



Gonzaga **Pathivugal**



NL - 01 | January - March | 2025

FSAG Generalate, Puducherry

Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga (FSAG), #6, St. Ange Street, Puducherry - 605 001. (For Private Circulation Only)



ST. JOSEPH
PRAY FOR US

The voice of the heart.....

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."— Isaiah 43:18-19*



Dear members of the Gonzaga family,

I am truly happy to greet you through this message. We have just completed our 31st General Chapter, which is the principal sign of our Congregation's growth and unity. It is the fraternal meeting in which we, the Gonzagaitees, are called to remain faithful to the Gospel and to our charism, while being sensitive to the needs of the time and place. With joy and gratitude, I want to thank everyone for making our Chapter a historical event and for electing a new leadership team.

The growth of the Gonzaga family is a sign of the fruitfulness of our charism. As we step into our 250th Jubilee year, it is inspiring to see that every member of this family is walking in the path of sanctity. As a continuation of our Chapter, now as a congregation and as members of the Gonzaga family, how are we going to move forward? Let us build hope through institutional and individual decisions that will allow our founder, Servant of God Michael Ansaldo's dream, to continue. Each one of us is called to be a dream of our founder.

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."— Warren Bennis

The newly elected leaders will play a crucial role in shaping the congregation's mission, focusing on evangelization, education, and social apostolate. Over the years, our mission across the world has expanded, continuing our founder's zeal and commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving the people in need, based on the leadership model of Jesus, our Master. His leadership is characterized by service, compassion, and truth. He is a servant leader in every situation of His life and mission. He gave Himself in order to give life to His sheep.

As we are in the month of March, we also have the model of St. Joseph. His leadership is based on love, humility, and obedience to God's will. On the other hand, we have Mother Mary, who is the example of self-denial. We are also called to follow the footprints of our founder, Servant of God Michael Ansaldo, who exemplifies humility, hard work, a focus on the mission, persistence, and simplicity. Our religious journey in the Gonzaga family is molded by the dedication, prayer, and sweat of our ancestors.

"If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together."— African Proverb

Let's all hold hands together with one mind and march forward to achieve sanctity and perfection. We, the newly elected members, assure you that we will strive hard to make our founder's dream a reality through fraternal love and familial spirit.

"We have promises to keep and we have miles to go before we sleep.

We have miles to go before we sleep."— Robert Frost

Gonzaga Daughter in Fellowship with Francis of Assisi

Mother. M. Thressa Gnanamani, FSAG

“இதோ புதுச்செயல் ஒன்றை நான் செய்கிறேன் இப்பொழுதே தோன்றிவிட்டது நீ அதை கூர்ந்து கவனிக்கவில்லையா? பாலைநிலத்தில் நான் பாதை ஒன்று அமைப்பேன் பாழ்வெளியில் நீரோடைகள் தோன்றச் செய்வேன்.” எசா: 43:18-19

கொன்சாகா பெருங்குடும்பத்தின் பாசமுள்ள அன்னையர்களே, அருட்சகோதரிகளே!

இவ்வாண்டின் முதல் செய்திமலர் வழியாக உங்களைச் சந்திப்பதில் நான் மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன்.

நமது சபையின் வளர்ச்சிக்கும், ஒற்றுமைக்கும் அடையாளமான சபையின் 31-வது பொதுப் பேரவையை நிறைவு செய்திருக்கின்றோம். திருமறைக்கும், நமது சபையின் தனிவரத்திற்கும் உண்மையுள்ளவர்களாக வாழவும், நாம் வாழும் இக்காலக்கட்டம் விடுக்கும் அழைப்பு மற்றும் தேவைகள் எழுப்பும் சவால்கள் - இவற்றை நிறைவு செய்பவர்களாக நாம் வாழ அழைப்பு விடுக்கும் சகோதரத்துவ கூடுகையே நாம் கடந்து வந்த பொதுப்பேரவை. இத்தகைய மேன்மை மிகு பேரவையை, வரலாற்றுச் சிறப்புமிக்க நிகழ்வாக மாற்றி, நம் சபைக்கு புதிய நிர்வாகக் குழுவின்ரை தேர்ந்தெடுத்து சபையின் வளர்ச்சிக்கான தீர்மானங்களையும் பரிந்துரைகளையும் வழங்கிய பேராளர்களுக்கும், இதற்கு பாதை அமைத்தளித்த உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் நெஞ்சத்தின் ஆழத்திலிருந்து நன்றி கூறுகின்றேன்.

பொதுப்பேரவையின் தொடர்ச்சியாக, சபையாக இணைந்து, கொன்சாகா குடும்பத்தின் உறுப்பினராக நாம் எவ்வாறு முன்னோக்கிப் பயணிக்கப் போகிறோம்? சபையாக, தனி மனிதராக நாம் எடுக்கும் முடிவுகளின் வழியாக தன்னம்பிக்கையைக் கட்டி எழுப்பி நமது நிறுவனர் இறை ஊழியர் மைக்கில் அன்சால்தோவின் கனவு தொடர்ந்து செயலாக்கம் பெற இணைந்து உழைப்போம். நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் நமது நிறுவனரின் கனவை நனவாக்குபவர்களாக வாழ அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம் என்பதை ஒருபோதும் மறவாமல் வாழ்வோம்.

தொலைநோக்கு சிந்தனைகளை உயிரோட்டமுள்ள நிகழ்காலமாக மாற்றும் திறனே தலைமைத்துவம். புதியதாக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள நிர்வாகக் குழுவின்ரோடு இணைந்து, நம்மிடம் ஒப்படைக்கப்பட்ட பணியை நிறைவுசெய்வதில் முழுமையாக செயல்பட்டு, நற்செய்திப்பணி, கல்விப்பணி, சமூகப்பணி, சமூக மாற்றுப்பணி மற்றும் நலவாழ்வுப்பணி ஆகிய நமது பணிகளை இன்னும் ஆழப்படுத்தி அர்த்தமுள்ளதாக மாற்றி அர்ப்பண உணர்வோடு செயல்படுவோம். ஒவ்வொரு காலக்கட்டத்திலும் பல்வேறு தலைமையின் கீழ் நமது சபை தனது பணிகளை உலகெங்கும் விரிவடையச்செய்துள்ளது என்பதை நன்றியுடன் நினைவு கூர்வதோடு இன்றும் நமது நிறுவனரின் உள்ளுயிரையும் தனிவரத்தையும் தன்னகத்தேக் கொண்டு நமது தலைவர் இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் தலைமையத்துவத்தைப் பின்பற்றி நற்செய்தி அறிவிப்புப் பணியுடன் மக்களுக்கு வாழ்வு அளிக்கும் அருட்பணிகளை சிறப்பாகச் செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை எண்ணி களிப்புறுவோம். இயேசுவின் தலைமையத்துவம் இரக்கத்தையும், உண்மையையும் மனித நேயப் பண்புகளையும் உள்ளடக்கியது. பிறருக்குப் பணி செய்வதே இயேசுவின் தலைமையத்துவத்தின் அணுகுமுறை. தன்னையே அன்பாலும், தியாகத்தாலும் பிறருக்காக அர்ப்பணித்த இயேசுவின் தலைமைத்துவம் வாழ்வாக்கப்பட நாம் அனைவரும் ஒரே மனநிலையுடன் ஒன்றிணைந்து பயணிப்போம்.

தலைமையத்துவத்தைப் பற்றி சிந்திக்கும் நாம் மார்க் மாதத்தின் சிறப்பு புனிதர் யோசேப்பை கண்முன் கொண்டு வந்து அவரின் தலைமையத்துவத்தையும் முன்மாதிரியாகக் கொள்வோம். தாழ்ச்சியும், அன்பும், இறை விருப்பத்திற்கு கீழ்ப்படியும் பண்புமே இவரின் தலைமையத்துவம். அதேபோல், தன்னையே ஒறுத்த தூய்மையான நிலையே அன்னை மரியாளின் தலைமையத்துவம். பணிக்கூர்மையும், கடின உழைப்பும், விடாமுயற்சியும், தாழ்ச்சியும், எளிமையும் கொண்டது நமது நிறுவனர் இறை ஊழியர் மைக்கில் அன்சால்தோவின் தலைமையத்துவம் இவைகளையெல்லாம் மனதிலிருத்தி உயிருள்ள எடுத்துக்காட்டுகளாய் இன்றும் நம் மத்தியில் சாட்சிகளாய் விளங்கும் நம் மூத்த அன்னையர்களின் தலைமையத்துவப் பண்புகளான அர்ப்பணிப்பும், தியாகமும், பராபட்சமின்மையும், சமத்துவமும் அவர்களின் கடின உழைப்பும், வியர்வை துளிகளும் நமது துறவற வாழ்வில் நம்மை உருவாக்கி, இன்றும் நாம் தொடர்ந்து இலக்கு நோக்கிப் பயணிக்க, நமது பணிகளைச் செய்ய நம்மை உந்தித் தள்ளிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது.

“நீ வேகமாகப் போக வேண்டும் என்றால், தனியாகப் போ:

நீ வெகு தூரம் போக வேண்டும் என்றால், இணைந்து போ,”

என்ற ஆப்பிரிக்க பழமொழியை நம் சிந்தியிலிருத்தி, நமது கரங்களை இணைத்து ஒரே மனநிலையோடு நிறைவையும், புனிதத்தையும் நோக்கிய நமது பயணத்தை மகிழ்வாய் தொடர்வோம். புதிய நிர்வாகக் குழுவின்ர சகோதரத்துவ அன்புடனும், கொன்சாகா என்ற குடும்ப உணர்வுடனும் சபையின் வளர்ச்சிக்காகவும், நமது நிறுவனரின் கனவுகளை நனவாக்கவும் கடினமாய் உழைப்போம் என உறுதி அளிக்கிறேன்.

-இராபர்ட் பிராஸ்டின் கூற்றுப்படி “நாம் உறங்குவதற்கு முன் கடக்க வேண்டிய மைல்கள் உள்ளன” என்பதை கருத்தில் கொண்டு என்றும் நம் கரம் பற்றி வழிநடத்தும் இறைவன் துணையோடு, நமது நீண்ட நெடிய பயணத்தில் இணைந்து, துணிந்து பயணிப்போம். இறைவனின் ஆசீர் நம் ஒவ்வொருவருடன் என்றும் தங்கட்டும்.

புனித அசிசியின் தோழமையில் கொன்சாகாவின் புதல்வி,



மதர். மோ. திரேசா ஞானமணி.

Dear Sisters,

We are pleased to announce the names of our office bearers. For any questions or clarifications, please reach out to them using the contact details below:

S.NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	MOBILE. NO	EMAIL .ID
01	Mother. M. Thressa Gnanamani	Superior General	9843335431	fsaggonzaga@gmail.com
02.	Rev. Sr. P. Mariamma	Asst Superior General	9047235431	pasalamaria5@gmail.com
03.	Rev. Sr.K. Revathi	General Educational Coordinator	8124135431	kalvifsag@gmail.com
04.	Rev. Sr.A. Jebamalai Mary	General Evangelization Coordinator	8489435431	arojeba1989@gmail.com
05.	Rev. Sr.S. Pappathi	General Social work, Social action & Health care Coordinator	9751535431	ansalcare250@gmail.com
06.	Rev. Sr.A. Pauline Sagaya Rani	Procurator General	9843735431	fsagprocurator@gmail.com
07	Rev. Sr.J. Shalini Shailaja	Secretary General	9787635431	fsaggonzaga@gmail.com

REPARATORY MEETINGS ON MINISTRIES

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” – Matthew 28:19

This mission call was the foundation for the preparatory meetings held according to the guidelines set by the Ministry of Education. Four meetings were conducted for sisters involved in education and evangelization, two meetings for Social Work and Healthcare, and one meeting for Formation, with junior members participating. The Superior General, Assistant Superior General, and Ministry Coordinator were actively involved in each of these sessions and provided valuable guidance.

Ministry of Education:

The Ministry of Education meetings focused on improving teaching methods, ensuring academic excellence, and integrating faith-based values into the curriculum. Discussions also centered on strategies for expanding educational outreach and promoting the holistic development of students, both locally and internationally

Meeting Details:

S. No.	Date	Place	Participants	Total Members	Resource Person
1	Oct 5-6, 2024	Salesian Home Chennai	Sisters involved in education ministry	100	Fr. Pavul Raj SJ, Rector of St. Joseph College.
2	Oct 11-12, 2024	Patna	Sisters involved in education ministry	24	Fr. Michael, Rector of PMSS Center
3	Oct 26-27, 2024	Beski Home Dindigul	Sisters involved in education ministry	100	Fr. Pavul Raj SJ, Rector of St. Joseph College.
4	Nov 1-2, 2024	Linch	Teaching Sisters, Social Work	25	Fr. Anand Antony SJ, Principal of Deevalaya School

**Ministry of Evangelization**

The Ministry of Evangelization meetings focused on effectively spreading the Gospel through various programs and activities. The sisters explored methods for engaging with diverse communities, building stronger relationships through faith-based initiatives, and strengthening their evangelistic efforts while remaining faithful to the Congregation's core values.

Meeting Details:

S. No.	Date	Place	Participants	Total Members	Resource Person
1	Oct 9-10, 2024	Beshci Illam , Dindigul	Sisters involved in Evangelization	88	Fr. Selva Raj SJ,
2.	Nov 19 -20, 2024	Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar	Sisters involved in Evangelization	20	Fr. Jerome OFM



Ministry of Social Work and Healthcare

The Social Work and Healthcare Ministry meetings focused on addressing current societal challenges, particularly in marginalized communities. The sisters discussed ways to improve healthcare services, engage in social justice initiatives, and provide practical support to those in need, all while reflecting the Congregation's mission of service.



Meeting Details:

S. No.	Date	Place	Participants	Total Members	Resource Person
1	Oct 22-23,2024	Salesian home Ennore	Sisters involved in Social work	76	Fr. Sebastien Vanathiyan, SDB
2	Nov 8-9, 2024	Warnberg Strasse	Sisters involved in Health Ministry	18	Fr. Selva Raj SJ
3	Nov 10-11, 2024	Warnberg Strawse 1, Soll'n, Munich, Germany	Sisters involved in Health Ministry	18	Fr. Selva Raj SJ
4	Nov 16-17, 2024	Viale Regina Margheritha No: 66, Italy	Sisters involved in Health Ministry	15	Fr. Selva Raj SJ
5	Nov 18-19, 2024	Viale Regina Margheritha No: 66, Italy	Sisters involved in Health Ministry	15	Fr. Selva Raj SJ

Ministry of Formation

The Formation meeting aimed to deepen the lifestyle of the formators, and vocation promoters in their spiritual journeys. The meeting also emphasized the commitment of the junior sisters. The discussions focused on leadership, and the personal faith, of the junior members to assume future roles and responsibilities within the Congregation. The goal was to equip them for their continued growth and service.



Meeting Details:

S. No.	Date	Place	Participants	Total	Resource Person
1	Oct 12 -13, 2024	Beshci Illam Dindigul	Formators, Vocation Promoters & Juniors	64	Fr. Selva Raj, SJ

A special meeting was held for the elderly, infirm, and ailing sisters residing at Sugantham Old Age Home in Ediyarpallem, near Pondicherry. Rev. Fr. Selvaraj, SJ, led the session, focusing on the theme of the 31st General Chapter and the ministry of the congregation. Additionally, there was an enriching discussion on Consecrated Life, Spirituality, the Charism of our Founder, and the significance of Prayer Life.

Meeting Details:

S. No.	Date	Place	Participants	Total	Resource Person
1	Oct 30, 2024	Sugantham	Elderly, infirm and sickly sisters,	28	Fr. Selva Raj, SJ



The active participation of the Superior General, Assistant Superior General, and Ministry Coordinator in these meetings ensured that all ministries were aligned with the Congregation's mission. This collaborative approach strengthened each ministry and ensured they addressed the needs of the community while contributing to the overall objectives of the Congregation.

31st General Chapter Retreat - 2024

Date: December 15-16, 2024 Location: Boys Town, Madurai
Preacher: Rev. Fr. Michael Allosanai, S.J

Retreat for the Delegates

The 31st General Chapter retreat was held from December 9-14, 2024, at Boys Town in Madurai. The preacher for the retreat was Rev. Fr. Michael Allosanai, S.J. The retreat began with a Eucharistic celebration, invoking the intercession of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The prayerful atmosphere was enriched by the song “Kadanthu Vandapadai”, setting a reflective tone for the participants. The retreat focused on deepening the spiritual journeys of the delegates and reflecting on the Congregation's 250-year legacy, preparing them for the upcoming Chapter discussions.

Day 1: Personal Reflections on God's Love

Theme: God's Unconditional Love

- * The retreat encouraged participants to reflect on God's unconditional love, which is revealed through His gifts to humanity and the Church.
- * Attendees were invited to consider their role in aligning their actions with God's will, fostering gratitude for life's blessings, and reflecting on how their lives have mirrored His love.
- * Key reflections included recognizing that all gifts come from God's generosity and that His love transcends human understanding.

Day 2: Leadership and Indifference

Theme: Accompanying the Poor in Christ's Footsteps

The focus was on leadership, particularly the servant leadership exemplified by Jesus Christ. Attendees reflected on:

- * The concept of Ignatian indifference and interior freedom, which are essential for discerning God's will.
- * Practical exercises such as the "open hand exercise," which encouraged detachment from worldly attachments to focus on spiritual growth.
- * Jesus' leadership model, especially demonstrated during the Last Supper, where He showed humility, service, and a commitment to God's mission.

Day 3: Motivated Leadership and the Spirit of St. Teresa of Avila

Theme: Leadership Traits

The day emphasized key leadership traits, especially those demonstrated by Jesus and St. Teresa of Avila, including:

- * Selfless service, consistency, and faith in God as the foundation for effective leadership.
- * St. Teresa of Avila was celebrated as a model of balanced leadership, blending her spiritual life with service to others.
- * Attendees reflected on the importance of working harmoniously within their community, and living a life of prayer, humility, and service.

Day 4: Women in the New Testament

Theme: The significant role of women in the life of Jesus was explored, focusing on their faith, courage, and loyalty. Key women highlighted included:

- * Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth, and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whose actions demonstrated unwavering support for Jesus' ministry.
- * Women's contributions to Christ's mission were celebrated as essential acts of discipleship, setting an example of courage and deep faith for the faithful.

Day 5: Eucharistic Celebration and Reflection on St. Francis of Assisi

Theme: A powerful Eucharistic celebration was held, highlighting themes of redemption, forgiveness, and healing. Key reflections included:

- * The profound role of St. Francis of Assisi, whose life was marked by humility and selfless devotion to God.
- * St. Francis' creation of the crib, and ciborium, and his experience of Christ's wounds symbolized his deep connection to Christ's humanity and sacrifice.
- * Jesus' role as the healer, offering unconditional love and mercy, was emphasized through prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Day 6: Spiritual and Leadership Reflections

Theme: The retreat provided practical spirituality lessons focused on discernment, leadership, and Christian hope:

- * Discernment was emphasized as essential for understanding God's calling in all situations
- * Leadership was framed as a response to God's call to serve others with humility and love, exemplified by Jesus' actions.
- * The power of Christian hope was explored, stressing the importance of trusting in God's love, which is stronger than despair, death, or darkness.

Conclusion and Gratitude

The retreat concluded with a final Eucharistic celebration and deep reflections on the resurrection of Christ. Key takeaways included:

- * Participants reflected on the transformative power of God's love and the healing grace of the Eucharist.
- * There was a profound sense of renewal, with participants expressing gratitude for the guidance and blessings received.
- * A final blessing by Rev. Fr. Michael Allosanai, S.J. marked the conclusion, leaving attendees with a sense of spiritual growth, joy, and purpose.

Seminar for the Delegates

31st General Chapter Seminar – 2024**Date: December 15-16, 2024****Location: Boys Town, Madurai****Preacher: Rev. Fr. Maria Arul Raja, S.J.**

On the morning of December 15, 2024, a deeply enriching personal prayer session was held, allowing participants to connect with God and express gratitude. The serene atmosphere fostered unity and devotion, bringing peace and strengthening faith. The day began with a nourishing breakfast, energizing everyone. The first session, led by our Mother General, included a prayer and the lighting of a lamp, symbolizing the start of our shared journey.

Rev. Fr. Maria Arul Raja, S.J. spoke about the charism of Gonzaga, urging participants to dedicate their lives to sharing the Good News, especially with marginalized and afflicted communities. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, we were reminded to be proactive, futuristic, and creative in our responses to contemporary challenges. Later, two members shared personal experiences, reflecting on their wounds and the healing process, sparking insightful discussions.



The session focused on promoting the supreme values of God's reign, advocating for inclusive communities in the face of growing fundamentalism and communalism. The identity of Gonzaga was explored, emphasizing our role as co-creators with God, serving the marginalized and broken-hearted. At noon, we celebrated Mass for the third Sunday of Advent, focusing on the theme of joy, urging us to remain joyful and spread happiness.

In the afternoon, we reflected on personal and collective identities, considering the challenges faced as Gonzaga sisters today. Groups discussed concrete steps to support the marginalized, emphasizing self-critique, humility, and compassion. The session highlighted simple acts of charity inspired by our founder's charism, calling us to be joyful, prophetic missionaries of the Gospel. Evening prayer, conducted by Prayer Groups, offered a heartfelt moment of gratitude and reflection.

The following day, December 16, focused on the inner journey of self-exploration, essential for an effective religious life. We discussed the importance of being result-centered, other-focused, and open to learning. Ideas shared in the group included establishing centers for widows and providing education and support for marginalized communities.

Father concluded by emphasizing faith, ideology, strategy, and the importance of cultivating confidence. The seminar ended with a reminder that Jesus makes, keeps, and loves us, encouraging each participant to continue their mission with renewed strength and commitment.

A Report on The 31st General Chapter of The Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Pondicherry, India

Solemn Inauguration of the 31st General Chapter

A total of 70 delegates and 10 ex-officio members were present for the solemn inauguration of the 31st General Chapter on December 27, 2024, in fulfilment of the canonical norms regarding the convocation of the General Chapter (cf. can. 631). Following canonical principles, a half-day was dedicated to discernment and spiritual recollection, as a time for the delegates to engage in prayerful reflection and prepare themselves for the upcoming deliberations, in keeping with the spirit of unity, collaboration, and the discernment of God's will (cf. can. 627).



Report of the Superior General

At 3:00 P.M., Rev. Sr. G. Rajamani, the Superior General, presented the report on her tenure from 2019 to 2024. In compliance with the canonical duties of the Superior General (cf. can. 617, 628), the report provided a comprehensive overview of the Congregation's life and activities, focusing on: Spirituality, Formation, Education, and Evangelization, Social Work and Social Action, and Healthcare ministries.



The report also highlighted new initiatives undertaken for the Congregation's growth, including the establishment of new convents, particularly in the birthplace of our founder, Servant of God Michael Ansaldo, SJ. These efforts reflect the Congregation's ongoing mission of expanding its apostolic presence in fidelity to the charism of the founder (cf. can. 577). The report offered valuable insights and proposed guidelines for the future, following the Congregation's mission and the direction set by previous General Chapters (cf. can. 631).

Report of the Procurator General

At 5:00 P.M., Rev. Sr. Gnanamary Pappathi, the Procurator General, presented the report on her tenure from 2019 to 2024. In line with her canonical responsibilities as outlined in the Constitutions (cf. can. 128), the Procurator General provided an overview of the financial situation of the Congregation, emphasizing its soundness and prudent management.



The financial report highlighted the transparent flow of income and expenditure, reflecting the Congregation's stewardship of resources by canonical obligations (cf. can. 1283). Significant funds had been allocated to the formation and ongoing formation of the young sisters, in fulfilment of the Congregation's commitment to nurturing vocations (cf. can. 628). The report further acknowledged

the contributions made by each community and praised the diligent work of the sisters in ensuring the continued well-being of the Congregation. Particular emphasis was placed on the support given to formation houses and medical care for sick sisters, which aligns with the Congregation's obligation to care for the sick, especially those engaged in the apostolate (cf. can. 678). Details about Patta, Chitta and documentation related to the land of various convents were presented elaborately .

Election of the Superior General and Her Council per Canon Law

On December 28, 2024, the Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, Most Rev. Dr. Francis Kalist, was invited to celebrate the Holy Eucharistic Celebration in the Generalate chapel, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit, in keeping with the Congregation's long-standing tradition of seeking divine guidance during significant moments (cf. can. 127). In the Chapter Hall (Christ the King Hall), the sisters gathered in prayer, uniting their voices in the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*, invoking the Holy



Spirit's assistance in their deliberations and decisions (cf. can. 127).

Following the liturgical celebration, the election of the Superior General, General Councillors, and Procurator General was conducted in strict accordance with the provisions laid out in the Constitutions (cf. can. 617, 625). The election process was carried out with due solemnity and in adherence to canonical procedures, ensuring that it was in full conformity with the Congregation's established norms and the collective will of the delegates. The elections were conducted following the prescribed norms



regarding eligibility, and the entire process was guided by prayer, discernment, and a deep trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance in electing the Congregation's leadership (cf. can. 119, 127).

Rev. Fr. Swaminathan, a respected canonist and moderator of the election, was present to oversee the process and ensure the proper canonical procedures were followed. His guidance contributed to the

proper and canonical conduct of the election, providing valuable assistance in preserving the integrity of the process (cf. can. 129, 130). His role as moderator also facilitated a smooth and orderly election, ensuring the delegates were adequately prepared to make their decisions in harmony with the will of the Congregation and the Church's laws. The following members were elected:

Sr. M. Thressa Gnanamani	– Superior General
Sr. Pasala Mariamma	– Assistant Superior General
Sr. K. Revathy	– First Councillor
Sr. A. Jebamalai Mary	– Second Councillor
Sr. S. Pappathi	– Third Councillor
Sr. A. Pauline Sahaya Rani	– Procurator General
Sr. J. Shalini Shailaja	– Secretary General

(appointed by the Superior General and council)



Presentation of the Reports by the General Councillors

All the reporting sessions for the various ministries were presided over by Rev. Sr. M. Thressa Gnanamani, the newly elected Superior General, and moderated by Rev. Bro. Jeyaraj SHJ. The General Councillors presented reports on the ministries entrusted to them during the past six years (2019-2024), as per the canonical norms governing the General Chapter (cf. can. 631). These reports were both inspiring and reflective, highlighting the challenges they faced in their respective ministries.

The sessions took place from December 29, 2024, to January 1, 2025, in accordance with the schedule of the 31st General Chapter, which was convened following the requirements of the Constitution (cf. can. 627). During this period, the members of the General Chapter, along with several special invitees, participated actively in the discussions and deliberations. These special invitees, whose presence was in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutions and Chapter regulations (cf. can. 618), contributed their insights and expertise to the sessions. Their participation enriched the deliberations and provided valuable perspectives on the Congregation's mission and future direction.

The presence of special invitees in the Chapter reflects the canonical principle of fostering unity and collaboration in the discernment process of the Congregation's leadership, ensuring that the decisions made reflect the common will of the members and the guidance of the Holy Spirit (cf. can. 119, 127)

Sr. M. Thressa Gnanamani	– Formation and spirituality
Sr. A. Antony Maria Jansi	– Education Ministry
Sr. D. Pushpa Rani	– Evangelization Ministry
Sr. A. Maria Stella	– Social Work, Social Action and Health Care Ministry

Deliberations and Resolutions of the Chapter



The observations and proposals received from each community were carefully deliberated upon. These observations and proposals were submitted prior to the commencement of the 31st General Chapter, in accordance with the Congregation's established procedure. During the deliberation process, from December 29, 2024, to January 1, 2025, the proposals were thoroughly examined and revised. The deliberations were conducted under the presidency of Rev. Sr. M. Thressa Gnanamani, the Superior General, with Rev. Bro. P. Jeyaraj, SHJ, the moderator, assisting in the formulation of the proposals into recommendations and resolutions (cf. can. 631 §1). The proposals were put to a vote, and those receiving a two-thirds majority were passed as resolutions (cf. can. 631 §2). These resolutions are regarded as treasures and guiding principles for the future of the Congregation, shaping the course of its mission and governance (cf. can. 631 §2, 635).

The special invitees also contributed their suggestions in the framing of the proposals. Additional resolutions, particularly for the provinces and regions, were made, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the mission of the Congregation at all levels (cf. can. 631 §1, 635).

Formulation of the Vision Statement for the Congregation

The cause for the beatification and canonization of our Founder, Servant of God Michael Ansaldo, enriches our spirituality and charism while fortifying the historical legacy of our Congregation. (cf. can. 699).



Evangelization is the heartbeat of our Congregation, filling every sister with energy, a life force that pulses through all our ministries. (cf. can. 673).

Formation is the heart of life and mission, uniting us in spirit and purpose. It intertwines the legacy of our Founder, binding our communities in one heart, and one spirit. (cf. can. 656, 660).

The establishment of a College of Nursing and Pharmacy marks a new direction in our healthcare ministry, as we train sisters to lead social transformation with zeal and purpose. Our commitment to education evolves as we strive to upskill and integrate digital literacy, ensuring our institutions keep pace with the rapidly changing world of information and technology. (cf. can. 673, 635).

We, the Gonzaga sisters, march in the light of Christ, following the footsteps of our Founder. With integrity, we walk alongside the poor and marginalized, safeguarding Mother Earth, and striving to build an equitable, inclusive, and innovative society.

Canonical Closure of the 31st General Chapter



On January 1, 2025, at 4:30 P.M., Rev. Sr. M. Thressa Gnanamani, the newly elected Superior General, formally concluded the 31st General Chapter following the prayer session. The conclusion of the General Chapter was marked by an atmosphere of prayer and reflection, in accordance with the spirit of the Chapter and the Congregation's commitment to discernment (cf. can. 631).

The 31st General Chapter was indeed a Paschal event, a moment of grace and renewal for the Congregation, leading the sisters toward a deeper spiritual commitment. It set the course for the Congregation's journey as pilgrims of hope during the Jubilee Year 2025, in alignment with the call to be witnesses of the Gospel in the world (cf. can. 672). This event affirmed the Congregation's ongoing mission to serve the Church and society, faithfully following the footsteps of Christ and the example of our Founder.

Handing Over Ceremony

On 16.01.2025, the handing-over ceremony took place at the Generalate. Both the former and present administrative teams were present. The ceremony began with a prayer. Documents related to six years of administration were handed over to Rev. Mother M. Thressa Gnanamani, Superior General, by the former Superior General, Rev. Mother G. Rajamani. Documents related to financial administration were handed over to Rev. Sr. A. Pauline Sahaya Rani, Procurator General, by Rev. Sr. Pappathi, former Procurator General. Rev. Sr. Salomi Rani, former Secretary General, to Rev. Sr. J. Shalini Shailaja the new Secretary general. The new administration began its work on 16.01.2025

Thanking the old team

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the former Superior General and the esteemed Council for their unwavering dedication and exemplary leadership over the past six years. Your wisdom, commitment, and vision have guided our congregation to new dimensions, inspiring us to embrace change with faith and courage. As the Scripture says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18), and

through your leadership, we have been led to thrive and grow. Under your guidance, the sisters have flourished, and the congregation has reached remarkable heights. Your tireless efforts, both seen and unseen, have shaped the future of our community, leaving a lasting impact on each of us. As you step into the next chapter, please know that your legacy will continue to inspire and guide us. We deeply appreciate your service and thank you for your selfless contributions to the growth and strength of our congregation. "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).



Welcoming the New Team

"Rejoice in the lord for the lord has chosen you"

On behalf of the entire congregation, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to our newly elected administrative team. We assure you of our unwavering prayerful support as we place our trust in your leadership at this pivotal moment. With full confidence, I believe that you are the most capable team to guide us forward, and we join the entire congregation in sending our warmest and sincerest fraternal greetings to you all.

As you prepare to take on the responsibilities and challenges ahead, we wish you great success in your mission. Your generous "Yes" to God's call is deeply appreciated, and we thank you for embracing your role as His chosen instruments in spreading the charism of our congregation. Christian leadership is ultimately about collaborating with God and walking alongside His people. We are confident that, as devoted individuals of prayer, you will lead and accompany each member of the congregation as we work together to fulfil our mission.

With your wealth of experience, we trust that you will guide us towards growth and development. The care of our 250-year-old congregation is now entrusted to your hands and we encourage you to nurture its growth, guiding each member to deeper Franciscan holiness and ensuring our communities remain faithfully committed to our charism. We implore God's abundant blessings upon you as you begin this important journey. May He grant you the wisdom, discernment, and prudence necessary to carry out the mandate entrusted to you. May you be powerful instruments of hope, guiding the entire congregation to become a life-giving source for the poor, the weak, and the marginalized.

Leadership is not about control or correction; it is about listening, connecting, and understanding the needs of others. It is about empowering others through the power of love. As leaders, may you inspire others to find strength and purpose in your shared vision and compassion.

May you be the living channels of God's love, leading us with care and commitment. "May the Almighty shower His blessings upon you. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you. May Mother Mary surround you with her loving mantle. May St. Aloysius Gonzaga, our patron, guide you. May St. Francis of Assisi, our father, enlighten your path."

"Let your greatest passion be compassion. Let your greatest strength be love. Let your greatest victory be the reward from the Heavenly Father." May all your dreams for the congregation come to fruition as you begin this new chapter of leadership. Congratulations once again, and may God bless you abundantly in your mission.

- Rev. Sr. Punitha FSAG

