

# ECHOES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

No. 51

February – March 2005

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*The main theme of our session of February-March 2005, focused on the preparation to the coming General Chapter. The Council then addressed the usual topics of this time of the year: nominations, admission to perpetual vows, financial report by the Treasurer General, and the preparation of various documents for the Chapter (the Ratio, the reference text on the educational project...)*

## 1. Chapter 2006: Convocation and Preparation

The Superior General, with the consent of his council, took the decision to convoke the General Chapter for the beginning of March 2006. A Circular Letter will provide the official announcement to the whole congregation. Furthermore that circular letter will bring precise information regarding the election of delegates, as well as the preparation to the Chapter. The brothers are invited to refer to that document when they start their preparation that will lead the congregation to the encounter that the Lord has prepared for us.

From today onwards, our prayers to the Lord must be fervent so that He may prepare our hearts to welcome the special grace of the Chapter. The superiors at all levels must also request the prayers of the brothers' parents and friends of the Congregation. Small invitation cards could be distributed to incite them to do this.

By the time you receive the "Echoes", the Major Superiors will have received the Circular Letter convoking the Chapter, then a letter explaining how to prepare for the Chapter and a community celebration to use for the launching of the preparation.

### *Some important information regarding the Chapter of 2006*

**Date:** From March 1 to March 23, 2006

**Place:** Rome, at the Mother House of the Sisters of St. Teresa, on Val Canutta 134, 00166 Roma. This residence is very close to our own House.

**Theme:** "Re-create Hope" (theme taken from the various suggestions made by the Major Superiors during the General Conference in Nanclarès)

**Themes to be studied:** Re-create hope in communion, in the mission, in formation.

**Preparation Commission:** as proposed at the General Conference, the General Council acts as the preparation commission.

**Local commissions:** To be established by the major superiors in their own area. The purpose of these commissions is to help the Brothers in their preparation of the Chapter.

The whole timetable of the preparation appears in the Circular Letter.

# Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

## 2.1 Nominations:

The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, made the following nominations:

1. Br. Guy Morissette, as vice-provincial of Japan-Philippines, for a second mandate of 3 years
1. Br. Lévi Boudreau, as assistant provincial of Canada, for a fourth mandate of 3 years
2. Br. Robert Smyth, as assistant provincial of Canada, for a second mandate of 3 years
3. Br. Michel Gougeon, as director of the scholasticate in Abidjan, for a mandate of 2 years

### **Admission to Perpetual Vows**

Were admitted to perpetual vows:

1. Br. Augustin Lamboni (Togo)
2. Br. Camille Mahoumba (Togo)
3. Br. Emmanuel Sambiani (Togo)
4. Br. Fidelis Kisakeni (Tanzania-Kenya)
5. Br. Gaspar Mushi (Tanzania-Kenya)
6. Br. Peter Takahirire (Uganda)

### **Novitiate in Chile – Bolivia**

A novitiate house will be opened at Quinta Normal, in the outskirts of Santiago.

### **The *Ratio Institutionis*: Formation of a Writing Committee**

The Provinces have already returned various proposals and suggestions for the Ratio. A first complete version of the text has been elaborated; it includes many contributions from the Provinces, especially from the provincial committees set up for that purpose. This version will be entrusted to an “international writing committee” for a final touch before it is presented to the General Chapter.

The members of that international committee will not be numerous: one brother per sector. They will be officially appointed soon. According to the timetable determined last October 2004, the committee should finish its task by next summer (which is winter in the South Hemisphere!). The dates for the meeting of the members will be based on their availability.

## 2.5 An Educational Project, as a tool of reference for the Congregation.

The objective set up by the Council was to prepare a first draft of an educational project that could be used as a reference for the whole congregation. That project would also be presented to the General Chapter for study. The Secretary General has received various texts already in use in the Provinces and vice-provinces. We are expecting others before starting the writing of the first draft.

### **3. Various Points**

#### **3.1 Financial Report**

As requested by the Rule of Life, Br. Louis Balanant, Treasurer General, presented his financial report for the past year to the Council. The provincial treasurers will also receive a summarized copy of that report so as to better know the financial situation of the Congregation and, if needed, to adjust their own policies in that regard.

The Council members wish to express their gratitude to Br. Louis, as well as to the provincial and vice-provincial treasurers, for their good work at the service of the congregation.

#### **3.2 Mission of Indonesia**

During the past weeks, our Mission in Indonesia has experienced a few difficulties that are normally associated with a new foundation in some countries. Two years ago, the Brothers had taken charge of the Catholic College at Larantuka (Florès Island), upon the mutual agreement of the Brothers and the diocese. But without previous notice, the new Bishop modified the conditions of that agreement, informing us that, it seems by law, a foreigner cannot be headmaster of a school in Indonesia. Furthermore new administrative regulations have made the acquisition of a long-term working visa very difficult, which would impede seriously the work of a brother as headmaster of a school.

Br. Josu Olabarrieta, in charge of the mission of Indonesia, will visit the brothers at the end of March to evaluate the situation with them and with the local authorities, and then discern what best could be done in case of necessity.

#### **3.3 The Golden Jubilee of Br. Superior General**

The Congregation will soon have the joy of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of religious life of our Superior General, Br. José Antonio Obeso. Indeed it was on August 15, 1955, that Br. Obeso entered the Novitiate at Nanclarès. After various assignments in Spain, first as an educator then as school headmaster, Br. Obeso was appointed Provincial of the Spanish Province in 1982. He was elected Assistant General at the Chapter of 1988, and Superior General at the Chapter of 1994.

At the Mother House in Rome, the celebration will take place during the spring session of the Council. The date set for the celebration is, Sunday, June 12.

You are invited to start your prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord for the 50 years of life and service to the Congregation of Brother José Antonio.

## Calendar of the members of the General Council

### **Brother José Antonio OBESO**

24 March	Chile - Bolivia
End of April	Rome

### **Brother Jean PETILLON**

22 March	Haiti
10 April	France
Beginning of May	Rome

### **Brother Claude BEAUCHESNE**

17 March	Abidjan (scholasticate)
27 March	Congo
19 April	Rwanda
12 May	Rome

### **Brother Josu OLABARRIETA**

21 March	Indonesia
10 April	Rome
14 April	Spain
18 May	Rome

### **Brother Peter KAZEKULYA**

21 March	Uganda
24 March	Tanzania - Kenya
25 April	Uganda
5 May	Rwanda
Mid May	Rome

**NB – The next Council meeting will take place in Rome from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2005**