

**The 36th General Chapter
Brothers of the Sacred Heart
From an American, first-timer's perspective
(continued)**



Thursday, May 10, 2018

We began the day of Chapter in typical fashion this morning – morning prayer, Mass, breakfast, and the start of the Chapter's working sessions. There was something different, however. Mark was now the president of the Chapter, and he began the day with remarks of gratitude and challenge. First, he used Brother Polycarp's first call for missionaries to inspire the members of the Chapter with our noble purpose and call. He challenged us to be as courageous and bold as were those first missionaries to the New World. Secondly, he thanked the Province of France, especially in the persons of Brothers Bernard and Joseph, for their zeal in spreading the

Word



and the charisma. If it weren't for Brother Polycarp and those first missionary brothers coming from France, the Institute and the charisma would never have made its way to Australia via the Provinces of Canada and the U.S. Mark is also the provincial of the "Mother Province's" most recent son – the Province of the United States. It was an inspirational speech and a touching moment.

Afterwards, we got down to business. Brother Jose Ignacio (right) has taken his place among us, the delegates, rather than sitting at the head table. He began participating a lot more in the Chapter's proceedings once he moved! [Funny, his smile got a lot brighter and broader, too!]

Our work for the morning was to address the revisions to two proposals from the editing ("redaction") committee. Again, our great challenge was translation and the meaning of words. What was translated into English was not the same text the French and Spanish were addressing. It made for many awkward moments and much confusion. As Anglophones, we





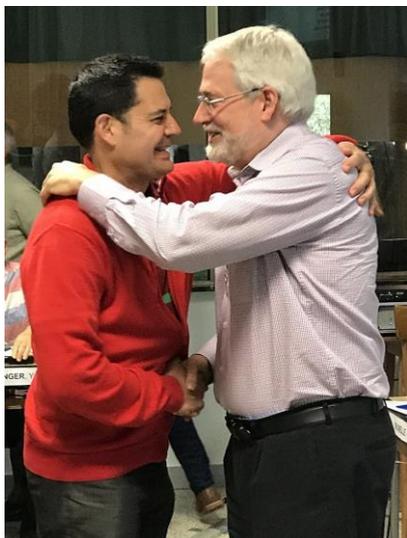
got together to discuss the latest challenge. While it was not a great two sessions, it did reinforce the internationality of the Institute and the great gift that being multi-lingual can be.

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The afternoon sessions were quite eventful as we elected the first two councilors for the Institute. Brother Alfred Faye took the floor in Deliberative Session for the Election Committee. He once again reminded us of the election rules, and the Chapter, under the leadership of Brother André LaFlamme, invoked the Holy Spirit with the singing of *Veni Sancte Spiritu*. The tellers went into motion immediately afterwards.



Brother Ray Hetu, a second brother from the Province of the United States and a General Councilor from the previous administration, was elected First Councilor to Brother Mark. Subsequently, Brother Denis Plourde Caron, a brother from the Province of America Austral and a second brother who served as Councilor in the previous administration, was elected Second Councilor. Both men were quite humble in accepting their elections, and streams of brothers came to them to congratulate them on their selection.



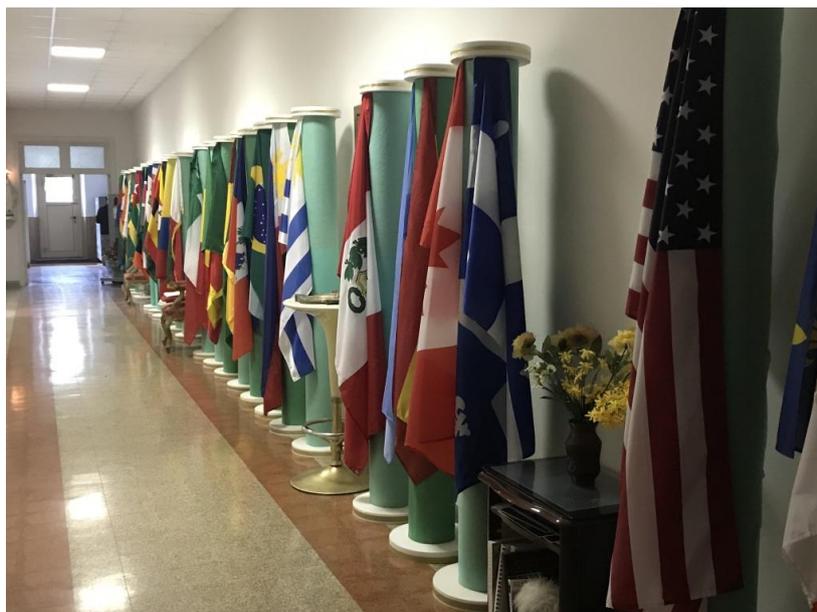


Bro. Denis Plourde Caron Bro. Mark Hilton Bro. Raymond Hetu
(*Second Councilor*) (*Superior General*) (*First Councilor*)

Following the election of the first two Councilors, the Chapter members took a break and returned to nominate two brothers for the third and fourth Councilor positions.

Given the lateness of the hour, we did not have time for the Provincial and Delegate from Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) to present their Province to the assembly. A motion was made, seconded and passed that we table this presentation until later in the Chapter.

The Chapter then adjourned for the day.



Flags of the Institute line the wall in the bottom floor of the Generalate – right outside my door.