

Day 13 Communication
36th SSS General Chapter
Thu Duc, 18 November 2023

Together, we gather as a family...

The moment of dialogue arrived...

The assembly casted the straw ballots, allowing them to see the trend on the capitular's choice for General Superior. The ensuing silence, dialogue and reflections contributed to the solemnly pensive atmosphere of this morning.

The chapter was graced with the presence of Sr Dinh Thi Anh Đào, the Vicar General of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament; Sr Le Thi Tho, member of the General Council of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament; Ms Mary J. Keane, the general directress of the Servitium Christi; Mrs Pham Thu Hương and Mr Nguyen Van Lap, members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Vietnam.



Fr José Antonio Rivera Ruiz, in a way of welcoming our beloved members of our extended Eymardian family, presented the project on the SSS Charismatic Family. This project started as an initiative in response to the words of Pope Francis in his apostolic letter to open the Year of Consecrated Life last 21 November 2014: *Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a*

larger family, a “charismatic family”, which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality.

Sr Dinh Thi Anh Đào took the podium to address the assembly, with the message of Sr Fe Manalo, the General Superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, who, for health reasons, wasn't able to grace the occasion. Her message outlined the present reality of their Congregation, composed of two provinces (Vietnam and the Philippines), and active in ten countries, notably strongest in Vietnam. They are particularly proud of their presence in Congo-Brazzaville, where they now have two professed Congolese Servants.



Ms Mary J. Keane presented the Servitium Christi, an SSS Secular Institute founded by Fr Godfrey Adrien Spiekman and Ms Antoinette Maria Jacquelin Colsteun, on 6 January 1952 in the Netherlands. Ms Keane defined a secular institute as a way of living consecrated life within the secular world in evangelical poverty, chastity and obedience. Members of Servitium Christi, present in eleven countries (half of the membership is from Vietnam), live as lay persons carrying the Eucharistic spirituality and mission, in close collaboration with the entire SSS Charismatic Family.

Mr Peter Nguyen Van Lap provided the assembly with a summary of the developments of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Vietnam. Finding its roots in the arrival of the Eymardian charism in Thu Duc City during the 1970s, the Aggregation now boasts of 9.272 members. The lay associates faithfully live the Project of Life, receiving a well-structured spiritual formation, and organizing and participating in various apostolates and Eucharistic gatherings around the country and even in the US.



Fr Vergel Dalangin