



19th GENERAL CHAPTER 2014

OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF BORDEAUX

NO: 5

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

17 May

Continuing to absorb the Reality of our Institute ...

The Chapter space is 'holy ground'.

"You are here, so this is Holy Ground..."

The morning reflection that began with a contemplative listening to this mantra based on Exodus 3, 1 - 5 and a slow reading of the passage itself, reminded the assembly of the sacredness of all that is, and will be.

It created the atmosphere for this time of ongoing listening to our present reality.

The Reports from the Units

Prior to the Chapter, all communities received information on the political, cultural, social, economic, and ecclesial context of every country in each continent where there is a *Holy Family* presence. The statistics of the Institute were also circulated.

In their reports delivered to the Chapter, the delegates spoke enthusiastically about the growth and development in their Units over the past six years, and honestly about the difficulties encountered.

The guidelines from the 2008 Chapter were generally a source of new life for all Units.

They told of what is being relinquished because of lack of personnel, or as no longer relevant today because it can be done by others, and the pain of letting go of old, established ministries and moving into the unknown.

The ISSUES they want the Chapter to address include matters affecting the global community and the *Holy Family* community.

Among the former are the most urgent global problems today, notably:

- * *the crime of Human Trafficking, the modern form of slavery,*
- * *the loss of trust in leadership in all areas including the Church,*
- * *care of the earth,*
- * *pastoral care of marginalised people – asylum seekers, migrants, the poor, and the 'new poor'.*

For the *Holy Family* is to be a prophetic voice in the word today, some things the Chapter might look at are:

- ❖ *structures of Leadership at all levels, to develop a truly feminine form of this;*
- ❖ *strengthen networking for justice, peace and integrity of creation issues, to be able to take action as a body when crises occur;*
- ❖ *give opportunities to young members to experience intercultural living;*
- ❖ *how to be relevant, make an impact as Holy Family?*

These and more will be raised in the coming weeks.

The day came to a close and Facilitator, Christine, who had firmly guided the process, thanked the delegates for their hard work and congratulated the members on the quality of the reports.

She gave them one task for the rest of the evening, to go apart in silence for an hour and dwell on this question from the Steering Committee:

✚ *“In the light of the vision of the Institute what are, for you, the three key questions the Chapter must deal with to give a strong direction to the Institute for the next six years?”*

Each Capitulant was asked to bring her three questions to the next meeting on Sunday at 9.30 a.m. when the real work of the Chapter would begin.

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

The Chapter is also yours. We would like it to be interactive.
Do send us questions and issues you think might be good for the Chapter to raise.

