



General Council

Number 113 - May - June 2024

The new General Government held its first ordinary session from 20 May to 13 June 2024 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

The first part was devoted to resuming the work of the General Chapter. During this session, the General Government prepared the official texts of the Chapter, which will be sent to the communities in July. It also defined the themes for the next 6 years.

Following the General Chapter elections, the Superior General also appointed new Major Superiors, which required time for consultation, discernment and decisions. The Council warmly thanks all the brothers who have accepted to take on the role of Major Superior.

1. Animation of the Congregation

1.1 General Chapter

A great deal of work was carried out after the Chapter to format the final texts. The General Council salutes the precise work of the various secretaries: they greatly contributed to the smooth running of our General Chapter. Particular thanks go to Brother Philippe Blot, who has completed the Chapter booklet, which is currently being printed. Thanks also to the translators!

1.2 Theme of the Year

The Congregation's theme for 2024-2025 is part of the spiritual journey proposed by the Church in preparation for the Jubilee "**Pilgrims of Hope**", which begins on 24 December 2024.

Pope Francis has proposed that the year 2024 be dedicated to **prayer**: "*I am already delighted to think that the year preceding the jubilee event, 2024, could be dedicated to a great 'symphony' of prayer, first and foremost to rediscover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him*".

Taking into account the General Government's choice to animate the Institute on the basis of our new Rule of Life, the theme chosen for the year 2024-2025 is: "**Pilgrims on the path of Prayer**". This will be a great opportunity for the Brothers to discover Chapter 7, on the life of prayer.



The Major Superiors, together with some Brothers responsible for animation in their Provinces or Districts, have already discovered the theme for the year during an online session.

1.3 Rule of Life :

The members present at the General Chapter certainly echoed the good work that went into writing the new Rule of Life. Some adjustments have been made recently.

The new Rule of Life adopted by the Capitulants will be submitted to the Dicastery of Consecrated Life during the month of June, for approval of the Constitutions.

We will have to wait for the Dicastery's response before the final publication of the Rule.

1.4 A 4th Brother Assistant :

A new provision of the Directory adopted by the Chapter states:

"In the interval between two ordinary General Chapters, the Brother Superior General may add a new member to the General Council.

By a first collegial vote, the Brother Superior General and his Council will first decide on the advisability of adding a new Assistant. Then, if necessary, they will proceed collegially to elect the new Brother Assistant, by secret ballot and by a two-thirds majority of the votes.

The newly elected Assistant is a member of the Council until the next General Chapter. (Ch. 14, 58.1)

After a period of discussion and discernment, the members of the General Government collectively voted in favour of a 4th Assistant.

❖ **The General Government, by collegial vote, elects Brother Gildas Prigent, Assistant General until the next General Chapter.**

The members of the General Government thank Brother Gildas Prigent for having accepted this responsibility. They wish him a successful mission in the service of the Congregation.

1.5 Saint-Peter Chanel (French Polynesia) Delegation

For several months, the Brothers and Communities of Polynesia (Tahiti and Marquises) have been involved in the reflection on the future of their District, as of now, made up of 8 Brothers in 3 communities.

❖ ***The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, decides to erect the Communities of the Marquesas Islands and Tahiti into the Saint-Pierre-Chanel Delegation, with effect from 1st July 2024.***

❖ ***The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, adopts the Statutes of the Delegation.***

❖ ***The Superior General appoints Brother Gildas Prigent as Delegate of the Superior General for the Polynesia Delegation***

The Superior General and his Council would like to thank Brother Yvon Deniaud, who has led the District over the last few years.

1.5 Mission entrusted to the Brother General Assistants :

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has decided to entrust the following responsibilities to the Brother Assistants:

NAME	Provinces / Districts
Bro. Jean- Paul PEUZÉ	Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus Province (Uganda – South Sudan) Delegation of Italy Community of the Scholasticate at Abidjan
Bro. Vincent SSEKATE	Saint Michael the Archangel Province (Tanzania - Kenya) Saint John Baptist Province (France - England) Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Province (Haiti) Saint Paul District (Benin - Senegal - Togo)
Bro. Miguel ARISTONDO	Nuestra Señora del Pilar Province (Spain) Jean de la Mennais Province (Canada – USA - Mexico) Divina Providencia District (Argentina - Bolivia – Chili - Uruguay)
Bro. Gildas PRIGENT	Visitor of Saint-François-Xavier District (Indonesia – Japan – Philippines) The new mission in Timor Leste (East Timor) Saint John-Paul II District (Democratic Republic of Congo - Rwanda) Saint-Peter Chanel Delegation (French Polynesia)

Other missions of the Brother General Assistants:

- **Bro. Jean-Paul PEUZÉ** : Initial and Ongoing Formation; Mennaisian Family.
- **Bro. Vincent SSEKATE** : Solidarity and volunteering ; Mission Ad Gentes
- **Bro. Miguel ARISTONDO** : Schools Network - Tutti Fratelli - Young Adult Mennaisians
- **Bro. Gildas PRIGENT** : Accompaniment of the Young Brothers of Temporary profession

Each area of transversal responsibility is entrusted to a Brother Assistant assisted by a Commission made up of a few Major Superiors or other resource persons.

The role of each commission :

- To help the General Government in its mission of animation, formation and accompaniment of the different realities of the Institute;
- To propose ways forward and solutions to the General Government;
- To carry out the activities decided by the Brother Superior General with the consent of his Council.

The different commissions

1- Initial and Ongoing Formation

Members : Bro. Jean-Paul Peuzé, Bro. Casio Aizire, Bro. Eric Mugisa, Bro. Yannick Houssay

2- Mennaisian Family

Members : Bro. Jean-Paul Peuzé, Madam Yvette Méus, Madam Martha De La Cruz

3- Solidarity and volunteering – Mission Ad Gentes

Members : Bro. Vincent Ssekate, Bro. Mario Houle, Bro. Jean-Baptiste Ndiaye

4- Schools Network – Young Adult Mennaisians

Membres : Bro. Miguel Aristondo, Bro. Carlos Capellan, Bro. Carlos Lovatto

5- Accompaniment of the Young Brothers

Members : Bro. Gildas Prigent, Bro. Simon Alphonse, Bro. Hervé Asse

6- Economy and Charism

Members : Bro. Claude Grégoire, the Members of the Economic Affairs Council and the Brother Treasurers of the Provinces: Saint John Baptist, Nuestra Señora del Pilar, Jean de la Mennais and Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus

2 Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

2.1 Nominations

The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints :

- **Province Jean de la Mennais (Canada – United States of America - Mexico) :**
Bro. **Mario HOULE**, Provincial of Jean de la Mennais Province, for a new mandate of 4 years.
- **Province Saint Michael the Archangel (Tanzania – Kenya) :**
Brother **Vincent SSEKATE**, Delegate of the Superior General for Saint Michael Archangel Province, until 15 March 2025.
- **Province Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (Haiti) :**
Brother **Simon ALPHONSE**, Provincial of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Province, for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Province Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda – South Sudan) :**
Brother **Casio AIZIRE**, Provincial of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus Province, for a new mandate of 4 years.
- **District Saint Francis Xavier (Indonesia – Japan – Philippines) :**
Brother **Gildas PRIGENT**, Visitor of Saint Francis Xavier District, for a new mandate of 4 years.

- **Province Jean de la Mennais (Canada – United States of America - Mexico) :**
Brother **Claude GELINAS**, Assistant Provincial of Jean de la Mennais Province, for a new mandate of 4 years.
- **Province Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (Haiti) :**
Brother **Rony PIERRE**, Assistant Provincial of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Province, for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Province Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda – South Sudan) :**
Brother **Gerard BYARUHANGA**, Assistant Provincial of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Province, for a mandate of 4 years.
Brother **John Bosco SSENKABIRWA**, Assistant Provincial of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Province, for a mandate of 4 years.
- **District Saint Francis Xavier (Indonesia – Japan – Philippines):**
Brother **Stéphane LE PAPE**, Assistant Visitor of the District of Asia for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Delegation of Italy :**
Brother **Jean-Paul PEUZE**, Delegate of the Superior General for the St. Peter Delegation (Italy) for a mandate of 4 years.

2.2 Other nominations :

Missionaries to East Timor

The last Echoes of the General Council gave the information of the decision to open a new mission in East Timor, in the diocese of Baucau. The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints :

**Brothers : Stéphane Le Pape (District Saint-Francis Xavier)
Philippe Douti (District Saint-Paul)
and Christian Usengimana (District Saint John Paul II)**

members of the future mission in the diocese of Baucau, East Timor. He appointed Brother Stéphane Le Pape, Superior of the Community and Head of the mission for a mandate of 3 years.

On **15 September 2024**, at the Brothers' Mother House at Ploërmel, these three Brothers will be sent on mission.

From the beginning of October until December, the three Brothers will travel to Portugal for a time to learn Portuguese in Lisbon. A community of Marist Brothers will be hosting them.

In January 2025, they will travel to Dili (Capital of East Timor) for several months learning Tetum (the local language). They will be housed in a community of the Society of the Divine Word (SDV). In April 2025, they will settle in the town of Manatuto, Diocese of Baucau.

The entire Congregation is already praying for them and wishes Brothers Stéphane, Philippe and Christian a wonderful and holy mission!

Directors of the Postulates :

In accordance with the new Rule of Life, the Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints :

- **Brother Benito ZAMPEDRI**, Director of the Postulate at El Alto (Bolivia) for a mandate of 3 years.
- **Brother Rony PIERRE**, Director of the Postulate at Pétion Ville (Haiti) for a mandate of 3 years.
- **Brother Victor SAMBIANI**, Director of the Postulate at Thian (Benin) for a mandate of 3 years.
- **Brother Damien HABIMANA**, Director of the Postulate at Nyundo (Rwanda) for a mandate of 3 years.
- **Brother Bruno DJUKALEMA**, Director of the Postulate at Bunia (Congo RDC) for a mandate of 3 year.
- **Brother Israël DE OCAMPO**, Director of the Postulate (2nd Year) at San José (Philippines) for a mandate of 3 years.
- **Brother Zenobius MEO PASU**, Director of the Postulate (1st Year) at Yogyakarta (Indonesia) for one year.

Maître des Novices – District Saint-François-Xavier

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints **Brother Ewald GUERRIER** (Haiti), Master of Novices for the District of Saint Francis Xavier, for a term of 3 years. His appointment will be effective from June 2025.

Director of the Scolasticate at Yogyakarta

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints **Brother Philippe BLOT**, Director of the Yogyakarta Scholasticate, for a mandate of 3 years.

President of the Scholasticate Council of Kisubi (Kanywa).

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints Brother Casio AIZIRE, President of the Council of the Kisubi Scholasticate, for a term of 3 years.

Projects Office

The Superior General and his Council have decided to set up a Projects Office, to be based at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

The objectives of this Office are:

1. assist the Provinces and Districts in drawing up investment projects: communities, schools and other works, equipment, ...
2. seek funding; to act as an interface between donors and those responsible for projects in the Provinces and Districts;
3. monitor project implementation;
4. supervise project accounting
5. reporting to donors and the Institute.

The Superior General appoints :

- **Brother Claude Grégoire : Director of the Projects Office**
- **Brother Joseph Kanaabi Zziwa : Coordinator**
- **Brother Nicolas Le Meilleur : Accountant**

2.2 Admission to perpetual profession

The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, admits to perpetual profession :

Brother **Walter MUÑOZ**, of the Divina Providencia District.

Brothers **Gracia TITAYOSA**, **Jean de Dieu HAGENIMANA**, **Noël MUPENDA**, **Patrick KAKULE**, of St. John Paul II District (Congo, Rwanda)

3 Upcoming events

3.1 The session of Brothers preparing for perpetual profession will take place next summer from 13 July to 13 August at the Mother House in Ploërmel. 23 Brothers are expected to attend: 2 from Congo DRC and 3 from Rwanda, 1 from Senegal, 9 from Uganda, 4 from Kenya, 1 from Tanzania, 1 from Argentina and 2 from Haiti.

3.2 Opening of the Bicentenary year of the arrival of the Brothers at the Ploërmel Mother House on 14 September 2024.

3.3 An online meeting of Major Superiors is scheduled for 14 to 17 October 2024 (14.30 - 17.30, Rome time). This meeting will provide an opportunity to work together on the implementation of the General Chapter and the new organisation for the animation of the Congregation.

Calendar of General Council members

Brother Hervé ZAMOR :

7 July – 26 August 2024 :	Haiti
1 – 13 September 2024 :	General Chapter of Picpus Fathers
13 – 18 September 2024 :	Ploërmel
23 September – 11 October 2024 :	General Council in Rome
14 – 17 October 2024 :	Online meeting with the Major Superiors

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE :

01 – 29 July 2024 :	Rome
30 July – 22 September 2024 :	France
13 – 18 September 2024 :	Ploërmel
23 September – 11 October 2024 :	General Council in Rome
14 – 17 October 2024 :	Online meeting with the Major Superiors

Brother Vincent SSEKATE :

03 July – 16 August :	Ploërmel – Session of the young Brother for perpetual vows
16 August – 13 September :	Tanzania, Kenya
13 – 18 September 2024 :	Ploërmel
23 September – 11 October 2024 :	General Council in Rome
14 – 17 October 2024 :	Online meeting with the Major Superiors

Brother Miguel ARISTONDO :

1 ^{er} July 2024 :	Spain
13 – 18 September 2024 :	Ploërmel
23 September – 11 October 2024 :	General Council in Rome
14 – 17 October 2024 :	Online meeting with the Major Superiors

Brother Gildas PRIGENT :

25 June – 2 July 2024 :	Retreat with the Brothers in Indonesia at Kupang
9 July – 15 August 2024 :	Ploërmel – Session of the young Brother for perpetual vows
16 August – 6 September 2024 :	Châteaulin
7 – 17 September 2024 :	Ploërmel
18 September – 25 September 2024 :	Paris

The next session of the General Council will take place in Rome from 23 September to 15 October 2024.