

07 April 2021

The day began with the morning prayer, led by Bro John Okoh followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided by the Regional superior; Fr Joseph Kandachamkunnel. Reflecting on the day's readings, he admonished the members to think of what they can contribute to the new region. Like Peter and John, he reminded the members of the call to give Jesus Master, the Way, the Truth, and the Life freely to the world.

The first session of the assembly began with a prayer led by Fr James Edeh. After that the regional superior welcomed all the members of the assembly and presented each member with a file containing the documents for the assembly. In his address, the Regional superior recounted the foundations and history of the Society of St Paul in Nigeria, thanked all the pioneers who had toiled hard to realize its growth, and called for a synodality to accomplish more in the region.

Fr James Edeh and Fr Gerard Tanko were nominated actuaries and Brs Michael Muogbo and Sixtus Onuoha were nominated scrutineers. A Committee for Liturgy, Recreation and Logistic were also constituted. Rev. Desmond Shinshima, Rev Pascal Mbah and Bro John Okoh were assigned to organised each day's liturgy. Fr George Mattathinanickal, Fr Praveen Chirathara and Bro Valentine Obumkaneme were put in charge of recreation. Fr Robert Correa and Fr David Berkman were designated to handle all logistics. After that the members elected the secretary of the assembly. Fr Jikson Mullasseril was elected with an absolute majority on the first round.

After a short recess, the Superior General and his councillors addressed the assembly via online. The Superior General congratulated the Regional superior and the members of the assembly. He expressed his satisfaction at the level of growth the region has attained as he had seen during his visit in 2019. He stressed on some aspects that the assembly should look into such

as: The Pauline colour, Unity and diversity of gifts among members, Community life and spirituality, vocation promotion and formation, the apostolate and administration. He also highlighted the need for synodality to achieve the goals of the congregation in the region.

After the address of the superior general, the assembly elected Fr Siji Pannakathil as the moderator with an absolute majority on the fourth round.

The secretary presented a provisional time table and was approved with some amendments. A provisional list of group members was also approved. Superiors of each community presented brief reports of their communities.

The afternoon session began with the nomination of Fr Martins Obasi, Rev. Desmond shinshinma and Bro Valentine Obumkaneme as members of the drafting committee. After that the secretary presented the summary of the answers to the questionnaires on community life followed by group discussions to formulate the General objectives.

Each group's secretary presented their formulation and the assembly made their observations and suggestions. It was decided that the drafting committee would look into all of these formulated statements, synthesise them into a single mission statement and present it to the assembly for approval.

There was a second group discussion aimed at formulating the priorities and the operative guidelines on community and spiritual life. After the group discussion the group secretaries collated their suggestions.

It was observed by a member of the assembly that the operative guidelines were more centered on the community life than the spiritual life. It was decided that the community life and the spiritual life should be separated and each should have its priority and operative guidelines. The group secretaries were therefore asked to go through the suggestions of the group and collate the operative guidelines that are connected to the spiritual life and hand it over to drafting committee.

The secretary announced the modification of the schedule for tomorrow, due to the birthday of one of the members of the assembly. A tentative list of those to conduct the Eucharistic visit and the Holy Mass was read out. The closing prayer for the day's session was said by Fr Martins and the day's Eucharistic visit conducted by Fr Praveen.