

## Preparatory Day 2

### Of God's and Men



After Morning Prayer confreres spent two hours watching the movie "Of God's and Men" (Des hommes et des dieux) a 2010 film which centres on

the monastery of Tibhirine, where nine Trappist monks lived in harmony with the largely Muslim population of Algeria, until seven of them were kidnapped and assassinated in 1996 during the Algerian Civil War.

The point of the movie was to look at the topic of "What is Discernment?" A discussion of the elements of discernment followed and groups discussed what the movie was able to show of the way discernment works particularly in a religious community.

The afternoon session was devoted to sharing questions around "Culture." The session began with a brief introduction and some amusing advertisements that originate from HSBC which you can see for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOHvMz7dl2A>.

Confreres then discussed how the various ethnicities, countries, language groups, units, cultures and Marist cultures that we all come from shape the way the chapter works and the ways that it may cause imbalances in power and participation within the group. Groups were formed from birth months Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr etc and resulted in teams that were from various cultures, and languages and they spoke about what culture means to them and how much it affects the running of international meetings including the chapter.

In the evening, at 9.00 pm, the Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated. John Hannan, the outgoing Superior General, was the principal celebrant. The Mass was followed by Grand Silence for the rest of the evening – to prepare in the best way possible the atmosphere for Day One of the Chapter on Wednesday.

