



RETREAT ON THE EUCHARIST

To You Our very Dear Sisters,

It is with joy that we, accompanying persons and novices in Peru, wish to share some aspects of our retreat on the Eucharist.

September 30:

On this Friday evening, Celine Martel, animator of *Luz de Maria*, joyfully welcomed the novitiate group of Peru: five novices and one postulant from the men's branch of Holy Cross. We also invited the three novices of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption. Sister Evelyne, a Benedictine, gave a conference on the mystery also known as communion. She presented the Eucharist as the gift of the table of love. This is one commitment to universal "fraternity" without discrimination! without discrimination that is a commitment to the universality of oneness.

*The Eucharist begins where we are,
that is to say within our inner being, in our every day reality.
Hence, it is a constant renewal of our Christian discipleship.*

October 1:

Sister Evelyne helped us to understand the Eucharist as the table of the Word by inviting us to be the true presence of Christ in the Church and in the world, nourished through our attentive listening to the Word of God.

*Her intervention helped us to understand the Eucharist
as an act of love and of communion with others.*

October 2:

On Sunday morning, the last day of the retreat, our facilitator enlightened us further on the Eucharist: a mission without a border of peace, a mission of peace without borders. She invited us to offer the non-violence of silence in difficult situations (Jn 19, 9). We grasped the reality that we are fragile beings, because Jesus also chose to live the life of human fragility. This equals the acceptance of the other because, for Jesus, the human person is called to happiness. A quiet space provided us with a time for private meditation after each conference. Our retreat ended with a rich Eucharistic celebration presided by Father Juan, the Director of the male novices of Holy Cross.

*We experienced this celebration
in a diversity of dances, of languages, of congregations, and of cultures
Peru, Brazil, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Canada,
Congo, Mexico, Chile, France and the United States.*



Following the Eucharistic celebration, we shared a common meal -- like a big family. To bring everything to a close, we had an entertaining game of volleyball at the novitiate.

Our weekend was not only a renewal with God but also a friendly time with male Holy Cross novices and the Daughters of the Assumption. Our thanks to all who participated and especially to the *Luz de Maria* community for the warm welcome and for this time of intimacy with God. Many thanks!

Monique Boumboundi
Novice



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