



Orden de San Agustín  
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

## II Ordinary Provincial Chapter

Guadarrama, July 10, 2024

**Still exuberant for yesterday's victory of the Spanish football team against France (which was followed with great enthusiasm by a large part of the Chapter delegates) we got up (without any hangover and with the tranquility of not having to regret any serious injuries in the fast and clean San Fermin's traditional running with the bulls) to celebrate the Eucharist.**

In it we have the joy of greeting our dear brother the Reverend Monsignor Luis Marín, who, coming from Rome, presides over the morning Eucharist. In his homily, he reminds us that the chapter is a special time to listen to the Lord, and encourages us to let the Spirit transform us, this being a personal and community responsibility. He warned us so as not to fall into any of these three dangers: infidelity (forgetting to love above all); indifference (the Lord speaks to us through life) and inconsistency (not embodying ideas in life). It's time to take a risk and energize ourselves, having confidence to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Two hours after getting up and after recuperating our strength with a delicious Guadalajara breakfast, we all wear the Augustinian habit for the official picture taking of the chapter delegates in the usual place, taking advantage of this cool morning moment that avoids from having to endure the summer heat. It was the occasion that some delegates took advantage to highlight the variety of "layers" that friars wear when they suit up as Augustinian. Next, we started the first work session of the morning, which this time begins with the information of the work and effort of the communication office of the Province (Fr. Marcelino, Amparo and Rosa), who accompanied us (and took pictures and videos of us) in every step every day.

Fray Marcelino is grateful for everything that has been provided to them in their work during these years.



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Amparo, for her part, appreciates the collaboration and availability of the Augustinian religious every time she requests for information and news. She explains her conclusion that opened our eyes to the reality of the obvious internal ignorance of what many Augustinians do within the Province, and that having more information would eventually reinforce the identity of the Province.

Rosa takes the floor to talk about social networks and the production of videos either through our own production or through an advertising agency, the Agustinos App, the streaming broadcasts of most outstanding and important events of the institution.

They end up posing the challenges of the future to us so that they are considered among all. They ask us for more relevant and important communication to disseminate the news at the level of the circumscriptions and the Order.

After this explanation, we enter a new stage of the chapter: the presentation of the salient points to be tackled during the Chapter, starting with the most contiguous to us: religious life, how to renew and promote it, what we have to emphasize. This is in line with the project approved in the previous provincial chapter, highlighting what is considered to be of utmost importance and what should be emphasized. And as the way it is done at summer camps, we were divided into smaller groups (based from language, for greater understanding), and we went from the chapter room to the meeting rooms. In them, they openly participated in a constructive and sincere dialogue. The sharing by the secretaries of the groups in the plenary was agile and enjoyable, collecting the contributions made in each classroom.

The respite is taken by Fr. Jesús Baños, who, on the part of the pastoral commission, presents and clarifies the issue and proposal of a plan for the formation of laity, with the relevant role of Augustinian spirituality, demands of the previous chapter and of our laity. Since he had the floor, Fr. Jesus also presented the basic lines of a document on the revision of our evangelizing style jointly proposed by



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the pastoral commission and the religious life commission. And he does it convincingly.

This presentation is relevant for group work tomorrow, and this Wednesday afternoon is reserved for fraternal encounter away from home. To do this, the chapter group is divided into two. On one hand, a small group goes to enjoy the beauty and history of the Royal Monastery of the Escorial. The bulk of the group went to the nearby city of Segovia, where we enjoyed a lot with a careful guided explanation of its cathedral and a walk through the interiors of the Alcázar. We were surprised by the art and beauty they treasure. We were looking forward to tasting its tasty suckling pig or its Segovian punch, but the head of the expedition summoned us at the agreed time at the foot of the Roman aqueduct to head to the Sierra de Guadarrama and arrive in time for the long-awaited meeting with the brothers at the fraternal dinner table. We commented on everything we liked and admired about the Castilian capital.

On the other hand, the group of brothers who came to our house in San Lorenzo del Escorial to discover the grandeur of the eighth wonder of the world, was very satisfied with the explanations and attentions received (in English and in Spanish so that no secret escaped from such a noble palace and austere monastery).

This concludes today's day. Most of the soccer enthusiasts among us gathered in front of the screen to ask that the stars to be favorable to us in terms of the rival for the finals of Sunday, in which we all hope that ours will bring the just reward to the great work they have been doing (as we hope that the work of these chapter days will produce its good fruits).

P. Gabriel Bautista, OSA  
Chronicler