



Rome, December 18, 2018

Dear Brothers,

Very soon you will receive printed copies of the 39th General Chapter. As you know, the Chapter documents can also be accessed on our website: www.sscpicpus.com As well as the actual Chapter booklet we have put together a simple guide that we hope may help you reflect on the documents starting with "Our inner self is being renewed day by day" and "The pastoral and missionary conversion: new paths to Emmaus". In addition to a personal reading of these texts, we ask you to reflect on them in community, in prayer and by way of faith sharing.



This is what we did as a General Government when we went to Assisi for our first retreat. From this experience, we encourage you to do what you can to make the General Chapter your own.

We offer this simple **guide**:

- 1) A prayerful reading of **the Gospel of Luke 5:1-11**. This can be accompanied by a re-reading of the opening letter of the General Superior in the last edition of Info (INFO No. 127, December 6, 2018).
- 2) **The following questions may help you in the reading of the chapter documents**. With each question you can make a personal reading:
 - a) As a religious SSCC: What is or what are the most challenging decisions or orientations made by the General Chapter?
 - b) What is the General Chapter asking us to do as a local community?
 - c) For the next few years, what can we offer as a local community to the rest of the Congregation? Proposals, activities, etc...
- 3) Please **share your reflections on the questions at a community meeting** or at some other specific moment (assembly, retreat) that facilitates an open sharing.



In a few days, we will hear the voice of the Angel announce with great joy the wonderful event that gives meaning to the life of the world and to our own lives. We place ourselves in the gospel scene along with the shepherds who remain out in the open through the night with a watchful attitude. After hearing the good news of the Angel of the Lord who has come to greet them and to communicate the joy of the birth of Christ, the shepherds set out on the road, in the direction of Bethlehem. Then, having seen Him with Mary, they praise and glorify God. We also welcome at this time the Magi of the East, experts in exploring paths. May we discover the Messiah and adore him – two movements that are intimately united to what the Church and the General Chapter asks of us.

As we joyfully celebrate the Birth of Jesus, we send you our best wishes. May He always inspire our searches and encourage us in the adventure that is our vocation as religious of the Sacred Hearts.

The Brothers of the General Government

