

47th General Chapter
Renewing our Mission-- Gratitude, Prophecy, Hope
Rome 08 October 2018

Today the capitulars celebrated the Eucharist in three groups according to the languages of the Chapter: Italian, English and Spanish. Then in the Aula, after invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit, they listened to the report of the Superior General. Afterward they reflected on the report in working groups and then returned to the Aula.

Three questions focused Fr. General's report:

1. What elements of the report resonated in your life?
2. What surprised you in the report?
3. What challenges for our life today were presented in the report?

Following are some quotations from the report:

*"I want to begin this report with an **expression of gratitude** to all my brothers and sisters in the Congregation for your confidence and trust, not only in calling me to serve the Congregation as Superior General six years ago, but in truly supporting me in my ministry over these years. ... THANK YOU!*

*It is time now for us to **focus on the charismatic testimony of our mission** – the reason for our existence as a Congregation. As a support to this direction, we are living in a time of the Church's history, especially under Pope Francis' leadership, when a strong emphasis on **evangelization** and **mission** is encouraged: proclaiming the joy of the Gospel to the poor and going out on mission to the peripheries and margins.*

*Thus, I believe, when we speak about "**Renewing our Mission**", it is primarily about "**renewing ourselves**". The 'mission' is given; it is clear. However, because our mission flows from 'who we are', we must be constantly open to **self-renewal** – which is our response and openness to what God is doing in us for the coming of God's kingdom. It is the **ongoing call to conversion and repentance** in the mission of the kingdom of God. ...*

*We are not called to be '**working for God**', but rather we are to '**do God's work**' – a subtle but important distinction made by Fr Thomas Green SJ in his book: *Darkness in the Marketplace*.*

*My hope, therefore, is that this General Chapter will commit us to a journey and process of reflection in the '**renewal of our mission**', which necessarily implies the '**renewal of ourselves**'. We want to distinguish **what God wants us to do** from **what we ourselves want to do for God**. It is not enough that we serve God according to our own liking and, in fact, do our own thing. Rather, God must be able to dispose of us entirely and freely."*

At the end of the day in the Aula the groups shared and voted to elect the members of the Chapter Coordinating Committee (CCC).