



NEWSLETTER

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2013

Third and Final Week of the General Chapter

GENERAL CHAPTER

The third and last week of the general chapter assumed a different rhythm. On Monday, we brought closure to the discussion on the proposals/recommendations and before the close of the day's last session, the chapter delegates were prepared to vote on them.

At the Tuesday morning session, the chapter secretary, Sr. Antoinette D'Alessio, prepared a synthesis of the Chapter discussions from the working paper. From this, the Chapter extracted the lines of action that will become part of the Acts of the Chapter.

Tallying the sisters' nominations for the election of the general superior occupied the delegates in the afternoon session on Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoon nominations were tallied for the general councilors.

Both Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon were times spent in solemn, silent prayer and with Eucharistic adoration in preparation for the election of the general superior and the general councilors. The prayerful spirit that dominated conveyed the intensity of the approaching elections.

On Thursday morning, the delegates gathered in the chapter room for the election of the superior general. Monsignor Natalino Zagotto presided. Prior to the voting, Msgr. Zagotto renewed his acquaintance with the Filippini Sisters. He has been presiding at our chapters since 1983. Msgr. was pleased to come among us to represent the Church and to offer this service in the history of our community. His words and message were cordial and affirming.

Sr. Nicolina Bandiera was reaffirmed as Superior General, fulfilling the 2/3 majority that is required for a second term.

The delegates applauded when Sr. Nicolina Bandiera accepted to be reaffirmed if it was God's Will for her. Everyone then assembled in the chapel to chant the Te Deum. Much excitement surrounded the election, and many messages of prayers and good wishes from the various convents were shared at mealtime.

The election for general councilors followed on Friday morning. The following Sisters were elected and in this order:

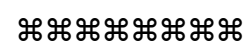
Sr. Frances Lauretti, Sr. Antonietta D'Alessio,
Sr. Helen Sanchez, Sr. Gabriella Quadrelli.

We thank these Sisters for accepting this role and promise them our prayerful support and continued prayers.

The delegates assembled in the chapter room for the last time on Saturday morning for the official closing of the chapter. It was the wish of the delegates to capture the heart of our chapter discussions in the form of a slogan. After choosing among several slogans presented, the delegates agreed "Loved by God, we walk together, open to the Spirit" best expressed our experience.

After completing unfinished business, Mother General formerly addressed the delegates during the closing prayer service. Her inspiring message reminded us to remain faithful to our choice in life, even in these difficult times. None of us feel our journey is complete; we can each do something, even if small. In our prayer, and in our dialogue with God, we always try to grow in His love.

At a special dinner, we welcomed the newly elected administration. Throughout the meal, the delegates enjoyed poetry and prose, dance and song, all spontaneously expressed and representing all the countries where we serve. A united, joyful spirit permeated the dining room.



Congratulations to the New Administration



Sr. Frances Lauretti, Sr. Antonietta D'Alessio, Sr. Nicolina Bandiera, Sr. Helen Sanchez, Sr. Gabriella Quadrelli



Crypt of St. Lucy

A Visit to Montefiascone

The chapter was officially closed, but the crown of our time together was a pilgrimage to Montefiascone on Sunday. Although it was very early Sunday morning when we begin the journey, excitement was at a peak. Prayer and song accompanied us to and from Montefiascone. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by Sr. Emmanuela Vanich, the superior general, and the sisters, who offered hospitality. The delegates toured the convent that houses precious belongings and relics of St. Lucy and prayed in the beautiful chapel that marks where St. Lucy died. Sr. Emmanuela addressed the group, explaining the significance of various pieces of art in the chapel. Mass was festively celebrated in the Cathedral of Santa Margherita by Msgr. Fabio Fabene, who is working on the cause for Cardinal Barbarigo.

After mass, the sisters processed in song, with the church bells chiming, to the crypt of St. Lucy. Mother General carried a lighted Christ candle surrounded by all the flags of the Institute. This was truly a reminder that each of you were united with us and with all the Filippini Sisters throughout the world. What a moving experience! At the crypt the sisters joined in prayer and song and both Msgr. Fabene and Mother General addressed the assembly once again.

We could not have ended our weeks together in a more significant experience than to be together before the presence of St. Lucy, and we felt very united to each of you who have followed us this past month with your prayers and thoughts. We thank you.

