



## Day 2:

24 November – Ana Maria's Birthday. "Happy Birthday" in different languages was sung by the Capitulants: another new "Zoom" experience! Catherine Pilethiran's birthday and Delphine Nguezia's feast-day were also remembered.



Ana Maria ALCALDE



Catherine Pilethiran



Delphine Nguezia

After the Opening Prayer, Matthieu recalled the previous day's work and brought the Capitulants to focus on the orientations for this second day.

The Election of the Superior General was scheduled for November 27, therefore the work of the oncoming days would be a discernment process directed mainly towards choosing potential members for the next General Leadership Team.

In preparation for this task, the Capitulants were instructed to recall the key elements of the work already done pre-Chapter, to reflect on and discern the main issues that the whole body and what the new GLT needs to prioritise over the next 6 years.

Explaining the purpose of reviewing these issues, the facilitator specified the necessity to choose Sisters who can help to lead the Institute towards the path that we are discerning for the future.

#### He gave three questions to orient the reflection:

- ◆ What are the main issues for the next 6 years?
- ◆ What competencies will be required for the members of the future General Team?
- ◆ What are the profiles of the Sisters who could be part of the future team?

With this explanation, the Sisters were sent to small groups for their reflection and sharing.



### Fruits of their reflection:

#### Issues for the next 6 years:

- Formation – integral and life long, offer intercultural experience, evaluate international/intercultural novitiates, attention to Pastoral care of vocations
- Accompaniment – not only initial but also till the end of life
- Formation of personnel – in different areas, preparing for continuation
- Structures – Administering of general pooling of the Institute, financial sustain-

ability, Finances for Mission; revise the mission of the Centre of Spirituality in Martillac, Vicariate structure; dynamic structure for PBN Family – strengthen 5 vocations.

- Empower members in relation to - Climate change, the destruction of Planet.

#### Competence and Profile:

Sisters with a sense of belonging to the Family, team spirit, ability to communicate, having a global vision of the Institute, Church, world;

capacity to listen and discern, effective communication, ability to use new technology, flexibility, openness to the reality, readiness to bring change, and courage to take risks, willing to learn, able to manage complex situations, persons with hope and dynamism;

Those with good health, rooted in their culture and open to the diversity of others, passion for mission, open to learn new languages, with some experience of leadership, merciful and gentle, with wisdom.



After listening to some the sharing of some of the group, Matthieu commented that it is not possible to expect any one Sister to have all the requirements expressed; “Each one will have her limits!”. He invited them to remember not to be too idealistic it while they entered into reflection and discernment.

Time was then given to some General Leadership Team members to share their lived experiences as to how the team works. Sisters Kumudinie Dassanayake, Ana Maria Alcalde and Malinie Jayamanne spoke about their experience.

### Some points from their sharing:

⇒ The 2014 General Chapter voted to have four Apostolic councillors instead of five, considering the decreasing numbers in the

Institute and the need to encourage more participation at local level.

⇒ The Focus was on animation to empower local leadership teams. With this aim, an Online Leadership Program for an extended group was organized; this made a positive impact towards participative leadership.

⇒ The tasks were demanding. Sometimes council matters coming from the Units had to be expedited within a short time period or with short notice; in general, the GLT took very little time to rest and relax personally or as a community.

⇒ Some issues took much time to discern together and “compensation” could not always be avoided.

⇒ Community prayer was always a strength



Malinie Jayamanne also shared some elements of her experience of living her role as General Bursar, pointing out that she joined the GLT two years after the others had begun the mandate.

⇒ As General Bursar, her task has been demanding with many matters to attend to, including administrative tasks in the Generalate itself. so being part of the Council and taking part in the meetings was heavy. There is a need for well-trained Sisters to assist and support the General Bursar’s role.

After listening, time was given to the Capitulants to express their views, comments and feelings.

Matthieu concluded the day inviting the Capitulants to allow to play in their minds overnight what they had heard during the day, especially the experiences of the General Leadership Team. He asked them to be open to the Spirit and keep pondering the following question:

“Which Sisters could be part of the next General Leadership Team as Superior General or as Councillors?”

## Day 3

The day's prayer began with an invocation to the Holy Spirit, and drawing inspiration from the reading of Mt. 5: 14, "You are the light of the world".



Silent music to make us dance our life ...come

Clear lens that makes us look at reality with hope ... come

Loving comforter of the poor and afflicted ...  
Come

The prayer also echoed that "Communion circu-

lates among us... around us. Something new is being created and generated".

The first assignment of the day involved calling to mind the Preparatory Meeting, where the Capitulants were asked to consider what real changes were necessary so that the Holy Family Sisters of 2040 would be grateful for the choices made in 2021.

Matthieu began by quoting this warning:

**"If we keep doing what we have been doing, we are going to keep getting what we have been getting."**

He invited them to connect to the following elements.

 "In 2040, some Sisters who are in this assembly will no longer be there, many young ones will not yet have entered. However, your choices today will have some impact on them... for which they will appreciate you.

 Allow the above two questions to move you, developing your thinking about the changes you think necessary, for you are called to revitalise yourselves by letting go of the same patterns of thinking and doing."



After the guidelines, the participants were sent to the small groups to be involved in conversations – after which they were instructed on the following:

### At the center / Au centre / En el centro

- 2040: what would your sisters in 2040 be grateful to YOU today for?
- 2040: **pour quoi vos sœurs en 2040 seraient pleines de gratitude pour VOUS aujourd'hui?**
- 2040: ¿qué TE agradecerían hoy tus hermanas de 2040?
- What would be real innovation, real transformation, rather than repetition of the past?
- **Qu'est-ce qui serait une réelle innovation, une réelle transformation, plutôt qu'une répétition du passé?**
- ¿Qué sería una verdadera innovación, una verdadera transformación, en lugar de la repetición del pasado?
- Which sisters would be gifted at leading us outside of our repetitive patterns?
- **Quelles sœurs seraient douées pour nous diriger en sortant de nos schémas répétitifs?**
- ¿Qué hermanas tendrían el don de guiarnos fuera de nuestros patrones repetitivos?

- ◆ After the break of the first session, Matthieu clarified more points about choosing sisters; giving suggestions as how to connect with the capitulant (via personal chat or choosing a “zoom room”) with whom one wants to talk in relation to the matter in hand.
- ◆ Maintaining the space of confidentiality was emphasised.

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## Day 4

M. Daum once again reminded the Capitulants that they have been engaged in an ongoing discernment process reaching back even beyond the 2018 and 2019 Enlarged General Councils and the Pre-Chapter meeting of Feb-March 2021...

Reflection and group interaction on day 3, around WHICH SISTERS HAVE THE CAPACITY TO LEAD THE INSTITUTE and animate it to live its purpose at this particular “crossroads” in its existence resulted in a long list of names.

Today, then, was a space for “*Murmuratio*” based on this list – a structured time, with specific rules to facilitate fair, honest and brief one-to-one question and answer conversations in order to seek the information necessary to proceed to the Elections. First, however, the Facilitator opened the floor for dialogue around any issues that individual Capitulants considered important for all to hear at this stage of the discernment. Thus it was that several points were raised, including:

- ◆ The Institute is at a decisive moment in its history – a time of opportunity

- ◆ The time has come to for the Institute to ACT, to implement the options taken.
- ◆ To be aware that, where there is fragility, there is a strong need for accompaniment
- ◆ Is the age of the candidates an issue?
- ◆ The need to risk, to take a radical step, so something new can emerge for Mission
- ◆ We need leaders who have a vision of the future, and who can lead and hold the whole Body.. who can develop and extend our Charism, and are capable of finding and urging new responses.
- ◆ Structures that are flexible and are life-promoting.

The accent was on being open to the new, being ready to let go of the secure and familiar, not being tied to what we have always done...

The rest of the day’s Session was given to personal reflection and “*Murmuratio*”, in preparation for the election of the Superior General on day 5.

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## Day 5

27/11/2021

Election of the Superior General

THE ELECTION RESULTS will only be known after all the postal ballots have arrived in Rome and been counted in Chapter.

SO WE WILL WAIT IN PATIENCE, FAITH AND TRUST.

