

Pilgrims on the Way of the Fraternal Life



ECHOES of the General Council

Number 118 - February - March 2026

The General Government of the Institute held its 6th ordinary session from 16 February to 5 March 2026 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome. All five members of the General Government were present.

The following echoes bring you information about the entire Congregation and the decisions that were taken:

1. Animation of the Congrégation

1.1 Echoes from the visits to the Provinces et Districts

Brother Hervé Zamor, the Superior General, visited **the Province of Haiti from 16 October to 24 November 2025**. This visit had three objectives: to attend the perpetual vows of Brother Jean Roberson Mathieu; to take part in the opening celebrations of the 100-year anniversary of the school of Vallée de Jacmel; and to conduct the canonical visit of the Saint Aloysius de Gonzaga Province. This was the first since his re-election as Superior General.

The Brothers and Laity of the Mennaisian Family greatly appreciated the presence of the Superior General. They described it as a visit of consolation in times of trial and fraternal proximity in this particular time when the country, particularly Port-au-Prince, is living under the terror of gangs. They are trying to hold on and bear witness, through their simple presence, that the Lord never abandons his weeping and waiting people, who are eagerly awaiting better days.

Then, from **30 December to 12 January 2026**, the General Superior was in Chile. The main purpose of this visit was to animate the annual retreat for the Brothers, which took place from **2 to 8 January 2026** and focused on the theme of the year: **Pilgrims on the path to fraternal life in community**. Sixteen Brothers and three young Bolivians (one postulant and two aspirants) took part in these spiritual exercises in person, while another Brother and around ten Laity Mennaisian participated online. The retreat ended with a pilgrimage to **Valparaíso**. It was in this city, that 165 years ago, where the Brothers stayed and worked in a school, before continuing the journey to Tahiti in 1860.

Finally, Brother Hervé Zamor travelled to **Rwanda from 20 January to 8 February 2026**. During this time, he visited the three communities and the various projects and schools managed and administered by the Brothers. This young District now has 29 Brothers, among whom are: 5 novices and 4 scholastics. The Brothers are happy to live together and give their all in the mission entrusted to them. However, there are still many challenges: perseverance in religious life, ongoing formation and self-financing. An assembly of the District is planned for the summer (July – August) of 2026.

Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé, on behalf of the Superior General, travelled to Indonesia to participate in the **Saint Francis Xavier District Chapter from 31 October to 3 November 2025**. The Capitular Assembly, which had been well prepared in advance, addressed six fundamental themes: the

promotion of vocations, initial formation, the studies of the Brothers, community, mission and the Mennaisian family. This Chapter marks a turning point in the life of the District: the majority of the capitulants were Indonesian (5) and Filipino (2).

From **November 2025 to February 2026**, Brother Jean-Paul, Delegate of the Superior General for Polynesia (Tahiti and Marquises), while he remained in Rome, consecrated a good amount of time carrying out online meetings with the individual Brothers, the communities and heads of institutions. This enabled him to appreciate the dynamism of the Mennaisian family. This was evident once again during the celebrations and initiatives held for the **165th anniversary of the FIC's presence in Polynesia**. Despite the small number of Brothers (8), their presence remains valuable for the lay people engaged in the 8 establishments of the local Mennaisian network.

Brother Jean-Paul, Delegate of the Superior General for Italy, met with the **Italian Brothers** at a time when an important step for each of them is approaching with the sale of the Generalate House in Rome.

Brother Miguel Aristondo participated in the Chapter of the Province of Our Lady of Pilar. This capitular assembly worked on six main themes: Experience of God, Mennaisian family, Mission, Vocations ministry, Prayer Life and Fraternal Life. These were the result of the entire discernment process carried out in the communities in 2025. At the close of the Provincial Chapter, all the capitulants expressed their joy and gratitude for the quality of the work that had been achieved. This was a good point of departure into the future with hope and trust in Providence.

From **18 to 26 January**, Brother Miguel travelled to **Mexico** to meet the two Brothers of the Huatusco community and discuss the future of the mission with them.

Brother Vincent Ssekate travelled to France to participate in an Assembly of Brothers and Laity of the Mennaisian Family of the **St. John Baptist Province** (France-England) from **21 to 24 October 2025**. The 13 brothers and 26 lay people exchanged views on the following issues: identity, mission, the future and the structure of the Mennaisian family. These days of exchange and discernment were a true blessing for all participants. The happiness and pride were evident on their faces as they celebrated the ways on how to strengthen the bonds and build bridges between persons and institutions of the Mennaisian family in France.

Then from **28 October to 10 November 2025**, Brother Vincent visited the **two communities in Abidjan**, which comprise 17 scholastic Brothers and six other Brothers (formators and students), as well as four Brothers of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel – a formator and 3 students. Meeting the scholastics and formators enabled him to better understand the importance of this stage in initial formation and to emphasise its significance for persevering in the life of a Brother.

From **11 November to 9 December**, Brother Vincent continued his visit to **Benin and Togo**. This enabled him to review the progress of the communities, establishments and the District as a whole at a time when the current term of office of the Brother Visitor is coming to an end. There are many challenges: the small number of young people from West Africa in the houses of formation (4 scholastics and 2 novices), the large number of communities (12) and schools (9) for around 40 Brothers. Finally, after taking the necessary time to rest, he concluded his visit to the Saint Paul District with a visit **to Senegal from 27 January to 9 February**, visiting our three mission sites in Thiès, Diourbel and Vélingara. The presence and witness of the Brothers is valuable for the local Church in this predominantly Muslim environment.

Brother Gildas Prigent was involved in the affairs of his District, visiting the communities in Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia, and preparing for the District Chapter. Then, from **24 January to 13 February 2026**, he travelled to the **District of Saint Joseph, Democratic Republic of the Congo** where he is the Brother Delegate of the Brother Superior General. Visiting this sector is complex and travel between communities depends on availability of air travel or possible roads. He did not visit the community of Kinshasa, it is Brother Bruno Djukalema who visited it. The District has 34 Brothers, including 8 scholastics. The District is responsible for two schools of the Congregation (Bunia and

Dungu), two Diocesan schools (Isiro and Dungu) and a Vocational Training Centre. All the Brothers are heavily involved with children and young people.

1.2 Rule of Life - Theme of the Year

The approval of the Rule of Life by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life is still pending despite our reminders and letters, However, we must continue to deepen our understanding of this new Rule, particularly through the Theme of the Year that has been proposed to us.

Following the chapters on **Prayer** (2024–25) and **Fraternal life** (2025–26), the chapter on **Religious consecration** will serve as the guiding theme next year. The commission is working on this and will be able to send the slogan and biblical icon of the new Theme. The first animation booklet will be sent in May 2026.

1.3 Session of preparation to the perpetual Vows – Summer 2026

In the course of **Summer, from 12 July to 12 August 2026**, a session will take place **for young brothers preparing for perpetual profession at the Mother House in Ploërmel**. Twenty-five participants are expected: 3 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 4 from Rwanda, 3 from Haiti, 1 from Togo, 1 from Senegal, 10 from Uganda and 3 from Indonesia.

With the Formation team, and a priest studying in Rome who will accompany the session, there will be a group of 30. Let us pray for all these young Brothers who will be taking an important step in their journey towards dedicating their lives entirely to God.

1.4 International Commission of the Mennaisian Family

Since 2017, an International Commission has been established to oversee the activities of the Mennaisian Family within the Congregation. In addition to the members of the General Government, it is also made up of five or six lay members of the Animation Commissions of the Mennaisian Family in the Provinces and Districts. Their term of office is 3 years.

The six members of the Commission appointed in 2023 had completed their term of office. The General Government has therefore appointed six lay members to the Commission for the period 2026-2029: **Milencia ZACARÍAS CAREAGA** (Divina Providencia District); **Mónica FOSSOUL PALICIO** (Our Lady of Pilar Province); **John AGABA** (St Teresa of the Child Jesus Province); **Corentin OGIER** (St John the Baptist Province); **Yvette MEÚS** (St Aloysius de Gonzaga Province); and **Raina RÉVEILLE** (Polynesia).

The first meeting will be held via video conference with the General Government during the next General Council, and another meeting will be held in presence at the Mother House in Ploërmel from 1 to 3 March 2027.

1.5 General Conference in Uganda

As announced in the October edition of the General Council's Echoes, a new General Conference will take place in Uganda from 4 to 11 September 2026. One of the highlights will be **the celebration of the centenary of the presence of the Brothers of the Province of St Teresa of the Child Jesus on Saturday 5 September 2026**.

The major superiors present at this conference will work on two main themes: **love for the poor and the governance of the Institute**.

1.6 Session Tutti Fratelli

The organisation Tutti Fratelli, which has already organised several formation sessions for the Congregation of Brothers, has set up a session entitled '**The Joy of Brotherhood**' which aims to “**promote a 'culture of vocation'**”, particularly that of '**Religious Brother**'. It will take place in **Rome from 26 September to 24 October 2026**. Two Brothers from the Congregation are expected to participate, as well as Brother Vincent SSEKATE, who will act as a translator.

1.7 Documents of animation

During this session, the General Government worked on or updated important documents for the Congregation's governance: the **Vade Mecum** for use by Major Superiors in their mission; the **Statutes of the International Scolasticate in Abidjan**; and the Guide of Formation at the Postulate. The latter had been requested at the Formators' meeting in Abidjan in August 2023.

2 Decisions of Brother Superior General and his Council

2.1 Nominations

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

- To the service of the District of Sait Paul (West Africa) :
 - **Brother Wilfried FARA**, Visitor of the District of Saint Paul (Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo) for a mandate of 4 years.
 - **Brother Victor SAMBIANI**, Assistant Visitor of the District of Saint Paul (Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo) for a mandate of 4 years.
- To Formation Service :
 - **Brother Noël MUPENDA**, Director of the Scolasticate of Yogyakarta, for a mandate of 3 years.
- To the services of General Administration :
 - **Brother Laurent BOUILLET**, General Treasurer of the Congregation for a mandate of 3 years, while at the same time remaining Provincial Treasurer and Assistant Provincial for the Province of St. John the Baptist.
 - **Brother Hervé ASSE**, General Secretary of the Congregation for the mandate of 3 years.
 - **Brother Jean-Baptiste NDIAYE**, Assistant Secretary General of the Congregation for the mandate of 3 years.
 - **Brother Claude GREGOIRE**, Procurator General of the Congregation for the mandate of 3 years.
 - **Brother Claude GREGOIRE**, Postulator General of the Congregation for the mandate of 3 years.
 - **Brother Hervé ASSE**, Superior of the Community of Casa Generalizia for a mandate of 3 years.
 - **Brother Nicolas LE MEILLEUR**, Accountant at the service of the General Treasurer of the Congregation for the mandate of 3 years.

2.2 Other decisions

2.2.1 Opening of a new community in Uganda

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has approved the opening of a new community in **NGETTA-LIRA, in Uganda**.

The Province has equally taken responsibility of a Secondary School - Comboni College. This school is intrusted to this new community.

2.2.2 Chapters of the Provinces and Districts

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has approved :

- * **The Texts of the Chapter of the Province Nuestra Señora del Pilar (Spain)**
- * **The Texts of the Chapter of the Province of Saint Aloysius de Gonzaga (Haïti)**
- * **The Texts of the Chapter of the District of Saint Paul (West Africa)**
- * **The Texts of the Chapter of the District of Saint Francis Xavier (Asia)**

2.2.3 Missionary Experiences

Following the call of the General Chapter of 2018, several experiences have already been lived or are still being lived. Since mid-January, **Brother Festo Maditkwo** has joined the East Timor mission and **Brother Julius Mandella** is in Paris learning French in preparation for the service of the Institute. **Brother Aloysius Ssekajigo** is preparing to travel to Spain to learn Spanish before joining the mission in Argentina in January 2027.

3 Information et Communication

3.1 General Administration Fund (GAF)

The 2024 General Chapter had decided on the creation of a Fund to contribute to the financing of the General Administration. Its implementation is progressive. By 2030, the interest from this fund will begin to serve the financing, to large extent, the General Administration.

The proceeds from the sale of the properties of Castel Gandolfo, Rome Sant'Ivo and next, of the Casa Generalizia constitute the initial basis of the GAF. As a follow up, each Province or District is invited to contribute, according to its ability, in order to complete this Fund.

The General Government warmly expresses its appreciation to the Provinces and Districts that have already made, and those that will be make subsequently make their contributions.

3.2 Click Info N° 13

The next Click Info – No. 13 will be published towards the end of March 2026. As usual, it will be sent to your email addresses. Please inform the General Secretariat of any new email addresses.

The Secretariat has sent out the 2026 ***New Directory of the Congregation 2026*** and the ***new Circular*** (No. 322) of Brother Superior General.

The Directory of the Schools and Centres of the Congregation (including an illustrated version) is available of the website : : <https://www.lamennais.org/ecoles-et-centres-educatifs/>
ou <https://www.lamennais.org/annuaire-des-ecoles-et-centres-educatifs-la-mennais/>

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Hervé ZAMOR :

16 March – 19 April 2026 : Indonesia – East Timor – Philippines - Japan
20 April – 17 May 2026 : Rome
18 May – 12 June 2026 : General Council in Rome

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE :

11 – 24 March 2026 : Abidjan, Scolasticate, Meeting with Major Superiors
25 March - 7 April 2026 : Togo, noviciate
8 – 27 April 2026 : Rome
28 April – 12 May 2026 : Tahiti and Marqueses
12 – 17 May 2026 : Rome
18 May – 12 June 2026 : General Council in Rome

Brother Vincent SSEKATE :

March – April 2026 : Rome – Haïti ?
18 May – 12 June 2026 : General Council in Rome

Brother Miguel ARISTONDO :

March : Rome
April : Spain
18 May i – 12 June 2026 : General Council in Rome

Brother Gildas PRIGENT :

15 March - 19 April 2026 : Visit to the District SFX with Bro. Superior General
(Indonesia, East Timor, Philippines, Japan)
21 April - 7 July 2026 : Indonesia
18 May – 12 June 2026 : General Council (by video conference)

The next session of the General Council will take place in Rome, from 18 May to 12 June 2026.