



CONGREGATION OF THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

47° GENERAL CHAPTER

Rome, 6-27 October 2018

Report of the Configuration of CHARLES HOUBEN

I. DATA

✓ Number and name of the Provinces:

6 Provinces in the CCH, from West to East:

1. PATR: Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Paris;
2. IOS: England, Wales, Sweden;
3. SPE: the Netherlands, North-Germany;
4. GABR: Belgium;
5. VULN: Bavaria, Austria (Vice-Province);
6. ASSUM: Poland, Ukraine, Czech Republic.

Members: 196

Average age: 66,52 (49,79 – 81,96)

Number of canonical houses: 27

Students: 5 novices
11 professed

II. ANALYSIS

Strengths:

1. Open attitude towards solidarity;
2. Respect of diversity, which generates trust;
3. Initiatives of collaboration develop from bottom up.

Weaknesses:

1. High age of the Members
2. 9 languages and even more different cultures
3. Lack of a clear North European Passionist identity and mission

Opportunities for further development:

1. Challenges make us more aware of what and where we called to be and what we are called to do as Passionists

2. Our small numbers and the fact that we are not well-known nor caught up in structures gives us a certain freedom to respond to the challenges of today
3. Many young people are searching for meaning and truth

Threats:

1. Decrease in Church involvement
2. Life is becoming more complicated
3. and individualistic

III. PROPHETIC AND HOPEFUL ASPECTS

1. Initiatives that have been successful:

- a. Recently: exploration of more collaboration in our ministries in Passionist shrines;
- b. Financial solidarity within and beyond the Configuration;
- c. Exchange of personnel and collaboration in formation (publications, student gatherings) take place on a small scale.

2. Hopes for the Future:

- a. That we find adequate responses to the changes in the Church and in society.
- b. That we find distinct missions and live distinct lives.
- c. That the care for the elderly remains a serious point of attention: their health and their spiritual life.

IV. CHALLENGES & CONCERNS

1. Challenges:

- a. Being attractive: the way we live and work.
- b. Finding and expressing togetherness; we share the same charism.
- c. Governance of the entities.

2. Questions and Issues:

- a. That we first focus on our mission and our life rather than on the structures.
- b. What do we *as Passionists* add to the mission of the Church?
- c. Is JPIC “an” option or is it (should we make it) the foremost expression of our charism?