

THE ECHOES

OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

No. 58

December 2006

The General Council and the entire Congregation joined their prayers to those of all the Brothers of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Province (Uganda) to pray for Brother Marshal NDYOMUGYENYI, the Master of Novices, who passed away in a fatal motor accident.

Here is the Superior General's message addressed to the Brothers of the Province:

"I would like to offer to all the Brothers of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus my sincerest condolences. Since the Lord has deemed it fit to call Brother Marshal to himself, we humbly bow at his will, but we are nevertheless shocked to see our Brother leaving us so soon and so tragically. He was full of life, and he gave witness to us of the joy of offering oneself entirely to God and to the youths.

Today, Brother Marshal shows us, by his untimely departure to the Lord, that all life is God's gift to us and to others. Brother Marshal is a gift to us, and he has given his life to the youths. Now we present him to the Lord so that his life may be fruitful not only for the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, but also for all the young people of this country.

So, I unite myself to you all in asking the Lord to grant him the fullness of his love. May God shower his choicest blessings upon his parents and his entire family, on the Novices whom he has served with such generosity and talent, and on all the Brothers of the Province.

And, may God help us all to live more vigorously the total gift of our life."

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

1. The Animation of the Congregation:

1.1 On-going Formation for the General Council:

In the spirit of the last General Chapter, the Council set time aside for their own on-going formation. They selected as theme: **The Shared Mission**. After a time of sharing based on a Chapter of the Rule of Life, the members of the Council searched for a common vision in view of the implementation of the recommendations of the General Chapter concerning the Mission of Education as lived and shared by the Brothers and the Mennaisian Laity.

1.2 Life in the Provinces and Vice-Provinces:

- Following the different visits made by the Superior General and his Assistants since the end of September 2006, the Council has been able to make an assessment of what is going on in some sectors: the Province of Jean de la Mennais, and the Province of Nuestra Señora del Pilar and the mission in Indonesia.
- The Council has also studied the texts of 2 Provincial Chapters held recently: the Provincial Chapter of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania), and the Chapter of the Province of Jean de la Mennais (Canada, Central Africa, Japan - Philippines).

1.3 Vocations Ministry:

The Council has decided to organise a session on **The Vocations Ministry**. It is scheduled to take place with effect from **5th to 12th August 2007, in Rome**. This international session will bring together Brother-delegates coming from different areas of the Congregation.

The main objective will be the preparation of a bigger and more important session for the Brothers and the Laity engaged in the vocations ministry that is due to take place in 2009, and to encourage all the different sectors to pursue their work of awakening and accompanying vocations.

1.4 Preparation for Perpetual Profession:

- Formation:

The General Council has decided to propose a special itinerary of formation for the future professed Brothers in view of their final engagement. First of all, the Brothers due to make their perpetual vows will be invited to follow some formation while remaining in their Community and carrying out the duties assigned to them like the rest of the Brothers in that particular Community: a booklet specifying the different stages will be sent to them. Thereafter, they will participate in a one month's session, followed by a pilgrimage to the Mennaisian historical sites.

- Facilitators:

A team of facilitators for this formation is made up of Brothers Miguel-Angel Merino, A.G. (the leader), Gildas Prigent, A.G., Yvon Deniaud and Vincent Ssekate.

In the coming months, this team of facilitators will prepare the formation programme and the international sessions. The formation activities should begin at the end of the year 2007, and the session should take place in Rome – Castelgandolfo in August 2008.

The facilitators, apart from preparing the sessions, will not be expected to be present at Castelgandolfo except during the annual session.

1.5 The Ratio Institutionis

The Drafting Committee of the Ratio will meet at Casa Generalizia, Rome, from 5th to 9th February 2007, in view of finalising the text that was adopted by the last General Chapter.

2 The decisions of the Superior General and his Council

2.1 Admission to perpetual profession:

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has admitted to perpetual profession

Brother Javier FERNANDEZ

of the Province of Immaculada Concepcion, Argentina-Uruguay

2.2 Nomination of a Master of Novices:

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed

Brother Franklin RUKUNDO

Master of Novices of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Uganda, for a first mandate of three years.

2. Mission in Indonesia

The Community is pursuing its mission of service to the youths, most especially in the context of the Formation Centre called 'Pusat Lamennais'

Work on the building site for this Centre has already started, and it will provide, in a few months from now, ample working space for a variety of activities regrouped near the Brothers' residence.

Similarly, an all-purpose hall has been built to receive the children and youths, and thus make it possible to teach them different types of skills, in view of their human and Christian formation.

3. Union of the Superiors General

From the 22nd to the 24th November, the Superior General, Brother Yannick Houssay, participated in the biannual session organised by the Union of Superiors General (USG) During their general assembly, a new executive Council was elected for a mandate of three years. Fr. Pascual Chavez Villanueva, the Superior General of the Salesians was elected President of the USG. Brother Yannick Houssay was also elected member of the Executive Council of the USG as a representative of the Brothers' Institutes. (www.vidimusdominum.info)

Schedule of the Members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

1 st December	Rome
27 th December	Uganda (Professions)
2 nd January	Rwanda - Congo
26 th January	Abidjan (Scholasticate), Togo (Novitiate)
15 th February	Rome

Brother Miguel Angel MERINO

1 st December	Rome
13 th December	Spain
29 th December	Chile
12 th January	Argentina
29 th January	Spain
5 th February	Rome

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

6 th December	Uganda
15 th December	Japan – Philippines
15 th January	Kenya
31 st January	Rome

Brother Gildas Prigent

1 st December	Haïti
5 th January	Rome
13 th January	France
27 th January	Tahiti
15 th February	Rome

N.B. The next General Council meeting will take place in Rome from the 19th February to the 10th March, 2007.