

**July 8, 2010 - Italy – The traditional meeting of the two general councils of SDB and FMA**



**(ANS – Castel Gandolfo)** – On July 7 the traditional meeting of the general councils of the SDBs and FMAs took place. The morning session at the St. Rose of Lima House of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Castel Gandolfo, focused on the letter of the Rector Major “Salesian Youth Ministry” recently published in the *Acts of the General Council* n. 407.

The meeting opened with words of welcome from Mother General Yvonne Reungoat, who referred to some passages of the letter and looked forward to an effective “cultural revolution” taking place in our congregations, as this would signify a radical “return to the young.”

The Rector Major thanked Mother Yvonne and her council for the message sent at the end of the Year of the Priest and recalled several special anniversaries occurring that day, including that of Sr. Maria Romero, “one of the greatest women the Institute has had,” a mystic who did marvels for the very poor. Turning to the topic for the day, he mentioned that it was very close to the strenna for the coming year: “Come and see.” It is essential “to unite the subject of pastoral activity and that of the vocational dimension,” Fr. Chavez said, “and both of them to holiness of life.”

Fr. Fabio Attard, councilor for youth ministry, introduced the Rector Major’s letter. Special attention was given to the final part of the document, future prospects for youth ministry, which was then considered in group work as the councilors focused especially on the vocational dimension of youth ministry with its challenges and potential. The group reflection was followed in a general assembly and further discussion about some of the specific guidelines of the two congregations.

The morning was brought to a close with the celebration of Mass in honor of Blessed Maria Romero, a woman who “greatly loved the Congregation and the superiors, as the mediators of the will of God who invite us to renewal in the spirit and the apostolic mission directed toward the poorest and those being exploited.”