

*The General Council started their session by spending three days of prayer and reflection at Foligno, near Assis. They were hosted in a Capuchin community. It was an opportunity for the members of the General Council to better know each other and to discuss about the orientations of the General Chapter.*

*During that session, the Superior General took part in the Meeting of the Superiors General on the theme « The Consecrated Life in Latin America ».*

*The present issue of the Echoes brings to the whole of the Congregation the following information and decisions:*

## **1. The animation of the Congregation**

### **1.1. The orientations for the next six years**

The General Council made an effort to outline the main aspects of the animation of the Congregation and of the Mennaisian family for the next six years. A time table for the principal initiatives has been fixed. We have to discuss this with the Major Superiors at the next reunion which will take place from the **12<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2013 at the General House in Rome.**

On reading the Chapter document, the Council has especially noted the points highlighted on page six of this issue of the Echoes.

In the middle of this page may be found the important points of the Chapter document. Then in the five distinct boxes are marked the priorities for the coming years. For each one of these points we have indicated precise projects which will be proposed at the appropriate time. Here we underline several important points.

- A developing spiritual life, lived and nourished in community, in communion with all the congregation
- An educational mission that we need to better identify today and to live out in the varied cultures wherever we are established.

**To put into action what the General Chapter demands of us (no 7), we have decided to form a working party**, from the whole congregation including Brothers and Lay people whose mission, in union with the General Council will be to define the principal guidelines of the Mennaisian educational project. This text, both flexible and open, will permit our educational establishments to produce their own educational project in union with the whole Congregation.

- A presence with young people for which we must prepare ourselves, because we are called today to evangelize and to be evangelized by them.
- An initial and on-going formation faced with the numerous challenges of our time. We hope to put emphasis on the preparation of the formation personnel in view of initial formation.
- A reanimated missionary spirit, open to the service of the most needy, a culture of justice, peace and solidarity.
- Finally, a vocation ministry is urgently required. Because of this we will be organizing a year of “The Brother’s Vocation”.

- We also need to give some thought to the question, raised by the Chapter, of child protection and also to a “visible sign” such as a logo for the whole congregation.

These points raised above, take no account of what will be decided by the Provinces and Vice Provinces particularly during Provincial Chapters. They only concern what is the direct responsibility of the General Council.

To these must also be added the establishment of structures that the Chapter demanded of us: the nomination of a **Secretary for the Missions**; and of a **delegate for Permanent Formation**; the organization of a finance committee. We also need to reconsider the commissions which existed previously.

## **1.2. The role of the Brothers Assistants**

The General chapter of 2012 made no changes to the mission of the Brothers Assistants as defined by the Rule of life and the General Chapter of 2006. During the first session of the Council the different missions of the Assistants were detailed and defined.

- The Assistants endeavor to understand the situation of the communities and the brothers in the Provinces and Vice Provinces that they look after.
- They assist the Major Superiors, support them and with them they evaluate their mission of animation and Government.
- They give their consent to the nomination of the superiors of communities.
- They organize the animation agreed by the General Council within the scope of their responsibilities in the Congregation.
- During the sessions of the General council they present reports on their different visit, their opinions and the actions taken.

To better fulfill their mission of “councilors to the Superior General” and to be “with him animators of the religious and apostolic life of the congregation”, the Assistants are each made responsible for the guidance of the Provinces and Vice Provinces.

**Br Gildas Prigent:** The communities of the Province of Haiti, and the Vice Provinces of West Africa, Polynesia, Central Africa (the DRC and Rwanda), Japan and the Philipines, and the mission of Indonesia.

**Br. Gerard Byaruhanga:** the communities of the Provinces of Uganda, Kenya-Tanzania, Canada and the USA.

**Br. Guillermo Dávila:** The Communities of the Provinces of Spain-Chili-Bolivia, Argentina-Uruguay, England-France Italy.

The Superior General confides various mandates of animation to the Assistants. Thus each one is responsible for special projects.

**Br. Gildas Prigent:** Initial formation and contacts with the Director of Information and the General Council.

**Br. Gerard Byaruhanga:** Missionary animation and the co-ordination of “solidarity”.

**Br. Guillermo Dávila:** animation of ongoing formation and of the Mennaisian formation.

Our **Vocation Ministry** is an urgent matter and must be involved in all our initiatives. It therefore becomes a matter for the whole General Council.

## **1.3. Formation sessions in 2012**

Three formation sessions will take place in the next few months:

A session for the Brothers preparing for perpetual profession will take place from the 18th July to the 22nd of August, beginning at Castlegandolfo then moving to Ploermel. There will be 19 participants from Benin, Haiti, Tanzania, Uganda, DRC, and Ruanda.

The session for brothers between 35 and 55 years old will take place at Ploermel between 10th July and the 14th August. It will include a short stay in Paris at the end of the session. The 17 participants will come from Spain, Chili, Haiti, Kenya, France, Uganda, Tanzania, and Senegal.

The inter congregation session will take place in Rome during September. There will be about forty brothers (4 FIC) belonging to 8 congregations. (Christian Brothers, Brothers of the Christian Schools, Brothers of St Gabriel, The Sacred Heart Brothers, Marist Brothers, Brothers of our Lady of Mercy, Brothers of the Holy Family and Brothers of Christian Instruction). It will be led by an international and inter congregation team.

#### **1.4. The theme for the year 2012-2013**

The animation theme for the year 2012-2013 will be “*Together on the way*”. It will be presented as a reading, either personal or community, of the acts of the General Chapter of 2012. There will be 6 readings framed around the text of the Acts of the Apostles 8, 26-40, the meeting of Philip with the eunuch.

## **2. The decisions of the Superior General and his Council**

The Superior General with the consent of his Council has nominated :

### **2.1 Nomination to the service of the General Administration**

Br Pierre Berthe, Secretary General and Procurator General, for a 3rd term.

Br Josu Fernández Olabarrieta, director of the *La Mennais Studies* for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

### **2.2 Nominations of Assistant Provincials.**

Br. Casio AIZIRE, Assistant Provincial of the Province of St Theresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda), for a first term.

Br. Rafael ALONSO, Assistant Provincial of the province of Notre Dame del Pilar (Spain, Chili, Bolivia), for a second term.

Br. Guy RODDY, Assistant Provincial of the Province of Notre Dame (USA), for a 2nd term.

Br. Celestine KAKOOZA, Assistant Provincial of the Province of St Michael the Archangel (Tanzania-Kenya), for a 2nd term.

### **2.2 Nomination of Formation Personnel**

Br. Jean HERBINIERE, Master of Novices for the novitiate of Dapaong (Togo), for a 4th term.

Br. Alphonse SIMON, Master of Novices of the Province of St. Louis de Gonzague (Haiti), for a 3rd term.

Br. Jean de la Croix LARE, Assistant Director of the scholasticate of Abidjan and Superior of the community of Gabriel Deshayes, for a 1st term.

### **2.3 Admission to Perpetual Profession**

The Superior General with the consent of his council has admitted the following to their perpetual profession.

- Br. Joslyn GONTRAND, from the Province of Haiti.
- Br. Gerard HOUNYETIN, of the Vice Province of West Africa.

### **3. The new scholasticate in Manila**

The arrival of the first 2 Indonesian scholastics at Manila on the 29th May marks the beginning of a new scholasticate in Asia. The scholasticate, comprises two staff (Br. Michel Gougeon and Br. Eugene Mwesigye) and two scholastics ( Br. Andreas Pito and Br. Fransiskus Xaverius Gua Making). It is located in a region of Manila, at Marikina City close to the study centre of the Marist Brothers.

Our congregation has chosen to benefit from the initial formation structures of the Marist Brothers for their own students who come from all of Asia and from the Pacific Islands; MAPAC (MARist Pacific Asia Centre). This formation theological, apostolic, pastoral, lasts 3 years including 6 months “work experience” in the last year. Several congregations of sisters also follow the courses at MAPAC

All the courses are delivered in English, our Indonesian scholastics have been studying English for several months in Southampton. Thanks to the warm welcome and the devotion of our English brothers they have progressed well in their studies. They now need to perfection their skills on site.

### **4. South Sudan**

For about three years the Province of St Theresa Uganda has been in contact with the diocese of Tambura-Yambio in South Sudan. After several visits to Sudan of both Brothers from Kisubi and of the Bishop of Tambura-Yambio at Kisubi, the negotiations for the eventual opening of an educational establishment and the formation of a community there by the Province have continued to progress.

The project could begin during 2013. Meanwhile the extreme poverty of this area of this new independent State of South Sudan will demand exterior finance above all for the construction of the school and the community house. This first mission for the Province of Uganda will need the help from the whole of the congregation.

### **5. Further Information**

The special edition of the Le Mennais Magazine in December 2012 will commemorate the 175th anniversary of the departure of the first brothers of our Congregation to the Missions In fact on 27th November 1837, 5 brothers left Ploermel to board ship at Brest for Guadeloupe. This will be an occasion to remember the beginnings of our missionary endeavors and to underline the missionary dimension, still vibrant, of the Mennaisian Family.

## Calendars of the members of the General Council

### **Br Yannick HOUSSAY**

July	Rome
End of July- beginning of August	France
10-20 August	Haiti
September	Rome
15-27 October	Rome General Council

### **B. Gildas PRIGENT**

15 <sup>th</sup> July-25 <sup>th</sup> August	Rome-Castelgandolfo session of preparation for perpetual profession
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept-10 <sup>th</sup> October	Philippines Indonesia
15 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> October	Rome General Council

### **Br Gerard BYRUHANGA**

15 <sup>th</sup> July-25 <sup>th</sup> August	Rome Castelgandolfo session of preparation for perpetual profession
End of August -10 <sup>th</sup> October	Uganda
15 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> October	Rome General Council

### **Br Guillermo DÁVILA**

28 <sup>th</sup> June- 18 August	Ploermel: course for the Brothers, 35-55 years old
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Rome: international session
15 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> -October	Rome General Council

# THE CONGREGATION AND THE MENNAISIAN FAMILY: EDUCATION, A WAY TO EVANGELIZATION

## THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE SON SENT and COMMUNITY HOLINESS

- To grow on our way of consecrated life, by means of an elaborated and lived personal project thanks to a spiritual accompaniment.
- To base our fraternal life on the common pursuit of holiness, by means of a communitarian project that allows "Brothers to be together and to be open and visible in the service of the youth in education."
- To cultivate communion in the pursuit of holiness by means of the annual themes at the level of the Mennaisian Family

## THE MISSION OF THE MENNAISIAN FAMILY

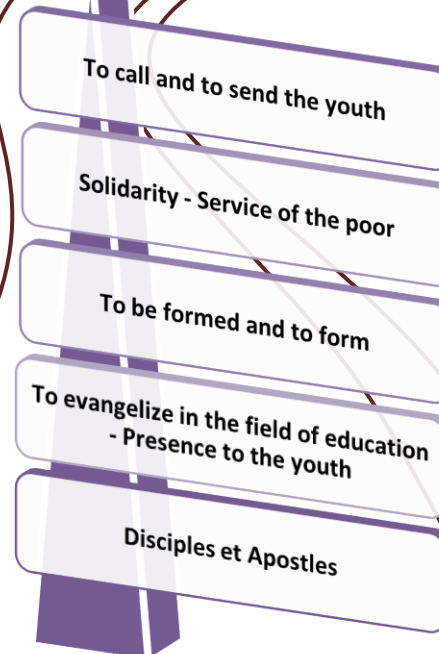
- To develop, to structure and to accompany the Mennaisian Family by establishing structures of discernment and decision in the Provinces and Vice-Provinces and at the level of the Congregation
- To deepen the identity of Mennaisian schools and institutions through a process of elaborating a Mennaisian Education Project that integrates the divers dimensions: Evangelisation, presence to the youth, attention to the poor, and Mennaisian pedagogy ...
- To develop and to organize the Youth Ministry (Mennaisian Youth, Mennaisian Volunteers).

## THE VOCATIONS MINISTRY

- To structure the Vocations Ministry in each Province and Vice-Province:
  - A vocational ministry project.
  - Someone responsible and an animation team (Brothers and Laity).
- To establish structures that encourage the youth to heed the call to become missionaries (accompaniment, movements, welcoming communities, places of formation).



education  
a way to evangelization



Together,  
let us give life to the orientations  
of the General Chapter 2012

## THE FORMATION IN VIEW OF THE MISSION

- To root the vocation of each on a solid personal formation.
  - Formation of Formators in view of the initial formation.
  - Programme of formation after the Scholasticate until the final profession.
- To develop the culture of ongoing formation.
  - Formation of Brothers and Lay Formators
  - Formation of local Superiors.

## THE MISSIONARY ANIMATION

- To develop "a culture of justice and solidarity".
- To open the Brothers and the Laity to the missionary dimension, notably in favour of the youth in difficulty and the poor.
- To sustain the missionary works, in communion with the divers Provinces.
- To encourage the initiatives in favour of the informal education sector.