



SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN CARLO BORROMEO (SCALABRINIANE)
CASA GENERALIZIA - VIA DI MONTE DEL GALLO, 68 - 00165 ROMA - TEL. 06 39377320

Mexico City January 19, 2024

I Communication

VIII Congregational Course for Formators

On January 15, 2024, the formators meeting of the congregation Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, Scalabrinians, began in Mexico City, Mexico, in the seminary of the Scalabrinian priests. The theme of the course is: Have the same feelings of Jesus Christ in you (Phil 2:5). The first moments of the day were marked by the presentation of each formator present and who felt welcomed, despite the fact that they come from different countries and languages. On behalf of the Rector, Fr. Abraham has given administrative indications, so that the meeting can take place in the best possible way. Since Mexico is a land prone to earthquakes, Fr. Abraham explained what to do in the event of an earthquake. He concluded his greeting with open arms saying "mi casa es su casa".

The general animator of formation, Sr. Ana Paula Ferreira da Rocha, greeted the group on behalf of the Superior General Sr. Neusa de Fatima Mariano and the general councillors, who officially opened the meeting. Then, each formator shared her mission and expressed her feelings and expectations for the meeting.

The afternoon was spent listening to Fr. Juan Luis Carbajal, a Scalabrinian confrere, with the theme Socio-cultural and migratory context in Mexico. Historical stages, dates linked to the evangelization of Mexico and migratory routes characterized by Father Carbajal's report; very touching was the story of his personal experience in direct contact with migrants who try, at the cost of their lives, to arrive in the United States and in this attempt, they suffer violence of all kinds, and fall into the trap of drug traffickers, but meet a physical home that welcomes them managed by the Scalabrinian Priests, tied to a national network. These are not numbers, but people who are marked by suffering to the point that their faces are unrecognizable. Fr. Juan concluded by saying that what animates him and gives him hope is the innocence of the children who arrive at the shelters.

The day ended with the Eucharistic celebration and consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

On January 16, 2024, the opening of the VIII Congregational Course for Formators began with the celebration of Lauds and the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by Msgr. Carlos Enrique Samaniego, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Mexico. He stated that "We are called and summoned to be



anointed, like King David, so that in the world of migration which is marked by chaos and confusion, we can be signs of harmony and beauty, integrity of God's tenderness.

The participants enjoyed the classic Mexican breakfast, tasty and mixture of flavors

Singing the refrain of the hymn Here I am, Msgr. Samaniego opened the Word of God – Phil 2:5 "Have in you the same sentiments as Jesus Christ", a letter written from prison to a community that has cost him dearly, a text that is the thread of this VIII Congregational Meeting of Formators. In his introduction, the speaker made some premises: - answering the question "how do you feel" simply is not yet identifying a feeling, it is not yet talking heart to heart; it is necessary to know Jesus well in order to know what Jesus would think and do; identify our feelings that are not in tune with the heart of Jesus; To know each other, to understand each other, to value each other, to accept each other and to give of oneself.

Jesus' sentiments were always marked by his surrender to the Father and to his brothers and sisters, which led him to empty himself, and became the Good Samaritan, who from the situation moved to action, which was not only participation in the moment of the unfortunate person, but compromised, consoled, and journeyed. He touched his brothers and sisters. The Bishop made a wish: "that every migrant who meets you, may say that Christ loved me and gave himself up for me, so that we can imitate the same sentiments of Christ"

Enlightened by the Word, each province and the Asia delegation shared the reality of formation, going beyond the numbers, signs of the future emerged, new openings of formation houses, joys in the various stages of formation; Sharing brings out common commitments to be made. The lunch break was the time when we shared our personal experience in an informal way.

The afternoon opened with communications from Sr. Ana Paula da Rocha, the general animator of the formation; who showed the numerical data related to the different stages, and the strengths of MSCS guidance; She urged the formators to send the annual reports on the formative life of the Province so history will not be lost.

The participants were then divided into groups, whose names recall aspects of our spirituality – groups: welcome, itinerancy, diversity, communion – in which they began to reflect on a strategic synthesis, answering three simple questions: what are the new developments and what do we need to embrace (new horizons), what aspects are already present and what do we want to deepen (paths to be consolidated); and what commitments do we want to make.

We began the day with a hymn of praise which reads, "O Holy Father, source of all good, pour out your love", the day ended by asking the Lord to refresh the hearts of the members and spread peace of the Spirit in each of our hearts.

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