



Brother Bob Schieler spoke about governance and association today, particularly in Europe, but invited others to share what is emerging. France shared the development of “fraternité educative La Salle,” a creative effort to share leadership and governance with Lasallians and the future direction of the mission. We were invited to share one or more of the projects from our District or Region by drawing them with markers on the windows in the hallway leading to the chapel. This “marketplace of ideas” was fun and revealing: we are creative in finding ways to help people on the margins.

All of this creativity led one creative Brother to frame the past several days in the modern-day fable by Spencer Johnson—*Who Moved My Cheese?* The story involves four characters who live in a maze: the mice Scurry and Sniff, and two “little people,” Hem and Haw. All is going well until their cheese is gone. Scurry and Sniff quickly accept the loss of the cheese and go off in search of other sources. The little people, well, they hem and haw.

This week was an encounter with change. The books on formation and pedagogy are literally being re-written, and are meant to help us navigate our way through the maze in pursuit of our “cheese,” the salvation and liberation of the young through our educational and evangelizing work. The story of our Institute, both where it is diminishing and emerging and the story of the Lasallian mission, both where it is fragile and stable, is the story of change and creativity.

Haw eventually saw the light his mice friends lived by: “They kept life simple. They didn’t overanalyze or overcomplicate things. When the situation changed and the cheese had moved, they changed and moved with the cheese.” And so it is for us—is change the end of life as we know it or the start of a new life worth knowing?

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March 16, 2018

