

**The**  
**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**GENERAL CHAPTERS**  
**SEPTEMBER 1872 – AUGUST 1874:**

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

**§§§§§**

**ACTS**<sup>91</sup>  
**of the**  
**IVth GENERAL CONGREGATION**  
**September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1872**

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Appendix:     A List of the Confreres [Autumn 1873]

§§§

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<sup>91</sup> **[Translator's Note:** The *ACTS* of this **IVth General Chapter** are contained on 9 pages of notes, measuring 17, one half, by 12 and one half, on un-lined paper. The **Minutes** are still very legible, but the paper seems quite marked either from water, or humidity. A half of this paper, 12 and one half by 8 and one fourth was torn off neatly, and pasted to the inside cover of the booklet. Three of the large sheets are then folded down the middle, to make pages of 12 and one half by 8 and one fourth. The last of these sheets is passed into the rear cover. On the last sheet, there is a trade mark, G.C.", about the center of the page, the reverse side up].

Original

**In the Name of Christ. Amen**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## I.

### Ist Session

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

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The Election of the Secretary of the Congregation.

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

Fr. Rigoni	with 6 votes
Fr. Vincent Vignola	2

**Rev. Fr. Rigoni was elected**

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### The Election of the Deputies

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

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

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

△△△

### List of the Matters

#### Proposals made to the Deputation

#### Resolutions voted on by the Deputation

##### I. Of the Superior General

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

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

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

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

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

##### II. Of the Houses

###### Povo

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

“Enlarge”

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

###### Dereletti

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

This was voted on, with the result:

4 votes for not accepting.

1 “ for accepting.

“Unanimously rejected.”

##### III. Of the Gen. Councilors

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

Fr. Peter Vignola:

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

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

#### **IV. Of the Procurator General**

1. Can these words: *except in some special case, and with the permission of the Sup. Gen.* – can these words be ruled on?
2. On these others: *...and these things which come from others, who are not of the Congregation.*  
The syntax is not proper.  
Observations.
3. On the suggestion made by Fr. Rigoni in the IInd Gen. Congr., regarding the addition: *...in The present circumstances...* [it was voted on with less than two thirds].  
Observations.
4. On the Proposal made by Fr. Peter Vignola, and connected matters.
5. On the Request for the absence of ...<sup>92</sup>

The members of the Deputation sign here:

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Superior  
Fr. Vincent Vignola  
Fr. Francis Benciolini  
Fr. Peter Vignola

Fr. John Rigoni, Secretary

△△△

#### **II.**

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

Should it be prudently sought to reacquire him?

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

The result:

Voting	8
Yes	6
No	2

<sup>92</sup> Under this # 5, the remainder of the sentence – the name – is crossed out.



September 10, 1872

**IInd Session**

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

The discussion was opened on the 1st Chapter in the Order of the Day, i.e., on the Studies of Parag. 8, Chap. I, of the *Append. to the XIIth Part* of the Constitutions.

The discussion itself finally centered on these words:

*...unless, in some special case, with the permission and total  
[///// ]dependence on the Super. Gen...*<sup>93</sup>

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

The proposition was formulated:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ΔΔΔ

**II.**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal of the same Procurator Gen., relative to the words:

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

offend grammatical construction and syntax.

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

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

ΔΔΔ

<sup>93</sup> [Translator's Note: On this first vote taken on Sept. 10, 1872, there are some markings, which have been reproduced in this translation as: “[/////]. These apparently were added sometime later, in red crayon.]

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

*...in the present circumstances ...*  
and ends with these other words:  
*...of their goods, as for their substance...*

Result:

**Their substance was approved with all the 8 Votes.**

△△△

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

**The Congregation declares, that notwithstanding our Constitutions, 7<sup>th</sup> Part, Chap. I, n. 1<sup>94</sup>, the Superior does not have the faculty of obliging any member... etc.**

This was put to a Vote:

**All 8 votes Yes.**

△△△

Next, the Congregation was asked if, therefore, those studies on Parag. 8, ordered by the II<sup>nd</sup> Gen. Congregation, with the exception of the unless, as above in No. 1, are to be considered completed.

This was put to a vote.

Yes	6
No	3

△△△

**III.**

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

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

As for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this Proposal, this Proposition was formulated:

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

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

Yes	6
No	2

**It was adopted.**

△△△

<sup>94</sup> C.D.B., P. VII, c. 1, n1 – CF # 90.





## Appendix

### A Catalogue of the Congregation of the APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF BISHOPS. The Year 1873. <sup>96</sup>

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

Rev. Fr. John Rigoni, Proc. Gen.

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

#### GENERAL COUNCILORS

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

#### GENERAL EXAMINERS

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

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

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

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<sup>96</sup> [This Catalogue, in Latin, is found in: CS III, pp. 355-358, with the following note, added by Fr. Stofella]; **This document is in the hand-writing of Fr. Lawrence Pizzini, charged with a copy of this for presentation somewhere. At this time, Fr. Pizzini was newly ordained, and was assigned to the Mother House, where he is presented as a *Collaborator Priest*. This means, of course, that we find here a particular example of Fr. Bertoni's idea of an ordained Priest, who had not yet received the Grade of the Apostolic Missionary. In this *Catalogue*, there are others names as *Collaborators*, but they are designated rather by the name of the special duty to which they are assigned, and thus it seems that this language did not have a long life.**

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

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

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

**FATHERS HAVING THE *GRADE***

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

△△△

**THE MOTHER HOUSE OF THE SACRED STIGMATA, VERONA<sup>97</sup>**

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

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**THE HOUSE OF St. MARY of the LILY**

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

△△△

**THE TRIDENTINE HOUSE OF THE NOVITIATE AND OF STUDIES**

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

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<sup>97</sup> There is lacking here the name of **Fr. Joseph Marchesini**, who remained mostly on his own estate, as has been noted.

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

△△△

**STUDENTS OF THE IVth COURSE**

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

△△△

**Ist COURSE**

**[frat.] Paul Gradinati**

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**ASPIRANTS**

**Of the Second Humanities Class**

**Louis Battisti; Joseph Nicolini**

△△△

**IVth Grammar**

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

△△△

**IInd GRAMMAR**

**Stephen Rosa**

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

†††††

**ACTS**

**of the**

**Vth GENERAL**

**CONGREGATION**

**FEBRUARY 25-27, 1874**

**§§§§§**

**ACTS**  
**of the**  
**Vth GENERAL CONGREGATION**<sup>98</sup>

February 25, 26, 27, 1874

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**Miscellaneous Papers**

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

§§§

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<sup>98</sup> The Original Acts of this Chapter, are contained in a 'bowling-ball colored' maroon and black notebook. There are 10 pages, or 20 sides in this notebook, of un-lined paper, 11 and one half by eight. The first page, inside the cover, contains these words *Vth Gen. Congregation*. The *Acts* of the Chapter cover 16 pages, but there seems to be a mistake in their numbering, as in the original, the last page is numbered '14'. The very last page of the notebook was left blank. It is bound with black thread, knotted on the inside page.

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

- I. *Proposals of Particular Chapters for the Vth Gen. Congregation*, contained in a folder, already previously used by student for school theme! The Proposals were dated as having been received on Feb. 25, 1874.
  - A. One Proposal signed by all the members of the House of the Stimmate, dated Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - B. A Personal set of Proposals submitted by Fr. Francis Sogaro, dated Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- II. *The Acts of the Chapter*.
- III. *Decrees of the Vth General Congregation*, in Fr. Lenotti's handwriting, without any date.

## The Year 1874

### Proposals of Individuals and Chapters for the Vth Gen. Congregation <sup>99</sup>

In the name of the Lord. Amen. <sup>100</sup>  
Verona, February 24, 1874

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<sup>99</sup> [**Translator's Note:** inside the folder of this Chapter, there appears these words written on piece of lined, folded paper: *The Year 1874. Proposals of Particulars and Chapters for the Vth General Cong.* The paper measures 16 x 12, and is folded to allow four sides, measuring 12 x 8. There is a three fourths inch margin on both sides. There are 33 lines on each side, starting with a double line, and one fourths inch there is a triple line. There is a one in margin at the top, and three fourths inch at the bottom. This folder, used to contain the Proposals to a General Chapter was scrap paper! On the reverse side of this lined folder, there is a school theme, written, s it seems , in a youthful, but clear hand. This theme is marked with a blue crayon, with a huge "8", apparently the grade received for it. The small letters say between the 2 double lines up to the triple line. Its author seems to have been someone by the name of "Darnichini", but this is not too clear. The theme reads as follows:

Theme  
The Poor Man and His Dog

8

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

‘O Sir, out of charity, would you buy his dog? I give it to you for only six Liras.’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORAL

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

J. M. J.

Praise be the Name of the Lord.

<sup>100</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Proposal is from the House Chapter at the Stimmate. It was presented on large, un-lined paper, much like manila, drawing paper, measuring 17 x 12. It is folded in half, leaving four sides 8 and one half by 12. The Proposals of the Stimmate are written only on the left hand side of the 1<sup>st</sup> page, in very small, but legible hand-writing. It seems to have been folded over again, possibly for insertion into an envelope.

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

- . Peter Vignola, Director <sup>101</sup>
- . Joseph Marchesini
- . Charles Zara
- . Thomas Vicentini
- . Louis Morando
- . Peter Beltrami
- . Lawrence Pizzini
- . Lawrence Rigatti

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

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

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

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

- [1<sup>st</sup>] **corresponding to one of the principal ends of our Congregation, that was born and flourished with teaching** <sup>102</sup>;
- [2<sup>nd</sup>] **corresponding to the desires of the public, which in the present circumstances, is asking for this;**
- [3<sup>rd</sup>] **avoiding scandal, in having such a large building, without any scope of public benefit – furthermore, because of the statement of our Holy Father, Pius IXth: *For the instruction of the youth, go to any extreme, save sin!***

<sup>101</sup> In this signing, the name *Vignola* on this line, crosses out something else, that had been written there previously – most likely, by Fr. Vignola himself.

<sup>102</sup> Clearly, in the minds of these Confreres, teaching is a primary apostolate of the Congregation – both conceptually and historically. It is to be noted that the **XIIth General Chapter, in 1890** will continue this ideal – will place ‘school’ on the same level of as other apostolic endeavors, an essential aspect of the Founder’s ideal of the **APOSTOLIC MISSION**.



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

**This meeting was adjourned, and all affixed their signatures.**

**Fr. Peter Vignola, Director**

**Fr. Joseph Marchesini**

**Fr. Charles Zara**

**Fr. Thomas Vicentini**

**Fr. Louis Morando**

**Fr. Peter Beltrami**

**Fr. Lawrence Pizzini**

**Fr. Lawrence Rigatti**

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

Fr. John Rigoni, Secret.

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The under-signed humbly begs these Rev. Fathers to be willing to assume the following in the List of matters to be treated in the present Gen. Cong.<sup>103</sup>:

1<sup>st</sup> The immediate return to the observance of the rule: *Nothing is to be accepted for services rendered.* and for these reasons:

1<sup>st</sup> because otherwise, we render ore difficult this most salutary work of the Holy Missions, taking into consideration the extraordinary penury of poor parishes, etc.

2<sup>ndly</sup> because it would be supremely unfortunate to see even poor Priests, dedicating themselves gratuitously to this sacred ministry – while those who have expressly stated and have professed their Rule of not receiving anything, but yet are sufficiently provided for – they should not continue to receive retribution.

2<sup>nd</sup> That, for the greater glory of God, Who has responded always according to one's needs, even in emergencies, and having seen the lamentable lessening of vocations to the ecclesiastical state, hat there be instituted something like a little provincial seminary, the maintenance of which could be provided for by making an appeal especially to the Bishops of Veneto.

3<sup>rd</sup> That there be sent to Rome, in the name of the entire Congregation, one individual, who would present himself to His Holiness, and give a brief resume' of our affairs, and then offer our humble efforts to him. If, therefore, it seems to Your Reverences, that this would be for the greater glory of the Lord Jesus, and for the advantage of His Holy Church, and in conformity to the advancement of our poor Institute, I renew my humble request that they might be taken into consideration, and that this might be done.

Day 25 74  
2

Your most humble, devoted, obedient son in Christ  
Fr. Sogaro

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

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<sup>103</sup> Fr. Sogaro's Proposals are found on a single sheet of paper, measuring 15 and one half, by 11 and one half. This is then folded, leaving four sides of un-lined paper, 7 and three fourths by 11 and on half. The penmanship is extremely difficult to read, and seems n some contrast with the usual neat signatures of Fr. Sogaro, as it appears in previous Chapter Minutes. Only the first page is written on, and this is followed by three blank pages. It may have been written in haste, shortly before the opening of the Chapter, and there are a number of inserted corrections.

**Original**

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

**The Minutes of the Vth Gen. Chapter begin.**

**Ist Session**

**I.**

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

Those who attended:

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

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

The Congregation is declared opened.

**II.**

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

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

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

**Fr. JOHN RIGONI IS ELECTED.**

△△△

**III.**

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

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

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

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

Rev. Fr. Bassi received 3 votes.

Rev. Fr. Sembianti had 4 votes.

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

△△△

**IV.**

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

**Various Proposals that were had****Resolution by the Deputation****I.****By the Very Rev. Superior**

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

1. This information will be heard immediately.
2. To be proposed today, and discussed tomorrow.
3. To be examined today, and to be treated tomorrow.
4. To be received immediately.
5. To be proposed today, and treated tomorrow.
6. To be proposed today, and also discussed.
7. To be done immediately.

**II.****The Houses****1. The Stimmate**

- a.] The request of the Revision of the Rules of the special Offices.
- b.] The request for the Elementary and

**1. The Stimmate**

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

High Schools, and Night School at the Teresians.

c.] Desire of Aspirants in greater Number.

c.] Agreed and terminated.

### III.

#### Individuals

##### 1. Gen. Councilors

###### a.] Fr. P. Vignola

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

###### a.] Vignola

1. Immediately.

###### b.] Fr. Benciolini

1. Request in favor of Creazzi

###### b.] Fr. Benciolini

1. Such a request will be heard today.

###### c.] Fr. Rigoni

1. A Custodian of Laws

###### c.] Fr. Rigoni

1. The Vote of the 5 voting:

Yes 3

No 2

2. An established order in sitting

2. To be established.

3. Church of San Donato

3. Left to the Superior and his Council.

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

4. Left, as above.

5. Request for a Council of Administration.

5. Left, as above.

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

6. Left, as above.

###### d.] Fr. Sogaro

###### d.] Fr. Sogaro

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

1. It was already established, as above.

2. Request for the opening of a Provincial Seminary.

2. It will be heard in the last place.

3. On sending one to Rome, to offer himself to His Holiness.  
Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Sup.er. Gen le.  
Fr. John Rigoni, Secr.

3. It will be heard (in the last place)<sup>104</sup> in relation to the Foundation of Caravaggi  
Fr. Peter Vignola  
Fr. Vincent Vignola  
Fr. Joseph Sembianti

△△△

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

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

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

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

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

After the discussion was opened, this other Proposition came to the fore: it was initiated by one in the Chapter and supported by the majority, namely:

“To commit to the Prefect of Studies to put in writing the method actually being used now, with his own observations.”

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

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

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

When the discussion was opened, it was unanimously agreed:

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

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

△△△

Read, Closed and Signed,

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

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<sup>104</sup> These words: *in the last place* - were then crossed over.





1 blank ballot.

△△△

4. Next was the discussion of the first on the matters that were proposed yesterday, and reserved for discussion today. Namely, next was the question relative to the words, *unless in some special case, etc.* – that are found in the *Appendix to Part XII of the Constit., Chap. I, Parag. 8, N. 4.*

**Proposition**

Whether these words: ... *unless in some special case.., etc.* should be left as they are:

Voting	8
Yes	6 votes
No	2 votes

**THE PROPOSITION WAS ADMITTED, AND THE WORDS ARE TO BE LEFT AS THEY ARE.**

△△△

5. The Foundation of Caravaggio – its Project.

**Proposition**

**Whether His Excellency, the Bishop, should be answered evasively, holding acceptance in suspension, and in the meantime, sending two there, after the Octave of aster, and thus explore the state of affairs.**

A Vote was taken on this Proposition:

Yes	7
No	1

**IT WAS APPROVED.**

△△△

6. Next came the discussion of the last things registered on the List, previously referred to this point, namely:

**Proposition**

**Whether this is the time to send one to Rome to expose our affairs to his Holiness, and to offer himself in the service of the Church.**

A Vote was taken on this Proposition:

Yes	1
No	7

**IT WAS REJECTED**

△△△

7. Next came the treatment of No. 6 on the List, already proposed yesterday, and put off for discussion today. That is, whether there is a gap in the Common Rules, as regards the Manifestation of Conscience.

It was put to a Vote:

Yes	5 votes
No	3 votes.

△△△

The IInd Session was closed.

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





March 2, 1874 <sup>109</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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




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<sup>109</sup> Here on this page following the closing and adjournment of the **Vth General Chapter**, and the conclusion of its Minutes, there appears this Protestation, Oath of Office, of Fr. Sembianti, just elected General Councilor, to take the place of Fr. Richard DaPrato, deceased. On October 17, 1872, a little over a month after the last General Chapter, the IVth. There was an oversight in this **Vth General Chapter** in that Fr. Sembianti did not read the Rules pertaining to his office. It is noticed that Fr. Vincent Vignola did not sign this Oath of Office, dated March 2, 1874 – most likely he was already back at the Student House in Trent.

**DECREES**  
**of the V<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONGREGATION** <sup>110</sup>

**5**  
**1874**

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

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<sup>110</sup> The last paper in this Folder is a Copy of the *Decrees of the V<sup>th</sup> General Congregation*, in Fr. Lenotti's hand-writing. It is written on large, un-lined paper, 17 and one half by 12 inches, folded in such a way as to make four writing sides, 8 and three fourths by 12 inches. The first two sides are written on, as well as about a fourth of the third page; the 4<sup>th</sup> side is entirely blank. The paper is noted dated, but it seems that later, someone added in pencil: "5 1874" [i.e., 5<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, 1874].

the *Constitutions, Part IV, Chap. I*<sup>111</sup>, that a Manifestation of oneself is to be made to the Superiors, either within the Sacramental Confession, or outside of it, as may be preferred.

7. Having recognized the necessity of taking part in public instruction<sup>112</sup>, to come to something in the concrete, it was established that two individuals, to be designated y the Superior, are to prepare themselves, and then present themselves to be approved for High School Teaching. This, as for the time and manner of actuating the schools, this is left to the Superior with his Council.

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

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

Fr. J. Bapt. Lenotti, Superior




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<sup>111</sup> Cf. CF # 47.

<sup>112</sup> Already here, the V<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of 1874, clearly recognized the Stigmatine Apostolic Mission as containing *public instruction* among its essential *ends*.

**Vlth**

**GENERAL CONGREGATION**

**August 5, 1874**

**§§§§§**

**ACTS**  
**of the**  
**Vith GENERAL CONGREGATION** <sup>113</sup>

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**Minutes**

**August 5, 1874**



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<sup>113</sup> The *Acts* of this Chapter are contained on 7 sheets of un-lined paper, 11 and one half by 8 inches. The cover looks something like wall paper, green and brown, 'bowling ball style.'



**To the Very Rev.  
Fr. J. Baptist Lenotti,  
Most Worthy Superior at the  
Stimate<sup>114</sup>**

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

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

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

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

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

**From the House of the Dereletti**

**31 74**

**3**

**Your most humble, obliging and respectful  
Servant  
Fr. Francis Sogaro  
§§§**

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<sup>114</sup> Fr. Sogaro's Letter of March 31, 1874, appears on lined paper, 10 by 8 and one half, folded to make four sides, measuring 5 by 8 and one half inches..Fr. Sogaro wrote on pages 1 & 2. the paper was folded again, the long way, then the top down over the back. It was placed in an envelope, that appears with it, measuring 4 and one half by 2 and one half inches, the inside of which is pink.

**TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION OF  
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES –  
HEALTH IN THE LORD. <sup>115</sup>**

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

Given in Verona, from the Stimmate  
On the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1874.

[Green ink SEAL:  
APOSTOLIC MISSIONARIES  
VERONA]

Fr. John B. Lenotti, Sup. G.




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<sup>115</sup> Fr. Lenotti's **Decree of Convocation** was written in Latin, on un-lined paper, measuring 16 x 12. this was folded to make 4 sides, 8 x 12. . This paper was folded again, two more ways, making a small 6 x 4 Folder, that was perhaps inserted into an envelope.

To the Very Rev. Father, John Baptist Lenotti,  
 Superior General of the  
 Apostolic Missionaries for the Assistance  
 of Bishops <sup>116</sup>

V.J.M.J.

Very Reverend Father in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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**To the Very Rev. Fathers, Apostolic Missionaries,  
 Assembled in the General Congregation <sup>117</sup>**

V.J.M.J.

Very Rev. Fathers in Christ,

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

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

**At that time, after many times exposing my desire to the Very Rev. Superior, Fr. Marani, and having found him constantly firm in his refusal, and on seeing that**

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<sup>116</sup> Fr. Sogaro's brief note addressed to Fr. Lenotti, without a date, was written on un-lined paper, 10 and one half by 8 and one fourth. This was folded to make four writing sides, 5 and one fourth, by 8 and one fourth inches. Fr. Sogaro wrote only on the first side. This was folded twice again, for insertion into an envelope, measuring five and one half by 3 inches.

<sup>117</sup> Fr. Sogaro's Letter to the Capitulars, dated August 5, 1875, is written on paper 10 and one half by 8 and one fourth; this was folded to make four writing sides, 5 and one quarter by eight and one quarter inches. Fr. Sogaro wrote on sides one and three. It was then folded again, for insertion into an envelope, 4 and one quarter by 2 and three quarters. It seems that this envelope was included within the one described in Note # 4.

my days were spent with a disturbed spirit, and that my health was poor, I asked the above-mentioned Fr. Superior, if I could get advice from Rev. Fr. Viscardini <sup>118</sup>, of venerated memory. He refused me permission, telling me that if I ever set foot out of the door, with the intention of going there, he would no longer be obliged to consider me as belonging to the Institute. Can you, Rev. Fathers, think how I felt!

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

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

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

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

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

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

This 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1874

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

†††

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<sup>118</sup> Fr. Viscardini was the much revered Jesuit Novice Master – much appreciated by Fr. Bertoni, who often sent people to him for counsel. Fr. Sogaro's 'isolation' might be noted in the previous **Vith General Chapter** – even though he was one of the 9 Fathers with the **Grade**, his Proposal to open a House in Rome was defeated 7 to 1 – and he withdrew two other proposals he had made – one for Regional Seminary.

**Original**

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

**In the Name of Christ**

**Amen.**

Here begin the Minutes of the VI<sup>th</sup> General Congregation.

**A Single Session**

**I.**

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

1. The Very Rev. Superior, Pro Temp., Fr. J. Baptist Lenotti <sup>119</sup>
2. The Procurator General, Rev. Fr. Rigoni
3. The General Councilor, Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola
4. The Second Rev. Fr. Francis Benciolini
5. The Third, Rev. Fr. Joseph Sembianti
6. The Rev. Fr. Mark Bassi.

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

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

The Congregation was declared opened.

△△△

**II.**

It proceeded to the Nomination of the Secretary.  
Following the opening of the ballots, it was found that

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

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<sup>119</sup> This rather 'sad' VI<sup>th</sup> General Chapter would be Fr. Lenotti's last one – he would go home to the Lord, exactly 13 months to this day, dying on his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday, a little over one year later, on September 5, 1875.

Rev. Fr. Sembianti with 2 votes.

**REV. FR. RIGONI WAS ELECTED.**

△△△

**III.**

It proceeded to the Nomination of three Deputies.

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

Fr. Benciolini with 5 votes

Fr. Vignola with 5 votes

Fr. Sembianti with 5 votes

Fr. Bassi with 3 votes.

**THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING WERE NAMED DEPUTIES:  
THE REV. FRs. BENCIOLINI, VIGNOLA, SEMBIANTI.**

△△△

**IV.**

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

**Proposals  
received in the Congregation**

**Resolutions  
of the Congregation**

**I. From the Very Rev. Superior**

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

1<sup>st</sup> It was decided to treat of this immediately.

2<sup>nd</sup> To treat of the resignation of the Rev. Fr. Sogaro.

2<sup>nd</sup> It was decided to treat of this following the first matter.

**II. From the Houses**

Nothing

**III. From Individuals**

**1. From General Councilors**

Nothing

**2. From Other Individuals**

Nothing

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

△△△

**V.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ballots were then distributed:

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

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

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

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

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

The ballots were distributed, and there was chosen the name of one who, with two General Councilors, Vignola and Sembianti, will hold the Office of Examiner for the Second Scrutiny, with neither the Procurator General, who is already an examiner by his very Office, nor Fr. Benciolini, who had already been named for the First Scrutiny, being able to be elected.

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

Fr. Zara with 5 votes.

Fr. Morando with 1 vote.

**Fr. CHARLES ZARA WAS ELECTED.**

△△△

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

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

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

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

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

For Yes, there were 2 votes.

For No, there were 4 votes.

**Thus, writing to Fr. Sogaro was excluded.**

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

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

For Yes, there were 5 votes.

For No, there was 1 vote.

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

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

1<sup>st</sup> How much time should be granted to Fr. Sogaro to leave the House.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Concerning the word of order to be maintained after his departure.

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

**Yes 6 votes**

**No 0 votes.**

**THIS PROPOSITION WAS ADMITTED.**

The **Second Proposal** was taken up, whether summer and winter clothes should be given to him, etc.





# **VIIth**

## **GENERAL CONGREGATION**

**OCTOBER 26 – 30, 1875**

**§§§§§**

**ACTS**  
**of the**  
**VIIIth GENERAL CONGREGATION <sup>122</sup>**

**October 26 – 30, 1875**

§§§

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<sup>122</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 the various Houses and individuals.

**In the Name of the Lord. Amen.** <sup>123</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>124</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

<sup>123</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>124</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 Missionaries** - 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.

**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>125</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

<sup>125</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>126</sup>  
 Fr. Richard Tabarelli

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<sup>126</sup> As some of the younger Priests did in early Chapters, Fr. Pizzini signed his name in Latin.

**Viva M. and Joseph** <sup>127</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

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



<sup>127</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>128</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>129</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>130</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>128</sup> There follows here the Proposals from the House In Trent. These were contained on 3 pieces of unlined 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>129</sup> SIC!!!! The spelling differs when he signs his own name at the end of the House Chapter meeting.

<sup>130</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>131</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

†††

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>131</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

†††

## 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 can 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 do 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.

†††

Fr. Vincent Vignola, Director  
Fr. Mark Bassi  
Fr. Dominic Vicentini <sup>132</sup>  
Fr. Michael Lanaro  
Fr. James Marini  
Fr. Bartholomew Perazzani  
Fr. Bellino Carrara  
Fr. Lawrence Rigatti

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<sup>132</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>133</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 torpidude, 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>133</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>134</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>134</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 Stimmate 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>135</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 Stimmate, 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?
  
- II. Should he be elected for a definite time?

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<sup>135</sup> This is the beginning of the Minutes of the VIIth General Chapter.



The 28<sup>th</sup> day of October <sup>137</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:

Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola  
 Rev. Fr. Peter Vignola

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<sup>137</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. 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 compiled by the Secretary:

**IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. AMEN** <sup>138</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 Councilors:

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

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

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<sup>138</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 more ways, leaving each side measuring 6 x 4 - this was done apparently for insertion into an envelope.

**Rev. Fr. VINCENT VIGNOLA** was named Third Councilor with 3 votes. The Fourth Councilor, **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>139</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 Councilors, and other individual members had asked, or 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 Councilors, 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.

**Matters 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 Stimmate**

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 the Mission of Sweden.

This will be treated immediately.

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<sup>139</sup> The text of the Chapter Minutes reads the approximate time of day: *di sera*.

4. It would ask that the n. 1, of Parag. 5 of the *Appendix to Part XII* be modified in such a way, that in addition to the **Graduate Fathers**, 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 **Part III, Chap. III, n. 2**<sup>140</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 Councilors

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

### V. Members

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

### The End of the List

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<sup>140</sup> P. III, c. III, n. 2 – CF # 46.

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.

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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.

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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>141</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:

**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**

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<sup>141</sup> CF # 46.

**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

**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

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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

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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>142</sup> [2000 from Mass

**Therefore, the House would** \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>142</sup> This source of revenue listed as from the “Maso” estate, is unknown to the translator.



**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>143</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.

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:

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<sup>143</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.**

**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.

**THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADMITTED.**

△△△

As for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal: 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.**

△△△



**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>144</sup>

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

Yes 6 votes.

No No votes.

IT WAS APPROVED.

△△△

**J.M.J.**<sup>145</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 Councilor and Procurator, and to be applied in their stead [in accord with my nature], in the 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>146</sup>

<sup>144</sup> Concerning this Proposal regarding Fr. Marchesini, the last part of the resolution was not clear in the original text.

<sup>145</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>146</sup> The meeting took up Fr. Rigoni's letter, as the second, and last, Order of Business, on this last day of the **VIIth General Chapter**.



**“EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES of the VIIth GENERAL CONGREGATION  
III<sup>RD</sup> SESSION,  
OCTOBER 29, 1875, N. 9”<sup>147</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 Stimate, 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
	1840 Lira	
Therefore, the House will need annually:		

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<sup>147</sup> The entire Item 9 from the Chapter minutes – [cf. the original of this Document from the **Minutes** of the **VIIth General 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

[page 2]

“As for the 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>148</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**

[page 3]

“On the doubt<sup>149</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>150</sup>**

<sup>148</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>149</sup> On page 3 of this separate Folder, the question of the Suffrages was also included for the House of Trent.

<sup>150</sup> This concludes the Chapter intended for the House of Trent.

