

## Day 4 – July 30, 2009

### **Opening**

This morning, we had the privilege of having Msgr. Maurice Couture celebrate the Eucharist with us. Msgr. was the previous archbishop of Quebec, a man highly appreciated and loved for his simplicity and understanding of human problems. The ceremony, well prepared by the Sisters of the United States, was very meaningful.

### **Theme on Communion**



Daniel Cadrin, O.P., today's key-note speaker, explored COMMUNION with us. It is essential for real communion to exist, that differences also exist. These differences must be accepted and integrated.

Of the models of communion presented, none can be reduced to one. There is communion of vision and values, of relationships and attitudes, of actions and projects. Each person is more comfortable with one or the other. However, none can be ignored or done away with.

The sources of communion involve identity and charism. This includes a specific mission, an inspiring spirituality, an evangelical lifestyle, a historical heritage and an openness to the future. The challenge here is to allow each element to co-exist with fire and zeal in our hearts.

This communion is often fragile, Walls separate us, walls of ignorance, fear, judgments, gossip, prejudices, indifference, jealousy, competition, etc. What bridges can we build to construct and solidify our communion? The great secret of communion among us is the expression found many times in the Gospel: «one for the other».

### **A Work of Art**

Each group was asked to produce a “work of art”, some small thing to express our quest for communion. Indeed, there is much creativity in our Congregation through songs, posters, movement, mime, skits and different art mediums. Communion blazed forth in all its beauty and complexities.



## Panel

In a panel, three sisters presented their personal understanding of communion. Sister Eleanor LaBranche connected communion to her understanding of God. Sister Marielle Legendre connected her comments to the specific work done during the year on communion. Sister Vilma Arévalo shared with us how she lives communion in her community and in her work with the sick.



## Reactions/Observers

And finally, Sister Liette Finnerty and Sister Saturnina Mamani shared with us, in Spanish, their reactions to the day's activities.



For Sister Saturnina and her ethnic group, a harmonious relationship with all of nature is an absolute necessity. When that relationship is broken, a reconciliation ceremony is performed to restore harmony.



Sister Liette, on her part, was touched by the fact that communion was quite often expressed with the hands, either drawn or sketched or interconnected. Hands are needed to actualize communion so that communion will not remain an ideology.

## **Communion and Reconciliation**

A celebration of reconciliation was held towards the end of the afternoon. All of us tried to identify the sins against communion and many willingly shared aloud what they will try to change in their own life.

## **Round Table**

After supper, a meeting of the Round Table was held to discuss different questions related to the upcoming Congregational Chapter in 2011.