

**VIIth**

**GENERAL CONGREGATION**

**OCTOBER 26 – 30, 1875**

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**ACTS**  
  
**of the**  
  
**VIIth GENERAL CHAPTER**

**October 26 – 30, 1875**

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**ACTS**  
**of the**  
**VIIth GENERAL CONGREGATION <sup>1</sup>**  
**October 26 – 30, 1875**

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<sup>1</sup> These **Minutes** are contained on 20 pages of unlined paper, that measure 11 and one half by 8 inches. The **Minutes**, however, are preceded by a number of proposals, submitted by he various Houses and individuals.

**In the Name of the Lord. Amen. <sup>2</sup>**

**The Stimate, October 13,1875**

The Chapter, having assembled at the invitation of the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, Director of the House of the Stimate, and its appendage, that of St. Teresa, the following were present:

Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Fr. Joseph Marchesini  
Fr. Charles Zara  
Fr. Louis Morando  
Fr. Peter Beltrami  
Fr. Lawrence Pizzini  
Fr. Richard Tabarelli

Having invoked the divine assistance, and it having been declared that in the absence of the Director, Fr. Sembianti, his delegate, would preside over the Chapter. The scope of this Capitular Reunion is that each one will expose what he believes in the Lord, should be brought under the deliberation of the proximate General Congregation, for the greater glory of God, for the increase of the Congregation, and for the greater profit of its members, the following proposals were made:

1. To ask that a beginning be made **for the instruction of the youth, by opening both the Elementary and Evening Schools** <sup>3</sup>.
2. To petition that there be given a place for a greater number of Aspirants.
3. That they might wish to bring into effect the negotiations with the S. Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, regarding the **Mission in Sweden**.
4. For the purpose of having the Congregation more completely represented, it would ask that that Part of the ***Appendix to Part XII***, and precisely the 1<sup>st</sup> No. of the 5<sup>th</sup> Paragraph, in which it speaks of the Election of the Superior General, might be modified

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<sup>2</sup> The first Proposal for this **Chapter of Election** was submitted by the House of the Stimate, on a large piece of unlined paper, 17 and one half, by 12 inches. This was folded to form 4 writing sides, measuring 8 and one half by 12. The Proposals covered pages 1 and 2, and two-thirds of page 3.

<sup>3</sup> It bears noting again, that so soon after Fr. Marani's death, who held that teaching school was only a *palliative* - until the real Apostolic Mission could be engaged in - and a good 15 years before the **XIIth General Chapter**, and long before Fr. Tabarelli could have assumed any dominance over the minds of his confreres. The periodic denial of the teaching aspect of the Apostolic Mission does not seem to have been in accord with so many other confreres - who understood that Fr. Bertoni dedicated so many of the Original Constitutions to the instruction and formation of Youth, precisely in **Part IX**, dealing with the **Duties of the Apostolic Missionaires** - cf. **CF ## 164- 182**. In his life and Rule, this is a major aspect of the **Apostolic Mission** - *one of the ends* the Congregation employed from the beginning of her history.

to the extent that we have **active voice, not only** those having the **Grade**, but also others who are Priests, and who have been Professed for five years.

This faculty of **active voice** would be asked for those who are Priests, and Professed for five years, and that they might have this also in the other General Congregations.

5. There is expressed the desire that in conformity to the Constitutions of our Venerated Founder, the Superior General be elected for life.

When these Proposals were gathered, they were repeated one by one, they were discussed and formulated, and put to a secret vote.

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**The First** was repeated: It is asked that there **be opened a soon as possible**, and even if this is possible, during this year, the Elementary **Schools**.

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

Yes 7 votes<sup>4</sup>

No 0 Votes.

The Petition for the Night Classes had a unanimous rebuttal.

**The Second** Proposal was repeated: Seeing that the increase of our Congregation depends, it may be said, totally on the acceptance of young Aspirants, and having seen that for several years, the personnel of the Congregation has visibly diminished, it is asked that there be received a greater number of such young boys to be trained for the Congregation.

This was discussed, and put to a vote, the result of which was:

Yes 7 votes

No 0 votes.

There was repeated the **Third Proposal**, with which the vivid desire was expressed that action be taken as soon as possible concerning the pledges given to the S. Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, regarding the Mission of Sweden, and this was also the great desire of the lamented, Very Rev. Superior General, Fr. Lenotti.

This was discussed, and put to a vote, the result of which was:

Yes 6 votes

No 1 vote.

The **Fourth Proposal** was repeated, the first part of which is thus formulated: So that the Congregation might be more completely represented, there would be requested that that part of the **Appendix to Part XII**, and precisely the 1<sup>st</sup> No. of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parag. ,where it speaks of the Election of the Superior General, might be modified to the effect that we

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<sup>4</sup> While 'Elementary' school can no longer included within the **Apostolic Mission for the Assistance of Bishops** – it still was in 19<sup>th</sup> century Italy – at least, among so many of the Confreres, immediately after Fr. Marani's death For many, there was expressed vividly the desire to get back **to some form of instructing the youth, an essential aspect of Fr. Bertoni's charism**. Fr. Marani had been opposed to this interpretation of this aspect of the apostolate within the **Apostolic Mission**.

give **active voice only**, in all the votes taken by the Congregation, and not only those who have the **Grade**, but also those who are priests, and who have been Professed for five years.

This was discussed, and put to a vote, the result of which was:

Yes	6 votes
No	1 vote.

The second member of this **Fourth Proposal** was then taken up, which is formulated in this way:

It is petitioned that the faculty of **active voice** for those who are Priests, and have been Professed for five years, might also be had in the other General Congregations.

This was discussed, and put to a vote, the result of which was:

Yes	2 votes
No	5 votes.

The **Fifth and last Proposal** was repeated, which is thus expressed:

The desire is advanced that also to be in conformity to the dispositions of our Venerated Founder in his *Constitutions*, the Superior General be elected 'for life.'

This was discussed, and put to a vote, the result of which was:

Yes	5 votes
No	2 votes.

The present *Act* was read, and closed and signed.

Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Fr. Joseph Marchesini  
Fr. Charles Zara  
Fr. Louis Morando  
Fr. Peter Beltrami  
Fr. Lawrence Pizzini <sup>5</sup>  
Fr. Richard Tabarelli

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<sup>5</sup> As some of the younger Priests did in early Chapters, Fr. Pizzini signed his name in Latin.

**Viva M. and Joseph** <sup>6</sup>

**Verona, October 13, 1875**

**Very Rev. Fr. Director at St. Mary of the Lily**

Please assemble, on the day that you may deem most opportune, the Chapter of the House of St. Mary of the Lily, in preparation for the General Congregation that is soon to be held at the Stimate, so that also from that House, there might be proposed to the Congregation, either those provisions, or those projects that may be judged opportune, for the greater Spiritual, or Material well-being of our Institute.

On this occasion, I wish you and the religious in the Community, every blessing from heaven.

From the Stimate,

Fr. Peter Vignola, Vicar

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In obedience to the above invitation, I have twice assembled in a Chapter, my two companions, rev. Fr. Andrew Sterza, and rev. Fr. Pio Gurisatti. I read to them the above letter, in which you extend the invitation to propose those provisions, or projects, that they might judge opportune, as explained above, to be exposed in the proximate Congregation, and they told me that they did not have any.

October 22, 1875

Fr. Francis Benciolini

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<sup>6</sup> There follows here a note to Fr. Benciolini, from Fr. Peter Vignola, acting as Vicar, after the death of Fr. Lenotti about 5 weeks earlier, Sept. 5, 1875. Fr. P. Vignola is asking for Proposals for the Chapter. Fr. Benciolini's response appears on the bottom half of the same side of the paper, on which Fr. Vignola had written. It is plain, white un-lined paper, 8 and one fourth by 5 and one fourth inches.

A.M.D.G.<sup>7</sup>

Trent, San Bernardino Vecchio, October 21, 1875

On the occasion of the General Congregation of the Apostolic Missionaries, for the election of the Superior General, and for other affairs regarding the Congregation, the House of S. Bernardino in Trent, according to our Constitutions, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1875, after having invoked the divine assistance, and having verified the presence of all those having the right to attend, assembled in regular Chapter, composed of the following Reverend Fathers: Vincent Vignola, Director – Mark Bassi – Michael Lanaro – Dominic Vesentini<sup>8</sup> - James Marini – Bartholomew Perazzani – Bellino Carrara – Lawrence Rigatti.

In the first place, the Election of the Secretary of the Chapter, and by a vote of 5 to 3, Fr. Dominic Vesentini was elected.

Then, following the invitation and the initiative of the rev. Fr. Director, the Chapter proceeded to the Proposals.

1. Since it is known that there is a doubt on rule # **2, Chap III, Part III**, of our **Constitutions**<sup>9</sup>, that treats of the prayers and suffrages in the danger and after the death of a member of the Congregation, it is proposed to the Chapter that it explain what is understood by the words that *there be applied [suffragetur]* in the first part of that rule, and if the *each one [unusquisque]* noted as regards the application of the Mass in the second part, whether this is to be understood of all the Priests of the Congregation, or only of those of the House of the deceased. All agreed to make this Proposal.

2. It has been observed how the Procedure for the Admission of Postulants into our Congregation finds, in practice, no small difficulty, and does not very efficaciously comply with the intention wielded by the Congregation - and further, considering the inconveniences derived from the practice, there should be set aside a certain sum of money for the maintenance of these same Postulants – it is unanimously agreed to make this Second Proposal to the General Congregation.

3. Considering the grave inconveniences that are generally felt, due to the crowded conditions of the House of S. Bernardino, it is unanimously agreed to make the Third Proposal.

The three Proposals are as follows:

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<sup>7</sup> There follows here the Proposals from the House In Trent. These were contained on 3 pieces of un-lined paper, 11 by 8 and three fourths inches. Each was folded in half, and sewn together, making 12 sides of 5 and one fourth by 8 and one fourth; 8 of these sides were used.

<sup>8</sup> SIC!!!! The spelling differs when he signs his own name at the end of the House Chapter meeting.

<sup>9</sup> C.D.B., P. III, c. 3, n. 2 = **CF # 46.**

A.M.D.G.

**1<sup>st</sup> Proposal**

The House of San Bernardino in Trent, proposes to the General Congregation:

That it might choose to declare whether the **Rule in Part III, Chap. III, # 2**<sup>10</sup>, where it speaks of the prayers and the suffrages for the sick and the deceased – and precisely, if by the words *is to be applied* [*suffragetur*], there should be understood that a Mass be applied, and if the words *each one* [*unusquisque*], refers to all the Priests of the Congregation, or only to those of the House where the Deceased lived.

From the House of s. Bernardino Vecchio in Trent  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 1875

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A.M.D.G.

**2<sup>ND</sup> PROPOSAL**

The House of s. Bernardino in Trent

Proposes to the General Congregation of Apostolic Missionaries:

A modification in the Procedure for the Admission of Postulants – and petitions for the exclusion of demanding money for their maintenance.

I.

As experience shows how the Scrutiny is made with such diligence and rigor for the Admission of a young Postulant, does not obtain the effect intended, namely, that of assuring the Congregation concerning the true dispositions and intellectual, moral and physical qualities, that might give promise to it, if not certain, at least a probable success of the individual – and also, considering the difficulties that are encountered according to the present practice, in releasing a Postulant of at least doubtful success, after he has lived for a long time among us – and wishing to obviate the inconveniences which in such a case, might come to the Congregation by keeping him [always in the case of his doubtful success], or to the subject himself, and to his family, by sending him away, after having kept him for a long time among us – it is proposed, as an opportune means, that of omitting the First Scrutiny noted above, as it has proven to be of little efficacy, that the Postulant be not subjected to the definitive examination and judgment of a true and formal admission into the group of the aspirants, until only after a certain period judged as necessary to know the temperament, the capacity of the one to be admitted; this time would not, however, go beyond the length of one year, as in any other case, the entire efficacy that one would wish to attribute to the assigned remedy, would be frustrated. Regarding, then, his first temporary living among us, that he might come to be acceptable for it, this is to be left to the prudence and maturity of the superiors, General and Local, who will not overlook the due information and demands of the required papers and certificates.

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<sup>10</sup> i.e., CF # 46.

## II.

Having heard the disposition of demanding from the family of the Postulant, a certain sum of money, almost as a dowry, most humbly it is made known to the Congregation, that by following such a disposition, it might very well happen, that one who might have the best qualities, would be refused –

Furthermore it should be considered what a sacrifice [without any notable advantage for the Congregation], it is for a poor family, as ordinarily the families of our Aspirants are to pay out 40 florins a year, in addition to clothing for their son, whom they consider as lost, as far as their material interest is concerned. The Congregation might reflect that for such a family, 40 florins is the fruit of the labor and the sweat of an entire year, if such a family even arrives at such savings. –

Further, even when the promise to pay, from experience, it is manifest that only with difficulty are they ever able to make such payment, when it is considered at times, what an effort is endured even to have their clothing, that sometimes is torn, that they cannot be permitted to go out of the House.

From the House of S. Bernardino Vecchio, in Trent,  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1875  
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## III.

The House of S. Bernardino Vecchio proposes to the General Congregation of  
Apostolic Missionaries:

The straitened conditions of the House of S. Bernardino, give rise to certain complaints on the part of its members, and a prompt and efficacious provision for them is asked:

The General Congregation is asked is asked to take into consideration the crowded living conditions of the House of S. Bernardino in Trent, that is contrary to hygiene, and is harmful to good order and to discipline, desired by our customs and rules – In fact, in the same room, or dormitory, in which 10 individuals sleep, throughout the entire day, seven or eight students have to study. If it is considered that when the place is closed in, an unhealthy and stagnant air results; and if it is left open, the drafts of air harm some one, or other, nor does the season always permit that it be left open. The short periods of creation are not sufficient to expel the stagnant air that results during the night's occupation of the room, nor that of the day. Then, in the case of anyone's illness [which is not rare, since and for more than a month, the room was successively occupied by two young boys, suffering from inflammatory gastritis], it is not known where school might be conveniently be taught; and then, let anyone say it is hygienic for those poor, young boys to remain in bed in a room that has been closed for so much time – there is to be added that if the case should occur, that unfortunately, is not merely hypothetical, that if a Novice should also be sick at the same time in the adjoining room, there is no other alternative for him than to remain either in the same dormitories or go into the hall.

The crowded conditions of the house of San Bernardino are such that no more than 4 Priests can suitably and decently live here. There are only four little rooms, besides the two rooms mentioned above. First of all, everyone can see the inconvenience in the fact that the Fr. Director does not have a room for himself, to which each subject might have free access without any other regard. The same ca also be said for the Master of Spiritual Matters. And if it is further considered how inconvenient it is for two Priests to live in one and the same room that they share for sleeping, and for study, and each of them has only a single, small table, and further, that there is nothing else there, nor could there be; with what disturbance, it can be imagined by anyone who knows what it means to have, and to have to use, at the same time, books of different sizes.

Such conditions, both of the place, and its furnishings, certainly does not aid good order, and the necessary discipline. It is not necessary to come down to particulars, as each one can imagine, from the very frequent and necessary contact of those living here, of different classes, as Aspirants, Novices and Priests. In such confining circumstances, how can the holy separation, recommended for Novices be maintained?- What disturbances are there for those students and teachers of several different classes, and not to have an opportune place for their instruction?

We wish to believe that these things have been taken into consideration at other times. Now, we only humbly recall them in the present circumstances, so that a ready and provident remedy be taken, which we are always disposed to accept, with full submission of soul, whatever determination the General Congregation, or the Superiors, might believe opportune, to take in this regard.

From the House of S. Bernardino Vecchio, in Trent  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1875.

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Fr. Vincent Vignola, Director  
Fr. Mark Bassi  
Fr. Dominic Vicentini <sup>11</sup>  
Fr. Michael Lanaro  
Fr. James Marini  
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani  
Fr. Bellino Carrara  
Fr. Lawrence Rigatti

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<sup>11</sup> Note the different spelling of this name here in the introduction to these Proposals – he served as Secretary to the house Chapter.

A.M.D.G. <sup>12</sup>

### Venerable Congregation!

After mature consideration, and having repeatedly consulted my conscience, and not without prudent counsel, I make bold to present myself by this letter, to the General Congregation, and to make known to it the following: that for some time, finding myself in rather poor health, and that I have repeatedly spit up blood during these last years, and have fallen into such a weakness of my chest, that I am not able to keep down the little bit of food that I take, in that almost every time, I am forced to vomit it: After having tried so many remedies, suggested to me by the doctor, with little, or rather little advantage, on his advice, I have come to the decision to try one more indicated to me by him, and which he considers efficacious, namely, that of going back to breathe the air of my native town – Doctor Rung, who visited me at Robbi, under the assistance of the Rev. Fr. Lenotti, said that I am afflicted with pericarditis, accompanied by palpitation of the heart, that demands rest and quiet; and added that after the cure of the waters, I should try the climate near the sea; and hearing that I was from Vicenza, he responded that the Vicentine climate would be rather helpful to me – And this is the reason for the request that I humbly place before this Congregation, that of allowing me to go, for an indefinite period, to my home town, where I might, if it is pleasing to the Lord, regain a little strength, so that on returning to my assignment, I, too, might occupy myself for the good of souls, as I vividly desire.

Should the Congregation believe that it will not grant me this permission, I judge that having considered the state of my lack of energy, and my physical and moral torpidity, in which I have been for so long, while in taking from me that certain temperament of joviality and happiness, which adds to my habitual discomforts, without silencing my conscience [which I manifested to a certain one, and was reassured], I would ask to be released. This should not cause in anyone, any surprise, and much less, scandal, when the just motives that induce me to this are known, and when it is considered that even the Jesuits, for reasons of health, have no difficulty in releasing from the Company, those subjects who even have vows, as is known to more than one, and also to me.

And all the more confidently, I bring forward this request, in so far as it does not seem to me that I am being moved by the desire of freedom, by caprice, by resentment, discontent, or for any detachment from the Congregation; nor has the reason anything to do with ties of flesh and blood, nor any other motive alleged under the pretext of health; I want, and this is my sole desire, to restore my poor health, if it might please the Lord. These are the reasons because of which it pleases me to hope that God, who believes hearts and Who judges intentions, might grant the restoration of my health, and that He, in His Mercy, might open to me again the doors of the Stimmate; or, through the mouth of His lieutenants, He will have me see where and how He wishes to be served by me.

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<sup>12</sup> There follows here a Letter without date, from Fr. Michael Lanaro, to the **General Congregation**, on a piece of lined paper, 11 by 8 and three fourths inches. It is folded in half to form 4 writing sides, 5 and one half by 8 and three fourths inches. Fr.Lanaro's letter covers three sides.

I believe that the Congregation might judge these reasons as good, and considering my request as legitimate, it might dispatch this matter, which the most unworthy of the Congregation, first brought up.

Fr. Michael Lanaro

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To the Very Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola,  
In the General Congregation, at the

Verona  
A.M.D.G.

Stimate<sup>13</sup>

Very Rev. Fr. Vincent!

If I am still in time, I add to the letter sent by me to the Congregation, this clause, omitted through forgetfulness, but which I had in my heart: namely, that I will receive, as the will of God, any disproportion that the Congregation might wish to take in my regard, and from now on, I submit myself to it. May God's Will be done."

Fr. Michael Lanaro

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<sup>13</sup> There follows here a short note, without date, addressed to Fr. Vincent Vignola. Apparently, the Chapter was already underway, as it is addressed to Fr. Vignola, Superior of the House in Trent, as being already at the Stimate in Verona. This letter is written on blue, lined paper, 5 and one half by 8 and one half inches, and the message covers only the top half of one side. On the reverse side of this paper, that was folded in two ways, the address is written on a section, 4 by two and one half inches.

**Original**<sup>14</sup>

**In the Year of Our Lord, 1875.  
In the month of October  
On the 26<sup>th</sup> day**

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**In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

**The Minutes of the VIIth General Congregation begin.**

**Session I**

Following the invitation, given on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, by the Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, who was named Vicar, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September of this year, following the death of the Very Rev. Fr. John Baptist Lenotti, that took place that very day, as results from the Minutes of that same day, the following assembled at the Stimate, in the usual manner, for the Election of the New Superior:

Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, Fr. Francis Benciolini, Fr. John Rigoni, Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Fr. Vincent Vignola, Fr. Mark Bassi.

When each one had taken his place, the Chapter began with the recitation of the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*; after which, it proceeded by ballot, to the Election of the Secretary, in the person of the under-signed, Fr. Vincent Vignola. In the same manner, there was named the Assistant for the Election, who was Fr. Rigoni.

There was then heard the Report of the Vicar, which was approved by the four oldest members; after which, it proceeded by ballot, to the Election of the Secretary, in the person of the under-signed, Fr. Vincent Vignola. In the same manner, there was named the Assistant for the Election, who was Fr. Rigoni.

Next, it proceeded to designate who was to deliver the Second Discourse. And Fr. Mark Bassi was nominated.

At this point, the Vicar, based on what is recorded in the *Appendix to the Constitutions*, in Chap. 2, Parag. 1, n. 3, on the Election of the new Superior, made his propositions, which were accepted, and placed in discussion.

These were:

- I. Should a new Superior be elected to the end of the five year term to which he deceased Superior had been elected?

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<sup>14</sup> This is the beginning of the Minutes of the **VIIth General Chapter**.



The 28<sup>th</sup> day of October <sup>16</sup>

Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude

Having assembled in the usual place at the sound of the bell, and when the Hymn, *Veni, Creator*, had been said, and the presence of all those who took part in the First Session was verified, and this second Session was opened. It has as its purpose, the election of the new Superior for a Quinquennial period.

Therefore, according to the rules in the *Appendix to Part XII*, Parag. 5,n. 1, the Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi, already elected for this purpose in the 1<sup>st</sup> Session very learnedly gave his appropriate Discourse to those congregated: these, having gathered in the Domestic Chapel, maintaining silence, each one, reflecting within himself and with God, they then returned to the place of the Chapter [ which was the room of the Venerated Founder], they came to the nomination of the Superior, with each one writing on the ballots that had already been distributed, his own candidate.

The moment came, when the Rev. Vicar arose from his seat, and holding his ballot closed between two fingers, he placed it in the sight of all, in the urn that had been placed in the middle of the table, and then invited the others to do the same. This was done by all, and when the public verification was made, the Vicar, the Secretary, and those attending, as is prescribed, the ballots were then taken by the Secretary, and then examined on both sides, and they were to find to correspond to the number voting.

The Secretary opened them one by one, and then gave them to the Vicar, who showed them only to the two Assistants, and then made them public.

The following were nominated:

Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev.. Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola

Thus, it resulted from the opening of the ballots, here recorded, that no one of the three named surpassed a half of the votes cast for the Election of the Superior: the Chapter then went on, as is prescribed, to the second ballot, in the manner as above.

The ballots were distributed, and when each one had deposited his, the number was checked, which was found to correspond to the number of those voting, and when the opening was conducted in the usual manner, the following were found to be nominated:

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<sup>16</sup> On October 27, 1875, there were no General Chapter Sessions. Before the **Election of the General**, on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the previous day was spent in prayer according to the custom.

Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini  
Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola

Since the second ballot came out the same as the first, with the same method, a third was tried.

The number was checked, and found in order, the opening was held with the following result:

Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini  
Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola

Therefore, since the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola has obtained more than half the votes, he was proclaimed, by the Secretary, as legitimate Superior, and the following decree was complied by the Secretary:

**IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. AMEN <sup>17</sup>**

**SINCE, IN THE FULL AND LEGITIMATE CONGREGATION OF APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES, THE NUMBER OF ALL THE VOTES HAVING BEEN GATHERED, AND MORE THAN HALF OF THESE HAVE NAMED AND ELECTED THE Rev. Fr. PETER VIGNOLA: I, VINCENT VIGNOLA, SECRETARY OF THIS SAME CONGREGATION, WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE ENTIRE INSTITUTE, ELECT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED Rev. Fr. PETER VIGNOLA, AS THE 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 SACRED STIGMATA,  
On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 1875, Thursday**

**Fr. Vincent Vignola, Secretary**

△△△

When all had made the act of reverence, the Chapter passed then to the Nomination, by secret ballot of the 4 Councillors:

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<sup>17</sup> A separate copy of this Decree also appears in the **Acts of the Chapter**, on un-lined, white paper, 16 x 12 inches, that was folded to make 4 writing sides. On the lower left hand corner, appears the oval shaped, green seal of the **Apostolic Missionaries** - that seems to contain two lilies. The paper was then folded two moe ways, leaving each side measuring 6 x 4 - this was done apparently for insertion into an envelope.

**Rev. Fr. JOSEPH SEMBIANTI** was named Councillor with 3 votes.

**Rev. Fr. JOHN RIGONI** was named Second Councillor with 5 votes.

**Rev. Fr. VINCENT VIGNOLA** was named Third Councillor with 3 votes.

The Fourth Councillor, **Fr. BENCIOLINI**, received 3 votes, and **Fr. BASSI** likewise received 3 votes.

Therefore, in the next ballot, **Fr. BENCIOLINI** was definitively named, with 4 votes.

△△△

The Chapter then passed to the Nomination of the Admonitor, and only 5 voted, as the Rev. Superior abstained, and the following was the result:

Fr. BENCIOLINI with 2 votes.

Fr. BASSI with 1 vote.

Fr. RIGONI with 1 vote.

Fr. SEMBIANTI with 1 vote

Therefore, **Fr. FRANCIS BENCIOLINI WAS ELECTED.**

△△△

The Chapter then proceeded to the Nomination of the Procurator General. The following were designated:

Fr. RIGONI with 5 votes

Fr. SEMBIANTI with 1 vote.

**The Rev. Fr. JOHN RIGONI WAS ELECTED.**

△△△

Then, the Examiners for the First Scrutiny had to be named, as well as those for the Second. But, since those for the 1<sup>st</sup> Scrutiny were named for a three year period on August 5, 1874, to take over their Office on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October of that same year, so they will remain in this Office of the Examiners for the 1<sup>st</sup> Scrutiny until October 6, 1877:

Fr. James MARINI

Fr. Michael LANARO

Bellino CARRARA

Francis BENCIOLINI

Likewise, those for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny were named at the same time, and so, Frs. Joseph SEMBIANTI and Charles ZARA are to remain in Office, in addition to the examiner chosen by his very Office, the Procurator, Fr. John RIGONI.

The Chapter then proceeded to name a third in substitution for the Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola, elected Superior.

Fr. PETER BELTRAMI with four votes out of the 6 voting.

△△△

The Minutes were read and signed:

Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior

Fr. John Rigoni

Fr. Francis Benciolini

Fr. Joseph Sembianti

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Vincent Vignola, Secretary

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**IIIrd Session**  
**The same day, October 28<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon** <sup>18</sup>

At the given signal, the Congregation assembled to hear and to discuss that which the Rev. Superior, or the Chapters of the Houses, the general Councillors, and other individual members had asked, or to proposed to it.

Having invoked the divine assistance, and having verified the presence of all the members, the session was opened, in which the General Councillors, the Admonitor and the procurator General, made their protestations, as is prescribed for carrying out their respective offices ‘ diligently and faithfully.’

Then the Chapter proceeded to the Election of three Deputies, who, with the Superior and the Secretary, have to draw up a List of the Proposals to be submitted for the discussion of the Congregation.

The following were elected:

Fr. Joseph Sembianti

“ John Rigoni

“ Mark Bassi.

After this it proceeded to the drawing up of the List.

**Maters Proposed**

**Matters accepted on the List**

**I. Superior General**

Whether this might be the time to assign to the individual Houses a part of their common substance.

This is to be exposed today, and it will be discussed tomorrow.

**II. The Stimate**

1. Has asked if the Elementary Schools might be opened as soon as possible.

This will be discussed tomorrow.

2. That a greater number of Aspirants be received, to be trained for the Congregation.

This will be discussed in union with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal of S. Bernardino tomorrow.

3. There is manifest the vivid desire that there be given effect as soon as possible, to the pledges given to the S. Congregation of Faith, regarding

This will be treated immediately.

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<sup>18</sup> The text of the Chapter Minutes reads the approximate time of day: *di sera*.

the Mission of Sweden.

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|--|--|
| 4. It would ask that the n. 1, of Parag. 5 of the <i>Appendix to Part XII</i> , be modified in such a way, that in addition to the <b>Graduate Fathers</b> , also those Priests Professed for 5 years, might also have active voice. | This modification, with the other one below, III, 2, will be discussed tomorrow.                   |
| 5. It is desired that the Superior General be elected 'for life.'  | This was rejected, in force of the deliberations found in the Minutes of the 26 <sup>th</sup> day. |

### **III. S. Bernardino, Trent**

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. It proposes that it wishes clarification Of the Rule of <b>Part III, Chap. III, n. 2</b> <sup>19</sup> Where it speaks of the prayers and Suffrages for the sick and deceased. | This will be treated immediately.  |
| 2. A modification in the Procedure for the Admission of Aspirants is asked, and also The exclusion of demanding money for The maintenance of these same.                          | Confer above, N. III, 4.           |
| 3. The crowded conditions of the House of S. Bernardino, give rise to complaints, and begs for a remedy.  | This will be left to the Superior. |

### **IV. General Councillors**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>Fr. Sembianti</b> : calls the Congregation to consider the position of Fr. Marchesini. | This is to be treated tomorrow.                       |
| 2. <b>Fr. Bassi : a.]</b> A more detailed method of studies;                                 | This will be taken up immediately - if not, tomorrow. |
| <b>b.]</b> Revision of the Rules of the Officials, elected by the Superior.                  | This will be treated immediately.                     |

### **V. Members**

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Fr. Lanaro</b> : asks for an unlimited permission to return to his home town, to regain his health, if possible. | This will be taken up immediately. |
|---|------------------------------------|

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<sup>19</sup> P.III, c. III, n. 2 – CF # 46.

### The End of the List

The List was reviewed and examined by the Superior, with the Deputies, and with the Secretary, and the time assigned for the discussion of the Proposals – and the Discussion got underway.

△△△

1. The Rev. Superior exposed his proposal, as contained in the List, whether the time had come to assign to the individual Houses, and to indicate to them, their quota of the common substance – it is decided to pass on, and to leave the discussion on this for tomorrow.

△△△

2. In the second place there was discussed the expressed desire that there be given effect to the pledges taken with the S. Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, for **the Mission of Sweden.**

The Report was read, concerning the negotiations that had been tabled, which had terminated with a simple offer: attention was called to the circumstances in which the Congregation finds itself, as regards the subjects needed to occupy the various Houses, for the education of their own students, and for the exterior ministries; and this following declaration was made:

**The Congregation rejoices in seeing in its members this spirit of achieving the glory of God, and the good of souls, also in the Foreign Missions: and it desires that this be maintained and fomented; and that this should be the theme of public sermons. The Congregation esteems what has already been done, and declares that it will carry on the negotiations that have been begun, in so far as its forces are increased, principally, by preparing subjects, who will be able to work fruitfully even in this field, when the opportune moment arrives, and the Congregation entrusts this to the Superior, who accepts it willingly.**

**THIS WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

△△△

3. In the third place, there was expressed the doubt that has arisen concerning the prayers and suffrages to be offered for our Confreres, either sick or deceased, as established in the *Constitutions, Part III, Chap. III. N. 2*<sup>20</sup>: *a sacrifice of the Mass will be offered by all the priests in the House where he lives, for the sick religious, who has received the last Sacraments; and after a death* whether the Mass is to be applied by each priest of the House only, or by the whole Congregation.

The passage cited from our *Constitutions* was read, and the matter was considered well, and discussed.

The Congregation retains the following:

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<sup>20</sup> CF # 46.

**That the sick religious, from the time he has received the last sacraments, and as long as he remains in the danger of death, ought to be assisted by remembering him and recommending him to God, in the Holy Mass; but, that there is no obligation to apply a Mass for him. And that after his death, all the Priests of the Congregation will apply Mass for him, as soon as they receive the news of his death..**

4. On the Proposal of Fr. Bassi, that there be determined a more precise method of studies, there was taken up the **Minutes of the Vth General Congregation**, where a similar proposal had been made. At that time, the Fr. Prefect of studies was ordered to expose the present method, with his observations. The work was presented, and will be examined. On the procedure of this examination, the Congregation will declare itself tomorrow.

5. Similarly, on the request for the revision of the Rules of the Officials, elected by the Superior, the **Minutes of the Vth General Congregation** were recalled, where the same request had been made, and where this was remitted to the deceased Superior.

Also on this matter, this Session was suspended, but this same Session will continue tomorrow.

28<sup>th</sup> of October, 1875

Fr. Vincent Vignola, Secretary

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**The IIIrd Session continues  
Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Session was opened in the customary manner, with the presence of all the members; the matters of last evening were continued.

6. There was taken up the discussion of n. 4 of last evening, which concerns the manner of taking into examination the method of studies, employed up until now, as was exposed by Fr. Morando, with his observations, there was formulated the following proposition, which was put to a vote:

The Congregation asks for all these particulars, and further, in so far as they were not fully understood, the Proposals of Fr. Bassi: a.] Subjects; b.] Text Books; c.] Method of Teaching; d.] Teachers, and their Qualifications; e.] Schedule; f.] Examinations; g.] Vacations; h.] Scholastic Discipline and Correction; i.] Graduate Studies and newly ordained Priests.

These will be submitted to the Deputation of 3 Definitors, who, having heard the Prefect of Studies, and attested in so far as they might wish to make use of them, by suggestions of the present teachers, they will draw up the over-all Plan, pertaining to studies, in the name, and with the authority of the Congregation.

For this work, the space of 8 months is allowed.

THIS PART WAS ADMITTED UNANIMOUSLY

△△△

Next was the election of 3 Definitors.

The ballots were distributed and then collected, and the following were named:

	Fr. Vincent Vignola	with 5 votes.
	Fr. John Rigoni	with 5 votes.
	Fr. Mark Bassi	with 4 votes.
Rev.	Fr. Peter Vignola	with 3 votes.
	Fr. Joseph Sembianti	with 1 vote.

Therefore, the 3 DEFINITORS CHOSEN ARE:

Frs. VINCENT VIGNOLA, RIGONI and BASSI.

△△△

7. Then the request of n. 5 of last evening was taken up, which contains the Proposal of the revision of the rules for the Officials.

Having understood that such a Proposal had been made to the **Vth General Congregation**, and that it was remitted to the Superior, who is now deceased, the Congregation remitted this to the new Superior, who will see to this, being aided in this task by the suggestions and help of those who he judges more opportune.

THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

△△△

8. The discussion then centered on the request, contained under n. V of the List, which Fr. Lanaro submitted, to go to his home to regain his health.

After having amply treated of the proposal that has been advanced, it was unanimously agreed to establish this that follows, and which will then be put to a vote:

Whereas, this is not the first time that Fr. Lanaro has manifested this desire of his, but he has presented it several times, with greater or lesser insistence -

Whereas, all remedies have been employed, and that, therefore, it is necessary both for the Petitioner, and even more so for the Congregation, to come to a definitive and final decision:

The Congregation grants permission to the petitioner to return to his native town for an indefinite period, however, with the expressed Declaration, that there be made known to him, both by his local Director verbally, and by the Rev. Superior by letter, that the Congregation is not in the least obliged to readmit him, when he might propose to return, but it reserves now to itself, for that time, the free and unencumbered faculty to acquiesce, or not, to his request.

At this point, the session was suspended, as the hour was late.

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When the Session was later reconvened, this proposition, as it appears, was read, and then a vote was taken on it, and the result was:

6 Votes for Yes, out of the six voting.

IT WAS APPROVED.

△△△

“9. The discussion was taken up on the proposal contained in n. I of the List: ‘Whether the time has come to assign to the individual Houses a part of their common substance’ – which was maturely discussed from every angle: it was resolved in the following proposition, which pleased the majority, with reservations, however, in so far as putting it to a vote:

Proposition: The Congregation declares that it regards its various Houses, as all of its Daughters, but, however, with subordination to an order, that seems to an order, that seems to flow, from the very nature of the original foundation of the Institute, and that is:

In the first place, it considers the House of the Stimmate as the Mother House, with the Missionary Laborers assigned to the ministry in this Church, and with the Professed students and Novices, whether or not eventually, they are lodged in it.

In the second place, the Congregation recognizes the House and residence of the *Dereletti*.

Thirdly, it recognizes all the Priests, and the other Professed Members everywhere, whether at S. Bernardino’s in Trent – or, in Parma, or wherever else they have been legitimately assigned, or are living.

In the fourth and last place, it recognizes, rather it lovingly presses to its own bosom, the student House of the Aspirants, situated in Trent, considering it as the nursery of its young plants, and of its future hopes.

This having been said, and with such regard, the Congregation itself decides to develop its economic and pecuniary forces.

In the first place, on the maintenance [as is right and just], of the Priests, Clerics and Professed Lay Brothers.

Then, without detriment to any of these, for the subsistence of the Novices.

And in the third and last place [without detriment either to the first group, or to the second], the maintenance of the Aspirants.

After these general declarations, it is time to come, and for now, to the particulars of the Proposal which is in the List, and has already been discussed above, the Congregation declares that it is in a position to express itself only for Trent.

It has been determined [until new resources are forthcoming] that the plant of that House is for eight Aspirants, with the relative personnel of 8 Professed [Priest Workers,

Teachers and serving Brothers]: having seen that their annual support might be  
calculated at 5840 Lira  
And that revenue calculated at 4000 Lira [2000 from the Maso estate <sup>21</sup>  
[2000 from Mass

Therefore, the House would  
need annually: 1840 Lira

The Congregation will send 450 Lira every three months to overcome this deficit.

On this Proposition, the Chapter came to a vote, through Yes and No, and the  
results of the six voting were:

Yes six votes.  
No 0 votes.  
IT WAS APPROVED.”  
△△△

10. The Congregation proceeded then to the First Proposal. Under N. II of the List,  
with which it is asked that the Elementary Classes be opened as soon as possible.

The Congregation looks favorably on this, and entrusts this to the Superior.

This proposition was formulated after a brief discussion, and  
IT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY <sup>22</sup>.  
△△△

11. Next was taken up the Fourth Proposal, under n. II, and the second Proposal under  
n. III, which are:

1. A modification of N. 1 of Parag. 5, of the *Appendix to Part XII*, so that even the  
Priests Professed for five years, and not Graduated Fathers, might have active voice in the  
General Congregation for the Election of the Superior.

2. A modification in the Procedure for the Admission of the Aspirants, so that the  
scrutiny established for their first admission, be deferred until after some time of  
probation.

3. That there not be asked money for the maintenance of the Aspirants.

4. To these, was added the Second Proposal under n. II, the House of the Stimmate:  
That there be accepted a greater number of Aspirants.

These Proposals were taken up, one by one.

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<sup>21</sup> This source of revenue listed as from the “Maso” estate, is unknown to the translator.

<sup>22</sup> Once again, a unanimous Chapter approval of the aspect of the **Apostolic Mission** in the teaching of  
**school, the apostolate with which the Community began** – a good 15 years before this question came to  
a head once more in the stormy **XIIth General Chapter, of 1890.**

And s for the 1<sup>st</sup> one, contained in the Minutes of October 13<sup>th</sup>, of the Chapter of the House of the Stimmate, the full Chapter granted it the honor of discussion, in that it seemed worth-while to illumine those, who had thought about this matter, and to take up next the necessary consultations, in a matter that was so important It notes, however, the following Proposition:

**The CONGREGATION ORDERS TO BE READ TO THE CHAPTER OF THE HOUSE OF THE STIMMATE, THE FOLLOWING:**

**DECREE**

Having seen the request, expressed in n. 4 of the Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, of the House of the Stimmate,

Having considered that it is not even expressed in appropriate terminology

That it is not founded on very grave and proven reasons, as would be necessary in so vital a manner

That, however, Fr. Sembianti was entrusted with developing some of these reasons to the Congregation, and which he did, in fact, but without thereby moving in the least, the mind of those congregated,

Which, at any rate, could not be admitted except in a future Election,

The Congregation records and declares that it does not remove what is sanctioned in Chap. I, Parag. 5, N. 1, of the *Appendix to part XII* of the **Constitutions of the Founder**, nor the content of Parag. II, Chap. I of the *Appendix* itself:

Concerning the fundamental tenets of our Institute, nothing is to be changed in a Gen. Congregation, although a Declaration might be sought on all of them.

But, if it should be proposed to change, or to abrogate the Constitutions in a Gen. Congregation; nothing concerning these matters may be treated, unless first it is stipulated that these matters are to be treated through a majority vote. Such a deliberation, and decree, cannot be done, unless with a two thirds vote.

This finds support also in the observation that where there is permitted in the same Parag. 6, Chap. I, already cited, to each one an appeal, or the faculty to contest any decree of a full Congregation: then, since there is permitted two appeals against a Decree, introducing a novelty, or which is derogatory to some disposition of the statutes: it seems most clear how important it was, to the wisdom of our Elders, to prevent the opportunity of a too easy innovation, as they were impregnated with the spirit of conservation.

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

Yes    six votes.

No     0 votes.



**30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1875**

**After the usual prayers were said, the Session of yesterday, that was suspended was resumed:**

12. There remains to be considered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal under num. IV, that the Congregation take under consideration the petition concerning Fr. Marchesini.

After a brief exposition was made of the circumstances in which the said Father finds himself, and the proposed argument was discussed, the Congregation arrived at the following Proposition:

The Congregation with the warmest recommendation, commits to the zeal, charity and prudence of the superior, to provide for the bringing closer of Fr. Marchesini, as a subject .....<sup>23</sup>

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

Yes 6 votes.

No No votes.

IT WAS APPROVED.

△△△

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**J.M.J.** <sup>24</sup>

**30<sup>th</sup> of October 1875**

**Having been weakened, if not broken, in strength, I ask to be relieved from the Offices of Councillor and Procurator, and to be applied in their stead [in accord with my nature], in he ecclesiastical and religious ministry; or, even less, to resign one of the two above offices for the first of which, I propose as a happy replacement, the person of Fr. Bassi; and for the second, the person of Fr. Sembianti, or even a younger member, not having the Grade [as is perhaps more fitting], by one who is suited, such as would be, in my opinion, Fr. Marini.**

**Thank you.**

**Fr. John Rigoni** <sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Concerning this Proposal regarding Fr. Marchesini, the last part of the resolution was not clear in the original text.

<sup>24</sup> On the morning of the last day of this **VIIth General Chapter**, Fr. John Rigoni submitted his resignation, by means of this Letter.

<sup>25</sup> The meeting took up Fr. Rigoni's letter, as the second, and 1st, Order of Business, on this last day of the **VIIth General Chapter**.



**“EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES of the VIIth GENERAL CONGREGATION  
IIIRD SESSION,  
OCTOBER 29, 1875, N. 9”<sup>26</sup>**

[page 1]

“9. The discussion was taken up on the Proposal contained in n. 1, of the List: ‘Whether the time has come to assign to the individual House, a part of their common substance,’ which was maturely discussed from every angle; it was resolved in the following Proposal, which pleased the majority, with reservations, however, in so far as putting it to a vote:

Proposition: The Congregation declares that it regards the various Houses, as all of its Daughters, but, however, with subordination to an order, that seems to flow from the very nature of the original foundation, that is:

In the first place, it considers the House of the Stimmate, as the Mother House with the Missionary Laborers assigned to the ministry in this Church, and with the Professed Students, and Novices, whether or not, eventually, they are lodged in it.

In the second place, the Congregation recognizes the House and residence of the Dereletti., it recognizes all the Priests and other Professed Members everywhere, whether at S. Bernardino’s in Trent, or in Parma, or wherever else they have been legitimately assigned, or are living.

In the fourth and last place, it recognizes - rather, it lovingly presses to its own bosom, the Student House of the Aspirants, situated in Trent, considering it as the nursery of its young plants and future hopes.

This having been said, and with such regard, the Congregation itself decides to develop its economic and pecuniary forces.

In the first place, on the maintenance [as is right and just], of the Priests, Clerics and Professed Lay Brothers.

Then, without detriment to any of these, for the subsistence of the Novices.

And, in the third and last place [without detriment, either to the first group, or to the second], the maintenance of the Aspirants.

After these general declarations, it is time to come, and for now, to the list of particulars of the Proposal, which is in the List, and has already been discussed above, the Congregation declares that it is in a position to express itself only for Trent.

It has been determined [until new resources are forthcoming], that the Plan of that House is for eight Aspirants, with the relative personnel of 8 Professed [Priest Workers, teachers and serving Brothers]: having seen that their annual support might be calculated at:

	5840 Lira
and that revenue from the House might	(2000 from the Maso estate
be calculated;	4000 Lira )
	(2000 from Masses

Therefore, the House will need annually: 1840 Lira

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<sup>26</sup> The entire Item 9 from the Chapter minutes – [cf. the original of this Document from the **Minutes** of the **VIIth Genral Congregation** - is re-copied here word for word..

The Congregation will send 450 Lira every three months, to overcome this deficit.

On this Proposal, the Chapter came to a vote, through Yea and Nay, and the results of the six voting, were:

Yes 6 votes  
No 0 votes.

THIS WAS APPROVED

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[page 2]

“As for the 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>27</sup>. Having retained intact what is established in the *Appendix* for the Admission of Aspirants, it will be up to the Superior, to dispense, as he sees fit, concerning the manner of the Scrutiny, as he feels is best, and to establish a term of probation.

THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADMITTED .”

**These concur with the Original.**

**Dated: October 31, 1875**

**((Green Seal:  
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES))**

**Fr. Vincent Vignola, Secretary**

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[page 3]

“On the doubt <sup>28</sup> concerning the Prayers and Suffrages for our sick and deceased , here is an extract of the Minutes of the VIIth General Congregation, of October 28, 1875:

The Congregation retains by common and harmonious vote:

That the sick religious, from the time he has received the Last Sacraments, and as long as he remains in the danger of death, ought to be assisted by remembering him, and recommending him to God in the Holy Mass:

But, there is no obligation to apply Mass for him. And that, after his death, all the Priests of the Congregation will apply Mass for him, as soon as they receive the news of his death.

And as for the Method of Studies, this was committed to three Definitors: Frs. Rigoni, Vincent Vignola and Bassi. 8 months have been allowed for their work.

**This revision has been taken from the official Acts. <sup>29</sup>**

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<sup>27</sup> Also for the House in Trent, there was added this paragraph, that was treated later on this same day of the Chapter proceedings.

<sup>28</sup> On page 3 of this separate Folder, the question of the Suffrages was also included for the House of Trent.

<sup>29</sup> This concludes the Chapter intended for the House of Trent.

**Decree**<sup>30</sup>

“Having seen the request expressed in n. 4 of the *Minutes* of the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, of the Chapter of the House of the Stimmate:

Having considered that it is not even expressed in appropriate terminology –  
That it is not founded on very grave and proven reasons, as would be necessary in so vital a matter –

And that, however, Fr. Sembianti was entrusted with developing some of these reasons to the Congregation, and which he did in fact, but without thereby moving in the least, the mind of those congregated –

Which, at any rate, could not be admitted, except in a future election:

The Congregation records and declares that it does not remove what is sanctioned in Chap. I, Parag. 5, n. 1, of the *Appendix to Part XII* of the **Constitutions of the Founder**, nor the content of Parag. II, Chap. I, of the *Appendix* itself:

‘Concerning the fundamental tenets of our Institute, nothing is to be changed in a Gen. Congregation; although a declaration might be sought in all of them.

‘But, if it should be proposed to change, or to abrogate the Constitutions in a Gen. Congregation, nothing concerning these matters may be treated, unless first, it is stipulated through a majority vote. Such a Deliberation and Decree cannot be done, unless with a two-thirds vote.’

This finds support also in the observation that where there is permitted in the same Parag. 6, Chap I, already cited, to each one an appeal, or the faculty to contest any Decree of a full Congregation: then, since there is permitted two appeals against a Decree introducing a novelty, or which is derogatory to some disposition of the statutes: it seems most clear how important it was to the wisdom of our Elders, to prevent the opportunity of too easy an innovation, as they were impregnated with the spirit of conservation.

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

Yes 6 votes.

No 0 votes.

THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**This agrees perfectly with the Original**

**On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1875**

((Green Ink SEAL:

APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES))

**Fr. Vincent Vignola, Secretary**

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<sup>30</sup> From here on, on a separate piece of paper, is found the **Decree** intended for the House of the Stimmate, decided upon – cf. these **Chapter Minutes**, above.

It might be of some small interest to note that in the wording of these Chapter proceedings – composed for the first time by Fr. Vincent Vignola, in place of the usual Fr. Rigoni, the Italian word: *Capitolo*, is used for the word *Chapter*. Prior to this, the style of Fr. Rigoni seems to have been that a **House Chapter** was called a *riunione*, or something similar; the General Chapter is usually called in these early *meetings*, a *Congregatio* - in accord with the Jesuit style, and noted by Fr. Bertoni in **CF # 300**.

