

Relive the Fatima Experience

Fatima, Monday 8/19 – Day 8



The end of the assembly was approaching fast. This morning Edward Warrington of CVX Malta guided the assembly on our inner journey, to refocus and re-center. I was not the only one consumed by fatigue. It seemed that was the general sentiment, especially toward the end of the day. Edward was the assembly guide and helped the assembly each day to be more aware of the inner journey amidst the business of our works and the sense of urgency as the assembly drew to a close in a couple of days. Today, Edward invited and challenged the assembly to refocus to bring further into clarity that the goal of our works here in Fatima is God's will.

I went to bed really early last night to allow my body that much needed rest. I missed the wonderful magic show of Father Benito from Cuba. But that was OK; I needed the rest. This morning I felt refreshed and ready work again ☺, to “commit our world, regional and national communities to practical, realistic initiatives.” We would tackle the remaining 5 themes today. Surprised! I saw my name circled for the workshop on the Spiritual Exercises; that meant that I was invited to facilitate this workshop. Goodness! Thanks God that I rested last night.

It turned out that Ann Marie was invited to facilitate the workshop on Apostolic Body, and Angelique championed the workshop on Family in CLC. I wondered what would happen if I did not go to bed early last night. The experience of being called to rest in Jesus during mass came back to me. Was God that caring for the assembly? I felt certain that I was not the only one that God rejuvenated with his love so that we could be as sharp, dedicated and gentle as possible in our journey here in Fatima. Just one of many, but nevertheless I felt affirmed again that CLC is a dream of God for the Church, for our world today.

Our workshop had people from India, Hong Kong, Kenya, Europe and America; it was like having the “world” coming together to tackle an issue. The process was the same as it was yesterday. But it seemed that we really got a hold of it by now. We moved through it with better focus, precision and efficiency. Some actually suggested some good ideas to alter a little bit the process to make it more effective, and we embraced them. We had 3 volunteers to take notes during the sharing and to compose

the final report: Allison Vella, 40 from Malta, Metejka Hajsek, 39 from Slovenia and Evelyn Maloret, 64 from England. They were “empowered stone cutters!” We had an hour break for coffee at the end of the workshop. They did not break. Laptops were turned on. Notes were laid down on a haphazard table in the garden where the workshop convened, and they went to work drafting the document for the workshop. We had our report wonderfully articulated to contribute to the assembly. It was wonderful to see the “stone cutters” in action building the “cathedral.”

Mass today was a moment of gratefulness for me, even though it was very lively with the cultures and hymns from the African communities. Mass was really wonderful. Again I was led to see the richness in the diversities of humanity. Each culture, each language is a gift to all of us. The explicit expressions were different, and I did not even understand the many languages used during this one mass, but within the cultural expressions and hymns were the implicit presence of the universal and boundless Love – God himself. I felt God really took care of me yesterday, just as He would with many others at the assembly during our Fatima journey. He took care of us because He really cares for all of us for we are called to live out concretely His dream in our humble contributions to the mission of the Church through our CLC charism. Dear friends, do you see the signs of God caring for our CLC community in your lives, in your communities? God invites us all to be a “stone cutter” fully in our unique lives and circumstances. Are we giving God all that we have?

I believe it was Ignatius who said “In everything, to love and to serve.” God did indeed walk with us during this Fatima journey. He labored with all of us within our human fragility and limitations. The fruit of Fatima is thus not meant for the assembly, but for the entire World Community, for all of us. How will we embrace this fruit of God’s labor humbly made explicit by the Fatima Assembly?



The sanctuary of the New Shrine of Fatima