

News of the Director General

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Why Do We Renew Our Vows/Commitments Each year?

Dear Friends,

In the month of August, for many of us, especially in the Districts of the United States and Canada, is the time to renew our vows or commitments. August 15 and 22, in particular, on the feasts of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and her coronation in heaven, are the dates of choice to renew our covenant with the Lord and with the Institute, under the aegis and protection of our Heavenly Mother.

Why do we renew our vows and/or commitments every year? It seems to me that this is a question upon which it is good to reflect, in order to better understand the meaning of what we are doing and to avoid embarking mechanically on this action.

First, let us look at what takes place in other institutes of consecrated life regarding profession. Normally, in a religious community or congregation, after a period of novitiate, the member makes his¹ first vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience renewable each year for five years. In the sixth year, the member, after careful consideration and if accepted into this community, makes his *perpetual profession*. After this, there is no need to renew the vows every year, as they have been sealed and signed once and for all, unless the member desires to renew them symbolically, without official action, at the occasion, for example, of a golden or silver jubilee.

In a secular institute, *the profession*, although similar in essence, is experienced in a different context. The member of a secular institute lives his secular consecration comprising the three evangelical counsels in the world, where he must manage the challenges that this represents, on a daily basis. Unlike a member of a religious community that lives his consecration surrounded by this same community, the member of a secular institute lives his consecration alone in the midst of the world with less immediate concrete support, other than his monthly team meeting. The challenge that this represents is sufficient for the member to have to reposition himself each year in front of his commitments. Faced with new challenges and new signs of the times that may emerge in his life, is the member always ready to continue living his profession or his commitments? How will he meet these new challenges? How is he going to adjust to the new signs of the times that are presented to him and take on the inherent responsibilities?

In this way, by renewing his vows or commitments annually, in an official manner, the member has the opportunity to question himself about what he has done or shared with the Institute during the last year

¹ The masculine pronoun includes the feminine member as well.

and what he has planned to accomplish in the coming year. This awareness can only further motivate the member in his bond of belonging, as well as in the readjustments to be made to his profession or commitments, in order to adequately take on the responsibilities that it entails.

Thought of Father Parent

« Faithfulness is an essential quality of our covenant. Faithfulness is to covenant what the heart is to life... » (*Louis-Marie Parent omi*).

News of the DG

I would like to congratulate the new priests of our Institute who have been ordained up to date in 2020 : *Fr. Laurent HECTOR* of Haïti (January 18), *Fr. Joy MUTHAPPAN* of Kerala in India (June 18), *Fr. Aloysius C. ANTONY MARIYATHAS* and *Fr. Santhampillai JUDE RAVINDRAN* of Sri Lanka (July 30).

Let us rejoice in these new priests and let us pray for them and with them for a fruitful priestly ministry.

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place August 3-5, 2020. Thank you for your prayers.

Birthdays

August 5, *Fr. Yvon Carpentier* of Canada, former Director General.

August 8, *Mr. Guy Veer* of Canada, Administrator of Successions.

August 8, *Mrs. Ynocencia Ozoria* of the Dominican Republic, present Councilor as an Associate Member on the Central Council.

August 19, *Fr. Jomanas Eustache* of Haïti, present Councilor on the Central Council.

August 26, *Fr. François Hamel* of Canada, former Director General.

Anniversaries of Marriage

August 20, *Mr. Juan SEVERINO* and *Mrs. Jenara DE SERA* of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Stability

August 12, *Fr. Michael CRAIG* of the United States will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

August 22, *Fr. Pierre MAROIS*, *Fr. Roland POITRAS* and *Fr. Gilles POULIN* of Canada will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute

August 12, *Fr. Andrew P. MAYER* of Canada will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

August 12, *Mr. Louis PAQUET* and *Mrs. Gisèle COUTURE* of Canada will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as for all members who will be celebrating whatever anniversary during the month of August. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General