

General Chapter 2019 July 1 - 23



“In Him we live,
we move and have our being”.
(Acts 17:28)

*Journeying, in the Church,
with gratitude...passion...hope...*

July 5, 2019 at 9 a.m.

His Excellency, **Archbishop Emidio Cipolloni**, of the Dioceses of Lanciano-Ortona, spiritual guide of the group, “*Maestre and Laity together for the Gospel*” presented the theme “**Laity and Consecrated Life in the Church today and in the prospective future.**”

His presentation had three sections:

1. The Laity in the Church communion -
2. Lay Associations -
3. The Laity sharing the charism with religious -

In this category belong the two groups that were formed within our Institute: **Lu&Gi** (*Lucy & Young People*) and “**Maestre and Laity together for the Gospel**”



In the discussion that followed the presentation, there emerged some signs of hope: these made us more aware that if a work is of God, God Himself will sustain it, as our Lucy affirmed.

In the afternoon, some of the laity that had made the commitment to our Institute 25 years ago, presented the



testimony of their journey.

They affirmed their having lived a very efficacious formative experience as persons, as Christians, and as involved lay people. This journey has changed them profoundly within themselves and in their relationships with others: it gave them the courage and the “tools” to witness for Christ in the context of life: family, society, parish and work environment.

July 6, 2019 at 9 a.m.

His Excellency **Bishop José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM**, Secretary of the CIVSVA (Sacred Congregation for Religious) presented: **“The Challenges of Consecrated Life Today.”**

He affirmed among other things:

“Consecrated life finds itself in a very delicate moment in which it must exercise the sacred ministry of prophecy. The Church invites us to welcome the future with joy and responsibility, in continuous discernment, personally and communally...”

He noted three temptations for Consecrated Life today:

1. Self-reference
2. Struggling for survival
3. Presume to put new wine in old wineskins. The good wine is the charism... One could lose it all if the wineskins of authority, formation and fraternal life are not renewed.

He suggested at the end three paths to follow in order to open ourselves to a future of hope:

1. Re-visit one’s true identity.
2. Return to the essentials.
3. Re-found the structures so that they respond to the needs of the charism.



July 7, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.

The Capitulars were “pilgrims” when they went to L’Aquila: they thanked the Lord in seeing, almost completed, the re-construction of the building that will contain the school, the university students’ residence and the home of the Maestre. They visited with interest this place, whose construction has been possible thanks to the commitment of the Government Administration and the Institute.



At the entrance, visitors find St. Lucy there to welcome them – the statue that survived the earthquake and that the community’s residents had wished to return it first.

(In the photos: the statue of our Foundress in the entrance and the facade of the building.)

