



COSMO - CAPITULUM GENERALE 1

ENG PIETRALBA / WEIßENSTEIN

By 12th September the majority of the Capitular Friars set forth from Rome for the Sanctuary of Our Lady at Pietralba, known in German as Maria Weißenstein, which is in the north of Italy, close to the Austrian border. Some friars had gone ahead a few days earlier to ensure that all the “technology” was in working order and all was in readiness for the General Chapter. Another group of friars, mainly from outside of Italy, arrived at the Sanctuary by coach. On their way to the Sanctuary they stopped at Monte Senario, where they paid homage to the Seven Holy Founder in the chapel dedicated to them, asking them to shed light on the coming weeks of the Chapter. The Capitulars then shared a meal with the community and continued on their way.

OPENING OF THE CHAPTER.

On 13th September 2013 at 3.30pm, at the Sanctuary at Pietralba, the 213th General Chapter of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary began. The service began in the Church with a simple moment of welcome, followed by a procession to the Chapter Room. As a means of highlighting the Marian nature of this Sanctuary, the procession was led by two friars carrying a large imager of the Virgin Mary, under the title of *Santissima Annunziata*, and another friar carrying a lighted votive lamp, while another carried a copy of the Sacred Scriptures. Then, leading the procession of the Capitular Friars was a group of friars carrying the flags of all the countries represented at the Chapter. Upon entering the Chapter Room the ceremony continued with a brief reading from the Sacred Scriptures, which highlighted the theme of the Chapter, “*Fiat mihi secundum Verbum tuum – Be it done unto me according to Thy word*”, which comes from the Gospel of Saint Luke. At the conclusion of the Rite announcements were made regarding the running of the Chapter and the practical aspects of our life here. This was followed by the acceptance of the Rules and Regulations regarding the Chapter. The afternoon terminated with the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, presided over by the Prior General and the General Council.

FORMATION OF THE CAPITULAR COMMUNITY.

There followed a sharing in the groups of what has been happening in the various jurisdictions over the last six years. Each friar in the group was given the opportunity to share with the others what has been happening in his jurisdiction over the last six years. It was noted that there were some friars present who had not been at the last General Chapter and some who had never been to a Chapter at all. This was an important moment, especially for those friars who were attending a General Chapter for the first time.

ELECTION OF THE PRESEDENTIAL BOARD.

On 14th September, at the first session of the Chapter the election of the Presidential Board took place. The following were elected: fra Sergio M. Ziliani ANN, fra Hubert M. Moons CAN, John M. Fontana USA, Gottfried M. Wolff TIR, Benito M. Isip PHI and Paulo Sergio M. Angeloni BRA.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST.

The number of friars at the Chapter who have active voice is 50, while there are friars working in the secretariat, translations, and there are two “invited” friars. Of the Capitulars, 18 are here “by right” and 32 are delegates from the various jurisdictions of the Order. Some friars are present during particular moments of the Chapter, according to the rules of the Chapter.

Here is a list of the friars present from each of the jurisdictions of the Order: ANN:4, AUS.: 1, BRA: 4, CAN: 4; ESP: 1; EAF:1; ISL: 3; IND:3; MEX: 4; PHI: 3; PRG: 5; SMA: 3, USA: VEN: 4; ZUL: 1, ORD: 2 = 50.

The friars represent the following countries: Italy(16), Brazil (4), Canada (4), India (3), Mexico (3), Philippines (3), Spain (2), USA (2), Ireland (2), Germany (2), Argentina (1), Australia (1), Austria (1), Chile (1), Colombia (1), United Kingdom (1), France (1), South Africa (2).

Age	Jurisdiction	Total
70-79	1ANN, 1BRA, 1EAF, 2 ISL, 1PRG, 1SMA, 1TIR, 1VEN, 1ZUL .	10
60-69	1 AUS, 1 CAN, 2 PRG, 1 USA, 3 VEN	8
50-59	1 ANN, 4 CAN, 1 ISL, 2 IND, 3 MEX, 1 PHI, 2 PRG, 1 TIR, 2USA	17
40-49	2 ANN, 1 ESP, 2 BRA, 2 PHI, 2 SMA, 1VEN, 1ZUL.	11
30-39	1 BRA, 1 IND, 1MEX, 1 TIR.	4
	T O T A L E	50

The oldest friar is fra Lorenzo M. Tanganelli (09.01.1933)

The youngest friar is fra Antonio M. Chemin (22.04.1977)

The average age of the Capitulars is 54.64

There are 50 friars present at the Chapter.

* For reasons of health, fra Giuseppe M. Xotta was unable to attend.