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Msgr. Fernando Ocáriz Names the Vicars and Other Members of the Central Advisory and the General Council of Opus Dei

During the session of the 10th Ordinary General Congress of Opus Dei, as established by current regulations, in addition to the vicars, the Prelate appointed the other members of the Central Advisory and the General Council, the bodies that

assist the Prelate in governing the institution.

05/01/2025

Auxiliary Vicar, Vicar General, and Central Secretary Vicar

During the Ordinary General Congress, the Prelate confirmed Msgr. Mariano Fazio (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1960) as Auxiliary Vicar.

He also appointed Fr. Javier del Castillo (Mexico City, 1975) Vicar General and Msgr. José Andrés Carvajal (Murcia, Spain, 1970) Central Secretary Vicar.

Other appointments to the General Council

The Prelate appointed the remaining members of the Council, who are responsible for overseeing the

different areas of Opus Dei's formative and apostolic work — initiatives with young people, evangelization of the family, theological and spiritual formation — as well as delegates for different regions.

More information: [Page on the 10th Ordinary General Congress](#)

The vice-secretaries are Josemaría Sánchez Blanco (degree in communications, Spain, 1979), Marcelo Valenga (industrial engineer, Brazil, 1979), and Andrew Laird (lawyer, United States, 1985).

The Regional Delegates are: José Paulo Denadai Carelli (Brazil), Giorgio Fozzati (Italy), Francisco

Espinosa (Mexico), Jerome Kliatchko (Philippines), Carlos Varela (Platine Region, Chile and Peru), Javier de Juan Pardo (Spain and Portugal), and Rafael Aresté Sancho (United States and Canada),

Ángel José Gómez Montoro (professor of constitutional law, Spain, 1960) was appointed Prefect of Studies, and José Chávez Hernández (degree in Accounting and MBA, Mexico, 1970) was appointed General Administrator.

Appointments to the Central Advisory

With the approval of the participants in the General Congress, the Prelate appointed María Julia Prats Moreno (PhD in Business Administration, Spain, 1964) Central Secretary, and María Díaz Soloaga (technical aeronautical engineer, Spain, 1970) Secretary of the Advisory.

The Prelate also appointed vice-secretaries for the different areas of formation for members of the Work and for apostolic initiatives with families and young people: Nicola Waite (BA in English Literature and Hispanic Studies, United Kingdom, 1979), Fernanda Zaidan Lopes (BSc in Chemistry, Brazil, 1986), and Teddy Nalubega (Electrical and Renewable Energy Engineer, Uganda, 1984).

Regional Delegates were appointed for the circumscriptions in which the apostolic work of the Prelature is organized: Fiona Cassar (Australia and New Zealand), Priscila Fleury (Brazil and Peru), Verónica Ramos (Caribbean), Cristina Aparicio (Central America), Magdalena de Pedro (Central Northern Europe), Eseoghene Diejomaoh (Central West Africa), Ignacia Prado (Chile), Pilar Alberro (Colombia and Ecuador), Olivia Goh (East and South Asia), Emmanuelle Anton (France and

Belgium), Carla Vassallo (Italy), Isabel Vera (Mexico), Ebelechukwu Okoye (Nigeria), Helena Barroso (Northwest Europe), Maria Lourdes Serra (Philippines), María Paz López Hermida (Platine Region), Rosário Libano Monteiro (Portugal), Isabel Sánchez (Spain), and Susana Christiansen (United States and Canada).

Finally, Kathryn Plazek (BA in English Literature and Russian and Eastern European Studies, United States, 1988) and Ana Casero Palmero (dual degree in Law and Business Administration, Spain, 1984) were appointed Prefect of Studies and Prefect for Assistant Numeraries, respectively. Florencia Carloni (economist, Argentina, 1982) was appointed Central Procurator for Resource Administration.

Other appointments

At the conclusion of the Congress, the Prelate appointed Fr. Pau Agulles (Spain, 1977) Prefect for Spiritual Formation and Fr. Paul O'Callaghan (Ireland, 1956) Procurator before the Holy See.

The Prefect for Spiritual Formation assists the Prelate in the spiritual guidance of the faithful and in doctrinal and liturgical matters. Among his responsibilities is accompanying the members of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, an association of clerics intrinsically united to the Prelature of Opus Dei. The Procurator, for his part, is more directly responsible for the Prelature's relations with the Holy See.

Separate from the Congress, in the Prelate's advisory departments, the new Director of the Communications Office of the Central Advisory is Gretta Sánchez Alvarado (Venezuela),

and the new Director of the Communications Office of the General Council is Juan Pablo Cannata (Argentina).

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