

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition

May 2025

General Chapter Updates

Monday 28 to Wednesday 30th April :

All the participants of the Chapter arrived from the four corners of the world for some days of adaptation before it began. These days were filled with times of encounter, of shared memories and of visits to the sacred places in Rome, especially to St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and to the tomb of Pope Francis in St. Mary Major Basilica.

Thursday 1st May, 2025

The participants met at Piazza Pia for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at 9.45. We were given a Cross and the Official Prayer. Sister Renee Quadros led the prayer whilst many of the sisters took turns to carry the cross down Via della Conciliazione up to St. Peter's Basilica. It was moving to see so many groups of pilgrims from different parts of the world participating and praying fervently. Having entered through the Holy Door, the capitulants prayed in front of the tomb of St. Peter.

In the evening Sr. Monika Duellmann our Superior General and Sr. Anita Callaghan led us through the ingural prayer service. A good number of the participants wore their country's national costume. The prayer evolved around the theme of the Chapter; Pilgrims of Hope, embracing vulnerability, trusting our dreams and co-creating new life with God for all. In front of St. Emilie's statue we listened to scripture readings and sang the hymn, "La source d'Amour a Jailli". We walked towards a boat in which 48 small bushes had been planted. We were invited to pour the water that we had carried from the different countries in a bowl. From there we walked to St. Joseph's statue, singing the hymn of the Chapter "Pilgrims of Hope". Again, some of the councillors read the word of God. We left this spot singing "St. Joseph, écoute ma prière". We then moved towards the statue of our Lady to whom we entrusted the work of this Chapter. Groups of Sisters sang a verse of a Marian hymn dedicated to Mary – in Burmese, Hindi, Maltese, Arabic, Tamil, Tagalo, Spanish, French, Italian, Greek and English.

Having been Spiritually recharged after such a rich prayer service, we were invited to go down to Villa Alberici for dinner. This villa had been transformed from previous noviciate and later generalate into a chic bed and breakfast boutique hotel.

Friday 2nd May, 2025

The opening Mass of the Chapter was celebrated in our chapel. The main celebrant was Archbishop Luigi Travaglino, a retired nuncio, accompanied by Fr. Marek Inglot sj, Fr. Antonio Donaldo and our two facilitators, Fr. Yago Abelado Missionary of Our Lady of Africa and Fr. Gianfrancesco Sisto OFM. Mgr. Luigi invited us to walk into this Chapter with humility, listening and trust in the Virgin Mary. We then went to the Chapter hall for our first work session.