

Echoes of the General Council

Issue 70

June 2010



*The Spring session of the General Council held in Rome from May 17 to June 13, 2010.
As usual the regular meeting of the Union of Superiors General was held at the end of May. The theme of this year was on the Consecrated Life in Europe.
After their meeting, the Council took three days at Rieti for a time of joint formation.*

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

1. Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

The Superior General with the consent of his Council, appointed

1.1 For General Administration :

Brother **Louis BALANANT**, Treasurer General, for a fourth term of 3 years.

Brother **Joseph PINEL**, General Archivist, for a third term of 3 years.

1.2 For the Vice-Province of West Africa :

Brother **Gildas PRIGENT**, Assistant General, Vice-Provincial of West Africa until the next General Chapter of 2012.

Brother **Alexis KOMBATE**,
Assistant Vice-Provincial of West Africa until the next General Chapter of 2012.,

Brother Gildas PRIGENT will provide this function while retaining those accruing to him as an Assistant General and that in accordance to the wishes of the General Chapter of 2006 : « Wherever possible, the Assistants will not take charge of the function of the Major Superior of an administrative entity, except in a particular case, and for a limited period of time ». However, within the Council, a new division of tasks will allow him to make himself available for West Africa.

1.3 For the French Scholasticate in Abidjan :

Brother **Géniard LAUTURE**, of the Province St Louis de Gonzague (Haiti),
Director for the first mandate of three years from September 2010

1.4 For the Generalate in Rome :

Brother **Gerard CHATELIER**, Superior of the House,
For a third mandate of 3 years.,

1.5 Mission of Indonesia :

At the request of the Major Superior delegate for the Mission of Indonesia and in response to the candidature of two young Indonesians, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, decided :

- **The opening of Novitiate at Yogyakarta**, on the island of Java, from September 2010 ;
- The appointment of Brother **Stéphane LE PAPE** as Master of Novices for the 1st mandate of 3 years, from September 2010.
- The appointment of Brother **Miguel Ángel VILLACE** as Director of the Postulate at Yogyakarta.

2. Animation of the Congregation :

2.1 The accompanying of the administrative entities by the Brothers Assistants :

In considering the appointment of Brother Gildas PRIGENT as Vice-Provincial of West Africa and the developments in certain sectors, the Superior General entrusts :

- To Brother Miguel-Ángel MERINO the accompaniment of all communities in the sectors of France and Italy of the Province St Jean-Baptiste.
- To Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA the accompaniment of the communities of Rwanda of the Vice-Province of Central Africa.

Without changing their other duties, nor those of Brother Gildas Prigent.

2.2 Life of the Provinces and Vice-Provinces :

- The Brother Treasurer General made stock with the Council on the monitoring of aid to **the Province of Haiti**. Solidarity continues to manifest itself within the Congregation and the activities of collecting funds in order to meet the ongoing construction projects presented by St Louis de Gonzague Province are in full swing. It is now a question of preparing the files of the FIC-NGO's and other major donors. This takes skill and patience too!

Classes have resumed for schools affected by the earthquake, often in difficult conditions, but with courage and determination, for the welfare of the children and youth. The most complex question to manage is that of the refugees, still present although less numerous, on the campuses of Delmas and the Juniorate

- The Superior General's visit to the **Philippines and Indonesia** has made it possible to reflect particularly on the situation of our missions in Asia. Among the topics that were addressed we can single out the question of the collaboration of the Provinces of Canada and Uganda to support the Vice-Province, and the vocations ministry. The collaboration between the Vice-Provinces of Japan-Philippines and the Mission of Indonesia was also discussed during these visits
- The visit of the Brothers Assistants in the Provinces of **Spain, Uganda and USA** made it possible to discuss different topics :
 - The animation of Provinces and its implementation on the ground with the Brothers and the Laity.
 - The vitality of communities and the educational mission.;
 - The animation and the development of the Mennaisian Family;
 - The promotion of vocations and of the launching of new initiatives ;
 - The problem of ageing Brothers.

2.3 Initial formation :

- Following the Formators' session in Abidjan in July 2009 and various visits to Houses of Formation, the General Council has deemed it fit to produce a new document entitled « *Précis de formation* » (**Formation handbook**) in view of the effective implementation of the *Ratio Institutionis*. The primary purpose of this little guide is to help Formators to take into account the objectives proposed by the *Ratio* for each phase of initial formation (Postulate, Novitiate, Scholasticate) and to give practical guidance on the way of forming the youth.
- The Council has prepared the **meeting of Major Superiors** concerned with **the initial formation in Africa and Haiti** and which will take place at Kisubi (Uganda) from 27 to 29 September 2010. This session will be an occasion of a joint reflection, with the General Council, on the actual structures of formation in Africa and on the developments envisaged.
- The **Rwandan Novices** will enter the Novitiate of Kasasa (Uganda) in January 2011, because of the change of the teaching language in the country (passage from French to English). The Congolese Novices will continue going to the Novitiate of Dapaong (Togo).

2.4 Ongoing formation :

The Ongoing Formation Team has met with the Council for an assessment of the proposed animation for the year 2009-2010 :

- The theme of the year «Weaving links » has proven to be an interesting animation tool especially in the Provinces and Vice-Provinces which have adapted and prepared it for the local communities. The role of the Major Superiors and their Councils, and local Superiors, remains essential to the implementation of the theme of the year.
- The *Lectio divina* booklets for Sundays of Advent and Lent have met a real interest on the part of the Brothers and lay persons, at least where they arrived on time. It remains, however, to encourage the implementation of the proposed community activities in these booklets.

The Ongoing Formation Team has presented to the Council the propositions for animation for the year 2010-2011 :

- **The theme of the year** falls in within the framework of the 150th anniversary : « **Let us sow generously** ». All the elements of the animation of the theme will be sent to the Major Superiors in the coming days.
- For the *Lectio divina*, a booklet will present 4 Sundays of Ordinary Time (September-October). A second booklet, still in preparation, should be on the Christmas Season.

A meeting of the **International Committee of formation** will take place on 11 and 12 March 2011 in Rome on the occasion of the meeting of the major Superiors of the Congregation.

2.5 International Committee of Solidarity:

The Committee will hold a meeting in Paris on 19 and 20 October 2010. The agenda includes work on the Solidarity Fund, the situation of the aid for the Province St Louis de Gonzague (Haiti), and relations with the ensemble of the FIC-NGO's and internationals.

3. Mennaisian Family

The General Council has worked on the elaboration of **a formation project** in reference to the framework document of the Mennaisian Family. This document will clarify the guidelines of the formation and the itineraries to be followed for each of the modalities of the Mennaisian Family. It will first be sent to the Major Superiors.

4. Information in the Congregation :

4.1 The Year John Mary de la Mennais :

The General Council has taken stock, with Mr. Michel Tanguy, on the planned initiatives throughout the Congregation. This particular year is an opportunity, and in many different ways, to make John Mary de la Mennais better known by the children and youth as well as by the Laity.

A letter from the General Council will be sent to the entire Mennaisian Family before the official entry in this year's 150th anniversary of his death.

4.2 Directorate of Information :

As part of his duties as Director of Information, Mr Michel TANGUY is sent to Canada for several months (Province Jean de la Mennais). He will reside in Montreal with his family.

In liaison with the General Council, he will carry on with his usual activities at the service of the Congregation (The Mennaisian Magazine, website of the Congregation : www.lamennais.org, follow-up of the 150th anniversary, animation of the International Council of Information...). He will also profit by this extended presence to take interest in various domains with regard to his mission, such as Video, education to Solidarity. He will also seek to better understand the Mennaisian in Canada and the USA.

This mission will be effective from August 2010 to June 2011. He will be in France in November 2010 and in Spring 2011.

Calendar of the Members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

July	Visit of the Province Uganda
August	France and Haiti (Brothers' annual retreat)
September	Rome
26 to 30 September	Uganda : initial formation meeting
4 to 17 October	Lourdes: General Council session

Brother Miguel Ángel MERINO

July – Mid-August	Ploërmel : sessions
Mid-Aug to beginning of Sept.	Rome and (retreat for Brothers in Italy)
September	France (Provincial Team) and Spain
26 to 30 September	Uganda : initial formation meeting
4 to 17 October	Lourdes : General Council session

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

July- Mid-August	Ploërmel : sessions
Mid-Aug to end of Aug	Rome
September	Uganda : visits and initial formation meeting
4 to 17 October	Lourdes : General Council session

Brother Gildas PRIGENT

July – 16 August	Ploërmel : sessions
24 August to 24 September	Togo (Professions, Council, visits)
26 to 30 September	Uganda : initial formation meeting
4 to 17 October	Lourdes: General Council session

**N.B. : the next Council meeting will take place in Lourdes from 4 to 17 October
2010**