

July 30, 2010 – Salesian GHQ – Conclusion of the general council meeting



(ANS – Rome) – At the conclusion of the summer plenary meeting of the general council (July 6-30) the Rector Major gave the traditional Good Night thought on July 29, describing the various fruits of the meeting.

This year several significant events led up to the plenary meeting: the meeting for Salesian bishops (Valdocco, May 21-25), the assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG) on the theme "Consecrated Life in Europe," which will continue in the November assembly, and the beginning of the general chapter of the Orione Fathers, also taking place in Valdocco because of the great closeness between the families of Fr. Orione and Don Bosco.

The summer meeting came, therefore, at the end of a particularly intense period of activity, but was also able to bring together what had come out of these various meetings: taking part in the meeting of the Salesian bishops had helped the councilors, especially the regional councilors, to prepare reports on their visitations and consultations.

The general council gave great attention to the study of the 80 provincial chapters, which required analysis of the implementation of General Chapter 26, the Salesian Pastoral Plan (PEPS), and the provincial plan (POI) of each province. Careful thought was also given to the reports of the nine extraordinary Visitations (Uruguay, Philippines North, India-Calcutta, Burma, Colombia-Medellin, France-Belgium South, the vice province of Tropical Equatorial Africa, the Eastern Europe Circumscription, and the Lombard-Emiliana Circumscription).

There was also significant work regarding leadership of the provinces: nine new provincials were taking part in a course preparing them for their responsibilities, and provincials were appointed for Peru, India-Panjim, and Hungary, together with superiors for the vice-provinces of Burma, Indonesia-East Timor, and Sri Lanka.

Besides preparing the theme and the spiritual and pastoral program for the 2011 Strenna "Come and See," on the need to call young people together, the council members considered the themes studied in the intermediate meeting of the council held in April, concerning the regions of Italy-Middle East and West Europe. These were also addressed in view of the important meeting of provincials on Project Europe, scheduled for next November.

A matter of special importance was the distribution of funds to the mission offices, taking into account especially the reconstruction program in Haiti. In this regard the council approved the sending of three new missionaries to this Caribbean country.

The restructuring of the Salesian presence in Spain was among the most eagerly awaited of the summer plenary meeting. The council agreed on the need for a strategy not of survival but of prophecy, social significance, and spiritual, pastoral, and vocational fruitfulness. Because of this the Rector Major, following the assessments made during the meeting,

decided to have further meetings with the Spanish provincials during the autumn and to finalize decisions about the reorganizing of the provinces during the winter plenary meeting.

The council ended by planning themes, places, dates, and participants for the “regional visits” due to take place between February 2011 and February 2012. It redefined the nature, objective, and structure of Don Bosco International, the civil face of the Congregation for European institutions. It appointed the new postulator for the causes of Salesian saints, Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni, and the new regional councilor for North Europe, Fr. Marek Chrzan. It also approved the draft constitution of the press office for the Generalate.