



Verona, 8th July 2021

Dear brothers and sisters of the Calabrian Family!

In this difficult time of the pandemic that continues to strike humanity, we feel united and in communion of prayer.

The General Chapters, planned long ago, have been postponed several times hoping for the time when the current health emergency situation could allow international travels and the participation of the chapter members in person.

After this long period of time that we have been through, the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life, with the letter of 31st May 2021, has given an extraordinary possibility of celebrating General Chapters of the Congregations in a telematic mode, allowing us to carry out the voting for the Superior Generals and Councillors only through paper ballots, to be sent by a fast express post.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE DISCERNMENT

In the light of this new possibility, we have met as General Councils to start a process of discernment focussed on evaluating the feasibility, for our Congregations, of holding the Chapter in telematic mode.

The first meeting of the councils was followed by the participation of the Delegates from both Congregations (Poor Servants and Poor Servants Sisters), to whom were presented the various possibilities for giving continuity to our discernment. In addition, we believed it was opportune to widen the reflection to include all the elected Chapter members, so that the decision could be as collegial as possible. In this way, therefore, we have fostered some separate meetings for the Chapter members (both brothers and sisters).

THE OUTCOME OF THIS FIRST PHASE

The General Councils of the Poor Servants has met all the Chapter members at the meeting on Friday, 2nd July, while the Council of the Poor Servants Sisters has met the Chapter members on Monday, 5th July.

There was a wonderful atmosphere of listening, fraternity and sharing. These meetings at distance (online), carried out in a spirit of communion and collegiality, have been of great help in the discernment process, to arrive together to the listening of the voice of the Holy Spirit and to choose the greater good for the life and mission of our Congregations and of the "Opera". At the moment we have not yet reached a definitive orientation. At this moment the proposal on the table will be further evaluated in each Delegation and in about fifteen days we shall meet again.

In the Spirit of the Synodal process already initiated, we wish to share with all, Brothers, Sisters and laity of the Calabrian Family, the path we are taking.

We ask you all to accompany us in this time, praying intensely for the preparation of the General Chapters, so that the Holy Spirit may illumine our journey towards the prophecy of communion.

Fr. Miguel and Mother Lucia