

ECHOES OF THE General Council



Number 84 - September 2014

The General Council held its regular meeting from the 15th to the 27th September 2014 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

This session was followed, from the 2nd to the 8th October, by the session of the Major Superiors of the Congregation.

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

1. The animation of the Congregation

a. Visits to the Provinces and Districts:

In recent months, the Brothers of the General Council visited various areas of the Congregation. Below are some highlights of these visits:

- **Argentina -Uruguay – Bolivia:** Bro. Guillermo Dávila, was able to meet, among others, three young men who are in search and walking towards a possible entry into the Novitiate. If these young men persevere, a Novitiate will be opened in South America in 2016. Bro. Guillermo also had the opportunity to pass some days at Walsh (USA), where four Brothers (two Tanzanians, one Kenyan and a Haitian) continue with their studies at the University.
- **Uganda:** Bro. Gerard Byaruhanga visited, during summer, the different houses of formation of the Province: The Postulate at Kisubi (15 Postulants in the second year) and the Novitiate at Kasasa (6 Novices). He also visited the Brothers University at Kisubi where the number of students is growing (including 22 Scholastics). About 20 Brothers are involved in teaching.
- The Superior General, in the month of August also had the opportunity to visit several communities in the Province including the Scholasticate: now the young Brothers follow their courses at the University where their formation curriculum has been officially recognized by the State.
- **South Sudan:** Bro. Gerard Byaruhanga and the Superior General met Bro. Achilleo Kiwanuka, the missionary at Rimenze at Kisubi. The community house is nearing completion. Another Brother will join him in 2 to 3 months, then another later. Sufficient funds have also been collected to begin the construction of the school.
- **Indonesia:** Bro. Gildas Prigent visited Larantuka to attend the first profession of Brother Blasius Neno. Due to the extension of the pre-postulate there are no Novices this year. Brother Stephane Le Pape is in charge of the Postulants (4 young men). The two scholastics of the 3rd year at Manila will complete their formation and will join the two communities of Indonesia next October. The other good news: the building permit was finally granted to build the novitiate-postulate premises in Yogyakarta, and the first stone was laid for the future school of Larantuka.

- **France:** Brother Gildas Prigent continued with his visit during summer by participating in the festival of the Province at Ploërmel on the 24th August: Feast of the Jubilarians and the launch of the theme of the year, commitment or renewal of commitment of the Lay associates. He also met with the various leadership teams of the Province (Provincial team, Trustees, Pastoral animation) during a week's work at Roscoff where he witnessed the whole dynamic programme of implementation for next year.

b. Formation:

- The General Council took stock of the **two sessions** of the Brothers that took place during summer: one at Castel Gandolfo for the 18 Brothers preparing for perpetual profession and the other at Ploërmel with 22 Brothers. The testimonies of the participants and the formators echoed an undeniable benefit that participants acquired from this time of formation.
- A study commissioned by the General Council on the possibility of transferring the Scholasticate from Kisubi to Nairobi also confirmed the validity of its current situation. The excellent study by some Brothers particularly highlights the difference in costs in favour of Kisubi. The recent official recognition of the formation curriculum of the Scholasticate at the Kisubi University by the State is also a determining factor.
- By the 1st October, there will be 20 Novices in formation (Haiti, Togo, and Uganda) and 63 scholastics: 35 in Abidjan, 22 at Kisubi 6 in Manila. 45 young men have also begun their Postulate. This is an opportunity for the Congregation to give thanks to God and to continue praying for vocations.

2. Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

2.1 Nominations

The Superior General with the consent of his Council appoints:

Bro. **Benito ZAMPEDRI**, Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Argentina-Uruguay) for another term of 3 years.

Bro. **Fernando MUSSI**, Assistant Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Argentina-Uruguay) for another term of 3 years.

2.2 Admissions to perpetual profession

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

Bro. **Jean-Marie NGBAKPIO** of the District Saint John Paul II (Congo DRC- Rwanda).

Bro. **Edward IRUMBA**, Bro. **Christopher MUKWIRE** and Bro. **Stephen NAMPURIRA** of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda)

3. Casa Generalizia (Generalate)

During this session, the Superior General and his Council appointed for the first term of 3 years:

- Bro. **Hervé ASSE** Superior of the community of Casa Generalizia. He will be assisted by Bro. **Gil ROZAS**, Assistant Superior, Bro. **Alberto RAMOS**, Community Bursar and Bro. **Daniel BRIANT**, General Treasurer

The General Council and the Community of Casa Generalizia warmly thanked the Brothers who are leaving the Casa after many years of service:

- Thanks to Brother **Gilles PIERRE**, for his service of digitization of the archives. He will join the Community of the Mother House at Ploërmel
- Thanks to Bro. **Gerard CHATELIER**, for his 10 years of presence in the Casa, as a Superior and Director. He will join the community of Nantes (France).

Similarly they thanked Brother Pierre BERTHE for his eight years as Secretary General. He will continue with his mission of the Procurator General.

4. The Session of Major Superiors

After an introduction by the Superior General and a moment of sharing by the Major Superiors of the Provinces and Districts, different themes were discussed during this session:

a. Formation of local Superiors

- The discussion focused on the project of a Guide for Local Superiors (requested by the last General Chapter). Following the presentation by the General Council and the sharing during the session, each Province/District will be invited to work on this text, inviting Local Superiors to re-examine their mission. The Major Superiors will make a summary for February 2016.

b. The Mennaisian Educational Projects and the Assembly of the Mennaisian Family of August 2015:

- -In response to the request of the General Chapter to write a Mennaisian Educational Project, the General Council has proposed an approach consisting of six Modules, subject to the reflection of the Brothers and the Lay colleagues of the entire Congregation.
- -This text follows the first draft produced by the working group of the Brothers and the Laity.
- - Now each Province/District will be asked to end up writing a Mennaisian Educational Project.
- The Assembly of the Mennaisian family in August 2015 at Ploërmel will constitute an important step in this process.

c. The “Theme of the year”

- The Major Superiors reflected on the use of the “theme of the year” at the level of the Congregation. They have better understood the importance of animation and unity of the Congregation.
- In fact for a number of years, greater communion has been felt thanks to this joint animation. However, what remains is the adaptation to each culture and country:

work to be accomplished and deepened in some areas of the Congregation in this direction.

d. Canonical Visit:

- The Major Superiors spent one morning reflecting on the Canonical Visit. After listening to a testimony of one of them on his own practice, each major superior was able to share what constitutes the essence of his mission. Indeed, the canonical visit appears to be a key element of the animation of a Province or a District.

e. Other themes discussed:

- The **ongoing formation** during summer sessions (Castel Gandolfo and Ploërmel) ; the idea of an African Assembly was mentioned as a place of convergence and formation.
- A point was made about the **new structures** of the Congregation and possible developments in the future in some areas.
- **Information** in the presence of Mr. Michel TANGUY, among others with the project of renewing the website of the Congregation.
- **Initial formation and vocation animation:** we are happy about the growing numbers in some areas where young candidates apply to the Postulate, and we stress the importance of the initial formation.
- **Formation for the young Brothers**, temporarily professed: the importance of preparation to perpetual vows.
- **The protection of children**, of which each Province/District was called upon to write its own protocol.
- **Financial and solidarity issues** were raised in the presence of the Treasurer General. The urgency of establishing a solidarity fund was re-echoed.
- Finally the Superior General presented the Congregation's approach towards the year 2019 – 2020, which will be the occasion to celebrate **the bicentenary of its foundation**, certainly a festive year, but also a year focused on the dynamic foundation.

During the final morning session, Bro. Gil Rozas, Postulator, talked about the progress of the case under study of the healing of little Enzo of which the conclusion of the doctors is awaited.

The forthcoming Assembly of Major Superiors, which will constitute the General Conference (according to the Rule of Life), will take place in Haiti in 2016.

After the Assembly, we went to the Catacombs of Domitilla, for a visit and a closing Mass that was presided over by Father Kevin DOUGLAS, an alumnus of St. Mary's College Southampton. He is currently working at the decasity of the Doctrine of Faith.

All the Major Superiors appreciated the atmosphere in which the session took place: formation experience, but above all the shared and lived fraternity in those days.

The Calendar of the Members of the General Council

Brother Yannick HOUSSAY

October	Spain
November	Rome
December	Philippines – Japan
Jan- Feb.2015	France – England

Brother Gildas PRIGENT

November	West Africa
December	France
Jan-Feb. 2015	Philippines and Indonesia

Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA

15 to 31 October	USA
November – December	Uganda
Jan.- Feb.2015	Tanzania – Kenya

Brother Guillermo DAVILA

11 October – 16 October	Spain
17 October – 22 November	Haiti
5 December	Uganda
14 – 22 December	Tanzania
28 December	Argentina – Uruguay

**The next General Council meeting will be held in the South of France
From 16 to 28 February 2015.**