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## A Brief Chronicle of Forty-Six General Chapters of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools

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### 1. Introduction

There were a number of retreats and Assemblies of the Society that is now known as the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools between 1682 and 1688, and it's difficult to determine with exactness during which of these the important decisions to adopt the wearing the habit (probably in the winter of 1684-1685) and the choice to be called "Brother" instead of "Teaching Master" (probably in early 1682) were made. However, there "is now consensus in the Lasallian historiography on the date of the first Assembly that decided on the vows [the making of an annual vow of obedience] ... It took place in Rheims, on Rue Neuve, as part of a retreat, starting the day before the Ascension in 1686 and wrapping up on Trinity Sunday, thus lasting from May 23 to June 9."<sup>2</sup> While some have thought this to be the first General Chapter, this is not the accepted practice of the Institute.<sup>3</sup>

The Institute identifies the Assembly of 1694 as the 1<sup>st</sup> General Chapter. This is the one where John Baptist de La Salle and the 12 principal Brothers first made perpetual vows, made vows of association, stability and obedience, and elected the Founder to continue in his role as Superior.

The next Assembly (General Chapter) occurred in 1717 when Brother Barthélémy was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Superior General (the Institute chooses to call De La Salle "Founder" and his successors "Superior General") and when the *Common Rule* and *The Conduct of the Christian Schools* were finalized.

"According to the terms of the *Bull of Approbation* issued by Pope Benedict XIII in 1725,<sup>4</sup> a Chapter was to be held every ten years, unless at any time the convening of an extraordinary Assembly be deemed more suitable."<sup>5</sup> But times between General Chapters have not been as neat as once every ten years; their timing has been a bit uneven. Sometimes a Superior General died and that triggered the calling of a Chapter; sometimes a Superior General wanted to resign (which triggered the calling of a Chapter); sometimes new Assistant Superiors General needed to be elected; sometimes Institute or socio-political events triggered the need for a General Chapter (like around the time of the so-called "secularization laws" enacted in France in the early 1900s when the Institute in France fractured and when there were four General Chapters in rapid succession: 1901, 1905, 1907, and 1913).<sup>6</sup> Even in the time of the origins of the Institute, there were three Chapters in quick succession (1717, 1720, and 1725) when Brother Barthélémy died after only three years as Superior and a Chapter was needed to identify his successor and when five years later the Brothers gathered in Chapter for the solemn reception of the *Bull of Approbation*.

When the decision was taken in the 1966-1967 General Chapter to elect the Superior General for ten years (rather than for life), it allowed for the Superior General to be elected more than once. Brother Charles Henry seems to have wanted out of the role at the end of his ten years as Superior in 1976, but Brother José Pablo seems to have been open to a second term in 1986; but to many Chapter delegates, 20 years was just too long; and Brother John Johnston was elected Superior. When the *Rule* of the Brothers was changed at the 1986 General Chapter (the *Rule* of 1987), a decision was made to hold General Chapters every 7 years (Superiors would henceforth be elected for 7-year-terms); and this allowed for a more reasonable renewal of the leadership of the Institute to 14 years (although additional terms would always be possible). By rescript of the Holy See, Brother Robert Schieler's mandate as Superior was extended to 8 years because of the recent pandemic and the difficulty of convening the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter.

What follows is an attempt to lay out in a succinct manner the story of the Institute's 46 General Chapters and, by consequence, the election of its Superiors. It is neither a history of the Institute nor a record of its expansion around the globe during the course of more than 340 years.<sup>7</sup> Neither is it an exposition on the nature and role of a General Chapter as understood by the Institute<sup>8</sup> or by the Roman Catholic Church.<sup>9</sup>

Rather, the author's purpose here is three-fold: (1) to answer recent questions about the timing of the 46 General Chapters of the Institute, (2) to provide a brief chronicle or *précis* of the Institute's General Chapters, and (3) to furnish by way of endnotes some English-language resources about this aspect of the Institute's history.<sup>10</sup>

## **2. Forty-Six General Chapters of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools**

### **2.1. *The 1<sup>st</sup> General Chapter of 1694***

On Pentecost Sunday, 30 May 1694, "John Baptist de La Salle and the twelve Brothers selected began a retreat, which was also the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Chapter." They gathered in Vaugirard, "at that time a small village just outside Paris, about a mile from the school on the Rue Princesse."<sup>11</sup> The Assembly lasted for 9 days.

The matters considered at the Assembly concerned: "approbation of the *Rule*, which passed unanimously since there had been much *prior* consultation and participation; perpetual profession: which provoked reflection on the seriousness of the vows; the schools: never one Brother alone in an undertaking; community life; and the possibility of official *Church* recognition of the Institute."<sup>12</sup>

On the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, the 13 gathered in Assembly made perpetual vows (for the first time), made vows of association, stability, and obedience, and elected (re-confirmed) the Founder as Superior. It appears that De La Salle initially rejected the election by the 12 Brothers; but he eventually acquiesced, and they all signed a document (still preserved in the Institute's Archives) stating that in the future only one of themselves (i.e., a Brother) may be elected Superior.<sup>13</sup>

## **2.2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter (1717)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter, which was held at Saint-Yon in Rouen, began on 16 May 1717 and ended 8 days later. There had been a “preliminary meeting held in December 1716 and attended by the Brothers of Saint Yon and Rouen.” At the time of the Chapter, there were about 102 members of the Institute all of whom were in France.<sup>14</sup>

De La Salle attended neither the session to elect the Superior nor the sessions to discuss revisions of the *Common Rule*. Several times a day, the Brothers recited a prayer to the Holy Spirit composed by De La Salle. The 16 Brothers in attendance elected Brother Barthélémy (Joseph Truffet) as the successor of the Founder (1<sup>st</sup> Superior General).<sup>15</sup>

The Brothers then proceeded to work on a “revision of the *Common Rule*, the ‘Rule of the Director,’ and *The Conduct of the Christian Schools*.” These documents were not finalized, and De La Salle was asked to undertake that task in light of the instructions of the Brothers present at the Chapter.

## **2.3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (1720)**

The death of Brother Barthélémy on 8 June 1720 necessitated convoking the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter. On 3 August 1720, the Brother capitulants gathered for 4 days at Saint-Yon in Rouen to elect Brother Timothée (Guillaume Samson-Bazin) as 2<sup>nd</sup> Superior General.<sup>16</sup>

Of the 17 Brother capitulants at this 3<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter, only Brother Jean (Jaquot) had been at the 1<sup>st</sup> General Chapter and only 13 had been at the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter. Brother Timothée, who had attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter, was at 28 years old the youngest of the Brother capitulants.<sup>17</sup>

Doubtless inspired by the rapid decline of the health of Brother Barthélémy (who died at 42 years old), the capitulants adopted the following: “Given the heavy burden of mental and physical work of our very dear Brother Superior of the Institute, he will take particular care to preserve his health and will follow the advice of the Brothers appointed for this purpose regarding this, for the greater good of the Society. He will normally travel by horse or coach.”<sup>18</sup>

## **2.4. The 4<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1725)**

Beginning on 9 August 1725, 31 Brothers gathered for 23 days at Saint-Yon in Rouen for the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter. “The General Chapter was summoned for the official reception of the *Bull of Approbation* and to bring the *Rule* into line with it. On this same occasion, the Brothers pronounced vows according to the new formula.”

With the intention of making a fresh start in light of the *Bull*, Brother Timothée resigned as Superior; but his resignation was unanimously rejected.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to modifying the *Rule* concerning vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in conformity to the *Bull*, the Brothers decided “to discard both attempts” at biographies of De La Salle so far made [Bernard and Maillefer] and entrust the work to Canon Blain.<sup>20</sup>

## **2.5. The 5<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1734)**

In mid-July 1734, Brother Timothée, who continued as Superior, transferred the mortal remains of the Founder from the parish church of Saint Sever to the newly constructed chapel at Saint-Yon. He invited the directors of all the communities in France to the ceremony of transfer and the publication of the Founder's biography by Blain. He "deemed the moment opportune for holding a General Chapter since so many Brothers had come to Saint-Yon and this would obviate the necessity of calling them again the following year on the expiration of the normal interval of ten years."

Consequently, 47 Brother capitulants gathered for 7 days at Saint-Yon in Rouen beginning on 27 July 1734.<sup>21</sup>

The decisions made were quite modest. "The capitulants also decided on a number of measures to eliminate practices which they considered harmful to community life. These included rearing rabbits and pigeons in school buildings and, in order to prevent the risk of the failings against poverty and teaching gratuitously, the use of tobacco." The Chapter suggested "the publication of the Founder's *Method of Mental Prayer* and the "Rule of the Director."<sup>22</sup>

## **2.6. The 6<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1745)**

Brother Timothée, who continued as Superior, decided to hold the General Chapter of 1745 in Rheims rather than Saint-Yon "to spare the long trip for the Brothers of the South" and because of certain disputes with the Diocese of Rouen about the running of Saint-Yon. Due to the *Letters Patent* having been registered in his diocese,<sup>23</sup> the Archbishop was attempting to exert control over the Institute.

So on 25 May 34 Brother capitulants gathered in Rheims, the cradle of the Institute, and met for 8 days.<sup>24</sup> There were still a few Brothers at the General Chapter who would have known the Founder in his old age (Brothers Timothée, Jean, Irenée, Étienne, Hubert, Benoît, Clément, Michel, and Sixte).<sup>25</sup>

The Chapter concerned itself with an eventual move of Institute headquarters from Rouen, defending the Institute from external dangers (such as diocesan interference and the Jansenist controversy), recalling the Brothers to strict obedience to major Superiors, and problems caused by boarders in certain houses (they were "worried over the burdens and the disorders occasioned by the existence of residence schools operated by small communities)."<sup>26</sup>

## **2.7. The 7<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1751)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was convoked because Brother Timothée, due to his declining health, wished to resign as Superior (he was to die a few months later); and so 55 Brother capitulants gathered for 8 days at Saint-Yon in Rouen on 1 August 1751. Brother Claude (Jean-Pierre Nivet), who entered the Institute in 1726, was elected 3<sup>rd</sup> Superior General.<sup>27</sup>

Two main issues were discussed: limiting the number of fee-paying boarding schools vis-à-vis the primordial role of tuition-free schools (already addressed at a previous Chapter) since De La Salle “established the Institute first and foremost for the benefit of the poor”; and honoring the contract drawn up in 1749 with King Stanislaus of Poland (also the Duke de Lorraine) to open a novitiate at Maréville. Also, it “was at this Chapter that the seal of the Institute, the *Signum Fidei*, a star on an azure field, was adopted.”

### **2.8. The 8<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1761)**

On 8 July 1761, the 8<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened at Saint-Yon in Rouen. There were 46 Brother capitulants, and the Chapter lasted for 6 days. When the Chapter opened, Brother Claude (71 year old) submitted his resignation; but the Chapter did not accept it.<sup>28</sup>

It was a rather modest affair. The Chapter made few decisions, although there was some discussion of moral lapses on the part of some Brothers. The Brother capitulants encouraged the Brothers to keep “on the straight and narrow path marked out for the Institute by its Founder and to preserve it from the temptations of the times.” Also discussed were the need for good records to be kept to help when directors changed communities, the qualities of candidates, living the vow of poverty, and prayers for deceased Brothers.

### **2.9. The 9<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1767)**

Brother Claude convoked a General Chapter for May 1767 to resign as Superior and to address an ultimatum by the Archbishop of Rouen that would have given the Archbishop control over the internal affairs of the Institute. Were that to have happened “the *Bull of Approbation* would have lost its value, and the Institute would have been reduced to a mere diocesan Congregation.”<sup>29</sup>

With 57 Brother capitulants gathered at Saint-Yon in Rouen, the Chapter opened on 17 May 1767 and lasted for only 4 days. The decision was made “to elect a younger and more vigorous Régime [Superior and Assistants].” Forty-two year old Brother Florence (Jean Boubel) was elected 4<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>30</sup>

The Chapter “was content to regulate the matter of sending notices concerning deceased Brothers to the communities” and to agree on the “necessity of establishing the center of government of the Institute elsewhere than in Rouen” (a move that occurred 4 year later).<sup>31</sup>

### **2.10. The 10<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1777)**

The 10<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, which is remembered for the quite remarkable amount of work that the 33 Brother capitulants accomplished, opened in Rheims<sup>32</sup> on 3 August 1777 and ended 16 days later. At the time, there were some 690 Brothers in the Institute.

Brother Florence, “in a surprise move” (the Superior was only 52 years old), tendered his resignation as Superior at the Chapter. “His ten years in office had been for him a bitter disappointment.” Brother Agathon (Joseph Gonlieu), who is remembered as one of the great leaders of the Institute,<sup>33</sup> was elected 5<sup>th</sup> Superior General. There was now too much work for 2

Assistants; and permission had been solicited and granted by the Holy See for 4 Assistants, but Brother Agathon opted only for 3 since in this way the number of Assistants would correspond to the number of Districts of the Institute.<sup>34</sup> The Chapter had decided to create 3 Districts and to hold District Chapters every 10 years in the five-year intervals between General Chapters.

“The papal decision also simplified procedures for replacing Assistants who, between Chapters, died in office or resigned. Their successors were to be nominated by an elective commission, acting with the Régime, and which would remain in exercise of their function until the expiration of the current ten year period.”

The Brother capitulants “changed, codified, and implemented decisions of previous Chapters.” Out of their meetings were issued some 91 resolutions, which would continue to receive consideration later on at the Chapter of 1787. “The type of formation to be given to the novices was discussed at length. It is significant that the capitulants emphasized the training of the young men not only in piety and in the observance of the *Rule*, but in matters of common decency and deportment.”

In the context of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century milieu “dominated by high society [the clergy and members of religious Congregations found themselves the butt of ridicule and an object of contempt on the part of the powerful intelligentsia], the General Chapter suspended “all new foundations for the space of ten years in order to provide opportunity for a more thorough training of the *Brothers* in formation.”<sup>35</sup>

Also considered at the Chapter were financial questions (provisions for the formation of young Brothers and decent living conditions for old and infirm Brothers). Planning was permitted for “sabbatical leaves” in teaching careers for those Brothers who had shown exceptional professional skill.

## **2.11. The 11<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1787)**

On 4 May 1787, the first and only General Chapter to be held at the Maison du Saint-Enfant-Jésus in Melun (near Paris, France) convened with 33 Brother capitulants. The Chapter lasted for 18 days, and it “aimed in a very special way to complete the work of the 1777 Chapter. Good recruiting and sound formation of young Brothers remained the primary preoccupations of the Institute.” Brother Solomon, who only a few years later was to be martyred during the French Revolution, was named secretary to Brother Agathon, Superior General.<sup>36</sup>

The first five resolutions adopted by the Chapter related to the training of young Brothers. Subsequent discussion dealt with items relating to the smooth running of schools, the question of regular observance, and the duties of community directors. “Many of its decisions merely repeated or reinforced those of 10 years before, as for example, regarding the sale of school materials, money collected for heating classrooms, the prohibition to receive presents, remuneration or free services from the pupils or their parents, and the use of tobacco.”<sup>37</sup>

## **2.12. The 12<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1810)**

Brother Frumence (Jean-Baptiste Herbet), who had been appointed by the Holy See in 1795 to serve as Superior *pro temporae* – “in view of the desperate situation of the Brothers of the Institute during the French Revolution<sup>38</sup> and in view of the fact that the Brothers were without news of the Superior” – died during an asthmatic attack on 17 January 1810.<sup>39</sup> Not without some difficulty the 12<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened in Lyon on September 8, 1810 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) to choose his successor; there were 30 Brother capitulants, and the Chapter lasted for 3 days. Brother Gerbaud (Sébastien Thomas) was elected 7<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>40</sup>

“The thirty delegates proclaimed themselves to be continuing the great Chapters of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and representatives of all the members of the Religious Family that had escaped the deluge and offered to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving.” The Brother capitulants “decided not to make any new rules and decreed that ‘we will keep to what has been written’ ... demonstrating their intention to be seen as a follow-up to the General Chapter of 1787.”<sup>41</sup> Pretty much the only three topics (other than the election of leadership) that were addressed were the training of young Brothers, the status of serving Brothers who would now wear robes of the same color as the school Brothers, and the robes of all Brothers that “would remain in all their integrity, such as they were in 1787.”<sup>42</sup>

## **2.13. The 13<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1816)**

Brother Gerbaud convoked the 13<sup>th</sup> General Chapter explaining that he thought himself to have been a provisional appointment in 1810 until things stabilized and because 2 of the 3 Assistants had died. The 30 Brother capitulants convened for 10 days on 8 September 1816 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) in Lyon. Brother Gerbaud’s resignation as Superior was unanimously rejected.<sup>43</sup>

The Brother capitulants kept to the key decisions of the 1810 General Chapter; and while no decisions of great importance were made, the Brother capitulants supported Brother Gerbaud in giving “an energetic refusal to the Minister’s request” [Lainé, “Minister of the Interior in charge of public education” who “wanted the Brothers to adopt the ‘mutual education’ style in their schools”].<sup>44</sup>

## **2.14. The 14<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1822)**

Brother Gerbaud died on 10 August 1822; and when the Brother capitulants gathered for the General Chapter, they were divided on the choice of his successor as Superior General. Even after six votes, two Brothers were still tied. Brother Guillaume de Jésus (François Marre), who had seniority of years of perpetual profession, was, in conformity with established practice, proclaimed 8<sup>th</sup> Superior General. He was 74 years old.<sup>45</sup>

The 14<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 11 November 1822 and lasted only 6 days. There were 33 Brother capitulants; the Chapter was held at the Maison du Saint-Enfant-Jésus in Faubourg Saint-Martin in Paris.<sup>46</sup>

Among the topics discussed were: religious exercises in community and prayers in school; the retreat and vacation time, study of catechism, and community “coutumier” of the Brothers; forbidding the use of watches; and the requirement to seek permission of the Superior General to use tobacco.<sup>47</sup>

### **2.15. The 15<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1830)**

Brother Guillaume de Jésus died on 10 June 1830; and “in spite of the repercussions of the events which marked the month of July 1830 in Paris [the overthrow of the legitimate monarchy and the establishment of a new monarchical régime of a liberal character], the 15<sup>th</sup> General Chapter assembled at the Maison du Saint-Énfant-Jésus in the Faubourg Saint-Martin on September 2, 1830.” At the time, there were about 1,400 Brothers in France and Italy.<sup>48</sup>

At first fragmented, the 32 Brother capitulants concentrated on individuals who had attracted the largest number of votes in previous balloting. Finally, they decided on Brother Anaclét (Claude-Louis Constantin) as 9<sup>th</sup> Superior General. For the first time, the Chapter elected 4 Assistants.<sup>49</sup>

The Chapter lasted for only 4 days; and while its main aim was to carry out the elections, the Brother capitulants also asked the communities to establish a “coutumier” and approved a proposal for the revision of *The Conduct of Schools*.<sup>50</sup>

### **2.16. The 16<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1837)**

The 16<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 10 July 1837 and lasted for 8 days. There were 39 Brother capitulants, and the Chapter was held at the Maison du Saint-Énfant-Jésus in Faubourg Saint-Martin in Paris. Brother Anaclét had convened the Chapter for the purpose of tendering his resignation as Superior, which was not accepted. The Holy See had provided a rescript that now allowed for 6 Assistants.<sup>51</sup>

The Chapter decided that “in view of the more extended knowledge which teachers were now expected to possess ... special scholasticates should be set up in which young Brothers could be given the opportunity to study.”<sup>52</sup> The “improvements encouraged with regard to academic training were a result of the French Education Act of 1833.” Additionally, the Chapter approved, after some slight modifications, the work of the General Committee set up in 1834 to revise *The Conduct of the Christian Schools*.<sup>53</sup>

### **2.17. The 17<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1838)**

The 17<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 21 November 1838 (Feast of the Presentation) and lasted for 5 days. There were 40 Brother capitulants who again gathered at the Maison du Saint-Énfant-Jésus in Faubourg Saint-Martin in Paris. Brother Anaclét, whose resignation has been refused the year prior, died on 6 September 1838. He was 52 years old. Brother Philippe (Mathieu Bransiet), who is remembered as a giant among the leaders of the Institute, was elected 10<sup>th</sup> Superior General on the first ballot.<sup>54</sup>



The Brother capitulants took time during a number of sessions to examine the letters and notes addressed to the General Chapter, but didn't find anything in need of immediate attention. So they asked the newly elected Superior to follow up on the concerns raised and to help maintain among all the Brothers the spirit of fervor necessary to live the vocation of a Brother.<sup>55</sup>

### **2.18. The 18<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1844)**

The 18<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 2 February 1844 and lasted for 15 days. There were 44 Brother capitulants who again gathered at the Maison du Saint-Éfant-Jésus in Faubourg Saint-Martin in Paris.<sup>56</sup>

Brother Philippe, Superior General, “submitted to the Chapter the draft of a revised *Rule of Government* [incorporating all the decisions of General Chapters since 1777]. Twenty-three sessions were occupied with the discussion of this project, until finally it was adopted. The Chapter then went on to pass sixteen resolutions: approving the creating of evening classes for adults, suggesting the provision of a more substantial breakfast for the Brothers, and forbidding directors to publish anything without the consent of the Superior [necessary owing to the political ferment in the country at large].”<sup>57</sup>

The Chapter of 1844 considered that work by Brothers in “central houses of detention” (prisons) came within the aim of the Institute; and it also wished that Brother Philippe allow the famous artist Horace Vernet<sup>58</sup> to do a painting of him (one that is now hanging at Institute headquarters in Rome). The frame carved out of oak was paid for by the artist's wife.

### **2.19. The 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1853)**

On 16 June 1853, Brother Philippe convened his third General Chapter as Superior General. For 18 days, 54 Brother capitulants gathered at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris.<sup>59</sup>

“The matters discussed were mainly domestic concerns and points of regular observance.” The Chapter recognized the lawful existence of boarding schools because some children lived too far away to come to school each day without danger. However, the number of establishments catering to these children (which involved paying fees) was to be as few as possible. Some Brothers defended boarding schools with enthusiasm, and others refused to accept their existence.<sup>60</sup>

### **2.20. The 20<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1854)**

The 20<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 2 March 1854 by Brother Philippe, Superior General; and it lasted for 13 days. There were 54 Brother capitulants who gathered at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris.<sup>61</sup> At the time, there were 5,723 Brothers in the Institute.

The Chapter was convened specifically “to examine the question of gratuity”<sup>62</sup> due to problems applying the principle vis-à-vis “a recent French ministerial ruling that had imposed fees in primary schools on those pupils whose parents could afford to pay them ... Hence, the Brothers

found themselves once more in an awkward position.” According to the Chapter documents, the proceedings were less than calm.

Decisions were ultimately made, and which were to receive the permission of the Holy See, to “tolerate, for a period of three years, fees being collected in establishments, which, without this, would risk closing” and “restrict for ten years the scope of the vow of gratuity for our Brothers in America [considering it a missionary country which claimed certain exemptions] to the poor alone. By this double decision, for the first time, a Chapter agreed to depart from the principle of absolute gratuity.”<sup>63</sup> A related but somewhat different matter that was unfortunately delayed “was the Latin question.” “A *viva voce* approval was given [for the teaching of Latin at the request from the USA], but nothing further followed.”

### **2.21. The 21<sup>st</sup> General Chapter (1858)**

The 21<sup>st</sup> General Chapter was convened by Brother Philippe, Superior General, at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris on 10 July 1858 to elect Assistants (a couple had died and the Régime was being expanded).<sup>64</sup> There were 54 Brother capitulants, and the Chapter lasted for 16 days.

The Chapter requested that the Holy See renew the *indult* already granted in 1855 on the subject of gratuity (as requested by the 1854 Chapter). Other “matters referred mainly to vows [there would be 3 periods of vows: final profession at 28 years old would be preceded by annual and then triennial vows] and to deceased Brothers [regulating the number of Masses to be said].” The Brother capitulants expressed a need for a new edition of the *Rule*, and they reviewed the “Exercises of Piety” to bring them into line with the Roman liturgy.<sup>65</sup>

### **2.22. The 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter (1861)**

Brother Philippe, who was still Superior General, opened the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter on 4 September 1861 at the Pensionnat (Boarding School) in Passy (Paris). The Chapter lasted for 19 days.<sup>66</sup>

The 62 Brother capitulants decided “upon the course to be taken with regard to the ministerial ruling imposing fees in primary schools ... This needs to be understood in terms of the tradition of gratuity” ... “After lengthy discussion occupying sixteen sessions, it was finally agreed that the Brothers would perforce have to abide by the ministerial ruling, but would not collect the fees themselves.”<sup>67</sup> Furthermore, the Brother capitulants echoed the “need expressed for a new edition of the *Rule*” by the 1858 Chapter.

### **2.23. The 23<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (1873)**

The opening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter was, with the permission of the Holy See, delayed an additional 2 years from 1871 to 1873 because of the political situation in France and in a number of other countries in Europe (Franco-Prussian War, etc.). The 71 Brother capitulants gathered on 12 June 1873 for 21 days at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris.

Brother Philippe handed in his resignation as Superior (his sixth Chapter as Superior General), but it was not accepted.<sup>68</sup>

“Two matters claimed the attention of the Superior and the Régime. The first was the rising tide of anticlericalism and the threat to secularized education.” Another matter was the cause of the canonization of De La Salle, which had begun to make some progress in Rome.

In view of the perception that a “too rapid expansion of the Institute during the preceding period had created a number of difficulties ... the Chapter ordained that no new houses were to be opened until the next Chapter, unless there was some grave necessity, or unless it could ... derive great benefit in the matter of recruiting vocations.” Armand Ravalet was commissioned to write a new life of the Founder. The sixth decade of the rosary in honor of the Immaculate Conception was adopted. It was stipulated that suitable arrangements be made in each locality for “adaptation of the daily regulation to allow more time for personal study.” And the Latin Question was again brought up; the teaching of Latin in the USA was considered an experiment “which could continue [with a number of conditions] as long as circumstances demanded.”<sup>69</sup>

#### **2.24. The 24<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1874)**

Brother Philippe, who was 82 years old, died on 7 January 1874; and 74 Brother capitulants gathered on 7 April 1874 (the anniversary of the death of the Founder in 1719) at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris for the 24<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. The Chapter lasted for 14 days.<sup>70</sup>

Brother Jean-Olympe (Joseph Paget) was elected 11<sup>th</sup> Superior General. The number of Assistants was raised to 11.<sup>71</sup>

Brother Irlide, who was to be elected Superior General in 1875, attempted to resign as one of the Assistants, but the Brother capitulants refused his request and re-confirmed him in his role as Assistant. However, they did decide to ask permission of the Holy See to augment the number of Assistants by 2 because of the exhaustion being experienced by some of the Brothers exercising this role. Also discussed were matters concerned with the publication and revision of books (published by the Institute) for use in the schools.<sup>72</sup>

#### **2.25. The 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1875)**

The 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 29 June 1875 at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris. The Chapter lasted for 16 days, and there were 58 Brother capitulants. At the time, there were 11,005 Brothers in the Institute, with 8,834 of them in France.<sup>73</sup>

Brother Jean-Olympe died on 17 April 1875, after only one year as Superior<sup>74</sup>; and Brother Irlide (Jean-Pierre Casaneuve) was elected 12<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>75</sup>

The Brother capitulants “gave their attention to details of domestic interest. They discussed the correct method of reciting vocal prayers; they agreed about indulgences; they regulated the method of electing delegates to subsequent Chapters.” In addition, they “decided that the

Superior General should nominate Visitors General,” “expressed the wish that a Second Novitiate should be organized” (an idea first raised at the Chapter of 1725), and “discussed a number of matters relating to the religious habit, retreat conferences, and letters to the Superior.” Repeated again was the idea of the 1858 and 1861 General Chapters for a need “for a new edition of the *Rule*.”<sup>76</sup>

## **2.26. The 26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1882)**

The 26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 21 October 1882 at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris. The Chapter lasted for 22 days, and there were 83 Brother capitulants. Brother Irlide submitted his resignation as Superior, but the Brother capitulants refused to accept it.<sup>77</sup> At the time, “some lay teachers had begun teaching in the schools of *the Brothers* in Paris, and a hundred or so in the rest of the world.”<sup>78</sup>

“The Chapter ... stipulated that the Brothers should continue teaching in State schools, despite the prohibition regarding religious instruction, but should endeavor by every means to give their pupils a truly Christian education [“the period 1880-1882, brought in a number of measures whose ultimate result was the complete reconstruction of the French system of primary education”]. As no crucifix could be displayed in classrooms, the Brothers were to wear one under their habit, which crucifix was to be given to them on the occasion of their making their vows. As the new laws made the *brevet* [an assessment of the knowledge and skills acquired at the end of middle school] obligatory, suppressing all other qualifications admitted under the *Falloux* Laws [which came into force on 29 March 1882 in France, provided universal primary schooling, and expanded opportunities for secondary schooling], the training of the young Brothers was to be carefully attended to. In this connection the Chapter laid down that while ‘scholasticates must above all be a continuation of the novitiate and complete the religious formation, the young Brothers should find there all the help necessary for passing the *brevet*, and be given an excellent pedagogical training.’”<sup>79</sup>

The desire to create a Second Novitiate was again discussed; “a portrait of the Founder, said to be by Pierre Leger, and bearing the date 1734, was adopted as the official one”; and the Latin Question was brought up, “but the explanations of the delegates from the United States were found to be satisfactory. Time, however, added force to the opposition.”<sup>80</sup>

## **2.27. The 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1884)**

Brother Irlide, who was 71 years old, died on July 26, 1884; and the 27<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 15 October 1884 at the Maison Saint-Joseph (Rue Oudinot) in Paris. With 86 Brother capitulants in attendance, the Chapter lasted for 16 days. “During the election session on 18 October, Brother Joseph (Joseph-Marie Josserand) was declared 13<sup>th</sup> *Superior General* even before all the voting slips of the first ballot had been counted.”<sup>81</sup>

“At the Chapter, one suggestion received among others was ‘to organize societies for Catholic teachers which would be attached to the Institute. Most of the other topics discussed had already been raised before in similar assemblies.’” In addition, the Brother capitulants accepted to

continue with the Latin Question according to what had been previously decided at the General Chapters of 1873 and 1882.<sup>82</sup>

### **2.28. The 28<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1894)**

The 28<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was opened by Brother Joseph, who continued as Superior, on 11 October 1894 at the Maison Notre-Dame des Retraites in Athis-Mons (Paris Suburb). The Chapter lasted for 12 days, and there were 96 Brother capitulants.<sup>83</sup>

The Latin Question came to a head in 1894, and the “votes of the delegates went against the American Brothers ... A statement of firm adherence to the *Rule* was incorporated in the decisions of the Chapter ... Despite previous rulings” the Brother capitulants “stated categorically that the prescriptions of the *Rule*, forbidding the teaching of Latin in the schools of the Brothers, had to be rigorously maintained.”<sup>84</sup>

Other matters discussed were policies regarding the frequency of replacement of clothing worn by the Brothers (robe, etc.), the study of catechism in the Brother’s communities, and the introduction of the refrain “Blessed John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us” at the end of evening prayer (De La Salle had been beatified in 1888). In addition, the Brothers were called to devotion to the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary (Pope Leo XIII, within a context of what were perceived as “perilous times” for Church and Society, wrote a number of encyclicals during this period about the rosary and its value in the life of the Church and Society).<sup>85</sup>

### **2.29. The 29<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1897)<sup>86</sup>**

Brother Joseph died on 1 January 1897; he was 74 years old. The 29<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 15 March 1897 at the Maison Notre-Dame des Retraites in Athis-Mons (Paris Suburb). With 99 Brother capitulants in attendance, the Chapter lasted for 21 days. Brother Gabriel-Marie (Edmond Jean-Antoine Brunhes) was elected 14<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>87</sup> At the time, “there were *merely* 243 lay teachers *working with the Brothers* in France, and 204 in other countries.”

To nourish the spiritual life of Brothers “a new edition of the *Collection* [conformable to the text of 1711] was requested” by the Brother capitulants. Recommendations were made that preference be given for “direct recruitment of pupils from schools or large boarding schools where high quality studies were pursued,” that in questions of closing schools preference should be given to closing a paying school (as opposed to a gratuitous school), and that where circumstances permit “the use of school fees should be ended with prudence and wisdom in places where it has been tolerated.” When the Latin Question came up again, this time the decision was uncompromising. “All previous decisions granting dispensations for the teaching of Latin were annulled; the teaching of Latin was to be discontinued in all the schools of the Brothers.”<sup>88</sup>

### **2.30. The 30<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1901)**

The 30<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was opened on 15 October 1901 at the Maison Notre-Dame des Retraites in Athis-Mons (Paris Suburb). The Chapter lasted for 25 days, and there were 105

Brother capitulants. Brother Gabriel-Marie continued as Superior.<sup>89</sup> At the time, there were 15,472 Brothers in the Institute, of whom 10,787 were in France.<sup>90</sup>

The principal purpose for which this General Chapter was convened “was the examination of a revised draft of the *Rule* drawn up by an *ad hoc* commission in view of a new edition.” The aim of the revision was “to make the text of the *Common Rule* as a whole coincide with that of 1717 and 1726.”<sup>91</sup> This revision had been requested by the General Chapters of 1858, 1861, and 1875; and while it had been worked on, it was not yet ready for the 1884 Chapter; and the 1887 Chapter didn’t get the work completed.<sup>92</sup>

This Chapter also regulated, in view of the recent canonization of John Baptist de La Salle, the devotional practices in the communities with reference to the Founder. At the end of chapel exercises and before saying “Live Jesus in our hearts,” introduced was to be the invocation “Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.” The same invocation was also to be said during the morning prayers in school.<sup>93</sup>

### **2.31. The 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter (1905)**

“The events in France affected the government of the Institute. The General Chapters called in 1905, 1907 and 1913 had as their principal aim to examine the situation of the Institute in France [vis-à-vis the 1904 “secularization law” and its consequences].”<sup>94</sup> The 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter opened on 16 May 1905 at the Institute’s headquarters that had been re-located outside of France at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Lembecq-lez-Hal (Belgium). The Chapter lasted for 14 days, and there were 91 Brother capitulants. Brother Gabriel-Marie continued as Superior.

“In line with established practice, the deliberations *of the Chapter* were centered on reports drawn up by commissions on the basis of notes sent in by the Brothers. The disadvantage of doing this way of things was that attention was centered on points ‘of observance,’ of varying importance, and consideration of more fundamental questions was neglected.” There was a “reluctance to change things considered sacrosanct, or even simple practices.”<sup>95</sup>

Looking back on this Chapter with the benefit of hindsight, one Lasallian scholar notes: “We can consider the 1905 General Chapter to be the final one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in that it is the last Assembly that still has more the appearance than the reality of a ‘Chapter.’ In fact, the Chapter is convoked in 1905 to countersign what had already been decided by the Institute’s Régime and duly organized during various meetings of the Brother Visitors.”<sup>96</sup>

### **2.32. The 32<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter (1907)**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter opened on 25 April 1907 at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Lembecq-lez-Hal (Belgium). The Chapter lasted for 10 days, and there were 90 Brother capitulants (those at this General Chapter were pretty much the same as in 1905). Brother Gabriel-Marie continued as Superior. At this time, there were 10,108 Brothers in the Institute, with 3,578 in the French Districts and 6,530 in the other Districts around the world.<sup>97</sup>

“The 1907 Chapter had to normalize the abnormal, a task which evidently encompassed two fields of action: the Brothers’ existence in France [vis-à-vis the collapse of its support systems] and their expansion in other locations worldwide. Each situation is abnormal and distinct in its manifestations, but identical in doing violence to what is customary.”<sup>98</sup> The Superior General reminded the Brother capitulants about the ongoing requirement of gratuity in whatever situation the schools were located. “We must maintain gratuity in teaching ... and not have recourse to fee-paying schools unless it is impossible to do otherwise.”<sup>99</sup>

### **2.33. The 33<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (1913)**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter, which opened on 30 April 1907 at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Lembecq-lez-Hal (Belgium), “marked a turning point in the history of the Institute. It opened with the resignation of the twelve Assistants. Brothers Louis de Poissy, Apronien-Marie, Réticius, Pamphile, and Maurice-Lucien declared that they would not be available for reappointment. In conformity with the wishes of the Holy See, Brothers of different nationalities would, henceforth, be more generally represented in the Régime.”<sup>100</sup>

The Chapter lasted for 20 days, and there were 93 Brother capitulants. During the Chapter, in a move that was not foreseen at its beginning, the Superior offered his resignation.” Brother Gabriel-Marie was 79 years old, and he had been at the head of the Institute for 16 years; and “on the acceptance of his resignation, he immediately left the Mother House.” Brother Imier de Jésus (Jean-Antoine Lafabrègue) was elected 15<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>101</sup>

The other major issue that faced the Chapter concerned regularizing the situation and “healing the wounds” of the “secularized Brothers” in France. A number of these Brothers, who reported that they had at times been made to feel like “second-class citizens, damaged goods, or wayward children” for having done only what the Superiors had encouraged them to do to protect and assure the mission, had written to the Chapter.<sup>102</sup>

The work of confronting “the problems associated with the collapse of its support systems” during the previous decade and successfully linking the governing body of the Institute with “other Christian organizations in French society” was basically completed by the General Chapter of 1913. Unfortunately, “further positive developments *for the Institute* were soon to be cut off by the outbreak of World War I.”

### **2.34. The 34<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1923)**

The 34<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 26 April 1923 at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Lembecq-lez-Hal (Belgium). The Chapter lasted for 21 days, and there were 90 Brother capitulants. “In 1920, there were only some 470 lay teachers *working with the Brothers* in France and about 580 in other countries, of whom 270 were in Belgium.”<sup>103</sup>

The intention of the Chapter was to elect a number of new Assistants. Unexpected was the resignation of Brother Imier de Jésus, Superior General, for reasons of health and thinking of the Church’s recent regulations proposed in the Church’s recently promulgated *Code of Canon Law* (1917) regarding the duration of mandates. The Superior “initially wishes to retire but then

decides to offer to return – except that now the Chapter does not listen to him.”<sup>104</sup> Brother Allais-Charles (Jean Petiot) was elected 16<sup>th</sup> Superior General, and the Chapter then went on to electing Assistants.<sup>105</sup>

In the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Chapter, the Superior had another unexpected announcement to make. He read “a serious document from the Holy See” saying that Pope Pius XI wanted the Institute to “henceforth extend its teaching to classical studies for well-off classes.”<sup>106</sup> There is some sense that there was a connection between this document (an intervention to resolve the Latin Question in favor of the Church in the USA) and Brother Imier de Jésus’ resignation.<sup>107</sup>

Consequently, there were modifications to the *Rule* that had to be made at this Chapter concerning the teaching of Latin in addition to other prescriptions of the *Code of Canon Law*.

### **2.35. The 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1928)**

The death of Brother Allais-Charles on 24 May 1928 made it necessary to call a Chapter; and so the 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 7 November 1928 at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Lembecq-lez-Hal (Belgium). The Chapter lasted for 15 days, and there were 100 Brother capitulants. At the time, there were 12,739 Brothers in the Institute, with 4,141 in the Districts of France and 8,598 in other Districts of the world.<sup>108</sup>

Brother Adrien (Adrien Petiot) was elected 17<sup>th</sup> Superior General,<sup>109</sup> with 80 of the 100 votes cast. He was the blood brother of the preceding Superior General. At the time of Brother Adrien’s death only a few years later, it was noted that “in addition to his remarkable intellect, his heart was very much in the right place.”

In the 1928 General Chapter, the question of gratuity was again treated, and the establishment of free schools next to fee-paying schools was recommended when and where fee-paying schools were a necessity. In 1922, a few years before the Chapter, “120,674 pupils out of 270,190 (*in all of the schools conducted by the Brothers*) were non fee-paying”; and in 1932, “157,947 out of a total of 302,733 pupils were non-fee paying.”

The Holy See “asked the 1928 General Chapter to transfer the Generalate to Rome.” In addition, there was an appeal by the Brother capitulants “to intensify missionary activities in the Institute” and a recommendation “that meetings of District Councils be held more regularly.” The Brother capitulants also wanted the Brother Assistants to visit far-off Districts once every 5 or 6 years.<sup>110</sup>

### **2.36. The 36<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1934)**

The death of Brother Adrien on 2 March 1934 made it necessary to call a General Chapter; and so the 36<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 13 June 1934 at the Maison Saint-Joseph in Lembecq-lez-Hal (Belgium). The Chapter lasted for 16 days, and there were 109 Brother capitulants. Brother Junien-Victor (Auguste Déharré) was elected 18<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>111</sup>

The Brother capitulants “endeavored to respond to the appeal of Pope Pius XI regarding Catholic Action,”<sup>112</sup> and so “the commission for schools and boarding schools, inspired by



the 'memoranda' it had studied, said in its report, 'our role as Brothers of the Christian Schools ... should be to imbue our pupils with the doctrine and mentality of Catholic action, to enroll them in specialized groups where they can act, and induce them, in school and especially during the holidays, to act on their companions, and be apostles."<sup>113</sup> In addition, the Brother "capitulants were warned of the danger resulting from the presence of lay staff, and the remedy proposed was to train the latter in Institute training colleges."<sup>114</sup>

### **2.37. The 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1946)**

World War II delayed the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter by a couple of years, but it finally opened on 15 May 1946 with 118 Brother capitulants gathering for 23 days at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle in Rome (Italy).<sup>115</sup>

Brother Arèse-Casimir (Noël-Valentin Bression) was serving as Vicar General of the Institute. With the death of the Superior General in 1940 and the ongoing World War, the Holy See had granted him the authority to serve as Superior *pro temporae* until the time when a new Superior could be elected.<sup>116</sup>

Brother Athanase-Émile (Louis-Arthur Ritimann) was elected 20<sup>th</sup> Superior General on the third ballot. "It was only at the General Chapter in 1946 that the numbers of French Districts, which had not been adjusted since 1904, was finally reduced; and the Régime of the Institute became truly international."<sup>117</sup>

Many Brothers view the 1946 General Chapter as "a huge disappointment"<sup>118</sup> and judge it as neither inspirational nor open.<sup>119</sup> "Was this Chapter held too soon? The obligation to hold it without delay, not only because the 10-year interval between General Chapters had ended in 1944, but also because of the need to designate a new Superior General, led to its hasty convocation. Perhaps, if the convocation had been delayed somewhat, it might have enabled the Chapter to become more aware of the effect the world conflict had had, and still continued to have."<sup>120</sup>

Eight of the Chapter's ten commissions focused on the "internal life of the Institute" and "only two commissions considered the apostolate." The work of the revision of the *Rule* ... was perhaps rather too tightly focused on returning to "complete conformity with the spirit of the Institute and that of the Founder." The intention seemed to be "to re-establish the authority of the *Rule*." The eyes of the Brother capitulants seemed to be fixed more on the past than on the challenges of the present. An "unrealistic decision to 'eliminate the female element' and reduce the 'lay element,' whom it had been necessary to employ in great numbers during the War but, with whose services in many places, it had already become impossible to dispense."<sup>121</sup>

At the urging of the Vatican's Congregation for Religious, the General Chapter made clear the manner in which the Vicar General was henceforth to be chosen. "The general assembly voted in favor of choosing a Vicar General from among the Assistants." Other "points raised included the prohibition of the priesthood and of the use of tobacco."<sup>122</sup> The "recourse by Brother Superior Athanase-Émile to the Holy See in 1948," vis-à-vis the revision of the *Rule*, is more often than

not viewed as a great mistake as it was “the first time ever that the entire text of the *Rule* of the Institute had been put under the direct control of the Roman Congregation.”<sup>123</sup>

### **2.38. The 38<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1956)**

Upon the death of Brother Athanase-Émile in 1952, Brother Denis-de-Jésus, Vicar General, led the Institute until the 38<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 16 May 1956 at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle in Rome.<sup>124</sup> The Chapter lasted for 30 days, and there were 100 Brother capitulants. At the time, there were about 15,000 Brothers in the Institute.<sup>125</sup> Brother Nicet-Joseph (Pierre-Louis Loubet) was elected 22<sup>nd</sup> Superior General on the third ballot.<sup>126</sup>

“This 1956 Chapter had been a turning point in at least five areas: the importance it gave to reflections and positions on the mission of the Institute and to the theological and catechetical formation of the Brothers,<sup>127</sup> plus three decisions [the assumption about the revision of the *Rule*, the innovative decision on the preparation of future General Chapters, and the re-launching with renewed energy of a program of Lasallian Studies<sup>128</sup>], at first almost unnoticed, whose implementation would prove to be revolutionary, especially when confirmed by the upheaval of Vatican Council II, which they chronologically preceded.”<sup>129</sup>

As already noted, these Chapter decisions were impactful in establishing an impressive process [an Institute-wide review] for the renovation of the *Rule*,” a greater openness toward religious studies of Brothers and the “plan to establish in Rome an Institute of Higher Religious culture” for the formation of male Lay Religious as religious educators,<sup>130</sup> and a bold program for the study of the Founder and the transmission of his spiritual and educational heritage.<sup>131</sup>

### **2.39. The 39<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1966 & 1967)**

The 39<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, which is remembered for the quite remarkable work that the Brother capitulants accomplished, opened at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle in Rome on 20 April 1966. The Chapter, which embraced Vatican Council II’s call for renewal in light of the signs of the times, met in two sessions. The first session met from 20 April to 3 June 1966 with 118 Brother capitulants, and the second session met from 1 October to 16 December 1967 with 124 Brother capitulants. At the time, there were 16,735 Brothers in the Institute, with 2,784 in the Districts in France and 13,951 in the other Districts of the world.<sup>132</sup>

“Right from the start of the Chapter, the Assembly showed that it was determined to be autonomous and in control of itself, even when it came to the draft text of the *Rule* which had been prepared beforehand: ‘we decided to set it aside and determine our own rhythm for our program.’”<sup>133</sup> Brother Charles Henry (Thomas Joseph Buttimer) of the USA was elected 23<sup>rd</sup> Superior General on the first round of voting.<sup>134</sup>

“By a large majority, the capitulants refused to introduce the priesthood into the Institute,<sup>135</sup> running the risk of incurring the displeasure of the Congregation of Religious which was urging it to do so.” The revision of the *Rule*, which was actually a process launched at the General Chapter of 1901, was the central topic of the General Chapter. The Brother capitulants expressed the need for a comprehensive document as a “backbone,” which they assigned to the commission

on finality; and the General Chapter moved toward the writing of the *Declaration*<sup>136</sup> and the revision of the *Rule*.<sup>137</sup>

The principal issues of the first session were: *Rule and Constitutions*, subsidiarity in government, the question of the priesthood, the election of Institute leadership, and other topics (like community life, apostolic works, and finances); and the principal issues of the second session were: finalizing the *Declaration*, drafting the provisional *Rule and Constitutions*, and others (like co-education, the International Lasallian Center or CIL, and religious names no longer official).<sup>138</sup>

#### **2.40. The 40<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (1976)**

The 40<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 14 April 1976 at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle in Rome; and the 158 Brother capitulants met for 67 days. At the time, there were about 11,000 Brothers in the Institute.<sup>139</sup> Brother José Pablo (Pablo Manuel Basterrechea) of Spain was elected as 24<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>140</sup>

“Two areas in particular occupied the attention of the *Brother* capitulants. They were the large number of Brothers leaving the Institute and the new structures required for organization and governance. The suppression of the old Assistancies meant that priority was now given to the Districts. When the number of Assistants (now to be called General Councilors) changed from 17 to 7, the regional aspect of the Councilors meant them having to represent vast sectors.”<sup>141</sup> In addition, the Brother capitulants focused attention on the community life of Brothers by mandating the Community Annual Program (CAP).<sup>142</sup>

The Worldwide Confederation of Former Students (UMAEL) helped the Brother capitulants “understand the impetus to develop forms of Lasallian associations in what was coming to be called the Lasallian Family.”<sup>143</sup> Lay members of one such association called *Signum Fidei* came to Rome to meet with the Brother capitulants.

#### **2.41. The 41<sup>st</sup> General Chapter (1986)**

The 41<sup>st</sup> General Chapter opened on 7 April 1986 (the anniversary of the death of the Founder in 1719) at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle in Rome; and the 116 Brother capitulants met for 58 days. At the time, there were about 9,000 Brothers in the Institute.<sup>144</sup> By the 1986 General Chapter, a great diversity of representatives from all around the world was notable with their different angles and cultural approaches.<sup>145</sup> Brother John Johnston of the USA was elected 25<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>146</sup>

The principal issues discussed by the Brother capitulants were approving a revised *Rule* (the end of the post-Vatican Council II *ad experimentum* period with the enthusiastic acceptance of what was to be called the *Rule of 1987*), changing the time between General Chapters from 10 to 7 years, and an evolving appreciation of the groups and movements forming part of what was beginning to be called the Lasallian Family [a hint of the emergence of a shared mission].<sup>147</sup>

#### **2.42. The 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter (1993)**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter opened on 5 April 1993 at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle, and the 131 Brother capitulants met for 41 days. At the time, there were about 7,000 Brothers in the Institute. Brother John Johnston was re-elected for a second term as Superior General.<sup>148</sup>

There were two main stages in the Chapter, the first of which centered on the shared mission; and 20 Lasallian partners were invited for two weeks to the Chapter as consultants to participate in discussions about the Lasallian educational mission (an extraordinary and fruitful experience). The second stage focused on such topics as community life, the current reality of older Brothers, awakening and accompanying the vocation of the Brother, and policies and practices of financial management.<sup>149</sup>

Two particularly memorable moments during the Chapter were the international solidarity expressed in the passage by the Brother capitulants of a proposition referred to as “100+” (an appeal to have 100 Brothers and a certain number of lay colleagues answer the call to volunteer for a period of service in places of urgent need in the global Lasallian mission) and the thunderous applause welcoming into the General Chapter Hall (for the first time since the 1966-1967 General Chapter) the two Brother capitulants from the District of Vietnam.

#### **2.43. The 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (2000)**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter opened on 1 May 2000 at the Casa Generalizia San Giovanni Battista de La Salle, and the 119 Brother capitulants met for 46 days. Brother Álvaro Rodríguez-Echevarría of Costa Rica was elected the 26<sup>th</sup> Superior General.<sup>150</sup>

The theme of the General Chapter was “Associated for the educational service of the poor as the Lasallian response to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” which reflected the principal topics that were to be discussed: the Institute as the first form of association desired by the Founder; lay associates and partners (including other Religious and clergy) who want a more significant role in the Lasallian mission (both individuals and intentional Lasallian groups); guidelines for leadership and accompaniment structures that foster and give life to association; and formation and accompaniment of Brothers and partners for the Lasallian mission. Other topics discussed were: globalization, the educational service of the poor, evangelization, the rights of the child, the promotion of vocations to the Brothers, Lasallian presence in multi-religious societies, and the identity of the Senior Brothers.<sup>151</sup>

While Lasallian partners were again invited as consultants at the Chapter during the two weeks that the Lasallian educational mission was being discussed, the feeling was that this was no longer an adequate formula for co-responsibility; and so a decision was made to hold an International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission prior to the next General Chapter, whose delegates would be comprised of two-thirds Lasallian partners and one-third Brothers.

#### **2.44. The 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (2007)**

The 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle on 1 May 2007; and the Brother capitulants met for 35 days. Brother Álvaro Rodríguez-Echevarría was re-elected as Superior General.<sup>152</sup> The theme of this General Chapter was “Being Brothers Today: Open Eyes, Burning Hearts,” and the “biblical events of the Exodus provided the icon and inspiration of its work.”

Among the topics studied in groups and discussed in the general assembly were: the challenge to be men of faith and prayer living the simplicity of the Gospel [Being Brothers Today]; the vow of association as an expression of the Brother’s consecration and a call to collaborate with Lasallian partners; the Institute’s educational and evangelizing work; fostering Lasallian vocations, especially Brother vocations; and the importance of accompanying young Brothers in post-formation communities.<sup>153</sup>

The General Chapter received with enthusiasm the work done by the 1<sup>st</sup> International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (2006) and proposed that the Superior General establish a commission to prepare a revision of the *Rule*, in light of new and rapidly evolving Institute realities, for consideration at the next General Chapter.<sup>154</sup>

#### **2.45. The 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (2014)**

The 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter opened on 22 April 2014 at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle, and the Brother capitulants met for 47 days. Brother Robert Schieler of the USA was elected the 27<sup>th</sup> Superior General on the third ballot.<sup>155</sup> The theme of the General Chapter was “This work of God is also our work,” and the Emmaus and Parménie stories shed a special light on the themes discussed by the Brother capitulants.

The revision of what has come to be called the *Rule of 2015* was a principal work of the Chapter. Other topics discussed were: the life of the Brother in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; the charismatic power of association for the educational service of the poor; shared mission; the rights of children and the young; the urgent needs of those beyond “the borders”; the optimization and stewardship of resources; the importance of accompaniment; and governance in service of vitality.<sup>156</sup>

The General Chapter also received the propositions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Assembly for the Lasallian Educational Mission (2013), called for the creation of an International Council of Lasallian partners and Brothers for the animation and direction of the Lasallian educational mission (CIAMEL), proposed the drafting of a *Declaration* on Lasallian Education, requested the formulation of criteria that would help to strengthen the degree of belonging of an educational work in the Lasallian network, and proposed the updating of the Institute’s 1991 *Guide for Formation*.<sup>157</sup>

#### **2.46. The 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (2022)**

Although originally scheduled for 2021 in Thailand, a rescript from the Vatican allowed the 46<sup>th</sup> Chapter to be postponed for a year due to the recent pandemic; and so the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter

opened on 1 May 2022 at the Casa San Giovanni Battista de La Salle. At the time, there were approximately 1,066,000 students, 103,000 Lasallian partners (of whom 61% were women), and 1,600 (out of 3,100) Brothers actively engaged in the global Lasallian educational mission. The Brother capitulants and 5 Lasallian associates,<sup>158</sup> who participated fully in the entire Chapter, met for 22 days.

The theme of the General Chapter was “Building New Paths to Transform Lives.” Brother Armin Luistro of the Philippines was elected the 28<sup>th</sup> Superior General on the first ballot.<sup>159</sup>

The capitulants received and considered reports from the first session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission (2022), the International Assembly of Young Brothers, the International Symposium of Young Lasallians, and the International Strategic Committee.

Following a process of “appreciative inquiry,” a few pathways forward were identified: a) building a fraternal world through education, evangelization, and the promotion of justice; b) radical availability to God; c) renewed structures for the future; d) integral ecological conversion; e) association for mission; f) Lasallian vocations; and g) leveraging the human and financial resources of the international Institute.<sup>160</sup>

### 3. Conclusion

While the focus throughout this *précis* has remained on identifying the 46 General Chapters of the Institute and providing a cursory history of the Institute in terms of its General Chapters, a number of other threads (or themes) nevertheless subtly inserted themselves into the writing of the chronicle.

For example, the twenty-eight Brothers who have served in the role of Superior of the Institute have been identified. The relations of the Institute with the Holy See at principal moments of its life (for example, *Bull of Approbation* in 1725, appointment of a Vicar General as leader in 1795, the *Code of Canon Law* in 1923, and the intervention about priesthood in 1966) have surfaced. The expansion of the Régime (General Council) in terms of growth and internationality has been made manifest with a consequent increase in the number of Assistants due to the expansion and complexity of the Institute. The priority attention given to the service to the poor throughout the Institute’s history<sup>161</sup> is intertwined with the emergence of the fee-paying boarding school (*pensionnat*) as a significant field for the mission.

Some references to what has come to be identified as the “Latin Question,” which is so important to the evolution of secondary and tertiary Lasallian education in the USA, is obvious; and this may in fact represent an early failure on the part of the Center of the Institute to grasp the reality that internationalization requires different responses in different situations.<sup>162</sup> Shared mission was a major focus of the five more recent General Chapters. National events and educational policies (notably in France), world events (notably World Wars I and II), and ecclesial events (notably Vatican Council II) interposed themselves.

This brief chronicle has hopefully answered, in a somewhat succinct manner, recent questions about the timing of the 46 General Chapters of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and furnished the reader with some good resource materials for further exploration of this aspect of the Institute's history.

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<sup>1</sup> Brother William Mann is president emeritus of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, a former vicar general of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (2000-2007), and the immediate past president of the International Association of La Salle Universities (IALU). Brother William, who earned his doctorate at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, was a capitulant at the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, and 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapters.

<sup>2</sup> *Jean-Baptiste de La Salle: A Mystic in Action* by Bernard Hours and translated by Anna Fitzgerald (Washington, DC: Christian Brothers Conference, 2022), pages 170-171.

<sup>3</sup> On 10 May 1686 in Rheims (although sometimes reported as September 1684 or 1685), the first Brothers gathered in Assembly. As Brother José María Vallalodid reports: "Until this date, the teachers wore cassocks without pocket. They adopted the name of Brothers of the Christian Schools, although they could already have called themselves Brothers since 1682. Meals also became scheduled. There will be no special mortifications. There is discussion about the date 1684." In the first volume of his monumental study of the time of the Lasallian origins – *Le XVII<sup>e</sup> Siècle et les Origines Lasalliennes: Période Rémoise* (Rennes: Imprimeries Réunies, 1970) – Brother Yves "Poutet indicates all this in 1685." In José María Vallalodid FSC, *Lasalliana #31: Lasallian Chronology*, translated by Francis Vesel FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1994), page 102.

<sup>4</sup> For full text of the *Bull of Approbation: In Apostolicae Dignitatis*, see Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 2: The Followers of Saint John Baptist de La Salle in the Society of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century 1719-1789*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary's College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 94-97; and for a better understanding of the *Bull of Approbation*, see Henri Bedel FSC, *Lasallian Studies 5: An Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – The Origins 1651-1726*, translated by Allen Geppert FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1996), pages 206-211.

<sup>5</sup> William J. Battersby FSC, *The History of the Institute in the Eighteenth Century – 1719-1798* (London: Waldegrave Publishers, 1960), page 38.

<sup>6</sup> Institute historian Georges Rigault "recounts and analyzes the upheaval and tumult that was triggered by the French State's banning of teaching by Religious Congregations at the opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This so-called 'persecution' was the consequence of the confluence of a number of factors: a mentality of secularization in France, the catapulting to prominence of Émile Combes and the 'radical anti-clericals,' the Alfred Dreyfus affair, and a Freemasonry ambition of separating 'the Church from the children of the poor'" ... At this cataclysmic juncture, the Lasallian reality in France ... unfortunately found itself with a leadership in disarray – both ill-equipped to respond and completely lacking in unity of action ... During the years 1905-1906,

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the laws of 1901 and 1904 were most rigorously enforced. This was for the ‘Congregationalists’ the period of roughest attack. The orders of July 1904 alone ‘condemned more than eight hundred [of 1,500] establishments directed by the Brothers of the Christian Schools to perish.’ In “Annotation” by William Mann FSC in *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education* 9, no. 3 (2018), pages 135-136: *A Teaching Brotherhood Finds Its Identity: The Secularization Period of 1904-1920*.

<sup>7</sup> For such a study, see: (a) Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 6: The Era of Brother Philippe and the Institute among the Nations*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary’s College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.); (b) Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 8: The End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the Institute in Europe and in Mission Countries*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary’s College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.); and (c) Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 9: The End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Lasallian Expansion in America from 1874 to 1904*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary’s College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.).

<sup>8</sup> “Responsible for the whole Body of the Institute, the General Chapter is qualified to undertake in its name a periodic evaluation of the life of the Institute, to provide for its continuing adaptation and renewal, and to set out the main guidelines for future action. In addition, the Chapter elects the Brother Superior General and the Brother General Councilors. It has the power to take all suitable legislative and administrative measures that concern the establishments and members of the Institute.” In “The General Chapter” in *The Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools* (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2015), articles #111 to #122 (especially article #112).

<sup>9</sup> “In an Institute, the General Chapter has supreme authority in accordance with the constitutions. It is to be composed in such a way that it represents the whole Institute and becomes a true sign of its unity in charity. Its principal functions are to protect the patrimony of the Institute mentioned in canon #578 and to foster appropriate renewal in accord with that patrimony. It also elects the supreme Moderator [Superior], deals with matters of great importance, and issues norms which all are bound to obey.” In “Chapters” in *The Code of Canon Law* (Vatican City, 1983), canons #631 to #633 (especially canon #631.1).

<sup>10</sup> Three major histories of the Institute are available in the English language: (a) Institute historian Georges Rigault wrote a 10-volume history of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools that was published in French between 1937 and 1954 and later translated into English by Brother S. Edmund Dolan; (b) Brother Henri Bedel wrote a 5-volume history of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools that was published in French between 1996 and 2007 and soon after translated into English by Brother Allen Geppert and Brother Aidan Marron; and (c) historian William J. Battersby (aka Brother Clair Stanislaus) wrote a 3-volume history of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools that was published in English between 1960 and 1963. Another good resource (of limited availability and only in the French-language) about the topic under consideration is *Chapitre Généraux de l’Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes: Historiques et Décisions* (Paris: Maison-Mère Rue Oudinot, 1902).

<sup>11</sup> Luke Salm FSC, *The Work Is Yours: The Life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle* (Romeoville, IL: Christian Brothers Publications, 1989), page 74; and *Hours*, pages 340-344.



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<sup>12</sup> Valladolid, *Lasalliana #31: Lasallian Chronology*, page 128; and Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 1: The Religious and Educational Work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary's College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 202-208.

<sup>13</sup> Salm, *The Work Is Yours*, pages 80-84.

<sup>14</sup> Rigault, *Volume 2 of History*, pages 405-412; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 5: An Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – The Origins 1651-1726*, translated by Allen Geppert FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1996), pages 178-180.

<sup>15</sup> Elected were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Jean and Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> Also confirmed in their role were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Jean and Joseph.

<sup>17</sup> Rigault, *Volume 2 of History*, pages 41-44; and Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, pages 28-29.

<sup>18</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 5: History (1651-1726)*, page 198; and Rigault, *Volume 2 of History*, page 44.

<sup>19</sup> Also elected were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Irenée as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant and Joseph as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant.

<sup>20</sup> Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, pages 37-41; and Rigault, *Volume 2 of History*, pages 57-61.

<sup>21</sup> Elected were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Irenée as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant and Étienne as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, pages 48-49.

<sup>23</sup> When the *Bull of Approbation: In Apostolicae Dignitatis* of January 1725 was signed by Pope Benedict XIII, it was necessary that *Letters Patent* be registered in France; and this was done in March 1725 by the Parliament of Rouen. King Louis XV signed acceptance of the *Bull* in April 1725, and the Archbishop of Rouen signed acceptance of the *Bull* on 17 May 1725.

<sup>24</sup> Elected were 2 Assistants to work with Brother Timothée, the Superior General, in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Irenée and Étienne.

<sup>25</sup> Cf. Augustine Loes FSC, *The First De La Salle Brothers: 1681-1719* (Landover, MD: Lasallian Publications, 1999), pages 47, 119, 124, 151, 175, 192, and 267.

<sup>26</sup> Rigault, *Volume 2 of History*, pages 296-297 and 299-301; and Henri Bedel FSC, *Lasallian Studies 6: An Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – The Eighteenth Century 1726-1804*, translated by Allen Geppert FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1998), page 31.

<sup>27</sup> Also elected were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Étienne as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant and Raymond as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant.

<sup>28</sup> Confirmed were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Raymond and Généreux.

<sup>29</sup> Hubert Gerard [Schmitz] FSC, *Lasallian Panorama: The History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 1 – Beginnings* (USA: Christian Brothers National Public Relations, 1963), pages 124-125.

<sup>30</sup> Also elected were 2 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Exupère as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant and Anaclet as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant.

<sup>31</sup> Other than the resignation of the Superior General in 1767, one would never suspect that the 1760s were a period of such great religious turmoil in France. For example, the Jesuits, during

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this period, were forbidden to teach in France; they were suppressed, their property confiscated, and they were expelled from the country. Cf. Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, page 73; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 6: History (1726-1804)*, page 83.

<sup>32</sup> Although the 10<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was held in Rheims, the residence of the Superior General during this period was actually in Paris.

<sup>33</sup> Brother Agathon is especially remembered as the author of the Institute's 1875 *Circular* entitled: *The Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher*, translated by Gerard Rummery FSC (Washington, DC: Christian Brothers Conference, 2008).

<sup>34</sup> Elected were 3 Assistants to work with Brother Agathon, Superior General, in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Paschal, Sylvestre, and Zachée.

<sup>35</sup> Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, pages 6-7 and 89-90; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 6: History (1726-1804)*, pages 127-128.

<sup>36</sup> Elected were 3 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Paschal, Sylvestre, and Lothaire.

<sup>37</sup> Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, pages 101-102; and Bruno Alpage FSC, *Lasallian Studies 7: The Institute in the Educational Service of the Poor*, translated by Allen Geppert FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2000), page 106.

<sup>38</sup> In 1792-1793, Religious Communities were suppressed in France during the French Revolution and properties were seized. Brother Solomon was martyred in September 1792; Brothers Léon, Uldaric, and Roger were later martyred. In July 1793, Brother Agathon, Superior General, was arrested and kept in prison until September 1794. It is clear he "tried to re-establish contact with former members of the Institute" and "to build up a network of Brothers around himself," but he was obliged to keep in hiding and found it impossible to keep contact with many Brothers. Former Superior General Brother Florence was also put into prison in 1794, but later released.

Brother Frumence, who was in Italy as Vicar General, was given authority to serve as Superior *pro temporae* by Pope Pius VI (beginning 7 August 1795 and renewed by Pope Pius VII in 1800) "in view of the desperate situation of the Brothers of the Institute in France." Brother Agathon only died on September 16, 1798; and so for a few years there were technically two Superiors of the Institute.

In 1804-1805, Brother Frumence, who by that time had come home to France from Italy, headed a small group of 28 in Lyons (Brothers, novices, and postulants) and about 20 or so Brothers in Italy. At most, there were only a few dozen and certainly no more than about 100 Brothers in the Institute.

Cf. Battersby, *History (1719-1798)*, pages 138-144; Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 6: History (1726-1804)*, pages 248-256; Hubert Gerard [Schmitz] FSC, *Lasallian Panorama: The History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 2: Cataclysm* (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's College Press, 1966); and Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 3: The French Revolution*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary's College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 22-23 (concerning the 18<sup>th</sup>-century role of the Institute's Vicar General in Italy).

<sup>39</sup> As the *de facto* leader of the Brothers of the Christian Schools from 1795 to 1810, Brother Frumence is considered the 6<sup>th</sup> leader of the Institute.

<sup>40</sup> Elected were 3 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Émery as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, Jonas as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant, and Barthélemy as 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant.

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- <sup>41</sup> Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 4: The Restored Institute*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary's College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 228-233; and Henri Bedel FSC, *Lasallian Studies 9: An Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – The 19<sup>th</sup> Century 1805-1875*, translated by Aidan Marron FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2006), page 49.
- <sup>42</sup> William J. Battersby FSC, *The History of the Institute in the Nineteenth Century – 1800-1850* (London: Waldegrave Publishers, 1961), page 32.
- <sup>43</sup> Elected were 3 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Émery as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, Guillaume-de-Jésus, and Éloi.
- <sup>44</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, pages 35-44; Battersby, *History (1800-1850)*, pages 49-50; and Rigault, *Volume 4 of History*, pages 355-356.
- <sup>45</sup> Elected were 3 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Émery, Éloi, and Anaclet.
- <sup>46</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, page 50.
- <sup>47</sup> *Chapitre Généraux de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrésiennes: Historiques et Décisions*, pages 64-66.
- <sup>48</sup> Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 5: The Generalate of Brother Anaclet and the Institute in the Time of Brother Philippe*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary's College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 4-11.
- <sup>49</sup> Elected were 4 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Éloi as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, Philippe, Abdon, and Jean-Chrysostome.
- <sup>50</sup> Rigault, *Volume 5 of History*, pages 23-26.
- <sup>51</sup> Elected were 6 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Éloi, Philippe, Abdon, Jean-Chrysostome, Calixte, and Nicolas.
- <sup>52</sup> Battersby, *History (1800-1850)*, page 105.
- <sup>53</sup> “Drafted by the 1834 Committee, approved by the 1837 General Chapter, the 1838 edition of *The Conduct of the Christian Schools* seeks to respond at the same time to the challenges of Mutual Education and to the directives of the Guizot Law, while including traditional chapters which linked it to previous editions ... The most interesting and surprising part of this edition is the Preface ... which is both a reminder of the choices made by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and of the constant practice of the Brothers for 150 years, as well as a plea in favor of the Simultaneous Method.” In Léon Lauraire FSC, *Cahiers Lasalliens 67: The Conduct of Schools – A Diachronic Approach – Development of the Text from 1706 to 1916*, translated by Allen Geppert FSC (Rome, 2014), pages 121 and 125-126.
- <sup>54</sup> Elected were 6 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Éloi, Abdon, Jean-Chrysostome, Calixte, Nicolas, and Benoît.
- <sup>55</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, page 124; and *Chapitre Généraux de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrésiennes: Historiques et Décisions*, pages 78-79.
- <sup>56</sup> Elected were 8 Assistants to work with Brother Philippe, Superior General, in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Éloi, Abdon, Calixte, Nicolas, Benoît, Philippe, Jurson, Amos, and Anthelme.
- <sup>57</sup> Battersby, *History (1800-1850)*, page 112-114; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, page 125.

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<sup>58</sup> Émile Jean-Horace Vernet (1789-1863) was a French painter of portraits and battles, which were “noted for historical accuracy” and a “more direct, less idealizing style.”

<sup>59</sup> Elected were 8 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Abdon, Calixte, Nicolas, Amos, Anthelme, Théorique, Péloquin, and Firmilien.

<sup>60</sup> Battersby, *The History of the Institute in the Nineteenth Century – 1850-1900* (London: Waldegrave Publishers, 1963), page 26; and Alpage, *Lasallian Studies 7: Educational Service of the Poor*, page 197.

<sup>61</sup> Brothers Abdon, Calixte, Nicolas, Amos, Anthelme, Théorique, Péloquin, and Firmilien were the Assistants participating in the Chapter.

<sup>62</sup> “Since 1850, the Brothers’ Institute has certainly been engaged in revising its *Rule*. It realizes that it must do so, because it is uncomfortable within itself. One way or another, it understands that the failure to observe one or more of the *Rule*’s provisions is not necessarily because its members are worse or more lax than in other times. This is possible, of course, but it can also happen that the *Rule* is not well suited to the needs of the time.” In Pedro María Gil FSC, *Lasallian Studies 4: The Relation between Mission and Spirituality throughout the History of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*, translated by Paul Grass FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1998), page 294.

<sup>63</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, page 207.

<sup>64</sup> Elected were Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Calixte, Anthelme, Théoretique, Péloquin, Firmilien, Mamert, Baudine, Judore, and Jean-Olympe.

<sup>65</sup> Alpage, *Lasallian Studies 7: Educational Service of the Poor*, page 198; Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, pages 68, 168, and 208; and Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, page 29.

<sup>66</sup> Elected were the 10 Assistants working with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Calixte, Amos, Péloquin, Firmilien, Mamert, Baudine, Judore, Jean-Olympe, Facile, and Agapet. [The election of Brother Facile was well received by the Brothers in the USA as the only member of the Régime who could speak English and since he had been their Visitor beginning in 1848.]

<sup>67</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, pages 208-209; and Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, page 29.

<sup>68</sup> Elected were 10 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Calixte, Firmilien, Mamert, Judore, Jean-Olympe, Agapet, Irlide, Exupérien, Patrick, and Renaux. [Brother Patrick, Visitor of the District of New York and president of Manhattan College for 12 years, succeeded Brother Facile. This Irishman, who initially emigrated to Canada, was the first non-French Assistant of the Institute.]

<sup>69</sup> Henri Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: An Introduction to the History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries 1875-1928*, translated by Allen Geppert FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2008), pages 112-113.

<sup>70</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 9: History (1805-1875)*, page 167; and Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, page 38.

<sup>71</sup> Elected were 11 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Calixte, Firmilien, Mamert, Judore, Agapert, Irlide, Exupérien, Patrick, Remeux, Joseph, and Osée.

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<sup>72</sup> *Chapitre Généraux de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes: Historiques et Décisions*, pages 131-135.

<sup>73</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 39.

<sup>74</sup> Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 7: The End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Works and Struggles of Lasallians*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary's College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 15-20.

<sup>75</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Firmilien, Mamert, Judore, Agapet, Exupérien, Patrick, Renaux, Joseph, Osée, Phileter, Junien, and Aimerus.

<sup>76</sup> Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, page 43; Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 67-68.

<sup>77</sup> Elected were 11 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Exupérien, Patrick, Renaux, Joseph, Osée, Phileter, Junien, Aimerus, Gabriel-Marie, Raphaélis, and Louis de Poissy.

<sup>78</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 275.

<sup>79</sup> Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, page 51.

<sup>80</sup> Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, pages 55 and 129.

<sup>81</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with Brother Joseph, Superior General, in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Exupérien, Patrick, Renaux, Osée, Phileter, Junien, Aimerus, Gabriel-Marie, Raphaélis, Louis de Poissy, Cyrus, and Aponien-Marie.

<sup>82</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 56 and 113.

<sup>83</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Exupérien, Renaux, Junien, Aimerus, Gabriel-Marie, Louis de Poissy, Cyrus, Aponien-Marie, Réticius, Clémentien, Narcellien, and Madir-Joseph.

<sup>84</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 113-114; and Battersby, *History (1850-1900)*, pages 59 and 128.

<sup>85</sup> *Chapitre Généraux de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes: Historiques et Décisions*, pages 164-169.

<sup>86</sup> "On the whole, the work of the General Chapters [in the nineteenth century] was not very striking and did not come to grips much with the events of the time ... It can be said that the period appears to have been marked, at least in the last ten years, by what we can call a 'tightening up' in the way the Institute was run. This tendency can be seen first of all in the election of a certain number of Assistants known for their great strictness ... This tendency was already noticeable in the 1894 Chapter, but it was above all the 1897 Chapter which strengthened it." In Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 61-62.

<sup>87</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Exupérien, Junien, Aimerus, Louis de Poissy, Cyrus, Aponien-Marie, Réticius, Clémentien, Narcellien, Madir-Joseph, Viventien-Aimé, and Périel-Étienne.

<sup>88</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 59, 66, and 114.

<sup>89</sup> Elected were Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Exupérien, Junien, Aimerus, Louis de Poissy, Aponien-Marie, Réticius, Clémentien, Narcellien, Madir-Joseph, Viventien-Aimé, Périel-Étienne, Dosithée, and Pamphile.

<sup>90</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 39.

<sup>91</sup> Rigault, *Volume 7 of History*, pages 11-15.

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<sup>92</sup> “The revision of the *Rule*, a process which is only begun to be realized at the General Chapter of 1966-1967, is the central topic of the General Chapter of 1901.” In Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 293; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 60-61 and 68-69.

<sup>93</sup> *Chapitre Généraux de l’Institut des Frères des Écoles Chrétiennes: Historiques et Décisions*, pages 175 and 178-179.

<sup>94</sup> Cf. Endnote #5; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, pages 152 and 181-182.

<sup>95</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 82.

<sup>96</sup> Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 283.

<sup>97</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, 229.

<sup>98</sup> Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 283.

<sup>99</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 267.

<sup>100</sup> “To the French Brothers Viventien-Aimé, Péral-Étienne, Allais-Charles, Léandris, Godefroy des Anges, Séridon-Isidore, and Anthime-Louis were added Brothers Benezet Thomas, Petronius, Macaire-Joseph, and Candido, whose appointments pleased the Anglo-Saxons, Germanic, Belgian, and Italian Districts.”

<sup>101</sup> Brother Adrien was then elected the twelfth Assistant to replace Brother Imier de Jésus who prior to his election as Superior had been one of the Assistants.

<sup>102</sup> Georges Rigault, *History of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Volume 10: The Years of Secularization – 1904-1914*, translated by S. Edmund Dolan FSC and produced by Eric Vogel FSC (Saint Mary’s College of California: Unpublished manuscript, n.d.), pages 232-240.

<sup>103</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 275.

<sup>104</sup> Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 284.

<sup>105</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with the Superior in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Viventien-Aimé, Séridon-Isidore, Candido, Adrien, Judore, Ismaélis, Médard-Camille, Anacletus, Arèse Casimir, Junien-Victor, Abban Philip, and Mandellus.

<sup>106</sup> William J. Battersby FSC, *The Christian Brothers in the United States: 1900-1925* (Winona, MN: Saint Mary’s College Press, 1967), pages 337-339; and “The Latin Question: Obedience or Americanism” by Michael J. Witt in *Records of the American Historical Society of Philadelphia*, Volume 93, Number 1/4 (March-December, 1982), page 23.

<sup>107</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 11: History (1875-1928)*, page 191.

<sup>108</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *The Lasallian Mission of Human & Christian Education: A Shared Mission* (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1997), page 27.

<sup>109</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Candido, Judore, Médard-Camille, Anacletus, Arèse-Casimir, Junien-Victor, Abban Philip, Mandellus, Gordien-Désiré, Athanase-Émile, Pedro Luis, and Nivard-Joseph.

<sup>110</sup> Henri Bedel FSC, *Lasallian Studies 12: An Introduction to the History of the Brothers of the Christian Schools – 20<sup>th</sup> Century 1928-1946*, pages 52-53, 58-59, and 92-94.

<sup>111</sup> Elected were 12 Assistants to work with the Superior General in providing leadership for the Institute: Brothers Judore, Anacletus, Arèse-Casimir, Abban Philip, Mandellus, Gordien-Désiré, Athanase-Émile, Pedro Luis, Nivard-Joseph, Dionysius de Jésus, Francesco di Maria, Cosme-Dominique.

<sup>112</sup> Cf. Brother Superior, *Circular 297: Statement concerning Catholic Action* (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1937).

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<sup>113</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, pages 98-99.

<sup>114</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, page 58.

<sup>115</sup> Brother Superior, *Circular 318: Results of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 1946).

<sup>116</sup> With the death of Brother Junien-Victor on 15 October 1940, a General Chapter needed to be convened to elect a Superior General; but World War II made it fairly impossible for Brothers from around the world to assemble. On 11 December 1940, the Holy See appointed the senior Brother Assistant and a member of the Régime since 1920 as Vicar General with authority to serve as Superior *pro temporae* (19<sup>th</sup> leader of the Institute) until such time as a new Superior could be elected.

<sup>117</sup> Brothers Dionysius Van Jezus (Denis-de-Jésus), Adolphe Marie, Philothée Jean, and Zacharias were confirmed in their ongoing roles as Assistants; Brothers Eliphus Victor, Guillermo-Felix, Gioachino, Nivard-Anselm, Damian-Louis, Lawrence O’Toole, Antonio-Maria, and Fridolin Maria were also elected Assistants. [However, Brother Dominikus-Norbert soon replaced Brother Fridolin Maria who was allowed to refuse his election.] Brother Dionysius Van Jezus (Denis-de-Jésus) was then elected from among them to serve as Vicar General.

<sup>118</sup> Michel Sauvage FSC and Miguel Campos FSC, *Lasallian Studies 18: The Fragile Hope of a Witness – The Itinerary of Brother Michel Sauvage (1923-2001)*, translated by Paul Grass FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2014), pages 87-88.

<sup>119</sup> The Superior General put a great deal of pressure “on the Chapter by his interventions, the control he exercised over commission reports, not to mention the silence he appears to have imposed on certain capitulants.” In Sauvage and Campos, *Lasallian Studies 18: Fragile Hope*, page 92; and Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, page 131.

<sup>120</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, page 131.

<sup>121</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, pages 21, 128, 130-131; and Sauvage and Campos, *Lasallian Studies 18: Fragile Hope*, page 95.

<sup>122</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, page 121.

<sup>123</sup> Luke Salm FSC, *A Religious Institute in Transition: The Story of Three General Chapters* (Romeville, IL: Christian Brothers Publications, 1992), page 16; and Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 293.

<sup>124</sup> Brother Denis-de-Jésus (Alphonse François DeSchepper), duly elected Vicar General at the Institute’s 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, served as Superior *pro temporae* from 1952 to 1956. Therefore, he is counted as the Institute’s 21<sup>st</sup> Superior. “Following Brother Gabriel-Marie’s resignation in 1913, there is a ten-year period with Brother Imier-de-Jésus as Superior ... The next Superiors in succession are Brothers Allais-Charles, Adrien, Junien-Victor, Arèse-Casimir, Athanase-Emile, and Denis. Not one of them even exceeds six years at the helm of the Institute’s central government. Given the personal and authoritarian character of the system of governance at this time, these Generalates are extremely brief to be able to develop a sufficiently calm perspective on events.” In Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 285.

<sup>125</sup> Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 338.

<sup>126</sup> Brothers Eliphus Victor, Guillermo-Felix, Lawrence O’Toole, Antonio-Maria, Dominikus-Norbert, Philip-Antoon, and Charles-Edmond were confirmed in their ongoing roles as Assistants; and Brothers Damase-Jean, Aubert-Joseph, Leone de Maria, Majorian-Pius, and Fabriciano Luis were also elected Assistants. Brother Philip-Antoon was then elected from among them to serve as Vicar General.

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<sup>127</sup> Cf. José María Pérez-Navarro FSC, *MEL Bulletin 17: The Teaching of Catechism in Lasallian History*, translated by Martin Spellman FSC (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2005), pages 9-28.

<sup>128</sup> Brother Maurice-Auguste Hermans served as guiding visionary for the international Lasallian Studies program from 1956 to 1987 and is remembered for launching the *Cahiers Lasalliens* series of publications.

<sup>129</sup> Sauvage and Campos, *Lasallian Studies 18: Fragile Hope*, pages 187 and 195.

<sup>130</sup> The Jesus Magister Institute (ICJM) was established under the patronage of the Lateran University in October 1957.

<sup>131</sup> Brother Superior, *Circular 354: Results of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 1956).

<sup>132</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *A Shared Mission*, page 27.

<sup>133</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 477: Brother Joachim Mérian (1924-2021)*, translated by Terry Collins FSC (Rome, 2022), page 15.

<sup>134</sup> The Chapter capitulants voted to have a Vicar General, 4 “residential,” and 11 “regional” Assistants. The elected Assistants were: Brothers Aloysius Meldan Carmody (Secretary General), Maurice-Auguste (Procurator General), Arsène Hamel (Econome General), Michel Sauvage (Formation), José Pablo Basterrechea, Michael Jacques, Paulus Adams, Richard Allen, Adalberto Manuel, Francisco Alberto, Arthur Bonenfant, Fernando Izaguirre, Patrice Marey, Félicien-Marie, Leo Kirby, and Ruggero di Maria. Brother José Pablo Basterrechea was then elected from among them as Vicar General. [Brother Bernard Mérian was elected in 1967 to take the place of Brother Félicien-Marie.]

<sup>135</sup> Brother Superior, *Circular 386: The Lay Character of the Institute* (Rome, 1966).

<sup>136</sup> Brothers of the Christian Schools, *The Brother of the Christian Schools in the World Today: A Declaration* (Rome, 1967).

<sup>137</sup> Bedel, *Lasallian Studies 12: History (1928-1946)*, page 134; Sauvage and Campos, *Lasallian Studies 18: Fragile Hope*, page, 352; Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 477: Brother Joachim Mérian*, page 15.

<sup>138</sup> Salm, *Three General Chapters*, pages 50-76 and 137; and Brother Superior, *Acts of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 1967).

<sup>139</sup> Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 338.

<sup>140</sup> Brothers John Johnston, José Cervantes-Hernández, Benildo Feliciano, Patrice Marey, Pedro Ruedell, and Vincent Rabemahafaly were elected General Councilors; and Brother John Johnston was then elected from among them as Vicar General.

<sup>141</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 477: Brother Joachim Mérian*, page 24.

<sup>142</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 403: Acts of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 1976); and Salm, *Three General Chapters*, pages 202-203.

<sup>143</sup> Salm, *Three General Chapters*, page 206.

<sup>144</sup> Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 338.

<sup>145</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 477: Brother Joachim Mérian*, page 27.

<sup>146</sup> Brothers Genero Jesús Sáenz, Martín Corral-Alcalde, Vincent Rabamahafaly, Joseph Hendron, Gerard Rummery, and Eugène Bedel were elected General Councilors; and Brother Genero Jesús Sáenz was then elected as Vicar General. [Some time later when Brother Eugène Bedel died, Brother Pierre Josse was elected by Brother Superior and General Council as his replacement.]

<sup>147</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 422: Acts of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 1986).



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<sup>148</sup> Brothers Álvaro Rodríguez-Echevarría, Martín Corral-Alcalde, Pierre Josse, Gerard Rummary, Dominique Samné, and Raymundo Suplido were elected as General Councilors. Brothers Álvaro Rodríguez Echevarría was then elected from among them as Vicar General. [In the weeks following the Chapter, Brother Marc Hofer was also to be elected a General Councilor by Brother Superior and General Council.]

<sup>149</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 435: Acts of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 1993).

<sup>150</sup> According to the new procedure established at the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter in 1993 (the election of the Superior is to be followed by the election of the Vicar), Brother William Mann was elected as Vicar General; and this was then followed by the election of Brothers Claude Reinhardt, Yemanu Jehar, Miguel Campos, Juan Pablo Martín, and Marc Hofer as General Councilors. [In the months following the Chapter, Brother Victor Franco was also to be elected a General Councilor by Brother Superior and General Council.]

<sup>151</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 447: Documents of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 2000), pages 1-15.

<sup>152</sup> Brother Thomas Johnson was first elected as Vicar General; and this was followed by the election of Brothers Claude Reinhardt, Robert Schieler, David Hawke, Edgar Genuino Nicodem, Gabriel Somé, Jacques d’Huiteau, Jorge Gallardo de Alba, and Alberto Gómez-Barruso as General Councilors.

<sup>153</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 455: Documents of the 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 2007), pages 5-7.

<sup>154</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 455: 44<sup>th</sup> General Chapter*, pages 54-55.

<sup>155</sup> Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba was first elected as Vicar General; and this was then followed by the election of Brothers Ricardo Laguda, Pierre Quatarra, Timothy Coldwell, Aidan Kilty, and Paulo Petry as General Councilors. [A couple of months later, Brother Gustavo Ramírez-Barba was elected General Councilor by Brother Superior and General Council; and Brother Rafael Matas-Rosseló was later elected General Councilor by Brother Superior and General Council.]

<sup>156</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 469: Documents of the 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 2014).

<sup>157</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 469: 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter*, pages 20-23 and 39-41.

<sup>158</sup> “Association represents the link that unites all those committed to the Lasallian mission, that is, those who see themselves responsible for it and who contribute to its vitality. This link can be expressed in different ways: for the Brothers, it is a vow that forms part of their religious profession; some Lay Lasallians will choose to express it publically after a process determined by their District; and other Lay Lasallians will live it out implicitly through their commitment in the Lasallian Mission, lived according to the characteristics described in this Circular.” In *Circular 475: From Hope to Commitment – Understanding Lasallian Vocations* by Brother Superior and General Council (Rome: Brothers of the Christian Schools, 2020), pages 50-52.

<sup>159</sup> Brother Carlos Gabriel Gómez-Restrepo was first elected as Vicar General; and this was then followed by the election of Brothers Anatole Diretenadji, Joël Palud, Chris Patiño, Ricardo Laguda, and Martín Digilio as General Councilors.

<sup>160</sup> Brother Superior and General Council, *Circular 478: Documents of the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter* (Rome, 2022).

<sup>161</sup> Cf. Alpago, *Lasallian Studies 7: Educational Service of the Poor*.

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<sup>162</sup> While Brother Pedro Gil observes that the “Institute’s total system of governance in the circumstance [in which it found itself] emphasizes efficiency through authority, much more than attention to the changing signs of the times” in reference to events of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the observation is equally valid for the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cf. Gil, *Lasallian Studies 4: Mission and Spirituality*, page 285.