

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER



Number 2



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and presentation of the different functions.

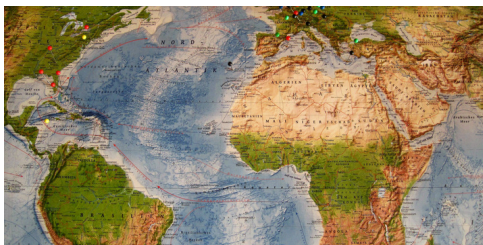
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MESSAGE FROM SISTER RANI on the first day of the General Chapter

Welcome to each one of you for the first day of the General Chapter-2024.

On behalf of all the sisters of the Congregation, I would like to thank our Facilitator, Matthieu Daum, and the members of the Chapter Planning Committee: Sr. Evelyn Eckhardt, Sr. Mary Chimalizeni, Sr. Lamercie Estinfort, Sr. Consuelo del Pilar Sarmiento Rojas, Sr. Marie-Reine Gauthier, General Councilor, link with the Chapter Committee.

From the very beginning, under the guidance of Matthieu Daum, our Facilitator, they worked tirelessly to produce all the necessary documents and reflections to help us in the preparation of this Chapter.

I also express my gratitude and sincere thanks to the other members of the General Council: Sr. Isabelle Retailleau, Sr. Antonella Prestia, Sr. Pierrette Bwamba and Sr. Ruth Dary Palacio Parra, General Treasurer, for your collaboration and participation in preparation for this Chapter.

I express my sincere gratitude to each one of you dear Sisters and in a very special way, the Entity Leaders, for accompanying our Sisters to embrace this new journey towards the Chapter. Your commitment and collaboration helped us to engage all the Sisters in the preparation of the General Chapter and to move forward as a Congregational body.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHAPTER

We are 43 delegates at the General Chapter of 2024: members by right, elected members and 3 invitees. Together we represent 14 of the 15 Entities that make up the Congregation. The three invitees: Sr Annie-Joly, Sr Siobhan Boyle and Sr Evelyn Eckhardt will participate in all the deliberations of the Chapter without the right to vote.



60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Different functions during the Chapter

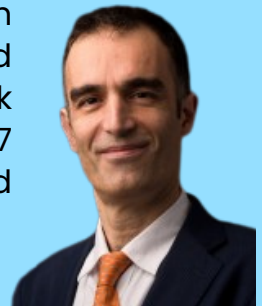


Father Dwi

Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma Watun , SMM, Superior General of the Montfort Fathers , is usually present during the entire Chapter and presides the election of the Congregational Leader and her councilors. (RV M 42 and No 140). He will also provide spiritual animation in link with the Sisters responsible for the liturgy. A hearty welcome to you Fr Dwi and thank you for being with us and accompanying us throughout the Chapter, nourishing us with spiritual food.

Matthieu Daum, our Chapter Facilitator, has been working with us since 2022.

You already met Matthieu during our Zoom meeting on June 5th 2024. Matthieu is from an organization called Nexus Consultation which specializes in the accompaniment of groups, structures and organizations to help them to work and journey together. They also work and collaborate with different types of organizations and since about 17 years they have been accompanying church organizations and religious congregations. Welcome to you Matthieu.



We have with us many sisters and lay people who have graciously agreed to offer various services throughout the Chapter.



Home logistics



Technical secretaries



Communication Committee



Liturgy team



Session secretaries

GOD SPEAKS TO EACH OF US

SHARING OF FAITH

God is our source of life at the moment when the Word of God confronts us, challenges us, strengthens us, and gives us the necessary dynamism to take the day in hand. At the sound of the gong, we are invited to be silent to prepare ourselves to receive the Word. We take the time to savor and deepen it. Then, each one takes the necessary time to express what the Word heard has evoked in her.



One by one, we share in our already constituted small groups. If there is time left, we continue to share the movements of the Spirit. At the end of this time, we conclude with a song offered by the Entity in charge of the day's liturgy. We have this enriching space every day.



TIME FOR INTEGRATION

To conclude the day, at the sound of the gong, the facilitator invites us (for 30 minutes) to gather in a spirit of inner and outer silence. This is to allow us to discover God's passage in each of the activities that have inwardly moved us, recognizing the movements of the Spirit: consolation and desolation. Attentive to what Wisdom wants to say to each of us, we take note of what the Spirit of God inspires in us. Then the sound of the gong announces that this moment of intimacy has ended.

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM**FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER**

In the Chapter Hall, 8 tables have been set up for the 43 delegates to exchange ideas in groups of 5 or 6.

These seven tables have been given the names of 8 countries where the Daughters of Wisdom have been present at some point in history and from where they have had to leave for various reasons.

These eight countries are Switzerland,

Denmark, Spain, Iran, Uganda, Yugoslavia, Brazil and Germany.

This is a way for the Delegates of this 60th General Chapter to commemorate the history of the Congregation's desire to seek and reveal Wisdom across the nations. Even though we had to leave these places, seeds of wisdom had been sown there.

**SWITZERLAND**

The Switzerland was founded in 1901 by a Sister from Luxembourg and three Sisters from France in response to a call from the Church of Switzerland. The foundation lasted until 1986. Three communities were established in this country, one for handicapped girls, one for teaching, and another for parish work. The Daughters of Wisdom left a lasting mark on the people with whom they worked.

**DENMARK**

The Montfort missionaries in Denmark wanted the Daughters of Wisdom to come and establish there. Seven French Daughters of Wisdom arrived in 1903 to take charge of a hospital. Later a school was started. At first, the houses were established in Belgium, Holland, and Denmark from the province of Belgium. Then in 1955, Denmark was integrated into the new province of Holland. It was in 1991 that the decision was made to leave the foundation due to aging and a lack of succession.

**SPAIN**

In 1953, two French sisters and a Colombian sister arrived in Spain. They started the first community in the suburbs of Madrid, and then a community was opened in Villarcayo for the education of children and youth. Later two schools named "Nuestra Señora de la Sabiduría" were established. After 40 years of active presence and friendship in Madrid, in 1991 the decision was made to close down the community.

**IRAN**

In 1973, following a call from Princess Shams Pahlavi, two French, and two Canadian Sisters arrived in Tehran to take charge of a general hospital named "Our Lady of Fatima" and a school for nurses. They were also involved in giving catechism classes and pastoral care. In 1979, the Islamic Revolution took place, which made the Sisters feel the precariousness of their integration in Iran. Thus in 1992, the last Sister returned to France because of the political situation.

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM**UGANDA**

In 1975, two American sisters arrived in Uganda to teach at the national seminary. This mission was approved by the Bishops' Conference of Uganda. However, very quickly, their American nationality put them in difficulty because the Ugandan President was in conflict with the President of the United States (President Carter). In 1977, the American government asked the Sisters to return because their safety could no longer be ensured there.

**YUGOSLAVIA**

In 1976, following a request from a Yugoslavian Montfortian missionary, two Italian Sisters were sent to Yugoslavia to work in catechesis and pastoral care. In 1991, the sisters were called back to Italy due to the political situation and the lack of human resources. They handed over their mission in the pastoral field to a local congregation with whom they had collaborated. It was in this community, that Sr. Adela Maria della Croce, a Chilean artist and dancer, encountered the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom.

**BRAZIL**

In 1976, Father Marcel Gendrot, SMM, appealed to the Daughters of Wisdom to strengthen their mission in Brazil, in a context of dictatorship and strong inequalities in the distribution of goods and land. In January 1977, three Belgian Sisters and a Dutch Sister embarked for Sao Paulo. They were involved in the mission through Basic Christian Communities, peoples' movements, mothers' clubs, crafts, social action, catechism, and vocational ministry. In 1993, Brazil was integrated into the Province of Maria-Luisa. In 2004, a meeting took place between the Sisters of the Entities of Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, and Brazil. The community in Brazil was closed in 2009. The Maria-Luisa Province comprises three countries: Peru, Argentina, and Ecuador.

**GERMANY**

The eighth table for the Animators and Chapter Facilitator is named Germany. We were present in there from 1963 to 1984. Long before our insertion there, several young German women had entered the Congregation, including Sr. Cécile de la Croix who was the Superior General from 1905 to 1917, at the time of the First World War!

In January 1963, at the request of the Bishop of Munster, five Dutch and German Sisters were sent to a village in the forest of Neuberg. There were many Polish refugees in the region. The mission of the Sisters was to bring comfort and encouragement to the exiles and to help them envision their future. The refugees were grateful to the Sisters for providing them with a "home". When the sisters had to leave after 20 years of service, their home was named "Home for All" in order to continue the spirit in which the sisters lived during their presence in Neuberg.

60th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

OPEN MARKET



Today, June 26th, the Delegates traveled around the world visiting all the Entities of the Congregation. We discovered the demographic statistics and the pastoral activities of the different Entities. We shared the experiences that have given life to our existence as Daughters of Wisdom, and we also recognized what stifles life.

This tour of the whole Congregation was done through the open market that we all know about; each Entity had a stall to present its situation. We were able to appreciate the different colors and flavors that Wisdom gives us to make Herself known.

The images shared on the open market reflect a Congregation on the move. We feel invited to continue to strengthen it.

FROM STAND TO STAND

Everyone was able to move from one stall to another, exchanging ideas, asking questions, and gaining a better appreciation of both the unity of the charism and the diverse ways of implementing it, depending on the culture, context, and human resources available. Some shared specialties from their own countries.



We want to share with you this rich experience that has given us a taste of what the Congregational Body is, thanks to the active and fruitful participation of each Daughter of Wisdom in various places where Wisdom has sent us to fulfill Her mission.

AN ORIGINAL WAY TO PRESENT THE FINANCIAL REPORT



Sr. Ruth Dary used the parable of the 7 jars to introduce her Financial Report at the General Chapter. She chose this parable because it illuminates what the management is about. This parable helps to understand the meaning of the economic and financial management of the Congregation.



MAKING DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE

The parable of the 7 jars shows us that it is not the quantity we have that matters but how with half a jar we can become truly capable of managing what we have. It is not the desire to have more but rather to do with what we have in our hands.

While passing under an enchanted tree, a man who worked for the King heard a voice saying to him: "Would you like to have the seven jars of gold?" The man looked around and saw no one. But his greed was awakened, and he said: "Yes, I would like very much to have them." Then the voice said to him: "Go back home, and you will find them there."

The man hurried home and found the seven jars all filled with gold except one, which was only half full. He could not bear the idea that the last jar was not completely filled. He felt that from now on he could not be happy with a half-empty jar.

He began to seek all means to fill it. He melted all the family jewelry and threw the gold pieces into the jar. But it was still half empty. He then started to save money to fill it to the point that his family no longer had the necessary means to live. All his efforts were in vain. No matter how much gold he put into the jar, it was always half empty.

One day he asked the King to increase his salary. The salary was doubled, and he continued his struggle to fill the jar. He even resorted to begging. And the jar was still half empty.

Seeing his sad and miserable appearance, the King asked him: "What is happening to you? When you had a much lower salary, you seemed happy and satisfied. Now that your salary has been doubled, you are discouraged and dejected. Do you by any chance possess the seven jars of gold?"

The man was very surprised. "Who told you, Your Majesty?" he asked.

The King laughed heartily. "It is clear that you have the symptoms of the person to whom the ghost offered the seven jars. Once, he made me this offer. I asked if the gold could be spent or only stored. Upon hearing my question, he disappeared without a word. This gold cannot be spent, but it arouses in the person who possesses it the desire to have always more. Go, return the gold to the ghost, and you will be happy again."

THANK YOU NOTE FROM SISTER RUTH DARY TO PAUL BOISVERT,

Consultant of portfolios of the Congregation



*We want to say **THANK YOU!***

Dear Paul,

Your presence among us at this General Chapter of the Daughters of Wisdom has been wise as always, each time you were there to accompany, guide, and suggest to us our way of proceeding to find the financial resources we can benefit from to expand our mission. We do not want to let this moment pass without saying "thank you!"

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! It is not just for your professional skills. It is for your presence, for all the reflections you have given, for all the recommendations you have made, and for all the insights you have brought to the General Team and the entire Congregation.

Many of us have benefited from your professional skills and knowledge.

We have greatly appreciated your passion for helping us and your deep desire to help us move forward. When you presented the actuarial studies at the General Chapter, we said; "*Here is the man, the professional!*" You have always been like a brother to us for almost 20 years.

May the Lord always grant you good health, and the desire to accompany all the Congregations you have already accompanied.

Go with Wisdom in your heart and the word of gratitude from the depths of our hearts. Thank you, Paul.



PAUL'S TESTIMONY

Consultant of portfolios of the Congregation

My name is Paul Boisvert; I come from Canada.

I have been working with the Daughters of Wisdom for a little over 20 years. I naturally started with the Canadian branch of the Daughters of Wisdom. When Sister Aline Leduc was appointed General Treasurer, she asked me to join the General Council to work with the entire Congregation.

Given my background, I have had a lot of cooperation in consulting on asset management in the broadest sense of the term, and I have worked with different Councils since the General Chapters of 2006, 2012, 2018, and most recently this week for the Chapter of 2024. I have interacted a lot with all these Councils.

The Daughters of Wisdom were, perhaps, the first real group with whom I worked in religious congregations. There have been several since, but you, the Daughters of Wisdom, were the first group I worked with.

At the General Chapter of 2024, you are also the last group I will work with. It is also because today, for the first time, I feel like I am retiring. The first thing I did in my retirement this morning was to take a photo of the sky when I saw that the sun and sky were very beautiful early on. I sent it to my children and my wife to say, "Here is the sky of my first day of retirement."

But retirement is not a complete stop! On the contrary, it is perhaps an opportunity to have a little more time for oneself and to achieve what one has advocated and promoted. And so, in that sense, I think I can continue to interact with the Daughters of Wisdom, especially on everything we have tried to develop.

Since 2006, we have had many significant developments. The Sedes Fund has been a rather fantastic achievement, I think. It carried a certain vision of what we envisioned for the Congregation. And today, we have seen the fruits and results! We will continue to work in that direction for the Daughters of Wisdom. So you are a group dear to me, with whom I want to continue working. You have fantastic, dynamic people, and I think there is a lot of future. Even if in some Entities, it is shown that some Provinces are aging, elsewhere others are younger.

I think the great dream is to achieve this chemistry within the same entity, in the same future, which will indeed be the mission of the Daughters of Wisdom.

So good luck with all the achievements that the Daughters of Wisdom will be able to accomplish in the future.