



Dear Confreres,

After an absence of about five years, *EUR News*, an information sheet from the General Treasury, is back. The last issue, the 30th, dates back to the end of 2017. The idea of reviving this sheet arose during the last meeting of the Council for Finance in December 2022.

The purpose of this publication is to update the confreres on the main events in the field of economy within our Institute.

The publication will probably have a semi-annual rhythm, or, at any rate, whenever we feel the need to communicate important news in the field.

In this issue, we take stock of what happened during the year 2022 and mention some programmes in the pipeline for the coming months. We wish you all a good read.

1. The 19th General Chapter. The year 2022 was marked by the event of the 19th General Chapter. The *Chapter Acts* contain a section dedicated to the theme of economy: *Communion of goods, sharing and sustainability - The circle of resources that nourishes the branches and gives new life*. The title of the section well highlights the main theme that is developed within it: that of sustainability.

The General Secretariat for Finance has produced a power point with the aim of helping the Circumscriptions to develop programming in the area of economy for the next six years that takes into account the guidelines and commitments proposed in the document. Indeed, at the level of the Circumscriptions this work is essential to bring the Chapter's guidelines to a contextualised implementation in the various realities where we live. The year 2023 has been dedicated by the Institute precisely to this work of study, assimilation and planning. The power point file was sent to the Circumscription bursars.

2. The Council for Finance. The GC appointed Fr. Pietro Ciuciulla as a member of the Council for Finance for three years from 1st November 2022, as a technical advisor. He replaces Bro. Guillermo Casas Rosell.

After three years since the last Council for Finance meeting held in attendance, we met finally in Rome from 28th November to 2nd December. At the meeting, the Council took stock of the Institute's economic situation at this complicated international juncture, and prepared the General Administration's budget for the year 2023. The economic distress and

difficulties that society is experiencing are also clearly reflected in the Institute. Time was given to reflecting on the 19th General Chapter and on the programmatic orientations for the economic's sector.

A whole day was devoted to evaluating our service in revising the annual reports of the Circumscriptions. In this context, we reflected at length on the collection of accounting data and on how to improve it with a view to getting a more realistic picture of the Institute's situation; in particular, on how to have sustainability indicators that allow us to better understand how much each Circumscription depends on local resources, resources from abroad, and resources from the Institute's internal solidarity.

Another issue addressed was how to avoid the duplication of certain items in the Profit and Loss Account, when aggregating data to obtain a Final Balance Sheet for the Institute. To this end, adjustments were made to the reporting forms that will be used for the year 2022 and some additional information was requested to be included in the accompanying notes.

In addition, work was done on a draft statute for the Elderly Conferes' Fund, the last training courses held (Lima Scholasticate and Bursar's Course) were evaluated, and a planning of future commitments was made.

3. Scholasticates and IBCs – Integration into the Total Common Fund.

In January 2023, the Council for Finances met again, this time in online mode, to evaluate the proposed budgets for scholasticates/IBCs. This activity, which was normally included in the November meeting, was postponed to the beginning of the year to allow for a greater integration of these formation houses into the economic life and in the approval process of the budgets of the host Circumscriptions. In fact, it is requested that this budget, like those of all the other communities in the Circumscription, also passes to the Secretariat of the Economy for analysis before approval by the Circumscription Council. The General Fund for Scholasticates/CIFs contributes to cover part of the ordinary expenses up to a maximum amount of 80%. The Council for Finance notes that the contributions provided by the Fund in recent years has been increasing and, for proper planning, considers a comprehensive study to be necessary, starting from the early stages of training and including a cost projection on all its phases.

4. Training Course for Circumscription Bursars and Administrators. It took place in Rome from 24th October to 4th November 2022. Again, the previous course organised was three years before. Thirteen confreres participated. The evaluation was very positive. Only the fact that not all the Circumscriptions were able to benefit from this training opportunity by sending a confrere was lamented. This type of course is an important opportunity for Circumscriptions to prepare their administrators, and certainly wise planning requires foreseeing changes and rotations in good time, adequately preparing future bursars.



Corso di Formazione per Economi di Circostrizione e Amministratori

5. Appointments of Provincial Administrators. Below is a list of recent appointments among the Circumscription Treasurers:

- P. Ruben Sandoval for Mexico (20/7/22)
- P. Jemil Araya for Eritrea (2/8/22)
- P. Gianni Gaiga for Peru (1/1/23)

6. Continental Assemblies. A cycle of Continental Assemblies of treasurers will take place starting from 2023: July 2023 for America-Asia; February 2024 for Europe and July 2024 for Africa. Some of the topics that will be debated at these Assemblies are: Sickness and Care (feedback on input given during the General Assembly of Treasurers); the Elderly Confreres Fund; continental co-ordination and aid between Circumscription treasurers; the Chart of Accounts and sustainability indicators.

7. Training courses for scholasticates /IBCs. The Council for Finances resumed the organisation of courses for scholasticates/IBCs. The first experiment of an online course was held for the scholasticate of Lima in December 2021. The experience was evaluated as positively.

Several courses are planned for 2023: in Casavatore (Italy) from 6th to 8th February; in Kinshasa (Congo) from 11th to 15th April; finally, we hope to manage to organise also a course in São Paulo, immediately after the America-Asia Continental Assembly.

The 19th General Chapter confirmed the importance of formation in the field of econom-

ics, starting from the Initial Formation phases (AC'22, 39.3). The Council for Finance set the goal of completing a formation cycle in each scholasticate/IBCs within three years.



ECONOMIC TRAINING PILLS

SUSTAINABILITY

The word derives from the Latin sustinere, meaning "to support", "to defend", "to favour", "to preserve", "to care for".

At the beginning of the 18th Century, the demand for timber in the forests of Saxony was constantly growing. The mines, which were expanding at the time, required immense quantities of it. Hans Carl von Carlowits, a Saxon mining superintendent, invented the German word *Nachhaltigkeit* (sustainability) and in 1713 wrote a treatise titled *Sylvicultura Oeconomica oder Anweisung zur wilden Baum-Zucht* (Economic Forestry or Instruction on the Breeding of Wild Trees). Carl asks how many trees it is possible to cut down without compromising the forest's ability to renew itself and ensure its subsistence for future generations.

Our *Chapter Acts*, in the section on economics, focus on the word *Sustainability*:

"We dream of an economically, socially and ecologically sustainable Institute, thanks to Providence and an effective Sustainability Plan" (AC'22, 36)

A sustainable Institute is one that has the capacity to continue over time. It is the result of trust in the gifts that God never ceases to offer, and the balanced use of them.

The use of the word sustainability with reference to the Institute, or a part of it such as a Circumscription, reminds us of the importance of knowing how to organise ourselves: our forces must be distributed in such a way as to give adequate attention to the search for and collection of resources. On the other hand, resources must be channelled fairly into the various activities and managed wisely and sparingly.

It is a dynamic that could be compared to that of body and limbs, to quote a well-known biblical comparison.

P. Angelo Giorgetti
General Treasurer