

Fr. Benoît Grière, Superior General of the Augustinians of the Assumption, was invited by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) to celebrate Mass this past Monday, May 6, 2013. Their international session went from May 3 to May 7 and brought together some 800 of the 1900 mothers general from around the world. The theme of this encounter was: « It will not be so among you (Mt 20:26): The Service of Leadership according to the Gospel. » Here is the text of Fr. Benoît's homily in its entirety.

My sisters, you have been reflecting for several days on the exercise of authority according to the Gospel. I believe that you have already received many insights on the way to lead the congregations entrusted to you so that you might be disciples consistent with the will of Jesus Christ. Today the Scripture readings of the Mass can help us complement these ongoing reflections.

The first reading, from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, offers for our meditation a group of women who came out to listen to the apostle Paul. « *We spoke with the women who had gathered there* ». And among them there was Lydia who « *listened because the Lord opened her heart to pay attention* ».
You will agree with me that this is rather extraordinary for a preacher. The Holy Spirit is the one who makes people attentive to preaching. I hope that I can benefit from the same privilege for my homily today ! My sisters, what is important is to notice that it is the Lord who opens minds and hearts so that the word may enter their lives. Lydia was a listener who was open and welcoming and so it is that we should be in order to receive the word of life.



