



COSMO - CAPITULUM GENERALE 2

ENG

PIETRALBA / WEIßENSTEIN

FEAST DAY

On Sunday 15th September, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Patronal Feast of our Order, the friars gathered at Pietralba/W... for the CCXIII General Chapter of the Order, celebrated the Feast in a significant manner. The day began with the solemn celebration of Morning Prayer in the Church. As part of this celebration, the Prior General blessed and signed a parchment noting that the General Council has given their approval for the construction of the new library at the Pontifical Faculty “Marianum”, Viale Trenta Aprile, Roma. This parchment, which was also signed by all members of the General Council was placed in a “time capsule” along with a few other items. This new project at the “Marianum” will help to preserve the archives of the Order and will allow for the conservation of the archives and library of the “Marianum”, thus aiding in the ongoing study of Marian theology and advancing the study of theological studies and other eccleasical disciplines.

LECTIO DIVINA.

The day also included a time for listening to and reflecting upon the Word of God (Lectio Divina). These reflections were led by **Fra Stefano M. Bodignan OSM**, on the theme, *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Thy word” (Luke 1.38)*. Fra Stefano opened these verses of Scripture for us, allowing us, once again, to see the depths of Mary’s commitment to the Lord, and reminding us that we too much follow her example and listen and respond to the Word of God being spoken to us. Every friar in his daily service to the Church, and to the world, must, like Mary, make the Word of God the focal point of his ministry. There was also time for sharing personal reflections on and the Word of God and Mary’s presence in our lives.

PATRONAL FEAST OF THE SANCTUARY OF PIETRALBA/WEIßENSTEIN

In the afternoon, beginning at 2.00pm, there was a Solemn Mass celebrated in open with the presence of the local Bishop, many priests from around the area and the Friars attending the Chapter. All the friars attending, both ordained and non ordained, participated in the Mass. At the beginning of the Mass the friars walked in procession to the church. The national flags of the friars attending were, as much as possible, carried by a friar from that country. It was a very colorful procession. This is an important feast for the people of this region. It is not just a religious feast, but also a celebration of their culture and history. Many people, young and not so young, were dressed in traditional national dress. There was also a band which accompanied the procession and played religious music during the Mass and traditional local music after the Mass. After the Mass there was a procession. This was led by the cross bearer, followed by the concelebrating clergy, then friars carrying their national flags, followed by some of the faithful. The procession was not for everyone, because this sanctuary is surrounded by high mountains, which makes for sloping narrow paths. In procession, the group prayed the *Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows* stopping at seven little shrines on the route to honor Mary under her title of **Mother of Sorrows**. The procession came to an end outside the Church. The rain had held off, which the locals said was because of Mary’s intercession. At the end of the procession the Community of Pietralba offered everyone present refreshments.

DAY OF STUDY AND REFLECTION.

Monday 16th September was dedicated to study and reflection, with the theme being *The Servants of Mary from 1950 until today*. The day began with a welcome from the Prior General. This was followed by a presentation given by **Fra Ermanno M. Toniolo OSM**, who took as his theme, *“The Servants of Mary and the Second Vatican Council”*. This was followed by a presentation given by **Fra Luigi M. DiCandido OSM**, who took as his theme *“The Servants of Mary (Servi) and the New Constitutions”*. Finally, **Fra Hubert M. Moons OSM**, spoke of *“The geographic and restructuring of the Order”*. A very animated and interesting discussion followed. The afternoon session consisted of the following: **Mariological research and the Study of History**, presented by **Fra Salvatore M. Parrella OSM**; **New Saints and Blessed in the Reformed Liturgy**, presented by **fra Camille M. Jacques OSM**; **Sr Elizabeth M. Torres OSM – Naples – The Servite Family and Mary**. **Fra Lino M. Pacchin OSM** – (power point presentation) – **The Order today and the New Evangelization and the passing on of the Faith**.

N.B. Fra Ermanno M. Toniolo OSM – has published a facsimile of the *Legenda di Origine*, a copy of which was made available to each friar. Other publications were also brought to the notice of the Capitulars: *“Il cammino di fede di Maria” – Secretariate for Permament Formation, Piedmont/Romanga Province*; *“San Antonio Maria Pucci” – Conference given by Mons. Albino Luciani (later Pope John Paul I) – Comunità della Mergellina, Napoli*; *“Omilie domenicali di San Antonio M. Pucci” – fra Ermanno M. Toniolo OSM “La Capella dei pittori ed il p. Montorsoli” – Convento della SS. Annunziata, Firenze*.