IV. Preparations for the 2012 Chapter
Introduction

Our recent Enlarged General Council was celebrated at Ariccia, (across lake Albano from Castelgandolfo), from the 26th to the 7th of June 2008.

During the EGC, information was sent out to the confreres by means of several bulletins of “Spiritan Newsflash” and afterwards in a special issue of “Spiritan News”. The delegates in their turn, on returning from Italy, will no doubt have informed the confreres of what was discussed.

The General Council, by means of this special issue of Anima Una (the new title for what was formerly known as I/D), wishes to let all confreres know about the practical follow-up to the opinions and ideas expressed at the EGC. These are not a collection of texts which have been carefully amended and voted on, as is the case for a General Chapter. Neither are they a few vague hopes and ‘pious wishes’. The aim of an enlarged council (of the Congregation or a Circumscription) is essentially ‘practical’ – to make sure that our daily personal and community commitments are “built on rock”. The General Council has based this reflection on the minutes taken during the EGC and on the syntheses of topics made on the spot, so that this rich material forms a basis for the practical orientations in the next four years leading up to the General Chapter of 2012.
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.

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