

XIIth

GENERAL CONGREGATION

September 14 – October 3, 1890

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ACTS

of the

XIith GENERAL CHAPTER

September 24 – October 3, 1890

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ACTS

of the

XIIth GENERAL CHAPTER ¹

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¹ The *Acts of this XIIth General Chapter*, one of the stormiest in our History, are contained on 32 pages of white, unlined paper, 8 and one half by 12 inches. There is an inch and a half margin at the bottom, and one and one fourth inches at the top.

[Letter of Resignation of Fr. Dominic Vicentini from the Office of Procurator
General]

J. M. J. ²

Verona, the 17th of April, 1890

Very Reverend Fr. Superior,

When I was entrusted by Your Reverence to assume the Office of Procurator and Administrator, I accepted it rather unwillingly, and to take your Reverence out of an embarrassing situation, in which it seemed to me, you were in, because of the insistence of Fr. Marini to resign. Now, however, I am becoming all the more aware of the mistake that I made in accepting this, as I realize ever more clearly that this Office is not for me.

First of all, I have no understanding of the country, and there would be needed some time to become experienced in this work. Therefore, to avoid serious mistakes, I would have to dedicate myself almost exclusively to it, which for me, would be difficult, as, I confess, I find it hard to go here and there, through the country, for this purpose. I would not want to tell you the other reasons, which I also have, but I petition Your Reverence to speak of this to your Council, to see if this Office might be transferred to someone else, before I take over, so to speak, the complete exercise of it. It would be much better to make the change now, rather than after one or two years. It seems to me that this would not be impossible, even when Fr. Marini did not wish to resume the Office, which, so to speak, he managed very well, and in which he could very well have continued.

These things which I could have told you verbally, I preferred to write them to you, so that you might speak of them with your Councilors.

With profound respect, and my humble protestations, that I have for y our Paternity, I am

Your most humble and Obedient son in the Lord,

Fr. Dominic Vicentini

² This is the usual place for the customary Proposals. First, though, there is this Letter from Fr. D. Vicentini, as he did not want to continue as Procurator General, written to the Superior General, 5 months prior to the General Chapter. It appears on white, lined paper, 8 by 10 and one half inches.

Order of this Convocation³

1. Communicate and promulgate the Decree of Approbation of the Congregation.
2. To hear its intentions in accepting and applying the Observations that were communicated to it.
3. To decide in what way it will be added to our Rules.
4. To thank our [/////]⁴...which, with such sacrifice, patience and understanding that were employed in obtaining this Decree, and that all will render their thanks to God with the *Te, Deum* with which the Prayers begin...
5. To communicate immediately the application of the Rule with a formal General Chapter, whose Minutes will be drawn up in a most regular manner, so that then they may be presented to the Sacred Congregation.
6. The application of the Rule will begin with the Election of the new Superior: as I have achieved the scope that was entrusted to me in assuming the Office of Superior, that is the Approbation of the Institute, and the establishment of the Schools – *Now, dismiss, O Lord...!*⁵

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 1st The assembled Congregation⁶ is asked to examine seriously what is the spirit, and the observance in the individual Houses, and to make efficacious provisions to restore this, if there is any need⁷.

2nd The same Congregation is asked to consider whether the property that we possess in Verona might be mortgaged for money, in so far as it might be needed, for the maintenance of the House of Rome: I, who was a Councilor, do not understand this clearly, or now much of an allotment was made.

Fr. Mark Bassi, **Graduate**

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³ Next appears a series of papers, the majority of which are not dated. We will consider them as having been presented on September 24, 1890, the first day of the **XIIth General Chapter**.

The first is on a slip of lined paper, 4 by 6 and one fourth inches, that seems to be in the Superior General's challenging hand-writing. It appears to be an outline for his customary Conference to the Capitulars, or reminders for himself. The top and right edge seem to indicate that this was torn from a larger piece of paper the writing, that appears only on the front side, is very hard to decipher.

⁴ The word here is crossed out in the original.

⁵ This needs to be noted :Fr. P. Vignola was already 78 years old here – he would pass away on August 23, 1891, less than a year from this time. He is singing his *Nunc Dimittis* here because he feels that he has accomplished what he was elected to do: **seek the Approval of the Institute**, and **establish the Schools** - for many confreres were convinced that they were a most important aspect of the **Apostolic Mission, one of the principal ends of the Congregation** [cf. Proposal of the Stimmate, Feb. 24, 1874 – and in the many General Chapters since that time the question of the schools arose repeatedly – long before this **XIIth General Chapter**. The only real objection was the number of confreres who were assigned to this one work.

⁶ Next appear the Proposals of Fr. Mark Bassi, on white, lined paper, 10 and one fourth by 8 and one fourth inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 5 and one eighth by 8 and one fourth inches. Fr. Bassi wrote only on the first side.

⁷ Fr. Bassi submitted this same Proposal in earlier Chapters cf. **IXth; Xth; XIth General Chapters** - more or less with the same wording, always the same concern.

Proposals of Fr. Paul Gradinati ⁸

1. A total separation of the House of St. Teresa, which is a House of Formation, from that of the Stimmate, which is a House of the Older Men, with their own Director and Officials.
2. To assign an amount of money to provide for the assisting the serious poverty of the parents of the members of our Congregation; and the creation of a Commission to verify the degree of necessity, and to assign a fitting assistance, or to decide if their son should leave, to assist his own parents.
3. A Regulation on that which is to be done for the death and funerals of our own members ⁹.

Fr. Gradinati

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Matters to be Proposed to the Congregation ¹⁰

1st Can there be granted to each Priest more than three Masses a year, to be celebrated according to his own intentions?

2nd When it does appear that there is a true need, under which the parents of a Priest member of the Congregation are laboring, can it be established that he be allowed to keep the alms of his Masses, for one or more months, according to the case?

⁸ Fr. Paul Gradinati's Proposals are next. They are identical to those recorded on September 13, 1889, of the previous **General Chapter**, also attributed to him. As a result, there is some question whether these proposals belong in this **XIIth General Chapter** folder, or should they be placed in the folder of the **previous General Chapter**. The proposals appear on a slip of paper, 8 inches by 6 inches, that is white and without lines. It is folded to make 4 writing sides, 4 by 6 inches. Fr. Gradinati wrote only on side one. However, other than the funerals, this **XIIth Chapter** did discuss his proposals.

⁹ As may be remembered, this already took place in the last Chapter – an entire Ritual had been worked out and placed at the end of the translation of the **Constitutions 1881-1889** – adding to the speculation that this paper really belongs under the previous **XIth General Chapter**.

¹⁰ These next proposals are undated, and unsigned, but seem to be those of Fr. Louis Gasperotti. They appear on a slip of lined paper, 5 and one quarter by 5 and three quarter inches, with very neat handwriting.

**Proposals presented to the XIIth General Chapter by
Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Capitular ¹¹**

1st He asks whether the Chapter might wish to examine if it would be better to give up the Elementary School of Parma, to adhere to the desire of some who would prefer to be more occupied in the Exercises of the Sacred ¹² Ministry, without the impediment of the Schools ¹³.

2. He petitions that there be examined whether it would be better for our Clerics, subject to the draft, to make a year of voluntary service. At least, he would wish that a norm, as clear as possible, be established, suited to maintain the spirit ... in our young members, taken away by the tyranny of military law.

3rd He asks, together with the **Decree of Approbation**, the earlier **Decree of Praise** for the Institute, be promulgated. And ordered to be read in all the Houses.

4 ¹⁴ He desires that there be studied and decided, whether with the Office of General Councilor, other Offices and duties, that are appointed by the General Council, would be compatible from now on.

5 ¹⁵ Whether negotiations should be begun to promote the Cause of our Founder.

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¹¹ These last Proposals are those of Fr. Tabarelli. They appear on white, lined paper, 13 and one half by 9 and one fourth inches, folded to make four writing sides, 6 and three-fourths by 9 and one fourth inches. Fr. Tabarelli wrote only on side one. They are dated the opening day of the Chapter.

¹² This is under-lined in pencil.

¹³ The left hand side of this Proposal is marked with red crayon. Perhaps this is so, and was added later, as Fr. Tabarelli is always considered as the strong advocate of the Apostolic Mission of the Schools. And here he is proposing that those in Parma be closed. It is not so much that the concept of the schools was offensive – as this concept appeared in every General Chapter since 1874, when they were considered *one of the principal ends of the Congregation*. The problem had shifted – too many of the Confreres were being assigned to teaching school, with the heavy burden of study that these demanded, not leaving much time for other aspects of the Ministry of the Apostolic Mission.

¹⁴ This was crossed out – apparently sometime later – in blue and red crayon.

¹⁵ This was written in pencil.

**Minutes¹⁶
of the XIIth General Chapter.
held from the 24th of September to the 3rd of October,
inclusively – In the year of the Lord, 1890.**

**In the year of the Lord, 1890.
This 24th day of September, at 10:00 o'clock in the Morning.**

**In the Name of the Lord. Amen
Minutes of the XIIth General Chapter.**

Following the convocation of the Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, Peter Vignola, made by the Decree of the 15th of September of this year, today, in the Mother House of the Stimmate¹⁷, in Verona, the following Capitulars were convened and gathered in the Domestic Oratory:

Very Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup. Gen.	Rev. Fr. Joseph Zandonai, Capitular ¹⁸
.. Fr. Mark Bassi, Gen. Counc. and Admonitor	.. Fr. Melchiade Vivari ..
.. Fr. Joseph Sembianti Fr. Anthony Oss Bals ..
.. Fr. Louis Morando Fr. Paul Gradinati ..
.. Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella ..
.. Fr. Francis Benciolini, Capitular	.. Fr. Louis Gasperotti ..
.. Fr. Dominic Vicentini Fr. Joseph Marocchi ..
.. Fr. Pio Gurisatti Fr. Nicholas Tommasi ..
.. Fr. James Marini Fr. Albano Clemente ..
.. Fr. Richard Tabarelli Fr. Stephen Rosa ..
.. Fr. Alexis Magagna Fr. Julius Zambiasi ..
.. Fr. Joseph Marchesini Octavian Piccoli ..

The following give Capitulars are absent because of justified reasons: Fr. Peter Beltraimi, Fr. Angelo Graziani, Fr. Julius Zanini, Fr. Ludovicus Luchi and Fr. Joseph Bertapelle.

When the usual prayers had been said, and each one had taken his place, it was unanimously declared that the Chapter was full and legitimate.

It then took up the Election of the Secretary of the Chapter, and Fr. Richard Tabarelli was elected.

¹⁶ Next come the 33 blue-covered pages of the **Minutes of this Chapter**.

¹⁷ The word *Stimmate* sometimes appears with two m's, sometimes with one. Fr. Tabarelli usually wrote it with two m's, as is done most commonly now.

¹⁸ Fr. Zandonai's name begins the top of page 2 in the original Minutes.

At this point, the Very Rev. Fr. Superior exposed the principal motives for which the Chapter was assembled, that are the following:

1st Communication and promulgation of the **Decree of Approbation**, and of the accompanying Observations to hear the views of the Chapter concerning them.

2nd Deliberation concerning the manner of carrying out immediately the renewed Constitutions. To begin this fulfillment the Superior General manifested his decision to see that the Chapter proceed to the Election of the new Superior, for ten years, by declaring in a most moving manner that he could lay down the Office of Superior, now that the **Approbation of the Institute** had been obtained, and the **Institution of the Schools**¹⁹ had been completed, the projects that had formed **the principal scope of his cares for the good of the Institute itself.**

After this, the Secretary read the **Decree of Approbation**, and the accompanying Observations, in which Acts, the Chapter reserved to express itself respectfully its feelings for this afternoon.

In the meantime, a Commission of three Capitulars was nominated, whose task it would be to examine together with the Superior, and with the Secretary, the proposals to be submitted to the treatment of the Chapter. The following were elected: the Rev. Frs. Joseph Marocchi, Bartholomew Perazzani and Dominic Vicentini.

To this Commission of Five, there was also assigned the preliminary study of the correction of the Constitutions, according to the Observations of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and regulars.

Here, Fr. Dominic Vicentini asked to be exonerated from this last assignment, because of his manifold occupations for the administration. This request was put to a vote, and it was accepted with 15 votes to six, with three abstaining.

Fr. Louis Morando was substituted for him.

¹⁹ Even a rapid survey of the previous General Chapters since 1874, would show how often the question of the Schools had come up – soon after Fr. Marani's death, who did not favor them as a viable Apostolate, considering them merely as a *palliative*, a 'cover', to hide Fr. Bertoni's real idea – however, there was always near unanimity in behalf of the schools all these years by the General Chapters. However, at this time in our history, even Fr. Tabarelli realized that it was the one apostolate consuming large segments of the membership, stifling other possibilities in the broad scope of Fr. Bertoni's **Apostolic Mission – cf. Part IX of his *Original Constitutions*.**

Verona, Sept. 25, 1890 ²¹

Venerated Congregation of the former Apostolic Missionaries, for the service of Bishops.

The under-signed Member of this Congregation, not seeing, even in the General Chapter, a serious and sincere will to remedy the inconveniences that upset his life, humbly requests the faculty of providing for himself, by thus removing the obstacle that his presence might bring to the consolidation of the Institute in the Chapter, and in the Congregation itself.

With confidence that there will not be aggravated against him any bitterness at this terrible step, but rather compassion for him, and in so far as it is possible, that some affection be retained for him, he signs

Fr. Joseph Marocchi

IInd Session
25th of September 1890

This morning, all the Capitulars were assembled, among them Fr. Francis Benciolini. First there was read the Italian translation of the **Decree of Approbation** that is to be communicated to all the Houses; the translation was unanimously approved.

Then, there was taken up the matter of proposing this request, contained in the second motive for the Convocation of the Chapter, as exposed by the Superior: namely, whether the Chapter intends and declares that there ought to be in force from now on, those legitimate Constitutions of ours, that most recently the Holy See studied, and which are to be corrected following the study of the established Commission, and the special decision of the Chapter, according to the observations made and communicated to us, by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars.

While this point was being discussed, there arose an unpleasant incident, where two Members withdrew from the Chapter, namely, Fr. Dominic Vicentini ²² and Fr. Joseph Marocchi, who presented to the Chapter, their formal requests: the first, to be released from his vows, and the second, to have the faculty of providing for himself.

Not was taken of these requests, and they will be examined in the afternoon Session.

²¹ Fr. Marocchi's Letter of Sept. 25, 1890, is found in the Folder of the **XIVth General Chapter**, but due to its date and content, it really belongs in this **XIIth General Chapter** folder. It was written on a faintly-lined paper, 10 and one half inches by 8 and one fourth inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 5 and one fourth by 8 and one fourth inches. Fr. Marocchi wrote only on side one. Fr. D. Vicentini's letters would appear later under date of October 3, 1890..

²² Fr. D. Vicentini's Letter of seeking Dispensation from his Vows here cannot be found.

In the meantime, the Proposal had been made concerning the intention of the Chapter, to adopt as its legitimate Constitutions from now on, those recently studied by the Holy See with the Modifications that were introduced, following the most recent observations.

Voting 21
19 responded Yes[nineteen]
2[two] responded No.

THEREFORE, THE CONSTITUTIONS, AS EXPOSED ABOVE, WERE ADOPTED.

Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.

This morning's incident was taken up first of all, in which Fr. Dominic Vicentini and Fr. Joseph Marocchi withdrew; it was decided to give them time to reflect, putting off their request until the end of the Chapter, and meanwhile, entrusting the Superior to employ every argument to bring these subjects to better sentiments.

There was taken up the Election of another Member of the Commission, to substitute for Fr. Joseph Marocchi. Fr. Paul Gradinati was elected.

Following this, it was decided to suspend the Session to give time to the Commission to draw up the List of matters to be treated.

Verona, September 25, 1890 ²³

**Venerable General Chapter of the Priests of the Stigmata
Verona**

Toward the end of 1879, I presented a request to the Very Rev. Peter Vignola, Superior General of the Stimmate ²⁴, to be released from the Vows that I made in the Congregation, over which he presides. This request shortly thereafter, I suspended, but I did not withdraw, as results from the Minutes that were taken on that occasion. Now, today, I renew that same request, for reasons that I do not think it opportune to manifest here, to this Ven. General Chapter, and I ask to be released from the obligations of my Vows, in the manner established in the old Constitutions of this Congregation.

It grieved me so very much to see myself driven to this determination, and it bothers more today, eleven years later.

I thank the Very Rev. Superior for the benevolence and kindness that he always manifested toward me, and with him, all the members of the Congregation,

²³ Fr. Sembianti's Letter is dated this 2nd Day of the assembled General Chapter. It, too, is found in the **XIVth General Chapter** folder, but by date and content seems to belong to this **XIIth General Chapter**. It was written on a faintly lined paper, 10 and one half by 8 and one fourth inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 5 and one quarter by 8 and one quarter inches. Fr. Sembianti wrote on every other line, and used only the front side of the paper.

²⁴ Cf. Documentation preceding the **IXth General Chapter**, February 1880.

7. The **Matter of the Schools**, according to what is indicated in the Decree of Convocation of the Chapter.
8. The matter of the request of the Dispensation from the Vows, and the Dismissal from the Institute, of Fr. J. Baptist Cavinato, Professed Priest.
9. There was remitted to the Superior and his Council, the Proposal of the Gen. Councilor, Fr. Mark Bassi, concerning religious discipline of our Houses, and the financial state of the House of the Stimmate. It is believed that the Superior General and the General Councilors, will find in the new Constitutions, efficacious means to provide for the maintenance and increase of the religious spirit, having special care that charity and silence be observed.

The above List was approved, and immediately there was taken up the discussion of the First Observation to be introduced and accepted in our Constitutions, regarding the title of the Institute. Here, following the desire of some, this question was put to a vote: Does the Chapter desire that a Petition be submitted to the holy See, so that the Title **Priests of the Stigmata**, etc., contained in the **Decree of Praise**, and in that of the Approbation, be changed to this other one: **Missionary Priests of the Stigmata**, etc.

There were 19 voting, as Fr. Mark Bassi, and Fr. Francis Benciolini were absent, because of an indisposition.

Yes	6
No	12
Abstentions	1

THEREFORE, THE TITLE, AS IT IS IN THE DECREE, IS RETAINED.

The Second Observation was now taken up²⁵.

After having read the study of the Commission on this point, and having made a long and diligent discussion on it, it was established to give the Capitulars time to study the question more profoundly, by putting off the definitive decision until after the treatment of the fifth [5] number of the Proposals on the List.

The Third Observation was now taken up.

According to this, it is decided to suppress in **Part I**, n. 1, the word, *Clerics*, - the resulting wording would be this: *It is made up of Priests and Lay Brothers*.

²⁵ Perhaps this is the discussion of the Session of September 27th – but, Fr. Tabarelli's style as Secretary is not as precise as that of the late Fr. Vincent Vignola.

Incidentally, it was established to insert in number 1 of the same part, before the words: *the Bishops of the Catholic Church*, the following words: *The Apostolic See, and ...*

So also regarding the second wording of the same Observation, this phrase was changed *at the same time, the members, working for Christian perfection*, to this one: *The Members, striving for their own sanctification*, without the introductory: *at the same time*.

In n. 3 of the same Chapter I, the last two lines of the first sentence were deleted, that is, from the words: *always observing*, etc., down to the word, *moderation*.

N. 4 of the same Chapter was modified thus: *All of these works, the Congregation will offer gratuitously, demanding nothing in compensation for their ministry; there can, however, be accepted whatever is spontaneously offered, on the occasion of the Sacred Ministry*.

N. 5 was corrected thus: *The members are forbidden to accept dignities, residences and benefices*.

In n. 8, of the same part, the sentence: *Priests will wear the cassock, unless a just cause demands otherwise* - will be changed to this: *Clerics will wear the cassock...*

In the same way, for n 7, of the same Part, after the words: *All the members*, there were inserted these four words: *Both Priests and Brothers...*

Then the Chapter went on to the **IInd Part** of the Constitutions.

According to the Fourth Observation, the following words were added to the first number of Chapter I: *Moreover, no one is to be received, either among the Lay-Brothers, or among the Priests, after the age of 45, unless special reasons persuade the Superior General and his Council otherwise*.

N. 3 is to be corrected thus: *Bonds of marriage*.

In n. 4, before the word *approved*, there should be inserted, *by the Apostolic see*: thus, it will read: *In like manner, a Novitiate that has been begun in an Order, or Congregation, approved by the Apostolic See, or our own...*

N. 6 is to be rendered thus: *Defects of birth, or a good reputation, and birth from a Jewish father*.

N. 7: *Heresy, schism, or even a major excommunication, even though this might have been declared to have been withdrawn: so, too, homicide, or mutilation. Moreover, all other impediments which infer irregularity in Canon Law, exclude entrance to*

Clerics into this Congregation, unless a dispensation of the Apostolic See has been obtained.

To comply with the fifth observation, there was taken out of the Constitutions, Chapter III, of **Part II**, that treats of the Aspirants. The Chapter, however, wishes that all that is established in the said Chapter for the Admission, etc., of the Aspirants, be observed as our own special regulation.

Then, the 6th observation was taken up:

In Chapter V, of **Part II**, n. 6, at the end of the last sentence, it is to be corrected as follows: *Although the care of hearing the Confession of Novices is committed to the Master alone, the Novices may ask the Superior for an extraordinary Confessor several times a year.*

In n. 9 of the same Part: *The Cleric Novices, in the first year of their Novitiate, cannot be applied to the study of letters and sciences. Lay Brothers, however, since the exercises of piety, etc. [as it was before].*

According to the 7th Observation, Chapters II, III and IV of **Part II**, ought to be entitled *On the Vow and Virtue of Poverty; On the Vow and Virtue of Chastity; On the Vow and Virtue of Obedience.* ²⁶

The eighth Observation brought about the cancellation of these words in parentheses, from Chapter II, of **Part III**, n. 1: *excepting some special case, and with the express permission of the Superior General, and totally under his judgment.*

There was also deleted the first sentence of n. 7 of the same Chapter: *There will not be, etc.*, and the second sentence was emended in this manner: *Alms for Masses, and other pious offerings, can be accepted by our members, with that which follows.*

In v. 14, at the word, *accept*, a substitution was made with this: *demand*.

In Chapter II, of **Part II**, n. 2, the following words were added: *in so far as it can be done*, before the words *with a companion*. There was also deleted in the second sentence of n. 3, *if anything moreover, etc.*, to comply with the 9th Observation.

N. 4, then, was re-written thus: *No one is to speak with a woman, or hear her Confession, unless in an open place, so that those who are conversing can be seen....*

²⁶ This might have been a Sunday afternoon Session, September 28th.

From n. 5, there was deleted the second half of the words: *or those who are as the paronyms of our Lord Jesus Christ...*, down to the period. And the first part will read thus: *Whose way of life is angelic.*

N. 7 was deleted from there.

In Chapter IV, n. 6, after the words: *the Holy See*, there were added also these: *or, to the Diocesan Bishop.*

N. 14 of the same Chapter was deleted.

N. 15 was re-phrased thus: *All our Priests will celebrate Mass once a month for our deceased members. All the other confreres, moreover, will say the Third Part of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or perform the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, and will remember them by offering Holy Communion for them. Moreover, in the Church of the principal house, a Solemn Mass **Requiem** will be celebrated on the day of the Commemoration of all the faithful Departed, on which day, those who are not Priests, will receive Holy Communion, and recite a Third Part of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Going on to the **IVth Part**, Chapter I, n. 1, in place of the expression, *but the perfect knowledge of all things*, there is to be placed this other one: *more than ordinary knowledge of these things*, etc.

In Chapter II, n. 2, instead of *Ecclesiastical Jurisprudence*, there is to be said Canon Law.

In n. 5, of the same Chapter, instead of *superior class*, there is to be placed *superior course*.

In n. 6, of the same Chapter, after the words, *of Sacred Scripture*, there is also to be added *of Canon Law*.

In Chapter III, n. 10, the phrase *en excessive exercise of piety*, is to be changed to this: *too many exercises of piety*.

Chapter IV is to be reformed in its enumeration, leaving out the phrase: *and to the Grade of Apostolic Missionary*²⁷.

In n. 2, of the same Chapter, the second sentence will read thus: *Then, at least, they can be removed from the House of Studies, and **gradually be exercised***²⁸ *with the Approbation of the Ordinary, in hearing the Confessions of men, and in giving sermons in our Churches, under the direction of Corrector, assigned by the Superior, or the Director: also, in teaching Catechism to children, and the uneducated. Moreover, they are to take part, etc., with that which follows.*

At the end of n. 3, of this same Chapter, there are to be added these words: *having first sought the permission of the Ordinary...*

N. 4 is to be deleted²⁹.

Chapter V is to be entitled: *On the Coadjutor Lay Brothers.*

N. 1 of this Chapter is to be omitted.

In n. 4 of this Chapter, there is to be omitted the following: *Nevertheless, since God has commanded each one concerning his fellow man,* accommodating the rest of this number, and also n. 2 of this Chapter, according to what would be necessary for good sense. All this devolves on the Commission to establish³⁰.

Then **Part V** was taken up.

In Chapter I, n. 2 should be changed thus: *In addition to the Superior General with his Councilors, the following will attend the general Chapter: 1. The Directors of*

²⁷ The Holy See ordered this **Grade** eliminated because it was the exclusive prerogative of the Holy See to confer this Degree. This ruling on the part of the Holy See was accepted without discussion, of course – the historical fact remains, though, for this special category of membership, hoped for by Fr. Bertoni, was **conferred for a wide variety of reasons** in addition to giving Parish Missions viz., preaching retreats, teaching the sacred sciences for four years; to be a superior of a house for three years; youth work, and other valuable services rendered to the Church and the Congregation – this promotion was determined according to the qualities of the recipients [CF # 7]

²⁸ The gradual insertion into the Apostolic Mission is a mark of both St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. Gaspar Bertoni – there is built into his original Constitutions the Spiritual, Intellectual, Apostolic and Juridical Progress of the members, in order to reach the **perfect priestly work** [cf. CF # 7], **the more important ministries** [CF # 158] – **the varied and proper ministries of this difficult vocation** [CF # 185] – **all accommodated to the end of the Congregation** [CF # 262].

²⁹ This is the number that served as a photograph for the early years of conferring the dignity of Apostolic Missionary – describing the qualities of the recipients [CF # 7]. This may be consulted by conferring the translation of *CONSTITUTIONS 1881-1889, Part IV, Chapter IV, n. 4* – here deleted.

³⁰ Perhaps the Session for September 29th began right here.

the Houses that are constituted according to the canonical number, i.e., in which there are at least four Professed Priests, and at least two Professed Lay Brothers. 2. Another member chosen by the Chapter of the individual houses. 3. If there should be a House, not as yet constituted canonically, according to the number, one from the house, who is eligible, is to be elected. Moreover, eligible members are those who have both active and passive voice, and only those who are thirty five years of age, and who have received the priesthood, with at least five years of Profession. Furthermore, all the others who are eligible, having the prescribed years of Profession, also enjoy passive voice, even though they have not been elected to the Chapter. Directors, however, who perhaps have not yet reached this age, enjoy only active voice in the Chapter. This point was adopted unanimously by secret ballot.

N. 4 was deleted.

In n. 5, these words were taken out: *That is, where,* etc., down to the period. In the last sentence, before the last word, these words were inserted: *By the Superior, with the consent of his Councilors.*

So also in n. 9, of the same Chapter, these words were omitted: *At the tomb of the Founder...*

In n. 16, of the same Chapter, instead of the expression *of a third part,* there was placed *a major part.*

In Chapter II, n. 7, after the words: *of the Holy Spirit,* there are to be inserted: *if the Liturgy permits.*

In the same Chapter, n. 11, these words were deleted: *a third scrutiny.*

N. 12 is to be corrected thus: *If, however, in this double trial of votes, no one has received an absolute plurality of ballots, the third vote will be put off until the following day, so that the Electors might ponder the matter more maturely. But, if after a third attempt, the results are not brought about, the Election is to be submitted to the sacred Congregation, to which all the Acts are sent.*

In n. 15 of the same Chapter, the last sentence is to be deleted.

In Chap. III, n. 2, the last sentence is to be deleted.

In n. 3 of the same Chapter, these words are to be added; *Moreover, every three years, he will send to the Sacred Congregation, a Report on the material and spiritual state of the entire Institute.*

In the same Chapter, n 6 is to be deleted.

In the same Chapter, in n. 8, the last words are to be omitted: *by a single vote, etc.*

In Chapter IV, n. 4, before the last sentence, there are to be inserted these words: *Maintaining the right concerning alienations of the Ordinaries and the Holy See, according to the prescripts of the sacred Canons.*

In n. 5, these words are also to be inserted: *always maintaining the right of the Holy See, according to the prescripts of the Sacred Canons.*

In Chapter V, n. 5, before the words: *cannot be... of the Missions*, there are to be inserted these words: *always maintaining the right of the Apostolic See, concerning alienations.*

In n. 7, there is to be canceled the word some, and this other is to be inserted: *grave necessity.*

In Chapter I, n. 15, of the same **Part V**, these words are to be inserted: *Nevertheless, it is free for each one to propose those things which were perhaps rejected by the Deputies, and they are to be discussed in the Chapter.*

Similarly, in Chapter V, of Part V, n. 5: the last sentence, which begins: *It could not, etc.*, is to be modified thus: *He could not...those preaching assignments, and any functions whatsoever, or pious works of beneficence, etc.*, as follows:

This morning, September 30th, the Minutes of this second Session were read, and closed with the signatures of the Capitulars.

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup. Gen.
Fr. Mark Bassi, G. C.
Fr. Louis Morando, G.C.
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani
Fr. Pio Gurisatti

The Chapter then went on to the Fourth Proposal, and accepted wholeheartedly that the Superior, at the proper time, begin negotiations to have a Cardinal Protector.

There was discussed the Fifth Proposal of Fr. Paul Gradinati, relative to the institution of a separate Student House, with its own Director.

The discussion went on for a long time, and the session was then suspended, and a further treatment of this was put off to another day. Meanwhile, the Chapter unanimously established that the first matter to be treated and discussed tomorrow, is that of the resignation of the Superior General, and the eventual nomination of a new Superior.

=====

On the 1st day of October 9:00 a.m.

The Session began with a reading of **Chapter II, Part IV**, that treats *Of the Election of the Superior General*, after which the Superior gave an exhortation, asking that the Chapter accept his resignation, and that it would take up a new Election, in observance of the new Constitutions.

The Chapter showed itself disposed to a new Election of a Superior, no longer 'for life', but for a ten year term, according to our Constitutions. After this, according to the rule, it proceeded to the Election of the Assistant for the Election of the Superior. When the ballots had been collected, Fr. Louis Morando had been elected.

Then, having recited the Hymn, *Veni Creator*, with the Oration: *O god, Who the hearts*, etc., the ballots were distributed by the Assistant, and then collected, the following were named:

Fr. B. Perazzani	2 [two] votes
Fr. Peter Vignola	17 [seventeen] votes
Fr. Richard Tabarelli	1 [one]
Fr. Louis Morando	1 [one]
Fr. Joseph Zandonai	1 [one] *

The correction of the preceeding page, line 10 (ten) is approved, on which there should be read, Fr. Joseph Zandonai 1 (one).³²

Since there were 22 [twenty-two] voting, and therefore, the majority of votes needed for the Election of the Superior was 12 [twelve], the Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola is

³² This is a footnote inserted by the Chapter Secretary, Fr. Tabarelli - as Fr. Zandonai's name was hardly legible, there was a footnote, that was explained, as indicated, on the next page of the **Original Minutes**.

elected Superior General; who was then proclaimed as such, by the Secretary, with the following Decree, according to the Constitutions:

SINCE, IN THE FULL AND LEGITIMATE CHAPTER, AFTER HAVING GATHERED THE NUMBER OF ALL THE VOTES, MORE THAN HALF OF THEM NAMED AND ELECTED the Rev. Fr. PETER VIGNOLA, I, RICHARD TABARELLI, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION, DECLARE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED Rev. Fr. PETER VIGNOLA, IS ELECTED THE SUPERIOR OF THE ENTIRE INSTITUTE OF THE PRIESTS OF THE SACRED STIGMATA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

**VERONA, THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER
IN THE YEAR 1890**

Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary of the Chapter.

[[Green Oval Seal:
INSTITUTE OF THE PRIESTS OF THE SACRED STIGMATA,
VERONA]]

After the preceding Decree had been read by the Secretary, all the Capitulars extended to the new Superior, Fr. Peter Vignola, elected for ten years, their reverence, in the manner established by our Constitutions.

Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.

The Chapter then proceeded to the Election of the General Councilors, to be added to the Superior General, for a five year term, according to our Constitutions. And first, there was distributed the ballots for the election of the First Councilor, who, in case of the death of the Superior General, is to take his place.

When the ballots had been collected and counted, Fr. Louis Morando was elected First Councilor.

It then went on to elect the Second Councilor, who must exercise also the functions of Procurator General. When the ballots were opened, Fr. James Marini had been elected Procurator General.

Then, the Election of the third General Councilor was taken up. Fr. Pio Gurisatti was elected. The Chapter was about to move on to elect the Fourth General Councilor, when Fr. Pio Gurisatti insisted on being exonerated from the Office of Councilor, to which he had been elected, and the Chapter then took up again the Election of the Third General Councilor. Fr. Alexis Magagna was elected the third General Councilor.

IVth Session
October 2nd 10:00 o'clock in the morning

After the Capitulars had been assembled, the Chapter proceeded to the treatment and decision on the Fifth Proposal, regarding the separation of the Studentate. The Chapter, recognizing the necessity of this separation, prescribed by the Sacred Canons, and by our Constitutions, adopts this project to comply with them, that is, that the house of St. Teresa be considered as the house of Novitiate, and the Studentate, and as, such, it is to be separated from the Stimate, in such a way that the Superior General be also the Director of the Mother House of the Stimate, and that a special Director will reside at St. teresa's, who with the other Fathers and Officials, especially assigned to this House, will attend, according to our Constitutions, to the religious education of our students. For the rest, it leaves to the Superior General, and to his Council, to choose in practice, the opportune means, to bring this project, described above, to reality.

Next on the Agenda, was the Sixth Proposal of Fr. Louis Gasperotti – in which there is asked if there can be granted to each Priest, more than three Masses a year, to be celebrated according to his own intentions?

Fr. Gasperotti, after hearing the reasons given in the discussion, withdrew his Proposal, and trusted, together with the Chapter, in the charity of the Directors, and Superiors, who will use due regard in particular cases.

The Seventh Proposal followed, in which there was asked when a genuine need becomes known, under which the parents of a Priest member of the Congregation are laboring, whether it can be established that in his favor, the alms for one or months may be granted?

The question was exposed in the sense of a similar one made last year by Fr. Paul Gradinati to the **XIth General Chapter**, namely, whether it would be better to make some provision to assist parents, who are truly needy, of the members of our Congregation, to whom they have recourse for help. In the discussion, this provision was proposed and adopted, that in the case that some members of our Institute have needy parents, who have recourse to them for help, the question of the obligation that these members have to assist them, and the manner of accomplishing this, be taken up by a Commission composed of the Superior General, or two General Councilors, and the Director of the House to which the said members pertain, and another priest, chosen by the Petitioner.

This Commission, even using if necessary, a secret ballot, must decide whether and to what degree this need truly exists, and what means of assistance might be proposed to the said members, who then can, and should acquiesce, in conscience, to this decision.

It would now have been the time to take up the Seventh Proposal, concerning the Schools, but it seemed better to all the Capitulars to treat first of the Eight Proposal, that is, the request of the release from the vows of some members of the Institute, and the matter of the dismissal of another Member.

And the discussion arose first on the request of Fr. Joseph Marocchi. It was decided to send, in the name of the Chapter, to the above-mentioned, Fr. Joseph Marocchi, two Priests, Fr. James Marini and Fr. Nicholas Tommasi, that they might seek in the best manner, to persuade the said Fr. J. Marocchi, to withdraw his request, and to manifest his decision.

Fr. Superior, also asked by the same Fr. Marocchi, went with them. Fr. Superior and the two other Fathers who were sent to hear out Fr. Marocchi reported back that he remains bitter in his request which has been presented; however, he asks for time, to reflect until tomorrow.

The Chapter, therefore, deliberated unanimously to grant until tomorrow morning to Fr. Marocchi the time that he might make his ultimate resolve.

Then, there was taken up the request of Fr. Dominic Vicentini. There were also sent to him in the name of the Chapters, Frs. Mark Bassi and Louis Morando, to hear him out, relative to his request.

They reported back that Fr. Dominic Vicentini intends to present tomorrow another letter, in which will be contained his ultimate decision. The Chapter unanimously agreed to this Petition.

Then, the Chapter came to the same matter, relative to Fr. Joseph Sembianti. It was discussed whether it was necessary also to send to him a Commission of the Chapter, and the decision was 'no', because the request that he now makes to be released from his vows, is but a representation of one made eleven years ago, and which he declares now that this had only been suspended, and not withdrawn.

Therefore, the Chapter, believing that it still has the faculty of releasing from the Vows made in our Institute, according to the old Constitutions, to which the said Fr. Joseph Sembianti made reference, before the new ones had been promulgated, the following Proposal was admitted to a secret vote:

Does the Chapter agree to release Fr. Joseph Sembianti as he asks in his letter of September 25th of this year, from the Vows made by him in this Institute, according to the old Constitutions, which explicitly grant to the General Chapter, the faculty of dispensing from them?

that this state of my soul might be harmful to my soul, and to the Congregation herself, were I to remain in it, after serious consideration on the step I am about to take, I ask and petition this Ven. Congregation to release me from my vows and obligations that bind me to it, according to the old Constitutions.

I implore and beseech my Confreres not to take any scandal from this resolution of mine, but rather to take this occasion to be encouraged to remain firm in their own good resolves, and to pray for me.

I ask, then, that the following declarations, which I believe I can make with a sure conscience, be accepted:

1st. That the idea of leaving the Congregation did not come to me in Africa, nor on my return from Africa, because of any illusions that I had; if my reason really is that of having been in Africa, God knows, but I do not.

2nd That no one, either Confreres, or externs, put this decision into my mind, not initiated, nor much less, with promises, and that up to this moment, I have not taken a single step or attempted to seek for myself any position whatsoever, and this, so that I would not compromise my resolution.

3rd I have the conviction of never having betrayed, neither here, nor anywhere else, neither near, nor far away, the confidence placed in me, by my Superiors.

4th Finally, I declare that I have no bad feelings toward anyone in the Congregation, no matter how different his way of thinking is from mine, and I ask pardon of all, if in any manner, I have offended him.

I thank the Congregation from my heart, for all the good it has done for me [and this is not a little], and in a special way, the Very Rev. Fr. Superior, to whom, I am painfully aware, how much bitterness this decision of mine is to cause.

I will try to hold on high the honor of the Congregation [as I always sought to do], and I will not spread gossip concerning its private affairs; but, I also ask my Confreres to have a little regarding by not attributing to me intentions that I do not have, or could not possibly have.

Verona, at the Stimmate, the 3rd of October 1890

Fr. Dominic Vicentini

†††††

The Session then got underway, with the reading of a Letter from Fr. Dominic Vicentini, in which he renews, or maintains his request of being released from the Vows taken in the Institute, asking that his first request, in abrupt form, be withdrawn, and that this one he now presents, be accepted. The following Proposal was put to a vote:

Does the Chapter believe it will release Fr. Dominic Vicentini from the Vows he took in the Institute, according to the old Constitutions?

There were 21 Voting, with Fr. Mark Bassi absent, because of an indisposition.

Yes 19 [nineteen]
No 2 [two]

The Chapter understands as above, that it is authorized by the old Constitutions to release Fr. Dominic Vicentini from his Vows, and declares that he is released from them, in so far as it is able, saving always, in so far as there is need of it, the rights of the Holy See.

△△△

Verona, October 3, 1890 ³⁷

Venerable General Chapter of the Priests of the Stigmata,

With this letter, the under-signed thanks the Venerable Chapter for its unmerited patience and affection, that it has shown to him, in these terrible moments. But, he must confess, that he does not find himself fully decided, even now, on a determined resolution, neither for one side, or for the other. Trusting in the goodness of his Confreres, the under-signed implores them, to condescend to give him a little further trial, according to the understanding reached with the Very Rev. Superior. Hoping for compassion and thanking all for their loving care in his behalf, he signs with all esteem and gratitude

Fr. Joseph Marocchi

At this point, Fr. Superior presented a letter of Fr. Joseph Marocchi, in which he asks the Chapter that a little further trial be given to him, before making any resolution in hi regard. The Chapter, interpreting this request, especially having regard to the form in which it was drawn up, as a happy indication of reconfirmation in his vocation, that temporarily was lessened, and very willingly grants to Fr. Marocchi the time he requests.

3:00 o'clock in the afternoon

The Session got underway by discussing the matter of the dismissal of J. Baptist Cavinato; and it seemed better that Fr. Superior and Fr. Mark Bassi might in the best and most efficacious manner possible, make the last appeals with the above-named, that in

³⁷ Fr. Marocchi's letter appears in the **XIVth General Chapter folder**. It is written on blue, lined paper, 10 and one half by 8 and one fourth inches, folded to make four writing sides, 5 and one fourth by 8 and one fourth inches. Fr. Marocchi wrote only on one side.

their judgment, might return him to regular observance, leaving, then, the decision on this matter to Fr. Superior and his Council.

Finally, there was taken up the question of the **Schools**. The Chapter, having heard the discussion and the long report, of one of the members on this matter, manifested its desire **to see the Schools presently existing, maintained** - in so far as this is possible without detriment to the health of the teachers, or of disciples, and, in a special way, those of the Mother House of the Stimmate. For the rest, the Chapter entrusts to the Superior and his Council, to make the judgment, after hearing the reasons of the faculty, with decisive authority, whether **the scarcity of the personnel**³⁸, or other reasons, might counsel, or demand the suppression of one or more of the classes, now existing.

At the end, it was unanimously decided that the [///new///] * Constitutions, as soon as they are copied over, according to the corrections made on them by the **Chapter**, in accord with the **observations of the sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars**, by the established Commission, and reviewed by the Superior and his Council, they will be printed, and then immediately, they will be promulgated by the Superior, in the name of the entire Chapter, and communicated to all the Directors and Superiors of the Houses, who will have the responsibility of making them known to all of their subjects.

[* this cancellation was approved – R. Tabarelli]³⁹.

Before closing, the Chapter unanimously established that there will be commemorated every year, on the day on which the Holy Father, Leo XIII approved our Institute, that is, the **5th**⁴⁰ **of September**, with the singing of the *Te, Deum* in all our Houses.

³⁸ Hence, the question of the Schools emerged in these Chapters [beginning with the **Vth Chapter, in February 1874**] not long after Fr. Marani's death. The 'concept' of the Schools was consistently admitted as a most valid aspect of the **Apostolic Mission** - the complaint here seems to have been in 1890 the number of schools and classes had become taxing on the available personnel, and was 'consuming' the available personnel resources, on this one aspect of the *graviora, varia et propria, accomodata ministeria* of the **Apostolic Mission**

³⁹ The adjective *new* was crossed out in the original text as noted in the margin of the Original Minutes. These Constitutions of the last Chapter had been reviewed by Rome – and meticulously studied by this **XIIth General Chapter** - these are the Constitutions that will be printed and distributed. In this Series, the translation of the Printed Constitutions appear as **CONSTITUTIONS 1890**.

⁴⁰ Fr. Tabarelli wrote **September 5th** as the date, but ordinarily the Stigmatines remember **September 15th, 1890**, as the date of the conferral of the **Decree of Approbation**.

When the Minutes had been read and signed, in this Fourth and last Session, the **XIIth General Chapter** was declared closed.

Verona, from the House of the Stimate – October 3, 1890

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup. Gen.
Fr. Louis Morando, G.C.
Fr. James Marini, id.
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzaini, id.
Fr. Alexis Magagna, id.
Fr. Francis Benciolini

Fr. Pio Gurisatti
Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Angelo M. Graziani
Fr. Melchiade Vivari
Fr. Joseph Zandonai
Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella
Fr. Anthony Oss Bals
Fr. Louis Gasperotti
Fr. Paul Gradinati
Fr. Louis Tommasi
Fr. Albano Clementi
Fr. Stephen Rosa
Fr. Julius Zambiasi
Fr. Joseph Bertapelle

The signature of *Fr. Octavian Piccoli* is missing, because he, a few minutes, before concluding the **Minutes**, had to leave on an urgent matter.

((Large Green Seal,
oval shaped:
**SODALITY OF THE
PRIESTS OF THE
SACRED STIGMATA,
VERONA**))

So it is, Praised be Jesus Christ.
Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary

#####

In the Name of the Lord. Amen. ⁴¹

Verona, this Friday, the 3rd day of October 1890, in the full and General Chapter, assembled by Convocation of the 15th of September last, there being presented the request for the release from his Vows, by the fugitive, Emil Giuliani, Professed Brother of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Stigmata, who has already been outside the Congregation for two years, and now desires this requested declaration, to be able to enter another Institute; his request was thus formulated:

Does the Chapter intend to release the above-mentioned Emil Giuliani from his vows?

The question was put to a vote, and there were 19 [nineteen] votes for Yes, and 1 [one] for No, and 1 abstained, there being 21 [twenty-one] voting.

Therefore, it is decided that he is released from the obligation of his Vows, the Chapter availing itself of the faculties that the old Constitutions granted, always preserving the rights of the Holy See, if this is necessary.

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup. Gen.

Fr. Louis Morando

Fr. James Marini

Fr. Alexis Magagna

Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani

Fr. Pio Gurisatti

Fr. Joseph Marchesini

Fr. Angelo M. Graziani

Fr. Paul Gradinati

Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella

Fr. Octavian Piccoli

Fr. Louis Gasperotti

Fr. Melchiade Vivari

Fr. Antony Oss Bals

Fr. Joseph Bertapelle

Fr. Richard Tabarelli

Fr. Albano Clementi

Fr. Stephen Rosa

Fr. Julius Zambiasi

Fr. Louis Tomasi

Fr. Joseph Zandonai

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†††
†

⁴¹ Following the **Chapter Minutes**, there also appears this disciplinary Decree, signed by the Capitulars, dated the last day of the Chapter. It appears on white, lined paper, 16 and one half by 12 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 and one fourth by 12 inches. Only the front side was written on.

**DELIBERATIONS TAKEN at the XIITH GENERAL CHAPTER,
held at the STIMATE,
from the 24TH OF SEPTEMBER to the 3RD OF OCTOBER, INCLUSIVELY.
IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD, 1890 ⁴²**

From the Ist Session:

The Chapter, with 21 votes to one, declared that it recognizes and admits, following what is revealed by the context of the Venerated Decree of Approbation, granted by His Holiness, Leo XIII, to our Institute, that the Schools are a scope of our Institute, equally principal with the Sacred Missions, and with the other exercises of the Sacred Ministry, particularly mentioned in the same Decree.

From the IInd Session

The Chapter decided that as soon as the Constitutions are copied over, by the established Commission, which was corrected by the Chapter itself, in accord with the norms of the observations, sent by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and regulars, and when they have been reviewed by the Very Rev. Superior and his Council, they will be presented and promulgated, by the same Superior, in the name of the entire Chapter, and communicated to all the Directors and Superiors of the Houses, who will then see to it that they are made known and observed by all their subjects.

From the IIIrd Session

The Chapter, in accepting the Proposal, whether the Congregation desires that negotiations get underway to introduce the Cause of Beatification of our Founder, Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, expressed to the Very rev. Fr. Superior, and his Council, the desire that efficacious steps be taken to see to the Introduction of this Cause, in so far as our financial forces will permit, beginning right away with a gathering of material to prepare another edition of his Life.

It was, then, unanimously accepted that the Very Rev. Superior, at an opportune time, will begin negotiations to have a Cardinal Protector.

In the continuation of the IIIrd Session, on the first day of October, the Chapter proceeded to the Election of the Offices:

Ist The Superior General was elected for ten years, in the person of the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola.

IInd The General Councilors were elected for five years, and they were:

⁴² Lastly, there appears in this Folder the list of the Decisions made by the **XIith General Chapter**. They are in Fr. Tabarelli's handwriting, and appear on lined, white paper, 16 and one half by 12 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 and one fourth by 12 inches. Leaving generous margins, the writings cover all four sides.

1st As First General Councilor, and as Vicar, in the case of the death of the Superior General, the Rev. Fr. Louis Morando was elected.

2nd As Second General Councilor, and Procurator, the Rev. Fr. James Marini was elected.

3rd As Third General Councilor, the Rev. Fr. Alexis Magagna was elected.

4th As Fourth General Councilor, the Rev. Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani was elected.

IIIrd As Admonitor of the Sup. Gen, Fr. Louis Morando was elected.

IVth As Master of Novices, Fr. Paul Gradinati.

Vth The following seven Fathers were elected for the First Scrutiny as examiners: 1st, Fr. Louis Gasperotti; 2nd, Fr. Joseph Marchesini; 3rd, Fr. Joseph Zandonai; 4th, Fr. Stephen Rosa; 5th, Fr. Pio Gurisatti; 6th, Fr. Julius Zambiasi; 7th, Fr. Louis Tommasi.

For the Second Scrutiny, the following seven: 1st, Fr. Louis Morando; 2nd, Fr. Alexis Magagna; 3rd, Fr. Mark Bassi; 4th, Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella; 5th, Fr. Bartholomew Perazzana⁴³; 6th, Fr. Melchiade Vivari; 7th, Fr. Anthony Oss Bals.

From the IVth Session

The Chapter also adopts the separation of the House of St. Teresa, as the House of training, and of the Professed students, from the House of the Stimate, with this provision, that the Superior General, for the time being, will also be the Director of the Mother House of the Stimate, his residence, and that at St. Teresa's, there reside a Director, who, with the other Priests and Officials, assigned at this house, attend, according to our Constitutions, to the religious education of our Students.

In the same session, it was established that in the case that some members of our Institute have needy parents, who have recourse to their sons for help, the question of the obligation that they have to assist them, and the manner of doing this, is to be defined by a Commission, composed of the Very Rev. Fr. Superior, two General Councilors, the Director of the House to which the said Member belongs, and another Father, chosen by the Petitioner. This Commission seeing if it is necessary, a secret vote will decide whether, and in what manner and measure there truly exists this need, and what means of alleviating it, might be proposed to the said member, who thus will be able and should in conscience, acquiesce to this decision.

⁴³ Fr. Perazzani's name seems mis-spelled, unless this is a case of poor hand-writing.

Finally, the Chapter unanimously decided that every year there is to be commemorated the day on which the holy Father, Leo XIII, approved our Institute, that is, the 5th⁴⁴ of September, with the singing of the *Te, Deum*, in all of our Houses.

All of this results from the **Minutes**, signed by all the father Capitulars, having been counter-signed by the Secretary, and sealed with the Seal of the Congregation, and filed in its Archives.

((Large Oval Green Seal:
**SODALITY OF THE
PRIESTS OF THE SACRED
STIGMATA – VERONA**

Verona, from the Stimate, the 11th day of October 1890

Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Secretary⁴⁵



⁴⁴ Fr. Tabarelli again gives September 5, 1890, as the date of the **Decree of Approbation**.

⁴⁵ After all this, there is a Printed Copy of 30 or more pages, **The Printed Constitutions – 1890**. It would be 20 years, and more, before the Congregation would receive the ultimate Approbation.

