

XX GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mysore, Karnataka - India

July 7 - 31, 2011

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you:
I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.
Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live,
by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to God.
For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land
which the Lord swore to your ancestors,
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them.
(Dt. 30: 19-20)

A C T S

Adorers of the Blood of Christ
The Generalate
Via Beata Maria De Mattias, 10
00183 ROME, Italy

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TELEGRAM TO HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI

His Holiness Benedict XVI
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City

Most Holy Father,

The Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, founded by Saint Maria De Mattias in 1834 to make known to all peoples, races and nations, our Crucified Love Jesus who gave all His Blood to redeem humankind, will be gathered in Mysore, India, from July 7 to 31, 2011, to celebrate the XX General Assembly of the Congregation. The Assembly has pastoral and elective purposes. It is centered on the theme of mission and inspired by the Biblical verse "Choose life, then" (Dt 30:19), which is meant to express the will of all of us Adorers of the Blood of Christ to open ourselves increasingly to God's action, through the Holy Spirit, in order to choose life and commit ourselves to promoting it in all dimensions at this time in our history.

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ express their commitment to adhere to the mission of the Church in favor of all humankind, and ask you to invoke an Apostolic Blessing on the members of the Congregation and their assembly work, while they assure Your Holiness of their prayer, gratitude and affection.

Rome, June 16, 2011

Sister Bernarda Krištić, ASC
General Superior and
ASC Sisters

TELEGRAM OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI

Reverend Sr. Bernarda Krištić, ASC
General Superior
Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Via B. Maria De Mattias, 10
00183 Rome

On the occasion of the General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, the Supreme Pontiff sends his best wishes hoping that this important event will give rise to generous resolutions, renewed adherence to Christ and an ever more fervent apostolic thrust, while he encourages you to continue your joyous service to the Gospel and to the Church, in the footsteps of the Holy Foundress Maria De Mattias. He gladly sends to you, to the Chapter and to the entire Institute the requested blessing.

Tarcisio Card. Bertone
Secretary of State of His Holiness

Rome, June 30, 2011

**MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
for the six-year term 2011 - 2017**

During the XX General Assembly the following were elected:

S. Mariamma Kunnackal, General Superior

S. Barbara Smith, General Councilor

S. Zita Resch, General Councilor

S. Sônia Maria Pinho de Matos, General Councilor

S. Nadia Coppa, General Councilor.

The appointment of the following was also ratified:

S. Patrizia Pasquini, General Secretary

S. Susan Welsby, General Treasurer.

The General Councilors are listed in the order of succession established by vote of the General Assembly, according to Bylaw 75.

PROMULGATION OF THE ACTS of the XX GENERAL ASSEMBLY

With immense gratitude to God for the tangible faithfulness constantly poured out upon each of us and with great joy in God's care for each Adorer of the Blood of Christ, I promulgate the **Acts of the XX General Assembly** that are the fruit of the assiduous work of all the members of the Assembly held in Mysore, India from July 7-31, 2011.

The General Assembly participants, together with me, are witnesses to how the Holy Spirit accompanied us and led us in the composition of these Acts that will mark the life of our beloved Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ during the next six years. These Acts will offer a sense of direction to our pilgrim journey along the streets and roads of the world as we try to live our apostolic mission with enthusiasm and loving passion so that the fruits of redemption, reconciliation and peace may reach each person, each of whom is worth the Blood of Christ.

Already in the preparatory work for the 2011 General Assembly each Adorer showed an ardent desire and expectation that prophetic and courageous choices would emerge from the assembly work.

The members of this XX General Assembly attentively listened with openness to the voice of the Spirit and the desires of their Sisters. They composed these Acts as the primary way for choosing life and going to the essentials, in responsibly and faithfully living our vocation of adorer-apostle in our respective realities:

- ❖ to broaden *the Sacred Circles of Communion*, ready to let ourselves be transformed by the Love of our God-Trinity in order "to constantly find the center of our life anew, the reasons for our hope and the deep motivations for our choices" and together to face the challenges of this historic time with evangelical creativity;
- ❖ to reaffirm *Jesus as the Radiant Center* and transforming core of our lives who "gives meaning and fruitfulness to our passion for human history, rekindles its fire and makes us *mystical and prophetic women*" for the transformation of the world and the support of every life;
- ❖ to build up God's Reign in feeling that we are *Citizens of the World in the Church*, that we are responsible and attentive women in "*discerning God's will, what is good, pleasing to God and perfect,*" (Rm. 12:2) to make choices that make life flourish;
- ❖ to explore *processes towards new model of ASC consecrated life*, in welcoming "the future full of hope" (Jer. 29:11) which God alone desires to grant us and that awaits us *beyond the threshold*.

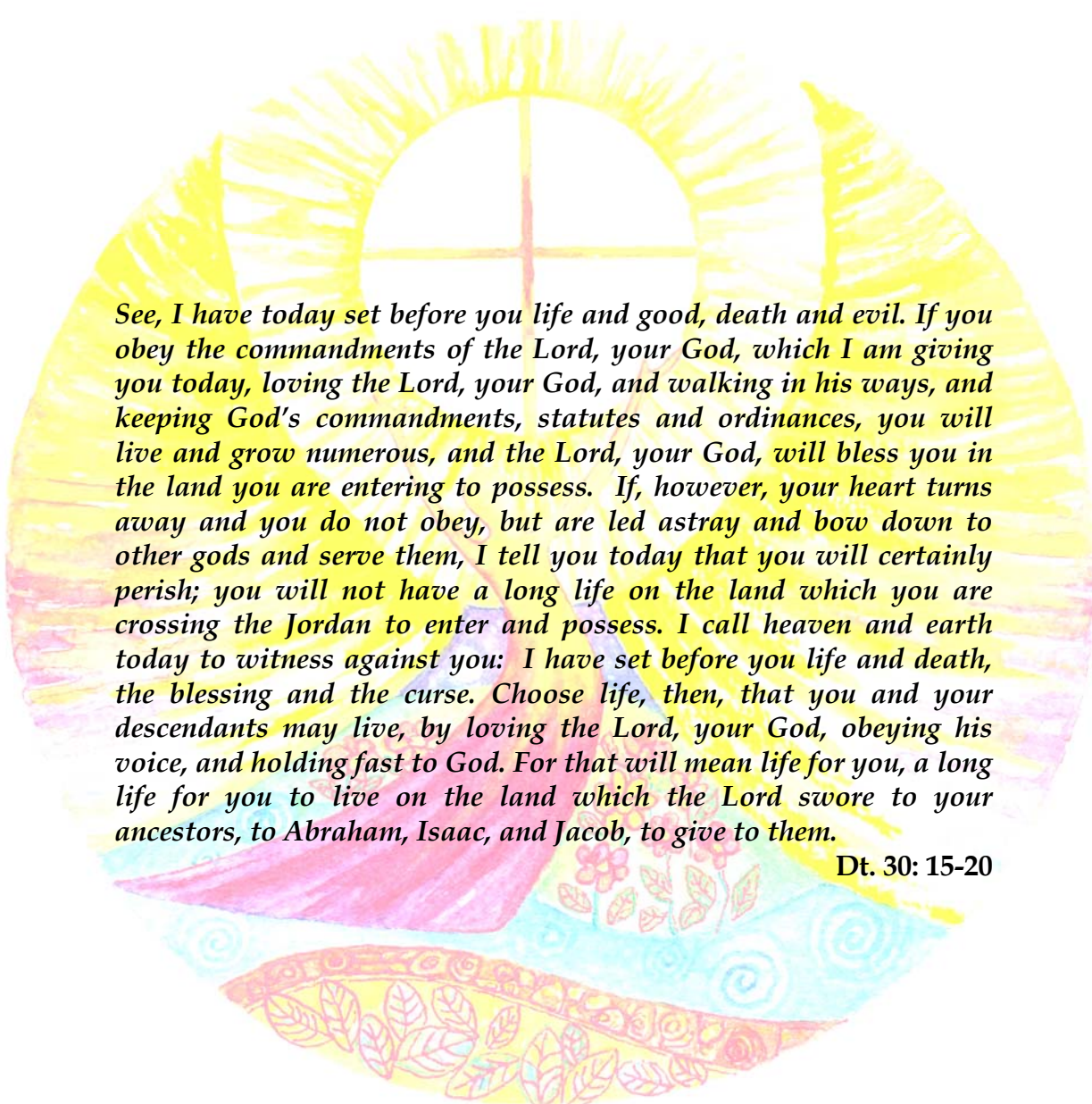
Certainly the participants at the General Assembly will transmit the Acts to their respective Regions and Foundations. They will recount the marvelous experience and the beautiful spirit that each one enjoyed during the celebration of the General Assembly and, above all, in the writing up of these Acts that we now have in our hands. .

Grateful to the most holy Trinity, we nourish our hope in the Blood of Jesus, the living and perennial fount. *Blood and water* (cf. Jn. 19:34) still flows today from Jesus' side for the salvation of the world. Mary most holy, Woman of the New Covenant, and Maria De Mattias, our holy Foundress, will sustain us in our mission for God's Reign in every part of the world and in God's Church as we are ready to give life so that others may have it *in abundance*.

My loving greetings to all,

Sister Bernarda Krištić, ASC
General Superior

Rome, August 20, 2011



See, I have today set before you life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I am giving you today, loving the Lord, your God, and walking in his ways, and keeping God's commandments, statutes and ordinances, you will live and grow numerous, and the Lord, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. If, however, your heart turns away and you do not obey, but are led astray and bow down to other gods and serve them, I tell you today that you will certainly perish; you will not have a long life on the land which you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to God. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land which the Lord swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them.

Dt. 30: 15-20

Adorers of the Blood of Christ XX General Assembly

ACTS

"I put before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then..." (Dt. 30:19-20) These Words from Deuteronomy gave heart and wings to this XX General Assembly. They inspired our Assembly journey and filled all of our desires and decisions with light and strength.

We gathered in Mysore, India, in the heart of Asia, from every part of the world with our hearts and minds ready to share and receive the various cultural realities as gift. Each day we learned from each other and shared the contributions coming from all the Adorers in simplicity and truth and with a view of today's reality. The processes used in our work allowed us to experience that sharing, co-responsibility, and listening to everyone are possible and are needed for the growth of our lives given for the Reign of God.

The image of the *threshold* fostered the desire in all of us to leave what we have already lived and experienced in order to transition toward the new land, the land of life. We were aware of the call and the beauty of finding paths of life and traveling along them together, guiding decisions within our own cultures. We strongly heard the call to US, to this circle of communion and life that makes us strong and courageous women.

The XX General Assembly entrusts these ACTS to the Congregation. They are the fruit of the work of all of us so that we may decide to choose life always through the proposed paths set out for us as an important service to the world today.

1. CALL OF THE 2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE ADORERS

SACRED CIRCLES OF COMMUNION



We choose the fullness of life within a globalized context, that is ever more unified and in constant transformation. We are aware that this world reality deeply touches the identity of every person and calls us to constantly find the center of our life, the reasons of our hope, and the deep motivation for our choices. We choose life, letting ourselves be drawn into the mystery of God in the Trinity who is a relationship of love, respects each person, is one in diversity, and moves in ever wider circles in all created life.

From the incarnated Jesus, the human face of the Trinity, we become aware of the sacredness of every encounter, in welcoming dialogue, co-responsibility, and care for life

at any cost. We choose to be transformed by the widening of these sacred circles of communion at the level of person, community and mission.

We call ourselves to:

1. take personal responsibility for our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others through the Word of God by living in a discerning way and with interdependence;
2. renew the structures of our life in community by fostering a more participative model, which encourages shared responsibility, open dialogue, welcoming diversity, discerning God's deeper invitation to joy that embraces the simplicity of daily life, and willingness to take risks together for the sake of the reign of God;
3. review the process of initial and on-going formation so that each woman is introduced into our common life of love and sharing and so each Adorer can participate with new awareness in her call to the common life in mission;
4. re-ignite and stir into flame the fire of hope in Religious Life and living through a contemplative stance toward all of life which fosters an awareness in each cultural reality of the sacred circles present in our world and creation, impels us to apostolic presence and witness in light of our charism, and leads us to share our goods and resources in answer to the *cry of the blood*.

Each community creates and evaluates a plan of life open to mission which expresses the vitality and wideness of the sacred circles of communion.



JESUS, RADIANT CENTER

In our globalized world relativism is generating the sense of emptiness and the absence of God. We choose the way of the Holy Spirit. The journey of discipleship lived in evangelical radicalness is our response to the cry of humanity.

We reaffirm our conviction that Jesus is the Radiant Center of our lives as lived by Maria De Mattias expressed in our ASC Constitution. We unanimously express our willingness to refocus our lives on Christ Crucified and Risen. We contemplate His Blood, shed in love, as the root of our identity. We desire to learn from Jesus the abundant measure of love for others.

The primacy of Jesus in our lives gives meaning and fruitfulness to our passion for human history, re-ignites our fire and renders us *mystical* and *prophetic* women.

Therefore, we continue to choose:

5. a profound encounter with God through the practice of *Lectio Divina*;

6. to allow the Word of God to enter us; as in a womb that receives, conceives, generates life, and brings reconciliation, healing, joy, and hope.
7. to share the Word of God by offering and receiving our experience of faith;
8. To see Mary, Mother of God and Woman of the New Covenant, as a model of a woman who receives the Word and allows it to be incarnated;
9. to free ourselves from limited images of God -- personal, cultural, religious and social—in order to receive a more full identity of God revealed by Jesus of Nazareth;
10. to nourish ourselves from our original charism, through the writings of Maria De Mattias and the documents of our history;
11. to base our personal and communal discernment on Gospel motivation and the Wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit.

There is no life without an encounter: encounters with the Word of God, with myself, with others, and with humanity give rise to life and allow it to flourish within us and in others. This is the life we continue to choose.



IN THE CHURCH, CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

As ecclesial women, collaborators of redemption, we feel the challenge to choose life. We witness in our Church and in the world where we are called to be a prophetic presence of communion, dialogue, and reconciliation.

We risk welcoming the challenges that this time is generating, and we are open to communal discernment in the building up of God's Reign. We feel a part of the lives of others, especially with those persons who are impoverished, choosing to be in solidarity with all humanity and all creation.

While listening to the Word of God, we commit ourselves to take off our shoes to walk in respect for the sacred space of other people and to grow in humanness in our mutual relationships. Therefore, we will accept the challenge to change our mindset and to have preference for courageous and unexplored ministerial choices in places where pioneers and prophets are needed.

As living and responsible members in the Church and the world, we embrace the following challenges to:

12. participate in mutual evangelization where, while we are announcing the Gospel, we allow ourselves to be evangelized;

13. journey with people of all ages, especially the youth, to respond to their thirst for spirituality in their daily life through our social and educational ministries;
14. risk meaningful responses to the reality of migration by ways of interculturalization, integration and openness to diversity;
15. foster reconciliation and communion within our Church, the Body of Christ, wounded by sin, division and all abuse of power;
16. promote ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue;
17. find creative ways so that *women's ingenuity* may find its full expression in the Church.

We encourage each other to respond concretely to:

18. look at reality with the heart of a woman who integrates the news from various media and the Gospel in prayer;
19. give particular attention in every community to the service of the families of migrants, refugees, and those lacking in power by protecting them, especially women and children;
20. risk more personally and in local communities, Regions and Foundations to serve the common good, justice, and the poor;
21. promote respect of laws as a principle of justice and transparency, including those concerning copyright;
22. foster networking with laity, VIVAT and other NGOs, other congregations and local and national governments;
23. take a stand in local, national and international situations and choices that do not foster Gospel values;
24. participate in local, national and international groups that promote encounter and dialogue in religious and cultural diversity;
25. use inclusive language in common prayer and Eucharistic celebrations; to promote inclusion and communion within the Church;
26. entrust to the General Administration the coordination of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation activities of Adorers, Associates and co-workers; to study the possibility of implementing a forum or an ongoing virtual network for those ministering in social services.

As ecclesial women we undertake this journey of following Jesus, citizen of the world, and, inspired by St. Maria De Mattias, Serafina Cinque and the five martyrs of charity, saints of our day, we want to live in this world in faithfulness to *choose life*.

BEYOND THE THRESHOLD: TOWARD NEW MODELS OF ASC CONSECRATED LIFE

We Adorers of the Blood of Christ are on the threshold of transition. Within our very depths, we are invited to go beyond this threshold by the signs of the cultures where we



live and by the profound transformations that touch our human lives and its identity. We are not alone in this journey because other women and men who follow Jesus are receiving this same invitation. Beyond the threshold we find a call to proceed on our journey in discernment, to enter into a process of transition. Each Adorer is encouraged to work on her personal transformation of life and collaborate together to create a new model of ASC discipleship in the world and in the Church.

We are invited to pass over

✧ *From security to a counter-cultural discipleship*

27. in journeying as disciples in the following of Jesus and in daily listening to his Word, we go from a repetitive and devotional lifestyle to an evangelical life and thus to a life rich in prophecy;
28. we live the evangelical counsels of obedience, poverty and chastity with new awareness. We also welcome the charismatic strength contained in the evangelical counsels of *reconciliation*, of *covenant* with God, humanity and all of creation, of *intercession* that links earth and heaven in the Blood of Christ, and of *thanksgiving* as a liberated lifestyle;
29. we commit ourselves to building a personal plan of integrated formation that helps us grow in our humanity, in accepting human vulnerability, and in risking for meaningful discipleship.

✧ *From individualism (personal and institutional) to shared life*

30. in a specific process done together with their sisters in community, all Adorers are invited to evaluate their common life and its structures in the areas of relationships, mission, language, signs and symbols, finances, governance, prayer, and sources of power;
31. we commit ourselves to creating Community whose life is based on common obedience to the common program for the Reign and vitalized by processes of sharing, co-responsibility, and common discernment;
32. we commit ourselves to share our passion for discipleship and to develop a culture of vocation.

✧ *From passivity to active participation*

The General Administration, Regional Administrations, Foundation Councils and respective Assemblies are to:

33. facilitate an ongoing formation process according to a discipleship of prophecy with appropriate means;
34. risk for greater vitality by founding new communities inspired by the Gospel and in dialogue contemporary cultures and in a common ASC apostolic vision. Such projects may also be shared and expanded among the Continental Areas;

35. evaluate the processes in local communities, Regional and Foundation Assemblies, at the Extended General Council, and the 2014 Interassembly Congress.

Toward new ways of ASC consecrated life

Being attentive to the new forms of community and consecrated life that the Holy Spirit is giving rise to:

36. in discernment, *we will foster* communities interconnected for the sake of mission with other vocations in the Church, with special attention to the Precious Blood Family and with people of good will;
37. *we are open* to the challenge of inter-congregational feminine communities, if the service of the Reign in humanity today requires it. In these, each member lives her own charism and places it in communion with the others while preserving her own charismatic identity and membership in her own institute;
38. in discernment *we will also study* models of inter-vocational communities where various vocations are called to express communion and the richness of the Church's charisms in places where such signs become prophetic;
39. *we are open* to consider the possibility of a state of secular permanent consecration inspired by the spirituality of the Blood of Christ.

The *newness* of the ASC consecrated life required for our times exists within us, in our charism. We need to listen *together* with loving attention to our world and to commit to daily discernment to make significant choices that bring new life.

“Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the loving Yahweh your God and obeying his voice, for God is your life, and longevity.” (Dt. 30:19-20)

To choose life is call, decision, and commitment for all the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. The Acts of the XX General Assembly set us on the journey by offering directions and concrete actions. Each of us and all of us together take on the responsibility of undertaking this journey. It will require that we put concrete processes of **ongoing formation** into place so that we can all find life - and life in abundance. In fact, we are certain that our future is staked on a focused formation. We will all be actively involved in it.

We will give special attention to **initial formation** by offering our new members a formation based on the demands of these new times of great transformation, and with the possibility of formation experiences in intercultural contexts.

Therefore, the XX General Assembly invites us to use **appropriate evaluation processes** so that each choice and structure may truly generate life.



2. CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS OF REORGANIZATION OF THE CONGREGATION

In this XX General Assembly, we re-affirm our commitment to reorganize ourselves as a Congregation and to live this process as a concrete step toward a more meaningful way of relating with others and of sharing spiritual, personnel, and material resources.

The ASC Congregation is organized in Continental Areas, Regions, Districts, Foundations, and Missions.

Missions

A mission is made up of ASC communities who live in a place of special need that is distant from the geographical area of the Region. It can be established by the Regional Superior with the consensus of her Council, by the Coordinating Group of a Continental Area with the consensus of the respective Councils, or by the General Superior and her Council, who will take care to assign it to a Region.

Regroup the Continental Areas

- a) Continental Area of Europe
- b) Continental Area of Africa
- c) Continental Area of Asia
- d) Continental Area of the Americas

| CONTINENTAL AREAS | REGIONS | DISTRICTS | FOUNDATIONS | MISSIONS |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| AFRICA | Tanzania | ---- | Guinea Bissau | Mozambique |
| ASIA | India | ---- | Korea Philippines | |
| EUROPE | Italy Schaan Zagreb Wroclaw | ---- | Spain | Albania Siberia 1 & 2 Australia Belarus |
| The AMERICAS | Brazil United States | ---- | Argentina Bolivia | Peru Guatemala |

Continental Areas

Each Continental Area promotes the collaboration of Adorers within the same Continental Area.

Structural Change

The General Superior and Council approve structural changes within the Continental Area

Authority at Various Levels

General Administration

- General superior
- Four councilors
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Extended General Council

- General superior
- General councilors
- General secretary
- General treasurer
- Regional superiors

The Extended General Council meets once a year.

While this Council is gathered in meeting, all the members have deliberative vote on topics proposed by or agreed upon by the General Superior and Council.

Authority at the Regional level

The Regional Superiors and Councils are elected according to each Region's Governance Plan which has been approved by the General Superior and Council.

Authority at District and Foundation level

The coordinator of a District /Foundation and her council are appointed by the Regional Superior with the consent of the council of the Region to which it belongs.

Coordinating Group of Continental Areas

To promote sharing and consolidation between the Regions, Districts, and Foundations of the same Continental Area, the sisters who serve as Coordinators in each of the entities will form the Coordinating Group.

They will meet periodically to:

- promote dialogue and sharing within the Continental Area;
- initiate and coordinate the meetings and other common activities;
- discern the possibility of responding to new needs within the Continental Area;
- collaborate with the General Superior and Council in preparing the canonical visit.

Collaboration within the Continental Area

Within the first two years following a General Assembly, the Coordinating Group of the Continental Area will meet together to discern and develop a plan to use until the next Assembly. This plan is designed to implement the Acts of the General Assembly and to promote collaboration between the entities of the Continental Area. The plan would complement the Region, Foundation or District plans developed to carry out the Acts of the General Assembly and could include ways to increase communication between the entities of the Continental Area, joint formation or other initiatives, and the means to implement these initiatives.

In addition to the Coordinators of the entities within the Continental Area, other Regional Superiors (or their designees) will be invited to attend if they are responsible for a Foundation within that Continental Area. Others may be invited to attend at the discretion of the Coordinating Committee.

Once developed, the plan is shared with all the sisters of the Continental Area and with the General Administration. The Continental Area Coordinator will give a brief progress report annually at the meeting of the Extended General Council.

Accompaniment of the Foundations and Districts toward autonomy

The concerned Regional Council(s) will prepare a triennial Plan of Accompaniment with each Foundation Council, in order to foster growth in the charism and ASC spirituality and an ever greater, gradual organizational and economic autonomy.

The Plan of Accompaniment, which is also to be sent to the General Superior and Council, will point out times, ways and “feasible” means to use in order to foster a greater vitality in these specific areas:

1. development of leadership skills and co-responsibility;
2. initial and ongoing formation;
3. education and professional preparation;
4. ministries;
5. vocation ministry;
6. available resources and search for other necessary resources;
7. collaboration within the Continental Area.

The Plan will also indicate times and ways for evaluation, and for sending communications to the Regional Superior and Council and to the General Superior and Council for informational purposes.

Transfers

All of us Adorers are members of a Region, from which we receive benefits and toward which we are to contribute for its growth and vitality. Likewise, as members of an international congregation, we are attentive and flexible in responding to the needs of other Regions, when such needs are expressed by the General Superior and Council or by a Regional Superior and council. (St 48)

- For the vitality of mission, after dialogue with the Sister and her Regional Superior, the General Superior and Council can transfer a Sister temporarily from one Region of a Continental Area to a Region of another Continental Area. After a year the sister who is transferred may, in dialogue with the Regional Superiors involved, acquire active and passive voting rights in the new reality. Sisters living at the Generalate in service of the Congregation, but not as a part of the General Administration, and students who may live at the Generalate would maintain active and passive vote in their region of origin.
- Transfers within a Continental Area will be done by the respective Regional Superiors in agreement with the Coordinating Group of the Continental Area.

3. INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF SPIRITUALITY

The XX General Assembly reaffirms the value of the ASC International Spirituality Center for the revitalization of the ASC charism and spirituality in today's global context and the new demands the Congregation has to answer to share the Word of God by offering and receiving our experience of faith.

We ask the General Council to again deepen CIS's identity and to find appropriate new ways so that in the next six years the vision and the initiatives of CIS will reflect the spirit of the 2011 General Assembly Acts.

4. INTERASSEMBLY CONGRESS

The Interassembly Congress is a place of sharing of experiences, of evaluation of the journey being taken, of discernment on the implementation of the Acts of the General Assembly, and on the requests from the Extended General Council and /or the General Council on future perspectives and opportunities.

Participants include the General Administration, Regional Superiors, one Council member from each Region, and the Coordinator of each District.

The General Administration is always able to invite other ASCs to participate on the basis of the topics.

5. REPRESENTATION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We entrust to the General Administration the task to study the possibilities that would answer the desire to give voice to the new realities and to the younger Sisters of the Congregation. If possible, they will also identify other criteria in order to create one or more proposals to be submitted for approval at the Interassembly Congress, so that the newly chosen criteria could be adopted for the election of delegates to the 2017 General Assembly.

6. ASC CONGREGATIONAL FUND: MDM Hearts & Hands

Method of Using the Fund:

Every year 7% of the capital, calculated on a three-year moving average of the market value on July 1 of each year, will be used as follows:

- 50% of the 7% of the capital: for general administration operations and short term needs, guaranteeing a minimum of \$400,000.
- 50% of the 7%: for grants distributed by the Committee to support development projects.

Contributions to the Fund

Each year the Regions and Foundations, after reviewing their annual report, will contribute an amount to the Fund (MDM Hearts & Hands) for the intention of growing the principal value of the Fund. This gift amount will be communicated to the General Administration, with particular financial transfers arranged with the General Treasurer.

The General Treasurer will provide a general report to the Interassembly Congress of the total amount contributed and an evaluation of the long-term viability of the Fund monies. If necessary, she will also indicate further possible needs to be faced at the general level.

7. AUTHORIZED EXPENSES

The 2011 General Assembly authorizes that, for capital expenditures, the following sums may be spent or authorized by the General Superior and by the Regional Superiors with or without the consent of their Councils:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Brazil: | with the consent of the Council | \$ | 180,000 |
| | without consent | \$ | 8,000 |
| India: | with the consent of the Council | \$ | 100,000 |
| | without consent | \$ | 5,000 |
| Italy: | with the consent of the Council | € | 1.000.000 |
| | without consent | € | 10.000 |
| Poland: | with the consent of the Council | € | 100.000 |
| | without consent | € | 3.000 |
| Schaan: | with the consent of the Council | CHF | 700.000 |
| | without consent | CHF | 6.000 |
| Tanzania: | with the consent of the Council | € | 30.000 |
| | without consent | | 1.000 |
| USA: | with the consent of the Council | \$ | 5.000.000 |
| | without consent | \$ | 10.000 |
| Zagreb: | with the consent of the Council | € | 300.000 |
| | without consent | € | 5.000 |
| General Superior: | without consent of the Council | € | 15.000 |

8. BYLAWS AMENDED BY THE 2011 GA

Bylaw n. 76

The choice and appointment of the general secretary and treasurer will be completed by the newly-elected General Superior with the consent of her Council before the passage of the Administrations. The members of the General Assembly will propose to the new General Council names of sisters who could serve in these roles.

After the discernment and consent on the part of these two sisters, the newly-elected General Superior will communicate their names to all the members of the General Assembly for their ratification. After this process, the names will be communicated to all members of the Congregation. (St. 52.5)

Bylaw n. 77

... Nevertheless, during a prayer celebration before the Assembly closes, the General Superior and her Council will officially declare their willingness to serve the Congregation in faithfulness to the Constitution.

During the Eucharistic celebration of installation, each member of the General Administration, in turn, will take an oath of office. All Adorers are invited to be present through prayer, or, for those who are able to be present, to join the celebration.

Bylaw n. 79

If the newly elected General Councilors are not members of the General Assembly, as soon as possible they are to participate in the Assembly as members; in the meantime the work of the Assembly is not suspended... (the Bylaw continues as is...)

Bylaw n. 98

Members of the General Administration retain active vote in their Region for the duration of their term of office and the right to participate in Regional or Foundation Assemblies, if possible, according to the duties of their office.

New Bylaw # 99

Foundation

A Foundation is a group of Adorers living in a geographic area different from the Region of origin and having the intent to become a District. It is established by the Regional Superior and Council of the Region of origin, in discernment with the group and in dialogue with the General Administration. It remains affiliated with that Region until, in discernment, it is recognized that it is the opportune time that it depend upon a Region in the Continental Area.

Nevertheless, a Foundation is a member of a Continental Area, and through the Coordinator or her delegate, participates in its planning through the Coordinator or her delegate. The sisters can participate in some initiatives of the Area.

The Foundation has Region-recognized governance structures that allow it to gradually grow in co-responsibility, participation and autonomy, in dialogue with the authority of the Region.

It has:

- some local members;
- guidelines for governance and a Foundation Council;
- guidelines for vocation ministry;
- ongoing formation plan or guidelines, and where necessary also for initial formation; and some sisters to prepare for formation ministry and the various ministries;
- spiritual, charismatic, and apostolic vitality;
- possibility of growth in local members.

New Bylaw # 100

District

A District is a vital ASC entity intending to become a Region. It is fully inserted in the context of the Continental Area and depends upon a Region of the Continental Area.

A District is established by the General Superior with the consent of the Council upon a request from the Regional Superior of origin with the consent of her Council and with the consensus of the Regional Assembly, after discernment with the members of the Foundation and in dialogue with the Region of the Continental Area to which it will belong.

To establish a District, the group must have:

1. a formation plan, prepared by the sisters of the Foundation and approved by the Regional Superior and Council;
2. a novitiate house and a sister or sisters adequately prepared for, or in preparation for, formation ministry;
3. a District governance plan prepared by the sisters of the Foundation and approved by the Regional Superior and her Council;
4. a reasonable number of sisters with perpetual and temporary vows (minimum of 20) and of local members in formation to guarantee future development;
5. members with the potential for or experience of leadership in governance;
6. the possibility of its members living the apostolic mission of the congregation in the Church, for the world;
7. sufficient skills and commitment to inculturate the ASC charism and spirituality in its members;
8. material resources such that there is movement toward financial autonomy in ordinary expenses, with some help from the Region of origin and/or Region of the Continental Area for important projects for the District.

New Bylaw # 101

The District Superior and Council are appointed by the Regional Superior and Council of the Region to which they belong. They will be appointed after a process of discernment with the sisters of the group and the leadership nominees. The District Superior has the authority delegated to her by the Regional Superior with the consent of her Council, and in accord with the approved Governance Plan.

Bylaw 102

If, for various reasons, the above-listed criteria (Bylaw 99 & 100) are lacking or, if other circumstances endanger the vitality of the Foundation or the District, after discernment with the members of the group, the competent Superiors, with the consent of their Councils - and, where necessary, with the consultation of the Regional Assembly - will formally request of the General Superior with the consent of her Council that the

Foundation be reinserted into the Region of origin or the District into the Region of the Continental Area.

New Bylaw # 103

Institution of a Region

1. The request to become a Region will be made by the District Council, after dialogue and discernment with the Region. The request, approved by the Assembly of the District, will be sent to the General Superior and approved by the General Superior with the consent of her Council, after further discernment with the members of the District and the authority of the Region they belong to.
2. It is necessary to discern according to the following criteria of vitality:
 - a. An awareness among the members of the responsibility required for becoming a Region;
 - b. A firm belief of having 1) sufficient vitality for the embodiment and continuity in time of the apostolic charism, and 2) adequate personnel and financial resources;
 - c. Demonstrated growth in the experience of leadership, responsible administration of goods, and initial and ongoing formation;
 - d. An awareness and practice of the principles of subsidiarity, collegiality and accountability;
 - e. Sufficient education and professional preparation of the members;
 - f. An adequate number of members with perpetual vows, to carry on leadership roles, administration, formation, ministries, and have vital communities (about 40 members, about half of them with perpetual vows);
 - g. Signs of a continuing growth in vocations and members.
3. After the discernment, having acknowledged the sufficient presence of these criteria, the General Superior and Council decide to establish the Region. The General Superior and Council, in dialogue with the District Council and on the basis of their knowledge of the sisters of the District, evaluate the situation and decide if it is more opportune to elect or appoint the Superior and Council of the Region. These decisions will be also ratified by the Extended General Council.
4. During this stage, the responsibility for the accompaniment shifts from the Regional Superior and Council to the General Superior and Council. In these initial years the sisters have the opportunity to practice a progressive autonomy and co-responsibility, especially in leadership, formation and mission, according to the principles of subsidiarity, collegiality and interdependence (accountability).
5. Within one year from the decision of the General Superior and Council, the District:
 - a) prepares the Governance Plan for the Region, which will also include the discernment process for the election or the appointment of the Superior and Council, and the appointment of the secretary and treasurer of the Region;
 - b) studies and prepares a plan for ministries; and
 - c) prepares a plan for a gradual development of financial autonomy.
6. Having completed this process, the Region will begin with the installation of the new Administration.
7. The General Administration will accompany the Region more closely in the first 3 (maximum 6) years, and will annually evaluate the journey with the members of the Region.

9. STATUTES AMENDED BY THE XIX GA (2005)

STATUTE 5 (Chapter II)

Statute reformulated to give a possible definition of local community lacking in our Constitution.

Ordinarily all of us live in a local community. The local community is formed when Adorers who, in dialog with and sent by the competent authority, live together, share life and mission, and are organized in mutual interdependence according to the Constitution and Bylaws. When, for reasons of mission, only two sisters will be able to live together, the competent superior, with her council, will evaluate the situation well and study suitable ways to sustain vitality. Whenever the ministry requires that a sister live alone, she will be part of the nearest community with which she will share life.

STATUTE 23 (Chapter III)

Statute reformulated to clarify the content and unify elements scattered in various numbers of the current Statutes & Bylaws.

1. Each sister retains the right to the possession of patrimony. A sister's patrimony consists of the monies and property she has at the time of her first profession and what she receives subsequently as inheritance. What a sister might receive as a sign of gratitude for her service as a religious does not constitute patrimony and is to be given to the community in accord with the vow of poverty proper to our Congregation.
2. By the vow of poverty we renounce the administration and independent use of our patrimony and any income from it. Before temporary profession or whenever patrimony is acquired, we cede the administration and any interest or benefits from our patrimony to whomever we choose.
3. Before the first temporary profession, each sister makes a will valid in civil court directing the disposal of any patrimony that she has or may acquire later. For a just cause and with the approval of the Regional Superior, a sister may change her will. If a sister leaves the congregation, her cession of administration of the patrimony becomes null and void and her will is returned to her.
4. After ten years of perpetual profession, with the approval of the General Superior and council, a sister may renounce her patrimony in whole or in part, as a personal practice of poverty. The renunciation is to be done freely and motivated by the spirit of the Gospel, in favor of the Congregation, the poor, or to respond to a special need of others.

STATUTE 43 (Chapter VI)

Statute reformulated to bring into focus our mission today, encompassing also the participation of the elderly or infirm sisters. The list of ministries that was part of this Statute was moved to the Bylaws.

In fidelity to the spirit of Maria De Mattias, through our ministries we express the charity that urges us to assume and promote right relationships with others and with creation, witnessing to attitudes of reconciliation, solidarity, and the respect and defense of life in all its phases. To be faithful to our mission today, we are flexible and open, ready to continue our ministry or be available for a new one, not only in our geographic area, but also in distant countries, should that be asked of us. When our principal ministry is that of prayer and suffering, we will strive to offer our life to continue to participate in the redemptive work of Jesus who saved the world through his cross, and to support those sisters directly engaged in the apostolic activity.

(Statute 46 has been eliminated.)

STATUTE 77 (Chapter VII)

The General Assembly decided to use the principle of election in place of the appointment of a provincial superior and council. Statute 77 has been changed only in the part related to this process in the following terms:

Regions elect the Regional Superior and councilors with a discernment process. The Regional Superior, with the consent of her council, will then appoint the secretary and treasurer. Regions will develop a discernment process which, approved by the Regional Assembly, will also be submitted for approval by the General Superior with the consent of her council. This process will include the following norms:

- All sisters of the region will have the opportunity for active participation throughout the discernment process;
- To facilitate the choosing of good leadership in the Region, the General Superior and her council will have a participatory role in the discernment process to assure their acceptance of the election results.

10. STATUTES AMENDED BY THE XVIII GA (1999)

STATUTE 53

Regarding the frequency of General Assemblies

The General Assembly is convoked ordinarily every **six** years by the general superior...

STATUTE 63

Regarding the length of service and possibility of re-election of the General Superior and General Councilors

Overall leadership of our congregation is entrusted to the General Superior assisted by four general councilors. They are elected by the General Assembly for a term of **six** years. To be elected General Superior a sister must have been professed at least ten years. Ordinarily she is not re-elected. General councilors are elected by the General Assembly to that office ordinarily for a single term of six years. However, in situations where the Assembly members consider it advantageous for good governance of the congregation and after discernment, one or more councilors may be elected for a second term...

APPENDICES

Brief History of the XIX General Assembly of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Mysore, India, July 7 - 31, 2011

The XX General Assembly of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ was celebrated July 7-31, 2011, in the charming scenery of the city of Mysore, Karnataka, India. The theme "*Choose life, then*" was taken from Scripture, the book of Deuteronomy (30:19).

The tone of the great event, which for the first time in the history of the Congregation was held in India, the heart of the Asian continent, was created by great care for detail. It was marked by the extraordinary welcome and kind hospitality of the ASCs of the Indian Region who worked endlessly for months so that nothing would be left for improvisation.

His Excellency Msgr. Thomas Vazhapilly, Bishop of the Mysore diocese, presided at the opening Eucharist, celebrated July 7 in the Pallottine Fathers' Mary, Queen of the Apostles Chapel, one of the many venues of the Pallottine Fathers the Adorers made use of during the Assembly. Many other priests concelebrated, including some of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood present in India.

The General Assembly participants processed into the chapel to the beat of the student band of the ASC's school in Bangalore. At the entrance to the chapel a typical Indian *bindhi* welcome ritual awaited. During the liturgy Sr. Bernarda Krištić, general superior, invited the participants to allow themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit so that the entire undertaking would be reaching out for life while, in obedience to God, we begin to carry out the saving plan God has established for us ASCs in faithfulness to our mission for the good of the Church and the world. The roll call followed in the chapel with the "*Here I am*" of each of the 44 delegates ringing out. The XX General Assembly was officially opened.

BEGINNING

The afternoon after the solemn liturgical beginning of the assembly work, Sr. Bernarda greeted the members gathered in the assembly room. "*The Assembly has the task of setting directions on how to promote life in apostolic choices. We are called to witness that every life is precious and worth the Blood of Jesus.*" These words loaded with hope lit the hearts of each with the desire to undertake the path to dare and risk because this, as she reminded us, "*is the favorable time when we want to be docile to the voice of the Spirit to journey together with the people of God as women of life and for life.*"

The tables in the assembly room were set to form a circle in order to allow everyone to have active participation in the work processes and sharing.

A new process led us in personal and community discernment. Small "community groups" studied and delved into the suggestions, reflections, and questions to be shared in the large Assembly for mutual enrichment.

Sr. Victoria Gz de Castejon, RSCJ, the facilitator, gave us the initial nudge that accompanied us throughout the entire journey. It was she who encouraged us to care for and cultivate a spirit of mutual dialogue with the various cultures and, above all, with God. There is no life without a loving encounter and the Creator has a deep and unheard of desire to encounter God's creatures. We were invited to remove our sandals like Moses before the burning bush because the General Assembly is a place of holy ground. Each Assembly is an encounter with the life of the Congregation and the life of the world. This XX General Assembly is a link in the chain of our history that God wants us to embrace anew to care for it and love it. The invitation to mission rises from divine intimacy. Each dawn is a dawn of new life and invites us to choose. **Choose life, then!**

LISTENING

On July 9, only two days after the beginning of the work, we began to listen carefully. Father Michael Sebastian, SVD, introduced us into the world scene with the vista of responsible Christian commitment for fullness of life. The Congregation desires to make vital choices in response to the needs of the world today. With its developments and changes the world greatly challenges religious life in a time of globalization, multi-cultural realities and relativism. We want to commit ourselves to restore the dignity of each human being and to risk witnessing a counter-cultural life for the Reign. This is our mission.

A vigilant and attentive eye toward the emerging times was the message Sr. Shalini Dsouza, SCN, directed to each of us. She accompanied us with great skill and experience in journeying along the path of the Church and Biblical revelation from Old to New Testaments, gathering the repeated invitation to choose life. We were challenged to choose life responsibly in renewing our understanding of religious life and our mission in the Church. Life is not survival, but prophecy. *"The process of choosing life is never finished. We are called to be contemplative women of prophecy who initiate, revitalize, re-found, reinterpret, re-imagine, re-dimension and are reborn!"*

Sharing in assembly of the hopes and the awareness of the obstacles that impede journeying with quick steps came forth from the listening. How are we called to make a difference as mystical, compassionate, gospel women, as women rebels and prophets following St. Maria De Mattias' example to **choose life with the heart of God?**

IN COMMUNION

The Congregation is mirrored in a spirit of communion and linked by a single shared passionate charism. The Regions and Foundations creatively and imaginatively shared their realities. Cultural scenes steeped in charismatic vitality emerged from the richness of the contents. After almost 200 years of life, the Congregation is still a reconciling presence, an extended hand, an enterprising step, a listening heart, and a courageous and prophetic word today.

From North to South, from East to West, the Adorers are guardians of the gospel Word of the Blood of Christ, entrusted by God through St. Maria De Mattias.

The General Administration brought the sharing of the reality of the Congregation to a conclusion with a summary of the journey traveled during their six years of work, 2005-2011, that were filled with dynamism and challenges for the future. What we identified as challenges give us an opportunity to catch a long-range glimpse of calls and new visions. The true challenge is to let ourselves be questioned by them and to choose to live them as opportunities. **We choose life!**

IN DIALOGUE

Two big challenges - opportunities appear on the horizon for our Congregation, formation and re-thinking our ASC style of governance.

Sister Maria Louise Hughes, asc, did an interpretive reading of the paths and current formation styles present in the reality of our Congregation. The first question was: what is the "extra" that characterizes us? The reading of several Biblical texts led us to discover the fire and passion of our call. It is this extra that makes the difference - throwing out the nets on the other side upon Jesus' invitation, taking care of our joy, selling everything as in Jesus' invitation to the rich young man, and risking another 10% to re-awaken our prophetic voices and live our discipleship in a mystical way.

We are challenged to ask ourselves: what kind of formation is needed to foster a choice for life? It is a question of strengthening ongoing transformation. It demands a continuous conversion in all dimensions of our life: our prayer style, our being citizens of the Church and world, our giving ample space to creative imagination that characterizes us as consecrated women,

as ASCs to dare to live the common vision in sacred circles of unity toward new models of consecrated life.

There was also a time in which the Assembly was invited to examine the governance style that regulates our life as ASCs. What are its strong points and its weak points? What do we need to let go of or change?

The richness of the insights was evident and the convergence of opinions denoted great communion in the Spirit: a circular, participative governance style based on collegiality, subsidiarity and accountability. A representative from each work group participated in a round table in the Assembly and reported the results of the reflections of their work group, stimulating a deeper reflection

The Assembly re-examined the themes developed in the Working Document in order to draft a sense of direction for the Congregation for the next six years so that concrete steps may be implemented to face the challenge of **choosing life!**

IN DISCERNMENT

On July 21, the Assembly members were ready to enter into a more attentive listening to the Spirit to discern, understand, and choose the sisters to be the leaders for our Congregation.

Sister Victoria invited us to let go of our resistances and to avoid putting up obstacles to the Spirit's action that propel us along unexpected paths in order to live the art of discerning, to become bold and allow ourselves to be led. The Spirit guides each person in the silence of her heart to listen wisely to the movements of her inner voice. Times of prolonged prayer interspersed the rhythm of our time of personal and communal discernment, fostering an appropriate climate for experiencing one of the most intense times of the Assembly.

The discernment had its fruits. Sister Mariamma Kunnackal is the new general superior; Sister Barb Smith, Sister Zita Resch, Sister Sonia Matos and Sister Nadia Coppa are the councilors who will collaborate with Sr. Mariamma in the service of leadership.

Everyone was greatly moved when these sisters generously gave their response of "yes" to this invitation to serve the Congregation for the next six year.

The Assembly handed over the Congregation to them with our great desire for communion, openness to prophecy and boldness in order to be a countercultural sign in the world.

Warm applause and hugs for everyone sealed a new beginning. These sisters are entrusted with the task of helping us to **choose life!**

IN SUMMARY FOR BEGINNING ANEW

The days from July 25 to 30 allowed us to summarize the work completed. The concluding phase of the XX General Assembly consisted in a careful reading and study of the proposals and the approval of some modifications to the Bylaws.

The editing commission worked on the draft of the Acts, putting together the documents prepared by the work groups. The draft was presented to the Assembly, discussed and modified in some places. We feel the document is the fruit of what was experienced and shared in our days of work.

The final version of the General Assembly Acts was prepared and on July 29 it was solemnly proclaimed as the word of God given to us in this moment of history. The final text was formally approved with a unanimous vote.

Led by the Biblical images of the Annunciation and Visitation, we look to Mary as the woman who in her docility said "Yes" to Life.

Ratification of the names of the General Secretary, Sister Patrizia Pasquini, and the General Treasurer, Sister Susan Welsby, was the final formal action of the Assembly members.

The XX General Assembly of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ was officially closed during the solemn Eucharistic celebration of July 31, 2011, presided over by the bishop of the Kannur, Kerala diocese, Msgr. Varghese Chackalackal.

Singing our Magnificat to God for the marvels shared and rediscovered during those graced days and filled with joy, enthusiasm and hope, we left the holy place of the Assembly aware of the inheritance this XX General Assembly has given to all the Adorers in the world – our commitment to be women who prophetically choose life.

Members of the 2011 General Assembly

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Alessandra Paolacci | Italy | Delegate |
| 2. Alessandra Soares Pereira | Brazil | Delegate |
| 3. Ana Marija Antolović | Croatia | Delegate |
| 4. Angela Di Spirito | Italy | Delegate |
| 5. Barb Smith | United States | Delegate |
| 6. Bernarda Krišić | Croatia | General Superior |
| 7. Bridget Pulickakunnel | India | Delegate |
| 8. Caterina Ronci | Italy | Regional Superior |
| 9. Cecilija Milković | Croatia | Regional Superior |
| 10. Cleopatra Subiaco | Italy | General Secretary |
| 11. Dominga Alarcón | Bolivia | Delegate USA |
| 12. Elsie Auzier Vinhote | Brazil, Peru | Delegate |
| 13. Elisabeth Müller | Schaan | Delegate |
| 14. Elsy Palatty | India | Delegate |
| 15. Esmeralda Do Vale | Brazil | Regional Superior |
| 16. Euphrasia Julius Ng'ora | Tanzania | Regional Superior |
| 17. Gabriella Grossi | Italy | Delegate |
| 18. Gee Hae Cecilia Lee | Korea | Delegate |
| 19. Ivana Paialunga | Italy | General Councilor |
| 20. Jan E. Renz until 07/19 | United States | Regional Superior |
| 21. Lisbeth Reichlin | Schaan | Delegate |
| 22. Lucia Resta | Italy | Delegate |
| 23. Lucina Johanness Gadiyet | Tanzania | Delegate |
| 24. Luċja Lis | Wrocław | Delegate |
| 25. Mariamma Kunnackal | India | Regional Superior |
| 26. Marykutty Kanattu | India | General Councilor |
| 27. Martina Marco Vitali | Tanzania | Delegate |
| 28. M. Grazia Boccamazzo | Italy / Philippines | Delegate |
| 29. Miriam De Michele | Italy | Delegate |
| 30. Matija Pavić | Croatia | Delegate |
| 31. Nadia Coppa | Italy | Delegate |
| 32. Nicla Spezzati | Italy | Delegate |
| 33. Patrizia Pasquini | Italy | Delegate |
| 34. Sara Dwyer | United States | Delegate |
| 35. Silvana Crolla | Italy | Delegate |
| 36. Slavica Turčić | Croatia / Australia | Delegate |
| 37. Sônia Matos | Brazil | General Councilor |
| 38. Susan Welsby | United States | General Treasurer |
| 39. Teresa Jaszczyszyn | Wrocław | Delegate |
| 40. Therese Wetta | United States | General Councilor |
| 41. Vittoria Tomarelli | Italy | Delegate |
| 42. Vicki Bergkamp | United States | Delegate |
| 43. Wiesława Przybyło | Wrocław | Regional Superior |
| 44. Zita Resch | Schaan | Regional Superior |
| 45. Maria Louise Hughes from 07/20 | United States | Substitute for the Regional Superior |

Facilitator: Victoria Gonzalez de Castejón, RSCJ

ASC Helpers:

Angela M. Pinho Cavalcante
 Angela Schrage
 Barbara Perali
 Beena Thoombalan

Betty Adams
 Manuela Nocco
 Maria Louise Hughes
 Mariamma Muttel

Mimma (Domenica) Scalera
 Mini Vadakumpadan
 Patricia Atarí

