

Final message

Dear confreres,

We gathered in Rome as rectors of the scj scholasticates from April the 8th to the 13th in response to the invitation of Fr. General and his council. The gathering was *deep, fraternal and challenging*. The sharing of our experiences and our originalities made us get in touch with the fact that the Congregation is *alive*, with a history, but also a history to still to be written.

We appreciated the *communitarian* and *welcoming* style that we were able to create among us. We first offer a sincere thank-you to the general council, which has always tried to join us in a spirit of common searching. Another sincere thanks goes to all who made this week possible, to the community of the general curia and the international college community.

The testimony of the first Christian community, as we heard in the Acts of the Apostles in the liturgy of these very days of Easter time, made us focus our attention on the witness and mystery of our community life. The sharing of what we are and what we have isn't just a tool in order to be more efficient in our apostolate but represents as well a possibility to be church, as the first Christian community was.

The attitude of confidence that accompanied our meeting, both in the plenary sessions and in the linguistic groups, even when we had to face challenges concerning formation, was serene. This may have also been due to the election of the Pope Francis, who stirred up in the Congregation a kind of hope which is the theological virtue that comes from God.

During the meeting we studied and discussed the new Ratio Formationis Generalis. The innovations and the updates aren't just an external decoration; rather, they depict the face of the Congregation in the XXIth century. That's why we hope that each confrere reads and discusses it.

The first aspect that we talked about concerns *inculturation*, a dimension that touches all the entities and all the religious. The Gospel, that is a part of each culture and aims to incarnate in an original way in each culture, finds in our very attempt to live the *interculturality* a ground in which grow and develop. Several scholasticates are living the challenge of the inculturation. Entities who have not embraced interculturality suffer.

That's why we consider *internationality* a crucial element in order to write down the history which is to come. As with a symphony where it's important that the different instruments play in harmony, so also our entities should learn to play a new score which reaches its full meaning only as an "ensemble". The knowledge of languages and the sharing of life, starting with formation, are the best beginnings in a path of permanent formation which last one's entire life.

During the meeting it was noted that the *economy* is a determining element in the formative path and requests a certain technical and professional knowledge. Financial concerns can represent an interpretation of spirituality and a way of incarnating the Gospel, an interior and exterior style of poverty, a mental and practical attitude that starts during initial formation.

This economical aspect represents a way of living the search for justice which is at the core of the social dimension of the scj charism. Wholistic formation today demands that a candidate let the values shape him, and these values are not only the Word of God and the

writings of our founder, but also the world itself and its history. We could say that during formation the scj candidate needs to learn to become bilingual, to speak the language of God and the language of man

Looking forward to the future we would like to propose something that will help us stay in this spirit of communion. We believe that the attitude of *sint unum* is the root and the peak of our community life. That's why we suggest:

1. The creation of a role that would charge a person with follow-up on the formation of the formators;
2. To repeat regularly these types of *international meetings* between formators;
3. The promotion of *international and continental* scholasticates.

In conclusion of this week of fraternity and sharing, which was like an on-going formation session for us, we would like to invoke on us and on the entire Congregation Fr. Dehon's blessing.