

Day 6

Our day began with a Eucharistic celebration joining the sisters, the apostolic and contemplative branches who live in this welcome house “La Solitude de Martillac”, and with the Christian community of Martillac who join them in the celebration every Sunday. For the French population, this day is a very important one since it is the day of the first round of their Presidential elections. Eleven candidates present themselves and only the two with most votes will stay on for the second round.

In his homily, the priest recalled this day as celebrating Mercy Sunday. He continued stating that in the gospel, Thomas represented a reality that is very familiar to all human beings, that of doubt...the difficulty of believing beyond the visible, the difficulty in putting our complete trust in God, especially when confronted by unknown and unforeseeable problems or hardships.

Following the Celebration, we returned to the “market”. All morning we pursued our visits and encounters, deepened by our dialogue, listening and trying to understand the different realities, experiences, difficulties, values, and especially the challenges.

At 3pm, after having picked up our market spaces, we began sharing our experiences and reactions in the Chapter hall in small international groups. The “market” favored a dialogue among one another, amidst the different languages. Everyone could be understood or took the necessary means to facilitate such. The fact of being able to give and receive information made it possible to go further, to go deeper than it would have been if we had just received a written text. It opened our minds and our hearts. It aroused respect and admiration when we discovered the presence of the charism, the importance of the mission, and the creative and dynamic ways of living them.



We were also able to perceive the bigger questions, the particularities of our situations and what was common. A new multicultural conscientiousness emerged in us, with its strengths, weaknesses, and challenges for the future.

We also shared on other realities, such as for example our presence in the Czech Republic.



In the evening, after listening with great interest to the results of the French election, we enjoyed a “Cultural feast”, with games, dances, songs, and beautiful power points on our Provinces/Regions. Everyone participated in the fun, giving the best of themselves, and learning from others. We greatly appreciated this feast and thanks go to our three dynamic animators: Sisters Raymonda of Lebanon, Nahed or Egypt and Elizabeth of Mexico-Honduras!

Tomorrow will be a day of rest! We welcome this day!

