

Ordinance Mandating a Provincial Secretary

Rome, 1 April 2014

To the Visitors and Vice-Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission

Dear Confrere,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ dwell with us always!

The task of proper and prompt communication between the Provinces of the Congregation of the Mission and the General Curia is a commitment that each day becomes more burdensome and complex for the Visitors immersed in multiple matters that demand their time and drain their energy. Therefore, with the consent of the General Council I am promulgating an ordinance which demands that each Province appoint a Provincial Secretary who will dedicate his/her time to this matter of correspondence. This individual can be a confrere or a lay person.

In recent gatherings with the Visitors, some of the Missionaries have suggested that we sponsor a meeting of all the Provincial Secretaries in order to instruct them in the correct procedures to be followed when writing reports and in other correspondence addressed to the Superior General and the General Curia. Since the organization of such a meeting is complex and costly, I would like to know your opinion on this subject before moving forward. More specifically, I ask you to express your opinion with regard to the following questions:

- Such a meeting is necessary? Yes No
- It would be good to sponsor such a meeting on the Congregational level? Yes or No
- It would be good to sponsor a meeting by the various Conferences of Visitors? Yes or No

I invite you to speak with the other Visitors of your Conference and send me your response before October 1, 2014. I thank you for your collaboration.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General

Rome, 10 December 2014

To: All Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission
From: G. Gregory Gay, C.M., Superior General
RE: Follow-up to Ordinance on Provincial Secretaries

My brothers,

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be forever in our hearts!

After having reviewed the responses regarding a possible international meeting of provincial secretaries, the General Council has concluded the purpose for such a meeting is better served if done on the level either by the Conferences of Visitors or between provinces. Concerns by the provinces over the costs of providing an international meeting of provincial secretaries led to this decision. If Visitors Conferences or groups of provinces wish to organize their own meetings, Fr. Giuseppe Turati, C.M., Secretary-General, is willing to provide the necessary information.

I also take this opportunity to inform you that practical assistance is available to improve communication between the General Curia and the provinces. It can be sent electronically for your review. You may request this material from Fr. Turati, at his email: secgen@cmglobal.org. This material has been shared with Visitors in at the 2013 International Meeting of Visitors at St. John's University, New York. As noted, it was made available for confreres in a digital format.

Finally, I remind all Visitors that the appointment of a provincial secretary, whether a confrere or lay person, is an ordinance of the Congregation, sent out to all provinces on April 1, 2014. It requires that each province appoint a provincial secretary who will dedicate some time to attend to correspondence with the General Curia. As of this date, I have received 16 responses from Visitors, so I need to hear from the remaining provinces to insure all are in accord with this ordinance. I am grateful to those who responded, and I ask pardon for my impatience, but in my next communication, I will indicate which provinces have not yet responded to this Ordinance.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General