



*Now is the time for each local community and District to assess its fervor and find fresh enthusiasm for its spiritual and pastoral responsibilities by reflecting on what the Spirit has been saying to the People of God in this special year of the 44th General Chapter, and indeed in the longer span of time from the publication of our revised Rule to today
(a paraphrase of *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, p.9).*

Dear Brother Visitor:

We are pleased to provide you this packet of materials for the Brothers (and partners) of your District so as to enter into the 44th General Chapter process and develop lines of action through their dialogue with the realities of the world, Church, and Institute.

As capitulants we realize the Chapter is not over. It began before our arrival, through the preparatory documents, particularly *Being Brothers Today*. It continued during our time in Rome where we developed the major themes for the Institute today. And it continues now as we invite the Brothers of our region to engage in a process of personal reflection and communal discernment, a discernment that draws us into the drama of God' ongoing creation work.

The packet includes:

1. Stage 1: An opening activity that presents an overview of the General Chapter, the International Assembly, and the four keynote presentations on the realities of our world, the Church, consecrated life, and our Institute.
2. Stage 2: An activity that invites each Brother and community to examine their own reality in light of the keynote presentations.
3. Stage 3: Seven activities based on each of the thematic groups of the General Chapter.

The activities are flexibly designed for use by communities throughout the year. They can be accomplished at one- or two-hour community meetings or a day of recollection. The six thematic group activities can be done separately or grouped together and accomplished in two or three community meetings.

Following Stage 1, we recommend the Brothers read the four keynote presentations in their entirety as preparation for Stage 2. Similarly, after the community has completed the Stage 2 and prior to Stage 3 and each succeeding meeting, the Brothers should read the introduction and thematic document that will be the subject of that meeting. We also recommend that before beginning the thematic group activities, the Brothers read the documents, "Reflections from the Young Brother Capitulants" and "Being Brothers Today: Open Eyes, Burning Hearts" that will be found in the Chapter proceedings. (TURN)

“We are called, each of us singly and together, to be Brothers today, associated together in community and in the body of the Institute and with many partners engaged in the education of the poor, children, the young, and adults whom we encounter in our ministry” (fr. Message to the Brothers). It is our sincere hope that this packet will stimulate the Brothers, our districts and our Region to engage in the process of the Chapter and renew their enthusiasm that first inspired their first “yes” to follow Jesus as a Brother of the Christian Schools”.

Fraternally,

The Ad Hoc Committee on Pedagogy

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