



# ***ECHOES***

# ***FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL***

No. 79

June 2013

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*During this session, the Superior General participated in the meeting organised by the Union of Superiors General on the theme of « Authority in the consecrated Life 50 years after the Council.»*

*As usual at this session in May-June, the Council took three days of reflection and community relaxing outside the Casa Generalizia. The city of Florence provided a highly cultural framework to this visit, manifesting in a variety of works of art how Faith can be fruitful and inspiring, and that in many ways !*

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

## **1. The animation of the Congregation :**

### **1.1 Visits to Provinces and Vice-provinces :**

Over the past two months, Brother Assistants visited the Provinces of Argentina-Uruguay and the Communities of Bolivia and Chile, Uganda, Kenya and Haiti. The programme of these visits : meetings with the Brothers, attending gatherings of Brothers, meetings of local Superiors, Formators' sessions, and also Provincial Councils.

In all these sectors Brother Assistants visited the Houses of formation and were particularly interested in the vocations ministry. In South America, some young men (in Bolivia and Argentina) are currently aspirants. A study is underway on the development of appropriate formation structures common to the whole Southern Cone.

Brother Assistants presided over the Provincial Chapters that were held in Haiti and Uganda. These assemblies were held in a fraternal and constructive atmosphere. They worked especially on the implementation of the guidelines of the last General Chapter.

The Superior General was in Rome to carry out some work, including the supervision of the formatting of the Rule of Life adopted by the General Chapter for printing, and the writing of the text-guide on the protection of children. He stayed briefly in France where he met the future Provincial team that will begin its mission in July.

### **1.2 The theme of the year 2013-2014 : Year of the Brother's Vocation**

As already announced the animation theme for the year 2013-2014 is entitled «*Being a Brother, good news*». The documentation (texts for the animation and digital displays) will reach the Major Superiors in the coming days. As in the previous themes, these materials must be re-examined by the Superiors and their Councils for an adaptation to the local context.

### **1.3 The formation sessions**

The General Council decided to have again in July-August 2014 the 2 sessions for preparation for perpetual profession and for the Brothers aged 35-55 years.

Two new teams of Formators will be put in place to facilitate these sessions. Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE will be responsible for the session of the young professed, and Brother Yvon DENIAUD responsible for the session of the 35-55 years.

### **1.4 The working group « Evangelisation in the field of education »**

Following the meeting of 21 and 22 February 2013 in Rome, the first document was drafted in view of the elaboration of the Mennaisian Educational Project. This document will be sent in the next few days to the Major Superiors and their Councils for review and suggestions. A new meeting for the working group should be held in November 2013 to take into account these contributions and draw up the Educational Project.

At the same time, the Commission wishes to propose a reflection on the Mennaisian education. This work will take the form of workshops in the Provinces and Vice-Provinces and would involve the members of the Mennaisian Family, Brothers and Laity.

### **1.5 Commission « Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation » (JPIC)**

A Commission « Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation » meets regularly in Rome. It depends jointly on the Unions of men and women Superiors General. Brother Gil Rozas represents the Congregation in this proceeding and participates in the various activities offered by the Commission in the Spanish group.

To increase awareness of the whole Congregation and Mennaisian Family of this dimension of our mission, especially concerning anything that is related to the rights and protection of the child, regular updates will be sent to Superiors. The review *La Mennais Magazine* and the website will also help to account for the actions taken or to be taken for justice, peace and integrity of creation in our educational works and schools.

## **2. The decisions of the Superior General and his Council**

### **2.1 Appointments to the General Administration Services:**

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

Brother **Joseph PINEL**, General Archivist for a fourth triennium.

Brother **Daniel BRIANT (JB)**, **Treasurer General**, for a term of 3 years. Brother Daniel completes a term of 2 years in the service of the Province of Haiti.

Brother **Jean-Paul PEUZE (JB)**, responsible for the formation of young Brothers with temporary vows and of the international session of preparation for perpetual profession, is also responsible for the elaboration of the theme of the year for the Congregation. Brother Jean-Paul completes a term of nine years as Provincial of the Province of St. Jean-Baptiste; he will live in Rome at Casa Generalizia next year.

Brother Superior General and his Council warmly thank Brother **Louis BALANANT** for his mission of Treasurer General for the past 12 years.

In addition to his work as Treasurer General, Brother Louis put his skills to the service of the information and communication of the Congregation, especially for the website of which he was the webmaster. He also assisted in the compiling of the List of Personnel and various publications of the

Congregation. His thorough knowledge of the Founders and the history of the Congregation was regularly sought. He will continue to be of benefit to the Mennaisian Family in this regard.

And at Casa generalizia, each emphasises his fraternal presence marked by simplicity, availability and sense of service.

We pray that the Lord bless Brother Louis and make fruitful his work in the new mission which awaits him in France.

## **2.2 Appointment of Formators:**

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

Brother **Géniaud LAUTURE**, Director of the Scholasticate of Abidjan, for a second triennium.

Brother **Stéphane LE PAPE**, Master of Novices at Yogyakarta (Indonesia) for a second triennium

## **2.3 Admissions to perpetual profession :**

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

Brother **Matthieu LAMBONI** and Brother **Benoît MAPAYENE**, of the Vice-Province of West Africa

Brother **Éric MUGISA**, of the Vice-Province of Central Africa.

## **2.4. Opening of a Community:**

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has authorised for the Province of Haiti :

The opening of a new Community in Port-au-Prince (Turgeau area) to be the residence of the Provincial Community.

## **2.5 Approval of the text «Guidelines on the Protection of the Child»**

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has adopted a text specifying the guidelines to be followed by the Congregation for the management of cases of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable persons. The text, addressed specifically to the Major Superiors is available in the space provided on the website of the Congregation ( [www.lamennais.org](http://www.lamennais.org) )

## **2.6 Approval of Provincial Chapters**

The Council discussed the texts voted in the Chapters of the Provinces of St. Louis de Gonzague (Haiti) and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda). It has given its approval to the Provincial guidelines that adapt the decisions of the General Chapter 2012 to fit the local context.

Other Provincial and Vice-Provincial Chapters will be held in the coming months. They will gradually permit the entire Congregation to implement the guidelines of the last General Chapter.

## **2.7 New Edition of the Rule of Life**

A new edition of the Rule of Life has been printed and will be distributed to all the Brothers in the coming weeks.

This edition takes into account all the changes passed by the last General Chapter 2012, and which affect primarily the government of the Congregation. However, the Roman Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in their review for final approval requested changes that alter the structure of Vice-Provinces. The General Council considered this requirement and introduced a new structure (District), which has been endorsed by the CIVCSVA. The Major Superiors who gathered in Rome last March agreed on this structure.

These last changes are approved « ad experimentum » by the CIVCSVA until the next General Chapter. The implementation will be gradual and will allow a real experiment before 2018 when these texts will be submitted for approval by the General Chapter. A definitive edition of the Rule will then be printed.

### **3. Economic and financial issues**

- **3.1 The Annual Accounts**

**Brother Treasurer General** presented to the Council the second part of the accounts concerning the Provinces and Vice-provinces. The accounts of the General Administration and Casa Generalizia were reviewed in February. This discrepancy is explained by the difficult presentation of accounts at the time usually required!

The financial situation of different entities is varied. The Provinces of North America and Europe continue to see lowering their sources of income, especially the salaries and pensions while the Provinces and Vice-provinces of Africa with a growth in the workforce face increased ongoing needs for both Communities and Houses of Formation for the support of educational works.

- **3.2 Meeting of the Council of Financial Experts**

The Council of experts established after the General Chapter (see Echoes No. 78), met on 16 and 17 June at the Generalate in Rome. This first meeting was an occasion of making contact with the financial reality of the Provinces and Vice-provinces and the definition of a working method for the future.

### **4. Solidarity**

The General Council has reflected on how to organise solidarity in the Congregation. This is especially in connection with the search for funds for our work in the most disadvantaged areas.

The call made at the start of the mission in South Sudan – especially the construction of the Community residence – was heard in the Congregation. Several Provinces have responded generously and this will enable the Province of Uganda to go ahead and open this new mission. In the coming months, we still have to seek with donor agencies the funds for the construction of the school.

### **5. The Information**

Mr. Michel Tanguy presented to the Council the programme for the coming months and the work completed or in progress.

The theme of the year, « *Being a Brother, good news* », will be relayed by the review *La Mennais Magazine*, especially in the issue of the end of the year 2013, as well as on the website. The animation documents proposed for this theme will be available therein.

The logo of the Congregation is in the final stages of editing. It should be ready for September 2013.

A meeting of the Directors of Information of four religious Congregations was held at Casa Generalizia on 11th June. A group now meets regularly for 2 years and it is an occasion of exchange and reflection on issues of information and communication in the Congregations. The theme of the meeting focused on the strategy and the plan of communication of the Congregations.

## Calendar of the members of the General Council

### **Brother Yannick HOUSSAY**

25 June and July	France : Brothers' retreats
August	Rome
Early September	Togo : First vows at Dapaong
16-28 September	Rome : General Council session

### **Brother Gildas PRIGENT**

20 June - 15 July	France
16 July - 4 August	Togo and Bénin : retreat and Vice-provincial Chapter
6 August - 5 September	Indonesia and Manilla
16 - 28 September	Rome : General Council session

### **Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA**

19 June - end June	Kenya-Tanzania : Provincial Chapter
July- August	Uganda
16 - 28 September	Rome : General Council session

### **Brother Guillermo DÁVILA**

25 June - 14 July	Spain: Meeting of the Brothers and the Laity, Provincial Chapter
14 - 26 July	Mexico
26 July - 21 August	Uruguay and Argentina: : Meeting of the Brothers and the Laity
21 August - 10 September	France
16 - 28 September	Rome : General Council session

**The next Council meeting will be held in Rome from 16 to 28 September 2013**

