



Brother Yannick Houssay
Superior General

To Brothers and Laypeople of the Mennaisian Family

You all remember the conviction expressed by the General Chapter of 2012 when it stated that *“today, in some parts of the world, **outward signs of identity** are of particular importance for many young people”*. We are indeed in a global culture of the image and of communication. This is why the Chapter wanted this observation to lead to action. To this end, the Chapter entrusted the General Council with the task of choosing *“**a symbol which portrays our identity, and can be integrated with logos, websites, clothing, etc., a dynamic and eloquent new logo which would become common to all the Mennaisian Family.**”*

In September 2012, the General Council, after seeking advice from some Brothers and Laypeople, entrusted Michel Tanguy, Director for Information and Communication, with the task of making proposals in this regard. After having sought professional assistance, Michel has submitted various options. Thus, the **logo** that we now propose to you gradually came to life. The booklet that accompanies the logo explains its meaning as well as its use in the spirit of the General Chapter.

This “symbol” does not replace what already exists in the Congregation. It does not take the place of many logos and other symbols that have flourished here and there thanks to the talent and the love of the Congregation and to the abilities of many Laypeople and Brothers. It does not diminish in any way the importance of the coat of arms of the Congregation which we ensured was included in the heading of this letter. But it does signify the experience of the unity which binds us to John Mary de la Mennais and the Mennaisian charism. It is an invitation to open up to those who are far from us and yet are part of the same family. ***Adopting it is a generous gesture of openness to the large family that we are part of, thus avoiding withdrawing ourselves in our Province or Vice-province, in our country or culture.***

To underscore yet again - if need be - the meaning of that Mennaisian Family logo, I would like to reiterate two calls that the text of the General Chapter of 2012 addressed to us before the realization of the “symbol” proposed to us all:

*“We recognize the need for renewed forms of presence among young people in creative fidelity to the charism of the Congregation, to better meet their needs **in the manner of Jesus,**”* he who welcomes children unconditionally, who seeks the most deprived, who heals those who are injured..., who adapts to his audience, and who invites his followers to leave their homes to tend to the little ones in his name.”

- Echoing these words, Pope Francis recommends that we attend to the “outskirts” which, for us, implies befriending young people.

“Within the Mennaisian family, and as baptized members of the Church, we are ‘a community that has been called whose task it is to call others’. Our communion through Him, with Him and in Him is the source and strength of our mission which is to proclaim Him to the world, especially to young people. May this communion become a prophetic sign of the Kingdom, demonstrating that it is possible to live as brothers on the path to full communion with God.”

- The prophetic sign depends on our personal commitment. The logo that is proposed is only a visual aid. What is seen refers to what is not seen and that is the most important: “You can see clearly only with the heart. What is essential is invisible to the eye!” This is why the logo is simple and does not call attention to itself. It simply is a call.

Dear Mennaisian friends, Brothers and Laypeople, through this simple sign, you will feel more united to each other in your mission of education and of evangelization. You will continue to express the charism in your own culture (logo, websites, clothing, etc., as noted in the text of Chapter). But this logo is meant as a sign of what unites us: God alone, John Mary de la Mennais, an education that is a means to evangelisation, an education that is like a seed that bears fruit in receptive soil, an education that is a path of growth and of hope for every child and young person who benefits from it, but also for every adult who ministers to it. Receive this logo as a sign of the charism which, within the Church, travels the length and breath of the world for the best service of the young people whom the Lord wants to reach through us.

Adopting it may take some time. But do not delay its adoption too much! Then will come the time to use it. ***Let me specify that it is up to the Provincial and the Vice-Provincial and their Councils (Council of Province or of Vice-Province, other councils in which Laypeople and young people may participate) to consider the proposals which may be made so that it is used wisely, integrated to what already exists, and thus achieve all its potential significance.***

Thank you for your brotherly reception of this proposal.

Prayerful and fraternal greetings and communion in Christ.

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Brother Yannick Houssay, S.G.