

Daily log
CIB Symposium 2010
Sister Nancy Bauer, OSB
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Sant' Anselmo is filling up with Benedictine “*monachae*” instead of “*monachi*” and many of them have been quite busy these last two days before the opening of the CIB Symposium. The CIB Administrative Council met September 6 and the Conference delegates met September 7. While the delegates were hammering out goals for 2010-2014, the “young Sisters” — one from each of the 19 regions — and other Symposium participants who arrived early, had an outing to Subiaco and Monte Cassino.

Most of the hustle and bustle at Sant' Anselmo takes place in the room that is designated as the secretariat. This is the first stop for everyone as it is the place to register and get a bedroom assignment and to have questions answered, sometimes in five languages.

Languages. That's the challenge and the fun of the CIB Symposium experience. Some of us speak only our native language fluently and can perhaps utter a few words in one or two other languages. Some speak two languages quite well. The translators can switch from one language to another to another in a single conversation. I am not in this last category. My tendency, when confronted with a language other than my own, is to dredge up a few words I know from several languages and put them together. Yesterday, I caught myself explaining to someone, “*I parlo nein Italiano.*” That's a perfectly good sentence in absolutely no language whatsoever. It means, “I do not speak Italian.”

Tomorrow is the day we have been awaiting: the opening of the Sixth International CIB Symposium. Stay tuned.