



## SISTERS OF JESUS GOOD SHEPHERD PASTORELLE

### 8° GENERAL CHAPTER

#### INFORMATION N.5

Dear sisters,

On the evening of Monday, July 11, we concluded the period of discernment for the election of the new government general: to **sr. Marta Finotelli**, superior general were joined the four Councillors: sr. Cesarina Pisanelli (Italy), sr. Inácia Dos Santos (Brazil), sr. Rita Ruzzene (Australia), sr. Marisa Loser (Argentina). The election of the councillors took place according to geographical areas, in this sequence: Europe, Latin America (Portuguese), Asia and Oceania, Latin America (Spanish).

We began the discernment at 10 am Sunday, with the introduction of Father Germano, who invited us to recall the fundamental attitudes needed: the purification of intentions and inner freedom. What would help is recalling of experiences of the mercy of God, having an openness of heart towards all the sisters. We then re-read some articles of the Rule of Life that, with wisdom, assist us in the dynamics of discernment. This led us into an atmosphere of prayer. The night was spent in adoration before the Blessed Eucharist, taking turns, until the morning.

The session of **Monday, 11 a.m.** opened with *the roll call* of each participant of the chapter, *the oath taking* of the president and the scrutinizers and the *promise* by each participant to fulfil ones task according to ones conscience. At the first ballot, the required qualified majority was reached, sr. Marta Finotelli was elected superior general and proclaimed by the secretary of the chapter, sr. Purisima Tanedo.

Sr. Marta expressed her consent with the following word: "Trusting in the mercy of God and relying on the generous collaboration of all the sisters, aware of my inadequacy, I accept with trust the service that the Good Shepherd entrusts to me".

After the newly-elected, took the oath, the Te Deum was sung followed by a moment of jubilation when each sister expressed her feelings of affection and gratitude by personally greeting sr. Marta.

It's time to 'announce': and so, by the means that technology makes available, the Pastorelle and the Pauline Family, all over the world are informed. Soon the good wishes arrive, first personally by sr. Antonietta Bruscato, superior general of FSP and other Sisters Daughters of St. Paul, sr. Regina Cesarato, superior general of the PDDM sisters and some of Councillors. In the afternoon, Don Silvio Sassi superior general SSP with some of his Councillors. So many messages and phone calls: even those 'invisible' that dwelt in the heart of the sisters and many friends.

As we gather to resume the process of elections, at this point the counsellors, there's a surprise: a gift to sr. Marta a real vine with grapes, planted in a large pot. A gift offered, on behalf of all the Pastorelle, by the provincial superiors and the delegates. It is a very significant gift. The image of the vine and the branches accompanied the pre Chapter phase, which emerged from the contributions of the sisters and the community. Now, with this sign given to sr. Marta, we want to say: help us, let us help each other to remain in the vine, so that the branches be full of grapes, even if there always be the need for pruning.

In the afternoon, with the required distance of time for the voting, the following Councillors were elected: sr. Cesarina Pisanelli, sr. Inácia dos Santos, sr. Rita Ruzzene who were already among the chapter members. Their yes, anxious and hopeful at the same time, resonated with us. Instead for sr. Marisa Loser we had to wait. She was not a participant, but was in the General House, just a short distance away. We waited for her response and presence. And it was not so long in coming. Deo gratias! The general government was now complete. Sr. Marisa joined the Chapter making our number 33. The way the election took place was

uplifting: it was noticed both by those who participate for the first time at a Chapter, and those who had previous experience. We are grateful to the Good Shepherd who accompanies us and accept the prayer and the gift offered for us by so many brothers and sisters.

Sr. Marta expressed her thanks to the sisters with whom she shared her first mandate, and in particular, to sr. Albina Bosio, sr. Arsenia Estrada, sr. Mary Luz Oliveros who end their service as a counsellors. A heartfelt thanks also to the secretary general sr. Purisima Tañedo , and the general bursar, sr. Aminta Sarmiento. May the Lord reward each of them for their total availability and generosity in the service they provided. Certainly the sense of sacrifice and hiddenness diffused a little of Christ's fragrance. We all want to say: Thank you! Grazie! Obrigado! Muchas gracias! Merci! Faliminderi! Gam Sa Hamnida!

By the way, on Sunday, we were able to see the three sisters through skype. They are: sr. Maria Lim Hee Jung of Korea, sr. Mary Veronica Gungon and sr. Jessica Aglavia, of the Philippines. Since February 2 they have been the island of Taiwan (Republic of China) to learn Mandarin, the official Chinese language, and with hope, gradually look further to mainland China. The three sisters are guests of the Daughters of St. Paul. We were able to speak to them and they assured us that they are well and are engaged in acquainting themselves with the Chinese culture. All of us were very pleased with these greetings which were both very far away and very close at the same time!

And now, after this long day, a little time off! No way! The Coordination Commission (CCC) meet to plan the next steps to take. A fine group of sisters (Brazil-Africa) began making preparation for the recreation of the evening.

Some sister went to the chapel, where later we all gathered for the vespers. In fact it is always here that we willingly find ourselves. Here everything is born, everything is given over. The silence of the Eucharist gathers every word, strengthens in the journey that continues, blesses the journey that begins. May it be so for Marta, Cesarina, Inácia, Rita, Marisa. May it be so for all of us and for those who, day after day, follow with affection and in the spirit, the steps the of Chapter Assembly.

On behalf of the Sisters of the Chapter  
*Sr. Annarita Cipollone*  
Secretary of Information

Rome, July 12, 2011