

SISTERS OF JESUS GOOD SHEPHERD - PASTORELLE
7TH GENERAL CHAPTER

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In keeping with the metaphor of the journey, it is normal to imagine that going up the mountain, we would look for a spring, and for those climbing, to stop from time to time and look behind them in order to evaluate the track, the equipment used, the mistakes made, the new discoveries...and then find new incentive to proceed.

We can imagine ourselves having reached one of those big rocks that allow the excursionists to rest for a while, and offer a vast panoramic vision on the path covered.

From here we listened to the report that our Superior General, sr. Giuseppina Alberghina, gave on the sexennial 1999-2005, starting from the objective of our 6th General Chapter, in the complex socio-ecclesial context that characterizes our times, and involves us in the sad or happy events that touch humanity and the Church.

The review of the life of our Congregation, has shown the widespread conviction among us that without a real and deep **relationship** with Jesus Good Shepherd we cannot be "Pastorelle Sisters"; and that it is necessary to ever more acquire the **wisdom of the heart** in order for us to stay in the complexity of our times, and that the quality to our shepherding within the culture of communication is a relational quality that in the Church and the Congregation can be translated as communion and collaboration, and in the world, translated as incarnation and prophecy.

Sr. Aminta Sarmiento, general bursar, then presented the economic-administrative report, and the General Economic Project elaborated by the Commission in charge.

To be continually open to be questioned on our choice to follow Christ, the poor one, is a grace and a commitment that is translated in the entrusting of oneself to the Lord, free from the exigencies of possession, in solidarity and sharing, and in a life that is sober and hardworking and spent wholly in the pastoral mission.

We then had the report by sr. Bernardetta Sánchez, general councilor, on the work done by the International Secretariat for the Mission, SIM. The report has collated and elaborated the data sent by all the communities from the different countries, regarding the identity of the Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd, as interpreted and lived in history; the difficulties they face in their mission and their aspirations.

A considerable work, backed with statistical tables concerning all the different forms of pastoral services carried out in every Circumscription.

Finally, all the Chapter delegates, starting from the *Strumento di Lavoro*, with which they were already familiar, dedicated some time “to listen to”, prayerfully, to what was emerging from their depth and expressing it in words of praise, fear and hope....

The content of the sharing, first in the groups and then in the Assembly, was surprising for the convergence around some fundamental nuclei.

And so finished the first phase of the Chapter concerning the knowing of the reality.

We will stop a little longer at this height, so as to receive other beams of light that could serve to enlighten *providential* details and indications on how to proceed along the journey, in docility to the Spirit.

We wish to thank all those – Bishops, parish priests, members of the Pauline Family, friends and collaborators, and all our Sisters, who have sent us messages as a sign of their closeness and remembrance in their prayer.

sr. Angiolina Rossini
information secretary