



• Capítulo Internacional de Esteiras •
Irmãs Franciscanas da Penitência e Caridade Cristã

Santa Maria, July, 07 th, 2006

Dear Sisters,

Peace and All Good!

“We take time to relax, to celebrate and find joy in the beauty and harmony of life, for in so doing we strengthen our own humanness.” - GC#23

We, the Sisters of the Brazilian Provinces, greet each of you with great joy and we welcome you already to be with us in Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, to celebrate the International Chapter of Mats, which came out of a proposal that was presented by Immaculate Heart of Mary Province, Brazil, and which was approved by the General Chapter of 2004.

The central theme, **“Our Franciscan spirituality in intercultural and inter-religious dialogue,”** invites us to share our experiences as they occur in each of our realities.

The objective of this Chapter of Mats is to gather the Sisters from the various Provinces of the Congregation to:

- Revitalize our spirituality, charism, and mission;
- Strengthen our ties as Sisters from diverse cultures;
- Share hopes and dreams for the future;
- Experience intercultural dialogue;
- Take up our commitment of inter-religious dialogue for the building up of peace and of good.

These objectives will help us strengthen our bonds of fraternity/sisterhood, cultivate our Franciscan spirituality and live out our charism in the sharing of our hope and of our commitment to inter-religious dialogue in evangelization.

We would like to share with you the steps that have been taken through the various gatherings of the Central Commission in preparation for this Chapter of Mats. We have set in place:

- 1 The dates for registration: until January 30, 2007.** You will receive the necessary forms for this.
- 2 The sisters from other countries are welcomed in Porto Alegre on September, 30, 2007, before 12 a.m. if possible and will stay in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province until October, 3.**
- 3 The dates for the Chapter of Mats: October 4-14, 2007.**
- 4 Participation criteria: Who can sign up?**
 - o All of the Sisters can participate as long as they can be present the entire time;
 - o Anyone who has the capacity to adapt to different climactic and cultural situations;
 - o Anyone who is healthy enough.

Visiting Sisters who would like to tour other parts of Brazil after the Chapter of Mats should contact Sr. Cor Maria da Anunciação, at the following address:

Av. Nossa Senhora da Medianeira, 1267

97003-060 – Santa Maria – RS Brasil

Email: cormari@scalifra.org.br

To facilitate your choices we are including information on several places with approximate costs (see attachment).

All the Sisters of the Congregation are invited to be in UNITY for the preparation and carrying out of the actual event through prayer, study and reflection on Franciscan texts and other texts of our Congregation. We suggest that each community study the text of the Chapter of Mats from chapter XVIII of the Fioretti.

We ask that the Provincial Ministers prepare audiovisual material from your country and mission to be presented during the event. We will use Portuguese/English as our languages.

Dear Sisters, may the spirit of St. Francis and Mother Magdalen, which always accompanies and inspires the life of our Congregation, strengthen us in the realization of this international occurrence.

Peace and All Good!

Maria Aparecida Betoni