



International Treasurers' Meeting

Six years after the first ITM, the second International Treasurers' Meeting of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing was held in Casa Santo Spirito, our Generalate House in Rome. There were 24 participants from all the priories (four of them Prioresses) and the Generalate District. The meeting was guided by the theme: Benedictine Stewardship – A Response to the Challenges of the Time A Transformative Look on our financial accountability. Mother Angela Strobel, OSB, in her opening address, brought us to the heart of the matter.

This second ITM had three goals:

First Goal: To deepen the understanding and appreciation of the role of the treasurer in a Benedictine community.

Second Goal: To come up with a new way of financial reporting to the Generalate that can help to report to the General Chapter.

Third Goal: To develop a system of cooperation and collaboration between the treasurers of the Priors / Generalate District Houses and the Generalate.

There were two invited speakers. First, Sr. Bernadette Potter, RSCJ, general treasurer of the Religious of the Sacred Heart who talked on the topic "Stewardship and Poverty in a Fragile Financial World." Her thoughts and ideas guided the participants in their group discussions that same day and the following days. Second, Dr. Marco Cotogni, the financial adviser of Sr. Kunigundis Amon, OSB, led the participants in a detailed explanation of the items in the General Information Sheet which they had to accomplish before coming to the meeting. He also gave a very comprehensive worldwide economic update and its impact on the investments of the congregation.

Sr. Kunigundis, our General Treasurer, informed the participants about the things that transpired since the ITM 2005. The General Chapter 2006 had decided to form a *General Financial Advisory Committee* composed of Sr. Maria Ignatius Glaser, Sr. Caridad Choi and Sr. Rosa Maria Kaminsky. They assisted Sr. Kunigundis in reviewing and analyzing the annual financial statements of the priories and Generalate District Houses.

Sr. Maria Ignatius Glaser, OSB, a member of the GFAC, reported in detail about their work. Although they made great effort and spent much time in interpreting and analyzing the annual financial reports sent to the Generalate. She expressed her regrets that this feedback could not even be given to those who sent the reports.

All the sessions of the five-day meeting were spent to address each of the goals. A day was spent for a business meeting to discuss the issues that were earlier suggested to Sr. Kunigundis. At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed to submit to the Generalate the following:

- . BALANCE SHEET
- . STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES and
- . ACCOMPLISHED ITM QUESTIONNAIRE

All treasurers will have to submit, if possible, with consolidated data until 31 July 2012, so that the General Treasurer has enough time to prepare her comprehensive report to the General Chapter. On the last day, the group came up with two proposals to the General Chapter.

The meeting was officially closed by Mother Angela and followed by a closing liturgy prepared by our Korean Sisters.

Sr. Ana Maria Raca, OSB



Mother Angela and delegates of International Treasurers' Meeting 2011