

## *New convocation of General Chapter XXIV*

Dearest Sisters,

In docile listening to the new calls of God in history, I come to you with an important communication, matured in prayer and in discernment together with the Sisters of the Council.

After the letter I sent you on 31 May 2020 for the postponement of the celebration of General Chapter XXIV (cf. *Circular of Convocation* No. 998), taking into account the information gathered on the course of the pandemic in the world, with this circular **I officially convoke General Chapter XXIV** according to article 138 of the Constitutions of the Institute.

It will begin in Rome in the Generalate with the official opening on **17 September 2021**.

It is expected to close on 24 October 2021.

Listening to the current reality, full of challenges and unprecedented opportunities, I confirm the choice of the theme of the Chapter according to this formulation:

***“Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).***

**Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity.**

The goal we aim to achieve is that of: ***Awakening the original freshness of the Institute's vocational fruitfulness.***

As ***Moderator*** of the Chapter I confirm the appointment of Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, who assumes the responsibility of accompanying the preparation and development of General Chapter XXIV.

The General Chapter will be ***preceded in Rome by a few days of spiritual retreat*** for the participants. As I had already written to you in the previous convocation, given the emergency situation, we will not be able to live the Spiritual Exercises in Mornese. I therefore invite all the Provincials and Delegates to the Chapter to provide for the annual retreat in their own Provinces.

Considering the precautionary measures that have been adopted in the various countries and, therefore also in Italy, we are thinking of organizing in the Generalate environments and modalities for the implementation of the Chapter such as to favor the best conditions for health and the proper conduct of the Chapter work.

The ***Working Instrument***, which has already been sent, remains a valid document for the implementation of the Chapter. In recent months, the Moderator of the Chapter, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, sent a communication to the Interprovincial Conferences to invite them to reflect together on how to be communities that generate life in this unprecedented situation that the whole world is suffering and which affects our life and educational mission. We thank you for your contributions of reflection which will be very useful for the Chapter members.

In these days, appropriate indications will be sent to the Provincials and Delegates on the immediate preparation for General Chapter XXIV and I inform you that we are planning an online meeting of all the Chapter members.

I ask you to continue the prayer for the Chapter as indicated in the first convocation (cf. *Circular of Convocation* n.985) invoking with renewed confidence the protection of Mary Help of Christians and also asking St. Joseph to help us prepare our hearts for the Chapter event.

In a time of great precariousness, more than ever we root our trust in the One who does not abandon us and is with us every day as a presence of love, wisdom, and perennial newness.

With the Sisters of the Council I greet you and invoke on each of you and on the educating communities the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of Mary Help of Christians.

In the rosary of the month of May which is about to begin, I ask you to intensify your prayers for the Chapter. May we all feel as a living part of a great network of supplication, so that the Lord will make us understand His will and make us docile to His calls for the good of the Institute, of the young people He entrusts to us.

Rome, 30 April 2021

Affectionately, Mother

### **New indications for General Chapter XXIV**

By **Saturday 11 September 2021**: arrival of the Capitulars in Rome.

Those who have to submit to the quarantine, required by the legislation in force at that time, will have to arrive in Rome previously and for this reason appropriate information will be sent.

From 13 to 15 September: days of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit.

September 16: Introduction to General Chapter XXIV.

September 17: **Official opening of General Chapter XXIV.**

The maximum duration is expected to be five weeks with closing on **October 24, 2021.**

The departure of the Capitulars from Rome is scheduled for 25 October 2021.