

Rocca di Papa, 1 February 2020

(personal letter addressed to invited participants)

Act of Convocation for the Ordinary General Assembly of the Work of Mary 2020

Dearest,

As you know my mandate will end on 12 September 2020, therefore, proceedings must begin for the election of a new President of the Work of Mary as well as the fulfilment of all the other requirements.

With this in mind, by means of this communication, according to art. 76 of the General Statutes, I convene the Ordinary General Assembly of the Work of Mary which, as communicated to the General Council on the 14 January 2020, will take place from the 31 August – 19 September at the Mariapolis Centre, Via San Giovanni Battista della Salle, Castel Gandolfo, Rome.

It is the task of the Assembly to express ideas regarding key topics for the life of the entire Movement. The ideas will be put forward by the participants no less than 30 days before the start *“following the broadest possible involvement of all the Movement”* (art. 7 of the Regulation of the Assembly from 1 September 2014).

The Assembly must elect the President, the Co-president and the men and women members of the General Council of the Centre of the Opera according to the number indicated by the President but numbering no less than 30 (art. 98 of the General Statutes) from the candidates whose names have been put forward from consultation.

All those entitled to participate in the Assembly are receiving a personal copy of this act giving them the right to be present and to have the right to vote during the elections.

The participants are those indicated by art. 77 of the Statutes of the Work of Mary. Others may also be invited to participate as observers, without the right to vote.

At the moment, on the basis of art. 115 of the General Statutes, the constituted zones are:

Italy, Western Europe, Central Europe, Violet Zone, Middle East, Central West Africa, East Africa, East Asia, Philippines, North America, Central America, Southern Cone, Brazil.

Within three months of receiving this letter of convocation, these zones should hold men's and women's assemblies to elect their representatives: two men focolarini and two women focolarine with perpetual vows and one male married focolarino and one female married focolarina with perpetual promises. (It is advisable to choose possible substitutes in case serious reasons prevent those elected from participating: one focolarino man and one woman, one man and one woman married focolarino with perpetual promises).

In a similar way, men's and women's assemblies will be held in Mariapoli Renata in the little town of Loppiano which is considered equivalent to the constituted zones as confirmed by the General Council meeting on 14 January 2020.

By the same date, the Central Councils of the branches and movements will elect their representatives from amongst their members (not more than 6 people).

The Assemblies held in the zones and in the little town should take place in accordance with the norms stated in the General Statute and the Regulation for the Assembly. It is most important that the Assemblies should begin with a spiritual retreat and a time for deep communion so that the presence of Jesus among us can guide the work and inspire the choices made for the greater good of the Movement and individual people.

The zonal delegates and the people co responsible for the little town will ensure that the people chosen, in addition to being adequately informed about the realities they represent, are aware of the need and able to live a deep experience of unity in the Assembly and are ready to contribute in the interest of and for the good of the entire Movement.

All results should be communicated within fifteen days of the elections so that lists can be prepared of all those entitled to participate in the Assembly and so that the person chosen can receive a personal copy of this Act of Convocation. It would be helpful when sending the list of names to include details of those elected, a brief profile and a personal e mail to which this Act of Convocation can be sent.

In principle, the programme of the Assembly will be as follows:

Monday 31 August – Sunday 6 September

- Approval of possible changes to the Regulation of the Assembly
- Three days of spiritual retreat in accordance with art.80 of the General Statutes
- President's report on the development of the Movement followed by time for dialogue
- Beginning of deeper examination of topics proposed

Monday 7 September – Sunday 13 September

- Continuation of work on proposals
- Presentation of candidates for President and Co president
- Election of President and Co-president

Monday 14 September – Saturday 19 September

- Presentation of the candidates and election of the members of the council (upon the confirmation of the President and Co president elect by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life)
- Conclusion of work on topics
- Approval of the final document and motions

The conclusion of the Ordinary General Assembly is planned for the end of the morning of 19 September.

For the zonal delegates, this Assembly takes the place of the annual retreat as was the case with the Assemblies in 2008 and 2014.

My deepest wish is that during this time of preparation for the Assembly, we increase our reciprocal love so that Jesus in the midst will find a welcoming dwelling place in the Assembly and guide us with his Spirit to have light in the vision and courage in its implementation.

I am with you always in this commitment.

In the deepest unity,

Dr. Maria Voce (Emmaus)

President of the Focolare Movement

(Work of Mary)