



General Council

Number 115 – February – March 2025

The General Government of the Institute held its 3rd ordinary session from 17 February to 6 March 2025 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome. From 21 - 24 February, it received Brothers Yannick Houssay, Pierrick Busson and Laurent Bouillet, who joined the meeting to deal with all the issues surrounding the transfer of the Generalate to Rennes and the Archives to Ploërmel.

These echoes bring the following information and decisions to the attention of the entire Congregation:

1. Animation of the Congregation

1.1 Echoes from visits to the Provinces and Districts

Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General, visited the **Abidjan Scholasticate** from 26 November to 6 December. He met personally each formator, and the 18 scholastics of the Jean de la Mennais and Gabriel Deshayes communities. This year, the Jean de la Mennais Community hosts 3 Brothers of St. Gabriel: a formator and 2 scholastics. The Superior General witnessed the seriousness of the formation, and the quality of the spiritual and community life, even if conversion to fraternal life in community and the building of the inner man remain the work of a lifetime.

Brother Hervé Zamor then visited **Tanzania** from 16 to 22 December. He took part in two important events for the Province: on the one hand, the Provincial Assembly and, on the other, the celebration of the perpetual vows of 5 young Brothers as well as the celebration of 25 years of religious life for 9 Brothers.

Finally, from 7 January to 11 February 2025, Brother Superior General visited the communities and establishments (schools and other...) in the **Togo-Benin** sector. He took part in the blessing of the Jean-Marie de la Mennais school complex in Thian. During his visit, he was able to meet each Brother, then each community, and when possible, he addressed the students, educational teams and various school staff. One of the major challenges for the District is the pastoral care of vocations. There is an urgent need to analyse this situation in order to come up with effective and daring responses.

Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé made two visits to **Uganda**.

The first, from 5 to 25 November 2024, had as its objective the following up on the new administration of the Province: new mandate of the Brother Provincial, new Provincial Team, new Provincial Council, as well as a visit to the houses of formation, where leaders responsible for the houses had all changed in the space of a year. At present: the postulate has 18 young people over 2 years, among whom are 8 from South Sudan; the novitiate, 11 novices (6 from Uganda and 5 from Tanzania-Kenya); and the scholasticate (29 scholastics).

Brother Jean-Paul once again visited Uganda from 17 January to 2 February 2025. He presided over the **Provincial Chapter**, which took place in Nabinoonya. The Chapter, which had been well prepared by a special commission working with all the communities of the Province, was inspired by the documents of the General Chapter of 2024. It began with an in-depth look at the life of the Province: where do we come from? where are we? where do we want to go? how do we get there? The reflection then continued on the theme of 'servants of hope', with lay people, as far as the

Mennaisian Family is concerned. Finally, questions specific to the life and future of this large Province of almost 200 Brothers were addressed. The General Assembly of the Province, which followed the Chapter, brought together more than 120 brothers and marked the launch of the new year. This annual General Assembly of the Brothers is also the assembly of the legal structure of the Congregation in Uganda (the 'Registered Trustees').

In December, Brother Jean-Paul travelled to **Polynesia** for a special mission in this new Delegation. In Tahiti and the Marquesas, he met the Brothers as well as the members of the Mennaisian Family and the heads of the establishments that depend on the Congregation. While it is true that the number of Brothers is decreasing, the place of the Institute in the educational mission remains important. The Mennaisian Family is dynamic, but still needs to be better structured.

Brother Miguel Aristondo made the canonical visit to the **Province of Nuestra Señora del Pilar (Spain)** in December and January: visits to communities, meetings with Brothers, meetings with school principals. He also took part in the opening day of preparations for the Provincial Chapter on 27 December. This day, which brought together Brothers, Lay Mennaisian Associates and other lay people from the Province, provided an opportunity to present the working document which was given to each one and the roadmap for future meetings which will take place throughout 2025, up to the Provincial Chapter which will take place from 26 to 30 December 2025. The theme chosen is: '*Looking beyond*'.

Despite advancing age, a large majority of Brothers remain present in the establishments, through accompaniment, presence... Some Brothers are suffering more and more as a result of the ageing of the Province and the many challenges facing educational works. This year of reflection and sharing, between Brothers, in community, in the Mennaisian Family, towards the Chapter of December 2025, will be a wonderful opportunity to discern together the responses to today's challenges.

Brother Vincent Ssekate made two visits to the **Tanzania-Kenya** Province. Firstly, from 2 November to 16 November, he visited the 3 communities in Kenya (Nairobi, Meru and Timau). These visits enabled him to present, as he had done previously with the communities of Tanzania, the current challenges facing the Province, and to prepare for the important moment that the Province was about to experience, the General Assembly of the Brothers (19-20 December 2024). He then travelled to Moshi for the Province's annual retreat, which was attended by almost all the Brothers.

Following the retreat, was the Province Assembly led by the Superior General and Brother Vincent. At the end of the Assembly, a text was drawn up with various precise commitments for the life of the Province, and was signed by each participant. This commitment is important in many ways: among them, it provides the Province with a direction for the future, and the Institute with an instrument for evaluation. This peak moment for the Province was culminated with the perpetual profession of 5 young Brothers, and the celebration of the 9 Silver Jubilee Brothers of the Province on December 21, 2024.

This was followed by the journey to France, through Paris then to Ploërmel, where he presided over the Chapter of the **Province of Saint John-Baptist** which started on December 26 - 29. The Chapter comprised of 23 Brothers and an external observer: Father Federspiel, former Provincial of the Salesians in France. This Chapter had been prepared in advance in the communities. These discussions led to 8 important questions or challenges for the Province. The final text grouped these 8 challenges into *5 domains expressed as issues and needs, then the proposals and lines of action*. The Brothers also addressed a message to *the members of the Mennaisian Family: Brothers and Lay persons. A Provincial Assembly of Brothers and Laypeople of the Province will be held next October to take up all these lines of action, and any other relevant material in Mennaisian Family mode*.

Brother Vincent Ssekate continued to visit 9 communities in the Province in January. During these visits, questions about the future of the animation of the Province, the ageing of the Brothers, the future of *la Tutelle (trustship)* of the schools, the community places to be prioritised... were at the heart of the fraternal exchanges with each of the Brothers and the communities involved.

Last December, **Brother Gildas Prigent** visited the **new District of Our Lady of Kibeho (Rwanda)**, for which he is the Assistant Superior General in-charge: 3 communities, 20 Brothers involved in the establishments and houses of formation and around 10 young people in formation. It's a young, dynamic district, facing major challenges such as the management of large establishments, pastoral care of vocations and formation, and the attention that needs to be given to fraternal life in

community so that each community remains strong and centred on Christ. On 14 December, at Nyundo, two young Brothers made a definitive commitment to the Congregation. Brother Gildas represented the Superior General.

Brother Gildas then went to the **Congo (DRC)** to the **new District of Saint-Joseph**, which is currently under delegation status: 4 communities, 25 Brothers involved in 6 establishments, some of which have more than 2,000 pupils. The District has 15 young people in formation from postulate to scholasticate.

Brother Gildas took part in a Brothers' Assembly in Dungu, where everyone was able to express their feelings about the situation in the District. The challenges are numerous and affect community life, consecration in all its dimensions, the development and management of works, vocation ministry and initial and ongoing formation. But the District also has valuable assets: communities with a significant number of Brothers, excellent school works and Brothers trained in many areas. It is now up to the District to implement the guidelines identified during this assembly.

On 28 December 2024, two Brothers made their perpetual vows and three others celebrated their silver jubilee.

1.2 Rule of Life

The General Council and the Casa Community were delighted to Receive **Sister Simona Brambilla**, the new Prefect of the Dicastery of Consecrated Life (DIVCSVA). Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General, and Sister Simona were students at the Gregorian at the same time.

The meeting with her was very fraternal. It was an opportunity for the Superior General to ask Sister Simona about the progress of the study of our Rule of Life, which was submitted to the Dicastery last June. The new Prefect emphasised that her Dicastery is still held up and busy with the numerous requests it receives. We will therefore no doubt have to wait for their response.

This is why the General Council has decided to make **a digital version of the texts of the Rule of Life** available to the Provinces and Districts for internal use. Work on the definitive edition is continuing: introductions, index and appendices and translations of the Rule of Life.

1.3 Mission of East Timor

The Congregation's website has provided regular news of the 3 Brothers appointed to the new mission in East Timor. Brothers Stéphane Le Pape and Philippe Douti, after their stay in Portugal, have flown to Dili, and have begun learning Tetum (the local language). They have already taken part in several meetings in the **diocese of Baucau**, where they will be staying. The next Click Info - to be published in March 2025 - will provide the latest information.

Brother Eric Mugisa, from Congo DRC, has replaced Brother Christian Dusengimana, who has returned to Rwanda. Brother Eric is currently in Portugal and will join his confreres in the diocese of Baucau in May.

1.4 Economic Directory and Stable Patrimony

The 2024 General Chapter had entrusted the drafting of an **Economic Directory for the Institute** to the General Government. It asked the Brother Treasurer General to 'proceed with drawing a general list of all the **goods of the Institute** intended to guarantee its subsistence and to facilitate the realisation of its institutional goals'. This work is underway. Major Superiors will shortly receive a letter on 'stable patrimony', in order to help the General Government identify goods that could be assigned to it. All of these issues will again be on the agenda of the next General Council and discussed at the next meeting of Major Superiors in Rome in September.

2 Decisions of Brother Superior General and with his Council

2.1 Nominations

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

- **Brother Yannick Houssay**, Provincial of the Province of Saint John the Baptist (France – England) for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Brother Carlos Lovatto**, Visitor of Divina Providencia District (Argentine-Bolivia-Chili-Uruguay) for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Brother Anthony Kamuhanda**, Provincial of Saint Michael the Archangel Province (Tanzania-Kenya) for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Brother Laurent Bouillet**, Assistant Provincial of the Province of Saint John the Baptist (France – England) for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Brother Félix Corada**, Assistant Visitor of the Divina Providencia District (Argentine-Bolivia-Chili-Uruguay) for a mandate of 4 years.
- **Brother Martin Muthee**, Assistant Provincial of the Province of Saint Michael the Archangel (Tanzania-Kenya) for a mandate of 4 years.

2.2 Other nomination

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

- **Brother Claude GRÉGOIRE**, Treasurer General of the Congregation for the new mandate of 3 years.

2.3 Admission to perpetual profession

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

- Brother **Adrianus ANDI**, Indonesian, of the District of Saint Francis Xavier.
- Brother **Alexandre Mbissane DIOP**, Senegalese, of District of Saint-Paul.

2.4 Other decisions.

- The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, approved the **texts of the Provincial Chapters of the Provinces of Saint John the Baptist and of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus**.
- The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, approved the **Accounts of the General Administration for the year 2024**, presented by the Brother Treasurer General.
- The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, approved the opening of a new school in the Province of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus at **Kabojja**: St Mary's College – Kabojja

3 Communication

The next Click Info - No. 10 will be published in March 2025. It will be sent to your e-mail addresses as usual. Please contact the General Secretariat if you have any new e-mail addresses.

The Congregation's website (www.lamennais.org) underwent a little tidying up at the end of the year. The Secretary General, who is in charge of it, warmly thanks the Correspondents appointed in each sector, who relay the news. More than 40 news items have been published since last September. We therefore invite you to consult the site regularly, as a true relay of the life of the Congregation, and to share this news (sometimes by printing it in the communities) with the Brothers and Lay people of the Mennaisian Family.



We invite all the communities to pray for peace in the world, especially for and with our Brothers in Congo DRC, Rwanda and Haiti.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Hervé ZAMOR:

19 – 25 March 2025:	Canada
30 March – 26 April 2025:	DR Congo
30 April – 14 May 2025:	Senegal
21 – 23 May 2025:	USG
16 June – 4 July 2025:	General Council at Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE:

10 March – 22 April 2025:	Rome
23 April – 2 May 2025:	Togo, novitiate of Dapaong
2 May – 12 May 2025:	Ivory Coast, Scholasticate of Abidjan
13 May – 13 June 2025:	Rome
16 June – 4 July 2025:	General Council at Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

Brother Vincent SSEKATE:

March 2025:	Rome
8 April – 14 May 2025 :	France
23 May – 9 June 2025:	Tanzania - Kenya
16 June – 4 July 2025:	General Council at Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

Brother Miguel ARISTONDO:

8 March – 21 April 2025:	Divina Providencia: Perpetual profession Chapter of the District and visits to the communities.
13 – 21 May 2025 :	Jean de la Mennais : Provincial Chapter
16 June – 4 July 2025:	General Council at Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

Brother Gildas PRIGENT:

20 March 2025:	Indonesia
Mid-April – Mid-May 2025:	Japan and Philippines
June 2025:	Indonesia
16 June – 4 July 2025:	General Council at Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

The next General Council meeting will be held in Yogyakarta (Indonesia) from 16 June to 4 July 2025.

VISIT OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND HIS COUNCIL IN INDONESIA

As already announced, the entire General Government will be in Indonesia from 15 June to 6 July 2025. This will be the opportunity to mark the **25 Years of the Mission**.

The Council will first hold its working session in **Yogyakarta from 16 to 30 June**. Then, from 1 July, it will move to **Larantuka, where the celebration of the 25 years of the Mission and the Perpetual Profession of Brother Adrianus ANDI will take place**.

The District is looking forward to this important visit and is already welcoming the whole Council!

*(New Pathways of Fraternity – Newsletter
of Brother Gildas Prigent – Visitor of the District St Francis Xavier)*

