



Roma 2012

## TOUS FRÈRES – ALL BROTHERS – TODOS HERMANOS

(Rome, September 2012)

### "Religious Identity and Mission of the Church, and Brother in the World Today"

The activities of 2<sup>nd</sup> week from Sunday 09 to Saturday 15

**Monday, September 10th:** we continued with the rest of module 1: Professor Nuria Calduch addressed us on "Brotherhood in the Old Testament." It involved the presentation on Gn.4:1-16, the episode of Cain and Abel, and the analysis of this piece, concluding in two important questions: "What have you done to your brother?" (Gn.4:9) and "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gn.4:9). Based on these two concerns, Sr Nuria concluded that our fraternal bonds must be based on true love and lived concretely. She also emphasized the divine election of the Jewish people. She drew our attention to see our own history in the story of Cain and Abel.



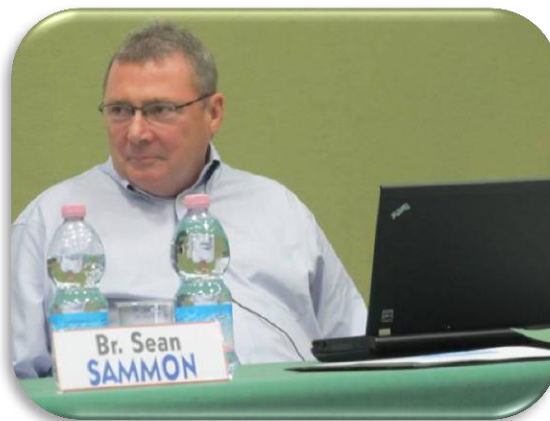
The afternoon was spent in "lectio divina" in light of all that had been expressed about brotherhood in the Bible. The prayer and the liturgy of the day was organized and hosted by the English group

**Tuesday, September 11th:** Professor Nuria Calduch continued with the theme of biblical fellowship. Through the perspective of fraternity as found in the New Testament, she began with the parable of the last judgment (Mt.25:31-46), and concluded with the example of the first Christian community in Acts 2:42-47. This presentation of the day demonstrated how distinctive is this true brotherhood of faith, prayer (around the Eucharist), the division of property according to the needs of each member of the group, good witness (Martyria), service (diakonia), and communion (koinonia). Nuria presented the many challenges that exist in these teachings.



The afternoon was marked by two sessions: group work and the communal presentation on the Brothers of the Christian Schools (La Salle), the history of their foundation and the current state of their Institute. During evening prayer, a moment of silence was observed in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks of the Twin Towers in New York of September 11, 2001.

**Wednesday, Sept. 12th**, was marked by the approach from the perspective of the theology of religious life and the ecclesiology of communion, through the great lecture and skill of Brother Sean Sammon FMS. After, the French language group led us in prayer for the feast of the Holy Name of Mary; we spent time preparing ourselves to deal with the issue that we would undertake: the identity of the Brother in the Church and the world today. Brother Sean Sammon gave us a summary of what we are living today in a time of transition after Vatican II, giving us the opportunity to live an authentic renewal of our lives and our Institutes.



**Thursday, Sept. 13th** was marked by the approach from the theology of religious life and the ecclesiology of communion. After the morning break, it was the turn of three new fraternity movements in the Church telling us about their foundations, their life, their charism, etc.

- The Brotherhood of Chemin Neuf was represented by Brother Pierre CURRAIZE on life in community with his brothers and sisters;
- Brother Michel-Marie, on behalf of the Monastic Fraternity of Jerusalem.
- Gianni LABELLA, on behalf of the San Egidio community.



After the concluding presentation of Brother Sean Sammon, the Brothers of Christian Instruction of Ploermel presented their founding charism and life. Before evening prayer, Brother Alfonso and other team members gave us the details and the guidelines for the pilgrimage to Assisi, the birth place of St. Francis and St. Claire.

**Friday, September 14th**, the Feast of the Holy Cross and Saturday the 15th, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows were marked with the pilgrimage to Assisi.



**Saturday, September 15th**, was the logical consequence of the Friday the village spiritual St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare. All spent time in the chapel Citadella for a period of personal meditation. Indeed, continuing the experience, we began the morning with the prayer on the Psalms modeled on that of St. Francis. We continued after breakfast visiting different places as pilgrims in Assisi. It was an experience of true joy for us brothers.

Module 1, Focus on Brotherhood, "could not culminate in a better way. For many of us, it was not the first visit to the land of Francis and Clare, but this was the first time that we walked in pilgrim fellowship with the brothers of our eight congregations. Before leaving we gathered to praise God with the Canticle of the Creatures, accepting that our "sister rain" accompanied us throughout our first day.

Friar Benedict, a Capuchin, joined our group to help us enter the Franciscan spirit. Even in Assisi, he addressed us in sincerity through which we could imagine the difficulties facing the Franciscan community on its way to the identification with Francis radical directives.

Joining language groups, we experienced different routes through the city of Peace. We were imbued with his spirit, linking the saint's life with our own.

How could we not remember our own parents in the family home of Francis? How could we not be grateful for our own vocation, although for many of us, pain came before it turned



into joy! We need to intercede for parents of today, for whom it is so difficult to consider a religious vocation to the Lord!

How could we not recall these women in the image of Claire who give witness to the strength needed to confront their adversities and to faithfully live the gospels in our Church while trying new paths!

How could we not be touched contemplating the tomb of François surrounded by his brothers, Rufin, Angelo, Masseo and Leon. Brothers in life and brothers in our sister death!

For some of us the first day ended with a night tour of the Great Basilica, in which there are more than 800 years this little man allowed himself to be lured into the brotherhood project inaugurated by Jesus.

At Assisi, we were not tourists but pilgrims!

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*During this week, all the participants of our Session, we were invited by the Community of the General House of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (La Salle), to share their table at a welcome dinner. It was a great time of brotherhood in which Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, Superior General, expressed us his joy on the occasion of this first meeting of Brothers.*



*To begin the workshops of our session,  
Brother José María fms has encouraged us in a very creative way.*

#### **THE BROTHERHOOD RESTAURANT**

*The challenge is not to take part in the Session to consume what is offered,  
but to prepare our own dishes.*