



Day 10: 8th August 2013 – Zambian delegation reflection

After ten days of being together as part of the representatives of the World Community, time has come to descend the hill of Fatka. Filled with gratitude we leave Lebanon with fond memories of the 16th CLC World Assembly.

The way of proceeding throughout the assembly revealed how we were accompanied during the assembly with the Holy Spirit. The diversity of the liturgical celebrations added flavour to the quality and communion of our church.

This assembly was historic to us as a Zambian delegation, it is the first time the country had two candidates nominated for election to the World ExCo accompanied by a Zambian Ecclesiastical Assistant. It was a moment of grace too for the delegation as the two delegates were asked to take on extra roles in the assembly; Norbert as a facilitator of discussion groups and Josephine was part of the writing team for the assembly's final document. That left Fr. Hector to pray for the team.

The fatigue was beginning to be felt by many delegates today, as many conversations focused on flight schedules and the desire to get back home was heard. The climax of the day was the adoption of the assembly recommendations drafted by the writing team on behalf of the assembly from their suggestions and what the writing team sensed through discernment as the direction the assembly wanted to take. The elections of the new world ExCo was another highlight of the day.

The writing team presented its second draft to the assembly and some suggestions were made. The feedback from the assembly seemed overwhelming in terms of suggestions, but it was amazing how committed the writing team was to ensuring that the document was adopted before the close of the assembly. When the final document was presented, there was a sense of appreciation from the entire community and the document was finally adopted with the recommendation that the writing team and the new ExCo work on further smoothing of the translation and the inclusion of a few observations that were made.

With anxiety rising, a smooth election process began, in a fraternal spirit the assembly delightfully voted for a team that represented all the regions; Latin America, Middle East, Africa, Europe, United States and Asia Pacific. To put the icing on the cake, Josephine from Zambia has been voted on the World ExCo as a Consultor. We thank the Lord for the many blessings received during this assembly. As a delegation, we carry many memories and stories to share with our home community. We congratulate Lebanon for successfully hosting the 16th Assembly.

Fr. Hector Mukwato SJ, Norbert Tembo and Josephine Shamwana-Lungu (Zambia)