

Pilgrims on the Way of the Fraternal Life



ECHOES of the General Council

Number 119 - May-June 2026

The General Government of the Institute held its 7th ordinary session from 18 May to 9 June 2026 at the Generalate in Rome. Several meetings punctuated and enriched the work of the General Government, notably a meeting with Brother Laurent Bouillet, the future General Treasurer of the Institute, as well as an online discussion with the new International Commission of the Mennaisian Family.

During this session, the Brother Superior General also took part in the 105th Assembly of the USG (Union of Superiors General), the theme of which was 'Transmitting the charism in the service of governance'.

These Echoes bring the following information and decisions to the attention of the whole Congregation:

1. Animation de of the Congregation

1.1 Echoes from the visits in the Provinces and Districts

Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General, undertook a canonical visit to the communities and works in Asia from **18 March to 21 April 2026**. Due to geopolitical tensions between Iran, the United States and Israel, the cancellation of flights by Qatar Airways necessitated a change to his itinerary, unfortunately preventing him from visiting the community in Yogyakarta. Throughout this journey, he was accompanied by **Brother Gildas Prigent**, Visitor of the Saint Francis Xavier District and Assistant in charge of the mission in East Timor.

What struck Brother Hervé most about this visit was the apostolic dynamism and the youthfulness of the Brothers in the District: 18 young Brothers (15 Indonesians and 3 Filipinos). In addition, **21 young men** are spread across five formation houses, ranging from the pre-postulate to the scholasticate, including the two years of the postulate and the novitiate. These structures alone require five formators, which represents a considerable burden for a total of 28 Brothers. A sign of vitality: on 6 June 2026, seven novices took their first vows, whilst five postulants entered the novitiate.

This visit also provided an opportunity to encourage the District to revitalise its vocation ministry, a key driver for developing and consolidating the Institute's presence in Asia. Emphasis was also placed on supporting young Brothers and investing in formation. This growth in numbers will, moreover, require the forthcoming establishment of a new community and apostolic work. However, whilst the engagement of the Brothers in Indonesia is proving to be flourishing and full of promise, our presence in Japan can no longer be sustained. The Brother Superior General has therefore officially announced the closure of the **Yokohama community** by the end of 2026, whilst expressing his deep gratitude for the work accomplished over the course of these 75 years of presence.

Finally, the Brother Superior General and the Brother Assistant responsible for **East Timor** spent a week at **Manatuto**, from 1 to 6 April 2026. This first visit had three objectives: to walk alongside the

Brothers in order to discern, in a synodal manner, the main directions for our presence in the Diocese of Baucau; to meet with the local Bishop; and finally, to deepen our understanding of the diocesan situation, and more specifically of the Manatuto area, by meeting with the parish priests as well as the men and women religious in the area.

The future of our presence in East Timor depends on vocations. The Brother Superior General encouraged the Brothers to actively promote our way of life with a view to opening a pre-postulancy in January or February 2027. This will also require the rental of a larger house.

As part of his role overseeing formation within the Institute, **Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé** visited the Scholasticate of Abidjan in Ivory Coast, then the Novitiate of Dapaong in Togo from 11 March to 6 April 2026. The visit began with a two-day meeting in Abidjan, bringing together the member of the **Committee** of Major Superiors directly involved with the scholasticate. The aim was to examine together the new **Statutes of this formation house**, recently approved by the Superior General and his Council.

This meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss and discern future appointments of those responsible for the formation houses.

After visiting the two communities of the Abidjan Scholasticate, Brother Jean-Paul travelled to Togo to meet the novices and their formators. This year, the novitiate is hosting six young men, four of whom are from Rwanda and two from Togo.

Brother Jean-Paul highlighted the warm, fraternal atmosphere that prevails in these formation communities, as well as the full commitment of the formators. Currently, 25 young men are in formation: six in the novitiate and 19 in the scholasticate.

Then, from 30 April to 13 May, Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé visited the Polynesian Delegation in Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands. His visit was prepared by the Brothers and the Lay members of the Mennaisian Family Animation Commission (CAFAM), and it provided him an opportunity to make a number of contacts, necessary for the accompaniment of the communities, the institutions and various Mennaisian groups.

The discussions with the Brothers led particularly to the necessity of reorganizing the communities to bring the Brothers together into two communities: one in Tahiti and the other one in the Marquesas. The decision to close the Foyer des Iles in Papeete was also discussed. The General Council meeting of May–June took the decision to close St Francis of Assisi community and to bring together all the Brothers in Tahiti to the community of Saint-Hilaire at Faava.

The dialogue between the Congregation and the Lay people in the mission in schools concluded that there was a need to strengthen the exercise of the '*Tutelle*' to ensure the oversight role. This led us, again during the May-June Council, to appoint an oversight delegate responsible for supporting the proper running and administration of the schools, and the animation of the Mennaisian network. From the start of the next academic year, Mr Jean-Pierre Mou-Hing will take on this mission.

This visit also gave him the opportunity to take part in meetings of the Mennaisian Family. On Monday 4 May in Taiohae in the Marquesas, where he met with members of the educational communities of St Joseph's School and of the Agricultural College of St Athanasius. On Saturday 9 May, a very diverse group gathered for a retreat at La Mennais College. Under the dynamic leadership of CAFAM, it is hoped that the Mennaisian Family will continue to strengthen its presence within local fraternities.

From 14 April to 12 May 2026, **Brother Vincent Ssekate** carried out the canonical visit to the Province of Saint Louis de Gonzague in Haiti. He would first like to extend his warmest thanks to the Provincial, as well as to every Brother and every community for the warm welcome. Their support enabled him to gain an insight into all the works of the Province, despite the climate of insecurity that is paralysing the country, particularly its capital.

This visit highlighted several key findings and areas of concern:

- **Complex movements**: Getting around the country is extremely difficult. For obvious safety reasons, every journey almost requires air travel. Although safer, these flights are particularly expensive.
- **The situation in Port-au-Prince**: Insecurity persists in the capital. For the time being, the areas where the Brothers live (Delmas, Turgeau and Pétion-Ville) have been relatively spared.
- **The case of the Jean-Marie Guilloux School**: Forced to leave its historic premises near the cathedral, the school now operates from the site of the Institution Saint-Louis de Gonzague in Delmas. The original buildings were completely ransacked by gangs, who took everything, even the doors and benches.
- **The future of CENA (Centre Éducatif Noël des Angès)**: This facility, which provided care for out-of-school children and young people in Cité Soleil (the largest slum in Port-au-Prince), was severely affected by devastating floods in May and October 2025, followed by looting. The centre was unable to reopen for the 2025–2026 school year. However, a reopening is planned for September 2026, in partnership with Sister Paësie, founder of the *Kizito Family*, a very active charity at the heart of the slum.
- **Psychological support for pupils**: In schools in the capital, pupils are in a deeply vulnerable state, both psychologically and emotionally. In response to this distress, the Brothers have set up a support programme involving specialists.
- **A considerable workload**: The Brothers of the Province are generally young and in good health. However, there are only 37 of them to manage no fewer than 11 establishments (schools and houses of formation). This small number presents a major challenge given the scale of such an apostolic commitment.
- **Vocations ministry and formation**: Although the current crisis is hampering vocations ministry, the Province hopes to relaunch the postulancy in Pétion-Ville from September 2026.

These various observations bear witness to the exceptional vitality and courage of the Brothers, the communities and the Mennaisian Family in Haiti. Nevertheless, everyone is well aware of the immense challenges facing the Province of Saint Louis de Gonzague on a daily basis. This part of the Congregation is relying on our prayers more than ever.

1.2 Theme of the Year

Having worked through the chapter on **Prayer** (2024–2025) and then that on **Fraternal Life** (2025–2026), **Religious Consecration** will serve as the guiding theme for the coming year. The Major Superiors have already received the first pastoral booklet for this new year, with the slogan: **“Brothers, called to become conformed to the image of the Son”**

1.3 International Commission of the Mennaisian Family

During this session, the International Commission of the Mennaisian Family, composed of the six (6) members of the General Council and six (6) Lay persons almost all new, held a video conference with the members of the General Council.

After the presentation of the reality of the Mennaisian Family today, attention was turned to 2028, the date when we will hold our third International Assembly of the Mennaisian Family in Ploërmel. This will take place from 21 to 24 August 2028.

The International Commission of the Mennaisian Family will meet from 1 to 3 March 2027 at the Mother House in Ploërmel to continue preparations for this event.

1.4 Session of preparation for perpetual vows – Summer 2026

During the **Summer of 2026, from 12 July to 12 August**, a session will be held at the **Mother House in Ploërmel** for **young Brothers preparing for their Perpetual Profession**. Twenty-four participants are expected: three (3) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, four (4) from Rwanda, two (2) from Haiti, one (1) from Togo, one (1) from Senegal, ten (10) from Uganda and three (3) from Indonesia.

1.5 Tutti Fratelli Session

The Tutti Fratelli organisation, which has already organised several training courses for congregations of brothers, has set up a session entitled **'The Joy of Brotherhood'**, aimed at **'promoting a culture of vocation'**, particularly that of the **'religious brother'**. It will take place in **Rome from 26 September to 24 October 2026**. Two Brothers from the Congregation were due to take part. However, due to the Ebola epidemic currently ravaging the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, the Comboni Generalate in Rome has announced that participants coming from these two countries must undergo a 21-day quarantine before the start of the session. This makes it impossible for Brother Stephen Ssemenda from Uganda to attend. Only Brother Walter Muñoz from the Divina Providencia District will represent the Congregation.

1.6 General Conference in Uganda

The next 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 attending this Conference will focus on two main themes: **love for the poor and the governance of the Institute**.

1.7 Session of the Provinces and Districts Treasurers

A formation session for the Brothers in charge of finances in the Provinces and Districts is scheduled to take place at the Mother House in Ploërmel from 5 to 9 March 2027. It will begin on the morning of 5 March and conclude on the afternoon of 9 March. The latest issue of the General Council's newsletter announced the approval of the Institute's **Economic Directory**: this session will provide an opportunity to explore at depth this document in greater depth and to share insights into the various economic realities of the Congregation.

2 Decisions of the Superior General and his council

2.1 Nominations

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

- to serve the Province of Haiti:

- **Brother Joslyn GONTRAND**, Assistant Provincial of the Province of St Louis-de-Gonzague (Haiti), for a mandate of 2 years.

- to serve in the houses of formation:

- **Brother Rony PIERRE**, Director of the Scholasticate of Abidjan, and Superior of the Jean Marie de la Mennais community for a mandate of 3 years.

- **Brother Victor SAMBIANI**, Assistant Director of the Scholasticate of Abidjan, and Superior of Gabriel Deshayes Community, for a mandate of 3 years.
- **Brother Joseph BELLANGER**, Master of Novices for the Novitiate of Dapaong.
- **Brother Fabianus LAGUR**, Director of the Year I Postulate at Yogyakarta (Indonesia)
- **Brother Joslyn GONTRAND**, Director of the Postulate of Pétion-Ville (Haiti).
- **Brother Olivier IGIRANEZA**, Director of the Postulate of Nyundo (Rwanda).

2.2 Admissions to perpetual vows

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

- Brothers **Junior POLYNISTE** and **Junior Cols BIEN-AIMÉ**, from Haiti and belonging to the Province of St. Louis-de-Gonzague.
- Brothers **Adrien HASHAKIMANA**, **Alphonse TWIZERIMANA**, **Ange-Dieudonné TUYISENGE** and **Pierre-Célestin NIYONSENGA**, from Rwanda and belonging to the District of Our Lady of Kibeho.

2.3 Other decisions

* Casa Generalizia of Rome:

Provided that all the necessary authorisations will be obtained in good time, the Generalate Community shall leave Rome at the end of 2026.

This will be done gradually:

- Starting this Summer, the Italian Brothers will join their new communities in France: **Brothers Mario FORINO and Franco GRAZIOSI**, Mother house at Ploërmel; and **Brothers Dino DE CAROLIS and Eugenio MANONI**, at the community of Lourdes.
- **Brother Joseph ZZIWA** (Coordinator Projects Office), to the community of Tilleuls at Nantes and **Brother Nicolas LE MEILLEUR** (Accountant), to the Mother House at Ploërmel. Brother Nicolas will work alongside Brother Laurent Bouillet, General Treasurer and Treasurer of the Province of St. John the Baptist - France, who also resides at the Mother House.
- **Beginning of December**: will start the transfer of the **general Archives** to Ploërmel.
- **Mid-December**: The General Government will move to the Mother House until the work on the future General House in Rennes is completed (April 2027).
- The last Brothers will leave Rome at the **end of December 2026**.
- **Brother Mathias SENFUKA** (Ugandan Student) will be received in the community of the Picpus Fathers, our neighbours here in Rome so as to complete his final university year at Angelicum.
- **The Community of the Picpus Fathers** will serve as the host community for the Brothers of Ploërmel on various occasions. It will also be the official seat of our General Procuratorship. The Procurator of the Fathers of Picpus to the Holy See has been appointed **Assistant Procurator** of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian Instruction of Ploërmel. A protocol to this effect has been signed with the Fathers of Picpus.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Hervé ZAMOR :

21 – 27 June 2026 :	Retreat of the General Council
4 July – 13 August 2026 :	Haiti
14 – 21 August 2026 :	Rome
21 – 27 August 2026 :	Rwanda
28 – 30 August t 2026 :	Uganda
31 August – 3 September 2026 :	General Council in Uganda
4 – 11 September 2026 :	General Conference in Uganda
14 – 30 September 2026 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE :

21 – 27 June 2026 :	Retreat of the General Council
3 – 10 July :	France (Nantes)
11 July – 5 August:	Rome
6 August :	Uganda
31 August – 3 September 2026 :	General Council in Uganda
4 – 11 September 2026 :	General Conference in Uganda
14 – 30 September 2026 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Vincent SSEKATE :

21 – 27 June 2026 :	Retreat of the General Council
28 June :	Provincial Chapter Tanzania-Kenya
9 July – 12 August :	Session of young Brothers at Ploërmel
13 August :	Rome
17 August t :	Uganda
31 August – 3 September 2026 :	General Council in Uganda
4 – 11 September 2026 :	General Conference in Uganda
14 – 30 September 2026 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Miguel ARISTONDO :

21 – 27 June 2026 :	Retreat of the General Council
3 July :	Spain
17 July :	Chili
23 July:	Spain
28 August :	Uganda
31 August – 3 September 2026 :	General Council in Uganda
4 – 11 September 2026 :	General Conference in Uganda
14 – 30 September 2026 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Gildas PRIGENT :

7 July – 13 August :	Session of young Brothers at Ploërmel
14 – 24 August :	France (Finistère), in family
27 August :	Uganda
31 August – 3 September 2026 :	General Council in Uganda
4 – 11 September 2026 :	General Conference in Uganda
14 – 30 September 2026 :	General Council in Rome

Next General Council meeting at Kisubi, 31 August – 3 September, then in Rome, 14 – 30 September 2026