



Leadership for Mission

Communication - 2

St. Rambert, France 2016

Bonjour à vous toutes,

On Saturday and Monday 19 and 21, we reviewed the Congregation Mission Plan, sharing with each other what has been achieved, what is still to be done and what has not been pursued because of changing circumstances. Much has been accomplished since the EGC in Bangalore in 2015 and we rejoiced with each other over the progress in many provinces/regions. This gives us a sense of moving forward together as we all work toward the common good for all. We struggled last year to formulate a mission plan and we were encouraged and heartened to see the fruits of it this year. We have updated the plan according to province/region reports inserting new timelines where appropriate. We considered new projects being proposed by a few provinces/regions and also updated the Congregational building plan.



Dominique, the great-great grandniece of Euphrasie, met us in Geneva.

Sunday was a free day and most of us availed of it to visit Geneva. Marie Bénédicte had arranged for us to meet Dominique Moreau, the great-great grandniece of Euphrasie. It was a beautiful day contrary to all weather predictions and we enjoyed our lunch by the side of the lake, as well as the special features particular to Geneva. The highlights were visiting the United

The Broken Chair



Nations headquarters and the Red Cross Museum. A Large Broken Chair stands in the square in front of the UN building reminding people of the devastation caused by land mines. Many of us were deeply moved by the stories and visual displays in the Red Cross Museum. So many different mediums were used to portray the devastating effects of war, violence and natural disasters.



Our United Nations outside United Nations Geneva

Tuesday and Wednesday we continued our conversations around various issues. Catherine Brabender shared with us the IMDO office restructuring with Helen O’Sullivan and Smitha Thomas taking over the roles permanently from December. Others shared the way in which the Mission Promotors are operating in their Provinces. These were varied and interesting and showed creativity and initiative. It is by telling the story of our mission that we invite others to partner with us. The importance of feedback and accountability was stressed.

Maureen McBride presented the new possibilities for Saint Rambert. Renovations of the annex have been completed and the community has taken up residence. The plans are prepared for the main building of the Abbey and it is hoped that this can commence in the New Year.

We returned to the topic of Patrimony and reflected in small groups on our vision for mission into the future. There was a consensus around our need for a clear vision of mission, the emphasis being on a collaborative approach. This issue will be further discussed in Provinces and Regions and at the next EGC.



Saint Rambert taken by a friendly drone

Margo and Annunciata

Leaders were sent out in twos to companion each other. This was an opportunity for us to share some of our wisdom, encouraging and supporting each other in our journey as leaders.



The CLT gave an update on their life and activities over their time in leadership. There was concern expressed over the toll that travel etc. takes on them personally however they were greatly affirmed for their presence in the Provinces and Regions while on visitation. There has been great progress in many areas in these three years and this was recognised by leaders and members of the provinces and regions.

On Thursday morning we reviewed the Mission Plan looking at new projects and updating the proposed New Missions from the last EGC and the Building Plan. There was great rejoicing when the printed Constitutions arrived. Jo shared them with us and it is hoped that leaders will be able to take them home with them. Crescencia gave us an update on the Beatification process and Bich Quyen shared some of the outcomes from the Formators’ program in October.



Maureen and Jo perusing the newly printed Constitutions

Thanks to Patricia (Province Leader of France) and members of the community of Saint Rambert for their warm welcome and hospitality. We appreciated the lovely meals and their generosity in serving us and being available whenever needed.

Thanks also to Catherine Brabender for her able facilitation over these days. She has been untiring in keeping us focused and on task.

We thank the CLT for arranging this meeting which was a leaders' meeting, not an EGC. Their aim was to mentor and companion leaders in their responsibilities within their provinces. We appreciated their planning and their unstinting giving of themselves over these days. We appreciate the work that Joyce Peter has done in keeping a record of these days. It has not been an easy task and Joyce has given many hours to this. Thank you.

Bon Voyage à toutes. Departures begin on Friday night. We wish all safe travel and a happy return to their home provinces/regions.



Communication Team

Margo Murphy, Carmel Cole & Dorothy Noronha