

# REFLECTING ON THE 44<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER

## STAGE 2

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# BEING A BROTHER TODAY

LORD WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE OF US NOW?



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## ORIENTATION

*This step requires that we connect with previous themes and the Brothers' own themes and core questions; this session is meant to address the overarching question: Lord, what do you require of us now? The Brothers had been asked in Stage 1 to reflect, in light of reading the full presentations and other pre-Chapter documents (e.g., Report of the International Assembly, Report of the Superior General and His Council, etc.), on the greatest challenges we face as Brothers through the world, the Church, consecrated life, and the Lasallian Family.*

# LORD, WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE OF US NOW?

## OPENING PRAYER

*Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.*

SONG: Open My Eyes, Lord

Open my eyes, Lord,  
Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord.  
Help me to see.

Open my heart, Lord.  
Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord,  
Help me to love.

Open my ears, Lord,  
Help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, Lord.  
Help me to hear.

I live within you,  
Deep in your heart, O Love.  
I live within you;  
Rest now in me.

**Response:** All  
Spirit of God, come be with us.  
With your blessings fill our lives.

READING 1: Excerpt from Mary Robinson

When the 9/11 attacks occurred, there was a shift and a narrowing of focus away from tackling poverty and promoting development to security and combating terrorism. In the years following 9/11, cultural and religious divides opened up so that today intercultural and inter-religious dialogue is needed more than ever. Our world today needs to recognize values that are shared and international human rights should be one of these values.

**Response:** All  
Spirit of God, come be with us.  
With your blessings fill our lives.

*(Serious pause for reflection)*

READING 2: Excerpt from Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini

Don't be surprised by diversity...Take risks...Put the poor in the center...Nourish yourself with the Gospel.

**Response:** All  
Spirit of God, come be with us.  
With your blessings fill our lives.

*(Serious pause for reflection)*

READING 3: Excerpt from Sister Mary Sujita, SND

I am absolutely convinced that consecrated life will always be relevant, meaningful and prophetic in the present and the future if we dare to live it with a passion for Jesus Christ and a creative compassion for all God's people. We are here today because we carry this future within us!

**Response:** All

Spirit of God, come be with us.  
With your blessings fill our lives.

*(Serious pause for reflection)*

READING 4: Excerpt from Father Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP

Each of our vocations is a reflection of God's most profound dream for each one of us. Can we doubt that our vocation is the most concrete expression of God's dream for each one of us?

**Response:** All

Spirit of God, come be with us.  
With your blessings fill our lives.

*(Serious pause for reflection)*

## COMMUNITY DISCERNMENT AND DISCUSSION

**Having read the four presentations and other pre-Chapter documents and in light of the challenges we face as Brothers...**

Choose the top two or three most significant needs of the Institute?

What is the most compelling need in the Institute today?

*We invite each Brother to share the most compelling need.*

**Given these needs, in the light of our vow formula...**

What does God require of me as a Brother?

*Time for community sharing.*

What does God require of us as a community?

*Time for community sharing.*

What does God require of us as an Institute?

*Time for community sharing.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Leader:** Lord, what do you require of us? As we look at the world and the needs we perceive for our Institute, we have a clearer sense of what you require of us, so we re-commit ourselves to do everything to which we are able to respond. And therefore we pray:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
prostrate with the most profound respect before your  
infinite and adorable majesty, I consecrate myself  
entirely to you to procure your glory as far as I shall  
be able and as you will require of me.

For this purpose I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to unite myself, and  
to remain in society, with the Brothers of the Christian  
Schools who are associated to conduct, together and  
by association, schools for the service of the poor. I  
promise to go wherever I may be sent and to do whatever  
I may be assigned by the body of the Society or its superiors.

Wherefore, I promise and vow chastity, poverty,  
obedience, association for the educational service  
of the poor, and stability in the Institute according to  
the Bull of Approbation and the Rule of the Institute.  
I promise to keep these vows faithfully (for a period  
of \_\_\_\_\_ years) all my life.

*Saint John Baptist de La Salle... Pray for us.*

*Live, Jesus in our hearts... Forever.*



## ASSIGNMENT FOR THE NEXT SESSION

### **Readings:**

1. The introduction and the thematic document that will be the subject of the next session (community meeting)
2. “Reflections from Young Brother Capitulants”
3. “Being Brothers Today: Open Eyes, Burning Hearts”

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