

10-1-1982

1982 Vol. 32 Supplement: Decisions of the Enlarged Council

The Generalate Team

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Repository Citation

The Generalate Team. (1982). 1982 Vol. 32 Supplement: Decisions of the Enlarged Council. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/id/>
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DECISIONS OF THE ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL, 1982

Supplement to I/D.N. 22, October 1982

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONS

The Enlarged General Council recommends that the Plan proposed by the Preparatory Committee on the Constitutions be followed, in general, by the Drafting Committee. It favours retaining the first two parts of the Latin Rule, in Latin with a translation.

Two specialists in Canon Law are to be available as Consultors to the Drafting Committee.

The General Council should study the possibility of a time-schedule that would enable the Drafting Committee to present two drafts, the second of which would be ready by October 1985 in preparation for the Chapter in 1986.

Recommendations were made that the Constitutions should:

- stress the complementarity of the apostolate, consecrated life and community life;
- avoid all antinomy or dichotomy between the apostolate and the consecrated life;
- deal with Justice and Peace, or 'human liberation', as an integral part of evangelization and not as one type of work among others;
- treat of poverty as an evil to be eradicated, with confreres being aware of the causes of poverty and working for its elimination;
- emphasize solidarity, particularly financial, at all levels — between members of the same community, and between communities, Districts and Provinces;
- not confine the concept of community life to exclusively Spiritan communities but take into account other forms as in SL, 89;
- emphasize 'révision de vie' (whatever be the terms used to describe it) in Spiritan life;
- not minimize Brothers' rights and identity in a clerical Congregation;
- treat very positively of Poverty and Chastity as values and signs of the Kingdom.

The General Council was urged to give serious consideration to the examination of new kinds of circumscriptions, with a view to the future. If necessary, a subcommittee could be set up for this purpose.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Identify and pinpoint priority targets for animation of communities for the next two years.

Undertake a study of the following tensions: religious/missionary; work/living; apostolate/community; demands of the community/demands of the apostolate — applying Libermann's thought in the context of community renewal.

Reaffirm our commitment to building communities in which each member will meet with acceptance, care and respect. Our experience proves that such a fraternity of life and prayer will enable confreres to give of their best in their Spiritan apostolate today. Community animation at all levels of the Congregation should be understood in this sense.

The EGC proposed that the document on Community Life (EGC/82/3) and the document 'Pour Vivre en Communauté' (EGC/82/18) be studied by the Major Superiors during their next regional meetings and that regional objectives be established for the next few years.

PRIORITIES AND URGENT SITUATIONS

(Superior General's Report)

Priorities:

The EGC asks the Major Superiors to respond as far as possible to the appeals for Pakistan (three teams of three or four confreres each); for Paraguay (three more confreres); for Angola (reinforcement of the dioceses of Lubango and Saurimo as well as of formation personnel). They deserve the special solidarity of the entire Congregation at this time.

The EGC asks the General Council to restate the criteria for the choice of the above three priorities in order to evaluate future choices.

Urgent Situations:

The Enlarged General Council:

- recognizes the urgent needs of the mission situations in Guinea-Bissau, Tambacounda, Kongolo, Mexico and Rose Hill (Mauritius) and recommends them for special consideration;

- commits itself again to support seriously, and show solidarity with, the New Foundations and the Young Provinces;
- asks all meetings of Major Superiors to place these special needs of the Congregation on the agenda of regional meetings, where urgent situations can be dealt with before having recourse to the General Council;
- recommends to all Major Superiors the urgent appeals coming from some African countries for help for Refugees;
- expresses its admiration for the confreres in the Polish Province in their difficult situation and assures them of its solidarity and support;
- requests the General Council to elaborate as clearly as possible the criteria for involvement in new developments on the part of the Council. Tensions can be avoided by clarifying the 'ground rules' by which such projects are assessed and undertaken at General Council level in its efforts to be open to the call to new situations;
- stresses the need for clarification of what is understood by the term 'values of internationality' in formation in the Congregation. It is important that the General Council continue to clarify the values of international formation and to balance them against other values;
- recommends that the 'Fribourg proposal' for an international scholasticate there be studied by the General Council along with other proposals and possibilities for international formation;
- welcomes the initiative taken by Kimmage in setting up a renewal course for English-speaking Spiritans and asks that it be helped as far as possible.

Justice and Peace:

The EGC recommends that the General Council give particular attention to coordination of information, collaboration with other institutes, and efforts to conscientize and motivate confreres in matters concerning Justice and Peace.

FINANCES

The Enlarged General Council:

- is in favour of re-introducing some form of contribution to the Generalate in order to help solve the financial problems of the General Administration itself, and also meet the demands coming from the new Provinces and Foundations;
- requests the General Administration to set up a committee of experts who will study our financial system and make concrete proposals in line with the suggestions made by the Enlarged General Council;
- asks the General Administration to continue with the animation model of government, decreasing expenses if that is possible without thereby decreasing the effectiveness of this model.

PLANNING

The Enlarged General Council:

- is not in favour of setting up a special planning office at the Generalate;
- supports and seriously encourages the General Council in pursuing a planning programme in the Congregation along the lines of the model presented in their document 'Planning'. One Councillor should be responsible;
- favours the expansion of the facilities at the Generalate to include a Research/Planning element;
- accepts that a realistic decision to undertake planning involves about 25% of the time of the leadership and will involve considerable expense. Motivation or animation of the circumscriptions to 'planning' is part of the work of Visitors since planning without animation is a waste of time;
- believes that the circumscriptions must be involved and take responsibility themselves for planning at their level;
- suggests that initial steps in the process of planning for the Congregation could, and perhaps should, be undertaken by experts outside the Congregation;
- recommends that:
 - a) planning should take into account the distinction and integration between our community and our work, and between the works of communities and of individuals;
 - b) planning should study disengagement and a move towards the periphery situations in an effort to collaborate with the General Council's call for personnel;
 - c) the Congregation's involvement and integration with the local Churches form part of the planning process.

NEW FORMS OF COLLABORATION

The Enlarged General Council:

- acknowledges with appreciation the Report from the General Council on the development and experiences that are taking place in various circumscriptions;
- recommends that, when new projects are being planned and assessed, account be taken of the resources in personnel potentiality available through New Forms of Collaboration.