

**47th General Chapter**  
*Renewing our Mission-- Gratitude, Prophecy, Hope*  
*Rome 12 October 2018*

*A step forward—Preparing a Charismatic Plan*

Today the Capitulars celebrated the Eucharist and the memorials of Our Lady of Aparecida and Our Lady of Pilar, patrons of Brazil, and Spain respectively.

Then in the Aula they studied a document entitled-- “A charismatic Plan for the Congregation”. The specific work today concerned what the Church asks of our Institute. The Capitulars are aware that the document presented is only a starting point to describe the charism and the concept of the “patrimony of the Institute”, to which we wish to remain faithful. They were reminded that charisms are not gifts granted to all, but each charism is a particular gift that the Holy Spirit grants “as He pleases.” That is why it is part of the Constitutions, and the rule of Saint Paul of the Cross, which contain the specific characteristics of the Passionist charism.

Our consecration to the Passion, gives us an identity, visibility, and the reason for our existence and our presence in the Church and for the Church. All the elements present in the Constitutions-- vows, community, prayer, apostolate, formation, government, are like a thick rope that serves to moor the boats in the port. It consists of fine threads that break easily but envelop other thicker threads and intersect to give consistency and strength. This is the charism.

In the afternoon the Capitulars shared their thoughts about the charism and at the end of the day before the prayer they proposed three points from each group, which they felt were most important for the elaboration of our life project.

Although the day ended in a sea of words, there was a sense that together we are addressing various challenges.