
Members of the Chapter

The current Mother General and the four Councillors who assist her, attend the General Chapter. The Secretary General and the Treasurer also take part in these meetings, as well as the Novice Mistress and the Local Superiors of the various houses. Lastly, one Sister, elected as a delegate from each convent, attends the Chapter. The election of these delegates took place in February.

Preparation for the Chapter

Before the Chapter all the professed Sisters are given the opportunity to submit ideas which could benefit the Congregation. In addition, the Mother General prepares for the Chapter by drawing up reports on the spiritual and material status of all the convents.

The most important preparation, though, is prayer. Each Chapter member often invokes the assistance of the Holy Ghost, especially on the Day of Recollection which immediately precedes the first session. The members join in offering this petition:

O God the Holy Ghost, come unto us and be with us; vouchsafe to enter our hearts; teach us what we are to do and whither we ought to tend; show us what we must accomplish, in order that, with Thy help, we may be able to please Thee in all things. Be Thou alone the Author and the Finisher of our judgments. Amen.



The Secretary General is helping to prepare reports for the Chapter.



On the day the Chapter begins, a Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost is offered for its successful outcome.

During the Chapter

On the first day of the meetings, all the members sing the “Veni Creator,” the official liturgical prayer to the Holy Ghost. After the Mother General reads the reports on the status of the Congregation, the election of the Spiritual Father takes place. This bishop or priest is chosen by the Sisters to give advice and watch over the Congregation’s spiritual and temporal affairs.

Following the election of the Spiritual Father, the current Mother General resigns her office and the Chapter members vote by secret ballot for the new Mother General. Once she has been elected, the convent bell is rung to call all the Sisters to the chapel where a hymn of thanksgiving (the “Te Deum”) is sung. The newly-elected Mother General receives a blessing, and then the entire community processes to the Chapter room, singing the “Ave Maris Stella,” a hymn to Our Lady. Each Sister, Novice, and Postulant kneels before the Mother General and kisses her ring as a sign of respect and obedience.
