



OMI

The Missionary Oblates
of Mary Immaculate

ONGOING CONSULTATION ON RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS

*Toward Simplified, Mission-
Focused Governance*

ROME, FEBRUARY 2026



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Casa Generalizia – Via Aurelia, 290 – 00165 Roma, Italia

Phone: +39 06 39 87 71 – Email: OMISupGen@omigen.org

L.J.C. et M.I.

LETTER FOR THE ONGOING CONSULTATION ON RESTRUCTURING WITHIN THE CONGREGATION FOLLOWING THE MANDATE OF THE 2022 GENERAL CHAPTER

Dear Brother Oblates,

The 37th General Chapter invited us to reflect on restructuring not merely as an organizational process, but more importantly as a call to religious conversion — a renewal of our Oblate Mission, a deeper faithfulness in living-out the Constitutions and Rules, and a deepening of the quality of our community life. The structures of our Congregation must remain at the service of Mission, mindful of our limitations yet, above all, offering a prophetic witness to a broken and fragmented world: that communion and unity among diverse peoples and cultures is possible when we are united in Jesus Christ and committed to serving his Mission among the poorest and most abandoned.

Restructuring, therefore, is an invitation to generosity of spirit, and to an inner freedom which allows us to embrace the missionary opportunities that God has placed before us as a Congregation at this time. It calls us to set aside personal preferences and particular interests, cultivating instead a readiness to being sent on Mission with a renewed vigor, and an openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

It is in this spirit that we continue a synodal discernment towards the 38th General Chapter. We are invited to reflect attentively on the restructuring proposals that emerged from the 2025 Inter-Chapter, which offer a valuable opportunity to prayerfully consider how the governance structures of the Congregation might be renewed in response both to the challenges we face, as well as to the new possibilities set before us.

We, therefore, request that each local community collectively discern these proposals and to submit their comments and feedback to the *ad hoc* Restructuring Committee, which will gather the responses and present them to the Superior General and Council. It is our hope that this ongoing synodal process will deepen our reflection, clarify a shared vision for the Congregation, and lead to thoughtfully discerned proposals being presented at the 2028 General Chapter.

We thank you for your active participation within this prayerful process, as pilgrims of hope in communion.

United in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis Ignacio Rois ALONSO". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial 'L' and 'R'.

Fr Luis Ignacio Rois ALONSO, OMI

Superior General

Rome: February 20, 2026

INTRODUCTION

These restructuring proposals seek to:

- Strengthen missionary focus
- Simplify governance structures
- Improve coordination and accountability
- Enhance effectiveness at all levels of the Congregation
- Foster unity between Central Government and local realities

The guiding principle throughout these proposals is mission first, governance in service of mission.

1. SUPPRESSION OF “MISSIONS” AS A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

1.1 Transition from “Missions” to Local Communities

Proposal

Suppress the governance structure of “Missions.”

New missionary endeavours in new countries will be established as **local communities**, rather than as canonical “Missions.”

Governance structures would therefore consist of:

- Central Government
- Provinces
- Delegations
- Local Communities

Rationale

- Enables Oblates in emerging contexts to focus more fully on ministry.
- Reduces governance burdens in fragile missionary settings.
- Allows Major Superiors to exercise closer oversight and accompaniment.
- Clarifies accountability lines within the Congregation.

This proposal shifts emphasis from structural autonomy to missionary vitality.

1.2 Approval of New Missionary Foundations

Proposal

All newly established missionary foundations in new countries require approval by the Superior General in Council as per current norms.

Rationale

- Ensures coordinated growth of the Congregation.
 - Protects against fragmented expansion.
 - Strengthens unity and discernment at the universal level.
 - Aligns missionary initiatives with the Congregation's global priorities.
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2. DURATION BETWEEN GENERAL CHAPTERS

2.1 General Chapters Every Eight Years

Proposal

General Chapters be convened every eight (8) years.

Rationale

- Provides the Superior General and Council adequate time to implement Chapter mandates.
- Promotes strategic continuity.
- Reduces excessive administrative cycles.
- Encourages long-term planning rather than short-term governance reactions.

This adjustment supports stability and sustained leadership.

3. RESTRUCTURING OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Appointment (Not Election) of Assistants for Mission and Formation

Proposal

Remove the elected positions of:

- First Assistant for Mission
- Second Assistant for Formation

Instead:

- These roles become appointed officers within the General Administration.
 - They are appointed by the Superior General in Council.
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Rationale

- Simplifies governance structures.
- Encourages greater cohesion within the General Administration.
- Ensures flexibility in leadership assignments.
- Strengthens the coordinating role of the Superior General.

This proposal distinguishes between governance authority and administrative function.

3.2 COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND COUNCIL

Proposal

The Superior General and Council consist of:

- Superior General
 - Vicar General
 - One General Councillor per Region (5 total)
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Rationale

- Simplifies central governance.
- Clarifies representation through regional councillors.

- Encourages streamlined decision-making.
- Reduces duplication of responsibilities.

The aim is clarity, unity, and functional efficiency.

4. RESTRUCTURING OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Establish Four General Offices

Proposal

Reconfigure General offices into four:

1. Office for Mission
2. Office for Formation
3. Office for Administration
4. Office for Finance

Each Office is led by an appointed General Officer.
General Officers:

- Are non-voting.
- Are appointed by the Superior General in Plenary Session of his Council.

Rationale

- Promotes interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Strengthens teamwork.
- Improves communication internally and globally.
- Clarifies lines of responsibility.
- Moves from fragmented services to integrated offices.

This structure emphasises coordinated service rather than isolated functions.

4.2 Simplification of General Services (CCRR 149a)

Proposal

Only two roles remain officially designated as General Services under CCRR 149a:

- Postulator General
- Procurator General

All other services are integrated into the four General Offices.

Rationale

- Reduces complexity in official designations.
 - Clarifies canonical structures.
 - Encourages functional integration.
 - Avoids unnecessary proliferation of titles.
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5. DURATION OF TERM FOR MAJOR SUPERIORS

5.1 Extend Term from 3 to 4 Years

Proposal

Extend the term of Major Superiors from three (3) years to four (4) years.

Rationale

- Provides adequate time to implement Unit plans.
- Encourages strategic continuity.
- Reduces frequent leadership transitions.
- Strengthens stability within Provinces and Delegations.

Four-year terms better align leadership with planning cycles.

6. RESTRUCTURING OF DELEGATIONS

6.1 Delegations as Time-Limited Structures

Proposal

CCRR should state that Delegations are established only for a limited timeframe.

A Province should be assigned responsibility for:

- Governance oversight
 - Accompaniment
 - Developmental support
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Rationale

- Prevents prolonged dependency structures.
- Encourages developmental progression.
- Ensures close accompaniment.
- Strengthens inter-Provincial solidarity.

Delegations become transitional structures rather than permanent entities.

OVERALL VISION

These restructuring proposals aim to:

- Simplify governance
- Strengthen missionary identity
- Clarify authority and accountability
- Enhance coordination between levels
- Foster long-term stability
- The overarching goal is not merely structural reform, but **missionary renewal through structural clarity.**

Questions for reflection:

- Does this reform deepen our missionary identity?
- Does it strengthen communion?
- Does it allow leaders to serve more effectively?
- Does it free our members for evangelisation?

The ultimate criterion is not organisational elegance but fidelity to Christ and the charism entrusted to the Congregation.

N.B.:

You are kindly requested to forward any responses, comments, or observations to the following address:
ProcGen@omigen.org