

INFORMATIVO N. 1

16 June 2009

We say

Holy be Your name so that His name
may be sanctified in us.
... He said:

You shall be holy, because I am holy (Lv 11,45)
Therefore we ask and implore
that sanctified by Baptism we may persevere
in what we have begun to be.
This is what we ask each day.

(From the Liturgy of the Hours, Tuesday, XI week in Ordinary Time)

Dearest Sisters,

The Interchapter of our Congregation began on 15 June at 4.00 pm (Argentinean time) in unity of prayer and intentions around the table of the Lord. The solemn opening Eucharistic celebration was presided by His Excellency Mons. Sergio Fenoy, Bishop of San Miguel, Buenos Aires.

In the opening remarks, the superior general Sr. Marta Finotelli, invited us to live this moment as a "favourable time" in deep communion with Jesus, dead and Risen, present in our life and in the life of all the Pastorelle who are accompanying us in the different parts of the world. Then referring to the Liturgy of the Word, she placed the accent on the paradox of the apostolic and spiritual life; the Lord leaves us poor, He leaves us in difficulties and precisely in these that His grace is manifested, His love shines: "poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things (2Cor 6,10) says the Apostle Paul. Yet this happens if we allow God to work in our poverty.

In his homily, the Bishop also invited us to encounter the richness and grace of the Lord in our story of weakness because it is precisely there that Jesus Good Shepherd works great things. The Church and the Congregation could run the risk of believing in what is visible, the Lord instead invites us to a re-dimension our manner of being, not to trust in the exterior, in strength, in capacity or in methodology because He loves to manifest Himself intimately in the depth of the heart and not in what is visible and impressive.

Reunited in assembly, after having invoked the gift of the Holy Spirit and prayed the prayer from the pamphlet, an instrument to be united with all of you, Sr. Marta has officially declared the Interchapter session open, calling each participant by name. In her introductory speech, she invited us to live these days, June 15-28, as a favourable time to revitalize our personal and congregational life and to help each other "not to accept the grace of God in vain" believing that the favourable moment in which the Good Shepherd listens to us, helps us, accompanies us is precisely now.

The hall prepared for the assembly has as its center the Cross, the Word of God, a small fountain to indicate the spring of life, the relic of the Founder and lots of flowers which represent each Pastorella in the world. Three round tables, called symbolically with the name of Peter, Paul and the Divine Shepherdess, were prepared in order to favor reflection and the group work.

Each one received the working material for these days placed in a bag, donated by the community of Bolivia, a handmade folder prepared by the community of Salta ad other gifts, like a hand made penholder ad some didactic material offered by the principal house and the Delegation.

After having distributed the organizational tasks, we were recollected in prayer, remembering all the Sisters of the Congregation calling each one by name, praising the Lord for the life of each one. At the end, we were given a *piece of an Icon* which we will complete at the end of the Interchapter. It will be a surprise for all to know the subject of the Icon which will probably accompany us in the "hereafter of the Interchapter".

Today, 16 June is spirituality day in which we were invited to verify and to share our experiences of the evangelical service of authority; it was animated by Sr. Julieta Stoffel, Provincial Superior of the FSP on *Conformation to Christ*.

We thank with our heart all the Sisters and the communities who accompany us with prayer, offering and greetings.

Immersed in this hope of renewal and in communion with all the Pastorelle of the world, we have started this congregational event placing at the center the Word of God to enlighten us always and the Eucharist which gives us the strength and a guide to our journey.

Fraternally
For the Intercapitulars,
Sr Ana Acero e Sr Lucia Varo