

# Letter of the preparatory commission for General Chapter 2025

*Dear Brothers in Carmel,*

**E**very six years, the Carmelite Order gathers for a General Chapter to discuss important issues relevant to our vocation as vowed religious and to elect those who will guide and govern our Order. From September 9 to 26, 2025, we will meet at the Harris Conference Center in Malang, Indonesia, under the theme: “You must have some sort of work to do” (Rule 20): Our Contemplative Fraternity Discerns Its Mission .

This theme, chosen by the General Council, invites us to reflect on our mission and ministry—a discussion which is always necessary and timely. As Carmelites, we serve God’s people in diverse ways across the world. This Chapter presents an opportunity to discern what makes our ministries distinctly “Carmelite.” How do we balance the active and contemplative dimensions of our lives? How do we share the richness of our charism with those we serve? Rooted in our prophetic tradition, we are called to be voices for the marginalized and witnesses of Christ’s peace through our fraternal brotherhood.

The General Chapter Preparatory Commission has been tasked with the responsibility of planning this important gathering. One way all Carmelites can prayerfully and thoughtfully prepare for the General Chapter is to read and reflect on the accompanying document, the *Instrumentum laboris*, in your local communities. We also ask that you include in your daily prayers the Chapter prayer that accompanies this letter. We ask that your responses to the reflection questions be sent to your local superior (e.g. Prior Provincial, Commissary General, Delegate General or Commissary Provincial) who will then collect them and forward them to the Chapter Preparatory Commission. A summary of these responses will then be presented at the General Chapter.

We also invite individuals and communities to submit proposals for consideration during the Chapter (cf. Constit. 262–263). Proposals should be concise, reasonable, and focused on concrete objectives.

The Preparatory Commission requests that proposal submissions and IL reflection responses be sent to the Secretary General by March 15, 2025. Additionally, provinces are asked to consult Constitutions 271 §1-4 regarding the number of gremiales they are permitted to send to the General Chapter. For those attending the chapter, a brief biography and recent photo should be sent to the Secretary General. Any questions or issues with the visa needed for travel to Indonesia can be directed to the Indonesian Provincial.

A website will be prepared where all relevant information regarding the General Chapter can be found.

We are grateful for your prayerful support of this important event and your active participation in the preparations through engagement with the Instrumentum laboris. May Our Lady of Mount Carmel and our Holy Father Elijah guide us as we approach this Chapter with openness and faith.

Faternally,

The General Chapter Preparatory Commission  
Fr. Christian Buenafe (Phil), President  
Br. Robert Chiulli (SEL), Secretary  
Fr. Atanael Almueda Lima (Flum),  
Fr. Patrick Kitaka Musyimi (Ken),  
Fr. Heribertus Heru Purwanto (Indo)  
Fr. Michael Troy (Hib)