

## 2nd Meeting of the Commission of Hospitallers in Africa (CHAF)

Maputo (Mozambique), 22- 24 March 2017

It was organized the 2nd meeting of the Commission of Hospitallers in Africa (CHAF) in Mozambique in the framework of the Canonic visit with the participation of the Sister Anabela Carneiro, General Superior and Sister Andrea Calvo, General Counselor. The objective of the meeting was to revise the planning activities of the restructuration and revitalization process of Africa.

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List of Participants:

Anabela Carneiro	General Superior	Rome, Italy
Andrea Calvo	Responsible of the Commission	Rome, Italy
Marie Elisabeth	Ngo Mbouck	Maputo, Mozambique
Hortense Mayel	Community	Douala, Cameroon
Marie René Aleki	Community	Korbourgou, Togo

Absence to the meeting due to health and other reasons:

María Sonsoles Sánchez Portero	Community	Equatorial Guinea
Bata Group	Community	Takoradi, Ghana
Georgina Donzing	Community	Takoradi, Ghana

In the invitation letter of 26 February 2017, Sister Andrea stated that in the First Meeting of the Commission a decision took place "regarding the importance to develop efforts to know each community including their circumstances in the country, to know collaborators and activities and to pray during that month for each of the community selected". The aim is to be part of the process under the guidance of our father Abraham.

During the second meeting, one of the objectives was to advance in the work of the proposal to be presented during the General Chapter: "Restructuring project for Africa- period 2016-2018" the idea was to evaluate the actions develop to this aim and to engage in an exercise of brainstorming by the hand of the Provincial superiors.

The work of the Commission starts last **22 March afternoon**, dedicating a time for a prayer in light of the Icon of Abraham and getting together in prayer for the Commission of Africa.

The General Superior in the opening remarks invite the participants to listen the voice of the Hospitallers of Africa, thinking about the richness and challenges and assuming and renewing a commitment to keep alive the flame of hospitality.

After this first moment, it was dedicated the evening to share the activities that had been develop until now. The Sisters of the Commission shared the resonances that they have heard from different communities and from the Provincial Superior.

### ***Echo of the way made***

1. All the Sisters indicated with a positive unanimity that the ***distribution of the monthly records*** of the communities and work developed was important.
2. It was referred that the prayer dedicated for a community each month, support the sense of belonging and union. It has been received different expressions of thankfulness for the initiative of records distribution who has allow to share the different realities and also has support to enter in the restructuring process.
3. ***Enthusiasm among the Sisters*** has been indicated along with an interest to know the Hospitalliers in Africa; in addition the young sisters indicated that this initiatives serves to know the communities and the mission and to visualize the horizons of the order. It was indicated that more we know each other more the love growth and this has been manifest through messages with expressions of union to the communities in different places in Africa.
4. The acknowledge of the communities and the mission has also provoke some ***concern*** for the presence/ representations in which are few sisters and few young sisters.
5. The ***icon of Abraham*** and the prayers has support, some expressions interpellator, some to be deep analyze in the text.
6. It was develop a good work of ***sensitization*** that is needed to continue.
7. Universality sense and union in the Congregation; the letter that was included remind the important situations of our Family.
8. As a ***practical aspects*** it has been refer that sending the records through the Provincial Secretary has been a positive aspect.

### ***Aspects to Improve***

1. Listen more to the Provincial Superior, since are the ones who has more knowledge of the reality of the whole Province; improve the channels of communication and participation.
2. Finish the project to present to the Sisters.

3. Find ways of participation of the sisters to restate the word (questionnaires, commissions, etc)
4. In the list of participants, in some occasions has not been included.
5. There are reactions that indicates that it has been started with enthusiasm but it is required concrete steps.
6. Some communities suggest reduce the text of prayers but it has been considered that by doing the sense would be lost.

We end the meeting with the prayer to the Holy Mary and the vespers of the community, giving thanks to the community and to God for all that He has allow to experience and live during this days.

The **23 March**, it has begun the works with a power point presentation showing the exit of Abraham from the Holy Land "that God instructed to him". With this prayer we want to listen what God wants to tell us by the "word" of our Sisters.

During the morning we dedicate time to read, reflect and dialogue about some of the contributions sended by some Sisters/ Communities. This action intent to answer the request of Sister Andrea as a preparatory action for the meeting of the commission.

It has been included an abstract, in the following Annex 1.

1. Initial and Permanent Training;
2. Intercultural and fraternity communities;
3. Apostolic Communities;
4. Carisma, mission, and intercultural aspects;
5. Apostolic Work;
6. Financial Resources;
7. Restructuration and revitalization;
8. Appreciation;
9. Proposals and requests to CHAF;
10. A CHAF who inspire;
11. Suggestions.

During the afternoon Sister Andrea has presented the **future WebSite** proposal of the Congregation that it would be dedicated to the process of restructuring and revitalization of Africa, this would be active in April. The Sisters took the opportunity to provide some inputs to the website.

We continue with the **"Work Plan"** elaborated during the 1st Meeting in which some activities where pending.

On **24 March** it was dedicated to work in the project that would be submit to the Provincial Superiors and their governments and after to all the community that has presence in the African Continent.

The project, **"Process of Restructuration and Revitalization in Africa. First Steps, project 2016-2018**, retake the motto **"África, keep ligthing the candle of hospitality"** and present the next aspects in Annex 2:

- Introduction
- Motivation
- Ilumination
- Attitudes
- Priorities
- Project, with general and specific objectives and actions.

During the process we consider important to continue the way of sensitization regarding the restructuring and revitalization of Africa, providing space of information, in all levels to the participation of the sisters of the different areas of the hospitality mission, it was consider important to develop projects who mobilize and exchange experiences of the different structures.

When the meeting was over the Maputo community offer a dinner and a special recreation activity. We desire to highlight our appreciation for the welcoming and all the details during the days of the meeting.

Yours Sisters of CHAF

Andrea, Marie Elizabeth, Marie Reine, Hortense