



Servants of Hope

General Chapter 2024

ECHOES of the General Council

Number 112 – February – March 2024

The General Council held its ordinary session from 12 February to 8 March 2024 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome. This last session of the current General Council's term of office was mainly devoted to direct preparations for the 28th General Chapter, which will begin on 26 March.

This issue of Echoes brings to the attention of the entire Congregation the information and decisions taken at this General Council.

1. Animation of the Congregation

A. ECHOES FROM THE PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS:

- Here are a few echoes of the visits made:
- **Brother Hervé Zamor:** The Superior General's visit to the Province of Saint-Teresa of the Child Jesus (**Uganda and South Sudan**) took place over 2 periods: from 2 November to 2 December 2023 and then from 4 January to 4 February 2024. Brother Hervé Zamor visited all the communities, including that of Riimenze (South Sudan), met the young Brothers in formation, some members of the Young Mennaisian Adults (YMA) as well as the Provincial Commission of the Mennaisian Family. He also took part in the Brothers' Annual General Assembly last January.

The apostolic commitment of the Brothers in the works, the vocations and the creation of new works, often in the "peripheries", highlight the vitality of the Province. However, the deepening of the spiritual life, fraternal life in community, the choice of new formators and their accompaniment, the structuring of the Mennaisian Family, the search for ever greater financial autonomy in order to ensure the future of the Province, are all challenges to be taken up for a consecrated life that is more in line with the demands of the Gospel and the Rule of Life.

- **Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé** has continued his contacts with the Brothers in the sectors for which he is responsible, mainly through online exchanges. Over the last few months, he has been particularly involved in the direct preparation of the next General Chapter.
- **Brother Vincent Ssekate:** Brother Vincent visited **Polynesia** from 14 to 27 November 2023. He met the Brothers of the 3 communities of the District, visited the schools, and spent some time with the Mennaisian Family. The small number of Brothers is strongly underlined! Brother Vincent witnessed the constant efforts being made to awaken vocations. A young Polynesian is currently preparing to enter the Postulate. One of the aims of this visit was also to discuss the status of the District, which will probably change after the next General Chapter.
- Thereafter, **Brother Vincent** travelled to the **Province of Tanzania-Kenya**, of which he is the Major Superior. At the end of 2023, he joined the Brothers in their annual retreat. He also

presided over the Province Assembly. In the light of the report of the Superior General to the Province after his last visit, the Brothers analysed the past and identified the current strengths and weaknesses of the Province, in order to map out a course of action for the next 5 years and beyond.

This visit to the Province was also marked by the death of Brother Benedict Kisagya, originally from Uganda, but a member of the KT Province.

- **Brother Miguel Aristondo:** The visit to the **United States**, originally scheduled for June 2023, eventually took place last December. Brother Assistant found a committed community which, despite the age of the Brothers, bears witness to hope and confidence in the Lord; a community open to different groups of Lay people and to the people around them.

Brother Miguel afterwards travelled to **Canada**. The purpose of this short stay was to visit the Senior Brothers who live in **Laval**, at the Résidence De-La-Salle. These Brothers are very well cared for and accompanied by the staff at the Residence. On the last day of his visit, Brother Miguel organised a meeting to present the life of the Congregation and the work in progress in preparation for the next General Chapter.

Brother Miguel spent Christmas with the Brothers of the Province of Nuestra Señora del Pilar (**Spain**), and took part in the Brothers and Laypeople meeting on 26 December 2023, in preparation for the General Chapter.

B. FORMATION:

The **Session of preparation for perpetual vows will be held during the summer of 2024**, from 13 July to 13 August at the Mother House in Ploërmel. 24 young Brothers are expected to attend.

C. CHAPTER GENERAL 2024

In less than a month, our General Chapter will officially open; four Working Documents ("Instrumenta Laboris") have been prepared:

- N° 1: Mennaisian Family
- N° 2: Rule of Life
- N° 3: Servants of Hope
- N° 4: Economy and Charism

The General Council would like to thank all the communities of the Congregation who contributed to the drafting of these texts. The writing of the "Instrumenta Laboris" on the Rule of Life and on "Servants of Hope" has been enriched by the many contributions from the communities.

All the members of the Chapter are counting on everyone's prayers from now on, so that this Chapter Assembly can be a new Pentecost for the whole Institute. On 24 April, Brother Superior General will **renew the Institute's Consecration to Mary** in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome.

You can follow news of the Chapter on the Congregation's website.

2. Decisions of Brother Superior General and his Council

A. Nominations

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed:

- Brother **Carlos CAPELLÁN**, Provincial of the Province of Nuestra Señora del Pilar, for a new mandate of three years.
- Brother **Andrés HUIDOBRO**, Deputy Provincial of the Province of Nuestra Señora del Pilar, for a new mandate of three years.
- Brother **Raymond TUMWESIGYE**, Director of the Kisubi Scholasticate, for a term of three years.

B. Another decision

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has decided to **open a new mission in Timor Leste, in the diocese of Baucau**.

The Congregation received the agreement of the Bishop of the Diocese of Baucau during the last visit of Brothers Gildas Prigent and Stéphane Le Pape to Timor Leste, from 8 to 14 January 2024. In the coming months, the General Council will define the roadmap for this new mission. It will announce the names of the new missionaries, whose first task will be to learn Portuguese and Tetum, the country's two official languages.

The General Council invites you to pray for this new Congregation project, which remains a real challenge, but also a strong sign of hope.



Island of Timor, with the independent EASTERN part (Timor Leste) and the new implantation in the diocese of **Baucau**. The map also shows the 2 closest communities in Indonesia (**Kupang**, **Larantuka**)