



Sisters
Hospitallers



N° 28. July 2018



Anabela Moreira G. Carneiro re-elected General Superior of the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation for 2018-2024.

'If God has noticed my smallness, here I am'

The Sisters Hospitallers held their 21st General Chapter from 8 to 30 June in Rocca di Papa (Roma, Italy)



Hospitaller sisters, collaborators and laypersons attending the 21st General Chapter

From 8 to 30 June 2018, in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Spirituality Centre in Rocca di Papa (Rome-Italy), the 21st General Chapter of the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation was held. During this event that was very important for the institution, 39 sisters participated. In addition, 20 Hospitaller collaborators and 6 laypersons participated for a week, representing the universality of the congregation and the ecclesiality of Hospitaller charisma. The motto chosen for this chapter was **'Practise Hospitality'** (Rm. 12:13).

The Opening of the Chapter

On 8 June, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (name of the congregation), the opening of the 21st General Chapter took place. The sisters who participated met in the anteroom of the chapterhouse to receive the Word and invoke the Spirit. Sister Anabela Carneiro, the superior general, gave them a lit light at the Paschal candle with the following message: '...you have received the hospitable spirit of the Heart of Jesus; confidently abandon yourself to him'.

After the introductory ceremony, they met in the chapterhouse by **communities of discernment**. Hospitaller collaborators and laypersons joined later, each one under the intercession of one of our holy protectors. After Sister Anabela's greeting, inviting them 'to turn our gaze to the source of the charisma that for us is the Heart of Jesus and to also turn our gaze to every person who is suffering, letting our hearts touch us, as Jesus did', it was declared that the 21st General Chapter had officially started.

Father Ismael A. Garceranth SJ from Colombia was the facilitator; Sister Laurinda Martins from the Portuguese Province was the moderator; and Sister María Concepción Ochotorena from the Spanish Province was the chapter secretary.

After two days of spiritual reflection, reports were presented with the itinerary covered by the General Government in the last six years, collected in two reports: 'Life and Mission' and 'Financial'. Afterwards, the provinces presented two reports, one on the reality of the communities and the other on the situation of the Hospitaller Works, adding the future challenges for each one.

Several days were also devoted to reflection with the help of presentations and lectures by various speakers who enlightened the assembly with their presentations, addressing consecrated life issues and the challenges that the congregation currently faces.

■ **In the Samaritan Mission. Practise Hospitality** (José Cristo Rey García Paredes, Spanish Claretian missionary and doctor of theology).

■ **Economics and Charisma. Elements of government for an organisation created by charisma** (Alberto Frasinetti, Italian advisor of different religious institutes on organisation and strategy from the charismatic aspect).

"The chapter sisters were divided into communities of discernment. Collaborators and laypersons would later join them to work on the chapter document"



Moments during the 21st General Chapter



Chapter sisters

- **Religious life, processes of renewal** (Msgr. José Rodríguez Carballo, Spanish Franciscan, Archbishop Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life).
- **The current challenges of religious life: Towards a change of style of government** (Sister Giuseppina Alberghina from the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd Congregation and professor at the Claretianum in Rome).

All these presentations enlightened the discernment process of the first two parts of the chapter document 'Instrumentum Laboris'. In reference to it, the General Superior, sister Anabela Carneiro, said that this document does not only belong to

the sisters of the chapter but to the entire congregation, the sisters, collaborators, etc. who have participated with their contributions. She recalled key moments such as the 2016 Plenary Council and the different evaluations carried out. From the beginning, **three fundamental points were highlighted: our communities, the mission and the style of government. In addition, a transversal topic: evangelisation through the Evangelii Gaudium of Pope Francis.**

The entire document was worked on based on these points throughout the chapter, through personal reflection, work in the communities of discernment and sharing during the assembly.

Hospitaller collaborators and laypersons

"...a Samaritan heart, capable of being touched by the different faces of human suffering"

For a week, beginning on 18 June, a group of 20 collaborators and 6 Hospitaller laypersons joined the chapter. The welcoming ceremony also began in the chapterhouse anteroom, where everyone prayed together for the light of the Spirit and the intercession of our founders. Afterwards, the sisters accompanied the collaborators and laypersons to the chapterhouse room while a group of sisters sang 'hospitality, today like yesterday and always'. Each couple carried a light and a heart, symbols of the two icons of this 21st General Chapter.

Sister Anabela, General Superior, greeted the collaborators and laypersons. She thanked them for being there and defined this new chapter community as 'plural and inclusive', asking to return the focus to the source of the congregational charisma.

During these days of joint work, issues that are very important in our institution were addressed such as the processes and development of the 'Hospitaller Laypersons' movement in all the countries where Hospitaller Work is present.



Sisters and collaborators in the Chapter Room

In addition, the third part of the Chapter Document was studied: **HOSPITALLER MISSION THAT GOES FORTH.**

To guide the work on the Hospitaller Mission, Professor Francesc Torralba, PhD in Philosophy and Theology, professor at the Ramon Llull University in Barcelona and president of various committees on health care ethics, among other occupations, was present. Professor Torralba has frequent contact with the congregation, especially with the centres in Barcelona (Spain). His talk was divided into two parts:

- The first conceptual part: the meaning of hospitality, obstacles and solution pathways.
- The second practical part: ethical dilemmas, problems and challenges.

He emphasized hospitality as a human value, distinguishing the value of virtue, the host and the guest. He went into the meaning of the term charisma and the definition of hospitality, focusing on one of its main expressions: welcoming. He pointed out that prejudices that stop us from welcoming are obstacles. The fear that paralyses the mission, the ignorance of the other and physical and mental exhaustion are frequent obstacles.

With his presentation, Professor Torralba invited those who were there to live and radiate hospitality by joining the forces of all those who are part of the Hospitaller Community.

During the chapter, it was also possible to reflect on mental health thanks to the presentation of Dr Manuel Martín Carrasco, Sisters Hospitallers collaborator in the Spanish Province.

During his talk, Dr Martín explored issues at length expertly such as the epidemiology of mental health in the world, societies and mental health, as well as new care models and person-centred health.

During the conclusions, he presented some requirements to optimise our reality:

- A change of perspective. Being convinced that we have something to contribute and fighting for it.
- Optimism. Believing in our possibilities and not



being discouraged by necessary failures.

- Creativity. Searching for new solutions or reinventing old ones.
- The importance of people. Patients/users, family members, collaborators, priests, nuns and donors.

He ended by referring to our father founder and his ongoing attitude of seeking the best for people with mental illness.

After a few days of intense and fruitful work on the third part of 'Instrumentum Laboris: Hospitality That Goes Forth', the sisters, laypersons and collaborators' time of working together ended with a quick moment to evaluate the experience.

All participants expressed their gratitude for the welcome, trust and privilege of participating in the Chapter Assembly. They also expressed their pride of belonging to the congregation and stressed the importance of not abandoning 'our roots' to provide the best of each person to the future of

hospitality and the ill together with the sisters. At all times, it was clear that cultural and language differences were not an obstacle but enrichment, in coexistence and work.

As a farewell, Sister Anabela, General Superior, was moved and thanked everyone for being there and their commitment to the universality of the congregation. She ended by quoting our founder, Saint Benedict Menni:

Proceed! Trusting Jesus, Lord of the Mission, good Samaritan
Proceed! Accepting the challenges of the chapter document
Proceed! Committed to hospitality

Before returning to where they are from, collaborators, laypersons and sisters enjoyed a day of leisure and being together where they visited the ancient city of Pompeii and took a scenic tour of the city of Naples.

Discernment communities



Saint Teresa of Jesus Community



Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Community



Saint Joseph Community



Saint Agustin Community



Saint Raphael the Archangel Community



Saint Camilo de Lelis Community

Superior General Election

With a time dedicated to prayer and discernment, the Chapter Assembly prepared for the election period. But not without first thanking Anabela Carneiro and the councillor sisters María Asunción Riopedre, María Esther Berruete, Ana Lucía Castro and Andrea Calvo who have carried out the animation and government of the congregation during the last six years.



Anabela Carneiro was re-elected superior general for the 2018-2024 period.

Sister Anabela was born in Amorim (Portugal) on 31 May 1964 and joined the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus congregation in Idanha (Belas) in 1983, making the perpetual profession in Ciempozuelos (Madrid) in 1991. She holds a degree in religious sciences from the Regina Mundi Pontifical Institute and in vocational pedagogy from the Salesian Pontifical University, both in Rome.

She has developed her Hospitaller experience mainly in the field of education, in Portugal. In May 2006, during the 19th General Chapter, she was elected Vicar and First General Councillor and during the 20th General Chapter, she was elected General Superior of the Congregation.

Sister Anabela is a Hospitaller who is passionate about Jesus, serene and committed to her vocation; simple, welcoming, patient and a woman of communion. She is confident about the future of hospitality, not because of our strength but because of the strength of THE ONE for which nothing is impossible.

Visibly moved, she accepted this service for another six years: *'If God has noticed my smallness, here I am'*.

Election of the General Councillors

To deliver 'Practise Hospitality', the councillor sisters, along with Sister Anabela Carneiro, superior general, will encourage and accompany the congregation during the next six years, addressing the challenges that were revealed during the 21st General Chapter.



First Councillor and Vicar General. María Esther Berruete Lanz

Born in Navarre (Spain). She holds a diploma in social work and a Masters in Bioethics. Her Hospitaller service has taken shape at various centres located in the former Province of Palencia, where she has worked as social worker, Local Superior and Provincial Superior. Over the last six years, she has served the congregation as Second General Councillor.



Second General Councillor. Leontine Judith Ngo Mbock

Born in Matomb, Cameroon (Africa). She did the religious pedagogy training in Kinshasa (DRC) and the training for trainers in Salamanca (Spain).

She has carried out different services as a trainer and in recent years, she has accompanied the sisters during the discernment period for perpetual devotion in the Congregation at the motherhouse in Ciempozuelos (Madrid, Spain).



Third General Councillor. Blanca Flor Guerrero Anganoy

Born in Pasto (Colombia). She has studied religious sciences in Colombia and pedagogy for vocation training in Rome. She is specialised in health administration. She has been Provincial Councillor and was recently Provincial Secretary of the newly created Latin American Province.



Fourth General Councillor. María Begoña Pérez Martínez

Born in San Llorente de la Vega (Burgos, Spain). She has studied nursing in England and pedagogy for vocation training in Rome. She has been Secretary and General Councillor. Recently, she was the Provincial Superior of the English Province, which is present in Ghana and Liberia.

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE



With this 21st General Chapter, sisters María Asunción Riopedre, Ana Lucía Castro and Andrea Calvo's six years as General Councillors came to an end.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity during this six-year term that is ending. Thank you for your effort and for driving the Hospitaller Project!

THE PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

"During this 21st General Chapter, many sisters have participated for the first time, coming from all continents where our congregation is present. This fact has prompted us to live in an environment of inclusive fraternity, great acceptance and appreciation of different cultures"

Sister Laurinda Martins de Faria from the Portuguese Province

"I am very happy and grateful for having been able to participate in this great international and intercultural assembly. During the chapter, I was able to share my personal experience and explain the reality of the "Hospitaller Layspersons" movement in Togo. May God bless the entire Hospitaller community.

Thank you very much!"

Tani Kangba "Mama Rita", Hospitaller layperson from the French Province

THE PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

"Since my arrival at the chapter, I felt very welcome and involved in the whole dynamic of the chapter. With my presence at this congregational event, I have tried to translate the reality that exists at our centres, where the welfare work we carry out is more of a mission than ever, trying to respond to the needs that society demands of us today. I feel very grateful for being able to participate"

Javier Arellano, Sisters Hospitallers collaborator in the Spanish Province

"Participating in this chapter has been a beautiful experience. It has given me the opportunity to meet many sisters, collaborators and Hospitaller laypersons from different countries. We all live the Hospitaller mission and share the same goals. It has also helped me to strengthen my sense of congregational belonging and to integrate myself into the great Hospitaller family"

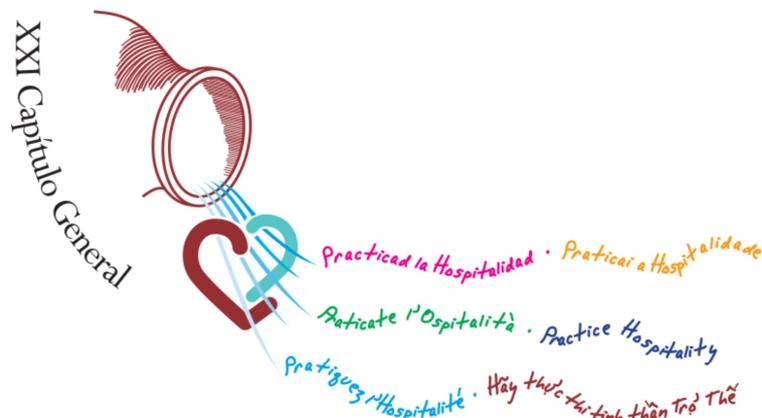
Donatella Petritola, Sisters Hospitallers collaborator in the Italian Province

"It was the first time I attended a General Chapter. Although I wasn't sure what to expect, I knew the great importance and the enormous privilege of participating in this great event. I have tried to contribute my knowledge and thus contribute to establishing the lines and general strategies that will guide the institution over the next six years. I am very fortunate to be able to help the sisters, to develop the Hospitaller mission"

Martin Blake, Sisters Hospitallers collaborator in the English Province

"We have experienced this 21st General Chapter with a deep sense of a common search, trying to hear different voices: that of God, charisma, the needs that we experience in the world, the different congregational contexts ... We have experienced the whole process in an atmosphere of peace, fraternity and sharing. We have felt great fellowship with the whole congregation. On behalf of the entire community, I thank all the people who accompanied us through a multitude of messages of closeness. Thanks a lot!"

Sor Anabela Carneiro, Superior General



Further information and contact details
comunicacion@hospitalarias.org
www.hospitalarias.org