

June 11, 2014



More than 100 Brothers from 32 countries on five continents gathered in Rome from Easter Sunday until Pentecost for the 45th General Chapter. This Chapter lasted for seven weeks and it was one of the longest on record. Its usual work was increased this time as there was a revision of the Rule and Constitutions of the Institute.

The central slogan, "*This work of God is also ours,*" was inspired by a letter sent by the first Brothers 300 years ago to John Baptist de La Salle.

The principal topics focused on the educational mission; formation and accompaniment of Brothers and partners; the Brother's vocation; association between Brothers and others with whom they share spirituality; charism and the mission; stewardship of material resources and human resources for the mission; government and, finally, the life of the Brother in the 21st century.

Brother Robert Schieler, born in the city of Philadelphia in the United States of America, was elected Superior General; Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, a Mexican, is the new Vicar General. Brothers Ricardo Laguda (Philippines), Pierre Ouattara (Burkina Faso), Paulo Petry (Brazil), Timothy Coldwell (USA) and Aidan Kilty (Great Britain) are the new General Councillors with special responsibility for the five Regions into which the Institute is divided. The new Superior can appoint other Councillors to deal with other matters which are considered important.

During the Chapter various Church authorities were present among whom we would highlight Father Robert Prevost (OSA), Father Adolfo Nicolás, a former student of the Brothers and current Superior General of the Jesuits, Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani and Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès (OP).

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools continues to center its life and faith in the risen Christ and it is open to the paths of fraternity and mission which the Holy Spirit will inspire in the coming years. It is the Institute's firm desire to open new ministries in border areas where education and evangelization are greatly needed. The presence of the Institute in the inter-congregational project in South Sudan, in the words of the new Superior General, will continue to be a priority.

The 45th General Chapter concluded on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, after many days of intense work during which the delegates experienced joyful fraternity based on their ecclesial identity as Brothers and the Chapter planned the Institute's life and mission for the future. This future continues to be marked by a passion for educating nearly one million children and young people that God has entrusted to the Institute throughout the world.

The Brothers of the Christian Schools, in union with many lay partners who share the Lasallian mission, are happy to proclaim that God's Work, begun by Saint John Baptist de La Salle, is today the Institute's work; a work that is of great necessity in a world in which there are 57 million children without access to education.

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