



CONGREGATION OF THE FRANCISCAN HOSPITALLER SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION XXVII GENERAL CHAPTER JULY 12 TO AUGUST 12 2019

Newsletter Nº 5

MISSION

Our Congregation came into existence to be mission and to live in mission, and to respond to the priorities presented by Jesus in the Gospel: to practice the Works of Mercy, according to the spirit of the Beatitudes. All the Sisters who integrate the Congregation, while disciples of Jesus, are marked, by the Spirit, to witness, bless, welcome, vivify, heal, set free (cf. EG 273). To do as Jesus did is to concretize the apostolic spirit of our Founders, Fr. Raimundo and Sister Maria Clara, in docility to the breath of the Spirit, imprinted in the Congregation a missionary mark. Mission is much more than action. Mission is witness, passion, communion, contemplation, dialogue, solidarity. *It is doing good where it is to be done.*

JULY 21 AND 22

On the 21st and the morning of 22nd, the work consisted of the reading, personal study, reflection and sharing of the Part I of the Report of the Six Years, *Life in Mission*.

These were moments for getting to know and to acknowledge what has been done at the Congregational level and also an opportunity to begin to plan for the future.



On 22nd evening, we had the joy of receiving Fr. Isidro Lamelas OFM who, in his simplicity, shared with us the topic *Hospitality of faith, in the Christian and Franciscan tradition*.

He divided his reflection in three dimensions:

- Hospitality as a human virtue;
- Hospitality of faith
- Hospitality as an epiphany and concrete expression of charity.

He highlighted the importance that – our Charism has, in the times that we are living, which are times of mistrust, of fear of the different (stranger), of individualism... and the responsibility that is ours, as Franciscans and Hospitallers, of maintaining it alive.

Hospitality implies two movements: *to be a host and to be a guest*. Only those who have ever felt welcomed, will know to welcome. Even Christ made himself a pilgrim and identified himself with the “foreigner”.

“It is these who are my people.”



On the 23d, Sisters Maria de Fátima Moreira Martins, Maria D’Souza and Valdinez Gomes de Novais presented, with great depth and creativity, the topics on: Fruitfulness, Hospitality and Minority, respectively. The same Sisters are the authors of these topics, of which the whole Congregation received a synthesis in preparation for the General Chapter. The President of the Chapter, Sr. Maria Isilda Freitas praised, thanked and exalted the gift of these Sisters and the wealth that they are in the Congregation. This was followed by group work, in which were highlighted the novelty of the topics shared and challenges and suggestions were identified, in view of the forthcoming six year term.



Sr. Maria de Fátima Martins



Sr. Maria D’Souza



Sr. Valdinez Gomes de Novais