

Itinerary in preparation for the Seminar on the ministry of pastoral care

*Not that we lord it over your faith;
rather, we work together for your joy" (2Cor. 1: 24)*

Introduction

In view of the "Seminar on the ministry of pastoral care" indicated in the Programmation of our 7GC, we have asked the different opinions of competent persons, among them are Mons. Lorenzo Chiarinelli Bishop of the Diocese of Viterbo and Fr. Giacomo Morandi, a priest in the Diocese of Modena and a professor of Biblical Theology.

For the preparation for the Seminar, together with them, we have thought of an itinerary through the Lectio divina method on 5 texts which we propose to all the Sisters with the theme: "*Not that we lord it over your faith; rather, we work together for your joy*" (2Cor. 1:24). From the listening of the Word, we can then proceed to the deepening of the theme.

Motivation

In this year of pastoral holiness, 2007-2008, we would like to deepen our ministry of pastoral care, above all in the prayerful listening of the Word, so as to put ourselves in synchony with the orientations of the Spirit on our ministry in the Church in this historical moment. Start to pray the Word, remaining strongly connected with life, watching over against the temptation of theorizing and idealizing the contents. It is a prayer, done with a purified heart that keeps us connected with life, to that Life in Christ which we received in Baptism and which we intend to live in continuous conversion. Life, which for us Pastorelle, is lived in fraternity and in the ministry of pastoral care.

How?

With the **prayer of the Word**, done through five Lectio divina on the ministry of pastoral care that can have a personal and a communitarian moment to set all of us in listening to the Spirit and to share what the Spirit provokes in prayer.

Fr. Giacomo will prepare the guidelines for the five Lectio, and will also provide an outline for reflection which will help us pass from the Word to life. The Lectio would be proposed every three months:

- ❖ **Worksheet 1: Phil. 3:3-14:** *"I looked on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ..."* end of October 2007
- ❖ **Worksheet 2: 1Cor. 9:1-25:** *"I do all for the sake of the Gospel..."* end of January 2008
- ❖ **Worksheet 3: 2Tim. 1:6-18:** *"Stir into flame the gift of God ..."* end of April 2008
- ❖ **Worksheet 4: 2Tim. 2:1-13:** *"Draw strength that comes from Jesus Christ ..."* end of July 2008
- ❖ **Worksheet 5: Eph. 6:10-20:** *"Put on the armor of God..."* end of October 2008

Who?

1. The Sisters and the community

- 1.1 The General Government sends to all the communities the guideline of the Lectio, translated in the different languages.
- 1.2 Each Sister prays the Word indicated in the Lectio and writes her reflections.
- 1.3 Each community will meet for the sharing of the personal Lectio on the proposed text, and if a light emerges on the theme of pastoral care, one Sister will note it down.
- 1.4 The community, freely, if they desire and willingly do it, can send the contribution of their Lectio to the secretary of their Circumscription.
- 1.5 The Circumscription will gather the different contributions and will send them to the General Government, from time to time.

- 1.6 The Sisters who would like to contribute to what they have listened to what the Spirit says to the Congregation at this moment, are invited to send their personal Lectio directly to the superior general, from time to time. (It can also be *just one of the five Lectio*).

2. The Circumscriptions:

They gather the result of the Lectio of the communities and send them to the General Government, from time to time but not later than December 2008.

3. The Sisters of the General Government

They take care of the translation, in the four official languages the text of the Lectio and send them to the Sisters and translate in Italian the responses sent to the General Government by the Circumscriptions who have gathered the Lectio from the communities.

In order to remain open to what the Spirit indicates, we will see how to proceed with the work only after we have gathered the materials. As a consequence, the real Seminar is foreseen on the vigil of the 8th General Chapter.

Concluding recommendation

We hold necessary to motivate the Sisters and the communities without making any pressure, so that they may freely participate in this preparation. It seems important to us not to aim at the number, but on a co-responsible and constructive participation.

*Sr Marta Finotelli
and the Sisters of the General Government*

Rome, 15 October 2007
Feast of St. Teresa of Avila