” & “Sint Aegten” (West Wing of Priory). Mon.13 & Tue.14 Sept.: Chapter gathers in Priory Church.
- Capitulars, Periti, and Staff travelling by aeroplane from Asia, Africa, Brazil and the United States, should communicate as soon as possible with Mammouth ([mammouth@oscgeneral.org](mailto:mammouth@oscgeneral.org)) the arrival information: \*date and hour of arrival; \*arrival airport; \*flight number.
- For those arriving at A'dam Schiphol Airport on 8 Sept. volunteers are available in Arrival Hall near the Meeting Point to welcome Crosiers and Jubilee Guests from 10.00 am until noon. Transport Cuijk Railway Station to S. Agatha's Priory, or to the Cuijk Vd Valk Hotel is provided.
- Capitulars, Periti and Staff will be housed in two different locations: \*the Crosier Priory of Saint Agatha, or \* the Hotel Van der Valk at Cuijk, about 7km from Saint Agatha's Priory.
  - Room assignments will be communicated before beginning of Jubilee Week.
  - Daily transport Capitulars & Periti from Hotel – Priory – Hotel is organized.
- Upon arrival, all receive a Jubilee Welcome Packet (information about the Jubilee Activities) and a General Chapter Folder with the most important Chapter Documents.
- All Crosiers bring their religious habit. Warm clothing is recommended, since September weather conditions in the Netherlands can be variable. An umbrella is useful as well.
- It is recommended to bring a personal laptop computer.
- Inform us about any dietary or special health needs. Bring along medication.

For any further questions or clarifications, do not hesitate to contact us. Other details about practical and organizational issues will follow (room assignments, priory facilities and hotel facilities, laundry, meals, contact information, ...).

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