



BROTHERS OF  
SAINT JOHN

## Final Message of the Provincial Chapter for the Province of the Americas

**Priory of Mexico City, January 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Our Provincial Chapter began by a pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where the Virgin Mary appeared in 1532 to a native, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin ("the eagle who speaks" in Aztec). In this place where an enormous movement of evangelization began, we wanted to strengthen and renew our engagement towards our Province of the Americas.



The same day, at the beginning of the afternoon, we listened to the report of the Provincial Administrator, Brother John Michael Paul, who retraced for us the historical stages of the growth of our Province and recalled the importance of taking care of the Regions, in their diversity, Mexico and the United States, as well as Brazil, to preserve unity. He also reminded us of the importance of discernment in accompanying the brothers to prevent painful situations.

### **The regions**

Our Province is strongly marked by the existence of three cultures which call for the establishment of formation paths specific to each of these Regions.



### *Brazil*

Our only priory in Brazil continues to attract young men wishing to join our community. We will continue to develop a provincial strategy for our future in this country.

### *The Mexico Region*

For some years already our Mexican brothers have set up the path of initial formation from the postulancy to the studies in theology. Nonetheless, they still have to strengthen and complete it.

### *The United States Region*

Our brothers in the United States have also drawn up a course of initial formation to be carried out in the country. It will now be necessary to elaborate the details, both by specifying the stages of this journey and their duration, and the material conditions.

### **Our vision**

In groups we set about drawing a vision of our Province, regions and priories. From this emerges the desire of the brothers to strengthen their fraternal bonds and apostolic cooperation within their respective regions, which have a strong cultural identity. This regional autonomy is a rather unique aspect of our Province. We intend to make it bear fruit. Two recurring themes concerning life in our priories were making them good places to live and caring for vocations. In addition, our Provincial has asked each capitulant brother to propose three concrete and important orientations that he would like to see the provincial council working on between now and the next provincial chapter, which will evaluate them. The Provincial has undertaken with his council to draw up a plan of action taking these proposals into account.



### **Reports**

We listened to the report of the Interdisciplinary Commission presented by Brother Renaud-Marie and Brother Jean-Eudes. This information provoked several questions: how could this evil have infiltrated while concealing itself? But even more, how today, while implementing preventive and remedial measures, avoid remaining focused on the past?



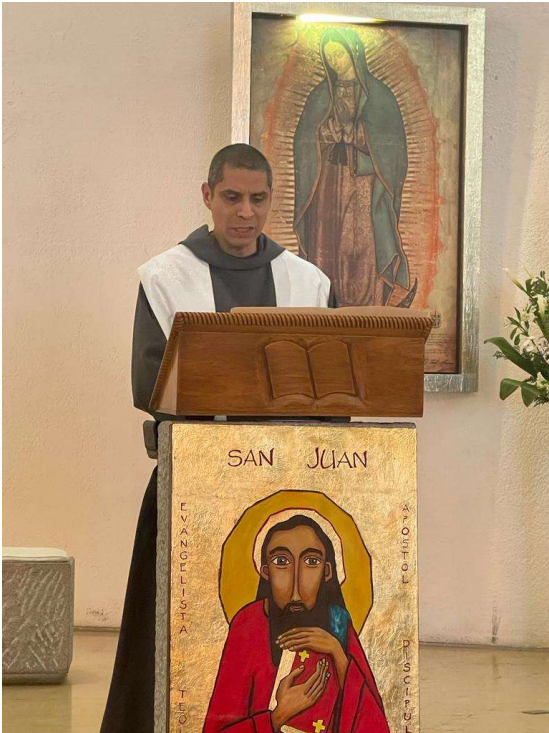
Then Brother François-Xavier also joined us in a video conference meeting to explain the work of reform in our community. He invited us to let go of any illusions that we might still have, and above all to write a community account of our history, admittedly wounded, but seeking to discern in it how God has worked through these storms in order that we bear fruit for the Church today.

The next morning we had a video conference meeting with Brother Jean Polycarpe, the General Responsible for Formation, who presented our new Ratio Formationis to us. This allowed us to discover its richness and in particular the tools that greatly facilitate its understanding and use. Brother Jean Polycarpe also wished to listen to the challenges that the brothers perceive for our province.

## Elections

On Thursday morning January 19, after drawing up a profile of the Provincial, we proceeded to the deliberation. Then, after singing the Veni Creator, we elected Brother Jesus Rodriguez as the first Prior Provincial of the Americas. He was previously prior of Orange in the United States.

The same day at the end of the afternoon we began the process for the election of the Provincial Responsible for Formation which resulted the next day in the proposal of the three names among which our new Provincial chose Brother Mario Gonzalez, Master of Novices in Monterrey, Mexico.



On Friday evening the vote of the members of the Chapter decided on Brother Miguel Pro Castañeda, Prior of Mexico City and parish priest, as adviser to the Provincial.

The third member of the Council will be chosen later by the Provincial.

The next Extraordinary Provincial Chapter is convened from Tuesday, September 24 to Sunday, September 29, 2024. The place will be specified later.

## Conclusion

We give thanks for the establishment of our Province of the Americas.

We thank our brothers of the priory of Mexico City for their warm and

Thoughtful welcome as well as for having prepared and carried the accommodation and the material organization of this Chapter.

Above all, we deeply thank our brother John Michael Paul, who for thirteen years carried the burden of government and worked in order that we be established in Provinces today.

We ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to bless our new Provincial, our Provincial Formation Leader and councilors, as well as all the brothers in the Province.

The members of the Chapter



