



XVI Synodus Generalis

Gratia | Prophetia | Spes
Ad Missionem Renovandam



XVI GENERAL SYNOD

September 18-19 2022



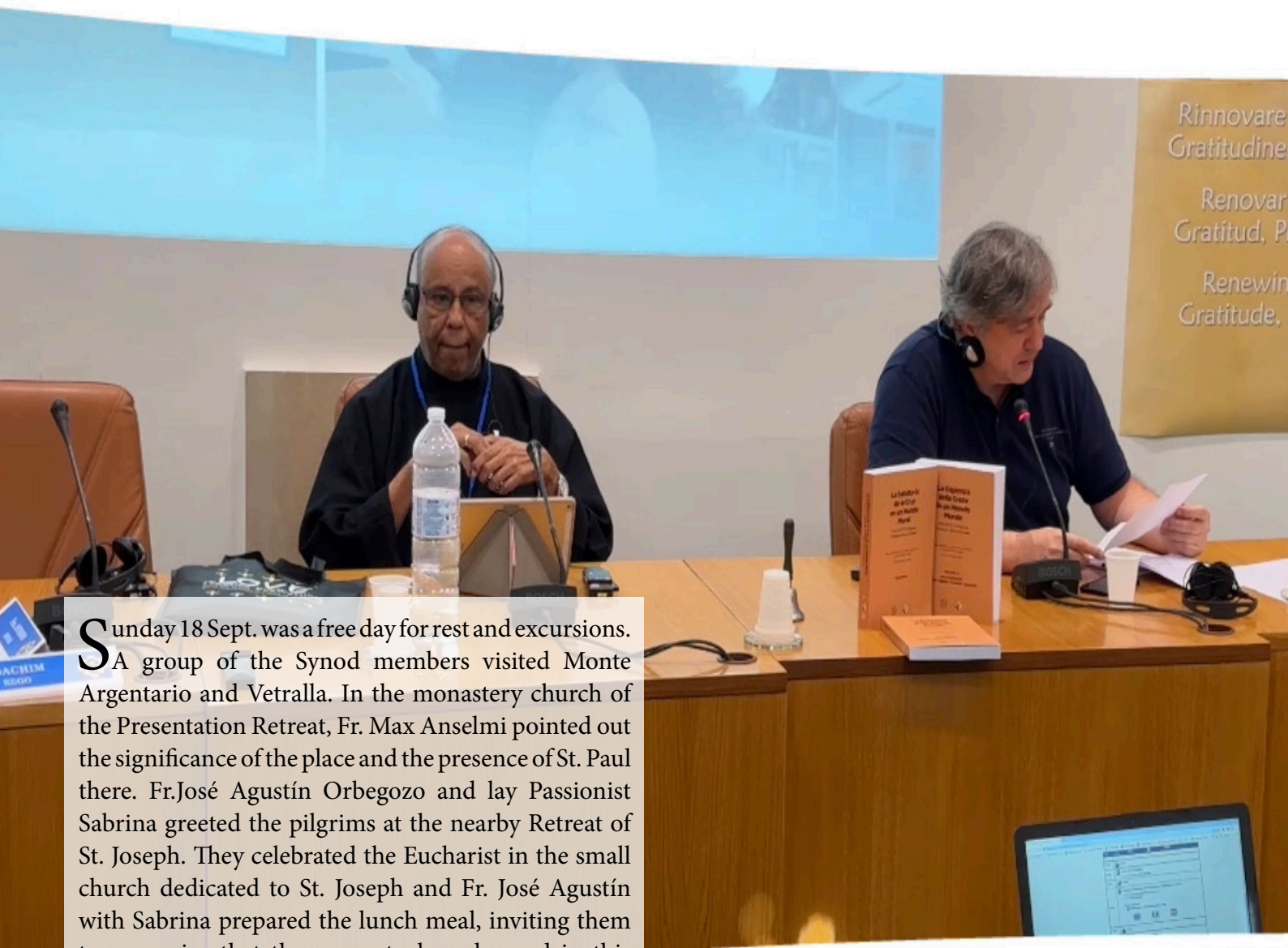
ANNE MARIE O'CONNOR

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CHRONICLE DAY 8-9 SEPTEMBER 18-19 19 SEPTEMBER 2022



Sunday 18 Sept. was a free day for rest and excursions. A group of the Synod members visited Monte Argentario and Vetralla. In the monastery church of the Presentation Retreat, Fr. Max Anselmi pointed out the significance of the place and the presence of St. Paul there. Fr. José Agustín Orbegozo and lay Passionist Sabrina greeted the pilgrims at the nearby Retreat of St. Joseph. They celebrated the Eucharist in the small church dedicated to St. Joseph and Fr. José Agustín with Sabrina prepared the lunch meal, inviting them to recognize that they were truly welcomed in this “mother” house of the first novitiate, like grain that continues to germinate. There was time to visit the small cells, contemplate the sea and experience the life of the first Passionists in his historical and greatly treasured place.

In the afternoon we visited the monastery of the Sant’Angelo in Vetralla. Fr. Gino Gianfrancesco and Fr. Adolfo Lippi were excellent tour guides for the lovingly preserved historical artifacts: the Founder’s cell, the refectory, kitchen, choir, and utensils of that

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time associated with St. Paul of the Cross and his brother, John Baptist and other venerable Passionists. The fraternal welcome of the religious who live in these places today are signs of how they live their charism among us and how their seed continues to germinate.

On Monday, at 9:00 AM, after the celebration of the Eucharist in linguistic groups, the work in the Aula began. In the first part of the morning session, moderated by Fr. Miroslaw Lesiecki, two presentations were made. Fr. Łukasz Andrzejewski, Provincial of ASSUM, described the special situation of the Passionists in Ukraine due to the war. Fr. Łukasz insisted that when the war broke out, he contacted the religious present in the country and asked them if they wished to leave because of the danger they were exposed to. They expressed their desire to remain close to those who are suffering. From the community and the house of Mercy they offer hospitality and help especially to the most vulnerable, children, youth, and the elderly. Fr. Łukasz acknowledged that their help has been possible thanks to the generosity and concern of others. They continue to work and hope that they will continue to receive aid also when the conflict ends to continue to serve in the reconstruction.

Fr. Francis Totsuka Yamauchi, Provincial of the MAIAP Province (Japan) presented his desire to establish a network of WORLD PASSIONIST SPIRITUALITY by putting people, entities and resources in contact with each other in order to share and help concrete people. He was thinking that this could be useful especially in this globalized world with so many migrants. The members of the Assembly appreciated the information

and proposals, pointing out above all the witness of the Passionist charism of concrete service in situations of need. The Synod was asked to make a statement of concern and support of the Passionist confreres in Ukraine. The morning session was shortened because there was interest in viewing the broadcast of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

The afternoon's work began with a meeting (via telematics) with the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PASSIONISTS INTERNATIONAL, Anne Marie O'Connor. She presented her work and the purpose of this entity's presence at the UN. She stressed the importance of communication to bring to this forum the realities of poverty and injustice, along with any projects, from the places where the Congregation is present. She insisted that it is a commitment that springs from the reality of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) grafted into the Passionist charism. She requested more communication and attentiveness. It was suggested that based on her presence she could send information for formation in this area. The presence of two Passionist religious in Haiti at this time was recalled.

The second part of the afternoon session was dedicated to offering some more information in order to conclude the work of the Synod.

Fr. Martin Coffey, Executive Secretary of the General Office for Formation led the evening prayer.







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