



PRIORE GENERALE DEI CARMELITANI

VIA GIOVANNI LANZA, 138
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To all Priors Provincial
Commissaries and Delegates General
Commissaries Provincial
and the Prior of CISA

c.c. to Most Rev. Carmelite Bishops
Mother Prioresses of Carmelite Monasteries
Superiors General of Affiliated Congregations

Rome, 16th May 2024
Feast of St. Simon Stock
Prot. 154/2024

THE CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

Dear brothers,

Following the consultation of the major superiors of the whole Order concerning the location and date of the next General Chapter, during the General Congregation held in Rome, from the 19th to the 30th September 2022, with this letter, I, Míceál O'Neill, Prior General of the Order of the B.V.M. of Mount Carmel, in accordance with no. 273 of the Constitutions of our Order, convoke the next General Chapter.

It will take place in the Harris Convention Centre in Malang, Indonesia from the 9th to the 26th of September 2025. The participants are expected to arrive on the 8th of September and depart on the 27th.

The General Council has chosen the following as the theme for the Chapter:

"You must have some sort of work to do" (Rule 20);

Our Contemplative Fraternity discerns its Mission.

Our Order over many years, in response to the recommendations of the II Vatican Council, has studied and examined its history and traditions in order to be able to describe in full what is our charism. The best results of all that work are now recorded in our Constitutions. With a clear understanding of the nature of our charism and tradition, the 2025 General Chapter will focus its attention on those chapters of our constitutions that deal with our mission in the world and in the Church, worldwide and local. In these chapters (VI, and VII) we are reminded repeatedly of the need to discern together what our role and mission is to be. By discernment we will be able to identify clearly what apostolic work we are called to take on and in what manner we should perform that work as a way of giving expression to the gift we have received from the Holy Spirit, to be put at the service of God's reign, in other words, our charism and tradition.

Our constitutions state very clearly in Constitution N. 94,
Our ministry as Carmelites is, therefore an integral part of our charism.

In another article N. 101, we read,
Within local Churches, we shall offer the contribution of our charism to the task of evangelisation by fostering a deeper grasp of the contemplative dimension of life, of fraternity, and concrete commitment

to justice. We joyfully welcome the invitation to "go out" to encounter people on the "peripheries" and discover with them the joy of the Gospel.

Finally from Constitution N. 97 on preaching we are reminded that

In preaching we share the fruit of our assiduous listening to the Word of God and of our contemplative life and we strive to initiate and accompany our listeners in their search for God and in their contemplative journey. We seek to engage in Marian preaching in a renewed way. We are careful about our preparation for preaching through prayer, study and attention to the signs of the times and places, while we commit ourselves to being credible witnesses to the Gospel we preach.

The work that we will do is the work that we discern and our discernment is best exercised when as brothers we are together in chapters or in community meetings. This discernment comes about because together we are living in the presence of God, pondering the scriptures, listening to the Church and sensitive to the cry of our world.

In this 2025 General Chapter we may find ourselves answering such questions as, How are we affected by what is going on in the world? What answers do we think our Order can give? What resources do we have to be able to make an impact on the life of the world? Are we giving our best contribution as Carmelites in parishes, schools and other places where we are serving? What kind of decisions and formation are needed in order for us to ensure that the Carmelite charism is expressed as much as possible in our pastoral work?

In this time of preparation we will continue to pray for the success of this chapter, that the government the chapter elects will be the best possible government for our Order at this time, that the spirit of the chapter will be such that the chapter members will come away from the meeting refreshed and enlightened, and with renewed vigour for mission in the years ahead and that the decisions of the chapter, when they are enacted, will leave our Order better able to serve the Gospel and bring good news to God's people, particularly to the poor.

I hold the hope and desire that all our members will feel that this is their chapter and that each member of the Order will make a contribution by the interest and commitment that he shows in whatever way he is asked to participate, and by the strength and constancy of his prayer for the best outcome of this chapter.

The location chosen for the chapter, the Harris Convention Centre in Malang, Indonesia, represents the desire of the General Council to recognise and celebrate the first hundred years of presence of Carmelite friars in Indonesia. The Indonesian Province after one hundred years has become the largest province in our Order. By being in Malang we hope to connect with both the history of Carmelite presence and the richness of the Carmelite family in its fullness now very active in Indonesia - friars, cloistered nuns, affiliated congregations, Carmelites of the Third Order and other lay Carmelites.

On the day when we recall the memory of St. Simon Stock, we think of how the Carmelite Scapular unites our family and pray that inspired by the holiness of our saints we may give ourselves generously to the service to which we have been called and in the way that is best suited to that calling. May we be helped and sustained by the love and care of Mary our Mother, and may the Holy Spirit be our guide in discerning the will of God for us and for our world in this age of discovery of the depths of evil to which humanity can descend and the height of God's beauty to which that same humanity can rise through the following of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One in mind and heart,



Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mícheál O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Mícheál O'Neill, O. Carm.
Prior General