



In Preparation of the General Chapter of 2015

Dear Superiors and Communities of the Cistercian Order,

All communities are asked to prepare for the General Chapter, which will take place from October 6 to 18, 2015.

The theme is taken from the fact that the General Chapter occurs in the Year of Consecrated Life, fifty years since the promulgation of *Perfectae Caritatis*.

The Church invites us to renew our awareness of our vocation to follow Christ “under the guidance of the Gospel” (RB Pr 21), and of its prophetic dimension in the world today.

We invite every community to reflect on itself in order to:

- remember the reasons for **gratitude** regarding its own history;
- nourish a **passion** for the present that it is called to live;
- be able to look towards the future, whatever it may be, with **hope**.

The Gospel episode of the disciples of Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35), accompanied by Jesus himself, can help us consider our path in the light of the Paschal mystery.

Only starting from this communal meditation on the deeper meaning of our Christian and monastic vocation will we be able to renew our awareness of our Cistercian identity and deepen it, in the wealth of its forms in various cultures, and to take the decisions necessary for the current path of our Order.

The reports of the Presidents of the Congregations should be composed in the context of these themes and based on the community’s work on them. The Abbot General’s Council, charged by the Synod with the task of preparing the General Chapter, will send the Presidents some more precise questions for the drafting of their reports.

Rome, September 2014

*The Council of the Abbot General
Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter*