



CONGREGATION OF THE FRANCISCAN HOSPITALIER SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION XXVII GENERAL CHAPTER 12 July to 12 August 2019

Newsletter Nº 2

FRUITFULNESS

If God is fruitfulness and source of life, Consecrated Life, which aims to be an image of God, an extension of the life and ministry of Jesus, will not achieve its goal without treasuring and living the spiritual dimension of fruitfulness/ motherhood, as God's gift, not only by words, but also with tears, vigilance, tenderness, kindness, strength, self-denial. If we walk about sad or are sad it is because we have not been or are not fertile. Is our faith fertile or is it sterile?

(Instrumentum Laboris p. 45)

JULY 15 – RETREAT

After the day of thanksgiving, and of reconciliation we concluded the retreat with an invitation to look ahead and embrace the future with hope.



Cardinal Aquilino Bocos in his reflection highlighted that this *‘hope we are speaking about is not based on numbers or works, but on Him in whom we have placed our trust. (ref. 2 Tim 1,12) and for whom “nothing is impossible” (Lk. 1:37). This is the hope that does not defraud and that will permit Consecrated Life to continue to write an extensive history in the future, which we must continue to look at, aware of the fact that it is there that the Holy Spirit is leading us, to continue doing great things in us.’*



“Embrace the future with hope.”

In the evening we had with us Fr. José Frazão, Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in Portugal who spoke to us about *Spiritual Discernment and Apostolic Fruitfulness*. He began by telling us that fruitfulness is fruit of minority and of hospitality, and to understand fruitfulness, he would necessarily have to speak about discernment. As such he evoked the Instrumentum Laboris of the Synod of Bishop “The Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment”, nº2, in which, Pope Francis focusses on the ideal that discernment has to lead to action. To be a fruitful Franciscan Hospitaller is to give life to minority and hospitality.



*“To be fruitful is to be little,
detached, free to open the house and to welcome the other.”*

JULY 16 – FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The collaboration of Fr. José Frazão, sj, continued on the 16th, with another two talks on the same topic, full of wisdom and spiritual unction.

In the liturgy of July 16, we celebrated Our Lady of Mount Carmel oriented by the Province of the Immaculate Hospitaller, India. We were gifted with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as a sign of our relationship with Christ and his Mother. In the homily, Fr. José Frazão evoked Mary as the One who knew to say YES, without laying conditions.

