



Blessed. Br. Raphael-Louis Rafiringa

After the solemn and moving ceremony of the election of the 28th Superior General of the Institute, Brother ARMIN LUISTRO, which took place yesterday (18 May), the Brother Capitulants, today, were called upon to complete the approval of the resolutions of some "Pathways of Transformation", which had been suspended, and to carry out the election of the Vicar General.

In the morning prayer, the Brothers entrusted themselves to the intercession of Blessed Brother Raphael-Louis Rafiringa, on his feast day, and paused to meditate on his precious testimony. Of the blessed, Card. Angelo AMATO, sdb, delegate of Pope Benedict XVI, during the Mass of Beatification (7/06/2009) in Antananarivo, declared among other things: "Brother Raphael-Louis is an exceptionally modern figure. He is a convert who opened himself to the light and truth of the Gospel. He is a religious who understands the importance of educating young people. He is a catechist who thinks about the Christian education of the people. He was a writer, a teacher, a leader who guided the Church in times of persecution and in the absence of priests. But Brother Raphael-Louis was above all a saint, who loved God with all his strength and put himself at His service, who loved his country with all his heart, distinguishing and highlighting the richness of the culture and the beauties of the Malagasy language. »

During the morning proceedings, a proposal was discussed concerning the Regions, which will be called upon, within a year of the publication of the Chapter documents, to draw up implementation strategies for the 'Pathways of Transformation'.







Sr. Leslye, the Chapter facilitator, at the end of her work, projected slides to review the work done and the results achieved. She recalled the *values* that had guided us (*prophetic boldness, solidarity, interiority, the culture of encounter, integral ecological commitment*), the *dream* (We are the Lasallian Family, one and with diverse vocations; a leaven for a more fraternal world, on a journey to meet God present in the poor and to promote justice). Finally, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity he had received and for the enriching experience.

After bidding farewell to the Sister, the evaluation work resumed with clarifications and discussions on the commitments and implementation proposals of some pending 'Pathways of Transformation'.

After the break, there was an opportunity to address special thanks to the Postulator for the Causes of Saints, Brother Rodolfo Meoli, at the end of his long and fruitful work, which was marked by a standing ovation. He leaves the baton to Brother Félicien Bora Paluku (Congo-Kinshasa), who will also have the role of Procurator at the Holy See.

This was followed by an examination of some proposals submitted by the Young Brothers.

At 3 p.m., resuming the work, Brother Armin, Superior General, took the floor, and proposed to the Assembly the intention to present six names, instead of three, as provided for in the Manual of Rules and Procedures, from which to choose the Vicar, also emphasising the criteria and qualities that the Brothers who will be members of the General Council should have. The Assembly approved the proposed change by vote and was able to add a few more names to the Superior's list.

After the vote, Brother CARLOS GÓMEZ (Colombia) was elected Vicar General with an absolute majority.









After the break, the coordinator gives the floor again to Brother Armin, Superior General, who clarifies his vision of the General Council as a community and of the whole Institute as a global community. He also specifies that the Councillors should not be tied exclusively to one Region, but also available to the others in order to have a complete knowledge of the Institute.

By Br. Mario Chiarapini, *Chronicler day 19.*

