

DAILY REPORT

Day 15

On this Sunday, May 15, 2022, the 15th day of our 46th General Chapter and the solemnity of the Proclamation of our Holy Founder, John Baptist de La Salle, the heavenly patron of all Christian educators, the Capitulants and Brothers of the Generalate celebrated this day of feasting in the following manner:

- **Departure for the Vatican:** At 7:00 a.m., some Brothers left for the Vatican City to attend the canonization ceremony of 10 new saints -among them Saint Charles de Foucauld, on the square of our Roman Catholic Church.
- Solemn Mass in the Sanctuary: the large number of Brothers present in the Generalate, almost all dressed in their black robes, gathered at 8:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of Saint John Baptist de La Salle for a solemn Mass. The Mass is presided over by Cardinal Lui Antonio Tagle, a native of the Philippines and Archbishop Emeritus of Manila. Currently, Cardinal Tagle is the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and Director of Caritas International. At the beginning of his homily, the Cardinal began by telling the Brothers that they looked tired. This little remark had the merit of keeping the attention of all to follow religiously the whole homily on the theme of the renewal of life and of everything that is the work of God. Of course, our Chapter aims at tracing new paths to transform lives. According to the Cardinal, this will only be possible with the direct involvement of God at the center of the choice of challenges and values that the capitulants will choose for our communities and the students/youth who benefit from our educational mission. A multilingual choir composed of Brother capitulants from

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the 5 Regions of the Institute joyfully animated the entire Eucharistic celebration with songs accompanied by the guitar and the great organ of the sanctuary.

- **Signing of the Golden Book:** At the end of the celebration, Cardinal TAGLE wrote a few words in the Golden Book of the Shrine to engrave the memories of this celebration in the midst of the General Chapter.
- **Photo opportunities:** After Mass, the Brothers present spontaneously went to the altar to take photos, either with the Brother Superior General or with Chapter companions to immortalize this day. The central aisle towards the sanctuary was also used as a setting for souvenir photos.
- **Festive meal:** At 1:00 pm, all the Brothers gathered in dining room n°2 for a festive meal. During this meal, Brother Alvimar D'AGOSTNI, Director of the Generalate, blew out another candle to the delight of all the Brothers present. The afternoon of this feast day was dedicated to rest in order to help digest the copious meal.
- **Social time:** the day ended with a "social time" which brought together, around a well-stocked aperitif, the Brothers of RELAL and those of RELAF to strengthen fraternal sharing between these two regions of the Institute.

Personally, I keep from this day the joy of having experienced once again that our cultural differences and origins are really a source of spiritual and fraternal richness. The beautiful songs sung during the Eucharist and the spontaneous photo sessions are proof of this joy and happiness of being and living as Brothers. At the end of this day of May 15, I am filled with joy in thanksgiving to God and for having a charismatic master in

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Saint John Baptist de La Salle, heavenly Patron of Christian educators. May the most holy name of God be praised and may Jesus live in our hearts. Forever.

> **By Br Gilbert OUILABEGUE, Relaf.** *Chronicler day 15.*

