

CHAPTER III

THE CONSTITUTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE BROTHER'S VOCATION

12 The challenges and the needs in the world today are many and overwhelming. The Brothers, however, cannot disperse their efforts in every area where they might possibly be called upon to be of service. To be effective, the part played by the Institute in the work of the Church and in building up the temporal city has to be coherent and specific. It is necessary, therefore, to define the elements that constitute the Brother's vocation, apart from which he cannot be recognized as a member of the Institute.

13 1 - The General Chapter declares that the Brother is a baptized Christian who responds to a special and mysterious call from God. He consecrates himself totally to God and to God's service by his religious profession, and he works to integrate, in the unity of a lifetime under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the following elements.

2 - The Brother gives full and explicit expression to his baptismal consecration (PC 5) by committing himself, through the profession of public vows received by the Church, to an Institute that is exclusively lay.

3 - The Brother specifies his determination to work in the service of persons for the glory of God by giving himself to a community that is totally dedicated to the Kingdom of God: witnessing to its presence in the world, announcing it to people everywhere, serving the cause of its coming, and promoting its growth in the world. By doing the work to which he is assigned, every Brother, no matter what his actual duties, contributes to the communal realization of the unique mission that the Institute receives from the Church.

4 - The Brother assumes in a community context an educational mission which, at the Institute level, by preference is directed to the poor and which engages the individual Brother -- whoever might be the immediate beneficiaries of the enterprises in which he works -- to the service of those whose poverty is an obstacle to their development as human persons or to their ability to receive the message of salvation revealed in Jesus Christ.

5 - The Brother labors to bring into reality the divine plan of salvation, not only when he exercises the ministry of the Word of God, but also by devoting himself, in everything he teaches, to the education of those he helps to arrive at authentic and complete maturity as human persons (GS 53).

6 - The Brother considers the school the preferred but not the exclusive means "to form at the very heart of human history the family of the sons and daughters of God" (GS 40).