



Truth be told, I had to break away from a St. Patrick's Day party downstairs to write up some final thoughts on this final day of a very rewarding Intercapitular!

Each day has begun with a symbol, and today's was light—we lit candles during morning prayer, and Brother Superior and each Regional Councilor carried a lantern from the chapel to the assembly hall. They remained burning through the morning sessions until we carried them to the church for the closing ceremonies. As in the Lenten liturgical readings from John's Gospel, the themes of light and darkness beamed through our time together, offering a frame for reflecting on the shadows and light that fall on our consecration, fraternity, and mission as Brothers.

Brother Florent Gaudreault, Visitor of Francophone Canada, captures this sense of light and shadows in his reflection: "We offered thanks to God for these successful days of evaluation, planning, reflection, and prayer. We don't know the future, but we have some insights at to what is coming, and what I have seen and heard convinces me that the need for this Institute, even if it seems or in fact is diminishing in some settings, while growing in others, is 'very great' (*R*, 152)."

We dedicated a significant part of the morning to looking ahead—How do we want to design the pre-46th General Chapter process? What do we want to consider? There seemed to be consensus building around putting in a significant amount of pre-Chapter work at District and Regional levels, and determining specific priorities in advance so we "hit the ground running." Brother Bob Schieler's closing address was also future-oriented, and I know my heart stirred when he said, "Jesus is our foundation, announcing the Gospel our task, and I send you forth to foster community life and promote association for mission."

Thank you for walking along with me "on the Intercapitular way" these past two weeks.

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