

Day 1: 8 July 2019

After coping with various flight delays, the 60 delegates to the Extraordinary General Chapter of the Congregation of Holy Cross have finally arrived at Casa La Salle in Rome. Unfortunately, two Chapter delegates, **Br. Prodip Placid (SJ)** and **Fr. Rui Perreira (SI)**, could not attend because of illness. We kindly ask you to keep them and their recovery in prayers.



The General Chapter formally opened in the morning with a Mass of the Holy Spirit with Father General as the presider and preacher. The first general session began at 10:45 AM with the delegates' approval of the chapter secretaries, tellers, and moderators. There was an extensive discussion on the process stated in the proposed Code of Procedures for dealing with the work of the Proposed Congregation Plan and the six committees (*Parity and Proportionality, Assistant Generals and Vicar General, Active and Passive Voice, Council of the Congregation Membership, Constitutions and Statutes, and Historical Patrimony*). After some process modifications, the delegates approved the Code of Procedures.



Father General then gave his opening talk to the chapter, focusing on the ideals of Father Moreau and Father Dujarie, the early historical development and missionary zeal of the

Congregation, the Congregation's growth in the last century, and the current challenges and opportunities the Congregation faces today. You can access a copy of Fr. Epping's talk [here](#).

All of the six previously mentioned committees met to review their agenda and to elect a committee chair. The elected chairs are as follows:

- Parity and Proportionality – **Br. Harold Bijoy Rodrigues (SJ)**
- Assistant Generals and Vicar General – **Fr. James Shyamol Gomes (SHJ)**
- Active and Passive Voice – **Fr. Patrick Neary (US)**
- Council of the Congregation Membership – **Br. Robert Lavelle (MW)**
- Constitutions and Statutes – **Br. George Schmitz (M)**
- Historical Patrimony – **Fr. Jose Ahumada (C-P)**

The afternoon consisted of the delegates meeting in three groups:

- Members of the proposed Province of Americas (U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers, Moreau Province, Midwest Province, Province Canadienne, and their respective Districts of Brazil, Chile-Peru, East Africa and West Africa, as well as the Region of English Canada);
- Members of the Asian jurisdictions (South India Province, Province of North East India, Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, St. Joseph Province, Vicariate of India, and Vicariate of Tamil Nadu);
- Members of the Vicariate of France, the Province of Haiti, and the Superior General.



The purpose of these meetings was to allow the delegates to review the proposed plan and its implications as it applies to their jurisdictions. The fraternal discussions were reported to be frank, candid, and honest.

Following the afternoon break, the delegates entered into a general Stage 1 discussion of the proposed Plan for Congregational Restructuring. The discussion will continue tomorrow.

The Chapter delegates are grateful for your continued prayerful support during these days.