

## Day 5: 12 July 2019

Typical of all of the Chapter days, the day opened with Morning Prayer. Immediately after, the delegates convened in general assembly to continue the Stage 1 discussion on the proposed **Plan for Congregational Restructuring**. **Fr. Paul Kollman (US)** and **Fr. Roy Thalackan (NE)** represented the Writing Committee for this session. The topics remaining for discussion in the Plan included *Holy Cross in France* and legislation in support of a *New Mission*. After extensive conversation on these topics, the Committee asked for more direction. As a result, the Chapter Moderator, **Fr. Marc Smith (EC)**, said that Stage 1 on this topic will continue in the afternoon.



After the morning break, the Chapter then moved on to Stage 1 of committee presentations. The first chair to present a report was **Br. Harold Bijoy Rodrigues (SJ)** and Secretary, **Fr. Peter Jarret (US)**, on their work with the *Parity and Proportionality Committee*. Following them were **Br. John Paige (M)**, Chair, and **Fr. James Shyamol Gomes (SHJ)**, Secretary, who presented the committee work on the *General Council and Vicar General*.

Upon completing the morning session, the delegates gathered for Mass, celebrated by **Fr. Vino Ashok (TN)**, which was followed by lunch (and for many a *siesta*).



The afternoon session continued and concluded the Stage 1 discussion of the proposed legislation regarding the *General Council and Vicar General*.

At the request of the Writing Committee the discussion then return to the proposed *Plan for Congregational Restructuring*. The Committee requested a straw vote on three directional questions to assist them in accurately representing the Chapter's sentiments in the document they will prepare for Stage 2. The vote was taken.

**Fr. Patrick Neary (US)**, Chair of the *Active and Passive Voice Committee*, and **Fr. Vijay Amirtharaj**, Secretary, then presented their Committee's draft legislation for Stage 1 discussion. The next Committee presentation, represented by **Br. Robert Lavelle (MW)**, Chair, and **Fr. William Lies (US)**, Secretary, was on the *Council of the Congregation*. Last, but not least, **Br. George Schmitz (M)**, Chair, and **Br. P.J. Santosh (VI)**, Secretary, presented the final Committee report for the day on the topic of *Constitutional Definition and Statutory Criteria for a Province and a District*. This concluded a long day of intense, honest, and forthright discussions.

These are also long days for **Fr. Pierre Labine (CP)** and **Ms. Carla Marques de Moraes Gazola**, our French and Portuguese translators, who continue to provide a most important and greatly appreciated service to the Chapter delegates.