Highlights of July 18

The writing committee provided a document summarizing the sharing of the chapter thus far. We spent the whole day in a process of reflection and sharing on three questions:

1) What is the most confirming thing we have heard?
2) What are three calls to us for the next five years?
3) What do we most give thanks for God's action in the life of our Congregation?

At the evening mass the various symbols of the provinces and units that had been explained in earlier sessions were gathered to decorate the altar. An earlier communication explained the Korean, African and Japanese symbols.

The symbols of the other provinces and units were explained today.

Italy – a fountain of living water which refreshes us and gives us what we need to be renewed. Life continues to flow in the Congregation.

France – a small fig tree. The tree has one branch that has withered and yet new life has sprung out of it.

Spain, Brazil, Columbia and Chile – A lighted lamp represents the feminine Marianist religious life which despite our smallness, continues to shine from within. The oil - the life of God, and the Word - keeps the light shining.

USA – A many-faceted prism reflects light, representing the many cultural backgrounds and diversity of ministries of our sisters. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is etched inside the prism. Like Mary we are women of faith, hope and action and we carry her with us wherever we go.

India – Also a lamp, representing the Community's name, Shanti Deep, Light of Peace. The lamp makes no noise but is a silent presence, listening in the midst of the great reality that is India. We hope to bear the light of peace to encourage dialogue.

The information team