

CHRONICLE OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER SESSION 2, SEPTEMBER 2022

Since this session of the General Chapter is long and considering the work it involves for the editor and for translators, the members of the Commission of Coordination decided that this chronicle would be published on a weekly basis.

Second week, from September 9th to 17th

The work of the General Chapter first of all in the aula as we continued listening to different reports on houses under "apostolic", "pontifical" or "monastic" administration. But reports are also dealt with on the houses that had been dissolved since the 2017 Chapter. The innovative experience of the Vitorchiano annex house, Acque Salvie, is also mentioned. The latter occupies buildings in Tre Fontane and, among other things, shares the liturgy with the brothers. In addition, we are currently in the process of examining the Cor Orans document. This document has an impact on the Constitutions of the nuns. It requires us to modify these constitutions or request a dispensation for the nuns, and/or standardize the texts in the constitutions of monks and nuns.

The last few days will also be marked by a fair number of guests and conferences. Following on from Father Justin last week, Sister Aintzane de Quilvo shares with us "what they find most invigorative about the Order today". From the monastic world, Father Celestin OCist of Austria tells us about the work accomplished to update the Graduale Cisterciense and Dom Gregory, Abbot Primat of the Benedictines gave us his views. The visit of the representatives of the International Association of Lay Cistercians is also worth mentioning.

A conference was presented to us, via Zoom, by Mrs. Marie-Jo Thiel, professor at the University of Strasbourg, on the subject of the "Abuse of power and the vow of obedience". An important theme in the Church today and in our communities. Mrs. Marie-Dominique Minassian tells us about the work done to classify, digitise and publish the writings of our martyred brothers of Tibhirine, as well as to draw up a list of the writings about them.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the visit we had for a few days, of our brother Bishop Lode van Hecke, abbot emeritus of Orval and bishop of Ghent.

The last few days have also seen two important events coming. On Saturday, 10 September, we will celebrate Vespers with the community of the Poor Clares of Santa Chiara. Then, on Friday, 16 September, we are heading for Rome, as Pope Francis granted an audience to the capitulants.