

ECHOES

of the GENERAL COUNCIL

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From 6 to 13 September, the members of the General Council made a joint experience of an accompanied retreat. This retreat took place in a Jesuit spiritual Centre, the « Villa Manrèse », near Paris and it was animated by Father O'Neill, S.J. The Brothers of the Council appreciated very much this type of retreat and wished that many Brothers could, in their turn, make such a spiritual experience.

On 10 September, Brother Gil ROZAS, from the Spanish Province, was welcomed at the Generalate, in Rome. Thanks to his competence and dynamism he has quickly integrated into the community and he is already rendering multiple services to the General Administration and to the Casa.

The General Council held their ordinary session from 15 to 30 September 2009 at the Generalate, in Rome.

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

1. The animation of the Congregation :

1.1 Visits to Provinces and Vice-Provinces :

In the survey of the different regions visited during the months of July and August, the Council discussed at length about the situation of our mission in Japan and in Indonesia.

The Superior General spoke again about the erection of the new Province of Kenya-Tanzania and about its inauguration on 18 July 2009 at Moshi (Tanzania) which he attended together with Brother Gerard Byaruhanga.

The Council equally shared the different experiences of retreats and sessions that took place in West Africa and in Spain.

1.2 Assessment of the Formators' session at Abidjan :

The session on the initial formation held at Abidjan from 28 June to 5 July 2009 was attended by some twenty participants from Africa, Haiti and Philippines. The Brother Assistants animated the session.

This meeting permitted, among others, the study of the Ratio and to see how it could be used in the different stages of formation.

At the end, the participants made an assessment of the session by emphasising the following points:

- The fraternal atmosphere and the warm welcome by the Scholasticate of Abidjan;
- A better knowledge of the Ratio and the assimilation of its content;
- The strengthened feeling of communion in this service of the Congregation;

- The interesting sharing in groups, most especially by formation stages;
- The engagement of the General Council in such formation;
- The necessity of proposing regular meetings of this type.

All unanimously emphasised the importance of such a session for creating a common culture and of knowing one another's sector better.

1.3 The meeting of the international Committee of Solidarity

The International Committee of Solidarity (Brothers: Gerard Byaruhanga, Lévi Boudreau, Guillermo Dávila, André Richard and Louis Balanant), together with the representatives of the FIC NGOs (Mr. Jean-François Dubois for TSF, Br. Alberto Pardo and Mr. José Manuel Alvarez for SAL, and Br. François Milin for ASSIFIC) held a meeting in Rome on 18 and 19 September 2009.

Together, they reflected on their specific and complementary mission and defined the orientations for setting up the International Solidarity Fund.

A special time of the meeting was consecrated to the adoption of the orientations and the decisions of the General Council concerning the organisation of the Solidarity Fund in the Congregation, in the perspective of the foreseeable evolutions of our Northern and Southern Provinces.

The Committee defined the concrete modalities of implementing the Solidarity Fund for the next 3 years :

- It is first and foremost a question of constituting the Fund on diverse sites, especially in Canada and in France ;
- Then to reflect on the management of the Fund considering the juridical and fiscal constraints imposed by the national and international laws.

The participants emphasised the importance of sensitization of the ensemble of Brothers to this step of solidarity as well as to the necessary search for self-reliance for each Province. It is on this condition that the solidarity will be a tangible manifestation of the fraternity and of the unity of the Congregation.

1.4 The ongoing formation :

The Council worked with the Ongoing Formation Animation Team on different themes :

- On **the annual theme**, in particular with regard to its implementation in the different Provinces and on the stages that still remain to be embarked upon.
- On the **proposition of animation** touching the **liturgical theme of Advent**, and which could soon be proposed for the ensemble of Brothers and the Laity.
- On the preparation of the next **session of the 35-50-year olds which will be held at Ploërmel** from 15 July to 15 August 2010.

In liaison with the Ongoing Formation Animation Team and on the strength of the proposals of the Major Superiors, the General Council constituted **the International Council of Ongoing Formation** . The following Brothers are thereby nominated on this Council for a mandate of three years:

Bros.: Rafael ALONSO, Milo FREDERIQUE, Michel GOUGEON, Gerard MWEBE, and Robert SMYTH.

1.5 The elaboration of the two documents : A Guide for the Vice-Provinces, and another one concerning every stage of the initial formation.

In compliance with the demand of the General Chapter 2006 «*that under the responsibility of the Superior General and his Council, a Guide be published containing the*

fundamental common elements concerning the relations and the levels of decision-making of the Provinces and their Vice-Provinces », the Council worked on the first draft of this Guide. Later on, in liaison with the Major Superiors, a reflection will follow in view of drawing up the final draft.

The “Ratio Institutionis” is an indispensable instrument for the initial formation work. It is beginning to be better known by the Formators thanks, in particular, to the sessions organised for them. However, it was deemed useful by the General Council to elaborate a document which helps them to implement it in the different stages of the initial formation. The first text presented to the Council concerns the Postulate. The others will follow progressively.

2. The decisions of the Superior General and his Council

2.1 Opening of communities and taking charge of educational institutions:

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has authorised the opening of two communities in the Province of St. Michael the Archangel (Kenya-Tanzania) and one in the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda) :

- A community in the diocese of Moshi (Tanzania) for taking charge of the *Kilimanjaro Boys’ High School*
- A community at Mbeya (Tanzania) for taking charge of the *Pandahill Secondary School*.
- A community for the Brothers of the University of Kisubi (CEMA).

2.2 Nomination of Formators for the Province St Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda):

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

Brother **Peter KAZEKULYA**, Director of the Scholasticate for the 1st mandate of 3 years.

Brother **Franklin RUKUNDO**, Master of Novices for a 2nd mandate of 3 years.

2.3 Admissions to the perpetual profession:

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

- For **Saint Michael the Archangel Province** (Kenya and Tanzania) :
Brother KALUA Athanas
- For **Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus Province** (Uganda) :
Brothers: BYARUHAGA Gerverse, BYEKWASO Achilleo, KIVIIRI Pontian, KYAMANYWA Stephen, MPANGA Simeon Simon, MULIMA Francis, MURONGO Marius, SSENKAYI Daniel, and TAMALE John Paul.
- For **the Vice-Province of Congo (R.D.) and Rwanda** :
Brothers : Roger MIKANIPALE and Ghislain MITAMBWATILE

3. The Mennaisian Family

In the course of the last few months, several meetings of Brothers and the Laity were organised, especially in Argentina-Uruguay, Canada, Spain and West Africa. These sessions were an occasion of reading and of working, most especially on the document « *The Mennaisian Family* ».

The situations are different from one sector to another, but everywhere is manifested the desire of forging ahead on this way and of engaging new initiatives to implement, to clarify or to deepen what is proposed by this document of reference.

4. The mission in Indonesia

Since the month of August 2009, our mission of Indonesia comprises of two communities, which supposes a slightly different organisation and a new distribution of responsibilities. For a better coordination of the ensemble of Brothers and activities, Brother Superior General has nominated Brother Stéphane Le Pape as Delegate Superior of the mission. He will exercise his mission in liaison with the Brother Assistant in charge of Indonesia.

The Postulate of Yogyakarta began at the beginning of August 2009 : three young Indonesians follow the formation at the residence of the community or in the framework of an inter-postulate attended by nearly 70 youths. The Brothers and the Postulants live in a rented house while waiting for a possible purchasing of a house for the formation. Our previous review *La Mennais Magazine* number 4 speaks about this.

Brother Philippe Blot, nominated recently, joined the community on 27 September 2009 and has begun his period of adaptation and of apprenticeship to the Indonesian language.

5. Miscellaneous

To underline the 150th anniversary of the death of John Mary de la Mennais, some changes will be made in two traditional documents of the Congregation : the Annual List of Personnel and the francophone Religious Calendar.

- **The annual list of personnel** will comprise, in addition to the usual list of communities and Brothers, the geographical maps of the different Provinces and Vice-provinces, and the brief biographies of the Brothers who passed away in the previous year.
- **The religious calendar** will undergo several important changes:
 - Its format : henceforth it will be in the format A5.
 - At the beginning of the calendar there will be a series of prayers (Day's offering, prayers for vocations, diverse prayers, etc.) useful for the animation of prayer.
 - Every Brother will receive a copy of the religious calendar.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

13 th October to 1 st November	France
November	Rome
3 rd to 30 th December	Abidjan (Scholasticate) and Senegal
1 st to mid-January 2010	Rome
Mid-January to beginning of February	Tahiti

Brother Miguel Angel MERINO

5 th October - 9 th November	Argentina and Uruguay
November	Rome
December	Spain
January	Chile
February	Rome

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

11 th October to January 2010	Uganda
	Tanzania and Kenya
End of January- February	Rome

Brother Gildas PRIGENT

14 th October to 6 th November	Indonesia
Mid-November to mid-December	Haiti
End of December- end of January 2010	Rwanda and Congo
February	Rome

N.B. : the next Council meeting will be held in from 14th to 28th February 2010