

## COUNCIL OF CONGREGATION

### NEWS OF THE DAY

MAY 26, 2023 - NUMBER 3



## OPENING CELEBRATION

Sisters representing all the communities of the Italian Province joined their Leadership Team to introduce us to their homeland.



Sr. Natalia Del Redentore, provincial, welcomes us and names the communities taking part in the opening celebration.

For the opening celebration, the sisters used the symbol of the olive tree and its oil, echoing biblical texts about consecration, healing, recovery and life.



The olive tree, symbol of wisdom...



The oil used to consecrate, heal and promote health. Sr Angela di Gesù Amore, Italy's youngest sister.



Each participant in the Council of the Congregation receives a bottle of olive oil as a souvenir, creatively dressed.

Next, Sr Angela di Gesù Amore offers us products from different regions of Italy.



The communities of the Province and their places of insertion are presented by means of a video with a children's song.



Sr Maria Theresa dell' Incarnazione led us in a discovery of the history of the region of Torino and the presence of the sisters in the Province of Italy.

## OPENING WORD OF SR RANI KURIAN, SUPERIOR GENERAL



It is a great joy for us members of the General Team to be with you at this very important moment in the life of the Congregation. We have been warmly welcomed by our Sisters of the Province of Italy at the arrival of each one of us and through the opening celebration that we have just lived. But I would like to welcome each one of you , and in a very

special way Sr Nadige Jean Charles ,Sr Lourdes Alonso, Sr Genebibha, Sr Annie Joly, who are participating in the Council of Congregation for the first time and Srs Evelyn Eckhardt, Lamerchie Estinfort and Consuelo Del Pilar Sarmiento Rojas, members of the General Chapter planning committee.

In preparation for the Council of Congregation, we started our journey as members of our Congregational Body in November 2022. Today, we are gathered representing all our Sisters including our Sisters of Holland.

At the last Chapter, we spoke about being at a turning point in the life of the Congregation and courageously, we moved forward to **Love without borders**, not knowing where the new turn was leading us.

Over the past 5 years we lived this call with joy and celebrations and also faced uncertainties, difficulties and sufferings. But we never left these difficult moments prevent us from moving forward in creative ways trusting in the presence of God and the guidance of our founders, Montfort and Marie-Louise.

We are at a cross road as Congregational Body, like our founders Montfort and Marie-Louise, not specifically knowing where we are going and which road has to be taken. Isn't it in a moment like that Montfort and Marie-Louise turned towards each other to hear the affirming presence of Wisdom in their life. "Father, will I become a religious? My daughter will I receive Wisdom?"

Once again in a moment of uncertainty and great suffering Marie Louise lent her ear to a layman Jacques Goudeau, chapel keeper of Montbernage, in whose words she glimpsed a light: St Laurent! The tomb of Father de Montfort.

During the coming days as Leaders of the Congregation and members of the Chapter planning committee, let us turn towards each other, journeying with our Sisters and our founders Montfort and Marie-Louise, to be enlightened and guided to move forward in "the way of Wisdom".

In prayer and discernment let us seek and contemplate Wisdom and

***« Together 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. »***