



At the initiative of the Malagasy Major Superiors, Fr. Jean Claude Lavigne came to Madagascar from 6 to 8 November 2019, for the ongoing formation of the religious men and women of the Big Island.

The Theme: "Consecrated Life: An Opportunity for Our Time".
A 'chance'?



'A way to have life to the full'
John 10

Leaving, with nothing but oneself and one's faith, this is the way of religious life at all times and for all ages. Leaving the safeties to be available to God and to others. Religious life is entirely in this perspective of encounter.

The rules of religious life propose a way for this encounter with God and with others, a path experienced by founders and recognized by the Church as a source of vitality.

This way differs from some banalized attitudes in society, where 'getting on in life' is based on the logic of interest and accumulation. It is a way that chooses gratuity and loss: in service, in common and fraternal life, in the sharing of goods, time, ideas... silence and prayer. It is a way that makes it possible to meet the suffering and the humiliated, to make an alliance with them and to face together the forces of death. To experience God present in our lives.

Let us dare fraternity", Fr. Lavigne said to the young professed sisters and brothers, beyond jealousy and comparison, let us recognize who we are, our limits and our capacities, let us live the joy of being together and let us make cosmopolitan religious life a school of openness!"



The vows "make ourselves available to God's coming into our lives," he will say to community and formation leaders. *"The vows are means, at the service of life, to help us to grow in freedom and responsibility!"*

He also reflected with the Bursars on their difficult task at the service of the life and mission of their Sisters and Brothers: **managing the present, foreseeing the future, and keeping ever in mind the "preferential option for the poor" and the protection of the creation. To be open to the Spirit, always close at hand, to enlighten us on the way.**