

At 9:00 AM with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided by Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, the XVI Synod of the Congregation began with the celebration of the Eucharist at 9:00 AM. He prayed for the gift of the Spirit so that these may be days of fraternity, discernment and motivation for our life and mission. In accord with the Liturgy of the XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time,

developing a compassionate attitude of love that recreates and renews, heals, and comforts.

Following the homily on the Word proclaimed, he invited us to welcome the celebration of the Synod as a gift of the Spirit, open to God's merciful heart that calls us to welcome our brothers and sisters and to serve

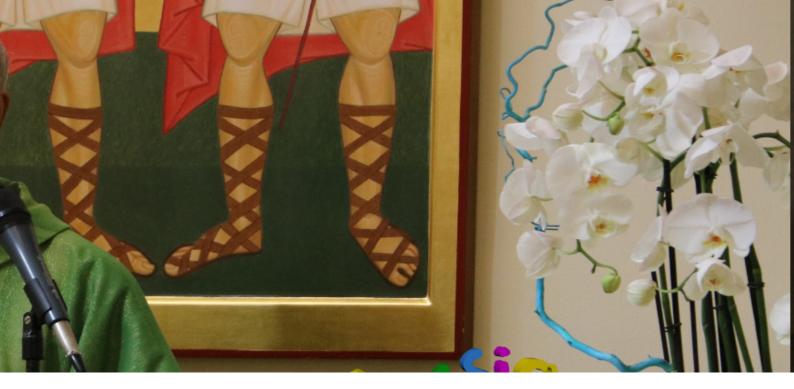


especially the Gospel text of St. Luke (15.1-32), he pointed out the attitudes of those who listen to Jesus, sometimes confronting one another, and the gaze of God that Jesus offers us-- loving every life with dignity as the "greatest treasure" to be welcomed, defended, and promoted. Pope Francis is also a witness to these attitudes of mercy, calling for justice and respect for all,

them sincerely and respectfully. He also invited us to have a healthy attitude of listening and synodal collaboration with a desire to enliven, renew and recreate our mission in the context of gratitude, prophecy, and hope.

After Communion, each of the Synod members was invited to express with a word,





writing it on a small card, his or her hopes at the beginning of this meeting. These have been placed in the Synod hall as a reference point for these days.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the first session began in the Synod hall. Fr. Marco Pasquale presented the digital instrument that will facilitate the work of the Synod. Fr. Ciro Benedettini, moderator of this first day, indicated the various procedures for designating the services: secretary, CCC, scrutineers, approval of the agenda and the procedural manual. Finally, the CCC was constituted with three members elected by the Synodal Assembly.

After lunch, work resumed in the Aula with the presentation of the Report of Father

General. His report reviewed the major events in the life of the Congregation since the celebration of the 47th General Chapter, the Jubilee of the Congregation around the theme "Renewing the Mission". The general framework was the call to Synodality in which the being and doing of the Church is involved. The pandemic of Covid-19 was mentioned in detail as a challenge that has involved us, giving birth to a new reality of interdependence consisting of solidarity and communion as a new way of being and knowing that we are sent forth. In his report he also pointed out some of the concerns of the General Council: harmonization of community life and pastoral ministry, formation of formators, processes of guidance, vocational challenges, etc.



After his presentation and a brief break, a space was opened in the Aula to discuss the reactions and questions raised by his report. The report was very positively evaluated, and some questions were raised that will accompany the dialogue and the synodal discernment.

The day's work concluded with evening prayer prepared by the General Council.







## Synodus Generalis

Gratia | Prophetia | Spes Ad Missionem Renovandam