

Minutes of the 1982 General Chapter

The Asceticism of Dialogue

From General Chapter Report #1, October 1, 1982

A large part of this Chapter will be accomplished in home communities, nine intercultural groups into which the delegates have been divided...The home community process facilitates dialogue, encourages participation of all in the communal search for the will of God, and leads delegates to live out what they are discussing and deciding upon in the Constitution...

From General Chapter Report #4, October 18, 1982

As the week continued, chapter delegates experienced the truth of Mother Theresa's words "All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain..." They had worked through discussion in home communities, cultural groups, language groups, and plenary sessions, but by Wednesday they had covered only nine paragraphs on Mission and Community. Always they tried to balance reverence for the earlier movement of the Spirit in the revision process with recognition of continuing movement within the chapter. They also tried to balance the necessity for freedom of dialogue in reaching consensus with limitations of time. During a midweek evaluation delegates identified their feelings as mixture of tension, frustration, hope, gratitude, and confusion.

From General Chapter Report #9, November 19, 1982

When the delegates finally had the entire fourth draft of *You Are Sent* in their hands at the beginning of this week, they recognized in its wholeness a beauty that may not appear fully in separate pieces. In essence, the first part of the constitution remains close to what the entire congregation saw in the second draft even though delegates have until now continued to refine and polish it into more precise, more flowing form...

Yesterday the chapter completed its section-by-section ratification of concepts contained in the revised *You Are Sent*. Formal approval of the entire document is expected this afternoon or tomorrow. Delegates hope to have copies to take home with them next week, but the fulfillment of this hope depends on the speed with which the secretarial staff can accomplish the task after last-minute editorial changes have been incorporated into the text.

November 19, 1982: The chapter delegates after a round of applause following the confirmation of Constitution Part I and II, General Directory, and Origins, sang the Laudate and slowly moved into the foyer where the delegates greeted one another with joy and gratitude and partook of refreshments. After some time the delegates moved into the chapel to express further thanks to the Father. Note: Votes were 85 Placet for the Constitution I and II, and Origins and 84 Placet and 1 Placet Juxta Modum for Directory. Virtually unanimous.