

HEART BEAT

A Daily Report from the 2018 USCMA Conference



Be the Ears: Encounter Requires Listening

Around the Table

Christopher Kerr asked 2 volunteers: one to sit on top of the table and one to sit underneath. This helped him dramatically convey privilege and demonstrate a simple fact of life: there is a need for reconciliation and humility from all people – both “privileged” and the marginalized – in order to engage in table fellowship. Table fellowship where all people can encounter one another – acknowledging their differences and commonalities – as equals. A desire from both “sides” for reconciliation and encounter with one another are crucial steps toward table fellowship.

Journey to the North End

This afternoon, the majority of conference participants boarded 3 buses to travel from the hotel to the North End of Boston. We arrived at the historical St. Stephen’s Catholic Church (the church of Fr. David, who is the director of the Missionary Society of Saint James the Apostle who was one of the 2018 Pope Francis award recipients). Fr. Stephen Dudek, in addition to a panelist of missionaries, captivated the audience. Afterwards, people spread out to sightsee and eat dinner.

Leaving Space for Change

Following Fr. Stephen’s keynote address on Bringing Mission Home (where he offered 4 key principles to apply), there was a panel of four missionaries – two priests and two lay missionaries. Each of them shared their personal encounters with other cultures, marginalized people and fellow Catholics. Then, the participants were able to openly ask questions; sometimes, answered by other participants before the panelists shared their respective comments.



“The work of mission is inviting people in to be loved by God.”

- Christopher Kerr, Executive Director of Ignatian Solidarity Network

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