



Dear Confreres,

I'm sending these update notes as we prepare to celebrate the Passover of the Lord. There are so many situations in the world that worry us and, among them, the situation in South-Sudan that we feel with particular intensity.

1. Solidarity with South Sudan. On March 24, Father General sent to all the circumscriptions a letter recommending initiatives of solidarity with the people of South Sudan. This letter integrates the message of solidarity and fraternity sent to the Circumscription Superiors at the end of their February meeting.

Also Pope Francis, last February 22, drew the attention of the international community to South Sudan «where a fratricidal conflict joins a severe food crisis that condemns to starvation millions of people, including many children.»

2. The flood in Peru. Let us not forget either the populations of Peru struck by the flood in recent weeks. The General Treasurer's Office is available to transmit to the Province of Peru any possible contribution. Some provinces have already rallied to this cause.

3. Extraordinary Contributions for the GA. At the end of the Consulta, the General Council sent to all the circumscriptions a letter in which the needs for 2017 were presented and, at the same time, also a summary report of 2016.

The data show that all the extraordinary contributions received by the General Administration have been redistributed among the provinces in various ways.

4. Projects. With the *Integrative Note on the Statutes of the General Administration's Funds*, the General Council has suspended the n. 15.3 of the General Directory for Finance, which prescribed that projects above \$ 10,000 – in order to be funded by a province – had to have prior authorisation from the General Council. The requests for funds are now to be directly sent to the financing provinces, with a copy to the General Treasury. At the end of the year, the financing provinces will send to the General Treasury the list of all the projects they have supported.

It is confirmed that the requests for project funds submitted to the GA are examined by the GC twice a year: in March and October.

For the examination of small projects up to 5.000 USD the General Treasury will dedicate two additional sessions: in June and December.

5. External auditing of the accounts. As indicated in the *Guide for the Implementation of the XVIII General Chapter* (p. 28), the Council for Finance has drawn up guidelines for the external auditing. The document was sent out in Italian and English.

6. Council for Finance. The next meeting will be held from 5 to 9 May to review the financial reports of the circumscriptions and of the General Administration.

With this meeting of the Council for Finance, the process of revision of all our Inalienable Assets will begin. A work session will be dedicated to the study of the various elements of risk related to financial investments.

Fr. Dasilva Gonzalo Antonio, Provincial Treasurer of Spain, and Fr. Chmiel Sebastian, bursar of the Delegation of Tchad, were appointed members of the Council for Finance for three years, representing their respective continental groups.

7. Appointments of Provincial Treasurers. In 2017, two new Circumscription Treasurers were appointed:

Fr. Nicolino Di Iorio for Ethiopia

Fr. Marcelo Fonseca Oliveira for Congo

8. Continental Assemblies. From 24 to 28 April the Assembly of the provincial treasurers of Europe will be held in Cracow.

In addition to a resumption of the General Chapter and various continental issues, in the program there will be a time to study the international agreement for the abolition of the banking secrecy, to assess its implication for the administrative practices of the Institute and its development towards an ever greater transparency.

In Bogota, from 25 to 29 September, we have scheduled the Assembly of the Provincial Treasurers of the America-Asia group.

9. Course for Provincial Treasurers. We remind everyone that the next Course for Provincial Treasurers will be held in Rome at the General House from 9 to 23 July 2017.

The registration must be sent to the General Treasury by the end of April.

Best wishes and Happy Easter!

Fr. Claudio Lurati
General Treasurer