

p.9



Echoing our year's theme



*French Youth Stay in Rwanda. Mennaisian Educational Partnership*



*Closing Eucharist of the Centenary of the Mennaisian Presence in La Vallée – Haiti*

- SUMMARY** ● Live **2** ● Congregation Events **3**  
● World Tour, Provinces and Districts **4** ● Report **9**  
● Mennaisian Family **11** ● Young Mennaisians Adults **12**  
● Memory **13** ● Construction Sites **14** ● News **15** ● At the Source **16**

## Editorial

## Online fraternity?

A paradox of our time: we have never been so connected, and yet the feeling of isolation has never been so pervasive. Faced with this challenge, can we simply tick the box of 'online fraternity'?"

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly entrenched our dependence on social media. Video conferencing applications have become commonplace, permanently altering our community and fraternal habits. While these digital relationships foster a acceptable openness to the universal, reduce geographical isolation, and facilitate mutual support, they nevertheless call into question the very foundations of our fraternal love by threatening its most essential dimension: its embodied nature.

Whether by birth or by vocation, we welcome our brothers and sisters as they are. On our screens, however, we tend to select—often unconsciously—those who share our language, culture, interests or preferences. Can we truly afford to live a fraternity "à la carte"? Is not every person our brother or sister? Faced with the distress or loneliness of a member of our own community, do we dare to "pass by on the other side" like the priest and the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37)—by hiding behind the convenient screen of our digital interactions? Doesn't this new virtual liturgy not risk preventing us from hearing the cry of the one calling for help?

True fraternity cannot be lived remotely; it requires the physical and daily closeness that Pope Leo XIV's new encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, calls for, and which alone allows authentic bonds to be forged. Could Saint Francis of Assisi have touched the leper and kissed his hand if he hadn't dismounted from his horse? Would Saint John Paul II have demonstrated the transformative power of forgiveness had he not physically visited the man who attempted to assassinate him?

"Face-to-face" fraternity remains the path indicated by the "martyrs of fraternity, such as Saint Maximilian-Marie Kolbe, Saint Oscar Romero and Blessed Enrique Angelelli" (MH, no. 125), as well as by Saint John Paul II, Saint Francis of Assisi, and countless others. Their witness shows us what it means to be Laymen and Brothers journeying together in the age of AI.



**Brother Hervé Zamor, SG**  
superioregenerale@lamennais.org

## Fraternity "in presence-mode"

In the age of artificial intelligence, our Brothers from the community of Lira in Uganda – the most recent to have been opened within the Institute – as well as the new encyclical of Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*, published on May 25, 2026, invite us to live fraternity fully in a spirit of "face-to-face" encounter.

## The Lira Community of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

The Lira Community of the Brothers of Christian Instruction consists of Brothers: Hillary Byabasheija (Superior), Pius Zobole, Richard Kagoda and Francis Tumusiime.

Serving the "Comboni College" in Lira, Northern Uganda, we seek to live our vocation in the spirit of Jean-Marie de la Mennais, rooted in faith, fraternity and the mission of Christian education.

Our fraternal life is nourished through community prayer, the sharing of daily life, simplicity, and mutual support. United by a common charism, we strive to make Jesus Christ known and loved by all, especially among the young people entrusted to our mission.

Through our educational and pastoral mission, we seek to be living signs of hope, humility, charity, and fraternal presence. In communion with the Church and the Congregation, we carry out our mission with joy, confidence in God's providence, and a steadfast commitment to serving young people.

[Text of the Encyclical >>](#)



**From left: Brs. Hillary, Francis, Richard and Pius**

## Building fraternity

*Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in*



**Pope Leo XIV, in Bamenda, Cameroon, on April 16, 2026**

*which God and humanity dwell together. Each generation inherits the task of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible. Yet every era also runs the risk of creating an inhumane and more unjust world. Whenever humanity is in danger of marring its true identity, we Christians lift our eyes to the Incarnate God, knowing that it is "only in the mystery of the Word made flesh (Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*, N° 1).*



# HAITI: Closing of the centennial celebrations in La Vallée

Opened by a **solemn Mass** celebrated on 26 October 2025. This jubilee year concluded with **three days of festivities**, bringing together civil and religious authorities, teachers, students, alumni, parents and friends of the institution.

### A joyful recreational day

On Friday, 15 May, the students opened the closing celebrations with a recreational day.

### A fraternal and festive vigil

On Saturday, 16 May, after the celebration of the First Vespers, a **large vigil** gathered together around a campfire the delegations of Brothers, as well as the members of the Centenary committee, teachers and friends of the school.



A theatrical performance by some students from the school

More...



Cardinal Chibly Langlois

### The solemn Mass presided over by His Eminence Chibly Cardinal Langlois

The highlight of the celebrations was undoubtedly the solemn Mass on Sunday, May 17, presided over by His Eminence Chibly Cardinal Langlois, a former student of Léonce Mégie School.

### A concrete commitment for future generations

One of the most significant moments of the day was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the school and three alumni wishing to honor the memory of their fathers, themselves former students of the institution. This initiative will award 60 excellence scholarships over a 10-year period, at the rate of 6 per year.

Although the centenary celebrations have ended, the mission continues, carried by the legacy of yesterday's builders and the hope of tomorrow's generations.



Children present at the festive Eucharist on May 17th

**Berthony Boursiquot** Professor and former student

# PHILIPPINES: First vows of 7 novices

## Five postulants enter the novitiate in San Jose

A great celebration and a day of joy for the St. Francis Xavier District (Indonesia-Japan-Philippines). On 6 June 2026 (207 years after 6 June 1819 – the birth of the Congregation in St. Brieuç), **7 young men made their first vows in San Jose (Philippines) and 5 young men entered the Novitiate**



The 5 new novices between Brother Ewald Guerrier (left) and Brother Michel Gougeon (right)



7 new Professed, in white cassocks, accompanied, in the second row, by Brother Gildas Prigent, Visitor Brother, and Brother Ewald Guerrier, Master of Novices... with children and Lay Mennaisians

"A first in our Asian District! They could have been 12 like the Apostles, but there were only 7 (**6 Indonesians and one Filipino**), like the Deacons in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6)... That same evening, a more modest celebration was held for the community, but no less important for the future of our District: **the entrance into the Novitiate** of 5 Postulants (Charles, Thio, Ertus, Vem, and Jesteng), all 5 Indonesians, a celebration presided over by Brother Gildas Prigent, Visitor of the St. Francis Xavier District (Asia)"

More...



Brother Michel Gougeon

# ASIA



## Visit of the Superior General to Saint Francis Xavier District



*The Larantuka community welcomes its visitors*

The Superior General, accompanied by Brother Gildas Prigent, Visitor, toured the Asian District and the Mission of Timor-Leste from March 20 to April 20, 2026. Due to the conflict in the Persian Gulf, which caused flight cancellations and delays, Brother Hervé was unable to visit the **Yogyakarta community** as originally planned. Fortunately, he had spent two weeks there last June with all the members of the General Council. The formators, scholastics and first-year postulants, were understandably disappointed!

The stay at the **Kupang community**, where three Brothers reside, was rather brief. Each Brother and the entire community had the opportunity to meet with Brother Hervé for discussion and exchange. Afterwards, the superiors joined the **Larantuka community**, composed of four Brothers, all Indonesians. The week was marked with visits to the school (SDK La Mennais) and also to the La Mennais Pusat, currently undergoing renovation after fifteen years of service. The meeting with the new Bishop of Larantuka, Bishop Yohannes Hans Monteiro, provided an opportunity to become acquainted and to discuss future collaboration.

The stay in **San Jose, Philippines**, was filled with enriching encounters! The property houses the novitiate (7 novices), the second-year postulancy (5 postulants), and the four Brothers responsible for formation. The Brother Superior General was able to meet with each person individually, as everyone speaks English. On Sunday, April 12, the entire Mennaisian Family group (about twenty members) also gathered at the community for the Eucharistic celebration and a shared meal.



*The Postulants and Brother Hervé during an apostolic activity in the Parish*

During his visit to **Japan**, Brother Hervé shared the life of the community of the three remaining Brothers. Mr. Kudo, director of Seiko Gakuin Yokohama, invited the Superior to address the teachers and a group of students. The administrators of St. Mary's School welcomed the superiors and the Brothers for a fraternal and informal exchange. The educational institutions founded by the Congregation are now entirely administered by lay people. As for the Brothers themselves, they will permanently leave the country in the coming months.



*Monsignor Marvyn, the novitiate, and Brothers Hervé and Gildas*



*The Yokohama Community*



# AFRICA



## UGANDA: 100 Years of Faithful Service

The Brothers of Christian Instruction arrived in Uganda in August 1926, responding to the call of the Church to strengthen Catholic education. From humble beginnings, the Congregation has grown into a visible presence across the country. Today, the Brothers serve in over twenty missions including primary, secondary schools, vocational centers, and formation houses. Thousands of Ugandan students have passed through their hands, many are now serving as teachers, priests, professionals, and leaders in society.

### What Is Planned for the Centenary Celebrations:

The centenary will be celebrated under the theme "We Remember, we celebrate, we believe".

Key events include:

1. **A central Eucharistic celebration**, on the 5th September, presided over by the Archbishop of Kampala, gathering the wider FIC family. A worthy mention is the entire General Council of the Brothers of Christian Instruction and the Major Superiors.
2. **Academic and Cultural Symposium:** 100 years of Catholic education in Uganda with religious congregations.
3. **Alumni Reunion and Testimonies** – Former students sharing how the FIC formation shaped their lives.
4. **Launch of the Centenary Publication** – A historical record (trajectory) of the Congregation's journey in Uganda.
5. **Youth Festival** – Sports, music, and drama involving current students from FIC schools, showcasing talent and



**Monument in honor of Brother Charles Jules Poitras, Founder of the Province**

True to their spirit of building for the future, the Brothers are using the centenary to launch projects that will sustain their mission.

### Ongoing Projects for the Next 100 Years:

- A facility where the elderly and infirm Brothers.
- Expansion of Technical and Vocational Training.
- Student Bursary Fund.
- Digital Learning Initiative.

As Brother Aizire Casio, Provincial Superior, notes: "We do not celebrate stone and buildings, but lives transformed. The next century will demand the same courage and creativity that brought us here".



**On the Land where the future home for the elderly Brothers will be built**

**Brother John Ssenkibirwa**  
Chairperson Central Organising Committee (COCO)

## WEST AFRICA: Brother Gaston Koumboum leaves for Haiti

**Before leaving for Haiti, Brother Gaston, a Togolese Brother currently in community in Parakou, Benin, agreed to share a few words about what inspires and motivates him.**



«As my departure for my mission to Haiti draws near, my heart is filled with gratitude and hope. I leave with the desire to serve children and young people through education and through the witness of my life. For me, it is a call to serve Christ and to make Him known in season and out of season. I leave filled with joy and confidence with the firm conviction that Christ will always accompany me. My heart is filled with gladness and thanksgiving. Indeed, this new mission represents for me both a grace and an opportunity to dedicate myself more fully to serving the most vulnerable, guided by the motto: "Serve Christ at all times and in all places." I am fully aware of the challenges that await me, but I firmly believe that Christ goes before me and guides my every step. It is both beautiful and enriching to step beyond ourselves and encounter others with love and fraternity. I encourage all my brothers and sisters who feel called to mission to respond with generosity, courage, and confidence. Let us dare to go where the Lord sends us. "Let us not be afraid to take the first step, the Lord is waiting for us».



# AMERICA



## CANADA: Transfer of our two educational projects

Jean de la Mennais College, in La Prairie, and Notre-Dame du Saint-Laurent Juniorate, in Saint-Romuald, Lévis



Jean de la Mennais School - La Prairie

For decades, Collège Jean de la Mennais, located in La Prairie, a suburb of Montreal, and Juvénat Notre-Dame du Saint-Laurent, established in Saint-Romuald, a suburb of Quebec City, have embodied the educational and evangelizing mission of the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Canada. The former welcomes nearly 1,700 elementary and secondary students; the latter, nearly 900 secondary students.

The transfer process began in 2015.

Faced with declining

human resources, making it impossible to maintain direct management of these schools, the decision was made to entrust educational responsibility to the school boards and administrative teams. The objectives of this transition were threefold: had three main objectives: to ensure an orderly and sustainable process, to transfer well-maintained schools and facilities equipped for future development, and to guarantee the continued provision of quality educational services. Over a period of nine to ten years, the school boards gradually increased their payments as part of the process of acquiring the properties. In June 2025, Collège Jean de la Mennais officially became the property of its school board. The same process is expected to be concluded in 2026 for Juvénat Notre-Dame du Saint-Laurent.



Juvénat Notre-Dame du Saint-Laurent - Saint Romuald

In Saint-Romuald, the Brothers will continue to reside at the Atkinson residence for as long as they wish. The members of the La Prairie community have joined the other Brother communities in Quebec.

As Brothers of Christian Instruction, we approach this transition with realism and confidence. In a deeply secularized Quebec society, we believe that the Mennaisian spirit can continue to inspire the men and women who serve in these two schools and who continually renew them with talent and generosity. We hope that the best element of our heritage will continue to flourish, for the benefit of the young people educated in these schools and of the world in which they are already engaged.

**Brother Claude Gélinas**



## HAITI: Visit of Brother Vincent Ssekate A message of brotherhood, faith and hope

Our Province had the honor of welcoming Brother Vincent Ssekate, Assistant to the Superior General for Haiti. During his pastoral visit, he visited all the Brothers' communities and schools throughout the country, where he shared a message of fraternity, faith in Jesus Christ, and hope for a brighter future.

Through his talks and meetings, Brother Vincent Ssekate, invited the students to fully experience the theme of the school year : to live fully the fraternity and all that it requires, to make studies a true personal and collective commitment.





# EUROPE



## FRANCE: Visits of students at Ploërmel



Students in the gardens of the Mother House

Throughout the year, the 1st year students of each of our secondary schools, spend a day at the Mother House to discover the Founders and the Institute. Thus, on 29th May 2026, 200 1st year students from the Sacred Heart College of Lamballe visited the Mother House in Ploërmel. It was a day full of joy and Mennaisian spirit for everyone.



Prayer at the tomb of Jean-Marie de la Mennais

## SPAIN: Visit of Pope Leo XIV

The apostolic journey of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV to Spain took place from June 6 to 12, 2026. He visited Madrid, Barcelona and Tenerife (in the Canary Islands). The main theme of his visit was: "Look up and see (Jn, 4:35)".



<<Texts and speeches of the Pope during the visit

Based on this theme, the Pope invited Spain to return to the source of the Gospel. He called, he called on political leaders to overcome political polarization through dialogue and to build civic friendship that fosters a "culture of encounter". He also emphasized the importance of addressing the migration crisis in a humanitarian and dignified manner. He urged young people to become the "spark" of a new humanity in the face of indifference.



Vigil of Pope Leo XIV with young people

## SPAIN - Aguilar de Campóo: Saint Gregory School - 105 years



Students participating in the activities

The Mennaisian school of Saint-Grégoire takes its name to Pope Saint Gregory VII, whose feast day is celebrated on May 25.

The school is celebrating its 105th anniversary in Aguilar de Campoo, in the heart of a rural area—marking 105 years of fidelity to the founding charism of Jean-Marie de la Mennais.

The school provides a Catholic education to 580 students, from kindergarten to high school, supported by 70 teachers, as well as administrative and service staff, and a community of 5 Mennaisian Brothers.

Each year, the week of May 25-30 becomes a time of celebration, festivity, gratitude and solidarity, in the Mennaisian spirit. Brother Miguel de la Hera

## ITALY - Rome: USG - Union of Superiors General

From May 27th to 29th May, Brother Hervé Zamor participated in the 105th Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG), held at Fraterna Domus in Sacrofano, about 40 kilometers from Rome. The theme of the meeting was: "Transmitting the charism in the service of governance"



More...

The General Superiors during the meeting

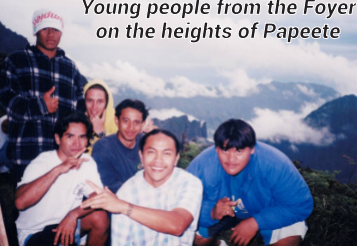




# POLYNESIA



## Thank you to the Foyer des îles



Young people from the Foyer on the heights of Papeete

For over 30 years, the Foyer des îles Ta'urua has received, supported, and educated generations of young people from the islands of the various archipelagos of Polynesia. Beautifully situated in the hills above Papeete on the island of Tahiti, it was long led by its founder, Brother Maxime Chan, and later by Brother Xavier Frogier, always with the support of a dedicated and committed educational team.



The area surrounding the Foyer des îles

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those involved, as well as this wonderful institution is forced to close. Despite efforts to identify reliable and sustainable economic solutions, the Foyer can no longer continue its mission and will cease operations at the end of this academic year. We therefore thank all who have kept it alive and given it its soul for so many years. We express deep appreciation for this immense service rendered to these young Polynesians who came from their distant islands to study and train in Tahiti at the various institutions in Papeete

## Mennaisian "Tutelle": a new stage



The heads of the Mennaisian centers in Tahiti, with Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé

The Mennaisian network in Polynesia, comprises four primary schools, two combined middle and high schools, and an agricultural college in the Marquesas Islands, serving nearly 5,000 students. Over 165 years, it has evolved from "schools run by Brothers" to Mennaisian schools. Today, only one school is headed by a Brother; the others are led by women and men fully committed to the mission established by Jean-Marie de la Mennais.

The responsibility of the Congregation remains essential. This mission, entrusted by the bishops and known as the Tutelage, consists of guaranteeing the Catholic identity of each institution and supporting school leaders and educational communities in their creative fidelity to the Mennaisian educational project.



Jean-Pierre Mou-Hing

Dialogue between the Congregation and the lay people serving in the schools concluded that it was necessary to strengthen the exercise of the "Tutelle". This led to the **appointment of a Trusteeship Delegate**, responsible for supporting the schools and leading the Mennaisian network. Mr. Jean-Pierre Mou-Hing will assume this role at the beginning of the next academic year

# EAST TIMOR



A warm welcome from Timor for Brother Hervé Zamor

From April 1st to 6th, 2026, the community of Manatuto in East Timor had the joy of welcoming the Superior General and the Brother Assistant in charge of the East Timor mission, Br Gildas Prigent.

The visit, which began with a traditional Timorese welcoming ceremony, was filled with moments of dialogue and reflection: a meeting with the Bishop of the Diocese of Baucau, personal interviews with the Brothers and several community meetings aimed at discerning together in a synodal manner.

This visit, the first since our arrival in January 2025, was very important for us as it was a moment of true discernment regarding the future of our new mission in Timor. After a period of adjustment and language learning, we have already committed ourselves to the mission among young people. The question now is where and how to continue developing a Mennaisian educational presence and to encourage a vocational growth among young Timorese.



The 3 Brothers from Timor and the Two Visitors

According to the testimony of the Brothers of East Timor

# Brothers and Lay people on the way

## District of Saint-Paul (Benin - Ivory Coast - Senegal and Togo) Fraternal joy on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean



**The Brothers Gilbert and Eloi**

On Easter Monday, taking a break from their daily routine, the Brothers from the communities of Lomé and Aného enjoyed an unforgettable day of fraternity and communion. They gathered for the Eucharist in their respective communities. Afterwards, the members of the Lomé community traveled to Aného, a coastal city on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

On the beach, games, laughter, and swimming mingled with the aromas of barbecued food and the joy of sharing a meal together. Far removed from their professional and daily worries, the Brothers experienced a truly blessed moment of fellowship, strengthening their fraternal bonds and renewing their energy for the mission entrusted to them.



**Fraternal Feast**

Echoing our theme of the year, "**Pilgrims on the Path of Fraternal Life in Community**", the Provinces and Districts were invited to share a concrete experience of fraternity.

Four contributions have reached us. Whether they were experienced under the sun of African beaches, expressed through solidarity in Haiti, experienced during training crossroads in North America or nurtured during a two-day spiritual retreat in France, these slices of life paint a picture of a Mennaisian Family on the move, where Brothers and lay people walk together in faith, mission, and fraternity.

**Have a blessed fraternal pilgrimage to the heart of our communities!**

## Province of Saint Louis Gonzaga (Haiti): Fraternal closeness

This year, the Mennaisian Fraternity of Cayes has been close to members of the educational community who have been going through difficult times, offering them comfort, support and encouragement.

Like Mary, Brothers and Lay People crossed mountains and valleys to reach the Jacmel Valley, the site of the spiritual retreat for the three fraternities of the Great South (Cayes, the Jacmel Valley, and Jacmel). This special gathering provided an opportunity to pray together and rediscover the essence of belonging to one and the same Family.

Boosted by the friendly visits of Brothers Vincent Ssekate, Assistant General, and Simon Alphonse, Provincial Superior, the fraternity of Les Cayes gained a deeper appreciation of its identity, rooted in personal encounters, shared prayer, mutual support, and close collaboration in the mission.

### Christmas celebration with the local brotherhood



**Meeting of the local Mennaisian Fraternity with the General Assistant Brother**

# Echoes from our fraternal pilgrimage

## Jean de la Mennais Province (Canada – Mexico – USA) The Audacity of interpersonal Connections



On February 7th and 8th, an innovative hybrid format brought together about thirty participants at the Laval winter chalet, while dozens of others connected via videoconference for the third edition of the "Discoveries" weekend.



*Sunday meal*

Guided by the Spirit, the pilgrims explored the richness and depths of interpersonal relationships through the valuable advice of educators on communication and emotional needs.

Committed witnesses also touched the audience by sharing their experiences of accompanying immigrants, supporting families, reaching out elderly people living in solitude, and working with people involved in the justice system.



*Father Christian Vermette*

Finally, in his usual original way, Father Christian invited everyone to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to discover, as if for the first time, the bold fraternity to which his Gospel invites them.



*Saturday afternoon group, with Brother Mario Houle*

## Province of Saint John the Baptist (England and France) Under the Sign of Fraternity and the Founders



*The participants in Dinard, with Saint-Malo on the horizon*

In February 2026, about fifteen lay people and Brothers from Guérande met in Dinard for a two-day spiritual break.

In a peaceful and sunny setting, participants shared moments of prayer, meals, walks and reflection. Their discussions focused on the common values and aspirations shared by Jean-Marie de La Mennais and Leo XIV: particularly their concern for the poor, their commitment to education, and their vision community life.

Feedback highlights the simplicity of exchanges, the quality of listening and the discreet joy of walking together. Lay and Brothers have discovered or deepened what unites them beyond their personal paths, in a climate of trust and recollection. This meeting gave new breath and hope, reminding us that fraternity lived in daily life can become a living witness of the Gospel.



*Exchanges at the Maison Saint-François in Dinard*

## POLYNESIA -Recollection of the Mennaisian Family of Tahiti-Marquesas

Organised by the Mennaisian Family Animation Commission (CAFAM) during the visit of Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé, Superior of the Delegation, this meeting was an opportunity to bring together the available members of the Mennaisian Family in Polynesia on Saturday, May 9, 2026. The morning began with a time of prayer, followed by a reflection on the theme of the year : "Pilgrims on the Path of Fraternal Life".

The organizers then planned a time for Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé to speak with the participants. Before he began, however, the assembly took the opportunity to express its gratitude and encouragement to the Brothers present, and through them, to all the Brothers who have served in Tahiti since 1860.

Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé then reaffirmed the Congregation's commitment to continuing the Mennaisian mission in Polynesia, initiated 165 years ago. The Brothers of the St. Peter Chanel Delegation wish to continue working with lay people in three key areas:



**Brothers from Tahiti gathered around Brother Jean-Paul**

### The communities of Brothers

In response to the reduction in the number of Brothers, a reorganization of the communities is underway to address current realities and needs while maintaining a Mennaisian presence both in Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands.

### The Mennaisian network

Mennaisian schools constitute an important reality for both the Church and the country. The Trusteeship Service will be reorganized, with plans to appoint a layperson as Trusteeship Delegate to support them in carrying out their mission.

### The Mennaisian Family

Efforts to strengthen and organize the Mennaisian Family must continue through CAFAM, local groups, "Mennaisian fraternities" which are formed by people who wish to come together in service and fellowship, inspired and guided by the charisma of Father Jean-Marie de la Mennais.

According to Jean-Pierre Mou-Hing, coordinator of CAFAM Polynesia



**Shared meal at the end of the retreat**



**Other participants**

## International Commission of the Mennaisian Family

Established about ten years ago, the International Commission of the Mennaisian Family is a coordinating body, particularly in all matters relating to spiritual life, fraternal bonds, apostolic commitment, and formation. It sets general guidelines and makes decisions that can promote the smooth functioning and unity of the Mennaisian Family (see Reference Text, no. 45).

The commission is composed of six Brothers from the General Government of the Institute and six lay people from diverse backgrounds. It has recently been renewed and was able to meet online on May 21st. This first meeting, facilitated by the three-member International Bureau, provided an opportunity to review the current state of the Mennaisian Family and to plan for future initiatives in accordance with the orientations adopted by the 2024 General Chapter.



**The 12 members of the ICMF across 5 continents**

## Two encounters, two experiences in "one spirit of service and love"

At the Teodelina School in Villa Gobernador Gálvez, Argentina, young people from Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina gathered from Friday, April 2, to Sunday, April 4, to celebrate the Paschal Mystery together. They enjoyed the magnificent liturgical celebrations to meet, to connect with one another, and to encourage each other in following Jesus according to the Mennaisian charism.



**Young people and brothers participating in the meeting in Argentina**



**Volunteers and young people from the Mennaisian Family knead bread in Bolivia**

Meanwhile, the **young Mennaisians of Bolivia** gathered at the Mennaisian Center for Encounters and Retreats in Achocalla. About twenty of them baked bread on Thursday, which they distributed on Friday to people in the street and at a youth center. This experience of service and solidarity deeply touched everyone. Saturday was devoted to artistic activities and deeper understanding of the Mennaisian charism. After the Easter Vigil, we shared a festive meal.



### Yamil: Young Bolivian postulant in Uruguay

**Yamil is living a year of experience within the community of the Dionisio Díaz Center in Maldonado (Uruguay), a Mennaisian center for non-formal education that supports children and young people in difficult social situations.**



**Community of the Brothers of Maldonado. From left to right: Brother Arturo, Yamil, Brother Manuel and Brother Abundio**

*"I arrived at the Dionisio Center in Maldonado (Uruguay) on February 4th, and during these months, I have had experiences that have allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. Sharing life with children, young people, families and the community of Brothers has enabled me to learn a lot and to discover aspects of myself that I was unaware of.*

*What I will take with me most are the smiles, the gestures of friendship and those simple everyday moments in which I felt the presence of Jesus.*

*Although adapting to a different reality was a real challenge, it was also a genuine opportunity to continue learning and to confirm, day after day, the vocation to which I feel called.*

*I still have a long way to go, but I am very grateful to God for everything I am experiencing and learning at this stage of my life".*

**Children and young people from the Dionisio Díaz Center, as well as Yamil, participating in an activity**





# 75 years of Presence in Japan

On July 20, 1951, the first three Brothers arrived in Japan. The Pointe-du-Lac Province (Quebec) committed itself, in the early years, to sending three new Brothers each year- and it faithfully kept its promise. Twenty years later, in 1971, a total of 44 Brothers were sent to the mission there.

In Japan, Mennaisian activity quickly became organized around three centers that are still active today. These three centers have been completely rebuilt in recent years.

### St Mary's International School in Tokio

Opened in 1954 for the children of foreigners residing in Tokyo. It also welcomes Japanese students but functions within the framework of an American high school.



Tokyo International School - May 2026



St. Mary's International School, Tokyo



Founders of the Japan Mission (1951). Before their departure, the three founders and their superiors placed themselves under the protection of Our Lady of Recovery at Pointe-du-Lac. Photo taken on September 8, 1950. From left to right: Brothers Honorius Brissette, Assistant General; Bruno Caron, Founder; François-Xavier Poitras, Founding Director; Jean-Marc Dion, Founder; Armand Tassé, Provincial Visitor

### Seiko Gakuin (Holy Light) High School in Yokohama

A highly regarded Japanese school that focuses on excellence. On the same property, there is also a kindergarten, "Sayuri Kindergarten", which is also very popular among local families.



Kindergarten in Yokohama

### The Japanese secondary school "Seiko Gakuin" of Shizuoka

Open to a more modest population than in Yokohama. In these 4 institutions, the Brothers pay particular attention to the evangelizing dimensions of their mission.



A chapter is closing, but the mission continues. Indeed, three Brothers are still present in Yokohama. For several years, the decision to close the last community had become inevitable.

We must give thanks for all that has been sown by so many Brothers and Lay Collaborators over these 75 years. The mission will continue, in a different way, but the St. Francis Xavier District will maintain its bonds with the Mennaisian Family on site and with the Religious Corporation, recognized by the State of Japan.

## FRANCE: Future General House in Rennes

**The minutes of the 2024 General Chapter state: "The Chapter therefore decides to transfer the General House to Rennes (France) to a house that already belongs to the Congregation and that meets the needs of the General Administration."**



*The house and the entrance porch, St-Hélier Street side*

The Rennes house, often referred to by its address, 49 rue Saint-Hélier, is a former provincial house. Its size and location (in the city center near the bus and train stations) are well-suited for its new purpose. However, renovations are necessary and should begin soon. These will focus on accessibility for users (entrance, elevator), the layout of the premises, and the building's insulation.

The implementation of this important decision involves several aspects (sale of the Casa Generalizia in Rome, preparation of the house in Rennes, and the move). It therefore requires time, which will necessitate a residency of a few months in Ploërmel for the Brothers currently living in Rome who are destined for the Rennes community. The final destination for the Archives in Rome will be the Mother House in Ploërmel.



*Interior view: parking and garden. To the right, the small chapel*

## RWANDA – Gisenyi: Saint John Paul II School in Mbugangali

This year, in 2026, the school celebrated its 10th anniversary, marked by major improvements and notable improvements.

On February 2, 2016, the school opened its doors with 7 students and by the end of the year, it had 17 students, two teachers, and a Brother serving as a headmaster. In 2017, we had 3 kindergarten classes and 2 primary classes (one for first grade and another for second grade), with a total of 205 students and 6 teachers. In 2018, the school welcomed 365 students, from kindergarten through fifth grade. Since then, it has continued to thrive in the region and has become renowned and nationally recognized center. The top 17 candidates for the national secondary school leaving exams (PLE) are currently in seventh grade and will sit for these exams next year. All former sixth-grade students who have moved on to middle school are performing well, with no cases of repetition.



*First school building. The project involves adding a floor.*



*Project for the construction of a two-story building*

Currently, the school has 1,162 students distributed across 28 classes, including 6 kindergarten classes. Enrollment remains limited due to insufficient classrooms. Families are particularly attracted by the school's discipline, the academic standards, and the positive atmosphere and relationships that prevail in our school. The school leadership is inspired and guided by Mennaisian spirituality and pedagogy. The District, committed to its long-term viability and stability, hopes that the Mennaisian mission will continue to grow and develop.

**Brother Damien Habimana**

## UGANDA: Daughters of Providence of Nebbi



**Sister Gloria at the Child Protection and Safeguarding office**

"We embrace the Christian education of children and being attentive to the very poor, pastoral work, and needs arising from circumstances."



**Sister Gloria meets with a group as part of a Human Trafficking Prevention Campaign**

"The mission of the Daughters of Providence of Nebbi is spreading beyond Nebbi Providence Vocational School."



**Sister Christine leads a group within the framework of Pax Christi (conflict prevention)**

"The new evangelization calls us to reach out and beyond, finding creative ways of evangelizing as expressed in our actions."

Sister Louise Touchette



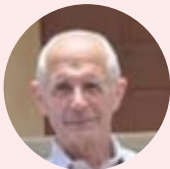
## Appointments for Formation Houses

During the last General Council meeting in May-June 2026, the Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, made several appointments to the Formation Houses. The previous Click Info had already announced the appointment of Brother Noël Mupenda as Director of the Yogyakarta Scholasticate. New appointments for Formation Houses:



**Brother Rony Pierre (Haiti)**  
Director of the Abidjan scholasticate  
(Jean de la Mennais Community)

**Brother Victor SAMBIANI (Togo)**  
Assistant Director of the Scholasticate  
Abidjan (Gabriel Deshayes Community)



**Brother Joseph BELLANGER (Haiti)**  
Master of Novices in Dapaong

**Brother Joslyn Gontrand (Haiti)**  
Director of the Postulate  
of Pétion-Ville



**Brother Olivier IGIRANEZA (Rwanda)**  
Director of the Nyundo Postulate

**Brother Fabianus LAGUR (Indonesia)**  
Director of the first year of Postulate  
in Yogyakarta



## Following Jesus, our elder brother

Living as brothers means knowing how to take care of one another. In the parable in Luke (Lk 10:25-37), the priest and the Levite see the man injured by the side of the road and pass by while the Samaritan sees him and is filled with compassion. What does he do then? He reaches out, tends to his wounds by pouring oil and wine, places him on his own animal and takes him to an inn. In fact, it is his compassionate gaze that drives him to see the other person in need of help, to get his hands dirty, and to take care of him. Very early on, the first Christians learned to speak the language of compassion. Indeed, when they learned that their brothers in Judea were suffering from famine, they decided to send help, each according to his means (Acts 11:29). Deacons, for their part, were appointed to take care of the most vulnerable, including Greek widows (Acts 6:1-7).

In our fraternal life in community, there are many opportunities to learn to speak the language of compassion: tending to a sick confrere, listening to another who is discouraged, offering our help to someone who is overburdened, comforting someone who is sad. In this way, fraternity is built through these small gestures that express our closeness, our thoughtfulness and our care for the most vulnerable. When we are willing to get our hands dirty, to interrupt our journey, to spend our time, to bear burdens, and to reach out to help others, we then learn, at the school of the Good Samaritan, to speak the language of compassion harmoniously, which makes us neighbours to our brother, not in words but through concrete acts of care.



Circular 322  
Full text

Circular 322, Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General



Brothers and young Mennaisians with Pope Leo XIV in Madrid - June 7, 2026

La Mennais

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