

**Day 5 Communication**  
**36<sup>th</sup> SSS General Chapter**  
**Thu Duc, 10 November 2023**

**Together, we listened...**

The fifth day opened with a reflection from Fr Anaclet Bambala regarding the importance of attentive listening in encouraging togetherness in our Eucharistic mission.

And attentively listening, the assembly exactly did. The reporting of each Provincial/Regional Superiors continued with Fr Jean de Dieu Passy of the Region of Cardinal Emile Biayenda, concluding the African Conference. Then three European Provinces followed with their reports (Fr Eugene van Heijst of the Province of St Peter Julian Eymard, Fr Gabriele Di Nicolo of the Province of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Fr Darren Maslen of Province of Sts. Peter and Paul), underlining their efforts in collaborating with the lay people in the mission and leadership in the Congregation, and their cooperation with Asian and African SSS religious in their local missions. Fr Ghislain Cossette of the Province of St John the Baptist, Fr John Thomas Lane of the St Ann Province, Fr Marcelo Da Silva and Fr Francisco Junior Marques of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fr Carlos José Sierra and Fr Elibien Joseph of the Province of St John XXIII, representing the American Conference, painted a picture of the American reality with a wide spectrum of experience in living out our charism in these countries who boast of strong presence of Catholic faithful.

In the afternoon, the assembly listened with rapt attention to the intricacies of the financial situation of the General Curia and then the whole Congregation, reported by Fr Philip Benzy Romician. Notable in his report are the Curia's investment management, the funds for formation and mission, the challenges of the COVID, and the predicted financial trend of the whole Congregation and the individual Provinces and Regions. He ended his report with a quote from the late Fr Sebastiao Machado that is worth listening to:

*"The Economy of Communion is based on the fact that we are all brothers. It is a help and support for human relationships and at the same time must be the result and consequences of our special choice of lifestyle. The goal of the Economy of Communion is the growth of brotherly care and the protection of dialogue."*

**Fr Vergel Dalangin SSS**