



Day 6

During the 6th day, Mattheiu led the Capitulants to go back to the experience of Feb – March, the journey initiated, to see where the Body is in this specific time in its history.

He recalled the question that came up in the EGC of 2019 – “Can we still live our purpose...?” – which was then worked on in the Unit Chapters and how the feedback was dealt with in Feb-March process.

The whole of last week, the Capitulants worked mainly on the discernment process for the election of the Superior General of the Institute. The time had come now to see and sense what we are to be collectively committed to bring forward, for the best possible future for the Body.

In that sense, he linked to what the participants as a whole have accepted - that we are in a critical situation. In fact, a survey carried out during the February-March process showed that the vast

majority of the Capitulants admitted that the Institute is in a critical or very critical state. This was a significant awakening, which has the strong potential to stimulate the emergence of a decisive response. “Can we still live our purpose as we begin our 3rd Century?” The question has still not been answered.

Explaining further the present reality, Matthieu said, “you are entering into a particular time in your history ... the reality you are aware of, is strongly linked to your reflection and action. Listen to the results without judgment.” Everyone was invited to get in touch with what was echoing in her after studying the work done by the 8 groups that have worked with the Body since Feb-March: Interculturality, Mission and Missionary call, Formation, Finance, Structures, Vicariate Structures, Units in the Evening of Life, and the PBN Family.

Time was given for personal reflection and work in small groups, with the instruction to carefully avoid:

The habitual, familiar and repetitive words, which will convey less meaning or no meaning with their frequent use.

(We can imagine that for the Capitulants, it was a real challenge not to use these “Banned Words”!)

And to use words which are significant to new ways of understanding and realizing.

He also emphasized on being specific and concrete.

Banned / Interdits / Prohibidas

- Jesus, Mary, PB Noailles, PBN family, 5 branches, Mission, praying, improving, community, Gospel, God, structures, empower, role of member, belonging, reinforce etc.
- **Jésus, Marie, PB Noailles, Famille PBN, 5 branches, Mission, prier, améliorer, communauté, Evangile, Dieu, structures, responsabiliser, rôle de membre, appartenance, renforcer, etc.**
- **Jesús, María, PB Noailles, familia PBN, 5 ramas, Misión, rezar, mejorar, comunidad, Evangelio, Dios, estructuras, potenciar, rol de miembro, pertenencia, reforzar, etc.**

Questions:

- ♦ What moved in me when I read all the documents of the 8 groups?
- ♦ What links, connections do I make, between all these different productions?
- ♦ What seems crucial to me?
- ♦ How much does what is being proposed match the (very) critical state of the body?



A random sharing of some points:

- ⇒ To strengthen the Council of the Family with more collaboration and responsibility, including a representation of the Holy Family youth
- ⇒ Participative leadership at all levels; create a supportive system for the Vicariate.
- ⇒ Working together to develop a new understanding of Ecology and simple life style
- ⇒ A theology enabling to recognize the sacredness in all.
- ⇒ A transformation towards Ecological conversion
- ⇒ Take the opportunity of the Church's movement towards Synodality and walk together with the Church.
- ⇒ Attentive to the cry of the poor and earth
- ⇒ Mission is our reference point for all our action
- ⇒ Intercultural communities in all countries
- ⇒ Financial sustainability
- ⇒ Formation for Mission – accompaniment at all levels, intercultural communities.

Day 7

30/11/2021

Capitulant for the Whole – or just for my part?

Reviewing the ground covered since Feb -March, Matthieu challenged all to a self-evaluation. As Capitulants, were they concerned for the vitality of the whole Body? Were they able to sustain an inner state of discernment? Are they aware that this role is different from any other role they may fill? He invited them to ask themselves the necessary questions: What is the role of a Capitulant? What do I need to do when I step into this role? What do I need to leave behind in order to be fully committed to this responsibility?

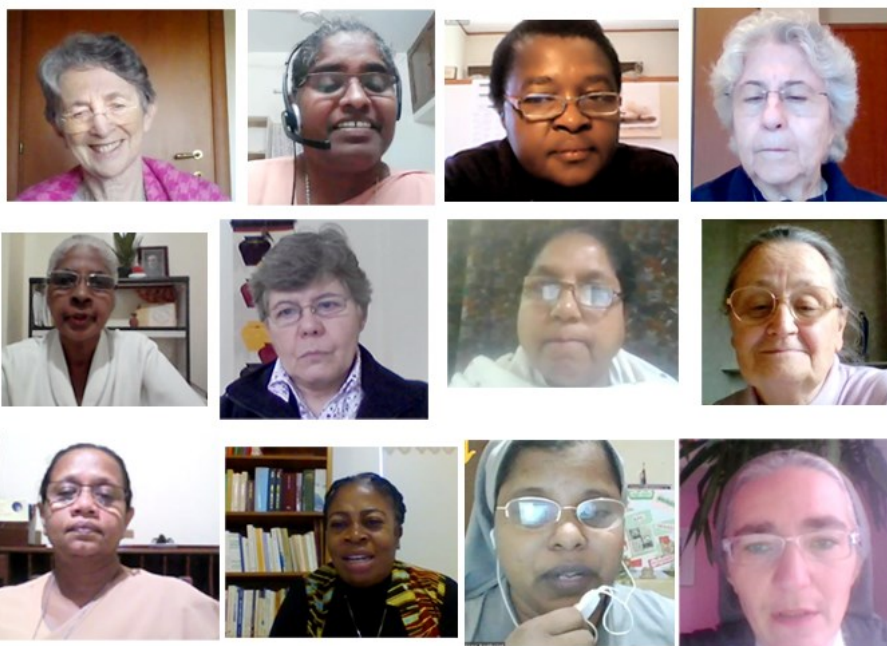
An invitation to a time of “self-reflection” - to sense and to really enter in faith, gradually connecting deeply with self.

Two things to consider:

- Being a Capitulant
- The Phase of discernment

Four questions for personal reflection:

1. To what degree have I stepped into the role of Capitulant? How much am I still operating from the perspective of my part of the Body?
2. What preoccupations have held me back from looking at things from the perspective of the Whole?
3. What might I have missed from what some of my Sisters have been sharing?
4. What other key elements of a discernment process have we overlooked?



After reflecting on their experience of the journey, some responses:



- We are a group representing *one Body* – one system
- We are “sensing and presencing” (Theory U) what is resonating as an embodiment of the whole
- Making a journey together through our reflection and discernment
- We are rooted in our personal commitment as capitulant with self-awareness.

Challenges of focusing on the role:



- Collegial commitment is an issue because of the language and culture differences. But there are intangible ways of

connecting with one another, even though meeting and conversations are limited.

- Questions about the quality of generative listening if we are preoccupied with preparing reports
- There has been a certain tension, sense of urgency, time to let go and go forward, Sisters are expecting something new from us
- There is a certain failure to be fully open to the process with concern for the future.
- Have we moved away from what is essential, some resistance to the process and the way it's going?
- Sense of pressure in participating and managing zoom and technical aspects.

The second part of today's session consisted of a return to the reports done by eight different groups since Feb-March: Interculturality, Mission and Missionary call, Formation, Finance, Structures, Vicariate Structure, Units in the dusk of Life, and the PBN Family.

The Capitulants were divided into eight new groups to study these themes – however, care had been taken by the Facilitators to make sure that no-one was assigned to a topic she had previously worked on.

After reading and reflection on the document, the group task was to see how much the proposals of this particular

group match the critical situation of the Body - and what is still missing?

Time was given for personal space and group sharing. The last hour was hearing session in the plenary.

In general, the groups were appreciative of the work done by the various teams; there was, however, a sense that some of the reports had not gone far enough in making practical proposals capable of making a real difference or lifting the body from its critical situation. Further work on these topics would seem to be indicated.

Day 8

1 Dec 2021

AT THE BEND IN THE ROAD

The theme of today's prayer was, “A Journey”- this journey also connected us with Advent, a time of “stepping beyond”. Advent points us to a God of the future, a God who will always be more than anything we are, so as we awaken to a new being in Christ then we too are to become something more...

A bend in the road is not an end in the road, unless we fail to make the turn. (Helen Keller)



Yesterday provided an intensive time of self-reflection on the role of the Capitulant, and the need for them to be open to the whole Body, not just their own particular part; the importance of being focused on the process of discernment was also stressed: they are in a search together as the group responsible for moving this Chapter towards where it needs to go.

Facilitation Committee members invited to share their concerns

The role of the members of the Committee is to work directly with the Facilitator, perceive the group's collegial response and prepare strategies to move the Chapter forward. After each day's session, they meet for an hour or more, to evaluate the process and plan the next steps. In a departure from the usual process, M. Daum this morning invited the members of the

Committee to share, from a personal standpoint, their sense of how things were going with the Chapter. So five Sisters: Ana María Alcalde, Ana María Alvarez, Micheline Kenda, Catherine Lavery and M. Dolores Sanzberro each took their turn.

What did they say?

Certain feelings of frustration were expressed by all : some had the impression that the Chapter was circling around without coming up with any meaningful and transformational steps: "walking on parallel lines", some Delegates happy to repeat what we know, others wanting something new to come, without a clear direction. They asked questions as to what vision, what dream do we have for the Institute? Are our potential and energies on the wane? Do we not have sufficient light to walk in communion and synodality? Are we lacking a unified response?

Let the image speak:

There is a recurring biblical image that has accompanied the Chapter process from the beginning: that of the 'BOAT'. Today, it was evoked once again.

Gospel of Luke 5: 4-5

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch'."

"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets'."



One of the Facilitators' group reminded the Delegates that as a body, they have the choice to drop the net gently into shallow waters... and be disappointed because the net will come out empty - or as a Chapter they can dare, risk and courageously cast the net into the deep, so the catch will be plentiful.

Tough questions were asked:

- ⇒ At this stage is the net empty?
- ⇒ We have been going through a lot of preparation, but each of us is standing beside the boat or in our own boat; do we know the depths

that we want to reach?

- ⇒ Are our boats sailing around in circles, and not putting out into the deep?
- ⇒ We need to dream with faith, deeply listen to God and then ACT.

Speak your truth

Challenged and somewhat disturbed by this sharing, the Capitulants were next invited to express their own honest viewpoints, to name their feelings and reactions, and the images they could connect with this present reality.

Small groups provided a “sacred space” to share their truth, and then time was given to feedback in the plenary session.

Look at your call and seek light

Matthieu specified their collective approaches saying, “You are somewhere at the bottom of the “U”, you are searching for a light. In this journey, at the bottom “U”, we often get stuck, afraid that

our attempts might become a failure.

He shared an example: “The Eye of the Needle” was indeed a narrow gateway to Jerusalem; it was necessary to unload much baggage in order to pass through . Our concern now is to take the transformational path through PRAYER, to experience what is life-giving, what we must stop doing, and unload it.”

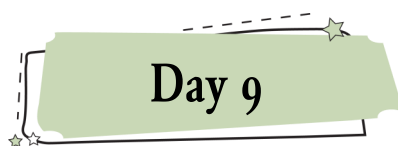
He invited them to take time for personal prayer using the day’s Gospel. Matthew 15: 29-37- the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

Jesus met people in ordinary situations; he had compassion for people with the different hungers in their lives and advised the disciples what to do with the little they had...

The calls heard during this prayer

- * In the first part of this Gospel, the people brought the sick and the needy to Jesus; in the second part, Jesus sees the need of the crowd, and asks the disciples to do what is necessary. If we identify with the disciples in this passage, we see that we are not the only ones to answer the needs of the poor and the sick – but as “disciples” we have a specific task, given by the Lord.
- * We do the little we can, God will lead us to the rest, to the fullness.
- * The crowd in deserted place were fed, there was enough and more and all were satisfied. So, facing our shadows and blind spots can be a source of transformation.
- * The Significance of the place being a ‘desert’, but if the needs of people are seen with compassion, there are always options to be found.
- * We worried about our decreasing numbers. The number we have now is more than enough to take action.

Moving on from “the bend on the road”, through the process of letting go experienced during this day, the journey continues....



Today Malinie Jayamanne, the General Bursar, presented the **Financial Report** on behalf of the General Leadership Team.

The report covered the financial years from 2014-2020, from the last Chapter to this Chapter.

This report included two parts;

- Ordinary income and expenditure
- Capital income and expenditure.

She covered many areas of the financial situation

of the Institute, illustrating different aspects with graphs, charts, and informative clarifications.

Income, Expenses, Pooling from Units, Pooling with Units, Investments, Sharing and Distribution and Evolution of Capital were major areas dealt with.

After her sharing, and an open forum for comments and clarifications, the Financial Report was unanimously approved by the Chapter.

Moving on...

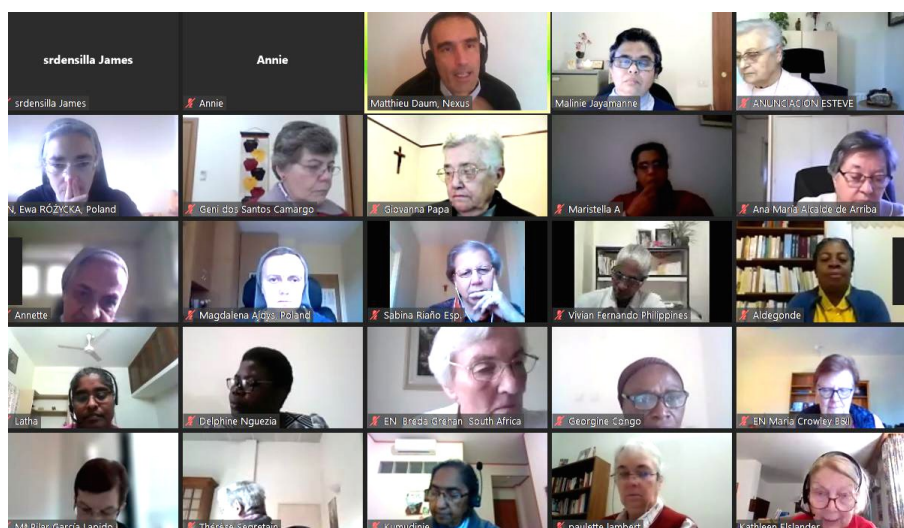
The second session continued along the path taken the previous day, marked as it was by the acknowledgment of a certain lack of clarity and unity of direction among the Delegates. However, the group sensed that there had been a shift as a result of the challenges faced. Some light, some signs of maturity were emerging. Matthieu called the attention of the Chapter to the fact that during the preparation in Feb-March, and even in the two previous EGCs, issues contributing to the critical state of the Institute had been named.

He therefore invited the Delegates to draw on this knowledge and this experience, to name, concretely and precisely, the three most critical issues which this Body must face in order to move forward with vitality and the capacity to live its purpose.

Questions:

1. What are the most critical issues (excluding Finance & Vicariate) that this chapter needs to attend to for the sake of the vitality of the body, and its capacity to live its purpose?
2. For each issue what are the three reasons why it is so critical?
3. Again, for each issue, what are the 3 things that we must stop doing, or must give up?
4. Finally, for each issue, what are the 3 most audacious ideas, with the most transformational potential?

Having reflected on the above personally, the rest of the day was spent in groups. Meanwhile, the members of the Vicariate worked on the same questions in relation to the situation of the Vicariate.



Day 10

According to the task that had been given the previous day, a plenary session took place. This was related to the reports compiled by the various groups on different themes. The Capitulants were invited to share their experiences on how the group perceived the work and what emotions and movements were connected to them.

Plenary hearing:

- The spirit moving all of us to come to clearer directions
- We are beginning to think outside the box
- There are still some confusions that need to be cleared up from the "my" (ministry, Unit etc.) mentality
- A movement in the same direction is visible and there is a sense of God working in us
- As a body, a certainty of moving towards enhancing our spirituality and our Charism

- Need to take risks in order to make a radical change in our concern for the poor and marginalized.
- Feeling enthusiastic, gradually becoming more conscious and deepening.
- Several innovative points on formation, of being family, call for living authentic lives and audacity in living our charism.
- In the report, the findings are honest; mission is focused and especially on ecological conversion.

In a second discussion, Matthieu invited them to look at the Vicariate document and share their comments on what transformative ideas were proposed, and whether they had the potential for the Vicariate to move forward. Here he referred to the story of *the Emperor's New Clothes* and challenged the Capitulants to speak out honestly.



This conversation brought out many perspectives about the importance of contemplative vocation and how without it, our Family is not complete – but were the proposals strong enough to make a move forward? This is something the Vicariate Delegates will continue to work on.

Moving on from here, Matthieu introduced the next step, asking the body to work on the different issues once more. This time, they would choose the theme

they felt called to work on. This approach was aimed gathering the most important points on the individual issues, while considering interculturality as a central aspect, moving through all. The Facilitator insisted on the need to look deeply at what is energizing and life-giving, in order to allow audacious ideas to emerge; ideas which, if implemented, will permit the Body to continue to live its purpose.

The group worked till the end of the day, completing the above task.

Over the weekend, the Capitulants were asked to maintain a spirit of quiet and discernment, and on the basis of the work done over the past few days, to spend time developing their vision of the Institute in 2027, and praying with it.

They were then to ask themselves how many Sisters would be needed in the General Council to promote the kind of leadership and membership present in this vision, and to reflect on the persons they could see as potential members of the GLT to implement it.

What kind of vision?

Ambitious ... and realistic

Ambitieux ... et réaliste

Ambicioso... y realista

A vision is NOT: a dream; wishful-thinking

Une vision n'est PAS : un rêve ; un vœu pieux

Una visión NO es: un sueño; un deseo

A vision IS: life-giving, inviting and achievable – providing we are able to do the work that is required!

Une vision EST : vivifiante, invitante et réalisable - à condition que nous soyons capables de faire le travail nécessaire !

Una visión ES: vivificante, atrayente y realizable - ¡siempre que seamos capaces de hacer el trabajo que se requiere!

