



Meeting of General Secretariat of Formation, May 2020, Rome

The meeting of the General Secretariat of Formation for the first semester of the year 2020 was unique due to the pandemic of the coronavirus.

The meeting was realized in three stages. During the first stage of the meeting Frs. Alberto Eserverri, Rogerio Gomes and Manuel Rodríguez met from May 11th to the 15th in Rome. On Wednesday of that week, May 13th, Father General, joined the meeting and offered insights as to future processes and modification of activities of the General Secretariat of Formation.

On Friday, May 15th, the other members of the General Secretariat, Fathers Hypius Václav, Edilberto Cepe and Joseph Musendami, joined the meeting through zoom videoconferencing. Brother Larry Lujan, C.Ss.R. was not able to join the meeting on May 15th, but an exclusive zoom video-conferencing meeting with him and Frs. Eserverri and Rodríguez was planned and realized on Thursday, June 4th.

The principle themes treated during these meetings and some decisions were:

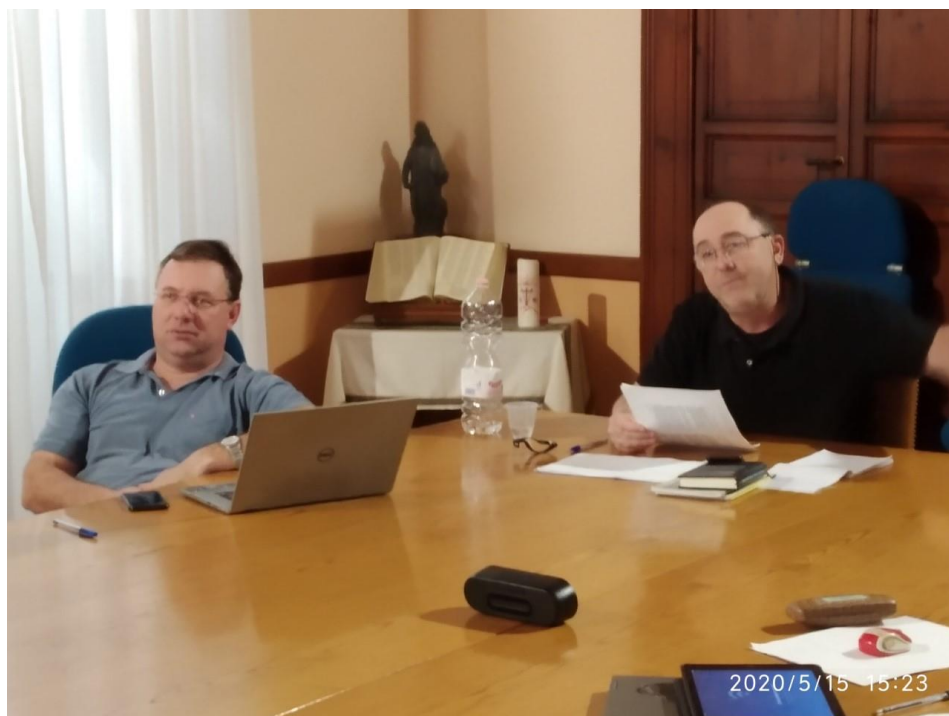
1. the process of the updated 2020 **Ratio Formationis Generalis**. The final version will be presented to the General Council for their approval during their General consulta meeting the second week of June.

2. the contents and materials for **Volumes 6, 7 and 8** of the collection of ***Redemptorist Formation*** was established.

3. The **process of the evaluation of the formation programs** by the Units and Conferences as petitioned by the XXV General Chapter in its decision # 30 was clarified. The model of visits to the Conferences and Units by the General Secretariat of Formation, due to the pandemic situation, will not be able to be carried out. A questionnaire will be sent to the coordinators for an evaluation of the formation programs of their Conferences along with the final version of the Ratio Formationis Generalis 2020. A letter from Ft. General will accompany the materials to be sent to the Coordinators. The Congregation's Units will be motivated as to the evaluations they are expected to carry out.

4. The process with regards to the **Fundamental Elements** in each of the stages of formation was further defined. The members of the General Secretariat in Rome will meet within the next few weeks to establish, when possible, a general structure for all the stages and insert the relevant indications and elements within this structural draft.

The **World Day of Redemptorist Vocation** to be celebrated on November 9th. The results of a brainstorming of ideas will continued to be worked on and a capable confrere will be asked to design a poster containing the relevant information and theme.



The following action steps was asked of the Secretariat members:

1. *That they read and offer feedback to the articles that will be sent to them and eventually published in Volume VI of the series of Redemptorist Formation.*
2. *That they collaborate with their respective Coordinators and other members of their Conference Secretariats of Formation in answering the questionnaire to be sent in June to the Coordinators about the formation programs in their respective Conferences. The response to this questionnaire has to be sent to the Office of the General Secretariat of Formation in Rome by the middle of October and will be part of the agenda of the General Secretariat meeting in November and the meeting between the Coordinators and the General Council programmed for December in Rome. An aid and reference can be found in the evaluation from the last sexennium which appeared in Volume three of the series on REDEMPTORIST FORMATION, pp. 51 – 57.*
3. *If they have any other contributions to the documents on FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS of each stage of formation, please send them to us as soon as possible as we continue to elaborate a common structure for all of the stages of these elements and insert these elements, if applicable, within this common structure.*
4. *When possible and convenient, they, as members of the General Secretariat of Formation can communicate to the superiors, formators, formandi and others interested that, as explained during this zoom videoconference, a significant change in the visitation to the Units and Formation houses has been made due to the situation of the different countries with regards to COVID – 19. The General Secretariat of Formation will continue to support and accompany the Conferences and the Units in any way possible as they respond to the petition made to them by the XXV General Chapter, Decision # 30, to evaluate their programs of initial formation.*

Considering the limitations placed on us because of the pandemic situation, we were satisfied with the continued work of the General Secretariat of Formation and these zoom videoconferencing meetings.