



Orden de San Agustín  
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

## II Ordinary Provincial Chapter

Guadarrama, 11 July, 2024

**On the feast day St. Benedict, we remembered our deceased brothers in this four-year period in the celebration of the Eucharist in the morning. We are grateful to God and are very proud of all those who have dedicated their lives at our schools, our missions and our parishes.**

### **Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Assistant General**

That the Fr. Javier Pérez Barba is a magnificent speaker is an understatement. This is particularly evident by the positive appreciation expressed by the members of the Chapter for the magnificent homily the friar from Salamanca has delivered.

He invited us to "revitalize religious life starting with the evangelization of the deepest root of the human heart, which is desire, until there is nothing left but the greatest desire, the desire of God." He ended his homily by inviting us to prayer and to have an intimate relationship with God

### **Morning session**

The Chapter delegates have plenty of reasons to be happy either for the England vs. Netherlands match or for the magnificent gift that the Provincial Secretary has left in the seat of each one. The "chapter gift pack" is completed with the annual magazine Diaspora and the iconographic study of San Alonso de Orozco directed by Fr. Santiago Iturbe. We also appreciate the gesture of the Archbishop of Madrid, Monsignor José Cobo, as well as keeping us in mind in his prayers.

Nevertheless, let our readers entertain the thought that these brothers were idle, rather "ora et labora", as the patron of Europe whose feast we celebrate today says.



**Orden de San Agustín**  
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

After the mass and the prayer, it's time to return back at the grind. Under the presidency of Fr. Alejandro and Fr. Miguel Ángel Fraile as moderator, the provincial secretary takes the floor to present the study of the proposals of the previous day and their approval.

Once this is done, we work on the topic of the morning study that deals with the revision of our evangelizing style elaborated by the Commissions on pastoral and religious life. To be more pragmatic, we meet in groups to favor reflection and dialogue and after a short break, the reflections and opinions were placed in common.

"We will send the reflections and proposals to Jesús Baños" with this sentence Fr. Miguel Ángel ends his duty as the moderator and we continue with the next point where words such as episcopology and historical adventures of the brains of this young Augustinian province that Fr. Luciano admires so much as is evident in his intervention, although the (technical goblins) electroduendes may have pranked him with some trick with the microphone.

### **Decision of the Intermediate General Chapter 2022**

Our sense of order and fidelity to the provisions of the intermediate general chapter of 2022 leads us to reflect in the light of the first provision under the guidance of our Prior General present in the chapter. Some circumscriptions of the Order suffer from certain isolation due to the small number of brothers while in contrast, others experience a change in the Augustinian geographical map. For example, in the cases of Indonesia or Vietnam or the new challenges such as the preparation of a new formation adapted to the current circumstances, in this sense the formation houses of the two provinces of Mexico have been united in one which is magnificent news.

Proposal for the choice of a single theological center and location of the Profesorio (Formation house for the simple professed)



**Orden de San Agustín**  
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

And we get to what is possibly the most complex topic of this Provincial chapter, the location of the Profesorio and the Theological Center of the Province. By way of clarification, Fr. Provincial clears some unknown information about the possibility or possible intentions of the San Pablo CEU University to establish a faculty of theology, an issue apparently quite difficult and distant at the moment.

Fr. Domingo comments that a study was requested from external advisors and that they have visited both realities and their reports are not only not very conclusive but also have not shed much light on this issue. In his explanation of the proposal he states that it would be voted separately: on the one hand, the choice of the theological center and on the other hand the location of the Formation house (Profesorio).

Given the sensitivity of the subject and in a display of exquisite objectivity, the Provincial explains how the approach of the proposal has been made by the council, choosing first the theological center regardless of its location and subsequently this would depend on the place where the Professorium is. As if to slice the thickening tension, the body decided to take the lunch break.

The common banquet is one of the most anticipated moments of the capitular atmosphere since the Fr. Isaac flaunts to be a magnificent host, not only for the good delicacies with which we are pleased but for his reflections on the blessing of the table that undoubtedly also facilitate spiritual digestion.

### **Afternoon session**

The afternoon session begins with the intervention of Fr. Domingo clearing up some doubts about the proposals, leaving open the possibility that the Augustinian Study currently in Valladolid be transferred to the Monastery of El Escorial or that the San Agustín Theological Center of the Monastery of El Escorial be transferred Valladolid.



**Orden de San Agustín**  
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

After a while of meeting by groups, the pooling arrives. In the dialogue among all, the difficulty of making any decision is verified, the affections, the practical, the tradition, the aggregate or the affiliate and the search for the best for our professed brothers weighed. Both the Frs. Manuel Sánchez Tapia and David Álvarez have defended both positions with mastery and a lot of documentation. Among the

different opinions, Fr. Vidal, Prior of Valladolid, proposes to maintain the two theological centers, but both Fr. General and Fr. Provincial and other religious of both sensitivities argue that it will not be possible to maintain two professoriums or two theological centers, even so, it is decided to vote on this proposal of Fr. Vidal.

And to break the ice from so much accumulated tension, Fr. Isaac with his usual finely-tuned sense of humor manifests that his head works in a three-phase way because he has three lovers: Escorial, Valladolid and Burgos. So, it's best to have a coffee, take a short break and continue afterwards.

Upon return from the break, the opinion of Fr. Javier as assistant general and invited guest who has gathered the feelings of the religious through his dialogue and visits to all the circumscriptions and Fr. Víctor as a Provincial treasurer about maintaining the two theological centers and the two professorios to which the first states that the General chapter and the feeling of the circumscriptions is that there should only be a single professorium and theological center and the second that from the economic point of view is that it is more convenient that there is a single professorium/theological center although the interest and the good of the religious in formation always prevail.

Once the positions have been clarified, the votation for the proposal of Fr. Vidal about maintaining both professorios and theological centers takes place. The result of the vote is 40 non placet and 22 placet which led to the need to choose a single professorium/theological study in assembly by vote.



**Orden de San Agustín**  
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

After the fact, we proceed to approve the proposals on the amendments of the statutes and the proposals to the Chapter whether to pass them for votation or not.

It has been an intense day of work and the religious, exhausted but happy and contented to be able to continue serving all the brothers in this Chapter with which we proceed to the prayer vespers, dinner and much deserved rest. That is all for today, dear readers, tomorrow we will continue to keep you abreast. Thank you for your prayers.

P. Agustín Herrero, OSA  
Chronicler