



The second day of our gathering here at the Generalate in Rome was equal parts information and inspiration. (It was raining this morning, so I can't help myself: there was precipitation too!) The topics included statistics, young Lasallians, association for mission, and formation. We had varied conversation groups: in triads, by Region, and all together in the assembly hall (known as the Aula Magna). Today our prayers were in French, and the theme was the Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well. The encounter at the well offered a lens for framing our reflections on our life as an Institute and Lasallian family.

The verbal sparring between Jesus and the Samaritan about thirst and water underlay all of our considerations. That is, "What am I (we) thirsty for?" When I look at the data that was presented I asked myself what do I long for—more novices? more educational works? more financial stability? more progress toward our goals? Would "more" slake my thirst? When Brother Michael French said to the assembly we have a special contribution to make in our church, in standing with and for the laity as they deepen their vocational commitment, I thought, now *that's* something I thirst for.

When we spoke to one another about the Lasallian movement and the activities that deepen association throughout the family, support young people who want to serve as a community, and sustain our communities through formation, I could feel my thirst. When Brother J.J. Jiménez related to the assembly that we grow in our vocation thanks to the accompaniment of Lasallians whose energy and zeal ignites our own, I thought, now *that's* something I thirst for. And I am happy to say, that over the years, that very thirst has been quenched.

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