

Relive the Fatima Experience

Fatima, Saturday 8/16: Day 5

Today was Saturday and WEXCO was kind to let us out in the afternoon; we were supposed to have a tour of our choice. But before that would happen, we had to work in the morning. Actually, we had to get back to work after the tour too. It was all about working here in Fatima, but one would see only a smile so ready for greetings, and if you asked anyone, this would seem to be the normal answer: I am joyfully tired. It rained today so we moved back into the auditorium to close the Open Space ☺.

The question for the assembly today was “Why am I in CLC?”

At a construction site, nothing was visible yet except for earthworks being done to prepare the site for construction. There were 3 stone cutters. A journalist came to the construction site to interview the workers: What do you do? The first one said: I cut stone. To the same question, the second said: I cut stone so the masons can build walls. But the third one was totally enthusiastic and impatient with his answer: I am building the cathedral behind you. Dear friends, who do you think among those 3 stone cutters would find the ideal, the passion and the meaning in their works, even though they were doing the same thing?

All the topics in Open Space yesterday were well reported. People did not leave the reporting to just the facilitators, but 2 or 3 got together with the facilitator of each topic to work on the report; the issues and the discussions were well documented to share with the assembly. The Open Space team then worked through the night to number, categorize, and index all the reports into a thick booklet. The host team worked through the night until 5 in the morning to print in 260 copies so that each one of us could have a copy. These “stone cutters” definitely found the cause in their works. It is amazing the energy and the passion one would find when building the “cathedral!”

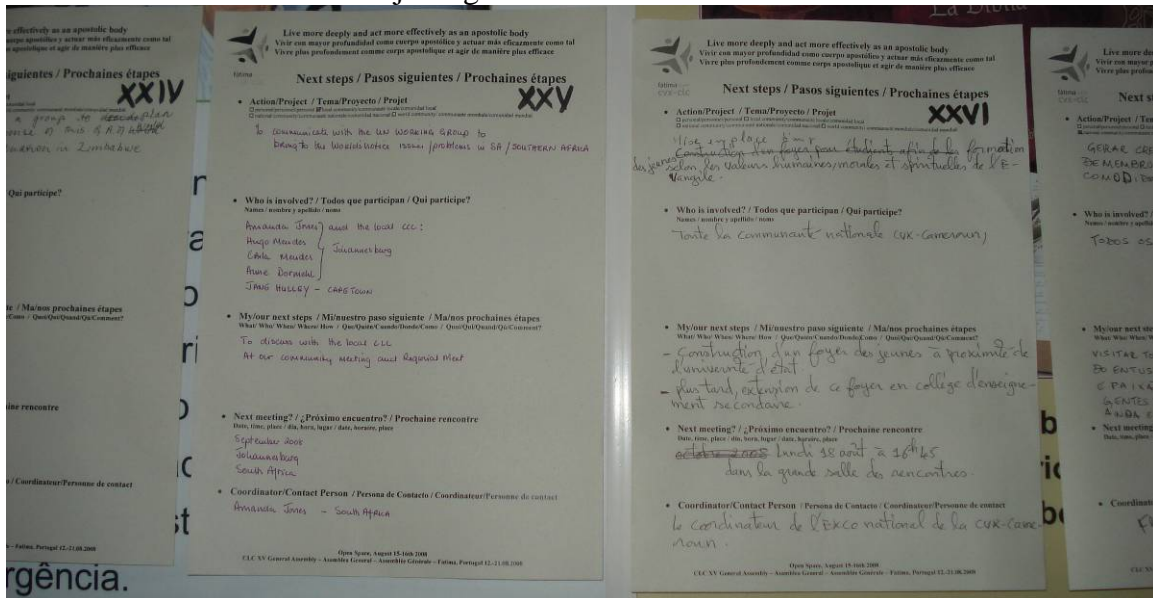
We had about 30’ to read the Open Space “booklet.” I focused on the ones in English, because there were just too many to read them all in 30’. It is such a treasure, and I was really moved holding it in my hands, flipping through the hand-written pages. They contain more than just ideas and suggestions. They embodied the collective desire for a more effective CLC and the love for God. Mine was in there, and so were Ann Marie’s and Angelique’s, and people’s of CLC around the world as well. Dear friends, can you contemplate and feel the immensity of this little stack of papers? So many graces that God has bestowed upon us, shall we together build the “cathedral,” or do we just want to work in our individualistic way cutting the stone and stack them up. Dear friends, is God calling us to build the “cathedral,” or just cut the stone?



Portuguese coffee and Projects

To close the Open Space, we were then invited to “advertise” one or two projects that we have been pondering. We outlined the projects on formatted sheets of paper and turned them to EXCO. People clamored for the microphones to market their projects. They covered from social issues to

formation to working for world peace. All the projects were posted all the walls. We had a 45' break to enjoy Portuguese coffee while reviewing walls filled with these initiatives. Even more impressive was the fact that all they were not mere ideas but they all had a driver and a strategy. Let's pray that these initiatives would not reverted back to just "good ideas."



From issues in Southern Africa to formation programs for the youth

The assembly got back to work at 9 PM after dinner to resolve the proposals to change GN# 21a. A clarification was issued and the assembly was receptive, but the assembly asked for more time to discern. It was decided that the assembly will reconvene in the morning at 9 to vote on the proposal. "Why am I in CLC?" In the context of being and thinking with the Church, just like the assembly, we are invited to do very humble things in the mission of the Church for our world. Are we "cutting stone" or "building the cathedral?" How would I get from "cutting stone" to "building the cathedral?"

We would have guests and Father General Nicolas coming to the assembly tomorrow.

Anticipation!
In Christ,
Liem