

Pilgrims on the Way of the Fraternal Life



ECHOES of the General Council

Number 117 - September-October 2025

The General Council held its ordinary session from 15 September to 6 October 2025 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome. During this period, the Major Superiors of the Congregation met in person. Together with the members of the General Government, they were able to take part in the Jubilee celebrations and pass through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica. The Congregation's website reported on this event. (Lamennais.org)

The General Conference took place in a very fraternal atmosphere, marked by mutual listening and communion in diversity. At the beginning of this synodal working period, each Major Superior was invited to prepare and present a chapter of the new Rule of Life, as he would do to the Brothers in his sector. It was an enriching exchange for all. Other topics worked on together, such as the Economic Directory and the stable assets of the Congregation, were a direct response to the last General Chapter. Finally, it was a milestone for the various Commissions set up since 2024. A long time was also devoted to the Vade-Mecum, which remains an important tool for every Major Superior in the service of authority.

This issue of Les Echos informs the entire Congregation of the topics discussed during this meeting, as well as the information and decisions of this Council.

1. The animation of the Congregation

a. Echoes from the Provinces and Districts:

Here are some Echoes from the journeys taken or news received by members of the General Council.

Brother Hervé Zamor: From 3 to 10 August 2025, Brother Superior General directed the annual retreat for the Brothers of the **Province of Saint Louis de Gonzague** (Haiti) from Rome. Due to the insecurity in Port-au-Prince, the Brothers gathered at two sites: those from the far south (La Vallée, Jacmel and Cayes) at the Capuchins place in Cayes, and those from the west and far north at the Juniorate in Pétiön-Ville. The theme of the retreat was the one proposed for the year for the whole Institute: **Pilgrims on the path of fraternal life in community**. It was a peak moment for the Province, of course, with all the limitations of online preaching. The next visit to Haiti, in October-November, will allow Brother Hervé to meet all the Brothers and to better understand the challenges facing the Province in this difficult situation of political instability and permanent insecurity. We are called to keep the whole Province in our prayers.

- **Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé:** For this new visit to the **Province of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus** in less than a year, he had a twofold objective: to visit communities and to follow up on formation (vocational pastoral care and houses of formation). First, Brother Jean-Paul visited the communities where the third-year scholastics were doing their community and educational experience. As there are eight of them, this took him to as many communities, all located in **the upcountry regions** of the country, because the provincial team had chosen to offer the Brothers in formation a particularly

meaningful 'missionary' experience. He visited the communities of Kambuga, Ibanda and Kasasa, then Nebbi, Atyak and Kakooge, and finally Bukuumi and Mubende.

The second objective was to visit the houses of formation (Postulate: 23 Postulants – Novitiate: 11 novices – Scholasticate: 29 scholastics). This allowed him to pay particular attention to those responsible for formation, all of whom had been recently appointed. Finally, from August 6 to 9, 2025, Brother Jean-Paul, in collaboration with the members of the Initial and Ongoing Formation Commission, presided over a formation **session on the vocations Pastoral Ministry** held at Nabinoonya. It was intended for East Africa: Uganda and South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Twenty-five Brothers participated. This session was based on the new Rule of Life. It enabled participants to better comprehend and deepen their understanding of the concepts of vocation and vocation ministry, and to reflect on the mission of those responsible for vocation ministry and the means that can be used in this ministry.

- **Brother Vincent Ssekate:** After his stay in Indonesia with the members of the General Council, Brother Vincent flew to West Africa to visit the **Saint Paul District**. He witnessed the end of the Brothers' annual retreat at the Daluag House of Prayer in Dapaong in northern Togo. Then, at the Dapaong community, he presided over the **District Chapter** from August 3 to 6, 2025. During these three days, the capitulants reflected on various themes arising from the last District Chapter and the last General Chapter, with a view to adopting texts that will guide and shape the life and future of the District for the next six years and beyond. Finally, Brother Vincent—for whom this was a first—continued with **a visit to the communities of Togo and Benin**. As this visit took place during the holidays, it was not possible to meet with all the Brothers. Brother Vincent will complete his visit with another trip at the end of the year.
- **Brother Miguel Aristondo:** After his stay in Indonesia, he remained in **Spain**. This allowed him to participate in the Brothers' Assembly in Nanclares, visit some of the communities in the Province, and work with the Brothers of the Province on Spanish translations of various documents, including the Rule of Life, the Economic Directory, and the Vade-Mecum. He was also able to assist Brother Provincial in some specific way on various tasks.
- **Brother Gildas Prigent:** After the General Council's visit to **Indonesia** and the highlights of the **25th anniversary of the Brothers' arrival in Larantuka**, and remained in the District, particularly to animate the Brothers' annual retreat. Then, from August 23 to September 6, he visited the **Delegation of Polynesia**. It was a time rich in encounters: Brothers, communities, schools, the Foyer des Iles, school principals, the Mennaisian Family, and various church, political, association, and youth movement leaders. The schools and the Mennaisian Family show great vitality, but the steady decline in the number of Brothers and their advancing age are gradually changing their presence in the Territory.

b. Theme of the Year

In most Provinces and Districts, at least those in the northern hemisphere, the theme of the year, **"Pilgrims on the Path of Fraternal Life,"** was presented at the launch of the new year and the writing of the community project. The same approach will be implemented in other sectors in the coming months. A second animation booklet will be sent to Major Superiors before the end of October.

c. Rule of Life 2024

All sectors have now been able to share with the Brothers the version of the new Rule of Life that was voted and approved at the last General Chapter. Unfortunately, the approval by the Dicastery for Consecrated Life may still take several months! So, there is no need to wait for this before reading and studying it, either alone or in community.

During this waiting period, it is still possible to send corrections on the style and form—of course, the substance of the Rule of Life cannot be changed. The General Council therefore encourages each Brother and each Community **to send to the General Secretariat** all these improvements on the text, through the Major Superior, with a view to the final version of the Rule of Life.

d. Session of preparation for the perpetual vows – summer 2026

During the **summer of 2026, from July 12 to August 12**, a session will be held for **young Brothers preparing for perpetual profession at the Mother House in Ploërmel**. Twenty-six young Brothers are expected to attend. It is planned to begin with participation in the third Mennaisian pilgrimage to Lourdes. The pilgrimage is organized by the Province of St. John the Baptist for the entire Mennaisian Family of the Province.

e. The next General Conference 2026

The new Rule of Life encourages the Superior General and his Council to organize regular synodal working sessions with the Major Superiors. A new General Conference will be held in Uganda in early September 2026, from September 4 to 11. This will provide an opportunity to join in the celebrations of the **Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus on the occasion of the centenary** of the Brothers' presence in that country.

f. Economic Directory and Stable Patrimony

As indicated in the introduction to these Echoes, a significant amount of time during the General Conference was devoted to studying the text of the **Economic Directory and presenting the properties that have been assigned to the Stable Patrimony of the Institute**.

During the General Council that followed the Conference, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, approved the text of the Economic Directory. It is “**ad experimentum**” until the next General Chapter. It will be sent to the Major Superiors.

In order to facilitate its implementation at the various levels, the General Government will organize a session for the **Brother Treasurers** of the Provinces and Districts on these economic and administrative concepts.

g. Transfer of the Generalate House and the Archives

Following the decision of the last General Chapter, every effort has been made to organize this transfer under the best possible conditions. If all authorizations are granted in the coming months, including those from the Diocese of Rome and the Vatican for the sale of the Generalate property, the Congregation will have to vacate the house **by the end of 2026**.

Renovation work on the future Generalate in Rennes is expected to begin in early 2026.

After several possibilities were considered, the Institute's archives will be located in the basement of the central building of the Mother House. This solution (concrete floor and ceiling) avoids the difficulties of excessive weight on a given surface and limits problems in the event of a fire.

h. Communication

The next **Click La Mennais Info No. 12** will be sent to you at the end of October. The General Government encourages each Brother to read this family news, which broadens our view of the Institute throughout the world. Communities are invited to ensure its distribution in their Institutions and among members of the Mennaisian Family.

2. Decisions of Brother Superior General and with his Council

a. District Saint-Joseph (DR Congo)

The District, currently under the status of a “delegation”, are appointed:

Brother Gildas PRIGENT, Delegate of the Brother Superior General.

Brother Bruno DJUKALEMA, Delegate of the District.

b. Delegation of Saint-Peter-Claver (Tahiti-Marquises)

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZÉ, is appointed Delegate of the Brother Superior General.

c. Director of the Scholasticate of El Alto (Bolivia)

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

Brother Benito ZAMPEDRI, Director of the Scholasticate of de El Alto (Bolivia) for 2 years.

d. Nominations

The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, is sending **Brother Julius MANDELLA**, from the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda, South Sudan), to France to prepare for service in the Congregation.

To this end, at the beginning of 2026, he will join the community in Paris for an intensive learning of the French language

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints **Brother Festo MADTIKWO**, from the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda, South Sudan) to the mission in **East Timor**. Brother Festo has just completed his Scholasticate in Kisubi and will join the Community of **Manatuto** (East Timor) for a missionary experience.

The General Government warmly thanks the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for availing these two young Brothers to the Congregation. They equally thank Brothers Julius and Festo for their availability and entrusts them to the prayers of the entire Congregation.

e. Provisional Budget for the year 2026

During the General Council, Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, approved the **provisional budget for the Congregation for 2026**, which was presented by the Brother Treasurer General.



Members of the General Conference at the beginning of Via Conciliazione, Rome, at the start of the Jubilee match to enter through the Holy Door, St. Peter's Basilica, September 27, 2025.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Hervé ZAMOR:

15 October – 24 November 2025:	Haiti
26 – 28 November 2025:	USG
30 November – 30 December:	Rome
30 December 2025 – 12 January 2026:	Chili – Annual Retreat and District Assembly
20 January – 10 February 2026:	Rwanda
16 February – 6 March 2026:	General Council in Rome

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE:

28 October – 6 November 2026:	Indonesia - SFX District Chapter,
December	Rome
January 2026:	France
16 February – 6 March 2026:	General Council in Rome

Brother Vincent SSEKATE:

9 – 19 October 2025:	Rome
20 – 25 October 2025:	France
28 October – 09 December 2025:	Visit to Ivory Coast, Togo and Bénin
15 December 2025 – 18 January 2026:	Haiti
26 January – 10 February 2026:	Visit to Senegal
16 February – 6 March 2026:	General Council in Rome

Brother Miguel ARISTONDO:

22 October 2025:	Bilbao
31 December 2025:	Chile
12 January 2026:	Spain
21 January 2026:	Mexico
29 January 2026:	Spain
16 February – 6 March 2026:	General Council in Rome

Brother Gildas PRIGENT:

14 October 2025:	Indonesia
31 October - 4 November 2025:	SFX District Chapter
12 November – 26 November 2025:	Philippines
27 November - 12 December 2025:	Indonesia
13 December – 23 December 2025:	Japan
23 December – 20 January 2026:	Indonesia
20 January – 15 February 2026:	DR Congo
16 February – 6 March 2026:	General Council in Rome

**The next session of the General Council will be held du Conseil from
16 February – 6 March 2026 in Rome.**