

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

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Last night the General Chapter participants began their day of recollection with the prayer to the Holy Spirit and Eucharistic Adoration. Practically all Chapter members – the ex-officio and elected ones – are already here, except for Fr. Kazimierz Chwałek, whose arrival was delayed by snow storms in the U.S. He came Saturday morning.

The day of recollection was conducted in Polish and English by Fr. Professor Wojciech Giertych, OP, STD, Theologian of the Papal Household. In his conferences he spoke, among other things, about God's plan, which is at the base of every vocation, because God loves mankind and wants to have them as His children. This plan of adopting us as His children is preceding the creation, sin, and work of redemption. God's desire to save mankind results out of this primal love. Father Professor also pointed out that, as a community, we must be open to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit and ready for surprises prepared for us by the Lord.

In his homily delivered at the Eucharist, Fr. Wojciech indicated, in connection with today's Gospel, that relaxation is an important part of life, but that it needs to be orderly and planned. It is important to learn how to relax because relaxation is not about spending time mindlessly. Referring to the General Chapter, which is about to start, he said that it is a function that should be celebrated – in both senses of the word – as a kind of liturgy and also as a community's feast.

Sunday will be a day off, allowing the Chapter participants to familiarize themselves with the reports and results of the recent survey.

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Secretariat of the General Chapter