

INTRODUCTION



The Document of the Chapter 2012 that you have in your hands presents the texts which were elaborated and adopted by the Chapter Assembly. During three weeks, the Chapter Delegates took time for prayer and reflection, inspired by Jean-Marie de la Mennais whose presence they could feel and could listen to his advices because of their proximity to his tomb.

In continuation of the preparation which mobilized the resources of all our communities during one year, the Chapter delegates, while having well in sight the practical reality of the Congregation today, wanted to say words that bring a new vitality and a living hope.

The texts, fruit of their work, are addressed in priority to the Brothers since it was the General Chapter of the Congregation. But our Lay Mennaisians also will profit for them, for their own benefit and ours. The Congregation, indeed, discerns and hears today the calls of the Spirit in the Church which is ours. Among these calls, the Chapter recognized the enrichment that our Lay Mennaisians have brought for many years to the Charism received from our Founders. We cannot fully enter the dynamics of a New Evangelization without acknowledging the "talents" that the Mennaisians received and have to offer to us, in an exchange of gifts. While discerning what is specific to one or the other of the "Mennaisian vocations", we will be able thus to read these texts with them, and to benefit from them, for the greatest glory of God.

The texts which you will find in this Document are copies of what was written by the various commissions, then adopted by the Chapter Assembly. Through your reading, you will notice that certain points return under different perspectives. These points are thus enriched by various aspects which give them more relief.

It will then be the task of the General Council, as well as the one of each Provincial and Vice-provincial Council, to draw from them the concrete axes of action, so that the mission of the Congregation, that of the Mennaisian Family as a whole, be really a way of evangelization for all.

I thank you for welcoming these texts as a God's gift to our Congregation today. You will endeavour to make them bear good fruits. You undoubtedly know these words of Pope Benedict XVI: "Let us say once again: we need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain. God is the foundation of hope: not any god, (...) the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end (...). His love alone gives us the possibility of soberly persevering day by day, without ceasing to be spurred on by hope" (Benedict XVI, Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, n°31).

Thus, let us walk with joy, in peace and with a great zeal, on this way of hope which is also the way of the true life that each day we are invited to take on with courage and patience, for the glory of God and the salvation of the world.

Brother Yannick Houssay, s. g.