

**Secretariat of the General Chapter
of the Congregation of Marian Fathers**

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The Thursday Mass was presided over by Fr. Andrus Sidlauskas assisted by Frs. K. Pek and R. Zalewski. In his homily, Fr. Sidlauskas spoke about the role of undue suffering in the religious life.

Friday's Mass was celebrated according to the formulary for the atonement of sins. Father Leszek Czełusniak was the principal celebrant. He was assisted by Frs. K. Pazio and J. Migacz. In his homily, Fr. Czełusniak spoke about the imitation of Christ through participation in the mystery of Christ's cross.

In the last two days, the Chapter members worked on the proposals presented by the Committee on the Apostolate and New Evangelization, and the Committee on Administration and Finance. After deliberating and voting on the proposals, the Chapter discussed matters brought once again for its consideration. The question of the Marian garb was one of them.

As I informed you in a previous bulletin, the motion to change our Congregation's status to a habit-wearing community was discussed by the Committee on Charism and Religious Life, as well as in plenary sessions. The required majority was not obtained in the balloting, which had been previously postponed because of the seriousness of this issue. Almost immediately afterwards, the Chapter was informed that another motion regarding paragraph 15 of the Marian Constitutions was submitted to the Committee on Charism and Religious Life. Eventually, the Chapter decided yesterday to keep the non-habit-wearing status of the Congregation, while allowing the religious brothers to wear ecclesiastical garb. Of course, this change requires the approval of the Holy See.

Fr. Piotr Kieniewicz, MIC
Secretary to the General Chapter