

**Xth & XIth
GENERAL CONGREGATIONS**

FEBRUARY 18 - 28, 1881

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SEPTEMBER 12 - 25, 1889

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ACTS
of the
Xth GENERAL CONGREGATION
February 18- 28, 1881

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Acts¹
of the
Xth General Congregation
February 18 – 25, 1881
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Proposals

Stimate – January 19, 1881
Parma – February 16, 1881
Superior Genral [no date; incomplete]
Report of the iXth Capitular Special Commission of Revision
Fr. Bassi [no date]
Fr. Carrara [no date]
Miscellaneous

Minutes

February 18, 1881 – Ist Session
February 20, 1881 – IInd Session [Election for Life]
February 21, 1881 – IIIrd Session [afternoon]
February 23, 1881 – IVth Session
 Fr. Morando's Special Request
February 23, 1881 - [cont'd.]
 Fr. Morando's Resignation
 Fr. Vignola's Request – February 24, 1881
February 24, 1881
February 25, 1881 – Vth Session
February 26, 1881
February 27, 1881 [?]
February 28, 1881

Miscellaneous Papers

Decree of Fr. P. Vignola's Election
Fr. Vicentini's Chapter Summary – March 1, 1881
Responses of the IXth Capitular Commission on the *Appendix* [September 23, 1887]

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XIth General Congregation - September 12 – 25, 1889

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¹ The **Minutes** of this **Xth General Chapter** appear on 29 lined pages, measuring 8 x 12 inches, in a grey covered notebook. On a final page, after the conclusion of the **Minutes**, there were inserted the results of the findings of the IXth Chapter Capitular Commission, established by that Chapter to review the *Appendix to Part Xii of the Founder's Original Constitutions*. Their report, or responses, was dated September 23, 1887, was well over six years from the conclusion of the previous **IXth General Chapter**.

[House of the Stimmate]

“In the Name of the Lord. Amen.”²

On this **Wednesday, the 19th of January, 1881**, there was convoked by the Very Rev. Fr. Director, Charles Zara, the Chapter of the House of the Stimmate, on the occasion of the most proximate General Congregation, that will take place this coming February, as appears from the Decree that emanated on the 16th of this month, from the Very Rev. Superior General, according to the norms found in the *Appendix* to our Constitutions.

The said Chapter is composed of Twelve members having a vote, i.e., Fr. Charles Zar, Director; Fr. Mark Bassi; Fr. Peter Beltrami; Fr. James Marini; Fr. Belino Carrara; Fr. Richard Tabarelli; Fr. Joseph Zandonai; Fr. Angelo Graziani; Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli; Fr. Louis Gasperotti; Fr. Paul Gradinati; and Fr. Louis Battisti.

The purpose of the Chapter is to propose to the General Congregation those matters which seem to it to be for the general utility of the entire Congregation, or the particular good of this House.

The matters that were exposed and voted upon are the following:

Ist. Considering the straitened circumstances in which some of the newly founded Houses of the Congregation find themselves, the Chapter expresses its most vivid desire that the Congregation might wish to demand of these most recent foundations referred to, a secure and suitable endowment, that they might meet the continual and eventual needs in such Houses, in accord with our Constitutions. This was unanimously judged worthy of being proposed.

[The Session ended here]

IInd. [It is noted that Fr. Bellino is absent, because he is out of town].

On this **day, Thursday, the 20th of January**, the Capitular Session was continued, and the IInd Proposal was formulated in these terms:

The Chapter petitions that to provide for the classes of externs, that they be conducted in another House of the Congregation, and that the teaching body be not reserved to our own, but that every care be taken so that a competent, and stable number of teachers be provided through a formal decision.

It was put to a vote, whether or not, this should be proposed to the General Congregation, and it was approved by a vote of ten to one³.

IIIrd The third Proposal was formulated thus: The Chapter expresses the desire that the Congregation consider whether or not, the time has come, to actuate one or more of the High School classes for extern students, in conformity to what was established in the Vth General Congregation.

This was put to a vote, and it was approved that this should be proposed, ten votes against one⁴.

IVth The Fourth was formulated thus: It is proposed to the Congregation that the means be studied to make it possible to accept some Aspirants every year.

This was put to a Vote, and it was approved that this should be done, ten votes against one.

These Minutes were read, and signed by all present

Fr. Charles Zara	Fr. Joseph Zandonai
Fr. Angelo M. Graziani	Fr. Mark Bassi
Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli	Fr. Peter Beltrami
Fr. Louis Gasperotti	Fr. James Marini
Fr. Paul Gradinati	Fr. Richard Tabarelli
Fr. Louis Battisti	

² These **Minutes** for the **Xth General Chapter** are preceded by a number of Proposals - and this first one is from the House of the Stimmate, appearing on plain, white, drawing-paper, measuring 12 x 8 inches.

³ And once again, still another General Chapter takes up the matter of the Schools, consistently considered to be one of the **proper and varied** means of living the **Apostolic Mission**.

⁴ And still again, reference made to the **Vth General Chapter**, where the House of the Stimmate proposed the reopening of the schools at the Stimmate, and the first reason for doing so, reads thus *1st for the purpose of corresponding to one of the principal ends of our Congregation, that was born and flourished with teaching* - [dated Feb. 24, 1874]. As this same rather soon following Fr. Marani's death, July 1, 1871 - who held that the schools were not Fr. Bertoni's original intention, but only a *palliative*, one meant to hide his real purpose. Large numbers of the confreres did not seem to have agreed with his interpretation.

Parma, February 16, 1881 ⁵

The members of this House of Parma assembled in Chapter, to see whether something might be proposed for the imminent General Congregation; after having discussed various things, it was found that no conclusion was made on any Proposals, and they state that they will wait to accept the resolutions that will be taken in it.

Fr. Vincent Vignola, Director
Fr. Julius Zanini
Fr. Melchiore Vivari
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani

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[Fr. P. VIGNOLA?]

From the 20th of February, 1880, in the General Congregation, there was named a **Commission**, with the duty of reviewing the *Appendix to Part XII* of our Constitutions. There is need of reaching accord with the various members, whether they would agree that the Rules be declared in the Congregation itself, and at the same time, - or to put this off to another⁶

Report of the Special Commission of Revision

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From the 20th of February, 1880, our **General Congregation** nominated a **Special Commission** entrusting to it, the responsibility of studying and declaring its opinion on various points, expressed in a List drawn up by the Secretary, that is found in the **Acts of the IXth Congregation**.

Principal among these was:

The special revision of all those parts of the *Appendix to the XIIth Part* of our Constitutions, when there is attributed to the General Councilors the decisive Vote [n. 1].

And further: **Finally, the Commission is authorized, also by special vote, to review the *Appendix***

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⁵ This next Proposal is from the House of Parma. The Proposal, or the statement, appears on white , lined paper, 10 x 8 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 5 x 8 inches. It is numbered "2."

⁶ Here appear a few lines, literally scribbled on a slip of white , lined paper, 5 and one-fourth x 8 and one half inches. They appear to be in the hand-writing of Fr. P. Vignola, and would seem to indicate, either failing eyesight, or a trembling hand. They are not dated.

⁷ Similar hand- writing is found on an identical slip of paper that is unsigned, and not dated. It ended with an incomplete sentence.

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[Fr. Mark Bassi]

1. The General Congregation is petitioned to establish that each Priest might be able to apply at least three times a year, the Holy Mass for his own deceased, or for any other particular intention of his.
2. The said Congregation is asked whether it wishes to seek to find a means of transferring the Benciolini property, with a lower payment of taxes, now that this is possible, and to do this right away.
3. The said Congregation is also petitioned whether it wishes to take up again the Proposal made by the under-signed, in the last **Congregation**, regarding the religious spirit of the entire body of the Institute ⁸. And also, to hear the study made according to the responsibility that was entrusted concerning this, on the same argument. And it is petitioned that to this last request there be accorded one of the first places.

Fr. Mark Bassi ⁹

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[Fr. Bellino Carrara]

I ¹⁰ propose to the Congregation that it institute the Office of Secretary to the Superior General ¹¹, whom he himself will appoint, that he be as a reminder for the sending of letters, responses and similar things, proper to a Secretary; because the nature of the Office, and the inconveniences seen from experience, and other reasons that are most easy to substantiate, show that this is not only useful, but also necessary.

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⁸ CF # 300.

⁹ These Petitions of Fr Bassi appear on plain, white, un-lined – and undated paper, 8 x 5 inches.

¹⁰ Fr. Carrara’s petition is numbered “6”. It appears in purple ink on a piece of unlined scrap paper, 4 x 6 and one fourth inches.

¹¹ This could be also as a result of the clearly failing hand-writing of the Superior General, noted above in the footnotes of this **General Chapter**.

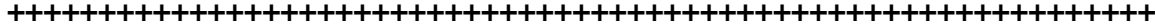
[Anonymous]

Ist Whether it is according to the spirit of poverty for one to carry away from one House to another, any books, or anything received as a gift, or as a remembrance, etc. ¹²

IInd The Ven. Congregation is petitioned not to disband, until first it has spoken about the observance of discipline in the various Houses...

IIIrd To consider whether the scarcity of subjects in so many Houses, and their various occupations¹³, are an obstacle to this observance.

IVth And whether everything has been carried out, etc., that was determined by the last **General Congregation**¹⁴.



¹² cf. CF # 95.

¹³ Does this varied effort echo the Founder's ideal, *graviora ministerial* [cf. CF # 158]; *quodcumque Verbi Dei ministerium* : CF # 163; *varia et propria* suae vocationis munera [CF. # 185]; *cum finis Sodalitatis ...postulet ministeria huic fini accomodata*. [CF # 262]???

¹⁴ This appears on a scrap of what seems to be squared accountant's paper, 8 x 6 inches. It was folded to make 4 writing sides, 4 x 6 inches, and the bottom part is torn un-evenly. It is unsigned and undated. The number "640" appears on the inside fold, or on "p. 2". Only the front side has any writing.

**In the Year of our Lord ¹⁵
this Friday, the 18th day of February.
“In the name of the Lord. Amen.”**

In the Mother House of the Stimmate, in Verona, following the Convocation, sent out by the Very Rev. Superior General, to all the Capitulars of the Congregation, the following Capitulars were gathered, and found assembled in the room of the Vern Founder:

The Very Rev. Peter Vignola, Superior Gen.
.. Francis Benciolini, Gen. Counc.
.. Joseph Sembianti, Gen. Counc.
.. Mark Bassi, Gen. Counc., Master of Novices
.. John Rigoni, Graduate
.. Charles Zara, Grad., and Director of the House of the Stimmate
.. Louis Morando, Grad., and Director of the House of Bassano
.. Peter Beltrami, Grad.
.. Dominic Vicentini, Grad., and Director of the House of Trent
.. Pio Guridatti, Grad.
.. James Marini, Grad., and Procurator General
.. Bellino Carrara, Grad.
.. Bartholomew Perazzani, Grad.
.. Richard Tabarelli, Grad., Prefect of Studies.

After having invoked the divine assistance with the Hymn, **Veni, Creator**, and with a brief prayer to Mary Most Holy and St. Joseph ¹⁶, the Superior General, in accord with what was established in the preceding **General Congregation**, Session III, as being his prerogative as Superior General, chose as Vicar of the Congregation, the Very Rev. Charles Zara.

When they had all taken their places, the Congregation was asked whether it considered itself to be full and legitimate.

When the absence of two of the Rev. Fathers had been noted, Vincent Vignola and Andrew Sterza, and the reasons were understood, the Congregation responded in the affirmative.

Therefore, it went on to the Election of the Secretary of the Congregation.

The ballots were distributed, and then collected, and Fr. Dominic Vicentini was elected, with 9 votes out of 14.

In the same way, the Election for the Assistant for the Election of the Superior General was held.

The ballots were distributed, and the result was:

Voting	14
Fr. Benciolini	6 votes
Fr. Mark Bassi	6 votes
Dispersed	2 votes

¹⁵ Here begin the 29 pages of the **Chapter Minutes**. As has been pointed out, this Booklet contains also the **Commission Report**, dated **September 1887**, six and one half years after the Conclusion of the previous **Chapter**.

¹⁶ Here there is recorded that a specific prayer was explicitly recorded as being offered to the Holy Spouses, Mary and Joseph.

Therefore, no one was elected, and a vote was taken on Fr Benciolini and Fr. Bassi. When the same result was obtained, FR. BASSI, ON HIS OWN ACCOUNT, CEDED TO FR. BENCIOLINI, who was elected with the approbation of the Congregation.

According to the prescriptions in the *Appendix to our Constitutions*, next was held the election of the Capitular who would give the discourse to those Congregated before the election of the Superior General.

The ballots were distributed, and collected, and the result was:

Voting	14
Fr. Bassi	9
Fr. Rigoni	2
Fr. Benciolini	1
Fr. Sembianti	1
Fr. Morando	1

Fr. BASSI WAS ELECTED

As a preliminary question to the Election of the Superior General, it was proposed whether or not the election of the Superior General for life should be discussed ¹⁷. A vote was taken, and the result was:

Voting	13 [Fr. Marini was absent!]
Yes	8
No	5

THE DISCUSSION WAS ADMITTED.

After a brief discussion, a vote was taken along these lines:

Whether there are reasons that would be binding to have the Election of the Superior General, for a time, according to what had been reserved in the preceding **General Congregation**, Session IV. It was observed that when it is a question of departing from the **Constitutions of the Founder**, for this, two-thirds of the votes are needed.

The vote was taken and the result was:

Voting	13 [Fr. Marini was absent]
Yes	9
No	4

THEREFORE: THE RULE OF THE FOUNDER IS TO STAND,
THAT THE ELECTION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL BE FOR LIFE.

The Very Rev. Vicar gave his first Exhortation for the good Election of the Superior General.

The Minutes were read, closed and signed.

Fr. Charles Zara
Fr. Francis Benciolini
Fr. Joseph Sembianti
Fr. Mark Bassi
Fr. John Rigoni

¹⁷ The Superior General, elected for life, had the right to cast two votes in Chapters. It should be further noted that there is an emendation in the Chapter Minutes. These words were crossed out: *To treat of the Departures from a Constitution for its admission into discussion, two-thirds of the vote are necessary*. However, this point was immediately discussed after this vote was taken.

At this point ²², Fr. Vincent Vignola arrived, and a SEVENTH vote was taken:

Voting 15

The following were nominated:

Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola with Eight votes.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti with Six Votes ²³.

Rev. Fr. Charles Zara with One vote.

THEREFORE: SINCE THE VERY **REV. PETER VIGNOLA** OBTAINED MORE THAN HALF OF THE VOTES, HE WAS PROCLAIMED BY THE VICAR OF THE CONGREGATION, AS THE LEGITIMATE SUPERIOR, AND THE DUE REVERENCE WAS PAID TO HIM BY THE VICAR, BY THE SECRETARY, AND BY THE ASSISTANT, AND BY ALL THE OTHERS IN ORDER.

Immediately then the Decree was drawn up in the name of the entire Congregation, and was signed by the Vicar; and which is to be promulgated in all the Houses of the Institute:

In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

Since, in the full and legitimate Congregation of the Apostolic Missionaries, after having verified the number of votes, it was found that more than half of them named and elected Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, I, Charles Zara, Vicar of the same Congregation, proclaim the election of the above-named Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola as Superior of the entire Institute of Apostolic Missionaries,

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Verona, from the House of the Stimate

On Sunday, the 20th of February 1881.

[[Green Oval SEAL

APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES Fr. Charles Zara ²⁴

²¹ It is evident that the Chapter is dead-locked – Fr. Sembianti retains his relatively strong support – but, immediately a remarkable event occurs...

²² How did this happen? Where was Fr. V. Vignola during these 6 efforts to elect his brother, Superior General. As is known, Fr. Vincent Vignola is listed in this Chapter as Director of Parma. However this may be, he arrived in the ‘nick of time’, and the Election went on! [This was Fr. V. Vignola’s last Chapter – he would on Good Friday, April 20, 1889.

²³ Fr. Sembianti’s vote had consistently solid, but was not quite enough.

²⁴ Somewhere here this Sunday afternoon Session may have ended – but there is no indication. What follows may be a Monday morning Session of Elections - but this is not crystal clear from the **Minutes**.

[February 21, 1881 – A Monday Morning Session???)

According to the dispositions of the *Appendix to Part XII of our Constitutions*, the Election of the Councilors and the Admonitor of the Superior General must now be taken up; necessarily, there was treated the question asked in the preceding **General Congregation**, on the study of the Commission: Whether in the Election of the Councilors, and of the Admonitor, ought the Superior General be excluded from the voting?

Concerning this, after having heard and discussed the report of the Commission, a vote was taken:

Voting	15 [the Superior General with 2 votes]
Yes	14
No	2

THEREFORE: THE SUPERIOR GENERAL IS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED IN THE VOTING FOR THE ELECTION OF HS COUNCILORS AND ADMONITOR

With this having been established, the Election of these Officers was held.

The ballots were distributed, then collected, and the following were nominated General Councilors:

Voting	15
Fr. Mark Bassi with	11 votes
Fr. Joseph Sembianti with	10 votes
Fr. Vincent Vignola with	8 votes.
Fr. Charles Zara with	7 votes

Then the Congregation proceeded to the Election of the Admonitor, and the following were nominated:

Voting	15 [the Superior General with two votes].
Fr. Mark Bassi with	8 votes.

Then, the Election of the examiners was held, for the First Scrutiny, and when the vote was taken, the following were found nominated, with 15 voting, and the Superior General having two votes:

Fr. Richard Tabarelli	with 12 votes.
Fr. Pio Gurisatti	9 votes.
Fr. Peter Beltrami with	9 votes.
Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli with	8 votes.
Fr. Bellino Carrara with	7 votes.
Fr. Melchiade Vivari with	7 votes.
Fr. Paul Gradinati with	7votes.

Since there cannot be, according to the disposition of the preceding **General Chapter**, more than six in the number of examiners, the first four are retained, namely, Fr. Tabarelli, Fr. Gurisatti, Fr. Beltrami and Fr. Vidali – while another ballot was taken up on Frs. Carrara and Vivari, and Gradinati, who had an equal number of votes.

Fr. Bellino Carrara with	12 votes.
Fr. Paul Gradinati with	10 votes.

Then, following the Nomination of the examiners for the Second Scrutiny, with the following result: Voting 15 [the Superior General having two votes]:

IIIrd Session
This 21st day of February 1881

In the **afternoon of this day**, after having closed the Second session with the Hymn, *Te, Deum*, immediately the Third Session was opened to hear and discuss what the Very Rev. Superior General, the House Chapters, the General Councilors, and the other particular members had to ask, or propose to the General Congregation.

Therefore, first of all, the Election of the three Deputies was held, who, with the Superior General, and with the Secretary, are to draw up the List of the Proposals to submit to the discussion of the Congregation.

When the ballots were distributed, and afterwards, opened, the following were nominated:

Fr. Louis Morando
Fr. Mark Bassi
Fr. Joseph Sembianti

The Proposals follows:

I. The House of the Stimmate proposes:

1st.] That, considering the straitened circumstances in which some of the Houses of the Congregation, newly established, find themselves in, whether the Congregation might wish to exact of these mentioned latest foundations, a sure and fitting endowment.

2nd.] The Chapter is petitioned that thought be given to provide **classes for extern students**²⁵, that they be held in other Houses, so that the teaching body of our own students be not debilitated.

3rd.] The Chapter expresses the desire that the Congregation consider whether or not, the time has come to actuate one or more of **the High School Classes**, for extern students, inconformity to what was established in the **Vth General Congregation**.

4th.] It is proposed to the Congregation, to study the means of rendering possible for the acceptance every year, of some Aspirants.

The House of the <i>Dereletti</i>	Nothing
The House of Trent	Nothing
The House of Parma	Nothing
The House of Bassano	Nothing

△△△

²⁵ By now, a constant a Constant Chapter refrain: the **schools** as an important part of the Apostolic Mission, whenever possible and according to the need.

II. Fr. Mark Bassi proposes:

1st] That the Congregation establish that each Priest might be able to apply at least three times a year, the Holy Mass, either for his own deceased, or for some other particular intention.

2nd] That the General Congregation might seek to find a way of transferring the Benciolini property, with less payment of taxes, if this is possible, and that it do this right away.

3rd] That the Congregation take up again the proposal made by him last year, regarding the religious spirit of the entire body of the Institute, etc.

△△△

III. Fr. Francis Benciolini proposes:

The institution of a *Patronato* at the *Cadrega*, in the Parish of the Duomo, in the City.

△△△

IV. Fr. Joseph Sembianti proposes:

That the economic state of the House of Parma be exposed.

△△△

V. Fr. Bellino Carrara proposes:

That the Superior General choose a Secretary, for a greater efficiency of affairs.

△△△

VI. Fr. Vincent Vignola proposes:

That before dissolving, the General Congregation remember our deceased, by praying for them.

△△△

VII. Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani proposes:

1st] Whether it is according to the spirit of poverty, for one to carry away with him from one House to another, books received as a gift.

2nd] That the General Congregation be not dissolved until first it has spoken of the observance of discipline in the various Houses.

3rd] Considering whether the scarcity of subjects in certain houses, and their various occupations, is easily an obstacle to the said observance.

4th] To consider whether everything that was determined by the last General Congregation, has been carried out.

Order of Treatment

1st The first matter to be treated should be that which originates from the matters of the List, drawn up in the preceding **General Congregation**: but, precedence is given to the 3rd Proposal

of Fr. Bassi, to have the opportunity on this occasion, of being informed about this before the closing of the present Congregation; thus, his Proposal will be taken up.

To it, will be joined also, the second and third Proposals of Fr. Perazzani.

2nd That which pertains to the mater of the List drawn up in the preceding Congregation. To this, pertains also the IVth Proposal of Fr. Perazzani.

3rd That which pertains to the Studies, according to the disposition of the preceding **General Congregation**.

At this point, there will be treated the second and third Proposals of the House of the Stimmate.

Then, follow the other matters, asked by the last **General Congregation**, as the **Reduction of our Rules**, the Revision of the Rules of the past General Congregations.

4th The First Proposal of the House of the Stimmate.

5th The Fourth Proposal of the same House.

6th The Second Proposal of Fr. Bassi.

7 (1) The Proposal of Fr. Sembianti.

7th The First Proposal of Fr. Bassi, and that of Fr. Vincent Vignola, will be taken together.

(*1*)

8th The Proposal of Fr. Benciolini

[(*)²⁶ **The proposal of Fr. Bellino Carrara was left to the prudence of the Superior General.**

In this same way, is the First Proposal of Fr. Sembianti, as it is provided for by our Rules, and is evident of itself.]

Fr. Peter Vignola
Fr. Louis Morando
Fr. Joseph Sembianti
Fr. Mark Bassi
Fr. Dominic Vicentini, Secretary²⁷

Then, the discussion was begun on the proposals, according to the order of the List.

There was taken up again the Proposal made by the same Fr. Bassi, in the last **General Congregation**, phrased in these terms:

That there be an investigation of the spirit of the entire body, so that defects might be corrected, and upright conduct praised²⁸ and that this be done in every General Congregation

²⁶ **NB: this is a Chapter Footnote.**

²⁷ There is no mention of a Chapter session on **February 22, 1881.**

The Proponent read a study, rather well thought out, that he made on the commitment entrusted to him, by the same **IXth General Congregation, Session III**²⁹.

After a long discussion on this study, having praised the Spirit that dominated this Report of seeking that in the General Congregation special provisions be made concerning the discipline and the religious observance in our Houses, then the Congregation was asked whether it accepted the practical manner exposed by the Proponent.

When the Vote was taken and counted, the result was:

Voting	15 [The Superior General have two votes]
No	12
Yes	4

THEREFORE: THE PRACTICAL MANNER, AS EXPOSED BY THE PROPONENT, WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

The establishment of the practical manner of achieving the scope of the Proponent, which is also that of the Congregation, was put off to another time, but since it wanted to do something along these lines, the Congregation was asked whether it would be acceptable for this time only, that there be instituted a Deputation of four, or more Capitulars, who together with the Superior General, would receive information on the spirit of the entire body, which would suggest provisions, or remedies, or encouragement.

This was put to a vote:

Voting	15 [the Superior General having 2 votes]
Yes	9
No	7

THE INITIATION OF SUCH A DEPUTATION, AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, WAS ACCEPTED.

With a new vote, there was asked which, and how many Capitulars ought to make up this Deputation, and the following were elected:

Voting	15 [the Superior General having 2 votes]
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THE FOUR COUNCILORS AND THE SUPERIOR GENERAL.

As some doubt arose on the clear understanding of the Rule, in **Part XII, Chap. I, n. 3**³⁰ of our Constitutions: *Chapters of the Confreres are also to be convoked, ...etc.*, and the Congregation was asked if it wished a study to be made for a clear and authentic explanation of the same.

This was put to a vote, and the result was:

Voting	14 [the Superior General having two votes; and one abstained].
Yes	12
No	3

The study is to be made which vocally was unanimously entrusted to the Commission established in the preceding **IXth General Congregation** for the **Revision of the Appendix**.

²⁸ **CF # 300.**

²⁹ The following sentence in the Minutes was crossed out: *After a long discussion, it was accepted that the maxim would be that in every General Congregation, there would be an investigation on the spirit of the body; the Congregation was asked whether it accepted also the practical manner, exposed by the Proponent for this investigation.*

³⁰ **CF # 300 –from Suarez, 1060 b.**

23rd of February 1881
IV Session

This morning, at the sound of the bell, the Capitulars assembled, and after having invoked, as usual, the divine assistance, the Congregation came to the exposition of the Study of the **Commission for the Re-revision of the Appendix**. Having heard a sampling of it, it was decided that for now, no pronouncement would be made on it, the observation being made that it was impossible to communicate in time to all the Capitulars this said duty, in order that each one might, at his ease, take it into consideration, and the reasons it exposed. Thus, the resolution was taken to put the decision off to another **General Congregation**. In the meantime, there is to be communicated the study already made to the individual Capitulars, who will make their observations, and send them to the Commission, which is to be reinforced by three other members, to be elected; both on the Study and on the Observation, there will be drawn up a practical norm, that will remain until the new Congregation, which will give its final decision.

A vote was taken on this, as on a Proposal.

Voting	15 [the Superior General having two votes]
Yes	14
No	2

THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED.

Three members were elected to be added to the Commission and by secret ballot, the following were elected:

Voting	13 [two abstained; and the Superior General had two votes].
Fr. Charles Zara with	9 votes.
Fr. Bellino Carrara with	9 votes.
Fr. Joseph Sembianti with	8 votes.

It was unanimously established that within the coming of March next, the study of the **Commission** is to be communicated to the individual Capitulars, who will have two months' time from the receipt of the Study, to make their observations, and to transmit them to the **Commission**; which, then reinforced by the other three members elected above, ought to have sent by **the Feast of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis, the 17th of September** of this year, their decisive provisory vote, as is said above: a vote that will be communicated to the individual houses, while there remains in force during this time, the disposition from the **Appendix to Part XII of our Constitutions. {1}**

{And, as it reads and stands, except,
as is understood, this corrections
made on it last year, in the IXth
General Congregation} ³¹

In accord with Proposition 3 of the List, an attentive reading was made of the Plan of Studies, which was unanimously approved, and with exuberance, as appears also from the vote taken, in which out of 15 votes, there were 15 for Yes- However, it was understood and established that this **Plan of Studies** ought to be activated "as an experiment", and as soon as possible, under the care of Fr. Tabarelli, be translated into the Latin language, which Fr. Tabarelli ought then to put into the hands of the Commission, so that it might compare it with the text, and study it.

³¹ **NB:** this Chapter footnote appears in the left hand margin of this page in the Original Chapter Minutes.

At this point, the 2nd Proposal of the House of the Stimate, under n. 3 of the List, was taken up, that wishes the Congregation to **give some thought to make provisions for the classes for extern students**³², that they be held in our other Houses, so that the teaching body of our own students be not debilitated.

The matter was considered most just and reasonable, and it was recommended to the prudence of the Superior General.

Then, followed the third Proposal of the same House under the same No. of the List, in which the desire is expressed that the Congregation might consider **whether or not the time has arrived, to actuate one, or more High School classes**, in conformity with what was established by the **Vth General Congregation**³³.

After having discussed this for a long time, a vote was taken on this Proposal: Does the General Congregation believe **the time has arrived to actuate the lower High School classes for externs, in the House of the Stimate**, beginning in the meantime with the first lower classes.

Voting 14 [Fr. Marini being absent; and the Superior General having two votes].

Yes 14

No 1

For the Greater Glory of God.³⁴

To the Very Rev. General Congregation, now in session:

Fr. Louis Morando, Director of the House of Bassano, after having spoken on two separate occasions, and at some length, in favor of the open private high school classes in this city at the beginning of this School year, 1880-1881, making known their necessity, their usefulness, their promising beginning, and how much good might be expected from them in the future, when they might be sufficiently supported:

Asks

Whether the Congregation of the Fathers approves and lauds such institutions;

Whether it wishes that this institution be effectively supported, so that it might be stable;

Whether the Congregation would warmly recommend it to the Rev. Superior General, so that he might make, in its favor, those provisions that he might deem opportune?

And particularly, that at the moment, to actuate the five high school classes,³⁵ in addition to the four Fathers, assigned to the House of Bassano, there might also be sent another, whenever it be provided for its fitting maintenance, that this provision is shown to be immediately necessary, having seen the reception given to these classes

³² These early Chapters continue to think of the schools as a “just and reasonable” exercise of the Apostolic Mission.

³³ As will be remembered, the **Vth General Congregation** responded favorably to a like proposal moved by the House of the Stimate [Feb. 24, 1874] – the first reason for which was: *1st, corresponding to one of the principal ends of our Congregation, that was born and flourished with teaching.*

³⁴ Next appear two separate sheets of paper, white and lined, 5 and one fourth by 8 and one fourth inches, containing statements or proposals from Fr. Louis Morando, during the Chapter Sessions. The first one covers one side, and half of the next.

³⁵ Even though the prospect of the Schools is widely felt throughout the early Community, with the affirmative vote just taken regarding the Schools at the Stimate, this Proposal for Bassano would have been a considerable burden on the Community.

that would bear no waiting period, and having seen the great good that can be, and should be derived therefrom.

Right here there arose an incidental proposal of Fr. Morando, regarding **our High School Classes of Bassano**. The Proposal was admitted into the discussion by a majority of votes. The Proposal contains the following questions:

1st Whether the Congregation approves and praises such an institution?

2nd Whether it is to be efficaciously sustained, so that it will be stable?

3rd Whether, therefore, it is to be warmly recommended to the Superior General, that in its favor, he make those provisions that will seem to him opportune?

4th Whether, at the moment of actuating the five high school classes, in addition to the four Priests, stationed at the house of Bassano, there might be added another?

After mature discussion, the first question was voted on, and the result was:

Voting [with two abstaining, and the Superior General having two votes].

No 11

Yes 3

IT IS NOT APPROVED ³⁶.

With this, its response, the Chapter intends that it has also provided for all the other points, and successive, subordinated questions, which were contained in the motion, and the Petition of the Rev. Fr. Morando, which were the subject of the vote and decision just taken. Hence, it bears on the Chapter [as it unanimously expressed itself] that there be publicly declared in the Minutes, how, as an effect of this, its most recent vote, there is hindered in no way all that the Superior General and his Council have done, and agreed upon, concerning the present situation of Bassano; as the Chapter was not invited to pronounce itself in this regard, as also, and even more so, the Chapter did not intend with this aforementioned vote, to inflict any censure on the conduct maintained up to this point, concerning the matter, or the project of Bassano, by the above-named fr. Morando; but rather, it appreciates his sincere, discreet, and prudent zeal, and expresses the hope, together with him, so that principally, because of his merits, these difficulties might be seen to decrease, and that those means contemplated, that still remain to be tried, **be carried out for the realization of that holy and beautiful institution** ³⁷.

{The Chapter then remits to the Superior General, that in conformity with the deliberation taken, Regulate the entire matter, to Remove any misunderstanding.} ³⁸

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup. Gen.

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Joseph Sembianti

Fr. Vincent Vignola

Fr. Charles Zara

³⁶ In the light of what has preceded, this negative vote does not seem to be a sudden Capitular rejection of **schools as such, as a part of the Apostolic Mission** – but the inopportuneness of Schools at this time, with this level of commitment, at Bassano.

³⁷ While this Chapter comment seems to praise Fr Morando and Bassano, it may not be a ringing endorsement of the **schools** – but, neither is there any hint here that the concept of the **schools as part of the Apostolic Mission** was understood by so many confreres far beyond the term that *palliative*, which was Fr. Marani's interpretation.

³⁸ This note appears in the margin of the original Chapter Minutes booklet.

At 9:00 o'clock this morning, February 28th, the Session of yesterday reconvened, and there was heard the Economic Report of Fr. James Marini, Procurator General, from which it appears that for the fitting support of each individual, 500 Italian Lira a year are necessary. A discussion was had on this, and it was put into the following Proposal: Is the Chapter of the opinion that this amount, in addition to the ownership of the House of Residence, should be the norm in the future foundations of Houses?

This was put to a vote, with the following result:

Voting	14 [the Superior General having two votes].
Yes	15
No	--

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADMITTED.

As a corollary of this vote, the following Proposition was formulated: Is the Chapter of the opinion that this same norm be absolutely applied to the foundations already made? This was put to a vote, and the result was:

Voting	14 [the Superior General having two votes]
Yes	4
No	11

THE PROPOSITION WAS NOT ADMITTED.

Even after this Proposal was already voted upon, it seemed to the Chapter that there remained for the complete treatment of this mater, another point to be aired, and whether it should be voted on – and it is the following:

Having considered all the preceding, and more precisely that which pertains to the deliberations already taken by the Chapter for the two Houses of Bassano and Parma: and, at the same time, whether account should be taken of the commitments already made by the Very rev. Superior and his Council, if it is known, whether we might definitively begin the negotiations and the work required, either by the rev. Superior himself, or by someone for him, for the above-named Houses of Bassano and of Parma, that they might achieve the amount stipulated and already voted on by the Chapter; it seems opportune today, to submit to the same Chapter, the idea of asking a future meeting composed of the Rev. Superior, his Councilors, and the **Graduates** in the area, concerning the acceptance, or the rejection of further concessions and allotments which we will deem agreeable [as is hoped], for the two above-mentioned Houses, by those responsible⁴⁵.

Now, there was a response to the 4th Proposal of the House of the Stimmate, under n. 5 of the List, in which the Congregation is asked to study the means of making it possible to accept some Aspirants every year.

The Congregation, having praised the pious desire of the House of the Stimmate, declares that for now, it does not have a practical means of fulfilling it.

Before closing the General Congregation, the Superior General gave a Report on the information received concerning the spirit of the entire body, from the Deputation elected in the IIIrd Session of the same **General Congregation**.

After having praised the good spirit that is generally manifested in the Congregation, he touched upon some defects that are observed here and there, reserving, though, by means of a

⁴⁵ This section, in the Original, is not clearly written.

**TAKEN FROM THE DECREES AND DISPOSITIONS MADE IN THE GENERAL
CONGREGATION OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE APOSTOLIC
MISSIONARIES,**

that opened February 18, 1881, and closed the 28th of the same Month ⁴⁷

1st. The Superior General, according to the Prescriptions of our Congregation, was elected for life.

2nd It was decreed that the Election of the General Councilors, and of the Admonitor, the Superior General is not to be excluded from the voting.

3rd The General Councilors are; Fr. Mark Bassi – Fr. Joseph Sembianti – Fr. Vincent Vignola – Fr. Charles Zara.

4th There were also elected the examiners of the First and Second Scrutiny, for the Admission to Vestition and Profession, and they were the following
Examiners of the First Scrutiny: Fr. Richard Tabarelli – Fr. Pio Gurisatti – Fr. Peter Beltrami – Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli – Fr. Bellino Carrara – Fr. Paul Gradinati.
Examiners for the Second Scrutiny: Fr. Joseph Sembianti – Fr. John Rigoni – Fr. Charles Zara – Joseph Marchesini ⁴⁸ - Fr. Vincent Vignola.

6. ⁴⁹ The study for a clear and authentic explanation of the Rule in Part XII, Chap. I, n. 3 ⁵⁰: *Chapters of the Confreres are to be convoked...*, etc., was entrusted to the Commission for the revision of the Appendix.

5. A Deputation was elected, composed of the Superior General and his Councilors, that they might receive information on the entire body of the Congregation, and before closing the Chapter, they were to suggest provisions of remedies or encouragement.

7. Within the month of March of this year, there is to be sent to all the Capitulars, the study made by the Commission, instituted by the IXth General Congregation for the Revision of the Appendix, etc. The Capitulars will have two months from the time they receive this study, to make their observations on it, and to send them to the Commission, which was then reinforced by three others members ⁵¹, and they will have to have given their decisive provisory vote, by the Feast of the sacred Stigmata of St. Francis; their vote will be binding until the decision of the Commission, there remain in force the dispositions

⁴⁷ There appears here a list of the principal decisions of this **Chapter**, on white, drawing paper, 16 and three fourths by 12 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 and one half x 12 inches. Fr. Vicentini's summary covers 2 writing sides, and about one third of the 3rd side.

⁴⁸ Before the name "Joseph Marchesini" – who was not a General Councilor, there is no 'Fr.'

⁴⁹ The number "6" appears before # "5".

⁵⁰ **CF # 300.**

⁵¹ The General Council was as follows: **Fr. P. Vignola, Fr. Mark Bassi, Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Fr. Vincent Vignola and Fr. Charles Zara.** The three other members who reinforced this Commission were elected on February 23, 1881: **Fr. Charles Zara, Fr. Bellino Carrara, Fr. Joseph Sembianti.**

of the *Appendix*, as they are read now, except as is evident the corrections or modifications brought last year {"x"}⁵² in the IXth General Congregation.

{“x”}: There was presented the Plan of Studies that was unanimously approved, and it was established that this ought to be activated ‘as an experiment’.

8. It was established to institute the lower high school classes for externs in the House of the Stimmate, beginning, meanwhile, with the first of the lower classes.

9. Fr. Rigoni, who was assigned to this with Fr. Sembianti in the IXth General Congregation, presented Resume’ of our Constitutions to be presented to the Holy See. This work was entrusted to the Commission for the Revision of the Appendix that it might study and then report to the first future Congregation.

10. The Chapter occupied itself in particular on the two Houses of Bassano and of Parma, and took opportune measures for their consolidation.

11. The Chapter decreed that each Priest might apply now the Holy Mass three times a year, without receiving a stipend, either for his own deceased, or for some particular intention.

12. The Chapter decreed further that on the occasion of the General Chapter, suffrages be had for our own deceased, and established the means of performing them.

Verona, March 1, 1881.

((Green oval SEAL of the
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES))

Fr. Dominic Vicentini, Secretary
of the Xth General Congregation

†
†††
†

⁵² This refers to a Footnote added here to the Original Document by Fr. Dominic Vicentini

Verona, the Stimmate, 23rd of September 1887 ⁵³
RESPONSES

To special points assigned to the study of the Commission for the Revision of the Appendix, for the Ninth and Tenth General Congregations

The Ninth Congregation, in its IVth Session, February 20, 1880, assigned to the Commission elected for the Revision of the Appendix ⁵⁴, the following points to be studied, and reported back to the next General Congregation:

- 1st. What are the Fundamental Rules of our Congregation;
- 2nd Whether the Examiners of the First and Second Scrutiny for the Admission into the Novitiate, and to religious Profession, ought to remain in Office for three years, or, up until the next general Congregation;
- 3rd Whether, in the Election of the Admonitor and of the General Councilors, the Superior General ought to be excluded from voting;
4. The Commission was entrusted with formulating the explanation given to the Rule: *In our Churches, there are not to be held funerals*, etc [Part VII, Sect. I, Chap. I, n. 3] ⁵⁵.
5. Lastly, the Xth General Congregation ⁵⁶ on p.15 of the Original Minutes], also assigned to the study of this same Commission, the third Rule, First Chapter, of the Twelfth Part of the Constitutions ⁵⁷: *Chapters of the Confreres are also...* etc., that there might be declared in what sense this ought to be understood.

Now, the Congregation, having maturely pondered all of the above-mentioned points, unanimously deliberated to respond to each one of them separately, as follows:

A.] To the First Question: ‘What are the Fundamental Rules of our Constitutions’ – it responds:

It would be too difficult to define precisely what are these Rules. Nevertheless, it seems that the Fundamental and Substantial Rules are indicated in the Compendium Rude, and they are, namely:

- 1st The scope of attending to the salvation of our fellow man: *Through any ministry of the Word of God whatsoever* ⁵⁸, *for the instruction of Clerics* ⁵⁹, *of the Youth* ⁶⁰, *dependent on Bishops, and in their service* ⁶¹.

⁵³ This last item in the Folder of the Xth General Chapter is the Report of the Commission for the Revision of the Appendix. Although it is dated September 23, 1887 – six and one half years after the close of the Xth General Congregation, it was written on the last page of this Xth General Chapter’s Minutes.

⁵⁴ This Commission was made up of five members: Fr. Mark Bassi [15 votes]; Fr. Louis Morando [12 votes]; Fr. Dominic Vicentini [12 votes]; Fr. Richard Tabarelli [11 votes] and Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General [9 votes – President].

Three more members were added by the Xth General Chapter, on February 23, 1881: Fr. Charles Zara [9 votes]; Fr. Bellino Carrara [9 votes]; Fr. Joseph Sembianti [8 votes].

On September 28, 1876, three Definitors were elected by the VIIIth General Chapter – they were: Fr. Louis Morando [six votes]; Fr. Vincent Vignola [5 votes]; Fr. Charles Zara [5 votes].

For the Plan of Studies, on October 2, 1876, three Coinfreres were chosen to develop this: Fr. Rigoni; Fr. Zara; Fr. Tabarelli.

⁵⁵ CF # 92.

⁵⁶ On February 21, 1881.

⁵⁷ CF # 300.

⁵⁸ CF ## 1; 2; 163 [*De Professorum Gradu - Media quibus hoc Institutum salutem promoveat proximorum*].

2nd Perfect Common Life ⁶².

3rd The Manner of Government, i.e., the Superior elected for life ⁶³, assisted by Councilors ⁶⁴, *and in the more important matters, and those of perpetual duration* ⁶⁵, by the decisive vote of the majority of the Graduate Fathers.

B.] To the Second Point, i.e., on the duration of the Office of examiners: the Commission, in the Revision itself of the Appendix, believed that we should adhere to the Decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Religious State, *Regulari Disciplinae*, which sanctions that the examiners remain in office until the new General Congregation.

C.] To the Third Point, if, in the Election of the Admonitor, and of the general Councilors' the Superior General ought to be excluded from the vote, the Xth General Congregation decided, by decreeing that he should not be excluded.

D.] As for the Fourth responsibility, that of formulating an explanation of our Rule ⁶⁶: *In our Churches, there will; not be held funeral rituals*, etc., the following formula was adopted: 'The matters that are prohibited in this number, the VIth General Congregation has declared, that they do not include either money, choral renditions, or those benefits that are derived from what are commonly called titles – of public value -; whether of immovable goods, or those endowments that are freely given to any of our members by externs, so that our Congregation might act as trustee of sums, in bestowing alms. If this is done with this in mind, so that the amounts may be deduced from government taxes, or for the lessening of the exchange, or liquidation, it is not licit for us to accept the revenue [as long as the responsibilities assumed exceeds the revenue to be gained], but it has declared that the exercise of piety is performed in receiving payment. The Procurator General, in the tables of the Archives of our Congregation, will carefully note all the responsibilities we have accepted in trust.

E.] And, finally, as for the declaration of the Rule: *Congregation of the members are also*,... etc. ⁶⁷, the Commission responds in the opinion, that this refers to a kind of Chapter, or disciplinary conference, to be called every once in a while, by the Superiors, with the understanding of all the professed. As for the practical manner, then, of realizing this, it pertains to the General Congregation to define it.

Verona, at the stimmate, September 23, 1887.

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APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES))



⁵⁹ CF # 164.

⁶⁰ CF ## 165, ff.

⁶¹ CF ## 2; 185.

⁶² CF ## 6; *passim!* The Model is the Early Church – CF # 189.

⁶³ CF # 8.

⁶⁴ CF # 301.

⁶⁵ CF # 302.

⁶⁶ CF # 92.

⁶⁷ CF # 300.

XIth GENERAL CONGREGATION

September 12 – 25, 1880

§§§§§

ACTS⁶⁸
Of the
XIth General Congregation

§§§

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Documents

Response of the Commission for the Revision of the *Appendix* to Part XII of the Original Constitutions
[September 23, 1887]

Proposals

Trent – September 5, 1889
Stimate – September 9, 1889
Parma - September 10, 1889
Pavia – September 10, 1889
Commission's Proposals [un-dated]

Minutes

September 12, 1889 - Ist Session
September 12, 1889 [afternoon]
September 13, 1889 - IInd Session
September 14, 1889 – IIIrd Session
September 16, 1889
September 16, 1889 – IV Session [afternoon]
September 18, 1889
September 18, 1889 [afternoon]
September 18, 1889 – V Session
September 19, 1889
September 20, 1889
September 20, 1889 - VI Session
September 21, 1889
September 23, 1889 VII Session
September 24, 1889
September 25, 1889 – VIII Session

Miscellaneous Papers

Notice of the Copy of the Constitutions [October 1, 1889]
Rules for Funerals [Frs. Bassi & Gradinati]

§§§

⁶⁸ The **Acts** of this Chapter are contained on 29 pages of lined note-book paper, 8 by 12 inches, with a one inch margin on top, and a half inch at the bottom, which was rarely written on, except for signatures. The front page reads: *Minutes of the XIth General Chapter, etc.*, the first time such a word was used in the title; up until this time, the usual word employed was *Congregatio*.

This is the bulkiest notebook of all the Chapters, as after the **Minutes**, there is a Latin text of the Constitutions, divided into five parts, compiled by Fr. Tabarelli, that cover 50 pages. In the Provincial Archives, there is a Xerox copy of these, dated a few weeks after the Chapter ended.

VV. M. J. ⁶⁹

**Minutes
of the Chapter
held in the House of Trent [S. Bernardino Vecchio, September 5, 1889,
all those being present who
had a right to vote,
namely:**

- 1st The Very Rev. Anthony Oss Bals, Director**
2nd The Very Rev. Don Peter Beltrami, Prior of San Martino
3rd The Very R. Julius Zanini
**to be presented to the General Congregation to be held at the
Stimmate of Verona, during this month.**
-

A. There is proposed the improvement of the House, regarding the personnel of Priests and Lay Brothers. And this, for the following reasons:

Ist Because this House, after the Mother House, is the first foundation to be created, which the previous Superiors General, Very Rev. Fr. Marani, and the Very Rev. Fr. Lenotti, worked so hard.

IInd Because it has contributed in great part, gratuitously for this precise scope, that it is a true and properly called religious house, which is known to many of the diocesan clergy.

IIIrd Because our House has much deteriorated from the flourishing state in which it was for many years, for the glory of God and the satisfaction of the ...⁷⁰

IVth Because the Diocese of Trent is very vast, and has an extensive field for preaching.

Vth Because there does not exist in the Diocese any Congregation that has as its scope the Sacred Missions⁷¹.

VIth Because of the abundance of religious vocations, and its exemption of clerics from the draft; a motive to be pondered well, due to the disaster that too easily befalls Italian clerics: and also, because of the vocations mentioned above, while if for one reason or another, our schools were suspended, the requests for admission would cease, as indeed would decrease, until the establishment of these schools of ours⁷².

VIIth This is demanded by the esteem and benevolence shown to us on every occasion, by the Prince-Bishop, by the Curia, as well as by all the clergy, whom we know.

⁶⁹ Like the other Chapters, this one, too, was preceded by a number of Proposals. The first, from the House of Trent, appears on unlined, white paper, 16 and one half by 12 and one half inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 and one fourth by 12 and one half inches, of which only the first one and a half were covered with writing.

⁷⁰ Incomplete

⁷¹ It is interesting to compare this "scope" of the Congregation, as understood by these three Fathers – with that of the 8 Priests at the Stimmate, on Feb. 24, 1874 – where the House opted for a return to the **Schools**, as *one of the principal ends of the Congregation*.

⁷² These three Confreres – while perhaps preferring Parish Missions in Trent – still realize that in Fr. Bertoni's plan **teaching school** is a viable option in the Apostolic Mission.

VIIIth It seems necessary to urge the General Congregation on to this improvement, considering the most vivid concern that other Institutes have of founding Houses in Trent, or in the Diocese, as Benedictines, the Camillians, the Salesians, the Sons of Mary, etc.

Therefore, it is earnestly petitioned that these observations be thoroughly pondered by the General Congregation, and that steps be taken to implement this requested improvement, as soon as possible.

B. The under-signed would be of the opinion to propose that there be taken into consideration whether the Rule of offering the preaching ministry, ‘entirely gratuitously’, ought to be kept, or not, considering the many exceptions that have to be made, because of various circumstances.

Trent, from the House of S. Bernardino Vecchio.

5/9 89

Fr. Anthony Oss Bals

Fr. Peter Beltrami

Fr. Julius Zanini

VV. J.M.J. ⁷³

“In the Name of the Lord. Amen”

On this 9th [nine] day of September 1889, the Fr. Director of the **House of the Stimmate**, Fr. Pio Gurisatti, assembled the House Chapter for the purpose of knowing from the Fr. Capitulars, those proposals that they believe should be made known to the next General Congregation. After the Fr. Capitulars were asked, it resulted that no one had any Proposals to present.

This was read and signed.

Fr. Pio Gurisatti

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella

Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli

Fr. Joseph Zandonai

Fr. Louis Gasperotti

Fr. J. B. Cavinato

Fr. Eugene Laudon

Fr. Joseph Marocchi

Fr. J. B. Tomasi.

⁷³ This response from the House of the Stimmate appears on white, lined paper, 8 and one fourth by 12 inches. It seems to be in Fr. Gurisatti’s hand-writing..

Parma, September 10, 1889 ⁷⁴

Having received the notice of the Convocation of the general Congregation, there was assembled the Chapter of the house of Parma, according to the prescripts, to see if something might be proposed regarding the good of this house, or of the entire Congregation.

The following were present; the Very Rev. Bartholomew Perazzani, Fr. Octavius Piccoli, Fr. Albano Clementi, Fr. Joseph Antoniulli. Fr. Joseph Bertapelle was absent, because he is temporarily stationed in Pavia, and Fr. Andrew Sterza abstained from taking part.

The said Chapter believed that the following observations should be proposed to the General Congregation:

a.] For the House of Parma

1st The General Congregation is petitioned to take into consideration the insufficiency of means by which this House is able to subsiststably, and according to the spirit of the Constitutions.

2nd To negotiate with the Confraternity of St. Camillus to formulate a new agreement for the sake of providing for the decent care of the Church of st mary in the *Quartiere*, considering that there is attributed to us, by anyone who does not know our condition, the lack of care for the Church, for which we are responsible.

b.] For the Entire Congregation

1st It is asked to find out if the criticisms of the Houses of Trent and Pavia have foundation, and on the excessive and humiliating demands with which the Lay Brothers are obliged.

2nd To assist the Very Rev. Superior General, and to make provisions for the prompt handling of affairs, the Congregation is asked to establish the office of Secretary of the same.

3rd The attention of the Congregation is called concerning Rule 4, Chap. 1st: *They are to be immune...*⁷⁵ and it is asked if the practice introduced, corresponds to the same.

4th The complaint, founded or not, is made that the Superior general is not always at the disposition of the subjects as much as would be desired.

5th It is asked whether our Rules are observed that regard the sacred studies, and if there are dispositions which could conveniently initiate one, who is to function as an Apostolic Missionary.

6th The displeasure is felt that the Offices are not, in every House, especially the more numerous, sufficiently distributed, but often these are accumulated in some individual, and that the attributes of the individual officials are not precisely and clearly determined.

7th That a decision be made as to how the Decree of the Holy See is to be interpreted, regarding the Chapter to be held for the Admission to Vows.

These present Minutes were read, approved and signed.

Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani, Director
Fr. Octavian Piccoli
Fr. Albano Clementi
Fr. Joseph Antoniulli

⁷⁴ These Proposals from Parma appear in white, lines paper, 16 x 12 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 x 12 inches. The Proposals cover two full sides, and about third of p. 3.

⁷⁵ *Compendium Rude*, CF # 4.

Pavia, September 10, 1889 ⁷⁶

“For the Glory of God
and

the Greater Service of the Church”

VV M.J.

A particular Chapter of the religious House of the Apostolic Missionaries in Pavia, next to the Church of the holy Apostles, James and Philip.

1. All the members of the house of Pavia, by unanimous vote, consider it necessary that the rev. Superior General have someone as his Secretary, who might respond to the requests far away from Verna, and that he be invested with special authority, almost as a Vicar.

2. To remove possible improprieties, it is asked that the Directors of the Houses might not institute either functions, or sermons in their Churches, or assume works of beneficence, or instruction, or other such ministry, either in the House, or outside it, in a regular and perpetual manner, without the previous consent, obtained in writing, from the Superior General and his Councilors. In this way, other Directors could not, then, at their own caprice, take away so many others, as had been introduced, with superior approbation.

3. To conserve regular observance more easily, and for the greater moral and physical good of each one, the Chapter of Pavia expresses the hope that in the filial Houses, there be a number of individuals, adapted to their needs, to the works undertaken.

4. Just as in the present circumstances, and for the development that our Congregation has had in a few years, it has become absolutely impossible to attend every year to the Spiritual Exercises, both for the Priests, and for the Lay Brothers, and so it is asked that in the Mother House, or wherever it be thought better, that every year, there be given two changes of the Spiritual Exercises, so that all, both Fathers and Brothers, might be present for them.

5. It is asked that it be stated clearly what faculties our Members have, wherever they preach, for example, regarding the papal Blessing, or, if there are not any privileges, that a Petition may be sent for at least those that are had by other Missionaries, who are constituted in a society.

6. That there be assigned to the Lay Brothers, a uniform habit, that is clean, and fitting, whether it be lay dress, or for those who wear the cassock.

The six articles above were proposed, discussed and then, with unanimous vote, were approved to be submitted for the approval of the proximate General Congregation.

In faith whereof, the Fathers stationed at the House of Pavia, signed them, as did Fr. Joseph Bertapelle, who is here temporarily.

Fr. Melchiade Vivari

Fr. Angelo Graziani

Fr. Joseph Bertapelle

Fr. Egidio Bruno Stofella

⁷⁶ The Proposals from Pavia appear on two pieces of paper, one with red lines, and the other with blue, measuring 5 and one fourth by 8 inches.

**LIST OF THE PROPOSALS
Made by the Deputed Commission**

1. The observations.
2. The mater of the **Schools**, according to what is indicated in the Decree of Convocation ⁷⁷.
3. As for the Proposal of the Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi, regarding religious discipline, let it be reserved to the Rev. Superior and his Council, who will find in the **New Constitutions** ⁷⁸, efficacious means to provide for this, taking special and utmost care that charity and silence be observed.
4. Also, the Proposal on the financial state of the House of the Stimate, be recommended to the same Superior, and his Council, for their examination and fitting solution.
5. Proposal of the rev. Fr. Perazzani: to see among the Decrees made by the previous General Chapter, whatever there may be contrary to the new **Constitutions**, and what are included by them, and what should actually be reviewed.
6. The proposal of Rev. Fr. Tabarelli: whether our Clerics, subject to the military law, ought to make the year of voluntary enlistment, in so far as this is possible for our strength.
7. Proposal of the same Fr. Tabarelli: to see if there might be introduced the Cause of Beatification of the Venerable Founder.
8. Another: Whether the Congregation would desire that the Superior begin negotiations to have a Cardinal Protector at the opportune time.
9. Proposal of the Rev. Fr. Paul: That our Student House have its own Director ⁷⁹.
10. Proposal of the rev. Fr. L. Gasperotti: Whether to each Priest there might be granted three free Masses a year.
11. Another: when it is a question of real need of one's family, could it be established that there be allowed a Priest to have the alms of his masses, for one or more months...?
12. The matter of the requests of the dispensation from the Vows, and the dismissal of Fr. Cavinato, and ...⁸⁰
13. The resignation of the Very Rev. Superior.

⁷⁷ The Schools remained a desire for so many of the Confreres, all these years.

⁷⁸ Readied now after so many previous **General Chapters** had discussed these.

⁷⁹ Fr. "Gradinati", perhaps.

⁸⁰ The rest is in pencil, and was left incomplete.

Modification of the Grade ⁸¹

There is proposed the following - for **Chapter IV, Part IV. Chapter Title:** “Concerning the Promotion to the **Priestly Office**” [only]
Then: n. 4: to be omitted ⁸².

Instead of the **Vth Part, Chap I, n. 2**, that it be modified as follows:
“All those will attend every General Chapter who have been elected by the Chapters of the individual Houses.

All these will attend every General Chapter:

1. General Councilors
2. Directors of Individual Houses ⁸³
3. For the Individual Houses, the two who have been elected by the Chapters of these Houses, by a relative majority of votes. However, no one can be elected, unless he has completed ten years of Profession, and is thirty-five years of age.

N. 7 of the same **Chap. I, Vth Part**, should be changed, thus ⁸⁴ :
“At the same time, let him admonish the Directors, concerning the House Chapter to be held, which is to be made up of Professed Clerics, who are in that House, of which two-thirds of the capitulars constitute a legitimate Chapter. In it, the Deputies are to be elected according to what is said in N. 12. Moreover, ...” ⁸⁵



⁸¹ These refer to the Rules discussed in the Chapter, which would be published in 1890.

⁸² This **n. 4** of the adapted Rules provides a very broad sweep of Ministries to qualify for the conferral of the **Grade**. It seems to be a “photograph” of the way it was conferred during these times of the Stigmatine History. **However, the Deputed Commission eliminates it here.** One possible reason is that these proposed Constitutions had been **submitted to the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, Feb. 20, 1889** – and the title **Apostolic Missionary** was considered the prerogative of the Holy See and should not be given by any religious Community. Furthermore, the title of this Chap. IV, of Part IV, had read: *Concerning those to be promoted to the Sacerdotal Office, and to the Grade of Apostolic Missionary in our Sodality.* The underlined part of this title is eliminated by the Deputed Commission, and does not appear in the final copy approved by the General Chapter.[cf. **Fr. Stofella, Historical Introduction to the Booklet of the Original Constitutions, Terza Fase, pp. 30-32**].

⁸³ This inclusion was crossed out.

⁸⁴ In Latin.

⁸⁵ Incomplete

Minutes ⁸⁶
of the XIth General Chapter
In the Year of our Lord 1889,
From the 12th day of September, Thursday.
“In the Name of the Lord. Amen.”
Minutes of the XIth General Chapter

Following the Convocation sent out by the Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, Peter Vignola, to all the Capitulars of the Congregation, with his Decree of September 1st of this year, the following Capitulars were convened at the Mother House of the Stimmate in Verona, and assembled in the room of our Venerated Founder:

The	Most Rev.	Fr.	Peter Vignola,	Sup. Gen.
	Very Rev.		Mark Bassi,	Gen. Counc.
	..		Joseph Sembianti
	..		Louis Morando
	..		Francis Benciolini	Graduate
	..		Pio Gurisatti	..
	..		James Marini	..
	..		Bartholomew Perazzani	..
	..		Richard Tabarelli	..
	..		Alexis Magagna	..
	..		Joseph Marchesini	..
	..		Melchiade Vivari	..
	..		Angelo Graziani	..
	..		Anthony Oss Bals	..
	..		Bonaventure Vidalli	..
	..		Paul Gradinati	..

The other four **Graduate Fathers** are absent, namely: the Very Rev. **Fr. Peter Beltrami**, dispensed from attending the Chapter by the Very Rev. Fr. Superior, because of commitments that require his presence at Trent; the Very Rev. **Dominic Vicentini**, who is traveling to Europe from the Mission of Central Africa ⁸⁷; the Very Rev. Frs. **Julius Zanini** and **Joseph Zandonai**, who are impeded for some days, because of preaching assignments accepted before the convocation of the Chapter.

Having invoked the divine assistance with the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*, and having recited the *De Profundis* at the tomb of the Venerated Founder for our deceased confreres, the Capitular Fathers assembled in the room of the Ven. Founder, and after each one had taken his place, it was asked if they all judged the Chapter to be full and legitimate:

The Capitular Fathers unanimously responded in the affirmative. However, having noted the absence of the four of the **Graduates**, Fr. Morando expressed the desire that for the future, no

⁸⁶ Then follow the 29 pages of the **Minutes of this XIth Chapter**. This bulky notebook is bound with red string, with the emended copy of the new Constitutions.

⁸⁷ This is a revealing incident – Fr. D. Vincentini was much in love of the ‘**Foreign Mission**’ aspect of the **Apostolic Mission** - he would soon leave the Community and work with Msgr, Daniel Comboni in Africa.

I. Proposals presented by the Very Rev. Superior

- 1.] Examination and study for the reorganization of the Constitutions.
- 2.] The Nomination of two General Councillors: one to take the place of the deceased **Fr. Vincent Vignola**⁹⁰; the other to carry out the responsibility of Fr. Louis Morando, elected temporarily by the **Chapter of the Graduates of the House of the Stimate**, and of the **Directors of the other Houses**, in substitution for the deceased, **Fr. Charles Zara**⁹¹.
- 3.] Nomination of the Examiners for the admission to the Novitiate and to Profession.
- 4.] Election of the Master of Novices, in accord with the Decree of Clement VII, *Cum ad Regularem*.

II. Proposals of the House of Trent

- 1st To increase the personnel of the House of Trent, both with Priests and with Brothers – This proposal is remitted by the Commission to the Providence of the Superior General and his Council.
- 2nd To take into consideration the Rule that establishes the preaching assignments, etc., ought to be performed by us *entirely gratuitously* – this Proposal will be discussed in the Revision of the Constitutions, **Part I, n. 4.**⁹²

III. Proposals of the House of Parma

- 1st To provide for the stable maintenance of the house of Parma – this is remitted to the Superior and his Council.
- 2nd To begin negotiations to stipulate a more precise agreement with the Confraternity of St. Camillus in Parma, regarding the care of the Church of the *Quartiere*. – Also, this Proposal is remitted to the Superior and his Council.
- 3rd To consider whether the conditions of the houses of Trent and Pavia, require some provision to be put in the state of freely and completely developing their religious life, with impediments, coming from external causes – this Proposal is admitted to the discussion of the Chapter, and will be treated in the revision of the Rules, Part V, Chapter V, n. 5, *Concerning the Individual Houses*.
4. To establish the Office of Secretary of the Fr. Superior General - This was admitted, and will be treated in the Revision of the Rules, Part V, Chapter IV, *Concerning the General Councilors*, etc.
5. To see if the Rule, *They shall be immune etc.*⁹³ is still in vogue, in that it wishes that our members be immune from benefices and perpetual care of religious Sisters and souls, and how it ought to be understood – this was admitted and will be treated in the revision of the Rules, Part I, n. 5.

⁹⁰ He died in Holy Week of this year, preaching the Seven Last Words - April 20, 1889 – at the age of 67, the younger of the two brothers by about nine years.

⁹¹ He died August 20, 1883, at the tender age of only 39!

⁹² Cf. **CF ## 3; 67; 102; 184.**

⁹³ **CF # 4.**

6. To see if there are observed the rules that pertain to the sacred Studies, and if there are dispositions which suitably initiate those who are to perform the Apostolic Ministry – This will be discussed in the Revision of the Constitutions, Part IV, Chap.II and IV.
7. To make provisions that the different responsibilities and offices, in Houses with more numerous personnel, are distributed among different persons. – This will be treated in the revision of the Constitutions, Part V, Chap. V, n. 6.
8. To establish norms to be maintained in the Chapter of the Novitiate, for the Admission to Profession. – This is to be remitted to the Superior General, who will make a study of the matter, and will communicate the results of these studies to the House of Novitiate, and to the other Houses.

IV. Proposals of the House of Pavia

- 1st To give a Secretary to Fr. Superior. – This will be treated together with the Fourth Proposal of the House of Parma.
- 2nd To establish that no Director might institute in an enduring manner, preaching, functions, services, or instructions, without the permission of the Superior and his Council. – This is to be treated in the Revision of the Constitutions, Part V, Chap. V, n. 7, where there is already contained a provision that is analogous to this Proposal.
- 3rd To provide that in the Filial Houses, there be sufficient number of members, in accord with its needs. – As this Proposal pertains to the special and practical government, and therefore, it is up to the Superior and his Council to provide the Filial Houses with that number of members necessary for them, and which is in accord with the general conditions of the Congregation; since this, too, can be related to the Third Proposal of the House of Parma, it is to be admitted into the discussion, at the same time with it.
4. That there be clearly stated what faculties our **Missionaries** have, and to obtain for them all, those privileges and faculties that are usually granted to **Missionaries** by the Holy See. – This was remitted to the Superior for further information and provision.
5. To distribute two changes of the Spiritual Exercises every year, for the convenience of all the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation. This will be treated in the Revision, Part III, c. V.
6. To establish precise norms for the dress of the Lay Brothers. – This will be treated in the Revision, Part I, n. 8.

V. The House of the Stimmate: does not have any Proposals.

VI. Proposals of Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Gen. Council.

He expresses the desire to expose a thought of his concerning the **Schools of the Stimmate**, for extern students. – This will be treated at the same time as the Sixth Proposal of the House of Parma.

VII. Proposals of Fr. Paul Gradinati.

1. He asks for a total separation of the House of St. Teresa from that of the Stimmate. With distinct Directors, etc. – this will be treated in the Revision of the Constitutions, Part IV, Chap. I, n. 3.
2. He asks that provisions be made to assist poor parents of our members. – This is remitted to the prudence of the Superior and his Council. -----

3. He desires that there be drawn up the regulations for the Funerals of our Confreres. – This will be treated in the revision of the Constitutions.

Order of the Treatment of the Proposals

The first matter to be treated is the Revision of the Constitutions, the principal motive for the convocation of the Chapter – All other Proposals referring to some point of the Constitutions will be taken up along with the discussion of the Constitutions, in this order:

[Part I] 1st. 5th Proposal of the Hosue of Parma referring to Part I, n. 1, of our Constitutions.

2nd 2nd Proposal of the house of Trent, referring to Part I, n. 4.

3rd 6th Proposal of the House of Pavia, in relation to Part I, n. 8.

△△△

[Part III] 4th 94 5th Proposal of the house of Pavia, in relation to Part III, Chap V.

5th 3rd Proposal of Fr. Paul Gradinati, in relation to Part III, Chap VI, n. 3.

△△△

[Part IV] 6th 1st Proposal of Fr. Paul Gradinati, in relation to Part IV, Chap. I, n. 3.

7th 6th Proposal of the House of Pavia, in relation to Part IV, Chap. II, and IV. With this will be discussed the Proposal of Fr. J. Sembianti.

△△△

[Part V] 8th 4th Proposal of the House of Parma, in relation to Part V, Chap. IC.

9th 3rd Proposal of the House of Parma, in relation to Part V, Chap. V, n. 5.

10th 7th Proposal of the House of Parma, in relation to Part V, Chap. V, n. 6.

11th 2nd Proposal of the House of Pavia, in relation to Part V, Chap. V, n. 7.

△△△

12th Lastly, the nomination will be taken up of the two General Councilors, of the Examiners, of the Fr. Master of Novices, according to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Proposals of the Fr. Superior.

△△△

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.

Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Joseph Sembianti

Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary

After the List of Proposals had been read, and the Order of their treatment, the discussion began on the most fundamental Proposal, i.e., on the **Revision of the Constitutions**⁹⁵, by reading the **First Part** of them. The result of this discussion was some corrections, introduced by the Chapter in that Part read, which were written in the margins of the three copies presented to the Chapter. It was therefore established to draw up another copy of them, in accord with the corrections that would be made by the Chapter⁹⁶, and which could be authenticated by it. During this discussion, there was also taken up, incidental with this, the 2nd Proposal of the house of Trent, and the Fifth of the House of Parma, that refer to the First Part of the Constitutions. However, just as these two Proposals refer to essential points of our Constitutions: so [according to the disposition of the **Appendix, IV, Chap. 8, n. 5, Parag. A, of the printed booklet, p. 76**], it was decided to put this discussion off until tomorrow.

In this meanwhile, this Second Session is closed today.

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.

Fr. James Marini

Fr. Marcus Bassi

Fr. Alexis Magagna

⁹⁴ This was inadvertently left out and then included in the margin.

⁹⁵ The English translation of these Constitutions may be found under a special title in this Series: **Consts. 1881-1889.**

⁹⁶ And the English translation of these corrected Constitutions may be found under its special title in this Series: **Constitutions 1890.**

Continuing the examination and the correction of the **First Part** of the Constitutions, arriving at the last statement of n. 8, in which it speaks of the dress of the Lay Brothers, the third incidental Proposal that had to be discussed, in which it is desired that there be established a precise norm for the dress of the Lay Brothers. – This Proposal began to be discussed; but, because of the lack of time, further discussion will be held on Monday, the 16th of this month ¹⁰².

Monday, September 16, 1889

There were also present the two Fathers who were absent in the last Session, that is to say, Fr. Joseph Marchesini and Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli.

Before taking up again the treatment of the Third Proposal, regarding the habit of Lay Brothers, there was one who asked if he might be able to propose an added interpretation to the **Fourth Rule of the First Part**, which according to the voting of the last Session, is thus expressed:

All these works, the Congregation is to perform entirely gratuitously, serving God and the Church. The proposed addition is this: **‘receiving nothing in compensation for the spiritual ministry, or any pious office whatsoever, unless something is offered entirely spontaneously, and a simple alms.**

This addition was put to a vote, and was approved by 11 [eleven] votes to 6 [six], the Superior having two votes, and there being sixteen who voted.

Then, there was taken up again the discussion on the Third Proposal, referring to the dress of the Lay Brothers. After a most diligent discussion had been held, it was decided by secret Ballot, with 9 [nine] votes to 8 [eight], that the last statement: *The Lay members, if it is so ... etc.*, be corrected in the margin of the three copies presented to the Chapter in this form: **The Lay Coadjutor Members are to wear black clothing, in so far as this is possible, but such that it is entirely different from the societies of seculars.**

For the reading of the Minutes of this Third Session, Fr. Julius Zanini was also present, and he had no objections, or observations.

Then the Third Session was closed, with the signatures of the Capitulars.

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.
Fr. Mark Bassi, Counc.
Fr. Joseph Sembianti
Fr. Louis Morando
Fr. Francis Benciolini
Fr. Pio Gurisatti
Fr. James Marini
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani
Fr. Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Alexis Magagna
Fr. Angelo M. Graziani
Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli
Fr. Melchiade Vivari
Fr. Julius Zanini
Fr. Anthony Oss Bals
Fr. Paul Gradinati

Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary

¹⁰² There is no indication that this Saturday Session was divided into morning and afternoon sessions. There were, apparently, no meetings on **Sunday, September 15, 1889.**

Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Alexis Magagna
Fr. Angelo M. Graziani
Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli
Fr. Melchiade Vivari
Fr. Joseph Zandonai
Fr. Julius Zanini
Fr. Anthony Oss Bals
Fr. Paul Gradinati
Fr. Richard Tabarelli

The 18th of September 1889
Vth Session

The Fifth Session was opened, all being present, who signed the Minutes of the preceding Session; it began with the reading and the examination of the **Third Part** of the Constitutions, which treats **Of the Practice of the Simple Vows that are taken in our Congregation, and the Progress in Spiritual Perfection of the Members.** – The first two Chapters were read and examined, and the continuation and the examination were put off until tomorrow.

The 19th of September 1889

At 9:00 a.m., there was continued the examination of the **Third Part**, beginning with the **Third Chapter**. All the Capitulars who took part in the last Session, were present. During the examination, there were ordered various corrections written in the margins of the three copies.

In treating of the Rule in **Chapter V**, that establishes that every year the Spiritual exercises be made by all the members, there was covered the fourth proposal of the list, in which there is asked that every year there be given two changes of the exercises for the convenience of all the members, even of the other Houses. After a diligent discussion, it was unanimously approved just how such a proposal was, that there should be offered to each of our members, the convenience to make the Spiritual Exercises every year. - Therefore, the Directors of the individual houses are entrusted with making provisions, in agreement with the Superior, so that every year, there might be established for the members of their Houses, a time and an opportune place for this need.

In examining **Chapter VI**, there was treated the fifth proposal of the List, in which it is asked that provisions be made to establish a common norm for the funerals of our members. – The treatment of this was put off until tomorrow, and the session was suspended.

September 20, 1889

This morning, at 9:00 o'clock, there was taken up again, the matter of Funerals, with all the usual Capitulars being present. Fr. Paul Gradinati briefly exposed his Proposal, by reading some general norms included in a paper compiled by Frs. Mark Bassi and Paul Gradinati, to draw up detailed regulations, which will then be examined and approved by the Superior General, and his Council.

Having terminated the reading and the examination of **the Fifth Chapter**.
The Minutes were read and signed.

- + Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.
 - + Fr. Mark Bassi
 - Fr. Joseph Sembianti
 - + Fr. Louis Morando
 - + Fr. Francis Benciolini
 - Fr. Pio Gurisatti
 - Fr. James Marini
 - + Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani
 - + Fr. Joseph Marchesini
 - Fr. Alexis Magagna
 - Fr. Angelo M. Graziani
 - Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli
 - + Fr. Melchiade Vivari
 - + Fr. Joseph Zanondai
 - Fr. Julius Zanini
 - + Fr. Anthony Oss Bals
 - + Fr. Paul Gradinati
 - + Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary ¹⁰⁵
-

Vith Session
The 20th of September 1889

As there was terminated this morning the Fifth Session, the **Vith Session** was also begun, with a reading of the **Fourth part** of the Constitutions, which treats: **Of the Instruction of the Students, after Novitiate, and the Promotion of Them and Others.** In examining the **First Chapter** of this **Part**, the ninth proposal of the List was discussed, in which it asks that the Hosue of St. Teresa, and the House of the Stimmate, be separated, each having its own Superior and Officials.

The Chapter, in retaining that it was absolutely necessary that there be this separation, not only of the Novitiate, but also of the House of the Professed Students, or the Studentate from the House of the Professed Priests, a separation that was established in our Constitutions, **Part IV, Chap. I, n. 3**, entrusts the Superior General and his Council, to bring this about as soon as possible, and in the best manner that this may seem best to them, according to the prescriptions of the bDecree of **Clement VII, Cum ad Regularem.**

In the examination of the **IInd Chapter**, there was treated the Seventh Proposal of the catalogue, in which it is desired to know if there are norms in our Constitutions for the theological study of our members, and how they are observed.

It was stated by the chapter that the norms for theological study are contained in this **Second Chapter**, and in the Fourth of this same **Fourth Part** of the Constitutions, norms that were declared sufficient by the same General Chapter, after having introduced into them, the modifications indicated on the three Copies. And now there only remains [as the Chapter itself inculcates] that these be exactly observed ¹⁰⁶.

¹⁰⁵ A “plus [‘+’] or minus [‘-’] sign appears before most of the names. It might be coincidental, but the 2 names appearing with the ‘minus sign’ [‘-’], later left the Congregation. This ends the morning session of September 20th.

¹⁰⁶ If there was closure here on the 20th of September, there is no indication in the Minutes. Fr. Tabarelli is not as careful a Chapter Secretary as was the excellent Fr. V. Vignola.

At this point¹⁰⁷, Fr. Joseph Sembianti developed his thought on the **Schools for extern students**, asking whether, in view of the burden that is thereby derived on the personnel of the Congregation, that is lamented¹⁰⁸ and consequently, on the Congregation itself from the Schools, which is not being felt, whether some provision should be made to lighten this burden.

It was put to a vote, whether or not this matter ought to be treated in the Chapter. The response was Yes, by the majority of one vote, and it was discussed for a long time; and it was then proposed that there be brought into the Chapter, a project regarding our school, and the teachers that would be necessary for the coming year. Having seen, however, that it would be most difficult to discuss, and to establish in the Chapter, such a project [without detriment to the authority of the Superior, regarding the disposition of the personnel of the Institute], it was decided to commit this matter to the Superior, and his Council, who, having heard the desires and the opinions of the Capitulars, they will seek to give them an assessment of common satisfaction¹⁰⁹.

Therefore¹¹⁰, there was taken up the examination of the other Chapters of the **Fourth part**, inserting various corrections in the margins of the three copies. It resulted, then, that from this examination, there was also contained in **Chapters II & IV** sufficient dispositions for the initiation of our young Clerics and Priests in Preaching, as is required in the VIth Proposal of the House of Parma. The examination of the last Chapters and the relative Proposals was terminated **this Saturday morning, September 21st, 1889**, Fr. Joseph Marchesini being absent.

The Minutes were read and signed:

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Joseph Sembianti

Fr. Louis Morando

Fr. Francis Benciolini

Fr. Io Gurisatti

Fr. James Marini

Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani

Fr. Alexis Magagna

Fr. Angelo M. Graziani

Fr. Bonavenure Vidalli

Fr. Melchiade Vivari

Fr. Joseph Zandonai

Fr. Julius Zanini

Fr. Anthony Oss Bals

Fr. Paul Gradinati

Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary¹¹¹

¹⁰⁷ Not sure of the date – it may be the afternoon of September 20th.

¹⁰⁸ A fair reading of Fr. Sembianti's difficulty – which was shared by others – is not so much the fact of the schools – which have been jealously defended through these last Chapter sessions over the last 15 years – but, the **burden on the personnel**.

¹⁰⁹ Somewhere here the Saturday a.m. session of September 21st opened. Fr. Sembianti's School Proposal was given, however, on the 20th – cf. *BERTONIANO*, Apr-June 1945, pp. 311, ff/.

¹¹⁰ I is not clear what date this is.

¹¹¹ Apparently there was no Saturday afternoon meeting – but, it is not always clear from Fr. Tabarelli's style what day it is! There does not seem to have been any Sunday meeting, either, on September 22, 1889.

VIIth Session
The 23rd of September 1889

This morning at 9:00 o'clock, all the Capitular Fathers, with the exception of Fr. Louis Morando, who is absent, because he is indisposed, began the examination of the **Fifth and last Part** of the Constitutions, which treats **Of the Government of the Congregation**. The first three Chapters were examined, and there were introduced the corrections into the margins of the three Copies. After the examination of the third Chapter, it was discussed whether it would be better to establish that the Superior General should have a Secretary. – this Proposal was put to a vote, and the institution of the **General** Secretary was approved, with 16 [sixteen] votes, to 1 [one], as there were sixteen voting, and the Superior General having two votes [and, in addition to Fr. Morando, Fr. James Marini was absent], and he himself will make the appointment. Then, there was inserted in **Chap. III, of Part 5, after n. 3**, this article: *For the expedition of business, the Superior General will be helped by the assistance of a suitable Secretary, whom he himself will choose.*¹¹²

The 24th of September 1889

Having read and examined, and corrected yesterday in the two sessions, morning and afternoon, the **three first Chapters** of the **Fifth Part**, this morning there was taken up the examination of the **Fourth Chapter** with all the Capitulars being present, excepting Fr. Louis Morando, who was absent because of an indisposition. After an accurate examination, various corrections were adopted that were written into the three Copies, and so there was approved by the Chapter, also the **last two Chapters [Fourth and Fifth]**, of the **Fifth Part**. Along with these, there was also treated the **Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Proposals**. And s for these last two, in which there is asked that in the Houses with more numerous personnel, the various offices be distributed among different persons; and that the Directors of the houses cannot institute functions, or works of beneficence and instruction, of a lasting nature, without the permission of the Superior and his Council; the Chapter declared that there is contained in the last Chapter of our Constitutions, which treats **Of the Individual Houses**, sufficient dispositions in this regard. However, the **Ninth Proposal** was developed in a particular way, in which it was asked to consider whether some provision was necessary to better the conditions of the Houses of Trent and Pavia.

After this Proposal had been discussed for some time, it seemed most desirable that to these said Houses, there be sent as soon as possible some assistance of opportune helpers, to assist in the beautiful endeavors for the Glory of God, and the good of souls, that have been undertaken, and for the greater well-being of the members of these same houses. The Chapter, meanwhile, remits to the Providence of the Superior and his Council, to fulfill in so far as it is possible, this most just desire.

At this point, the Seventh Session was closed, and after the Minutes were read, they were signed:

The 24th of September 1889

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.
Fr. Marcus Bassi
Fr. Joseph Sembianti
Fr. Francis Benciolini

¹¹² Fr. Tabarelli left no indication of the ending of the morning session, nor the beginning or ending of the afternoon's meeting.

Fr. Pio Gurisatti
Fr. James Marini
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani
Fr. Lexis Magagna
Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Angelo M. Graziani
Fr. Bonaventure Vidalli
Fr. Melchiade Vivari
Fr. Joseph Zanodnai
Fr. Julius Zanini
Fr. Antony Oss Bals
Fr. Paul Gradinati
Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary

The 25th of September 1889
VIIIth Session

This morning, with all the Capitulars present who signed in the alst Sessin, there was examined and approved the Formula of Vows, written at the ened of the three Copies of the Constitutions.

Thus, was finished the Revision of the Constitutions; then, the last steps were taken up for the consideration, before submitting them **for the Approbation of the Holy See**. And, it was established that before this was done, they should first be touched up, and corrected in the wording in those places in which correction was needed, or of the grammar, or for greater clarity – always saving the substance, and the integrity of the concept. This ulterior revision of the form was entrusted to Fr. Paul Gradinati and Fr. Alexis Magagna, who, on the completion of their work, will present it to the Superior, who together with his Councilors, will examine to see if the introduced modifications have left intact the substance of the Constitutions; this version, corrected in a better form, will then be presented by the superior to one, or two externs, competent in these matters, so that they might give their judgment on them, in writing. This private and friendly judgment will be made known by the Superior to all the **Graduates**; and if, following this judgment, or opinion, it may be considered worthy to introduce into the substance of the Constitutions, some modifications, the same **Graduates** will be informed, and, as soon as possible, they will be called, or better, re-called into a Chapter, to give their decisive vote on the Constitutions to be **submitted to the examination of Holy Church**.

Having terminated all this with common accord, there was taken up the Election of the Councilors, the Master of Novices and the examiners, for the Admission into the Novitiate, and to Profession, as was asked by the **Twelfth** and last **Proposal** of the List.

And first, there was taken up the Election of two General Councilors, one to substitute for the deceased Fr. Vincent Vignola, and the other for Fr. Louis Morando, elected temporarily by the Chapter of the House of the Stimmate, and the Directors of the other Houses.

The ballots were distributed, and then collected, and the following were elected: Fr. Louis Morando, with 8 [eight] votes, and Frs. Bartholomew Perazzani and James Marini with 7 [seven].

These last two, then, were placed on the ballot, and Fr. James Marini was elected with 8 [eight] votes, to 7 [seven], with 15 voting, and the two Fathers on the ballot abstaining.

ORDER OF THE MATTERS TO BE DONE AT THE DEATH OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS ¹¹⁵

I. When a sick member has entered into his agony, the announcement of this will be given by the tolling of he bell.

II. When he has expired [if the hour is opportune], there will be given three tolls, with all the bells, if he is in Major Orders, and with three of them if he is in Minor Orders, or if he is a Brother.

The Director will communicate the news of the death, as soon as possible, to all the Houses, that the due suffrages for the deceased may be fulfilled.

III. The evening before the funeral, and in the morning at the *Angelus*, there will be given a sign with all the bells, and another sign before the office is recited, with the body present, even if the Deceased is a Brother, which will also be a sign of the transferal of the body of the Deceased into the Church.

IV. The body in the casket, and on the bier, covered with a veil, and if he is a Priest, with the stole and Biretta; or, if he is a Cleric, with the surplice, will be put in an opportune place of the House [at the Stimmate, in the entrance], to be transferred to the Church.

V. If he is a Priest, the body will be taken at the assigned time, with the prayers of the Ritual said by the Director of the House, or another Priest, assigned by him, in a cope, and assisted by a deacon, and Sub-deacon in Tunicella, and six [6] other Priests in Surplices, with a lighted candle in their hands.

VI. The order of the transferal, or transport to the Church, will be the following: a Cleric will lead, with the processional Cross, and two candle bearers, followed by another with the Holy Water: then, the Priests in surplices with the Assistants, and the casket carried by six [6] Lay Brothers, or, by externs, acceptable in the judgment of the Director. Around the bier, four [4] torches will be carried by four Lay Brothers, who, after having placed them in the candlesticks, the torches will burn around the bier during the Nocturn, the Mass and the Prayers: after the casket, will follow immediately all those of the House, who can be present, **dressed in their habits**, that they will wear on the way out of the house, in the following order:

First, the Priests; then, the Clerics, the Professed, the Novices, the young aspirants [//and all // with lighted candles // in their hands//.] ¹¹⁶

VII. If the Deceased is the Superior General, the Priests, with surplices, will be the largest number possible, and there will be six [6] torches.

VIII. If the deceased is a Cleric, or Lay Brother, the Director will officiate, or another Priest, in surplice and stole, with four [4] other Priests, and always with lighted candles in their hands: the rest is as above, with the exception that there will follow immediately, after the bier, those of the Class of the Deceased, that is, the professed, if the Deceased was a Professed, the Novices, if the Deceased was a Novice, etc.

IX. On entering the Church, there will be sung, according to the prescripts of the Roman Ritual, the *Subvenite*, and when the body has been put on the bier, and the torches placed around it in the Candlesticks, the Invitatory, *Rege, cui omnia vivunt*, will be intoned by two Priests; then will be sung the Nocturn, occurring that day, then the Litany of the Saints, and the Mass of *Requieum*, in *terzo*. the candles will again be lighted, the Absolution will be given, according to the Roman Ritual.

¹¹⁵ These Funeral Regulations were asked for by the **XIth Chapter** in the Vth Session, September 20, 1889, and entrusted to Frs. Bassi and Gradinati. They appear on lined, squared paper, 17 x 11, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 and one half by 11 inches. The norm cover 3 sides of this paper.

¹¹⁶ These words were later crossed out.

ACCOMPANIMENT TO THE CEMETERY

X. When the Absolution has been terminated, the casket will be placed by the pall-bearers, on a carriage of the IIIrd Class, that is prescribed for all, without distinction, except for the Superior general, for whom there will be a Second Class carriage.

XI. With the Cross preceding, and two Priests ¹¹⁷ in Surplice and with a lighted candle in his hand [whether the Deceased be a Priest, or Lay Brother], or by six, if he is the Superior general, the body will be taken to the cemetery, accompanied by the same class as the Deceased. The Director, then, will permit externs to take part, with such manifestations of honor, that do not detract from the modesty of a religious.

Notes

I. The torches will be carried by four, or six Lay Brothers, or Aspirants.

II. The evening of November 1st, and the morning of the IIInd, at the Absolution, that will be imparted in the Cemetery, a torch will burn over the tomb of our Congregation.

III. When the Deceased is a Priest, word will be sent in due time, to the Brothers of the Cemetery, so that they might receive the body, with the ritual Absolution. With them, the Director, or whoever takes hisplace, will then leave his own candle.

IV. The other Houses will conform as much as is possible with these regulations, having regard for the legitimate customs of the Diocese.

**In accord with the Dispositons of the
XIth General Congregation.**

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup. Gen.



¹¹⁷ A change was later inserted, in pencil, to “one Priest”, perhaps later.

