



**XXXV GENERAL CHAPTER  
SOCIETY OF MARY  
Rome, 8-29 July 2018**

**“A man who shall never die...”**

**BULLETIN #1**

Rome, October 2, 2017  
Feast of the Guardian Angels  
200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Foundation of the Society of Mary

TO: All members of the Society of Mary

FROM: The Preparatory Commission for the  
XXXV General Chapter

RE: Preparation of the General Chapter

Dear Brothers,

Happy Anniversary! Today, from Bordeaux, all the way to the far corners of the world, in more than 35 countries, we have the honor of celebrating the foundation of our beloved Society. What a privilege and gift it is to receive the grace of a Marianist vocation, from Our Lord, by the inspiration of our Founder, Blessed Chaminade, and through all those faithful members of the SM who have gone before us. We ask Mary's special blessing on her sons as we, with enormous gratitude, recommit ourselves to Her mission, and continue to *know, love and serve* as Marianist religious into the future.

That future, we believe, must be fortified by continued renewal of our life and mission. The upcoming XXXV General Chapter is a critical moment for this, and as members of the Preparatory Commission, we are happy to share the following with you. As our Superior General stated in his circular of convocation:

*“Every General Chapter is an opportunity for each member and each community of the Society to evaluate their own life and discern what it is that the Lord asks of us at this moment in our history. Therefore, it must be open to what the Spirit inspires through the concerns and questions of the brothers... It is a time in which we all are called to participate responsibly in the tasks which pertain to each of us. We do so, united in reflection and prayer, with the ardent desire to respond with enthusiasm and dedication to what the Lord asks of us.”*

You have already been asked to engage in reflection as the *Lineamenta* for the Chapter is being prepared. This work continues, with your responses serving as an important contribution. During the coming months, we will continue to prepare the Chapter, both from a thematic and practical point of view. We count on your active participation in this process, as requested, and your fervent prayer for its success! At this time, we would also like to share some of the developments and decisions arising from the first two meetings of the Preparatory Commission (July and September 2017).

### **Proposed Theme of the XXXV GENERAL CHAPTER**

The General Leadership Assembly of 2015, during its discussion of the upcoming Chapter, indicated orientations for the Chapter. These were discussed in Fr. Cortés' *Circular*. In keeping with these inclinations, we have chosen as a motto for the Chapter the words of our Founder: "A man who shall never die." (*The Chaminade Legacy* Vol 1., Doc. 154, 6<sup>th</sup> Question). In doing so, we acknowledge that our Society faces many challenges as it looks towards the future in order to preserve and strengthen our religious identity and mission in the Church and in the world. All of us, not only capitulants must accept the responsibility to make the SM that "man who shall never die." The General Chapter, as the highest authority of our Institute, has a particularly important role to play in this process.

### **Logo for the Chapter**

In order to reflect the theme indicated above, in a graphic manner, we asked Bro. Rogelio Nuñez, SM, of the Province of Spain, to propose a logo for the Chapter. We are grateful, and very pleased with what he has provided. We introduce it here to you, for the first time. A more detailed explanation of its elements and symbols is included at the end of this letter.



### **Prayer for the General Chapter**

As we have done in the past, the Preparatory Commission provides a prayer which all members of the SM, as individuals and communities, are encouraged to use before and during the Chapter. The text was prepared by Bro. Timothy Driscoll, SM, Provincial of the Province of Meribah, and is provided at the end with this letter. We will also provide this prayer, in various formats on a special section of the international website ([www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org)) which is scheduled to launch shortly after the new year begins in January.

On this anniversary of our foundation, let us renew our dedication and commitment, which we have professed through our vows, following in the footsteps of those who, on this date in 1817, were the first to offer themselves in this way. Let us confide our lives, and the work of the upcoming General Chapter, following the same spirit that, during their retreat, Chaminade called these first Marianists to embrace: *a spirit of Faith* and a firm *covenant with Mary* for the continuation of her saving mission.

Fraternally,

The Preparatory Commission

  
Francisco Canseco, SM

  
Michael McAward, SM

  
Douglas Roper, SM



PRAYER FOR THE XXXV GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Loving Father, you formed us as men in your likeness  
and shared with us your gifts of knowledge and creativity.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that we may be both bold and prudent  
as we discern the path you invite us to walk.

Make us more devoted sons of your servant, William Joseph Chaminade.

Let us be what he called us to be:

*“other Sons of Mary”*, conformed to the likeness of her adorable Son.

As Brothers united in prayer and mission, let us be *“the man who never dies,”*  
zealous for the salvation of souls, and untiring in our efforts to form communities of faith.

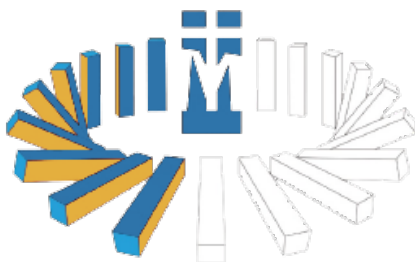
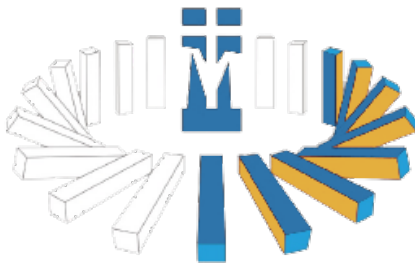
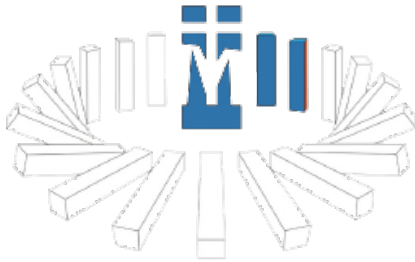
With gratitude born of two centuries of apostolic life and mission,  
let us look to the future with hope and courage.

Guide the deliberations and decisions of our General Chapter.

Inspire the capitulants to be alert and attentive as Mary was at Cana.

Open their ears to hear with faith,  
and their hearts to respond with obedience to the needs of the Church and our world,  
so that all of us, together as Brothers, may respond faithfully and fruitfully  
to Mary’s invitation: *“Do whatever he tells you.”*

Amen.



## LOGO

### for the XXXV GENERAL CHAPTER of the Society of Mary

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**Stability and dynamism:** A circle of columns, pillars. All surround the same deep foundations. They are supported by a single Charism, giving an identity, which is both in the Spirit of Mary and Christ-centered.

**A man, a human community:** The little Society of Mary, with its human weakness, sinfulness, threatened with erosion due to the age of its members, as well as the various challenges to be faced, with their ever-present difficulties, risks falling into diminishment, despair and even death.

**Who shall never die:** Yet, if its members remain faithful to their vocational call, open to the signs of the Holy Spirit, creative and hopeful in enkindling new fires, and fervent in mission, throughout the cycle of life and death, our Society will not die, but rise, with Christ, to new life.



**A man who shall never die:** In a relay race, there are no individuals, rather teams for a community, a institution. If someone is tired, another shall continue in his place. Everyone has a role to play, contributing, pursuing the goal together, across the time and space.

**Prophetic witness:** When our turn comes we take the baton and run with all our energies: spreading the mission, surrendering our life, and sharing our vocation with others. The Marianist mission is embraced by all members: "You are all missionaries." Curiously, in some languages, the race baton is called: "The witness" (French "témoin" and Spanish "testigo"). Thus, it is a fitting image for the part we play in sustaining the "Man who shall never die."

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#### COLORS:

**Blue:** Color associated with Mary, our mother, with whom we join in mission as Marianists.

**Gold:** Symbolic of the "treasure" that is our Charism, that which is behind and beneath all that we are and all that we do as Marianists. It reminds us of the gold ring we wear as a sign of our profession.

