



ECHOES OF THE General Council



Number 86 - May - June 2015

The General Council held its regular session from 20 May to 16 June 2015 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

During this session, the Superior General participated in the meeting organised by the Union of Superiors General on the theme "Sent in joy. The mission of the consecrated life in the Church, " on the occasion of a meeting with the Prefect and the Secretary of CICALSAL (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life).

Brother Guillermo Dávila, Assistant General, participated, meanwhile, in an inter-congregational group of reflection of Brothers held on the 10th June.

1. Animation of the Congregation

1.1 Visiting of Provinces and Districts :

Over the past two months, the Superior General and the Brother Assistants visited the Argentina-Uruguay Provinces and communities of Bolivia and Chile, the provinces of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya and the Asian sectors (Philippines, Indonesia) and the District of Polynesia. The programme for these visits: meetings with the Brothers, attending gatherings of Brothers and the Mennaisian Family.

During their visit to Canada and the USA, Brother Yannick Houssay and Brother Gerard Byaruhanga met with the Directors of both Provinces to initiate the process of unification of the two Provinces in a North American Province.

In all sectors, the Brother Assistants visited the Houses of Formation in which over 160 young people are currently undergoing initial formation. Next January, a Novitiate will open in Quinta Normal (Santiago de Chile) for young people in South America. Moreover the Novitiate in Yogyakarta will host a young Filipino and two Indonesians in early July.

1.2 Theme of the Year 2015-2016 :

Following the General Chapter, the Major Superiors at their first meeting in Rome, had agreed on the project of the General Council for 2015-2016 that chose the theme of **solidarity and openness to the poor**. It appeared to us that the theme of the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, was suitable: **"Merciful as the Father."** A calendar and animation proposals are henceforth available to the Provinces and Districts.

1.3 Forthcoming events of the Mennaisian Family :

Formation Session at Ploërmel :

The session for Brothers aged from 35 to 55 will bring together some twenty Brothers at Ploërmel from 15 July to 15 August 2015. This session will be followed by the Assembly of the Mennaisian Family.

« P 19 » at Castelgandolfo :

In preparation for "Ploërmel 2019" (P 19), a camp of a hundred young European Mennaisians will meet at Castelgandolfo (17-28 July 2015) to reflect, create, play, visit, but also dare to carry out together a social service to the destitute. In early June, two Brothers and four youth from Spain and France came to prepare for this adventure.

The Assembly of the Mennaisian Family:

Again, an important time for the General Council meeting was devoted to preparing the next International Assembly of the Mennaisian Family (16-21 August). On this occasion, a survey, supported by the lay correspondents of the Mennaisian family, is carried out in all sectors of the Congregation. Beyond the Laity and Brothers who will live this strong moment at Ploërmel, it is the entire Mennaisian family that is invited to get together and follow this event. The congregation site has already begun to share the life of "the tree that grows"!

www.lamennais.org/fr/assemblee2015.htm

African Conference :

A Conference of Africa will be organised by the Major Superiors of the two African Provinces and two Districts and their Councils, to share on the Mennaisian reality in Africa. This Conference will be held at **Kisubi (Uganda) from 29 February to 5 March 2016**

Conference of Major Superiors in Haiti :

The last meeting of Major Superiors (General Conference) before the next General Chapter in 2018 will be held in Haiti from **3 to 15 October 2016**.

Celebration of the bicentenary of the Congregation:

The General Council continued their consideration of the animation of **the bicentennial celebration of the founding of our Institute** (2017-2020). Now, synergies are underway so that the logo, the slogan, and the song of the bicentennial can be ready by 2017. All sectors of the Congregation will be progressively invited to join in, share and celebrate TOGETHER.

1.4 Events in the Church:

Session for the young religious in Rome :

As part of the Year of Consecrated Life, a meeting will be held from September 15 to 19, 2015, for all young religious under 10 years of perpetual vows. Student Brothers (Deziderio Tirwomwe, Eric Mugisa, Wilfrid Fara) who will be in Rome at that time will participate.

Celebration for the «Brothers » present in Rome :

As part of the Year of Consecrated Life, all the Brothers present in Rome will be invited to spend a day **"Being Brothers"** to share and celebrate together. Such an initiative, to be held on 24th October, 2015, can also be experienced at the local, or Provincial level

Education Congress in Rome :

The Congregation for Catholic Education, is organising from 18 to 21 November 2015, a World Congress on the theme "***Educating today and tomorrow: a passion that is renewed.***" The Congress is open to anyone engaged in the educational mission. The General Council encourages all sectors that can to send representatives to this ecclesial event.

<http://www.educatio.va/content/cec/it/eventi/congresso-educare-oggi-e-domani/congresso-educare.html>

Text on the Brother's vocation :

At the last meeting of the Union of Superiors General in Rome, the Prefect of CICLSAL and Secretary clarified that the text on the Brother's vocation talked about for several years is "on the desk of the Pope." We hope it will not stay there too long and that we will get it soon.

Synod of Bishops on the family

The Holy See decided that at the **Synod of Bishops** on the family to be held in October, the Brothers will have a representative with voting rights. This will be the first time that a Brother will be considered a full member of the Synod. This is Brother **Hervé Janson**, Superior General of the Little Brothers of Jesus (Charles de Foucault). He was elected by all the Superiors General (USG).

2. Decisions of Brother Superior General and his Council

2.1 Nominations

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council took the following decisions:

- **Uganda:** Brother **Peter Kazekulya**, is appointed Provincial of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda) for a term of 6 years.

The General Council has decided to appoint **two Deputy Provincials in Uganda**, given the large number of Brothers and works pertaining to that Province and the important issues entailed.

Brother M. Rogers Kazibwe was appointed Deputy Provincial of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda), for a term of 3 years.

Brother Vincent Ssekate, is appointed Deputy Provincial of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda), for a term of 3 years.

- Kenya-Tanzania: **Brother Edward Ismail**, is appointed Provincial of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel (Kenya-Tanzania) for a further term of 3 years.

Brother Anthony Kithinji, is appointed Deputy Provincial of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel (Kenya-Tanzania) for a term of 3 years.

• Other appointments:

Brother Carlos Lovatto, Novice Master at the Novitiate in Quinta Normal (Chile) for a term of 3 years.

Brother Jean Herbinière, Novice Master at the Novitiate in Dapaong (Togo) for a further term of 3 years.

Brother Pierre Berthe, Procurator at the Holy See, for a term of 3 years.

Brother Josu Olabarrieta, Director of the magazine "La Mennais Studies" for a term of 3 years.

2.2 Jean de la Mennais Province (Canada) and Notre-Dame Province (USA)

The General Council decided to endorse the process of unification of the two North American Provinces. The amalgamation of the two in one Province should take place within a year. A commission of 4 Brothers (2 US and 2 Canadian Brothers) is responsible for preparing for this deadline.

Brother Gabriel Gélinas, in charge of Jean de la Mennais Province, Canada, expressed his serious health problems to his Province on 5th June and decided to resign from his office as Provincial. Brother **Levi Boudreau**, in addition to his load of Deputy Provincial, will ensure the interim administration until the appointment of a new Provincial (end of July). We recommend Bro. Gabriel to the Lord especially through the intercession of Jean-Marie de la Mennais; we pray for the whole Province of Canada which is tried, and for the Brothers and the Laity of the Mennaisian Family.

2.3 Admission to perpetual profession

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has admitted to perpetual profession Brother **Frederic Kontiwa**, of St. Paul District (West Africa).

2.4 Implementation of Statutes of the Scholasticates of Kisubi and Abidjan

Having adopted at the February session, the text of the Statutes of the **Scholasticate at Kisubi**, the General Council, has decided, after consultation with the Superiors concerned, that they would come into effect on 1st September 2015. These statutes plan, among others, the appointment of one of the Major Superiors concerned for a mandate of 3 years. He will chair the meetings of the Major Superiors and accompany the Scholastics more closely. For the first mandate of 3 years, this mission has been entrusted to Brother Peter Kazekulya, the new Provincial Superior of Uganda.

The General Council also adopted the Statutes of the **Scholasticate of Abidjan**.

2.5 Accounts of the Provinces and the Vice Provinces (2014).

The General Council has taken the time to study the accounts of the various sectors of the Congregation. For the Vice-Provinces, it was the last financial year before the transition to "Districts". The rigorous approach to bookkeeping and budgeting is a permanent concern of the General Council, as well as of the Treasurers. Some sectors have made great progress in balancing and financial autonomy; others are still struggling and will require close accompaniment from the Treasurer General.

3. Information, communication.

A "general public" inquiry was proposed around "La Mennais Magazine" and the Website. Many responses (over 230) were collected. Here are a few elements:

• The review La Mennais Magazine: "Do you read LMM? "YES 7.48 / 10 -" Do you find LMM appealing? "YES 7.64 / 10 -" What do you like most in LMM? "The news, photos, presentation, spirituality, everything. (Descending order)

• The Web site: "Do you visit this site? "YES 4.53 / 10 -" Do you find it attractive? "YES 6.13 / 10 -" What do you like most on the site? "The news, resources, spiritual elements. (Descending order)

In the light of this investigation the General Council exchanged with Mr. Michel Tanguy, Director of Information on the following points:

- The presentation of summaries of possible future issues of La Mennais Magazine, in particular special issues; but also the place of youth in this review.
- The evolution of the website (first half 2016) which should allow more interactivity and sharing of these resources in different areas of the Congregation.
- The place of videos about the youth, the Brothers, the Mennaisian family; unavoidable today.
- The Bicentenary of the Congregation: implementation of communication elements and information about this celebration.
- The preparation for the beatification of Father de la Mennais

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Bro. Yannick HOUSSAY

1 – 26 July : Canada
10 August – 5 September : France – Assembly of the Mennaisian Family
5 September : Rome

Bro. Gildas PRIGENT

30 June – 17 July : Rwanda
18 July – 2 September : France – Assembly of the Mennaisian Family
2 – 9 September : Togo
12 September : Rome

Bro. Gerard BYARUHANGA

22 June – 11 August : Ouganda – Tanzania
14 August – 24 August : France – Assembly of the Mennaisian Family
24 août : Rome

Bro. Guillermo DÁVILA

21 June – 4 July : Mexico
4 July – 22 July : Haïti
22 July – 10 August : Rome
11 August – 24 August : France – Assembly of the Mennaisian Family
01 – 12 September : Spain
12 September : Roma

The next session of the General Council will be held from September 14 to 26 in Rome.