

ECHOES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Number 64

October 2008

The General Council held its ordinary session from the 15 to the 26 September at the General Headquarters in Rome.

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

1. Animation of the Congregation :

1.1 Visits to Provinces and Vice-Provinces :

Following the visits of the Superior General and his Assistants, the Council studied the situation of the Vice-Province of Kenya-Tanzania. The mission in the Philippines has also received special attention of the Council.

1.2 Evaluation of the sessions :

The Council has made an evaluation of the preparatory session to perpetual profession and of the international Assembly on the shared Mission held consecutively in July and August of this year, and has reflected on the follow-up to be given to these two events.

- **The preparatory session to the perpetual profession was** an answer to our expectations and it was a time of rich discoveries and of sharing, a time of spiritual deepening and of grace, most especially during the Mennaisian pilgrimage in Brittany. Only, we regret that two Brothers from the Democratic Republic of Congo could not join the 24 other Brothers for lack of visas!
- The Council is grateful to the team of Formators, **who prepared and organized that session**, especially Brothers Yvon Deniaud and Vincent Ssekate.
- To prolong this time of grace and the dynamism aroused, the Council wishes to maintain contact with the young Brothers and invite them to continue this formation in the Communities where they live.
- **The International Assembly on the shared Mission:** This session permitted an international sharing on the theme of the Mennaisian Family based especially on the document presented by the General Council. It was also an occasion of deepening together some aspects of the educative mission in the framework of formation workshops. Saint-Malo, La Chesnaie, and

Auray were the stages that enabled the participants to live real spiritual and charismatic experiences.

- The General Council revisited all the items discussed during the session and made a certain number of changes in the framework document. The Brothers and the Laity who participated in this session will be invited to react on this new text. The final document will be presented to the whole Mennaisian Family.
- **The General Council is grateful to all the Communities and the Brothers who received the young Brothers and the Assembly of the Shared Mission during their stay, most especially Brother Mario Forino at Castelgandolfo, Brother François Milin at Ploërmel and Brother Michel Vallée in Paris.**

1.3 The theme of the year: The Brother's Identity

The objective of this theme is to help us better discover our own face, a reflection of the Face of Christ that we are called upon to incarnate and manifest.

The General Council has prepared the first part of the theme dealing with the Word "in which is hidden our identity, because the Word of God also speaks of us, of what we are called to be."

This first part should reach the Communities at the end of the month of October.

1.4 Preparation of the General Conference:

As announced already, the General Conference will take place at Kisubi (Uganda) from 19 March to 2 April 2009. The Council has drawn up a global programme that will be proposed to the major Superiors.

This Conference is held half-way between two General Chapters. This is an occasion of making an appraisal of what has been lived in the Congregation since 2006 and to start afresh towards the next General Chapter, notably on such themes as : the Mennaisian Family, the vocations, the solidarity and the ongoing formation.

2. The decisions of the Superior General and his Council

2.1 Nomination of the Provincial and Assistant Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Argentina-Uruguay):

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council nominated:

Brother **Benito ZAMPEDRI**, Provincial for a mandate of 6 years.

Brother **Fernando MUSSI**, Assistant Provincial for a mandate of 3 years.

2.2 Nomination of an international Committee responsible for the ongoing formation:

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council has nominated:

Brother **Guillermo DÁVILA**, responsible for the ongoing formation for a mandate of 3 years.

Brother **Jean PÉTILLON**, Assistant to Brother G. DÁVILA for the ongoing formation for a mandate of 3 years.

The previous issue of the Echoes pointed out that the General Council was planning to set up an International Committee responsible for the ongoing formation in view of answering better to the expectations and the needs of the Congregation in this vital domain for its growth.

Brother Superior General has, therefore, nominated two Brothers who will be particularly in-charge of this responsibility and who will assume their responsibility at the beginning of the year 2009. While at the service of the ongoing formation, these two Brothers will keep on residing in their home Province. Their programme of action will be drawn up as soon as possible in liaison with the General Council.

2.3 Admissions to perpetual profession :

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council has admitted to perpetual vows :

- For the Province of Uganda : Brother **Charles AGABA**, Brother **Isaac DRAPARI**, Brother **Jude Thadeus KAWEESE**, Brother **Francis KIGGUNDU**, Brother **Lawrence KIZZA**, Brother **Anthony LUBWAMA**.
- For the Vice-Province West Africa: Brother **Jean de la Croix LARE**
- For the Vice-Province of Central Africa : Brother **Jean-Marie AMISIA**, Brother **Fidèle NGUWA**

3. Information and Communication in the Congregation

During this session the General Council has worked with Mr. Michel TANGUY, Director of information, on the current and future projects:

- The first issue of the new review of the Mennaisian Family « **La Mennais Magazine** » will appear at the beginning of the month of November. This review addresses itself to a wider public than the former « Chronical » and offers also the possibility of (individual or group) subscriptions. La Mennais Magazine, published in three languages, will have 4 issues annually one of which will be special.
- The internet site of the Congregation : it should also undergo some changes. First of all, the denomination of the site has changed : the title changes from « ficplm.org » to « **lamennais.org** ». Ipso facto, all the e-mail addresses associated with the site have changed. Very progressively, the site will also be available in the three languages used in the Congregation.
- We are currently thinking of the « **Etudes mennaisiennes** » that we would wish to become an instrument at the service of the ongoing formation.

The setting up of the **International Council of Information** is also envisaged in the following months. Its main task will be to help and advise the Director of Information in his mission at the service of the Congregation and the Mennaisian Family.

New e-mail addresses (mail) :

Bro. Superior General : supgen@ficplm.org becomes supgen@lamennais.org

General Secretariat : secretariat@ficplm.org becomes secretariat@lamennais.org

Treasurer General : economat@ficplm.org becomes economat@lamennais.org

General Archives : archives@ficplm.org becomes archives@lamennais.org

Directorate of information : m.tanguy@ficplm.org becomes m.tanguy@lamennais.org

Creation of an address for La Mennais Magazine : lm@lamennais.org

4. Survey

The General Council is launching a survey of the Mennaisian works run by the Brothers and the Laity in the diverse Provinces and Vice-Provinces.

This survey aims at compiling an inventory of the formal and informal educational establishments, etc, at a specified period, and this in order to better appreciate the diversity of situations.

The Brothers Provincials and Vice-provincials will receive this survey and will distribute it in the diverse educational establishments in their Province or Vice-Province. They will be notified by e-mail. E-mails will also be sent to those responsible for the various educational establishments and works.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

7 October to 14 November	Argentina (Mennaisian Congress at Bialet Massé), Chile and Bolivia
November	Rome
December	USA
January – Mid-February	Spain

Brother Miguel Angel MERINO

October - Mid-November	Spain
November - Mid-December	Rome
15 to 30 December	Spain
January	Chile and Argentina (Retreat, session)

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

October	Rome
November - December	Uganda
January	Tanzania-Kenya

Brother Gildas PRIGENT

8 to 23 October	Indonesia
26 October – Mid- November	France (Provincial Chapter, visits, retreat)
End November	Uganda (Formation houses)
December- January	West Africa (Professions, Formation houses, session)

N.B. : The next Council meeting will take place in Rome : 16 to 21 February 2009