

## COUNCIL OF CONGREGATION

### NEWS OF THE DAY

JUNE 9, 2023 - NUMBER 8



## CLOSING CELEBRATION

During the Council of Congregation, the participants experienced the Congregation Body as a calling of Wisdom. In the closing celebration, this awareness and their commitment to come together as one Body are expressed through a ritual.



Srs. Lamerchie and Evelyne invite us to sit alone on a bench, evoking our provenance from an Entity...



Each carries the name of her Entity written on a card. Singing "Wisdom, language of love", we leave the chapel and head for the workroom.



We gather around this marvellous decor: the tree of life adorned with photos of the Entity Leaders and the General Team, the globe, the book of Complete works of Montfort and a ball of wool.

Sr. Consuelo, the animator, recalls all that we have experienced and invites us to listen to the voice of Wisdom, as she did throughout the Council of the Congregation.



Sr. Nadige proclaims numbers 64 to 66 of the Love of Eternal Wisdom. We respond with a prayer of intercession.



Each participant was invited to flip the card they were holding, on which we read 'Congregation Body,' and we begin to weave a web representing that we are one Body composed of many members.



Sr Rani delivers a message and closes the 2023 Congregation Council.

This celebration is followed by a number of finely-expressed thank you. It ends with a Magnificat sung in Creole and joyously danced.



And so ends the latest edition of News of the Day. Thank you for your many words of appreciation and gratitude.



Participants of the 2023 Council of the Congregation and the General Team.

## CLOSING MESSAGE OF SR RANI



**Dear Sisters,**

This Council of Congregation called us « *Together to open ourselves to the reality of our Congregational Body, and of the emerging world in which it evolves, in order to discern together what kind of General Chapter we are called to live at this precise moment in our history.* »

We began this inner and outworld journey with the beautiful ritual led by the Province of Italy with the symbol of the Olive tree, a Symbol of peace and joy. The reflections of our sisters and the reality of the different parts of the Body, shared by you through the open market helped us to be conscious of the reality of the Congregational Body, the Church, and the World today.

We have lived through moments of joy, incertitude, pain, fear and letting go. Yet moved by the presence of Wisdom, carried a deep **desire to grow as a Congregational body embracing our reality of today.**

We have been walking together like the disciples of Emmaus, and joined by **Wisdom leading us further to see things with an open heart and mind.** Today I see that each one of us is filled with the desire to enter into the process of transformation individually and collectively in preparation for the General Chapter 2024.

This morning at the Eucharistic celebration we sang together, Lord renewed by the Spirit we are ready to go out in response to the cry of the poor, believing that you will lead us, we will hold your people in our hands. **We are closing the time of the Council of Congregation with this rich experience to begin a new journey.**

Rooted in our reality, and keeping the word of our foundress Mother Marie-Louise never to deviate from the primitive Spirit of our founder, Spirit of humility, poverty, , detachment union with one another .....we are set forward to begin a new page in the life of the Congregation.

After many days of walking to Emmaus, and after breaking the word with each other in the presence of Wisdom you are ready to return to Galilee to meet your sisters to share your experiences and the

experiences of your being together, to embark your Sisters to enter into the process of journeying towards the **General Chapter 2024** as a Congregational Body.

On the journey, as Congregational Body, you are also to prepare yourself and your sisters to live internationality and interculturality. I wish that the manual on interculturality will also guide and help you on embarking in this common movement, in love, proximity, simplicity and kindness.

**May Montfort and Marie-Louise watch over us and guide us on our journey towards general Chapter 2024.**