

The
4th, 5th & 6th
GENERAL CHAPTERS
SEPTEMBER 1872 - AUGUST 1874:

IVth	September 9 & 10, 1872
Vth	February 25 - 27, 1874
VIth	August 5, 1874

§§§§§

ACTS ¹
of the
IVth GENERAL CONGREGATION
September 9th and 10th, 1872

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Minutes

September 9, 1872	Ist Session
September 10, 1872	2nd Session

¹ [**Translator's Note:** The *ACTS* of this **IVth General Chapter** are contained on 9 pages of notes, measuring 17, one half, by 12 and one half, on un-lined paper. The **Minutes** are still very legible, but the paper seems quite marked either from water, or humidity. A half of this paper, 12 and one half by 8 ad one fourth was torn off neatly, and pasted to the inside cover of the booklet. Three of the large sheets are then folded down the middle, to make pages of 12 and one half by 8 and one fourth. The last of these sheets is passed into the rear cover. On the last sheet, there is a trade mark, G.C.", about the center of the page, the reverse side up].

Appendix: **A List of the Confreres [Autumn 1873]**

§§§

Original

In the Name of Christ. Amen

**In the Year of the Birth of Our Lord, 1872. In the Month
Of September, on the 9th day, which is Monday.**

**In the Mother House at the Stimate
The Minutes of the IVth General Congregation.**

With the **Decree of August 13, 1872**, sent out by the Superior Gen., to all the Houses of our Congregation, it was decreed in obedience that the **IVth Gen. Congregation** was designated for this day.

All the members having the **Grade** have assembled and come to the place of the Chapter, and they are, in order of age:

1. Very Rev. J. B. Lenotti, Superior Gen.
2. Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini, Gen. Councillor
3. Rev. Fr. Richard DaPrato, Gen. Councillor, Director of the Stimate
4. Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi, Master of Novices
5. Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola, Director of the House of Povo.
6. Rev. Fr. John Rigoni, Gen. Councillor, & Proc. Gen.
7. Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, Gen. Counc.
8. Rev. Fr. Francis Sogaro

All of these, having coming together, invoked the divine assistance with the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*, and certified the legitimacy of this present Chapter.

I.

Ist Session

The list of the matters proposed to the Congregation was drawn up: but, first, by secret ballot elections were held for: the Secretary of the Congregation, and three Deputies, who with the said Secretary, and with the Superior Gen., are to compile it.

The Election of the Secretary of the Congregation.

When the ballots had been distributed, they were then collected, and these were nominated:

Fr. Rigoni	with 6 votes
Fr. Vincent Vignola	2

Rev. Fr. Rigoni was elected

The Election of the Deputies

The ballots were distributed, and then gathered, and they were unfolded, and these were nominated:

Fr. Vincent Vignola	with	6 votes
Fr. Benciolini	“	6 “
Fr. Peter Vignola	“	5 “
Fr. DaPrato	“	4 “
Fr. Bassi	“	2 “
Fr. Sogaro	“	1 “

The following are elected: Fr. Vinc. Vignola, Fr. Benciolini, Fr. Peter Vignola.

List of the Matters

Proposals made to the Deputation**Resolutions voted on by the Deputation****I. Of the Superior General**

1. To carry out the duty entrusted to him by the IInd Congregation.
2. To confirm the dismissal of two Brothers already discharged: Biasi and Raffaelli.
3. To deliberate on the Foundation of Trent.
4. If a deposit ought to be asked from the aspirants.

To be proposed to the Congregation today,
To be discussed tomorrow.

To be proposed to the Congregation and to
to be discussed today.

To be proposed to the Congregation, and to
Be discussed tomorrow.

To be proposed to the Congregation, and to
be discussed immediately.

II. Of the Houses**Povo**

1. The same regarding the aspirants.
2. System of Studies
3. Whether the Superior Gen. can vest an aspirant before he has finished high school

“Enlarge”

The rules for the Super. Gen. in the
Appendix to Part XII are to be con-
sulted.

Dereletti

1. If a transaction from the government is to be accepted, if it is offered.
2. What measures are to be adopted in the event of a yield?

This was voted on, with the result:
4 votes for not accepting.

1 “ for accepting.

“Unanimously rejected.”

III. Of the Gen. Councillors

Fr. Benciolini: made a proposal, but immediately withdrew it.

Fr. Peter Vignola:

On the holding in the interim of the
Gen. Funds, and Administration

To be proposed to the Congregation, and
to be discussed tomorrow.

IV. Of the Procurator General

1. Can these words: *except in some special case, and with the permission of the Sup. Gen.* – can these words be ruled on?
2. On these others: *...and these things which come from others, who are not of the Congregation.*
The syntax is not proper.
Observations.
3. On the suggestion made by Fr. Rigoni in the IInd Gen. Congr., regarding the addition: *...in The present circumstances...* [it was voted on with Less that two thirds].
Observations.
4. On the Proposal made by Fr. Peter Vignola, and connected matters.
5. On the Request for the absence of ...²

The members of the Deputation sign here:

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Superior

Fr. Vincent Vignola

Fr. Francis Benciolini

Fr. Peter Vignola

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

ΔΔΔ

II.

1. According to the order of the Proposals, as contained in the list above, the exposition of his first one, was made by the Superior Gen., and it is to be discussed tomorrow.
2. Then, he exposed his 2nd Proposal, as contained in the list above, and immediately a discussion concerning it opened, concerning the 1st individual, that is, Raffaelli. The following proposal was made:

Should it be prudently sought to reacquire him?

A vote was taken on the proposal, through Yea and Nay.

The result:

Voting	8
Yes	6
No	2

This Proposal was admitted.

² Under this # 5, the remainder of the sentence – the name – is crossed out.

September 10, 1872

11th Session

**The Prayer was said by all the Capitulars,
Assembled in the Usual Place.**

The discussion was opened on the Ist Chapter in the Order of the Day, i.e., on the Studies of Parag. 8, Chap. I, of the *Append. to the XIIth Part* of the Constitutions.

The discussion itself finally centered on these words:
*...unless, in some special case, with the permission and total
[/////]dependence on the Super. Gen...³*

Concerning these words, there were many difficulties brought forward by the fr. Procurator, as in No. IV of the List of Proposals.

The proposition was formulated:

[/////] *Whether the treatment, and definitive resolution of this, ought to be deferred until the next Gen. Congregation.*

[/////] A vote was taken on this Proposition:

Result:	Present	8
	Voting	8
	For Yes, i.e., for deferring it	6 votes
[/////]	For No, _____	2 “
		ΔΔΔ

In like manner, the same Procurator Gen. presented difficulties with these words:

... these things, concerning the entire House. As for what pertains to the students, each one ... indeed retains before the Grade, etc.

It was unanimously decided that those words, Before the Grade ought to be eliminated.

ΔΔΔ

II.

On the 2nd Proposal of the same Procurator Gen., relative to the words:

...and which, by others, who are not of the Congregation..

offend grammatical construction and syntax.

It was unanimously adopted that the Passage be emended, substituting the following:

... and which others, who are not of the Congregation.

ΔΔΔ

³ [Translator's Note: On this first vote taken on Sept. 10, 1872 , there are some markings, which have been reproduced in this translation as: “[/////]. These apparently were added sometime later, in red crayon.]

On the 3rd Proposal of the same Fr. Procurator Gen., i.e., to work out his proposal concerning the irregularity that was indicated; another vote was taken on the same passage of the *Append.*, Chap.I, Parag.8, No. 5, letter c, which begins:

...in the present circumstances ...

and ends with these other words:

...of their goods, as for their substance...

Result:

Their substance was approved with all the 8 Votes.

△△△

The next step was to formulate the expression to be inserted and to be emended, while maintaining the same idea. It was proposed to introduce instead:

The Congregation declares, that notwithstanding our Constitutions, 7th Part, Chap. I, n. 1 ⁴,the Superior does not have the faculty of obliging any member... etc.

This was put to a Vote:

All 8 votes Yes.

△△△

Next, the Congregation was asked if, therefore, those studies on Parag. 8, ordered by the IInd Gen. Congregation, with the exception of the unless, **as above in No. 1, are to be considered completed.**

This was put to a vote.

Yes 6

No 3

△△△

III.

Then, there came up for discussion both parts of the 3rd Proposal of the Very Rev. Superior, regarding the Foundation of San Bernardino, in Trent.

As for the 1st part: *how to provide for the custody and the care of the property for the new farm year*, it was unanimously decided that **since this is a matter of ordinary administration, it is to be provided for by him to whom it pertains**, namely as it is found in the terms of its foundation.

As for the 2nd part of this Proposal, this Proposition was formulated:

Establish it, provided that there is not a just and prudent reason to fear that such would be prejudicial to the Benciolini case.

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

Yes 6

No 2

It was adopted.

△△△

⁴ C.D.B., P.VII, c. 1, n1 – CF # 90.

Appendix

A Catalogue of the Congregation of the APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF BISHOPS. The Year 1873. ⁶

VERY REV. FR. JOHN BAPTIST LENOTTI, SUPERIOR GENERAL, since
October 6, 1871.

Rev. Fr. John Rigoni, Proc. Gen.

Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Associate Coadjutor of the Procurator General.

GENERAL COUNCILLORS

Fr. John Rigoni; Fr. Francis Benciolini, Fr. Peter Vignola, Fr. Vicent Vignola, substitute for the deceased Fr. Richard DaPrato.

GENERAL EXAMINERS

Fr. John Rigoni; Fr. Peter Vignola; Fr. Charles Zara.

Fr. Joseph Sembianti, a substitute for the deceased Fr. Richard DaPrato.

Fr. Andrew Sterza, substitute for Fr. Sembianti transferred in Verona.

⁶ [This Catalogue, in Latin, is found in: CS III, pp. 355-358, with the following note, added by Fr. Stofella]; This document is in the hand-writing of Fr. Lawrence Pizzini, charged with a copy of this for presentation somewhere. At this time, Fr. Pizzini was newly ordained, and was assigned to the Mother House, where he is presented as a *Collaborator Priest*. This means, of course, that we find here a particular example of Fr. Bertoni's idea of an ordained Priest, who had not yet received the Grade of the Apostolic Missionary. In this *Catalogue*, there are others names as *Collaborators*, but they are designated rather by the name of the special duty to which they are assigned, and thus it seems that this language did not have a long life.

The date of this Document as far as the year is concerned, is explicitly presented. And there can be attempted a closer approximation by the fact that in this *Catalogue* there may be found not only the ordination of Fr. Pizzini, and also Fr. Pio Gurisatti and Fr. James Marini, which took place on March 27, 1873. There is also the indication that others were already ordained priests: Bartholomew Perazzani and Bellino Carrara were on June 7th, 1783. However, the priestly ordination of Lawrence Rigatti and of Richard Tabarelli would take place only on December 20th of that same year. Hence, most likely this document came out either in the summer, or the autumn of 1783.]

The folder in which this *Catalogue* is found would be legal size. On close observation, one name is missing, which could have been on another sheet, which is now lost. However, Fr. Joseph Marchesini lived outside of Verona on the Pozza estate, and there he administered his own property, as he did during the long struggle with the government: this litigation had just concluded in either May, or June of that 1783, whereas the restitution of the goods dragged on until that September.

It seems evident that this Document offers some indication that under Fr. Lenotti's administration, the various *Rules for the Various Offices* had their influence.

FATHERS HAVING THE GRADE

Fr. John Baptist Lenotti; Fr. John Rigoni; Fr. Louis Bragato; Fr. Francis Benciolini; Fr. Peter Vignola; Fr. Vincent Vignola; Fr. Mark Bassi; Fr. Francis Sogaro; Fr. Joseph Sembianti.

ΔΔΔ

THE MOTHER HOUSE OF THE SACRED STIGMATA, VERONA⁷

Director Of The House: **Fr. Peter Vignola**
Economus And Master Of Exterior Discipline: **Fr. Peter Beltrami**
Ordinary Confessors: **Fr. Francis Benciolini and Fr. Peter Beltrami**
Master of Spiritual Matters: **Fr. Peter Beltrami**
Sacristan: **Fr. Thomas Vicentini**
Building Maintenance: **Bro. Anthony Rigoni**
Librarian: **Fr. Charles Zara**
Prefect of the Gardens: **Fr. Peter Vignola**
Gardener: **Bro. Luis Ferrari**
Porter: **Bro. Philip Tessadri**
Cook: **Bro. Louis Falzi**
Guardian of the Wardrobe: **Bro. Louis Falzi**
Guardian of the Laundry: **Bro. Louis Falzi**
Priest Collaborator: **Fr. Lawrence Pizzini**
Student of the IVth Theological Course: **Frat. Alexis Magagna**

ΔΔΔ

THE HOUSE OF St. MARY of the LILY

Director: **Fr. Francis Benciolini**
Economus and Master of Exterior Discipline: **Fr. Dominic Vicentini**
Prefect of the Marian Congregation: **Fr. Francis Sogaro**
Prefect of the Garden: **Fr. Francis Sogaro**
Porter: **Bro. Anthony Nicora**
Tailor: **Bro. Anthony Nicora**
Assistant to the Tailor: **[stud.] Albano Clemente.**

ΔΔΔ

THE TRIDENTINE HOUSE OF THE NOVITIATE AND OF STUDIES

Director: **Fr. Vincent Vignola**
Master of Novices: **Fr. Mark Bassi**
Councillors: **Fr. Mark Bassi and Fr. Louis Morando; Fr. Andrew Sterza and Fr. James Marini.**
Economus and Master of Exterior Discipline: **Fr. James Marini**
Ordinary Confessor: **Fr. Mark Bassi**

⁷ There is lacking here the name of **Fr. Joseph Marchesini**, who remained mostly on his own estate, as has been noted.

Master of Spiritual Matters: **Fr. Mark Bassi**
Sacristan: **Fr. Micahel Lanaro**
Building Maintenance: **Alternating Professed Students**
Porter: **Bro. David Chiesa**
Gardiner: [**bro.**] **John Pigozzo, Novice**
Cook: [**bro.**] **John Pigozzo, Novice**
Guardian of the Laundry: **Bro. David Chiesa**
Bell: [**bro.**] **Charles Saloker, Novice**
Tailor: **Bro. David Chiesa**
Tailor's Assistant: [**bro.**] **Joseph Givani, Novice**
In charge of Sewing: **Bro. James Zadra**
Prefect of Studies: **Fr. Louis Morando**
Sub-Prefect: **Fr. Andrew Sterza**
Lector of Dogmatic Theology: **Fr. Richard Tabarelli**
Lector of Canon Law: **Fr. Michael Lanaro**
Lector of Moral Theology: **Fr. Mark Bassi**
Lector of Sacred Scripture, Eloquence and Catechetics: **Fr. Mark Bassi**
Lector of Church History: **Fr. Bellino Carrara**
Lector of Philosophy: **Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani**
Lector of Mathematics, Algebra and Arithmetics: **Fr. Bellino Carrara**
Teacher of IInd Humanities: **Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani**
Teacher of IVth Grammar: **Fr. James Marini**
Teacher of IInd Grammar: **Fr. Pius Gurisatti**
Master of Ist Grammar: **Fr. Paul Gradinati**
Teacher of the Greek language: **Fr. Richard Tabarelli**
Teacher of the Teutonic Language: [**frat.**] **Melchias Vivari**

ΔΔΔ

STUDENTS OF THE IVth COURSE

[**frat.**] **Angelo Graziani**; [**frat.**] **Bonaventure Vidalli**; [**frat.**] **Cajetan Pizzighella**;
[**frat.**] **Louis Gasperotti**; [**frat.**] **Joseph Zandonai**; [**frat.**] **Julius Zanini**; [**frat.**] **Anthony Oss-Bals.**

ΔΔΔ

Ist COURSE

[**frat.**] **Paul Gradinati**

ΔΔΔ

ASPIRANTS

Of the Second Humanities Class

Louis Battisti; **Joseph Nicolini**

ΔΔΔ

IVth Grammar

Joseph Marochi; **Anselm Brunati**; **Louis Tomasi**; **Eugene Laudon**

ΔΔΔ

IInd GRAMMAR

Stephen Rosa

Louis Lievore; **Leo Vicentini**; **John Baptist Cavinato**; **Francis Pigler**

†††††

ACTS

of the

Vth GENERAL CONGREGATION

FEBRUARY 25-27, 1874

§§§§§

ACTS
of the
Vth GENERAL CONGREGATION⁸

February 25, 26, 27, 1874

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Miscellaneous Papers

Fr. Sembianti's Oath of Office– March 2, 1874
Decrees of the Vth General Chapter

§§§

⁸ The Original Acts of this Chapter, are contained in a 'bowling-ball colored' maroon and black notebook. There are 10 pages, or 20 sides in this notebook, of un-lined paper, 11 and one half by eight. The first page, inside the cover, contains these words *Vth Gen. Congregation*. The *Acts* of the Chapter cover 16 pages, but there seems to be a mistake in their numbering, as in the original, the last page is numbered '14'. The very last page of the notebook was left blank. It is bound with black thread, knotted on the inside page.

In addition to the *Acts of the Vth Chapter*, the follower also contains the following papers:

I. *Proposals of Particular Chapters for the Vth Gen. Congregation*, contained in a folder, already previously used by student for school theme! The Proposals were dated as having been received on Feb. 25, 1874.

A. **One Proposal signed by all the members of the House of the Stimmate, dated Feb. 24th.**

B. **A Personal set of Proposals submitted by Fr. Francis Sogaro, dated Feb. 25th.**

II. **The Acts of the Chapter.**

III. **Decrees of the Vth General Congregation, in Fr. Lenotti's handwriting, without any date.**

The Year 1874

Proposals of Individuals and Chapters for the Vth Gen. Congregation ⁹

In the name of the Lord. Amen. ¹⁰
Verona, February 24, 1874

⁹ [**Translator's Note:** inside the folder of this Chapter, there appears these words written on a piece of lined, folded paper: *The Year 1874. Proposals of Particulars and Chapters for the Vth General Cong.* The paper measures 16 x 12, and is folded to allow four sides, measuring 12 x 8. There is a three fourths inch margin on both sides. There are 33 lines on each side, starting with a double line, and one fourths inch there is a triple line. There is a one inch margin at the top, and three fourths inch at the bottom. This folder, used to contain the Proposals to a General Chapter was scrap paper! On the reverse side of this lined folder, there is a school theme, written, as it seems, in a youthful, but clear hand. This theme is marked with a blue crayon, with a huge "8", apparently the grade received for it. The small letters say between the 2 double lines up to the triple line. Its author seems to have been someone by the name of "Darnichini", but this is not too clear. The theme reads as follows:

Theme
The Poor Man and His Dog

8

The sun was setting, and Charles, as was his custom, was coming home from his pleasant walk. Along his way, he met a poor, old man, all bent over, because of his advanced age. There were no shoes on his feet, and his clothing was all torn, and he had a dog at his side. With fine manners, he came up to Charles, and spoke to him thus:

'O sir, out of charity, would you buy his dog? I give it to you for only six Lira.'

The young boy saw that the dog was beautiful and nimble and he took out six Lira, and gave them to the good, old man, but as soon as he had the Lira in his hands, a tremor of joy was felt in his heart. But, when he went to hand over the dog, his face became saddened, and he began to kiss it again and again.

Charles, seeing that act of generosity, turning to the poor old man, said to him:

'This dog is very dear to you, is that not true?'

The poor old man answered this dog is dear to me because he is my only company; I had to sell it out of necessity.

'Go on, and tell me what happened to you,' responded Charles.

The old man, with tears, answered him: 'I have two sons sick in bed for two months, and I had to sell the dog to get medicine and the necessary nourishment for them.'

Charles, in hearing these words, gave him back the dog, and gave him back the six Lira, and all the rest of the money that he had.

The poor, old man, in seeing the good heart of that young boy, said to him: 'May God bless you, dear son, I will always pray to the Lord for you.'

MORAL

The action of Charles is worthy of him who has a compassionate heart.

J. M. J.

Praise be the Name of the Lord.

¹⁰ The 1st Proposal is from the House Chapter at the Stimate. It was presented on large, un-lined paper, much like manila, drawing paper, measuring 17 x 12. It is folded in half, leaving four sides 8 and one half by 12. The Proposals of the Stimate are written only on the left hand side of the 1st page, in very small, but legible hand-writing. It seems to have been folded over again, possibly for insertion into an envelope.

Having assembled at the invitation of Fr. Director, those having a vote among the **Apostolic Missionaries** at the House of the Stimmate in Verona, to express in Chapter, that which they would desire to be discussed in the Gen. Congregation, that is to be held in the very near future. These Rev. Fathers were present:

- . Peter Vignola, Director ¹¹
- . Joseph Marchesini
- . Charles Zara
- . Thomas Vicentini
- . Louis Morando
- . Peter Beltrami
- . Lawrence Pizzini
- . Lawrence Rigatti

Having invoked divine assistance, the Director explained the reason for the meeting, and he invited those attending, in the order of their seniority, to propose whatever in the Lord, they believed expedient to propose to the Gen. Congregation, for the greater glory of God, for the development of the Congregation, and for the greater profit of its members.

When various proposals had been discussed and formulated, and put to a secret vote, the three following resulted as the ones to be presented to the Gen. Congregation:

1. The Congregation is asked to review the Rules for the special offices of the individual Superiors, for the purpose of avoiding the danger of conflicts.

2. It is asked to open an Elementary, and a High School. If this should not be presently possible, it is asked to look into the possibility of opening at least a High School, for the purpose of:

- [1st] **corresponding to one of the principal ends of our Congregation, that was born and flourished with teaching** ¹²;
- [2nd] **corresponding to the desires of the public, which in the present circumstances, is asking for this;**
- [3rd] **avoiding scandal, in having such a large building, without any scope of public benefit – furthermore, because of the statement of our Holy Father, Pius IXth: *For the instruction of the youth, go to any extreme, save sin!***

¹¹ In this signing, the name *Vignola* on this line, crosses out something else, that had been written there previously – most likely, by Fr. Vignola himself.

¹² Clearly, in the minds of these Confreres, teaching is a primary apostolate of the Congregation – both conceptually and historically. It is to be noted that the **XIIth General Chapter, in 1890** will continue this ideal – will place ‘school’ on the same level of as other apostolic endeavors, an essential aspect of the Founder’s ideal of the **APOSTOLIC MISSION**.

3. There is expressed the earnest desire that a greater number of Aspirants might be accepted.

This meeting was adjourned, and all affixed their signatures.

Fr. Peter Vignola, Director

Fr. Joseph Marchesini

Fr. Charles Zara

Fr. Thomas Vicentini

Fr. Louis Morando

Fr. Peter Beltrami

Fr. Lawrence Pizzini

Fr. Lawrence Rigatti

This was received today, and placed among the *Acts*, Feb. 25, 1874.

Fr. John Rigoni, Secret.

The under-signed humbly begs these Rev. Fathers to be willing to assume the following in the List of matters to be treated in the present Gen. Cong. ¹³:

- 1st **The immediate return to the observance of the rule: *Nothing is to be accepted for services rendered.*** and for these reasons:
- 1st because otherwise, we render ore difficult this most salutary work of the Holy Missions, taking into consideration the extraordinary penury of poor parishes, etc.
- 2^{ndly} because it would be supremely unfortunate to see even poor Priests, dedicating themselves gratuitously to this sacred ministry – while those who have expressly stated and have professed their Rule of not receiving anything, but yet are sufficiently provided for – they should not continue to receive retribution.
- 2nd That, for the greater glory of God, Who has responded always according to one’s needs, even in emergencies, and having seen the lamentable lessening of vocations to the ecclesiastical state, **hat there be instituted something like a little provincial seminary,** the maintenance of which could be provided for by making an appeal especially to the Bishops of Veneto.
- 3rd That **there be sent to Rome, in the name of the entire Congregation, one individual, who would present himself to His Holiness,** and give a brief resume’ of our affairs, and then offer our humble efforts to him. If, therefore, it seems to Your Reverences, that this would be for the greater glory of the Lord Jesus, and for the advantage of His Holy Church, and in conformity to the advancement of our poor Institute, I renew my humble request that they might be taken into consideration, and that this might be done.
- Day 25 74 Your most humble, devoted, obedient son in Christ
2 Fr. Sogaro

This was received today, Feb. 25, 1874, and placed in the *Acts*.
Fr. Rigoni, Secret.

¹³ Fr. Sogaro’s Proposals are found on a single sheet of paper, measuring 15 and one half, by 11 and one half. This is then folded, leaving four sides of un-lined paper, 7 and three fourths by 11 and on half. The penmanship is extremely difficult to read, and seems n some contrast with the usual neat signatures of Fr. Sogaro, as it appears in previous Chapter Minutes. Only the first page is written on, and this is followed by three blank pages. It may have been written in haste, shortly before the opening of the Chapter, and there are a number of inserted corrections.

Original

**In the Year of the Lord 1874
The month being February
The day, the 25th
Which is Wednesday, Festive of the Chair of St. Peter.
In the Name of Christ.
Amen**

The Minutes of the Vth Gen. Chapter begin.

Ist Session

I.

On the invitation sent out by the Very Rev. Superior of the **Congregation of Apostolic Missionaries**, to all the Houses, so that from all of them, and from each of them, those members who have received the **Grade**, might participate in the General Congregation, set for the 25th day of February, 1874, in the customary place, at the Stimmate, and precisely in the room [now happily restored for its use], in which our venerated Founder, the Very Rev. Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, lived and died in so holy a manner.

Those who attended:

- 1st The Very Rev. Temporary Superior, Fr. J. B. Lenotti
- 2nd The Proc. Gen., Fr. Rigoni
- 3 The Gen. Counc., Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola
- 4 The second, Rev. Fr. Benciolini
- 5 The 3rd, i.e., Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola
- 6 The Rev. Fr. Bassi
- 7 The Rev. Fr. Sogaro
- 8 The Rev. Fr. Sembianti.

When the Hymn, the *Veni, Creator* was said, the roll was called, and it was determined that the number of those having a voice in the Gen. Congregation was complete, with the exception of Fr. Louis Bragato, who also had been invited, but as was very easily understood, because of the distance, and his age, he could not come personally. However, this meeting intends to communicate to him, by means of its own Superior, the results of greater importance, and wherever it occurs, to seek his advice on whatever is not defined:

The Congregation is declared opened.

II.

The Very Rev. Superior, who is directing the meeting, in a few words recalled the scope of the meeting, and the method to be employed in the Congregation, and, according to the Statutes, proposed to pass on to the nomination of the Secretary of the Congregation itself.

The ballots were distributed so that each one could write down his candidate, and when they were collected, and they were unfolded by the Superior, assisted by the two oldest, and the following were found nominated o this office:

the Rev. Fr. Rigoni,	with 6 votes.
the Rev. Fr. P. Vignola	with 2 votes.

Fr. JOHN RIGONI IS ELECTED.

ΔΔΔ

III.

The Rev. Fr. Superior furthermore proposes that in accord with the meaning of the Statutes, three Deputies be nominated, who, together with the Superior and the Secretary, will draw up the List of the Matters to be treated in the Congregation.

The ballots were distributed, and then collected, and the following were found to be nominated:

Fr. Vincent Vignola with	7 votes.
Fr. Peter Vignola	6
Fr. Bassi	4
Fr. Sembianti	4
Fr. Benciolini	2
Fr. Sogaro	1

In the run-off between Rev. Frs. Bassi and Sembianti:

Rev. Fr. Bassi received 3 votes.
Rev. Fr. Sembianti had 4 votes.

**THEREFORE, AS THE THIRD OF THE DEPUTIES, REV. FR. SEMBIANTI
WAS ELECTED.**

ΔΔΔ

IV.

**The List to be discussed by the Deputation to
Establish the Matters to be treated.**

Various Proposals that were had

Resolution by the Deputation

I.

By the Very Rev. Superior

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Inform the Congregation on Bro. Raffaelli, according to No. II, 2, Session I, in the list of the IVth Congregation. | 1. This information will be heard immediately. |
| 2. A Definition was reserved to this Congregation, by the IVth Cong., concerning the doubt raised in it by the Procurator Gen., on the liceity and Validity of the words: <i>...unless in some special case</i> , etc., as found in No. I, Session II. | 2. To be proposed today, and discussed tomorrow. |
| 3. The Foundation of Caravaggio, and its project. | 3. To be examined today, and to be treated tomorrow. |
| 4. Information on the phase to which the previously admitted foundation of Trent has arrived. | 4. To be received immediately. |
| 5. Whether a gap is present in the Common Rules, regarding the Manifestation of Conscience. | 5. To be proposed today, and treated tomorrow. |
| 6. Whether a Commission should be chosen that would study and draw up a stable Plan of Rule for the Studies of our Students. | 6. To be proposed today, and also discussed. |
| 7. A remark on the Grade of the Superior, which he confirms, and Recognition on the part of the entire Congregation. | 7. To be done immediately. |

II.

The Houses

1. The Stimate

- a.] The request of the Revision of the Rules of the special Offices.
- b.] The request for the Elementary and High Schools, and Night School at the Teresians.

1. The Stimate

- a.] Left to the Superior.
- b.] Left to the last.

c.] Desire of Aspirants in greater Number.

c.] Agreed and terminatred.

III.

Individuals

1. Gen. Councillors

a.] Fr. P. Vignola

1. Declaration to be made in rendering the ministry in relation to offerings.

a.] Vignola

1. Immediately.

b.] Fr. Benciolini

1. Request in favor of Creazzi

b.] Fr. Benciolini

1. Such a request will be heard today.

c.] Fr. Rigoni

1. A Custodian of Laws

c.] Fr. Rigoni

1. The Vote of the 5 voting:

Yes 3

No 2

2. An established order in sitting

2. To be established.

3. Church of San Donato

3. Left to the Superior and his Council.

4. The House of Gastaldo, in the corner, at the residence of Sezano.

4. Left, as above.

5. Request for a Council of Administration.

5. Left, as above.

6. Request for a Budget of expenses for the *Dereletti*, and for San Bernardino.

6. Left, as above.

d.] Fr. Sogaro

d.] Fr. Sogaro

1. On the *entirely gratuitously*, this resolution was asked already by Fr. Peter Vignola.

1. It was already established, as above.

2. Request for the opening of a Provincial Seminary.

2. It will be heard in the last place.

3. On sending one to Rome, to offer

3. It will be heard (in the last place)¹⁴ in

¹⁴ These words: *in the last place* - were then crossed over.

himself to His Holiness.
Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Sup.er. Gen le.
Fr. John Rigoni, Secr.

relation to the Foundation of Caravaggi
Fr. Peter Vignola
Fr. Vincent Vignola
Fr. Joseph Sembianti

ΔΔΔ

The treatment of the points contained on the list, as compiled
by the Deputation.

=====

1. Having received the information regarding Bro. Raffaelli, the following proposition was formulated:

“The Congregation by means of its Superior, and of Fr. Vincent Vignola, has already carried out the proper procedures: the result did not correspond: nothing else remains to be done on the part of the Congregation.”

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

- 2. The Proposal of the difficulty was presented.
- 3. The exposition was presented.
- 4. The information was received.
- 5. The Proposal was heard.
- 6. The Proposal was made by the Superior, namely on whether a Commission should be named, that would study and draw up a stable Plan of Rules for the studies of our Students.

After the discussion was opened, this other Proposition came to the fore: it was initiated by one in the Chapter and supported by the majority, namely:
“To commit to the Prefect of Studies to put in writing the method actually being used now, with his own observations.”

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

7. The Congregation declares to the Superior that from the day on which he was elected Superior, he was considered **Graduated**, and in so far as it would have been necessary, it conferred on him the **Grade**.

8. According to the listed Order of the Day, next came that which was proposed by Fr. Peter Vignola, namely, whether if now that the exceptional circumstances have ceased, that which is spontaneously offered for services rendered in the Priestly Ministry of the Apostolic Missionaries, ought to be received, or effused.

When the discussion was opened, it was unanimously agreed:

**TO RETURN TO THE RULE OF NOT RECEIVING ANYTHING FOR SERVICES
RENDERED.**

AND, AS FOR ALMS FOR MASSES, CONTINUE ACCORDING TO OUR CUSTOM.

ΔΔΔ

Read, Closed and Signed,

- Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Superior
- Fr. John Rigoni, Proc. Gen. and Secretary
- Fr. Peter Vignola
- Fr. Francis Benciolini
- Fr. Vincent Vignola
- Fr. Mark Bassi
- Fr. Francis Sogaro
- Fr. Joseph Sembianti

=====

26 February 19874 – Thursday

IInd Session

1. The matters from the List were taken up again, from the point where they were left off yesterday: hence, Fr. Benciolini's request in favor of Creazzi was heard. The request" *In the case that Creazzi should request again to be accepted, if, and by whom, such a request should be accepted...*

The Congregation responded unanimously: this request. As presented by the individual, should e awaited, then, the Superior will provide, according to the case.

And when this Proposal was put to a vote, it obtained:

Voting	8
Yes	8
No	-

IT WAS ADMITTED.

ΔΔΔ

2. On the request of Fr. Rigoni, for a Custodian of the Laws of the Congregations, and in the Councils, a difficulty arose as regards the words: *...But, if a difficulty arose concerning those Constitutions that are to be changed, and those to be abrogated, it should be proposed in the Congregation, it will not be licit to treat of them, unless first it be stated by more than half the votes, that they are to be treated...* [Appendix, Chap. I, Parag. 6].

It being the held by the Very Rev. Superior, that the present case reflects this disposition. Therefore, it was put to a vote, to see if it was to be considered as such, and the result was:

Voting	8
Yes	3
No	5

IT WAS DELETED.

ΔΔΔ

3. On the order of sitting, the Congregation declares that the Capitulars will sit in this order:

1. Superior General in the first place.
2. Secretary of the Congreg. At his seat.
3. General Councillors.
4. Procurator General
- 5./ Directors / of / the / Houses / p[resent / in / the / Congregation/] ¹⁵
5. The other **Graduated** Fathers by order of age, and of receiving the **Grade**.
6. Directors of the Houses, and others who are called.

This was put to a vote; it had 7 votes for Yes
1 blank ballot.

ΔΔΔ

¹⁵ These corrections indicated by the customary //// appear in the Original Minutes, seem to have been added by Fr. Rigoni himself.

27th of February 1874 – Friday
IIIrd Session

1. Having regarded the Vote of yesterday as an approbation of being able to consider the Proposal made, whether there is a gap in the Common Rules, as regards the manifestation of Conscience, is taken up again.

Yes	7
No	1

ΔΔΔ

2. When this had been established, it was asked whether the following could be inserted among the Common Rules:

... it will be of very great assistance to confer often with the Master of Spiritual Things, concerning the advancement of one's own spirit...

Moreover, let all be mindful of the Constitutions, Part IV, Chap. I: a Manifestation of oneself concerning the observance of the Rule, and progress in virtues is to be made to the Superiors, either within sacramental Confession, or outside it, as may be preferred ¹⁶.

Voting	8
<u>Yes</u>	8
No	-

IT WAS PASSED.

ΔΔΔ

3. Next came the discussion of the 2nd of the three Proposals of the House of the Stimmate, namely, the Proposal of an Elementary and High School, and a Night School, at the Teresians.

The unanimous Congregation, **in recognizing the necessity of taking part in public instruction** ¹⁷, in order to come to something concrete, accepts the following Proposition, and puts it to a vote:

Proposition

That two individuals, to be designated by the Superior, are to prepare themselves, and present themselves to be approved for High School teaching. Then, as for the time and manner of actuating the Schools, this is left to the Superior with his Council.

This was put to a vote:

Voting	8
Yes	7 votes
No	1 vote

IT WAS PASSED.

ΔΔΔ

4. Finally, the 2nd of the three requests of Fr. Sogaro was taken up, namely the opening of a Provincial Seminary.

¹⁶ C.N.B., P IV. C. 1 = CF# 47; a number of changes and corrections were inserted here, by Fr. Rigoni.

¹⁷ This early General Chapter clearly saw the importance of the **Apostolic Mission of Schools** – this would be specifically formalized in the **XIIth General Chapter of 1890**. Fr. Marai was of a different opinion.

March 2, 1874 ¹⁹

Having noticed the omission of the Rule that is found registered in the *Appendix to Part XII of the Constitutions*, Chap. I, Parag. 5, No. 2, where it says:

‘The Secretary will read the respective duties and offices before the entire Congregation, and the Councillors, the Admonitor, and the Procurator General, will affirm before it that they have diligently and faithfully, with the help of God, their proper offices’ –

and , whereas in the IIIrd Session of the Vth General Congregation, the Election of the Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti, as Gen. Councillor, in the place of the late Fr. DaPrato, this should have been done while it was still in Session; these Rules of the General Councillors were not read, nor was the declaration and protestation, as regards the newly elected, were not heard:

Today, Mary 2nd, 1874, it was decided to supply for that omission, and the Rev. Joseph Sembianti himself read his Rules aloud, and made his protestation, that was heard and understood by all those convened.

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Superior
Fr. John Rigoni
Fr. Peter Vignola
Fr. Francis Benciolini
Fr. Joseph Sembianti
Fr. Francis Sogaro

So it is
Fr. John Rigoni
Secretary of the Vth Congregation

†
†††

†

¹⁹ Here on this page following the closing and adjournment of the **Vth General Chapter** , and the conclusion of its Minutes, there appears this Protestation, Oath of Office, of Fr. Sembianti, just elected general Councillor, to take the place of Fr. Richard DaPrato, deceased. On October 17, 1872, a little over a month after the last General Chapter, the IVth. There was an oversight in this **Vth General Chapter** in that Fr. Sembianti did not read the Rules pertaining to his office. It is noticed that Fr. Vincent Vignola did not sign this Oath of Office, dated March 2, 1874 – most likely he was already back at the Student House in Trent.

DECREES
of the Vth GENERAL CONGREGATION ²⁰

5
1874

1. It was established to commit to the Fr. Prefect of Studies the task of putting in writing the method actually in use, with his own explanations.
2. It was decided that since the exceptional circumstances have ceased, there be a return to the rule of not receiving anything for services rendered. And, as for alms for Masses, it be continued according to our custom.
3. On the order of sitting, the Congregation declared that the capitulars will sit in this order:
 - [1] Superior General
 - [2] Secretary of the Congregation at his seat.
 - [3] General Councillors
 - [4] Procurator General
 - [5] The other Fathers with the Grade, in order of age, and reception of the Grade.
 - [6] Directors of the Houses, and others, who have been called.
4. As for the Foundation of Caravaggio, it was decided that His Excellency, the Bishop of Cremona, must be answered evasively, keeping ourselves uncommitted in regards to acceptance, and meanwhile, to confirm the offer of sending two confreres there, after the Octave of Easter, that they might help out, only with the ester Confessions, and thus explore the state of affairs.
5. As far as sending one to Rome, to expose our affairs to His Holiness, and then offer himself in the service of the Church, it was decided that the time to do so had not yet come.
6. Relative to the Rule that is found in the Constitutions of Fr. Founder for the Manifestation of Conscience, it was established to insert into the Common Rules, the following:

[It will be of very great assistance to confer very often with the Master of Spiritual things, concerning the advancement of one's spirit. Moreover, let all be mindful of

²⁰ The last paper in this Folder is a Copy of the *Decrees of the Vth General Congregation*, in Fr. Lenotti's hand-writing. It is written on large, un-lined paper, 17 and one half by 12 inches, folded in such a way as to make four writing sides, 8 and three fourths by 12 inches. The first two sides are written on, as well as about a fourth of the third page; the 4th side is entirely blank. The paper is noted dated, but it seems that later, someone added in pencil: "5 1874" [i.e., 5th General Chapter, 1874].

the *Constitutions, Part IV, Chap. I* ²¹, that a Manifestation of oneself is to be made to the Superiors, either within the Sacramental Confession, or outside of it, as may be preferred.

7. Having recognized the necessity of taking part in public instruction ²², to come to something in the concrete, it was established that two individuals, to be designated y the Superior, are to prepare themselves, and then present themselves to be approved for High School Teaching. This, as for the time and manner of actuating the schools, this is left to the Superior with his Council.

8. The nominatin was made of a General Councillor, in substitution of the late, Fr. DaPrato, in the person of Fr. Joseph Sembianti and with this, it is declared, that the same remains elected examiner for he 2nd Scrutiny since two of these said examiners must be general Councillors, and actually, for this Office, there is no one else available.

9. Fr. Andrew Sterza was elected as Examiner for the 1st Scrutiny in the House of Novitiate.

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Superior



²¹ Cf. CF # 47.

²² Already here, the Vth General Chapter of 1874, clearly recognized the Stigmatine Apostolic Mission as containing *public instruction* among its essential *ends*.

VIth

GENERAL CONGREGATION

August 5, 1874

§§§§§

ACTS
of the
Vith GENERAL CONGREGATION ²³

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August 5, 1874



²³ The *Acts* of this Chapter are contained on 7 sheets of un-lined paper, 11 and one half by 8 inches. The cover looks something like wall paper, green and brown, 'bowling ball style.'

To the Very Rev.
Fr. J. Baptist Lenotti,
Most Worthy Superior at the
Stimmate²⁴

Viva J.M.J.
Most Venerated Father in Christ,

My poor heart bleeds in sending you this letter, that will certainly grieve Your Very Rev. paternity, and the other venerable Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation. However, I nevertheless find myself compelled to find a little tranquility for my soul.

Already for a number of years, as I have manifested many times to Your Very Rev. paternity, I have been struggling with a great perplexity on the matter of my vocation. Having been repeatedly exhorted to prayer, and to constancy, out of love for my soul, and affection for my venerable confreres, repeatedly I have complied with this. At long last, however, I had to convince myself that I would have to do violence to myself, until dying from it, but as far as finding happiness in this manner of life, it was always for naught. So it is, therefore, my most venerated Father, I have come to the resolution of asking your Very Rev. Paternity, and at the same time, the rev. Frs. Who make up the Congregation, to dispense me from the obligations that I have taken on in this Congregation.

While I take this step, I ask all the Rev. Fathers and Brothers, not to be scandalized by me, nor to attribute this, my most serious decision, to blindness, but to a vivid need of my poor soul; and I hope in the mercy of the Lord, that supported by His grace, I will never forget this most esteemed institution of the Stimmate, that I have always loved so much, nor will I ever forget the great debts of gratitude that bind me to the venerable Congregation of the Apostolic Missionaries.

Imploring your paternal blessing, with most profound esteem and gratitude that I profess,

From the House of the Dereletti

31 74

3

Your most humble, obliging and respectful

Servant

Fr. Francis Sogaro

§§§

²⁴ Fr. Sogaro's Letter of March 31, 1874, appears on lined paper, 10 by 8 and one half, folded to make four sides, measuring 5 by 8 and one half inches. Fr. Sogaro wrote on pages 1 & 2. the paper was folded again, the long way, then the top down over the back. It was placed in an envelope, that appears with it, measuring 4 and one half by 2 and one half inches, the inside of which is pink.

**TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION OF
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES –
HEALTH IN THE LORD. ²⁵**

Since on the 6th day of October next, the three year term of all the Examiners will end, and a new Election of them has to be held in a Gen. Cong.; and since also an urgent matter is to be discussed in it, permits that its convocation be delayed no longer; therefore, by means of this present letter of mine, with the approval also of the Gen. Councillors, I convoke it in the Lord, and assign the 5th day of August next, at the Mother House of the S. Stimmate; and at the same time, directing all the members that in the meantime, they offer prayers and supplications for its peaceful outcome, and for the common good of the Congregation.

Given in Verona, from the Stimmate
On the 27th of July 1874.

[Green ink SEAL:
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES
VERONA]

Fr. John B. Lenotti, Sup. G.



²⁵ Fr. Lenotti's **Decree of Convocation** was written in Latin, on un-lined paper, measuring 16 x 12. This was folded to make 4 sides, 8 x 12. This paper was folded again, two more ways, making a small 6 x 4 Folder, that was perhaps inserted into an envelope.

To the Very Rev. Father, John Baptist Lenotti,
Superior General of the
Apostolic Missionaries for the Assistance
of Bishops ²⁶

V.J.M.J.
Very Reverend Father in Christ,

Enclosed herein is my request to the Fathers of the Gen. Congregation.

I did not feel that I should attend, and I ask you to hold me excused: first, because I am very busy, and then, because since I am so sensitive, certainly it would bother me, and not a little.

I kiss your sacred hand, and I am, with profound veneration,

A most humble, devoted and respectful
Servant and son of you,
Rev. Father,
Fr. Francis Sogaro

**To the Very Rev. Fathers, Apostolic Missionaries,
Assembled in the General Congregation ²⁷**

V.J.M.J.

Very Rev. Fathers in Christ,

From the first years that I entered into this Holy Institute, I immediately felt that I seemed to be oppressed with the need for another life. Therefore, I began from that time, to open my soul to the Very Rev. Fr. Master of Novices, making known to him my earnest desire of dedicating myself to the Foreign Missions.

He comforted me, by telling me that I was still young; and that meanwhile, I should apply myself to a diligent undertaking of virtue and my studies, and that the Lord Himself would think of the time for opening the door to me. With this thought, I went on, comforting myself, and persevered until the beginning of 1866.

²⁶ Fr. Sogaro's brief note addressed to Fr. Lenotti, without a date, was written on un-lined paper, 10 and one half by 8 and one fourth. This was folded to make four writing sides, 5 and one fourth, by 8 and one fourth inches. Fr. Sogaro wrote only on the first side. This was folded twice again, for insertion into an envelope, measuring five and one half by 3 inches.

²⁷ Fr. Sogaro's Letter to the Capitulars, dated August 5, 1875, is written on paper 10 and one half by 8 and one fourth; this was folded to make four writing sides, 5 and one quarter by eight and one quarter inches. Fr. Sogaro wrote on sides one and three. It was then folded again, for insertion into an envelope, 4 and one quarter by 2 and three quarters. It seems that this envelope was included within the one described in Note # 4.

At that time, after many times exposing my desire to the Very Rev. Superior, Fr. Marani, and having found him constantly firm in his refusal, and on seeing that my days were spent with a disturbed spirit, and that my health was poor, I asked the above-mentioned Fr. Superior, if I could get advice from Rev. Fr. Viscardini ²⁸, of venerated memory. He refused me permission, telling me that if I ever set foot out of the door, with the intention of going there, he would no longer be obliged to consider me as belonging to the Institute. Can you, Rev. Fathers, think how I felt!

In this state of affairs, there dawned the very unhappy period of the most unfortunate confiscation of Fr. Benciolini's holdings. At such a time, a time of sorrowful trial, I felt it was my sacred duty not to add, with my departure, to the sorrow in the life that was already trying in and of itself.

After the unexpected and most consoling triumph, in the Gen. Congregation, providently convoked by the Very Rev. Superior, I was invited as were all the others, to make those proposals that I considered opportune for the greater glory of God, for the good of souls, and also for the development of the Institute. For the last time, I proposed that common need, expressed by many, and felt by all, that we take on, although in limited proportions, the matter of the Foreign Missions: a matter that would give life in a two-fold way to the Institute, both for its members, and also before the world.

But, also this time, I saw myself disappointed. Then it was that I definitively resolved to request my release, so that I could embrace another way of life, before I became too old.

For these reasons, I directed my Petition to the Very Rev. Superior, and which I now renew to him, and to all of you, of being released from the obligations I assumed with the Congregation of Apostolic Missionaries for the Assistance of Bishops.

Before bringing this to a close, however, I feel myself to be in extreme need of your pardon, and of the pardon of the entire Institute, for all that I may have done that was displeasing to you, and to all of my most beloved confreres.

I declare to you that I will retain an eternal memory for the immense blessings with which I have been overwhelmed from the Stimmate; and finally, I ask you to be convinced that I am not taking this step in cold calculation of an egotist, nor with light-headedness of one who is fickle, but with the pure desire of finding peace for my soul.

This 5th day of August, 1874

Your most humbly, devotedly and submissively in Christ,
Fr. Francis Sogaro

²⁸ Fr. Viscardini was the much revered Jesuit Novice Master – much appreciated by Fr. Bertoni, who often sent people to him for counsel. Fr. Sogaro's 'isolation' might be noted in the previous **Vith General Chapter** – even though he was one of the 9 Fathers with the **Grade**, his Proposal to open a House in Rome was defeated 7 to 1 – and he withdrew two other proposals he had made – one for Regional Seminary.



Original

**The Year of the Lord, 1874
The Month being August
On the 5th day,
Which is Wednesday, the feast of Holy Mary of the Snows.**

In the Name of Christ

Amen.

Here begin the Minutes of the VIth General Congregation.

A Single Session

I.

Following the invitation, signed by the Very Rev. Superior of the Congregation of Apostolic Missionaries, sent to all the Houses, so that from each of them, the members who have been promoted to the **Grade**, might take part in the General Congregation, convoked for this day, in the usual place at the Stimate: the following are the members:

1. The Very Rev. Superior, Pro Temp., Fr. J. Baptist Lenotti ²⁹
2. The Procurator General, Rev. Fr. Rigoni
3. The General Councillor, Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola
4. The Second Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini
5. The Third, Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti
6. The Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi.

After the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*,
and after the roll had been called,

it was found that the number of those who were to attend the Gen. Congregation was full – with the exception of the rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola, who was legitimately impeded, and of the Rev. Fr. Francis Sogaro, who asked to be excused by Letter, which is included in the *Acts* :

The Congregation was declared opened.

ΔΔΔ

II.

It proceeded to the Nomination of the Secretary.

²⁹ This rather ‘sad’ **VIth General Chapter** would be Fr. Lenotti’s last one – he would go home to the Lord, exactly 13 months to this day, dying on his 58th birthday, a little over one year later, on September 5, 1875.

Following the opening of the ballots, it was found that

Rev. Fr. Rigoni was nominated with 4 votes, and the
Rev. Fr. Sembianti with 2 votes.

REV. FR. RIGONI WAS ELECTED.

ΔΔΔ

III.

It proceeded to the Nomination of three Deputies.

When the ballots had been collected, the following were nominated:

Fr. Benciolini with 5 votes

Fr. Vignola with 5 votes

Fr. Sembianti with 5 votes

Fr. Bassi with 3 votes.

**THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING WERE NAMED DEPUTIES:
THE REV. FR. BENCIOLETTI, VIGNOLA, SEMBIANTI.**

ΔΔΔ

IV.

**List to be discussed
Assembled by the Deputation
To establish the matters to be treated**

**Proposals
received in the Congregation**

**Resolutions
of the Congregation**

I. From the Very Rev. Superior

1st The new Election of the Examiners of the First and Second Scrutiny, whose three year term ends on the 6th of October next.

1st It was decided to treat of this immediately.

2nd To treat of the resignation of the Rev. Fr. Sogaro.

2nd It was decided to treat of this following the first matter.

II. From the Houses
Nothing

III. From Individuals

1. From General Councillors

Nothing

2. From Other Individuals

Nothing

**Fr. Lenotti, Superior, Fr. Rigoni, Fr. Benciolini,
Fr. Vignola, Fr. Joseph Sembianti**

△△△

V.

The discussion began on the points included in the List compiled by the Deputation.

1st The matter to be treated was repeated, and the new Election of the Examiners for the Ist and IInd Scrutiny, whose three year term expires on the 6th of the next October, was taken up:

a. **For the House of Novitiate in Trent**

Since the Councillors named by the Rev. Fr. Superior are:

Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi
Rev. Fr. Sterza
Rev. Fr. Lanaro
Rev. Fr. Marini

the Election as examiners for the First Scrutiny, necessarily must fall on at least two of these individuals.

The other individuals, then, living at Trent, and, therefore, are also eligible, are:

Rev. Fr. Bellino Carrara
Rev. Fr. Bartholomew Perrezzani.

The Ballots were then distributed:

When they were collected, the following Rev. Frs. were elected:

Fr. Marini	with 5 votes.
Fr. Lanaro	with 5 votes.
Fr. Carrara	with 5 votes.
Fr. Benciolini	with 4 votes.
Fr. Vicentini	with 2 votes
Fr. Bassi	with 1 vote.
Fr. Sterza	with 1 vote.
Fr. Perazzani	with 1 vote.

**THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING Rev. Frs. WERE ELECTED EXAMINERS
FOR THE FIRST SCRUTINY FOR THE HOUSE OF NOVITIATE:**

**Fr. JAMES MARINI
Fr. MICHAEL LANARO
Fr. BELLINO CARRARA
Fr. FRANCIS BENCIOLINI**

b. **For the House of the Stimmate**, i.e., as General examiners, in addition to the procurator General, who is an examiner by his very Office.

The ballots were distributed, and there was chosen the name of one who, with two General Councillors, Vignola and Sembianti, will hold the Office of Examiner for the Second Scrutiny, with neither the Procurator General, who is already an examiner by his

very Office, nor Fr. Benciolini, who had already been named for the First Scrutiny, being able to be elected.

The ballots were then collected, and the following were nominated:

Fr. Zara with 5 votes.

Fr. Morando with 1 vote.

Fr. CHARLES ZARA WAS ELECTED.

ΔΔΔ

All these Examiners, both in the First and Second Scrutinies, will begin to carry out their Office, on the 6th day of October, of this present year, remaining in Office for another three year period.

2nd The matter to be treated in the second place was repeated, namely, the resignation of the Rev. Fr. Francis Sogaro.

The discussion was opened with the Very rev. Superior's reading of the first letter sent to him by the same rev. Fr. Sogaro, and bearing the date of March 31st, of this year, with which he made the request of being released: and then, another letter, with today's date, and sent to this Congregation, with which, after justifying his absence, he repeated this same request, urging in it, new reasons for his request. These letters have been placed in the *Acts*.

It was proposed to write a letter to the above mentioned Fr. Sogaro concerning this matter. The proposal was put to a vote.

The Scrutiny was conducted according to Yea and Nay, with the following result:

For Yes, there were 2 votes.

For No, there were 4 votes.

Thus, writing to Fr. Sogaro was excluded.

When this had been completed, a vote was taken on the request of the same Fr. Sogaro for his release.

The Scrutiny was conducted, according to Yea and Nay, with the following result:

For Yes, there were 5 votes.

For No, there was 1 vote.

THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED, AND Fr. SOGARO WAS RELEASED.

A vote was taken, even though nothing had been listed, on the following proposals now added by the Very Rev. Superior.

1st How much time should be granted to Fr. Sogaro to leave the House.

2nd Whether summer and winter clothes should be given to him, how many shirts, etc.

3rd Concerning the word of order to be maintained after his departure.

A Vote was taken on the Proposition that the rev. Fr. Sogaro should be allowed to remain in the House, until the 15th of this present month, and the results were as follows:

Yes 6 votes

No 0 votes.

