

A new page

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La Mennais 2019

ECHOES OF THE **General Council**

Number 96 - September-October 2018

The General Council held its ordinary session from 24th September to 06th October 2018 at Casa Generalizia in Rome.

Previously the Brothers of the General Council lived together for a retreat near Rome. This session coincided with the opening of the Synod on Youth, Faith and Discernment of Vocations, a theme that fits well with the theme of the year and the calls of the last General Chapter.

This issue of the Echoes brings to the attention of the whole Congregation the following information and decisions:

1. The animation of the Congregation

a. Visit of Provinces and Districts:

- In recent months, the Brothers of the General Council have visited various sectors of the Congregation. Here are some highlights of these visits:
- **Brother Hervé Zamor took part, first of all, with Brother Miguel Aristondo, in the Pilgrimage of the Mennaisian Family in Lourdes last July:** A strong moment in which participated several international delegations, including one from Haiti. Then, back in Rome, Brother Herve animated the 3 day-retreat during the session of the young Brothers at Castelgandolfo, around the theme "**following Jesus like Jean-Marie de la Mennais**". He also had the opportunity to present the orientations of the last General Chapter during exchanges with the young Brothers. Then, the Superior General went to visit the United States, especially the community of Walsh, for a long linguistic stay, while enjoying the warm and fraternal welcome of the Community. Finally, just before the Council, he flew to Rwanda: eight busy days as part of the festivities of the 50 years of presence of the Brothers in this country. This was his first time to visit Rwanda.
- Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé spent most of his summer time with Brother Vincent Ssekate on the animation of **the Young Brothers' session in Castelgandolfo** until August 15th. Brother Jean-Paul then flew to **Togo** to preside over the ceremony of the first vows of the seven Brothers who were finishing their novitiate. Opportunity for him to meet many Brothers from West Africa, and Scholastics from Abidjan who had moved for this district festival. Brother Jean-Paul also participated in the entry of four new young people in the Novitiate of Dapaong (two from Congo DRC, one from Senegal, one from Togo). During the same period, five youths returned to Thian Postulate and six to **Ogaro's Post-Postulate**. Finally, Brother Jean-Paul presented the orientations of the General Chapter to all members of the District Council.
- **Brother Vincent Ssekate**, during the summer, animated the session of **the young Brothers at Castelgandolfo**. Then Brother Vincent made the visit of all the communities of the Province St John the Baptist, except those of the south of France, Paris and Liverpool. For him, it was a big challenge to discover all the realities related to the Communities, to the works and to the Mennaisian Family, as well as all the cogs of the animation of the Province and the Guardianship. The participation in the feast of the Province, on 26th August was without

doubt the summit of this holiday, with the feast of the Jubilarians, the launch of the year, the renewal of the commitments of the Lay Mennaisian Associates, the first commitment of two new members, as well as the reopening of the Chapel of the Mother House after more than a year of work.

- **Brother Miguel Aristondo**, besides the participation in **the pilgrimage of Lourdes with a delegation of some Spanish Brothers**, stayed mainly in Spain to participate in the feast of the Province and the retirement of the Brothers, at the end of July. Brother Miguel also participated in many meetings (Provincial Council, Community Superiors, management teams of the institutions ...) with the objective of guiding the Province in the implementation of the orientations of the Chapter. Then in August, Brother Miguel lived in the Province of **Jean de la Mennais, and in particular, in Canada**,--Opportunity to perfect the language of Molière, but also to discover this great Province and its realities. The Feast of the Province, the visit of the Communities of La Prairie, St Romuald, and Pointe-du-Lac, not to mention the fraternal time around Lake Patterson, marked this first stay in Quebec.

b. Session at Castelgandolfo

The session of the Brothers preparing for the perpetual vows brought together 25 Brothers from different nationalities. This was an enriching experience. It should also be noted that the first two Brothers from Indonesia attended this session. Besides the five Brothers who animated the session, **8 Brothers from Uganda, 4 from Kenya, 3 from Congo DRC, 2 from Rwanda, 3 from Togo, 3 from Haiti and 2 from Indonesia**. A true experience of spiritual and religious life: through the Retreat, pilgrimages, spiritual accompaniment, formation and sharing of experiences.

c. Implementation of the Chapter orientations:

- This new session of the General Council made it possible to review and set priorities with regard to the **"road maps"** that the Superior General entrusted to each Assistant: **the Mennaisian Family, initial formation, ongoing formation and support for Community superiors**.
- The General Council has given itself **priorities** to be implemented during the future year, in each of the fields highlighted by the last General Chapter: **educational mission, pastoral ministry of vocations, formation, community, Mennaisian Family, and Young Mennaisian Adults**. The task is immense to write new pages, but as the Superior General pointed out in the chapter, *"let us write them with audacity and creativity, with passion and confidence in Providence"*.

d. Year theme :

- In most Provinces, at least those in the Northern Hemisphere, this year's theme **"Calling Disciples"** was introduced, and lived in Communities, especially around the Community Project and the entrance recollection. This process will be lived in the other sectors in the months to come.
- The Major Superiors will receive during this month a **Second Dossier** for the animation of their Province or District, with proposals for times of recollection, times of formation in Community, initiatives to **"see, dare and call"**.

2. Decisions of Brother Superior General and his Council

2.1 Admissions to Perpetual Profession

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

Brothers **David KIHARA, Edward NYALA, Geoffrey SIMINYU and Galison WAFULA**, 4 Kenyan Brothers from St. Michael the Archangel Province (Tanzania-Kenya).

Brothers **Ronald MASEREKA, Landus MUHINDO, Gaston MURAMUZI, Joachim NGOMA BIGIRWA, and Peter WASSWA**, 5 Ugandan Brothers of the Province of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda-South Sudan).

Brother **Victor SAMBIANI**, Togolese Brother of Saint Paul District (West Africa)

2.2 Opening of Community and Educational Work

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

The Community of Nebbi Town, and the administration by this Community of **Nebbi Town Secondary School**.

3. Upcoming Events

3.1 Meeting « Tutti Fratelli » in Rome

Since the year of Consecrated Life, the "**Tutti fratelli**" **Commission** has encouraged Communities of Brothers from different Congregations to come together for a **day of fraternity**. In Rome it will be held for the 4th time on Saturday, 24th November, 2018 and will have the theme "**Brothers for young people**".

3.2 A Meeting of Major Superiors

This meeting will be the first of the Major Superiors after the General Chapter. It will take place **from 8th to 15th April 2019 in Portugalete (Spain)**. The General Council devoted a lot of time to the planning of this meeting which will be essentially a formation time, a time of work in Commissions set up after the Chapter, and a time of prospective plans concerning the Mennaisian Family, the Bicentenary, the International Solidarity Fund.

This meeting will be followed immediately by a meeting with the members of the Committee of this International Solidarity Fund

3.3 The Bicentenary

The General Council has set the opening of the Bicentennial Year, on **Sunday, 9th June 2019, at Ploërmel**. It will be preceded by another time of celebration, **6th June at Saint-Brieuc**, same day of the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Union in this city between our two founders.

More details about this opening will be sent to you later, but each sector of the Congregation is also invited to this year's festive opening of the Bicentenary of the Congregation, which will end in October 2020.

As part of this Bicentenary, an **International Retreat** will be offered to Brothers and Laity of the Mennaisian Family, **from 14th to 21st July 2019 at the Mother House of Ploërmel**. This retreat led by Bro. Josu Olabarrieta, will revive "the founding experience of the Retreat of Auray of September 1820". Participants will then be invited to revive the same experience in their own Province / District.

4. Meetings with...

4.1 The Brother Treasurer General

The General Council took a special time with Brother Daniel Briant, to take stock of the International Solidarity Fund (ISF). Indeed, it comes to the end of 10 years of implementation. It is now necessary to have a progress report and to constitute a **Committee of the ISF** from 2019.

This Committee is composed Bro Daniel Briant (Treasurer General), Bro Porfirio Blanco (E), Bro Claude Gelinas (J), Bro Rémy Harel (JB), and Bro Rogers Kazibwe (K). They will meet from **12th to 15th April 2019 at Portugalete** at the end of the session of the Major Superiors, to report and validate the ways and means of operating this Fund.

4.2 The Communication Officer

The General Council took advantage of the presence of Mr. Michel Tanguy, in charge of Communication in the Congregation, to specify the tools that are his responsibility: La Mennais Magazine, and the Website.

On this occasion, it was decided that a **special, larger Bicentenary Number 1819-2019**, would appear in June-July 2019. This special issue would bring together two issues in one, with 96 pages, and many illustrations. For its realisation, a work of Archivists is underway *to revive and illustrate the 7 historical periods of the Congregation that were identified for this Review of the Bicentenary*.

During this General Council was put online the **Animated Cartoon "Jean-Marie de La Mennais"** in 3 languages on the Website. It is a beautiful tool to make known our Founders and the History of the Congregation to the little ones, without age limit! The **other Videos** earmarked for the Bicentenary are currently being finalised and will be available in the first half of 2019.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Bro. Hervé ZAMOR

11 October – 14 November	Spain
21 November – 23 November	USG – Arricia
28 November – 21 December	France
27 December – 10 January	Uganda
17 January – 08 February	France
18 February – 08 March	General Council – Rome

Bro. Jean-Paul PEUZE

08 October – 26 October	England
27 October – 03 November	Rome
04 November – 3 December	Kenya – Tanzania
04 December – 15 December	Rome
16 December – 15 January	Togo – Benin
15 January – 03 February	Uganda
18 February – 08 March	General Council – Rome

Bro. Vincent SSEKATE

19 October – 20 November	Haiti
20 November – 27 November	Rome
27 November – 8 January	Uganda
12 January – 31 January	Polynesia
Beginning Feb. – 16 February	France
18 February – 8 March	General Council... Rome

Bro. Miguel ARISTONDO

6 October – 21 November	Spain
22 November	Rome
End of Dec. – Mid January	South America
End of January	Rome
18 February – 8 March	General Council ...Rome

**The next session of the General Council will take place
from 18th February to 8th March 2019, in Rome.**