

Tuesday, May 03, 2022

Discovering, dreaming, drawing and discerning, this is the quartet that will guide the 46th General Chapter of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, according to the active dynamic of the appreciative inquiry proposed by the facilitator, Sr. Leslie Sandigo. In order to discover, it is important that the Capitulants keep their hearts open. It is surely for this reason that this fourth day of the Chapter is dedicated to a recollection. The Capitulants were welcomed in the Great Hall of the assembly today by the projection of numerous messages sent from all over the world to show the prayerful and active closeness of Lasallians to the Chapter. Surely an innovation of this Chapter. Thanks to technology. As they say, "you can't stop change!" After the prayer and program details, Brother Antxon had the privilege of introducing the speaker, Sister Maria Cimperman, an American Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose areas of research are at the confluence of moral theology, social ethics and spirituality. Three essential points are to be retained from Sister's first presentation: liberating love which echoes the joy of thanksgiving, awareness of vulnerabilities and wounds which reminds us of boldness in truth, and community for communion which refers us to strength in decisions. In summary, for Sister Maria, this Chapter is not only for the Brothers, it is a Chapter in the life of the Church, it is an act of hope for all the people of God: in a Church that is more and more clerical, the Brothers are and must continue to be witnesses, a sacrament of fraternity. At these words, some of the Brothers straightened up proudly!

At the end of this session, the capitulants were invited to adjust the rabats of their robes or the collars of their jackets for the official photo of the capitulants in the main aisle of the central building.

At the resumption at 3:00 p.m., and after the presentation of the possibilities of the pilgrimage planned for Sunday, May 8, 2022, the speaker invited the inspired capitulants to share the fruit of their meditation with the assembly. It was a very rich sharing that focused on mission, community and synodality.







As in the morning, Sister Maria developed her ideas in three points this afternoon: witness, service, communion.

Addressing the first point, Sister referred the Brothers to their identity: what does it mean to be a Brother? What is our spirituality and where do we introduce it? What is our Lasallian way of discernment?

The second point is an invitation to consider service as a way to transform lives in truth, justice and forgiveness. Telling the truth sets one free, but it also makes one miserable as it takes one away from one's comfort zone. "This service of leadership requires us to 'wash feet' if we are to build new paths," she added.

As for the last point, communion, there are five words to remember: interculturality, availability, association, synodality, dialogue.

Full of hope all the Brothers left the large conference room to continue their meditation.

At 6:00 p.m. the capitulants met in language groups to share their meditation. This sharing strengthened them to approach the second phase of the Chapter with discernment and serenity: Boldness in truth. Mass at 6:45 p.m. brought the day's activities to a close.

By Brother Rodrigue TOEPPEN *Chronicler day 3.*

