



**THE NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL.** Today morning the election of the new Superior General took place. At the third vote, the Indian brother Benny Mekkatt was elected (in the photo, with Fr. Peter the oldest religious present in the general house). Father Benny Mekkatt was born in Kerala (India) 46 years ago. To this day he has been superior of the North American Delegation. He comes from a nursing formation as profession studied in the Philippines and, subsequently, was ordained a priest. In the USA he was parish priest, hospital and prison chaplain. He is the first non-Italian religious of the Congregation of the Sons of the



Immaculate Conception, founded by Blessed Luigi Monti in sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 1857. He was the first non-Italian religious to be elected Superior General of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, founded by Blessed Luigi Monti in the mid-nineteenth century.

In the afternoon four general councillors were elected; in the photo: Fr. Giuseppe Pusceddu (*first left*), Br. Ruggero Valentini, Father General, Fr. Toussaint Tshingombe and Br. Leandro Román Lobato,

The Congregation is present in 25 countries in five continents. It operates in particular in the educational, health care, pastoral and social services sectors. In the last twenty years, the serve in different parishes by the invitation of bishops all over the world. A specific characteristic of the Institute is the equal rights and duties between confreres, whether they are priests or consecrated lay people; the latter can play any role of government in the Congregation. The founder himself, Luigi Monti, was a consecrated layman throughout his life