



## 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

### LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO ALL MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE REGARDING THE RESTRUCTURING (Acts of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, V. K. Restructuring (pp. 51 – 52))

*LJC et MI*

My dear brother Pilgrims,

The 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter mandated me with the General Council to draft a restructuring plan for the entire Congregation. Accordingly, the plan is to consider the Units, the Regions, the structures of the General Administration, and the Central Government, so that the whole Congregation follows the call to conversion for **the renewal of community life and mission**. Furthermore, the Chapter provided various steps in which the restructuring is to be implemented (cf. Acts of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, pp. 51 - 52).

In conformity with one of the steps for implementation (cf. Acts, p.52), I have determined the means which are needed to move in this process, first of all, by renewing the membership of the Permanent Committee of the Constitutions and Rules, and then, by constituting and mandating the same membership to be the *ad hoc* restructuring committee.

With this communication, I would like to continue the discussion which I already initiated in my previous letter on the occasion 197<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the papal approval of our Constitutions and Rules, as mandated by step one (1) to envision new structures that may serve the mission of our Congregation. To respond to the call of the General Chapter, besides some proposals, I gave in the said letter for our common pilgrimage, we need to continue asking ourselves sincerely about the *status quo* of our community life and mission, and how we can renew our community life and mission. Which kind of governance structures would be adequate? There is a need for commitment, to hear the call to holiness, value the missionary religious life, and accept being interdependent and responsible to each other. The choice to strengthen how interculturality in international communities is lived and in society is vital.

Furthermore, we need to confront the challenges we are facing in the present day of the Congregation's existence, given the viability of the Congregation's mission and the survival of the charism. Today, we are faced with the question of demographic changes, with a decline in personnel and vocations in many units. At the same time, there is growth in other units, but also an economic crisis making it difficult to carry out the apostolic mission in some

units. As the Chapter asks us, we must consider a restructuring of units and a better sharing of our common resources, human and economic.

This context brings us face to face with the reality that our current structures may no longer be able to respond effectively or adequately to the needs of mission in today's century. In fact, at every General Chapter since 2004, the Chapter delegates have mandated a review and renewal of our structures to more adequately conform to the needs of our present-day community and mission. Therefore, we need to face up to this reality and respond with courage and consistency to our living together as a congregation, united around a single charism. To be more effective today, the Chapter has asked us to consider some issues, for example, the number of Units, the number of Regions, the need for General Councillors for the Regions or not, and the structures of the Central Government and the General Administration. We must also consider renewal of our initial and ongoing formation and the consolidated houses to serve such formation. We cannot overlook the authority of the Superior General in conformity with can. 622 *CIC* and C 135 *CC&RR*, without prejudice to the principle of subsidiarity.

With the above which I consider to be principles to guide us, I would like to once again emphasise the principle of synodality. Thus, I would like to invite all Oblates to participate in this discernment process because we are pilgrims together in this synodal process in hope and communion (cf. Acts, p.52).

I am sending with this letter a questionnaire, for every Oblate, community, and other organs (councils, committees, and commissions) at all levels of our Congregation (local, unit, regional, general), as a base for discussion. I request Major Superiors make sure that this questionnaire gets to all Oblates in their Units to meet, reflect, discern together, and respond by returning their written responses to the Major Superiors. The Major Superiors are kindly requested to send the whole documentation with the summary to the *ad hoc* Committee's coordinator and secretary, Fr. Sakubita Lawrence Like, O.M.I. (Procurator General: [ProcGen@omigen.org](mailto:ProcGen@omigen.org)) and Fr. Augustinus Sebenzile Qesa, O.M.I. (Personal Secretary of the Superior General: [genpersec.omi@gmail.com](mailto:genpersec.omi@gmail.com)), no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The Regional Presidents will help to coordinate the process on the regional level.

I encourage each Oblate to take an active part in this historical moment of our Congregation as we move towards 200 years since the first papal approbation of our Constitutions and Rules. All Oblates are invited to participate fully and collaborate. It will be helpful in this process to continue reflecting on the Superior General's letter on the 197<sup>th</sup> occasion of the approbation of our Constitutions and Rules.

(<https://www.omiworld.org/2023/02/08/letter-of-the-superior-general-on-the-197th-anniversary-of-the-papal-approbation-of-the-constitutions-and-rules/>).

For any further clarification, do not hesitate to contact me personally, the General Council, or any member of the Permanent Committee of the Constitutions and Rules.

Given on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord 2023.

Your pilgrim brother in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso". The signature is stylized, with a large initial "L" and "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, O.M.I.  
Superior General





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## QUESTIONNAIRE ON RESTRUCTURING

The questions below are a base for your personal and communal reflection. Please forward your responses to your major superiors, and for regional committees, to the president of the region, before the end of **December 2023**.

### 1. PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES

- a) What do you recommend as the goals for this restructuring (Units, Regions, General Administration and Central Government)?
- b) What strategy should be employed in the restructuring process and how should the execution of that strategy be implemented (Units, Regions, General Administration, and Central Government)?
- c) What areas of the Congregation should be more centralised or remain decentralised, ie. “centralized” meaning under the direct authority of the Superior General in council, “decentralized” meaning under the direct authority of the major superiors in council?
- d) What congregational general services could be entrusted to non-Oblates?
- e) How best can we prudently conserve our resources (personnel, finances, material)? What methods can we use to be more effective (e.g., online meetings, etc...)?

### 2. STRUCTURES

- a) **Local community level:** what structures could serve for more authentic Oblate community life?
- b) **Unit (Province, Delegation or Mission) level:** what structures could serve for a more authentic Oblate mission?
- c) **Regional level:** what structures could serve for more authentic Oblate collaboration in community and mission?
- d) **General Administration:** what composition of general services would be effective and helpful in saving resources as mentioned in 1e) above?
- e) **Central Government:** what composition of the central government would be effective and saving resources as mentioned in 1e) above?



### 3. FORMATION

- a) What is your opinion on the centralisation of formation houses, ie, giving all authority over formation houses to the Superior General in council?
- b) What is your opinion on the centralisation of formation for formators, ie, having the Superior General in council to oversee preparation of all formators?
- c) What is your opinion on the centralisation of formation for ongoing formation, ie, the Superior General in council would provide programs for the ongoing formation for all Oblates?
- d) What is your opinion on the consolidation of formation houses, ie, reducing the number of formation houses for better distribution of formators and conservation of financial resources?

### 4. VARIA

Do you have any other comments or observations you would like the restructuring committee to consider?