

**Daughters of
Wisdom
Council of the
Congregation**

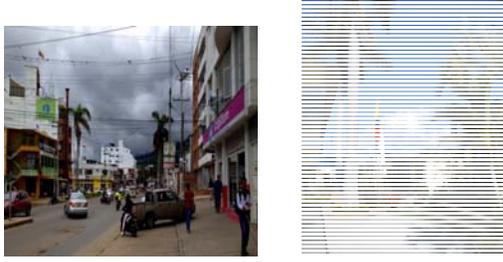
Fusagasugá – Colombia
March 27 – April 7, 2017

Dear Sisters,

The Council of the Congregation met from March 27 to April 7, 2017 in Fusagasugá, Colombia. This was my second Council of the Congregation. Again, it was a pleasure to be with Daughters of this Council around the globe. The main focus of this Chapter – the initial preparation of the General Chapter – August 2018. The purpose of this presentation is to give you a snapshot of the experience from my perspective. You have already received the letter from Sr. Louise Madore (dated April 13, 2017).

Gratefully - Cathy

Fusagasugá, Colombia



Opening Ritual

Sr. Louise

Presentation on Colombia by the Provincial Council





Experience of Minga

The call for a "Minga"--a term that refers to a traditional gathering or activity for the collective good that dates back to the Incas. Today, in South America, it refers to community work or work among friends when they need help from each other.

"Planting" the tree ...



Maureen Gilbert -

Led a Workshop on Intercultural Living

- ♦ "The inclusion of diversity is Wisdom," said Maureen.

Sr. Bríd Long (Facilitator) with Maureen Gilbert (Presenter)



Some learnings and recommendations after presentation from Maureen Gilbert:

- Build awareness throughout the congregation - engaging all the Sisters in the move toward interculturality.
- In opening intercultural communities – do the necessary groundwork, feasibility study and discernment so there is a clear vision and mission.
- Invest in language learning.
- Develop a process – to become an *intercultural* congregation. Integrating *charism* and *Wisdom spirituality* in the process.



Presentation of the Intercultural Community at Huntington Station, New York

Cathy Sheehan presented the accompaniment process being used with the Intercultural Community on Mission. Copies were translated and distributed.

Sr. Jacqueline presented syntheses of the congregation-wide dialogue on the preparation questions -

- The theme of the last General Chapter invited us to "Widen the space of our Tent" (Is 54:2): What did this invitation transform in your life as a Daughter of Wisdom and in the Congregation?
- The Orientation of the 2012 Chapter concluded with Montfort's challenge: "If you do not risk anything for God, you will never do anything great for God" (Letter 27): What does the General Chapter 2018 call us to "risk for God" today?

The synthesis was organized around the following areas --

- Reconfiguration
- Interculturality/Intercultural Communities
- Current Needs
- Collaboration
- Wisdom Spirituality
- Accompaniment
- Formation of Personnel

After review and discussion of the syntheses from each entity, decisions were reached and grouped together under the following categories -

- Towards interculturality in the Congregation
- Reconfiguration of the Congregation

Towards Interculturality in the Congregation

Implement a long-term process of awareness-raising

- Develop a process - to become an intercultural Congregation.
- Integrate the Wisdom charism and spirituality.
- Develop tools to help sensitize the Congregation to interculturality.
- Make a concrete commitment to learn the official languages of the Congregation: French and English.
- Collaborate with other Congregations on specific subjects related to the mission: refugees, migrants, etc. to intensify our common voice.

Implement Intercultural Communities

- Perform feasibility study and discernment - surfacing a real need with a clear mission.
- Invest in learning languages and culture
- Community members spend time getting to know each other and sharing their cultures.
- Entity Leadership must accompany the new intercultural community.
- Strengthen the existing intercultural communities. **Community in France still needs one to two more members.**
- Find personnel for two new intercultural communities in Canada and Italy.

Two new intercultural communities --

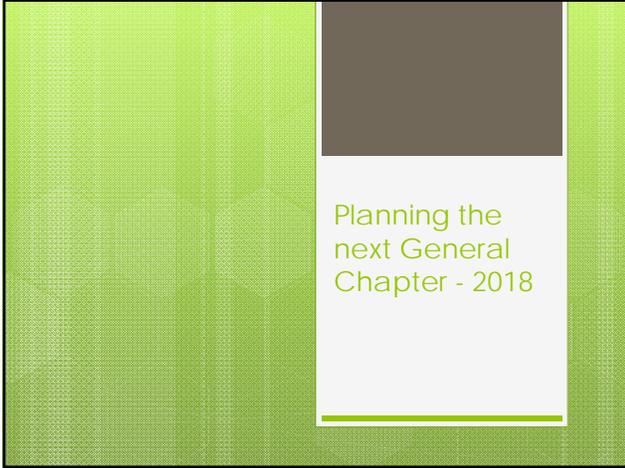
- Canada – responds to orientation of the last Chapter (2012) and includes collaboration with laity
- Italy – responds to urgent humanitarian need of displaced persons. Bishop and Mayor have given their support.

Reconfiguration of the Congregation

- > Accelerate the reconfiguration process of the three Entities: Indonesia, PNG and Philippines.
- > Continue reconfiguration - new forms of regrouping and intensify sharing between Entities and reflection at the international level.
- > Pursue the reconfiguration of the Congregation while taking into account the fragility of the growing and of the declining Entities.
- > Dare discuss the future with some Entities.
- > Pursue projects drawn up by diverse continental groups.

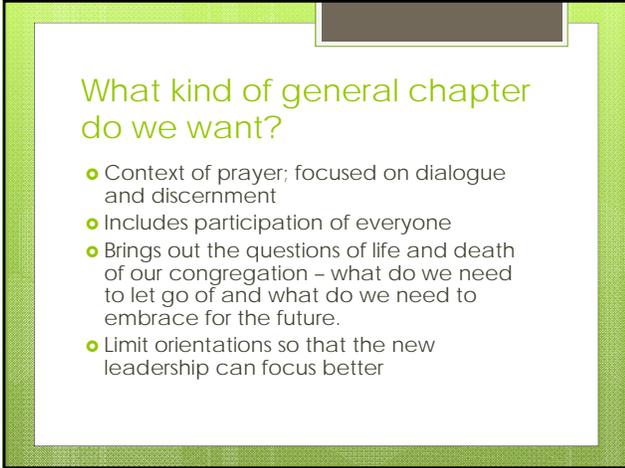
Sr. Liane (Philippines), Sr. Kiran (Indonesia), Sr. Julienne (PNG)





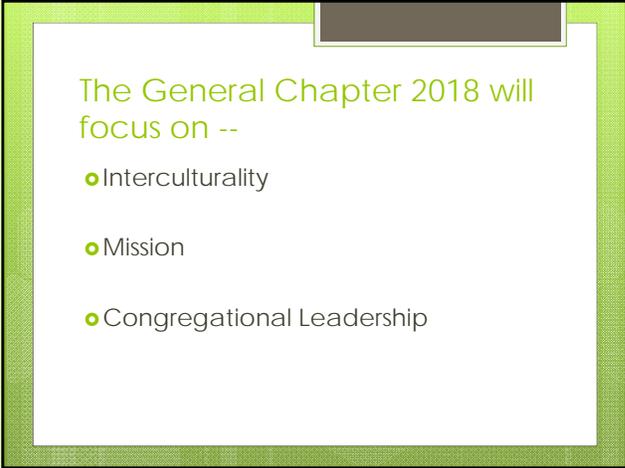
What is already in place for the General Chapter?

- Location: Ile Blanche Locquirec, France
- Dates: August 1 – 31, 2018
- Facilitator: Brid Long, S.S.L
- Interpreters
- Speakers: Fr. Simon-Pierre Arnold (“Signs of the Times and Religious Life”) and Maureen Gilbert (Interculturality)
- Chapter Planning Committee: Sr. Antonella (Italy), Sr. Mercy (Malawi), Sr. Maribel Ladino (Colombia) and Sr. Marie Turner (GBI)



What kind of general chapter do we want?

- Context of prayer; focused on dialogue and discernment
- Includes participation of everyone
- Brings out the questions of life and death of our congregation – what do we need to let go of and what do we need to embrace for the future.
- Limit orientations so that the new leadership can focus better



The General Chapter 2018 will focus on --

- Interculturality
- Mission
- Congregational Leadership

Evolution of the Congregation

- Sr. Jacqueline presented the evolution of the Congregation since Vatican II, with emphasis on the Themes and Orientation of the previous General Chapters.
- This prepared us for the discernment of the theme of the General Chapter 2018.

Theme of the General Chapter

We reached consensus on the following:

Love without borders!
Aimez sans frontières!
Amate senza frontiere!
¡Amen sin fronteras!

Updates

Preparation for Final Vows

- There will not be a preparation session in 2017 and 2018.
- There will be two sessions in 2019 (one in English and one in French).
- In the future, having one session may be possible – hence the importance of learning either French or English during the time of temporary vows.

Meeting of Younger Sisters

- Sisters of Temporary Profession or less than 15 years of profession
- Goals of the meeting:
 - a) To listen to them and create solidarity among them
 - b) To prepare to have the voice of the younger sisters at the Chapter
 - c) To share with them something on reconfiguration and the choices we have to make in view of mission.
- One will be chosen from this group to present a synthesis of the fruits of the meeting to the General Chapter. She would come to present without participating in the entire Chapter.
- The experience and outcomes of the meeting will be shared in each entity.

Policies of the Congregation

Sr. Isabelle Retailleau presented two updated policies for review and approval:

- Guidelines on the development of policies concerning human resources management.
- Policy and Procedure for Safeguarding and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Congregational web site and communications –

The following suggestions were made:

- Establish a communications team (on congregational level) with lay expert(s).
- If an entity does not have its own web site, have a dedicated page on the international web site. Otherwise entity web sites are connected to the congregational web site by a “hyper-link.”
- Have a link person in each entity to submit articles and photos to the congregational web site. *(We already have this – thanks to Catherine McWilliams!)*

Additional items –

- Sr. Jacqueline gave update on the Pilgrimage for Friends of Wisdom (Wisdom Associates) and International Montfortian Formation Session – Summer 2017
- Sr. Elizabeth Siches gave an update on the Wisdom Year.
- Sr. Rani gave an update on reconfiguration of PNG, Philippines and Indonesia.

Continued -

- Cathy Sheehan presented an outline of the program for candidates developed by the U.S. Province Formation Team.
- Cathy Sheehan shared a translation of Volume 1 of *Le doigt de Dieu* (available in English) thanks to Sr. Rosemary Gaffney and Sr. Anne Scahill. CDs of the text were made available. *Anyone interested in translating Volume 2 from French to English?*

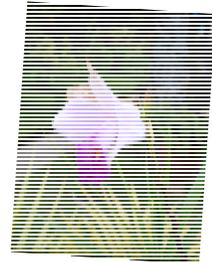
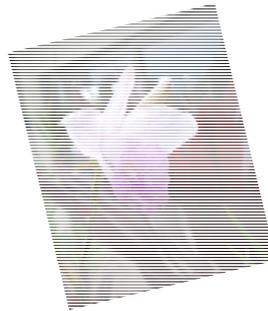
Photo Journal

The following is a collection of pictures – taken by Brid Long, Liane Rainville, Isabelle Retailleau and Cathy Sheehan.

Retreat Center Casa La Salle



Wild Orchids



Families of Ducks



Siblings

Visit to Bogotá

On Sunday, April 2 we went to Bogotá to visit "The Gold Museum," the Institute for the Deaf and the infirmary. It was a full day.

Sr. Anne-Marie (outgoing Congregational Treasurer),
Sr. Liane (Philippines),
Sr. Cathy and Sr. Maureen (GBI)



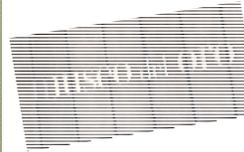
Sr. Carmen Belén (Colombia)
and Sr. Rani



Sr. Elvira (Maria Luisa) and
Sr. Ruth Dary



Arrival at the
Museum



Sr. Isabelle and
Sr. Julienne

Students at the Institute
performing cultural dance





Reunion with Sr. Pierrette

This Colombian Sister (shorter one) served in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Sr. Pierrette was a novice at that time. Sr. Pierrette brought her a Congolese skirt that she is wearing!

Sr. Marie-Françoise (France) and Sr. Symphorose (Madagascar)



Sr. Rani greeting one of the Sisters in the infirmary.



Visit to Chinauta

On Thursday, April 6 we visited with Sisters who live in Chinauta – part of the municipality of Fusagasugá



Talking parrot that lives on the property.



Sisters at Chinauta



Sr. Ruth Dary – Congregational Treasurer
Sr. Ginette – Congregational Secretary



Sr. Herminda (Colombia),
Sr. Sandrale (Haiti),
Sr. Mary (Malawi)



Sr. Linda (Canada)
Sr. Cathy (U.S.)



Council of the Congregation 2017



Wisdom dwells in Experience

