



19th GENERAL CHAPTER 2014

OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF BORDEAUX

NO: 4

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

15 May

Listening to the Reality of our Resources

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. (Acts 4, 32)

Financial Report

It was more than that. It was a clarion call for a new vision of the use of goods following the model of the early Christian Communities.

In two sessions, Marian Murcia – General Bursar – gave a clear, analytical, thought-provoking account of the human, material /financial situation of the Institute. It spanned the years 2008 – 2013.

1. **Administration of Goods at the level of the General Administration**
The Institute is a “WHOLE” in which all the Units are interconnected by means of pooling and the circulation of good at all levels. By means of illustrations, graphics and commentaries Marian demonstrated the life that circulates throughout the whole and our solidarity with the poor.

The Report showed clearly that, in Marian’s words,

“Our Founder’s inspiration regarding “pooling and sharing” remains a solid foundation for administering goods as we continue our search for a way of living socially, economically, religiously, ethically, ecologically... that is more in tune with nature and rooted in our consciousness of freedom and love in action – at the service of the MISSION OF CHRIST.”

It was obvious to all, however, and not for the first time, that the *Holy Family* has not escaped the effects of the global economic crisis. So, Marian said: “Administering goods also means thinking about the future. Today, we have to analyse and foresee how we will be able to respond to the future needs of the whole.”

As not everyone has the competence to grasp the implications of the facts presented, a small committee was appointed by the Steering Committee to study the financial situation in depth.

Finance Committee



Gemma CORBETT, Malinie JAYAMANNE and Breda GREHAN

2. The Financial Reports of the different Units

These were presented as a summary of the whole Institute and also took into account our human resources - number and age of sisters as well as their geographical distribution.

This report together with that of the General Leadership Team, was an attempt to get a picture of the whole, to show demonstrate the urgent need for a change of mindset.

Two relevant, similar questions for further reflection and study by the Chapter were given.

AS WE MOVE TOWARDS 2020, the following question, phrased a little differently is relevant:

- **How can we become more interdependent, more conscious of the fact that all we have belongs to all of us and is at the service of communion?**
- **Can the Chapter suggest ways that might help us work more as a whole, managing ALL WE HAVE FOR ALL?**

Tomorrow we will complete the picture of the Institute with the Reports of the Units.