

# THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2018



## PREPARATION - SHARING- DISCERNMENT

### *THE FORMATORS.*

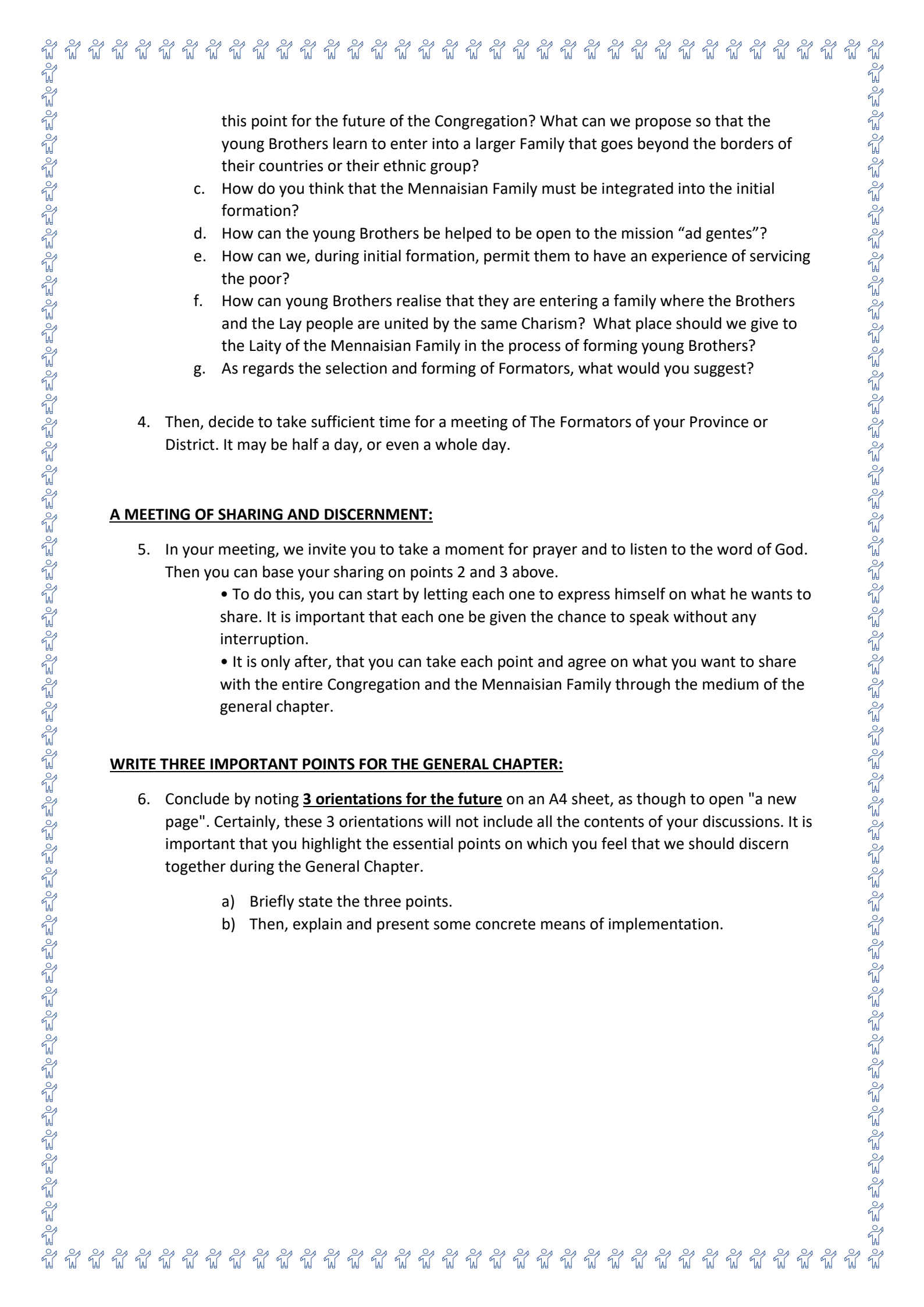
To prepare for the General Chapter, the general Council decided to invite you to make your contribution.

We therefore propose that you enter into this process in a spirit of community discernment of the demands which the Holy Spirit addresses to us today. You will carry out this discernment, of course, by sharing your own responsibility. You will also try not to halt there, but to open up to the Congregation as a whole.

We invite you to make a real effort to scrutinize the horizon beyond your own borders: As a way of helping you, here is the action that we invite you to take.

#### **SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE MEETING TOGETHER TAKE TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

1. Personally read the two texts attached to this letter:
  - I. A brief presentation of the Congregation and of the Mennaisian family, today.
  - II. A conference of Father Mark Weber, SVD, to the Superiors General, May 2017:  
**Vocational Discernment in an Intercultural World**
2. Note what these two texts should inspire you in the following areas: formation; the Mennaisian Family; the educational mission; our openness to the most disadvantaged, shared culture; the pastoral care of vocations; etc.
3. Then try to respond individually to the following questions, by going beyond your own house of formation, and thus taking into account the entire Congregation.
  - a. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the formation that is given to our younger Brothers?  
What do you propose, for the whole Congregation, as a basis for future development of formation?
  - b. How is the mixture of cultures experienced within the community that you are establishing with the young Brothers? What suggestions would you like to make on



this point for the future of the Congregation? What can we propose so that the young Brothers learn to enter into a larger Family that goes beyond the borders of their countries or their ethnic group?

- c. How do you think that the Mennaisian Family must be integrated into the initial formation?
  - d. How can the young Brothers be helped to be open to the mission “ad gentes”?
  - e. How can we, during initial formation, permit them to have an experience of servicing the poor?
  - f. How can young Brothers realise that they are entering a family where the Brothers and the Lay people are united by the same Charism? What place should we give to the Laity of the Mennaisian Family in the process of forming young Brothers?
  - g. As regards the selection and forming of Formators, what would you suggest?
4. Then, decide to take sufficient time for a meeting of The Formators of your Province or District. It may be half a day, or even a whole day.

#### **A MEETING OF SHARING AND DISCERNMENT:**

5. In your meeting, we invite you to take a moment for prayer and to listen to the word of God. Then you can base your sharing on points 2 and 3 above.
- To do this, you can start by letting each one to express himself on what he wants to share. It is important that each one be given the chance to speak without any interruption.
  - It is only after, that you can take each point and agree on what you want to share with the entire Congregation and the Mennaisian Family through the medium of the general chapter.

#### **WRITE THREE IMPORTANT POINTS FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER:**

6. Conclude by noting **3 orientations for the future** on an A4 sheet, as though to open "a new page". Certainly, these 3 orientations will not include all the contents of your discussions. It is important that you highlight the essential points on which you feel that we should discern together during the General Chapter.
- a) Briefly state the three points.
  - b) Then, explain and present some concrete means of implementation.