



Nemi, 25 September 2025



Yesterday, the Capitulants were enriched by the testimonies of two of the three lay observers, each offering a glimpse of how the Marist spirit continues to inspire and bear fruit in different corners of the world, specifically with lay partnership in mission.

From Fiji, Ms **Serenia Madigibuli** shared her 38 years of mission in Tutu. Formed by Marists, she has dedicated herself to youth and married couples, helping them grow in responsibility, faith, and family life. For her, being Marist means more than devotion to Mary—it means being Mary’s presence in rural villages, walking alongside families in their joys and struggles. She underlined the trust now placed in lay people, who now run the Tutu Centre with commitment and fidelity, and reminded the Chapter of the shared mission uniting lay and religious. Holiness, she said, takes different forms—whether with the Bible in a backpack or with cooking pots and children—but both paths bring life to the mission.

From Mexico, **Mr Saúl González** offered a moving reflection on community as the heart of Marist life. Drawing from his years of experience working with the Marist Fathers, he stressed that before being priests, Marists are brothers—called to fraternity in intercultural and international communities. He echoed Fr. Colin’s call to truly love the children and recognise God’s seeds already alive in the world. While institutions may face crises, the Spirit continues to guide step by step, rekindling the fire of Pentecost in our midst. Saul encouraged the Chapter to remember that real change comes not only from decrees, but from living the call daily, rooted in God’s compassion and the joy of belonging to Mary’s family. He stressed the importance of everyday presence among the people.



The capitulants welcomed these testimonies with gratitude, raising questions to clarify and affirm the insights shared.



The day then continued with steady progress in the Commission groups, where, following the synodal process, members prepared the first draft documents of their commissions. With the help of the plenary assembly, these documents will be further refined in the days ahead as part of the ongoing discernment for the life and mission of the Society.