



Brother Superior General

March 2017

## A LETTER TO THE MENNAISIAN FAMILY



# A NEW PAGE FOR THE MENNAISIAN FAMILY 2 EVENTS...

## 1.- The BICENTENARY of the foundation of the Brothers

### Two important dates, two founding events:

**June 6, 1819:** Signature of the Treaty of Union by Jean-Marie de La Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes.

**September 9-20, 1820:** The Great retreat of Auray in the presence of our two founders.

We give thanks to God for the mission filled with so much generosity of the Brothers and lay people for 200 years.

We will prepare ourselves for a new missionary impetus. We will thus try to write "a new page" of the history of our Family at the service of the Youth.

This anniversary will be an opportunity for the Mennaisian

Family to listen to the calls of the Holy Spirit to set out for new mission lands.

A **bicentenary song** will be sent to all our schools. We also wish to make a video in which we will be able to see most of our schools interpret this song.

A bicentennial book will move from one school to another, all over the world. Each school could write in it "new page", showing how missionary it is today.

**Pictures and other articles** will be given.

We also count on everyone's creativity.

**In April 2017, 2018 and 2019**, a special issue of the **La Mennais Magazine** will present tools for the animation of schools and

communities, while in June of every year of these three years, **the Superior General will send a video message** on the website of the Congregation.

### 1st stage: June 6, 2017

The theme for this first year (June 2017-March 2018) will be: **SCRUTINISE THE HORIZON.**

As people who seek with a heart filled with God's love for the "little ones," we will look at the horizon and go to the "peripheries" where they need us.

This first stage will correspond to the preparation of the **General Chapter of March 2018**: a decisive event to open a new page together!

Respond to the survey reserved for the Lay Mennaisians.  
Go to the website: <http://www.lamennais.org/laity/?lang=en>  
It is due for the end of May 2017... Quickly read the rest of this letter...



## A LETTER TO THE MENNAISIAN FAMILY

### 2.- The GENERAL CHAPTER of 2018

#### The Mennaisian Family in the GENERAL CHAPTER of the Brothers

Following the reference text written in 2009 after the International Assembly held at Ploërmel in 2008, the Mennaisian Family has continued its journey, notably through initiatives concerning formation. More recently, "Commissions of the Mennaisian Family", and "Mission teams" were formed. We also wanted to integrate the "Young Mennaisians". The International Commission of the Mennaisian Family, taking up this recent history, has turned towards the next General Chapter by seeking to discern the calls of the Holy Spirit for the future.

#### What is the International Commission of the Mennaisian Family ?

The International Commission of the Mennaisian Family is composed of a Lay delegate from each Provincial / District Commission of the Mennaisian Family, and the General Council of the Congregation of the Brothers. Currently, out of the 11 Provinces / Districts of the Congregation, 6 have a Mennaisian Family Commission. There are 6 Laypeople at the International Commission, waiting for the other five which will take part in it as soon as a Commission is organised in their respective Provinces / Districts.

#### For the General Chapter: the PROFILE OF A MENNAISIAN LAY PERSON

The International Commission hoped that a Lay Mennaisian profile would be more precise, while taking into account the three modalities referred to in the reference text, and without omitting the fundamental connection with the Brothers. To this end, the Commission will endeavor to determine the criteria that will enable us to define, at the level of our great Family, what a Mennaisian Laity is. It will then propose this work to the Brothers of the General Chapter who will deal with the themes concerning the Mennaisian Family in the presence of the Lay people whom they will have invited to join them for this circumstance.

#### A survey of the Lay people

In order to carry out such a work, the International Commission wished to enlist as many pieces of advice of the Lay Mennaisians as possible. An inquiry has been prepared in this respect. This is available online ([www.lamennais.org](http://www.lamennais.org)) since the beginning of April 2017. The responses must imperatively be sent by June 1, 2017.



The Lay Mennaisians of all Provinces / Districts are concerned about this survey.

