

INSTITUTE
of the
BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Instructive
and
Administrative Circular

No. 318 — JULY 16, 1946



RESULTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER
OF 1946



CASA SAN GIUSEPPE
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IMPRIMATUR:

✠ FR. ALFONSUS C. DE ROMANIS, Ep. Porphireonen,
Vic. Gen. Civitatis Vaticanae

J. M. J. J. B.
Instructive and Administrative
Circulars — No. 318

Rome, July 16, 1946
Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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My Very Dear Brothers:

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us!

With deep sentiments and profound emotion we come to you today with the usual salutation with which our letters to you begin, all the more so since this is the first Circular we, as the Successor and Representative of Saint John Baptist de la Salle, address to you.

Many, indeed, are the thoughts and sentiments that fill our heart as we recall the magnificent succession of worthy Superiors who have preceded us in the government of the Institute, particularly those whom we have known more intimately, or who have honored us by their confidence and affection: the Most Honorable Brothers Gabriel Marie, Imier of Jesus, Allais Charles, Adrien and Junien Victor, all religious men of high distinction and virtue whose generalships were subject to heavy trials. Recalling the many gifts with which Divine Providence had enriched them, we have reason to fear for our weakness and misery, and to apprehend the possibility of not measuring up to the confidence and hopes that the Institute has placed in us by the vote of the General Chapter.

You will readily understand, Very Dear Brothers, our feelings of distrust and apprehension, in the face of such heavy responsibilities, and the exceptional qualifications which the office of Superior General demands and presupposes. What tact and wisdom are required in the government of a Society such as ours with its world-wide extension! How much prudence, firmness and fatherly kindness are needed to direct, ordain, decide, redress on occasions, reprehend without bitterness, correct without weakness and bring peace and gladness to the hearts of men! A Superior must always be an example of complete abnegation and devotedness ready for every sacrifice.

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Undoubtedly, it does seem to us that ever since the very start of our religious life we have striven always to serve the Institute with love and fidelity, in all posts to which obedience has assigned us; but since it has pleased God to place us at your head, we feel an increase of devotedness and love for our Religious Family, and, before God, we renew the sacred engagements of our Religious Consecration to Him and to our Congregation. You will, therefore, Very Dear Brothers, join your prayers to ours that all our pledges and promises may not remain barren and unavailing.

You are well aware of the gravity and seriousness of the times through which we are passing, the extremely important problems resulting from the war, the material and moral ruins to restore, the spiritual wreckage to renovate, and the needs of resorting to greater fidelity in all our religious obligations that God may be with us in all that we attempt and accomplish.

We will, therefore, place our confidence in God, first and foremost, and rest lovingly in the arms of Divine Providence, as on a solid foundation of lasting peace and Christian strength. After God we shall place much hope and confidence in you, Very Dear Brothers, for we know that thousands of you will daily send fervent appeals to heaven for us and for the success of our efforts in the administration of our beloved Institute. God will not be deaf to the prayers of so many holy souls in behalf of their spiritual father and guide. Thus sustained by your filial devotion, your prayers and sacrifices, we shall surely obtain the fulness of the heavenly light and Christian strength we need to conduct our Religious Family as God wishes us.

This filial cooperation you have kindly promised us in your numerous letters and telegrams of felicitation, by which I feel that you have unanimously ratified the choice of the General Chapter. And, in this respect, may I be permitted to recall that one of the most agreeable impressions of the first days of our election as Superior General was certainly that which was caused by the numerous letters of the Brothers in Houses of Formation of which we had the charge at one time or other. It may not be possible for us to answer every message received. Yet, be assured, Very Dear Brothers, that we are indeed grateful for your words of affection and especially for your prayers, particularly from the children of the Family in the Junior Novitiates, Novitiates and Scholasticates, as also from the venerable Brothers in retirement, for it has always been a very special pleasure for us to be of some service to such members of the Institute who are in these Houses of Formation.

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Another motive of great consolation for us in assuming the Office of Superior General was to ascertain that respect for authority, — a Lasallian patrimony — has been in no way lessened in our Religious Family, in spite of certain ideas current in some centers, such as worldly independence, emancipation from all control, disregard for authority and lack of consideration for old age. Your Spirit of Faith enables you to consider the authority of God in your Superiors, and this it is that elevates and sanctifies your respect and submission towards the powers that are established by God.

In return for your kind and filial communications we wish to assure you that it is with open heart that we record the intimate sentiments we felt on the momentous event that placed us at the head of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. When God's holy will was manifested to us by the vote of the General Chapter, at first a feeling of embarrassment filled our mind in the presence of the formidable charge placed on our shoulders by the General Assembly. And then after a humble submission to the good pleasure of God manifested by the vote of the Body of the Institute, a profound calm invaded our soul. We could not refuse. In these days of disorders, menaces of all kinds, and when the post of command forebodes conflicts and suffering, to refuse the Office would have been cowardice and ingratitude; cowardice, indeed, to refuse to shoulder the Cross with the Divine Master; cowardice to abandon the cause of Christian Education at the precise hour when its liberty is menaced by the enemies of God; ingratitude also because we owe all that we are to our Religious Family. From it we have received the blessings and joys of the Religious Life and professional service. With the strictest justice can we apply to the Institute an expression of our Community prayers: "I am thine because thou hast made me all that I am." And hence, in all humility and despite our insufficiency, we have accepted the post which was imposed upon us, trusting in the divine assistance to serve our Brothers and bear the burdens of the government of the Institute, to preserve and increase, if possible, the precious treasure confided to our care so as to transmit it faithfully to our successors.

Besides, our confidence is enhanced by the fact that we are not alone in carrying the load of office. In accordance with the suggestions that came from the Sacred Congregation of Religious, the General Chapter has given us in the person of Very Dear Brother Dionysius van Jezus, Assistant for Belgium, a Vicar General, to aid us in the administration of the Congregation, and to replace us in case of sickness or prolonged absence. There is a tendency to generalize such appointments in Religious Orders, for

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from the administrative center of the Congregation. Moreover he had the kindness to publish the annual Circulars in English and French and to forward them to the Districts of the two Americas. And now that these venerable colleagues of yesterday are about to take their well-merited retirement, it is a pleasure for us to express the gratitude of all and to assure them of our prayers and religious esteem.

The Rules and Constitutions do not determine the status of retired Members of the Regime; hence the General Chapter of 1946, adopting the decisions of the Chapter of 1875, thought it advisable to supply for this omission, so as to assure to these venerable servitors of the Institute all the respect and attentions to which the position they held gives them right. They are under the immediate direction of the Brother Superior General, wherever their house of residence may be, retaining their title and their precedence immediately after the Regime. We, ourselves will take the necessary measures to procure for them all the cares and attention required by their age, infirmities and former position. As for themselves, their mission is not terminated; they shall continue to serve the Institute by their prayers, sufferings and devoted labors. We ourself will have frequent recourse to their counsels that the Congregation may continue to benefit by their wealth of wisdom and experience. In these Very Dear Veteran Brothers, we have a further motive of courage and confidence.

We record with a singular pleasure another cause of rejoicing coming from your delegates to the General Chapter. Even now do we feel thrilled in informing you that our solemn assemblies were distinguished by an exemplary charity, piety and regularity, and as such they were a complete success. After the disturbances of six years of war, we had reasons to fear the possible difficulty of gathering delegates for a General Chapter. But nothing came up to mar our peaceful Chapter. On the contrary, our meetings exhibited perfect concord, respect, and mutual deference, without however diminishing perfect liberty of expression and freedom of discussion. And again what emulation did they manifest to promote the spiritual good of the family and to restore among us its best traditions, adapting them to the present requirements and to the greater extension of our Society. The spectacle of a General Chapter assembling in spite of obstacles of travel, passports, difficulties in securing the needed food, and yet going through its work in perfect ease, unity of mind and heart, without strain or stress, partakes of the miraculous and reveals the work and hand of God which conduct things in His own Merciful and Providential Way. For us, Very Dear Brothers, such a spectacle at the start of our Generalate was indeed a source of encouragement and security.

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which recent events have shown the necessity. The Very Dear Brother Vicar General is well known to most of our Brothers. For the last fourteen years he has been in charge of the Districts of Belgium, Holland and the Congo. He has played a preponderant part in the elaboration of the plans of our new Mother House. During the World Wars I and II he has shown uncommon valor in the accomplishment of his task. Personally, since 1921, when he followed the Second Novitiate, strong bonds of friendship have united both of us. Therefore, he will be a kind of "alter ego" to the Brother Superior General. Whilst maintaining the unbroken unity and the plenitude of direction, the Brother Superior General will have the assurance that his own decisions will be surrounded with greater light, his responsibilities supported by more serious guaranties, and the affairs of the Institute will be expedited more promptly and more efficaciously.

Furthermore, we wish to emphasize the fact that Divine Providence has notably favored us in the dear Brothers Assistants whom the General Chapter has attached to us as Councilors and bulwarks of strength and succor in the exercise of the authority of which we are the depository. The Rules and traditions of the Institute, as also canonical direction, make it obligatory for us to govern with them. They will surely bring to us their most devoted and eager collaboration. Eighteen years living the common life of the Supreme Council of the Congregation prompt us to affirm that there is no other community in the Institute where there is a greater spirit of union, charity and religious abnegation than that which exists in the bosom of the Regime. It is quite to be expected in our midst, as life comes to the members through the head, and the strength of a Religious Congregation springs from the examples of those who govern, more so than from their words and teachings.

We desire to render here a well-merited homage to the Most Honorable Brother Arese-Casimir, retired Vicar General, as also to the retired members of the Regime: The dear Brothers Assistants Judor, Abban-Philip, Gordien-Desire, Pedro Luis, Nivard-Joseph, Francesco di Maria and Romuald Hosea, who by reason of age or infirmities could not well continue in Office. In the name of the Congregation we are happy to express our gratitude to them for the exceptional services they have rendered the Institute, especially during the war. Very special mention must be made of the Most Honorable Brother Arese-Casimir, Vicar General, who despite his great age, assumed without failing — the heavy responsibility of conducting the Lasallian Family. He was efficaciously assisted in his work by Dear Brother Abban Philip who willingly accepted in addition to his own Districts, the direction of the Districts of South and Central America, cut off practically

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Yes, indeed, beloved Capitulants may you be requited for the confidence you have placed in us, and for the consoling help you have given us to sustain our strength in the midst of arduous trials and difficulties inherent to the proper accomplishment of our Office.

May the Divine Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Good Counsel, so frequently invoked during the General Chapter, and all our heavenly protectors, St. Joseph, St. John Baptist de la Salle, Blessed Solomon, Venerable Brother Benilde and all our saintly Brothers bless you for the consolation we have had in our contact with you and for the great good you have procured our beloved Institute by the wisdom of your deliberations.

There remains now, Very Dear Brothers, to inform you of the good news that on June 11, 1946, there was held at the Vatican a second preparatory Congregation for the examination of the two miracles attributed to the Venerable Brother Benilde. The success of this Congregation was complete, as it recorded the almost unanimous affirmative vote of the six Cardinals and Consultors. You will join with us in thanking God for this decisive step in the Cause of Venerable Brother Benilde which gives the promise that his Beatification will follow in a not far distant future. His Holiness ratified the results of the Congregation Friday, June 14, 1946.

It is now our purpose to satisfy your very legitimate curiosity concerning the labors and results of the General Chapter which began May 15, and ended June 7.

This Circular will be composed of five parts:

1. History of the General Chapter.
2. Directions of the Sacred Congregation.
3. Revision of the Common Rules and the Rule of Government.
4. Resolutions of the Commissions of the General Chapter.
5. Details on the Daily Work of the Chapter — and some Documentary Information.

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PART ONE

THE HISTORY OF THE CHAPTER CONVOCAATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

Circular No. 316, of October 1945, issued by the Most Honorable Brother Arese-Casimir, Vicar General, announced the holding of the Capitulary Assembly and requested that the election of deputies be proceeded with. He also recalled the exceptional importance of this General Chapter for the future of the Congregation, imploring the blessing of God on the work of the Capitulants. We were hardly out of the war and neither the place nor date of the Assembly could be determined or foreseen. Traveling was uncertain; our Mother House in Rome has been requisitioned by succeeding military groups for the last five years and had suffered various damages which would necessitate considerable repairs. Two dear Brothers Assistants were sent to Rome to hasten the work of reparations and to consult Ecclesiastical Authorities on the possibility of assembling members of the Chapter in Rome. Very grave reasons demanded that without delay the Institute terminate the provisional administration arising from the decease of the Most Honorable Brother Junien-Victor. To prolong the status quo presented serious inconveniences.

It may be well for us to let you know something about the primary negotiations for the holding of the General Chapter which were undertaken through the kind office of His Eminence Cardinal Marmaggi, our devoted Cardinal Protector. Several times His Eminence consulted the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII on our project. Accordingly we were advised to convoke our assembly without too much delay and not later than the month of May. The assistance of the Vatican Secretariate of State and Officials of the Italian Government facilitated travel to and from Italy for the Delegates to the General Chapter. Finally we were able to set the date of our Assembly for May 15. Notice of that date was sent to the Institute on February 1, 1946.

Fearing however that the quorum of two-thirds of the Capitulants might not be able to reach the General Chapter on time for its start, owing to possible insurmountable difficulties, we consulted His Excellency, Archbishop Pasetto, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, who promised us a rescript validating the operation of the General Chapter if no more than a third of the Delegates were absent. Divine Providence came to our assistance because of the 117 Brothers designated to participate in the Chapter, 112 were present at its first session, May 15, 1946. Three more members arrived on the 19th of May, and the last two, some few days later. Our confidence in God was not in vain as your prayers were heard.

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF NOTES

According to the Rule of Government, five days before the opening of the General Chapter, a special Commission composed of Members by Right and Members Elected undertook the classification of the Notes from the perpetually professed Brothers. The thirteen Members of this Commission designated by the Most Honorable Brother Vicar General, met at 9:00 A. M., May 10, and after the recitation of the *Veni Creator* and the usual prayers pronounced the oath, the tenor of which is as follows: "I Brother swear to accomplish my office faithfully, not to divert any of the Notes sent to the Chapter, and not to inform any person other than Members of the Chapter of the object of the Notes nor the names of the Brothers who signed them."

The Commission was composed of the following members: Dear Brothers Gordien Desire, retired Assistant, President; Charlemagne-Leon, Econome General; Francis de Sales, Secretary General; Leone di Maria, Postulator General, Teller; Agnel-Isidore and Cornelius Luke, Visitors General, all Members by Right. Members appointed were Dear Brothers Fidentien-Paul, Apollinaire-Paul, Nivard Anselm, Rainaldo, Natalus Herbert, Maglorius of Jesus and Ulrik.

The chest in which the Notes had been locked was then opened and given to the Members of the Commission who began their work of classification. More than three thousand Notes were thus distributed into the ten prepared files during the seven meetings of the Commission. The Report of the Commission was presented to the General Chapter May 16. The committee secretary had the regret to announce that several of the writers of Notes had not taken into account the recommendations made in the Circular convoking the General Chapter, and for this reason some communications had to be eliminated. In spite of the recommendations given, divers subjects had been treated in the same Notes of rather varied sizes and appearance. To avoid a recurrence of this defect the secretary proposed that in future prepared forms of Notes be sent with the Circular of Convocation.

In the course of the General Chapter the ten prepared files were assigned to the special Commissions in accord with Chapter VIII, Art. 79 of the Rule of Government — as follows:

First Commission: Means and Methods of Formation and Years of Probation.

Second Commission: Recruiting and the Houses of Formation.

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Third Commission: Perseverance, Second Novitiate, Vows, Holy Founder.

Fourth Commission: Catechetical Formation, Religious Studies, Catechism Examination, Pedagogical Formation, Secular Studies of Brothers.

Fifth Commission: Day and Boarding Schools, Gratuity, Catholic Action.

Sixth Commission: Regularity.

Seventh Commission: Administration, Chapters, Superiors.

Eighth Commission: Administrative Questions, Religious Costume, Names of Brothers, Finances.

Ninth Commission: Publications.

Tenth Commission: Foreign Missions, Health of Brothers, Retired Brothers.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE AT THE MOTHER HOUSE

The Feast of our Holy Founder, St. John Baptist de la Salle assumed an exceptional solemnity this year. The presence in Rome of the Members of the General Chapter from the five continents of the world give it an ecumenical dignity which was enhanced by the ceremonies accompanying its celebration.

Tuesday evening, May 14, the First Vespers were announced by a peal of bells and chimes from the campanile of the Chapel building. Brothers, in joyous mood entered chapel and assembled before the Relics of Our Holy Founder, exposed for the occasion above and behind the main altar. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Tonna, Titular Archbishop of Millet, former pupil of our Brothers, presided at the solemn Vespers. The Junior Novices of Albano, whose light and charming voices echoed amidst Perosian melodies chanted the Vespers alternately with the deep voices of the Brothers' choir. The other parts of the Liturgical Office of St. de la Salle were recited by the community according to schedule. Our souls were thus prepared for the splendor of the Feast Day on the morrow.

In very truth the Feast of St. John Baptist de la Salle was a brilliant one for the members of the General Chapter. The first Mass was celebrated by His Excellency, Msgr. Arata, Assessor of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church and Archbishop of Sardes, also a former pupil of our Brothers. This first Holy Mass and Holy Communion marked the official opening event of the General Chapter. His Excellency told

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the Capitulants in a very excellent French his esteem and gratitude for the Brothers, his former teachers, insisting upon the great importance of their Christian Schools today. At 9:30 A. M. the Pontifical Mass was celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Micara, former Apostolic Nuncio in Brussels. The Choir brilliantly interpreted the Pontifical Mass of Perosi.

In the afternoon of the Feast we were again favored by solemn Vespers presided over by Msgr. Rotta, Titular Archbishop of Thebes, former Nuncio in Budapest, and also by the panegyric of the Holy Founder, given by the Rev. Father de Faulcommer, Assistant to the Superior General of the Dominicans. The preacher developed the theme, "The Action of Divine Providence in Establishing Christian Schools". He concluded by referring to the importance of the Christian Educator's task.

A solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament presided over by His Eminence, Cardinal Marmaggi, Protector of the Institute, terminated the religious ceremonies of the day. His Eminence presided at another function on the same occasion, that of The Inauguration of a Catechetical Exposition arranged by the Brothers of the two extensive Districts of Italy who have attained real prominence in the teaching of Religion in that country. They edit a Catechetical Review which is much appreciated in seminaries and educational establishment. In addition, the Italian Brothers have published a comprehensive series of highly esteemed Catechism Manuals. They have organized pedagogical Conferences and Congresses in most of the Dioceses of Italy. The purpose of the Exposition at the Mother House during the General Chapter was to make known these catechetical activities to the Institute assembled in the Mother House on this occasion.

THE CATECHETICAL EXPOSITION

Inaugurated May 15, at 7 P. M.

By

HIS EMINENCE, CARDINAL MARMAGGI

Entering into the Exposition Hall of the Mother House which had been appropriately decorated, His Eminence made the round of the divers stands and proceeded to the throne in the center of the hall where he was greeted by the Dear Brother Leone di Maria, Postulator General of the Institute, and National Inspector of the Catechetical Activities for the schools of Italy. Brother Leone thanked His Eminence for his fatherly interest in our Religious Family and then referred to the purpose which

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the organizers of the Exposition had in mind. Their wish was to exhibit before the eyes of the Capitulants the activities of our Italian pupils in Catechetical work and to show how a well-organized method can greatly enhance religious truth; the main end of which is to establish the reign of God in souls through the Catholic School and the teaching of religion.

In reply His Eminence stated that by his very office, as Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, in Charge of Religious Teaching he was bound to encourage the development of Catechetical activities and therefore he felt quite at home at the Exposition in the Mother House. He felicitated the organizers of such a splendid exhibit of the Catechism work of the Institute. He furthermore stated that he had always been an admirer of the zeal of the Brothers of the Christian Schools for the teaching of religion.

The distinguished Protector of the Institute then established a parallel between the role of the Priest and that of the Religious educator. "The apostleship of the former," he said, "can be exercised but for a limited time and manner and with little effect unless the children are well grounded in religious truth and practices in a really Christian Family. The Brother of the Christian Schools, on the contrary, makes his religious influence continue all the day long in his class by his teaching, impregnated with the doctrine of Christ." Once again, therefore His Eminence affirmed that the teaching of religion is the very substance of the special vocation of the Brother. Finally and in a very affectionate and appropriate peroration he exhorted the members of the General Chapter to promote the Christian Educational work throughout the Institute in a spirit of zeal for souls and for the greater good of God's Church. He concluded his discourse by a prayer and a blessing for the success of the General Chapter.

There remains for me now to felicitate and thank the promoter and the artists of this Catechetical Exposition. During the time of the General Chapter the Capitulants had occasion to visit it frequently, as will also individuals from the Parishes and Religious Communities of Rome whose zeal for teaching religion will be stimulated by such an interesting and captivating Exhibit.

PREPARATORY ASSEMBLY OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

On May 15, at 12 noon, the Preparatory Meeting of the Chapter was held under the presidency of the Most Honorable Brother Arese Casimir, Vicar General. After words of welcome to the Capitulants, the venerable

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Superior called attention to the very exceptional circumstances which drew Brothers from the four corners of the world to this Assembly of the chosen delegates of the body of the Institute, and he urged them to praise Divine Providence for the wonderful achievement of their being able to come to the General Chapter.

On this day, the Feast of St. John Baptist de la Salle, he exhorted the Assembly to have recourse to the powerful intercession of our Holy Founder, in favor of the proceedings of the Chapter. In effect, the work of the Assembly was to be a really supernatural one assuring the apostolic fecundity of the Congregation. Such was surely the expectation of our Beloved Father and Founder, our saintly Brothers and all the members of the Lasallian Family as well as that of our Holy Mother, the Church.

In the Institute's name, the Most Honorable Brother Vicar General took occasion to thank the Delegates of Districts spared from the ravages of war who had sent gifts of food and clothing to the Mother House and other establishments of the Institute which had been damaged as a result of the war.

After making a strong appeal to the spirit of charity in reference to the proceedings for the elections to take place in the Chapter, and counselling discretion in speaking with Capitulants or others, the Brother Vicar General proceeded with the designation of the Secretaries of the Assembly. The Capitulants unanimously approved the proposal to name as Secretaries the Dear Brother Francis de Sales, Secretary General of the Institute, the Dear Brother Fredien Charles, Visitor of Paris; and Dear Brother Maurice Emile, Auxiliary Visitor, of the District of South Belgium.

After the reading of a number of remarks and directions concerning good order the session was closed at 12:45 o'clock.

THE TRIDUUM PREPARATORY TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER

The spiritual retreat at the beginning of the General Chapter was begun on the evening of May 15. Twice a day, the distinguished Sulpician Father Jeune, former Director of a seminary, and at present the Sulpician Procurator General, centered his discourse on the spirituality of the Sulpician thought which influenced to a large extent the spiritual doctrine of our Holy Founder. Saint John Baptist de La Salle was to be the guide of the Capitulants in the grave decisions they were about to make in view of the higher interests and destinies of the Institute.

The three days following were spent in recollection and prayer. During the meeting of the afternoon of May 17, the Most Honorable Brother Vicar

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General announced that at 7 o'clock the Mass of the Holy Ghost would be celebrated as prescribed by the Rule of Government (Chap. VIII, Art. 44), followed by the singing of the *Veni Creator*. The Most Honorable Brother Vicar General then evoked the memory of the Most Honorable Brother Superior General Junien Victor and the other 36 members of the last General Chapter who had answered the Call of God since 1934. The list of these dear departed Confreres was read by the Secretary General, who singled out amongst them those who had filled important offices in active service: three retired members of the Regime, a Procurator General and an Econome General. Quite an evident emotion and laudable pride were manifested at the mention of the names of Brother Leonardo Jose, former Visitor of the District of Barcelona and Dionisio Luis, both Capitulants of 1934, who were put to death for the faith in Spain, July 1936. A solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated the next morning for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of the last General Chapter, the list of whom was hung near the entrance of the Mother House Chapel. These worthy deceased Brothers of ours were to be throughout the Chapter our intercessors in Heaven and their prayers would efficaciously aid us in the course of the General Assembly.

THE ELECTION OF THE MOST HONORABLE SUPERIOR GENERAL

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1946

(Extract from the Capitulary Register)

In the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Six, May 19, 1946, the IV Sunday after Pentecost, the Members of the General Chapter which opened in Rome on May 15th, 1946, and constituted as such by a duly established document of May 18, 1946, have assembled for the election of a Superior General to succeed the Most Honorable Brother Junien Victor, deceased October 15, 1940.

Present at this election were all the Members by right and all the deputies regularly elected for this General Chapter, except Dear Brothers Fridolin Maria and Hanno, forcibly retarded in arriving.

After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass had been celebrated, at which the Capitulants received Holy Communion, the Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed. At eight o'clock precisely the Capitulants went immediately to the General Chapter Hall, the exterior doors of which were locked by a Brother with perpetual vows who was not a member of the Assembly.

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This solemn Assembly was presided over by the Most Honorable Brother Arese Casimir, Vicar General. After the usual prayers, Very Dear Brother Secretary General announced the presence of the three new Capitulants the Dear Brothers Harteman Leon, Visitor General; Elpidephore Rene and Armel Edmund, Visitors of Argentina and Peru-Bolivia, respectively, who had arrived that morning after months of travel. Verification was then made of their Act of Deputation and they were officially pronounced members of the General Chapter.

The Secretaries of the Chapter then proceeded to distribute the ballot tickets for the election of a Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The President of the Assembly then addressed the Members in the words of recommendation, based upon the prescriptions of the Rule of Government for the election of a Superior General (Chap. VIII, Art. 47): "If he be pious let him pray for us; if he be learned let him instruct us; but if he be prudent let him govern us." He then referred to the holiness and gravity of the oath the Delegates were about to take. The *Veni Creator* was then recited with the Collect and invocations prescribed for the occasion; following which the Capitulants knelt in profound meditation for a quarter of an hour to fix their choice definitely. This was the time allotted to the Holy Ghost during which names of candidates were to be considered under the eye of God. The Election was to be approved of Heaven before being made on earth. It was with such thoughts that the President proceeded with the Oath to be taken before this important election of the Superior General.

"I swear, and take Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Wisdom to witness that I, Brother vote for the Brother whom I deem before God should be elected for the Office of Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools."

The President then proceeded to the balloting booth and deposited his vote. He was followed likewise by the Members by Right in the order of their precedence; the Three Secretaries of the Chapter, and the elected Capitulants according to the date of perpetual profession; and finally the three Tellers. This first part of the Election of the Superior General was concluded by the *Sub tuum*.

Before proceeding with the counting of the votes, the President and the Tellers standing took the following oath: "I, Brother swear to fulfil my office faithfully and to keep silence, even after the election, on all that will be done in the Assembly."

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The balloting being finished the Tellers overturned the ballot box and counted the ballot tickets: 115. An impressive moment followed during this operation — twice the vote brought no election; the third vote succeeded. At eleven o'clock precisely the first Teller arose and with great feeling proclaimed the result: "Dear Brother Assistant Athanase Emile has obtained the majority of the suffrages of the Assembly."

Turning towards the chosen Superior General, the President of the Chapter addressed him this question: "Dear Brother Athanase Emile, do you accept the Office of Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools?"

As a mark of acquiescence and humble submission, the elected Superior kissed the floor. The Dear Brother President then stood before the Assembly and pronounced the traditional formula — "In the name of the Institute and of all the Electors to whom the present election belongs, I declare our Dear Brother Athanase Emile lawfully elected as Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools."

The President of the Assembly and the Tellers approached the new Superior, accompanied him to the Presidential Chair and then, on bended knees, presented him with the *Book of the Rule*, and the *Great Seal of the Institute*. Afterwards kneeling down, the President was the first to pay the new Superior the homage of obedience, by kissing his hand and receiving the accolade. All the Capitulants in order of precedence did likewise.

There then remained the duty of expressing the gratitude of the Assembly to God who conducts all things to their wise and good ends. The cortege was formed and made its way processionally to the Chapel singing the *Benedictus*. Finally with the ringing of all the bells, a glorious *Te Deum* terminated the ceremony. Thus was installed the twentieth Successor of Saint John Baptist de la Salle.

Done in Rome, in the Chapter Hall of the Mother House, the date, month and year herein mentioned.

(Signatures follow)

Conforming with the tradition of the past, on the very day of the election, the following telegram was addressed to the Holy Father.

"To His Holiness, Pius XII, Vatican

"The General Chapter of the Brothers of the Christian Schools brings to the knowledge of Your Holiness as its first Capitulary Act, the election as Superior General of Brother Athanase Emile, up to the present Assistant General, who hereby reaffirms to your Holiness the protestation of

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his own fidelity to the Chair of Peter, conformably to the example of our Holy Founder, and furthermore declares that the work of the General Chapter will be inspired by the standards and directives received from the Holy See. He humbly implores Your Apostolic Blessing."

The following day we had the signal honor of receiving the answer that follows.

"The Very Reverend Brother Athanase Emile, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools:

"His Holiness rejoices with paternal affection at the news of your election as Superior General of the Religious Family of Saint John Baptist de la Salle and with paternal good wishes, he follows the course of your General Chapter. He grants to yourself and to each of the Capitulants the Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of Divine enlightenment for fruitful labor and the prosperity of your very meritorious Institute in the noble work of the formation of Christian youth.

MONTINI, SUBSTITUT."

This expression of distinguished benevolence on the part of His Holiness was received by us with profound gratitude, and hence we heartily joined in reciting the usual prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father in view of gaining the plenary indulgence attached to the Apostolic Blessing.

AFTER THE ELECTION

As soon as the election of the Superior General was known at the Mother House, a telephone message was sent to the Vatican Radio which immediately transmitted it in divers languages to the world at large. It may be fitting for us to render our homage of thanks to the Reverend Jesuit Fathers in charge of the Vatican Radio who were kind enough to allow broadcasting a quarter of an hour each evening following the election. Such broadcasts were made in Italian, French, English, Spanish and German, by corresponding members of the General Chapter — all of which illustrated the universal vitality of the Lasallian Family.

The Most Honorable Brother Superior General presided at the afternoon session of the Chapter. After the usual prayers he announced that he wished to inaugurate his mission as Superior by thanking Divine Providence for the special blessings bestowed upon our Religious Family, especially the blessings bestowed during the preceding years. And then he added, "We affirm our sentiments of respect and veneration for His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth. After him we wish to

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express our veneration for His Eminence, Cardinal Marmaggi, the Protector of our Institute to whom we have just paid our respects in person.

"Likewise do we wish to include in our homage of grateful remembrance the Most Honorable Brother Junien Victor, who was so inopportunately removed from the Institute by the Divine Call, and also his immediate successor, the Most Honorable Brother Arese Casimir who so valiantly carried the torch of leadership in the Institute during the period of the war.

"We felicitate the Capitulants for the fine spectacle of liberty and unity which was given during the morning session, and we earnestly request the aid of their cooperation and prayers that we may serve the Institute in the full measure of all our means and strength."

The Most Honorable Brother then gave a forecast of the work reserved for the General Chapter, announcing a prorogation of the powers of the Brothers Assistants until a new Regime had been constituted towards the end of the week. In the meantime the Capitulants were instructed to proceed with the study of the Notes of the Professed Brothers in each of the Commissions that were to be organized on the morrow.

The Most Honorable Brother Superior announced furthermore that he wished to have direct contact with every Capitulant, and that he would start on the morrow receiving them privately.

Following this session the Act of Election of the Superior General was read to the Capitulants and signed by them.

Before the closing of this first session presided over by the new Superior of the Institute, the Brother Secretary General, invoking the tradition of the past, requested him to give the Assembly his blessing as father and Superior. The Most Honorable Brother willingly consented and the Capitulants received the blessing kneeling and with the most filial respect.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSIONS FOR THE STUDY OF NOTES AND MEMORIALS SENT TO THE CHAPTER

On May 20, at 9:15 o'clock, after the reading of the Report of the Proceedings of the previous session, the Most Honorable Brother announced the election of Brothers Assistants for May 24. He also stated that due to age and infirmities the Very Dear Brothers Arese-Casimir, Abban Philip, Pedro Luis, Nivard-Joseph, Francesco di Maria and Romuald Hosea had humbly requested that their mandate be not renewed.

We then proceeded with the designation of the Members of the

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various Commissions, each of which was to elect its own Chairman and Secretary. The reading and discussion of the Notes allotted to each Commission were then continued in Committee Rooms; after which the Secretary drew up a report to be read and discussed in a general session of the General Chapter. To facilitate the deliberations on these reports they were drawn up under the form of Resolutions, which were to be adopted, rejected or modified by the vote of the Chapter either by a secret ballot or by hand raising.

The Most Honorable Brother Superior General reminded the Members of the Commissions that it was a duty of conscience to read all the Notes. With equal insistency he called attention to their duty of following the directions and propositions emanating from the Regime, especially in all that concerned the revision of the Rules upon which for several years Committees of the Regime had been working very conscientiously.

That the work of the Commissions be conducted with all becoming supernatural spirit, the Most Honorable Superior commented upon the words of the oath which was to precede the deliberations of the Assembly and which he pronounced himself, "I, Brother of the Society of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, swear not to propose, nor to give my deliberate opinion on the things proposed in the present Assembly except in view of the greater glory of God and the greater good of the Society; I also bind myself not to say anything outside of the Assembly of that which shall be decreed as a matter of secrecy."

Each of the Capitulants in the order of precedence ratified the same oath with raised hand, saying "I swear".

The Brother Secretary then read the names of the members of the various Commissions.

1st Commission: Recruiting and Houses of Formation

Brother Agnel Isidore, President	Brother Cesareo
Brother Ismael Gabriel, Secretary	Brother Malon Raphael
Brother Trivier	Brother Enrique Jose
Brother Ulrick	Brother Conall Andrew
Brother Fidentien-Paul	Brother Estanislao Luis

2nd Commission: Methods of Formation

Brother Damien Georges, President	Brother Conde Dominique
Brother Palatin Joseph, Secretary	Brother Eliphus Victor
Brother Neonile Charles	Brother Eusebio Felix
Brother Denijs Hugo	Brother Arnost

Brother Enee Joseph

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3rd Commission: Perseverance

Brother Gordien Desire, President	Brother Ildefonsus Damian
Brother Maglorius of Jesus, Secretary	Brother Gilbert Ailbe
Brother Severien Joseph	Brother Menandre Alphonse
Brother Antonio Maria	Brother Charles Edmund
Brother Guillermo Felix	

4th Commission: Catechetical and Pedagogical Formation

Brother Leone di Maria, President	Brother Galdus Paul
Brother Nicomedes, Maria, Secretary	Brother Wenceslao Juan
Brother Nivard Anselm	Brother Itale-Hippolyte
Brother Sigismondo	Brother Udalric-Bernard
Brother Theophiel	Brother Narcissus Denis

5th Commission: Schools and Colleges

Brother Cornelius Luke, President	Brother Calixte-Auguste
Brother Clodoald, Secretary	Brother Alexius Victor
Brother Charlemagne	Brother Pontien-Ambroise
Brother Philip Antoon	Brother Valeric-Alphonse
Brother Joseph-Felix	Brother Artheme-Leonce

6th Commission: Regularity

Brother Harteman-Leon, President	Brother Apollinaire-Paul
Brother Marie-Joseph, Secretary	Brother Just-Adrien
Brother Emilian James	Brother Gerbert-Marie
Brother Carlos Borromeo	Brother Ignacio Gabriel
Brother Sexbury Claudius	Brother Rainaldo
Brother Ulbertus Alfred	

7th Commission: General Administration

Brother Charlemagne-Leon, President	Brother Agaton Juan
Brother Natalus Hebert, Secretary	Brother Nicholas Austin
Brother Augustin-Robert	Brother Aubert-Joseph
Brother Philip Beniti	Brother Aquilinus Joseph
Brother Damien-Louis	Brother Neostere-Vincent

8th Commission: Divers Administrative Questions

Brother Armel Felix, President	Brother Aldomar Kilian
Brother Cyprien Pierre, Secretary	Brother Maurice Paul
Brother Theodard, Camille	Brother Merry Alphonse
Brother Dieudonne Simon	Brother Andres Hibernon
Brother Gervais Marie	Brother Nethelme de Jesus
Brother Maurele Eleusippe	Brother Costanzo

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9th Commission: Publications

Brother Athanase Paul, President	Brother Elpidephore-Rene
Brother Adelin Ernest, Secretary	Brother Gioachino
Brother Sebastien Ambroise	Brother Doncelin Marie
Brother Hilary Bernard	Brother Athelbert Jules
Brother Lienard Regis	

10th Commission: Missions and Colonies

Brother Joseph Marc, President	Brother Lawrence O'Toole
Brother Donatien Jules, Secretary	Brother Benignus Patrick
Brother Cyprien Gam	Brother Barnitus
Brother Christantien	Brother Possesseur Pierre
Brother Vernon Ignace	Brother Armel Edmund

ELECTION OF DEAR BROTHERS ASSISTANTS

The second part of the Circular will inform you of some directives of the Sacred Congregation of Religious for the election of the Brothers Assistants. For the present we shall limit ourselves to the report of the election itself.

MEETINGS OF THE MORNING AND EVENING, MAY 24

After the usual opening prayer and the adoption of the minutes of the previous session, the Most Honorable Brother Superior opened the meeting that was to elect the Brother Assistants. He said in part: "Dear Brothers Capitulants, we will all endeavor to elevate our thoughts to the supernatural plane, rejecting merely human views. To be an Assistant means the bearing of a well-nigh overwhelming burden. We will pass the day under the protection of three great thoughts:—That of the Feast Day of Our Lady Help of Christians; the thought of our Holy Founder on this 46th anniversary of his Canonization; and the remembrance in our prayers of the Most Honorable Brother Allais Charles, who died eighteen years ago today.

The three Tellers were duly selected; the invocation *Veni Creator* was recited in two choirs; some minutes of recollection followed during which on bended knees the Capitulants placed themselves under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The oath prescribed by Canon 506 was taken in the order of precedence.

The Elections were made one by one, by secret ballot, conformably to Canon Law. At each voting the voting tickets were completely counted and then the first Teller announced the results. After that the Most Honorable Brother Superior proclaimed the election if no opposition was

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manifested. Four former Assistants who were disposed to continue their mandate were re-elected. They were Dear Brothers Dionysius Van Jezus, Adolphe-Marie, Philothee-Jean and Zacharias.

At 11:30 A. M., the Most Honorable Brother Superior General adjourned the meeting as he had an audience at the Vatican.

It was resumed at 3:00 P. M. Eight more Assistants were then elected. They are Dear Brothers

Eliphus Victor, Visitor of New York

Guillermo Felix, Visitor of Madrid

Gioachino, Visitor of Turin

Nivard Anselm, Visitor of Montreal

Damian Louis, Visitor of Nantes

Lawrence O'Toole, Director of Scholasticate, Faithlegg, Ireland

Antonio Marie, Visitor of Cuba-Mexico

Fridolin Maria, Visitor of Austria, who being absent from the Chapter was notified by telegram.

Before adjourning the session the Most Honorable Brother Superior addressed the Dear Brothers Assistants who had requested their retirement from office, and thanked them anew in the name of the Institute for their devotedness and edification and assured them of his admiration and unflinching attachment to them.

After the well-merited homage paid them by the Most Honorable Brother Superior, the humility of the retired Assistants had to stand another assault. One after the other, the Brothers Visitors of their respective Obediences addressed them in their own language and in delicate terms, recalling the memory of the great things they had accomplished in the Districts of which they had the charge. It was all a touching manifestation of the gratitude and respectful deference which characterize the spirit of the Lasallian Family, between inferiors and superiors, in all the degrees of its hierarchy.

ELECTION OF THE BROTHER VICAR GENERAL

On May 25, 1946, at 9:00 A. M., after the *Veni Creator* and the prescribed prayers, the Most Honorable Superior General reminded the Capitulants of the exceptional importance and gravity of the vote to be cast by the Capitulants for the election of a substitute to the Superior General in the eventuality that the latter might be prevented from exercising his office.

The Tellers were designated, the Oath taken, and the election of the Brother Vicar General proceeded with. The result was that the Very Dear Brother Dionysius Van Jezus was elected as Vicar General and was proclaimed and installed after he accepted his Office.

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THE ELECTION OF THE ELECTIVE COMMISSION

Another elective meeting was held May 27. It had for purpose the selection of the members of the Elective Commission which in the event of the death of the Superior General would have to confirm the Vicar General in all his powers or name another for the time remaining until the convocation of another General Chapter; or, again to replace a retired or deceased Brother Assistant.

Each Brother Capitulant was requested to draw up a list of twenty electors chosen from the Members of the General Chapter. These lists in triple copies were enclosed in three separate envelopes which were collected and sealed at the session of May 27, and again enclosed in three packages with triple seal each around which were affixed the signatures of the three secretaries. These three packages will be kept safely, one in Rome, another in Madrid and the third in New York. Hence, whatever be the eventualities the Elective Commission may be convened in its proper time and in one of the three places to which they were sent.

THE ELECTION OF A NEW ASSISTANT

The Dear Brothers Fridolin Maria and Hanno, both delegates of the District of Austria arrived in Rome in time for the Meeting of Monday, June 3. And with them came an unexpected problem. Dear Brother Fridolin Maria, elected Assistant May 24, declared himself incapable for reasons of health to fulfil the duties of his new office. His declarations were supported by a letter from the Council of the District of Austria. The Most Honorable Brother Superior General had to agree with the reasonableness of the appeal and consequently requested Dear Brother Fridolin Maria to leave the Chapter Hall whilst the Assembly deliberated and decided his case. By a nearly unanimous vote the General Chapter recognized the validity of the reasons invoked by the Dear Brother Fridolin Maria. He was recalled to the Chapter Hall and the Most Honorable Brother Superior General informed him that he was released from the functions which he had not yet exercised. The election of his successor was put off until the morrow.

The Session of Tuesday, June 4, began accordingly by the election of a Brother Assistant for Central Europe. Again the Most Honorable Brother Superior in a few words recalled that for the one to be elected there was need of his knowing at least the elements of several languages used in the countries of Central Europe. After the recitation of the *Veni Creator*, some minutes of recollection and the taking of the oath, the Chapter proceeded with the voting. Dear Brother Dominikus Norbert, of the District

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of Austria was elected twelfth Assistant of the Superior General. He was not present at the Chapter not being a member thereof, but he was immediately apprised of his election.

PONTIFICAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 4

The historical part of this Circular was closed with the Approval of the Constitution referring to the Election of Brothers Assistants. There was an event connected with the activities of the General Chapter which we would like you to know and share. This was the joy of the Capitulants who were admitted to an audience with the Holy Father, June 4, as well as the emotion we felt personally at the private audience with which we were favored as Superior General, followed by that of the assembled members of the General Chapter.

On Sunday, June 2, a double notification was received from the Chamberlain of the Sacred Palace, informing us that the Brother Superior General would be received in private audience on Tuesday, June 4, at 11:00 A. M., and the Members of the Chapter, in special audience at 11:30 the same day. When the time arrived we, as Superior General were personally admitted into the Private Chamber of the Holy Father. After the three usual genuflections which we made upon entering, the Holy Father offered us a chair near His Own, telling us that he recognized us, for three times recently we had the privilege and honor of being received by Him in Special Audience.

In addressing the Holy Father we recalled the deeply felt sentiments of profound veneration and filial obedience of the 16,000 Brothers of the Christian Schools whose General Chapter had just elected us Superior General. We then briefly presented the actual status of our Institute, our numerous works of Christian Education throughout the entire world. We took occasion also to relate the war damages which so many of our establishments had suffered in many countries. His Holiness frequently interrupted us asking further information notably the number of Brothers, victims of war, and the suffering of our Central European Brothers. "Most Holy Father," we answered, "the casualties of war with us during the universal conflict were numerous. Already during the Spanish Revolution, the persecutors of the Church had decimated our ranks; 156 of them had rendered the supreme testimony to the Faith by dying at the hands of the enemies of Christ; 73 of our Brothers lost their lives in battle during the war; 106 were deported into forced labor camps, 15 of whom died in their enforced exile; 24 of our Brothers were killed by the Army of occupation, among whom were 17 young Brothers missionaries in Manila, Philippines;

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27 Brothers died in the bombing of our houses; 297 were prisoners of war, 33 of whom are not yet liberated. These are our martyrs, Holy Father, and their message to us is to forgive our enemies, and to rejoice in being found worthy to be united with Our Lord in His Passion and the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world."

The Holy Father gave evidence of keen appreciation of what we told him concerning the remarkable fidelity to their religious vocation of Brothers in the Armed Forces, or as prisoners of war and those in forced labor and detention camps.

Another matter which attracted the particular attention of the Holy Father was the relatively high number of sacerdotal vocations emanating from our schools. "Our greatest honor, Your Holiness," we said to him, "is to assume in every Diocese an auxiliary role to that of the clergy as recruiters for their seminaries and for Congregations of Priests. In France alone the number of Priests now exercising their ministry coming from our schools amounts to 4,684, comprising 3,679 Secular Clergy and 985 Religious Priests, to which we must add 1,972 Seminarians."

We can add to these numbers also our sacerdotal vocations in other countries, approximately 12,000 vocations to the priesthood (actually functioning or in preparation therefore).

His Holiness expressed great satisfaction at such results, He then inquired the status of our Institute, its needs and difficulties and its maintenance and extension of good works. These questions of the Holy Father furnished us the occasion to remark that our Brothers were over-worked in many places, and our numerical insufficiency tended to encroach upon our religious life. Hence, would we readily close some of our establishments here and there to save vocations, but we are prevented from doing this by the Ordinaries of the Diocese where our Schools are functioning. We were pleased to hear His Holiness insist upon the need of protecting the supernatural life of our Brothers above all other needs or appeals.

As the Audience was nearing its end, we renewed our thanks to the Sovereign Pontiff for all the recommendations and directions given with His approval, by His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, and for the very clear and definite decision of the Holy See relative to such Brothers as aspire to the Priesthood. Finally we offered His Holiness the modest gift of the Institute for His Pontifical Good Works. In accepting our offering the Holy Father gave us a special souvenir medal and His Apostolic Blessing. Filled with the profound emotion and the warmth of His kindness we rejoined the group of Capitulants in the adjacent audience hall awaiting the entrance of the Holy Father a few

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minutes later. We now leave the remainder of our narrative to Mr. George Rigault our distinguished historian who happened to be at our Mother House preparing Volumes VI and VII of the General History of the Institute. He took the occasion of participating in the Audience granted by the Holy Father to the Members of the General Chapter. Here are his impressions:

"Tuesday, June 4, 1946, as the General Chapter was nearing its close, the Members of the Venerable Assembly had the great honor and signal favor of being admitted to private Audience by the Sovereign Pontiff. This audience partook of a special character, a certain intimacy which left a more lively and a sweeter feeling in the heart of its participants.

At about a quarter past eleven o'clock groups of Lasallian Brothers were admitted into the Palace of the Vatican. They mounted the majestic stairway erected during the Pontificate of Pius IX, and entered the throne Hall. The austere lines of black mantles and white rabats were soon obliterated by the magnificence of the palatial decoration of the Hall.

After a short interval they moved into the very heart of the ceremony. Papal Chamberlains led the way into a smaller audience Hall adjacent to the personal apartments of the Holy Father. The Brothers Assistants grouped their inferiors in a way that each one might be individually presented to the Holy Father. Then follows a solemn moment of waiting. At 12:00 o'clock the bells of Vatican City rang the *Regina Coeli* and the Audience Hall became a chapel whence proceeded the prayers of the Community.

Some few minutes later the Holy Father appeared, surrounded by the Swiss Guards presenting arms. The countenance of the Holy Father reflected the fatigue and anguish which he had suffered during the years of war since 1940. His features were emaciated, almost transparent. His stature was erect with shoulders that had not drooped under the weight of responsibilities. From his august person there emanated an impression of peace, confidence, and invincible superiority facing a world of evil and turmoil. "*Portae inferi non praevalerunt.*" We were about to feel the puissant charm of his eyes, his smile and his voice.

Oremus pro Pontifice nostro was our heart's filial appeal!

The Most Honorable Brother Superior General who just now had had a personal interview with the Holy Father stepped forward to accompany him, joy emanating from his features. Both made the rounds of the Capitulants grouped about their Brothers Assistants. One by one they knelt and kissed the Ring of the Vicar of Christ who graciously bent over, questioned and blessed the Superiors of the Institute, those of yesteryears, those of today, the delegates of the French Districts, the Italians, the Belgians,

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Spanish, English, German, Americans from the North, Central and South. He spoke to all with evident ease in their native tongue. He showed particular attention to the representatives of our Brothers of Cochin-China and a very delicate solicitude for our Austrian Delegates only recently arrived at the Chapter. With all his conversation was prolonged with admirable simplicity.

And even the historian of the Congregation was the recipient of the cordial attention of the Holy Father to whom he presented a recent volume of his History, with the gracious permission of the Most Honorable Brother Superior. The Holy Father gave him also the silver medal with the effigy of Pius XII on one side and that of the Holy Family on the reverse. Each Capitulant received one of these medals which will be a precious souvenir of that Vatican Audience.

The two circles of Brothers into which the assembly had been arranged in the Audience Hall were honored by personal contact with the Holy Father. They formed a veritable "Tour of the World" for His Holiness, as the Brothers Capitulants represented some twenty nations. Finally the Holy Father announced that he was about to give the Apostolic Blessing, one which would be extended to all those in the audience, and those depending on them, or who were dear to them; a blessing that would attach a treasury of indulgences to all objects of piety they carried. With extended arm the hand of His Holiness traced the sign of the Cross, the climax of an extraordinary and majestic vision, which brought forth our cry of love and faith, "*Christus Vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat.*"

The Holy Father was about to cross the threshold that separated him from us. Once more, however, he cast a glance that was profoundly human upon his children. "*Viri Galilaei, quid statis aspicientes in caelum?*" Truly the scene reminded us of the Ascension. In a few days the General Chapter would be able to "terminate before Pentecost!"

Without adding anything to the beautiful description of Mr. Rigault, my Very Dear Brothers, we cannot refrain from expressing the parting thought that filled our heart as we descended from the Papal Audience Chamber to the Altar of the Confession of St. Peter to pour forth our prayers in thanksgiving and for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff. Whether one is a believer or not, there is no denying the universal prestige and the incomparable moral power of the Pope of Rome. His influence and activity were immense during the tragedy of war. And so it is today in the hours of anguish and mental torment through which we are passing. In the Vicar of Christ the hand of God is seen.

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LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE XXXVII GENERAL CHAPTER MEMBERS BY RIGHT

The Most Honorable Brother Athanase Emile, Superior General, elected
May 19, 1946.

Very Dear Brothers:

Dionysius Van Jezus,	Vicar General
Adolphe Marie,	2nd Assistant
Philothée Jean,	3rd Assistant
Zacarias,	4th Assistant
Eliphus Victor,	5th Assistant
Guillermo Felix	6th Assistant
Gioacchino,	7th Assistant
Nivard Anselm,	8th Assistant
Damien Louis,	9th Assistant
Lawrence O'Toole,	10th Assistant
Antonio Maria,	11th Assistant
Dominikus Norbert,	12th Assistant

The Most Honorable Brother Arese Casimir, Former Vicar General

Very Dear Brothers:

Abban Philip, Retired Assistant	Nivard Joseph, Retired Assistant
Gordien Desire, Retired Assistant	Francesco di Maria, Retired Assistant
Pedro Luis, Retired Assistant	Romuald Hosea, Retired Assistant

Very Dear Brothers:

Alcime Marie, Procurator General	Agnel Isidore, Visitor General
Charlemagne Leon, Econome General	Harteman Leon, Visitor General
Francois de Sales, Secretary General	Damien Georges, Visitor General
Leone di Maria, Postulator General	Cornelius Luke, Visitor General

ELECTED CAPITULANTS

Very Dear Brothers:

Fidentien Paul, Visitor, Cambrai	Severien Joseph, Visitor, Toulouse
Gerbert Marie, Visitor Equador	Uldaric Bernard, Visitor, Lyon
Maurice Paul, Director Belgique-Sud	Lienard, Regis, Visitor, Bayonne
Neostere Vincent, Visitor, Le Puy	Trivier, Visitor, Marseille
Nethelme de Jesus, Visitor, Antilles-Mexico.	
Joseph Marc, Visitor, Constantinople	
Athanase Paul, Director, Procure General	

Very Dear Brothers:

Philip Beniti, Visitor, England-Ireland	Artheme Leonce, Director, Rheims
Enee Joseph, Visitor, Saint Omer	Natalus Hebert, Director, Quebec
Theodard Camille, Visitor, Avignon	Palatin Joseph, Visitor, Jerusalem
Armel Edmund, Visitor, Peru-Bolivia	Sebastien Ambroise, Visitor, Beziers

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Elpidephore Rene, Visitor, Argentina	Benignus Patrick, Visitor, Australia
Cesareo, Visitor, Bilbao	Hanno, Director, Austria
Andres Hibernon, Madrid	Gervais Marie, Visitor, Clermont
Apollinaire Paul, Panama	Valeric Alphonse, Visitor, Chambéry
Christantien, Visitor, Colombo	Cyprien Pierre, Visitor, Moulins
Pontien Ambroise, Visitor, Lyon	Fredien Charles, Visitor, Paris
Carlos Borromeo, Visitor, Valladolid	Galdus Paul, Baltimore
Barnitus, Visitor, Panang	Ulrik, Visitor, North Belgium
Conde Dominique, Visitor, Chili	Venceslao Juan, Visitor, Barcelona
Augustijn Robert, Director, North Belgium	
Menandre Alphonse, Visitor, South Belgium	

Very Dear Brothers:

Maurice Emile, Visitor, South Belgium	Athelbert Jules, Visitor, Panama
Joseph Felix, Director, Egypt	Fridolin Maria, Visitor, Austria
Itale Hippolyte, Visitor, Egypt	Maglorius of Jesus, Director, Quebec
Arnost, Visitor, Czechoslovakia	Gilbert Ailbe, Visitor, England
Possesseur Pierre, Visitor, Madagascar	Eusebio Felix, Director, Barcelona
Just Adrien, Visitor, Bordeaux	Rainaldo, Visitor, Rome
Nicholas Austin, Director, Toronto	Conall Andrew, Director, New York
Estanislao Luis, Director, Medellin	Aldomar Kilian, Director, Germany
Malon Raphael, Visitor, Besancon	Armel Felix, Visitor, Rheims
Costanzo, Director, Genoa	Calixte Auguste, Director, Nantes
Veron Ignace, Visitor, Belgian Congo	Agaton Juan, Director, Valladolid
Enrique Jose, Visitor, Bogota	Nicomedes Marie, Visitor, Paris
Alexius Victor, Visitor, New York	Narcissus Denis, Montreal
Dieudonne Simon, Visitor, South England	
Adelin Ernest, Visitor, New Orleans-Santa Fe	
Neonile Charles, Visitor, Le Puy	

Very Dear Brothers:

Aquilinus Joseph, Director, New York	Merry Alphonse, Director, Montreal
Hilary Bernard, Director, Kansas City	Charlemagne, Visitor, Le Mans
Sigismondo, Director, Rome	Denijs Hugo, Visitor, North Belgium
Cyprien Gam, Director, Indo-China	Charles Edmond, Visitor, Algeria
Emilian James, Visitor, Baltimore	Marie Joseph, South Belgium
Aubert Joseph, Visitor, Caen	Clodoald, Visitor, Quimper
Sexbury Claudius, Visitor, Toronto	Maurele Eleusippe, Director, Quebec
Ignacio Gabriel, Visitor, Brazil	Donatien Jules, Visitor, Indo-China
Ulbertus Alfred, Visitor, San Francisco	Ismael Gabriel, Visitor, Rodéz
Theophiel, Visitor, North Belgium	Doncelin Marie, Director, Quimper
Philip Antoon, Visitor, North Belgium	
Ildephonsus Damian, Director, St. Paul	

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PART TWO

DIRECTIONS FROM THE SACRED CONGREGATION OF RELIGIOUS TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER

CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CHAPTER OF 1946

Many Capitulants, veterans of previous Capitulary Assemblies, have taken occasion to praise the members for the very fraternal spirit that characterized the General Chapter composed, as it was, of representatives from various nations and parts of the globe. This fraternal understanding seemed to us as a prolongation of the spirit of charity and brotherly help which we have many times and in many ways noted during the cruel years of the war, particularly between Brothers of enemy nations, when circumstances permitted relations. How many letters we have had occasion to read expressing the profound gratitude of Brothers in the army for the very fraternal and cordial welcome extended to them, here and there, in communities away from their own country. An address to the General Chapter on this cordiality of Brothers to Brothers belonging to different sides in the war was read in public session by the Dear Brother Delegate of the District of Germany. It created great effect among the Capitulants.

This union of minds and hearts appeared also in the very marked solicitude of many Capitulants for the better formation of Novices and Scholastics and for the means of assuring the perseverance of our Brothers. One of the characteristic features of the General Chapter, however, was the mark of the Catholicity of the Institute, manifested in various circumstances. This is the first time in the history of the Institute that its General Assembly was held in Rome, the center of Catholicity. Due to this circumstance the General Chapter was better able to exhibit the Universality of the Church, and also to promote the oecumenical aspect of our Society by enabling us to enter more fully into the late initiatives of the Holy Father in his conferring of the Cardinalate to prelates of divers nationality, last December, which policy was applauded by many in and out of the Church.

Another fact influenced the deliberations of the General Chapter and determined their general character. You will recall, My Dear Brothers, that very recently the Holy See has intervened directly with the government of some religious orders, by a *motu proprio* rescinder of their Curia General. The same thing could have been imposed for the Central Government of our Institute. But the Sacred Congregation of Religious deemed it well to leave us proceed with our regular election in all liberty, for which we are profoundly grateful. However, we had to expect a certain number of directions from the Holy See, touching our various activities, particularly the revision of the Rules, and some policies of the Central Government

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of our Institute. In fact such direction came to us from the Holy See at the beginning of the Chapter and in a way which was particularly agreeable.

These directions were contained in a letter from His Eminence, Cardinal Lavitrano, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, to His Eminence, Cardinal Marmaggi, our much beloved Cardinal Protector. This document, sent to the Most Honorable Brother Arese Casimir, Vicar General, was presented without delay to the Delegates of the Chapter who received it with very respectful attention. I am giving you lengthy extracts from this letter with the kind authorization of its immediate recipient. You will be happy to note that it is quite laudatory for the Institute.

ROME, MAY 16, 1946

Letter of His Eminence, Cardinal Lavitrano, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Religious to His Eminence Cardinal Marmaggi, Protector of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

MOST EMINENT AND MOST REVEREND LORD:

"The Sacred Congregation of Religious has learned with great satisfaction the news of the arrival of all the Capitulants of the very deserving Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, which Institute is under the high patronage of Your Eminence, their venerable protector, and that the said Capitulants have courageously overcome the actual difficulties of travel and are now to hold their General Chapter for elections at their Mother House where the precious remains of their Holy Founder are enshrined."

"Desirous of contributing toward the complete success of their General Chapter, of assuring the preservation and increase of the spirit proper to the Institute, of reinforcing its internal constitution and rendering all the more efficacious their works of Christian Education, the Sacred Congregation of Religious believes it opportune to fix certain criteria and norms which may serve to direct the discussions better and to render the deliberations more concrete and practical."

Two paragraphs follow, one refers to the Rules and Constitutions, the other to the End and Spirit of the Institute. The letter recommends a very great reserve and thoughtfulness in the final draft of our Rules and Constitution. It indicates the manner of proceeding in revising them, the discussions of the Chapter, and the formation of a Post Capitulary Commission working with the Regime, in view of the approbation of the Sacred Congregation relative to the Educational work of the Brothers. The Sacred Congregation lays emphasis on the varied forms and degrees of teaching so

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that it may coordinate education with the Apostleship of souls, that is, with a solid Christian formation of youth.

The letter of the Sacred Congregation then recalls certain fundamental principles sanctioned in the Bull of Approbation. "*In apostolicae dignitatis solio*" and it insists on the following

- a) The preference to be given to the Children of the poor.
- b) The supernatural and apostolic end of Christian Education which must direct all our teaching.
- c) The gratuity and apostolic disinterestedness of our ministry and activities.

Referring to these directions the letter continues: "From these principles we may infer that without neglecting higher education in harmony with the directions and approbation of the Church (Letter of the Secretariate of State to the Superior General, April 17, 1923) the special predilection of the Institute must be for elementary schools, technical and professional schools, Catechetical activities, normal schools for the formation of teachers, patronages, alumni and former pupil groups."

The above passage of the letter of the Sacred Congregation on the occasion of the Chapter calls for serious reflection, my Very Dear Brothers. In thus reminding us of the principles that animated our Holy Founder, the Sacred Congregation endeavors to recall the purest tradition of our Institute in reference to our principal apostleship, in favor of the children of the working class.

Since the Chapter of 1923 and following the letter of His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, a certain enthusiasm for the study and teachings of the classics has tended in a few Districts to multiply schools in favor of well-to-do children to the detriment of our principal clients, "the children of the workers and the poor". Note the insistency with which the Sacred Congregation recalls to us the fundamental idea of Saint John Baptist de la Salle, in precisely determining our preferences if we would follow in his lead.

Similar and yet more definite counsel had been given us some days previous when we had conferred with the same Sacred Congregation on the advisability of revising our Rules. In its answer the Congregation made the following strong statement, "You should absolutely refuse to accept the direction of higher classical schools which could not be manned but at the detriment of popular schools for the children of the working class and the poor."

There is reason for us all to rejoice, Very Dear Brothers, for these opportune and clear directions from the Sacred Congregation. It is needless

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to say that we propose to see that they are faithfully followed. And in doing so we will conform to the sentiments and teaching of our Holy Founder, who so insistently recommended us to be attentive to all that emanates from the mouth of the Holy Church. With renewed zeal shall we devote ourselves to the education of the children of the poor who in their material and moral needs turn towards us, and thus draw down on our religious family the abundant blessing of God. It has been our experience that Districts which by the Rule and the apostolate of soul hold fast to the traditions of the Institute are visibly blessed in their recruitment, their educational endeavors and even in their economic well-being. Others perhaps who have not been sufficiently safeguarded against certain tendencies foreign to our tradition have painfully survived, with insufficient, mediocre and unstable vocations.

FIDELITY TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

The letter of the Sacred Congregation of Religious continues thus: "We strongly recommend to Superiors and all the Brothers a devoted and willing fidelity to the prescriptions, rules and authorized traditions which inform their piety, mortification, manner of life and the authentic religious character of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. They only who are lacking in the mind and judgment of true religious can regard as negligible certain practices and customs which illustrate the beauty and strength of the Lasallian vocation.

"Among these holy prescriptions, the prohibition of the use of tobacco deserves to be pointed out for several reasons. The Sacred Congregation renews, with regard to this mortification the decisions contained in the letter sent by His Eminence, Cardinal Laurenti, Prefect, to the Superior General, February 22, 1927; it exhorts the Superiors to exact respect for this prudent prohibition, to use against offenders appropriate sanctions offered by religious discipline, and even, when the fault assumes more serious characters, by reason of circumstances, to exclude the guilty from offices of confidence and authority."

Thus you see confirmed, My Very Dear Brothers, the traditional Rule forbidding the use of tobacco. Foreseeing many Notes on this subject, we solicited the reply we would be obliged to make and asked if the letter of February 17, 1927, was still in force. You have just read the mind of the Church, My Very Dear Brothers. To comment on it would only attenuate its meaning. We shall make no other reply to the writers of Notes relative to this question. By the tone that the Sacred Congregation takes, it is easy to conclude that this "trifle", as some style it, re-

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mains an abuse which compromises poverty, loyalty, and obedience, for those who dissimulate, and thereby constitutes an impediment to the spiritual advancement of souls. This is why we ask all sincere and willing souls to struggle energetically against this evil, to check it, or at least, to localize it. If in certain cases, a question of conscience is involved, we shall give timely directions to our Dear Brothers Assistants. (1)

Another attack on our traditions and Rule, which forms the subject of a dozen Notes, contained a request to modify a point of Rule and some Articles of the Bull of Approbation which forbid the Brothers to ambition the priesthood, or aspire to Ecclesiastical Orders. This suggestion is not new. Some time ago the Dear Brother Procurator General with the Holy See had prepared a report on this delicate question. This report was read at a plenary session of the Chapter. It was a very complete and serious study of the question, envisaging all the aspects of the subject and it pertinently considered and adjudged the apparently noble motives of the suggestion, and very specious and human views, which resulted in disturbed vocations yearning for the priesthood.

The problem fundamentally, is one of religious spirit remarks the Procurator General. Our religious life is a state of total renunciation involving the voluntary abstention from the Sacredotal office and dignity. But our holy vocation is not thereby diminished or depreciated; it does not become a reduced vocation — quite the contrary. Associated by our humble yet magnificent functions to the primal mission of the Church, that of teaching, the Brother of the Christian School must remain faithful to his high and beautiful ideal, and not be influenced by the appeal and appearance of a plausibility which may be found in certain interior or exterior suggestions. Placing our confidence in the recent formal decisions of the Sacred Congregation of Religious which render the Sacredotal issue to Brothers with perpetual vows practically unrealizable, we repeat in all confidence the declaration inserted by the Holy Church into the Bull of Approbation: "That no Brother ambition the Priesthood or aspire to Ecclesiastical Orders."

* * * * *

(1) "The Chapter taking into consideration the Letter of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, and after study and deliberation on the different Notes concerning the question of the use of tobacco, decided by 101 Votes against 11, to maintain our usages while leaving to the Brother Superior to regulate such or such particular cases, and to rely on the wisdom of the Regime to apply appropriate remedies according to local circumstances in view of progressively realizing the directions of the Sacred Congregation."

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The titles and contents of the following paragraphs in the letter of the Sacred Congregation of Religious will no doubt rouse your curiosity.

Supernatural Criteria of the Allotment of Offices

"The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is by the goodness of God the most numerous in view of geographical extension, and the most extended lay Institute of men: it is at the same time one of the largest and most universal among religious congregations."

Conformably to the policy which His Holiness has followed and applied to the Sacred College of Cardinals in such a decisive manner with the applause of the whole Church: a policy or rule which is also applied to the government and formation of Catholic Missions and to the government and organizations of Religious Orders and Congregations, it is becoming that to the Catholicity of the members, the Catholicity of the hierarchy should correspond.

Therefore it is appropriate and desirable that unless there be exceptional reasons of greater good, administrative charges and representative offices be confided to members of the Institute who are well trained and worthy and who are of the nationality and organization represented in the locality where such offices are held. "As a general rule," remarks the letter of the Sacred Congregation, "in applying this principle it is not prudent to ignore the local needs and the particular condition of time and place."

You are reminded of this Very Dear Brothers, and that is a great cause of satisfaction for us, that the above directions of the Sacred Congregation have now for a long time been followed in the Institute. It will be our duty to conform to them even more so in the future.

CONCERNING THE VICAR GENERAL

The Sacred Congregation of Religious, a priori, has been favorable to the inauguration of the permanent office of Vicar General in the Regime, which office shall consist in aiding the Superior General in the government of the Institute, and in substituting for him if it become necessary to do so, for reasons of his impaired health or grave impediments to the exercise of his office. The letter of the Sacred Congregation left to the Chapter the care of establishing the status of the Brother Vicar General "in such a manner that it will harmonize with the particular character of the Institute. It is nevertheless becoming that the Superior and his Vicar be not of the same nationality."

The newly revised edition of the Rule of Government, drawn up con-

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formably to the directions of the Sacred Congregation and the written remarks of the Capitulants, will contain in a new chapter all that the General Chapter has decreed in this matter. It pleases us now to give in the meantime, the essentials thereof.

a) The Very Dear Brother Vicar General fills the role of substitute for the Superior General when he replaces the latter who may be absent from the Mother House, or because of sickness or travel. He may be delegated to represent the Superior elsewhere.

b) In the event of the decease of the Brother Superior General, the Brother Vicar General shall immediately convoke the Elective Commission which either confirms him by vote in his function, or elects another Vicar General who shall assume the government of the Congregation with all the rights and prerogatives of the Brother Superior General until the end of the usual decennial period when a General Chapter shall be convened.

c) Although the Brother Vicar General may be chosen outside of the Regime, it seems preferable that he be one of the Brothers Assistants: so that he may be better acquainted with the general government of the Institute.

d) The Letter of the Sacred Congregation agrees that the vicarial function be joined to that of an Assistant, and the General Chapter has decided that it be so, at least when the Superior General is in the exercise of his office.

ASSISTANTS AND THEIR OFFICE

The directions of the Sacred Congregation relative to the election of Members of the Regime may be stated in the words of the Letter of the Sacred Congregation as follows: "In the composition of the Regime account must be taken of the rule mentioned above so that the distribution of Assistants and the representation of the divers nationalities may correspond with the actual status of the Institute as shown by official statistics."

"Thus there should not be more than four Assistants of the same nationality . . . The same proportional factor should apply in the distribution of other general charges."

All these recommendations of the Sacred Congregation were faithfully carried out in the course of the General Chapter. The large diversity of languages in the Districts of the Institute did effectually demand that there be two English speaking Assistants, one Spanish speaking Assistant for the Districts of South and Central America, and finally an Assistant who resides in and speaks the various tongues of Central Europe.

The redistribution of the Office of Assistants entailed the modification of the geographical map of the Institute in France. During the years that followed 1904, several of our Districts of Southern France sent a good number of their Brothers to Spain, and allotted a considerable part of their resources to the foundation of establishments in that country, which rapidly became flourishing. But this prosperity could not survive. The lack of personnel became serious as the recruiting of our French Districts was strongly diminished by the wholesale closing of our French Schools. Again the Spanish revolution ended by placing the said establishments in an extremely difficult situation. The Districts involved, suffering from the double crises of personnel and funds were constrained to solicit the help of other Districts for the formation of their rather few Junior Novices, Novices and Scholastics. Other Districts of France were also affected for many years by a no less painful situation, due to the insufficiency of vocations, a result of the secularization imposed by an unwholesome legislation, notwithstanding the great and constant effort made to remedy the situation. These Districts continue in a languishing condition without the possibility of recovering their former prosperity.

The Regime was for a long time aware of this condition and pre-occupied with it while seeking a solution which would consist in a regroupment of our Districts of France. This plan had been proposed some years ago but the outbreak of the war did not favor its realization. The solution was found by the General Chapter and is now an accomplished fact. The Districts of France have been reduced from 21 to 14 and are arranged according to four "Assistantships" or federations. The Assistantship of Paris comprises the Districts of Paris, Caen and Quimper; that of Rheims the Districts of Rheims-Luxembourg, Lille and Besancon-Switzerland; that of Nantes the Districts of Nantes, Bordeaux and Rodez. The Assistantship of Lyons contains that District and those of Clermont Le Puy, Annecy and Avignon.

The Districts suppressed by their federation with others are those of Bayonne, Beziers, Toulouse, Marseilles, Maulins, Le Mans and Saint Omer. We desire here to render due homage to the meritorious abnegation manifested by the Dear Brothers Visitors of the suppressed Districts in their very religious acceptance of the sacrifice imposed upon them. Before the sad years to which we have referred, these Districts had known better days, when by the number of their Brothers, their numerous pupils and their flourishing establishments and educational activities, they held a distinguished place in the Institute. Homage and honor to the valiant religious who throughout the two epochs of war have courageously worked for the prosperity of their Districts.

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Another problem which had been in the mind of the Regime for years has been solved by the Chapter. It refers to a better allotment among the Assistantships of France of the Mission sections of the Districts where the French language predominates. A more prompt and efficacious aid may now be given to the Mission Districts whose local recruitment is altogether insufficient up to the present at least. The Assistantship of Rheims hereafter will sponsor the Districts of Constantinople (Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece) and Syria, Palestine and Indochina; that of Paris will come to the aid of the District of North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco); the Assistantship of Lyons will look after the Districts of Reunion-Madagascar; the Assistantship of Nantes will aid the District of Egypt. To each of the other Assistantships some regions of the foreign missions will be assigned. To the Assistantship of Belgium-Holland there will be attached the District of Belgian Congo and the Holland possessions in the Carribean Gulf, West Indies. The Assistantship of the United States will assure the personnel and resumption of schools in the Philippines and also aid the Central and South American Districts against the increasing penetration of Protestantism. The Assistantship of Ireland-England will have Australia, South Africa, Malta, Ceylon, Mauritius, Burma and Malaya. The Assistantship of Canada will take care of our communities in Japan, Manchuria and China. The Assistantship of Italy will be in control of the vast District of Brazil; the Assistantship of Spain will send personnel to the Districts of Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Peru and Bolivia. Finally, the newly created Assistantship of South America will comprise Mexico, West Indies, San Domingo, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Argentina. The Assistantship of Central Europe will not have any foreign mission field to serve at present, having been so severely devastated during the war. The work of reconstruction will devolve heavily upon the resources of the men and money at home.

We are confident, Very Dear Brothers, that the blessing of God will accompany these undertakings, and that the Institute shall more than ever bring its contribution of men and funds to the work of evangelization and apostleship in the missionary countries to which the Church never ceases to invite her children and particularly the Clergy, Religious Orders and Congregations. Our most ardent wish is that the whole Institute may embrace the Missionary spirit and foster vocations to the Missions of the Institute; and we shall do all in our power that it may be so.

* * * * *

We now come to the end of the letter of the Sacred Congregation of Religious to the General Chapter in which His Eminence Cardinal

Lavitrano concludes by these words: — "Your Most Reverend Eminence knows quite well with how much interest the Holy Father has followed the development of the Lasallian Institute throughout the period of a war, laden with sad events, persecutions, and all sorts of ills, and that His Holiness foresees abundant fruit of supernatural life and apostleship from the General Chapter so religiously prepared for.

"With all my heart I pray that the most excellent blessings of God may be bestowed on the very worthy Institute so tenderly loved and protected by Your Eminence."

* * * * *

The instructions of the Sacred Congregation of Religious were communicated to us through His Eminence Cardinal Marmaggi as we have already informed you. The very special interest with which our beloved Cardinal Protector favors us is well known in the Pontifical Congregations and hence the procedure of sending us directions through him. On the occasion of the General Chapter His Eminence gave us new and multiple proofs of his distinguished friendship and protection. We, therefore, deemed it becoming to manifest our deeply felt gratitude by the following letter signed by the Brother Superior, the Brother Procurator General with the Holy See, and the Secretaries of the Chapter.

"Most Reverend Eminence:

"The members of the General Chapter of the Brothers of the Christian Schools before terminating the work of the General Chapter wish to express to you their most profound and hearty gratitude because we feel that Divine Providence has made use of your Eminence to render the solemn Assembly of our Institute possible and to further the success of our labors.

"Formerly the Cardinal Protector was a kind of abstract personage, so to speak, for the Capitulants, although sincerely revered, and for whom we prescribed special prayers in our Religious Calendar. Today he is for us a very living reality and a very sympathetic friend who wins our admiration and affectionate esteem.

"Your Eminence, whilst scrupulously respecting the full freedom and independence of our deliberations, has testified to us your affectionate sympathy by the many visits and services you have rendered us, addressing us words of encouragement and esteem in the very language of our Holy Founder, pontificating at the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and, finally, condescending to sit with us for the photograph of the General Chapter, thus blending the brilliant scarlet of your Cardinal's robe with the sombre livery of Saint John Baptist de la Salle.

"And thus we have realized what has been frequently mentioned con-

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cerning Your Eminence, that the title of Protector of our Institute is not simply an honorary one for you, just as it is not a simple decorative element for us, but that it answers to a reality.

"May we then be permitted to express the joy and confidence which shall inspire us in the future in the thought that in the Eternal City, and very close to the Vicar of Christ we have a Father and Protector who will remain beloved by us and who will aid us by his counsels, sustain us in our difficulties and pray for us in our needs.

"In return to Your Eminence for your devotedness and affection we shall offer fervent prayers to God for you and all our Brothers shall unite with us therein.

"Now as we are about to leave Rome and pursue various roads towards the four quarters of the world we request Your Eminence, with the most filial respect, to bestow upon us your blessing. May the august benediction bring upon us the grace and succor of Almighty God that the work we have done in our Chapter in complete conformity with the instruction of the Holy See may be productive of a renewal of regularity, fervor and sanctity in our Congregation."

COMPOSITION OF GENERAL CHAPTERS

One other point not expressed in the letter of His Eminence, Cardinal Lavitrano, was suggested later by the Sacred Congregation of Religious in a special note which advised us to profit by the General Chapter to introduce certain modifications in the composition of our General Assembly. It suggested that there be about an equal number of Members by Right as Elected Delegates to the Chapter. It furthermore suggested that the total number of Capitulants be not more than about 80.

To conform to this double suggestion, after mature examination of the question, we determined that our future General Chapters be composed as follows:

1. The Brother Superior General and his Assistants
2. Retired Assistants
3. The Brother Procurator General and the Secretary General
4. The Brother Procurator General with the Holy See
5. The Brother Postulator of the Causes (Rescript Oct. 19, 1938)
6. The Brothers Visitors General in office
7. The Brothers Visitors of Districts numbering at least 251 professed Brothers.

All the above designated Brothers are Members by Right.

8. The Members Elected according to the following rules:

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a. Districts having 100 to 250 Professed Brothers of Perpetual Vows shall elect one Deputy and one Brother Substitute.

b. Districts of 251 to 500 Professed Brothers of Perpetual Vows shall have besides the Brother Visitor Member by Right one Elected Deputy, making with the Brother Visitor two Capitulants; they shall also elect one substitute or alternate.

c. Districts of 501 to 700 Professed Brothers with Perpetual Vows shall have besides the Brother Visitor, Member by Right, two Elected Deputies, making with the Brother Visitor three Capitulants; two substitutes shall be elected.

d. Districts with less than 100 Brothers with Perpetual Vows will be joined for the elections with another District designated by the Regime.

With such legislation the Chapter of 1946 would have had 79 members, 38 by right and 41 elected, which would have corresponded exactly with the desire of the Sacred Congregation. Thus the decisions adopted by the General Chapter are conformable to the actual views of the Church on the Composition of General Chapters especially with regard to too large a number of participants, the lack of balance between members by right and elected members, and the right of direct vote exercised by perpetually professed Brothers.

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PART THREE REVISION OF THE RULES

ROLE OF GENERAL CHAPTERS CONCERNING THE RULES

The mission of General Chapters consists primarily in the study of the proper means to assure perfect regularity in the Institute and to re-establish discipline where it has become weak. It is also the role of the General Chapters to adapt the Rules to the needs of times and places. Adaptation may be either by Pontifical directions; or because of extraordinary circumstances; or again where certain practices or usages have become evidently impracticable. One of the great forces of the Church, says Pope Pius XI, is its power of adaptation. May it not be equally well said of Religious Institutes? Surely, but it must be by a prudent adaptation which does not tend or lead to relaxation; which does not inconsiderately yield to the attraction of innovation and change, but rather seeks to combine prudent progressiveness with respect and fidelity for tradition as distinguished from routine; it must be an adaptation which never abandons sound doctrine and basic principles, as Holy Mother the Church gives the example.

CERTAIN PRINCIPLES THAT SAFEGUARD A WISE REVISION

That the revision of Rules does not degenerate into a kind of innovation there is need of being directed by two principles.

1) All modification of Rule must be in accord with the Essential End and Character of the Congregation. A religious family has in fact a special vocation, a particular mission to which it must remain faithful if it is to keep the secret of its strength, its very reason of existence and the assurance of the Divine Benediction.

2) All changes of Rule must be made in full conformity with the spirit of the Institute and that of the Founder. Under the letter that may change, the spirit remains immutable; otherwise an adaptation that lacks prudence would inevitably tend, with time, to decay and laxity.

THE REASONS AND DIFFICULTY OF THIS REVISION

The general ideas that directed the work or process of the revision of our Rules were the following: — At the last General Chapter held at Lembecq in 1934 the Commission on Regularity had examined several notes of exceptional seriousness inspired by the purest religious spirit, advocating a restatement or modification of certain points of Rule. The argument was as follows: "One of the principal causes of the weakness of some Rule, and as a result the lessening of regularity in the Institute,

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is that several points of Rule are actually obsolete and therefore cannot be observed. Others are lacking in clearness and definiteness. It is at times rather difficult to distinguish that which is out of date from that which is observable. From all this there results a certain wavering, hesitation and divers interpretation by superiors. Some holy souls anxious for the practice of perfect and integral regularity, which they have made the promise to keep inviolable, finish by discouragement before so many lacks of precision and definiteness.

In fact, if a certain point of Rule appear impracticable, even to fervent religious, it should be modified or suppressed, if there be no question of changing the spirit of the Rule or lessening its austerity, but only of making the Rule clearer, more observable and more unquestionable. The sacred and santifying efficacy of the Rule is not lessened when such passages as the following are eliminated from it: "The Brothers shall ordinarily travel on foot . . . The Brothers shall write to the Brother Superior twice a month . . . The Brothers shall follow the corpse having a taper in their hands."

Moved by these considerations the Commission of 1934 included in its report a proposition to revise the Rule; but realizing that such revision would necessitate a considerable detailed and very conscientious work which the General Chapter could not well undertake without time to prepare for it, the Assembly requested the Most Honorable Brother Junien-Victor to proceed with such an undertaking in collaboration with the Regime for the next General Chapter. This the Most Honorable Brother promised to do.

PRECEDING REVISIONS

This preparation of a revision of our Rules was by no means a light or easy undertaking; it had to be done with a respect for traditions and scrupulous attention and recourse to all possible enlightenment. Our predecessors were to be our models in this as in many other undertakings.

In order to preserve the wording of the original Rule from alteration or possible errors of copyists the General Chapter of 1726 had the original manuscripts of the Rule of 1718 printed and sent to every community. In the course of two centuries of its existence certain modifications were introduced in this original text, by successive revisers of the Rule under the plea that certain changes were only interpretations of the spirit of the Holy Founder. The Most Honorable Brother Agathon, of venerated memory, and so progressive, recommended the Brothers not to change anything in our Rules but to transmit them integrally to their successors.

The Superiors of our Institute after the French Revolution and during

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the restoration of our Religious Family were all very keen on maintaining the original text unchanged. They hesitated many years before making even light changes in the text of 1718. The General Chapter of 1858 and 1861 devoted numerous sessions to discuss possible changes, and so did the Chapters of 1882 and 1884. The latter Assembly appointed a Commission of twelve Capitulants who in concert with the Regime were to prepare a project of revision in which an attempt would be made to blend together the Common Rule and the Rule of Government. In this attempt the text of Saint John Baptist de la Salle was somewhat confused. The Chapter of 1884 refused even to discuss this hybrid text and contented itself with a republishing of the ancient text.

From 1884 to 1901 meticulous labor, conducted with intelligence and method, produced the edition of 1901 which was a notable success. Contributors thereto were the Most Honorable Brother Gabriel Marie, Superior General, and the Very Dear Brothers Assistants: Exuperien, Reticus, Vincentien-Aime and Louis of Poissy. The basis of the new edition was the text of 1718 signed page by page by the Most Honorable Brother Barthelemy and sent to every community during the life of our Holy Founder. The defect of this edition was to retain certain obsolete passages the suppression of which would not alter in any way the force and spirit of the Rule. An effort was made to remedy this by inserting at the end of the Rule the decision of General Chapters that referred to such usages. Another graver defect of this edition was to maintain a certain number of Articles that had been introduced in 1726 but which were not from the Holy Founder himself.

The edition of 1923 reproduced that of 1901 with the changes and modification imposed by the promulgation of the New Canonical Code, according to the prescriptions of the Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, dated June 26, 1918. A new Chapter of the Rule, referring to Classical studies, was introduced into it to replace the former ancient text of Chapter XXVIII which had become void as a result of Pontifical directions. Chapter XXV which concerned the suffrages from Deceased Brothers had also been modified in this Edition.

This edition of 1901 was an improvement but thirty years later there was evident need of a new revision. To realize this objective was the expressed resolution of the Commission on Regularity of Chapter 1934 and the promise of the Most Honorable Brother Junien Victor to undertake it.

CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION OF THE NEW EDITION

The venerable Superior began these Consultations by having prayers

said in view of assuring the heavenly light on such an important project. He sought the advice of the Very Dear Brother Assistants and Retired Assistants, likewise of the Brothers Visitors General; he arranged for consultations with competent persons, among whom we may mention the Rev. Father de Boynes, Vicar General of the Jesuit Fathers; Rev. Father Sordet, Assistant General of the Redemptorist Fathers; Monsignor Boudinhon, Assistant to the Pontifical Throne; Monsignor Sposetti, Rev. Father Creusen, S. J., and the Rev. Father Larraona, the three Consultors of the Sacred Congregation of Religious.

All advised that there was no reason to hesitate and that the greater good of souls postulated such a revision; but whilst quite in accord with its necessity, they did not all agree as to the manner of proceeding with it. Remarkably fine reports in the meantime arrived at the Regime emanating from distinguished religious of our own Congregation. Among them we must mention the reports of Very Dear Brothers Abban Philip and Romuald Hosea, Assistants; Viventian Aime, retired Assistant; Alcime-Marie, Procurator General with the Holy See and Dear Brother Alexius Francis, his predecessor; also those of the Very Dear Brothers Asclepiade Henri, Apollinaire Louis, Damian Georges, Visitors General; and from the Dear Brothers Visitors of the United States and Canada; also, an elaborate study of the Dear Brother Memoire Achille, Visitor of South Belgium and those of numerous Brothers Visitors and Directors. These Notes and Reports so rich in experience, wisdom and supernatural spirit were minutely studied and used by the divers preparatory commissions.

Three propositions, extracts from the project of Brother Memoire-Achille, synthesized in a way the program to follow in our proposed revision of the Rules:

1. Eliminate or modify articles that have become non-observable or impracticable
2. Render clearer those that lack clearness
3. Conserve as much as possible the text of the Holy Founder.

THE WORK OF THE REGIME

The Most Honorable Brother Junien Victor, enlightened by all these consultations, reports and memoirs, and confiding in prayers and supernatural assistance, constituted two separate Commissions among the members of the Regime. One to prepare the Revision of the Common Rules, and the other for the Rule of Government. Numerous meetings of the Commissions were held during the winters of 1938 and 1939. The Manuscripts of 1718 served as a basis for the revision of the Common Rules, it

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being understood that the first principle to be observed was to follow the authentic text corresponding best to the thought of the Holy Founder.

The successive editions of our Rules, the Circular of Superiors, the Constitutions of the other Religious Congregations and the norms of Canon Law were considered with great care and attention. Work went on regularly and the preparatory draft of the revised Rules was about finished when the sad events of 1939-40 dispersed the workers. The manuscripts were left at the Mother House in Rome and lay there for five years, and yet the native tenacity of the Most Honorable Brother Junien Victor did not lose sight of the promise made to the Chapter of 1934. In September 1940, a month before his death, he wrote to several members of the Regime to undertake individually the revision contemplated while awaiting the time when circumstances would permit the activities on the re-grouped Commissions.

As often as possible in the years that followed the death of the Brother Superior, the Brothers Assistants in residence at Mauleon returned to the work of revision, either in Committees or in general assemblies and they prepared for each of the two Rules a new draft of the revisions which were carefully examined by the Regime assembled again at the Mother House in Rome, March and April of 1946. To clarify doubtful points, the Consultors of the Sacred Congregation of Religious, whose special office is to examine Religious Constitutions were often consulted and their directions were scrupulously followed. Just to give you an example: — All expressions in the Rules prescribing Holy Communion on certain days have been modified so as to leave complete liberty to individuals. Thus the expression "the Brothers shall receive Holy Communion" has been changed to "the Brothers shall be invited to receive Holy Communion", or "the Brothers shall be encouraged to receive Holy Communion". These previous consultations were of advantage to us in furnishing the basis of an answer to requests and exceptions that might be put forth during the course of the Chapter.

Great indeed was our joy to hear one of the foremost Consultors who had spent part of his Easter vacation studying our Rules make the following statement when giving a copy of his remarks on the modifications to be introduced. "Your Rules exhale the perfume of authentic sanctity: Keep their actual form as closely as possible, and don't modify them except with the greatest discretion."

To the question asked of several Prelates, whether the General Chapter should have to discuss the revised Rule point by point, the answer was: "A General Chapter of a Religious Congregation differs essentially from

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a parliament and its modes of action are totally distinct. Furthermore complete liberty of intervention will in no way be hindered in reference to the revision of Rules since every Capitulant has the privilege of making in writing his personal observations on the proposed new text. Towards the end of the Chapter the Assembly should designate a Post-Capitulary Commission to verify and study the suggestions proposed in these Notes and to retain those judged suitable and good.

Finally, the Regime, after a thorough examination of everything proposed and adopted by the Chapter in the matter of the revision of the Rules shall make its report and forward it with the adopted text to the Sacred Congregation of Religious which will decree on it as a court of final resort or appeal."

The revision and new edition of the Common Rules will embody the following characteristics:

1. The text of 1718 was the criterion of the text adopted with the exception of passages contrary to Canon Law now in force or opposed to the Civil Legislation in most countries; or those which cannot be fully observed because of changes of time and manners.
2. Constitutions indicated by one or several asterisks will follow all articles that have been the object of a Capitulary decision concerning them.
3. No change was made in the Bull of Approbation nor its modification approved May 2nd, 1923 by the Sacred Congregation of Religious.
4. Chapter XXV has been revised or changed in what concerns the suffrages offered for the Deceased.
5. Our experience of more than twenty years has prompted a restatement of Chapter XXVII which was modified in 1923 as a result of certain directions given by His Holiness, Pope Pius XI. This Chapter has been extended by several prescriptions relative to the studies of the Brothers.

During the first days of the General Chapter, the new text of the Common Rules as prepared by the Regime, was read in the refectory; a copy of this text was given each member with the request that he study it attentively and present in writing any observations he wished to make.

WORK OF THE POST-CAPITULARY COMMISSION

The Post-Capitulary Commission, nominated by the General Chapter to examine the observations suggested for the new project of the revision of the Rules, was composed of twelve Members of the Chapter for the Common Rule and also twelve for the Rule of Government. For eight

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consecutive days these Brothers proceeded with extraordinary care to complete the text of the revised edition so as to present it for the examination and approval of the Sacred Congregation of Religious. We will most respectfully conform to the decisions regarding this examination. If, as we hope, these decisions be favorable, we have no doubts at all but that more than ever in the past, our Holy Rules, as many call them, will be for the Institute obligations of love, all the more fervent, because they are made the more practicable.

REVISION OF THE RULE OF GOVERNMENT NECESSITY AND PURPOSE OF THIS REVISION

Together with the revision of the Common Rule, the General Chapter of 1934 provided for a recasting of the Rule of Government. This involved another long and precise undertaking, because since 1777, the date of its first publication, this Administrative Constitution of our Congregation had been enlarged by successive additions, perhaps to the detriment of its unity. In 1938 the Most Honorable Brother Junien Victor organized a Committee of the Regime to make a thorough study of the project of revision of the Rule of Government. For two years this Committee held meetings for this purpose three times a week. These were interrupted for a time during the war but resumed in Mauleon by a modified Committee because of the absence of Brothers Assistants, but, with no less earnestness and devotedness than at first.

One of the first aim of the revision was to harmonize the new text of the Rule of Government with that of the Revised Common Rule; to suppress or eliminate repetitions; to arrange certain parts better, and to insert recent ordinances or directions of the Sacred Congregation of Religious. There was also the need of rewriting some chapters for the smoother functioning of certain administrative institutions. It was to achieve all this that the Committee at Mauleon began its work.

In its present form, our Rule of Government is indeed an excellent Legislative Code remarkable for its wisdom, practicability, and preciseness. It was composed, however, bit by bit, according to the needs of times and places, therefore as we said above, it may lack unity, or coherence of parts, and be burdened by specious repetitions and rather archaic forms of expression. To correct these defects was the first objective of the Committee. Another aim, and a more difficult one, was to modernize the Rule of Government by revamping some chapters, such as that of the Brother Director of a Boarding School, composed some forty years ago, so as to conform to present conditions of such schools and colleges. Like-

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wise with other Chapters, notably those of the Brothers Directors, of Houses of Formation which could be emended and enriched with extracts from the Reports of Visitors General thus unifying our methods of formation.

The program and policy involved consisted of the following:

1. Emphasizing the thought of the Holy Founder concerning fundamental points: spirit of faith and zeal; supports of the Institute; gratuity of teaching; flight from the world; reserve towards persons of the other sex; maintenance of the union of mind and heart in the Institute.

2. Harmonizing the Rule of Government with the Common Rules and avoiding duplications.

3. Adapting the Administration of the Institute to the spirit of the time. Establishing the status of the Brother Vicar General; his role, his rights and powers; providing a Rule for the Brother Postulator General and one for the Brother Secretary General; defining with greater precision the rights and powers of the Brothers Visitors; clarifying the role of the divers Councils to be held; deliberative - consultative, etc.; legislating concerning the Second Novitiate and the studies of the Brothers.

4. Suppressing obsolete practices, repetitions and ambiguous expressions.

5. Making the Rule of Government an orderly, precise complete and practical Code applicable in all countries.

In adopting this program the Committee of the Regime decided further:

- a) To place the precious Directions of St. John Baptist de la Salle to the Brothers Directors at the beginning of the Rule of Government in the form of an introduction. Up to the present these "Directions" have been inserted in the text of the Rule serving a double purpose with the Rule of the Brother Directors. To omit these "Directions" under the pretext that we do not possess the original copy would seem rather lacking in reverence for the Holy Founder, whose authentic style and thought can be found in them in various places. Besides, the counsels contained therein are not only for Brothers Directors but also for all others who exercise authority in our Institute. Placing these "Directions" at the beginning of the Rule of Government gives them a character of generality which elicits greater attention to the contents:

- b) To reduce the number of Chapters by grouping under the same heading or title all that concerns the same office and by arranging material in very clear and distinct paragraphs, so as to facilitate the finding of a desired prescription.

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c) To eliminate all that refers to minor offices such as econome, linen-keeper, etc., since the purpose of the Rule of Government is to codify only that which refers to the Administration of the Society.

The prepared revision was examined and discussed attentively in the numerous meetings of the Regime, especially concerning those suggestions that advocated modifications of actual practices and usages.

Once the text of the Rule of Government had been adopted by the Regime, it was mimeographed, and a copy was given to each of the Brothers Capitulants, as had been done before with the Common Rules. Written observations and remarks were solicited at the same time and a public reading of it was made in the refectory. Finally, as has been stated, a Post-Capitulary Commission was named by the Chapter to re-examine the revised text and to take account of the written remarks of the venerable Capitulants.

Such, my Very Dear Brothers, is the history of the revised text of the Rule of Government which we have submitted to the Sacred Congregation of Religious. It will be published as soon as it has been approved. We are confident you will receive it and also the Revised Common Rules with all the becoming respectful dispositions with which the original Rules were received by the Institute, being persuaded that independently of the great human authority coming from the exceptional conditions of their preparation, they are for us the expression of the will of God, especially since they are invested with the approbation of Holy Mother, the Church. The exact observance of the two Rules of the Institute will bring down upon you the benediction of God. The Common Rules will be a source of sanctification for all; the Rule of Government will assure the Institute, in all the degrees of offices, the direction of superiors according to the heart of our beloved Father and Founder, and will contribute to the maintenance of his spirit in all our Districts.

We will conclude this third part of our Circular by giving you the names of the Brothers who composed the two Post-Capitulary Commissions for the final drafting of the revised Common Rules and Rule of Government. Seven members of each are Capitulants by Right, and five are Elected Delegates.

COMMISSION ON THE COMMON RULE

Dear Brothers:

1. Dionysius van Jezus, President
2. Zacharias, Assistant
3. Nivard Anselm, Assistant

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4. Gordien Desire, Retired Assistant
5. Romuald Hosea, Retired Assistant
6. Damian Georges, Visitor General
7. Cornelius Luke, Visitor General
8. Armel Felix, Visitor
9. Marie Joseph, Visitor
10. Calixte Auguste, Director
11. Eusebio Felix, Director
12. Narcissus Denis, Sub-Director

COMMISSION ON THE RULE OF GOVERNMENT

Dear Brothers:

1. Adolphe Marie, President
2. Philothee Jean, Assistant
3. Damian Louis, Assistant
4. Abban Philip, Retired Assistant
5. Francesco di Maria, Retired Assistant
6. Harteman Leon, Visitor General
7. Agnel Isidore, Visitor General
8. Denijs Hugo, Visitor
9. Neostere Vincent, Visitor
10. Apollinaire Paul, Visitor
11. Christantien, Visitor
12. Aldomar Kilian, Visitor

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PART FOUR WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS

FIRST COMMISSION: WORK OF VOCATIONS

The First Commission had to examine the Notes relating to the Work of Vocations and to the formation of our Brothers intended for temporal employment.

a) *Work of Vocations*:—The Notes shed little fresh light upon the recruiting of our groups of formation. After exhaustive Circulars published on this subject there remains nothing new to add but there is much to put in practice and to recall.

The mission of the Brothers charged with promoting Vocations is very meritorious; it deserves encouragement from everyone and also the collaboration of the teaching Brothers who owe it to themselves to be the most zealous in this vital work for the future of the Congregation.

The expressions "recruitor" and "recruiting" according to certain notes are not favoured by the public. The Chapter proposes for the worker specially destined for this important task the name of "Brother charged with the work of Vocation." (Vocational Director).

Whereas the greater number of Districts have energetically organized this work, a certain shirking of it is reported elsewhere, where neither the perpetual intercession nor the monthly novena of the 16th to the 25th is in honor! We ask our Brothers Visitor to redouble their zeal in this regard; they could read with profit and utilize the different leaflets edited by some Districts for Vocation day.

The methods of discreet propaganda already in use to make known to the clergy and to Christian families the necessity and utility of the Institute, the variety of its works, the happiness and merits of a Brother's life are numerous, for example, films, biographies, conferences, divers publications, and exhibitions.

Two new suggestions were made to interest families in the generous gift of their children. It was proposed that on the occasion of the Perpetual profession of a young Brother, a particular acknowledgment of gratitude be offered to his parents. The idea was accepted by the Chapter which decided upon the publishing of a souvenir picture to send them with the announcement that they share in the prayers, good works and sacrifices offered daily in the Institute for the living and the dead.

Another Note suggested that the families be admitted to the ceremonies of taking the habit and the making of vows, which are so touching in their simplicity. The Chapter considered a general admission to the taking of the habit impracticable; the practice would often involve difficulty with

regard to religious enclosure and recollection. The admission of parents to our chapels for the making of vows would have fewer inconveniences.

b) *Formation of Brothers engaged in temporal work*:—Some notes requested that a sort of particular Scholasticate be created for the special formation of our young subjects known to be unfitted for formal book studies. Excellent in itself the idea appears difficult to realize. But nothing hinders these young Brothers, when assigned to the regular scholasticate along with their colleagues who follow courses, from being placed under the direction of competent Brothers who will initiate them in the occupations of their art and even prepare them for professional examinations. The Chapter decreed that the stay of these Brothers in the Scholasticate be at least two years.

Having given mature consideration to various suggestions, the Chapter adopted the following resolutions of the First Commission.

I. That our Recruiting Brothers be henceforth called "Brothers charged with the work of Vocations." (Vocational Directors).

II. That the Brothers charged with this work have periodic reunions under the presidency of a Major Superior in order to pool their methods of working.

III. That the monthly novena for Vocations in honor of the Most Holy Child Jesus, prescribed in the past only for Houses of Formation, be made in all our Communities.

IV. That a souvenir picture be designed to give to the family of a young Brother on the occasion of his Perpetual Profession.

V. That our young Brothers in temporal employments be initiated in their employments by Brothers especially qualified both from the religious and professional point of view. The minimum stay of these Brothers in the Scholasticate is one year but the Chapter desires this time to be prolonged in order to perfect their religious formation.

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SECOND COMMISSION: METHODS OF FORMATION

Concern about the religious and professional formation of our future Brothers gave rise to over 200 notes and the Chapter took the liveliest interest in this grave problem. The Secretary of the Commission, a specialist in the subject of formation, gave particular care to the classifying, arranging and interpreting of these notes and presented an illuminating report, reviewing every stage of formation in the Pre-Juniorate, Junior Novitiate, Novitiate and Scholasticate.

The Pre-Juniorate becomes a necessity in certain regions where divers circumstances compel the receiving of very young children whose vocation can only be considered potential. The purpose in such establishments

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is to surround children of 11 to 13 years with a deeply Christian environment, to initiate them in ideas of faith, morality and piety which inspire generosity and lead to a higher vocation. Directors and teachers in them have to perform a particularly delicate mission: to train these young souls that have known only the gentle warmth of home to lead a more serious Christian life, although this determination may have already been inspired in devout homes.

It is desirable that the Pre-Juniorate be separate from the Junoir Novitiate properly so called. In the latter the boy, grows, he becomes more manly and reaches the age apt for the conquest of self. Although preparatory to the Novitiate, the Junior Novitiate does not yet constitute the religious life properly so called. The adolescent has not yet risen to the complete comprehension of the renunciations called for. He has to be progressively initiated in the practices, in methods of prayer and work, in control of his actions which will make of him a young man, frank, loyal, generous and open, devoting himself with praiseworthy ardor to study through apostolic motives.

So disposed the Junior Novice looks forward with holy impatience to entrance into the Novitiate where he will give himself entirely to God without reserve and without looking back.

Some notes asked for a prolongation of the Novitiate; this revived an idea adopted in the Chapter of 1913 (Circ. No. 189, P. 24). After mature discussion the Chapter accepted the principle of two years Novitiate (including Postulantship) while, at the same time, leaving in the hands of the Higher Superiors the application of the measure according to opportunities of time and place (1). We must add that the prolongation of the duration of the Novitiate has received, in recent years, the Church's sanction in several Congregations similar to ours. Canonically, we know that the one year following the reception of the habit is required for the validity of the Vows. It is clear that a special program should be drawn up and established for the second year of Novitiate.

The Secretary reported also a certain desiderata formulated by some

(1) *The new text of the Rules of Government relative to the Novitiate states: "The duration of the Novitiate will be two years, including the postulantship. The complete and continuous year necessary for the validity of the Novitiate proper will immediately follow the Taking of the Habit. In Districts where the duration of the Scholasticate is at least three full years, we may keep to the one Canonical year of Novitiate."*

In a particular case the Regime may dispense a subject from the months which follow the canonical Probation.

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notes asking that the Novices work be more personal, that the time for study be less broken up and that more time for reflection and individual prayer be allowed.

The Scholasticate which follows is a period of professional preparation, superimposed without smothering or lessening the continuous work of religious formation. Horizons should be opened up to those students who are eager for knowledge in expectation of the joys of the apostolate. Along with knowledge properly so called it is important to train them to be competent and especially to acquire good manners which to a certain extent can make up for many deficiencies.

In his conclusion the Secretary was moved as far as to say that the greatest blessing which the General Chapter could bestow upon the Institute was to perfect the already solid organization of the Houses of Formation in order that it may better adapt itself to the needs of the hour present.

The Assembly ratified the propositions laid before it and declared itself ready for the "Sacrifices" required of it. The new edition of the Rule of Government will give precise details on this subject.

Various questions were dealt with during the discussion. The duration of vacation for Junior Novices received attention. Since the work of the Junior Novitiate is to initiate these youths to evangelical detachment from their parents, would it not be a mistake to treat them as ordinary pupils?

Here are the Resolutions formulated by the Second Commission and adopted by the Chapter:

I. That in various centres there be created Pre-Juniorates separate from the Junior Novitiates; that children who have attained at least eleven years completed be admitted there and that a rule be established for them keeping in view the age of the subjects, the objects to be attained and inspired by the methods of Catholic Action.

II. That the Junior Novices be guided in a manly fashion and with kindness; but while preparing them prudently for the Novitiate there be no encroachment upon the strict domain of the religious life. (Vows, Rules, etc.)

III. That the required age, moral and intellectual development, maturity of judgment above all be taken into account to determine transfer to the Novitiate; the date had better be delayed rather than advanced.

IV. That the schedule of the Novitiate be remodelled and less broken up in order to give more time for study, reflection and individual work.

V. That the duration of the Scholasticate be at least two years and that this period be not reduced without special approval of the Regime,

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that the professional and pedagogical preparation be effective and that there be added to each Scholasticate without delay a practising school.

VI. That the formation of our subjects from the Juniorate to the Scholasticate constitute one homogenous, progressive whole; for this purpose it will be useful to organize periodical reunions of Directors of the various groups, by Districts or by Assistants' areas, under the direction of a Higher Superior, for a better coordination of efforts.

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THIRD COMMISSION: PERSEVERENCE OF THE BROTHERS — SECOND NOVITIATE — VOWS OF RELIGION — DEVOTION TO OUR HOLY FOUNDER

The Third Commission had to examine 186 notes relating to the four items named above.

I. *Perseverance*:—This is based above all upon each one's correspondence with Grace, but it depends also upon many other factors, particularly upon the environment which must be made favorable. To assure the good formation of subjects is a point of great importance; but this preparation, however serious it may be will always be wanting in efficacy if the atmosphere of charity which promotes attachment to one's vocation, piety, regularity and of flight from the world which strengthen the habits acquired in the House of Formation is not created. This was the problem set by 79 notes relating to the beginnings of a young Brother in Community. We may add that they only recall the particulars given in Circular No. 263 of May 4, 1928, on the perseverance of the young Brothers.

The Brothers Directors and Inspectors should give very special attention to smoothing their first contacts with real life, that of teaching. Theirs is a great contribution towards their perseverance by helping them to achieve order, discipline, success in class and by leading them to taste the pure joy attached to the apostolate among young children. The young Brother then will not experience doubt or regret; his eyes will not be turned toward the world if, in addition to the above, the regular observance is in honor in the house where he has been placed; if a family spirit gives charm to daily relationship; if reditions are made supernaturally and regularly. And what an addition to one's strength, if the greater number of subjects coming from our Houses of Formation conserve their excellent dispositions and remain faithful to the ideal they had before them on the day of their receiving the Habit or making their Perpetual Profession!

A very practical report from a venerable Capitulant points out an increase in our numbers during the period between the two wars, notwithstanding many unfavorable circumstances. Increase continues no doubt, he remarks, but too slowly thus compelling us to modesty when contrasted

with certain other religious families during the same period. And he points out at length the causes which appear to him to explain this quasi-stagnation, causes only too real!

Should not each of our professed Brothers examine his conscience regarding the loss of such and such subjects with whom he lived? What influence did he exercise around him by example and by word? Has he been for those around him, especially the young, an inducement to fervor or, alas! a cause of supernatural deterioration?

Besides prayer, study and the means already pointed out, the Commission suggests with a view to perseverance, other means proved efficacious by experience. They are among the resolutions adopted by the Chapter.

II. *Second Novitiate*:—All the notes relating to this question agree in acknowledging its advantages both for those who follow it and for the Institute in general; likewise they desire that a greater number of Brothers be called to benefit by it and even that it be made obligatory for all perpetually professed Brothers. The Chapter, sharing fully the opinion of the authors of these notes in reference to the utility of the Second Novitiate, desires that it be resumed at the earliest time possible. While awaiting the time until all our Brothers may be able to follow it — which would require the establishment of several centres — the idea of organizing in various countries at the most convenient times retreats running to three or four months, received the entire approval of the Chapter. These periods of recollection which should recall the former Second Novitiate of three months, the "Hundred Days" of Athis or Lembecq, would be, everything allows us to hope, very fruitful for the spiritual renewal of Brothers of good will whose number is so great in the Institute.

But whether in the case of the Second Novitiate of nine months properly so called, or of these prolonged retreats, it is important that the Brothers who are summoned to them form a correct idea of what is expected of them, that is to say, of the program that will be laid before them. The Second Novitiate is essentially a period of "Spiritual renovation" as was said. It is not a time when, freed from the work of teaching, of the apostolate or of direction, one should aim only at perfecting his intellectual, philosophical, pedagogical, or administrative formation. It is a time given to deepening his interior life, in placing himself with greater love and intelligence in the school of the Holy Founder, in better absorbing his teaching and his spirit, in resolving in fact, to serve God and the Institute with complete generosity and perfect purity of intention.

III. *Vows of Religion*:—Rather numerous requests for dispensation impose upon us the duty of greater severity in admissions to Vows. We

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remind all our professed Brothers to prepare very conscientiously their notes on aspirants, above all when Perpetual Profession is in question. To help them, it is suggested that an analytical questionnaire enabling them to weigh up more completely their subjects be placed at their disposal. Once again the grave duty of discretion on what is said at the Chapters for Vows is recalled. Along with an indiscreet person exposing himself to canonical punishments, he might easily seriously compromise his conscience.

But it was principally on the vow and virtue of religious poverty that notes were numerous. They indicate serious relaxation here and there which could be explained by the abnormal circumstances of recent years: Brothers who keep money in private and dispose of it almost without control, according to their own desire, receiving for their personal use, giving and in all this acting without permission. The Commission requests the Chapter to put an end to these serious abuses and that the Brothers Visitors and Directors see that all their Brothers show a more just appreciation of the poverty which they vowed. We propose to return some day, in a circular, to the fundamental principles of religious poverty, the obligation of which remains more than ever among the most essential of our state. We equally exhort our Directors of Novitiates to insist upon the nature and importance of this virtue and vow.

IV. *Devotion to St. John Baptist De La Salle*:—A whole series of notes, and very consoling these were, came to rejoice our heart: they dealt with devotion to our most beloved Father. The biography written last year by Monsieur Gaetan Bernsville, a beautiful exaltation of our blessed Founder and of the virtues which make his personality attractive when one knows him well, will contribute no doubt to strengthen the desire which appears general to see devotion to him increased among us and everywhere that our influence extends. Several pages would not suffice to contain the suggestions of our Brothers on this point. Further on will be found those which are of general interest. Let each one in his sphere endeavor to make our Saint known and work to increase confidence in his intercession. An exceptional opportunity will soon occur; let us think of it from now on, in preparation for 1951, the third centenary of the birth of St. John Baptist de la Salle. Even in the humblest parishes where our Brothers live let us foresee what will be possible to do towards his glorification. Let each District and each house have at heart to contribute according to what is possible towards the realization of the desires of the Commission for a worthy celebration of the grand Tercentenary of which we speak.

Our General Procure has just published, in three sizes the picture in colors of our Holy Founder by Pierre Leger. The General Chapter desires

that it be adopted throughout the Institute as the official portrait. Do not hesitate to propagate it among our pupils, in their families and those of our benefactors.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE THIRD COMMISSION
ADOPTED BY THE CHAPTER

A. *Perseverance*:—

I. That on the second Tuesday of every month Holy Communion be offered in honor of St. John Baptist de la Salle to obtain perseverance for all; prayer for perseverance is the great means.

II. That young Brothers arriving in a Community be helped from the double point of view, religious and professional, by the Brothers Directors and Inspectors, in order that their first endeavors in the apostolic life be made easier.

III. That they be guided with solicitude by the Brothers Directors towards the strengthening of their good dispositions and the development of their interior life, by reddition well made, spiritual direction and assiduity in the exercises.

IV. That persons of the other sex employed in our houses be removed at the earliest moment and that according to the directions of Canon Law, the laws of the cloister be rigorously observed in places reserved for the Community.

V. That, according to the Spirit of the Rule, overwork be avoided in order that Brothers may have the time normally required for the regular life, their personal studies and professional duties; and that during vacation courses of study be organized and directed by serious Brothers of ability and authority under the control of the Brother Visitor.

VI. That everything be made to contribute towards a family spirit, joy and devotedness in the Community: by union of minds and hearts and by creating an atmosphere favorable to an increasing love for one's vocation. This will be one of the best factors of perseverance.

VII. That young Brothers called to military service be surrounded by special attention before, during and after their service; that efforts be made to procure for them all the material, spiritual and moral help that they may need.

B. *Second Novitiate*:—

That this institution be resumed as early as possible, and that centres of prolonged Retreats be organized in various regions for Brothers who are unable to make the Second Novitiate.

C. *Vows of Religion*:—

I. That there be greater strictness in admitting to Vows and particu-

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larly to perpetual Profession. That Professed Brothers make it a duty of conscience to send particulars required by the Chapter for Vows. Simple forms will be drawn up to facilitate the accomplishment of this obligation.

II. That permissions heretofore reserved to the Regime, such as the use of a watch, etc., may henceforth be given by the Brother Visitor for a limited period (one year).

III. That the Canonical prescriptions forbidding religious buying and selling for profit be recalled to the Brothers.

IV. The Commission and the Chapter, concerned by the violations of religious poverty reported from too many quarters, respectfully pray the Most Honored Brother Superior to recall at an early opportunity in a Circular the nature, importance, obligations and merit of the vow and the virtue of poverty.

D. *Devotion to our Holy Founder:*—

I. That the invocation now used: "St. John Baptist de la Salle, Pray for us" be replaced in our Communities by the following, "St. John Baptist de la Salle, our beloved Father and Founder, pray for us."

II. That the Relics of St. John Baptist de la Salle be enshrined more prominently in the Mother House Chapel and that House and Chapel be placed under the invocation of St. John Baptist de la Salle.

III. That preparations be commenced now for the celebration of the Tercentenary of the birth of our Holy Founder. The Jubilee Year may begin the 24th of May 1950, fiftieth anniversary of the Canonization and close on the 15th day of May, 1951 (third centenary of the Saint's birth on April 30, 1651).

IV. That proceedings to acquire l'Hotel de la Cloche at Rheims, the house where our Holy Founder was born, be expedited.

V. That statues, stained glass windows and pictures recall the life of our Saint in churches where our pupils follow the offices and even, where possible, in parochial churches where our Brothers teach.

VI. That the picture painted by Pierre Leger be adopted in the Institute as the official portrait of the Saint.

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FOURTH COMMISSION: RELIGIOUS STUDIES — SECULAR STUDIES PEDAGOGICAL FORMATION

Religious Studies:—

We can give only short extracts of the remarkable report by the Commission on the studies and pedagogical formation of our Brothers. First of all acknowledgment must be made of the program drawn up by the Chapter of 1934 for the higher studies in religion. The impetus then given

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has inspired many of our Brothers. The Commission then proposed a progressive development of this program by conferences and studies on Canon Law, on the teaching of our Holy Founder, on the great encyclicals, on the Social doctrine of the Church, on Mysticism, etc. These are ambitious projects, assuredly, but rather difficult to realize. The Chapter preferred adhering for the present to the 1934 program, leaving to time and experience the care of enriching the lines indicated by the report of the Secretary.

The Commission tackled a more practical subject when it advocated more solid religious studies and better direction in our formation groups. According to certain notes, memory work counts for too much in them. It is desired that our subjects leave the Scholasticate with better knowledge of our Religion Courses. In our day particularly, when the level of secular studies is notably higher than formerly, it would be regrettable to allow a disparity to exist among our young Brothers between religious knowledge and other subjects. Would there not even be danger to their faith when in military service or while attending universities they came in contact with philosophical doctrines of materialistic or atheistic tendencies.

Another excellent suggestion is that which states that the half-hour study of Religion in our Communities is a strict minimum which might profitably be prolonged. According to the spirit of our Holy Founder who prescribes as many as three religious studies on certain days, it is desirable that our Brothers should employ a good part of their free time in developing their religious and philosophical background.

The Report deals mainly with the catechetical formation of our Brothers, the organization of religious studies in our classes and the preparation of catechism examinations. Finally, echoing several notes, the Commission proposed the creation at the Mother House of a centre for higher religious studies where, under the eyes and under the control of Holy Church, Brothers could come to obtain official diplomas. We would be pleased to see such an Institution and we have a lively hope of being able to realize it some day. We take this occasion to felicitate the editors of the Italian catechetical Review "Sussidi" which now circulates almost throughout the whole country, thus shedding great honor upon the Institute. We salute the blessed memory of Dear Brother Assistant Candido who was the zealous promoter of this movement of catechetical pedagogy.

Secular Studies:—

In order that our Brothers may not occupy an inferior position in comparison with teachers in public schools, the effort made during several

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years past by the Institute in the scientific and cultural domain should be continued. There is much reason to felicitate the Brothers Visitors who have so organized studies in the Juniorates that the greater number of Junior Novices admitted to the Novitiate already possess official diplomas. The three years' stay in the Scholasticate will assure our young Brothers not only purely book knowledge, but will furnish them with methods of work which will effectively help them to complete their intellectual formation. Some notes suggested that our young subjects should follow a good course of Thomistic Philosophy. We will not insist here upon the precautions to take in regard to the Brothers who follow University courses. The revised edition of the Common Rules, in the XXVIIIth Chapter, reproduces the canonical prescriptions on this important point.

Pedagogical Formation:—

The 39 notes relating to this question only reproduced those already examined by the 1934 Chapter; there is no use in going back upon this point unless to ask that to the progress happily achieved in this domain others be added. Thus it is desired that Pedagogical Conferences for Brothers of the same region be made general, that model lessons be given in presence of teachers by experienced Brothers and that when possible even Catechism of Community, so neglected in too many houses, be given now in one class, now in another: this would lead to renewal of this excellent exercise to the great benefit of everybody.

Other happy suggestions are likewise presented in the report; among them we should like to mention a critical edition of the "Conduct of Schools" of 1720 and as soon as circumstances allow, the publication of a "Pedagogical Review of the Institute". While awaiting these ventures a wider circulation might be given to Regional Reviews published by certain Districts.

Three sets of resolutions terminated the reported of the Fourth Commission.

A. Religious Studies:—

I. That a serious program of religious studies for our Houses of Formation be established, subject to examination, so that Scholastics may arrive in the Community with a good knowledge of the whole doctrine of the Elementary Course; and to avoid purely book knowledge, that appropriate courses be given in the various groups in order to help the understanding of the texts.

II. That in future the rating of the Catechism Examinations papers for the Elementary Course be made according to Assistants' areas, and that of the Superior Course continue to be rated at the Mother House; that these ratings be at the same time friendly and serious so that the Brothers

may hold the Examinations in high esteem. To candidates who succeed in passing only portions of the examination, the Chapter allows credit for the portions passed successfully, without limit of time.

III. That a Centre for Higher Studies of Religion be organized at the Mother House and that in the meantime a few Brothers from each District chosen from the most gifted and most religious be enabled to follow Courses of Religion in Catholic Universities and obtain official degrees in Sacred Science; such Brothers in their turn would become Masters of Religious training in our formation groups and vacation courses.

B. *Pedagogical Formation*:—

I. That the Institute give fresh vigor to the teaching of the science of Pedagogy which the Catechism forms its special field, and that a program in this specialty be drawn up for the whole Institute.

II. That the organization of studies in Houses of Formation be such that the aim be not merely the acquisition of the official diplomas necessary for teachers but that it contributes also to the harmonious development of a solid religious, intellectual, and professional formation. For this purpose that the duration of the Scholasticate be extended to three years.

III. That a "Committee on Studies" be created in each District to organize, direct, encourage and stimulate studies of Brothers in the Communities, according to Chapter XXVIII of the Common Rules.

IV. That Brothers Directors give special attention to the development of their Community library and that conformably to the prescriptions of Holy Church, prohibited books and such as might present some danger be excluded from it.

V. That the study of modern languages, especially that of our Holy Founder be encouraged and that the exchange of Brothers of diverse nationalities for vacation courses be promoted. It would be desirable that a Brother possessing a thorough knowledge of the official language of the Institute be placed in each House of Formation to supervise the teaching of that language.

VI. That the holding of conferences and pedagogical reunions among the Brothers to discuss their experiences in common be made general in Districts for the purpose of enhancing the Lasallian Pedagogical system.

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FIFTH COMMISSION: POPULAR SCHOOLS — GRATUITY —
BOARDING SCHOOLS — CATHOLIC ACTION

The Fifth Commission expressed its happiness in noting in the 180 notes submitted to it, a strong current towards apostolic action, adapted

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to the spirit of our time and radiating a wholly supernatural enthusiasm, nourished at the pure springs of Faith.

Schools and Gratuity:—

On this subject a beautiful report, clear and precise, summarizing 22 notes, four of which were particularly important, was presented to the General Chapter. The obstacles placed in the way of Catholic teaching in several countries bring us face to face with a painful dilemma: either to close our schools or to charge tuition fees. Rescripts obtained at various times permit us to waive gratuity but only to the extent necessary for the maintenance of the schools. In no instance should our school activity degenerate into a "commercial affair". We must add that the permissions obtained from Rome would become null and void *ipso facto* if the laws that suppress or restrain the freedom of Christian teaching being revoked our schools could again be able to support themselves otherwise than by the charging of fees. This report remarks that the Church reminds us from time to time of this grand principle of gratuitous teaching upon which the Institute is, so to speak, founded. Thus the letter from His Eminence, Cardinal Lavitrano, quoted in Part II recalls what we should never lose sight of: that we were founded principally for the children of the poorer classes; that this characteristic of disinterestedness which constitutes our strength and our glory, while at the same time assuring us the sympathies of the masses so dear to the Church, must be preserved in our apostolate at all costs.

Teaching in Secondary Schools — Boarding Schools:—

It is to be noted that the 83 notes on this subject were in full accord generally with the letter of the Sacred Congregation of Religious: they ask for a decrease in the number of higher establishments for classics in favor of our Common Schools; several notes expressed the desire for an increase of Normal Schools directed by the Institute; this would correspond to a thought which, as we know, was always dear to the heart of St. John Baptist de la Salle.

Other notes pointed out serious desiderata that the difficulties of the times explain without quite justifying them: such as the employment of female teachers in our primary classes and the multiplication of secular teachers in a number of schools.

Finally the overwork frequently imposed upon our Brothers is deplored: these tasks usually include the diverse functions of supervisors, teachers, students, etc., often to the great injury of the supernatural life. Certainly, devotedness is characteristic of our Brothers; however, it should not injure the essential, the religious life, which can only wither away if not nourished by the spiritual exercises performed seriously without omitting any. Our

Brothers Visitors must remedy this. They will lessen the hours of class in the elementary schools, prevent the hours of study from being transformed into lessons properly so called, and decide if necessary upon the suppressing of classes and extra curricular activities. In a word, they will so arrange that the schools be adjusted to the personnel, if the personnel cannot be adjusted to the schools.

Only a very small number of notes dealt with exercises of piety in the school; that explains itself since the 1928 and 1934 Chapters have given precise directions on this point. It is still necessary, however, to insist upon attendance at Mass, as often as possible and by all the pupils in our classes in Catholic countries. Mass is the essential act of religion, the principal prayer of a Christian. You will not fail, Dear Brothers, to remind your pupils of this frequently.

Catholic Action:—

During very long sessions the General Chapter occupied itself with questions of Catholic Action. The Secretary of the Commission explained this subject in a close study which presents the problem objectively, distinctly and clearly. He does not disguise the difficulties that have arisen here and there between the official directors (Clergy) and our Brothers. Steps are being taken to have clearly determined the respective roles of one and the other.

Certain Brothers would see in Catholic Action only purely external manifestations since it consists essentially in the Apostleship in the region where one is. For the Brother of the Christian Schools, Catholic Action should be above all the causing of Christ to radiate in the Community, in class, in school, in post graduate works, in clubs, in raising apostles among pupils, etc. . . . The very beautiful study that appeared in Circular No. 297 gives the general methods of arranging a program but the application to particular cases sometimes remains difficult. The Secretary of the Commission endeavored to give in precise formulae concrete directives in his conclusions.

The Chapter then began to study the manner of adapting to our methods of Catholic Action our traditional Archconfraternities of the Divine Child Jesus and that of the Most Blessed Virgin. The Jesuit Fathers have excellently realized this adaptation for their Marian Congregations; the movements of Catholic Action and Confraternities helping one another. The Commission desired that the Archconfraternity of the Divine Child Jesus, already flourishing, may develop still further. A voluminous file reviewing the whole history of the devotion in the Institute, had been placed at the disposal of the General Chapter. Numerous suggestions were found there inspired by fervent and entirely praiseworthy zeal; but, following the policy

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of previous Chapters, it did not seem advisable to increase the number of practices already established.

The Commission, approved by the whole Chapter, desired that our Confraternities, formatives of piety and purity and nurseries of generous vocations, when they are well conducted, be maintained everywhere. The Commission also pointed to the remarkable program of the Union of Catechists of Turin, expressing the hope that all our Catechetical organizations may get in touch with it so as to derive inspiration from it and also to share in the spiritual riches of the pious union of the Most Holy Crucifix of that town.

The Brother Secretary concluded his long interesting Report with these words: "We leave with regret, minds so full of life, hearts overflowing with ideals and expressing themselves in ardent, anxious notes. It has been a pleasure for the Commission to have been in contact with the highest aspirations of the Institute, and to have witnessed that this supernatural nobility is a family virtue spread over every continent. We should have like to express in better fashion the greatness and deep appeal to young, devout apostles who dream only of the salvation of souls, of the Institute and of Jesus Christ."

RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMISSION

A. *Schools and Gratuity*:—

I. The Commission, deeply concerned at the abandoning of gratuity in certain regions of the Institute, respectfully requested the Most Honorable Brother Superior to issue a precise, objective Circular on the Vow of Gratuitous teaching and on the Rule of Gratuity.

II. The Commission in appealing for a preferential development of popular teaching suggests therefore: (a) that in each District the majority of Brothers be engaged in such teaching; (b) that during the decennial period following the present Chapter, no new schools be opened except by special authorization of the Regime unless they approach as nearly as possible to the gratuity proposed by the Rule and the Bull.

III. It is important to proceed to a religious reorganization of our schools; (a) By the immediate removal of the feminine element employed in certain places in consequence of the war. (b) By progressive reduction of the lay element and by the Superiors refusing to open any new school which might mean an increase of the lay personnel in a District. (c) By the revision of school schedules, in order to lighten the work of the Brothers in all categories of schools, notably in boarding schools, and to make it possible for them to satisfy the requirements of their religious and professional life.

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IV. It is desirable that for the formation of lay Catholic teachers Training Colleges be established in any countries where the Institute has none already, or at least special courses connected with our work be presented.

Catholic Action:—

I. That it be a duty for all Brothers to follow the directions of Holy Church with diligence on the subject of Catholic Action, with a view of increasing the Reign of Jesus Christ in the World.

II. That the Brothers conform to the decisions taken by common agreement between either the Superiors and the Hierarchy or with persons who direct the School Branch of Catholic Action.

III. That with the approval of Superiors, a Brother may be delegated to represent the interests of our works with the Authorities of the Catholic Action Movement.

IV. That if he judges proper, the Brother Visitor of each District may nominate a Director of Catholic Action, charged with coordinating the varied apostolical activities in our schools.

V. That in concert with the Brother Visitor or his delegate, the Brother Director should organize in his school the Movement of Catholic Action and apostleship appropriate to the circumstances.

VI. That with the authorization of Brother Visitor, Brothers may take part in meetings or sessions of Catholic Action for schools. Brother Visitor will designate the Brothers who should accompany pupils to the various Exhibits and Conferences of Catholic Action. Such Brothers should give evidence of the religious and moral guarantees required by this apostleship.

In these circumstances the following regulations will be followed:

(a) The Brothers should be at least three in number, of whom one with perpetual profession will be responsible.

(b) They will conform to canonical prescriptions for wearing the religious habit.

(c) They will devote to the religious exercises of piety all the accustomed time.

VII. That it be the Brothers' duty to group the better pupils of the Catholic Action movements in the Archconfraternity of the Divine Child or that of the Most Blessed Virgin. By their piety, their influence and supernatural radiance, these chosen ones will be initiated in the leadership of their groups.

VIII. That the Brothers endeavor to organize and maintain Alumni Societies according to the methods of Catholic Action. They will induce former students to become the vanguard and leaders of Catholic Action

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Movements in their area. They will interest themselves in the grouping of Alumni Societies into National and International Federations.

IX. That novices be initiated in the doctrine of Catholic Action and that the Scholastics be instructed in the methods of the apostleship in school movements of Catholic Action.

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SIXTH COMMISSION: REGULARITY AND OBSERVANCE

The Sixth Commission had to study 665 notes relating to regular observance. Its work was greatly facilitated by the new edition of our Rules, several of the modifications asked for being already included therein. The report of the Commission emphasizes that, in general, the notes demonstrate our Brothers' attachment to regularity; but that some notes indicate deficiencies, negligences and sometimes even relaxation; it is the duty of the General Chapter to take steps to correct these defects. Human weakness explains breaches of observance here and there but habitual irregularity is intolerable.

Among the abuses pointed out, we will mention spiritual sloth, even collective, in rising, from which follows almost fatally the shortening of the morning exercises or omissions of mental prayer; lateness in retiring also with consequences that one can guess; neglect of evening spiritual exercises which are shortened or omitted on the plea that one is busy with works of apostleship; general violation of the rule of silence; excessive liberties taken about wearing the religious habit; imprudences in relations with the world; irregular journeys unduly prolonged; too much concern with the food; the use of luxuries.

An insistent demand was made for the restoration of the authority of the Rule, honoring the "Supports of the Institute" and above all for fidelity to Mental Prayer and Reddition.

Finally the Report dealt with prayers and Spiritual exercises. It made many suggestions to combat automatism in vocal prayers, by recalling special intentions at the beginning in order to revive fervour. The Commission stated through its Secretary that it places much hope in the new edition of the Common Rules and Rule of Government to bring about the required amendments. The Commission placed much confidence in the Brothers Visitors who will know how to make use of the regular Visits to see to it that "everything be done fittingly and in order", in all our communities.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH COMMISSION

I. That, according to Rule, each Community be given a Coutumier sufficiently detailed so as to leave nothing optional or arbitrary; that it be

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at the Brothers' use and that the fidelity in following it be mentioned in the Act of the Visit.

II. That the new publication of the Rule be made an occasion to restore its authority, particularly in what concerns the "Interior and Exterior Supports". The following is very particularly recommended:

(a) That Daily Accusation be made individually or by those who have violated some point of Rule in the Community.

(b) That Weekly Reddition be made according to the method in the Collection upon which comment will be made periodically.

III. That Community prayers of which the text is in Latin may be said from time to time in the vernacular in order to break up routine, to force attention and thus to help piety.

IV. That every month the intention of the Apostleship of Prayer be recalled: this intention might be posted on the chapel door throughout the month.

V. That the Litany of St. Joseph now approved and indulgenced replace the *Quicumque*. This is only a return to the practice of St. John Baptist de la Salle.

VI. That henceforward the Office recited monthly on Monday in honor of our Holy Founder consist of the Invitatory, the Hymn, one Nocturne, Matins and Lauds.

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SEVENTH COMMISSION: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION — GENERAL CHAPTERS — SUPERIORS

The Secretary summarized 343 notes several of which coming from former Brothers Visitors retired from administrative affairs, are noteworthy. Reading them, one is convinced that our Brothers are deeply interested in the affairs of the Institute, that a fine esprit de corps unites them and that they are penetrated with a most filial deference towards the Superiors of the Congregation.

The Secretary called attention to notes relating to our General Assemblies, and to the administrative divisions of the Institute.

The questions contained in them have solutions presented in the second part of this Circular; there is no need for repetition.

A few rather painful notes pointed out regrettable deficiencies in certain Brothers Directors: some showing themselves too weak for regular observance others too exacting. It is not today that the delicate problem of "suaviter" and "fortiter" has arisen; the practical rule that would combine both in perfect proportion is not the easiest to formulate. Our Brothers will find in their Spirit of Faith and their charity the means of conciliating all things. Seeing Jesus Christ in the person of their Director,

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they will know how, in the words of our Holy Founder to make a distinction between the person of Jesus Christ who is without flaw and the person of man who may be subject to a multitude of imperfections. (73 Meditation 1).

Other notes stated that it would be advisable for Superiors not to be kept in charge too long; to which the answer is that ideally this is true but practically, it supposes that inferiors who possess the requisite qualities for successful exercise of authority are numerous: — that is not the case. It is sufficient, besides, that on this point as on all the others, the prescriptions of Canon Law be observed.

The Secretary ended his Report by happily quoting the text of our Blessed Father, so replete with truth and experience: "The Institute is in the hands of the Brothers Director; it is they who contribute to build it up or to destroy it." And he insisted upon the earliest resumption of the institutions intended for the formation or training of leaders: special Retreats for the Brothers Director, Second Novitiate and, everywhere that it can be done, spiritual reunions every three months.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTH COMMISSION

I. That an administrative recast of our Districts be made by the Regime more in conformity with the prescriptions of Canon Law.

II. That, following the suggestions of the Sacred Congregation for Religious the number of members of our capitulary assemblies be notably diminished, and that there be as far as possible an equal number of Members *ex officio* and elected Deputies.

III. That the report of the visit be simplified and that there be agreement between the financial statement of the Visit and the quarterly statements.

IV. That the District Council be convoked regularly and that every member be obliged to attend when the vote of the council is to be deliberative.

V. That, where the local circumstances permit, the Brothers Directors be called together from time to time for a few days of study and recollection in order to recall to them their duties as superior, director in school and administrator: During this time they could also examine and discuss together particular district affairs.

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EIGHTH COMMISSION: NAMES IN RELIGION; CLOTHING; TRAVELING; RETREATS; DECEASED MEMBERS

Names in Religion:—

A few notes asked for the suppression of religious names. Would not that be to forget that the Holy Founder advocated our separation from

the world to be complete; that he would have us ignore even our family name. Also that the use of a religious name is a continual reminder of the great virtues of humility and abnegation. Moreover, since it is question of a tradition which goes back to the origin of the Institute let us be careful not to abandon it, in so far as the reasons put forward by the notes in question do not seem to have much importance nor are the inconveniences mentioned in the said notes really very serious. After discussion therefore, the Chapter decided to maintain the status quo while at the same time fully permitting, in cases of necessity or usefulness, in official documents for example, that the religious name be followed by the family name. Let us add, that as far as possible Baptismal names will be included in the religious names and a revision in our list of names will be prepared.

Clothing:—

The reading of some fanciful notes provoked a smile among the Capitulants. The question of the mantle and hat gave rise to some interesting and useful remarks. As regards those referring to the mantle, they may be summed up under two headings. (a) We must preserve the traditional form of our habit; (b) in bad weather we must protect our Brothers from the cold. A sort of *Supprano* can be introduced, after the fashion of that worn by our Italian Brothers which will allow the realization of the double object. As regards the hat, we will confine ourselves to the text proposed by the Commission. Precise instructions were asked for relative to the wearing of overcoats, capes, berets . . . in principle, these outfits are not permitted; particular cases are provided for and regulated by the Brothers Visitors in conjunction with the Brothers Assistants.

Traveling:—

The world war made it almost impossible, or at least very difficult, for our European Brothers residing in distant countries to visit their families. This explains the numerous complaints in certain notes. Since circumstances have permitted, instructions on this subject have been given to the Brothers Visitors. But it is important to remark, Very Dear Brothers, that visits to relatives are not of strict "right", but rather a tolerance. For all, the religious life is constituted in its very essence by the separation from the world and evangelical detachment from relatives. If convenience or a legitimate custom authorizes a visit from time to time a religious must not lose sight of the fact that he is obliged to keep within the limits of the permissions granted. To go beyond the authorizations received, as for example, to make important modifications of one's route, or to prolong, of one's own accord the length of the permission would be,

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not only a violation of religious discipline, but would also expose one to grave faults against poverty and obedience, according to the opinion of a very renowned canonist. The Chapter advocated that vacation centers be created to accommodate the Brothers from certain districts where the climate has a weakening effect on the health of the Brothers. On this point, as on the others the Superiors will know how to distinguish between real and imaginary necessity.

Retreats:—

Some notes asked that the schedule of our retreats be revised in order to give more time to reflection and personal efforts. Some Brothers would prefer less conferences and less instructions, on which point the Secretary remarked that our retreats are, above all, days of spiritual renovation; they also serve as a sort of little congress, where in contact with the higher Superiors, we are happy to receive directions, instructions and encouragement. The new time-table indicated in the revised Common Rules, lightens the former one, and we hope it will give satisfaction to all our Brothers. Our leaflets for spiritual reading were the objects of some criticisms, but the Secretary very ably refuted them. In fact, the last series published by the General Procure are very fine and justly appreciated. Moreover there is nothing to prevent one from reading some well chosen spiritual books, as well as these leaflets, during the time prescribed.

Deceased Brothers:—

In regard to our Dear Deceased Brothers it has been pointed out that the Soldier Brothers who have died without vows during the war will receive the benefit of the suffrages prescribed by the Rule, if there is nothing to indicate positively that they had severed their connection with the Institute. We are urged piously to remember our Dear Departed Brothers. In some Districts, each morning after the reading of the Calendar the names of the Brothers of the Community or of the District who have died on that date are read out. This is a very praiseworthy custom. In some other places a tablet bearing the names of the deceased Brothers of the District is placed at the entrance to the Chapel. The graves of our Dear Deceased Brothers should be carefully tended. In order to insure that this is carried out, it is recommended that the Brothers Visitors visit the cemetery during the Canonical Visit.

Suffrages for our Deceased Brothers:—

Several times during the Chapter from the 22nd to the 25th of May the question of the suffrages for our deceased Brothers came up for consideration. Very fraternal discussions took place, we are happy to inform you, Very Dear Brothers, characterized by a great spirit of charity, a very

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attentive delicacy, and a deep concern to avoid the least injustice. In spite of all considerations we had to bow before the actual exigencies of the moment and decide to reduce the suffrages for our dead. The great expansion of the Institute and the assimilation of the novices with the Professed Brothers, by Canon Law, for the suffrages after death, have made it very difficult and almost impossible to have the prescribed Masses celebrated for our deceased members. Before 1940 there were about 60,000 Masses to be said each year. Not only has the money, now amounting to millions of francs, to be found to pay the stipend for all these Masses, but also Religious Congregations where we can be assured that the Masses will be offered, are not available.

The difficulties of communications, correspondence, and forwarding of instructions created by the war, have caused a considerable delay in having the Masses celebrated; but we have hopes that all these arrears of Masses will soon be cleared up. Already since the end of the Chapter we have been able to arrange for 30,000 Masses and to pay the required stipends in cash. But having liquidated the past, we must think of the future, and as we have already said, to our great regret, we can see no possibility of continuing for our dear departed the same suffrages as formerly.

Everything then duly considered, it was decided by the Chapter that from the 1st of January 1947, the number of Masses for the novices and the Professed Brothers would be reduced from 100 to 50, and that hereafter the obligation of paying for and having the Masses celebrated would fall, not on the Institute but on the Districts. When the number of Masses to be celebrated in a District exceeds 50, each of the houses of that district will have one celebrated, as soon as the death of a Brother of the District is announced.

Regarding a Brother who has belonged to several Districts, it will be the duty of the District, where he has spent the greater portion of his time, to have Masses celebrated. If there should arise a dispute on this matter it will be regulated by the Brothers Assistants. It is to be understood of course that this measure adopted by the Chapter is not retroactive; consequently, the Brothers who made Perpetual Profession before the General Chapter of April 26th, 1923 retain the privilege of 300 Masses; all the other Brothers, Professed or Novices before 1947 will enjoy the benefit of 100 Masses, and those who take the Holy Habit after January 1, 1947 will have the right to 50 Masses.

A question asked by one of the Capitulants led to the following observation, viz., that even after this reduction, the suffrages accorded to our dear departed are very much greater than in most other congregations. Moreover it is well to remember that besides the Masses, our deceased

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Brothers have the benefit of many other suffrages: Daily Prayers, Offices of the Dead, Holy Communions, etc. Let each of us generously and piously acquit ourselves of these regular prescriptions in order that our dear departed may pass more rapidly from the sojourn of their last purifications to the endless happiness of Heaven.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTH COMMISSION

Religious Names:—

I. That a new revision of names to be given at the taking of the Holy Habit be made, eliminating those which are disagreeable in pronunciation. As far as possible the Baptismal name will be given as second name.

II. That names of deceased Brothers or of those who have left the Institute be given to postulants only after a period of 5 years, and that names of deceased Brothers of renowned sanctity or some degree of fame be given with discernment.

III. That in the Institute, the abbreviation F.S.C. following the name be adopted to the exclusion of all others.

Clothing:—

I. That our traditional dress be preserved in all its details and that conformably to canonical prescriptions it be worn by all the Brothers both outside and inside the house, unless the laws or customs of the country require otherwise.

II. That the wearing of the traditional mantle be obligatory for all Brothers and in all countries when taking part in religious or official ceremonies and particularly when approaching the Holy Table or when representing the Institute at any function. It is forbidden to the Brothers to walk out without the mantle.

III. That, as an extra protection against the cold, the Brothers be allowed to wear a *Supramo*, of black material over the robe and of the same robe length and measurements and conforming to the descriptions given in the Rule of Government.

IV. That, in countries where the wearing of the traditional hat is not very desirable, the Brothers be allowed, with the consent of the Regime, to wear the ecclesiastical hat, which shall be modest and without ornament.

Traveling:—

I. That, as far as possible, the Missionary Brothers, at their request, be allowed to return periodically to their native country for a short holiday; that this be arranged according to their order of seniority and at intervals determined by Capitulary Decisions or by the Regime.

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II. That in Districts of the same region there be uniformity both for the frequency and duration of holidays spent with one's family; the matter shall be subordinated to the Regime for the final decisions on this question.

III. That there be in each District vacation centers for Brothers who are fatigued, due to climate or overwork, in order to avoid their having to take the necessary relaxation with their families.

Annual Retreats:—

I. That a little more liberty be left to the Brothers with regard to their spiritual reading during the retreats.

II. That the afternoon conferences be given on divers professional topics by competent Brothers who are designated by the Brother Visitor. Such subjects may include Catechism and its related topics, Confraternities, Catholic Action, Piety in the Schools, Supervision, Fostering of Vocations, divers Apostolates, etc.

Deceased Brothers:—

That during the Canonical Visit the Brothers Visitors go to the community or local cemetery to pray at the graves of the Brothers and to assure themselves that they are well kept. They should also inquire if the memory of the deceased Brothers of the District is frequently called to the attention of the Community.

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NINTH COMMISSION: GENERAL PROCURE — PUBLICATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

This Commission studied 167 notes referring to the Necrological Notices, the Religious Calendar, reprints of the works of the Institute and new publications. All gave evidence of the desire to see our General Procure abundantly supplied with useful works for the development of the religious spirit as well as timely pedagogical publications.

The Chapter paid a warm tribute to our General Procure which even during the war with a reduced staff was able to cope with many difficulties such as lack of raw material, notably paper, troublesome inquiries, etc. The General Procure looked after the interests of the Institute and contributed immeasurably in saving its material, moral and intellectual patrimony.

To all these faithful workers, authors, draughtsmen, accountants and employees of the Book Department, the Commission expressed its congratulations and sincere thanks.

In its homage to the very worthy staff of the General Procure the Chapter wished to include especially one of its indefatigable workers who

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although advanced in years remains perennially young in heart. How many beautiful and moving stories, signed I. de Cice, the work of his facile pen, are all inspired by one single thought: to glorify our humble state and raise up vocations to the Institute.

Finally the Chapter again wished to express its warm congratulations to Mr. George Rigault, our eminent historian for the remarkable monument he has raised to the honor of the Institute. With tact, delicacy, wonderful brilliancy, he has revived the glorious past of our Congregation and its beneficent role. In recognition of its lively satisfaction the Assembly decided that an official letter be addressed to Mr. George Rigault to express our gratitude and our admiration.

The Bulletin of the Christian Schools, a publication of contact among our Brothers of the five parts of the globe, is, of all our publications, the one which we desire most ardently to see again in circulation. We would even wish to have it issued monthly. The Capitulants asked for the creation of a Bureau of Information at the Mother House, where Brothers of various languages could be informed on the activity and success of our Brothers in all countries, and to which Brothers would be assigned to work on various publications which would make our Institute better known. The suggestion seems to us very desirable, but here again the shortage of personnel in Districts obliges us to postpone its realization.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE NINTH COMMISSION

Publications:—

I. That there be created at the Mother House a permanent Office of Publicity and Bureau of Information composed of a number of competent Brothers. The principle functions of this Office would be:

- (a) To collect all possible documents of interest to the Institute.
- (b) To publish the Bulletin of the Institute and as soon as it is possible, a monthly review in French.
- (c) To publish a Monthly Review in all the principal languages of the Institute.
- (d) To reply to all requests for information and to contribute towards Lasallian Exhibits.
- (e) To make known the works of the Congregation by booklets, pictures, and leaflets.
- (f) To translate into the principal language publications of general interest to the Institute.

II. That as soon as possible two talking films be prepared, one on the life of St. John Baptist de la Salle and the other on the works of the Institute.

III. That the General Procure print revisions of the following books:

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Souvenir of the Novitiate in a larger type

Catechism of Vows

School Management

Methods of Mental Prayer

And that it undertake the publication of leaflets to encourage vocations to the Institute.

* * * * *

TENTH COMMISSION: MISSIONS — ANCIENTS — HEALTH

Missions:—

The Commission, composed almost exclusively of Missionary Brothers, many of whom were for a long time in distant fields elected as its Chairman a Brother who was animated by the most ardent zeal. He spoke in very moving terms of the distress of the missionary Districts and insisted on the need for action, thus voicing the wish of Holy Mother Church, of Pope Pius XII, now gloriously reigning, and of his immediately predecessors who recalled more than once in these latter times the duty of all to foster the mission spirit.

The Chairman referred to obstacles to the missionary action: lack of personnel, suppression of Districts, a self-centered fear of supposed "Missionary Contamination". "They forget," he stated, "that God knows how to recompense the Districts which respond to the Call of Souls still buried in the Shadows of Death, by sending them choice vocations." He deplored the fact that there are regions among us which seem closed to the very idea of the Missions. "Is it not possible," he inquired, "that there are elite souls in every District for whom the ordinary sacrifices do not suffice? To such generous Brothers we must give full encouragement, provided they have sufficient good health, that they are eager for renunciation and abnegation, completely devoid of all nationalistic spirit and determined before all else to serve God and the Church." He regretted the circumstances which brought about the closing of the missionary center of formation at the Mother House and advocated the reestablishment of it as soon as possible.

Finally, he pointed out, that side by side with direct missionary action and actual participation in distant missionary work, there are within the reach of all many means to help missionaries, namely, prayer, sacrifice, an interest in the work of the Propagation of the Faith and participation in Mission Day or in Missionary Exhibits. During the discussion a Capitulant expressed the wish that the Most Honorable Brother Superior General himself send some Brothers each year to the Missions. This, of course, would imply the existence of a Missionary Novitiate depending directly on the Brother Superior. Some very attractive propositions to conduct mis-

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sions in distant countries have had to be abandoned for lack of subjects so that Protestant organizations have taken the place of Catholic teachers. In his conclusion the Chairman affirmed that an increase of missionary activity is for an Institute and for a District not a loss of men but an enrichment because the missionary spirit will surely bring numerous vocations to the Institute.

The entire Chapter endorsed this fine and generous report by its applause, thus showing that it was in complete agreement with such views.

The Ancients:—

In a delicately worded Report the Secretary addressed us concerning our elderly Brothers, the ill and infirm in our "Houses of Retreat." He felt, and rightly so, a lively sympathy for them and expressed the wish that those who had become worn out in the service of the Lord might find their remaining days in the Institute happy and consoling. He suggested that the need for action which these venerable Brothers feel be given an outlet by assigning them to light but useful and distracting occupations. He insisted above all that these elderly Brothers, so worthy of every consideration, have the assistance of good infirmarians who are sympathetic, encouraging and consoling, to render them all necessary services with patience and devotion. He concluded with the invitation: "Let us take care of our aged Brothers and act towards them with a happy mixture of attention, joyfulness and holy affection, until their last hour when they close their eyes in death and enter the portals of Paradise."

Health of the Brothers:—

The file relating to this matter contained 27 Notes. The Secretary paid grateful acknowledgment to the efforts made in the Institute to oppose the havoc of tuberculosis by the establishment of sanitoriums, particularly that of Angoustrine, France. He expressed the wish that similar institutions be opened in other Districts so that our invalid Brothers would not have to be confined to public hospitals. He then recommended medical attention from eminent specialists who are devoted to our Brothers in order to forestall certain infirmities and to prevent pulmonary ailments.

The discussions gave occasion for useful suggestions concerning the training of infirmarians, the keeping of health charts in the Houses of Formation, rest cures and the necessity of attentively following up the health of the young Brothers immediately on the first signs of any weakness. Finally it warned that the Chapters for admission to first vows for the Novices must carefully examine the psychological, pathological and general health of candidates because once admitted to vows, they cannot afterwards be excluded for reasons of health.

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RESOLUTIONS OF THE TENTH COMMISSION

Missions:—

The Commission respectfully asked the Most Honorable Brother Superior

I. That a circular be prepared dealing in detail with the question of the Missionary Apostleship, its spirit, and the Missionary Activities in the Institute.

II. That a Bureau of Missions be organized at the Mother House and that the "Apostolic Novitiate" be reopened with a view to furnishing subjects for our Mission Fields.

III. That the Missionary Action be fostered in all our Districts

a) By a crusade of Prayers and sacrifices.

b) By catechisms, conferences and films.

c) By exhibitions showing the Apostleship of the Institute in Missionary countries. Experience has shown that these Exhibitions awaken a most lively interest and are a revelation to the public. Also that a permanent exhibition, or missionary museum should have its special place in the Mother House.

d) By the establishment of a Missionary Fund in our schools, without prejudice to collections already established for other good works.

e) By the adoption or sponsorship of a Mission school by each one of our large establishments.

IV. That in all our houses, the *Feast of the Missions* be well celebrated. It provides a very natural occasion to make known the work of our missionaries, by sermons, conferences, exhibitions, and to request prayers for them. In this manner there will be created in our schools a lively interest in fostering vocations for the Missions.

Ancients — Health:—

The Commission charitably asked:

I. That our Houses of Retreat be well kept, in order that the time spent there may be very agreeable and that they be adapted as far as possible to the needs of our elderly Brothers.

II. That the Brothers who have charge of our infirmaries be very charitable, of well known ability, and be qualified for their work by periods of training in hospitals, and that they attend with solicitude, to the needs of our aged Brothers.

III. That the necessary means be carefully taken to prevent illness and that the hygienic precautions relative to food, recreation and rest of the Brothers be observed. That, particularly in the Houses of Formation, there be careful attention paid to the posture of the subjects in order to prevent short sightedness and other physical deformities.

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IV. That as far as possible and according to necessities, new sanatoriums be opened and that those which exist already be improved, if possible by installations corresponding to the particular needs of the sick.

V. That our infirmaries or dispensaries be adapted to modern exigencies, be very neat, up-to-date and meticulously clean in every respect.

* * * * *

FINANCE COMMISSION

According to the prescriptions of the Rule of Government the Chapter must appoint a special Commission to examine the financial situation of the Institute, and the Brother Econome General must be a member of the said Commission. It was formed by appointing the Brothers Presidents of the ten Commissions whose work we have summarized, to which were added four other Capitulants particularly competent in financial matters. The Commission reported that a few Notes stated that sometimes in the same District some Communities have an abundance of necessities and even of superfluities while other Communities live in a state of indigence verging on destitution.

The Secretary referred to this very regrettable state of affairs and confided in the wisdom of Superiors to remedy it.

Other notes asked for the simplification of quarterly statements and the revision of our system of bookkeeping which leaves something to be desired. This request will receive careful attention.

The Commission then examined the Administration of Very Dear Brother Econome General. The Accounting Department placed its books at the disposal of the Commission which enabled it to make an exact survey of the receipts and expenses of the Mother House and its general service. In spite of the difficulties of war time, situations, often very complicated, were taken in hand and dealt with. A well deserved homage was rendered to all those who contributed by initiative, ingenuity and tenacity to handle problems which seemed insoluble. A special mention was made of the courageous and devoted Very Dear Brother Econome General and his immediate assistants.

The future, however, is not very promising, and great sacrifices will be necessary to insure the balancing of the budget. From every point of view it will be indispensable, hereafter, to require the participation of all Districts and Procures in defraying the general expenses of the Institute. The Brother Econome explained how this could be done and his proposition was accepted almost unanimously by the Capitulants. He finished his discourse by indicating how much his task had been lightened by his collaborators and the benevolent assistance which came to him from Ireland, England, America, Rome, Paris and elsewhere. The session came to an

end with a word of appreciation from the Brother Superior to the Brothers who administered the affairs of the Mother House during the war. It was due to their supernatural spirit and intelligent activity that we found our Mother House less damaged than we expected after five years of military occupation. Let us give thanks to God, to the great St. Joseph, Protector of the House, and to the loyal Brothers who so faithfully remained at the Mother House.

* * * * *

CLOSING OF THE CHAPTER

June 7th, First Friday of the Month, was the last day of our General Chapter. Two sessions were held during the morning to regulate some questions of detail, to read the minutes of the closing session and to affirm the signatures in the Capitulary Book. We profited by the occasion to address some appropriate recommendations to the Capitulants, to which they listened with profound religious respect and attention. We then thanked all those who had, in a particular way, contributed to the work of the Chapter, with special mention of the Dear Brothers Secretaries whose intelligent and very meritorious labour always assured at the precise moment a perfectly drawn up report of each session. It is pleasing to us to emphasize also the activity of the Very Dear Brother Secretary General who never spared himself and whose interventions on several occasions clarified the discussions.

The organization of the Post-Capitulary Commission to examine the new edition of the Rules having been approved, the Very Dear Brother Secretary General read a moving appeal from the Dear Brother Director of the Agricultural Institute of Beauvais, for help in restoring the Chapel of the Archconfraternity of St. Joseph which had been destroyed in great part during the war. We strongly support this appeal and we have confidence that the result of it will be to permit the glorification, in a fitting manner, of the well beloved Patron of our Institute.

The venerable Dean of the Chapter, Dear Brother Visitor of Cambrai-Lille, then address the Capitulants in an eloquent discourse: he expressed the sentiments which his long experience prompted, his unfailing love of the Institute and the veneration which he has always professed for the Superiors. He drew lessons from the solemn Assembly in which we had participated and knew how to express to each one an appropriate word of thanks: to the Superior General, Assistants, Retired Assistants, Capitulants, aged members, the sick, employed Brothers and even the Junior Novices. Nobody was forgotten!

Overcome with emotion as we were, on the evening of our election, when for the first time as Superior we addressed the venerable Assembly,

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we were no less moved when the moment came to take our leave of them. It was with all our heart that we renewed the expression of our lively appreciation to all the Dear Brothers Capitulants, whose tact, discretion, and religious spirit, constantly edified and encouraged us during the Chapter.

Then, in their name, we thanked the Community of the Mother House: Brothers of the Secretariate who spent themselves without reserve; the Service Personnel who distinguished themselves in the material organization. Thanks to the good will and devotedness of everyone, the stay of the venerable Capitulants at the Mother House was made as agreeable as possible, while indeed it might have been feared that quite a number of necessities would not have been available.

Finally, after having recommended much prayer in order to draw down the blessings of God on the work of the Chapter, we asked if anyone wished to address the assembly before departing. Nobody having expressed such a desire, the XXXVIIth General Chapter closed.

"All the Capitulary Acts and decrees here above reported have been accepted, decreed and decided by a majority vote, at the General Chapter held at our House of St. John Baptist de la Salle in Rome, opened on May 15th and closed on June 7th, with Brother Arese-Casimir, Vicar General, and then Brother Athanase-Emile, Superior General of the Society of the Brothers of the Christian Schools after his election, presiding thereat and signed by him as well as by all the Brothers deputed thereto, which decrees are to be executed, followed and observed in all the houses of the Institute as constitutions and usages of the said Institute." (Extract from the Capitulary Book).

This Circular which gives an account of the General Chapter will reach you, our Very Dear Brothers, at or about the time when you are engaged in the exercises of the Annual Retreat. We are pleased that it should happen so since it will enable you to receive with more supernatural grace the Divine Will which is made known to you by the Voice of Holy Church and of the Chapter. It remains for us to exhort you to make completely yours those decisions taken by your Delegates. They were inspired by the sole desire of the greater good of our Religious Family. What would be our regrets, if so much fatigue, work, trouble, expense of time and money, served no serious purpose for souls and good works! But we have the firm hope that it will be the aim, very dear to the heart of each one of you, to become a religious according to the ideal traced out by our Holy Founder. In our Revised Rule, you will find, hereafter, the code of our obligations clearly formulated. Let us ask of God that they be everywhere integrally and courageously observed. If the Rule be for each one of us, what it was

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for a Venerable Brother Benilde, for a Brother Mutien-Marie, and for so many other fervent religious, the manifestation of the will of God, we will hold it in veneration and it will make of us saints and apostles.

In the hope that it will be thus, we have signed ourselves, our Very Dear Brothers, with the most cordial and religious affection in Our Lord Jesus Christ, and by Mary Immaculate, Your very humble and Very devoted Servant.

BROTHER ATHANASE EMILE,
Superior General.

DAILY EVENTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

May 15, 1946

Feast of St. John Baptist de la Salle
Very solemn office.

12:15 P.M. Opening Conference of the Chapter (112 Present).

5:00 P.M. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament given by His Eminence, Cardinal Marmaggi, Protector of our Institute.

6:00 P.M. His Eminence, the Cardinal Protector inaugurated the Catechetical exposition organized by the two Districts of Italy.

8:00 P.M. Opening of the Triduum preached by Rev. F. Jeune, Procurator General of the Sulpician Fathers.

May 16

3:30 P.M. Election of the Commission for the Verification of Powers.
Report of the Commission for the Classification of Notes.

May 17

11:45 A.M. Report of the Commission for the Verification of Powers.

May 18

7:00 A.M. Mass of the Holy Ghost.

9:00 A.M. Service for the repose of the souls of the 37 deceased members of the General Chapter of 1934.

11:45 A.M. Reading and signing of the Act of the Constitution of the General Chapter.

May 19

7:30 A.M. Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

8:00 A.M. Arrival of the three Capitulants of South America.
Session for the Election of the Most Honorable Brother Superior General.

11:00 A.M. Election of the Most Honorable Brother Athanase Emile as Superior General.

11:45 A.M. Singing of the *Te Deum*. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Telegram to the Holy Father.

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- 3:00 P.M. Visit of the Most Honorable Brother Superior to His Eminence, Cardinal Marmaggi.
- 5:00 P.M. Session of the General Chapter. Reading of the letter from the Sacred Congregation of Religious.
- 7:00 P.M. Sermon of the Closing of the Triduum.

May 20

Session of the General Chapter from 9:15 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Presentation of the reasons for the Revision of the Rules and procedure to be followed.

Taking of the Oath in view of the Deliberations of the Chapter. Visit of the Reverend Father De Boynes, Vicar General of the Jesuit Fathers.

Starting with today, all free time of the Capitulants apart from the sessions of the Assembly and the Religious exercises will be devoted to the work of the Commissions.

May 21

Sessions of the Chapter at 9:15 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.

Determining the status of the Vicar General.

Visits of the Most Honorable Brother:

- (1) To His Eminence, Cardinal Tisserant, Secretary General of the Congregation for Oriental Churches.
- (2) To His Eminence Cardinal Lavitrano, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Religious.
- (3) To His Excellency Msgr. Arata of the Congregation for Oriental Churches.
- (4) To His Excellency Msgr. Pasetto, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Religious.

May 22

Sessions at 9:15 and 5:00 P. M.

Reading of numerous telegrams from all parts of the Institute.

Announcement of the resignation of Members of the Regime.

The Election of new Assistants announced for May 24.

New mode of Election of Delegates to the General Chapter. Suffrages for the Deceased Brothers (Chap. XXV Common Rules.)

Messages from the Holy Father in answer to the telegram of May 19.

May 23

- 9:15 A.M. Question of the election of Deputies to the General Chapter. In the afternoon rest for the Members of the General Chapter.

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Visit of the Most Honorable Brother Superior to His Eminence Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda and to His Excellency Msgr. Constantini, Secretary.

May 24

9:15 A.M. Session for the Election of four Assistants and in the Afternoon session for the Election of eight Assistants.

Visit of the Most Honorable Brother to His Excellence, Msgr. Tardini, Secretary of the Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, and to His Excellence, Msgr. de Coureges, Rector of the Church, St. Louis of the French.

May 25

9:15 A.M. Election of the Very Dear Brother Dionysius van Jezus, as Vicar General. Answers to questions on the Suffrages for the Deceased.

Discussion on the notes sent to the General Chapter and to District Chapters of Vows.

Te Deum on the occasion of the Election of the Very Dear Brother Vicar General.

May 26

Holy Mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Marmaggi, His Eminence presented each Capitulant with a picture souvenir of His 25 years in the Episcopacy.

11:00 A.M. Session: Report on Perseverance. Question of Coutumiers for our houses.

3:00 P.M. The Most Honorable Brother informs the General Chapter of the regroupment of the Districts of France under four Assistants.

Visit of a Delegation of the Alumni Associations of our Former pupils of Rome to the Most Honorable Brother Superior.

May 27

Sessions of the Chapter at 9:15 and 4:30.

Distribution of the first draft of the Revision of the Rule of Government to the members of the Chapter.

Homage to Mr. George Rigault, Historian of the Institute.

Report of the Commission on Regularity.

Constitution of the Elective Commission.

May 28

Sessions of the Chapter at 9:15 and 3:30.

Report of the Commission on Religious Studies and that on

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Schools and Gratuity of Teaching.
Nomination of the Finance Commission.

May 29

Sessions of the Chapter at 12:00 and 3:30.
Continuation of the question of the suffrages for the Deceased.
Report of the Commission on the Missions.

May 30

Ascension Day: Session of the Chapter at 5:00 P. M.
Report of the Commission on the Second Novitiate and that of the Devotion to our Holy Founder.
Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament given by His Excellency Msgr. Coureges.

May 31

Sessions at 9:15 and 4:30.
Report of the Commissions on the Vows of Religion and on Regularity.

June 1

Sessions at 12:00 and 3:30.
Report of the Commission on Publications of the Institute.
Divers questions—Increase of Vocations, Taking of the Habit, professional formation of Brothers destined for temporal services.

June 2

Sessions of the General Chapter at 12:00 and 5:00.
Report of the Commission on Catholic Action.
Arrival of Dear Brothers Fridolin and Hanns, Deputies to the Chapter from Austria.

June 3

Sessions at 9:15; 11:15; 5:00.
Report of the 10th Commission on our Old Brothers and General Health of Brothers.
Report on the Administration Commission.
Photograph of the General Chapter.

June 4

Sessions at 9:00 and 4:00.
Election of Dear Brother Dominikus Norbert as Assistant for Central Europe.
Report on Religious Names — Clothing and Traveling.

11:00 A.M. Audience with the Holy Father.
Visit of the Most Honorable Brother Superior General to His

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Excellency Msgr. Montini, Substitute for Ordinary Affairs of the Secretariate of State of the Holy See.

June 5

Sessions of the General Chapter at 11:30 and 3:30.

Report on the Commissions for Publications, Deceased Brothers, Annual, Retreats, Intellectual and Pedagogical Formation of Brothers.

Second Reading on the Resolutions adopted in the first reading of various reports.

Project of a film taken of the General Chapter.

June 6

Sessions of the General Assembly at 9:15; 3:30 and 6:00.

Report of the Commissions on Houses of Formation, Continuation of the second reading of the Resolutions of Commissions.

Final Report of the Commission on the Finances of the Institute.

June 7

Closing Session of the General Chapter.

Thanksgiving, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Te Deum

APPENDIX

I. VOWS OF OUR YOUNG BROTHERS

During the course of the war more than 2,000 of our Brothers were separated from the Superiors for periods of more or less duration. They were the mobilized, prisoners of war, deported, employees of Youth Organizations or of Labor Service and the sick in hospitals or in sanatoriums who were unable to renew their vows for a certain time. The Canonical situation or status of such Brothers therefore gave occasion for doubt as to the validity of vows made under these conditions.

Furthermore, the difficulties of traveling in certain localities prevented the holding of the Chapters for admission to first vows.

During the time of the General Chapter we asked the Sacred Congregation of Religious to regularize the vow status of such Brothers who were in one or other of the above mentioned conditions.

By a Rescript of June 6, 1946 our request was favorably received by the Sacred Congregation which authorized the Brother Superior General to grant the necessary sanction to all Brothers mentioned above, the making of whose temporary vows had been illicit or invalid, as also to those whose

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renovation of temporary vows had been suspended or lapsed through causes independent of their own will.

Here is the official wording of our appeal and of the Rescript received.

No. 4186-46.

Most Holy Father,

Brother Athanase Emile, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools humbly prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness reports the following:

During the years 1940 to 1946 the Institute numbered 2330 subjects mobilized in the belligerent countries of whom 294 were prisoners of war for several years, and 123 were drafted for Forced Labor Service.

The relations of these Brothers with their Major Superiors were in some cases interrupted for long periods of time. Many letters to and from them never reached their destination. There results from this fact that the Canonical status concerning the vows of many such young religious is difficult to establish and may require validation for many among them. This critical situation was brought to the attention of the Procurator General by members of the General Chapter.

Furthermore certain young Brothers who acted in good faith, on the advice of directors and confessors who were not aware of the applications of the Decree "Inter Reliquas", may be worried in respect to the validity or regularity of the temporary profession they made during the said period.

Again, the uncertainty of means of communication, the administrative barriers erected in different parts of the country, the ignorance of canonical prescriptions or other major factors, have induced Superiors at times to admit Novices to their first vows without calling the council required by Canons 572, Art. 2, and 575, Art. 2.

For these divers motives the humble petitioner solicits a general sanitation.

a) For the making of first vows up to the date of the present concession which might be null as the result of the irregularity of required councils.

b) For the temporary vows of religious who were either in military service, prisoners of war, deported in youth service camps, in forced labor service, or retained in health centers and sanatoriums, and who for one cause or other pronounced vows illicitly or invalidly, or again for others whose temporary vows were suspended for an involuntary cause . . . "And Please God" . . .

TEXT OF THE RESCRIPT

Vigore facultatum a Ss.mo D.no Nostro concessarum S. Congregatio

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Negotiis Religiosorum Sodalium praeposita, attentis peculiaribus rerum adiunctis in casu concurrentibus, Rev. mo Fr. Superiori Generali oratori benigne potestatem tribuit super praemissis providendi pro gratia sanationis omnium quae sanabilia sunt ac sanatione indigent iuxta preces, facta mentione huiusmodi concessionis in Libris Professionum, servatisque ceteris de iure servandis.

Contrariis non obstantibus quibuscumque.

Datum Romae, die 6 iunii 1946.

L. S.

FR. L. M. PASETTO, *Secr.*

H. AGOSTINI, *ad a Studiis.*

TRANSLATION

In virtue of the power given us by our Holy Father Pope Pius XII, The Sacred Congregation in charge of Religious Affairs, considering the particular circumstances of the cases proposed, willingly grants to the Very Reverend Brother Superior General the authorization to provide possible and necessary sanation according to the above petitions, mention being made of this concession in the Register of Profession, all other rightful prescriptions being observed.

Given at Rome, June 6, 1946.

II. IN HONOR OF OUR FATHER AND FOUNDER

A petition had been made to the Sacred Congregation of Rites by the Very Dear Brother Postulator General in view of having the following liturgical prayers approved for the Institute.

a) A secret and a postcommunion approved for the proper of the Mass for the Feast of the Translation of the Relics of St. John Baptist de la Salle.

b) A special hymn for the Matins of the Office of our Holy Founder.

The Sacred Congregation has condescended to grant our double request. Here follow the text and translation of the concession:

Sacra Congregatio Rituum

Instituti Fratrum Scholarum Christianarum

In Translatione Reliquiarum Sancti Ioannis Baptistae de La Salle
Confessoris

Missa propria ut in festo eiusdem Sancti praeter orationes
sequentes:



ORATIO

Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, qui beatum Ioannem Baptistam Confessorem tuum in pueris instituendis mirabilem effecisti; concede propitius,

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ut cuius cinerum translationem recolimus euis caelesti muniamur auxilio
et paterno proficiamus exemplo.

Per Dominum nostrum.



SECRETA

Dona, quae tibi Domine, in translatione beati Ioannis Baptistae Confessoria tui offerimus, propitius respice, ut te super omnia diligentes et eius exemplum secuti, tuam gloriam in omnibus promovere semper studeamus. Per Dominum nostrum Iesum Christum Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus.



POSTCOMMUNIO

Domine Iesu Christe, qui nos sacris tuis mysteriis Corporis et Sanguinis recreasti, concede quaesumus ut, intercedente Beato Ioanne Baptista, Confessore tuo, eius sanctis vestigiis inhaerentes, in viam perfectionis semper proficere valeamus. Per Dominum Nostrum Iesum Christum Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus.

In festo S. Ioanne Baptistae de La Salle Confessoris

Ad Matutinum



HYMNUS

Nomen excelsum celbrent Ioannis
Dediti Christo populi fideles,
Quo duce addiscunt iuvenum phalanges

Dona Salutis.

Respuit vitae iuvenis decorem
Ut miser Regem miserum sequatur,
Rector ac servus, soboli Deoque

Consecrat annos.

Inclitus doctor pietate clarus,
Praedicat verbo simul atque factis:
Esurit si mens, sacra veritatis

Horrea pandit.

Is flagro corpus lacerat cruento
Sedulus custos animi pudici:
Innocens vitae, prius ipse mundi

Crimina plorat.

Regulae paret monitisque Sancti
Spiritus semper, precibusque Numen
Excolens praesens pia sanctitatis

Culmina tangit.

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Subdoli saeculi fugiens pericla,
Ad poli regnum Superumque coetum
Laetus ascendit capiens perennes
Victor honores.

Te per aeternos vaneremur annos
Trinitas summo celebranda plausu,
Te fide mentes resonoque linguae
Carmine laudent.

Amen.



Instituti Fratrum Scholarum Christianarum

Instante Postulatore Generali Institute Fratrum Scholarum Christianarum, Sacra Rituum Congregatio, utendo facultatibus sibi specialiter a Sanctissimo Domino nostro Papa Pio duodecimo tributis, supradictas Orationes pro Missa Translationis Reliquiarum Sancti Ioannis Baptistae de La Salle Conf. una cum hymno, ad Matutinum recitando in Festo eiusdem Sancti, a se revisas et approbatas prouti in superiori prostant exemplari, Fratribus Instituti Fratrum Scholarum Christianarum benigne concessit, servatis Rubricis.

Contrariis non obstantibus quibuscumque. Die 8 iunii 1946.

CAROLUS CARD. SALLOTTI, *S.R.C. Praefectus.*

A. CARINCI, *Archiep. Seleucien, Secretarius.*



TRANSLATION OF TEXTS

(For the Collect see the Manual of Piety)



SECRET

Deign, O Lord in this the feast of the Translation of the Relics of St. John Baptist de la Salle Thy Confessor to receive with benevolence the gifts we offer Thee, so that loving Thee above all things, and walking in the footsteps of our saint, we may apply ourselves to promote Thy glory. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord . . .



POSTCOMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ who hast restored our strength by the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood deign to grant us through the intercession of Saint John Baptist de la Salle, thy Confessor, that we may follow in his footsteps and thus make progress in the way of perfection. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord . . .

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

HYMN NOMEN EXCELSUM

1. Invitation to chant: — May the glorious name of John Baptist de la Salle be celebrated by Christ's faithful people: under his guidance multitudes of youth will acquire the science of salvation.

2. His poverty and humility: — In youth he disdained honors that he might follow in all poverty the Kingly Poor. He, the Founder, made himself the servant of his disciples, and devoted his life to his little ones and to God.

3. His zeal for the education of youth: — Distinguished Doctor, and with burning piety, he preached by word and example and out of his abounding truth he ministered to anxious minds.

4. His chastity and penance: — He mortified the flesh with blood stained disciplines that with jealous care he might preserve the purity of his soul. Innocent himself, he went over the sins of the world.

5. His obedience and love for mental prayer: — Docile to the Rule and the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, he adored God ever present and thus attained the summits of sanctity.

6. His saintly death: — Escaping from the dangers of a false world, joyously did he attain the Kingdom of Heaven in the company of saints: his victory betokened endless triumph.

7. Doxology: — Receive the homage of our everlasting veneration Most Holy Trinity. May the faith of our hearts and the tone of our voices extol Thee for ever. Amen.



III. PETITION CONCERNING THE BLUE SCAPULARS

The privilege granted to our Chaplains in Houses of Formation to invest our Brothers and Junior Novices with the Blue Scapulars expired this year. We requested its renewal from the Most Reverend Father General of the Theatins and further requested of him to extend this privilege of our Chaplains to the pupils of our day and night classes, and the members of our postscholastic groups.

Here are the texts of the Petition

To the Most Reverend Father General of the Theatins:

Brother Athanase Emile, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools petitions your Paternal Reverence to grant our Chaplains of the Novitiates, and Juniorates, of this Institute, the faculty of investing the following with the Blue Scapular in honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin.

1. The Brothers of his Institute, the Postulants and Junior Novices;

RESULTS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

2. The Pupils of the day and night classes who attend the schools of the Brothers; and the members of their postscholastic groups.

May the grace, etc. . . .



Annuimus iuxta preces: ad viginti annos

Romae, ex aedibus S. Andreae Ap. de Valle, die 23 iunii 1946.

P. IOANNES LLABRES, C.R., *Praep. Generalis*,

P. ANTONIUS BARCELO, C.R., *Secr. Generalis*.

L. S. .

We grant the favor requested, conformably with the petition, for the space of twenty years.

Given at Rome, in our House of Saint Andre of the Valley, June 23, 1946.

P. IOANNES LLABRES, C.R., *Superior General*,

P. ANTONIUS BARCELO, C.R., *Secretary General*.

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