

ACTS OF THE 2011 PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The members of the Irish Provincial Chapter 2011 met in Grace Dieu Manor Retreat and Conference Centre, Waterford, from the 9th to the 20th May 2011 to address the challenge adopted by the Chapter Preparatory Commission: "Searching for what God wants of us in these changing times".

The first week was spent together with our lay colleagues from across the Province – a truly enriching week for all of us. During the first days Brian Grogan SJ led us into a spirit and process of discernment around the theme of the Chapter. Much of that first week was devoted to considering the nature, quality and depth of our collaboration and partnership as laity and MSC, sharing our charism and mission.

The second week began with the work of revising our Provincial Statutes.

The remainder of the Chapter was spent engaging with reports from the various parts of the Province, studying the submissions from Assemblies, local communities and individual members, and sharing with one another in conversation and discernment.

As the Chapter concluded the following ten statements emerged as resolutions or "Acts" of the Chapter, offered by the members of the Chapter to the Province to help focus, steer and animate our mission and communal life for the coming six years.

1. **Older Members:** That the Provincial Administration draw up a policy regarding Care for Older Members and a policy for End of Life Care.
2. **Retreat Ministry:** In the present situation this Chapter supports and encourages new ways of engaging in the process regarding Retreat-and-Spirituality Ministries between Ireland and UK.
3. **Vocation Ministry:** The Chapter proposes that the Provincial Team and the appropriate authorities in each Assembly Area draw up a policy on the promotion of Vocations to our Society and appoint to each Assembly area a person who will make Vocation fostering his priority ministry (cf. Cons. 93).
4. **New Ministries and Renewal of Existing Ministries:** When new ideas concerning new ministries and the renewal of existing ministries arise, we propose that the Provincial Team and the appropriate authorities in each Assembly area discern and explore these ideas and engage in an appropriate consultation-process on the way forward (cf. Cons. 146).

5. **Russia:**
 - (a) That the Provincial pro-actively engages with other Provinces and the General Administration and that he uses the opportunity of the General Chapter of 2011 to highlight the need for priests in Russia.
 - (b) To explore the possibility of employing lay pastoral workers to minister in Russia liaising with the members in Russia.
6. **MSC-Lay Partnership:** The Chapter proposes the appointment of a member of the Provincial Team to encourage and co-ordinate MSC-Lay partnership.
7. **MSC-Lay Partnership:** The Chapter proposes the establishment of a core group for England and Ireland - of MSC and laity – to progress partnership.
8. **Partners-in-Mission:** The Chapter supports the exploration of new forms of partners-in-mission, inspired by our experience of journeying alongside lay people, and informed by lay missionary endeavours in other congregations.
9. **Local Initiatives in sharing our spirituality and mission:** The Chapter encourages the formation of local communities centred around our spirituality and mission and supports existing lay associations of the Chevalier family.
10. **Leadership:** The Chapter proposes appropriate leadership training at all levels including lay people as well as MSCs.