

# THE CONGREGATION TODAY

*in a few lines... in view of writing a new page!*



- 7 Provinces: England-France; Spain-Chile-Bolivia;  
Argentina-Uruguay; Canada-USA-Mexico; Haiti;  
Uganda-South Sudan; Tanzania-Kenya.
- 4 Districts: Polynesia; Japan-Philippines-Indonesia;  
Benin-Togo-Senegal-Ivory Coast; DRC-Rwanda.
- 1 Delegation: Italy.

## **The Brothers.**

The number of Brothers is about 765, including about 20 novices.

Approximately: 300 from Africa; 120 in North America; 30 in South America and Mexico; 50 in Haiti; 25 in Asia; 70 in Spain; 170 in France-England-Italy. 11 in Polynesia;

Globally, the number of Brothers will still shrink, but gradually, and in a slower way. The figures below show this, in as much as they manifest the dynamism of some sectors, especially with regard to the pastoral care of Vocations.

**Pastoral care of vocations and/ or of Aspirants:** Some young people are being accompanied in Argentina-Uruguay, in Mexico, in Chile-Bolivia; The following countries have 'Postulants' this year: Haiti, Senegal-Togo-Benin- Ivory- Cost, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, Indonesia, Philippines.

**Novitiates:** Petionville (Haiti); Santiago (Chile) (which has no Novices this year) for young people of South America; Dapaong (Togo) for young people of DRC and West Africa; Kasasa (Uganda) for young people from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and southern Sudan; Yogyakarta (Indonesia) for young people of Indonesia and the Philippines.

**Scholasticates:** Abidjan: Francophone Scholasticate (3 years) for the Brothers of West Africa, DRC and Haiti. Kisubi; Anglophone Scholasticate (3 years) for the Brothers of East Africa; Manila (2 years) for the Brothers of Asia (+ a year for the young Indonesians to learn English). More individual in South America, because of the small number.

## **A vitality that is exhibited by the number of young Brothers in many countries.**

**Brothers with temporary vows:** The Congregation has about 115 Brothers with temporary vows, representing about 15% of all the Brothers throughout the Congregation.

In Africa: the Brothers make up 30%. In Asia: 12%, In South America: 11%, In Haiti: 30%.

## **A dynamic and animated Mennaisian Family.**

The two assemblies which were held at Ploërmel in 2008 and 2015 have been a sign of this vitality, and helped to make great strides forward.

Practically, in all countries, at different paces, the Mennaisian family is growing.

In many sectors, formation activities are proposed despite the distances between schools, and economic problems.

Several Provinces have managed to form a Commission of the Mennaisian family (France, Spain, Argentina-Uruguay, Uganda, Haiti, Canada-USA) and others are working upon it (Tanzania-Kenya, for example).

This is what has allowed the establishment of an International Commission of the Mennaisian family. In some cases, Lay people have followed a process of training in view of becoming Lay Mennaisians. Many without any formal commitment, others with a commitment as associate members.



**The Young Mennaisians** portray their generosity and enthusiasm, engaging in various movements, at the service of education, in favour of the poorest, while seeking to feed it from the sources of the Mennaisian Charism. The strong point of their presence is in Latin America.

### **The educational Mission.**

Mission teams have emerged in some Provinces.

In many cases, meetings of Directors around the Council, or the Mission Team, or of Brothers and Lay people in charge of the animation and coordination of educational works are held periodically.

Training is offered to all, locally, but also at the level of a Province. This takes place in several Provinces.

This formation is open to all educators of Mennaisian schools in some provinces and in a systematic way.

**Works of education** that strive to always meet the educational challenges of today while offering the Gospel to young people now.

In recent years, there have been significant efforts to start courses adapted to young people who do not have a normal school curriculum or who are from poor and disadvantaged families; technical and agricultural schools have been opened, etc. This on all Continents.

Africa: 44 Schools (Primary, Secondary, 1 University, Primary Teacher Colleges and Some Technical Schools for the most disadvantaged)

Europe: 85 Schools open to all, and meant for students in difficulty, or who desire technical or agricultural training.

South America: 11 Schools (primary, secondary, technical schools) and many undertakings and various actions in favour of the most disadvantaged, in relation with other Educational Mennaisian Center.

Haiti: 8 schools and high schools; 1 technical school; 1 informal undertaking in a shanty town (supported by Mennaisian Laymen).

Canada-USA 2 high schools; 1 undertaking of informal education in Canada, and one in Mexico. 1 University in USA.

Asia: 7 Schools (secondary schools, primary and nursery schools, technical School for young adults).

Polynesia: 8 educational Centers (secondary schools, primary schools, colleges with technical and agricultural training, reception Center for young people).

**New foundations** in response to some demands (southern Sudan, for example) and requests for help for the poorest are heard more locally. Lay people and Brothers mobilize themselves with enthusiasm, dedication, and humility, to put themselves at the service of those who are in need, materially, but especially on the educational level.

**The three NGOs of the Congregation** contribute in different ways, and allow many adults and young people to mobilize themselves in favour of the most disadvantaged of our network of Educational Centers.

### **Pastoral Work for the Young People**

The young Mennaisians, the various movements of training for young people, the mennaisian education that goes beyond the bounds of the school.

### **Texts of REFERENCE:**

The Rule of life of the Brothers.

Ratio Institutionis. Ratio Studiorum. Text of reference of the Mennaisian family.

Texts for study: Identity of a Lay Mennaisian; the fundamental axes of the Mennaisian education.

**FORMATION and INFORMATION:** [www.lamennais.org](http://www.lamennais.org) , La Mennais Magazine, La Mennais Studies, The Circulars of the Superior general, the Themes of year, etc.