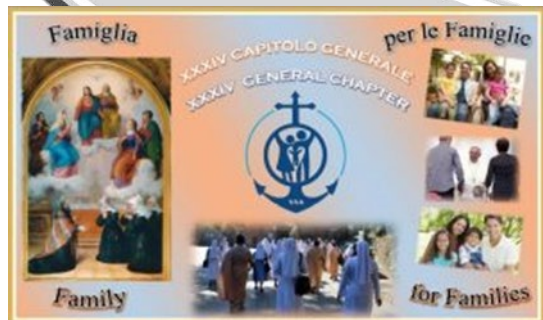


Via Memoriae



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



“Via Memoriae”

Dearest Sisters, we are about to experience a moment that we called: *Via Memoriae* because we wish to recall the path on which God has led us, from the celebration of the XXXIV General Chapter until today.

➤ 1st PHASE:

The General Chapter, which was held from 8th to 25th, September, 2021, was a unique experience: long-awaited and so intense.

We practically prayed for more than two years for that “*great event*,” which was postponed for several times due to the pandemic.

The Chapter was preceded, during the year, by preparatory pre-capitular meetings organized on an online platform. In the month of August, with the arrival of the various groups of Capitulars, a quarantine had to be followed, which made the days proper to the celebration of the Chapter shorter and more intense. Various necessary, prudential precautions (social distancing, masks, etc.) had to be utilized and respected with a sense of responsibility, in order to cope with the pandemic situation in which we are still immersed.

Neither the quarantine nor the prudential measures curbed the experience of fraternity and family spirit which we experienced during the Chapter.

➤ **Introduction to the Video:** This video prepared at the end of the Chapter, gives us a glimpse of the atmosphere of fraternity, joy, and the grace of God that had guided us and continues to guide us. In it, we will be able to see:

- ✓ First to arrive at the Generalate were, the Sisters from Latin America, for their time of quarantine, and then to be available to help the subsequent groups;
- ✓ Brother Paul Raji was the facilitator, during the preparation and the execution of the Chapter;

- ✓ Mother Pierina Scarmignan OFMI, helped us during the spiritual preparation for the General Chapter and in the preparation for the discernment in view of the elections;
- ✓ Fr. Nava, then Under-Secretary of DIVCSVA, presided over a Eucharistic Celebration in which the official copy of the Constitutions was distributed;
- ✓ For the first time, the Laity took part in the General Chapter, via Zoom. During the meeting, a representative from each Province/Delegation was able to speak up, expressing what today's families expect from the Sisters of St. Ann, and their dream as a LASA Group
- ✓ Our dearest Sr. Sonia Laredo, the Delegate Superior of Peru, Sr. Nenet Pula who worked in the general secretariat for several years and was undergoing treatment for cancer at the time of the Chapter, our dearest friend Fr. Antonio Pitta, a biblical scholar and a preacher, and our beloved Pope Francis, are now in the presence of God and we are certain that from there they intercede for us, so that we can continue our pilgrimage with faithfulness.

➤ **Display of the Video: “Noi Famiglia di Dio”**

Let us continue our journey towards the 2nd phase, singing: *In famiglia si sta*

Braccia aperte incontro a chi viene, braccia tese verso chi da solo se ne va. Rialzano e sostengono chi cade e chi sale.

In famiglia è così che si fa.

In famiglia si sta l'uno per l'altro, in famiglia si dà senza però.

L'abbraccio poi s'allarga e va, e va al di là di noi.

In famiglia il mondo intero ci sta.

Braccia forti per incoraggiare, braccia che ti accolgono così come tu sei. Consolano e proteggono chi ha spine nel suo cuore.

In famiglia è così che si fa.

In famiglia si sta l'uno per l'altro, in famiglia si dà senza però.

L'abbraccio poi s'allarga e va, e va al di là di noi.

In famiglia il mondo intero ci sta.

- **2nd PHASE: *Sisters of St. Ann, a Family for families - Journeying with the Church, bringing Hope and Joy to the world today***



The Final Document, fruit of the labour of the capitulars, simple and relevant for today, since it responds to the appeals of the Church and the signs of the present times, was drawn up in the form of a project, “ready” to be lived!

It is structured into five priorities:

- ✓ Priority 1: *Drawing Light from a Family*
- ✓ Priority 2: *The Joy of Living Together as Family*
- ✓ Priority 3: *Rooted in a Family: Charismatic Family LASA*
- ✓ Priority 4: *Sisters of St. Ann – A Family for Families*
- ✓ Priority 5: *Sisters of St. Ann, Family for the World Family: Care for the Common Home*

The General Council, considering the different "timings" with which the scholastic-social-pastoral year begins in each area where we are present, deemed it more effective for each Province/Delegation to provide the guidelines for the Annual Project of Life of its own Province/Delegation, at the most appropriate time. This would not have compromised unity since the Project of each reality would have been thought of starting from the Document of the General Chapter and that of the local Chapter, within the greater Project of the Congregation and of the Church.

- Let us continue our journey, singing: ***Thank you Lord***

*Thank you Lord, for all you've done. Things both great and small.
and for Jesus Christ your Son Thank you most of all.*

1. You have brought us out of darkness, to the kingdom of your Son in whom all things hold together by whose cross we are made one.
2. Lord we thank you for your Spirit whom you send to us to stay, for he helps us in our weakness when we know not how to pray.

➤ 3rd PHASE:

While the Capitulars were returning to their own Province/Delegation, the representatives of the people of God from all over the world were converging towards Rome: **The Church has been convened for a Synod and we are within this path!** We had affirmed that we wanted to proceed "on a path with the Church" The theme was the same synodality: "**For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission**". The word synodality does not indicate a series of meetings or a governing structure.

Synodality is the very essence of the Church. Let us recall two special events:

- Vatican City, 9th October 2021: A moment of reflection at the opening of the synodal process
- Basilica di San Pietro, 10th October 2021: Holy Mass for the Opening of the Synodal Process

Here is the journey that, we travelled united to the Church, 2022:

Path journeyed in the year 2022:

1. **there is no SYNOD without EXODUS!**
2. **there is no SYNOD without DISCERNMENT.**
3. **there is no SYNOD without COMMUNION.**
4. **there is no SYNOD without MISSION.**
5. **there is no SYNOD without PARTICIPATION.**



Let us proceed towards the 4th phase, singing: ***Juntos como Hermanos***

*Juntos como hermanos miembros de una iglesia vamos caminando
al encuentro del señor.*

1. Unidos al rezar unidos en una canción, viviremos nuestra fe, con ayuda el señor.
2. La iglesia en marcha está, a un mundo nuevo vamos ya, donde reinará el amor, donde reinará la paz.

➤ 4th PHASE:

The Synodal Document for the Continental Stage was published on 27th October, 2022: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”.

Through the Church, the Lord with His loving kindness has shown us, the path to follow during the year 2023! In fact, the inspiring passage of this Continental stage providentially coincided with the one chosen for the introduction to the 3rd Priority of the last General Chapter:



***“Enlarge the space of your tent,
stretch out your hangings,
lengthen your ropes,
and strengthen your stakes”***

(Is 54:2).

The invitation to **"enlarge the space of the tent"** has accompanied us in various ways, throughout the year 2023. Let us retrace them together:

- ✓ Enlarge the space of one's own tent, like Maria who set out and went with haste (cfr. Lk 1:39).
- ✓ Enlarge the Space and without reserve let the young feel the Fatherhood of God.
- ✓ Enlarge the space our tent and passionately partake in the Ecclesial-Synodal mission.

In communion with the Church, while the synodal process was moving forward, another very important event, like a beacon, indicated us the next stage of the journey.

Pope Francis desired that the Jubilee of 2025 would favour a sense of renewed hope and trust. He therefore chose the theme **"Pilgrims of Hope"** and asked that the year 2024 be a great **‘symphony’ of prayer**, in preparation for the Jubilee Event.

We fully adhered to it, not by chance, also because in the 34th Chapter we had committed ourselves: ***“to journey with the Church, bringing Hope and Joy to the world today”***.

We were moved, to experience the harmony between the expectations of the Chapter and the indications of the Holy Father's! It was clear how to proceed:

**“Let us raise our tent,
like pilgrims of hope,
sustained by prayer”.**

And we joined the people of God, called to deepen the prayer of the **Our Father**.

While we proceed towards the 5th phase, let us reread as prayer invocations, the themes we have reflected on, and between one and the other, let us pray the Our Father in different languages:

- ✓ Like Pilgrims of hope, let us ask that His name be hallowed and His kingdom come. *Padre nostro...*
- ✓ Like Pilgrims of hope, let us invoke: « Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven ». *Our Father...*
- ✓ Like Pilgrims of hope, we pray to You: « Give us this day our daily bread ». *Padre nuestro...*
- ✓ Like Pilgrims of hope, we plead You: « Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. ». *Pai nosso...*
- ✓ Like Pilgrims of hope, we implore You: « Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ». *Pater noster...*

➤ **5th PHASE:**

We entered into the Jubilee year: *Journeying with the Church, we bring hope and joy to the world today ...* because we know that hope does not disappoint.



For the year 2025, the General Council offered a special Formative Journey for the Jubilee Year, based on the liturgical time, and the ecclesial and congregational events, illuminated by the articles of our constitutions which speak of hope.

Song: Jubilee Hymn: Fiamma viva

Let us read, in different languages, the articles from our Constitutions, that have accompanied us, on our Jubilee journey. After each article we sing the refrain of the Hymn.

C 27. Rooted in Hope

We daily find our strength in hope, because we know that God fulfils every promise. This hope springs from our confidence in God and it is the source of our steadfast joy and authentic charity.

C 107 Personal Prayer

For us “*to pray is to hope*”, knowing that without God, we can do nothing, but we can do everything in Him who strengthens us.

Every day we give a privileged place for personal prayer, as time for silent colloquy with Him, who works in us and revives our hope.

C 32 Witnesses of Hope

Where situations, circumstances and events seem to favour a culture of death, with a limpid and courageous gaze of faith, we will do our utmost to give a future of hope.

We dedicate ourselves in favour of those who live in situations of injustice

and help those struck by misfortune, emptiness and sadness, to discover the presence and plan of God in which alone lies their true happiness.

C 100 *In spe* [*In Hope*]

“*God does not want to lose the work of His hands*”. The certainty of His Merciful Love renews us daily in hope.

In it we find the strength to face the trials of life as opportunities that unite us to the cross of the Son. Sustained by Him alone and not by our efforts,

we go ahead joyfully in hope.

C 102 In Loving Service

The love of Christ motivates our unconditional service to our brothers and sisters to transform the tears of desperation into the sweet tears of hope. A solid spirituality of action renders our love towards others even more perfect and orients the ecclesial significance of our mission.

Let us conclude with the Song: *Tutti nella Speranza*, preparing our minds and our hearts to proceed on our journey, “strong in Hope and gifting love” in the ways that He will indicate to us.