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Session for New Missionaries in France

PARIS, France - The Conference of Religious Men and Women of France (CORREF) recently organized its annual Welcome 2024 session for foreign missionaries working in France. It was participated by one from the Montfort Missionaries and three from the Daughters of Wisdom. This week, which took place from Monday, February 5 to Friday, February 9 in Paris, was marked by enriching exchanges and a deep immersion in French social and religious reality.

On the first day, the participants were warmly welcomed by Sr. Catherine SESBOUE, Secretary General of CORREF, as well as other members of the animation team. The afternoon began with presentations and prayers, followed by a friendly moment of meeting and sharing. The day concluded with a celebration of Vespers and the Eucharist, thus providing a spiritual beginning to this week of reflection and exchange.

The second day was dedicated to understanding the mission at the heart of French society. Participants had the opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities of Christianity in France, notably through interventions by Aurore CAUSIN on French society and secularism.

Moreover, Wednesday was dedicated to intercultural understanding, with interventions from Mr. Pierre DIARRA on intercultural challenges and interreligious dialogue. Participants were invited to reflect together and share their experiences, thus strengthening bonds of understanding and mutual respect. The day ended with a lively evening, highlighting the cultural diversity of the participants through traditional songs and dances.

Thursday was indeed an important day. Religious life in France was highlighted by Fr. Pierre-Yves PECQUEUX, followed by the sensitive issue of the protection of minors, perfectly and delicately addressed by Bro. Pere FERRE. At the end of the day, Mgr. PANSARD came to meet us and preside over the Eucharist: testimony to the commitment of the Church of France in welcoming new missionaries.

Finally, the session concluded on Friday with discussions on administrative procedures and social protection, followed by a moving Mass. Participants left Chevilly Larue with new lessons, strengthened friendships and a renewed commitment to their mission in France.

Welcome 2024 offers foreign missionaries a unique platform to exchange, learn and grow together in their service to the Church in France.

Fr. Olivier Nantenaina RAMAHENINTSOA, SMM