

New Horizons of Hope

32nd General Chapter
Congregation of the Resurrection

Rome
1 – 22 June 2011

Chapter President at Opening: Norbert Raszeja, C.R.
Chapter President at Closing: Bernard Hylla, C.R.



“Through Fidelity in Religious Life to Unity”
General Chapter XXXII

Chapter Delegates

V. Rev Steven Bartczyszyn, C.R.
Secretary General, General Councilor out-going (Rome, Italy)

V. Rev Krzysztof (Chris) Buda, C.R.
Econom General, General Councilor out-going (Rome, Italy)

Rev James (Jim) Donohue, C.R.
Ontario-Kentucky Province (Emmitsberg, Maryland, USA)

V. Rev Adam Dźwigoń, C.R.
Assistant Superior General, Procurator General out-going (Rome, Italy)

Rev Adam Ferenc, C.R.
Polish Province (Vienna, Austria)

V. Rev James (Jim) Gibson, C.R.
New General Councilor, USA Province (Apple Valley, California, USA)

V. Rev. Bernard Hylla, C.R.
New Superior General, Polish Province (Rome, Italy)



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Marcelo de Jesumaria, C.R.

Rev Marcelo de Jesumaria, C.R.
USA Province (Los Angeles, USA)

Roman J. Lebedziuk, C.R.

Rev. Roman Lebedziuk, C.R.
Houses Directly Dependant on the Superior General (Rome, Italy)

Sutherland (Sudie) MacDonald, CR

Rev Sutherland (Sudie) MacDonald, C.R.
Former Superior General (Waterloo, Canada)

Evandro Miranda Rosa

V. Rev Evandro Miranda Rosa, C.R.
New General Councilor, South American Region (Rome, Italy)

Rev. Michał Osuch, C.R.

Rev Michał Osuch, C.R.
USA Province (Chicago, USA)

Rev. Luciano Piotrowski, C.R.

V. Rev Luciano Piotrowski, C.R.
Regional Superior South American Region (São Paulo, Brazil)

Norbert Raszeja, CR

V. Rev Norbert Raszeja, C.R.
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V. Rev Salvatore (Sam) Restivo, C.R.
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V. Rev Wiesław Spiewak, C.R.,
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V. Rev Eugene (Gene) Szarek, C.R.,
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V. Rev Timothy (Tim) Uniac, C.R.
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Rev George Nowak, C.R.

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Rev Włodzimierz Sobolewski, C.R.

Introduction

*“Were not our hearts burning while
He spoke to us on the way ...?”
– Luke 24:32*

We, the Resurrectionists of the 32nd General Chapter, are pilgrims, as individuals and as a Congregation. We are walking with faith, in hope, and in love. We are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus [Luke 24:13-35]. However, unlike them, we have already seen the Risen Lord, we recognize him in our midst. Our eyes are *opened* to a deeper faith, through his profound revelation. Our hearts are *burning* with zeal and joy as our understanding of our charism and mission is enhanced by our chapter. And finally, in union with the two disciples, we go to our brothers to announce and witness that Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

On our journey we have before us a new horizon. Its landscape may frighten us, but we believe in God’s unconditional love for us and we move forward in hope, trusting that God will bring new life out of death.

In 1999, the Resurrectionists of the 30th General Chapter responded to the landscape with “A Vision of Hope.” In 2005, at the 31st General Chapter, the response to this changing landscape was “Continuing a Vision of Hope.” Today we look to the current reality before us and see “New Horizons of Hope.” We confidently build on the past, using it to understand and respond to our new horizon. The same Spirit that led and inspired the chapter fathers in the past has also poured out its grace in abundance on us.

Dying

*“Unless the grain of wheat fall to the ground and die,
It remains just a grain of wheat.”
– John 15:13*

All around us there are the signs of death and resurrection – in the world, in the Church, and in our Congregation. It is natural to resist any deviation from what is convenient and comfortable. And it is normal to seek escape from the daily intrusion of the diminishment that may come our way. But the more we resist dying, the more impossible it becomes to achieve new life. Just as the baby about to be born, if it could speak, would desire to remain in its mother’s womb, where all comfort and warmth and nourishment are provided, so we too do not want to leave the comfort of our expectations. Yet, when the baby comes into the world, screaming and resisting as it were, a whole new world is open to it.

Consider the elements of the Paschal Mystery: (1) dying is necessary as a condition for rising; (2) the new life that ensues is far more lovely than the dying had been; and (3) the new life could not possibly have been expected. Otherwise the dying would not have been so hard and so deeply resisted.

New horizons do await us. Looking to the past and what we used to call our own is one way to put off turning to the future. Let us rise, brothers, to that which the Lord is telling us is essential to our religious charism and apostolic ministry, so that we may discern and discover the new vistas to which He calls us.

The 32nd General Chapter of the Congregation of the Resurrection acknowledges that we are in some ways facing a variety of “deaths.” These include diminished membership, a paucity of vocations in many sectors, the surrender of virtually all of our institutions, and financial problems.

Rising

*“Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is not here. He is risen, as He said.”
– Luke 24:5*

*“Behold, I make all things new.”
– Revelations 21:5*

The risen One emerges from the tomb and shows himself to Mary in the garden, to the disciples at Emmaus, and to Thomas in the Cenacle. Common to all these appearances is that the participants initially failed to recognize him – as so very often do we also!

But these gospel stories teach us to recognize Jesus in our midst whenever our name is lovingly pronounced (as in the case of Mary), whenever we break bread (as at Emmaus), and when we touch the suffering wounds of others (as happened to Thomas). The risen Christ is present to us, then, in community when we speak the name of our confreres with affection and respect, as also in the Eucharist when we break bread, and in our ministry to the sick and troubled when we touch and tend to their wounds.

Will we recognize Jesus in these events? Will we be the recipients of blessed hope? Christ yesterday, today, tomorrow! The circumstances of life change, world conditions shift, the horizons of our lives fluctuate – but the risen Christ remains ahead of us, steady and beckoning to us, always and in every way.

Conclusion

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
– Romans 15:13*

Hope, of course, is not merely optimistic, wishful thinking. True hope is founded upon our own personal experience of dying and rising in union with Christ. In this chapter we have identified and have shared these experiences as individuals and as a Congregation. That manifestation of God’s abiding love for us has called us beyond death to resurrection and new life.

This reality is predicated upon a deeply personal trust that God loves us first and last and best of all, that he has called us by name from our mother’s womb before we were born, that his love for us is not earned but lavishly and freely poured out on us.

We rejoice with our brothers in the South American Region and the dazzling growth of members in Brazil. We are delighted too for the nearly ten years of our ministry in Tanzania and the possibility of establishing a formation program there. We are inspired by the serious and earnest dedication of this general chapter to deepen our financial stewardship in every sector of the Congregation – from the general curial level through the provincial and regional level all the way to the local house level. We think, too, that God has blessed us in the men who have accepted the challenge of service as superior general and general councilors. The extended general council has been strengthened in a variety of ways. And, finally, we continue to strive and pray for the beatification of our Founders.

The God of hope will indeed fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him. Our trust is truly a biblical faith – not something merely cerebral and intellectual, but a deep and abiding interior sense that, regardless of any dying that befalls us, the God who called us into being out of love will not ever cease to hold us in His love.

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is God’s faithfulness.”
– Lamentations 3:21-23

Action Resolutions

01. Models of General Leadership

(Recommendation: That the superior general and his council formulate the specific responsibilities of each of them, and/or other persons, reflecting the spirit of article 112 of our Constitutions with particular consideration for the Tanzanian mission, the International Resurrection Studies Commission, the international website, and patrimony of the Congregation.)

The superior general and his council will explore different models of international general leadership in order to have better governance of our Congregation. This should be developed through sharing their research, study and reflection (at a canonical and constitutional level) with the extended general council, with the intention of improvements or suggestions for the next general chapter.

02. Canonical Visitations

The canonical visitations, reflecting the spirit of articles 88 and 129 of the Constitutions, will be an opportunity for the major superior (or his delegate) to inquire about the following:

- (a) the Resurrectionist's spiritual life, including prayer and spiritual direction;
- (b) his apostolate, specifically his identification and fidelity to the charism and mission of the Congregation;
- (c) his sharing in community life in the local house; and
- (d) any concerns he may have about the life of the province/region or entire Congregation.

This will permit a deeper look into the life of the individual and province/region and facilitate greater support and challenge of the individual and the provincial/regional leadership. The visitation will include a common gathering.

03. Extended General Council

The extended general council serves as an important vehicle for communication, collaboration and planning, creating solidarity in relation to the charism and mission of the Congregation, among the general curia and the provincial/regional superiors.

Ordinarily, the extended general council meets twice a year.

04. Meetings of the Extended General Council

The meetings of the extended general council should include:

- (a) Written reports by each member of the general council, to be presented in their area of responsibility and competence, including financial reporting;
- (b) written reports by each provincial/regional superior, to be presented in the area of their responsibility and competence, including financial reporting;
- (c) coordination of the scheduling of general/provincial/regional chapters, retreats, visitations, extended general council meetings, and major events and celebrations;
- (d) providing ongoing exchange of information regarding the status of members of the Congregation in irregular situations, in particular those applying for dispensations from perpetual vows and dismissal from the clerical state and dispensation from the obligation of priesthood; and
- (e) informing the Congregation, in written form, about the realization of the action resolutions of the 32nd General Chapter.

05. Postulator General

The superior general will appoint a postulator general to continue the work towards the beatification and canonization of Resurrectionists, beginning with the founders. He will report directly to the superior general and to the extended general council.

06. Collegium Resurrectionis Internationale

(Recommendation: The Collegium Resurrectionis Internationale is a recognized residence at the Pontifical Universities in Rome, where our students have studied Theology. The general chapter recommends preserving the Collegium Resurrectionis in Rome.)

- (a) The superior general and his council, together with the extended general council, will determine how the Collegium Resurrectionis will be financed.
- (b) A separate account should be established for the operation of the International Seminary (Collegium Resurrectionis Internationale). This fund needs to be restricted for the sole use of the running of the seminary. A percentage of the money received in fraternal sharing should be earmarked for the Seminary fund each year. The superior general and his council should approve the budget for the International Seminary after consultation with the rector and the extended general council.

07. Lay Associations and the Laity

- (a) The superior general and his council will support existing lay associations that share our charism and mission, and promote the development of other communities of the Resurrectionist spirit and tradition. In order to fulfill this goal the superior general and his council will form an international committee of competent people to inquire and study lay associations of other religious communities, and present their research to the extended general council.
- (b) All sectors of the Congregation are encouraged to study and develop models that would enable us to impart our Resurrectionist charism and mission to the laity.

08. The International Resurrection Studies Commission:

The work of the coordinator of the International Resurrection Studies Commission (Const. 116) will include the following:

- (a) participating in the preparation of the Resurrectionist Renewal Program;
- (b) encouraging and assisting each province/region in organizing symposiums, workshops and retreats on the themes of Resurrectionist spirituality or the theology of the Paschal Mystery;
- (c) being personally available for, or identifying members of the IRSC for, the direction of retreats or conferences at the request of a province/region; and
- (d) together with the provincial and regional superiors, identifying at least one member of each province/region who can collaborate actively in the Commission's activities.

09. The Resurrectionist Renewal Program

- (a) The Resurrectionist Renewal Program will be held at least twice before the next general chapter.
- (b) The extended general council will determine the coordinator of the program, as well as location, time and other details. Consideration will be taken of significant historical locations outside of Rome (especially in Poland and Lithuania) that are connected to our founders, as well as significant anniversaries of our founders.
- (c) This program may include the participation of specialists in Resurrectionist patrimony and spirituality, religious life in general, and contemporary theology.

10. Vocations

(a) Our membership will foster religious vocations by:

- recognizing that their pastoral activity is vocational;
- giving special attention to potential candidates within their ministry by introducing them to the principles of religious life and the Congregation;
- encouraging and assisting the laity to live their own vocation, responding to their baptismal commitment by giving witness to Christian values and offering their special gifts of service to the church and society;

(b) Our membership will foster a vocation culture throughout our international community by:

- collaboration among provincial and regional vocation directors;
- regular prayer for vocations in each local house: for example, Eucharist, Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary, monthly retreat days, community gatherings; and
- promotion in each apostolate of regular prayer for vocations and groups dedicated to prayer and vocation promotion.

(c) The provincial/regional superior will publicly support the efforts of the vocation director so that the membership is made aware that vocational ministry is crucial to the continuance of the Congregation and that the vocation director is the coordinator of the efforts of the membership.

11. International Formation Commission: Religious Life and Vows

(a) In the face of negative aspects of our twenty-first century culture, the International Formation Commission will consider as a priority further study and reflection, discussion and creation of constructive policies concerning the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, both in initial and ongoing formation.

(b) The vowed life will be a subject of concern for the International Formation Commission, including the study of the biblical roots of the evangelical counsels, their particular expression in the charism of the Congregation of the Resurrection, and their practical living in our contemporary context and the various pastoral settings of our international membership.

12. Tanzania: *Missio ad Gentes*

“Two thousand years since the beginning of the mission, there are still vast geographical, cultural, human, and social areas in which Christ and his Gospel have not yet penetrated. How can we fail to hear the call emerging from this situation?”

“We must be deeply convinced of the fact that evangelization is a valuable service to humanity, since it prepares it to achieve the plan of God, who wishes to unite to himself all men and women and render them a people of brothers and sisters liberated from injustices and filled with feelings of authentic solidarity.”

– Message of Pope John Paul II, World Day for Missions, 2000

We are at the vigil of the tenth anniversary of our work in Tanzania. We are aware that our ministry is beginning to be fruitful because young men are presenting themselves as candidates to be with us. We are happy about this and are open to them.

- (a) We support and commit ourselves to this mission.
- (b) We support the establishment of a formation program there.
- (c) We will continue our ministry where we are but will resist spreading our presence prematurely until our ministry in the current two dioceses is solidified.
- (d) The evaluation of our presence and work in this mission will occur at the annual meeting of the extended general council. Such an evaluation will be based on the mission’s religious and apostolic life, its vocation and formation work, and its finances.
- (e) In accordance with Constitutions #221-c, the Tanzania Mission will be the primary recipient of the various provincial funds established for Resurrectionist missions.
- (f) The International Formation Commission, together with a representative from Tanzania, shall develop a program of formation, according to Constitutions #157, for the Resurrectionists in Tanzania.
- (g) The superior general and his council will maintain a restricted fund for the support of Resurrectionist missions.
- (h) In order to help support the Tanzanian mission:
 - a) All sectors of the Congregation should promote preaching and the collection of donations on an annual basis in their own territories.
 - b) A complete financial accounting of income and expenses of the Tanzanian mission should be submitted each year to the superior general and the extended general council.

13. Beatification Causes

- (a) The major superiors and the regional superior will encourage the distribution and promotion of prayer cards asking for the intercession of Bogdan Jański and Paul Smolikowski, incorporating this form of prayer into the life of the local houses and our various parishes and apostolates.
- (b) The major superiors will encourage preaching and teaching on our founders and will seek to extend the *fama sanctitatis* of Bogdan Jański and Paul Smolikowski with the help of sources published in the various languages of our apostolates. Sharing of local activities in this vein will occur through the provincial/ regional superiors at meetings of the extended general council.
- (c) The postulator general will present an annual report to the extended general council which will express in detail the current status of the beatification processes of Bogdan Jański and Paul Smolikowski.

14. Parish Apostolate

“We should not desire nor do anything beyond the power and means which the Lord presents at the moment. But, of those means which the Lord does present, we should make optimum use. We should guard against forcing all good which is presently possible into one mold or one preferred form. Rather, let everyone work as best he can and as the Lord inspires him. In this way, a greater good is accomplished because it is achieved without fanfare, publicity, and singleness of form.”

– Bogdan Jański, “Under the Standard of the Risen Christ,” pp. 49-50

It has become evident during this general chapter that a primary and virtually exclusive apostolate in all our provinces and region is parochial in nature.

- (a) We remain open to a rich variety of ministries that serve the Congregation and the Church, according to the interests and abilities of our members.
- (b) We want to preserve and develop our Resurrectionist identity in every ministry we undertake.
- (c) We also desire that our common life should not suffer because of our apostolic life.
- (d) Major superiors making visitations are encouraged to engage our members whether and how they are living in the spirit of the Resurrectionist charism and mission in their concrete apostolates.

15. Educational Apostolate

The superior general and his council will themselves or by an appointed committee prepare suggestions for revision of the section on educational apostolate in the Constitutions prior to the next general chapter.

16. Finances

The responsible and economical administration of the material goods and financial means of the Congregation is one of the genuine forms of practicing the vow of poverty and also an external testimony of faithfulness to the spirit of our founders and of honesty towards our donors and benefactors as well.

- (a) The extended general council should begin investigating the best way of assessing the financial profile of the entire Congregation.
- (b) The superior general and his council, in cooperation with the local house superior of the Roman house, are encouraged to investigate accepting more student / professor priests who would rent rooms for a semester or for one or more academic years, as well as other ways leading to the self-sufficiency of the generalate house operations.
- (c) To insure the financial wellbeing of the generalate, provinces are expected to honor their commitment to fraternal sharing, past and present. We encourage all the provinces to fulfill these commitments as soon as possible.
- (d) All provinces, the region and the superior general and his council are required to follow the uniform reporting template. The miscellaneous category must not be overused. The total should not be more than 3% of the total annual expenditures.
- (e) The superior general and his council will provide for the revision, correction and updating of the present General Directory on Temporal Goods in order to submit it for approval during the next general chapter.
- (f) The Directory on Temporal Goods that has been revised and approved at the 32nd General Chapter needs to be adhered to by all provinces, the region, and the superior general and his council.

Changes in the Constitutions

220 The Congregation will be involved in the missions to the extent which the Church expects an active religious institute to be involved. It will exercise missionary activity in those areas where there exists great spiritual and material need. It will focus its activity on developing and forming the local church into a community of faith, hope, and love according to its culture. The whole purpose of this activity is to make the human race form one people of God, coalesce into the one body of Christ, and be built up into the one temple of the Holy Spirit.

(There is only a minor revision in the first sentence of the original)

196 The religious will help the laity to discover the power of the Holy Spirit working in the sacraments of Christian initiation, and in this way introduce them to responsibility for the mission of the church. They will acknowledge the dignity of the role of the laity in the life of the Church, listening to their voice with fraternal concern and taking into account their desires, points of view, experience, and competence. The religious recognize that the laity have a specific ministry in the service of the Church, and therefore will give them a free hand and encourage their initiative. They will provide opportunities for the religious education and continuing formation of the laity.

(The following is a new paragraph in #196; the first paragraph is not changed.)

It is a part of our tradition that there are associations of laity living the Resurrectionist charism and mission, according to their state of life. The presence of the laity in our ministry ought to mean a real collaboration – the laity working with us in genuine communion with the Church.

#221 *(The following paragraphs are added to C-221.)*

The superior general has the authority to recruit and appoint members to serve in the missions of the Congregation after consultation with the provincial or regional superior.

Members appointed to the missions will be appointed for a specific term and they will come under the jurisdiction of the superior general as members of a house directly dependent upon the superior general.

Changes in the General Directory on Chapters

Article 22: “The chapter will have five moderators: one from the general council, one from each of the provinces, and one from the region and houses directly dependent on the superior general. In a rotation system decided upon by themselves, each moderator, assisted by another of choice, serves as chairman of plenary sessions”.

Article 21 “The general council, each provincial delegation, as well as the delegates from the region and houses directly dependent on the superior general, will select one of their delegates to serve as chapter moderator.”

Article 35 “There may be seven committees, or a grouping that the Chapter Delegates determine:

- a) Spirituality and vows
- b) Community and government
- c) Formation
- d) Apostolates
- e) Chapter theme
- f) Future planning
- g) Financial review”

Changes in the General Directory on Temporal Goods

III – 1

- (a) The superior general may not spend more than 20,000 euros on extraordinary expenses without first receiving the consent of his council.
- (b) The superior general may not spend more than 50,000 euros on extraordinary expenses without first receiving consent of the Extended General Council.

III – 4 It belongs to the competence of the superior general with the consent of his council to authorize acts of extraordinary administration by provincial/regional superiors which do not involve alienation (nor other objects mentioned in Canon 638.3) when the sum exceeds 200,000 USA dollars (cf. Constitutions 106-(e); Canon 638).

III – 5 It belongs to the competence of the superior general with the consent of his council to grant permission for any alienation of temporal goods [other than objects mentioned in Canon 638.59 when the value is between 200,000 USA dollars and the limit established by the Holy See for the country in which the alienation is to take place (cf. Constitutions 106-(d))].

In 2011, these limits are ...

IV – 2 The provincial superior may not spend more than 10,000 USA dollars on extraordinary expenses without first receiving the consent of his council.

IV – 3 The provincial superior with the consent of his council may authorize acts of extraordinary administration within the limits of 20,000 USA dollars provided that:

- (a) the transaction does not involve restricted objects (cf. Canon 638.3);
- (b) the transaction does not involve alienation of goods which have a value which exceeds the sum set by the Holy See for that country (cf. Constitutions 131-(e)).