

VIIIth

GENERAL CHAPTER

**SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 4,
1876**

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ACTS

of the

VIIIth GENERAL CHAPTER

September 26 – October 4, 1876

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ACTS

of the

VIIIth GENERAL CHAPTER¹

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¹ These **Minutes** are contained on 29 lined pages, that leave 1 inch margin at the top, and one and one fourth inches at the bottom. The pages are the same measurements as those used in the preceding General Chapter.

In the Name of the Lord. Amen. ²

Verona, September 14, 1876.

Having seen the Decree of the Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, dated August 15, 1876, with which he convokes the General Congregation for the 26th day of this month – on the invitation of the Director, Fr. Joseph Sembianti, those members of the House of the Stimmate – St. Teresa's, who were not impeded, having active voice, were assembled in the regular Chapter, namely:

Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Director
Fr. Charles Zara
Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Bellino Carrara
Fr. James Marini
Fr. Richard Tabarelli
Re. Lawrence Rigatti
Cleric, Cajetan Pizzighella – Sub-deacon
Cleric, Melchiade Vivari, Sub-deacon
Cleric, Julius Zanini, Sub-deacon

for the purpose of expressing what they believe opportune in the Lord, to submit to the reflection and to the deliberation of the said General Congregation:

Having invoked the divine aid, the Director, who presided over the Chapter, asked those assembled, one by one, and they responded that they did not have anything to propose.

The Chapter was then closed, and all affixed their signatures.

Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Director
Fr. Charles Zara
Fr. Joseph Marchesini
Fr. Bellino Carrara
Fr. James Marini
Fr. Richard Tabarelli
Fr. Lawrence Rigatti
Cl. Cajetan Pizzighella, Subd.
Cl. Melchiade Vivari, Subd.
Cl. Julius Zanini, Subd.

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² Before the formal **General Chapter Minutes** begin, there are two sheets containing Proposals, submitted to the Chapter. The first from the 'Mother House' of the **Stimmate**, is white, un-lined paper, measuring 8 and three fourths by 12 inches, and there is writing on both sides.

W J.M.J. ³

**In the Name of the Lord. Amen.
The 20th of September, 1876.**

With Rev. Frs. Vesentini ⁴, Mark Bassi, Andrew Stereza, Bartholomew Perazzani, Alexis Magagna present, all assembled in the regular Chapter Room of the House of S. Bernardino Vecchio, in Trent, and they proposed to ask the General Congregation: If, notwithstanding that rule of ours that states: *serve God and the Church, entirely gratuitously* ⁵, it might be possible to receive something, after having performed some spiritual ministry, not as a stipend, but as a simple gift, especially if the House has need of it? - This was put to a vote, four voted for Yes, and one abstained.

The same Chapter unanimously submits to the prudent consideration of the general Congregation, what follows:

The House of S. Bernardino cordially thanks the Congregation for having declared that it recognizes as its Daughter, this poor and humble House of ours, and not only recognizes it,

...but, 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, its future hopes.

We are grateful for the affectionate feelings of our Mother, the Congregation: and we will do our utmost, according to our meager ability, with the help of God, never to fail in our duty, and her hopes.

However, encouraged by this, her loving solicitude, we would wish, as it seems our duty to do so, to expose to the Congregation the real needs in which our House finds itself.

The General Congregation, the last time it met, when it came to determine the money for the annual maintenance of this House, thought that 5480 Italian Lira would suffice, with everything taken into consideration.

But, having regard for the special conditions of this city, such an amount of money for the suitable maintenance of 16 individuals [the number determined by the same Congregation], is rather lacking, as the past evidently shows; nonetheless, when the 5480 Lira indicated, have been effectively received into the account of the House of S. Bernardino, by employing all possible savings, they can keep us going somewhat. However, unfortunately, this has not happened, in that the assets of the House and

³ Then follow here the Proposals from the House in **Trent**. They are contained on plain, white paper, now quite brown with age, measuring 16 one half by 11 three-fourths inches. It was folded in such a way, as to make 4 writing sides, 8 one fourth by 11 and three fourths inches. Three sides are written on.

⁴ In these early Chapters Dominic *Vicentini's* name is often spelled by other confreres: *Vesentini*.

⁵ CF # 3

property of S. Bernardino, are too far distant from reaching the amount contemplated by the Congregation – It is calculated that the revenue derived from the “Maso” fund⁶ ought to have reached 2000 Lira; in reality, however, the sum of the net income given to us up until now [including also the minute advantages], has been 650 Lira – Not even were we to accomplish marvels, the revenue would not correspond to the amount of the purchase of the property, because the needs require the payment in the purchase even of a fitting maintenance and mortgage.

Furthermore, the Congregation estimated the Stipend coming from the Celebration of Holy Masses at 2000 Lira – we point out that even with the four Priests who have been incardinated, up until now, in the House of S. Bernardino, celebrating without fail, every day, and without ever having a free Mass, the Mass revenue was 1738 Lira – From these figures, it results that the revenue from the House and property of S. Bernardino, is reduced to 2388 Lira.

Therefore, the House of S. Bernardino, to have the amount established for it, by the General Congregation, of 5480 Lira, would be lacking 1612 Lira.

This deficit cannot be overcome unless our House is to receive effectively, the amount established for it, or by lessening the established number of 16 individuals.

It should be noted that our daily expenses are governed by the most strict economy, and notwithstanding this, our House would find itself with a considerable deficit, if Divine Providence had not come to our aid, in an extraordinary manner.

Trent, S. Bernardino Vecchio

Fr. Dominic Vesentini, Director
“ Mark Bassi
“ Andrew Sterza
“ Bartholomew Perazzani
“ Alexis Magagna

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⁶ Not identified, but noted by the translator under the preceding **General Chapter**.

In the Year of our Lord, 1876, this Tuesday ⁷

September 26

In the Name of the Lord. Amen

In the Mother House of the Stimmate, in Verona, on the convocation of the Very Rev. Superior General, of all the Capitulars of our Congregation, today, the following were gathered and were assembled, at the sound of the bell, in the room of the Very Rev. Founder:

Very Rev. Superior General, Fr. Peter Vignola
Very Rev. John Rigoni, Gen. Councillor
Very Rev. Vincent Vignola, Gen. Councillor
Very Rev. Francis Benciolini, Gen. Councillor
Very Rev. Joseph Sembianti, Gen. Councillor
Very Rev. Mark Bassi, Graduate
Very Rev. Charles Zara, Graduate
Very Rev. Louis Morando, Graduate
Very Rev. Peter Beltrami, Graduate
Very Rev. Dominic Vesentini, Superior of the House of S. Bernardino.

Having invoked the divine assistance, with the recitation of the *Veni, Creator*, and having verified the number of those having the right to attend the General Congregation, that corresponds to the number of those present, it recognized the Congregation to be full, legitimate, and opened by putting this to a vote.

Present	10
Voting	9
Majority	5
Yes	9
No	0

THE CONGREGATION IS DECLARED FULL, LEGITIMATE AND OPENED.

△△△

According to the order established in the Constitutions, on line eight, of Chap. I, Parag. 6 of the *Appendix*, the Election of the Secretary was next, and of three members having the **Grade**, who with the Superior and the Secretary, will draw up the list of the Matters to be treated,

For this purpose, the ballots were distributed, and the following were named:
For the Office of Secretary, Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti received 5 votes.
For the Office of drawing up the List, as explained above:

Rev. Fr. John Rigoni with	7 votes.
Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi with	7 votes.

⁷ On the original, here begin the nearly 30 pages of the **Acts of the VIIIth General Chapter.**

Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola with 5 votes.
△△△

Before taking the matters to be formed into the List, as explained above, in consideration of the presence among those assembled, a Director, not having the **Grade**, a doubt was presented concerning the interpretation of those words that appear in the *Appendix*, Chap. I, Parag. 6, and under the sixth heading: **Moreover, all those will have the right of active voice for all those matters, etc.**, which do not seem to agree with the clear dispositions of Chap. I, Parag. 2, second line, where it clearly states that: **both these** [Directors of Houses, who do not have the **Grade**], and **the Priest Collaborators, in those matters, and only for those matters, for which they have been admitted, can have a vote, if the Congregation judges them capable, and competent of casting a vote.**

Therefore, this Proposal was formed:
Whether the Congregation intends to give to the Directors of the Houses, who do not have the **Grade**, the right of a vote, **in all matters**, except the Election of the Superior, and the active and passive Election of the General Councillors, of the Admonitor, and of the Procurator General.

A vote was taken on this Proposition:

Present	10
Voting	9
Majority	5
Yes	3
No	6

IT WAS REJECTED.

△△△

Following this, a number of Proposals were made, of which the following was retained:

To add to the words of the *Appendix*, Chap. I, Parag. 6. sixth line: **Moreover, they will have the right of active ballot for all those matters**, another word, *respectively*, **except**, etc. – so that the entire clause will read: **Moreover, they will have the right of active ballot for all those matters respectively, except...etc..**

This is so that there be understood without equivocation, the clear disposition of Chap. I, Parag. 2, second line: **both these** [Directors of Houses, who do not have the **Grade**], **and the Priest Collaborators, in those matters, for which they have been admitted, can have a vote if the Congregation judges them capable and competent of casting a vote.**

A vote was taken on this Proposal, through Yea and Nay –

Present	10
Voting	9
Majority	5
Yes	8
No	1

IT WAS ADMITTED.

△△△

The Congregation unanimously proclaims that the moment in which It will decide matters which the Directors of the Houses, who do not have the **Grade**, may be authorized to give their vote, when the List will be definitively drawn up and discussed.

The Matters for the List were assembled.

I. Superior General

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. To examine, whether for the erection of a new House, there is necessary the convocation of a General Congregation. | (| This will be the first matter to be treated. |
| 2. If the project of the foundation of a House of the Congregation is to be accepted. |) | |
| | (| |
| 3. How should the 3 rd Rule of Chap. I, Section I, Part 7, be explained. |) | These will be |
| | (| treated |
| |) | |
| 4. How should n. 1, of Chap. III, of Part III be explained. | (| in their order, |
| |) | |
| | (| after the |
| 5. If it seems inconvenient that the Gen. Councillors be in places distant from the Superior. |) | |
| | (| First |
| |) | |
| 6. An examination of the project of the civil organization of the Congregation, to withdraw from the recent Ministerial Circulars. | (| |
| |) | Proposal |
| | (| |
| 7. Proposal of the Nomination of the Examiners of the I and II Scrutinies. |) | |
| | (| |

II. Houses

House of the Stimmate

Proposes nothing.

House of the Dereletti

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. If it is fitting to accept the benevolent disposition of the Rev. Fr. Anthony Guadelli, in favor of the Congregation | This will be treated with the other points of temporal matters, i.e., in n. 7. |
|---|--|

of the Stimmate.

2. If it is agreeable to try to sell the House of the Ssma *Trinita'* . N. 7
3. That the personnel of the House of the *Dereletti* be increased. This will be treated in its place.

House of S. Bernardino Vecchio

1. If, notwithstanding that Rule of ours, which states: *Serve God and the Church entirely gratuitously* ⁸, it might be possible, after performing some spiritual ministry, to receive something, not as a Stipend, but as a simple gift. This will be treated after the preceding Proposal.
2. Asks that the Congregation might increase the fixed allotment for the House. This will be treated when the question of Fr. Rigoni is discussed, in n. 7.

House of Parma

Has nothing to propose.

III. Councillors

Councillor, **Fr. Benciolini**

1. That it might be provided that the House of the *Dereletti* will not have to send a Priest to celebrate for the Canossian Sisters. This will be treated in its order.
2. If it would be proper that Fr. Benciolini convey his holdings, to one or Several during life. This will be treated together with N. 7.
3. If it is agreeable to accept collaboration in the *Echo of St. Joseph* . This will be treated after the first question of the same.

Councillor, **Fr. Joseph Sembianti**

1. To what point has the Plan of Studies, which was decreed in the last General Congregation, been conducted, or has it This will be treated at the same time as question N. 4, of Fr. Rigoni; see below.

⁸ CF # 3.

been executed.

2. What has been done to return Fr. Marchesini to religious observance, a matter that the last General Congregation entrusted to the zeal and prudence of the Very Rev. Superior. This will be treated together with Nos. 6, 7; See below.

Councillor, **Fr. Rigoni**

1. Asks for information on Fr. Lanaro.)
(These will
2. On the four who received Diplomas.) be treated in
(their chronological
3. If a certain age is required for the) order.
Clerics to be admitted into the Priesthood. ()
4. He refers to the **Minutes of the Seventh General Congregation**, regarding the trust Committed by the Congregation, to the Superior for the Propaganda. This is to be cited with n. 1 of Fr. Sembianti
5. He proposes to make a second, and last Appeal, against the **Decree of the Vth General Congregation**, which gives the faculty to the Superior to grant the administration of one's own goods to a member. This will be treated in its place.
6. The same, then, as Procurator General, asks: that the dispositions of the Constitutions, **Appendix**, Chap. II, Parag. 3, n. 21, be carried out. (Together with these Proposals, Nos. 6, 7,)
(here will be treated here Nos 1, 2, of)
(House of S. Bernardino; No. 2, of Counc.)
7. He asks if this same disposition is applicable also in the case of Fr. Marchesini, and, then in the Holdings to be restored. (Fr. Benciolini; and No. 2, of Counc., Fr.)
) Sembianti.
8. He renews the question of last year, and Which is already placed in the **Minutes of The VIIIth Congregation**, 29th day of October, n. 12. This will be treated at the end.

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.

Fr. John Rigoni

Fr. Vincent Vignola

Fr. Mark Bassi

Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Secretary of the Congregation.

†††††

28th day of September, 1876, Thursday
IIIrd Session

The Members were gathered at the customary sound of the bell, and the 3rd of the Proposals of the Rev. Superior General was taken up, which is this:

How should the 3rd Rule of Chap. I, Section I, Part VII ¹⁰ be explained:

In our Churches, there shall not be had funerals, nor funeral services, nor chaplaincies, nor anniversaries, nor anything of this kind.

The matter was discussed by those Congregated, and the following Proposal was formed:

Whether the Congregation ought to take up the matter of an authentic interpretation of this Rule, that might serve as a Norm; or, whether the Congregation should make provisions that might arise in various cases.

This was put to a vote:

Present	10
Voting	9 [Fr. Vicentini abstained]
Majority	5
Yes	0
No	

IT WAS ADMITTED THAT THE CONGREGATION OUGHT TO TAKE UP THE MATTER OF AN AUTHENTIC INTERPRETATION.

Then followed a discussion on the manner of procedure that should be followed to arrive at this authentic declaration, and this Proposition was adopted to be voted upon:

That there be elected three Definitors, who, within the coming month of October, will submit to the Superior, their opinion in writing, who for the solution of the cases in the meantime, from the coming month of November, until a new Congregation, will rule according to the majority of their views, until the resolutions of the Definitors have been presented to the new Congregation, and have either been accepted, or rejected by it.

Present	10
Voting	9 [Fr. Vicentini abstained]
Majority	5
Yes	7
No	2

IT WAS ADMITTED.

As the Proposition above was admitted, the Congregation went on to name, by plurality vote, the three Definitors.

¹⁰ C.D.B., Part VII, Section I, c. I, n. 3 = CF # 92.

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

The	Rev. Fr. Louis Morando	with 6 votes.
	Rev. Fr. Vincent Vignola	with 5 votes.
	Rev. Fr. Charles Zara	with 5 votes.

Then, the 4th Proposal was brought up:
How should # 1, of Chap. III, Part III ¹¹ be explained:

All the Clerics, and also Lay Brothers, who have good voices, will learn ecclesiastical music, but not figured chant. However, the Deacons and Priests will abstain altogether from such study, so that they might be the more committed to the deepening of their knowledge, and the exercise of the ministry of preaching.

The words of the Rule were examined in common, and it was proposed to each one to give his opinion in writing, and the result was that the majority interprets it as containing an obligation for the Clerics, up until they become Deacons, and for the Lay Brothers, who have ability, to learn plain, or ecclesiastical chant, and that there is a prohibition for all to study that chant called *figured*.

Following this decisive opinion, the Superior asks the Congregation:

If, by this Rule, there is prohibited in our Churches also the use of that Chnt that is called *figurato*.

This was put to a vote:

Present	10
Voting	9 [Fr. Vicentini agstained]
Majority	5
Yes	1
No	8

THE USE OF CHANT, THAT IS CALLED *figurato* IS NOT PROHIBITED IN OUR CHURCHES.

The 5th Proposal of the rev. Superior was taken up:

If there is any inconvenience in finding the General Councillors in places distant from the Superior.

The Proposal was discussed, and the following Proposition was made:

Whether it seems certainly much more convenient for the General Councillors, to be near the Superior, even while the circumstances remain in which our Congregation finds itself, when at least two of the Councillors were at the side of the Superior [in accord with what is prescribed in the *Appendix*, Chap. I, Parag. 5, # 1, towards the end], while the two other Councillors were in places that were distant.

¹¹ C.D.B., P.III, c. 3, n. 1 = CF # 45.

29th day of September, 1876, Friday
IVth Session

Also today, the Members assembled at the sound of the bell, in the usual place, to proceed with the discussion of the Proposals, contained on the List.

The 6th of the Proposals of the Rev. Superior was presented.

The examination of the project of civil organization, to withdraw the Ministerial Circulars ¹².

The Proposal was taken under consideration, and it was unanimously adopted to undertake seriously the compilation of a Civil Statute of organization: it being clearly understood that from now on, the principal and holdings are interchangeable, that such a statute, or Plan, or any Regulation, which effectively is to establish, to retain for the end intended, in any form, even the most elaborate, should be expressed, however strengthened by verbal deliberations and individual and collective clauses, will not have [as it is also obvious that this is to be seen, and retained] any effect, other than juridical and civil; and therefore, will never be able to derogate, or to alter the Statutes of the Religious Congregation, the obligations and conscience of its Members; but it will be retained in the conscience of each one, and of all, as though it has not taken place.

Having then passed to discuss the manner to be maintained, to draw up and to establish such a Plan, or regulation, there was unanimously adopted the Proposition expressed by Fr. Rigoni, that if he, Fr. Rigoni, is to be chosen for this project, there be given to him two associates, who may assist him in the compilation of this said Plan, i.e., there is to be submitted to the revision of the illustrious Advocate, Brasca, or, if he is not available, to some other Barrister of confidence; and that it will be adopted by the entire Congregation, when it has obtained approbation by majority vote of a special Congregation, formed by he Rev. Superior, with his full Council, and the **Graduate Fathers** present in that place.

As Assistants, there were assigned to Fr. Rigoni, also on his request, the Fr. Superior and Fr. Sembianti.

After dinner, the Session was continued, and there were present those members who took part in the preceding Session, except for Fr. Rigoni, who, for reasons of health, was absent – all the rest consented to this part of today's Sessions.

The Congregation then went on to the 7th Proposal of the Rev. Superior, with which he asks for the Examiners of the Ist and IInd Scrutiny.

Since, in the course of the year, there were changes in personnel of the Examiners, of both the Ist and IInd Scrutinies who were elected in the **VIIth General Congregation**, and that as appears in its **Minutes**, they were supposed to remain in

¹² The translator finds this text, among others, rather difficult to render. It seems that the question here was whether or not the Congregation ought to *incorporate* in some legal manner.

Office until October 6, 1877, it was found necessary to name three examiners for the Ist Scrutiny, and three for the IInd Scrutiny, who will also remain in Office until the date indicated, October 6, 1877.

When the ballots had been distributed, the following were elected for the Ist Scrutiny:

Fr. Pio Gurisatti	with 9 votes.
Fr. Peter Beltrami, Councillor of the House of Novitiate	with 7 votes.
Fr. Richard Tabarelli	with 7 votes.

These three new examiners, together with the Examiner, and the Councillor of the House of Novitiate, Fr. James Marini, already elected to this Office on August 5, 1874, will make up the number of the Examiners, prescribed in the Decree of the S. Congregation, *Regulari Discipinae*.

Then, the ballots were distributed for the Nomination of the three other General Examiners for the IInd Scrutiny, and the following were elected:

Fr. Charles Zara	with 8 votes.
Fr. Francis Benciolini, Gen. Counc.	with 7 votes.
Fr. Vincent Vignola, Gen. Counc.	With 7 votes.

△△△

Proceeding then to the Proposals of the single Houses, according to their disposition of the List, there came under discussion request # 3 of the House of the *Dereletti*.

That the personnel of the House be increased.

Having heard the request, the Congregation unanimously left the matter to the zeal and to the prudence of the Rev. Superior.

Then, Proposal # 1 of the House of S. Bernardino Vecchio was taken up: Whether, notwithstanding that Rule of ours, that states: *Serve God and the Church entirely gratuitously*¹³, it might be possible, after having rendered some spiritual ministry to receive something, not as a Stipend, but as a simple gift.

When the Proposal was developed and discussed, it was agreed unanimously that according to the Rule cited, there cannot be received, even as a gift, any sum whatsoever, for the rendering of our sacred ministry: but, that there remains firm the disposition in our Constitutions, *Appendix*, Chap. II, Parag. 3, n. 15, where it states; **having taken into consideration, the persons, times and other circumstances [which pertains to the Superior], this might be dispensed for a particular individual, and for some case, not however for all cases, not generally, or by way of Statute**, and also the other provision in the *Constitutions* themselves, in the same *Appendix*, Chapter and Paragraph, cited above, n. 29.

△△△

¹³ CF # 3.

2nd day of October, 1876, Monday

VIIth Session

Also on this day, all the members having a voice, were assembled, except Fr. Moando, who is still absent; the 3rd Proposal of Fr. Rigoni was heard again, and the interrupted discussion of last evening went on.

Having heard the various individuals on the meaning of the Rule, **Part V, Chap. I, nn. 2, 3**¹⁵, the following response was established: It is to be retained that the age required to promote Clerics to the Priesthood, is **twenty-five and up**.

Here, the Superior intervened, and asked whether the Congregation would pronounce itself, if it believed that when the Clerics reached the age of twenty-five, whether it would be necessary, in order to promote them to the Priesthood, that he have the consultative vote of his Council, or not.

This was put to a vote.

Present	9
Voting	8 [Fr. Vicentini abstained]
Majority	5
Yes	1
No	7

THUS, IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT THE SUPERIOR, IN PROMOTING THE CLERICS TO THE PRIESTHOOD, SHOULD HAVE THE CONSULTATIVE VOTE OF HIS COUNCIL.

Then, the 1st Proposal of the Counc., Fr. Sembianti, was taken up.

To what point has it been conducted, or rather, whether the Program of Studies has been drawn up, which had been declared in the last Congregation. To this Proposal was joined N. 4 of the Counc., Fr. Rigoni, which will be spoken of immediately following.

The Report that Fr. Rigoni was able to give, was heard, but it was found that nothing could be resolved, but it was necessary to wait for the arrival of Fr. Morando, who had the greatest part in this: and there was adopted instead, to hear in this matter also Fr. Tabarelli, who for this purpose, will be called in at that point, to the Congregation.

Therefore, the 4th Proposal of the Counc., Fr. Rigoni, was taken up:

He referred to the **Minutes of the VIIth Congregation**, regarding the responsibility entrusted by the Congregation, to the Superior for the Propaganda.

The **Minutes of Session III, # 2, of October 28, 1875, of the VIIth Congregation**, were read, and the Rev. Superior stated that he had kept in mind the recommendations entrusted to him in that Session: and that he had not failed to provide,

¹⁵ C.D.B., P. V,c. 1, ## 2 & 3 – CF ## 70 & 71.

3rd day of October, 1876, Tuesday

VIIIth Session

Also today the Members were assembled, and there was read again the 5th Proposal of the Council, Fr. Rigoni, which was mentioned in yesterday's Session, and put off until today.

The Proposition reads whether the Congregation ought to concern itself with this, or not.

A vote was taken.

Present	10
Voting	9 [Fr. Vicentini abstained]
Majority	5
Yes	4
No	5

THE CONGREGATION WILL NOT TAKE THIS MATTER UP.

Then, came the Proposals contained in the List, under N. 6, 7, of Fr. Rigoni, that is: the 6th and 7th of the same Fr. Rigoni, as Procurator general; the 2nd of the Council, Fr. Sembianti, as pertaining to the 7th: the last part of the 7th, namely, concerning the Capital to be restored, which has a bearing on, and will be discussed with the Proposals of the Council, Fr. Benciolini, on the transferal of his ownings, on the offer of the Rev. Fr. Guatalli, on the Project of the sale of the building of the Most Holy *Trinita*, and finally, the proposal, or the request, of the House of S. Bernardino, contained in the **Minutes of September 20, 1876.**

There was a reading of the Rule, referred to by the Proponent, Fr. Rigoni, under N. 6 of the List, i.e., the one found in the *Apendix*, Chap. II, Parag. 3, n. 21. The Very Rev. Superior considered the request reasonable, and declared that for his part, that he would do all that he could, that the cited Rule be carried out, in so far as this will be possible.

Then came the 7th Proposal of the same:

He asks if this same discussion is applicable also in the case of Fr. Marchesini.

Before giving a decisive response to this request, a discussion arose on the other Proposal, pertaining to the same subject, and was placed under N. 2, of the Council, Fr. Sembianti, who asks:

What has been done to return Fr. Marchesini to religious observance, as appears in the last General Congregation, the **VIIth**, as having been entrusted to the prudence of the Very Rev. Superior.

The Congregation was informed on the position in which Fr. Marchesini finds himself, the need, or rather, the duty was unanimously recognized of adopting an efficacious and resolved means to return the said Fr. Marchesini, to the exact observance of a Religious. And here, it was proposed:

That the Very Rev. Superior call Fr. Marchesini back to the House of the Stimmate, where he will then have his true and constant residence, except for now, he will go to the Pozza estate, on Saturday evenings, or the evenings of the Vigils of other Feasts, to return then, on Monday mornings, or the mornings after the Holy Days, and also except for some other brief excursions, because of the needs of unforeseen circumstances: however, every time, as everyone else, he will be accompanied by a Companion.

Furthermore, the Rev. Fr. Superior, in the name, and with the responsibility of the Gen. Congregation, will order Fr. Marchesini to entrust the administration of his ownings to another, within this year, so that this Administrator will begin to function before January 1877: or, if he chooses rather to rent them out, this will have its beginning on November 11, 1877. Then, if Fr. Marchesini should refuse the disposition of the Congregation, this will no longer consider him as a Confrere.

A Vote was taken on this Proposal:

Present	10
Voting	9 [Fr. Vincentini abstained]
Majority	5
Yes	9
No	0

IT WAS PASSED.

It responded then to the question of the Council, Fr. Rigoni, included on the preceding pages, and that appears in the List as N. 6, in response to the Rule in the *Appendix*, Chap. II, Parag. 3, n. 21.

When the matter was discussed, due Proposals were formulated:

1st Proposition: In general, is it understood that the said rule is applicable to analogous cases? Namely, the individuals who possess, administer their own goods, or have them administered, are they bound to present their annual accounts to the Superior, so that he might give them to the procurator General?

The Congregation responds that they are not bound to present their annual accounts to the Superior, so that he might give them to the Procurator Gen., because those members, who in possessing holdings, and having them administered by a third party, outside the Congregation, have already assigned their revenues, to one of their choice, so that such a conveyance might be lasting.

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

Present	10
Voting	10
Majority	6

Yes 10
No 0
IT WAS ADMITED.

2nd Proposition.

Does this apply to Fr. Marchesini?

The Congregation responds analogously to its deliberation above, i.e., in conformity to the response given to the First Proposition, that: If Fr. Marchesini, after having adopted one of the two alternatives, i.e., after having chosen an outside Administrator of his goods, and have having found a Manager of these same goods, will permanently assign the annual revenues to other purposes, extraneous to the Congregation, he will not be obliged to the observance of the rule under discussion, which means, he would not have to present his annual accounts, so that they would be passed on to the Procurator Gen., 'to be examined and referred.'

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

Present 10
Voting 10
Majority 6
Yes 10
No 0
IT WAS ADMITTED.

During the discussion on Fr. Marchesini, the Congregation came to know that Fr. Marchesini does have a sizable sum, pertaining to the house of the Stimmate, without sufficient documents to guarantee its security; in view of which, the members agree to entrust this to the Very Rev. Superior, and that he consider it urgent to provide, as soon as possible, that such capital, be regularly insured in legal form, so that the entire sum will bear interest.

Then, the last part of Proposal N. 7 of the Counc., Fr. Rigoni, came up, regarding the Capital to be restored.

He made his Report giving an account of the amount of 738.40Lira, which would represent a Patrimonial Capital.

The Congregation retains unanimously that as soon as the state of the House warrants, that a careful and useful restoration o this sum is to be made.

It was time to treat of Proposal N. 2 of the Counc., Fr. Benciolini, but since the hour was late, the Session was closed, putting off the development and the discussion of such a Proposal, until tomorrow.

The Minutes were read, closed and signed:

Fr. Peter Vignola, Sup.
Fr. John Rigoni
Fr. Vincent Vignola
Fr. Francis Benciolini
Fr. Mark Bassi

and therefore, it was determined unanimously, to come to the aid of this house, in so far as it is permitted, so that it might obtain the amount already assigned to it.

Then, attention was turned to the request of the Very Rev. Fr. Superior, derived from the question of the Counc., Fr. Rigoni, cited in the Vth Session, near the end, under # 2, and at the beginning of the subsequent VIth Session, and that it reserved to be treated and resolved, when there is had from all, the desired information, and also when Fr. Morando would be present, that is:

Whether it be agreed to send the four who have received Certificates for the examinations taken, to make a year of apprenticeship at S. Nicolo’.

Before passing to a decision on this point, a subordinated question was asked:

In the case that it be voted to send them, or not to send them: will there be understood by this that for the coming school year, the Schools will be opened?

On this proposition, a vote was taken, by Yea and Nay:

Present	10
Voting	9 [Fr. Vicentini abstained]
Majority	6
Yes	9 ¹⁷
No	0

Then, a vote was taken on the principal Proposition:

Whether or not, they will be sent to make the apprenticeship at S. Nicolo’?

This was put to a vote, by Yea and Nay, and the result was:

Present	10
Voting	8 [Fr. Vicentini abstaining, and also Fr. Rigoni]
Majority	5
Yes	8
No	0

Then, there was taken up the last Proposal of the Procurator, Fr. Rigoni, which is the last Proposal on the List, under N. 8, i.e.:

Fr. Rigoni renews the request of last year, and as already contained in the **Minutes of the VIIth Congregation**, the 29th of October, under 3 12.

To the request of Fr. Rigoni, asking to be exonerated from the Offices of Councillor and Procurator general, and to be instead applied in the ecclesiastical and religious ministry, the Congregation replies that it does not believe that it can condescend

¹⁷ There is a generally consistent near unanimity whenever the prospect of the **schools** comes up as an essential element in the Apostolic Mission – from the time immediately following Fr. Marani’s death – and long before Fr. Tabarelli would ever be able exert such ‘total influence’ over the minds of the whole Chapter here [as some maintain her did, over the *boni viri*]. Here, though, we are some 14 years before the stormy **XIIth General Chapter**. Fr. Marani, who considered the schools merely as a *palliative*, hiding the real intention of the Community, was less convinced regarding the **schools** as a central aspect of the Apostolic Mission, according to the changing needs of the Church – it pertained to the *varia et propria ministeria*. [CF # 185].

VV. J.M.J. ¹⁹

**A RESUME' OF THE VIIIth GENERAL CONGREGATION,
Held on the last days of September, and he first days of October
1876.**

Ist. There was taken under examination the words that appear in the *Appendix*, Chap. I, Parag. 6, sixth line: **Moreover, they will have the right of active vote for everything...** - and there was added the word: **respectively**, so that the full rendition reads: **Moreover, they will all have the right of active voice for everything respectively, except, etc.** - that thus there would be understood, without equivocation, the clear disposition of Chap. I, Parag. 2, second line: **both these [Directors of Houses, who do not have the Grade] and the Priest Collaborators, in those matters, and only for those maters, for which they have been admitted, can have a vote, if the Congregation judges them capable and competent of casting a vote.**

The Congregation then proclaimed unanimously that the moment in which it will decide in what things the Directors of the Houses, not having the **Grade**, will be authorized to give their vote, and this is when the List of the matters will be discussed in the Congregation, will be drawn up, and definitively discussed.

IInd. The Congregation defined: That speaking absolutely, for the foundation of a new House, there is not to be sought he convocation of the General Congregation, except in the case that the General Councillors judge it necessary to convoke it.

III. It accepted the project to found a House of the Congregation in Bassano.

IV. It asked three Definitors for a Declaration on **Rule 3, of Chap. I, Section I, Part VIII** ²⁰, *In our Churches, there will not be held funeral rituals, nor funeral stipends, nor chaplaincies, nor anniversary celebrations, or anything similar.*

The Definitors must, within this month of October, send to the Very Rev. Superior, for the solution of cases, that might arise in the meantime, from the coming November, until a new Congregation, in which then the resolution of the Definitors will be submitted, to be either accepted, or rejected.

¹⁹ There is also included here this 4 page Resume' of this Gen. Chapter, compiled by Fr. Sembianti, on paper measuring 12 x 8.

²⁰ **C.D.B., P. VII, Sec. I, c. 1, n. 3 = CF # 92**

Vth A Proposal was made for an explanation of Rule I, of Chap. II, Part III ²¹: *All the clerics and also Lay Brothers who have good voices, will learn ecclesiastical music, but not figured chant. However, Deacons and Priests will abstain, ...etc.*

The majority retains that this Rule contains the obligation for Clerics, before they are Deacons, and for Lay Brothers, who have the ability to learn plain, or ecclesiastical chant, and prohibits them all from learning *figured* chant.

There was retained, however, that the use of *figurato* chant, is not prohibited in our Churches.

VIth The number of Examiners for the First and Second Scrutinies was filled. As Examiners for the First Scrutiny, the following were added to Fr. James Marini, Councillor for the House of Novitiate:

Fr. Pio Gurisatti

Fr. Peter Beltrami, Councillor of the House of Novitiate

Fr. Richard Tabarelli

To the Examiner, by his very Office, for the Second Scrutiny, Fr. John Rigoni, Procurator General, there were added:

Fr. Francis Benciolini, Gen. Council.

Fr. Vincent Vignola, Gen. Council.

Fr. Charles Zara

All these Examiners, except the Examiner by his very office, Fr. Rigoni, will remain in office until the 6th of October, 1877.

VII. To the question: Whether, notwithstanding this Rule of ours: *Serve God and the Church, entirely gratuitously* ²², after some spiritual ministry has been rendered, is it possible to receive something not indeed as a stipend, but as a simple gift. It was unanimously responded: that, according to that Rule, it is not possible to receive anything, even as a gift, for any ministry of ours, but that, however, the disposition in the *Appendix*, Chap. II, Parag. 3, n. 15, still remains intact, i.e.: Having taken into consideration the persons, times and other circumstances [which pertains to the Superior], tis might be dispensed for a particular individual, and for some case; now, however, for all cases, nor generally, by way of Statute; as well as that other Statute in the same *Appendix*, Chap. and Parag., cited above, n. 26.

VIII The Very Rev. Fr. Superior expressed that he has kept in mind the recommendations made to him in the **VIIth General Congregation** regarding the

²¹ C.D.B., P. III, c. 3, n. 1 = CF # 45.

²² CF # 3.

Mission in Sweden, and that he has not omitted to make provisions, in so far as circumstances allowed him, that this project may, at some time that is undetermined, be put into act, and he promised to continue such provisions, adding that this is in accord with the S. Congregation of the Propaganda.

IXth To the request that the disposition of the Constitutions, *Appendix*, Chap. II, Parag. 3, n. 21, be put into execution, where it states that there be sent to the Superior, and by him, to the Procurator general, the balance of entries and annual expenses, the inventory, and the patrimonial state, together with the changes undergone, etc., for each House – the Very Rev. Fr. Superior responded: he considered reasonable such a request, and declared that for his part, he will see to it that the cited Rule will be executed, in so far as this will be possible.

Xth It was adopted that their annual accounts do not have to be presented to the Very Rev. Superior, that he might send them to the Procurator General for those Members, who, having ownings, and choosing Administrators outside the Congregation, do not have fixed revenues, for purposes or persons extraneous to the Congregation.

XIth Having taken into consideration the Capitular Acts of the House of S. Bernardino, as regards their allotment, that for the said House had been made in the **VIIth General Congregation**, it was recognized that the view of that Congregation was mistaken, because of inexact information; and therefore, it was determined to come to the aid of that House, as far as it is possible, so that it might obtain the sum assigned to it.

Verona, October 31, 1876

Fr. Joseph Sembianti ²³, Sec.
of the Congregation
((Green oval SEAL
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES)



²³ It should be noted that Fr. Sembianti took the Oath of Office as General Councillor, on March 2, 1874. He had served as Secretary of this **VIIIth General Congregation** just concluded, and occupied important positions in the community, due to the esteem in which he was held. In this time, Fr. Sembianti served as Director of the ‘Mother House’, the Stimate in Verona.

However, under the date of November 5, 1879, a little over three months prior to the opening of the next, the **IXth General Congregation [February 1880]** there is an unusual letter of his addressed to the Superior General – in which Fr. Sembianti brings up the unhappy case of Fr. Sogaro, who had already left the Community. The tenor of this letter seems to be that Fr Sembianti himself is in some kind of a crisis. This letter will appear among the Introductory Documents of the next, the **IXth General Chapter**.

