

ECHOES OF THE General Council



Number 93 - September 2017

The General Council held its ordinary session from 18 to 29 September 2017 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

This session was devoted in large part to the preparation of the next General Chapter 2018.

This issue of the Echoes brings the following information and decisions to the attention of the whole Congregation:

1. The animation of the Congregation

a. Visiting the Provinces and Districts :

In recent months, the Brothers of the General Council have visited various sectors of the Congregation. Here are some highlights of these visits:

- During the months of July and August, Brother Gerard Byaruhanga visited all the communities of the Province of Saint Michael the Archangel (Tanzania-Kenya). He emphasised the excellent work done by the Brothers in most of our schools. The Pandahill Secondary School in Mbeya is a good example. The Brothers have been in charge of this school since 2010. Starting with about 300 students at that time, they are now more than 2,000 students!
- He also visited the Novitiate at Kasasa. In Uganda, the Houses of Formation are important issues for the Provinces of East Africa and Rwanda. Currently there are 9 Novices in the Novitiate of Kasasa and 30 Scholastics over 3 years in the Scholasticate of Kisubi, for the two Provinces of Uganda and Tanzania-Kenya and Rwanda
- Brother Gildas Prigent, during the summer, travelled through the 3 countries of the new District of Asia. A first District Council was held, which made it possible to become aware of the potentialities and weaknesses of this new structure. The situations of the Brothers, the situation of the Communities and the works as well as the vocational recruitment are very different from country to country. The arrival of a good group of young aspirants in Larantuka and Postulants in Yogyakarta, the young Brothers in the Philippines, is a source of joy and hope for this new District.
- During the summer, Brother Guillermo Dávila witnessed the various activities of young people in Spain with a good involvement of former students. The organisers were very appreciative of the role played by the Brothers. In Argentina and Uruguay, he visited the communities and the works of the Province which were in full swing. He was able to meet a number of teachers, parents, and students during his visit. He also witnessed the entry into the Postulate of a young Argentinean, Nicolas, in the Community of Villa Gobernador Galvez.

b. Session of Ploërmel

The Brothers of 35-55 years old gathered this year 11 brothers: a number probably a little restricted but of a greater internationality than in previous years. This has brought greater wealth. To the 3 European Brothers (from France and Spain) were added 5 Brothers from Uganda, 1 from Tanzania, 1 from Kenya, and 1 from West Africa. The General Council wishes this internationality to be strengthened for future sessions. For that, the possibility of older Brothers participating (like this year) seems a good thing.

c. Preparation of the General Chapter 2018:

The Provinces and Districts have now received preparatory dossiers for the next General Chapter. Thus 7 different groups of Brothers and Laity (**MENNAISIAN SCHOOLS - MENNAISIAN FAMILY - FORMATORS - YOUNG BROTHERS - YOUNG MENNASIANS – VOCATIONS MINISTRY - PROVINCIAL OR DISTRICT COUNCILS**) are invited to send to the General Council, through the Major Superiors, 3 orientations, each according to their field, in view of "writing a new page". The Communities are also invited to enter into this process, within the framework of the process which began on the 10th May, the anniversary of the 1st meeting of the Founders.

Henceforth the names of the **43 Capitulants** are known. The Brother Superior General will send to all the Brothers and Laity of the Mennaisian Family a Circular (N ° 314 - October 2017) announcing the names of these Brothers Capitulants, as well as those of the Laity who will participate in the first 8 days of the General Chapter. In this Circular, the S.G., Brother Yannick Houssay recalls the spirit of communion, of charity and of prayer that must prevail in all so as to listen to the Spirit in order to open a new page.

The speech of Pope Francis to the participants in the plenary assembly of the CIVCSVA (January 2017) is also attached. Rev Brother Yannick Houssay, S.G., requests everyone, and especially the Capitulants, to read the CIVCSVA document "**New wine is poured into new wineskins,**" which can easily be found on the Internet.

d. Mennaisian Family

As part of the preparation of the General Chapter, a survey was carried out by the International Commission of the Mennaisian Family for all Lay Mennaisians. Very many of these responded.

Following this inquiry, the General Council wrote a **draft text on the Mennaisian Family and the identity of the Lay Mennaisian**, which was initially worked upon by the members of the International Commission. This text takes up much of what is already written in the "Mennaisian Family Reference Text" of 2009. But it takes into account all that the experience of the last eight years has taught us.

At present, this text will be proposed to the Councils of the Provinces and of the Districts so that they may in turn enrich it with their own reflections. We hope to present it to the General Chapter.

d. Session of the Provincial and District Treasurers :

The General Council meeting was followed by a meeting of the Provincial and District Treasurers. It was attended by the three lay experts--Mr. Gérard Archambault of Canada, Mr. Javier BERASATEGUI of Spain and Mr. Gilbert Guihaire of France - who had participated in the previous meeting of the Treasurers in 2014. These meetings provide an opportunity to take stock of all economic issues affecting the Congregation as a whole, to pursue reflection on international solidarity and to address all matters relating to the service of the Economy in the Congregation and in each of the Provinces and Districts. This reflection takes its place in the process of preparation for the next Chapter of March 2018.

e. « Tutti Fratelli » Meeting in Rome

Since the Year of Consecrated Life, the "Tutti Fratelli" Commission encourages the Communities of Brothers from different Congregations to meet for a day of fraternity. In Rome it will take place for the third time on Saturday 25th November 2017.

2. Decisions of the Rev. Brother Superior general and his Council

2.1 Appointments

The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints:

Brother Benito ZAMPEDRI, Provincial of the Province of Inmaculada Concepción (Argentina-Uruguay) for a new three-year term.

Brother Carlos LOVATTO, Assistant Provincial of Inmaculada Concepción Province (Argentina-Uruguay) for a term of 3 years.

2.2 Admissions to Perpetual Profession

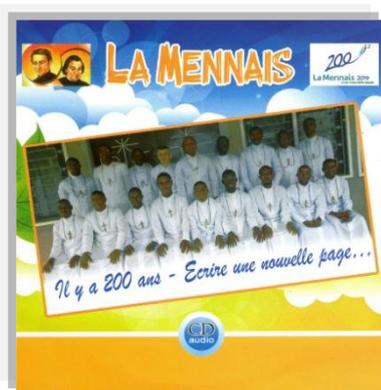
The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, admitted to perpetual profession:

Brothers Jean-Paul INGABIRE and Alexis HAGENIMANA, 2 Rwandan Brothers of St John Paul II District (DR Congo – Rwanda).

BICENTENARY INITIATIVES



This new section would like to bring to the attention of all the initiatives taken in the various sectors of the Congregation, within the framework of the approach of the festivities of the Bicentenary. You will also be able **to forward all your initiatives** to the General Secretariat, in order to echo it in this section.



- ***News from the Scholasticate of' Abidjan:*** Album of songs "200 years ago! Write a new page!" is in its promotion phase - 1000 CDs have been delivered to us in due form. Of the 8 titles, 6 are new songs of our own, the other two being "Providence of my God" in several languages as well as the "Salve Regina" in honour of Mary, Patroness of the Congregation.

Brother Simon Alphonse, Scholasticate of Abidjan.

RECALL :

- Since this summer, the Provinces and Districts have received the images, bookmarks and reviews of the Bicentenary.
 - Do not hesitate to contact the General Secretariat for any other request.
 - Bicentenary products are always available on the site. www.lamennais.org/animations
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Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

13 Oct	:	Visit of the Houses of Formation in Uganda and in Congo RDC
05 Nov	:	Rome
15 Nov	:	Indonesia – Philippines
03 Dec	:	France
10 Dec	:	Rome

Brother Gildas PRIGENT

10 Oct – 23 Oct	:	Paris
24 Oct – 4 Dec	:	Asia (Japan, Philippines, Indonesia)
06 Dec – 6 Jan	:	Rome
10 Jan – 10 Feb	:	Asia

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

10 Oct – 20 Oct	:	USA
21 Oct – 10 Nov	:	Canada
14 Nov – 15 Dec	:	Uganda
16 Dec – 23 Dec	:	Tanzania
24 Dec – 31 Dec	:	Rome
1 st Jan – 10 Feb	:	Uganda

Brother Guillermo DÁVILA

03 Oct – 16 Oct	:	Bolivia
16 Oct – 30 Oct	:	Chili
30 Oct – 06 Nov	:	Argentine
27 Nov – 18 Dec	:	Haïti
18 Dec	:	Rome

The next session of the General Council will take place in Rome from 13th to 25th February 2018 in Rome.