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Capitolo Generale

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**HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF GOD
GENERAL CURIA**

RULES GOVERNING THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON VOCATIONS PROMOTION AND FORMATION

SEXENNIUM: 2019 – 2025



**ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO**

**GENERAL COMMISSION ON VOCATIONS PROMOTION,
AND INITIAL AND CONTINUING FORMATION
SEXENNIUM: 2019 - 2025**

GENERAL COMMISSION

- **Brother Dairon Orley MENESES CARO**
General Councillor for Formation.

- **Brother José Luis MARCH CALVO**
Europe Regional Coordinator
Commission Secretary.

- **Brother Seraphim SCHORER**
Europe Region

- **Brother Léopold GNAMI**
Africa Regional Coordinator

- **Brother John BAPTIST**
Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinator

- **Brother Fermin PANIZZA**
Asia-Pacific Region

- **Brother Juan Carlos HAEDO**
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- **Mr. Claudio CORTES**
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I. THE COMMISSION

1. Definition of the Commission.

The General Chapter considers Vocations Promotion, and Initial and Permanent Formation to be very important matters for our Order today. The renewal of the Order, as of any other Religious institute, depends primarily on the formation of its members. This concern was extensively developed by the Vatican II council in his decree *Perfectae Caritatis*, in which he addressed the need to accompany all the members of the Church who undertake Formation in order to consecrate themselves to the Mission.

Mindful of the need to implement the Pope's determinations and to meet the Order's needs in every Formation House in the world, the Superior General and his Council established the General Commission on Vocations Promotion and Formation. The remit given to this Commission is to animate and accompany the Brothers who have been selected as Formators in each stage in the Formation process (Vocations Promotion, Postulancy, Novitiate and Scholasticate) as well as Continuing Formation.

The General Commission on Vocations Promotion, and Initial and Permanent Formation will operate for 6 years, from the moment of its constitution by the Superior General and his Council until the moment the Superior General completes his Sexennium.

2. The Members of the Commission.

The General Commission on Vocations Promotion, and Initial and Continuing Formation shall comprise one General Councillor Brother and two Representatives of each of the Regions into which the Order is divided in the world (Europe, America, Africa, Asia-Pacific and WEONA), namely: ¹

- A General Councillor Brother appointed by the General Definitory to accompany formation in the Order during the Sexennium.
- A Brother delegated by the Provincials to serve as Formation Animator in his Region.
- A Provincial Vocations Promotion Animator appointed by the Provincials (a Brother or a Co-worker).

¹ The General Definitory at its second meeting in 2019 in Rome, approved the establishment of the General Commission on Vocations Promotion, and Initial and Continuing Formation, made up of two Representatives from each of the Regions into which the Order in the world is divided.

3. General purpose of the Commission.

To ensure that the Formation Model defined by the General Curia² is circulated throughout the Order and to accompany the Major Superiors and Formators on their mission to provide New Vocations with Formation as well as accompanying Continuing Formation.

4. Specific Objectives.

- 4.1.** To update the Rules governing of the General Commission on Vocations Promotion and Formation, laying down its operational objectives for the Sexennium according to the Lines of Action approved by the General Chapter.
- 4.2.** To draw up the calendar of activities to be carried out by the General Commission on Formation, indicating the specific areas of responsibility of the General Curia, the Region and the Provinces, respectively.
- 4.3** To determine the methodology for monitoring and evaluating the scheduled activities.

5. Working Methodology.

Once approved by the General Definitory, the General Councillor responsible for the Formation Area shall request each General Councillor responsible for each Region to supply the names of the two regional members to sit on the General Commission on Vocations Promotion, and Initial and Continuing Formation. After receiving their names and personal particulars, he shall officially notify them to confirm their appointment, together with the notice convoking the First Meeting.

The meetings shall be chaired by the General Councillor responsible for Formation. At the first meeting, one of the members shall be appointed to serve as Commission Secretary, to minute the proceedings indicating all the information and materials of each session. The minutes of each meeting shall be sent to the Secretary-General for translation into the languages approved by the General Curia (Italian, Spanish and English).

The General Commission on Vocations Promotion and Formation shall analyse the Lines of Action approved by the General Chapter, which shall form the basis of the Commission's work for the Sexennium. These Lines of Action shall be used to establish the operational objectives and activities to be implemented at three levels:

- At General Curia level
- At Regional level
- At Provincial and Delegation level.

² OHSJD, Formation Programme for the Hospitaller Brothers of St John of God, Rome 2000.

Each Region shall implement the recommendations issued by the General Commission on Vocations Promotion, and Initial and Continuing Formation, and approved by the General Definitory. The Regions shall independently draw up their work schedule, consistently with their own human and financial resources, but always seeking to attain the objectives set out in the Lines of Action for the Sexennium.

Each Region shall draw up its Regional Work Plan and submit it to the General Curia by the deadline set by the General Commission on Vocations Promotion and Formation to be monitored and evaluated at the end of the scheduled period.

6. Meetings of the Commission.

The first meeting of the Commission shall set the dates of the meetings, which may be annual, preferably in a month towards the end of the year. By this date it is possible to evaluate the work done during the year and at the same time plan the following year's work. It should be noted that the Commission may also plan several meetings during the year if required for some specific scheduled activity.³

II. THE SEXENNIUM WORK PLAN

7. The Lines of Action adopted by the General Chapter for the Sexennium

7.1. Vocations Promotion

Convinced that the vocation of the Hospitaller Brother today is more meaningful than ever before for the Church in the world by virtue of the testimony to Hospitality shown to the neediest people, the General Government requires the Regions and Provinces:

- 7.1.1.** To draw up a Regional- and Provincial-level vocations promotion plan, and to consider this to be a top priority for the new Sexennium.
- 7.1.2.** To foster all possible forms of **commitment to the Order's Charism** of Hospitality, not only within the consecrated life.
- 7.1.3.** To provide modern **social media tools** on the vocation of the Hospitaller Brothers and the whole St John of God Family, and to establish forms of collaboration with the local Church, other Institutes of Consecrated Life, youth movements, schools...

7.2. Initial Formation.

The Provincial Definitory must consider the formation of the Brothers to be an urgent priority and appoint Brothers in possession of the necessary capabilities to become Formators, by appropriately and continuously training them. This makes it necessary:

³ The Regions shall pay the travelling expenses of their Commission members, while the meeting costs, such as accommodation and food, and translations shall be met by the General Curia.

- 7.2.1. To update the book *“Formation Programme for the Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God”*, published in 2000 (General Curia), in terms of the signs of the times today, and to draft a Regional-level Formation Programme for Formators.
- 7.2.2. To set up Regional Formator Networks and foster exchanges between formation centres.
- 7.2.3. To encourage the Provinces, together with the Formators, to set out in a new direction by providing the kind of information that is most appropriate for the new situations in the world and the new configuration of the Order.
- 7.2.4. To make every effort to enable each Brother to feel co-responsible for the formation of the younger Brothers and the new candidates.

7.3. Continuing Formation.

Continuing formation must also include a renewed personal and community commitment. Formation must also foster spiritual discernment and the physical and psychological well-being of the Brothers. Taking this approach, care must be given to the following:

- 7.3.1. Establishing a Provincial Continuing Formation Programme tailored to meet the present needs of our consecrated life.
- 7.3.2. Each Brother, by agreement with his Superior, is responsible for his own spiritual and professional continuing formation. It is crucially important for our consecrated life to maintain a positive interior readiness to undergo formation.
- 7.3.3. The Provincial Definitory shall ensure that the initial and continuing formation programmes are planned and drawn up with the cooperation of experts in these matters.
- 7.3.4. The issue of abuse prevention must be the object of specific formation and be regularly addressed in dialogue between the Brothers, in order to foster personal reflection and encourage appropriate behaviour.
- 7.3.5. Continuing formation meetings should be fostered at the Provincial and Regional levels together with networking between the Provinces and Communities and with other Congregations and comprise both religious and human formation.

8. Operational Objectives of the Sexennium

8.1. Vocations Promotion.

- 8.1.1. To motivate the Regions and the Provincial Curia’s to draw up a Vocational Pastoral Plan, as a priority for the Sexennium to help to spread the charism and accompaniment and discernment for the new vocations, tailored to meet the needs of each place and able to be evaluated.
- 8.1.2. To promote all possible forms of commitment to the Order’s Charism of Hospitality, not only for those who feel called to the consecrated life but for all people who wish to collaborate with other forms of commitment to Hospitality.

8.1.3. To offer those in charge of Vocations Promotion and the Youth Pastoral Ministry the modern social media tools that help to disseminate the vocation of the Hospitaller Brothers and the whole Family of St. John of God, so that we can establish forms of cooperation with the local Church, other Institutes of Consecrated Life, and youth movements, among others.

8.2. Initial Formation.

8.2.1. To update the book *“Formation Programme for the Hospitaller Brothers of Saint John of God”*, published in 2000 (General Curia), in terms of the signs of the times today

8.2.2. To encourage the Regions to draw up a Formation Programme for Formators to help the Brothers entrusted with this mission to prepare and update themselves in order to be able to respond to the demands and needs of the new generations when they are being accompanied.

8.2.3. To revise and tailor the Formation Programmes to ensure that they are relevant to the new situations in the world and to the new configuration of the Order.

8.2.4. To foster the Vocations Culture in the local communities so that each Brother will feel jointly responsible for the formation of the youngest and the new candidates.

8.3. Continuing Formation.

8.3.1. To establish a Provincial Continuing Formation Programme tailored to meet the present needs of our consecrated life, so that each Brother, by agreement with his Superior, feels responsible for, and has an interior readiness to undergo his own permanent, spiritual and professional formation.

8.3.2. To motivate the Provincial Superiors to accompany and monitor the drafting of the Continuing Formation Programmes and where necessary ensure that the persons responsible for drafting these programmes are accompanied by experts who will provide the necessary guidance.

8.3.3. To ensure that the issue of abuse and safeguarding vulnerable people forms part of the Initial and Continuing Formation Programmes.

8.3.4. To foster the convening of Provincial- and Regional-level Continuing Formation meetings, at which the agenda shall include the matters proposed in the Continuing Formation document presented by the General Curia.

9. The Commission’s remit

9.1. To draft the Sexennium Work Plan

9.2. To compose the Document for the Week of Prayer for Vocations.

9.3. To update the Vocations Promotion Link on the General Curia website.

9.4. To accompany and evaluate the Region’s Formation Programmes.