A black and white drawing of a spider

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**INTERMEDIATE GENERAL CHAPTER**

**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA 2022**

**CHAPTER RULES**

**CONSTITUTIONS OF THE ORDER**

**CHAPTER XXII**

**THE INTERMEDIATE GENERAL CHAPTER**

**446.** Three years after the Ordinary General Chapter, the Intermediate General Chapter shall be held. It is to be celebrated according to the norms established for the Ordinary General Chapter with the necessary adjustments. For the sake of developing the spirit of belonging to the whole Church and the entire Order as well as promoting better mutual understanding among the provinces, the Chapter should be held in different regions*.*

**447.** a) The purpose of this Chapter shall be to meet in fraternal council to evaluate the execution of the program prescribed by the Ordinary General Chapter, to seek and find still better means to render the program more effective, and to give to the Prior General and his Council the opportunity to communicate to the voting members new experiences and new plans, so that they may offer their views and advice especially concerning the more difficult undertakings. The Chapter shall also provide for or confirm such things as pertain to the competency of the Ordinary Chapter, if this should be necessary.

b) If it seems opportune, the task of the Chapter also includes the approval of a document, which has been prepared and sent to all the circumscriptions beforehand, concerning a contemporary topic of great importance for the whole Order.

**448.** At an opportune time before the celebration of the Chapter the Prior General shall send to the individual members of the Chapter the reports prepared by the provinces and vicariates to give an account of the execution of the program prescribed in the Ordinary General Chapter.

**449.** The Intermediate Chapter has nearly the same authority as the Ordinary Chapter. It may not, however:

a) revoke what the Ordinary Chapter has reserved to itself;

b) revoke or modify any decree of the Ordinary Chapter, except in case of urgent necessity and with the reasons given.

**450.** The decrees enacted by the Intermediate General Chapter are in force only until the celebration of the Ordinary Chapter; if they are not approved by the latter, they are completely void.

**451.** In order that this Chapter may accomplish its purpose more effectively, its voting members are as follows:

a) the Prior General, who is the president;

b) the former Prior General who left office at the preceding chapter;

c) the vicar general;

d) the assistants general;

e) the procurator general;

f) the treasurer general;

g) the secretary general, who serves as the secretary of the chapter;

h) the priors or vicars provincial of provinces of ordinary governance;

i) the provincial superiors of provinces whose ordinary governance is suspended;

k) the regional vicars;

l) the priors of general study houses.

**452.** With the consent of his Council the Prior General may call to the Intermediate General Chapter experts drawn from the various assistancies, whose task will be to offer the required help to the voting members. The experts, however, do not enjoy the right of suffrage.

**453.** The Prior General shall have matters of greater importance to the Order presented to the Intermediate Chapter, even though they could be resolved by himself alone or with the consent of his Council. The resolving of such matters should be postponed until the Chapter, provided the Order suffers no harm thereby.

**454.** For the benefit of the other friars, the Prior General should not hesitate at the Chapter to cite as examples and to commend those priors provincial and other superiors and friars who have contributed notably to the progress of the provinces and the Order by such things as promoting vocations, making new foundations, fostering the common life, advancing studies, and wisely adapting the apostolate to the needs of the Church.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**455.** Above all, he should propose that the chapter members study ways by which the provinces, vicariates and houses of the Order might better assist one another and share their temporal goods with one another "so that those who have more may help others who are in need."[[2]](#footnote-2)

**456.** All the rest shall be done according to the norms of numbers 443-445.

**PROCEDURAL NORMS**

Ritual of the Order (RO) n. 142-169

Constitutions 446-456 and the numbers

pertinent to the Ordinary General Chapter

**1. INAUGURAL EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**

**2. OPENING SESSION OF THE CHAPTER**

**2.1.** The **Prior General, the President of the Chapter,** (CC 451.a), after the opening prayer (RO 149-151), declares the Chapter open. The Provincial of the Province of California greets the Chapter.

**2.2.** The Secretary presents the various Chapter documents and the material that has been distributed beforehand. He then reads the **list of the members of the Chapter** (CC 419.451), those with full voting rights as well as those invited, and also those who are collaborating.

**2.3.** The daily schedule for liturgy and work sessions of the Chapter is decided upon on the basis of the proposal of the General Council and with the modifications established by the Chapter.

**2.4.** **Chapter Steering Committee**:

\* **President,** Prior General

\* **General Council of the Order,** Assistants General

\* **Secretary General,** who is also the Secretary of the Chapter (CC 451 g).

\* **Moderators**, proposed by the President and approved by the assembly by a show of hands, who will moderate the general session alternately under the direction of the President. The President has a right to intervene whenever he sees fit. The election of the **moderators** takes place.

**2.5** The mission of the **Chapter Steering Committee**, composed of the President of the Chapter, the Assistants General, the Moderators and the Secretaryis to assure that the Chapter runs smoothly and according to the established norms, to set the agenda and to resolve issues, which might arise. This Committee will meet daily to evaluate the Chapter’s progress.

**2.6** Election of the three **Tellers** for the elections and votes of the Chapter, proposed by the President (CC 426), and approved by a show of hands and confirmed by the President (CC 426; RO 164).

**2.7** Election of the **Redaction Committee**, for the rewriting of materials, the members of which are composed of the Secretary Generaland four members of the Chapter (2 English, 2 Spanish), proposed by the President and approved by a show of hands and confirmed by the President.

**2.8** The Chapter discusses and approves the definitive **Chapter Rules**, based on the proposal of the General Council and modified by the Chapter.

**3. OPENING DISCOURSE** by the Prior General

**4.    REPORTS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND OF THE ECONOME GENERAL:** Questions and Clarifications

**5.    REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS and their implementation of the decisions of the General Chapter of 2019**

**6. STUDY OF THE CHAPTER MATERIAL: Discussion of the Documents on RENOVATIO and STRUCTURES.**

**7. PROPOSALS – DETERMINATIONS:**

**8. METHODOLOGY FOR DISCUSSIONS IN ASSEMBLY**

**8.1** The Moderators for discussions in the plenary sessions have the following functions:

- to keep the discussions on the topic, asking members to avoid repeating ideas already expressed.

- assure that the discussion is not dominated by one particular group of people, but rather promoting a general exchange of opinions.

**8.2** When proposals are discussed in assembly, each Chapter member has three minutes to express his opinion, in the following fashion:

1º- clarification on the proposal, if necessary;

2º- opinions contrary to the proposal or its wording;

3º- opinions in favor of the proposal if new elements are brought to light;

4º- the presenter of the proposal responds to the interventions.

**8.3** When there has been sufficient discussion and the proposal is ready to be voted upon, the Moderator proposes that the assembly ends discussion on the topic.

**8.4** When a proposal has already been approved to be voted upon at the end, discussion can be re-opened if a petition is presented to the Chapter Secretary with the signed support of at least one-third of the Chapter members. The Redaction Committee will present the request to the assembly and if two-thirds of the Chapter members agree, the proposal can be brought to the floor again, in the manner already indicated.

**9. VOTING PROCEDURE**

**9.1.** Voting on proposals will follow the formula: *placet, non placet, placet iuxta modum*, according to the norms (n. 290-291) established by the Constitutions:

***290.*** *In chapters, for the voting of laws or decisions of any kind, the so-called modal type of voting is to be employed, in which the friars vote by writing "yes" (placet), or "no" (non placet), or "yes with reservations" (placet iuxta modum). In the vote counting, the "yes with reservations" votes are to be counted as favorable, but if the simple "yes" votes do not reach an absolute majority, the questions proposed and the reasons given by those who voted "yes with reservations" must be reconsidered. Thus, no law or decision or a chapter may be considered approved, unless it obtains the aforesaid majority.*

***291.*** *a) Unless a majority of the friars is explicitly demanded, the majority required for the validity of the voting in elections and decisions is to be based on the number of valid votes cast without counting invalid votes, blank votes, and the votes of those who are absent.*

*b) In the case of a tie, lots are to be cast in elections; in deliberative votes the president can break the tie with his vote.*

**CLARIFICATIONS:** in order to vote *“placet iuxta modum”* one must write the modification one wants to be included in the proposal.

Chapter members can abstain from voting on a proposal.

In order to be approved, a proposal needs an absolute majority of the votes validly cast (more than half), not including abstentions, blank or voided ballots. (Regarding the counting of *“placet iuxta modum”*votes, cfr. n. 290 of the Constitutions cited above)

When voting between alternate proposals, the one which has a majority of the votes validly cast (more than half), is approved, discounting abstentions, blank and voided ballots. (Regarding the counting of *“placet iuxta modum”*votes, cfr. n. 290 of the Constitutions cited above)

If a proposal is approved with *“placet iuxta modum”* votes, the Chapter Steering Committee will name a Commission to rewrite the proposal, taking into account the suggested modifications, and the new proposal will be presented to the assembly for voting.

1. See *Const. Ratisb.* c. 40, n. 437. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. PC13; see PP, n. 43 and *passim*; *op. mon.* 25, 33. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)