

Central Commission

June 4 – 12, 2013

 abbaye Notre-Dame
de **Cîteaux**



Central Commission - Cîteaux – June 2013

PARTICIPANTS OF THE CENTRAL COMMISSION CÎTEAUX 2013

1 **Abbot General** Dom EAMON Fitzgerald

Members of the Coordinating Commission:

2 Promoter Dom BERNARDO Bonowitz, *Novo Mundo*
3 Vice-Promoter M. BENEDICT Thissen, *Arnhem*
4 Members Dom JEAN-MARC Chéné, *Bellefontaine*
5 M. MARIE Fahy, *Glencairn*
6 Dom ROBERTO De La Iglesia Perez, *Cardeña*

Superiors / Delegated Superiors of the Regions:

7 CAN Dom BEDE Stockill, *Calvaire*
8 CNE Dom ARMAND Veilleux, *Scourmont*
9 ISLES Dom RICHARD Purcell, *Roscrea (Alternate)*
10 NED Dom BERNARDUS Peeters, *Tilburg*
11 ORIENS M. ANGELA Toyoda, *Nasu*
12 Dom FRANCISCO Yoshimoto Kunihiro, *Phare (Alternate)*
13 RAFMA Dom VEDASTE Vitichomo, *Mokoto*
14 M. MAUREEN Ndubuisi, *Abakaliki*
15 RE Dom ISIDORO Anguita Fontecha, *Huerta*
16 RéCiF M. MARIE-CHRISTINE Vilmain, *Rivet (Alternate)*
17 REI Dom PATRICK Olive, *Sept-Fons*
18 REM Dom GIACOMO Brière, *Tre Fontane*
REMILA Dom FRANCISCO JAVIER Lagos Ramirez, *Miraflores (absent)*
19 M. STELLA Venezia, *Juigalpa*
20 US M. KATHY de Vico, *Redwoods (Alternate)*

Members of the Abbot General's Council:

21 Dom TIMOTHY Kelly, Procurator
22 M. DANIELE Levrard
23 M. REGINA Nebo
24 Dom DAVID Lavich
25 Dom SANTIAGO FIDEL Ordoñez

Invited :

26 Dom OLIVIER Quenardel, Abbot of Cîteaux

Simultaneous translation:

27 French-English Br. DOMINIC SAVIO Nelson, *Guadalupe*
28 French-Spanish Fr. JOSÉ LUIS Monge, *Viaceli*
29 English-French Sr. LAURENCE Gouezin, *Campénéac*
30 English-Spanish Br. LAWRENCE Curran, *Sobrado*
31 Spanish-French Br. XAVIER Moralès, *Acey*
32 Spanish-English Fr. SIMEON Leiva Marikakis, *Spencer*

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33 English-Japanese Br. KIYOTAKA Yamaguchi, *Marist*

Secretaries:

34 English Fr. MARK Scott, *Vina / Gethsemani*

35 French Fr. THOMAS Georgeon, *Generalate / La Trappe*

36 Spanish Fr. JULIO Wais y Piñeyro, *Sobrado*

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INTRODUCTION

The Abbot General opened the meeting with, “Welcome to everyone. We have all been chosen to take part in this meeting; thus we are probably on the positive end of the spectrum. We come with our own anxieties and questions about what is going to happen during this meeting of the Central Commission [CC]. I would like to quote some encouraging words of Rowan Williams, emeritus Archbishop of Canterbury, spoken at the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization, 10 October, 2012: *‘The assembly of the synod of bishops for the good of Christ’s people is one of the disciplines that supports the health of the Church of Christ.’* Every meeting in our Order is important. I came across another quotation along the same lines, a phrase of Dom Alejandro of Viaceli to the RE in 2013: *‘I try to know the various different opinions of other Regions and so enter into a fruitful dialog with other cultures of the Order concerning the working of the General Chapter. The interest of all how to improve the functioning of the GC and make it more pastorally effective.’* These two quotations can help us gather fruit from the Meeting to build up our monastic life and that of our communities. Thanks to Dom Olivier and the community of Cîteaux who have welcomed us. Welcome to the new members of the CC. Dom Francisco of Miraflores is not here because of a series of health problems; we hold him in our prayer, and also his community.”

The principal work of the CC is to coordinate the suggestions of the Regional Conferences, to make the agenda for the GC of 2014, and to decide how the topics of the Chapter will be prepared before the Chapter convenes and how they will be best treated during the Chapter.

There are 25 voters. Votes will be taken by raising our hands except for the election of persons which will be done by secret ballot.

I. Preparation for The General Chapter

1. House Reports

1.1 Writing the House Reports

Two Regions (REI and REM) proposed a theme for composing the House Reports for the GC of 2014. The most important thing is that the Report reflect the present reality of the community and not get stuck in abstractions (thus the need for the FI to make sure the Report gives real information). This attention will promote a certain consistency and homogeneity among all the Reports and allow sensitive issues in the Order to emerge.

It is desired that the Report give the statistics of the community (number of solemn professed, of juniors, of novices, of postulants, median and averages ages, for example). This information can be given in a box at the top of the Report.

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For GC 2011, Dom Carlos of Sobrado made some suggestions to help in drawing up the Reports. These were not obligatory, but they offered orientation. It seems best to pose some questions that reflect the discussions on the different topics that came up during the CC. It is proposed that two members of the CC be entrusted with the task of preparing the questions.

VOTE 40

WE WISH TO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO FACILITATE THE COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE REPORTS

YES 21 NO 2 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 42

WE WISH THAT EVERY HOUSE REPORT GIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION OF THE COMMUNITY

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

Nominations and election of the authors of the document for helping the communities in the drawing up of the House Report:

D. Isidoro, Huerta 19, elected

M. Stella, Juigalpa

M. Marie-Christine, Le Rivet 20, elected.

M. Kathy, Redwoods

D. Roberto, Cardeña

1.2. Treatment of the House Reports

Five Regions (NED, RéCiF, US, ISLES, CAN) wish all the Reports to be studied during the GC.

The document “Study of the House Reports” needs some modifications:

- Point 1.1: explain what is meant by “collaboration” of the FI in the writing of the Report;
- Point 2.3.2.: the Coordinating Commission that forms an *AD HOC* commission should keep in mind the intentions and suggestions of the GC Commission that asked for the *AD HOC* commission;
- All persons involved (superior, FI) and the AG should have seen the documents produced by the Commissions before they are presented in plenary session.

VOTE 39

WE WISH THAT ALL THE HOUSE REPORTS BE STUDIED AT THE GC 2014

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 41

WE ASK THAT THE FATHER IMMEDIATE VERIFY THAT THE REPORT GIVES REAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF THE COMMUNITY, NOT THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 43

WE WISH THAT 2.3.2 OF THE TEXT ON THE *STUDY OF THE HOUSE REPORTS* BE MADE MORE SPECIFIC IN THE FOLLOWING WAY: “BEFORE ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMISSION, THE COORDINATING COMMISSION WILL CONSULT EACH TIME THE ABBOT GENERAL HIS COUNCIL. *HAVING DONE SO, IT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, AS SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CHAPTER WHICH REQUESTED THE AD HOC COMMISSION*”.

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

The preceding three votes ask for a revision of the document “Study of the House Reports.” A new text will be presented to the CC for approval.

VOTE 86

WE APPROVE THE TEXT “*STUDY OF THE HOUSE REPORTS*” REVISED DURING THE CENTRAL COMMISSION 2013

YES 25 unanimous

The document “Study of the House Reports at the General Chapter of 2014” is found with the Appendices, p.32.

2. Regional Reports

- The discussion was in response to votes of several of the Regions. Seven Regions indicated their desire (RéCif, REI, REM, CAN) or expectation (NED, USA, ISLES) that Regional Reports be composed for the 2014 GC.
- The discussion addressed such questions as what the Regional Reports should include and how and when they should be written.
- All members of the CC agreed that the Regional Reports should convey to the GC a picture of the life of the Region since the last GC.
- The Regional Reports could focus on one or a few points that characterize the Region as a whole.
- It was felt important that as far as possible the Regional Reports be written and translated before the Chapter and distributed at the beginning of General Chapter so the capitulants have a chance to read and reflect upon them.

VOTE 15

WE WISH THAT THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2014 HAVE REGIONAL REPORTS

YES 23 NO 2 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 16

WE WISH THAT THE REGIONAL REPORTS PRESENT THE EVOLUTION OF THE REGIONS SINCE THE LAST GENERAL CHAPTER

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 17

WE WISH THAT THE REGIONAL REPORTS BE WRITTEN AND TRANSLATED BEFORE THE GENERAL CHAPTER

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 18

WE WISH THAT THE REPORT NOT EXCEED ONE PAGE

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 19

WE WISH THAT THE REGIONAL REPORTS BE READ AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0

proposition accepted

3. Choice of a theme for the General Chapter

- Some of the Regions (REM, REI, REMILA) expressed a desire that there be a theme for the 2014 General Chapter while a few others (RéCif, ISLES, CAN) desired there not be a specific theme.
- If there were a theme, several of the members of the Central Commission expressed the opinion that we return to the theme of the 2011 General Chapter, formation. They felt that the 2011 Chapter did not allow enough time to explore this theme with sufficient depth.
- ORIENS suggested as possible themes pastoral collaboration in the service of authority, obedience, and monastic life as a way of living the paschal mystery.
- It was recalled that at the 2005 MGM a vote (no. 17) was taken regarding the theme of work: *We wish that there be put on the agenda of a future MGM the question of the role of work in our life in the context of today's market economy that creates needs and desires.*
141 Yes 24 No 2 abst.
- Some members of the Central Commission thought that the need to focus on a theme limited the usefulness of the House Reports, which tended then to be more theoretical than practical in responding to the theme.
- In general it was felt that it was too late at this point to propose a theme for the General Chapter. The House Reports and the Regional Reports offer enough material for the Chapter's reflection. In the future if a theme is desired for a General Chapter it should be chosen during the preceding Chapter.

VOTE 2

WE WISH TO HAVE A THEME FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF 2014

YES 8 NO 16 ABST. 0

proposition rejected

(since this vote was not accepted, votes 3, 4, and 5 were not taken).

VOTE 3

WE WISH THAT THE THEME BE “THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES”

VOTE 4

WE WISH THAT THE THEME BE “FORMATION TO OBEDIENCE AND HUMILITY”

VOTE 5

WE WISH THAT THE THEME BE FORMATION FOR UNANIMITY IN DIVERSITY BETWEEN MONKS AND NUNS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIRST SINGLE GENERAL CHAPTER.

4. The Authority Of The Commissions Of The General Chapter

- Several Regions (NED, CAN, RE REI) asked specifically that as at recent General Chapters in the past so in the 2014 General Chapter, the Chapter delegate its power to the Commissions and in particular its pastoral authority (See ST 79.A.b.).
- At the same time there was desire that there be a study of the nature of the authority of the Commissions that would result in a document clarifying the question to the capitulants.
- During the discussion of this topic by the Central Commission it was wondered if the relevant parts of C. 79 need to be made clearer. The Central Commission recognized that about 85% of the Commissions’ work is pastoral. There is a distinction between the juridical and the pastoral roles (a distinction in procedure, in working, in presentation, for instance) and while the roles overlap, if the distinction is not clear there can arise ambiguous situations.
- There is need to clarify what kinds decisions the Commissions have the authority to make, and in which areas.
- In attending to some cases the Commissions work best when they delegate an *AD HOC* commission to address them.
- There is a need for open but discreet communication between the Commissions and the Plenary Chapter; it is important to discern the form this communication should take.
- There is also a need for communication between the Commissions and both the superiors and the Fathers Immediate of the houses the Commissions treat. Usually this communication should take place before the matter is brought to the Plenary Chapter.
- The question of the follow-up to decisions or requests made by the Commissions regarding communities. What role do the Regions have to play in this follow-up?

VOTE 53

WE WISH THAT THE GC DELEGATE ITS AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSIONS OF THE GC 2014 AS IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

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VOTE 54

WE WISH TO PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014 THE QUESTION OF THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE GC TO THE COMMISSIONS

YES 18 NO 4 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 55

WE WISH THAT THERE BE A JURIDICAL STUDY, BEFORE THE GC, CLARIFYING THE MANDATE AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONS ACTING IN THE NAME OF THE GC

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 56

WE WISH THAT THE LAW COMMISSION DO THIS STUDY.

YES 4 NO 12 ABST. 9 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 57

WE WISH THAT AN *AD HOC* COMMISSION DO THIS STUDY.

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 58

WE WISH THAT ALL THE DOCUMENTS DRAWN UP BY THE COMMISSIONS BE PRESENTED TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED, AS WELL AS TO THE ABBOT GENERAL, BEFORE THEY ARE PRESENTED IN THE AULA.

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 79

WE WISH THAT THE JURIDICAL STUDY CLARIFYING THE MANDATE AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONS ACTING IN THE NAME OF THE GC, BE WRITTEN BY AN *AD HOC* COMMISSION COMPOSED OF 3 MEMBERS

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 80

WE WISH THAT THIS COMMISSION BE COMPOSED OF 5 MEMBERS.

(not taken because of the results of Vote 79)

Nominations and elections to the *ad hoc* commission to do the juridical study clarifying the mandate and powers of the Commissions acting in the name of the GC:

M. Marion, Crozet 20, elected

D. Timothy, Casa Generalizia 19, elected

D. Elias, Gethsemani 17, elected

D. Bernardo, Azul

D. Eric, Aiguebelle

D. Richard, Roscrea

5. Formulation of Votes at the General Chapter

- Two points to keep in mind are: the language that will serve as the model for the vote, and the verification of the vote for accuracy. It is generally agreed that one language (not necessarily English) serve as the model for each vote. The main thing is that the vote be well formulated; in which language that is done is not so important. The language chosen as the model language for a vote will serve for the translation into the other two languages. It is imperative that the sense of the vote be the same in all three languages.
- At the last GC much time was lost correcting votes in plenary session. On the other hand, it is important that the votes be legally precise and unambiguous.
- Many things enter into the satisfactory formulation of a vote. It is proposed that a special commission be established to review and edit votes after their initial formulation.
- While a great number of votes do not have juridical content, many others do. The juridical content of votes should be verified by a member of the Law Commission.

VOTE 83

WE ASK THAT THE VOTES BE WRITTEN IN ONE LANGUAGE CHOSEN BY THE COMMISSION OF COORDINATION AS THE MODEL AND THAT THE TRANSLATIONS INTO THE OTHER OFFICIAL LANGUAGES BE MADE FROM THIS ONE LANGUAGE

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 84

WE ASK THAT IN THE REDACTION OF LEGISLATIVE VOTES THE COORDINATION COMMISSION WILL VERIFY THE FORMULATION OF THE VOTES WITH A MEMBER OF THE LAW COMMISSION BEFORE PRESENTING THEM IN THE AULA

YES 20 NO 0 ABS 5

proposition accepted

6. Constitution 67

6.1. Suppression of a monastery

The GC of 2011 voted (Vote 76) that the Regions study C. 67.

We entrust to the regions to study c.67 “on the suppression of a monastery” in the light of the work done by the commissions of the general chapter 2011.

Yes 120 No 40 Abstention 4

proposition accepted

The CC studied this topic in light of the work done by the Regions in conformity with this vote. Some Regions would like C. 67 to remain as it is without change, while others propose either to modify it or to add one or two statutes to it (see the votes of the Regions in the Reports of the Regional Meetings of 2012–2013).

The following emerged from the exchange:

- The topic should be handled in a pastoral manner. The most important question is how it is working.
- The present legislation is clear enough as long as the structures of the Order (FI, Regular Visitation, GC, and so on) are working well. This is the last stage in a process, and it is clear that discernment has taken place before hand.
- The problem arises when communities wait till the last minute to put this Constitution into effect, often because of a denial of their real situation.
- The possibility of becoming an annex house was discussed but that change involves the suppression of a community and then the opening of an annex house by the mother house.
- RE has created an assisted-living monastery that is open to small communities.
- At NED's Regional Meeting, M.AD LEYS, a canonist who works for the conference of religious in the Low Countries, made an interesting presentation, offering several possible directions (see NED 2013).
- ORIENS is more interested in formation and growth and has initiated a formation in learning how to die (reflecting on our life in light of the Paschal Mystery).
- Some questions seeking answers: At what point does a situation become alarming or disturbing? What are the criteria for evaluating the viability of a community?
- The first difficulty lies in knowing who initiates the process of suppression.
- A community could appeal to its autonomy as a way of rejecting what it considers interference from the outside. But if a house does not have a superior nor a novice director and is financially dependent on its mother house or on the Order, it can legitimately be asked if it really is autonomous.
- The Statute on Foundations gives clear prerequisites for initiating a foundation. Would it not be consistent to have requirements for an existing community? The need for a 2/3 vote of the Conventual Chapter in order to suppress a house is problematic. Some Regions have suggested changing the 2/3 majority to an absolute majority.

In light of the exchange the AG recalled a meeting with the undersecretary of CICALSAL during which the question of C.67 came up. After Vatican Council II the Church was growing, not diminishing. Today, things are different. We have criteria for identifying growth; it would be good to have criteria also for identifying diminishment. An equally important consideration in this question is the patrimony of a monastery (land, buildings, portfolio, objects of art). The AG then pointed out initiatives taken by some Regions (ISLES, RE) and by OCSO-France (the abbots and abbesses of France; see p. 30 below), that bear some measure of hope. The moment has arrived to work together in these initiatives.

VOTE 78

WE WISH TO CONSIDER A REVISION OF CST 67 IN SO FAR AS IT CONCERNS THE NECESSITY OF OBTAINING A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE CONVENTUAL CHAPTER IN ORDER TO PROCEED TO THE SUPPRESSION OF THE MONASTERY

YES 22 NO 3 ABST. 0

proposition accepted

6.2 The Declining Communities

The exchange on C. 67 showed how the pastoral and juridical aspects of overlap. The Coordinating Commission decided to ask 4 participants in the CC to share their experience of communities in a state of diminishment. Dom Isidoro (RE), Dom Bernardus (NED), M. Kathy (US), and Dom Richard (ISLES) spoke to the CC. There followed a lengthy discussion in the assembly on this topic.

- There is in the Church today a more conservative atmosphere. The Order can look like a fat elephant, difficult to move and walking slowly. In our communities we have ideas, we talk, but only with difficulty do take action. The actual experience in many Regions shows that someone has to take the initiative because it is rare to have consensus at the beginning. Once a process has been started, fears decrease and people are ready to join the initiative. So it is important to encourage both Regions and communities to move ahead with their initiatives.
- In our Order today flourishing communities are the exception; fragile houses are the norm, and they are many. It is imperative that the Order realize this; we cannot just say that some houses are going to die and some are going to live.
- We have to think positively in this new situation; we have to think in terms of living, and not just in terms of diminishment, suppression, and death.
- The next GC will have to involve itself in the concrete situation of our communities with the goal of stimulating mutual cooperation with all our capacities and strengths to meet the future. Clearly, working together favors a certain tranquility and helps assure a good formation for newcomers. This could touch the principle of autonomy, but it is a question of life. The example of the four communities of nuns in France (Igny, Belval, Grâce-Dieu, Ubexy) can be mentioned. Their experience has not been easy for anyone; there is no guarantee regarding the future; but it is a project in the service of life and has resulted in a real spiritual transformation of the sisters involved.

From the exchanges it became clear that in order to help declining communities it is necessary to give some pastoral direction in the form of a statute. This statute will need to take life into account, and help communities recognize the situation they find themselves in. Equally, it is wished that the AG give a conference on this theme at the 2014 GC.

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VOTE 68

WE WISH THAT THE TOPIC OF DECLINING COMMUNITIES BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 69

WE ASK THAT A WORKING PAPER BE DRAWN UP ON THIS TOPIC IN PREPARATION FOR THE GC 2014

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 70

WE WISH THAT THE GC REFLECT ON NEW MEANS OF HELPING DECLINING COMMUNITIES THROUGH INITIATIVES ON THE REGIONAL OR ORDER LEVEL

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 71

WE WISH THAT THE ABBOT GENERAL GIVE A CONFERENCE ON “DECLINING COMMUNITIES”

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 72

WE WISH THAT THE TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 73

WE WISH THAT THE GC FORMULATE A STATUTE ON “DECLINING COMMUNITIES”

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 74

WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE HELP COMMUNITIES BECOME AWARE OF THEIR REAL SITUATION

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 75

WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE INCLUDE OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO HELP THE FATHER IMMEDIATE AND THE COMMUNITY IN THIS DISCERNMENT ON THE COMMUNITY’S SITUATION IN ORDER TO COME TO A DECISION ABOUT ITS FUTURE

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 76

WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE DEFINE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE REGIONS IN HELPING COMMUNITIES IN THEIR DISCERNMENT

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 77

IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE DISCERNMENT INDICATES THAT A COMMUNITY HAS NO VIABLE FUTURE, WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE CLEARLY INDICATE THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IMMEDIATE IN INITIATING THE CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION TAKEN

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

6.3. Spiritual Formation of Candidates in Precarious Communities

The question of spiritual formation of newcomers was studied by RE (see RE 2013) with reference to ST 79.B. The candidates have a right to receive this formation (intellectual formation is easier to give) there it is not always fulfilled due to a lack of formators. The CC took a vote on whether or not this topic should be treated at the 2014 GC.

VOTE 1

GIVEN THE CANDIDATE'S RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE SPIRITUAL FORMATION, A RIGHT WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS RESPECTED BECAUSE OF THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF SOME COMMUNITIES, WE ASK THAT THE GC CONSIDER WAYS TO HONOUR THIS RIGHT

YES 18 NO 1 ABST. 6 **proposition accepted**

Given the positive vote, it is necessary to decide how the topic will be studied and by which procedure.

- It is necessary to see the topic in the context of aging communities with diminishing resources that generally find it difficult to supply formators.
- If this topic is somewhat connected to that of CST 67, it nevertheless cannot be included in the study of that CST which speaks of suppression of a house, while here we speak of offering a formation, something that is a sign of hope.
- Regard a way to deal with the topic, several suggestions were made: this could be a theme for the House Reports; it could be the subject of a working paper that would then be studied in the Commissions of the GC; the topic could be studied by the Regions.

VOTE 59

WE WISH THAT A WORKING PAPER BE PREPARED ON THE MEANS OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR CANDIDATES IN PRECARIOUS MONASTERIES

YES 17 NO 0 ABST. 8 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 60

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY ORDINARY PROCEDURE

YES 17 NO 5 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 61

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE
(This vote was not taken because of the results of Vote 60.)

Nominations and election for drawing up the working paper:

D. Roberto, Cardeña

D. Carlos, Sobrado

General Secretary for Formation

RE

17 votes, elected

1.7. The Father Immediate and the Regular Visitation

- The CC was referred to vote 64 of the 2011 GC:

Vote 64

We desire that the proposals mentioned in the reports on the father immediate during this chapter be reviewed at the GC of 2014 in view of possible legislation.

Yes 122

No 28

Abst. 13

proposition accepted

- In their meetings before the 2013 CC seven Regions (RéCiF, RAFMA, NED, REI, REM, US, CAN) said that the current legislation on the FI and Visitation is sufficient and needs no change.
- On the other hand, some Regions made proposals concerning changes in the legislation on the Regular Visitation:
 - The possibility of a FI delegating an abbess to conduct the visitation of one of his daughter houses of monks.
 - That for all houses of the order every 6 to 8 years there be either a delegated visitor, or the FI conduct the Visitation accompanied by an abbess, an abbot, or someone else.
 - That there be common legislation for all houses of the Order (which would be the current legislation for the monks).
 - If there is a vote at the GC for equal legislation, the votes should be taken separately (monks - nuns) so one branch does not force something on another (RE).
- Two suggestions:
 1. Modification of no. 23 of the Statute on the Regular Visitation that would reveal more clearly what the Visitor's intention is: order, recommendation, suggestion.
 2. A letter from the superior after the Visitation to the FI reporting on implementation of Visitation.
- Regarding the *Vademecum* on the Father Immediate it was pointed out that there is a copy reproduced in the booklet for the 2011 GC. A suggestion was made that the *Vademecum* be put on the Order's web site.
- It seems the right time that an abbess be delegated as Visitor of a house of monks.
- It is fairly common in the Order that a house has a FI from a different culture and language. It is beneficial from time to time to have a Visitor of one's own language.
- ORIENS, supported by others, expressed the desire that the emphasis not be on legislation but on the pastoral level of shared authority and collaboration in the pastoral service, a collaboration that would include the active role of the abbess of a founding house of nuns.

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- One point of interest in the exchanges was the question of the extent of the Father Immediate's authority with respect to the autonomy of the daughter house. The Father Immediate always can have recourse to the General Chapter when the daughter house is not responding to the directives of a Visitation.
- In light of GC 2011 Vote 64, all the proposals made at the last Chapter regarding the Father Immediate have to be reviewed at the 2014 GC, but the CC could say that, taking into account the responses of the Regions, it does not think it opportune to study the question of the FI again and submit its opinion to a vote at the beginning of the 2014 CG.

VOTE 20

IN THE CONTEXT OF VOTE NO 64 OF THE GC 2011 ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FATHER IMMEDIATE WE WISH TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014 A STUDY OF THE LEGISLATION OF THE REGULAR VISITATION.

YES 15 NO 8 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 21

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE ISSUE OF OBLIGATORY DELEGATION.

YES 8 NO 12 ABST. 5

proposition rejected

VOTE 22

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF DELEGATING TO AN ABBESS THE VISITATION OF A HOUSE OF MONKS.

YES 7 NO 9 ABST. 8

proposition rejected

VOTE 23

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE QUESTION OF THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE VISITATION.

YES 21 NO 1 ABST. 3

proposition accepted

VOTE 24

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE QUESTION OF THE TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE VISITATION CARD DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN AN ORDER, A RECOMMENDATION AND A SUGGESTION.

YES 19 NO 1 ABST. 5

proposition accepted

VOTE 62

WE WISH TO HAVE A WORKING PAPER ON THE TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE VISITATION CARD AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE VISITATION.

YES 8 NO 12 ABST. 5

proposition rejected

VOTE 63

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE.

(Vote not taken because for simple procedure a working paper is needed.)

VOTE 64

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY ORDINARY PROCEDURE.

YES 19 NO 1 ABST. 5

proposition accepted

VOTE 65

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE.

(Vote not taken because of the results of Vote 64.)

8. Link Between A House Of Nuns And Its Autonomous Foundation

At the 2011 GC a vote (n°42) was taken on this topic:

We desire that at the next General Chapter the abbesses discuss the possibility of a juridical link of a house of nuns and its foundation at the time of achieving autonomy.

Yes 76 No 70 Abstention 19

proposition accepted

Six Regions (REI, REM, CNE, RéCiF, REMILA, NED) do not wish any legislation at all, and eight Regions (CNE, US, ISLES, RE, RéCiF, NED, REMILA, CAN) asked that this topic not be included on the agenda of the 2014 GC.

ORIENS treated this topic from the perspective of shared authority and the collaboration between the FI and the abbess of the founding house. It desired that we use the term “Mother House” for the founding house, but to do so would involve a change in our constitutions (see ORIENS 2013). It is not a legislative matter but a pastoral one, that is, the collaboration between the FI and the abbess of the founding house. It seems that in many cases these relationship (FI–superior of the founding house–superior of the foundation) are good but even if they were not, legislation would not change anything.

The AG reported the outcome of a discussion of this point with the undersecretary of CICALSAL. It is the Congregation’s view that we are not in a mixed Order. Given that the monks are a clerical Order, the nuns’ monasteries are incorporated under the jurisdiction of the monks (through the Fathers Immediate).

Suggestions for responding to GC 2011 Vote 42:

- Let the abbesses meet among themselves during the 2014 GC to discuss the question. But this suggestion seems to run counter to the idea of a single GC.
- Organize a panel of several (4) abbesses (founders or superiors of foundations) followed by an exchange.

VOTE 25

IN APPLICATION OF VOTE 42 OF THE GC 2011 WE WISH THAT THE ABBESSES DIALOGUE AT THE GC 2014 FOCUS ON SHARED AUTHORITY AND PASTORAL COLLABORATION RATHER THAN LEGISLATION

YES 11 NO 9 ABST. 5

proposition accepted

VOTO 66

WITH REFERENCE TO VOTE 42 OF THE GC 2011 ON THE SUBJECT OF THE DIALOGUE OF THE ABBESSES, WE WISH THAT THERE BE A PANEL COMPOSED OF SEVERAL ABBESSES, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION IN PLENARY ASSEMBLY

YES 13 NO 4 ABST. 8

proposition accepted

VOTE 67

WE WISH THAT THE ABBESSES DIALOGUE IN LINGUISTIC GROUPS AND THEN PRESENT A REPORT TO THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

(This vote was not taken because of the results of vote 66.)

Nominations and elections for participants in the panel

M. Rosaria, Vitorchiano 8, elected

M. Monica, Valsarena

M. Cecilia, Tenshien 17, elected

M. Gilchrist, Tautra 6, elected

M. Martha, Gedono

M. Bibiane, Étoile Notre-Dame 10, elected

M. Giovanna, Matutum

M. Myriam, Laval

9. Internet, Mass Media, New Media of Communication

- The Regions made various suggestions pertaining to this topic and its treatment at the 2014 GC:
 - that at the GC 2014 there be a reflection on the use of the internet in our monasteries (RéCiF, ISLES, RE, REI);
 - that the topic be treated in connection with CST 29 (ISLES);
 - there be a presentation by a specialist;
 - that the topic be treated by ordinary procedure;
 - that it be dealt with on the Regional level and not by the Chapter (CAN).
- At the end of the 2011 GC there was disappointment that the theme was left untreated.
- If there were to be directives or orientations on this topic from the Order, what status or authority would these have?
- In the exchanges on this topic, the CC wondered how to improve discernment about use of the Internet. The interest should not be so much on legislation as on sharing experience on the question of the relationship between the Internet and the means of social communication and the contemplative life. We should look at this topic in terms of our values of separation from the world, solitude, *lectio*, and listening to the Word of God.
- Some anthropological questions to consider:
 - How do the new media affect and form one in interpersonal communication; what are their effects on the human mind?
 - How does the new media affect the young?
 - How to form to the monastic life someone who comes from the digital world?

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- An additional reality is the older members discovering this new reality: the new media can become a new form of activism in the monastery.
- For some, these new media are an “uncontrollable reality.” Newcomers bring their devices, including cell phones, to the monastery.
- Would it be more appropriate to deal with this reality on the local level of the Regions, or even of individual houses?
- The CC expressed its desire that an expert be invited to address this topic. The input from this expert should be more practical than theoretical and should address particularly anthropological and generational questions raised by the CC and take into account CST 29.
- A discussion on who this expert might be brought forth several names. Finally, a small search commission was chosen.

VOTE 26

WE WISH TO INCLUDE THE TOPIC OF MEDIA/INTERNET/COMMUNICATION ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT GC.

YES 22 NO 2 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 27

WE WISH TO TREAT THIS TOPIC IN THE LIGHT OF CONSTITUTION 29.

YES 17 NO 2 ABST. 6 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 28

WE WISH TO INVITE A SPECIALIST TO THE NEXT GC TO SPEAK ON THE TOPIC OF THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

YES 19 NO 5 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 29

WE WISH THAT THIS QUESTION BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE.

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 30

WE WISH THAT THE GC GIVE SOME ORIENTATIONS ON THE USE OF THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

YES 22 NO 2 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

Ad hoc Commission to search for a *peritus* to address the chapter on this topic, chosen by acclamation:

D. Armand

D. Bernardo

M. Marie-Christine

10. Financial Needs of the Houses of the Order

The genesis of this topic is a letter from Dom Timothy to Dom Gerard of Genesee regarding the financial situation of the monasteries of Nigeria and more broadly about the finances of a number of monasteries. The letter noted, in addition, that the Order's Commission of Aide receives requests for help but does not have enough money to respond positively to those requests.

- How can we plan for a certain financial security for the future and be in a position to help the communities?
- At present the greatest portion of donations comes from Scourmont, Westmalle, and Orval. Donations from the communities have continued to decline over the years.
- There is really need to help some communities in the area of financial management (courses, experts invited in) to help with this problem; many monasteries cannot move ahead because of the economic context they live in.
- We need to review the way we organize our work; maybe we could help one another on this level; it would be a new application of the *Charter of Charity*, rather than a search for economic harmony.
- If supporting ourselves is indispensable, can we go on supporting certain of our immense monasteries the demand so much money?
- A concrete proposal would be to create a fund, but that proposal has already been rejected in the course of one MGM. Some think to do this would be to participate in a perverse form of capitalism that the Pope denounces and that it would not be opportune in a period of financial crisis.

VOTE 46

DURING THE GC 2014 WE WISH TO STUDY HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE ORDER TODAY.

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 47

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE.

YES 16 NO 3 ABST. 6

proposition accepted

VOTE 48

WE WISH THAT THERE BE A WORKING PAPER TO INTRODUCE THIS TOPIC.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1

proposition accepted

Nominations and election for drawing up the working paper:

D. Armand, Scourmont 14, elected

P. Philippe, Tamié

D. Eduardo, Azul

D. Isidoro, Huerta 18, elected

M. Myriam, Laval 17, elected

11. Miscellaneous

11.1. Small Communities

After its Regional Meeting at Midelt, RéCiF proposed this theme inspired by the experience of holding the meeting in this small community. The environment along with the exchanges and hearing the experience of small communities opened the participants to changing their way of looking at this reality. RéCiF proposed that the superiors of some small communities could give a witness at the next GC. Some of the points that emerged from the discussion in the CC of this proposal are:

- It is difficult to understand what is meant by “small communities.” A foundation is a small community, some communities are intentionally small in number, some large communities have become small ones.
- How do we go about choosing the communities that would give witness?
- The topic can be situated in the ecclesial context, but this differs from continent to continent.
- The question is somewhat related to C. 67 and the theme of declining communities.
- Whatever the community is like, the important thing is to live the Gospel and to have an authentic monastic life. The GC’s role is to identify these things by means of the House Reports.

VOTE 45

WE WISH TO PUT THE QUESTION OF “SMALL COMMUNITIES” ON THE AGENDA FOR THE GC 2014

YES 3 NO 15 ABST. 7

proposition rejected

11.2. Representation of Monks and Nuns in the GC

This topic arose at the last GC: Now that there is a single GC, there is also a single CC. At present the CC is composed of one representative from each Region with the exception of RAFMA, REMILA, and ORIENS, each of which may have two.

That both branches voted for a single GC shows that there is a lot of confidence in the Order and that it is not a question of power.

11.3. Clarification Regarding The Eventual Election Of A Superior Over 75 Years Of Age.

ISLES took a vote (see ISLES 2013) pertaining to the situation of its Region. The discussion that followed shows need for a clarification even though this situation rarely arises.

VOTE 38.A

WE WISH TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY IN THE NEXT GENERAL CHAPTER THE LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO THE CASE OF A PERSON OVER 75 YEARS OLD BEING ELECTED AS SUPERIOR.

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 38. B

WE DESIRE A WORKING PAPER ON THIS TOPIC.

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 38. C

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE DRAWN UP BY THE LAW COMMISSION.

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3

proposition accepted

VOTE 38. D

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE TREATED BY SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE.

YES 19 NO 4 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 38. E

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE TREATED BY ORDINARY PROCEDURE.

(This vote was not taken because of the results of Vote 38.D.)

11.4. “State of the Order” Document

Several Regions took votes on this topic. The following questions emerged from the exchange at the CC:

- Is this document necessary?
- Should its name be changed?
- Should it be a synthesis of the GC?
- When should it be composed?
- A document issuing from the GC is appreciated, but it should present a realistic picture of the Order.
- There were divergent opinions about when this document should be drawn up, whether during the GC, or after. It seemed that asking two capitulants to do this during the GC is not reasonable.
- The title “State of the Order” seems a little pretentious.
- At the last GC two capitulants were chosen to draw up the text after the GC. The AG and his Council then gave their opinions.
- Is this document read in the communities if it gets to them only in November or December? NED puts the document on the agenda of its Regional Meeting following the GC, and all the communities of RE study it.

VOTE 10

WE WISH THAT A DOCUMENT ON THE STATE OF THE ORDER BE DRAWN UP.

YES 21 NO 1 ABST. 3

proposition accepted

VOTE 11

WE WISH THAT THIS TEXT SYNTHESISE THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER AND UNDERLINE ITS MORE SIGNIFICANT POINTS.

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 12

WE WISH TO MAINTAIN THE TITLE “STATE OF THE ORDER” FOR THIS DOCUMENT.

YES 11 NO 12 ABST. 2

proposition rejected

VOTE 13

WE WISH THIS DOCUMENT TO BE DRAWN UP DURING THE GENERAL CHAPTER.

YES 1 NO 22 ABST. 2

proposition rejected

VOTE 14

THIS DOCUMENT IS COMPOSED BY AN ABBOT AND ABBESS ELECTED BY THE CAPITULANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER, AND IS APPROVED BY THE ABBOT GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL.

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 31

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE ENTITLED “SYNTHESIS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER.”

YES 11 NO 8 ABST. 6

proposition accepted

VOTE 32

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE ENTITLED “GLOBAL VISION OF THE GC.”

VOTE 33

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE ENTITLED “FINAL REPORT OF THE GC.”

(Votes 32 and 33 were not taken because of the results of Vote 31.)

11.5. Complementary Procedure

This topic was introduced by REMILA with reference to Vote 19 of the MGM 2005: *“We wish that there be a single General Chapter that respects the healthy differences and the complementarity of gifts among nuns and monks, according to C.72.1.”*

“Complementary procedure” would offer the possibility of having, if necessary, Commissions of Abbots and Commissions of Abbesses, separate straw votes, commissions, panels, and finally consultation before a final vote (REMILA 2013).

- There are differences in the Order between nuns and monks, ages, cultures It is important to attend to this diversity when seeking consensus. The GC has all the tools necessary for seeking this consensus.
- It is not necessary to be controlled by fears, or to seek juridical guarantees. Many think it best first to live this new experience of a single General Chapter.
- It is best to let the Coordinating Commission discern when a dialogue among abbots alone or abbesses alone would be opportune.
- REMILA wanted to make us aware of ways of seeing differences and complementarity, and to remind us of the vote at the 2005 MGM.

VOTO 85

WE WISH THAT THE QUESTION OF COMPLEMENTARY PROCEDURE BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014

YES 1 NO 21 ABST. 3

proposition rejected

11.6. Blue Book

This book, done by Dom Armand when he was Procurator and brought up to date in 2002, gives statistics of all the communities of the Order. It is a valuable tool. Dom Armand is willing to update the data again using statistics supplied him by the Generalate.

11.7. Miscellaneous

- C.29: REM asks that this Constitution remain unchanged. After a discussion on the topic the CC decided not to take a vote.
- Ordinary Procedure: Based on its experience at the last GC (very long discussions of the Commission reports, decisions made contrary to the recommendations of the Commissions) NED asks that this procedure be revised (see NED 2012). If some share this opinion, it should be remembered that the CC gives careful attention to the topics it assigns to this procedure.

The CC decided that there would be no vote.

12. Organization of the GC

12.1. Liturgy

Several Regions studied this topic and made suggestions:

- At the Eucharist:
 - That the language be that of the Region organizing it;
 - That a modern language be used rather than Latin so the celebration is more dynamic and intelligible;
 - That in the place of celebration the altar be situated in the center of the assembly;
 - Could the number of concelebrants be limited each time? But this is a delicate point;
 - Could we celebrate in the Basilica? Not likely, since neither the horarium there nor the honorarium is convenient for us.
- All wish that Lauds and Vespers be celebrated as at the 2011 GC. Dom Hugues of Neiges has offered to prepare the sheets as he did in 2011.

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- It was suggested to leave the afternoon of the first day of the GC free for prayer in preparation for the GC. Also, since generally about 1/3 of the capitulants are new, this free afternoon would allow them time to familiarize themselves with the place.

VOTE 6

WE WISH THAT LAUDS BE CELEBRATED TOGETHER AS IT WAS IN THE CHAPTER OF 2011.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 7

WE WISH THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE EUCHARIST LEFT TO THE CHOICE OF THE REGION THAT HAS PREPARED THE LITURGY.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 8

WE WISH THAT THE CELEBRATION OF VESPERS BE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE CHAPTER OF 2011.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 9

TO FAVOUR THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN THE EUCHARIST WE ASK THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE ALTAR BE RECONSIDERED.

YES 19 NO 1 ABST. 5 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 49

WE WISH TO HAVE THE AFTERNOON OF THE FIRST DAY AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER AND QUIET AS A PREPARATION FOR THE WORK OF THE GC.

YES 21 NO 2 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

12. 2. Periodic Evaluation During the General Chapter

The CC examined the topic of periodic evaluation of the Chapter while it is in session. When and how often should evaluations be done? While no one doubts the importance of such evaluations there are various opinions about their frequency.

- The role of brief evaluations made in the Commissions was brought up. They can help improve things when there are problems.
- It was wondered if evaluations need to be done when the House Reports are being studied, or when the Chapter starts addressing other items.
- Weekly evaluations can stimulate the Chapter and give it momentum.
- The next GC will last for 18 days. If evaluations occurred weekly there would be three of them in the course of the Chapter.
- To avoid adding to the Chapter's workload, it was proposed that some suggestions could be made directly to the Coordinating Commission.
- Norms should be established for facilitating communication between the Commissions and the Coordinating Commission; communication of information to the Coordinating Commission should be made in a timely manner.

VOTE 51

IN THE COURSE OF THE GC WE WISH TO HAVE THREE EVALUATIONS INCLUDING THE FINAL ONE.

YES 5 NO 20 ABST. 0 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 52

IN THE COURSE OF THE GC WE WISH TO HAVE TWO EVALUATIONS INCLUDING THE FINAL ONE.

YES 23 NO 1 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

12.3. President, Vice-President, Secretary of the Commissions

Following the request of RéCiF (see RéCiF 2012), the Note on the role of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Commissions was revised. Before electing people to these services it is desirable that this Note be read so that they are entrusted to competent persons.

VOTE 44

WE WISH THAT THE “BRIEF OBSERVATION” ON THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSIONS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER BE READ IN THE COMMISSIONS BEFORE THEIR ELECTION.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

The text “A Brief Observation About The Role Of The President, Vice-President And Of The Secretary For The Commissions” is found with the Appendices, p.36.

12.4. Secretary of the Coordinating Commission

Someone has to be elected as Secretary of the Coordinating Commission for the GC 2014.

Nominations and election

Fr. Thomas, Casa Generalizia/La Trappe 19, elected

Fr. Mark, Vina/Gethsemani

Fr. Germain, Koutaba

12. 5. Delegates

Several Regions (RE, NED, RéCiF, REM, RAFMA, REI, ORIENS) took votes on the topic of delegates to the General Chapter.

- It would be helpful before the GC to have some clarification of the role of delegates. Several opinions were put forward with respect to the delegates' voting at the GC (7 Regions voted against the delegates having the right to vote).
- The fact of delegates participating at the GC is not a whim on the part of the Order; rather it conforms to the spirit of Vatican Council II.
- The communities prepare delegates for Regional meetings and value them there, but delegates seem to be less appreciated at the GC.

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- The need to study and make legislation on this topic was mentioned. The delegates of GC 2011 themselves requested guidelines about their role.
- Do we wish delegates who are not capitulants? Capitulants have the right to vote. If it is desired that the delegates vote, it is necessary to restructure the composition of the GC.
- Some arguments against the delegates' voting: lack of experience and consequently of understanding of the problems, insufficient knowledge of the Order and how it functions.
- Some positive points: at times the delegates are better prepared for the GC than the superiors are, they can help the capitulants by providing the grassroots point of view, their experience of monastic life is different from that of the superiors.
- Should there be one or two delegates from each Region? Since we now have a single Chapter it seems reasonable to continue as we have done up to now.
- It was requested that an *ad hoc* commission be formed to draw up a document on the delegates' participation in the GC before the next GC. The CC proposed to entrust this work to Dom Olivier (Cîteaux), M. Kathy (Redwoods), and Dom Roberto (Cardeña).

VOTE 34

WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO APPLY ST 78 B.A. ACCORDING TO WHICH DELEGATES DO NOT ENJOY THE RIGHT TO VOTE AT THE GC.

YES 17 NO 3 ABST. 5

proposition accepted

VOTE 35

WE WISH TO ADAPT NO 1.2 OF THE PROCEDURES OF THE GC IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE DELEGATES NO LONGER HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE COMMISSIONS, IN STRAW VOTES OR IN PROCEDURAL VOTES.

YES 10 NO 8 ABST. 7

proposition accepted

VOTE 36

WE WISH THAT A BRIEF DOCUMENT BE COMPOSED BEFORE THE GC 2014, ORIENTATING THE DELEGATES IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GC.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1

proposition accepted

VOTE 37

WE WISH THAT THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE DELEGATES AT THE END OF GC 2011 BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COMPOSITION OF THIS DOCUMENT.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1

proposition accepted

VOTE 81

WE WISH THAT THE BRIEF DOCUMENT CLARIFYING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DELEGATES DURING THE GC BE DRAWN UP BEFORE THE GC BY AN AD HOC COMMISSION COMPOSED OF M KATHY, DOM OLIVIER AND DOM ROBERTO

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

12.6. Guests

Two points were discussed: who should be invited to the Chapter, and who should be invited to address the Chapter (and for how long).

- It would seem obvious that since we are Cistercians and also belong to the Benedictine family that the Abbot General OCist and the Abbot Primate OSB should be invited as in the past.
- The Abbess President of Las Huelgas is always present at the Chapter. She has always declined to speak to the Chapter, but in 2014 there will be a new Abbess President. Perhaps she will accept an invitation to address the Chapter.
- As for the Lay Cistercians, how many should be invited?
- A list of possible guests was formed:
 - The Abbot Primate OSB
 - The Abbot General OCist
 - From CICALSAL either the Prefect, or the new Secretary, or the Undersecretary (Fr. Paciolla)
 - The Superior General of the Bernardines d'Esquermes
 - The Superior General of the Bernardines de Oudenaarde
 - Representative(s) of the Lay Cistercians
 - Bishops of the Order
 - The President of AIM
 - A member of the Commission of Aide
 - A member of the Finance Commission
 - The Postulator
 - The President of ARCCIS.

VOTE 82

WE DELEGATE TO THE ABBOT GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL THE CHOICE OF INVITED GUESTS TO THE GC AND THEIR MANNER OF PARTICIPATION.

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

12.7. Papal audience

Because of broad consensus on this question not much time was spent on it. The question regards what kind of audience we could hope for: public, private, or general. It was even suggested that we invite the Pope to visit the GC even though such a visit does not seem in the realm of possibility.

VOTE 50

WE WISH TO HAVE A PRIVATE PAPAL AUDIENCE DURING THE GC.

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

12.8. Personnel at the GC 2014

It is necessary to propose people who could perform the various services during the GC 2014: Coordinator of the Secretariat, a secretary, an assistant (for typing), for each of the three principle languages, simultaneous translators, translators of texts, people staying in their monasteries capable of translating quickly texts sent by email. Someone is also need to oversee the GC's web site.

Dr. Bessonneau is willing to return. We will have to add a nurse. It was suggested we take out medical insurance for the GC that would cover unforeseen expenses and make medical and health personnel available.

Each Region is invited to think about these things and nominate people to the AG's Council

Nominations and election of Master of Ceremonies for the GC

D. Brendan, New Melleray

D. Jean-Marie, Désert

P. Klemens, Lamanabi

D. Richard, Roscrea

F. José-Luis, Cardeña and S. Lourdes, Armenteira (Delegages of RE) 12, elected

12.9. Use of New Technology at the GC

In response to the suggestion of the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the 2011 GC, the CC reflected on the advantages and disadvantages of making use of the new numerous documents issuing from the GC.

II. PLENARY COUNCIL OF THE ABBOT GENERAL

Dom Eamon presented several points to the Plenary Council during the CC at Cîteaux.

1. The situations of some communities in Nigeria.
2. Archbishop Bader of Algiers (Algeria) is looking for some monks to reoccupy Tibhirine.
3. Archbishop Landel of Rabat (Morocco) is making available a monastery recently vacated by a community of Melkite nuns in that hopes that a community of nuns of our Order might occupy it, thus providing a complement to the monks of Midelt.
4. Some other issues were presented.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE :

- **Working Papers must arrive at the Generalate by the end of January 2014 at the latest.**
- **The House Reports must arrive at the Generalate no later than May 1 2014.**
- **One must arrive at the GC with the Regional Reports and their translations.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

1. Texts modified for a Single General Chapter

Following the Holy See's decree approving a Single General Chapter, the Latin texts of the Constitutions that had to be modified were presented to the Holy See. We are waiting its approval so we can translate them into the three official languages of the Order.

The text of "The Regulations of the General Chapter" will be modified for the same reason and will be included in the General Booklet for the GC 2014.

2. Saint Gertrude as a Doctor of the Church

Dom Oliver (Cîteaux) explained to the CC the process for petitioning the granting of the dignity Doctor of the Church to Saint Gertrude of Helfta.

- The process includes a series of documents (reasons for and the relevance of an eventual Doctorate, supporting letters from various persons, for example)
- Between 100 and 150 letters requesting the Doctorate are required, written according to a particular formula. At present we have around 50 letters.
- It would be helpful to organize seminars and events on Saint Gertrude. There will be one at Cîteaux 3–8 February, 2014.
- Devotion to Saint Gertrude is quite strong in South America, so it seems worthwhile to go on with the work. In July 2013 there will be a monastic encounter in Mexico for the study of Gertrude's texts. Several liturgical pieces will be composed for the occasion.
- The journal *Cistercium* is lending support and it is desirable that other journals follow suit.

3. Bernardine congress at Vina (USA)

Dom Paul Mark of Vina informs us that in 2015 is celebrated the 900th anniversary of the founding of Clairvaux by Saint Bernard.

- New Clairvaux, Vina, California, is planning a celebration of the occasion for June of 2015.
- A number of activities are planned, including an emphasis on architecture in connection with the dedication of the reconstructed Óvila chapter house.
- Some conferences are foreseen, for instance:
 - Saint Bernard and the architecture of Clairvaux and its daughter houses
 - Bernard of "Cîteaux" founder of Clairvaux.
 - William of Saint Thierry and Bernard of Clairvaux: Friendship and Theology.
 - Is there Life after Bernard of Clairvaux?

4. The cause of padre Romano Botegal.

Dom Giacomo of Tre Fontane informs the assembly that Father Romano Botegal will soon be named "venerable."

5. OCSO-France

Mother Marie-Christine of Rivet gave an overview of the work in progress. Since September 2012 the French houses have been in dialog about the present state of the monasteries. This dialog has been provoked by diminishing numbers and other problems, such as work, finding superiors, the management of buildings. Because these monasteries are divided among four regions, this is the only venue that lets the superiors dialog all together. The intention is to come to a common vision that while not obliging anyone would let the communities that so wanted to move forward together. This work calls for interaction between the group and the communities.

There have been two meetings with a moderator. These meetings have resulted in the decision to entrust to 6 members the drawing up of a questionnaire for the communities that would include questions for the superior, for the FI, for the prior, for those responsible for work, for each member, and for the juniors. The questionnaire will encourage the communities to question themselves about their actual situations and about the normal criteria of viability for a monastery of our Order in France. Another meeting is planned for September 2013.

A more detailed treatment of OCSO-France by Dom Eric of Aiguebelle can be found in the Reports of REM and CAN 2013).

6. Evaluation of the CC of 2013

In the first place there is the noteworthy coincidence of the CC Meeting at Cîteaux and the 900th anniversary of the entrance of Saint Bernard at this monastery. Everyone experienced this coincidence as a particular grace.

Many thanks to Dom Olivier, to the guest brothers, and to the community for the warm and fraternal welcome, and for all the services rendered, the high quality and tranquility of the liturgy, and all that they contributed to the perfect working of this CC.

A noteworthy feature of the meeting was that we concerned ourselves mainly with the life of the communities. We tried to see situations as they really were and sought how we could help one another. Even with our limitations and poverty we are proud to belong to this Order. When you embrace your poverty you give birth to a richness. This is the experience of these days where we have also had the joy of finding ourselves together again and feeling the freedom that is growing among us.

At times we went off the track in our discussions not knowing where our lack of focus was taking us, but those times opened the participants to dialog and to expressing their opinions without confrontation. Thanks to the Coordinating Commission that allowed this to happen and that has worked hard. Thanks to M. Danièle for the work she did in preparation for this meeting, and also to the translators and secretaries..

The AG closed the meeting: "The meeting of the abbots and abbesses of the Central Commission is for the good of the Order and supports the life of the monks and nuns of the Order. I hope this meeting results in their benefit. May God bless all of us. Amen."

IV. APPENDICES

1. Study of the house reports at the General Chapter 2014

(the document used at the MGM 2011 was modified by the Central Commission at Cîteaux, 2013)

A - Writing the House Reports

1.1 - The aim of the House Reports is to share with the whole Order the real state of the community. It is written by the community with its Superior in consultation with the Father Immediate who makes sure that it gives a true information on the community, instead of limiting itself to theoretical considerations.

1.2 - In writing it, the community reflects on its own monastic experience, especially as regards formation, dealing with this question in a concrete manner, avoiding abstract considerations. The community can take its inspiration from the document that will be proposed, and may use the recent Visitation Card.

B - Treatment of the House Reports at the General Chapter

2.1 - The study of the House Reports is the main aspect of the collegial pastoral solicitude of the General Chapter towards the communities of the Order. The General Chapter exercises that solicitude by confiding the reading and study of these House Reports to the commissions of the General Chapter.

2.1.1 - After having read and discussed the Reports, the commission dialogues with the superior. The father immediate, who always has the right to provide pertinent information to the president of the commission that is reading the report of his daughter house, is consulted (which does not necessarily imply that he participate in the discussions). If more information is needed, the commission contacts other members of the General Chapter who are familiar with the case in question. In both cases, the consultation may be carried out either in the presence or the absence of the Superior of the house, according to circumstances.

2.1.2 - Care should be taken at every stage, to respect the legitimate sensitivity of the superior of the house studied and of everyone concerned. If some sensitive information needs to be given to allow for an enlightened pastoral intervention, all the participants must be aware of their duty to respect charity and confidentiality.

[At the beginning of the General Chapter, after their election, the presidents, vice-presidents and secretaries of the Mixed Commissions will have a meeting with a member of the coordinating commission in order to receive some indications on how to fulfil their tasks.]

a) Study of the House Reports by the Commissions of the General Chapter

2.2 – Each Commission studies all the Reports assigned to it.

2.2.1 - In that study, they will be sensitive to, for example:

- The quality of formation in every phase of monastic life.
- The effective balance between *lectio*, liturgy and work.
- The superior's pastoral care of the community. For example, the care of the aged and infirm members or of those in initial formation.
- How the community is facing certain challenges, such as that of inculturation, especially in the field of formation.
- The available means used by the superior to assure his or her own ongoing formation inner balance and growth.
- The relationship with the father immediate.
- In cases where an abbot has a large filiation, how he deals with this.

2.2.2 - The pastoral care for the communities studied and their superiors will normally be exercised through: advice, affirmation, encouragement, recommendations and brotherly/sisterly support. The commissions may also choose to send a message to the community concerned.

2.2.3 - When making a decision concerning a community, the commission will always discuss it with the superior concerned and will consult the father immediate.

2.2.4 - In exercising pastoral care of the community and its superior, the commission may take a decision and require its implementation in virtue of the authority delegated to it by the General Chapter, except when there is question of rights reserved to the General Chapters [cf. C 79]. The commission should state clearly in writing the nature of the decision and its limits.

2.2.5 – In the cases when a decision must be imposed, a majority vote of the members of the commission is required.

2.2.6 – It is possible for a superior to have recourse to the plenary assembly concerning a decision made by a commission in his own regard or that of his community. He will do so through the coordinating commission. For that recourse to be possible, the commissions will not wait till the last days of the General Chapter to make their decisions.

2.2.7 - All the decisions are communicated to the plenary assembly in the manner that the coordinating commission will judge opportune.

2.2.8 - Each commission makes a report offering a general picture of the communities it has studied. In this report mention can be made of particular aspects or common features which could be of interest to the whole Order, especially in the area of formation.

b) Situations Requiring a Special Pastoral Attention

2.3.1 - There may be situations that invite further pastoral care due to the fact that: the pastoral care of the commission is not accepted by the persons involved; more time and special interventions are needed in complicated situations.

2.3.2 - In such cases, the commission will ask the coordinating commission to create an *ad hoc* commission that will be composed of persons chosen for their experience and their capacity to intervene in that particular situation. Before establishing an *ad hoc* commission, the coordinating Commission will consult each time the abbot general and his council. Then, as far as possible, it will take into account the propositions made by the Commission of the Chapter that requested that Commission *ad hoc*. The findings of that *ad hoc* commission will be brought to the commission that will then make the necessary recommendations and eventually take the necessary decisions.

2.3.3 – The following-up of the decisions taken by a commission will normally be made by the father immediate; if this is not opportune, the commission will determine who will be responsible for the following-up.

c) The Communication of Information

2.4 – The secretaries of the commissions will regularly give to the secretary of the coordinating commission a report on the progress of their work on the House Reports.

2.5 – A member of the council of the abbot general will serve as liaison between the abbot general and the coordinating commission

2.6 – The reports of the commissions, at the end of their work, will be communicated to the plenary assembly in the form judged most opportune by the coordinating commission.

2.7 - The secretaries of the commissions having finished their work of the General Chapter will give to the coordinating commission all the documentation that has been worked on in the mixed commissions.

2.8 – All the documents established by the Commissions of the Chapter will be presented to the persons who are concerned – Superior, Father Immediate – as well as to the Abbot General, before being presented in Plenary Session.

2.9 – At the end of the General Chapter, the secretary of the coordinating commission will give to the abbot general a complete documentation concerning the work of the General Chapter.

d) Synthesis of the General Chapter

3.1 – A document will be written after the General Chapter, the redaction of which will be entrusted to two members of the General Chapter (an abbot and an abbess), elected by the General Chapter at the beginning of its work. It will be approved by the Abbot General and his Council.

3.2 – This document will be a synthesis of the work of the General Chapter and of its most significant points.

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2. A Brief Observation About The Role Of The President, Vice-President, And Of The Secretary For The Commissions

The president's role and the one of the secretary are very different, and require different expertise, therefore the following observations.

The President:

- ▶ In the commissions, the president is in charge of directing the sessions. The president is a **moderator**.
- ▶ It is not an honorary title, but a service that is confided to a member who has, as much as possible, an experience of a General Chapter. The president is not necessarily the oldest on the Commission and who automatically is given the service.
- ▶ The moderator must really be aware of the full agenda for the Commission meeting. The moderator must organize the time of exchanges according to the overall agenda. For example, regarding the study of the House Reports, every commission has between 10 and 13 reports to study. It is for the moderator to establish a schedule. Perhaps an average of one hour and half for a report would be a good measure.
- ▶ The moderator leads the meeting in a manner that allows all the members to express themselves. The moderator offers each the possibility to speak.
- ▶ The moderator must keep the discussion directed; not let the real topic be lost.
- ▶ The moderator formulates some “straw” votes if such would help clarify a topic.
- ▶ At the conclusion of each meeting, it is suggested to take some moments for the group to express its position on various points. These the secretary can note for the final report.
- ▶ It is for the moderator to assure that the final report is in accord with the positions of the Commission and presents this report to the Secretary of the Coordinating Commission.

A Vice-President is elected to replace the president in the event of the absence of the President. And so the role and abilities of a Vice-President are the same as those of the President.

The Secretary:

- ▶ This is not a task to be confided necessarily to a delegate nor to the youngest member of the commission; it is a responsibility for someone who has experience and some secretarial facility.
- ▶ The secretary takes notes to facilitate writing a synthesis of the meeting and not verbatim minutes.
- ▶ The secretary is responsible for the report that will be presented. The report should indicate the opinion of the minority in relation to the majority.
- ▶ At a convenient time, the secretary writes the report following any guideline given by the Secretary of the Commission of Coordination and presents the report to the President of the Commission for approval.
- ▶ The Secretary gives a copy of the final report to the Secretary of the Coordinating Commission and keeps a copy.

If the Coordinating Commission asks for only one report from several Commissions to be presented in the plenary, this final report is to given to the Secretary of the Coordinating Commission.

If the President-Moderator directs the sessions well, the secretary's work will be facilitated.

It is to be noted that the service of secretary must not be the responsibility of the person who is the Vice-President.

3. Homily of Dom Olivier, Abbot of Cîteaux, for the Celebration of the Nonacentenary of Saint Bernard's Entrance at Cîteaux, June 8, 2013

The readings that we have just heard have a particular resonance in this year of the 9th centenary of the entrance of Bernard de Fontaine at Cîteaux. Truth be told, we know not much of Bernard's childhood and youth, but no one doubts that, of the 7 children of Tescelin and Aleth, Bernard is the only one to study at the school of the canons of Saint-Vorles in Châtillon-sur-Seine. He received a solid literary education that could only help him to develop his natural gifts which, obviously, were exceptional. More importantly however, we can assert that it was there, in this school of clerics, that he began to savor the word of God which he heard proclaimed, sung in the liturgy, and commented on by the Fathers of the Church. He memorized God's word; it became his very own language, his normal way of expressing his ideas and his feelings; and further, to open his heart to the intense vigor that already animated him.

Bernard was extremely gifted with an extraordinary human wealth, in the domains of intelligence, emotions, and artistic talents. What was he going to become? His family destined him to the clerical life, envisioning him to an important post, at least a bishop. Bernard chose a different direction without fear of mystifying his family. He chose Cîteaux, this "new monastery", which, although was not unknown, still it was a pale sight when compared with St. Benigne of Dijon, and especially when placed next to Cluny who was at the pinnacle of its popularity. Having been in existence for only 15 years, Cîteaux wanted to be faithful to the Rule of St. Benedict by avoiding as much as possible, compromises with all worldliness. Entering Cîteaux was gratifying to neither the pleasures of the flesh nor the pride of the spirit. Bernard decided to take the step that would remain with him for the rest of his life. He prayed and understanding had been given to him. What he wanted was fervor of the heart and the radical following of the gospel. He implored God and the Spirit of wisdom came upon him. He preferred wisdom to both thrones and scepters. He loved her more than holiness and beauty.

Later, with such precision and gift he would speak of the Wisdom of the Word Incarnate! People would rush from afar to see him, to hear him, to touch him! But today, he's only 22 years old and he enters Cîteaux. The one, whom Our Lord will soon put on the lampstand in order to enlighten both the Church and Europe, has chosen to disappear like salt in dough. He found at Cîteaux a safe place where he could be concealed and exposed to the secrets of God's face, far from the intrigues of men. Please allow me to say, with perhaps a bit of excessive audacity, a refrain that my brothers have heard all throughout this 9th centenary: Bernard would undoubtedly have never exercised the influence that he did if he had not received at Cîteaux a monastic formation worthy of his exceptional personality. He is a son of Cîteaux who is indebted to his mother for having been what she was! In this sense, he is Bernard of Cîteaux before being Bernard of Clairvaux!

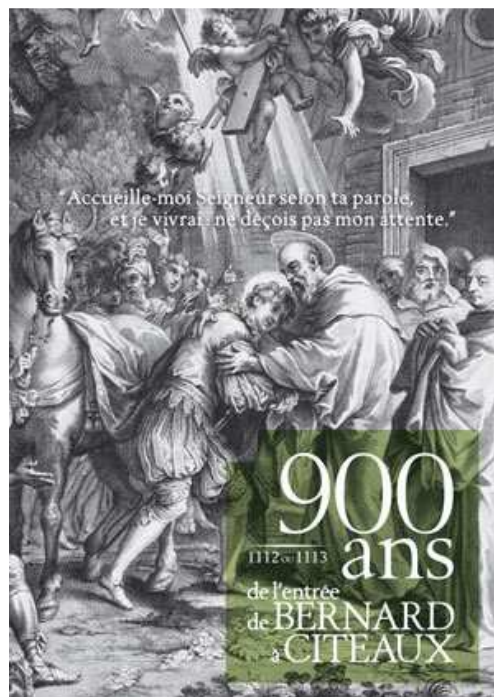
Who then welcomed him when he arrived here? A poor, fraternal, sorely tested community, a simple community guided by a man who was of a rare caliber. That is the least one can say. To welcome a young leader of 22, leading a group of 30 companions, belonging to the higher society of Burgundy, without allowing themselves to be threatened, it was necessary

that the abbot, Stephan Harding be of a rare stature, and it was necessary that the community of Cîteaux be not only well formed, but founded on a rock.

There has been much research trying to clarify the relationship between that of St. Stephen Harding with that of St. Bernard. It remains enigmatic, except for one essential point which is at the heart of both the Gospel and the Rule of St. Benedict: charity. By means of charity, Stephen would indissolubly join together in spirit, the monks who were corporally dispersed in the abbeys. This, Bernard loudly proclaimed by his life and his writings. The love, the delight, this cherishing of a tender yet strong heart, this charity which can never be surpassed, it was for him the sole reason for loving God, and the sole measure to be placed in our relationship with Him and with our neighbors. Wherever he goes, Bernard wishes to enlighten with charity, and first of all in the hearts of his brothers.

In the engraving which we have chosen to celebrate this 9th centenary, I see a moving illustration of this. Stephen Harding and his brothers are going out to welcome Bernard and his companions. Bernard, bowing profoundly before the Father Abbot, his head ready to receive the kiss of, allows the father of the monastery to firmly place his two hands on him in a gesture which recalls the merciful father welcoming home the return of his prodigal son. Bernard, without a doubt, did not come to Cîteaux as a conqueror. What he and his companions came to learn was the mercy of God and of the Order. And this is what all of us, Cistercian monks and nuns throughout the world today, were asked on the day of our entrance to the monastery and what we ask ourselves every day of our life. What do you seek? "The mercy of God and of the Order." Bernard was not disappointed!

The engraving which represents Stephen Harding welcoming Bernard with his companions shows that this first decisive day, this first day of the first love, is entirely illumined by the glorious Cross which is carried by the angels. In this 9th centenary of his entrance at Cîteaux, Bernard gives this Cross to us, to each one of us, so that we may carry it joyously and with deep love both in our hearts and in our lives. And may this Cross be for us what it had been for him: a bouquet of myrrh from which we may daily breathe of its fragrance.



4. Summary of the votes in numerical order

VOTE 1

GIVEN THE CANDIDATE'S RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE SPIRITUAL FORMATION, A RIGHT WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS RESPECTED BECAUSE OF THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF SOME COMMUNITIES, WE ASK THAT THE GC CONSIDER WAYS TO HONOUR THIS RIGHT

YES 18 NO 1 ABST. 6 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 2

WE WISH TO HAVE A THEME FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF 2014

YES 8 NO 16 ABST. 0 **proposition rejected**

(since this vote was not accepted, votes 3, 4, and 5 were not taken).

VOTE 3

WE WISH THAT THE THEME BE "THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

VOTE 4

WE WISH THAT THE THEME BE "FORMATION TO OBEDIENCE AND HUMILITY"

VOTE 5

WE WISH THAT THE THEME BE FORMATION FOR UNANIMITY IN DIVERSITY BETWEEN MONKS AND NUNS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIRST SINGLE GENERAL CHAPTER.

VOTE 6

WE WISH THAT LAUDS BE CELEBRATED TOGETHER AS IT WAS IN THE CHAPTER OF 2011.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 7

WE WISH THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE EUCHARIST LEFT TO THE CHOICE OF THE REGION THAT HAS PREPARED THE LITURGY.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 8

WE WISH THAT THE CELEBRATION OF VESPERS BE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE CHAPTER OF 2011.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 9

TO FAVOUR THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN THE EUCHARIST WE ASK THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE ALTAR BE RECONSIDERED.

YES 19 NO 1 ABST. 5 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 10

WE WISH THAT A DOCUMENT ON THE STATE OF THE ORDER BE DRAWN UP.

YES 21 NO 1 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 11

WE WISH THAT THIS TEXT SYNTHESISE THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER AND UNDERLINE ITS MORE SIGNIFICANT POINTS.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

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VOTE 12

WE WISH TO MAINTAIN THE TITLE “STATE OF THE ORDER” FOR THIS DOCUMENT.

YES 11 NO 12 ABST. 2 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 13

WE WISH THIS DOCUMENT TO BE DRAWN UP DURING THE GENERAL CHAPTER.

YES 1 NO 22 ABST. 2 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 14

THIS DOCUMENT IS COMPOSED BY AN ABBOT AND ABBESS ELECTED BY THE CAPITULANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER, AND IS APPROVED BY THE ABBOT GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 15

WE WISH THAT THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2014 HAVE REGIONAL REPORTS

YES 23 NO 2 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 16

WE WISH THAT THE REGIONAL REPORTS PRESENT THE EVOLUTION OF THE REGIONS SINCE THE LAST GENERAL CHAPTER

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 17

WE WISH THAT THE REGIONAL REPORTS BE WRITTEN AND TRANSLATED BEFORE THE GENERAL CHAPTER

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 18

WE WISH THAT THE REPORT NOT EXCEED ONE PAGE

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 19

WE WISH THAT THE REGIONAL REPORTS BE READ AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 20

IN THE CONTEXT OF VOTE NO 64 OF THE GC 2011 ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FATHER IMMEDIATE WE WISH TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014 A STUDY OF THE LEGISLATION OF THE REGULAR VISITATION.

YES 15 NO 8 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 21

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE ISSUE OF OBLIGATORY DELEGATION.

YES 8 NO 12 ABST. 5 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 22

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF DELEGATING TO AN ABBESS THE VISITATION OF A HOUSE OF MONKS.

YES 7 NO 9 ABST. 8 **proposition rejected**

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VOTE 23

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE QUESTION OF THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE VISITATION.

YES 21 NO 1 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 24

WE WISH TO INCLUDE IN THIS STUDY THE QUESTION OF THE TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE VISITATION CARD DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN AN ORDER, A RECOMMENDATION AND A SUGGESTION.

YES 19 NO 1 ABST. 5 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 25

IN APPLICATION OF VOTE 42 OF THE GC 2011 WE WISH THAT THE ABBESSES DIALOGUE AT THE GC 2014 FOCUS ON SHARED AUTHORITY AND PASTORAL COLLABORATION RATHER THAN LEGISLATION

YES 11 NO 9 ABST. 5 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 26

WE WISH TO INCLUDE THE TOPIC OF MEDIA/INTERNET/COMMUNICATION ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT GC.

YES 22 NO 2 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 27

WE WISH TO TREAT THIS TOPIC IN THE LIGHT OF CONSTITUTION 29.

YES 17 NO 2 ABST. 6 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 28

WE WISH TO INVITE A SPECIALIST TO THE NEXT GC TO SPEAK ON THE TOPIC OF THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

YES 19 NO 5 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 29

WE WISH THAT THIS QUESTION BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE.

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 30

WE WISH THAT THE GC GIVE SOME ORIENTATIONS ON THE USE OF THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

YES 22 NO 2 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 31

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE ENTITLED "SYNTHESIS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER."

YES 11 NO 8 ABST. 6 **proposition accepted**

(Votes 32 and 33 were not taken because of the results of Vote 31.)

VOTE 32

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE ENTITLED "GLOBAL VISION OF THE GC."

VOTE 33

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE ENTITLED "FINAL REPORT OF THE GC."

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VOTE 34

WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO APPLY ST 78 B.A. ACCORDING TO WHICH DELEGATES DO NOT ENJOY THE RIGHT TO VOTE AT THE GC.

YES 17 NO 3 ABST. 5 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 35

WE WISH TO ADAPT NO 1.2 OF THE PROCEDURES OF THE GC IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE DELEGATES NO LONGER HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE COMMISSIONS, IN STRAW VOTES OR IN PROCEDURAL VOTES.

YES 10 NO 8 ABST. 7 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 36

WE WISH THAT A BRIEF DOCUMENT BE COMPOSED BEFORE THE GC 2014, ORIENTATING THE DELEGATES IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GC.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 37

WE WISH THAT THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE DELEGATES AT THE END OF GC 2011 BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COMPOSITION OF THIS DOCUMENT.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 38.A

WE WISH TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY IN THE NEXT GENERAL CHAPTER THE LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO THE CASE OF A PERSON OVER 75 YEARS OLD BEING ELECTED AS SUPERIOR.

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 38. B

WE DESIRE A WORKING PAPER ON THIS TOPIC.

YES 25 unanimous **proposition accepted**

VOTE 38. C

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE DRAWN UP BY THE LAW COMMISSION.

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 38. D

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE TREATED BY SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE.

YES 19 NO 4 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 38. E

WE WISH THAT THIS DOCUMENT BE TREATED BY ORDINARY PROCEDURE.

(This vote was not taken because of the results of Vote 38.D.)

VOTE 39

WE WISH THAT ALL THE HOUSE REPORTS BE STUDIED AT THE GC 2014

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 40

WE WISH TO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO FACILITATE THE COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE REPORTS

YES 21 NO 2 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

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VOTE 41

WE ASK THAT THE FATHER IMMEDIATE VERIFY THAT THE REPORT GIVES REAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF THE COMMUNITY, NOT THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 42

WE WISH THAT EVERY HOUSE REPORT GIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION OF THE COMMUNITY

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 43

WE WISH THAT 2.3.2 OF THE TEXT ON THE *STUDY OF THE HOUSE REPORTS* BE MADE MORE SPECIFIC IN THE FOLLOWING WAY: "BEFORE ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMISSION, THE COORDINATING COMMISSION WILL CONSULT EACH TIME THE ABBOT GENERAL HIS COUNCIL. *HAVING DONE SO, IT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, AS SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CHAPTER WHICH REQUESTED THE AD HOC COMMISSION*".

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 44

WE WISH THAT THE "BRIEF OBSERVATION" ON THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSIONS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER BE READ IN THE COMMISSIONS BEFORE THEIR ELECTION.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 0 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 45

WE WISH TO PUT THE QUESTION OF "SMALL COMMUNITIES" ON THE AGENDA FOR THE GC 2014

YES 3 NO 15 ABST. 7 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 46

DURING THE GC 2014 WE WISH TO STUDY HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE ORDER TODAY.

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 47

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE.

YES 16 NO 3 ABST. 6 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 48

WE WISH THAT THERE BE A WORKING PAPER TO INTRODUCE THIS TOPIC.

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 49

WE WISH TO HAVE THE AFTERNOON OF THE FIRST DAY AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER AND QUIET AS A PREPARATION FOR THE WORK OF THE GC.

YES 21 NO 2 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 50

WE WISH TO HAVE A PRIVATE PAPAL AUDIENCE DURING THE GC.

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

Central Commission - Cîteaux – June 2013

VOTE 51

IN THE COURSE OF THE GC WE WISH TO HAVE THREE EVALUATIONS INCLUDING THE FINAL ONE.

YES 5 NO 20 ABST. 0 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 52

IN THE COURSE OF THE GC WE WISH TO HAVE TWO EVALUATIONS INCLUDING THE FINAL ONE.

YES 23 NO 1 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 53

WE WISH THAT THE GC DELEGATE ITS AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSIONS OF THE GC 2014 AS IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 54

WE WISH TO PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014 THE QUESTION OF THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE GC TO THE COMMISSIONS

YES 18 NO 4 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 55

WE WISH THAT THERE BE A JURIDICAL STUDY, BEFORE THE GC, CLARIFYING THE MANDATE AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONS ACTING IN THE NAME OF THE GC

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 56

WE WISH THAT THE LAW COMMISSION DO THIS STUDY.

YES 4 NO 12 ABST. 9 **proposition rejected**

VOTE 57

WE WISH THAT AN *AD HOC* COMMISSION DO THIS STUDY.

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 58

WE WISH THAT ALL THE DOCUMENTS DRAWN UP BY THE COMMISSIONS BE PRESENTED TO THE PERSONS CONCERNED, AS WELL AS TO THE ABBOT GENERAL, BEFORE THEY ARE PRESENTED IN THE AULA.

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 59

WE WISH THAT A WORKING PAPER BE PREPARED ON THE MEANS OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR CANDIDATES IN PRECARIOUS MONASTERIES

YES 17 NO 0 ABST. 8 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 60

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY ORDINARY PROCEDURE

YES 17 NO 5 ABST. 3 **proposition accepted**

VOTE 61

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE

(This vote was not taken because of the results of Vote 60.)

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VOTE 62

WE WISH TO HAVE A WORKING PAPER ON THE TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE VISITATION CARD AND THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE VISITATION.

YES 8 NO 12 ABST. 5

proposition rejected

VOTE 63

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE.

(Vote not taken because for simple procedure a working paper is needed.)

VOTE 64

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY ORDINARY PROCEDURE.

YES 19 NO 1 ABST. 5

proposition accepted

VOTE 65

WE WISH THAT THIS TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE.

(Vote not taken because of the results of Vote 64.)

VOTO 66

WITH REFERENCE TO VOTE 42 OF THE GC 2011 ON THE SUBJECT OF THE DIALOGUE OF THE ABBESSES, WE WISH THAT THERE BE A PANEL COMPOSED OF SEVERAL ABBESSES, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION IN PLENARY ASSEMBLY

YES 13 NO 4 ABST. 8

proposition accepted

VOTE 67

WE WISH THAT THE ABBESSES DIALOGUE IN LINGUISTIC GROUPS AND THEN PRESENT A REPORT TO THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

(This vote was not taken because of the results of vote 66.)

VOTE 68

WE WISH THAT THE TOPIC OF DECLINING COMMUNITIES BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0

proposition accepted

VOTE 69

WE ASK THAT A WORKING PAPER BE DRAWN UP ON THIS TOPIC IN PREPARATION FOR THE GC 2014

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1

proposition accepted

VOTE 70

WE WISH THAT THE GC REFLECT ON NEW MEANS OF HELPING DECLINING COMMUNITIES THROUGH INITIATIVES ON THE REGIONAL OR ORDER LEVEL

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 71

WE WISH THAT THE ABBOT GENERAL GIVE A CONFERENCE ON "DECLINING COMMUNITIES"

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 72

WE WISH THAT THE TOPIC BE TREATED BY EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURE

YES 24 NO 1 ABST. 0

proposition accepted

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VOTE 73

WE WISH THAT THE GC FORMULATE A STATUTE ON “DECLINING COMMUNITIES”

YES 22 NO 1 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 74

WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE HELP COMMUNITIES BECOME AWARE OF THEIR REAL SITUATION

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 75

WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE INCLUDE OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO HELP THE FATHER IMMEDIATE AND THE COMMUNITY IN THIS DISCERNMENT ON THE COMMUNITY’S SITUATION IN ORDER TO COME TO A DECISION ABOUT ITS FUTURE

YES 24 NO 0 ABST. 1

proposition accepted

VOTE 76

WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE DEFINE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE REGIONS IN HELPING COMMUNITIES IN THEIR DISCERNMENT

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 77

IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE DISCERNMENT INDICATES THAT A COMMUNITY HAS NO VIABLE FUTURE, WE WISH THAT THIS STATUTE CLEARLY INDICATE THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IMMEDIATE IN INITIATING THE CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION TAKEN

YES 25 unanimous

proposition accepted

VOTE 78

WE WISH TO CONSIDER A REVISION OF CST 67 IN SO FAR AS IT CONCERNS THE NECESSITY OF OBTAINING A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE CONVENTUAL CHAPTER IN ORDER TO PROCEED TO THE SUPPRESSION OF THE MONASTERY

YES 22 NO 3 ABST. 0

proposition accepted

VOTE 79

WE WISH THAT THE JURIDICAL STUDY CLARIFYING THE MANDATE AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONS ACTING IN THE NAME OF THE GC, BE WRITTEN BY AN *AD HOC* COMMISSION COMPOSED OF 3 MEMBERS

YES 22 NO 0 ABST. 3

proposition accepted

VOTE 80

WE WISH THAT THIS COMMISSION BE COMPOSED OF 5 MEMBERS.

(not taken because of the results of Vote 79)

VOTE 81

WE WISH THAT THE BRIEF DOCUMENT CLARIFYING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DELEGATES DURING THE GC BE DRAWN UP BEFORE THE GC BY AN *AD HOC* COMMISSION COMPOSED OF M KATHY, DOM OLIVIER AND DOM ROBERTO

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 82

WE DELEGATE TO THE ABBOT GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL THE CHOICE OF INVITED GUESTS TO THE GC AND THEIR MANNER OF PARTICIPATION.

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

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VOTE 83

WE ASK THAT THE VOTES BE WRITTEN IN ONE LANGUAGE CHOSEN BY THE COMMISSION OF COORDINATION AS THE MODEL AND THAT THE TRANSLATIONS INTO THE OTHER OFFICIAL LANGUAGES BE MADE FROM THIS ONE LANGUAGE

YES 23 NO 0 ABST. 2

proposition accepted

VOTE 84

WE ASK THAT IN THE REDACTION OF LEGISLATIVE VOTES THE COORDINATION COMMISSION WILL VERIFY THE FORMULATION OF THE VOTES WITH A MEMBER OF THE LAW COMMISSION BEFORE PRESENTING THEM IN THE AULA

YES 20 NO 0 ABS 5

proposition accepted

VOTO 85

WE WISH THAT THE QUESTION OF COMPLEMENTARY PROCEDURE BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE GC 2014

YES 1 NO 21 ABST. 3

proposition rejected

VOTE 86

WE APPROVE THE TEXT "*STUDY OF THE HOUSE REPORTS*" REVISED DURING THE CENTRAL COMMISSION 2013

YES 25 unanimous

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