



Dear Confreres,

we have just concluded two intensive weeks of work for a short but intense Consulta, which – among other deliberations– has implemented the Chapter's decision to merge some general secretariats. This letter deals with the decisions of two General Councils (October and December) and with the main recent events.

1. Extraordinary administrative interventions. In the consultas of October and December 2016, the General Council has authorized various administrative actions of extraordinary nature:
 - a) DSP: Sale of the house at Mellatz
 - b) EGSD: Property purchase in Arbaa wy Nus, the venue of a Centre for the Refugees
 - c) Ethiopia: Buying a home for the community in charge of mission promotion in Hawassa.
2. Other Consulta's interventions. The Consulta has also dealt with other important issues:
 - a) *General Administration's Budget for 2017:* in the December Consulta the GC has approved the budget of the General Administration. Concurrently were also approved the budgets for the General Funds and the Funds for Scholasticates/CIF.
 - b) *Statutes of the General Administration Funds:* following the indication of the General Chapter (CA '15, n. 81) the situation of the General Administration's Funds was revised. Some were better regulated, some were merged or abolished. The GC has approved a *Supplement to the General Directory of Finance*, which contains all the decisions taken. The Statute of the Solidarity Fund and its purpose was discussed. Given the importance attached to this fund by the General Chapter, the proposal prepared by the Council for Finance will be submitted to the provincials and delegates in their February meeting.
 - c) *Guidelines for Auditing.* As indicated in the *Guide for the implementation of the XVIII General Chapter* (p. 28), the General Secretariat of Economy (GSE) has prepared guidelines for the external audit exercise. These will be published in January.
 - d) *Scholastics/CIF and Total Provincial Common Fund.* The full integration of scholasticates/CIF in the Total Common Fund has not yet reached a satisfactory level, because there remain ambiguities related to past practices which need to be reviewed. The GSE has presented some proposals that will be discussed with the formators.
3. The Council for Finance. In the meeting of November 22-24, the Council of Economy (CoE) has prepared the budget of the General Administration. During the meeting, we discussed the issue of security funds, dealing with a professional actuary who has confirmed the feasibility of the project.

Concerning financial investments, the CoE has fixed some limits to the exposure to the stock market, a source of high volatility. In addition, in the next meeting there will be a session dedicated to the study of the indices of risk definition.

The two meetings of the CoE in 2017 have been scheduled from 5 to 9 of May and from 22 to 24 of November.

4. Continental Assemblies. From October 30 to November 5, the Assembly of provincial treasurers of Africa was held in Maputo. The meeting took place peacefully, according to the schedule, despite the number of absentees and some difficulties due to the variety of languages spoken. The welcoming of the Mozambican province was well-organized and warm. It was also the first Assembly of the *WhatsApp* era, a tool that has helped very much for the sharing of documents and for prayer in the various languages. At the heart of the program was the study of the international agreement for the abolition of bank secrets, to assess its implications for the administrative practice of the Institute and its journey toward an ever greater transparency. The next meetings will be held in 2017 in:
 - a) Krakow for Europe, between 24 and 28 April
 - b) Bogotá for America-Asia, 25-29 September.
5. Appointments. We inform of the appointment of a new provincial treasurer:

Fr. Bwanali Moses Francis for Malawi-Zambia

The provincials continental assemblies also have chosen those responsible for the financial sector:

Anglophone Africa: Fr. Sisto Agostini (ET)
Francophone Africa: Fr. P. Longba Guéndé Godefroy-Médard (RCA)
America-Asia: Fr. Antonio Villarino (CO)
Europe: P. Marek Tomasz (PO – until July 2017)
6. Courses for Provincial Treasurers. We remind everyone that the next course for Provincial Treasurers will be in Rome at the General House from 9 to 23 July 2017.
7. Courses in the Scholasticates/CIF. Between 12 and 16 December, Fr. Marco Binaghi and Fr. Luis Humberto González Jiménez held the administration course in the scholasticate of Lima. With this course in Lima we come to an end of the first cycle of this experience that we wish to properly evaluate with the formators, and which shows already many positive results. Meanwhile, in late June, the second cycle will start in Casavatore.

I wish to conclude by extending, on behalf of the General Treasurer's Office, our best wishes for a Merry Christmas!

Fr. Claudio Lurati
General Treasurer