

## Conclusion of the 6th Interchapter

The presence of the Lord experienced in our assembly is a motive of praise, gratitude and blessing. Yes, we can affirm with joy that the Good Shepherd took care of us and our Congregation with indescribable delicateness and compassion, not for our merit but for his gratuitous initiative of love and for the prayers elevated to Him from the different parts of the world so that the help of His Spirit, for the good outcome of the Intercapitular event, may not be wanting. May the Holy Spirit reward with abundant blessing those who have accompanied us. Our Founder would say: *“If we could understand the great graces which the Lord has given to our soul, we would love Him more and then we would sing the Magnificat to thank the Lord, the merciful Father, the Good Shepherd Son, the Holy Spirit Love; we will thank and praise the Holy Trinity”*<sup>1</sup>.

The global scenario that we have delineated in these days of work asked us above all to **contain** the loss of meaning in our choice of life. For many years now, we strove to counteract this phenomenon within us, but we will not attain acceptable results if we won't keep watch on the continuous temptation to “dilute” the appeals of the Gospel, to reduce the demands of our belonging to Christ, to weaken our communion and our being Church, the Body of the living Christ. We retain that in order to affront this risk, it is necessary to aim at a solid formation founded on faith like the house built on the rock, on deep and well cared spiritual life and also of intellectual, theological, pastoral preparation, of good quality, as we have already reminded at the conclusion of our 7<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. We highlight even in this occasion the necessity to go back to the contents of the religious profession, revisiting and deepening our Rule of Life, living in each choice the discernment in the Spirit so as to express with renewed zeal the pastoral care in the “triple work” re-read today in history.

***To allow himself to be conquered fully by Christ!*** was the scope of St Paul's entire life and also the objective of all the ministry of the Curé of Ars and recently the Pope recommended it on the occasion of the opening of the Year for Priests. Pope Benedict XVI hopes that this may also be the principal objective for each of us. Being at the service of the Gospel, we retain it valid also for us Pastorelle for which we also own what the Pope reminded to the priests: *“... Study with an accurate and continuous pastoral formation is certainly useful, but still more necessary the “science of love” which is learned only in ‘heart to heart’ with Christ. ”*

With this attitude we are called to prepare the future of the Congregation aiming decisively on the quality of the new generations of Pastorelle, consecrated women who witness the strength of the Gospel in simplicity and in joy of their life lived in community and in the company of humanity of our time through a “care” that expresses the same care of Jesus Good Shepherd. For this, desiring to be “Pastorelle according to the heart of God” we need to ask ourselves ever anew the same questions the Holy Father addressed to priests: *““Are we truly pervaded by the word of God? Is that Word truly the nourishment we live by, even more than bread and the things of this world? Do we really know that Word? Do we love it? Are we deeply engaged with this Word to the point that it really leaves a mark on our lives and shapes our thinking?”*<sup>2</sup>. On our part, it is necessary to exert all our effort to witness that we can't live the same pastoral passion of Christ without interiorizing the Word of God and incarnating it in the daily combat against individualism, relativism and secularism without the effort to translate it together in a language that is understandable for our contemporaries.

The picture of the world's reality today which has been delineated these days could be re-assumed thus: the new generations are without roots, without fathers and mothers not only in the

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. AAP 1959, 96.

<sup>2</sup> Benedict XVI, Homilie on Chrism Mass, 9.4.2009, and Letter Proclaiming a Year for Priests on the 150th Anniversary of the Dies Natalis of the Curé of Ars, 16.6.2009.

family but also in the Church and in the journey of life. Therefore, there is a question, perhaps unexpressed, of a renewed paternity and maternity also spiritual that interrogates our pastoral vocation: to be mothers and sisters according to the teachings of the Founder, available to accompany the new generations until vocational maturation.

In our synthesis, we formulated a priority choice for the journey in the next two years 2009-2011: *We allow ourselves to be re-conquered by Christ Shepherd and we narrate with joy to the young generations His salvific love*, an explicit encouragement to prepare ourselves adequately to accomplish a ministry of care always more urgent and essential. This attention has as a consequence, the commitment to render more solid our spiritual life, to aim on the capacity to “*accompany life*” and to qualify ourselves in this ministry, above all making as priority **listening** to God and others and discernment as a style of life. The humility allow ourselves to be accompanied, at times, permit us to acquire experience and knowledge in this field so as to be persons who know the human heart in its more difficult and deep folds. In our apostolate, we can give prevalence to the young families and to the new generations, consolidating the Christian life, asking parish priests and pastoral workers to insert in the pastoral projects some qualified choices like: spiritual accompaniment, interpersonal colloquy, retreats and spiritual exercises, Christian instruction and formation to nourish the mentality of faith, assiduous listening to the Word of God, sensibilization to the Sacrament of reconciliation in an integral vision of the human person and of the Gospel proclamation.

We retain useful to care “communication” so that it may generate communion in its dimensions: in interpersonal relationship whether in our communities or in the apostolate and in media, valuing the belonging to the Pauline Family.

Our task in relation to the lay also can be to care for their Christian vocation in the Church, as what is already being done. The Seminar of “care of souls” which we are preparing to celebrate can be a favourable moment to deepen and to re launch this priority.

The experience lived these days has made us understand, with grater incisiveness that the sense of belonging and the communion in the Congregation demand personal, communitarian and circumscriptional choices that counteract individualism both personal and as a group and to favour co-responsibility and solidarity. In particular, it is the competence of the superior of circumscription to guarantee that at the foundation of the programmations of circumscription, there may always be the common orientations of the entire Congregation from which are derived the specific journey.

Now, we continue our congregational journey with joyful gratitude and with renewed confidence, we sustain each other in the service of our sisters and to the Church taking as companions in the journey Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd and the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. With their protection, we make as gift to all the love and the care of the Father which we have experienced these days, we witness the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the strength of His resurrection, we remain in attentive listening to the Spirit. In the name of the Holy Trinity, I declare closed the 6<sup>th</sup> Interchapter and we remember anew all the Pastorelle through the moment of prayer which we are about to live.

*Sr Marta Finotelli*  
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S. Miguel, 28.06.2009  
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time