

THE EARLY STIGMATINE

GENERAL CHAPTERS

The FIRST:
July 3 – 5, 1871

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The SECOND:
September 11 – 13, 1871

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The THIRD:
October 4 & 6, 1871

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ACTS
of the
1st GENERAL CHAPTER
July 3, 1871

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ACTS AND STATUTES

Of the

FIRST GENERAL CONGREGATION

Held on the
3rd, 4th and 5th days of the Month of July

of the Year

1871¹

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[The IIIrd GENERAL CHAPTER – OCTOBER 4-6, 1871]

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¹ The Minutes of this First General Chapter are contained in what appears to be a school notebook, that measures 9 inches by 6.5. It has a yellow cover, and is bound with string. There is a five eighths margin on the top, and a seven eighths margin at the bottom, and there are 24 lines to the page. Fr. Rigoni's penmanship is quite legible. [**NB**: Fr. Marani had died two months earlier, July 1, 1871, in the house of his niece, Ms. Massalongo – where the first Session was held, July 3, 1871].

Original

In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity

**On the 3rd day of July, 1871
In Verona, and in the house lived in by the now deceased
Superior, of blessed memory,
The Very Rev. John Mary Marani**

The Roll Call of the Session of the Congregation of the Stimite

Present:

1. Very Rev. Francis BENCIOLINI, eldest
2. “ “ J. Baptist LENOTTI
3. “ “ Richard DaPRATO
4. “ “ Mark BASSI
5. “ “ Vincent VIGNOLA
6. “ “ John RIGONI
7. “ “ Peter VIGNOLA
8. “ “ Joseph MARCHESINI
9. “ “ Francis SOGARO
10. “ “ Joseph SEMBIANTI
11. “ “ Thomas VICENTINI
12. “ “ Charles ZARA
13. “ “ Peter BELTRAMI

I.

Since, according to our Constitutions, a Superior must be elected in the place of the now deceased, Very Rev. Fr. John Marani, of blessed memory: it was asked if a Provisory Superior was to be nominated, or rather a Stable [Superior].

This having been proposed, a secret vote was held, the result of which was:

Those Voting	n. 13
For the Provisory Superior	12 votes
For the Stable Superior	1 vote

**THE CONGREGATION DECIDES TO GIVE ITSELF A PROVISORY
SUPERIOR**

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II.

It was asked how long this Provisory Superior to be elected, will remain in office:
A Proposal was formulated thus:

Whether he ought to remain until the [Feast of the] Stigmata, this coming September 17th, so that the Congregation would come together to name the Stable Superior, in the first half of the coming September, on a day to be chosen and made known by the Provisory Superior;
Or, whether he ought to remain, more or less, than this time:

This was put to a vote, by a secret ballot, and the result was:

Those Voting	n. 13
For the 1 st Proposal	13 votes

THE CONGREGATION DECIDES THAT THE SUPERIOR TO BE ELECTED IS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THIS COMING SEPTEMBER 17th, AND IN THE FIRST FIFTEEN DAYS, THE ELECTION OF THE STABLE SUPERIOR IS TO BE HELD.

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III.

Because of the silence of our Constitutions, i.e., where it has not already been disposed by our Founder, the Very Rev. Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, concerning the authority, and the manner within the limits of which the Stable Superior of the whole Congregation can, and should exercise his office: it is proposed to nominate a Commission, that will study and refer back to the Congregation, which is to be convoked, this coming September, to hear and deliberate.

A Nomination of three priests present is to be held.

The ballots were distributed, gathered and verified: then, they were opened and the results were:

Rev. Fr. Rigoni received	11 votes
“ “ Lenotti	8
“ “ Peter Vignola	8
“ “ Bassi	7
“ “ Benciolini	2
“ “ Vincent Vignola	1
“ “ Sogaro	1
“ “ Zara	<u>1</u>
	39

The Election was repeated, with each one voting for the above names, by Yes and by No.

Having been put to a vote,

Rev. Fr. Rigoni has 11 favorable, one contra.

“	“	Lenotti	11	“	1	“
“	“	Peter Vignola	10	“	2	“
“	“	Bassi	8	“	4	“
“	“	Benciolini	3	“	9	“
“	“	Vinc. Vignola	4	“	8	“
“	“	Sogaro	2	“	10	“
“	“	Zara	1	“	11	“

THE FOLLOWING ARE ELECTED:

REV. FR. JOHN RIGONI

“ “ **J.BAPTIST LENOTTI**

“ “ **PETER VIGNOLA**

ΔΔΔ

IV.

The Voting for the president of this Commission was follows. When this vote was taken:

REV. FR. RIGONI has 7 favorable, 5 contr.

“ “ **LENOTTI 6** “ **6** “

“ “ **P. VIGNOLA 3** “ **9** “

ΔΔΔ

V.

It is proposed to elect and second to be Substitute in the case of the absence of any one of the three members of the Commission.

By unanimous agreement, it was decided to hold such an election, and the **Rev. Fr. BASSI** was proposed.

A Vote was taken and he received **11 Yes; 1 No.**

**THE REV. FR. BASSI WAS ELECTED TO
SUPPLY FOR THE ABSENCE OF ANY ONE
OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION.**

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VI.

Before passing to the election of the Provisory Superior of the entire Congregation, it was proposed to approve a very brief Plan, or Statute, that would comprise his faculties, and the responsibility that would bind him.

It was thus conceived: the Provisory Superior:

**1ST. WILL HAVE THE FACULTY OF DISPOSING BY HIMSELF, THE
ORDINARY AND EVERY DAY MATTERS;**

**2ND IN THE GRAVE AND URGENT MATTERS, HE WILL BE ABLE TO
DO NOTHING BY HIMSELF, BUT WILL HAVE TO HEAR THE
DELIBERATIVE VOTE OF THE MAJOR PART OF THE PROFESSED;**

The Session of Yesterday reconvened at the House of the Stimato

After the *Veni, Creator* had been said, there was Read and adopted the following Order of Business:

1. For greater tranquility, and as a sign of fraternal observance, it was proposed to inform the three Rev. Priests, who remained at Villazzano, concerning the happenings of yesterday.
2. It was proposed to deliberate whether all the Rev. Priests were to be convoked, in the proper time, for the approbation of the Plan, or Statute of the Stable Superior of the entire Congregation.
3. It was asked how many Consultors were to be assigned by the Congregation to the Provisory Superior, and what qualities those eligible ought to have.
4. It was asked: if it should be necessary that the Director of the House where the Superior of the entire Congregation resides, should be a Consultor of his, because of this fact.
5. When and how the Rev. Fr. LENOTTI is to be considered declared, in regards to his election.
6. Election of the Consultors.

△△△

I.

The discussion was opened on these headings according to the Order of the Day.

Concerning the 1st, the following statement was formulated, proposed, sustained and put to a vote:

**In occupying itself yesterday, with the election of the Superior, the Congregation has not overlooked the idea of the three Rev. Priests who remained at Villazzano: because It would rather have preferred this time, and for this election, to include their vote with the others. But, since this could not be done, it decided to see the outcome of the Vote of those present. Having seen that the Rev. Fr. Lenotti received ten favorable votes: that Fr. DaPrato received six favorable votes, and the others even fewer:
Having considered that the votes of the three Priests at Villazzano [if they had indeed voted], and even if they had not been all dispersed, but instead had agreed in favor of Fr. DaPrato the relative majority of the votes would still remain in favor of Rev. Fr. Lenotti, for whom, in any hypothesis, he still would have been canonically elected:
IT PROPOSED TO GIVE THE EXPLANATION OF THIS TO THE THREE REV. PRIESTS, i.e., FR. MORANDO, FR. LANARO AND FR. STERZA, THROUGH REV. FR. VICNENT VIGNOLA.**

Having been put to a Vote, this Motion was approved with unanimity.

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II.

On the 2nd Heading of the Order of the Day:

Having conducted a vote by secret ballot on the proposition:

Whether all, or not, of the Rev. Priests, who are professed, ought to be heard [either by voice, or in writing], concerning the agenda which will be the motive for the convocation of the Congregation, i.e., for the approbation of the statute, or Plan, of the Stable Superior.

For Yes, there were 12 votes.

For No 1

THE CONGREGATION DELIBERATED THAT ALL THE REV. PRIESTS ARE THEN TO BE HEARD.

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III.

Concerning the 3rd heading of the Order of the Day,
i.e., the number and the qualities of the Consultors to be given to the Provisory Superior.

PRIMARILY, THE CONGREGATION WISHED TO DECLARE THAT SUCH CONSULTORS ARE INTENDED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE AS LONG AS THE PROVISORY SUPERIOR OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION DOES.

On their Number:

Each one wrote this on his own ballot, and, in secret. When the ballots were collected and unfolded, it was discovered that all agreed on the **n. four**.

THE CONGREGATION DELIERATED THAT THESE CONSULTORS OUGHT TO BE FOUR.

On the Qualities of those eligible:

In this, the Congregation left it to the prudence and conscience of the individual voters.

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IV.

The Question to be decided, before the election of Consultors, was proposed and discussed:

IF THE DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE WHERE THE SUPERIOR OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION RESIDES SHOULD BE A CONSULTOR OF HIS, BECAUSE OF THIS OFFICE.

This was put to a secret Vote:

For Yes, there were 11 votes.
For No, 1

THE CONGREGATION DELIBERATES THAT HE IS, BECAUSE OF HIS OFFICE, A
CONSULTOR OF THE SAME SUPERIOR.

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V.

Rev. Fr. Lenotti was asked if he accepts the Office to which he was elected by the
Congregation.

He declared that he accepted, and the obedience was rendered to him.

After this, he was requested to leave, as the Congregation had to pass on to the
Nomination of his Consultors.

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VI.

The Nomination of the Consultors

The ballots were distributed so that each one could write on them three names, whom in
the Lord, and having put aside all human affection, seemed to them the most suited for
the Office of Consultors to the Superior, who has been elected, and who has accepted the
election.

The ballots were collected, and their number and regularity verified; they were
opened, and the results were as follows:

Fr. DaPRATO	had 9 votes
Fr. RIGONI	7
Fr. Peter VIGNOLA	7
Fr. BENCIOLINI	5
Fr. BASSI	5
Fr. MARCHESINI	2
Fr. SEMBIANTI	1

A vote was taken on these, with this result:

Fr. DaPRATO	obtained 10 votes for, 1 contra.
Fr. RIGONI	9 2
Fr. PETER VIGNOLA	9 2
Fr. BENCIOLINI	7 4
Fr. BASSI	7 4
Fr. MARCHESINI	2 9
Fr. SEMBIANTI	2 9

THE CONGREGATION ELECTS AS CONSULTORS, AS ABOVE:

1ST, THE REV. Fr. RICHARD DAPRATO
2ND, “ “ Fr. JOHN RIGONI
3RD “ “ Fr. PETER VIGNOLA.

**On the 5th Day of July 1871,
The Session of Yesterday was continued at the Stimmate**

After the *Veni, Creator* had been said, it was proposed to pass on to the Nomination of the Admonitor. First, however, those were present are to be noted:

1. The **Very Rev. Superior** was missing, absenting himself from the Nomination, as it more directly concerned him, and he having declared from the beginning that he was most content to do so.
2. Rev. Fr. **Francis BENCIOLINI**
3. “ “ **Richard Da PRATO**
4. “ “ **Mark BASSI**
5. “ “ **Vincent VIGNOLA**
6. “ “ **John RIGONI**
7. “ “ **Peter VIGNOLA**
8. **The Rev. Fr. MARCHESINI** was absent.
9. “ “ **Francis SOGARO**
10. “ “ **Joseph SEMBIANTI**
11. “ “ **Thomas VICENTINI**
12. “ “ **Charles ZARA**
13. “ “ **Peter BELTRAMI**

The Proposition was made to specify most minutely the Office, the Admonitor to be elected would have to exercise.

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I.

This Proposition was sustained, developed and discussed, and it was agreed by unanimous vote of all present, to do thus: **recalling to mind for the purpose, Part XII, Chapter I, n. 7², of the Constitutions, where it is written:**

An Admonitor should also be constituted, who having first prayed to God, with the proper modesty and humility, ought to advise the Superior whatever he might feel there is required in the Superior for the greater service and praise of God. For indeed this Office toward the prelates is not necessary

△△△

II.

Next on the agenda was the Nomination of the Admonitor, and the ballots were distributed.

² Cf. **CF 304**. [... *as St. Basil has taught. [Rule 24, from those more extended.]* This substance of this is found in Ignatius' Constitutions [**CSI n. 770**] - and for the most part is taken *verbatim* from Suarez' Commentary, *De Religione Societatis Iesu*, **Book 10, c. 3, n. 9, p. 1065 a & b.**

When these had been collected, 11 were found, which correspond exactly to the number of those present. When they were opened, the following were found to be nominated.

Rev. Fr. BENCIOLINI with 7 votes.
“ “ **BASSI** 1
“ “ **DaPRATO** 1
“ “ **RIGONI** 1

A Vote was taken on each of these nominated, and the result was:

Rev. Fr. BENCIOLINI with 8 Yes, and 2 No.
“ “ **BASSI** 5 5
“ “ **DaPRATO** 5 5
“ “ **RIGONI** 3 7

THE CONGREGATION NAMES AS ADMONITOR, THE VERY REV. FRANCIS BENCIOLINI.

The Very Rev. Superior was then invited to return, and communication was given to him of this.

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III.

The question arose as to whether it was necessary to outline briefly the Office which the Consultors, and the Eonomus General respectively, were to exercise.

As for the Consultors, the Congregation was referred to Part XII, of our Constitutions, Chapter I³.

As for the Eonomus General, this will be taken care of in the following number⁴.

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IV.

Before passing to the election of the Eonomus General, it was agreed that first, his Office be determined, which would be:

TO ATTEND TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEMPORAL THINGS OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION, WITH DEPENDENCE ON THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, AND IN THE LIMITS ASSIGNED BY THE SAME TO IT.

This Proposition was put to a Vote, and the result was:

Present n. 12
One abstained
Voting 11
THE CONGREGATION ADOPTED IT.
△△△

³ The Part XII, c. 1 comprises **CF ## 298-307**. These are drawn from *Suarez, passim*, pp. 1060-1067.

⁴ The Office is noted in two Constitutions of the Founder: **CF ## 8; 80**.

[MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS]

((These apparently are notes taken by Fr. Rigoni during the Chapter Sessions))⁶

1.]

In the Name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

July 3, 1871.

Account of the Session of the Congregation

Called at the Stimato.

Those present	1.	Very Rev.	Fr. BENCIOLINI
	2.		Fr. LENOTTI
	3.		Fr. DaPRATO
	4.		Fr. BASSI
	5.		Fr. Vincent VIGNOLA
	6.		Fr. RIGONI
	7. [9]		Fr. SOGARO 1864
	7		Fr. Peter VIGNOLA 1861 ⁷
	9		
	8		Fr. MARCHESINI 1861
	12		Fr. ZARA 1867
	10		Fr. SEMBIANTI 1865
	11		Fr. VICENTINI 1866
	13		Fr. BELTRAMI 1871

It was necessary, according to the Constitutions, to nominate a Superior in place of the now deceased, Very Rev. Fr. Marani, of blessed memory.

The task of electing a Provisory, or a Stable Superior.

Provisory 12 votes.

Stable 1

Passed: to elect a provisory Superior.

2.] How long is the provisory Superior to remain, was proposed. It was put to a vote: he will remain until the Stigmata so that the Congregation might be reassembled to conduct the Nomination of the Stable Superior in the first half of September, on a day to be chosen by the Provisory Superior: by means of Yea and Nay:

⁶ During the actual Chapter proceedings, Fr. Rigoni took some hasty notes. Inside the notebook containing the Chapter Minutes, there are two sheets of what appears to be drawing paper, measuring 9.5 by 13 inches. These are folded down the middle, permitting 8 blank sides that Fr. Rigoni filled with notes during the Chapter meetings. The numbers of pages seemed to have been added later, in blue crayon, which are indicated thus in parenthesis: (), on the left of the pages. These pages were also folded in half again, apparently to permit insertion in an envelope.

⁷ The years indicated after the names seem to be the years the different Fathers entered the Congregation. The confusion concerning Fr. Sogaro's name was found more or less as it appears here.

1st The 1st fifteen days of September: Yes

2nd For some other time: No

For Yes, 13 votes.

It passed.

3.] Because of the silence of the Constitutions of the Very Rev. Gaspar Bertoni, concerning the authority and the manner within the limits of which the Stable Superior will exercise his office: it was proposed to nominate a Commission that will study and refer back to the Congregation, which ought to deliberate before September.

[3] By secret ballot, three priests were proposed. The results of the ballots:

+ Fr. Vinc. Vignola

+ Fr. Bassi

+ Fr. Benciolini

+ Rigoni

+ P. Vignola

+ Bassi

* *Lenotti*⁸

+ Lenotti 1

+ Rigoni

+ P. Vignola

+ Rigoni

+ Lenotti

+ Lenotti

+ Sogaro

+ P. Vignola

+ Rigoni

+ Lenotti

+ Rigoni

+ Zara

+ P. Vignola

+ Lenotti

+ Bassi

+ Rigoni

+ Lenotti

+ Rigoni

+ P. Vignola

+ Rigoni

+ P. Vignola

+ Bassi

+ Benciolini

+ Bassi

+ Bassi

⁸ Fr. Lenotti's name is cancelled here in the original notes. This is why after the name " Lenotti", on the next line, the number "1" is added to show that he received only one vote.

+ P. Vignola
+ Rigoni
+ Lenotti
+ P. Vignola
+ Rigoni
+ Lenotti
+ Bassi
+ Rigoni

[5]	Therefore, Rigoni came out with	11 votes
	Peter Vignola	8
	Lenotti	8
	Bassi	7
	Benciolini	2
	V. Vignola	1
	Sogaro	1
	Zara	<u>1</u>
		39

Vote:	Fr. Rigoni	11 Yes = 1 No
	P. Vignola	10 Yes = 2 No
	Lenotti	8 “ = 1 “
	Bassi	8 “ = 7 “
	Benciolini	3 “ = 9 “
	V. Vignola	4 “ = 8 “
	Sogaro	2 “ = 10 “
	Zara	1 “ = 11 “

- [6] Those elected:
1. Fr. Rigoni ⁹
 3. Fr. Peter Vignola
 2. Fr. Lenotti

4. The voting for the President followed:
- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Fr. Rigoni | 7 Yes, 5 No |
| Fr. P. Vignola | 3 Yes, 9 No |
| Fr. Lenotti | 6 Yes, 6 No |
- Fr. Rigoni was elected.

5. The Proposal for one supplying in the Commission followed:
Fr. Bassi was proposed by unanimous vote.
This having been balloted, he had 11 votes for Yes, and 1 for No.
It passed.

- [7] 6. The very sketchy Plan for the Provisory Superior followed:

⁹ In the original notes, the second sheet of paper begins here, with the page number [6] so indicated.

He will have the faculty of disposing by himself, in the ordinary and every day matters. In grave, or urgent matters, he cannot do anything, without the Deliberative Vote of the major part of the Professed. He can do nothing in those matters which are of a perpetual nature.

Unanimously approved.

7. The Nomination of the Provisory Superior

Ballots n. 13

1. Fr. DaPrato
2. Fr. Lenotti
3. Fr. Benciolini
4. Fr. Lenotti
5. Fr. Lenotti
6. Fr. Bassi
7. DaPrato
8. DaPrato
9. Lenotti
- (8) 10. DaPrato
- (page) 11. Lenotti
12. Bassi
13. Vinc. Vignola

DaPrato	came out with 4 votes
Lenotti	5
Benciolini	1
Bassi	2
V. Vignola	<u>1</u>
	13

Voted on by secret Ballot:

Fr. Lenotti	had 10 for Yes, 2 No
Fr. DaPrato	6 “ 6 “
Fr. Bassi	4 “ 8 “
Fr. Benciolini	2 “ 10 “
Fr. V. Vignola	4 “ 8 “

((Next appears Fr. Rigoni's Letter to Fr. Vincent Vignola ¹⁰))

¹⁰ Fr. Rigoni's Letter appears on a piece of paper, 8 and one fourth by 6. It appears to have been torn from a larger sheet, much like that on which the Statement was sent to the three Priests at Villazzano. Both this

J.M.J.
To the Very Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola

I send you the original of the Minutes of the 1st session of our Congregation, signed by the eldest, the president, in two sheets, that you might make it available to the Rev. Priests, Fr. Morando, Fr. Lanaro, Fr. Sterza, to make known the action taken by th Congregation itself, in the Second session of yesterday, and the tenor of which is transcribed from the Minutes themselves - I send these to you, verified and likewise authenticated, that having made the proper use of it, it be returned to me, with the signatures of the three above-mentioned Priests, as it has to be placed for the completion of the Acts.

Verona, from the Stimato.

July 5, 1871

Your confrere, in Xto,
Fr. John Rigoni

((Segment of the Minutes concerning Fr. Lenotti's Election, sent to Fr. Vincent Vignola, by Fr. Rigoni, for the Priests at Villazzano)).

On the 4th day of July 1871 ¹¹

The Session of yesterday was reconvened in the House of the Stimato. After the *Veni, Creator* had been said, there was read and adopted the following order of business:

1st For greater tranquility, and as a sign of fraternal observance, it was proposed to inform the three Rev. Priests, who remained at Villazzano, concerning the happenings of yesterday.

Omissions.

The discussion was opened: on the first, the following statement was formulated, sustained and put to a vote:

In occupying itself yesterday with the Election of the Superior, the Congregation has not over-looked the ideas of the three Priests who remained at Villazzano; because it would have preferred this time, and for this Election, to include their vote with all the others. But, since this could not be done, it decided to see the outcome of the vote of those present.

statement by Fr. Rigoni, and the one following, appear to have been folded again, possibly for insertion into an envelope.

¹¹ This Copy of segments of the Chapter Minutes was written on paper, from the likes of which it seems that Fr. Rigoni's Letter was torn. The paper is unlined, eight and one fourth by 12, but it is folded down the middle, thus forming a booklet, 8 and one fourth by 6. On 'pg. 1' is Fr. Rigoni's account; on 'pg. 2' is the Statement apparently written by Fr. Morando, and signed by himself, Fr. Lanaro and Fr. Sterza, on July 8, 1871.

Having seen that the rev. Fr. Lenotti received 10 favorable votes: that Fr. DaPrato received six favorable votes, and the others even fewer:

Having considered that the votes of the three [if they had voted], and even if they had not all been dispersed in favor of Fr. DaPrato, the relative majority of the votes would still remain in favor of Fr. Lenotti, who in any hypothesis, would still have been canonically elected – it was proposed to give an explanation of this to the three mentioned Rev. Priests, i.e., Fr. Morando, Fr. Lanaro and Fr. Sterza.

Having been put to a vote, this motion passed with unanimity.

On the 5th day of July 1871, when this present Copy was compared with the Original, it was found that this fully conforms to it.

In faith whereof – Fr. John Rigoni
Fr. Franc. Benciolini.

((The Statement of the three Priests at Villazzano¹²)).

The under-signed, while thanking the Congregation of the Rev. Fathers, for the regard had for them, and while recognizing in their proceedings the will of the Lord, most willingly accept it' and they profess their filial obedience to the Very Reverend Fr. Lenotti.

Villazzano, July 8, 1871

Fr. Louis Morando
Fr. Andrew Sterza
Fr. Michael Lanaro

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¹² This Letter from the three Priests appears on the interior side of this folded sheet.

ACTS

of the

IInd GENERAL CHAPTER

September 11 – 13, 1871

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ACTS OF THE IInd GENERAL CONGREGATION¹³

Original

September 11, 1871

First Session

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

After the convocation of the rev. Priests of the Sodality of Apostolic Missionaries of the Stimite, and in obedience to the same, these Rev. Fathers assembled, in the number of 16, having noted the legitimate absence of the Rev.Fr. Peter Beltrami, in the Mother House of the Stimite, and precisely, in the place for the Chapter.

The Congregation, thus convened, and having said the *Veni, Creator*, ecognized and decreed its legitimacy and its powers.

Then, it adopted in silence, the order to be maintained in this first session, i.e.

1. The Election of the Secretary
2. And of the Assistant
3. The reading, examination, discussion and decision, relative to the Plan proposed by the Commission, entrusted with this task in the session of the general Congregation of July 3rd of this year.

The list of names of those Congregated follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st . | Very Rev. Fr. J. Baptist Lenotti |
| 2 nd . | Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini |
| 3 rd . | Rev. Fr. Richard DaPrato |
| 4 th . | Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi |
| 5 th . | Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola |
| 6 th . | Rev. Fr. John Rigoni |
| 7 th . | Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola |
| 8 th . | Rev. Fr. Joseph Marchesini |
| 9 th . | Rev. Fr. Francis Sogaro |
| 10 th . | Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti |
| 11 th . | Rev. Fr. Thomas Vicentini |
| 12 th . | Rev. Fr. Charles Zara |
| 13 th . | Rev. Fr. Louis Morando |
| 14 th . | Rev. Fr. Andrew Sterza |
| 15 th . | Rev. Fr. Michael Lanaro |
| 16 th . | Rev. Fr. Dominic Vicentini |

Rev. John Rigoni, Secretary

¹³ The Minutes of the IInd General Chapter appear on 4 large sheets of unlined paper , 12 x 16. These were then folded, making 16 full pages, bound by a string, and covered with a thicker grey-blue paper. This paper was later covered with a heavy brown paper, and glue. There was a string in the middle pages, glued to the cover, making of it a kind of notebook.

I.

The Nomination of the Secretary was taken up by secret ballot.

Each one, in order of age, brought his ballot to the urn that had been prepared. When they had been collected and numbered, it was found that they corresponded in number to the number of capitulars.

They were then unfolded by the Very Rev. Provisory Superior and the two eldest. These, then, conducted the Scrutiny and the Very Rev. John Rigoni was elected with 7 votes.

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II.

At the same time, the election of the Assistant was held. When the ballots had been collected, the Very Rev. Vincent Vignola had been nominated with 12 votes.

ΔΔΔ

III.

Then followed the reading of the Project presented by the Commission, which begins:

**Appendix to Part XII of the Constitutions of Rev. Fr. Bertoni:
Concerning the Manner of Government.**

At the reading of the Ist Paragraph, and the relative discussion had been held, a closure was asked by more than a third of the Capitulars. It was then put to a Vote, by Yea and Nay.

Voting	16
For Yes	13
For No	3

The Ist Paragraph was approved.

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

ΔΔΔ

IV.

The reading of the 2nd Paragraph followed. After it had been discussed, a closure on this same 2nd paragraph was requested by more than a third of the Capitulars: it was then put to a Vote, by Yea and Nay.

Voting	16
For Yes	15
For No	1

The 2nd Paragraph was approved.

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

ΔΔΔ

V.

The reading of the 3rd Paragraph followed.
After it had been discussed, and the closure accepted, it was put to a Vote, by Ye and Nay.

Voting **16**
For Yes **16**
For No **0**

The 3rd Paragraph was approved.

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

ΔΔΔ

VI.

The reading of the 4th Paragraph followed.
After it had been discussed, and the closure approved, it was put to a Vote by Yea and Nay.

Voting **16**
For Yes **16**
For No **0**

ΔΔΔ

The Session was put off until after Vespers.

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Temp. Superior

Fr. Vincent Vignola, Assistant for the Scrutiny

Fr. John Rigoni

VII.

The reading of the 5th Paragraph followed, up to these words:
...after the reverence has been shown in the very place of the Congregation, the ballots are to be burned...

On the question regarding the words:

...if he should know that anyone had sought this office, or even is now seeking it...

these other words were added:

...either for himself, or for others...

in this place was approved by 15 affirmative votes, and one negative.

After closing the discussion on the 5th Paragraph, that had first been read, up to that point stated above, a general request from the Capitulars was made of putting it to a Vote, by Yea and Nay. The following result was had:

Voting **16**
For Yes **16**
For No **0**

The 5th paragraph was approved, up through the words, as recorded above:
...after the reverence has been made, in the very place of the Congregation, the ballots are to be burned...

ΔΔΔ

VIII.

The reading of the 5th paragraph followed, through the words:
...then, it is to proceed to the election of four Councillors...., etc.
and to the end of the same.

It was discussed, and after a closure on it was adopted, it was put to a Vote by Yea and Nay.

Voting **16**
For Yes **16**
For No **0**

The rest of the Paragraph 5, from the words:
...Then, it will proceed to the election of four Councillors... etc.
up to Paragraph 6 was approved.

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

ΔΔΔ

IX.

The reading of Paragraph 6 followed.
After the discussion, and the closure, it was put to a Vote, by Yea and Nay.

Voting **16**
For Yes **16**
For No **0**

Paragraph 6 was approved.

ΔΔΔ

X.

The reading of Paragraph 7 followed.
After the discussion, and the closure, it was put to a Vote, by Yea and Nay.

Voting **16**
For Yes **16**
For No **0**

Paragraph 7 was approved.

ΔΔΔ

In the evening of the 11th day of September, 1871, the Session came to a close.

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Temporary Superior

Fr. Francis Benciolini

Fr. Richard DaPrato

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Peter Vignola

Fr. Joseph Marchesini

Fr. Francis Sogaro

Fr. Joseph Sembianti

Fr. Thomas Vicentini

Fr. *Carolus* Zara

XII.

Then followed the reading of the same n. 6, from the words:

...When he, at that age...

up to the end of the same Parag., and those words that are included in n. 6, up to the end of the same Parag.

After the matter had been discussed, and the closure approved, a Vote was taken. The result was:

Voting	15
For Yes	2
For No	13

It was not approved.

△△△

XIII.

Since n. 6 was not approved, the Introduction of the following Declaration was proposed:

...The Congregation declares that our Constitution, Part VII, c. 1 at n. 1¹⁵, should not be so understood that the Superior has the faculty of obliging any member, even after the Grade, to the renunciation, or the abdication of his goods...

When this Declaration had been discussed, the closure having been requested two times, finally, it comes to a vote:

Present	15
Voting	13
Abstaining	2
For Yes	9
For No	4

It was approved.

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

△△△

XIII.

An objection was raised by Fr. John Rigoni against the provision of the preceding n. 13. After the discussion, a Vote was taken on this:

A Yes Vote was held to mean annulment; a Vote No was in favor of keeping the above-mentioned declaration.

Present	15
Voting	15
Abstaining	1
For Yes	6
For No	8

The Declaration was approved again, and its Annulment was excluded.

△△△

XV.

It was proposed by the Very rev. Superior to premise the Declaration, which appears in the preceding Nos. 13, 14, with the following words:

¹⁵ This is CF # 90.

...In the actual circumstances, and there being no hope in the offing, of a Solemn Profession, the Congregation declares that our Constitutions... etc.

This was put to a vote by Yes and No:

by Yes, there being understood that the addition was desired; and by No, that it was refuted.

The result was:

Present	15
Voting	12
Abstained	3
For <u>Yes</u>	12
For No	0

It was approved.

△△△

XVI.

It was proposed to renew the study on Parag. 8, and more especially, on the Decree, already related in this n. XIII, and recalled in the following nn. XIV and XV –

The manner of this study is to be two-fold: either by means of a Commission to be nominated; or, by means of the Superior, assisted in this by him whomsoever he will designate. In either case, whether it be the Commission, or whether it be the Superior, they will have to report back to a future Congregation.

This method of study was put to a Vote: by Yes, there was to be understood the Commission; and by No, the Superior.

Voting	15
For Yes, i.e., for the Commission	7
For No, i.e., for the Superior	8

The Congregation delegates to the Superior these studies, as discussed above, to be then referred back to a future Congregation.

It was then decided by a show of hands that this referral to the General Congregation is to be made by the Superior within one year.

△△△

XVII.

The reading of the Project then proceeded, beginning with Chapter II, *Concerning the Head of the Sodality*, Parag. I, which begins with the words: ... *that the Superior Gen.*, ... and finishes with the words: ... *are definitively approved.*

When the discussion had been opened, the Proposal was made to conclude this Parag. with n. 3, [omitting all the reasons from “A” to “E” inclusively] – however, thus emended:

Indeed, considering the present circumstances, it has seemed that the Election of a Superior of the Sodality for life, is to be deferred to a more opportune time. And just as in some other matters, the same circumstances have persuaded to recede slightly from the Constitutions of the Founder; so also in the present, it has seemed more judicious for the Congregation to elect for this first time, a Superior to a five year term. When this is over, the Congregation will hold an Election, as it will seem best in the Lord, either by electing a new Superior, or by confirming him, either for a time, or for life, as in this most important matter of the right choice, it may more safely be considered.

When this Proposal was seconded, and sufficiently discussed, it was put to a Vote. The result was:

Voting	15
For Yes	15
For Now	0

The Proposal was approved to conclude this Parag. I, with n. 3 [omitting all the reasons from A to E inclusively], however with the emendation referred to above, which begins: *Indeed, considering the present circumstances...*, and concludes with: *....in the matter of the right choice, it may be more safely considered...*

△△△

XVIII.

The reading of Parag. 2: *What the Superior General should be...*, followed: After it had been discussed, it was put to a Vote, and the result of this was as follows:

Voting	15
For Yes	15
For No	0

Parag. 2, *What the Superior General should be...* up to the words: *...he shall be endowed with learning...* was approved.

△△△

XIX.

Then, followed the reading of Parag. 3, from the words: *...Concerning the authority of the Superior General...* up to the words: *... as has been said in the proper place...*

When the discussion was opened, two proposals were made:

The first: to modify n. 22, substituting [after the words: *...the apostolic approval...*] these words: *... of imparting the faculty to the members...* - the following: *... he, however, every year, shall show the active and passive state of his particular administration to the General Councillors. - Furthermore, he will be able to impart to the members, the permission of accepting an inheritance, donations, wills, etc., which may come to them...*

The second proposal Of changing the present n. 23 to n. 24, and for n. 23, to retain entirely: *... Until provincial are created, twice a year, he himself shall visit all the Houses of the Congregation, and will remain longer where there is greater need...*

These two proposals were discussed in order, and unanimity was reached.

Then, the matter was put to a Vote, as a single entity, the Paragraph thus re-phrased, and the result was:

Voting	15
---------------	-----------

XX.

September 13, 1872 ----- IIIrd Session

When the *Veni, Creator* was said, the Roll Call was taken.

Present:

- | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-------------------|
| 1. | Very | Rev. | J. B. Lenotti |
| 2. | | “ | Franc. Benciolini |
| 3. | | “ | Richard DaPrato |
| 4. | | “ | Mark Bassi |
| 5. | | “ | Vincent Vignola |
| 6. | | “ | John Rigoni |
| 7. | | “ | Peter Vignola |
| 8. | | “ | Francis Sogaro |
| 9. | | “ | Joseph Sembianti |
| 10. | | “ | Thomas Vicentini |
| 11. | | “ | Charles Zara |
| 12. | | “ | Louis Morando |
| 13. | | “ | Andrew Sterza |
| 14. | | “ | Michael Lanaro |
| 15. | | “ | Dominic Vicentini |

Fr. Joseph Marchesini was absent for a legitimate reason.

The session was opened with the continuation of the reading of the Project, prepared by the Commission at the place where it was suspended yesterday,
i.e.

Parag. 4: Concerning the Authority, or the providence... etc., down to the end of it.

Since no one rose to ask for the floor, the closure was retained, and a vote was taken:

Voting	15
For Yes	15
For No	0

Parag. 4 WAS APPROVED AS IT STANDS AND READS IN THE PROJECT.

△△△

XXI.

The reading of Parag. 5 then proceeded: Concerning those who could assist... down to the end of the same.

The discussion was opened, and conducted; some observations were thrashed out, and a closure was requested and obtained. Therefore, a Vote was taken.

The Result:

Voting	15
For Yes	15
For No	0

Parag. 5 WAS APPROVED AS IT STANDS AND READS IN THE PROJECT.

△△△

The Rev. Fr. Joseph Marchesini arrived and was welcomed into the Congregation.

The reading of Chapter II, **Common Rules**, then proceeded.

The Congregation agreed unanimously on the order to be followed, which is:

To read the Rules one by one –

When the reading of one Rule has been terminated, and, if warranted, a discussion is to be opened on the same rule –

If no one gets up, the reading of the following Rule is to proceed, and so, on, down to the end.

When the end of the reading is reached, an inclusive Vote of all of them will be taken..

All the 54 Rules of this IIIrd Chapter were read, and discussed, and here and there someone had arisen: the closure was requested, and admitted, and they were put to a Vote:

Voting	16
For Yes	16
For No	0

ALL OF THIS IIIrd CHAPTER, WHICH CONSISTS OF 54 RULES, WAS APPROVED.

△△△

After a reading of all the Acts of these three Sessions contained in these Minutes, which was made to the Congregation, the Secretary of the Congregation asked the Capitulars to sign individually at the bottom of these Minutes, and to declare the present Congregation closed, terminated and dissolved.

All showed themselves disposed as regards the first request. However, a doubt was raised as to whether provision had been made to extend the faculties of the actual, Provisory Superior beyond the term provided for, and fixed in the General Congregation of July of this year.

The Proposal was seconded in a general way, and was thus formulated:

1st The actual Superior will remain in Office with the same faculties that he received by his election, made in the last General Congregation, until the Espousals, i.e., until January 23, 1872; unless, if before that time, there is held the election of a Stable Superior.

2nd Within this space of time, at his choice, with his Decree, there will be a convoked the electors to a General Congregation, who according to our Constitutions [Appendix to Part XII ¹⁷] have a voice in the Chapter.

¹⁷ This APPENDIX to PART XII of the CONSTITUTIONS of the Rev. Fr. BERTONI, is a Document of some 40 pages, and will appear translated as a separate Document with the Title : P.XII Append.1871].

On this same proposal, thus formulated, a Vote was taken:

Voting **15**¹⁸
For Yes **15**
For No
It was approved.

ΔΔΔ

To the second request, the response was a unanimous **Yes.**

ΔΔΔ

**VERONA, September 13, 1871,
In the House of the Sacred Stigmata.**

Completed, read, closed and signed:

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Temporary Superior
Fr. Francis Benciolini
Fr. Richard DaPrato
Fr. Mark Bassi
Fr. Vincent Vignola
Fr. John Rigoni
Fr. Peter Vignola
Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Francis Sogaro
Fr. Joseph Sembianti
Fr. Thomas Vicentini
Fr. Charles Zara
Fr. Louis Morando
Fr. Andrew Sterza
Fr. Michael Lanaro
Fr. *Dominicus* Vicentini ¹⁹

I, the under-signed, by the authority of the General Congregation, the Secretary, state that all these Acts of the recently terminated Congregation, have been faithfully and truthfully written by me, or by my Socius, Fr. Vincent Vignola, or by another, the Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti, under my direction and trust; and that all these same acts refer the Resolutions, Decisions, Decrees of this same Congregation, and nothing else.

In faith whereof, etc.

**((Here is the red wax seal
of the
Apostolic Missionaries]**

**Given at Verona, in the House of the Sacred Stigmata
on this 13th day of September, 1871,
Wednesday**

John Rigoni, Secretary

§
§§§

§

The beautiful, hand-written Document seems to have been put together between General Chapter II and III.

¹⁸ No explanation seems forthcoming for the drop of one vote in this unanimous acceptance – Fr.

Marchesini is recorded to have returned – it may simply be the secretary's over-sight. The number of the signees of the final document does reach '16.'

¹⁹ In Latin.

The ACTS
of the
IIIrd GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE
MM. AA.

VERONA

OCTOBER 4 & 6TH, 1871

§§§§§

ACTS

of the

**IIIrd GENERAL CHAPTER of the
MM. AA.**

VERONA

October 4 & 6, 1871

§§§§§

ACTS²⁰

of the

IIIrd GENERAL CHAPTER

of the

MM. AA.

VERONA

October 4th & 6th, 1871

IIIrd General Chapter

October 4th & 6th, 1871

Minutes

October 4. 1871	First Session
October 6, 1871	Second Session

Miscellaneous Papers

Decree of Election

§§§§§

²⁰ **[Translator's Note:** these *Acts* cover about seven and one half pages in the Original Manuscript – for a further description, cf. 'Note # 2.'

Original

In the Name of the Lord. Amen

In the Year 1871 – the 4th day of October – Wednesday

**The Acts of the IIIrd General Chapter
of the
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES
Verona**

Session I

Following the **Decree** of September 24, 1871, sent by the Provisory Superior, or Vicar, the Very Rev. J. Bapt. Lenotti, to all those with a vote in our Congregation, the following Rev. Priests convened on this day at the Stimate, in the customary place of the Chapter:

1. Very Rev. Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti
2. “ “ Francis Benciolini
3. “ “ Richard DaPrato
4. “ “ Mark Bassi
5. “ “ Vincent Vignola
6. “ “ John Rigoni
7. “ “ Peter Vignola
8. “ “ Joseph Marchesini
9. “ “ Francis Sogaro
10. “ “ Joseph Sembianti

Having seen the list of all the 17 Rev. Priests pertaining to our Congregation, and taken into consideration their respective years in the Priesthood and of Vows, it was found that these, and all these, and only these, according to our Constitutions [*Appendix to Part XII* ²¹] have a vote; i.e., having the right to vote in the election of the Superior for a five year term for which purpose the Congregation had been announced, and is now convened.

Having seen our Constitutions [*Appendix to Part XII, Parag. I, no. 1*], where the order of seating is established, and after the Hymn, *Veni, Creator* was said, with its Oration, all the Capitulars sat down in their respective places the Vicar gave to the Congregation his Account of the principal happenings, or the things ordered by him, in the brief period of his interim government.

²¹ [**Translator's Note:** this appears as its own Document (*P.XII APPENDIX*)].

After this, the Congregation, by acclamation, established and decided its own legitimacy, by declaring itself constituted according to the rules.

Then, the four oldest [as is established in the text cited above], i.e., Rev. Fr. Benciolini, Rev. Fr. DaPrato, Rev. Fr. Bassi and Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola, examined separately, conferred and decided together that the Report should be made to the Congregation, on the important matters that it might eventually reward the conduct of the Regime as held by the Vicar.

When these eldest had concluded their report concerning these matters, the entire Congregation, in harmony with them, approved the activities of the Vicar, and gave thanks to God, and to him – they gave their due thanks for what he had done.

Now, it was the time to elect by secret ballot, with the relative plurality of votes;
1st the Secretary of the Congregation;
2nd the Assistant to the same;
3rd the one among the Capitulars who is to deliver the Second Discourse to the Congregation, immediately before the Elections.

ΔΔΔ

For the 1st: Fr. John Rigoni was elected with 8 votes – eight
For the 2nd: Fr. Vincent Vignola who was elected with 5 votes – five.
For the 3rd: these were nominated:

Fr. Peter Vignola with	3 votes
Fr. Vincent Vignola	3
Fr. Benciolini	3
Fr. Bassi	1

All four of these were then voted on, by Yea and Nay, and the result was

Fr. Peter Vignola	5 fav. Votes,	4 contra.
Fr. Vincent Vignola	5 “ “	4 “
Fr. Benciolini	5 “ “	4 “
Fr. Bassi	4 “ “	5 “

The Vote was repeated, but this time only the first three names were voted upon. The result was:

Fr. Peter Vignola	5 fav. Votes,	4 contra.
Fr. Vincent Vignola	7 “ “	2 “
Fr. Bassi	2 “ “	7 “

Therefore, the Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola was elected.

ΔΔΔ

A.M.D.G.
On the 6th day of October, of the year 1871
Friday ²²

The Acts of the 2nd Session of the IIIrd General Congregation
Of Apostolic Missionaries, Verona

Today, at 8:15 a.m., all those having a Vote in our Institute assembled in the Chapter, i.e.,

- | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|--------------------|
| 1. | Very | Rev. | Fr. | J. Bapt. Lenotti |
| 2. | | “ | “ | Francis Benciolini |
| 3. | | “ | “ | Richard DaPrato |
| 4. | | “ | “ | Mark Bassi |
| 5. | | “ | “ | Vincent Vignola |
| 6. | | “ | “ | John Rigoni |
| 7. | | “ | “ | Peter Vignola |
| 8. | | “ | “ | Joseph Marchesini |
| 9. | | “ | “ | Francis Sogaro |
| 10. | | “ | “ | Joseph Sembianti |

to go on to the **Act of the Election of the Superior to a five year term**. Having recited the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*, and, in the interests of exactness, that part of our Constitutions [i.e., *Appendix to Part XII, Parag. 5, n. 1*], was read by the Secretary for the understanding of all, from the words: *...when these things have been done, on the day of the Election...* - down to the words: *...the Ballots are to be burned*. The Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola, already elected for this task in the Ist Session, gave an appropriate Discourse to those Congregated. These afterwards, each one within himself, maintained silence, and each one recollecting within himself, and with God, came to the nomination of the Superior, with each one writing his own candidate on the ballots that had already been distributed .

The moment came, the Rev. Vicar rose from his seat, and holding between two fingers his own closed ballot, he deposited it in the sight of all, into the urn, resting in the middle of the table, and invited the others to do the same.

Then, followed the verification that was carried out by the Vicar, the Secretary and Assistant, which is according to the rules. The ballots were then shaken again, then turned, and numbered, to see if they correspond to the number of those voting.

²² [NB: apparently, Thursday October 5th, 1871 – was used as a day of prayer prior to the Election of the Superior General].

The Secretary took them, one by one, and gave them to the Vicar, who, having shown them to only two Associates, made them public.

Those nominated were:

Very	Rev.	Fr.	J. Bapt. Lenotti	with	seven votes
	“	Fr.	Francis Benciolini		one
	“	Fr.	Peter Vignola		one
	“	Fr.	Vincent Vignola		one

Therefore, since the Very Rev. J. Bapt. Lenotti had obtained more than half of the votes, he was proclaimed as legitimate Superior by the Secretary, and the due reverence was made to him by the Secretary, by the Assistant, and by all the others in order.

And, this is the **Decree** that soon appeared in the name of the entire Congregation, and signed by the Secretary of the same, which must be promulgated in all the houses of the Institute:

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. AMEN.

SINCE, IN THE FULL AND LEGITIMATE CONGREGATION OF APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES, AND HAVING COMPARED THE NUMBER OF ALL THE VOTES, WITH MORE THAN HALF OF THEM FOUND TO HAVE NOMINAED AND ELECTED REV. FR. JOHN BAPTIST LENOTTI:

I, JOHN RIGONI, SECRETARY OF THE SAME CHAPTER, THROUGH THE AUTHORITY OF OUR ENTIRE INSTITUTE, ELECT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED, REV. FR. JOHN BAPTIST LENOTTI, AS SUPERIOR OF THE ENTIRE INSTITUTE OF APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

**VERONA, FROM THE HOUSE OF THE SS. STIMATE
6TH DAY OF OCTOBER 1871 – FRIDAY
FR. JOHN RIGONI, SECRETARY**

△△△

[Which **Decree** is rendered in Italian, for the understanding of the Brothers]:

In the Name of the Lord. Amen

[The same **Decree** is here given in its Italian translation]:

*Verona, from the House of the Stimate,
6th day of October 1871 – Friday
Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary*

[Seal: green ink]
**APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES
VERONA**

△△△

By secret ballot, next was held the Election of the four General Councillors, for a five year term. They are:

Rev.	Fr.	Peter Vignola with	8 votes
“	“	Richard DaPrato	8 “
“	“	Francis Benciolini	7 “
“	“	John Rigoni	7 “

ΔΔΔ

Afterwards, in like manner, came the election of the Admonitor Gen. The following were nominated:

Rev.	Fr.	Peter Vignola with	3 votes
“	“	Francis Benciolini	5 [he abstained]
“	“	Richard DaPrato	1

REV. FR. FRANCIS BENCIOLINI WAS ELECTED

ΔΔΔ

Next, the Election of the Procurator general was taken up. The following names were found on the ballots:

Rev.	Fr.	John Rigoni	on 8
“	“	Peter Vignola	1
“	“	Richard DaPrato	1

REV. FR. JOHN RIGONI WAS ELECTED

ΔΔΔ

Next was held the Election for the 4 examiners for the House of Novitiate: the two Priests, Fr. Joseph Sembianti and Fr. Louis Morando, having been designated by the Superior as Councillors in that House, are nominated [in accord with the Constitutions] also as examiners. Therefore, there only remained the nomination of the other two examiners, still for that House. A secret ballot was held, and these were elected:

Rev. Fr. Benciolini and Rev. Fr. Francis Sogaro.

The Congregation, therefore, retains as nominated to the Office of examiners for the House of Novitiate at Villazzano:

- 1. Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini**
- 2. “ “ Francis Sogaro**
- 3. “ “ Joseph Sembianti**
- 4. “ “ Louis Morando**

ΔΔΔ

Next, was held the Nomination of three other examiners for the 2nd Scrutiny.

The following were elected: Fr. Peter Vignola with 8 votes
 Fr. Richard DaPrato 7
 Fr. Charles Zara 5
 [one vote was invalidated].

ΔΔΔ

Then, the Secretary read aloud the Rules for the Gen. Councillors, of the Admonitor and Procurator Gen., and all of these protested before God and the Congregation, that they would faithfully fulfill their respective offices.

Before terminating and dissolving the Congregation, the Very rev. Superior proposed to the same, whether it would be pleasing to It, to delegate him [making, thereby, an exception to the Rule contained in the **Statute, Appendix to Part XII, Parag. 3, n. 3**], to confer the **Grade of Missionary Apostolic**, with the participation of all the merits and spiritual advantages which can be had from our Institute, and thereby, all the more to incorporate and to assure in the most perfect manner in this, our Institute, the **Most Rev. Fr. Louis Bragato, on Mission**²³ **at the Imperial Court**, as one of us, and also one so worthy.

When the discussion was opened on this proposal, it was pointed out that if the illustrious merits of that Subject, so beloved and so venerable, recommend it, there does not appear in Common Law, any evident difficulty in bestowing on him this **Grade**, and thus to make him capable of its adnexed rights and honors: the Congregation adopts the proposal in its general outline, and went on to a vote, through Yea and Nay, while having in preparation, because of the importance and the unusual case at hand, the tenor and the form of the relative Decree.

The result of the Vote was for Yes, 9 votes.

For No, 1 Vote.

THE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED, WITH THE OBSERVATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

ΔΔΔ

²³ [Translator's Note: this is the very broad interpretation of *Apostolic Mission*, and its *Quodcumque Verbi Dei Ministerium*, Fr. Bragato's service was considered to be among the *graviora ministeria* – cf. CF ## 158; 185; 262.]

