

ECHOES OF THE General Council



Number 90 - September 2016

The General Council held its regular session from 15th to 23rd September 2016, at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

This session, shorter, was largely devoted to the preparation of the General Conference that would follow this Council.

This issue of the Echoes informs the whole Congregation of the following information and decisions:

1. The animation of the Congregation

a. Visits to Provinces and Districts :

In recent months, the Brothers of the General Council visited various areas of the Congregation. Some highlights of these visits:

- **Chile:** Brother Yannick visited the Novitiate of Quinta Normal of which he has seen the good climate and the serious and serene journey of the two Novices who are enjoying their formation profiting from the important contributions offered by the Internovitiate of Santiago in Chile . Then he participated in the Mennaisian Family Assembly of Cono Sur, at Culiprán. It was a powerful experience, rich and joyful for all. This week was a wonderful celebration of life that takes place in the Mennaisian works of Latin America.
- **Rwanda:** At the end of August, Brother Yannick visited the 3 Communities of Rwanda. This sector is looking forward to the arrival of three young Brothers who will complete their Scholasticate in December 2016 at Kisubi and of 4 others who will arrive from Abidjan next July at the end of their Scholasticate. They are aware of the wealth and importance of preparing for their arrival.
- **Asia:** Brother Gildas presided over the celebration of the first profession of 2 Novices, one Indonesian and one Filipino, at Yogyakarta. He then went to Larantuka where he saw the good running of the new school in its second year of operation. This year in Larantuka, the Pre-Postulate is hosting 8 candidates for 2 years. Exceptionally, one candidate only is making his year of Postulate in the Community of Larantuka and not, as usual, in Yogyakarta. In Manila, the Scholasticate has 4 Scholastics. One of them has to leave in October at the end of his Scholasticate in Yogyakarta.
- **Uganda:** Brother Gerard witnessed the commitment of those who had been called to form a team for the animation of the Mennaisian family. He also stressed the vitality of some

schools and presented the need to open a new Community close to Buhungiro Ibanda, following the wish of the Bishop to entrust the administration of the Normal School to the Brothers, and with which is associated a Primary school, as well as the management of a new Primary School in Ibanda.

- **Haiti:** During his stay, Brother Guillermo participated in the retreat of the Brothers attended by 7 Laypersons of the Mennaisian family. This year, the Province of Haiti joyfully welcomes two Novices. The Postulate meanwhile accommodates 12 Postulants of 2 years and 5 of 3rd-year Postulants who complete this final year of Postulate, living in a Community.
- **Mexico:** Brother Guillermo explained to the General Council the evolution of the work of Huatusco. Between the Province of Canada and Agapè a reflection is in progress who should allow to give a new boost to the mission and to the presence of the Brothers. The Brothers have begun to establish a vocational ministry in connection with the local church so that a new branch of the Congregation in Mexico be born. The Mennaisian Family, very dynamic, is also a great support in this revival of the mission in Mexico.

b. Events of July -August 2016

- **The session of the Brothers of 35-55 years** gathered this year 12 Brothers: nine from Uganda, two from the Democratic Republic of Congo and one from West Africa. The testimonies of the participants and Formators show all the benefit of such a session that provides a strong sign of unity of the Congregation. The desire is to continue this experience in keeping with the international and intercontinental nature of this formation experience.
- **The session of the Brothers who are preparing for final vows** took place at Castelgandolfo with 18 young Brothers: 16 from Africa and 2 from Haiti. The ongoing formation, through sessions in their Provinces and Districts in an "online" contact with each of them, allows faster entry in the session and an undeniable deepening during the 4 weeks of presence in Rome.

c. Theme of the year

- All communities have received the documents for the implementation of the annual theme "**You are all brothers**". This set of documents proposed to all Congregations of Brothers, is centred on the recent text CIVCSVA: "Identity and mission of religious-Brothers in the Church."

d. Congregation Events :

- **The General Conference was held in Haiti from 3 to 15 October 2016.** It was a rich experience of fraternity. The Major Superiors were all present when the Cyclone Matthew hit the Southeast of Haiti. They saw the drama that the raging elements have again provoked this people so badly hit in the recent past by other cyclones, but especially by the earthquake of 2010. They joined the Haitian people, and especially the Brothers, lay people and the

youths of our schools in fervent prayer to ask the Lord's help in these moments so hard for many.

During the General Conference they visited some schools and have thus observed the vitality of the Mennaisian presence in Haiti and the many fruits born of the dedication of so many Brothers and Laity in the education of the youth of this country.

The themes discussed have highlighted the animation of the local community, in connection with the Laity of the Mennaisian Family, and a constant desire to promote Brothers' vocations so as to continue the mission received. The Major Superiors have understood the importance of their mission lived in profound communion with all other parts of the Congregation.

A document will be brought to the attention of the whole Mennaisian family in a few weeks in an effort to communicate the essence of what was shared during the two weeks.

- **International Commission of the Mennaisian family:** after the meeting in May 2016 of the Interim Commission of the Mennaisian Family, the General Council decided to take the next step and convene *the International Commission of the Mennaisian Family*. It will be made up of lay delegates (one per Province or District) members of *the Animation Commission of the Mennaisian Family* of a Province or District. The first meeting of this Commission will be held in Rome *on 27th and 28th February 2017*.
- **Formators' Session (Novitiates and Scholasticates):** The next meeting of the Masters of Novices and Directors of Scholasticates will be held in Rome from *the 2nd to 7th March 2017*.

2. Decisions of Brother Superior General and his Council

2.1 Admission to the perpetual profession

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has admitted to perpetual profession:

Brother **Gilles MBOLIHINIE** of the St John Paul II District (DR Congo - Rwanda)
Brothers **Alex KIDDAWALIME, Joseph KIIZA, Joseph KITENGEJJA, John Paul KITIMBO, Bernard MUSIIME, Fred NATUKUNDA, Simon Peter NSUBUGA, John Bosco SSEBITOSI, Stephen SEMANDA, Noah SSERUGGA, Peter TAMALE SSALI, Innocent TWINOMUGISHA**, of the Province of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda - South Sudan)

2.2 Opening of Communities and educational works

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council authorised the opening of:

Huatusco Community, and supported by the Community of the **John Paul II Centre** .

Buhungiro Community, and the management of the Normal School of Buhungiro.

The management of **Bubaale Primary School of Ibanda**.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Bro. Yannick HOUSSAY

1er - 20 Oct	:	General Conference in Haïti
20 Oct. – 8 Nov	:	Argentina- Uruguay
9 Nov – 15 Dec	:	Rome
15 – 23 Dec	:	Moshi (participation in the annual retreat)
24 – 28 Dec	:	Senegal (Perpetual Profession)
29 Dec. – 6 Jan	:	Rome
6 Jan – 6 Feb	:	France

Bro. Gildas PRIGENT

1 st - 20 Oct	:	General Conference in Haïti
20 Oct – 5 th Nov	:	France
1 st Nov – 21 st Nov	:	Rome
23 rd Nov – 12 th Jan	:	Asia
17 th Jan	:	Rome

Bro. Gerard BYARUHANGA

1 st -20 th Oct	:	General Conference in Haïti
17th oct – 11th nov	:	Canada
12th nov – 15th nov	:	Rome
15th nov – 15th fev	:	Ouganda – Tanzania - Kenya

Bro. Guillermo DÁVILA

1st – 21st oct	:	General Conference in Haïti
22nd – 26th oct	:	Espagne
27th – 28th oct	:	Rome
29th – 7th Nov	:	Espagne
8th – 22th nov	:	Mexique
23th – 19th dec	:	Rome
19th dec – 13th Jan	:	Rwanda-Congo
13 January	:	Rome

The next session of the General Council will be held in Rome from 13th to 25th February 2017