



DAILY REPORT
7 May 2022

Day 7

We are still in the second phase of our Chapter “Boldness in truth”, the phase of discovering. Today, our morning prayer has been focused on Our Lady of the Star with the prayer of the rosary for the Chapter and the Institute. Communities around the world will celebrate Our Lady of the Star tomorrow, Sunday the 8th, but tomorrow all the Capitulants will be scattered in various places for a day of “pause” or “interior pilgrimages” either to Assisi, in the footsteps of St. Francis, or in Rome following the first Christians, or to meet the vulnerable with the community of Sant’Egidio... So, we are praying Our Lady of the Star in anticipation.

The conference of the day is delivered by the French Dominican Brother Eric de Clermont-Tonnerre. He is a graduate of the ESSEC School of Economics and Business, which is renowned in France, and has a Master’s degree in theology from the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Strasbourg. He teaches Homiletics (the art of preaching) and trains in eloquence. In France, he is recognized as a theologian and as a formator of lay people. He has been master of novices, provincial prior, president of the Conference of General Superiors of France and director of the Editions du Cerf – an editorial company founded and managed by the Dominicans.

“Being Brother, an evangelical and missionary challenge” was the theme on which he spoke to us. He began by inviting us to consider the idea of solitude, which is not isolation and assures us that we are inevitably beings who are both alone and in relationship with others. Fraternity is a given, a task, a test because of the limits of each other. We must take this into account. A quote from Father H.-D. Lacordaire, restorer of the Order of Preachers in France, on fraternal life in community: “The sweetest and most painful of burdens”. What makes community is not similarity but the different needs of each person in order to work together on a common task.



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Some points I noted:

To live and to make live, to think, to love, to give... it is necessary to be at the same time alone and with others in an articulation between the “common” and the “personal” which is always a test.

To be a brother is to recognize the other as different and yet to feel similar to him and to be close to him. In the community, we must develop fraternity which begins with respect for one another, then develops through the recognition of the need we have for one another and the desire to be members of one another, in complementarity and interdependence: to be together, to live together, to think together, to work together, to celebrate together... Some conditions for living well together:

- **First condition:** to really share while respecting the differences. That is to say, we must live a true friendship with those with whom we live and work. To put ourselves in common is to be concerned about others, to really share responsibilities and tasks.

- **Second condition:** to tell the truth. There are four words that must characterize living together. These four words are taken from Psalm 84: “Love and truth meet, justice and peace embrace.” Love and peace are the positive poles; justice and truth, are the critical poles, where difficulties are played out, where the Passover is played out.

- **Third condition:** the importance of accepting conflicts and forgiving.

Following the conference, many questions from the assembly focused on the difficulties of a truly fraternal life; the structures that perhaps need to be reviewed for a life of greater communion among the brothers; all the failures to live fraternity of which some brothers have been the





perpetrators; and the questions about young people who are also called to live a certain fraternity in a very individualistic world

At the beginning of the afternoon, the two persons in charge of the Secretariat for Association, Brother Paco and Mrs. Heather, presented their work in a very dynamic way. There was no shortage of questions about the organization of this service as well as about more profound questions concerning the shared mission between Brothers and lay people.

Some of the reflections retained:

- It is necessary to continue to help the process of AIMEL which is to have a second session next October.
- A Secretariat as an effective structure... with a professionalization of the personnel.
- The fear of insufficient formation of the laity at present... what will happen in the future?
- The initial formation of the Brothers is also a very interesting subject!
- Fear that it is already too late in some parts of the institute to secure association...
- We don't seem to be in the same boat. It seems that the Brothers are still willing to make decisions for the laity.
- We need to get together to discuss the desire to work together, to avoid competition within Lasallian groups...
- Regarding intentional communities (a term that has often appeared during this first week): during this Chapter we will have to clarify what we mean by this term. Realities exist, experiences are being put in place... Questions remain...
- There are many ways of living the shared mission (fraternities, intentional communities, etc.).



- What does it mean to be a Brother today? (To be a Brother today is still to be updated...)
- The Marketplace allowed the Capitulants to deepen their knowledge of this or that service.
- To conclude this day, we had the first Eucharist celebrated in language groups.
- A full day spent under the gaze of God and Our Lady of the Star... tomorrow will be another day filled with new encounters!

By Br. Daniel Elzière
Chronicler day 7.



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