



Today's theme was "Vaugirard," the house and property De La Salle bought in 1691 and which became a center for initial and ongoing formation. Much of the day was dedicated to questions surrounding vocation ministry and formation. We began with a question to stimulate our imagination: "If you had unlimited financial and human resources, what would you be most passionate to initiate in the field of formation and vocations as a response to your perception of the current needs and situation of the Institute?" I thought it was a clever approach because we often start with the challenges that limit our creativity. In our founding story we can see how De La Salle, certainly with fewer resources than our own, found the wherewithal to address a way to ensure the vitality of the community.

Over the course of the day we surfaced strategic responses to the needs, well aware of the resources we have and don't have. No one was surprised to see that across the Regions the vitality and sustainability of the mission is dependent upon the community of educators. And that the community, if it is to thrive, needs formation and accompaniment. This is not a new song, but the lyrics are a bit different each time we take up the chant. For instance, the word and concept "vocation" is rooted in Christianity—a sensitivity to the religious context calls for adaptations ("being passionate about a particular way of life," e.g.). Lasallian formation is rooted in the Gospel—a sensitivity to the faith context is called for (accenting the person of Jesus or the message of Jesus, e.g.).

This evening's holy hour was a weave of Taizé prayers, Scripture, candle light and silence. The musical accompaniment offered by Brothers Javier Núñez, Alberto Mairena, and Esteban de Vega was sublime. At the end of a day full of words and ideas it was good to usher the mind off the stage and give the heart its time!

Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC
General Councilor, RELAN
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