

XVIth - XVIIIth

GENERAL CHAPTERS

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SEPTEMBER 23 – 25, 1901

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The 17th:

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ACTS of the 16th GENERAL CHAPTER ¹

September 23 – 25, 1901

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¹ The 8 pages containing the **Minutes of the 16th General Chapter** [the first of the 20th century!] are a copy of the Original, which is not in this Folder. This latter, perhaps is in the Stigmatine Archives in Verona. The copy is contained on paper that is lined, and measures 8 and one fourth by 12 inches.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
Of the PRIESTS of the
STIGMATA
VERONA ²

The Superior General
To All the Members of the Congregation of the Priests of the
Sacred Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

Since, according to the prescriptions of our Constitutions, a General Chapter is to be held this year, the fifth year since the last one, by means of this letter, we set it for the twenty-third day of the month of September. This is also so that the Superior General and the Major Officials of our Congregation might be elected – and, also according to our Constitutions those matters might be treated, which have been proposed by the Capitulars. The place in which the capitulars will gather will be our First House, at the Stimmate in Verona.

As for the manner to be observed in constituting this Chapter, the following were established in the last General Chapter held in Rome: - the Chapters of the Houses in preparation for the General Chapter, have been abolished, but the right of sending to the General Chapter, in writing, those matters to be proposed, which one might judge to be for the good of his own House, or for the advantage of the entire Congregation, remains in tact for each one.

The manner of constituting Members for the Chapter will be the following:

- They will attend the General Chapter, who have a right to do so, according to our Constitutions, by their very Office, and these are ten, namely: the Superior General, Fr. Pius Gurisatti; four General Councilors: Fr. Louis Morando, Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Fr. James Marini, Fr. Stephen Rosa; the Director of the House of the Stimmate, Fr. John Baptist Tomasi; the Director of the House of Trent, Fr. Octavian Piccoli; the Director of the House of Parma, Fr. Ludovicus Luchi; the Director of the House of Pavia, Fr. Joseph Antonioli; the Director of the House of Udine, Fr. Joseph Zandonai.

In addition to these, eight others who can be elected, are to be designated in this way: Each one of the members, having the right of electing in the future, will designate eight, whom, in the Lord, he considers the most suited, who, according to our Constitutions, can be elected from all the members, except those ten whom we have mentioned above. He will send their names in a closed envelope to the Superior General, living in Verona

He, with three associates, will open these votes: they, then, will be considered elected, who will have obtained a relative plurality of votes; if, however, several might have received the same number of votes, which would then surpass the number of those to be elected, a lot will determine who among these, in fact, are to be chosen. The Superior and his Associates, in their own hand, will sign the Acts drawn up in writing, of all these things.

² There appears first the Circular Letter in Latin, of Fr. Gurisatti, convoking the Chapter. Up in the left hand corner of the front page, there is printed the Name of the Congregation. The paper measures 16 and one half by 10 and one half, folded, to make 4 writing sides, 8 and one fourth by 10 and one half. The beautiful penmanship does not seem to be that of Fr. Gurisatti, as it differs noticeably from his signature. The letter covers 3 and one half sides.

Moreover, so that the vote the more surely might remain secret, to each one of the Electors, a ballot will be sent on which the names of all those who can be elected will be written, and he, with a clear line, will designate the names of the eight whom he elects, and no other mark, or ballot, will be placed in his folded envelope.

Therefore, before the tenth day of August, all the Members will give their closed ballots to their Directors: who immediately will send them to us; we, then, with two General Councilors, living in Verona, and the Director of the house of the Stimate, will examine these ballots, and as soon as possible, we will make known to the entire Congregation, the results of them.

Since, then, every excellent gift, and every gift descends from above, from the Father of Lights, we order that in all the Houses, from the day on which this Letter of ours arrives, until the General Chapter is over, there be recited by all, every day, three *Our Father's*, *Hail Mary's* and *Gloria's*, and the Oration: *To Thy servants*; furthermore, we order that in the House of the Stimate, three Masses be celebrated and one, in all the other Houses, *Of the Holy Spirit*, if it is possible. Moreover, on the day on which the Chapter begins, until its end, every day, there is also to be recited the *Veni, Creator*, with the Oration: *O God, who... the hearts of the faithful...*, and three *Gloria's* in honor of the Most Holy trinity, through the merits of our Father Founder, of holy memory, and the *De Profundis*, for the souls of our deceased brethren.

It is our pleasant duty to take this occasion, offered by us by this Letter, which is among the last acts of our administration, to address lastly, the entire Congregation, and we thank all the members for their goodness toward us, over the past ten years. In the government of the entire Congregation, the assistance given to us by the General Councilors, was indeed worthy, as was the religious homage of all the members for our Office, which was to us a very heavy burden – those things, which especially, perhaps, on account of our inexperience, might have affected our souls with sadness, were overlooked. The fervent desire of the religious prosperity of our Congregation, which we have always pursued, and which we employed as a norm in our activity, although sometimes, because of a defect of ability, was not so successful, as this made us fearful of accepting and keeping this Office entrusted to us, so now, it renders us happy, at the approach of the General Chapter; for we hold as certain, putting aside all respect of persons, that the good of our Congregation will be the sole intention in the Election that is to be held in this Chapter. We, then, ask pardon and mercy of all, if we have fallen into any error, or unjustly afflicted anyone with sorrow, in the exercise of our office.

We impart our paternal blessing, in the hope of divine aid, on all the members.

Given at Verona, at the Stimate.,

The 12th day of July 1901.

Fr. Pius Gurisatti



**RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
OF THE PRIESTS
OF THE STIGMATA
VERONA ³**

**Names
of the Eligible Fathers for the General Chapter**

1. **Fr. Joseph Marchesini**
2. **Fr. Alexis Magagna**
3. **Fr. Angelo Graziani**
4. **Fr. Melchiade Vivari**
5. **Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella**
6. **Fr. Louis Gasperotti**
7. **Fr. Paul Gradinati**
8. **Fr. Louis Tommasi**
9. **Fr. Julius Zambiasi**
10. **Fr. Albano Clementi**
11. **Fr. Joseph bertapelle**
12. **Fr. Egidio Stofella**
13. **Fr. Victor Gurisatti**
14. **Fr. Peter Scotton**

**The Elector will designate clearly, with a line,
the names of the eight Fathers whom he
intends to elect.**

³ This is a facsimile of the **ballots** sent out to the Congregation for the election of the eight Capitulars for the **16th General Chapter**.

**“Copy ⁴ of the Minutes
of the Sixteenth General Chapter
of the Congregation of the Priests of the Stigmata
of Our Lord Jesus Christ”**

**“In the Name of the Lord. Amen.”
Verona, September 23,1901: 9:30 a.m.**

In obedience to the Decree of the Very Rev. Superior General, Fr. Pio Gurisatti, emanated on the 12th day of July of this year, there were inaugurated today the Sessions of the Sixteenth General Chapter of the Congregation of the Priests of the Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the third after the approbation of the Institute, in the Mother House of the Stimmate, in Verona.

The Capitulars were chosen according to the method established in the last general Chapter, held in Rome, in September of 1896, and as described in the praised Decree of Convocation.

The names of those, who, either by right of Office, or by Election have a voice in the present Chapter, are the eighteen following:

Very Rev. Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General
Rev. Fr. Louis Morando, General Councilor
Rev. Fr. Richard Tabarelli, General Councilor
Rev. Fr. James Marini, General Councilor
Rev. Fr. Stephen Rosa, General Councilor
Rev. Fr. John Baptist Tommasi, Director of the House of the Stimmate
Rev. Fr. Octavian Piccoli, Director of the House of Trent
Rev. Fr. Ludovicus Luchi, Director of the House of Parma
Rev. Fr. Joseph Antonioli, Director of the House of Pavia
Rev. Fr. Joseph Zandonai, Director of the House of Udine
Rev. Fr. Alexis Magagna, elected
Rev. Fr. Angelo Graziani, elected
Rev. Fr. Melchiade Vivari, elected
Rev. Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella, elected
Rev. Fr. Louis Gasperotti, elected
Rev. Fr. Paul Gradinati, elected
Rev. Fr. Albano Clementi, elected
Rev. Fr. Joseph Bertapelle, elected.

When the prescribed prayers had been said, and all were present, except for Fr. Octavian Piccoli, the present Chapter was proclaimed full and legitimate. Therefore, the

⁴ Next appears Fr. John Tomasi's personal **Copy of the Minutes of the 16th General Chapter** – these **Minutes** do not seem to be the original **Minutes** actually taken by him during the Chapter meetings.

Election of the Secretary was taken up, by secret ballot. With a relative majority of votes, Fr. John Baptist Tommasi was elected.

There was then chosen in the same way, the Assistant for the Election, and Fr. Louis Morando was elected.

After this, this First Session was adjourned, and the Second Session was set, according to the dispositions of our Constitutions, for next Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., after all the Capitulars will together assist at Holy Mass, in the Domestic Oratory ⁵

The Minutes were read and approved.

Fr. John Baptist Tommasi, Secretary

2nd Session
September 25, - 8:30 a.m.

Having read the Minutes of the preceding Session, and approved them, the Chapter then proceeded to the Election of the Superior General, with the following results:

Fr. Pius Gurisatti	13 [thirteen] votes
Fr. Louis Morando	2 [two] ..
Fr. Richard Tabarelli	3 [three] ..

Fr. PIO GURISATTI WAS ELECTED.

The Decree of Election, in accord with the prescripts of our Constitutions, was then written, and read by the Secretary, and all went to Church to recite the *Te Deum*.

Then, all returned to the Chapter, to continue on with the Session.

Before going on to the Election of the Councilors, on the Proposal of Fr. Tabarelli, the following modification of the 1st Rule, of Chapter IV, of the Vth Part of our Constitutions was put to a vote:

After the words: ... *are to be elected singly* ..., it be continued: *First, there is elected the one who is to take the place of the Superior, in the even of his death, as is explained in the previous Chapter, n. 7: next the Economus General * **[Then, the Third and Fourth Councilors. J. Baptist Tommasi]** ⁶: moreover, among these four, there is to be elected the Monitor of the Superior General, and lastly, the Procurator General, who can be elected, even from among those who are not Councilors.*

⁵ Tuesday, September 24, 1901, the day before the Election of the General and his Council, was spent in prayer.

⁶ This note is found in the left hand margin of the Chapter Minutes, with Fr. J. Tommasi's signature verifying it.

By the raising of hands, this was unanimously approved.

Then, there was taken up the Election of the General Councilors, of the Monitor, and of the procurator General, with the following result:

1 st Councilor and Vicar	= Fr. Louis Morando
2 nd Councilor and Economus General	= Fr. Octavian Piccoli
3 rd Councilor	= Fr. John Baptist Tommasi
4 th Councilor	= Fr. Paul Gradinati

Monitor

Fr. Louis Morando

Procurator

Fr. Richard Tabarelli

As Master of Novices, Fr. Albano Clementi was elected, and the following were chosen Examiners of the First Scrutiny: Fr. Louis Gasperotti; Fr. Stephen Rosa; Fdr. Victor Gurisatti; Fr. Alexis Magagna; Fr. Alfred Balestrzzi; Fr. Joseph Fiorio; fr. Albino Sella;

and for the Second Scrutiny: Fr. Paul Gradinati' Fr. James Marini;Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi; Fr. Melchiade Vivari; Fr.Cajetan Pizzighella; Fr. Joseph Bertapelle.

And thus, was closed the IInd Session, and the 3rd was set for 3:30 p.m.

IIIrd Session ⁷

There was put off the reading of the Minutes of the IInd Session, until the end of the Chapter, and there was taken up the discussion of he following Proposals:

1st. Having read the Decree obtained from the Holy See, dated July 5, 1897, in which was given he response to the request made by Fr. Superior, after he had privately questioned all the Fathers of the Congregation, having the right to take part, or to be elected to the Chapter, about reducing to a single year, the two years of Novitiate, prescribed by our Constitutions, having ir followed by triennial Profession, and then by Perpetual, with the previous approbation of the Superior and his Council, there is proposed:

Does the Chapter believe that the Superior and his Council should be obliged, before admitting the triennial Professed to perpetual Profession, to hear the opinion of the Chapter of the House where the candidate is living, at the end of the three year period of his vows, and the written opinion of all the Directors of the Houses, to which he was assigned, during his temporary vows?

7 [seven] responded Yes

10 [ten] " No.

IT WAS NOT, THEREFORE, ADMITTED.

⁷ This IIIrd Session took place the afternoon of the same day, September 25, 1901

Pellarini was absent. Fr.J. Baptist Tommasi ⁸

2nd

As for the number of Deputies to be elected for the next, future Chapter, does it please the present Chapter that there be chosen a number of Capitulars, who will take part because of their office, that is, the Superior, the General Councilors, the Procurator and the Directors of the individual houses?

It was responded unanimously Yes, and it was approved.

3rd

Does it please the Chapter that all the priests of our Congregation are to apply, or have applied, a third of their Masses, for the benefit of our Studentate and Novitiate, or for other works of general interest of the Congregation, excluding all, or a part of those priests whose financial situation in the judgment of the Superior and his Council would not permit this?

	Voting	17
Responding	Yes	14 [fourteen]
"	No	3 [three]

THEREFORE, IT WAS APPROVED.

4th

Does it please the Chapter to add to n. 8 of Chapter V, of Part V, of our Constitutions, that speaks of the attributes of the Ecomonus of the individual Houses, after the words: *...he shall diligently distribute...*, these words: *with absolute dependence on his Director?*

This was unanimously approved by rising and sitting down.

Thus, was completed the discussion of the Proposals. The Minutes of the 2nd and 3rd Sessions were read and approved, and the Capitulars unanimously declared that the **XVIth General Chapter was closed**, and they signed their names, today, September 25, 1901.

[Then follows the signatures of the 18 Capitulars] ⁹

This Copy conforms with the original.

The Secretary of the Chapter
Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi

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=====

⁸ This name – *Pellarini* – is not clear: the only Capitular whose name begins with a “P” was Fr. *Pizzighella*. There was one whose name began with “B”, Fr. *Bertapelle*. It is not, therefore, clear just who was intended, by what appears to be *Pellarini* – could it be a ‘nick-name’ for one of the Capitulars? The note was signed by Fr. J. B. Tommasi, Secretary of the Chapter.

⁹ Fr. J.B. Tommasi did not copy over the 18 names of the Capitulars.

**RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE
of the PRIESTS
of the STIGMATA
VERONA ¹⁰**

**To the Venerable Fathers and Brothers
of the Congregation of the Priests of the Stigmata
of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

It is made known that in the **XVIth Chapter** of our Institute, the following deliberations were made:

1st] The first number of Chapter IV, Part V, of our Constitutions, is to be modified thus: *To the Superior General, are to be added four Councilors, by the assembled Chapter, with a relative plurality of votes, who are to be chosen singly from among those who have active and passive voice: First, is elected the one who is to take the place of the Superior, in the event of his death, as is explained in the previous Chapter, n 7; then, the Economus General, and then the Third and Fourth Councilors. Moreover, among these four, is to be elected a Monitor of the Superior General, and lastly, the procurator General, who can even be chosen from among those who are not Councilors.*

2nd] In number 8, of Chapter V, Part V, of the same Constitutions, that speaks of the attributes of the Economus of the individual Houses, after the words: *he shall diligently distribute,* there are to be added the words: *with absolute dependence on his Director.*

3rd] For the proximate, future General Chapter, there is to be chosen a number of elected capitulars equal to the number of Capitulars who will take part because of their Office, namely: the Superior General, the General Councilors, the Procurator and the Directors of the individual Houses.

4th] All the Priests of the Congregation are to apply, or have applied, a third of their Masses, in behalf of our Studentate and Novitiate, or for other works of general interest of the Congregation, excluding all, or a part of those Priests of those houses, whose financial condition, in the judgment of the Superior and his Council, will not permit this.

Furthermore, there was held the election of the major Offices, with the following result:

Superior General: Fr. Pio Gurisatti

1st Councilor, Vicar and Monitor: Fr. Louis Morando

2nd Councilor and Economuc General: Fr. Octavian Piccoli

3rd Councilor: Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi

4th Councilor: Fr Paul Gradinati

Procurator: Fr. Richard Tabarelli

Master of Novices: Fr. Albano Clementi

¹⁰ Lastly, appears the notification of the Chapter decisions. It is found on white, unlined paper, 10 and one half by 8 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 5 and one fourth by 8 inches, with the same printed letter-head. Fr. J. B. Tommasi wrote on 3 sides.

XVIIth

GENERAL CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 18 – 20, 1906

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ACTS
of the
17th GENERAL CHAPTER ¹²

September 18 – 20, 1906

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¹² The 21 pages of these Chapter Documents are contained on the usual lined paper 8 by 12 inches.

((Emblem of the
ESPOUSALS))

**THE SUPERIOR GENERAL
of the CONGREGATION OF THE PRIESTS OF THE SACRED STIGMATA
of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ¹³**

To all the members of the same Congregation

Since, according to what is prescribed in our Constitutions, the general Chapter is to be held this fifth year since the celebration of the last General Chapter, by this Letter, we set the eighteenth day of September for it, for the purpose of electing the major Officials of our Congregation, and to treat of those matters, which, according to our Constitutions, will have been proposed by the Capitulars. The Place in which the Capitulars are to assemble will be our First House of the Stimate in Verona. As for the manner to be observed in assembling the Chapter, we think it useful to note here, what was established in the last two Chapters:

a. By virtue of their office, the following will attend the General Chapter: the Superior General, the General Councilors, the procurator General and the Directors of the Houses, in which there are at least Four Professed Priests, and at least two Professed Lay Brothers. In addition to these, among the rest of the eligible members, in the manner described below, as many Capitulars are to be chosen as there are those who will take part in the Chapter, by virtue of their Office.

b. The manner of electing the Capitulars is this: Each Professed Member in priestly Orders, will designate those whom he considers more suited in the Lord, from among those, who, according to our Constitutions, can be elected, according to the number exposed above. Each member will send in a closed envelope, the names of those elected by him, to the Superior General, who with three associates, will study these ballots. Moreover, those elected will be those who have received a relative majority of votes, which would bring the number of delegates beyond that established, a lot will be determine which of these is elected. The Superior and his Associates will sign in their own hand, the acts of these procedures, drawn up in wiring. So that the vote may more securely remain secret, to each one of the Electors will be sent a ballot, on which the names of all those who can be elected are written, and he will designate the names of those whom h wishes to elect, and no other mark, or sign, will be made on his folded ballot.

c. Those will be eligible, both with active and passive voice in the General Chapter, who are thirty-five years of age, and have completed five years of Profession after their ordination.

d. Further, all other eligible members, even though they were not elected to the General Chapter, will enjoy passive voice.

e. Directors, however, who perhaps have not yet reached the prescribed age, or years of Profession, will enjoy only active voice in the Chapter.

¹³ The Minutes are preceded by the Superior General's Circular letter, written in Latin, June 24, 1906, on printed stationery. On top of this paper, that measures 16 and one fourth by 12 inches, folded to make 4 sides, 8 and one eighth by 12 inches, three of which were covered by this Letter – there is an emblem of the **espousals**, with the Latin *Presb. A SS. Stigmatibus D.N.J.C.* There is also printed in Latin: *Sup. Gen. of the Congregation of the Priests of the S. Stigmata D.N.J.C.*

According to these statutes, the following are able to attend the General Chapter, by virtue of their Office:

1. Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General
2. Fr. Richard Tabarelli, Councilor and Procurator General
3. Fr. Octavian Piccoli, General Councilor
4. Fr. Paul Gradinati, General Councilor
5. Fr. J. Baptist Tomasi, General Councilor
6. Fr. Erminio Pivato, Director of the House of Trent
7. Fr. Louis Tomasi, Director of the House of Parma
8. Fr. Michaelangelo Zanetti, Director of the House of Pavia
9. Fr. Louis Gasperotti, Director of the House of Udine
10. Fr. Pio Gabos, Director of the House of Gemona.

In addition to these, ten others are to be designated from among those who can be elected, in the manner indicated above, in that each Professed Member in priestly Orders, will receive a ballot, on which they will clearly indicate the names of those ten whom he wishes to elect, not out of personal affection, but in conscience. He will carefully sign and enclose his folded ballot, in the manner indicated. Each one will then sign his own name in his own hand on this envelope, so that before the ballots are opened, it can be established that the vote of each of the electors has been received.

Therefore, before the fifteenth day of August, all the members will give to their Directors their sealed ballots, who then will immediately send them to us; then we, in the established manner, will study the ballots, and as soon as is possible, we will make known their results.

Since, then, every perfect and excellent gift descends from the Father of men, we order that in all the Houses, from the day on which our letter arrives, until the completion of the General Chapter, each day there be recited together by all, three *Our Father's Hail Mary's* and *Gloria's*, and the oration, *To Thy Servants*; furthermore, we order that in the House of the Stimate, three Masses be celebrated, and one in all the other Houses, *Of the Holy Spirit*, if this is possible. Moreover, on which the Chapter begins, until its completion, there will also be recited every day in common, the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*, with the Oration *O God, Who ... in the hearts of the Faithful*, and three *Gloria's*, in honor of the Most Holy trinity, through the merits of our Venerable Father Founder, and the *De Profundis*, for the souls of our deceased brethren.

We impart to all the members our paternal blessing, as a hope of divine assistance.

Given at Verona, at the Stimate,
The 24th day of June, 1906.

Fr. Pio Gurisatti ¹⁴

((The purple, oval seal:
THE CONGREGATION OF THE PRIESTS
OF THE SACRED STIGMATA OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST))¹⁵

¹⁴ The hand-writing of this Letter differs considerably from Fr. Gurisatti's signature.

¹⁵ This Seal of the Congregation is affixed at the bottom of the page, side-ways, so that it would fit.

Minutes¹⁶
**Of the Session for the opening of the Electoral Ballots,
for the Chapter of the year 1906**

Today, under the Presidency of the Very Rev.Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General, the 10th of August, 1906, Fathers John Baptist Tomasi, Fr. Stephen Rosa and Dominic Rossi, met to open the Electoral Ballots for the proximate General Chapter. This opening of the ballots was done in the presence of all the Fathers, stationed at the Stimmate. First, there was verified the number and the signatures on the ballots which corresponded to that of those voting, which was 57 [fifty-seven] – but, on four of the ballots, the signatures were missing, because the four Electors did not choose to sign them; these were Frs. John Castellani, Joseph Nardon, Emilio Baratella and Joseph Tondin. It was decided to consider as valid, nevertheless, also these four ballots. Maintaining the most absolute secrecy, the votes were opened, and the following was their result:

Fr. Stephen Rosa	had	45 [forty-five]	votes.
Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi	..	45 [forty-five]	..
Fr. Joseph Antonioli	..	43 [forty-three]	..
Fr. Julius Zambiasi	..	42 [forty-two]	..
Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella	..	39 [thirty-nine]	..
Fr. Joseph Bertapelle	..	38 [thirty-eight]	..
Fr. Angelo Graziani	..	37 [thirty-seven]	..
Fr. John Castellani	..	35 [thirty-five]	..
Fr. James Marini	..	33 [thirty-three]	..
Fr. Cesar Benaglia	..	32 [thirty-two]	..
Fr. Joseph Mattei	..	28 [twenty-eight]	..
Fr. Louis Fantozzi	..	26 [twenty-six]	..
Fr. Peter Scotton	..	22 [twenty-two]	..
Fr. Albano Clementi	..	20 [twenty]	..
Fr. Victor Gurisatti	had	20 [twenty]	votes ¹⁷
Fr. Alexis Magagna	..	19 [nineteen]	..
Fr. Egidio Stofella	..	19 [nineteen]	..
Fr. Melchiade Vivari	..	5 [five]	..
Fr. Luchi	..	4 [four]	..

Total votes cast were 552.

Therefore, the following Fathers were elected: 1] **Fr. Rosa**; 2] **Fr. Balestrazzi**; 3] **Fr. Antonioli**; 4] **Fr. Zambiasi**; 5] **Fr. Pizzighella**; 6] **Fr. Bertapelle**; 7] **Fr. Graziani**; 8] **Fr. J. Castellani**; 9] **Fr. James Marini**; 10] **Fr. C. Benaglia**.

These Minutes were read and signed:

Fr. Pio Gurisatti
Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi
Fr. Stephen Rosa
Fr. Dominic Rossi¹⁸

¹⁶ Next appear the Minutes of the Commission, that opened the ballots. It is squared, white paper, 16 and three fourths by 11 inches, folded to make 4 writing sides, 8 and three eighths by 11 inches. By writing on every other squared line, the report covered three sides.

¹⁷ Fr. Vi. Gurisatti's name begins p. 3 of the original Commission Notes.

¹⁸ Incidentally, the trademark of this paper has a figure of St. George killing the dragon, with these words in English: **St. George's Paper**

**Minutes¹⁹ of the
XVIIth General Chapter
Of the Congregation
Of the Priests of the Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Held
In the Mother Houser of the Stimmate.
From the 18th to the 20th of September 1906²⁰
“In the name of the Lord. Amen.”**

By Letter of June 24, 1906, the Very Rev. Fr. Superior General set the General Chapter for the 18th day of September, to be held at the House of the Stimmate, in Verona, and for the treatment of matters, according to the norms of our Constitutions.

Following this, by Letter of July 24, 1906, the same Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, communicated to the entire Congregation, his resignation from Office, advising the Capitulars that they ought to come prepared for the Election of the Superior General.

**Session I
20th of September 1906
Morning Session**

At 9:00 a.m., the Capitular Fathers gathered in the Church of the Stimmate, for the recitation of the usual prayers; then, they repaired to the room of the Venerable Founder.

When each one had taken his place, it was unanimously proclaimed that the Chapter was full and legitimate, and it was composed of the following:

Capitulars because of their Office

1. Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General
2. Fr. Richar Tabarelli, Councilor and Procurator General
3. Fr. Octavian Piccoli, Councilor and Economus general
4. Fr. J. Baptist Tomasi, General Councilor and Director of the House of the Stimmate
5. Fr. Paul Gradinati, General Councilor
6. Fr. Erminio Pivato, Director of the House of Trent
7. Fr. Louis Tomasi, Director of the House of Parama
8. Fr. Machaelangelo Zanetti, Director of the House of Pavia
9. Fr. Louis Gasperotti, Director of the House of Udine
10. Fr. Pio Gabos, Director of the House of Gemona

Capitulars elected, according to the Minutes, dated, August 10, 1906

11. Fr. Stephen Rosa
12. Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi
13. Fr. Joseph Antonioli

¹⁹ Next follow the 21 pages of the Chapter Minutes. The booklet has covers, but on the plain, unlined front page, there are these words: *XVIIth General Chapter, the Year 1906.*

²⁰ After these words, there is the faint, purple seal, side-ways, as described above. This seal also appears on every full page of the Minutes, with Fr. Balestrazzi's signature – it is especially indicative of a correction made.

14. Fr. Julius Zambiasi
15. Fr. Cajetn Pizzighella
16. Fr. Joseph Bertapelle
17. Fr. Angelo Graziani
18. Fr. John Castellani
19. Fr. James Marini
20. Fr. Ceasr Benaglia

Then, there was taken up the Election of the Secretary of the Chapter, and Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi was elected.

At this point, the Superior General declared before the Chapter, that he purely and simply withdraws his resignation.

The Chapter decided, before coming to the Election of the General Councilors, to open the discussion on the Proposals to be presented: and for this purpose, according to the norms of our Constitutions, there was taken up by secret ballot, the Election of three Deputies, who, together with the President of the Chapter, and with the Secretary, are to examine the Proposals to be submitted to the treatment of the Chapter: and the following were elected: Fr. John Baptist Tomasi, Fr. Richard Tabarelli and Fr. Julius Zambiasi.

There then began the discussion on the Proposal regarding some modifications to be made in our Constitutions, presented by Fr. John Baptist Tomasi, who previously was entrusted with this task by the General Council, in obedience to a Deliberation of the General Chapter in 1896.

For this procedure, it was established to give a cumulative vote, except for those points where some of the Capitulars might ask for a special vote.

The modifications proposed and discussed were the following:

1st As the present division of our Constitutions is into Parts and Chapters, the progressive numeration of the individual articles was introduced: like the Norms of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars: that is, in a proximate re-printing, that is necessary, because of the modifications already established in other Chapters, and which we will establish in this one.

2nd To Part II, Chapter III, n. 3 b], after the words: *and he will make a General Confession*, there be added: *according to the prudent judgment of his Confessor*, - in conformity with the Norms.

3rd Part II, Chapter IV, n. 3, is thus modified: *The Master of Novices is to be elected by the Superior General and his Council, from the Priests who are at least, over thirty-five years of age, and have completed ten years of Profession in the Congregation. He will remain in this Office for three years, and may be elected again.*

4th In the same place, n. 6, at the end, it will be thus modified: *Moreover, although the care of hearing the Confessions of the Novices is entrusted to the Novice Master, nevertheless, the Novices may go to another Confessor.* ²¹

5th In the same place, after n. 13, the following additions were admitted:

13 a] *In the time of triennial Profession, if the Professed is already a Priest, or a Lay Brother, he can according to the prudent judgment of the Superior General, be assigned to the Houses of our Congregation, and be occupied in those ministries and offices, as the other Professed members.*

If, however, he is a Cleric, he is to be assigned to the house for study and learning, which is called the 'Professorium.'

13 b] *After the triennial period has ended, the Superior and his Council will decide whether he may safely be admitted to Perpetual Profession, or, if he is to be dismissed. No one, though, may be dismissed for an illness that came to him during temporal Profession.*

6th To n. 2, of Chapter I, Part III, after the words: *...he may be dismissed*, there is to be added; *..nevertheless, there is to be observed the manner described in the Decree **Auctus Admodum*** - and the following words are to be omitted: *But, it will be*, etc.

Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m.

There were continued the Proposals of additions and modifications to our Constitutions.

Before going to Part IV, the Capitular Father, Fr. Octavian Piccoli, proposed that Constitution 14, of Chapter VI, Part III, be thus modified: *Once a month, all the houses of the Congregation, will apply one Mass for deceased Confreres.*

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

Voting	20
Responding for Yes	10
Responding for No	10
THEREFORE: IT WAS REJECTED	

Part IV

7.]The Chapter////agrees that //// there is to be entirely modified////in this Part IV////, whatever pertains /// to the manner and distribution /// of studies////.] ²²

²¹ Fr. Balestrazzi, Secretary of the Chapter, added here *once a week*, which he later cancelled.

²² This entire n. 7 was crossed out, with Fr. Balestrazzi's verification of the cancellation in the margin.

8th The following article is to be prefixed to Chapter IV: *If the Superior General prudently judges that some Professed members is not to be promoted to orders, either because of a defect of learning, or because of other defects which came to him as he became older, and which do not give the right of dismissing him from the Institute, the Superior can, with the vote of his Councilors, indefinitely defer the reception of Orders, and, in the meantime, assign him to those offices, which he might judge fitting for him.*

Part V

9th To Chapter I, n. 1, at the end: *if some necessity should persuade the Superior General, or, at least three of the General Councilors, that for the good of the Congregation, a Chapter is to be convoked. Nevertheless, in such a necessity, the permission of the Holy See is to be sought.*

10th N. 2 is to be thus modified: *To the General Chapter, the following come in virtue of their Office:*

The Superior General, the General Councilors, the Procurator General, and the Directors of Houses, who were at least, for an entire year...²³

In addition to these, from among the remaining eligible members, there are to be elected, in the manner described below, as many Capitulars, as there are those who attend the Chapter in virtue of their Office.

2 b] *The manner of electing the Capitulars will be this: Each member, Professed by perpetual Profession, and, in priestly orders, will designate those whom he considers more fitting in the Lord, from among those who, according to the number explained above. Each one will send the names, chosen by him, in a sealed envelope to the Superior General.*

2 c] *Moreover, so that the vote may the more securely remain secret, and, at the same time, so that it might be proven that the vote of each and everyone was sent, there will be sent a ballot to each of the Electors, in which the names of all those who can be elected are written. The Elector, then, will clearly designate the names of those whom he wishes to elect, and will enclose his ballot in a double envelope: he will write his name in his own hand on the inside envelope, or on its envelope. All these things are to be observed, under pain of nullifying his vote.*

2 d] *Then, the Superior, on the day indicated in his Letter of Convocation of the General Chapter, will convoke the Chapter in the primary house, to which all the Electors may come, who are in that house. In this Chapter, there are first to be chosen, by relative majority of votes, four Scrutineers, who, before the Capitulars, together with the Superior, will open the votes. The purpose, moreover, of this opening of the votes, will be such that the votes remain absolutely secret. They will be considered elected who obtain a relative majority of the votes. If, however, several have received the same*

²³ Perhaps left incomplete.

number of votes, which would bring the number of those elected above the prescribed number, a lot will decide who among them is elected.

The Superior and the Capitulars present will sign in their own hand, the written Acts of this Chapter.

2 e] *Moreover, only those are eligible and enjoy both active and passive voice, who are thirty-five years of age, and have complete five years of Profession after Ordination. Further, they, too, are eligible and enjoy passive voice, even though they have not been elected to the General Chapter – Directors, however, who perhaps have not yet reached the established age, or the prescribed years of Profession, enjoy only active voice in the General Chapter.*

11th To number 19, of the same place, there is to be added: *...the prescriptions of the General Chapter are to remain in force until the next Chapter.*

12th After n. 20 of the same place, there is to be added; *...If, however, the elected Councilors, or a recently elected Procurator General, are not presenting the Chapter, they will be called to it immediately, and the Chapter is to be interrupted, or those matters pertaining to them, will be put off until their arrival.*

Then, there was proposed by some of the Capitulars the question whether the prescription of n. 16 of this Chapter is to be retained, that demands a two-thirds favorable vote as necessary, to introduce any modification in our Constitutions.

The Chapter, with a majority vote, responded affirmatively.

Fr. Julius Zambiasi proposed that n. 2 of Chapter III be thus modified: *The Superior General will reside in Rome, nor will he choose any other domicile, etc.*

After a serious discussion, this was put to a secret vote, with the following result:

Voting 17 [sic!²⁴] [Fr. Marini was absent for reasons of the Ministry]
Yes 17
No 2

After this vote, it was proposed to the Chapter that the time be determined within which the Superior General might possibly transfer his residence to Rome, giving the responsibility for carrying this out to the same Fr. Superior and his Council.

The Chapter decided with 18 votes out of 20 that the transfer of the Superior's residence to Rome, might possibly take place by the 1st of next January, and it gives the responsibility to Fr. Superior and to his Council, to carry out all the necessary negotiations for the fulfillment of this Decree, obtaining before all else, the due authorization of the Holy See.

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²⁴ Perhaps there were 19 voting, with only one absent.

Morning Session of September 19, 1906
9:00 a.m.

Fr. Julius Zambiasi made the Proposal that the term for the Office of Superior General, established by our Constitutions, for a ten year period n. 7, Chapter III, Part V] be reduced to six years.

The Proposal was formulated in these terms: 'The Superior General, with his Council, will remain on Office for six years, there will, therefore, every six years be convoked the ordinary General Chapter' – this was put to a vote, and received 18 favorable votes, out of 19 [Fr. Marini was absent].

In accord, therefore, with this deliberation, all the points of our Constitutions that have a relation to it, are modified.

Following this, there was introduced the disposition contained in the **Norms n. 235**, along these lines: 'After the first six year term, he can be elected to a second term: however, in order that he be able to be elected to a third consecutive six year term, it is necessary that he receive at least two thirds of all the votes, and that the conformation of the Holy See be obtained. * ²⁵.

**On the Proposal of Fr. Julius Zambiasi,
There was added to this same Chapter II:
'The Superior, on the completion of his
Office, will have active and passive voice
In the General Chapters, and the faculty
is given to him of choosing his place of
residence in any House of the Congrega-
tion he may prefer.'**

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi ²⁶

There were added also the disposition of **n. 270** of the Norms: 'If the Superior General feels he should resign from this highest office, he will expose his reasons to the Sacred Congregation, whose authority it is to accept it, or not.'

There was approved also the following disposition: 'With the Chapters for Elections, whether ordinary, or extraordinary, the Directors of the Houses will also cease from their Office.'

In Chapter IV (*) ²⁷

²⁵ This note was explained in the margin, as offered here.

²⁶ Here there was affixed the purple seal of the Congregation.

²⁷ This note, too, was explained in the margin, as offered here.

Number 1 of Chapter IV is thus Modified, after the words: *the Chapter on the Superior*, n. 7: Then, the Second Councilor, then the Third and Fourth. Lastly, Among these four, is elected the Monitor of the Superior General, and the Revisor of Economic Affairs, and lastly, the Procurator General, who can also be elected From among those who are not Councilors.
Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi²⁸

It is better to abandon the title of *Economus General*, given to the second elected Councilor: since this title in the Norms is consecrate to an entirely different matter; and there is to be modified n. 4, second²⁹ ..., in this manner: 'The Councilor elected, or *Economus*, will have the right and he duty of revising the material, or economic state of the entire Congregation. Therefore, both personally, and by letter, he will have the administration of he individual Houses of our Congregation, and without exercising the faculties that pertain to the Superior and his Council, he can concede, change, or take away concessions, and he will refer all to the Superior and his Council, what he judges pertains to the economic welfare of each House. He also, every year, will draw up the patrimonial state of the entire Congregation, and will give an account out of it to the Superior General and the rest of his Councilors.'

N. 3 of the same place is modified thus [cf. Norms 276]: 'So that the Office entrusted to them might suffer no detriment, they ought to reside in the principal House, with the Superior General.'

'However, in the case of necessity, two of them may live outside of that house, as long as they can easily be present whenever it is necessary for them to take par in a Council.'

In n. 7 of the same place, these words are to be omitted: *Moreover, it would be necessary*, etc.

In conformity to the disposition of the Norms [274], on the convocation of the Council, n. 5, of Chapter III, of this Part is to be thus modified: *Whenever it is necessary*, should follow these: *The Superior, four times a year, will assemble the Councilors, and furthermore, whenever the affairs of the Institute might require it.*

²⁸ Fr. Balestrazzi affixed the purple seal of the Congregation here to this note in the margins.

²⁹ Not clear

The Chapter, according to n. 262 of the Norms, and the recent Decree of July 16, 1906, of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, there are to be laced at the end of n. 3, of this same Chapter, the following words, which were also considered by the **XVth General Chapter**: *Moreover, every three years, he will send to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, a Report on the Disciplinary, Material, Personnel, and Economic State of the Institute.*

Before going on to Chapter V, fr. John Baptist Tomasi asked whether there was to be introduced the Office of *Economus General*, in the sense determined by the Norms[283, ff.], i.e., a person, elected by the general Chapter, and entrusted with administering, under dependence to the Superior, and his Council, the goods which the Institute as such, possesses, and that cannot be considered as belonging to any particular House.

After a long discussion, although the Chapter did recognize the necessity that the Institute, as such, might own goods: nevertheless, it finds it difficult for the moment, to determine, what, and how many goods of the Mother House of the Stimmate, and of our other Houses, pertain to the Institute, as such. Therefore, the Chapter entrusts the Superior and his Council to study the question asking, at the same time, that there be an Election of the *Economus General*, if this will be necessary.

Chapter V – Number Two should be modified thus, in the beginning [Norms, 307]:
No House will be established, unless the number of members be sufficient for it, that it can be maintained and sustained.

In n. 5, of the same place, there is to be added: *The consent of the Superior General, in writing, is to be given, and kept in the Acts of the House.*

Number 7 should conclude with these words: *The remaining Officials of the House are to be elected, or confirmed, whenever the Director of the house is elected, or confirmed.*

=====
Morning Session of September 20, 1906

The Chapter then took a cumulative and secret vote for all the modifications, or additions to our Constitutions, for which a special vote was held:

Voting 20
Yes 20
No 0

THEREFORE, THEY WERE ALL APPROVED.

The Chapter decided to commit 5 members to be chosen after the Election of the Councilors, the responsibility of completing the revision and the perfecting of our

Constitutions, so that within the next year, they might be presented to the Sacred Congregation for approbation.

Proposals can be presented to these five.

On the Proposals presented by Fr. John Castellani, and included here ³⁰, the Chapter heard with pleasure from the Superior that provisions had already been made for it.

The Chapter did not consider the second one.
It expressed the hope that the third be realized.
It did not pronounce itself on the fourth.
It praised the fifth and sixth.
The Superior responded for the seventh.
The eighth was not considered.

On the request proposed by Fr. Pio Gabos, the Chapter decided with 15 votes out of 19 [Fr. Marini was absent], that our Fathers ought to apply their Mass for room and board, all days that they celebrate, or stay in another House.

There was re-confirmed then, with 14 votes out of 19 [Fr. Marini was absent] the monthly contribution of 10 Masses, as was established by the preceding Chapter.

The Minutes were read and signed.

Fr. Pio Gurisatti	Fr. J. B. Castellani
Fr. Richard Tabarelli	Fr. Pio Gabos
Fr. O. Piccoli	Fr. Erminio Pivato
Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi	
Fr. Paul Gradinati	Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Secretary ³¹
Fr. James Marini	
Fr. Angelo M. Graziani	
Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella	
Fr. Louis Gasperotti	
Fr. Nicholas Lous Tomasi	
Fr. Stephen Rosa	
Fr. Julius Zambiasi	
Fr. Joseph Bertapelle	
Fr. Joseph Antonioli	
Fr. Ceasr Benaglia	
Michaeangelo Zanetti.	

³⁰ Fr. Castellani's Proposals were not found in the folder of the **XVIIth General Chapter**.

³¹ The customary purple, oval seal of the Congregation – and once again imprinted side-ways, appears here.

Xth Election of the five Deputies for the Revision of the Constitutions.
The following were elected:

- Fr. Balestrazzi with 18 votes out of 20.
- Fr. J. Baptist Tomasi with 17 votes out of 20.
- Fr. Piccoli with 16 votes out of 20.
- Fr. Tabarelli with 15 votes out of 20.
- Fr. J. Zambiasi with 10 votes out of 20.

Today, September 20, 1906, after the Minutes of the present Session had been read and approved, the Capitulars unanimously declared that the **XVIIth General Chapter** was closed, and signed their names.

- Fr. Pio Gurisatti. Superior General
- Fr. Richard Tabarelli ³²
- Fr. J. Baptist Tomasi
- Fr. Jullius Zambiasi ³³
- Fr. Angelo M.Graziani
- Fr. Cajetan Pizzighella
- Fr. Louis Gasperotti
- Fr. Paul Gradinati
- Fr. Nicholas Louis Tomasi
- Fr. Stephen Rosa
- Fr. Joseph Bertapelle
- Fr.O. Piccoli
- Fr. Joseph Antonioli
- Fr. Cesar Benaglia
- Fr. Michaelangelo Zanetti
- Fr. J. B. Castellani
- Fr. Pio Gabos
- Fr. Erminio Pivato
- Fr. James Marini

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi
Secretary of the Chapter

((Purple, oval seal elongated:
CONGREGATION of the
PRIESTS OF THE SACRED STIGMATA
of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.))

³² Fr. Tabarelli's last General Chapter – he would go home to the Lord on + **October 11, 1909** at the age of 59.

³³ Fr.J. Zambiasi, too, would die in the near future - + **March 19, 1909**, at the age of 48.

**TO THE VERNERABLE FATHERS AND BROTHERS of
the CONGREGATION OF THE PRIESTS of the STIGMATA of
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST³⁴**

It is hereby made known that the **XVIIth General Chapter**, in its work on our Constitutions, approved various modifications and additions, that can be read by all, together with those already introduced by the preceding **Chapters**, for a re-printing of them in the near future.

Meanwhile, these that are the most important, and the most opportune to consider, are here communicated

a] Modifications

1st The Election of the Father Master of Novices is entrusted to the Very Rev. Fr. Superior with his Council, and the duration of his Office is three years.

2nd Although the care of hearing the Novices' Confessions is entrusted to the Rev. Master, they can also go to another Confessor.

3rd The residence of the Very Rev. Superior General is established in Rome: this will be carried out as soon as possible, after the due authorization of the Holy See is obtained.

4th The duration of the Fr. Superior General' term, and of his Council, will be six years: and, therefore, the convocation of the ordinary General Chapter will be every six years, beginning with the next Election.

b.] Additions

1st - To Chapter IV, Part IV/

'If the Superior General prudently judges that some Professed student is not to be promoted to Orders, either because of a defect of knowledge, or because of some other defects, which appeared as he grew older, and which do not give the right of dismissing him from the Institute, the Superior can, with the vote of his Councilors, indefinitely defer the reception of Orders, and, in the meantime, occupy him in those duties he judges fitting for him.'

2nd To Chapter III, Part V

'The Superior, whose term of Office has ceased, will be honored with the title of 'Very Reverend', and by his own right, will have active and passive voice in the General Chapters, and the faculty of choosing his own residence in any House of the Congregation, he may prefer.'

³⁴ The last paper presently contained in the Folder of the **XVIIth General Chapter**, is the communication of its decisions. It measures 16 by 12 inches, folded to make 4 lined sides, 8 by 12 inches. Two and one of these are covered with writing.

XVIIIth

GENERAL CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 20 - 23, 1911

§§§§§§

ACTS

of the

18th GENERAL CHAPTER ³⁶

September 20 – 23, 1911

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§§§

³⁶ The 13 pages of the **Minutes** of this **18th General Chapter** appear on lined, white paper 8 by 12 inches. None of the Proposals to the Chapter appear in this Folder.

³⁷ AN extraordinary booklet of 12 pages, perhaps the work of Fr.Balestrazzi.

**Minutes of the XVIIIth General Chapter
of the Congregation
of the Priests of the sacred Stigmata of our Lord
Jesus Christ
held
at the Mother House of the Stimate
from the 20th to the 23rd of September 1911 ³⁸**

“In the Name of the Lord. Amen”

According to the Norms of numbers 150 and 171 of our Constitutions, the Very Rev.Fr. Superior General, Fr. Pio Gurisatti, whose ten year term of Office ends this year, following his Election on the 25th of September,1901, in accord with the previous Constitutions: by his Letter of May 1, 1911, he announced the General Chapter for the Election of the Superior General, and of the other Major officials, as well as for the usual treatment of affairs; to be held in the Mother House of the Stimate, on the 20th of September. In that same Letter, were designated the Capitulars by virtue of their Office, in conformity with the first part of n. 163 [of the Constitutions], namely, the following ten:

1. **Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General**
2. **Fr. Angelo grziani, Councilor and Procurator general**
3. **Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi, Councilor**
4. **Fr. Michaelangelo Zanetti, Councilor and Director of the Stimate**
5. **Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Councilor**
6. **Fr. Erminio Pivato**
7. **Fr. Joseph Bertapelle, Director of the House of Parma**
8. **Fr. Paul Sozzi, Director of the House of Pavia**
9. **Fr. Octavian Piccoli, Director of the House of Udine**
10. **Fr. Pio Gabos, Director of the House of Gemona**

The other ten capitulars elected according to nn. 144,145, 146 and the prescriptions contained in the Circular Letter of the Very Rev. Superior General, as results from the Minutes of the Chapter, held for the opening of the ballots, dated July 15, 1911, are the following:

1. **Fr. Albino Sella**
2. **Fr. Joseph Mattei**
3. **Fr. Louis Tommasi**
4. **Fr. Emilio Baratella**
5. **Fr. John Castellani**
6. **Fr. Anthony DallaPorta**
7. **Fr. Alexis Magagna**
8. **Fr. John Lona**
9. **Fr. Egidio Stofella**
10. **Fr. Joseph Nardon**

³⁸ This title is found on the front page of this uncovered booklet. There is the purple ink elongated seal of the Congregation, and his is found on every full page, with Fr. Balestrazzi's signature.

Ist Session
20th of September of the Year 1911

At nine o'clock in the morning, the Capitular Fathers gathered to recite the usual prayers, in the Church of the Stimate, in Verona; then, they repaired to the Chapel, next to the room of our Venerable Founder.

When each one had taken his place, the Chapter, constituted of the above-named Fathers, was declared full and legitimate. Fr. Michaelangelo³⁹, a Capitular by his Office was impeded from attending due to illness – and Fr. Alexis Magagna, a Capitular by Election, who renounced this, by his Letter of July 15, 1911.

Then, there was taken up the Election of the Secretary of the Chapter, by secret ballot.

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi was elected with 15 votes.

In the same manner, there was elected the Assistant for the Election, and Fr. Louis Tommasi was likewise chosen with fifteen votes.

At this point, the Very Rev. Fr. Superior declared his resolution of resigning from the Presidency of the Chapter. The Chapter directed toward him repeated requests to desist from his resolve, and even presented him the doubt that may arise on the legitimacy of the Chapter itself, since our Constitutions do not specifically contemplate such a case, but he replied that he had consulted an authoritative person in Rome, who assured him that he could do this, without any prejudice to the Chapter. And despite addition entreaties, he remained firm in his determination, and he ceded the Presidency to the First Councilor and Vicar, Fr. John Baptist Tommasi, and left the room.

Fr. Pio Gurisatti⁴⁰

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Secretary

Fr. John Baptist Tommasi immediately submitted the following Proposal to the Chapter:

Does the Chapter believe, following the declarations of the Very Rev. Superior, and his resignation of the Presidency and his subsequent withdrawal, that it can continue with all security, under the new Presidency?

After a mature discussion, a secret vote was taken:

Voting	17 [seventeen]
Yes	17 [seventeen]

Thus after establishing the next session in accord with the Constitutions, for Friday morning, the 22nd day of September, the First Session was adjourned.

³⁹ This is Fr. Zanetti, a Councilor and Director of the House of the Stimate – perhaps he took the place of Fr. Zambiasi, who died during his term as General Councilor.

⁴⁰ In pencil, there appears this signature: Fr. Pio Gurisatti. In the right hand margin, there is the purple, elongated oval seal of the Congregation, with the following signature, that of Fr. Balestrazzi

The Minutes were read and signed.

Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi
 Fr. Angelo M. Graziani
 Fr. O. Piccoli
 Fr. J. Berapelle
 Fr. Egidio Stofella
 Fr. Joseph Mattei
 Fr. J.B. Castellani
 Fr. Joseph Nardon
 Fr. Pio Gabos
 Fr. Emilio Baratella
 Fr. Albino Sella
 Fr. Erminio Pivato
 Fr. *Antonius* Dalla Porata ⁴¹
 Fr. John Lona
 Fr. Paul Sozzi
 Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Secretary
 Fr. Nicholas Louis M. Tomasi ⁴², Assistant

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Secretary ⁴³

IInd Session ⁴⁴
22nd of September of the year 1911

After the Minutes of the preceding Session had been read and approved, the Chapter proceeded forthwith to the Election of the Superior General, with the following result:

Voting	17
Fr. John Baptist Tommas	16 [sixteen] votes.
Fr. Octavian Piccoli	1 [one] vote.

FATHER JOHN BAPTIST TOMMASI arose and declared that he could not accept, for geneal and personal reasons. The Chapter, he added, should proceed freely to a second vote: after that, if the Chapter should judge that the special circumstances in our Congregation are such, that he should sacrifice himself for the good of the same, he will accept, with resignation. Following this, he left the room, so that the Capitulars might have full freedom to discuss the matter. Then, he was recalled, and a second ballot was taken:

⁴¹ Fr. A. Dalla Porta often signs in Latin.

⁴² On this list, Fr. J. Tommasi is written with two 'm,s'
 s. And here Fr. L. Tomasi, with one 'm' :- this frequently varies through these years.

⁴³ At the very bottom of the page, the purple, elongated seal of the Congregation, with Fr. Balestrazzi's signature.

⁴⁴ On Thursday, September 21, 1911, the day before the Election of the new Superior General, the Capitulars spent in prayer.

Voting	17 [seventeen]
Fr. John Baptist Tommasi	16 [sixteen] votes.
Fr. Octavian Piccoli	1 [one] vote.

When the Decree of Election had been drawn up and read, according to the prescripts of our Constitutions, and when the due homage had been manifested to the newly elected, the Capitulars, with the Very Rev. Superior, repaired to the Church, to recite with the entire Community, the *Te, Deum*. Then, all returned to the Chapter to continue the Session.

Before continuing with the Elections, the Chapter agreed in harmony, to open the discussion on the Proposals to be presented especially regarding the modifications of the Constitutions, and therefore, according to our Constitutions, by secret ballot, there was held the Election of three Capitulars, who, together with the President and with the Secretary, are to examine the Proposals to be submitted to Capitular treatment.

It is the intention of the Chapter to limit itself under the circumstances, to those that are judged the most necessary at the moment, as it has in mind to elect a Commission with the responsibility of completing the Revision and the drawing up of our Constitutions, to be presented to the Sacred Congregation for their approval.

The following, therefore, were elected; Fr. Pio Gabos, with 15 votes, and Frs. Angelo Graziani and John Baptist Castellani, with 13 votes.

The modifications proposed and discussed were the following:

n. 143 – After *Procurator General*, there is to be added *Economus General*.

n. 147 – There is to be read: *only those who have completed thirty years of age, and are at least five years Professed after ordination.*

The modifications proposed and discussed are the following:

1. The monthly Mass for our deceased, ordered in n. 109, is also to have the intention ‘for families and benefactors.’
2. The electoral ballots, spoken on in n. 145, are to be marked with the deal of the Congregation. Furthermore, the official entrusted with receiving them, will place them immediately in a sealed urn, well guarded.
3. In n. 147, the age for those eligible for the General Chapter is determined to be thirty years completed, and give years of perpetual⁴⁵ profession, after Ordination.
4. In n. 150, these words are to be eliminated; ‘which ordinarily will fall in the month of September ...’

⁴⁵ This word was underlined in pencil.

5. In n. 188, there is to be read: ‘The Superior General will reside in Rome, nor can he choose another perpetual domicile, without, ‘ etc. [cf. Norms n. 253].

6. In n. 191, there is to be read: ‘for the election of the Directors of all the Hosues.’

7. In n. 193, there is to be added in accord with the Norms, n. 295: ‘The Superior General, at the end of his term, will render an accurate report to the General Chapter, of his administration of the common goods during the ime he was in office, as well as of the economic state of the entire Institute: furthermore, the financial reports will be drawn up by the Economus General, and before the Chapter, these are to be made known to the General Council. Moreover, there will be elected capitulars, three who were not members of the Council; their responsibility will be to examine all of those matters, and then report to the Chapter.’

8. In Part V, Chapter IV: ‘Concerning the General Councilors’, etc., there is to be introduced the Office of Economus General, since the difficulty has been removed that impeded its introduction in the last Chapter, as was the desire; that is, it was then difficult to determine what goods the Institute, as such, possessed. The Economus General, in accord with the Norms, is to be elected by the General Chapter, outside the number of the Councilors, with the responsibility of administering, under the dependence on the Superior, and his Council, the goods that the Institute, as such, possesses, and he is to be a Capitular by virtue of his Office.

9. In n. 215, there is to be added that the Economus of the House has the right of keeping the financial registers.

Following a decision, by secret ballot the Chapter went on to a secret, cumulative vote of the above-mentioned modifications, or additions.

Voting	17 [seventeen]
Responding for Yes	17 [seventeen]
ALL ARE APPROVED.	

The Commission for the examination of the Proposals read those of Rev. Fr. John Baptist Castellani. The major part of these regard the discipline of our students: the Very Rev. President praised the interest that was shown for such a vital question; but hopes, thanks to God, that it might be able to be provided for in a better way, if it is possible, to have again the Convent of the Most Holy trinity, as this is both possible and probable.

Then, there was brought before the Chapter the vote of the last Chapter, that of interesting itself for a list of privileges and faculties to be obtained form the Holy See for our Fathers.

The Minutes were read and approved:

Fr. J. Baptist Tommasi, Superior General
 Fr. Angelo M. Graziani, Procurator General
 Fr. O. Piccoli
 Fr. Nicholas Louis M. Tomasi
 Fr. Joseph Bertapelle
 Fr. Egidio Stofella
 Fr. J. Baptist Castellani
 Fr. Joseph Mattei
 Fr. Joseph Nardon
 Fr. Pio Gabos
 Fr. Emilio Baratella
 Fr. Albino Sella
 Fr. Erminio Pivato
 Fr. *Antonius* Dalla Porta ⁴⁶
 Fr. John Lona
 Fr. Paul Sozzi
 Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Secretary ⁴⁷

IIIrd Session
23rd of September of the Year 1911

It was decided to proceed to the elections:

Voting 17 [seventeen]

- I. Election of the four General Councilors – the following were elected:
 - Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi with 16 [sixteen] votes.
 - Fr. Albino Sella with 12 [twelve] votes.
 - Fr. Octavian Piccoli with 11 [eleven] votes.
 - Fr. Emilio Baratella with 11 [eleven] votes.
- II. Election of the First Councilor and Vicar.
 - Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi with ...⁴⁸ votes.
- III. Election of the Monitor of the Fr. Superior.
 - Fr. Albino Sella was elected with 12 [twelve] votes out of 16, as the Very Rev. Fr. Superior did not cast his vote in this Election.
- IV. Election of the Revisor of Economic Affairs.
 - Fr. Octavian Piccoli was elected with 12 [twelve] votes.
- V. Election of the Economist General.
 - Fr. Pio Gabos was elected with 9 [nine] votes.
- VII. Election of the Examiners of the Ist Scrutiny – the following were elected:

⁴⁶ Fr. A. Dalla Porta again signed in Latin. Sometimes his name is rendered: *Dalla-porta*.

⁴⁷ The entire next page was not written on, so Fr. Balestrazzi crossed it out, and signed it at the bottom, and put the seal of the Congregation in it.

⁴⁸ The number of votes that Fr. Balestrazzi received is not given.

**MATTERS PERTAINING to the XVIIIth GENERAL CHAPTER of our
CONGREGATION – in the YEAR 1911 ⁵⁰**

- I. Superior General's Letter of Convocation – May 1, 1911**
- II. List of Electors**
- III. Results of the Elections**
- IV. Celebration of the Chapter**
- V. Capitular Decisions**
- VI. Consequences of the Chapter**
- VII. State of the Congregation**
- VIII. Series of the General Chapters.**

§§§

⁵⁰ Next appears a kind of booklet, written in Latin, on 12, faintly lined pages, the paper measuring 4 and one half by 7 inches. It is a most remarkable work, both for its tiny, but excellent penmanship, and also for the work that went into compiling its data. It seems to have been the work of Fr. Balestrazzi, who often was fascinated, it seems, by such projects. The penmanship does not seem to have been that of Fr. Balestrazzi, and, although it is small, it is generally quite legible except in those places indicated in these notes. To have some idea of the size of the writing, the compiler left nearly an inch margin at the top, and an inch on the bottom, using, therefore, only five inches of the paper. But, he still managed to get in about 36 lines of writing on each page, **about 7 lines per inch!** The booklet is divided into 8 headings, as is noted in the Table of Contents.

I. CONVOCAATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

The Superior General of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Since this year, the General Chapter is to be held, so that the Superior General and the major officials of our Congregation might be elected, and also that those matters might be treated that according to our Constitutions, have been proposed by the Capitulars, by means of this Letter, we set the 20th day of September for it. The place, moreover, in which the Capitulars will assemble will be the Mother House of the Stimate in Verona. – As for the manner to be observed in constituting this Chapter, we transcribe here those statutes that are found in our Constitutions.

I. The following attend the General Chapter by virtue of their Office: the Superior General, the General Councilors, the Procurator General, and the Directors of the Houses, who have been appointed at least an entire year before this Decree. In addition to these, among the remaining eligible members, as many capitulars are to be elected, in the manner described below, as there are Capitulars who attend by virtue of their Office [n. 143].

II. The manner of electing Capitulars will be this: each Professed Member in perpetual vows, and a Priest, will designate from among those who, according to our Constitutions, can be elected, those whom he judges more suited in the Lord, according to the number explained above. Each one will then send to the Superior General the names of those elected by him, in a closed envelope [n. 143].

III. So that these ballots might more securely remain secret, and at the same time, so that it might be verified that the ballot of each and every one has been received, a ballot will be sent to each one of the Electors, on which are written the names of all those who can be elected. He, then, will clearly designate the names of those whom he wishes to elect, and will enclose his ballot in a double envelope, and he will write his own name in his own hand on the exterior envelope, and will make no other mark, either on his ballot, or on the inside envelope that contains it. All of these things are to be observed, under penalty of rendering his ballot invalid [n. 145].

IV. The Superior, moreover, on the day indicated in his Letter of Convocation of the General Chapter, will convoke the House Chapter of the Mother house, which all the Electors, who are present in it, may attend. In this Chapter, there are first to be elected, by a relative majority of votes, four Scrutineers, who, before the Capitulars, together with the Superior, will open the ballots. Moreover, the manner of their opening of the ballots will be such, so that the votes will remain absolutely secret. These will be considered elected who obtain a relative plurality of the votes. If, however, several receive the same number of votes, which would bring the number chosen beyond the number established, a lot will decide who among them is indeed elected. The Superior and the Capitulars present will sign all these Acts, drawn up in writing [n. 146].

V. Moreover, only they will be eligible and have active and passive voice in the General Chapter, who are thirty-five years of age, and have been professed at least five years since their ordination. Furthermore, all other eligible Members will also enjoy passive voice, even though they have not been elected to the general Chapter. The Directors, however, who have not yet reached the prescribed age, or years of Profession, are to enjoy only active voice in this General Chapter. [n. 147]

According to the Statutes, the following will attend the General Chapter, in virtue of their office:

1. Fr. Pio Gurisatti – Superior General
2. Fr. Angelo Graziani – Councilor and Procurator General
3. Fr. John Baptist Tommasi- Councilor
4. Fr. Michaelangelo Zanetti – Councilor
5. Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi – Councilor
6. Fr. Erminio Pivato – Director of the House of Trent
7. Fr. Joseph Bertapelle – Director of the House of Parma
8. Fr. Paul Sozzi – Director of the House of Pavia
9. Fr. Octavian Piccoli –Director of the House of Udine
10. Fr. Pio Gabos – Director of the House of Gemona

In addition to these, ten others from among those who can be elected, are to be designated in the manner explained above. Moreover, all electors will give their closed ballots in due time to their Directors, who will immediately send them before the twelfth day of July, to the Director of the Mother House in Verona, who has been specially delegated by us, and on that day, he, with our authority, and in the established manner, will open the ballots, and as soon as possible, we will make known the results of them to the entire Congregation.

Since, however, every good and perfect gift is from above, and descends from the father of Lights, we order that in each House, from the first day of July, until the completion of the General Chapter, there will be recited every day by all, the Hymn *Veni, Creator*, with the Oration, *O God, Who ... the hearts of the faithful*, the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, the *Gloria*, with the Oration *To Thy servants*, and *Eternal rest...*, for the souls of our deceased brethren. Furthermore, we order that three Masses be celebrated in the House of the Stimate, and one in each of the other Houses, *Of the Holy Spirit*, if the Rubrics permit.

Lastly, taking the occasion offered to us by this Letter which we are treating as of the utmost importance for our Congregation, among the other exercises of piety, which we have indicated for imploring divine assistance, we urge especially that the usual annual Spiritual Exercises be performed with special fervor, and they will be held from the sixth to the twelfth day of August, as in past years.

We impart our paternal blessing to all the members, as a hope of divine assistance.

Given at Verona, at the Stimate, the first day of May 1911.

((Place of the Seal))

Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General

II. NAMES OF ALL ELECTORS

<u>YEAR OF OR-DINATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESIDENCE & OFFICE</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>
	1. Alexander ACLER	Capodistria	----
	2. Henry ADAMI	Tibagy, BRAZIL	----
1888	3. Joseph ANTONIOLL	Milano – Director	Eligible
1894	4. Alfred BALESTRAZZI	Belluno-Sem. Prof. – Gen. Counc.	Capitular
1895	5. Emilio BARATELLA	Pavia – Economist	Eligible
	6. Henry BATTISTI	Verona – Stimmate	----
1892	7. Cesar BENAGLIA	Gemona	Eligible
1908	8. Louis BENEDETTI	Udine-Censor of the College	----
1884	9. Joseph BERTAPELLE	Parma-Director	Capitular
1897	10. Edward CASTELLANI	Gemona	Eligible
1894	11. JohnBaptCASTELLANI	Verona-Stimmate	Eligible
1905	12. Louis CEMBRAN		----
1911	13. Bruno CHIESA	Verona-S.Maria del Giglio	** 51
1899	14. Anth.DALLA PORTA	Springfield MA – Director	Eligible
	15. Raym.DALLA PORTA	Pistoia	----
	16. Charles DeFERRARI		----
	17. Henry FADANELLI	Milano-Economus	----
1894	18. Louis FANTOZZI	Belluno-Sem.Prof. –Sec. to Rector	Eligible
	19. August.FIORAMONTE	Verona-Stimmate:Dir.Patron.Pius X	----
	20. Joseph FIORIO	Trent-Economus	----
1904	21. Godfrey FRIEDMANN	Belluno-Sem. Professor	----
1899	22. Henry GABOS	Gemona-Economus	----
1895	23. Pio GABOS	Gemona-Director	Capitular
	24. Louis GASPEROTTI	Roma-House of Prefetti	Eligible
	25. Angelo GRAZIANI	Rome-Direc.of Prefetti-Gen.Counc.	Capitular
1904	26. Alexander GRIGOLLI	Tibagy-Director	----
	27. Gino GRUPPO	Verona-Stimmate.Teacher at Patron.	----
	28. Pio GURISATTI	Roma-S.Maria dei Miracoli.Sup.Gen	Capitular
1890	29. Victor GURISATTI		Eligible
	30. Edwin JOB	Capodistria	----
	31. Hyacinth LARGHER	Parma-Chaplain:Daughter of Cross	----
1902	32. Erminio LONA	Capodistria-Dir.	----
1899	33. John LONA	Milan	Eligible
1905	34. Paride LUCHETTI	Trent	----
1883	35. Ludovicus LUCHI	Hazleton PA – Dir.	Eligible
	36. Alexis MAGAGNA	Verona-S.Maria del Giglio	Eligible
1904	37. Fortun. MANTOVANI	Milan	----
	38. James MARINI	Verona-Stimmate	Eligible
1911	39. Tarcisio MARTINA	Rome. S.M.dei Mir.,Verona:Stimm.	** 52
1892	40. Joseph MATTEI	Edine-College Teacher	Eligible
1910	41. Benjamin MIORI	Piacenza	----
1895	42. Joseph NARDON		Eligible
	43. Angelo PAGLIARUSSO	Gemona-Teacher	----
	44. Fortunato PEDOT	Belluno-Sem. Professor	----
1903	45. Francis PEDROTTI	Edine-Vice Direc. – Recr. F.Ud.	----

⁵¹ **Bruno Chiesa** was a Deacon at the time of the Election

⁵² **Tarcisio Martina** was not yet in Holy Orders at the time of the Election.

	46. J.Bapt.PELANDA	Udine-Dir.Recr. F. Ud.	----
1910	47. J.Bapt.PERENZONI	Trent	----
1908	48. Richard PICCIONI	Gemona-Teacher	----
1895	49. Octavian PICCOLI	Udine-Dir. Rect. of S.Peter, M.	Capitular
	50. Peter PIEMONTE	Springfield MA	----
	51. Dominic PITTIONI	Edine-Dir.Archiepis.College	Eligible
1897	52. Erminio PIVATO	Tent-Dir. & Mster of Novices	Capitular
	53. Cajetan PIZZIGHELLA	Rome-Dir. of S.M.dei Miracoli	Eligible
	54. Dominic PLOTTI	Verona – Stimmate	
1911	55. Emil RECCHIA	Gemona-Teacher	*** ⁵³
1911	56. Joseph ROSA	Gemona-Teacher	**** ⁵⁴
1884	57. Stephen ROSA	Verona-Stimmate-Prof. at Patron.	Eligible
1903	58. Dominic ROSSI	Belluno-Economus	----
1890	59. Peter SCOTTON	Piacenza-Direc. & Rector – Pent.	Eligible
1905	60. Silvio Sega	Parma-Economus	----
1897	61. Albino SELLA	Pistoia-Dir.	Eligible
1902	62. Leo SELLA	Belluno-Prof. In Seminary	----
1899	63. Angelo SIMIONI		Eligible
1902	64. Paul SOZZI (1)	Pavia- Director	Capitular (1)
1888	65. Egidio STOFELLA	Pavia	Eligible
	66. Joseph STOFELLA	Belluno – Seminary Prof.	----
1890	67. J.Bapt.TOMMASI	Belluno-Dir.;Ret.of Sem.Gen.Coun.	Capitular
1881	68. Louis TOMASI	Gemona-Prof.	Eligible
1911	69. Anthony TONIOLLI *	Verona-S.Maria del Giglio;Stimm.	* ⁵⁵
1903	70. Joseph TONDIN	Pistoia-Economus	----
1901	71. Richard ZAMBIASI	Udine-Prof. of Music	----
1904	72. Feruuccio ZANETTI	Piacenza	----
1893	73. Michaelangel.ZANETTI	Verona-Stimmate-Gen.Counc.	Capitular
1900	74. George ZANGHELLINI	Udine-Econ.&V.Rec of Archep.Col.	----
	75. Julius ZANINI	Verona-Stimmate-Rect. of Church	Eligible
1900	76.Emmanuel ZANOTELLI	Verona-Stimm.Prof.Temp.Vekov?	----
1907	77. John Bapt. ZAUPA	Verona-S.M.del Giglio-Pref.of Prof.	----

(1)Active voice only

NB: From the preceding list, it appears that there are 74 Electors of whom 10 are Capitulars by virtue of their Office [1. Alfred BALESTRAZZI; 2. Joseph BERAPELLE; 3. Pio GABOS; 4. Angelo GRAZIANI; 5. Pio GURISATTI; 6.Octavian PICCOLI; 7. Erminio PIVATO; 8. Paul SOZZI-with active voice only; John Baptist TOMMASI; 10. Michaelangelo ZANETTI] –

And there are 24 who are eligible [1. Joseph ANTONIOLLI; 2. Emilio BARATELLA; 3. Cesar BENAGLIA; 4. Edward CASTELLANI; 5. Jon Baptist CASTELLANI; 6. Anthony DELLA-PORTA; 7. Louis FANTOZZI; 8. Louis GASPEROTTI; 9. Victor GURISATTI; 10. John LONA; 11. Ludovicus LUCHI; 12.Alexis MAGAGNA; 13.James MARINI; 14. Joseph MATTEI; 15. Joseph NARDON; 16. Dominic PITTIONI; 17. Cajetan PIZZIGHELLA; 18. Stephen ROSA; 19. Peter SCOTTON; 20. Albino SELLA; 21. Angelo SIMEONI; 22. Egidio STOFELLA; 23.Louis TOMASI; 24, Julius ZANINI];

The remaining 40 are Electors only, and the other three were ordained after the Elections.

†††††

⁵³ At the time of the Election, **Emil Recchia** was not yet in Holy Orders

⁵⁴ At the time of the Election, **Joseph Rosa** was not yet in Holy Orders.

⁵⁵ At the time of the Election, **Anthony Toniolli** was only a Deacon.

III. RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS

On Saturday, the 15th of July of this year, in the Mother House, in Verona, in the presence of Fr. Pio Gurisatti, there was held the opening of the votes, the results of which [these were made known on the same day to the entire Congregation] were:

Therefore, the ten following were elected Capitulars:

1.	Albino Sella	[60 votes]	6.	Anthony Della-porta	[41 votes]
2.	Joseph Mattei	[54 "]	7.	John Lona	[39 "]
3.	Louis Tomasi	[49 "]	8.	Alexis Magagna	[39 "]
4.	Emilio Baratella	[45 "]	9.	Egidio Stofella	[38 "]
5.	John Bapt. Castelatni	[42 "]	10.	Joseph Nardon	[34 "]

The remaining 14 of the Eligible received these votes, or ballots:

11.	Jossep Antonioli	[29 "]	18.	Louis Fantozzi	[17 votes]
12.	Stephen Rosa	[26 "]	19.	Dominic Pittioni	[15 "]
13.	Edward Castellani	[25 "]	20.	Julius Zanini	[14 "]
14.	Cesar Benaglia	[24 "]	21.	Cajetan Pizzighella	[8 "]
15.	Ludovicus Luchi	[22 "]	22..	Victor Gurisatti	[6 "]
16.	Peter Scotton	[20 "]	23.	Louis Gasperotti	[3 "]
17.	James Marini	[19 "]	24.	Angelo Simeoni	[0 "]

IV. CELEBRATION OF THE CHAPTER

On the 20th day of September, Wednesday of Ember Week, in Verona, in the Mother House, at the Stimate, in the adjacent Chapel, Fr. Pio Gurisatti, by virtue of his Office, opened the **XVIIIth General Chapter of our Congregation** – Of the 20 Capitulars, 18 were present – these two were absent: Fr. Michaelangelo Zanetti, who was ill, and a patient in the hospital, and Fr. Alexis Magagna, who, by Letter, [which was read in the Ist Session], renounced his office – Fr. Pio Gurisatti, moreover, at the beginning of the First Session, withdrew, and on the morning of September 22nd, he went directly to Trent; and so, the **XVIIIth General Chapter** was celebrated with 17 Capitulars [8 in virtue of their Office, and 9 elected]. In the afternoon of the 21st, there was unanimously elected [with 16 votes] as Superior General, by unanimous voice, on the morning of the following day, the 22nd of September – This Election was immediately communicated by Letter, to the European Houses, and by telegraph, to the American houses – Fr. John Baptist Tommasi was born in Bassano, on the 24th of January, of the year 1866, and was ordained a Priest in the year 1890.

The Chapter was closed on the 23rd day of September, Ember Saturday.

†††††

V. CHAPTER DECISIONS

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Secretary of the General Chapter, on the 23rd day of September, sent to all the houses of our Congregation, a leaflet, printed in Verona, concerning the Chapter. His printed folder contains the following⁵⁶ :

**“XVIIIth General Chapter - - September 20-23, 1911
“To the Venerable Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of
the Priests of the Sacred Stigmata of Our Lord
Jesus Christ.”**

“It is hereby made known that the **XVIII General Chapter**, on the 22nd day of September, 1911, elected and proclaimed the Very Rev. Fr. JOHN BAPTIST TOMMASI, as Superior General of the Congregation.

“Then, remitting a more accurate study of our Constitutions to a special Commission, the Chapter, in the meantime, approved the following modifications to our Constitutions:

“1. The monthly Mass for our deceased, prescribed in n. 109, is also to have the intention for Parents and Benefactors.

“2. The electoral ballots, spoken of in n. 145, are to be marked with the Seal of the Congregation. Moreover, the official entrusted with receiving them, will place them immediately in a sealed urn, and well guarded.

“3. In n. 147, the age for those eligible for the General Chapter is set at thirty years, and give years of perpetual profession, after ordination.

No longer, therefore, 35 years of age, and 5 of Profession⁵⁷. Note of the transcriber to n. 3.

“4. In n. 150, these words are to be eliminated: *which ordinarily will fall in the month of September...*

“5. In n. 188, there should read: *The Superior General will reside in Rome, nor can he choose another perpetual domicile, without...* etc. [Norms 253].

“6. In n. 191, there should red: *for the election of the Directors of all the Houses.*

“7. In n. 193, the following is to be added, in accord with the Norms, n. 295: *The Superior General, at the end of his term of Office, will render an accurate Report to the General Chapter of his administration in the time of his term of Office, as well as of the economic state of the entire Institute: furthermore, the financial reports will be drawn up by the *Economus General*, and before the Chapter, these are to be made known to the general Council.*

⁵⁶ A copy of this printed folder is found among the papers of this **XVIIIth General Chapter**. It measures 14 by 10 and three fourths inches, folded to make four sides, 7 by 10 and three fourths inches. The printing covers only the inside two pages. Fr. Balestrazzi's written signature appears near the bottom right hand side, and also the purple, oval seal of the Congregation.

⁵⁷ This note does not appear in the printed copy.

Moreover, there will be elected by the Capitulars, three who were not members of the Council: their responsibility will be to examine all of these matters, and then report to the Chapter.

“8. In Part V, Chapter IV, ‘Concerning the General Councilors’, etc., there is to be introduced the office of *Economus General*, since the difficulty has been removed that impeded its introduction in the last Chapter, as was the desire; that is, it was then difficult to determine what goods the Institute, as such, possessed. – The *Economus General*, in accord with the Norms, is to be elected by the General Chapter, outside the number of the councilors, with the responsibility of administering, under dependence on the Superior and his Council, the goods that the Institute as such possesses, and he is to be a Capitular in virtue of his Office.

“9. In n.215, there is to be added that the *Economus* of the House has the right to keep the financial registers.

△△△△

((“Notes of the one who gathered these Capitular thoughts ⁵⁸:

”n. 4: The Chapter, therefore, can be held at any time of the year – It would be hoped [this is the expressed opinion of several Capitulars] that it would be held immediately before, or after, the Spiritual Exercises.

“n. 5: Therefore, the Superior General can, for a time, reside outside of Rome – which he could not do before.

“n. 6: Therefore, from now on, all the Directors are to be elected by the Council, and not only by the Superior – All of these Directors will have the right of capitulars, and all the houses will be canonical – which was not the case up until today. We mean the Directors of the Houses of Capodisria; Hazleton, PA; Milan; Piacenza; Rome, S. Maria dei Miracoli; Scranton PA; Tibagy; Verona, S. Maria del Giglio; who did not take part in the Chapter; and the Directors of the Houses of Pistoia and Springfield, MA – who participated either because of election, or by virtue of their Office [Rome, the House of the Prefetti].))

△△△△

The Chapter took up the Elections, with the following results:

General Councilors

Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Vicar of the Superior
Fr. Albino Sella, Monitor of the Superior
Fr. Octavian Piccoli, Rvisor
Fr. Emilio Baratella

Procurator General

Fr. Angelo Graziani

Economus General

Fr. Pio Gabos

Examiners of the Ist Scrutiny

1. Fr. Godfrey Friedmann
2. Fr. Paul Sozzi
3. Fr. Dominic Rossi
4. Fr. Stephen Rosa
5. For John Baptist Castellani
6. Fr. John Lona
7. Fr. Emilio Baratella

Examiners of the IInd Scrutiny

1. Fr. John Baptist Zaupa
2. Fr. Octavian Piccoli
3. Fr. Albino Sella
4. Fr. Louis Tommasi
5. Fr. Michaelangelo Zanetti
6. Fr. Joseph Mattei
7. Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi

⁵⁸ These Notes do not appear in the printed copy.

There was then elected a Commission for the revision and the drawing up of our Constitutions, to be presented to the Sacred Congregation for their approbation.

President:	Fr. Octavian Piccoli
Members	1. Fr. John Baptist Zaupa
	2. Fr. Joseph Fiorio
	3. Fr. John Baptist Castellani
	4. Fr. Paul Sozzi

Verona, 23rd of September 1911
(Place of Seal)

The Capitular Secretary
Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi ⁵⁹

†††††

VI. CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHAPTER

“In addition to the consequences of the General Chapter, about which the preceding n. V treats, and others which naturally flow from what has been recorded, this one is to be noted, taken from the Book of our Constitutions, Part V, Chapter III, n. 195:

The Superior, whose term of Office has ended, will be called by the title of Very Reverend, and by his own right, he will have active and passive voice in the general Chapters, and also have the faculty of choosing for his residence, that House of the Congregation, which he might prefer.

†††††

⁵⁹ Here concludes the printed leaflet of the Chapter Deliberations.

VII. STATE OF THE CONGREGATION AT THIS TIME

I. House of Belluno

1. Fr. J. B. Tommasi, Director and Rector of the Seminary
2. A. Balestrazzi, Professor in the Seminary
3. Joseph Fiorio " " "
4. Leo Sella " " "
5. Dominic Rossi, Economus
6. Joseph Stofella, Professor in the Seminary
7. Fortunato Pedot, " " "
8. Henry Fadanelli, " " "
9. Godfrey Friedmann " "

II. House of Capodistria

1. Erminio Lona – Director
2. Edwin Job
3. Alexander Acler
4. Cleric William Ludescher ⁶⁰
5. Bro. Aldo Prada [Perpetual Profession]

III. House of Gemona

1. Pio Gabos – Director
2. Lous Tomasi
3. Cesar Benaglia
4. Edward Castellani
5. Henry Gabos – Economus
6. Angelo Pagliarusco
7. Richard Piccioni
8. Emil Recchia
9. Joseph Rosa
10. Cleric ⁶¹
11. Bro. Emmanuel Savoi
12. Bro. Angelo Guzzola – Cook.

IV. House of Hazleton PA

1. Ludovicus Luchi – Director
2. Linus Cembran

V. House of Milan

1. Joseph Antonioli – Director
2. John Mary Lona
3. Fortunato Mantovani
4. Charles deFerrari – Economus
5. Bro. Santo Albertini

⁶⁰ In World War I, Fr. William would change his name to *Ludessi*.

⁶¹ As was noted in the alphabetical list above, Joseph Rosa at this time was a Cleric. This may refer to him.

6. Bro. Valerian Veronesi – cook
7. Bro. Louis Varenna [triennial vows]

VI. House of Parma

1. Joseph Louis Bertapelle – Director
2. Hyacinth Largher – Chaplain at 'S.Carlo'
3. Silvio Segà – Econumus

VII. House of Pavia

1. Paul Sozzi - Director
2. Egidio Stofella
3. Emilio Baratella
4. Bro. Dominic Sighel
- Joseph Tristan [aspirant brother]

VIII. House of Piacenza

1. Peter Scotton – Director
2. Ferruccio Zanetti
3. Benjamin Miori

IX. House of Pistoia

1. Albino Sella – Director
2. Joseph Tondin
3. Raymond Dalla-porta

X. General House, Rome – S. Maria dei Miracoli

1. Pio Gurisatti – Superior General
2. Cajetan Pizzighella- Director
3. Bro. Isaac ... ⁶²
4. Bro. Joseph Spagnoli

XI. House of S. Nicolo' dei Prefetti, Rome

1. Angelo Graziani – Director
2. Louis Gasperotti
3. Bro. William Borra

XII. House of Scranton PA

1. Victor Gurisatti
2. Angelo Simeoni

XIII. House of Springfield MA

1. Anthony Dalla-porta – Director
2. Joseph Nardon

⁶² Family name not given – maybe *Basetti*.

3. Peter Piemonte
4. Bro. Camillus Ramus

XIV. House of Tibagy

1. Alexander Grigolli – Director
2. Henry Adami
3. Bro. Dominic Valzacchi

XV. House of Trent

1. Erminio Pivato- Director and Master of Novices
2. Augustus Fieramonte – Economist
3. ParideLucchetti
4. John Baptist Perenzoni
5. Bro.Dmian DeCarli
6. Bro. Loouis Guardia
7. Bro. Quirinus ...⁶³

Cleric Novices; 1. Louis Fedrizzi; 2. Quirinus Elbi ⁶⁴; 3. Tullius Marcanaonii; 4. Guido Pancheri; 5. Joseph Rigotti; 6. Adolph Rigotti; 7. Victor Berti.

Brother Novices: 1. Bro. Joseph ...⁶⁵; 2. Bro. Louis Massarati

XVI. House of Udine

1. Octavian Piccoli – Director
2. Joseph mattei – Professor
3. George Zanghellini – Vice-rector, Archepiscopal College
4. Richard Zambiasi – Professor of Music
5. Franc Pedrotti – Assistant at recreation program
6. Dominic Pittioni – Rector of Archepiscopal College
7. John Baptist Pelanda – Director of the Recreation Program
8. Louis Benedetti – Censor at Archepiscopal College
9. Bro. Louis Mattinella ⁶⁶
10. Bro.Edward Avesani

XVII. House of Verona, the Stimmate

1. Michaelanglo Zanetti - Director
2. James Marini
3. Stephen Rosa – Rector of S. Lassurd ⁶⁷
4. John Baptist Castellani
5. Emmanuel Zanutelli – Professor at the Seminary
6. Louis Fantozzi – Director of the Patronato
7. Julius Zanini - Rector of the Church of the Stimmate
8. Hygino Gruppo – Teacher at the Patronato

⁶³ No family name given – it may be *Toller*.

⁶⁴ Hardt o read: either *Ebli*, or *Elbi*.

⁶⁵ No family name given.

⁶⁶ Hard to read!

⁶⁷ Unclear

9. Dominic Plotti - teacher at the Patronato
10. Ernest Battisti – Teacher at the Paatronato
11. Tarcisio Martina – Newly Ordained
12. Joseph Toniolli - “ ”
13. Bro. Anthony Nicora
14. Bro. James Lnardoni
15. Bro. Anselm Martini
17. Bro. Attilio DalSasso
18. Bro. Joseph Zuliani – cook
19. Bro. Angelo Martinelli [triennial vows]

XVIII. House of S. Maria del Giglio, or ‘Sezano’

1. John Baptist Zaupa – Director and Prefect of Professed Students
2. Alexis Magagna
3. Bruno Chiesa
4. Bro. Antony Sighele
5. Bro. Valentine Garola
- Bro. John Groff [Novice] – he left in September.

Perpetually Professed Clerics: 1. Felix Odorizzi; 2. Humbert Socrella; 3. Joseph Angeli; 4. Victor Nicolodi; 5. Valerius Tommasi.

21 Triennially Professed Clerics: 1. Propser Angeli; 2. Charles Berlands [perpetuals]; 3. Angelo Caimi; 4. Hyacinth Calligaro; 5.⁶⁸ Donazza; 6. Michael Madussi; 7. Joseph mantovani; 8. John Marcucci; 9. Joseph Pedot; 10. Dominic Sorvito; 11. Nervius⁶⁹ Toffolini; 12. Cyril Zadra; 13. remigio Zara; 14. Charles Zanotti; 15. Anthony Berlanda; 16. Alexander Bonfanti; 17. Louis Fontana; 18. Victor Formolo; 19. Virgilio Job; 20. Joseph Lona; Hector Turco.

2 Clerics, still Novices: [not admitted to profession, because of illness]: 1. Constans Gosetti; 2. Louis Noldin.



⁶⁸ No list name – was in *Lawrence*

⁶⁹ Not clear

VIII. SERIES OF THE GENERAL CHAPTERS

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAPITULARS</u>	<u>ACTS</u>	<u>SUPERIOR</u>
1. Verona-Massalongo	3-5 July 1871	13	Elec. of Sup.	J.B.Lenotti
2. Verona- Stimmate	11-13 Sept. 1871	16	Change Const.	
3. Verona- Stimmate	4-6 Oct. 1871	10	Sup.for 10 Years	J.B. Lenotti
4. Verona-Stimmate	9-10 Sept. 1872	8	Business	
5. Verona-Stimmate	25 Feb-2 Mar 1874	8	Business	
6. Verona-Stimmate	5 Aug. 1874	6	Business	
7. Verona-Stimmate	26-30 Oct. 1875	6	Elec.of Sup.	P. Vignola
8. Verona-Stimmate	26 Sept-4 Oct 1876	10	Business	
9. Verona-Stimmate	17-24 Feb. 1880	16	Business	
10. Verona-Stimmate	16-26 Feb 1881	14	Business	
11. Verona-Stimmate	12-25 Sept. 1889	17	Change Const.	
12. Verona-Stimmate	24 Sep-3 Oct 1890	24	Change Const.	
13. Verona-Stimmate	23-24 Apr. 1891	12	Business	
14.[I] Verona-Stimmate	24-28 Sept.1891	11	Elec.of Sup.	P.Guurisatti
15. [II]Roma – S.Nicola dei Prefetti	21-24 Sept. 1896	15	Business	
16.[III]Verona-Stimmate	23-25Sept. 1901	18	Elec. of Sup.	P. Gurisatti
17.[IV]Verona-Stimmate	18-20 Sept. 1906	20	Business	
18.[V] Verona-Stimmate	20-23 Sept. 1911	18	Elec. of Sup.	J.B.Tommasi

[NB: Roman numerals noted in Chapter 14-18. in parentheses [] denote the order of the Chapters after the Institute was approved].

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