

5th May 2010

Dear confreres,

The Provincial Chapter Preparatory Committee - Pat Courtney, Alan Whelan, Tom Mulcahy, Diarmuid O'Murchú and Manus Ferry - along with Facilitators, Ronnie McEwan and Chris Partridge from Kinharvie Institute, held their first meeting on Thursday 22nd April. We are happy to communicate the following to you:

CHAPTER FOCUS

The theme for our Chapter in May 2011 is:

Searching for what God wants of us in these changing times

In selecting this theme, the preparatory commission was trying to honour the following elements:

1. The MSC Generalate in Rome is recommending all Provinces to use the document, *Authority and Obedience in our MSC Tradition* as a focus for the forthcoming Chapter. It is up to each Province to adapt the document in a way that will prove helpful. The preparatory commission were inspired by these words from Mark McDonald's introductory letter: "***Obedience to God demands that we do much community sharing to arrive at a better understanding of what God wants from us.***" (Document p.1).
2. We are invited into a process of discernment and sharing in the hope of seeing more clearly the call to mission in a Church and world undergoing rapid and complex change.
3. We hope that such a process will also enhance our faith and morale as we deal with an increasing age profile and declining numbers, demanding of us an ongoing process of disengagement that is not easy for any of us.
4. Every member of the Province is invited to contribute to the consultation and dialogue which will take place over the next year. As far as possible that will be arranged to accommodate local needs in our various geographical areas.

We want the Chapter to be an experience of grace and empowerment for all of us, and for our service to God in the church and in the world. We trust that will happen as we strive to listen more deeply to God, and to each other, in discerning our call for the future.

**Diarmuid O'Murchú msc,
On behalf of the Provincial Council Preparatory Committee**