

Message of Brother Superior General
Launch of the second year of the bicentennial celebration
Calling disciples
June, 6 2018

Dear Brothers,
Dear Mennaisian laity,
Dear Young Mennaisians,
Dear Young Vocational Groups,
Dear Postulants and Novices,

Yesterday, the Lord called Peter, James and John...
He called Jean-Marie de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes
He also called the first Brothers: Mathurin Provost and Yves le Fichant.

Two thousand years, two hundred years later, the Lord continues to call disciples and to send them to work in his vineyard. Are we ready to answer his call?

In this second year of preparation for the bicentenary of our foundation, we want to give thanks to the Lord for the gift of the vocation of Jean-Marie de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes to the Church. We also want to give thanks to the Lord for all the Brothers who have given their lives in the service of children and the youth. We wish to equally give thanks to the Lord for our own vocation either as Brothers or Lay, and for all the young people who, even today, continue to respond generously and joyously to the Lord's call.

“Sublime” is our vocation! It is Jesus’ effective presence with the children and the youth. It is an expression of Christ’s active compassion for them: Jean-Marie de la Mennais reminds us that: “sublime vocation! It is that of Jesus Christ himself; he left the bosom of his Father only to do what you are going to be doing following his example! Scripture tells us that He went about doing good, teaching the poor, and giving sight to the blind, strengthening the lame, healing the sick...”¹

¹ S VII, 2237

“Beautiful, holy” is our vocation. It is a reminder of the universal calling to holiness: “You have a beautiful mission” tells us again Jean-Marie de la Mennais, “and I thank God for having given it to you, because by working for the sanctification of the young children entrusted to you, you are working at your own sanctification”².

Dear Brothers, Dear members of the Mennasian Family, in this second year of preparation for our bicentennial celebration, if we want to announce by word and by our witness of life that our vocation is sublime, beautiful, holy and call other disciples, I give you this three-fold call that comes from our last General Chapter.

- Dare to go out: Going out, before being considered as an outside attitude, is basically an inner pilgrimage that allows one, like the Good Samaritan, to be close to the wounded child, the youth, to reassure him, to protect him as would do a good father. By going out and making myself close, I allow each child, each young person touch the finger of the tenderness and mercy of God.
- Dare to look: It is to look at reality with the eyes of the Good Samaritan. In other words, it is this look that pushes you closer because then you are able to see whatever is good in every child and in every young person. It is this look that:
 - open our eyes “*to see the miseries of the world, the wounds of so many brothers and sisters deprived of their dignity*”³
 - open our ears “*to hear their cry calling for help*”⁴.
 - Open our hands to shake their hands and draw them to ourselves “*so that they may feel the warmth of our presence, friendship and fraternity*”⁵.
- Dare to call: In the evangelical narratives of vocation, “Jesus’ look of love is transformed into a word, which is a call to welcome a novelty, to explore it and build it up”⁶ In this sense, the General Chapter 2018 dares to affirm that our best vocational ministry is by “the testimony of a community that is open to the mercy of God, that is happy, and joyful”.

² Jean-Marie de la Mennais to Bro. Anastase Gelebart, 1846.

³ Bull of the Induction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus*, no.15.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Lineamenta: The Young, Faith and vocational discernment.

Fraternity is our grace, our vocation and our mission!

Let us live it with passion, audacity, creativity and trust in Providence!

Dare to go out! Dare to look! Dare to call!

Let us call for the Mennasian Family: the Mennasian charism is a relevant gift!

Let us call for becoming Brothers: being a Brother remains good news for the world and for the Church!

Bro. Herve Zamor, SG

May 23, 2018