

Chapter XXXIV Newsletter

#5

Rome, July 13, 2017

On Monday, July 10, Mexico led the group in prayer in Spanish. The day was dedicated to Mother Carla Bertani presenting the Superior General's report on the state and the life of the Congregation. Her report was divided into 4 chapters. The first chapter focused on how the General Council has addressed the mandates of the XXXIII General Chapter, along with giving the reasons why some mandates have not yet been implemented. The second chapter discussed the actions and work of the General Council, how they worked together and what they accomplished within the past six years. The third chapter analyzed the present life of the Congregation in regards to the following aspects: Spirituality, Community Life, Vocation Ministry, Formation, Apostolic Ministries, International and National Committees, Financial Situation, and the Lay Movement. Finally, the fourth chapter gave statistical data on the demographics of our sisters and expressed the reality of the Congregation in each country where we are present. It closed with offering perspectives for the future. The whole report was seen as being very thorough, honest, and transparent, highlighting both the positives and challenges that our Congregation is facing at this point in our history.

On Tuesday, July 11, Brazil led the group in prayer in Portuguese. In the morning session, Sr. Augusta Conti presented the Treasurer General's Report on the financial situation of the Congregation throughout the past six year term. Following her presentation, we were divided into our five work groups to analyze and evaluate both the Superior General's and the Treasurer General's reports. In the afternoon, we began the session with each group sharing their evaluations. Following this sharing, we listened to a presentation on charism by Dot. Alberto Frassineti, a consultant who has been working with the General Council in preparation for this General Chapter.

On Wednesday, July 12, Bangladesh led the group in prayer. This morning's session focused on the first theme of the Chapter's motto: Charism. Dot. Frassineti presented a little more on the topic of Charism, and then Sr. AnnaMaria Iannetti gave a presentation on charism as it specifically related to the gift of Mother Elisabetta. Following her presentation, we received a summary of the Core Values of Our Charism that was composed by the General Council during its work with the consultant.

In the afternoon, we worked individually and then broke into work groups to offer 4-5 proposals under the topic of Charism. We are divided into groups by language to avoid any misunderstandings in sharing our thoughts and opinions. After working in groups, we came back together at the Plenary Assembly to share what everyone proposed and narrowed down the topics being proposed to a workable number.

Today, Thursday, July 13, the United States led the group in prayer in English. In the morning, we separated into our groups again to begin the work of summarizing the proposals on Charism under five main topics. In the afternoon, we moved onto the second theme of the Chapter: Communion. Dot. Frassineti presented a brief overview on the topic of Communion to the whole group, and then Sr. Carla Raggini gave a presentation on communion, as it noted in the rules written by Mother Elisabetta. After a short break, in the Plenary Assembly, we began to analyze the summaries from the morning work, but were unable to finish. For recreation this evening, Mexico led us in their version of "Bingo."

In Christ,

Communication Committee

Sr. Nina, Sr. Pia, Sr. Susana, Sr. Karla