



19th GENERAL CHAPTER 2014

OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF BORDEAUX

NO: 12

Suore della Santa Famiglia di Bordeaux, Via dei Casali Santovetti 58, 00165 Roma, Italia

25 May

A Day of conversations, as we move towards the elections



Central to today's Morning Prayer was the Lorica of St. Patrick. A Lorica is a prayer of protection popular in Celtic countries.

I arise today

*Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity
Through belief in the threeness
Through confession of the Oneness
Towards the creator.*

The words from the gospel of John, also spoke to the heart:
...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
Whom the Father will send in my name,
Will teach you everything
And remind you of all I have said to you. Jn. 14, 26

Agenda for the day

There is flexibility in the Chapter which means the order as set out in the morning does not have to be strictly adhered to. Additional topics of conversation can arise and be given time.



Vote for the number of Apostolic Councillors

The time for discussion over, it was the moment to vote on the question:

Who is in favour of having four (4) rather than five Apostolic Councillors?

The delegates voted by raising their green cards if they were in favour and their red cards if not. A majority voted for four.

Feedback from GLT and Vicariate Reports

Having re-read the Reports, the Capitulants raised a number of issues for further information and clarification. Among those that engendered most discussion were:

The term Unit is used in the document and has become current in the Institute. What is behind this?

One reason is that it eliminates the clumsiness involved in the constant repetition of Provinces/Delegations/Networks when we are speaking of our organisation. A more important reason is that it eliminates any feeling of inequality that might exist between these entities. Delegations and Provinces have the same mission and their leadership teams have the same work.

Networks and how they function was another point of interest. There are three: Europe, the first to be established; Latin America, grouping all the countries where we are present; South Africa, the newest grouping South Africa, Uganda, Rwanda. Although Europe was the first they agree they are still finding their way like the others. The cultural and language diversity in all is both a challenge and a source of richness and growth. They foster the idea of belonging to an Institute rather than a country.

The Guidelines for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, received by all, were widely used to sensitise both sisters and co-workers on the matter. This issue has to work on two levels, (i) of what we do and (ii) of our ethical code. All that needs to be said is that the Code must be fully implemented in every country, in each Unit. The *Holy Family* can also play a part in seeing that dioceses and parishes where they are present have a commission for this purpose, if they do not already have one.

Care of Senior/Elderly Sisters

This topic was raised by Christine who spoke of them as the “wisdom of the Institute”. In all Units there is a care system in place, managed entirely by the sisters themselves in some cases, in others with the help of lay staff, and in others the care is entirely the responsibility of lay staff. In all, the sisters see to the pastoral needs of their senior sisters and provide resources for leisure activities.

International Novitiates was a topic of interest. There is one in South Africa, the D.R.Congo, Latin America and the Philippines. The experience has been largely positive and enriching in all places despite the differences of language and culture. They learn new

cultures and, in some cases, have the opportunity to meet with other novices in inter-congregational meetings and seminars.

2nd Draft of the basic Chapter Document

The Document was ready for presentation to the assembly at about 3.30. This was the crucial moment of the day, the event for which everyone was waiting. The document sets out the direction the Institute is taking for the next six years.



Colleen, Teresa and Gemma

The Capitulants need to know this as it will influence their choice of General Leader and the Councillors who will form her team.

Suffice it to say that the Draft Document, with amendments was accepted by the Chapter.

Tomorrow morning, the Capitulants are free They will assemble in the Chapter room at 4 pm to begin a time of retreat before the elections.

