

Prot.N° 00948/03

Rome, November 25, 2003

To the Conference Presidents,
Provincial & Vice-provincial Ministers
And Regular Superiors of the Order.

Dear Brother Minister,

At the last meeting of the General Definitory on November 18 we began to consider the question of preparation for the ordinary General Chapter of 2006, which will be held at a different time from that which has been customary. You may like to have some information about this, which of course should be passed on to your successor if your own term of office should lapse before the opening date of the General Chapter.

Date of the General Chapter. We have decided to postpone the opening of the Chapter by a few months. This is because the customary chapter dates coincide with revision time for many of the students at the International College, and it would be unfair to burden them with extra practical difficulties at a time when they are facing university examinations. We have therefore chosen the starting date of **August 28, 2006**, reserving the whole month of September for the General Chapter.

The precise closing date of the Chapter will depend on the subjects on the agenda. This question will be discussed at the next meeting of the General Definitory with the Conference Presidents, scheduled for 8-13 November 2004. The actual closing date of the Chapter will be decided later, as preparations proceed.

Provincial and Vice-provincial Chapters. I remind you that it is appropriate for provinces whose ordinary Chapter is due in 2006 to arrange for it to be held between **January and May 15, 2006** and no later. This will leave the following months free for the necessary preparation for the General Chapter. It is of course always possible to hold provincial Chapters after the General Chapter, but not before October 15, until December 31, 2006. All that is said here about provinces also applies to Vice-provinces.

These were the points I wanted to communicate to you at this time. If you have any comments and/or suggestions, these will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your contribution to the preparations for a successful General Chapter in 2006.

With my best fraternal wishes,

Br John Corriveau
General Minister OFM.Cap