

**The General Council
Mill Hill Missionaries
6 Colby Gardens
Maidenhead
SL6 7GZ**

19th February 2009

Dear Fellow Missionaries,
Fathers, Brothers, Associates and Students,

Re: Convocation of the 17th General Chapter

"The General Chapter seeks to lead the Society to renewed dedication to its missionary calling." (C55)

In compliance with D58 of our Society's Constitutions and Directives, I hereby give notice that the 17th General Chapter of St Joseph's Missionary Society is convoked from 18th May until 6th June 2010, at St Peter's College, Kuching, Malaysia.

The theme of the Chapter is "I will not fail you" (Heb. 13:5). The Call to Mission in a world thirsting for Good News is stronger than ever, yet our resources continue to diminish. Faced with a challenging future, we are invited to trust this promise of God, made manifest in Jesus Christ his Son. Our prayer is: Send us out Lord, with your help we have nothing to fear.

As you will notice, the dates of the Chapter are two months earlier than usual. This was necessary in order to accommodate the timetable of the College, that we might have exclusive and sole use of the premises during a holiday period.

With regard to choosing the venue, Chapter 2005 (Chapter 2005 Documents, p.31) directed the General Council to give "special consideration for Asia". St Peter's College, Kuching provides us with excellent facilities and a warm welcome from Archbishop John Ha, the Rector and the local Church.

Our relationship with the Church in Northern Borneo is deeply rooted in a long tradition of service to its people, dating back to 1881 when our first three Mill Hill Missionaries arrived. We believe that this venue will not only meet all our practical needs but more importantly bring some focus to our ongoing commitment to the evangelisation of Asia.

Over the next fourteen months I hope that you will use the opportunities provided by local Assemblies and all other Mill Hill meetings, to raise, reflect upon and discuss the issues that will be presented to the Chapter. The Society Assembly 2008 documents provide an excellent starting point for this process. Furthermore, any personal contributions will be welcome.

A Chapter Preparation Committee will be appointed by the General Council "to collate suggestions and proposals made by the Members and Associates, individually or in groups, for submission to the Chapter" (D63).

The election of Chapter delegates will begin soon. I attach a copy of the Chapter Representation and election procedure to be followed. Chapter 2010 noted that "there should be a preference for younger representation where possible" (Chapter 2010 Documents, p. 31).

My own personal hope is that this whole process will bring our Society together in our common purpose of finding and making ways to continue our Mission of love and service to the world. With this aim at heart, God will surely not fail us.

Let us pray that all our preparations for a fruitful Chapter that will lead us to renewed dedication to our missionary calling.

With all good wishes,

Anthony Chantry



Anthony Chantry MHM
General Superior