

## ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2024. GUADARRAMA

Monday, July 8, 2024

Let all who may read this chronicle that the Province of San Juan de Sahagún has a seal so small for such a grand entity. This is not the chronicler's idea but that of the Prior General Fr- Alejandro Moral, OSA.

### WELCOME

Within the lobby of our house in Guadarrama, the religious brethren are arriving from different parts of Spain and from four different continents. Greeting, warm hugs, and a diverse manifestation of an intercultural and international provincial reality.

### Mass of the Holy Spirit

The first day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Provincial chapter opened with the mass on the Holy Spirit where Fr. Domingo Amigo took office again under the watchful eye of the Provincial secretary, the Prior General and the Assistant General for Southern Europe. "In front of us, just like before the disciples, a path of anxiety opens up, of unclear steps."

In his homily, Fr. General reflects with these words on the future and asks in turn "Another paraclete" and "another very good, sweet and calming guest that comforts in moments of storm fears" inviting all religious to comfort each other knowing that we will also need a lot of consolation and counsel.

The inauguration of the Prior Provincial confirmed the caliber of the province whose transfer was the sign of the beginning of this mandate where the new counselors also took office. Surely, they shall provide a greater one (referring to the stamp) on the next inaugural mass at the beginning of the next Provincial Chapter in the next four years.

### 1st Plenary Session

After a short break, the work session began with the welcome remarks of Fr. General who welcomed all the brothers and then the Provincial Secretary took the floor to present the list of discrete and ex-officio religious who will participate in the Chapter.

The Chapter responsibilities and duties are as follows:

- The Fr. Isaac González as Prior and Fr. Juan Antonio Tejedor as Treasurer.
- The moderators the Frs. Jesús Torres, Isaac Estévez and Miguel Ángel Fraile.
- The canvassers: Frs. Juan M. Pereña, Agustín Otazo and Glen de Jesús.
- Those in charge of liturgy: Frs. Pablo Rojas, Manuel S. Tapia and Enrique Sanz while Frs. Valeriano Aldonza and Cedric Errol collaborate with the music.
- The proposal redaction team: Frs. Miguel Ángel M. Juárez, Carlos José Sánchez and Carlos Alonso.
- Chroniclers: Frs. Agustín Herrero, Ángel Andújar and Gabriel Bautista.

Then, the Ordo Capituli was presented, the schedule and it was reported on the procedures and work with the proposals, topics of study such as formation of the laity, new styles of evangelization, theological studies, the professed religious, etc.

Afterwards, Fr. Carlos Alonso explained some practical considerations regarding accommodation, the house plan so as not to get lost in such a big building. A debate ensued on a proposed excursion whether to push through with it and when. Finally, democracy did the rest and it was decided by a majority to go on a trip to either one of two places: Segovia and monastery of El Escorial, the latter for the religious who do not know it yet.

The secretary ends up thanking the communication team for their work and informs everyone of the religious present where they have the office.

Then Fr. General took the floor. He reminded the main lines of the previous Provincial chapter. In his speech, he inspired to continue encouraging the construction of a Provincial community identity and sense of belonging to the new province as well as taking care of spiritual life, training and vocations. With the request for help to the Holy Spirit and the intercession of San Agustín and San Juan de Sahagún, he ended his speech and was received with a round of applause.

Finally, we finished the morning day with the prayer of the intermediate hour thanks to the mobile phone application of the Spanish Episcopal Conference.

Afternoon work session

The house and the community of Guadarrama are very hospitable very evident in the attention given to us by Fr. Isaac and Br. Juan Antonio through the warm reception and the small details. The moments of rest and meals in common are special moments for encounters, meeting and sharing of impressions with the brothers.

Programmatic speech by P. Provincial

The programmatic message of P. Domingo is entitled: "Communion, fraternity and Mission" In it he calls on the religious to strengthen the fraternity and the shared mission, promoting a synodal and collaborative spirituality. The need to know and accept the changes in the new province, promote the sense of belonging, review and adjust works and work styles, and train lay people in Augustinian spirituality. The importance of religious formation is emphasized, both initial and on-going, and it is urged to improve youth and vocational pastoral care. He presented the management lines in the field of education and schools as well as studies and evangelization of culture. The economic administration must focus on the mission, simplicity and provincial coordination. Finally, collaboration is promoted with the General Curia and other circumscriptions, thanking the support received and encouragement.

Live open in the light of the Spirit.

During the exchange of comments, Br. Marcelino expressed the lack of mention of the reality and missionary dimension to which the provincial prior replied that this area is included in the directory and other documents of the province.

#### Presentation of economic reports

Dealing with numbers is an arduous task, we thank Fr. Victor his presentation of our provincial economic status since we have been able to take charge of the general situation of the Provincial circumscriptions as well as the works carried out in this. This four-year period has been complex due to the unification of criteria, works, accounts and so on.

Subsequently, the vicars and/or regional treasurers of Argentina have taken the floor as well as, Antilles, Iquitos, India, Panama, Tanzania and Venezuela who have presented the economic realities of their respective vicariates and delegations.

Fr. Jesús Torres acted as moderator of this session. Central America and Cuba will present their tomorrow.

The first day, though intense, ends with the praying of vespers, dinner and time in common.

Thank you to all the brothers who have spoken in this first session.

Fr. Agustín Herrero  
Chronicler