

Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood

Charitable Trusts of the Congregation of Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
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His Eminence
Cardinal João Braz de Avis
Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life
And Societies of Apostolic Life
Piazza Pio XII, 3
00193 Roma

3rd May 2019

Request for a Change in Constitution 116

Your Eminence,

The Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood, currently gathered for our General Chapter in Drumalia, Larne, Northern Ireland, is a small international missionary congregation of 213 members, with communities in Australia, England, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Nigeria, Scotland, Singapore, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In response to our changing demographics and following a consultation with members of the Congregation we ask permission to make a change to Constitution 116:

Currently Cons. 116 reads:

Four General Councillors are elected by the General Chapter for six years and may be re-elected for a second term but not for an immediate third term of office.

We seek permission to change Constitution 116 to read:

At least three General Councillors are elected by the General Chapter for six years and may be re-elected for a second term but not for an immediate third term of office.

This proposal was put to our General Chapter on its first day of session – 3rd May 2019 and was accepted unanimously with the 40 voting participants all voting in favour.

Consequently, we ask for the confirmation of the Holy See so that this change in our Constitutions can be implemented at this current Chapter when voting for our new General Council. This process of voting is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 16th May**

For reference I have included a copy of our Constitutions, most recently approved in June 2003 following the 2001 General Chapter.

We would greatly appreciate your attention to this request before **Wednesday 15th May**, and assure you of our prayers for you and your work in support of religious life throughout the world at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Handwritten signature of Jane Bertelsen in black ink.

Sr. Jane Bertelsen, FMDM
Congregational Leader

Handwritten signature of Helen Doyle in black ink.

Sr Helen Doyle FMDM
1st General Councillor