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Greetings from the American Delegates! We have been looking forward to communicating with you and sharing the activities of the General Chapter during this first week that we have been in session.

It has been a joy for us to gather with our Sisters and to be reminded of the richness we enjoy in belonging to an international Community. Our exchanges of welcome, introductions, and re-acquaintances were warm and sincere.

"I Know Him in Whom I Have Believed"

OPENING SESSIONS

Monday, July first, the opening day of the Chapter, found the Delegates rested, united and ready to begin the preparatory sessions of the Chapter. What a great privilege to have His Eminence Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and of Societies of Apostolic Life, preside at our opening liturgy!

With a very vibrant and practical approach, the Cardinal's homily set the tone for the work and purpose of this gathering. He reminded us that the world is in need of consecrated women, of our message, and more importantly, our faithful witness to love.

We are called to renew our relationship with God and to be the living Word. "May you each experience the Lord leading you and this will mark a true re-birth in the Institute." The Cardinal greeted each Delegate individually, and we are left with photos to recall this special time together with him.

In the afternoon session, we began with an inspiring celebration of the Word, introduced by a video and hymn invoking the Holy Spirit.

Mother General formally declared the Chapter opened. She invited us to be open to the gift of the Spirit who already is expressed in the voices of the Sisters and of the Provincial Chapters. Preliminary voting, defining the various Chapter roles began immediately and continued throughout the next few days, but was interspersed with invited speakers.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Two guest speakers were an essential part of the program for July 2.

Rev P. Giacomo Bini: "Real Prophetic Dimensions of Religious Life."

Fr. Bini strongly emphasized the importance of our fraternal life. These are highlights of the directions he proposed:

-Believe and witness your vocation and mission and be the transparency of God in the midst of mankind.
- ... Live your vocation and mission with joy and enthusiasm.
- ... Be credible, present, simple, but efficacious signs.
- ... Remember that the prophetic dimension, most eloquent for the world of today, is the witness of fraternal communion in Community.

**His Excellency Pietro Santoro,
Bishop of Marsi
" Go and Make Disciples of
all the Nations"
Religious with Youth for the
New Proclamation
of the Gospel.**

Among many of his directives, Bishop Santoro stressed that in this Year of Faith religious must present themselves in a credible way the face of Christ, and when the young see our face they should see Christ and also desire to become fascinated with Him. We represent the Kingdom. He concluded that we must do and be who we claim we are and then Jesus will fill our nets.

**Rev. Giosi Cento and Students of
Lu & Gi**

On the afternoon of July 4, the Chapter welcomed Rev. Giosi Cento and some students from Lu & Gi. Fr. Giosi, a friend of the Institute, a famous song composer and singer, and the director of Lu & Gi, explained the birth and development of this group and their activities. Fr. Giosi encouraged Chapter members that as educators, in every stage of our lives, we need to promote, sustain and encourage new avenues of evangelization.

Fr. Giosi invited some young presenters to join him. They gave credible evidence to his presentation through their public witness, sharing all they have discovered through their journey with Lucy.

Saturday, July 6, was an entire day dedicated to the Role of the Laity - "Christifedele Laici" The Specific Responsibility of the Laity in the Church.

Most Rev. Emidio Cipollone

The Most Rev. Emidio Cipollone has been the Spiritual Director of the Association of the Maestre Pie and Laity for the Gospel. The Bishop delivered his presentation in two parts. In his first presentation, he spoke of the place of the laity in the Church. He stressed their role as a vocation, a result of their baptismal call. The world is the environment and the means for achieving their mission. Their call to grow and to mature in the Church includes formation, study of the Word of God, fidelity to the magisterium of the Church, prayer, recognizing the gifts of others and the ability to read the signs of the times.

In the second part of his presentation, the Bishop presented the theme: Maestre Pie and the Laity. In this session he elaborated on three points:

- **See what it is:** In this portion the Bishop gave an outline of the entire program of the Maestre Pie and the Laity.
- **Make things possible:** He spoke of the potential for future possibilities of this Association.
- **Love the eternal:** This calls for us to place our trust in God. If we don't become discouraged and if we trust, like St. Lucy, our vision will broaden

The afternoon session began with a moving power point presentation from the Association of the Maestre Pie and the Laity together for the Gospel. Following this, five representatives from this Association offered a personal witness of their journey of conversion and transformation. Their testimonies truly evidenced their growth in faith and love of God.



Moral Report

Mother General, Sr. Nicolina Badiera

On Friday, July 5, Mother General delivered the moral report on the state of the Institute. Following the outline that comes from the Sacred Congregation for Religious, and gleaning from the reports of the Provincials, Vice Provincial's and Regional Superiors, Mother General's report was comprehensive and honest. She included areas of strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and concerns. Underlying her report, were genuine sentiments of hope, trust, affection, and gratitude.

Financial Report

Sr. Teresa Tassoni

Sr. Teresa Tassoni, General Treasurer, in a very precise, clear, manner informed the Chapter of the financial status of the entire Institute. She, too, was assisted by the reports she received from the Provinces, Vice Province, and Regions. Because of the technical skill involved in this report, Sr. Teresa is commended for her preparation which gave the Chapter a better understanding of our finances.

Study of the Working Paper

Throughout this first week, the Chapter studied and discussed in depth Part One of the working paper "We Rekindle the Gift of Our Vocation."

Preliminary Voting

In the preliminary voting sessions these Sisters were elected by absolute majority to the following roles:

Tellers: Sr. Anna Macchiato, Sr. Saba Andemariam,
Sr. Mary Elizabeth Lloyd, Sr. Maria Xavier Kunnel.

Moderators: Sr. Gabriella Quadrelli, Sr. Frances Lauretti,
Sr. Carmelina DiSarli, Sr. Maria Alliegro.

Chapter Secretary: Sr. Antoinette D'Alessio,

Assistant Secretary: Sr. Helen Sanchez

Under Secretaries: Sr. Petra Rocchi, Sr. Alice Ivanyo

Members of the President's Council: Sr. Virginia Iamele, Sr. Ascenza Tizzano,
Sr. Maria Moreira de Souza, Sr. Antoinette Carimando

Parliamentarian: Sr. Louise Lauretti (Relative)

Commission to Study Moral Report: Sr. Mafalda Rocca, Sr. Betty Jean Takacs,
Sr. Immaculata D'Alvano

Commission to Study Financial Report: Sr. Nicoletta Rocco, Sr. Doris Lavinthal,
Sr. Louise Lauretti

Liturgy Committee: Sr. Patricia Pompa, Sr. Joan DiRienzo,
Sr. Maria Bertone, Sr. Felicia Nardiello (Appointed)

Chapter Bulletin: Sr. Felicia Nardiello, Sr. Ascenza Tizzano,
Sr. Geralda Coelho (Appointed)

For your information

For your continued prayers

Election of the General Superior: July 18

Election of the General Councilors: July 19