

GATHERING SONG : Dieu nous accueille/ Dios nos acoge

Dieu nous accueille en sa maison, Dieu nous invite à son festin : Jour d'allégresse et jour de joie ! Alléluia !

1 - Ô quelle joie quand on m'a dit : « Approchons-nous de sa maison, dans la cité du Dieu vivant ! »

2 - Jerusalén, alegre estás porque el Señor habita en ti, Él te escogió por su bondad

Dios nos acoge en su mansión, Dios nos invita a su festín, día de fiesta, gozo y paz, Aleluya.

3 - Criez de joie pour notre Dieu, Chantez pour lui, car il est bon, car éternel est son amour.

Dieu nous accueille en sa maison, Dieu nous invite à son festin : Jour d'allégresse et jour de joie ! Alléluia !

4 - Avec Jésus, nous étions morts ; Avec Jésus, nous revivrons, nous avons part à sa clarté.

Dios nos acoge en su mansión, Dios nos invita a su festín, día de fiesta, gozo y paz, Aleluya.

5- « Si tu savais le don de Dieu ». Si tu croyais en son amour, tu n'aurais plus de peur en toi.

Dieu nous accueille en sa maison, Dieu nous invite à son festin : Jour d'allégresse et jour de joie ! Alléluia !

WORDS OF WELCOME : Sr. Martine Tapsoba

Having come from our respective Provinces that was well captured during our Opening Eucharist this morning

Having been welcomed by Sr. Martine in the name of the Congregation

We now make the transition –

the passage from coming as individuals representing our provinces

to becoming ONE BODY building the CONGREGATION together.

This will be symbolized by each one receiving the booklet of all the Delegates from the Councilors.

Then ---

→ *by rows the delegates individually receive the booklet from the Councilors*

→ *led by Sr. Martine carrying the Logo of the General Chapter followed by Sr. Anne and Ms. Tere Ortuño with the banner*

→ *each one follows and walks in silence*

→ *upon reaching the appointed place, Sr. Martine calls the delegates by name – each one responds by saying “present” and goes forward to receive the General Chapter Bag and enters the Chapter Room. Each one chooses and takes her place and remains standing until all the Delegates have been called.*

→ *when everyone has entered the Chapter Room, Martine enters and takes her place*

→ *the Veni Creator Spiritus is intoned and chanted*

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Veni, creator Spiritus
mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia,
quae tu creasti pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus,
altissimi donum Dei,
fons vivus, ignis, caritas
et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere,
digitus paternae dexteræ

tu rite promissum Patris
sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus,
infunde amorem cordibus,
infirma nostri corporis,
virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius
pacemque dones protinus;
ductore sic te praevio
vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem
noscamus atque Filium,
te utriusque Spiritum
credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,
et Filio qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito,
in saeculorum sae

The Official Opening of the Chapter follows with Sr. Martine's Opening Words.



Words of Welcome to the Members of the 29th General Chapter

Dear brothers and sisters, I welcome you to the 29th General Chapter of the Religious of Assumption!

May 20 to June 20, a month to the day when we celebrated Pentecost in our respective countries, Provinces/Region! Today, we will relive an experience like that of Pentecost thanks to the composition of our big community, rich in the diversity of our vocations, origins, peoples, languages, cultures etc.

Members of the same body, we have been called by the Lord. Each one of us arrived in Lourdes, bringing the reality of one's Province or Region and eager to make it known. This is our strength and our wealth. From this moment on as we move to the rhythm of the whole Body, I invite you to open yourselves to the Congregation, to carry her, to broaden your thinking, to the dimensions of this Body and of the world to which we are sent.

The Lord wants to renew His trust in us, to accompany us, and to send us back to mission, with new convictions, a new outlook and the assurance of the communion to which he invites us through St. Augustine: *"First of all, since you have come together in community, live in a household of perfect harmony, having but one mind and one heart intent on God. Is this not the reason for your gathering?"*¹

To go through the experience of the General Chapter in Lourdes is a grace, in this house founded by Marie Eugenie. The Sisters of the first community were accompanied by her in October 1884. This does not surprise us when we think of the love Marie Eugenie learned to encourage around her.

Our time will not allow us to join the multicultural crowds who come to meet Mary in this land of Lourdes - and of which we are a small sample, but we will be in communion with them.

Today a time of passage begins for us, a time of transition, a bit like what happened to Elijah and Elisha. In another way, we need to ask, not a double share of the mind of a man and of God like Elijah, invoked by Elisha (2 Kgs. 2:1.6 - 14). We will implore the Spirit that the Lord himself has poured into our hearts. It is a Spirit of love that gives us hope. And as Paul says, *"... hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"*. (Rm. 5:5)

We will live a time of encounter and sharing, a time of reflection and discernment, a time of listening to God, to the realities of our world, and of our Provinces and Region, a time of availability to the Spirit. Let us open our hearts to this Spirit, open our hearts to one another, and keep in our memories this invitation of MME: *"Never lose this affection, this union of hearts which makes you so happy to come together, this charity which gives so much freedom of heart"*²!

I already give thanks for the beautiful welcome given to us by the community of Lourdes, the fruit of several weeks of hard work and preparation. Thank you for what we will live together throughout the month of Chapter. Thank you to the contribution of each one of us!

Lourdes, 20 June 2018
Sr. Martine TAPSOBA

¹ Rule of Saint Augustine, number 2

² 26 June 1870 – On Love of the Congregation