

Asterisks !

*Newsletter of the Definitory
***** of the Olivetan Benedictine Congregation ******

YEAR XIX n. 2

24th July 2012

Dearest Confreres,

the second Diet of 2012 took place at the Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore between the 3rd and 6th July.

The Abbot General opened the meeting with the following introduction:

«Don not fear little flock...» (Lk 12,32)

We started with a prayer and by listening to the Word of God (Ez 37,1-14) to place ourselves in the ideal aptitude to be vehicles of the power of the Spirit during these days half way through the year, examining the various items on the agenda with pastoral promptness, great realism and widened horizons.

We listened to Ezechiel's vision. The Spirit asks "Ezechiel" that we may "prophetise", in indicating the operative paths to our confreres so we may reach the goals we have established.

Right from our very first meeting during the 2010 General Chapter, we were fully aware that, besides illuminated areas within our Congregation, there were also darker areas, negative situations that were emerging. In an informal way we practically adopted the classical method of "examining-judging-acting", even if the three moments frequently coincided. I feel that, after a year and a half, all we have left to do is "act". Waiting any longer could be risky and inconclusive. What face of the Congregation will we present at the 2016 General Chapter?

Besides the indications contained in the Constitutions and Directory, I feel that it is also our role to:

- 1. Open the doors of our monasteries to a new future: nearly all of them need it!*
 - 2. Offer new barrels that may be adequate to contain the new wine...*
 - 3. Make courageous choices before certain situations that may be nearly irreversible.*
- However, according to me, we should not let ourselves be won by pessimism like the frightened Church closed in the house (see Acts of the Apostles) or prisoners of a logic that seeks to solve everything immediately and risks short-sightedness. We offer a vision of ample breath. Let us be the first to convert to a better future for our Congregation.*

After having carefully examined the situation of all our Communities, and the Congregation as a whole, the Definitory has made a few decisions and further defined certain orientations already in act.

Restructuring our presence

Welcoming the informal invitation made to us by the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies for Apostolic Life* to consider closing a few monasteries and starting a possible restructuring project of our presence, we have decided to close certain Communities in Italy. If necessary, this restructuring process will probably also have to be applied in other countries.

2013 Extraordinary General Chapter

The 2013 extraordinary General Chapter will be held at Monte Oliveto Maggiore between the 26th and 31st August.

The Abbot General will attach the decree of indiction of the General Chapter to the 2013 Easter letter.

2013 Centenary celebration

The 2013 centenary will open locally in all the monasteries of the Congregation on the 11th July 2013 and will close on the 19th August 2014. The centenary will close with a *Statio* at Monte Oliveto between the 28th and 30th August 2014.

Rettoria di S. Cristoforo in Siena proposal

We examined the official request made by the Archbishop of Siena, asking us to take over the Rettoria di S. Cristoforo.

The Definitory feels that it is not possible to accept the proposal.

l'Ulivo

Since the news items from the communities take a long time to be translated and to be set in a adequate composition, forcing the publication of *l'Ulivo* to be constantly delayed, we welcomed the proposal of removing the news items from the magazine to publish them on internet, hence allowing the publication to be punctual once again from 2013.