

SCRIPT OPENING CEREMONY XXIII GENERAL CHAPTER

We start with upbeat background music and the projected Motto and logo...) we hold for a few minutes while people finish connecting.

Once arrived the hour will be given the recommendations to follow the act of opening of the 23rd general chapter:

1.- The celebration can be followed in the 3 official languages of the Congregation: Spanish, English and French. In any case, once the celebration is over, the complete script will be posted on the web page so that anyone who wants to can reread any of the parts.

We ask that the microphones be turned off at all times to avoid background noise and interruptions. Also the cameras because that will make it easier for us to focus our attention on what is being projected.

3.- Through the chat you will be able to send messages and live greetings. At the end of the celebration we will let you know so that whoever wants can connect the camera and see us again for a few minutes.

4.- We also want to tell you that apart from the people who are participating in this platform zoom, many others are following the opening ceremony through youtube.

Once we have made the recommendations to be able to follow and enjoy this celebration, we give way to the greeting of Lillian, general coordinator of the SSJ congregation who will tell us who are and will be present at this opening ceremony. She will give us a brief explanation of what a General Chapter is. She will explain the motto, logo and focus and finally she will declare officially open the 23rd General Chapter of the Congregation.

1.- Words of Lillian.

ESTHER. Thank you Lillian for your words and message that help us to put ourselves in the key of prayer:

History almost always picks up the events where the most important, the powerful, act and are the protagonists.

History seen from the heart of God is different. He looks at the little ones, listens to and walks with the forgotten.

That is why the Magnificat of Mary, which we want to be the thread that leads us in this prayer, continues to be the song par excellence of the little ones, of those who understand in the depths of their hearts that God is with them, who rejoice and trust, of those who hope in HIM.

Today we, the Servants of St. Joseph, are making a stop on the road, because a Chapter is a pause to seek, in the light of the Spirit, and together, the will of God for today.

Like Mary and with her we want to be attentive to her Word; in her hands we place this moment of the congregational process, may she help us to open the ear of the heart, and to widen our eyes to discover Him.

The Magnificat is also the song of inclusion. We are all in God's liberating plan, He invites us to walk as a big family, to change history, so that every human being has a place to be happy, a house to live in as his son and daughter.

Background music 5' Music: Pompeii

2.-Text: Magnificat.... First part. Marina

Proclaim my soul

the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God,

my Savior;

for he has looked upon the humiliation

of his handmaid.

Henceforth all generations shall rejoice

all generations,

for the Mighty One has done

great works for my sake:

his name is holy,

and his mercy goes out to his faithful ones

from generation to generation.

ESTHER. INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALM.

The psalms are, throughout history, the human experience turned towards God, the expression of the life of a people seduced by God.

In the psalm that we are going to share we recognize ourselves as friends of that God who is our Father and loves us and invites us every day to look high, to fly and to dream confident in his love.

Psalm: Young people will participate in the reading.

I CALL YOU FRIENDS.

First stanza will be read in English. Krysteya Peralta.

1.-To you, to you who follow with enthusiasm
without knowing very well where we are going,
who are weighed down by rules and laws
and you have begun to get rid of them,

to those of you who are not afraid to be free
and you love every person with all your heart...
I call you friends, friends.

Second stanza is read in French. Regine. Congo.

2.-To you, to you who listen to my words
and give them credence, even if they sound strange to you,
to those of you who welcome my Spirit and my project
and with care you seek its growth,
to those of you who have sacrificed yourselves
without expecting reward or recognition...
I call you friends.

Third stanza is read in Spanish. Ainhoa Lillo. Spain.

3.-To you, to you who gather in my name
and evoke my presence, life and dreams,
to those of you who, despite doubts and fatigue,
you leave the tranquility of the known land,
to those of you who cross frontiers with fear
but awake, awake and in my company?
I call you friends, friends.

Fourth stanza reads in English. Diem My Vietnam.

4.-To you, to you who do not shy away from the unknown
and you go deep into its entrails to know it,
to those of you who stand up for yourselves, lend a shoulder
and lend a hand to the people who appear on the sidewalks,
to those who can be counted on
for every good, just and humane cause?
I call you friends, friends.

The fifth stanza is read in French. Evodi. Congo.

5.-To you, to you who explore and take care of the reality
and try to transmit it in an improved way,
to those of you who do not allow yourselves to be perverted
in spite of living on shores and borders,
to those of you who, having left your land
you refuse to be foreigners and to live exploited?
I call you friends, friends.

Sixth stanza is read in Spanish. Diego Chica. Spain.

6.-To you, to you who in spite of your weaknesses
you do not cease in your desire to walk,
to those of you who stand firm
and cultivate experiences of solidarity,
to those of you who do not renounce utopia
and who walk in my footsteps towards the Kingdom...
I call you friends.

Background music. 5' Music: Pompeii

POCHE. GIVE WAY TO JUANA MARIA.

We give way to Juana Maria, Vicar General, who will invite us to ask the Spirit to be present among us in this chapter process through the prayer contained in the letter of convocation of the 23rd General Chapter and that will be projected on the screen, so that each one of us can join from our homes, communities.

4.- Prayer of innovation to the Spirit.

You come, Holy Spirit.

You who stir up new tongues and put words of life on our lips,
invite us not to become a museum Congregation,
beautiful but mute, with much past and little future.

You are in our midst,

so that the experience of the XXIII General Chapter

we do not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by disenchantment,

let us not dilute the prophecy,
we do not end up reducing everything to sterile discussions.
You come, Holy Spirit of love,
to dispose our hearts to listen.
You come, Spirit of holiness,
to renew the Congregation.
You come, creative Spirit
to renew the face of the earth.
Amen

INTRODUCTION MARIA SONG AND DANCE TO THE SPIRIT.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to come and be with us in this moment of our General Chapter, we pray as well that we may recognize Her alive in our every step. She is the gentle empowering force that fuels every move of the Dance-we call Life, the silent dancing flame of God's deepest dream hidden in our hearts' most profound desiring. Let us continue to be open and be moved by Her as we listen to this Song to the Holy Spirit, accompanied with dance interpretation by the workers of Talleres de Nazaret in the Philippines.

5. Song and dance: Come Holy Spirit

Background music. 5' Music: Pompeii

ESTHER. INTRODUCTION SECOND PART OF THE MAGNIFICAT.

Mary invites us to trust that God's love changes our structures, acts against all logic, transforms them and makes them new, He gives us, at every moment the strength to achieve what we need to live as sons and daughters of a God who loves us immensely.

6.- Second part of the Magnificat (Jacky. Congo. French)

He does exploits with his arm:
He scatters the proud in heart,
He casts down the mighty from their thrones.
and exalts the lowly,

He fills the hungry with good things, He fills the hungry with good things
and the rich he sends away empty.

Background music. 5' Music: Pompeii

POCHE. INTRODUCTION TO THE VIDEO: In this moment we are going to see a video that gathers in images the presence of the SSJ in the world, and brings us closer to the different realities to which we are responding through projects, collaborations, works, etc. and how we are updating and making present the Charism in the different countries and spaces in which we share life and mission. We thank God for this and for each of the people who make so much life possible.

7.- Video presences with background music: Easy

POCHE. GESTURE INTRODUCTION

What an exciting video! It puts us in tune with the next moment of this opening act of Chapter 23. Thanks to technology we are present at this moment people from the 5 continents, from different parts of the world... from different cultures, languages, histories... Handmaids and laity, young and old, but we all share the same Mission. We want to continue building together the present and future of the Congregation and following this desire, we want to express today from each country, our commitment with the journey of the Congregation, in this moment that we are living as a family.

8.- Gesture. Representatives from each country

INTRODUCTION DJO SONG: After listening to the commitment of sisters and lay people from each country, with their gestures, we will unite as a Josephine family listening to the song: "I want to follow you".

9.- Song: "I want to follow you".

ESTHER INTRODUCTION THIRD PART OF THE MAGNIFICAT

God's mercy, his love, is his center, his essence. God is love.

That is why we can live trusting and confident that he will never abandon us, because he has promised us and he always keeps his promise.

10.- Third part of the Magnificat. 1 SSJ (Estela Estorninos. English. Philippines)

Help Israel, his servant,
remembering mercy
-as he had promised to our fathers
in favor of Abraham
and his descendants forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,
now and forever,
for ever and ever.

Amen

Background music. 5' Music: Pompeii

POCHE. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.

Then, different people who are part of our great family wanted to come forward to leave us a message, a wish, an intention for this Chapter process that we are inaugurating today. A process in synodal key as it could not be otherwise, where we all walk together, with Bonifacia and Butiña, fixed our eyes on the Holy Family.

11.- Participation of the invited persons: Below the name, name, who is and country.

Lilliam introduces each one of them and introduces them:

Mariela Hija de San José, Spain.

1 project representative. Colombia

Rafa, ToS Coordinator

Luis. Family of Mother Bonifacia. Spain.

Julia from the family of Father Butiñá, Spain.

12.- Final prayer and thanks for the participation.

INTRODUCTION, FINAL PRAYER AND THANKS FOR THE PARTICIPATION.

"May God, who welcomes us to this Chapter with gratitude, grant us to come with gratitude, grant that we may come with an open spirit and a desire to see together and desire to see together how to be the heart of God for the world in this future that is emerging.

Let us enter this Chapter with confidence that the Spirit precedes and guides us. He sustains our Charism and our Mission, which will be the reference point for all our work. It lives in each one of us with whom we will share this journey. May Bonifacia and Butiñá intercede for us.

THANK YOU

We thank God for this time of sharing, to each one of you for your participation and collaboration.

MERCI BEAUCOUP THANK YOU SO MUCH! jiiii

MARIA'S INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL GREETINGS AND FAREWELL VIDEO

From the different parts of the world, we journey together. Let our prayers for each other, words and encouragement, presence and love accompany each one of us as we begin Reimagining Spaces for the Charism in Synodality, committed to the emerging reality.

From different parts of the world, we walk together. May our mutual prayers, words and encouragement, presence and love accompany each one of us we begin Reimagining Spaces for the Charism in Synodality, committed to the emerging reality.

13.- We ended with a video montage of greetings from children to adults from different parts of the world. Servants and laity, children, women, collaborators, workers, TdS, etc...

End of the opening ceremony