

# THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2018



## PREPARATION - SHARING- DISCERNMENT

### ***BROTHERS AND LAITY ENGAGED IN THE VOCATIONAL MINISTRY***

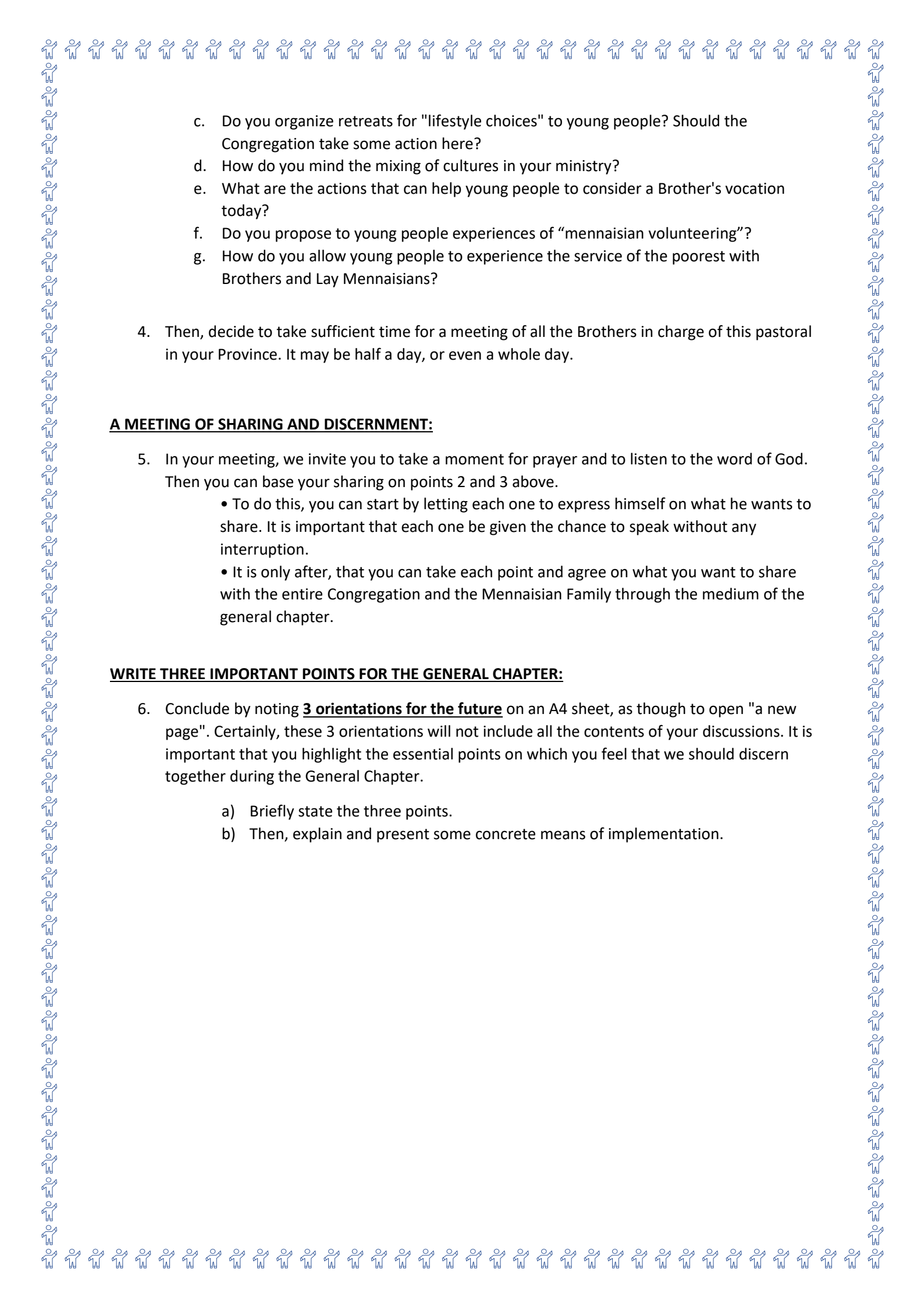
To prepare for the General Chapter, the general Council decided to invite you to make your contribution.

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. The preparatory document of the next SYNOD: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment - FAITH, DISCERNMENT, VOCATIONN.
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 your pastoral care of vocations?
  - b. Are there Young Mennaisians in your Province / District? If so, what is proposed as an experience that opens them to a choice of a lifestyle? If not, why? What do you suggest?

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- c. Do you organize retreats for "lifestyle choices" to young people? Should the Congregation take some action here?
  - d. How do you mind the mixing of cultures in your ministry?
  - e. What are the actions that can help young people to consider a Brother's vocation today?
  - f. Do you propose to young people experiences of "mennaisian volunteering"?
  - g. How do you allow young people to experience the service of the poorest with Brothers and Lay Mennaisians?

4. Then, decide to take sufficient time for a meeting of all the Brothers in charge of this pastoral in your Province. 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.