

News of the Chapter of the Contemplative Branch

The many emails hanging in the chapter room told us of your sisterly prayer throughout these two weeks. Thank you very much!

The venue? We followed our Sisters from the European region in the huge guest house of the Little Sisters of the Assumption on the rue Violet in Paris. At one end of that street, there is a plaque commemorating Captain Henri Pierret's courageous stand; with his firefighter regiment, he wanted to alleviate the distress of the Jews who, in July 1942, were imprisoned in the *Vélodrome d'hiver*. At the other end of the street, a plaque commemorates Captain Dreyfus. A good entry into the subject matter for Sisters of Sion!



The evening of March 16, after the opening by Sr. Pilar and the call by Sr. Herminia,



Sister Oonah invited us to watch for the signs of the Spirit “as the contemplative Branch of the Congregation”.

We began the chapter with a day of prayer asking for inner freedom. At the end of the morning, Fr. Ilario celebrated the votive Mass to the Holy Spirit.

Sister Marie-Jô – a French Sister of the Helpers of the Priesthood (*Auxiliaires du Sacerdoce*) who has lived in the Northeast of Brazil for the past 35 years and who knows well our sisters in Divina Pastora – gave us reference points for good discernment.

And our reflection began...!!! Anne-Marie and Sister Marta, who are well known in the Congregation, tirelessly assured translation into English, French, and Portuguese. As for us... on to our headphones!!



“To choose life” was our main thread as indicated by the first reading of that Sunday, March 16 (2nd Sunday of Lent), to discover God's preferences for me, for us, for the Branch, for the Congregation, while taking into account who we are at this moment in our history.

After the presentation by the communities, we arranged the questions that seemed the most important to us for deepening.

The orientations of the 2010 Chapter and the document of Bucharest (pp. 11 and 13) were a big support to us, as was also the beautiful reflection at the meeting of spiritual families in Lourdes in 2013: "Today, we are led to pass gently from complementarity to the 'communion of vocations', from collaboration or partnership to 'the covenant between baptized people'." Sister Oonah's sisterly and vigorous help opened up paths for us.

Fr. Alvaro (a Columbian Lazarist who lived in Israel for 14 years) presided at the Mass of March 29, at which we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Janina and the closing of the Chapter:

"You who see, what are you doing with the light?" was the main thread in his homily. "You came to live a Chapter, you listened to the Spirit. Now be witnesses to the light you have received!"



Sœur Marie-Alphonse et Sœur Marie Christine

La Solitude, Grand Bourg, 2/04/2014