



COMMUNICATION TO THE SISTERS AND LAITY
OF SAINT ANNE FAMILY XXXI ORDINARY
GENERAL CHAPTER Zaragoza, 15 July 2025



Dear Sisters and the members of Saint Anne Family,
Today we began our XXXI Ordinary General Chapter with a prayer that challenges us: Where is the Lord leading you? After a brief moment of silence, we listened to the reflection given by Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF, who began by inviting us to reflect: What is God's dream for our Congregation at this time? He reminded us that the Congregation is the responsibility of each and every one of us, and that discernment and accompaniment are fundamental in our time. The invitation is clear: to engage in discernment in the Spirit deep that allows us to walk together, in spirit and in truth, making this journey a true synodal process. Father Mathew reminded us of the three dimensions of synodality: Communion, Mission and Participation. He encouraged us to cultivate a culture of discernment in our daily conversations and especially in Community meetings, practising conversation in the Spirit. We were invited to ask ourselves: • What the Lord is saying at this moment? • What changes do we desire?



He invited us to recognise that we are always on a journey, understanding that we are a work in progress and in continuous growth, and to live a servant leadership, discerning authority in the style of Jesus. He said, if we do not make good discernment in the light of the Spirit, our thoughts go worldly that can lead to abuse of power, and he emphasised the importance of the good of the Congregation and the way we listen to one another. The Chapter process is a message that goes beyond words: the way we live it is the first experience of this encounter. We are called to a full and integral life, even in these times of fragmentation, with a holistic vision. We must weave diversity into unity, for differences are not a threat, but threads that enrich our common fabric.

We are one in the One: the dream of the Gospel for humanity. At the conclusion of his presentation, Fr. Mathew gave us some questions to be discussed in the groups, and took leave of the Chapter Hall. We then continued in groups, reflecting and sharing on the following questions: Where do we feel that the Spirit is inviting us today as a Congregation: to remain, to move forward, or to let go? What do we need to leave behind—in mentalities, structures, or practices—so that our charism speaks with prophetic power to today's world? How can we live synodality not only in texts but in our daily relationships, in leadership, and in shared mission? What kind of leadership do we deeply desire, and how are we preparing ourselves—personally and communally—to embody it? After listening to each sister in the group, the reflections were shared in the Chapter hall and the session was adjourned for a short break.



In the afternoon, we resumed the day with prayer to Mary. We recalled that the first word God spoke to Mary was, 'Rejoice,' and she responded with a blessed 'Yes,' without knowing where it would lead her; she is the Lady of Joy. This was followed by the presentation of the Our Lady of Salz Delegation, reminding us that we are called to live the joy of the Gospel. We sincerely thank all the Sisters for their generous dedication and tireless work on behalf of the most disadvantaged in our African land. May the Spirit continue to guide our steps. With love and affection, The Chapter Sisters.

