

# 8 - BROTHERS AND LAY MENNAISIANS TOGETHER



*Fourteen Lay Mennaisians were invited to the General Chapter for two days of discussions with the General Assembly. At the end of these meetings, Lay delegates and Brothers together adopted the text shown below which contains the essence of these two days.*

*If this text does not have the same status as those which preceded it, the General Chapter in inserting it into this document wished to indicate its desire to see the congregation enter into the empowering suggestions that it proposes.*

Our words are poor to express the marvellous experience lived by the Chapter Delegates and the Lay Mennaisians.

Together, with enthusiasm and joy, we had time of prayer, reflection and sharing ; we learned to know one another better.

In the aftermath of this Chapter, this will be the new way to live and animate the Mennaisian Family that is taking shape. We are the living witnesses to Jesus, He is at the heart of our lives, He is our rock, He is the treasure of our Mission.

To be transformed and make our lives radiate, here is what we, Brothers and Lay Mennaisians, want to live:

## SENT TO EVANGELIZE

### **TO WITNESS**

As Mennaisians, we exist to share the same mission as Jesus : to bring the Good News to the young people, with a preferential option for the poor. Together:

- Let us put our Lord Jesus at the heart of our lives and of our communities, otherwise nothing will be possible.
- Let us create opportunities to get together, Brothers and Lay Mennaisians, to know one another in depth.
- Let us find ways to make our communities and our fraternal communion more visible.

Then, our lives will be living "witnesses" to Jesus and catching joy for those who see us: "Look how they love one another" - "Come and see."

### **TO DISCERN**

A new enthralling task is offered to us now. With creativity and daring :

- Let us discern how we reach out to the poor in and outside our institutions
- Let us dare go towards the world of the youth and adults of today
- Let us live together the adventure of evangelization on new roads that lead us where the poor and the young people live.

### **TO WALK TOGETHER**

As Jesus with his disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are called to get closer to the young people and walk with them" (Lk 24, 15): with humility and hope.

- Let us sharpen our looks and enlarge them to love even better their culture and the culture of their families.
- Let us enter with trust, without fear, into the world of mass media and internet familiar to the young people
- Let us offer ways of interiority that reach out the heart and lead to the "living water". (Jn 4,10)
- Let us invite them to become also apostles and missionaries.
- Let us take steps to set up an international Network of Youth.

## FORMED IN ORDER TO WITNESS

For all Mennaisians – Brothers and Laity – the ongoing formation is a way to make our Charism appealing, to show its beauty, to communicate its power of attraction.

- We are all invited to make an option for this formation, an option that will demand time and determination. Without that formation, it is impossible for those in direct contact with the youth, for education teams and for parents, to live out their mission.
- Ongoing formation aims at "forming the whole person" in the human, Christian and Mennaisian dimensions.
- This wholesome formation, through experiences of life, will conform us to Christ.
- Today, we need well trained Brothers and Lay Mennaisians, capable of forming others.
- Our Mennaisian Family can be lived under various modalities of commitment: the laity - in collaboration, in participation, in belonging – and the Brothers. If we accept this ongoing formation, we will grow up and serve together.
- During the Chapter, we shared many ideas and suggestions to carry out this formation to LIFE, to renew it, to implement it in our communities.
  - To profit from what is also done in other areas of the congregation.
  - To use the internet, with all its potential
  - To set up a guide of various and adapted itineraries.
  - To create an International Committee of Brothers and Lay Mennaisians for ongoing formation.

## IN PARTNERSHIP, BROTHERS AND LAY MENNAISIANS

### ***"OUR BONDS"***

We are a Mennaisian Family. Let us commit ourselves to:

- Make it known more: the April 2009 document is our reference text and our « birth certificate".
- Love it more: the Mennaisian Family is for us, Brothers and the Lay Mennaisians, the place where we gather to be sent together.
- Make it grow: so that more adults and particularly more young people know us and join us.

### ***A STRUCTURE***

We heard various voices and suggestions to form a structure adapted to each reality, something flexible, dynamic and never final:

- That a structure be set up in each sector for the Lay Mennaisians themselves, then for Brothers and Lay Mennaisians.
- That in various sectors, in proximity within the same continent, Brothers and Lay Mennaisians consult one another and create close bonds.
- That under the responsibility of the General Council, an International Committee be set up.

### ***COMMUNION FOR THE MISSION***

We exist as a Mennaisian Family to "make Jesus Christ known and loved" by children and the young people of today, and by their families.

- Let us pray together.
- Let us attend sessions of formation together.
- Let us walk together with joy and hope, listening more to one another, observing and discerning together the signs of the times.
- In humility and a spirit of gratitude, as a Church, let us also welcome those from other religious families.