



Information No. 3

Having promptly communicated the election of the new Superior General, Most Rev. **Fr Valdir José de Castro**, we continue to inform you the proceedings of the Xth General Chapter.

After listening to various Reports, from Saturday, 31 January, we, the Chapter members, began our reflections on the objective of the Chapter and on the matters of urgency to which we are called to respond to. The reflections took place in six different groups (two in Italian, two in Spanish and two in English). Added to this, the members also reflected on the final Documents of *the Eighth* and *the Ninth* General Chapters in order to gather the knowledge of the recent past, and likewise to identify Priorities and Operative Guidelines which are not actually realised.

In work of reflection, the members have more profoundly expressed their thoughts in a draft of Programmatic Document which was presented to the assembly in the morning of 3rd February. Special thanks to Secretaries of respective groups who prepared the synthesis. It is with this first idea of our realities, which the Congregation has to fulfil in the next six years, the Chapter evaluated elements of discernment in view of electing the new Superior General.

In order to complete the process of discernment, in the afternoon Mgr José Rodriguez Carballo, the Secretary of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Society for the Apostolic Life, offered very rich reflections to the members on the figure of Superior who is deeply rooted in the Gospel: Superior is a brother among brothers to serve the brothers; a brother who listens and obeys the Gospel; he is called to personify and to interpret the Charism; a brother in discernment from whom comes discernment. After having spoken about the requisites and the skills of a Superior, Mgr Carballo presented an interesting guideline to accompany brothers in difficulties: acceptance, listening, empathy, positive consideration of brothers, to be authentic, without manipulation and without manipulated, discernment, dialogue, always offering horizons, to be present and not to delegate, with much love and firmness at the same time. At the conclusion of the discourse, there was pindrop silence in the Chapter hall.

In the morning of 4th February, after reading the articles from the Constitutions and Directives that pertains the election of the Superior General, the Chapter members solemnly invoked the Holy Spirit with the hymn *Veni, Creator Spiritus* (Come, Creator Spirit). At the second balloting, as you already know, we elected the new Superior General. Fr Celso Godilano officially proclaimed the results of the election and then the newly elected General publically proclaimed the *Profession of Faith*. Eventually, all the members greeted the Superior General with affection.

In his short discourse, Fr Valdir thanked Fr Celso and the outgoing General Government, emphasising the spiritual presence of Fr Silvio Sassi among us. He continued to say that he wants to be a brother who walks together with all, especially caring for the suffering and gazing particularly at our apostolate. If we don't live together, the mission does not progress ahead. Certainly, we have many problems, but we should have great hope and bring hope to our brothers.

In coming days, we continue the elections of General Councillors who will assist Fr De Castro in the governing of the Congregation. The Chapter also pursued its work of drafting Programmatic Document.

We ask you to continue your prayers for us, as you have generously done.

The Information Secretary
Fr Agatino Gugliara