

Echoes of the General Council

Number 83 - June 2014



As previously announced, the General Council held its regular session of May and June in two phases, first from May 22 to 27, and then from June 9 to 27, 2014 at the Casa Generalizia.

In between, the Superior General participated in a part of the annual meeting of the Superiors General and then the closure of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Brothers mission in Haiti.

The Council took three days of reflection and relaxation at the monastery of St. Brigida de Farfa Sabina about 50 km from Rome. This time has been used to study the last document of the Congregation for Catholic Education entitled "Educating today and tomorrow, A Renewing Passion" and to make our contribution, as a congregation, to the next Congress on Education to be held in Rome in November 2015.

This issue of *Echoes* conveys to the entire Congregation some information and the following decisions:

1. Animation of the Congregation

Since last March, the Superior General and the Assistants have visited several areas of the Congregation: the Province of Kenya-Tanzania, the communities of the Congo (DRC) area, those in USA, that of Huatusco in Mexico and the mission in South Sudan.

Moreover, Bro. Gerard BYARUHANGA chaired the Provincial Chapter of Canada. Brother Guillermo DÁVILA hosted several meetings of the Mennaisian Family in USA and Mexico. Brother Gildas PRIGENT visited the scholasticate in Kisubi.

Some aspects can be highlighted:

- In the Province of St. Michael the Archangel, educational works are numerous and growing steadily, despite too many small communities of Brothers. The Province has decided to strengthen them and give a better structure to the vocation ministry.
- Several construction projects of schools and communities are underway in Congo (DRC), demonstrating the dynamism of the new District.
- A group of lay Mennaisians has just started at Huatusco (Mexico); at Walsh (USA), the Mennaisian Family is getting organized and wants to grow. In many areas of the Congregation, some lay people are expecting more initiatives in relation to the Mennaisian Family. Initiatives are needed to create and strengthen links between Brothers and Lay persons locally and internationally.
- The scholasticate in Kisubi is being reorganized so that the scholastics might attend classes at Kisubi Brothers University College while continuing their training at the scholasticate. This important change also aims to the academic validation of their studies.

1.1 The Accompanying of Provinces and Districts by the Brothers Assistant

The Superior General has made some changes in **the distribution of accompanying Brothers Assistant's tasks:**

- Brother Gildas PRIGENT assists communities of Western Africa, those of Central Africa, those of Japan-Philippines, those of Polynesia and of Indonesia. Moreover, he will accompany the communities in **England and France**.
- Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA accompanies the communities of Uganda, those of Tanzania-Kenya, those of Canada and those of USA.
- Brother Guillermo DÁVILA accompanies the communities of Spain-Chile-Bolivia, those of Argentina-Uruguay and the communities in Italy. He will also accompany the communities of **Haiti**.

1.2 The 2014-2015 (or 2015) Theme of the Year : « All of us are missionary disciples »

The first part of the theme of the year 2014-2015 (or 2015 in the areas where the school year begins in January) « **All of us are missionary disciples** » has reached the Major Superiors. The proposed materials are now at the disposal of the Provinces and Districts. During 2015, other proposals will be made in the framework of the Year of Consecrated Life.

1.3 Formation in the Congregation

To meet the expectations of the General Chapter on formation, the General Council has made the appointments of two commissions. These committees are responsible for supporting the work of animation of the Assistants in the field of initial and continuing trainings. In order not to increase the travels, they will favor the use of modern means of communication.

The Committee for Initial Formation

- Bro. Gildas PRIGENT, Assistant general in charge of the Initial Formation
- Bro. Jean-Paul PEUZE,
- Bro. Enceau LAGUERRE,
- Bro. Emmanuel RWANDAMURIYE.

The Committee for On-Going Formation

- Bro. Guillermo DÁVILA, Assistant general in charge of Continuing Training
- Bro Yvon DENIAUD,
- Bro. Bernard LUWEREKERA
- Bro. Pascal MBOLINGABA
- Bro. Josu OLABARRIETA,

This committee for on-going formation supports, among other projects, the development of the theme of the year.

1.4 Formation Sessions in 2014

Two formation sessions are planned:

- The session for the Brothers preparing for their perpetual profession will take place from July 14 to August 15 at Castelgandolfo. Participants will number 18 from Benin, Congo (DRC), Haiti, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Togo. The training team will consist of Brother Jean-Paul PEUZÉ, responsible, and Bros. Enceau LAGUERRE and Vincent SSEKATE.
- The session for the Brothers aged 35-55 will take place at Ploërmel from July 8 to August 14. It will begin with a retreat and a pilgrimage to Lourdes. The 24 participants come from Spain, France, Haiti, Italy, Uganda, Congo (DRC) and Tanzania. The animation team consists of Bros. Yvon DENIAUD, responsible, Hervé ASSE, Peter KAZEKULYA and Josu OLABARRIETA.

1.5 Meeting of the Major Superiors

The next meeting of the Major Superiors of the Congregation will be held in Rome, at the Casa Generalizia, **from 1 to 9 October 2014**.

This session will provide time for reflection and formation around a few key means made available to the Major Superior for the animation of his Province or District. It will also provide an update on the various initiatives launched to implement the General Chapter orientations. Meeting times on continental level will be provided to address specific issues in each area.

1.6 Meeting of the Mennaisian Family

A first meeting of Brothers and Lay persons was held in 2008 during which the Mennaisian Family was formed, based around a framework document. The General Council began the consideration of holding a new international meeting of the Mennaisian Family. It will be held **in August 2015 at Ploërmel**. This meeting will be an important moment in the life of the whole Mennaisian Family, in line with the last General Chapter.

During the next meeting in October, the Council will submit to the Major Superiors its various proposals on the theme of the meeting and its organization.

1.7 Economic Issues and Solidarity

The Financial Report of the General Treasurer:

Brother Daniel BRIANT presented the accounts of Provinces and Vice-provinces. In March, the accounts of the General Administration and of the Generalate had already been approved.

Real progress has been made in several areas of the Congregation. However, some provinces are struggling to provide timely and in an accurate manner their annual accounts, in particular with regard to the balance sheet.

The passage of Vice-provinces to Districts will also require a more sustained support and an appropriate training of the treasurers of these areas by the General Treasurer.

Report on the Activities of Mr. Jean-François DUBOIS, from the Missionary Secretariat

Mr. Jean-François DUBOIS has informed the Council of his visits made to various organizations since taking office. At first, he worked so as to know better the institutions and donors on the European continent. Noting the difficulty in obtaining funds for school constructions, Mr. DUBOIS stressed the importance of sharing information with the Congregation about the various possibilities of funding obtained by each other.

A specific point has been made on some of the results already obtained especially for the mission in South Sudan and the dossiers to the donor agencies. The next contacts will be made with the American agencies.

1.8 Information and Communication

The General Council exchanged with Mr. Michel TANGUY, director of the information, on the following questions :

- The presentation of the summary of possible future issues of *La Mennais Magazine*, in particular special numbers (published in December of each year) which take greater account of the yearly theme.
- The renewal of the model of the *La Mennais Magazine* review which has occurred since the publication of Issue 22.
- The question of the Website of the Congregation (www.lamennais.org).
- The next meeting of the Committee of Information will be held at La Prairie, Canada from October 24 to 28.

2. Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

2.1 Serving the General Administration

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

Brother **Hervé ASSE**, Secretary General, for a 1st term of 3 years

Brother **Pierre BERTHE** continues to ensure the mission of Procurator near the Holy See.

2.2 Serving the Districts and Provinces

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints for a 1st mandate of 3 years:

Brother **Henri ALANOU**, Visitor of District St Pierre Chanel (Polynesia),

Brother **Michel JUTRAS**, Visitor of District St François-Xavier (Japan-Philippines),

Brother **Camille MAHOUMBA**, Visitor of District St Paul (Western Africa),

Brother **Pascal MBOLINGABA**, Visitor of District St Jean-Paul II (Central Africa).

These new Districts were all placed under the patronage of a saint joining our Provinces, faithful to a tradition of the Congregation.

Also were appointed « Assistants of the Provincial » of the Province Jean de la Mennais (Canada) for a new term of three years:

Brother **Lévi BOUDREAU**,
Brother **Robert SMYTH**.

2.3 Admissions to Perpetual Profession

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has admitted to perpetual profession :
Brother **Eric ANITE** and Brother **Wilfried FARA** of District St Paul (AO),
Brother **Rocky JACOB** and Brother **Jerry JEAN-PIERRE** of Province St Louis de Gonzague (Haiti).

2.4 Approval of the Provincial Chapter of Canada

The Council discussed the texts adopted at the Chapter of Province Jean de la Mennais (Canada) and approved the guidelines passed.

All Provinces and Vice-provinces held their chapters after the last General Chapter of 2012. Now is the time to pursue, in every unit, the practical and continuous implementation of the decisions and guidelines passed by these assemblies.

Calendar of the Members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

9 to 19 July 2014	France
20 July to 25 July 2014	Rome (session on Perpetual Professed)
29 July to 7 August 2014	France (Ploërmel: session for Brothers aged 35-55)
10 August to 5 September 2014	Uganda
15 to 26 September 2014	Rome (session of the General Council)

Brother Gildas PRIGENT

3 July to 11 July 2014	France
14 July to 11 August 2014	Indonesia
11 to 18 August 2014	Manila (The Philippines)
18 August to 5 September 2014	France
15 to 26 September 2014	Rome (session of the General Council)

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

11 July to 5 September 2014	Uganda and South Sudan
15 to 26 September 2014	Rome (session of the General Council)

Brother Guillermo DÁVILA

July 2014	South America (Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia)
August 2014	USA
15 to 26 September 2014	Rome (session of the General Council)

The next meeting of the General Council will be held in Rome from 15 to 26 September 2014.