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IV. Preparations for the 2012 Chapter

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- General Chapter 2012. Presentation of the final version of the **Directory/Guide for Lay Spiritan Associates**.

Items for this Directory/Guide of Lay Spiritan Associates:

- *Forward: Association in Church, Congregation, our Circumscription/Union.*
- *Lay Spiritan Identity: vocation, spirituality, community, and mission ...*
- *Formation Programme. Content and Method.*
- *Criteria of discernment to become a Lay Associate.*
- *Mutual expectations:*
 - From the Congregation*
 - From the Associates*
- *Relationship with the Congregation. Mission letter.*
- *Meaning of membership*
- *Official commitment. Nature of the contract: legal, spiritual and mission focused.*
- *Finances.*
- *Outreaches.*

IV. PREPARATION FOR GENERAL CHAPTER 2012

4.1 GENERAL ORIENTATIONS

The EGC was very positive about the suggestion of the General Council concerning the celebration of the next General Council. These suggestions need to be put into practice now, taking into account the opinions expressed at the EGC.

4.1.1 The first thing is to choose the African circumscription which can host the chapter; this will have to be decided by June 2009. Method: send out a questionnaire to all African circumscriptions asking them to assess the possibilities on the level of accessibility, transport, communications, facilities etc in their circumscription.

4.1.2 Set up a preparatory team: with two members of the GC, plus the principal moderator and the chapter secretary (this cannot be the General Secretary); a list of possible moderators to be compiled.

4.1.3 Preparatory team to enquire from all circumscriptions topics and principal questions to be treated at the General Chapter and make a list of these.

4.1.4 Organise election of capitulants; at the EGC it was agreed that every circumscription of appointment will have at least one delegate – larger circumscriptions proportionate to their numbers.

4.1.5 Small booklet with photo and curriculum vitae of each capitulants to be prepared.

4.1.6 Functionaries to be identified.

4.2 OTHER COMMENTS AND IDEAS FROM THE EGC

Comments: What of the *method* to be adopted? Much material was lost at the last chapter and some subjects began with zero information. Spiritual preparation must also be taken into account and elected delegates should be asked to animate their circumscriptions both before and after the

chapter. Reports from Superior General and General Bursar also to be prepared; it will be possible also to have some echoes from the African Synod which will be held in 2009 and the implications for the future of Spiritan mission on that continent. When convenient, it would be helpful to have a meeting of the Union co-ordinators in the context of this preparation.

Need to choose an inspirational theme: mission? Unity?

Some special arrangements will have to be made for purchasing of air tickets.

How may all the members of the Congregation be somehow involved in the chapter itself, as they were during TA through e-mail? This could be done again and also a mechanism created for functionaries to make some input.