

Young Sisters' Gathering—Unity in Diversity



We are now into the second week of the “Young Sisters’ Gathering” at our Motherhouse in Rome and the participants are already old friends. The seating arrangements in the conference room change-weekly and group activities keep everyone moving, so that there are many opportunities for bonding. Sisters are from 6 countries and speak 4 languages. However, using a free translation app, great conversations are being held. This gathering is truly a testimony to **Unity in Diversity**.

Sessions began March 20 and will conclude on April 10th. During the first week each of the young sisters gave a 30-minute power point presentation which introduced her family, shared her vocation story and ministry experiences. Participants are between the ages of 35 and 45 and although from different countries and cultures, they have much in common as members of Generations X and Y. Working together and learning from one another, their worlds are being greatly expanded.

The sisters from each country have prepared a special prayer service which alternates with Lectio Divina to start the day. Daily activities include input sessions by members of the general administration, challenging projects, and much discussion on relevant topics. In addition, there are a number of opportunities for sightseeing in Rome and a trip to Assisi. This past week the sisters attended an audience with Pope Francis and had excellent seats very close to the Holy Father.

This first of three gatherings of young sisters scheduled for 2019, 2020, and 2021, is most encouraging. Our sisters have wonderfully creative ideas, lots of energy, a passion for mission, and the desire and commitment to be life-long learners.