

# ECHOES

  

# Of THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Number 59

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*After two months of visiting the different parts of the Congregation, the members of the General Council are in Rome again for a new three-week session.*

This issue of the Echoes informs the entire Congregation of the following decisions and news :

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

### **1.1 On-going formation of the General Council:**

As it is done in every session, the Council has devoted time to the on-going formation whose theme has been, this time, on the Vocations Ministry. After a time of personal reflection based on a questionnaire and on the text of the General Chapter, the members of the Council have been able to share their experiences on the theme, and glean out salient points in view of the forthcoming session on Vocations due to take place in August.

### **1.2 Life of the Provinces and Vice-Provinces :**

In the wake of the different visits made by the Superior General and the Brother-Assistants since the end of the month of November, the Council has been able to make an overall assessment of some sectors: St. Louis de Gonzague Province (Haiti), Immaculate Conception Province (Argentina-Uruguay), the Vice-Province of Polynesia, the Vice-Province of Congo-Rwanda, the Vice-Province of Japan-Philippines, the missions of Chile and Bolivia, the missions of Benin and Togo, and the different Houses of Formation in Africa.

The Council has also studied the texts of the 2 Provincial Chapters held recently: The Chapter of the Province of St. Louis de Gonzague (Haiti), and the Chapter of the Province of the Immaculate Conception (Argentina-Uruguay).

### **1.3 The Ratio Institutionis**

After their working session in Rome, from the 5th to the 9th February 2007, the drafting Committee of the Ratio submitted their corrected text. This text has been carefully scrutinised during the current session of the Council and has definitively been approved.

The next stage will consist in promulgating this basic document to the entire Congregation and encourage its adoption by all the Brothers.

#### **1.4 The preparation of the session on the Vocations Ministry**

The Council has specified the objectives of the session scheduled to take place from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2007 in Rome, and has worked on the detailed programme of this international meeting.

The participants in this session will come from all the sectors of the Congregation and the animation will be done by the members of the General Council. They are:

Brothers : Rafael Alonso, Laurent Bouillet, Pierre Créteau,  
Yvon Deniaud, Franco Graziosi, James Hayes,  
Dominic Savio Kahangire, Fidelis Kisakeni,  
Serge Larose, Jean Lemay, Stéphane Le Pape,  
Samson Lodja , Eugene Mwesigye,  
Guy Roddy, Claude Saint-Amand, and Benito Zampedri.

#### **1.5 The reflection on the Shared Mission**

In the framework of the reflection on the Shared Mission, the Superior General has written a '**Letter to the Mennaisian Laity and Brothers**'. This **Letter** will be forwarded shortly to all the members of the Congregation as well as to all the interested lay men and women.

A big survey has also been launched; it involves a questionnaire sent to all the Brothers and the Laity engaged in the shared mission. This survey should enable us to grasp better the diverse situations of the Congregation, to prepare for the forthcoming international meeting on the Shared Mission, according to the recommendations of the last General Chapter.

#### **1.6 The Financial Report of Brother Treasurer General**

Brother Treasurer General has presented his annual report, a precise and detailed report, which enables us to have a clear idea of the financial situation of all the communities and the Provinces, as well as the General Administration in Rome. We must appreciate the efforts made, for several years now, by the different administrative entities for a serious and punctual presentation of the accounts. However, this work has to be pursued, and for such or such a sector a supplementary effort is necessary.

The Council has also discussed the next meeting of the Provincial and Vice-Provincial Treasurers. It could take place at the same time as the General Conference.

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

### **2.1 Nomination of Assistant Provincials of Saint Jean-Baptiste Province:**

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

Brother **Hervé ASSE**, **Assistant Provincial**, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> mandate of 3 years.

Brother **Daniel BRIANT**, **Assistant Provincial**, for a 2<sup>nd</sup> mandate of 3 years.

## **2.2 Opening of new communities and a school**

- In the Vice-Province of Kenya-Tanzania :

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has authorised the opening of a community **at Malindi** (Kenya), as well as the taking over of a Secondary School.

This decision had been taken during the session of November 2006. But it had not been published in the Echoes for fear of interfering with the multiple steps to be taken by the Major Superiors concerned.

- In the Vice-Province of West Africa:

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has authorised the opening of a community **at Parakou** (Benin). This community will bring together, as a priority, the Brothers already in-charge of the Hibiscus College.

## **3. The Southern Sudan Project**

The Union of the Superiors General, in liaison with the Sudan Bishops Conference, requests the Religious Congregations to open up missions in the fields of education and health care in Southern Sudan. This region of this vast country has recovered relative peace after many years of civil war that ruined it completely.

The project, in its sector of 'education' would consist, first and foremost, in founding a Teacher Training College capable of forming education cadres for all the Dioceses in Southern Sudan and thus launch, progressively, a Catholic education system.

The Brothers of Christian Schools have decided to spearhead this project. Other Congregations are invited to support this work by supplying personnel or financial help. The General Council wishes to answer this call favourably in terms of personnel and follow up their reflection to find out in which ways the Congregation could contribute to this new mission in the service of children and youths Sudan.

## **4. Internet Site of the Consecrated Life:**

The internet site [www.vidimusdominum.org](http://www.vidimusdominum.org) dedicated to the Consecrated Life has taken off again after an interruption of several months. The Union of Superiors General (USG) has also its own site that can be opened by clicking on the logo 'USG' on the right-hand side of the opening page.

An abundant and interesting documentation on the consecrated life is already there in several languages, and it will keep on developing progressively as the months go by.

## **Calendar of the members of the General Council**

### **Brother Yannick HOUSSAY**

16 to 31 March	Indonesia
01 to 07 April	Rome
08 April to 06 May	Canada
07 May to 15 June	Rome (Council)

### **Brother Miguel Angel MERINO**

10 March to 15 April	Rome
15 April to 02 May	France
02 May to 12 May	Spain
12 May to 15 June	Rome (Council)

### **Brother Gerard BYARUHANGA**

16 March to 07 April	Kenya
08 April to 07 May	Uganda
08 May to 15 June	Rome (Council)

### **Brother Gildas PRIGENT**

16 to 31 March	Indonesia
01 to 15 April	Rome
15 April to 02 May	France
05 to 10 May	Abidjan (Ivory Coast)
11 May to 15 June	Rome (Council)

**N.B.: The next Council meeting will take place in Rome from the 15th May to the 15th June 2007.**