



Orden de San Agustín
PROVINCIA DE SAN JUAN DE SAHAGÚN

II Ordinary Provincial Chapter

Guadarrama, 12 July, 2024

When on Thursday evening the Prior of the Chapter communicated that the Eucharist of the following day would not be the first activity in the morning, the Chapter participants were baffled. But then, the reason was understood: the Chapter is coming to an end and, therefore, the Eucharist will be held as a closing ceremony, at the appropriate time. There was evening and there was morning, the fifth (and last) day.

The day, as always, begins in the chapel, in this case with the prayer of lauds, guided by the good work of the liturgical team. Hence another step forward to recharge forces in the dining room of the house and get ready for the last chapter sessions.

We continue with the proposals

Following in the footsteps of the previous day, the study of the proposals received at the Chapter by commissions, secretariats, communities or individual religious continues, starting with number 8. We highlight some interesting aspects of these proposals:

- The creation of a printed yearbook of the life of the communities.
- The request of the Vicariate of Panama to request the Ordinary General Chapter 2025 for its establishment as a Province of the Order. In this case, due to the scale of the proposal, the explanations of Fr. Carlos, Vicar of Panama, and the interventions of the Chapter delegates, have developed more deeply.
- The formation plan for laity.
- The document "Review of our evangelizing style".



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- The creation of an Augustinian Parish profile in the light of synodality.
- The appointment of a Local Delegate for Missions, Justice and Peace.
- The study of the possible opening of a mission in Mozambique to enhance the missionary sense, generate new vitality and new vocational expectations for the Province.
- The review of the monthly allowance to the religious.
- Community programming of concrete actions on families.

Some of them provoke debate, which enriches the ideas and leads to accurate conclusions. All these proposals are approved so that they may be voted upon in secret by the capitular fathers.

Board of Canvassers and Auditors

Following the provisions of the provincial statutes, we proceed to the election of the provincial canvassers and the auditors of the votes for the four-year period. After the vote, the religious Jesús Torres, Marcelino Esteban and Gabriel Bautista are elected as canvassers or scrutineers and Juan Enrique Álvarez, Agustín Otazo and Juan Antonio Tejedor as auditors.

For the curiosity of the readers, we noted that the vote of the scrutineers had to be repeated: because of the inadvertence of checking electoral ballot box beforehand, as evidenced by the doubled number of beans as the number of voters. The excess of beans may cause trouble, so it's better to repeat the process.

Closing Eucharist of the Chapter

At the end of the session, we went to the chapel to celebrate the closing Eucharist. Presided over by the Prior Provincial, Fr. Domingo Amigo.



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He reminds us that God always takes the initiative, becoming close to His people with mercy and tenderness, because he is a Father willing to always welcome his own, despite our many infidelities, so we are invited to continually return to Him. With that, he invites the brothers to walk together, as throughout the chapter days we have done; together in prayer, together in reflections and deliberations, together in moments of leisure and coexistence, together in work and service, always guided by the light of the Spirit that accompanies and guides us.

And, walking together, we will be able to face the difficulties, conflicts and struggles that arise. All of these with utmost gratitude to God for all the good He does every day in us as a Province and as Augustinians and for the people he puts in our path.

From the Eucharistic table we move on to the conventual table. A pantagruelistic meal - the word is not mine, but from the Prior of the Chapter and the Host Community - that puts the finishing touch to a magnificent day.

The elections are coming

With almost no time to digest the food, we go to the chapter session hall to receive a printed copy of the proposals that the Chapter members will have to vote on. Every religious with the right to vote retire to their room to proceed to cast their vote. These are then gathered and submitted to the chapter scrutineers and auditors. After some time, the brothers in charge of the canvassing, tallying and auditing solemnly announce what the Chapter derives as definitive conclusions.

We are not going to report here all the approved proposals; they will be published in due course. But yes, due to the transcendence of the matter, we communicate the decision of the Chapter on two issues:



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- The application to CGO 2025 for the Vicariate of Panama to be constituted as a Province is approved.
- The proposal to study the opening of a new mission in Mozambique is not approved.
- The sole theological center that will be maintained is the Augustinian Theological Center (Estudio Teológico Agustiniiano) of Valladolid (39 votes in favor, 21 votes against, 1 blank votes).
- The seat of the professorium (Formation house) will be the convent of Valladolid (39 votes in favor, 21 votes against, 1 blank vote).

Minutes, thanks and... see you next time

Everything has a beginning and an end. After five intense days, the religious say goodbye to the Chapter with their duty fulfilled. The reading and signing of the minutes and the closing words of the Provincial Prior indicate the culmination of an intense week.

Fr. Alejandro Moral encourages everyone to carry out the Chapter resolutions and to live this new provincial stage with fidelity and joy.

These have been days of intense work, of debates, of discussions without bitterness nor spite and of decision-making that, surely, will result in the good of the Province and, above all, of the brothers and the people with whom we share faith and life in our various works.

Not everything will have gone as we expected and felt, but let the Spirit continue to guide us, inspired by the Gospel and by the guidance of our father, St. Augustine.

Thanks to all the people who have made all this possible; in a particular way, to the people who work at the Casa Fr. Luis de León who have made us feel at home these days, to the Office of Communication of the Province that has been working hard, to those who have attended as translators, facilitating the participation of the



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English-speaking brothers, and to each and every one of the participating brothers.

Thanks to the fellow chroniclers, Agustín and Gabriel, for your magnificent work and thank you, dear readers, for your interest and attentive wait every day. Without you, none of this would have made sense. May God continue to fill us with his blessings.

P. Ángel Andújar, OSA
Chronicler