



Società del Sacro Cuore
Casa Generalizia

Ref. N°: 24/17

January 24, 2024

Letter to the Society

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Roma. We wish you a blessed and meaningful New Year. The General Council is now focused on the journey towards the General Chapter 2024. All of us are also on a journey from the known land (our provinces) to a new land (new provinces). On this journey, many new things are happening. Often it feels like being on a pilgrimage with God, journeying towards the promised land like Moses in the book of Exodus.

During our recent conversations with many of you, we heard a strong desire to learn more about new things that are happening in other parts of the Society. As a result of hearing this desire, the General Council has developed a plan for a series of global conversations among us which we are calling **Tents of Encounter**. We are calling them this name, recalling the tent of Moses' encounter with God when God led the **people** to the Promised land. The Tents of Encounter suggests a place of, dialogue and reflection, a sacred space where we can listen to one another.

We have planned three Zoom conversations which will take place during March, April and May, 2024. The purpose of these gatherings, **Tents of Encounter**, is to encourage an inclusive spirit towards the General Chapter, offering a space where we can all connect across the Society. Our hope is that, we will all have the opportunity to hear about what is happening in the eight new provinces throughout the Society. We are also influenced by the spirit of synodality that is being encouraged throughout the Church around the world. We hope that these sessions will give each RSCJ the opportunity to express herself about the issues that will shape our future. We will bring the fruit of these conversations to the big Tent of Encounter that is the General Chapter in August 2024 .

The gatherings are organized around three key topics that will be discussed at the Chapter: **Apostolic Priorities, Sharing of Resources and Governance**. In organizing conversations, we considered the time zones that will allow for the greatest number of sisters who wish to participate. Unfortunately, we know that the time zones will preclude attendance of everybody so we have tried to maximize the possibility for participation for as many people as possible. We are aware that certain topics will be more accessible to some provinces because of the time zones and others will not be as easily accessible. However, everyone is welcome to attend any of the sessions if she wants. Some provinces may choose to include lay collaborators who work closely with us. The meetings will have interpretation in the three Society languages English, Spanish and French. **All the meetings will be recorded and recordings will be made available to the members approximately 10 days after each meeting.**

The first part in each session will be a sharing from 2-3 new provinces (7 minutes each) about what new things they have been doing to build relationships and/or create the new province. There will be time for people to add information about what is happening in their new provinces and make comments or ask questions.

In the second part, there will be input on the topic from specialists in the area (these will be named in the attached program). Afterwards, there will be time for those who wish to share. These encounters are primarily about listening and sharing, so your questions will be heard but not necessarily answered

At the end of each session, we have asked Anjet Van Linghe to reflect back to the group on what she heard and she will make connections between the topic and the key value of relationship building. Anjet is a facilitator from the Netherlands who specializes in transitions in organisations, especially in intercultural communities. She works with the Discerning Leadership Program in Rome and has worked with the General Council in Rome.

In the attached program you will see the participating provinces for the three sessions. The choice of the provinces is based on the most accessible time for them. Of course, others are free to join the session even if the time is not so convenient.

Given the many commitments that people have in the months prior to the General Chapter we have had to limit this opportunity to just three sessions of 100 minutes each. We are aware that a 100-minute session is not sufficient time to capture all the experiences. We hope after these encounters you will be motivated to connect with groups and provinces to share and to know more deeply about the experiences of new things happening. You will also be able to send in written questions or comments which will be available to the Chapter delegates and will form part of the input for the Chapter deliberations.

Here is the Zoom link for the encounters:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404608649?pwd=NTZ4RnpZdlpiOUcvZG5SV2ZwbEZOUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 0460 8649

Passcode: 2024

A few days before the meetings we will send a reminder to the provincial secretaries along with the Zoom link.

Thank you very much to all for your participation and contribution to the reconfiguration process of the Society. We are looking forward to your participation in the Tents of Encounter.

United with you in the Pierced Heart of Jesus,

Bansan mj. Anne rsj Daphne Marie-Jeanne Mónica roq