



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

Newsletter Nº 3

## MINORITY

Minority highlights our franciscan roots in all of its evangelical radicalism. Today, it acquires a special prophetic value before the irresistible desire for power, to have and to enjoy; in the face of the culture of the spectacular (show) and flamboyance.

Our Mother Foundress made us love the little ones, because the Kingdom of God is seed, it is mustard, it is leaven, it is light, it is the children and the lilies of the field. We are called to take the path "downwards" in other words - of becoming little - and we need to do that on the basis of faith.

*(PRR, 4ª Etapa, Lineamenta, p. 40)*

## JULY 17 - MINORITY

The day began with the Morning Prayer, at which we were invited to remove our sandals and to worship the Lord.

Then, we had the joy of the presence of Fr. Fabrizio Bordin, OFM Conv, who spoke to us of Minority, in the Gospel and in St. Francis of Assisi. Francis chose to be a minor, from the evangelical point of view and not merely social point of view.



Franciscan minority is a place of encounter with God, with the others, with nature; it is a relational code.

In the evening, during the Eucharist, Fr. Nélio Luciano Baptista Vieira, scj, in his explanation of the Word, he recalled the reading of the previous day, saying that Moses desired to save the people, counting solely on his own strength. However, the reading of today presents to us how Moses learnt that, only when he removed the sandals and worshipped the Lord, he understood that, solely in such a way he would save the people. In this gesture of Moses, we understand the meaning of Minority.



*"Minority is the ferment of the universal fraternity."*

## JULY 18 - MINORITY

After Morning Prayer, we met to continue the reflection on minority, explained in the perspective of Pope Francis. Fr. Fabrizio said that the Pope “*recognizes that to be minors after the manner of the Saint Francis of Assisi, is totally modern and is an answer to the demands of the contemporary world. Minority lived in Fraternity leads to peace and a culture of life, in mercy and reconciliation*” (ref. Pope Francis).



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*“Be humble and you will be good religious.” (Mother Clara)*

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## OUR PATH OF POST-CONCILIAR RENEWAL

In the evening, Sr. Magda Brasileiro, on behalf of PROCHAP, presented a synthesis of the journey of the Congregation, from the II Vatican Council until our days. She went through the essentials of the General Chapters, the Plenary Councils and the documents that have been published. She also mentioned some ecclesial documents published since then. During this journey, we experience the joy of observing that the Congregation has given meaningful steps towards revitalization, restructuring and reorganization. It was a happy moment of recalling the Congregational History.



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*“The dreams and the desires repeat themselves during the course of time”*

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