

General Chapter

NEWSLETTER #01

15 July, 2025

GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

The General Chapter of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) is taking place in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, from July 9 until July 31. This meeting takes place every six years and is a very important moment in the life of the Institute.

Held in an atmosphere of peace, sharing and reflection, the main objectives of the meeting are: to review the Institutes progress over the last few years and to discern the way forward. In addition the sisters will be electing the new Leadership Council that will lead the Institute in the coming years.



Sr. Coltrida Mooya, Sr. Valéria Erneio and Sr. Kathleen Kelemen



Welcome Celebration

The welcoming celebration of the General Chapter was centered on a reflection on listening, symbolized by a shell. A reference to the act of listening with depth, reverence and inner openness, not only to external sounds, but also to the murmurings of the Spirit and the call of God within each one.

Inspired by this symbol, the sisters were invited to be “women of the journey”, attentive to the breath of God, the words of life, and the signs of the times.



Sr. Margaret Fielding and Sr. Paré Moreira



Sister Margaret Fielding, Institute Leader, and Sister Maria Helena Morra, Brazil Leader, then welcomed the sisters. Maria Helena inspired the delegates to discern with courage, to be "born again" like Nicodemus, and to walk boldly along new paths.

Finally, Sister Margaret Fielding emphasized that the delegates from different parts of the world bring particular hopes, dreams and concerns, and also the hopes and dreams of those who share in our mission.

May the God of peace and consolation fill you more and more with his graces. May faith, HOPE and love grow more and more in your hearts and make you holy. Father Gailhac

The full welcome texts can be found on the website:
<https://www.rscm-rshm.org/>

"We therefore ask the Holy Spirit for an abundance of hope during this Chapter (...). Hope that encourages us to risk the new, to take the first step on the path that God is opening up for us at this moment in our history.

It is the hope that we find repeatedly in the letters of our Founder, Venerable Jean Gailhac, and which he surely wishes for us as we begin Chapter 2025. He writes: 'May the God of peace and consolation fill you more and more with his graces. May faith, HOPE and love grow more and more in your hearts and make you holy' (GS/8/VIII/79/A. Vol. II, p. 81)."



Sr. Margaret Fielding



Sr. Maria Helena Morra



Opening Ritual of Chapter 2025

During the Opening of the Chapter on Saturday 12th, the room was prepared as a Sacred Space, with symbols that evoke unity in diversity, including a Globe representing the World. The Delegates were invited to turn towards the North, South, East and West, in a movement of welcoming our sisters who come from different parts of the world.

Together, the sisters invoked the Holy Spirit with words of gratitude, hope and commitment. Inspired by indigenous cultures and the spirituality of the Four Winds, they celebrated the presence of the Spirit of God who blows in all directions of the world.

The Opening Ritual can be seen on the Institute's Youtube @RSCM-RSHM.



Sr. Ana Luísa Pinto



Sr. Aelita Otavio



Sr. Sipiwe Phiri

Following the opening ritual, the sisters then went on to a reception prepared by the Brazil Area.

First Meetings

On Sunday the 13th, the sisters had the first day of meetings which began with Mass celebrated by Father Geraldo De Mori SJ. Father recalled that the Chapter is a time to return to our roots. The day's readings invited us to translate our charism in the manner of the Good Samaritan.

The Celebration was followed by the sharing of the Leadership Report by Sisters Margaret Fielding, Paré Moreira, Ana Luísa Pinto, Sipiwe Phiri and Monica Walsh, including information sent by the Areas and Groups of the Institute. At the beginning of the presentation, the sisters cited Pope Francis' leadership as an inspiration, with the legacy of Synodality, which gives us hope.

Monday the 14th began with a prayer led by Sisters Ursula Canavan and Julia Trejo. The two sisters invited the group to invoke the Holy Spirit to guide us.

"Come, Holy Spirit of love, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love..." Sister Paré Moreira and the Institute's Finance Group then presented the financial report to the group and in the afternoon, Sister Veronica Brand also showed the JPIC/UN NGO report.



Sr. Margaret Fielding



Sr. Sipiwe Phiri



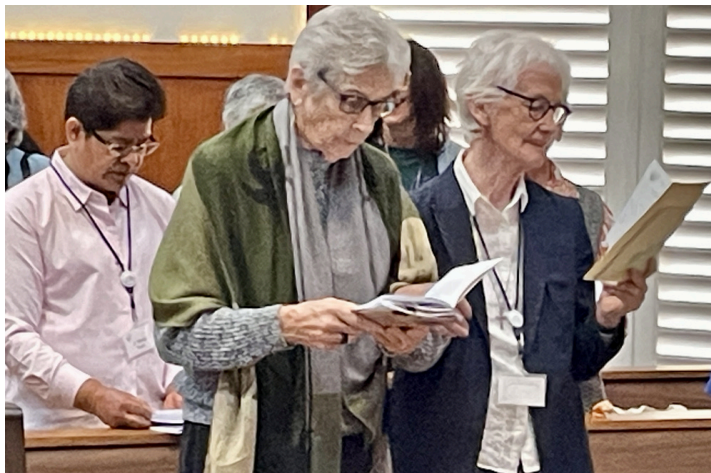
Sr. Paré Moreira



Sr. Monica Walsh



Sr. Ana Luísa Pinto



Sr. Marlena Roeger SSJ and Sr. Margaret Fielding



Sr. Maria Helena Morra, Sr. Florence Muuka and Sr. Rosemary Mwangarezano



Sr. Fidelia Espin Palacios, Sr. Madalena Manhiça and Sr. Júlia Trejo Martínez



Sr. Teresa Nogueira and Sr. Veronica Brand



Sr. Daniela De Jesus Santos, Sr. Rosita Eugenio and Sr. Previladze Gunyere



Next Transmission: July 20th

Talk with Liliana Franco, odn

Risking the New in Context of Religious Life Today

The link and timetable will be sent out in the next days





Sr. Margaret Fielding and Sr. Catherine Vincie



Sr. Rosita Eugenio, Sr. Jacinta Alberto and Sr. Joyce Rushinga



Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan, Sr. Ursula Canavan and Sr. Margret Masarakufa



Sr. Madalena Manhiça and Sr. Mary Jo Mcelroy



Sr. Catherine Patten, Sr. Terezinha Cecchin and Sr. Marie France Correau



Sr. Brid Long SLL and Sr. Valeria Erneio

Retreat guided by Sister Griselda Martinez Morales CSJ



Sr. Maria Timoney



*Sr. Rosemary Mwangarezano and
Sr. Paré Moreira*



Reception prepared by the Brazil Area



Sr. Monica Walsh, Sr. Margaret Fielding, Sr. Maria Helena Morra and Juscélio Zanini da Silva



Sr. Madalena Manhiça, Sr. Valéria Erneio, Sr. Fidelia Espin, Zonia Duenas and Sr. Rosinéia Aparecida



Sr. Mary Genino, Sr. Pará Moreira and Sr. Griselda Martinez CSJ



Sr. Teresa Nogueira, Sr. Conceição Pereira and Sr. Cidália Jesus Silva



Newsletter Credits:

Editor: Camilla Mortean

Design: Ana Possas

Reporters: Sr. Previladge Gunyere and Sr. Rosita Eugenio

Translators: Sr. Cláudia Pacheco (French) and
Zonia Duenas (Spanish)



RELIGIOUS
OF THE SACRED
HEART OF MARY