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REMILA 2024  
Reunión Mixta Latinoamericana



Monasterio Madre de Dios, El Encuentro  
April 8-17th, 2024

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## Participants

Country	Monastery	Superior	Delegate
Argentina, Azul	Ntra. Sra. de los Ángeles	F. Santiago María Ríos	F. Bernardo
Chile, Rancagua	Sta. María de de Miraflores	Br. Lucas	Br. Sebastián
Mexico, Ciudad Hidalgo	Madre de Dios	M. Aurora	Sis. Cecilia
Argentina, Hinojo	Madre de Cristo	M. María	Sis. María José
Brasil, Campo do Tenente	N. S. do Novo Mundo	F. Paulo	N/A
Mexico, Jacona	Virgen del Curutarán	F. Florencio	Br. Ricardo
Chile, Curicó	Ntra. Sra. de Quilvo	M. Mariela Jerez	N/A
Venezuela, Humocaro	Ntra. Sra. de Coromoto	M. Paola	Sis. Ma. Antonia
Venezuela, La Loma	Ntra. Sra. de los Andes	F. Plácido	N/A
R. Dominicana, Jarabacoa	Sta. M. del Evangelio	F. Jhonny	N/A
Ecuador, Esmeraldas	Sta. M. de la Esperanza	M. Celia	Sis. María Elena
Ecuador, Latacunga	Sta. M. del Paraíso	F. Jesús Penalba	N/A
Panamá, Sorá	Ntra. Sra. de la Paz	M. Fabiana	N/A
Brasil, Boa Vista	N. S. da Boa Vista	M. Liliana Schiano	N/A
Colombia, El Rosal	Ntra. Sra. de Chiquinquirá	M. Ana Isabel	N/A

## Invited

Italy, Rome	Curia Generalis	F. Marco Antonio Maldonado	Member of the AG council
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## Services

Mexico	Madre de Dios	Sis. Aidé	Secretary
Chile	Ntra. Sra. de Quilvo	Sis. Cecilia	Secretary

President of the Region: M. Mariela Jerez  
Vice-president of the Region: M. Celia Quezada  
Moderator: F. Santiago Ríos  
Votes formulation: F. Plácido Álvarez - F. Jesús Penalba  
Summary of the House reports – F. Florencio Navarro - Sis. María Antonia.

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## Introduction

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The Reunion started at the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe with a Mess; we entrusted our work to the Mother of the Risen Lord. Afterwards we traveled to the Monastery “El Encuentro”, where the Community welcomed us fraternally. Below are the subjects and the people who participated in each one. Finally, a summary of the most important issues is included together with the voting sheet.

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## Subjects

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### 1. Order Topics

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1. OCSO general current status – F. Marco Antonio
2. Sinodality within OCSO - F. Bernardo Olivera
3. Mothers Immediate – M. Aurora
4. Filiation – F. Plácido
5. Comment to the lecture of Prof. Marie Jo Thiel in the GC 2022 - M. Ana Isabel
6. Reflexion on the issue of abuse - M. Paola
7. Protocol for protection of minors and vulnerable adults / Abuse of authority - F. Bernardo Olivera
8. Constitutions current status - M. María
9. Update regarding new finance structures in the Order – F. Marco Antonio
10. Supporting document for economic visits – F. Jesús
11. Voting obligation – F. Plácido
12. CG 2022/2 Evaluation
13. Proposals for CG 2025.

### 2. REMILA topics

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1. Dialogue about House reports.
2. Report from Formation Secretary.
3. Financial report of the Treasurer.
4. Pastoral meetings of superiors
5. Election of REMILA services and GC delegates.

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## General Summary

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F. Marco Antonio opened the meeting with a presentation about the Order current status, based on the last presentation from D. Bernardus during the "New Superiors course". Through statistical data we were introduced to the diversity of our communities around the world.

After that we proceed to the reading of the Houses reports, including all dialogues they brought up. There was also a special moment to talk about the experiences of the communities of Sorá and Los Andes.

An evaluation was made of GC 2022/2, with its graces and difficulties. And suggested topics to be discussed at GC 2025 were presented

F. Bernardo Olivera talked about synodality within OCSO, giving us concrete tools to start a synodal journey from the communities.

M. Aurora presented the Mother Immediate subject, showing there are no legal obstacles to work with this figure.

F. Plácido spoke about Filiation, which for nun's communities is already a possibility, since it is established in Cor Orans, but regarding monks is still under consideration, as it would help the fragile communities.

Concerning the Abuse Issue, there were three interventions: M. Ana Isabel made a comment to the lecture of Prof. Marie Jo Thiel at the last GC 2022; M. Paula shared her thoughts on this matter inspired on a conference given by M. Francesca, Valserena Abbes, at the REM meeting; and F. Bernardo presented the protocol on the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, as well as a thought on the abuse of authority. The dialogues emphasized that communities should be informed and formed on these issues.

M. Maria described the latest modifications, approved by Holy See, on our Constitutions. Either way it was clarified that there are still open points to be submitted to the Holy See for approval.

F. Marco Antonio explained the new financial structures of the Order, with the new sub-Commissions and their functions. And F. Jesus gave us a summary of the document to help economic visits requested by the Abbot General to be done together with the regular visits before GC 2025. And the reason is because there are many communities without the accounts up to date, and this may bring economic, legal and financial problems.

F. Plácido addressed the topic of the obligation to vote, when a community is suppressed and the members must change their vow of stability.

Demonology item was tabled and suggested to be included in the next GC, in order to bring to attention to this problem which concerns several communities.

During the days of the Reunion, pastoral meetings of Superiors were held, where dialogue and sharing about their own communities took place.

Sis. María Antonia read the report of the Secretary of Formation, including several proposals for face-to-face and Zoom courses, the latter with good results. The Treasurer's report was also submitted. The election of some REMILA services as well as delegates for GC took place.

We are grateful to the contributions of F. Marco Antonio, who joined as invited from the Curia Generalis and shared with us his experience as member of the General Council.

We are very grateful to the community "El Encuentro" for the fraternal and warm welcome.

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## VOTING SHEET

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Please consider that delegates have also voted. In total 23 votes.

### **A- AFILIATION.**

The "affiliation" is already legislation according to Cor Orans.

1. We ask to GC request to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life grant us a dispensation to the nuns from the affiliation figure mentioned in Cor Orans.

**Yes: 11      No: 9      Abstention: 2      Null: 1      ACCEPTED**

2. In case, nuns must assume the filiation figure of Cor Orans, we would like this to be applicable also for monks.

**Yes: 11      No: 10      Abstention: 2      ACCEPTED**

3. We request that during GC when voting this subject monks and nuns may express themselves separately on their own legislation on this point.

**Yes: 13      No: 8      Abstention: 2      ACCEPTED**

**B- Mothers Immediate.**

1. We wish to continue, ad experimentum, with the Mothers Immediate and this experience can be evaluated in GC 2028.

**Yes: 20                      No: 2                      Abstention: 1                      ACCEPTED**

*If the answer is negative the following votes must be considered. Due to the answer was positive, the next votes will be not taken:*

2. We want a definitive legislation for the figure of Mother Immediate be applicable to nuns.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

3. We want a definitive legislation for the figure of Mother Immediate be applicable to monks.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

4. We wish neutral terminology be used in this statute and not mentioned Father or Mother Immediate.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

5. We want to exclude all members of the GC council of Father or Mother Immediate service.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

6. We want no one who is not a member of the OCSO can perform this function.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

7. We want any monk, who is not a Superior, can be Father Immediate.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

8. We want any monk, who is not a Priest, can be Father Immediate.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

9. We want any nun, who is not a Superior, can be Mother Immediate.

**Yes:                      No:                      Abstention:**

### **C- STABILITY CHANGE OF A MEMBER FROM A SUPPRESSED COMMUNITY.**

We would like that Central Commission includes in the agenda of GC 2025 a revision of the following texts. Deseamos que la CC ponga en la agenda del CG 2025 la revisión de los siguientes textos.

1. The number 22 of the Statute on the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and on the Suppression of a Monastery establishes: Every member of the Order has the right and the duty of having stability in a monastery of the Order.

Vote:

We wish the word "*duty*" be eliminated and other option be kept open.

Reason: the change of stability requires a vote of the person who changes it and there is no duty to make a vote.

**Yes: 13      No: 4      Abstention: 6 |      ACCEPTED**

2. The number 23 indicates: The community that accepts such members coming from a suppressed community will express its willingness and commitment through a vote.

Vote:

We would like to eliminate the voting requirement and be replaced for a query from the Superior.

Reason: the need of a vote, which can be rejected, may invalidate the right itself.

**Yes: 11      No: 7      Abstention: 5      ACCEPTED**

### **D – PROPOSED ITEMS FOR GC 2025**

VOTE 1

We wish that the GC will also be a privileged time and space for updating and revitalizing the values of our Cistercian charisma and of our mission within the Church and world; e.g. simplicity, solitude, prayer, etc.

**Yes: 23      No: 0      Abstention: 0      ACCEPTED**

VOTE 2

We would like the Conferences from GC be adequately deepened in the Commissions, in order to favor their understanding and their expressions in the different circumstances of time and place.

**Yes: 20      No: 2      Abstention: 1      ACCEPTED**

### VOTE 3

We request that GC dynamic respects and safeguards a real synodality with its own methodology: open dialogue, listening, freedom to disagree, openness to reach consensus, etc.

**Yes: 22                      No: 0                      Abstention: 1                      ACCEPTED**

### VOTE 4

We suggest that GC has a background theme as reference framework and its own slogan.

**Yes: 14                      No: 8                      Abstention: 1                      ACCEPTED**

## **E – SPIRITISM AND WITCHCRAFT (DEMONOLOGY)**

We propose that Central Commissions include in the GC2025 agenda, 15 minutes for reviewing a report about this subject, which should be prepared for a commission of 3 abbots or abbess.

**Yes: 15                      No: 5                      Abstention: 3                      ACCEPTED**

Reasons:

This is a matter of concern for some communities based on their own experiences; therefore would be very important to make it visible and thus easier to deal with.

We are aware this is a topic difficult for some to accept and perhaps not all the communities has these experiences, but this is a real situation that we can better address to the extent we, as Order, recognize it and speak about it freely without stigmatization.

## **F- FORMATION**

We approve a course for juniors and young professors (nuns and monks) in REMILA which, as far as possible, could be financed by the formation fund of our region.

VOTING BY SHOW OF HANDS

**Yes: 23                      No: 0                      Abstention: 0                      ACCEPTED**

## **G- VOTING FOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF REMILA**

F. Florencio (Jacona) was elected in the third round.

## **H- VOTING FOR SECOND MEMBER OF THE REMILA FORMATION COMMISSION**

M. Aurora (El Encuentro) was elected in the second round.



## **I – VOTING TO ELECT SECRETARY OF THE REGION**

Sis. Aidé (El Encuentro) was elected in the first round.

## **J – VOTING FOR REMILA DELEGATES FOR THE GC2025**

Br. Gregorio (Novo Mundo) was elected in the first round.

Sis. Maricarmen (El Encuentro) was elected in the first round.

## **K – NOMINATION OF PEOPLE FOR GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ORDER**

F. Carlos María Antunez, from Sobrado (SPAIN)

F. Miguel, from San Isidro (SPAIN)

Br. Ricardo, from Jacona (MEXICO)

F. Paco Rivera, from Huerta (SPAIN)