



GENERAL CONFERENCE

Neustadt 2012

“Educare” the Young Generations as Dehonians

Prot N. 2011-001

Rome, March 14th, 2011

Dearest Confrere,

in view of the 8th General Conference (Neustadt, 16-21 July 2012) we have met as a Commission to organize the event. The suggestion to hold a conference on education was put forward by the educators who participated in the 2008 meeting in Salamanca, where they stated that, *“we need to become aware of the importance of education, which involves the whole Congregation”*.

The idea was brought to the 22nd General Chapter of 2009, which accepted it and recommended in its final document that, *“a General Conference be held on the topic of education and culture and how they are related”*.

After discussing the matter further with the Major Superiors during a meeting held in October 2010, the General Administration indicated that the Conference should focus on: educating, Dehonian values, and the young generations. During all meetings, the use of the word *education* created some problems, because in some contexts it appears to be rather narrow in meaning, for instance it may refer only to teaching in schools.

That is why we have chosen to use the Latin word **“Educare”**, by which we mean a mission that involves all Dehonians, no matter where they work and what they do. The term refers to the positive contribution we can give to the life and growth of individuals, especially in the stage in which one’s personality is formed and structured. The title of the Conference will be: *«“Educare” the Young Generations as Dehonians »*.

As a Congregation, we believe that through our Dehonian values we can contribute to the growth of the young generations. The attached form, which we ask each individual confrere to fill out, is meant to help us understand which are the values that as a Dehonian educator you feel you must pass on.

Please send your reply to the General Secretary's Office or forward it by email at educare2012@dehon.it by 30 May 2011. We also attach a prayer that we hope may sustain you in preparing for the Conference, as well as in fulfilling your responsibility as educator, which we all share.

The preparatory committee:

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P. Olav Hamelijnck (GE)

P. Anísio José Schwirkowski (BM)

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P. Mathieu Yvon (MAD)