

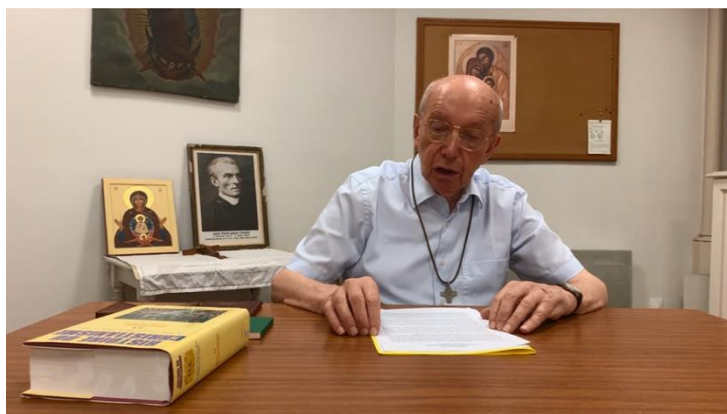
Day 8 Communication
36th SSS General Chapter
Thu Duc, 13 November 2023

Together, we prayed...

The eighth day, the Recollection day opened with the Assembly gathered to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.



At the Chapter hall, the assembly watched the video of religious sharing about the Rule of Life, in the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its approval, on 2024:



Fr André Guitton shared noteworthy historical aspects of our ROL which he personally witnessed, ending with a final reference to our Father Founder. At the end of his Retreat at Saint-Maurice in 1868, which is both his Magnificat and his Nunc dimittis, he notes his resolutions: “Make adoration the pivot of my life. To prepare my adoration as one prepares a meal or a solemn discourse. The soul of my adoration: the gift of my own self; the virtue that honours his Eucharistic abasements.”

Fr Anthony McSweeney focused his reflection on the theme of conversion using four different lenses: “conversion of the mind or intellectual conversion, of our behaviour or moral conversion, as well as psychic and religious conversion.” “The dramas occasioned by the drafting of the new Rule are long past. The ongoing challenge for us today is that of faithful adherence to it and creative adaptation of our ministry in response to the signs of the times. For us SSS the challenge will be less about the Eucharist itself as about those who celebrate – both priests and the gathered people of God.” For Fr Anthony, we can only truly respond to the signs of the times through personal and communal commitment to discernment and conversion.



Fr Abraham Faye reflected how the Rule of Life number 102 became a guide and a prayer, the reference and the goal of his religious life, especially useful when he became the novice master of the African Conference. For him, ROL 102 points to the Gift of self that demands liberality and communion in love, and that finds its mission in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Arokia Sebastian Peter focused on the three “S”, Spirit, Sacraments and Service. Fr Sebastian emphasized that “it is only when we are open to the summons of the Spirit, we can pay attention to the needs of the human family and make our communities places of prayer, reconciliation and service.” With the Sacraments at the center of our apostolic life, he underlined the primacy of service to communities, parishes, priests, our brothers and sisters.



Fr Camille Gagnon shared a profoundly personal experience with the Rule of Life, from its conception to its different evolutions, to its approbation, to its role as reference to the life of every SSS until the present time. The challenge of living it out today still entails recalling the experience of Fr Eymard’s first intuitions when he promoted the first communion of the poor children of Paris.

The afternoon is spent in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and in group sharing on the six reflections that morning.

Fr Vergel Dalangin SSS