



Leadership for Mission

Communication -1

St. Rambert, France

Bonjour a vous toutes, Greetings from the misty valley of Saint Rambert

By Sunday evening 13 November all the leaders had arrived for our two weeks together. There was much excitement as we caught up with each other and exchanged news.



On Monday we began with a welcome from Patricia Boyd as the Province Leader in France. Ours was the fourth group this year she has welcomed to Saint Rambert.



The CLT had prepared an opening liturgy which set the scene for our meeting for the next two weeks. The CLT then enacted an interesting scenario highlighting that this is a leaders' meeting and not an EGC. Our time together is to be a time of sharing and support rather than an intense time of producing documents.

The rest of the day was taken up with the sharing of our realities at home. Each leader shared from her experience and many talked about the political and economic situations in their countries as well as the life of the sisters in their province/region. We were particularly touched by the large number of provinces which experience violence and fear that are so much part of their lives.

Each evening we closed with Prayer before moving to the chapel for Eucharist.

Day two was devoted to Leadership. Through pictures, videos and stories the CLT shared with us a small part of the course they have been following over the year on Leadership. This generated conversation around our own role as leaders in our provinces/regions. In the afternoon Fr Piet Cuijpers, a Salvatorian Father, and a member of the Congregational Advisory Board, outlined the spirituality of leadership based on the life of Jesus and with examples from his own experience.



Our third morning was spent on leaders reporting how the HBC recommendations had been implemented in their province/region. This was a very affirming process for all of us as we became aware of just how much progress has been made in this regard and proving just how valuable the HBC process has been.

Lissy and Giovanni shared something of their work on the accounts and budgets. Inno van den Berg, a member of the Congregational Advisory Board, (CAB) followed this with information on investments, what is essential to know and to do as trustees. It was a very informative and interesting session.



Thursday was another day with the advisory board. Jo shared with us the progress they are making on the CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This is a new charity, based in the UK and managed by the CLT. It incorporates the CCIF and LAP funds and will be



grant giving charity, which manages Congregational Funds. Inno explained possible strategies for the Patrimony of the congregation, how to keep the flame alive as we move into the future. Fr Piet shared his experiences of future planning in his congregation and Marie Therese shared the process the Australian Province is involved in as their numbers diminish. This raised more questions than answers and much more discussion will be needed as we find our way into the future.

Friday the CLT met with the CAB while the leaders had a free day.



Communication Team

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