

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER



Number 3

GRATITUDE FOR THE OUTGOING GENERAL COUNCIL



Gratitude for the outgoing General Council	02
Testimony of the outgoing General Council	04
Testimony of some capitulants	05
Explication of the symbol of the bag of the capitulants	06
The Emmaus Disciples experience	07
Guided tour and spiritual experience	08
Gourmet breaks	08

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE OUTGOING GENERAL COUNCIL



On Sunday 7 July, the Social Committee organised a festive afternoon to thank the outgoing General Council

Let's take a moment to look back at the event.

The corridors of the "Maison Mere du Bon Pasteur" in Angers were filled with excitement on 7 July. Each of the Daughters of Wisdom dressed in their finest attire for an enriching cultural experience.

After a procession and dance to the song "Que ma bouche chante ta louange", Sister Maureen Seddon (GBI), spoke on behalf of all the sisters of the Congregation, expressing thanks to the outgoing General Council. Sister Silmène Jean-Baptiste (Haiti) then presented them with a card signed by all the Capitulants.

We then watched the thank-you videos sent by all the Entities.

This was a particularly emotional time.

Then the participants from each country performed a dance or sang a song and presented a gift to the members of the General Council.

With the help of Sister Ruth Dary (General Treasurer), the Sisters at the Service of the General Chapter, came to say THANK YOU and presented a gift to each Councillor, dancing to the rhythms of the songs of each Councillor's country of origin.

After the Councillors had spoken, the highlight of the evening was a Magnificat sung by all the Sisters.

Together, we say "**MAGNIFICAT!**" for the gift of service that our Sisters of the outgoing General Council have offered to the entire Congregation throughout their term of office.



THANKING THE GENERAL COUNCIL

SR. RANI



Many thanks to you **Sr. Rani**, for your constant presence and your exceptional collaboration. Working alongside you has been incredibly valuable for us, as we have gained a wealth of knowledge from you. For this long journey that we have made together, we thank you sincerely. As we reflect on the journey we have shared, we extend our deepest gratitude to you. We are very grateful for everything you have been to us. Today, we are presenting you with a token of our appreciation as a symbol of our profound gratitude. May the Virgin Mary obtain for you from her Son an abundance of graces and blessings that will enable you to continue to be compassionate towards others.

SR. ISABELLE



Looking back on the journey we have made together, **Sr. Isabelle**, we can only express our gratitude to the Lord for what you have been and all that you have brought to the General Team. You were always available whenever we needed you, and you never showed impatience or unavailability! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts! May Christ Wisdom reward your generosity with graces and blessings.

SR. MARIE-REINE



Filled with gratitude, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, **Sr. Marie-Reine**, for your collaboration, your discreet attention, and your artistic and spiritual values put at the service of others. Your support has been a source of encouragement and energy in our work. May the Lord continue to bless you and to walk with you for the greater good of His mission.

SR. ANTONELLA



It is a thank you that expresses all our gratitude to you, **Sr. Antonella**. We thank the Lord for having met you on the road to mission. Your caring presence has been visible and energizing. Thank you from the depth of our hearts for your support and thoughtfulness on numerous occasions. May Christ Wisdom bless you and accompany you on your journey.

SR. PIERRETTE



It's good to magnify the Lord, **Sr. Pierrette**, for the journey we've taken together over the past 6 years. What beautiful reflections and celebrations lived in the community, at work! Isn't this an opportunity to give thanks to the One who brought us together on this path? Thank you for your interpersonal skills. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you.

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

**TESTIMONY OF THE OUTGOING GENERAL COUNCIL****Sr. Rani Kurian**

Wisdom who called me to the service of Leadership journeyed with me and guided me all through the years. I began this journey with much joy knowing that I am not alone. There were many moments I turned to Montfort and Marie-Louise asking their blessings and guidance to go forward on the right path, especially at moments when we did not know which path to take and the path ahead of us was not clear.

The joy of working together with the Team members, the understanding, encouragement, and support from the sisters was the sign of God's presence to me. I thank God each time I think of you all, for you are Wisdom's love and compassionate presence in the world.

Sr. Isabelle Retailleau

With gratitude to Wisdom's calls, I give thanks to the Lord for the journey we have made as a Council, as a team, and as a Congregation, to seek Her together at the heart of the world. This service has also given me the joy of travelling through the Congregation and witnessing its presence in the harmonious diversity of cultures and contexts in which we are present, and of the responses given in a spirit of service, proximity, and inclusion. Alleluia!

Sr. Marie-Reine Gauthier

The six years I have spent at the service of the Congregation have been years of grace, of life-giving encounters, of growth and happiness. I have discovered and appreciated my Sisters throughout the world in all their uniqueness, their richness of being, and experience. They revealed to me the many faces of Wisdom. I have tasted the beauty and greatness of our Congregational Body.

Teamwork and life in an international community have been a school of listening, dialogue, and reciprocal sharing of knowledge, discoveries, and gifts while respecting the reality of others. What an experience of "Love without Borders". I can only give thanks to Wisdom for this gift of life.

Sr. Antonella Prestia

These six years on the General Council have been for me a life experience that has made me grow and allowed me to open my eyes to know and look at the reality of the Congregation from different perspectives. Together, in the Council and with the Entities, I had the experience of looking for ways forward in the face of the realities we were called to live. I keep in my mind the faces of the Daughters of Wisdom I met, the children, young people, adults accompanied by them, their collaborators, the friends of Wisdom. With great joy and gratitude, I sing with you: "What a joy it is to serve and to love"!

Sr. Pierrette Bwamba Bosomba

I am happy with my experience as General Councillor of this outgoing Council. I have learned a lot about working with other Council members to find answers to Wisdom's call for the Congregation today. I have also experienced the intercultural and international dimension of the Congregation by gaining a broader knowledge of the overall life.

I remain grateful to Sr. Rani Kurian who was able to help us harmonise our differences with a view to our mission as a General Team. I have fond memories of our time together as General Council.

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM



“ TESTIMONY OF SOME CAPITULANTS

Sr. Virginie Bitshanda Bofonga, Responsible for the Delegation of the D.R. Congo



« This is my first time taking part in a General Chapter. I am very happy to be part of this Chapter team that reflects on the functioning and life of the Congregation. Taking part in such a meeting is really a privilege, but it's also a responsibility because you have to be active and reflect with all the sisters.

There are also challenges: you have to be present and reflect, step by step, to see what is best for us today, for the Congregation. It's not just for the life of the Congregation but for the world: to see what we can bring to the world today and to the Church through our mission. It's a big responsibility, but we are counting on the Lord's grace. »

Sr. Silmène Jean-Baptiste, Capitulant from the Province of Haïti

« This is my first time taking part in the General Chapter. I arrived with an open heart and an open mind, so that I could learn from others and take an active part in the process. I can say that this process has enabled me to learn and make many discoveries. I remember the day of the opening of the Chapter when I made the transition from 'delegate' to 'capitulant' from the roll call of the outgoing Mother General. I had to go from one stage to the next just by saying « Here I am » or « Men mwen » from delegate to capitulant...



I learned to really know the Congregational Body by looking at the Entities with what we call the 'open market', by welcoming each Entity with what the sisters brought... In this 60th Chapter, we have become much more aware of the Congregational Body. »

Sr. Agnes Mdzinga, Capitulant from Malawi



« This is the first Chapter I have attended and I am happy to be among the capitulants. I did not really know what to do when my Sisters asked me to come to this General Chapter. But after attending, I benefited a lot because I got to know the reality of the Congregation, our strengths, and our challenges. It gave me a deeper sense of the Congregation.

I could hear that there were challenges in the Congregation, and in other entities, but now it is as if I am facing reality.

So it is also a call to think ahead about what we are going to do to meet those challenges. However, as people living in hope, this is not the end. We still have the hope that God will give us the means to move forward and we continue our mission as Daughters of Wisdom. »

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Sr. Genebibha Parabala Ekka, Provincial of India

« I am taking part in the General Chapter for the first time and it is a great joy to get to know my Sisters from different Entities, to learn about their lives, their mission, and also their challenges. We are gathered here for a specific purpose, to discern God's will in order to continue the legacy of Father de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus.

I am sure that our Congregation will flourish everywhere, whatever the challenges. We live in hope and we discern God's will in order to continue the mission of the Daughters of Wisdom in different parts of the world and in different forms. In this way, the Congregation will live on and we are the hope of the future Congregation. We wish our Congregation many more opportunities to continue the Lord's mission. »

PASSAGE...

As you read in Bulletin No. 1, our sisters have received a bag made by Sister Stella Laurette Razafiarisoa, from the Province of Madagascar. It is illustrated with a drawing by Sister Claudette Danis, from the Province of Canada. We thank them for symbolically contributing their work.

Here is Sister Claudette's inspiration for the sketch:



Following Montfort and Marie-Louise, "Leaving Poitiers for La Rochelle".

LEAVING THE KNOWN...

- The little village and its bell tower speak of everything that was a source of LIFE in the past,
- The small withered tree is a reminder of what has hindered LIFE in the past.

MOVING TOWARDS THE UNKNOWN...

We can't see the path our Founders are leading us down...

Just as for Jesus' disciples, "crossing to the other side..." included a large part of the unknown.

WITH JOY AND CONFIDENCE

Let Wisdom guide our steps in this passage from the known to the unknown; (It's up to each of us to make our own interpretation)

Claudette Danis, DW



60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM**THE DISCIPLES OF EMMAUS**

By going through the "open market" of all the Entities, by receiving the reports of the Treasurer and of the General Council, by opening ourselves to the different kenoses coming from the different Entities, we were led to "feel" the reality of the Congregational-Body as a whole and in its different members. At this point, we were at the bottom of the U-shaped process proposed for this General Chapter. Before beginning to climb back up, we were invited to take the time to listen to the calls of Wisdom.

To this end, starting early Monday afternoon, each capitulant spent a long time in personal dialogue with Wisdom. The silence continued until Tuesday morning, including the evening meals and breakfast. This long period of silence enabled us to re-read our notes on the first days of this Chapter, on the evening integrations, on the morning faith sharing, while listening carefully to what Wisdom had said to us.

On Tuesday morning, we were invited to walk in pairs - like the disciples of Emmaus - to share our experience of what we had heard from Wisdom. So, in the garden, it was possible to come across several duos walking along while sharing what each had heard.

Then each of these duos had to write two sentences reflecting their two experiences. Then the two duos met up with two other duos to write two sentences together, making a group of eight pairs.

It was a personal and community experience of listening to Wisdom and listening to each other in an attempt to hear what Wisdom was saying to us at this moment in the Chapter and through the history of our Congregation.



60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

GUIDED TOUR



A group of 8 sisters and 2 translators came together to visit the "tunnel" that joins the gardens of the Mother House to the former St-Nicolas Abbey, now known as "Mission Langues" and currently occupied by Ukrainian refugees.

For years, this building was home to the Daughters of Wisdom who came from all over the world to learn French. So it was with a touch of nostalgia in their hearts, filled with many memories and the joy of returning to their roots, that some of the capitulants ventured to this place.

Thanks to our guide Sister Marie-Claire Puthiath (Sister of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd), our visit was a wonderful discovery of the history of this Congregation which has welcomed us since the beginning of the Chapter.

While touring part of the 15-hectare estate, Sister Marie-Claire narrated the rich life of their Foundress: Saint Marie-Euphrasie Pelletier (1796 -1868).

What followed was a truly spiritual experience.

Sister Marie-Claire suggested that we walk through the 55 metre tunnel in the dark and in silence to free ourselves from our fears. As we emerged from the tunnel, our eyes were caught by the light of the sun, which - as our guide reminded us - reminds the light of the Risen Christ.

For the record, the former St-Nicolas Abbey, bought by Sister Marie-Euphrasie Pelletier in 1854, was located outside the monastic enclosure that the sisters had to observe. The construction of the tunnel between May and August 1855 was a creative and practical way of getting around the difficulty by allowing access to the Abbey while respecting the canonical rule.

At the end of our walk, we discovered the magnificent façade of the thousand-year-old Abbey and its white tufa stone walls. It is bordered by beautiful vines whose grapes were once harvested by the novices of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.

After a photo session, it was time to return for another Chapter session, after having crossed the tunnel from darkness to light for a second time...

GOURMET BREAKS

Every day, the capitulants have the joy of discovering savoury and sweet dishes from different countries brought by the Sisters during the morning and afternoon snack breaks.

Lovingly prepared by Sister Thérèse and Sister Germaine, who are in charge of the house's logistics, the carefully laid tables offer fruit, sweets, drinks, snacks, etc.

This break offers ample opportunities for

conversation and to discover the gastronomy of our Entities.

To witness the smiles on the faces of our Sisters, during this time of relaxation is a welcome respite after the intellectual effort required by a General Chapter, while promoting the well-being of each one. Thank you to Sister Thérèse and Sister Germaine, who compete in creativity to offer our sisters this tasty recess.

