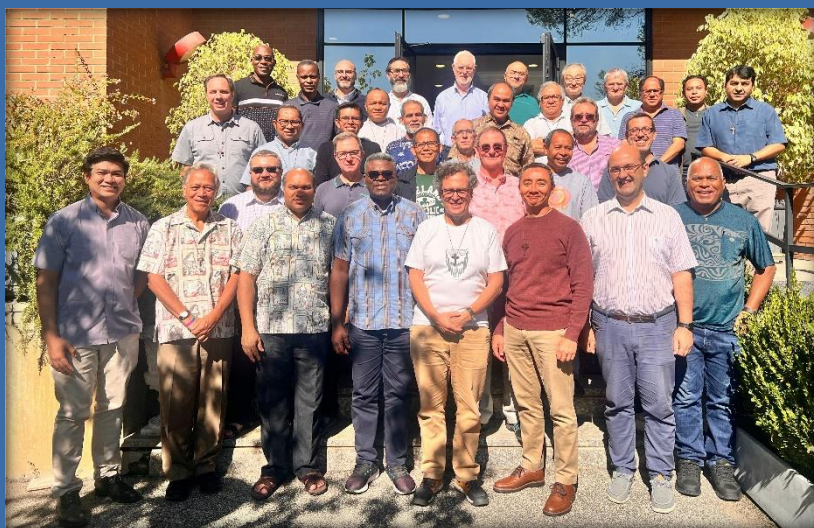


40th General Chapter

Rome



Congregation of the Sacred Hearts
of Jesus and Mary

Brothers

SSCC

40th General Chapter

Brothers

DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS



ROME, 1-22 SEPTEMBER 2024

"Enlarge the space for your tent" (Is 54,2)

Table of contents

PROMULGATION	5
“SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE”	9
The call to holiness	10
Caring for each other	10
Interdependence	11
The option for young people	12
Conclusion	13
ORGANISATION	14
Recommendations	15
DECISIONS	16
ECONOMY AND MISSION	18
INTRODUCTION	18
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19
DECISIONS	20
CO-RESPONSIBILITY AND MUTUAL AID IN INITIAL FORMATION.....	22
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	22
DECISIONS	24

OPTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.....	25
Someone has to change us.....	25
DECISIONS	26
SSCC SPIRITUAL AND HISTORICAL PATRIMONY.....	27
DECISION	28
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	28
LEUVEN	30
FR. MATEO CRAWLEY-BOEVEY AND FR. ROLF REICHENBACH:	
preparation for the initiation of causes of canonisation	31
DECISION	31
DECISION	32
SECULAR BRANCH	33
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	34
DECISIONS	34
ELECTIONS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT	36

PROMULGATION

Rome, 27 September, 2024

Dear brothers,

You have in your hands or before your eyes the decisions of the 40th General Chapter (Brothers) which was held in Rome, at Villa Aurelia, between the 1st and 22nd September 2024. At the same time and in the same place, our sisters celebrated their 37th General Chapter.

These decisions are the fruit of the discernment of the brothers (and sisters in the joint sessions we held). They are decisions and orientations whose capacity to transform us will depend, first of all, on our openness of heart. That is to say, we are invited to accept these decisions as a call from God, through the Congregation, for us to be more available to the 'work of God' and to be 'useful to the Church'. This is the horizon of hope that God offers us. His continuing advent is our future.

In this line, this Chapter is aware of the urgency of growing in **greater interdependence**. Today, more than ever, we know that we need each other. We understand the interdependence in which we want to grow at all levels and in all areas of the Congregation as a dynamic involving reciprocity of gifts: **we can all contribute something and we can all receive something**. All of this has as its horizon the mission of the Congregation today, that is to say, the way in which God continues to carry on his work through us and counts on each one of us. In reading these decisions, each of us can then ask ourselves, at this present time in our lives: What

can I offer to my brothers and sisters and what can I receive from them?

So that the interdependence in which we want to grow does not remain a declaration of principles, the decisions and orientations of this 40th General Chapter are animated by two underlying dynamics.

First of all the urgent certainty that **'Something has to change'** among us. This insight is like a ray of light that illuminates and energises all the dimensions of our life: our interior life, the way we organise ourselves, the service of authority, the areas of the economy and solidarity, initial formation, the way we use our spiritual and historical patrimony to nourish ourselves, our way of accompanying one another and sharing spirituality with our sisters and with the members of the Secular Branch. For something to actually change among us, as we read these decisions, each of us can ask ourselves: 'In what area do I feel called to change?' and 'How can my brothers, sisters and lay people help me change?'

The second dynamic comes from the awareness that fundamental change is not merely the fruit of our own strength or our own decisions. This is why the Chapter has made an option for young people for the next six years: **'Someone has to change us'**. In many places, as pastors, we are concerned about the ever-growing gap between the world of young people, their cultures and contexts, and our way of living and understanding Christian and religious life. As a single missionary body, we want to go out and meet young people where they are, meeting them in our presences and works and beyond, to listen to them, to allow ourselves to be challenged by their questions and to be transformed by them. Moving in this direction, we will better discover their languages and their sensibility and we will joyfully share with them what this ever-transforming

encounter with Jesus and his Gospel means for them and for us: dedication to caring for every person, especially the most fragile, caring for our Common Home, having as criteria the heart of Jesus and the heart of Mary. And so the questions for each one of us, in order that '**young people can change us**' is this: 'Am I ready to go to meet young people wherever I find myself, and enter into dialogue with them?' 'What are the calls of the Lord that I perceive through young people, for me and for the Congregation?' 'Is it not to make more transparent the love of God as manifested in the hearts of Jesus and Mary?'

These, then, are the underlying dynamics that have animated the decisions of this 40th General Chapter: 'to grow in greater inter-dependence', 'something has to change' and 'someone has to change us'. For these dynamics to touch and change us, we need them to take on an evangelising edge and become for us, as brothers and sisters, an ongoing personal dialogue with the Lord.

On the journey that begins now with the implementation of these decisions we are not alone. We count on the luminous company of brothers and sisters whose lives embody this ongoing dialogue of welcoming and sharing the encounter with Jesus and his Gospel, in his body, the Church. They are our brother and sister saints, whose canonisation processes are underway or will begin. Father Damien of Molokai, Blessed Father Eustaquio, the Martyrs of Paris, the Martyrs of Spain, our Founders, Father Esteban Gumucio, and also Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey and Father Rolf Reichenbach. From them we can learn that beautiful path of a whole life, lived in the key of joyful dedication and generous service, that was their response, in a given time and a given Church, to the love of God manifested in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. They have drunk from the same source as us, they are children of the Church and of the Congregation of their time, as we are today. May their witness

encourage us to allow ourselves to be transformed by the God who always loves us first, who counts on all that we are, at this moment of our lives, and who gives us an assignment in this world to collaborate with Him in His work of reparation.

May our renewed conviction in God's transforming love be the best fruit of the decisions of this 40th General Chapter.

Fraternally in the Sacred Hearts,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alberto Toutin', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

P. Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General

“Something has to change”

1. Having listened to the reports given, the presentations of the communities and in tune with the documents on our Vocation and Mission of the 39th General Chapter, we wish to convey to the brothers that ‘something has to change’, not only to face the difficulties we are experiencing but also from the certainty that something new is emerging in our Congregation and in the Church.
2. Throughout the General Chapter there has been a constant call to ask ourselves what is most urgent in order to renew our vocation and mission that will lead us to widen our tent as a true missionary body; some of the answers we have given ourselves are: the call to holiness, caring for the fraternal life, interdependence - and its consequences at all levels - and an option for young people.
3. It is not easy to raise the issue of change when we refer to the Christian and religious vocation. We need to remember that vocation unfolds throughout life, the Spirit guides us along God's paths, reality challenges us, the community accompanies us and integrates us into a wider project to which we are sent and in which we collaborate. All this makes the development of our vocation dynamic in the ongoing tension between call and response.

We ask ourselves: what needs to change in our vocation and mission at this time?

The call to holiness

4. Looking back, we can say with a healthy pride that our Congregation has a significant number of recognised exemplary witnesses of our spirituality: Saint Damien of Molokai and Blessed Eustáquio, the Martyrs of Spain and those of Paris, and other processes of canonisation that are in progress - our Founders, Fr. Esteban Gumucio - as well as some causes that will begin in the near future: Fr. Mateo Crawley-Boevey and Fr. Rolf Reichenbach. They speak to us of the work that God has done through them and which they allowed him to do, and they witness to us the essential criteria of apostolic fruitfulness: to lose one's life for Jesus in order to find it, to die in order to bear fruit and for that fruit to remain.
5. Likewise, we can say that in these years we have seen God at work in the holiness of so many other brothers and sisters – a holiness that we have witnessed personally and in our communities and works. We understand that the Lord is presenting us with a new call to holiness, which, like our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, leads us to trust in God and to serve our brothers and sisters by contemplating, living and proclaiming the Love of God incarnated in Jesus.

Caring for each other

6. As SSCC brothers we are in mission when we live the love of God incarnated in Jesus. A privileged place to live this love is in community life. We know and we have noticed that we have many shortcomings in the way we live community; there have been situations that question us about the quality of our

fraternity (cf. *Report of the General Government*). But we also know that we have something to offer to our world and to our Church. "When we are asked what our religious family of sisters, brothers and laity bring to the Church, the answer often comes up: family spirit. In fact, people in the pastoral ministry where we are, feel at home, feel part of a welcoming church, with simple and cordial relationships". (*Report of the General Government*)

7. The 39th General Chapter referring to Constitutions n. 7, states: "When a community affirms, encourages and nourishes its members, it becomes a witness to the people of God where it lives". We are SSCC missionaries when we give the best of ourselves to build community, when we gradually become more fraternal and live the family spirit so characteristic of our history and charism.

Interdependence

8. During this Chapter we have spoken a lot about the Congregation as a 'missionary body' that must grow in interdependence at different levels. We have also been mindful of the challenges coming from the Synod on Synodality.

The awareness of our fragility has made us recognise that we are not self-sufficient and has opened us to discovering in other places, people, options, structures, resources that offer us help and make us grow as a single missionary body. We understand interdependence as a reciprocity of gifts that we receive from each other and that we offer to each other, to our Church and to the world. We can all give something and we can all receive something.

9. A more interdependent body also challenges us in the way we live our fraternal life. We need our community life to be strengthened by the example of Jesus who loves us by becoming our Good Samaritan, close and near, who perceives deeply what we need. He takes upon himself our weaknesses and limitations and offers us relief, presence, comfort, strength to continue on the way. This is what he invites us to do with one another in the Congregation in the world.
10. Interdependence will become palpable if we are able to renew our structures, organisation and leadership, our relationships between Major Communities, collaboration in Initial and Ongoing formation, and the economy. This will involve integrating more objective processes of evaluation.

The option for young people

11. Let us recognise and appreciate, with humility and joy, that God has shown us his love, that we know his mercy, that he has transformed our hearts, that our vocation has done us good and brought us closer to the heart of Jesus and his mother Mary. Let us dare to share this gift we have received, let us dare to take the initiative, to go out to meet those we know who need to be with God, let us dare especially to go out to meet young people and invite them to embrace our way of life; the word of Jesus, his teaching, his whole life's work is good news for them. Let us dare to share our life and mission with young people.

Conclusion

- 12.** In the different moments in which we have shared our life during the Chapter Assembly, we have renewed our awareness of the value and relevance of our charism and of the need that something has to change. The world and the Church need witnesses to God's merciful love. We are a Congregation of brothers and sisters who, together with the secular branch, and recognising legitimate differences of vocation, gender and culture, seeks to share a charism and a mission because we have known God's love and have believed in it.

The words addressed to us by Pope Francis in these days of the General Chapter resonated with us: "Only by following Christ with fidelity and docility will your structures, as well as the spread of the spiritual and historical patrimony of the Congregation, enjoy a renewed springtime that will make your charism shine at the present moment in the history of humanity" (Audience on 19 September, 2024).

Original document in Spanish

Organisation

“Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.”
Francis, *Laudato si'*, n. 164

The willingness to grow in interdependence was a transversal theme of discernment at the General Chapter. This interdependence is inspired by the Pauline metaphor of the body: “though many, we are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.” (Rom 12:5). The Congregation is a living organism, which is energised by reciprocal relationships and interactive principles.

The present situation of the Congregation calls for discernment on our part to listen to what the Spirit is saying to us. In recent decades we have experienced a significant demographic decline in the Congregation as a whole, although in some places there has been steady growth. This does not mean that some are stronger than others, but that we need each other. During the General Chapter we have become more aware of the need to make organisational changes (structures, ways of proceeding, practices) in order to better live our vocation and mission. In this sense, we want to strengthen our membership as an international missionary body, whose vitality depends on growth in interdependence and co-responsibility at all levels. We are a geographically large and culturally diverse Congregation with a responsibility to seek the best possible way to organise ourselves for mission.

Changes in the organisation of the Congregation must consider at least three tense relationships, which are signs of vitality and a challenge at the same time:

- a) The relationship between the "from below" and the "from above": how brothers feel and think about life in the Congregation and the service of authority and animation.
- b) The relationship between the "heart" and the "structures": the conversion of the heart and the change of structures.
- c) The relationship between "diversity" and "unity": respect and appreciation for local diversities, and adherence to principles and criteria shared by the whole Congregation.

Recommendations

For the General Government:

1. That the General Government initiate a process of change in the organisation of the Congregation at all levels, especially in the Interprovincial Conferences, relying on a discernment in the Enlarged General Council.
2. That the General Government implement a plan of formation and accompaniment in synodal leadership and discernment, to facilitate the beginning of a process of renewal of the spiritual life, the construction of a full fraternal life and the management of tensions and conflicts.

For Interprovincial Conferences:

3. That the Interprovincial Conferences be the place to experience interdependence in the chosen areas of collaboration and co-responsibility. These spaces will contribute to the promotion of an apostolic discernment in view of a pastoral and missionary conversion of our presences.

For local communities:

4. That local communities become the privileged place where discernment, interdependence and co-responsibility in mission are experienced, with special attention being paid by the local superior.

DECISIONS

1. That the General Government convene an Enlarged General Council at least three times in the next six years, in person or virtually, with the possibility of inviting the Superiors of the Regions and Delegations.
2. That the canonical visitations of the General Government be the opportunity to discern, accompany and evaluate eventual decisions in the process of changes in the organisation of the Major Communities and the Interprovincial Conferences.
3. Each Interprovincial Conference should define its areas of collaboration and co-responsibility in dialogue with the General Government.

4. That the General Government be involved in the process of discernment and decision-making in the restructuring of communities and apostolic works of the Major Communities.
5. That the Major Communities be available to send brothers to other parts of the Congregation to respond to the needs of those places, in dialogue with the General Government (cf. 38th General Chapter, *Internationality and moving personnel throughout the Congregation*, 7-12).
6. That the General Government proposes to the Enlarged General Council a procedure for the election of the Superior General.

Original document in Spanish

Economy and Mission

INTRODUCTION

Economy and Mission are two inseparable realities, an economy without mission is nothing more than a business, mission without an economy is nothing more than words. In this area, as in others, the Chapter thinks that something has to change and so is looking for new forms of interdependence, which can help us to overcome individualism, both personal and provincial, seeking collaboration, mutual help and missionary solidarity.

The Chapter expresses its gratitude to the community of brothers in the Netherlands for their exemplary missionary commitment to the end, especially through their solidarity and financial support for the mission of the Congregation.

In this spirit of fidelity to the mission, we seek to deepen certain themes that reflect attitudes in keeping with the values we wish to embody: the common purse, interdependence, financial transparency and the sustainability of Initial Formation. In the finance world, it is essential to have data and to analyse it. In this sense, we must once again ask the Provinces, Regions and Delegations to ensure that the financial information is consistent, real and provided within the proposed deadlines.

To this end, the General Chapter proposes these recommendations and decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. To grow in financial interdependence.** The Chapter asks the General Government to be involved in the decision-making processes in the economic and financial policies of the Provinces, Regions and Delegations. This is important when it comes to the sale of patrimony, financial investments and major reforms. The General Government will continue to invite participation in the common investment plan, highlighting the good practices proposed by some Provinces, who provide due and frequent information. The Conferences should also define areas of co-responsibility and solidarity in financial and human resources matters.
- 2. Implement a progressive professionalization of the General Economy's tasks** with the help of financial and patrimonial advisors and, if necessary, accounting and other aids. This procedure should also encourage the formation and professionalization of the financial teams at provincial and conference levels.
- 3. Looking for ways to sustain Initial Formation** requires exploring new strategies to financially support its needs. The Chapter asks the General Government to study the creation of a common fund in the Congregation dedicated to financing Initial Formation. The Chapter also asks the Provinces, Regions and Delegations to promote sponsorships and search for benefactors. Moreover, it requests that Provincial Governments and Initial Formation teams encourage brothers in formation and formators to engage in tasks or works that contribute to the financial support of their community. Also encouraged, in the context of Ongoing Formation, is the

promotion of a financial contribution of brothers in specialized studies to their host community through the performance of some activity (chaplaincy, teaching, collaboration in parishes, etc.).

- 4. Help organize the finances of the Provinces, Regions and Delegations.** The General Government is asked to help communities meet planned goals by means of specific tools, such as the annual budget, mid-term planning, evaluation, consultancies, external audits and other means, in dialogue with Superiors and financial teams. Among other things, it is necessary to budget early for the integral care of sick and elderly brothers.

DECISIONS

- 1. Visits and formation of Economes and lay assistants:** The General Chapter requests the General Government to determine the visits to be made by the General Econome, either at the initiative of the Government or at the request of the Provinces, Regions and Delegations. These visits will serve to continue the formation of treasurers and lay people, with the help of experts, external or local. They will also serve to improve transparency and the follow-up of the recommendations made to the communities.
- 2. Missionary Projects:** The General Chapter requests that whenever a Province, Region or Delegation proposes new projects, there should be brothers and lay people specialized in seeking financial support for such missionary projects from external entities or agencies.

3. **General House:** The General Chapter decided that the General House is to remain in its present location in Rome. It requests that the General Government makes the necessary renovations for continued use as a Generalate and, when possible, renting a part of the property.
4. **Property and financial assets of the Provinces, Regions and Delegations:** The Chapter asks the General Government to oversee the financial and real estate assets of the Provinces, Regions and Delegations, (cf. *Recommendations* n. 1). Regarding the Delegations, when it is convenient and in dialogue with them, their patrimony will be managed by the General Government. These contributions will help to support the expenses of the General House.
5. **Contributions:** The Chapter requests the General Government to review every 6 years the formula for the annual contributions of the Provinces, Regions and Delegations, and the criteria for their application.

Co-responsibility and mutual aid in Initial Formation

The Chapter is growing in awareness of Initial Formation as a privileged area for moving towards interdependence.

In some areas of the Congregation there has been an increase in the exchange of formandi at the interprovincial or conference levels in the novitiate or in the professed stage, for theological studies, language studies or missionary experiences. There has also been an increase in financial co-responsibility and in the exchange and collaboration of formators with our sisters and with other congregations. We believe that we must continue to encourage these types of initiatives where they exist, to encourage them where they do not exist and to continue to imagine new ways.

Initial Formation is intimately related to the challenges facing SSCC Religious Life today. It is and must be an agent of renewal and change in our life. Therefore:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The General Chapter encourages all Major Communities to discern how they can enable their **formandi** to meet the challenge of interdependence at congregational level and to make decisions in this direction in their Initial Formation Plans. Furthermore, it encourages the promotion in Initial Formation of initiatives of collaboration and mutual help with our sisters and with other congregations.

2. In this way, the Chapter believes it is necessary to take care of the formation of **formators** at all levels with a view to growing in identity and belonging to a common body. It considers that the meetings of formators, in their various modalities (coordinators, by stages, provincial teams, etc.), can help to unite criteria and promote initiatives that seek co-responsibility and mutual help. Such formation should include both theoretical knowledge related to the historical and spiritual patrimony of the Congregation and an updated theology of Religious Life, as well as pedagogical knowledge and instruments for the evaluation and supervision of the formation processes and of the service of formator. The Major Communities must ensure a certain stability of the brothers in their service as formators, as well as in the Initial Formation teams.

3. With interdependence comes certain intercultural challenges. The Chapter notes that **the Major Communities** and Initial Formation have a mutual influence on each other. That is to say, on the one hand, the Major Communities transmit in many ways their own congregational culture, with its virtues and defects to the young people who join the common body. On the other hand, the interdependence that we seek in Initial Formation and in the other areas of the Congregation must give the Major Communities a more critical sense of the values of our environment and of our own ways of living. Therefore, interdependence calls us to adhere with greater commitment to the criteria and decisions reflected in the Initial Formation plans and other related documents of the Congregation.

DECISIONS

The General Government, with the help and participation of the Initial Formation coordinators and formators:

1. Will promote a revision of the Provincial Initial Formation Plans in order to include interprovincial experiences for brothers in Initial Formation.(cf. *General Plan of Initial Formation*, n. 65)
2. Will organise meetings of brothers preparing for perpetual vows in the format determined by the 2018 General Chapter. (cf. 38th General Chapter, *Initial Formation: Fourth Stage*).
3. Will plan the formation of formators at congregational level and be attentive to the formation and suitability of formators at the level of Major Communities.
4. Will study the possibility of other means of interdependence in this area of the Initial Formation, such as, for example, having some stage of common formation in the Congregation.
5. Will encourage formators and formandi to be trained for tasks or jobs that contribute to the economic support of their communities, as a concrete exercise of care for the common body (cf. *Economy and Mission*, n. 3).

Original document in Spanish

Option for Young People

Someone has to change us

1. At the 39th General Chapter, the reality of young people presented us with important challenges to our religious life and our pastoral presence among them. The post-synodal exhortation *Christus Vivit* (2019) also urges us to discern and accept the call that Jesus makes to us through young people.
2. In many places in the Congregation we perceive that there is an ever widening gap between what we live as religious and the life of young people, their cultures, their contexts, their interests, their questions, their queries and their difficulties. This has led us to realise that “something has to change” among us, also in the field of Youth Ministry.
3. At the 40th General Chapter we asked ourselves: what can we receive and what can we offer in our contact with young people?
4. In order to answer this question, we as a Congregation want to make a decisive option for young people for the next six years. We want to enter into an evangelising dialogue through an encounter with them, a dialogue of mutual knowledge and mutual questioning.
5. We want, then, to be more with young people, to go out to meet them where they are, to listen to them more, to learn from them and to allow ourselves to be transformed. Something has to change in us and in our way of offering

them the SSCC way of life, so that it becomes for them and for us good news and a path to happiness.

6. This General Chapter considers it urgent to carry forward this option for young people at different levels of the Congregation: through the prayer and work of each brother, the organisation of each local community, the presences and ministries among young people, the plans of our Major Communities and, finally, the whole Congregation.

DECISIONS

1. The General Government will coordinate a process of evaluation of our presences and our pastoral work among young people in the light of the orientations proposed in the document *Pastoral and Missionary Conversion: new paths to Emmaus*, (nn. 8-12; 39th General Chapter).
2. The General Government will take up the evaluation process and make the necessary proposals to bring about changes in ourselves and in our presence with young people. This evaluation will be the subject of one of the next Enlarged General Councils.
3. The Major Communities, Regions and Delegations will implement the proposals that emerge from the reflection of the Enlarged General Council dedicated to this theme.

Original document in Spanish

SSCC Spiritual and Historical Patrimony

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, that they also may be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me” (Jn 17:21).

Since the origins of our Congregation, our Founders have prayed and worked for unity between the communities of brothers and sisters. Like all the spiritual adventures of a congregation, there is a “we want” at the beginning. Marie Joseph Coudrin and Henriette Aymer de la Chevalerie wanted unity between brothers and sisters. Our Constitutions remind us of this: “Brothers and sisters, united by the same charism and the same mission, we form a single Congregation approved as such by Pope Pius VII in 1817”. (Const. n. 1)

Our Constitutions add: “The brothers and sisters of our religious family constitute one Congregation.... Since its foundation, our religious family has had but one charism, one mission and one spirituality. Aware that it constitutes a significant value, the brothers and sisters assume, together, the responsibility to maintain and strengthen their unity”. (Const. n. 8).

In 1988, the two General Chapters symbolised this desire for unity by approving together the first chapter of our Constitutions (‘Vocation and Mission of the Congregation’). Later, the two General Governments agreed to celebrate the General Chapters together on the same date and in the same place.

A few years ago (2012), the brothers set up a Commission for “Spiritual and Historical Patrimony”. The time has now come for brothers and sisters to live out this service together and to achieve the objectives of this Commission:

- Support the plan of animation of the General Governments (materials, books, adoration).
- Collaborate in formation activities (Initial and Ongoing Formation, Session Poitiers).
- Interact with the Postulator, Archivists and General Secretariats (brothers and sisters).
- Periodically publish works on themes that help to update our heritage. The objectives of these publications are: to deepen our spirituality and charism; to bring our spirituality up to date with contemporary issues; to encourage students to participate in research.

DECISION

The Commission for “Spiritual and Historical Patrimony” will be made up of brothers and sisters from the Congregation. At least one brother and one sister from the General Council will participate in this commission. Their task will be to work in conjunction with the two General Governments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Commission for Spiritual and Historical Patrimony will be responsible for preparing Session Poitiers.

2. That the Commission for Spiritual and Historical Patrimony continue its work of publishing the Cahiers of Spirituality and Picpucian Studies.
3. The General Chapters encourage brothers and sisters (who are studying) to work on a theme of our spirituality in the course of their philosophical and/or theological formation. This would be a good way to stimulate our reflections in each Province and to share them among brothers and sisters.
4. That the Commission for Spiritual and Historical Patrimony be in contact with the brothers and sisters who are doing specialisation studies. It will ask them to collaborate in researching and disseminating the spiritual heritage of the Congregation.
5. The two General Governments, together with the Archivists, will study the possibility of keeping in one place the archives of the founding stage of the Congregation (documents up to 1837).

Original document in French

Leuven

The 40th General Chapter welcomed the request of the Delegation of Flanders that the Congregation continue its presence and mission in Leuven.

We recognise the fragility of our presence and its future. We understand that our presence makes sense if it is a missionary project, that is, a community with a sufficient number of brothers, with a well-defined community project, inspired by the figure of Damien, offering the possibility of pastoral work with young and marginalised people and with an annual budget financed mainly by the Delegation of Flanders.

The General Chapter entrusts the General Government:

To set up and accompany a new missionary project, in dialogue with the Delegation of Flanders, in order to guarantee our continuity in Leuven.

Original document in Spanish

Fr. Mateo Crawley-Boevey and Fr. Rolf Reichenbach:

preparation for the initiation of causes of canonisation

“God, however, does not make people holy and save them merely as individuals, without bond or link between one another.

Rather has it pleased God to bring people together as one people, a people which acknowledges Him in truth and serves Him in holiness.” (L.G.9)

1. Following the request of various faith communities, which recognise and promote both the work and the figure of **Father Mateo CRAWLEY-BOEVEY** ssc, the General Postulator, Andrzej Łukawski ssc, asked the 40th General Chapter for authorisation to begin the process of his canonisation.

Mateo Crawley-Boevey (1875-1960), of Peruvian origin, who joined the Province of Chile, is the second most famous religious of our Congregation in the world, after Saint Damien de Veuster. Being the worldwide Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the founder of the Work of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in families, he received from the Popes of the time the mission to bring the Work of Enthronement to various parts of the world.

DECISION

The 40th General Chapter of the Brothers authorises the General Postulator to take the necessary steps to initiate the process of canonisation of Fr Mateo Crawley-Boevey ssc.

2. Likewise, the General Postulator Andrzej Łukawski ssc, in response to the request of the Indonesian Province, asked the 40th General Chapter for authorisation to begin the process of canonisation of **Father Rolf REICHENBACH** ssc.

Rolf Reichenbach (1930-2004), coming from a German-Jewish family, was a member of the Dutch SSCC Province. He was a missionary in Indonesia, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Pangkalpinang, a priest of rich spirituality, a vocation promoter, who attracted many young people to the two branches of the Congregation, a man of great humility, completely dedicated to the service of God and humankind. His reputation for holiness remains to this day among the faithful he served in Indonesia.

DECISION

The 40th General Chapter of the Brothers authorises the Postulator General to take the necessary steps to initiate the process of canonisation of Fr Rolf Reichenbach ssc.

Original document in Spanish

Secular Branch

“Since its origin the Congregation has had a Secular Branch. Its members commit themselves to live the mission and the spirit of the Congregation, and it has its own Statutes approved by the Holy See.” (Const. 9).

The General Chapters of the sisters and brothers of the Congregation recognise the path travelled by the Secular Branch in recent years, in different parts of the world where we are present. We value the fact that sisters, brothers and members of the Secular Branch share the same spirituality and mission. We feel called to journey as a synodal Church on the basis of our common baptismal dignity.

To continue along this path we invite sisters, brothers and members of the Secular Branch to deepen what is proper to the identity of the SSCC laity, taking into account in particular the *Declaration of the General Governments on the Secular Branch* (2008) and the *Statutes of the Secular Branch* (2022).

As sisters and brothers, we dedicated a day of the General Chapters to reflect on our commitment to the Secular Branch. We have all been called to contemplate, live and proclaim to the world the love of God incarnate in Jesus, each branch in its own form of Christian life in the Church. In this sense, we have approved a set of recommendations and decisions to increase co-responsibility among all of us.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To promote awareness, beginning with Initial Formation of the sisters and brothers, that we share our vocation and mission with the Secular Branch.
2. That in the next six years, reparative adoration be promoted as an important element of our charism, so that sisters, brothers and members of the Secular Branch strengthen this ministry entrusted by the Church to the Congregation, even more so in times when the world is suffering from violence and misunderstandings.
3. That formation, celebratory and recreational meetings, conferences and assemblies between sisters, brothers and members of the Secular Branch be encouraged in order to continue growing in fraternity and co-responsibility.
4. Where possible, that pastoral or social ministries be promoted among sisters, brothers and members of the Secular Branch facilitating a shared mission.

DECISIONS

1. That the General Governments of sisters and brothers ensure the continuity of the Spiritual Animation Team of the Secular Branch, incorporating two members of the Secular Branch. The Secular Branch will design the election mechanism of those representatives.

2. That the accompaniment of the Secular Branch by sisters and brothers be ensured as far as possible, and that the formation of sisters and brothers for this service be promoted.
3. That the Secular Branch be strengthened where it exists, and that it be promoted where it does not.

Original document in Spanish

Elections of the General Government

Alberto Toutin ssc *Superior General*

Jean Blaise Mwanda ssc *General Vicar*

Fernando Cordero ssc *General Councillor*

Stephen Banjare ssc *General Councillor*

Enrique Ramírez ssc *General Councillor*



From left to right: F. Cordero, S. Banjare, A. Toutin, J.B. Mwanda, y E. Ramírez



