

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Intercapitular Meeting – Part 2

Dear Brothers and Partners,

On Saturday, April 2, our two weeks of sharing and “journeying together” as an International community came to an end with a closing reflection by Brother Alvaro and a Mass of Thanksgiving by the new Vatican Secretary for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Archbishop Joseph Tobin, CSsR.

In his reflection, Brother Alvaro reminded us that, like Saint La Salle, we are called to respond to the needs of young people today with a “Gospel-based creativity” and “to bear witness to a loving presence which has transformed our lives, and which has an immense potential to transform the lives of others.” He spoke also of our faith as a “driving force for action” and “the ability to look at and to consider all things with the eyes and heart of God.”

In our last four days of presentations and conversations the following stood out:

1. Brother Alvaro’s clear direction that The United States and Toronto and Francophone Canada Regions become one new Region as soon as possible – perhaps as early as May, 2012.
2. Through the principles of Solidarity and Development, great efforts have taken place across the Institute to promote education for justice, to strengthen direct service to the poor, and to promote actions of solidarity in finances and personnel among the Districts and Regions of the Institute. One indicator of this has been the movement of more than 77 million dollars among Districts in service to the above objectives in recent years.
3. Priorities of the General Council for the next three years:
 - Articulation of a Lasallian spirituality that does not make a distinction between interior life and mission
 - The evangelical mission of the Brother
 - Focus on areas of the Institute that need special attention
 - The effective use of human resources (FSCs) across the Institute

4. The United States and Toronto Regional Reflection - What we took away from this Intercapitular Meeting:
- Need to pay close attention to subsequent consultations on the Rule, Formation Guide, and Financial Guidelines
 - General Council's priorities for next three years
 - Renewed sense of the International reality and complexity of the Institute
 - The principle of Solidarity and the call to make our resources (human and financial) available for mission in the neediest sectors of the Institute
 - Pride in the work of Association we have done with our Partners
 - Call to an articulation of the shared charism with our Partners
 - Awareness of ongoing processes of restructuring at District and Regional levels
 - Knowledge of the great creativity and diversity of educational works of the Institute
5. 45th General Chapter – Topic suggestions from the final Plenary Session:
- a. Early sondage for Superior General so that Chapter Delegates might come to know better the “candidates”
 - b. Session of the District Chapter before and after the General Chapter
 - c. Need for appropriate time and deliberation on the Rule revision
 - d. “Listeners”, non-Brothers, who could comment on our Chapter process and offer outside perspectives
 - e. Evaluation of previous Chapter processes
 - f. Use of an outside facilitator
 - g. Importance of clear decisions on precise points
 - h. Research on Religious Life and Association
 - i. Less “talking at” and more time for sharing and deliberation

With every best wish from Jerry Sullivan, Dennis Lee, and me, for all of the graces of this Lenten season and the hope of our Easter days to come!

It's good to be home!



Dennis Malloy, FSC
Visitor