



# OCD

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# COMMUNICATIONES

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SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES

Corso d'Italia, 38  
00198 Roma - Italia

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are now approaching the General Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites, which will be held in Rome from 30th August to 14th September.

The General Chapter, which is celebrated in our Order every six years, is its most solemn event. The Chapter elects the new General Administration (the Superior General and his Council). But above all, the Chapter Assembly, composed of the Superiors and Delegates of all the Circumscriptions of the Order, will make a careful evaluation of the state of the Order, with its strengths and weaknesses, and will draw up guidelines for its immediate future.

Each Chapter is a time of grace, where we experience the communion that unites us with one another and with the whole Church, but it is also a time of great responsibility because our capacity to be faithful to the Carmelite vocation and address the challenges of our time will be determined by the way in which we are able to listen to one another and to hear, in our voices, the subtle voice of the Spirit speaking to us.

This Chapter, the 92nd in the history of the Order, will focus its reflection on a text that has been developed during this sexennium, which is titled: *Declaration on the Teresian-Carmelite Charism*. With this document we have tried to respond in a synthetic and updated way to the question: what does it mean to be Discalced Carmelites today? How can we live out our vocation in such a way that our witness is in continuity with the inheritance we have received and in harmony with the challenges which the world of today demands that we address?

We will discuss these issues for a fortnight. There will be about one hundred friars representing the whole Order. But with us there will also be you, friars, sisters, friends of the Carmel of Teresa and John of the Cross. We are counting on you, on your fraternal affection and on your prayers so that the grace of this Chapter may not be in vain, but that it may be a new beginning for all of us, from which we set out again renewed and strengthened in our vocation and mission at the service of the Church and the world.

Fraternally in Carmel,

Fr. Saverio Cannistrà OCD  
*Superior General*



# CAPITOLO GENERALE 2021 | CARMELITANI SCALZI

It is with the words of Father General's video message of 9th August that we would like to begin this Communication, slightly different from the usual. As you know, the General Chapter will be held in Rome from Monday 30th August. A total of 95 Carmelite friars from 5 continents have been convoked. To these friars, we must add some invitees: 4 non-clerical friars, who will have a day to testify about their daily life, and 6 young friars (whose dates of birth fall between 1982 and 1993), who will share with the Capitulars their joys, aspirations and their vision of Carmel and its future. In addition, there are 11 other friars who will be at the service of the Chapter: secretariat, translations, liturgy, communication, canon law, etc.

It is indeed the entire Order, in its international dimension, coming together to celebrate this great ecclesial event of the Chapter. It will be a matter of listening to *"what the Spirit says to the Churches"* (Rev 2:7), in order to *"discern the signs of the times"* (Mt 16:3) and then *"to become witnesses [of Christ] in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). That is, using the words of our Holy Mother Teresa: *"I was thinking about what I could do for God, and I thought that the first thing was to follow the call to religious life"* (Life 32.9).

The Covid-19 pandemic and its various restrictions have made the preparation for the

General Chapter a little more complicated this year. Some friars, unfortunately, will not be able to make the trip. As for others (Brazil and India), it took a lot of energy and appeals to obtain the necessary clearance. *"La paciencia todo lo alcanza."* Some of the Capitulars are already in Rome (or in Italy) in order to carry out the quarantine required by the Italian Ministry of Health before the opening of the Chapter. The friars of the Teresianum have made available to them 40 rooms in one wing of the building.

The evening of 29th August, everyone will gather at La Salle House. As the name implies, this is a facility that belongs to the Brothers of the Christian Schools. It is a 25-minute walk from the Vatican, on the Via Aurelia. It can accommodate 180 people and has the necessary facilities to host a General Chapter. It is in this place, with its beautiful 5-hectare park, that the friars will celebrate the 92nd General Chapter. To foster communion with all of you, we would also like to inform you that you will be able to follow the proceedings of the Chapter through three means:

- Our website:  
<https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/>
- Our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CuriaGeneraliziaCS>
- Our Twitter account:  
<https://twitter.com/ocdcuria>

The information will be available in 4 languages: English, Spanish, French and Italian. Each day (at the end of the day), we will provide you with a report of what went on during the day. We will inform you about the results of the elections as soon as they are available. NB: if you do not have Facebook or Twitter, this is not a problem. On our website, at the bottom of the page, you will find two windows that

will enable you to consult all the contents.

Let us therefore continue to pray for this General Chapter and for the whole Order, that we may fully live out these words from the Acts of the Apostles: *“The Church was at peace: it was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers”* (Acts 9.31).