

March 2012 - PLOËRMEL : The 26th General Chapter of the Brothers.

During 25 days, 46 Brothers coming from the four corners of the world will build a project for the Congregation of the Brothers, for the 6 years to come.

This Assembly takes place every 6 years. Its orientations and its decisions are proposed to all the provinces and vice-provinces of the Congregation, to all the communities and all the Brothers. Everywhere, in a spirit of unity and fidelity, and with a common will to answer our mission today, all en-

ter into this project decided by the Chapter.

These orientations are also addressed to the whole mennaisian family. Even though it is not a General Chapter of the mennaisian family as such, but that of the Congregation of the Brothers, mennaisian lay members share with the Brothers in the mission of the Congregation.

It is for that reason that the Brothers have invited some lay members to dialogue with

the Chapter Delegates for a few days. You can find the list on the following page.

The General Chapter of 2012 will be held at Ploërmel. It is a way to signify our will to be schooled by our Founders, while listening to what the Spirit inspires in us today.

The Brothers brought together in Chapter next March, and the lay members who will join them for a few days, count on your fraternal support and your prayers.

Theme of the General Chapter: Education, a way to Evangelization.

In any society, it is through education that the founding values are transmitted.

The project of Jean-Marie de la Mennais and of Gabriel Deshayes was founded on the assurance that every person is called out to realize himself fully

by reproducing the image of Jesus, the new Man.

They were convinced that true freedom is acquired only by facing in truth the call of the One who has shared our human condition.

Our educational action

is thus carried by the conviction that the Gospel, welcomed and lived out freely, is the source of the full realization of oneself.

This is why we want to make the Gospel, the heart and the path of our mennaisian educational Project.

Passage from a Message of Pope Benedict XVI On January 1, 2012

“Education is the most interesting and difficult adventure in life. Educating – from the Latin educere – means leading young people to move beyond themselves and introducing them to reality, towards a fullness that leads to growth.

This process is fostered by the encounter of two freedoms, that of adults and that of the young.

It calls for responsibility on the part of the learners, who must be open to being led

Today more than ever we need authentic witnesses, and not simply people who parcel out rules and facts; we need witnesses capable of seeing farther than others because their life is so much broader. A witness is someone who first lives the life that he proposes to others.



“Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!”

(Jean-Paul II)

This is also part of the Church’s mission and in proclaiming the Gospel, she takes human life to heart fully... In evangelization it is unacceptable to disregard areas that concern human advancement, justice and liberation from every kind of oppression.. It would not be in harmony with the behaviour of Jesus who went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity" (Mt 9:35).

(Benedict XVI, Message for the World Mission Sunday, October 23, 2011).

Remain connected.

Mr. Michel Tanguy, together with a team of Brothers, will keep you informed during the Chapter, on the unfolding of this Assembly, day after day. You can reach him on the internet site of the Congregation: www.lamennais.org

New Evangelization.

«Allow, I request it from you, I beseech you in all humility and confidence, allow Christ to speak to man. Only He has the words of life, yes, of eternal life.»

(Jean-Paul II)

It is perhaps in this way that we should consider the meaning of the expression

“New evangelization”. There is not a question of announcing a new Gospel, but rather of inviting to a newer and more authentic encounter with Christ, an encounter offered to all men and women.

Aware of the thirst, if not, the need of young people to enter into a friendly relation with

Christ, we have to show them the way, which will enable them to cross his glance and make the experience of his love.

Where would we find the energy needed for such a mission if we ourselves have not made such a strong and transforming experience?

Lay Persons Invited to the Chapter.

On a proposal from Provinces, here is the list of the Lay persons who will join the Chapter Delegates for a few days, in view of searching together how to make education, a way to evangelization.

- Canada : Ginette Bourque, Paul-Marcel Crosnier.
- United States : Richard Jusseaume.
- Chile : Yanina Lazo.
- Argentina : Maria Liliana Pizzio.
- Togo : Samuel Labardor.
- Uganda : Matthias Kiggundu.
- Japan : Toshiko Yoshino.
- Spain : Begoña Planelles, Alfonso Blazquez, Emilio de la Fuente.
- France : Catherine Lancelot, Pierre Serrand, Pierre-Jean Bar.

A prayer

in union with the Brothers brought together in Chapter:

O Lord, heedful of the pressing invitation of the Church in favour of a new evangelization, we want to listen carefully to your invitations, and to commit ourselves with audacity so that the Gospel be

announced to the poor and that the “bread of the instruction” be distributed to the children and the young people. We pray to you, may the Assembly of the General Chapter of the Brothers give rise in

each member of this Congregation and of the mennaisian Family, to a deep renewal in the mission of education and evangelization. Hold us in your hand, enlighten us, strengthen us. Amen.