



I like our logo and our theme: “en camino-en route-on the way.” I don’t think most people fully appreciate the roads, real and metaphorical, our Visitors and Auxiliary Visitors travel. Maintaining fraternal relations to support Brothers and communities, supporting the myriad groups who contribute to and benefit from the mission—the travel that makes these encounters possible is immeasurable. Coming to Rome may seem a long way to travel in order to get off the road, but that is what the Intercapitular in large part represents: a rest stop along the way as they exercise their ministry of leadership and animation.

Leadership means communicating, and we have been talking a good bit. Leadership also means reflecting and discerning. It was good to be reminded that while dialogue is the indispensable first step in discernment, listening is the indispensable first step in dialogue.

We spent the morning in an prayerful encounter with Jesus. We imagined that he came to our District. “What would he see and hear in your District that he would bless? Challenge? Encourage? Repudiate? This deep listening and dialogue with Jesus was a step in a progressive discernment that began with yesterday’s World Café. Later in the afternoon we spoke to one another about the challenges and opportunities that the Spirit is calling us to respond to. To further our collective discernment, Brother Superior offered some remarks and then engaged in an open question-and-answer with the participants. He shared that he sensed a synergy in last week’s sessions, pointing to the work of solidarity and development, the statistical analysis, and the international strategy committee’s observations and recommendations. As an example he said, “We have 100,000 Partners with very good ideas about how to go forward. By listening to them and collaborating with them much good can be accomplished.” We’re on the way!

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