

The Animation of our Lasallian Communities

As soon as I arrived in Rome, Italy, everything appeared to be larger than life: the very warm welcome by the CIL staff members, the Mother House itself that we must visit with a map and a compass at hand, the center of the city with its more than 2000 year old artifacts, the unbelievable chance to share with participants coming from all seven continents, the pastas and the pizzas – which are part of the Italian cultural environment and are absolutely delicious!

So here we are, 54 of us, all sharing the same Lasallian mission, but living it in very different environments and situations. From the District of Francophone Canada there are four people: Brothers Richard Dupont and Robert Lavallée, M. Ricardo Accilaire, and myself. The diversity of the cultures and of the generations enriches our discussions and reminds us that we are not alone working this mission of ours. People come from many countries, including Egypt, Brazil, Dominican Republic, France, Spain, Italy, Argentina, Mexico, the Philippines, Haiti, U.S.A., Congo, Jordan, Australia, Canada, Madagascar, Lebanon, etc.

Here are some of the topics that we discussed together: anthropology of communities, theology of communities, religious life in its biblical and theological sense, and how to build a community. The sharing on these subjects was very fruitful and enriching; it was a great experience to discover the many shapes of the Lasallian communities. We took advantage of the opportunity to share in these discussions with our American colleagues, Alan and Carl.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, we went to Assisi, Italy. It was a wonderful place, where we felt peace; it was a good day of meditation and prayer. The next day, Bro. Robert Lavallée and I went to St. Peter's Square for the Angelus from Pope Francis; it was a moving experience. People from many nations were gathered there on that special World Day of Migrants and Refugees. We could hear, "VIVA IL PAPA!" which means "Long live the Pope!" and feel the euphoria and fraternity of the Christians all together there in the name of their faith.

After these experiences and my time here, I go forth on this journey with enthusiasm and hope for the future of the Lasallian mission!

*By Sylvie Courtemanche
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