

News of the Director General

Volume 11 ♦ Number 3

September 2020

What is the Mission of Voluntas Dei?

Dear Friends,

I thought I would dedicate this September letter to the *mission* of our Institute. When Father Parent lived among us, he knew how to hammer out clearly all the aspects of our mission and charism. He showed us the difference between the mission of a secular institute and that of a religious community. He clarified for us our own specificity so that each of us knew how to orient his/her decisions and personal choices according to his teachings and our *Constitutions*.

Nowadays, new generations have come to join our ranks. These members have not all had the opportunity to know Father Parent. Although they received formal training and formation, they do not always grasp the essential nuances to be made with regard to the specificity of our group, first as members of a secular institute, and more specifically, as members of the Voluntas Dei Institute. Our specific charism and mission are not always integrated within themselves as second nature.

As Father Parent loved to refer to the *Constitutions* to guide us, let us see briefly what the *Constitutions* say in Chapter 1 concerning the charism and the mission of our Institute. The **charism** of the Voluntas Dei Institute is expressed as follows: *to be, in the manner of the Virgin of the Annunciation, the instrument of Christ carrying out the will of the Father, in the reality of the present moment, in the midst of the world, « wherever Christ has His rights »*. In fact, following the example of Christ Jesus who came on earth to do in all things the Father's will, the members have for **mission** « to accomplish the will of God as it is made known to them in His Word, in the events, and in the decisions of the lawful authority ». Thanks to the support of the Institute, they learn « to rely generously on the action the Holy Spirit, who alone can form in them the filial attitudes of docility and availability to the will of the Father. »

It is in the example of Mary and under her maternal protection that the members commit themselves to live their mission inspired by the charism of foundation mentioned above. Consequently, the motto of the Institute has been, since the beginning: *Voluntas Dei per Mariam Immaculatam*.

As members of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei, it appears clearly that our priority is to discern and accomplish in all things the will of God in our lives. We can achieve this, as indicated above, by following the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, our *Constitutions*, the authorities in place, and by listening to the Spirit through the events that arise in our lives. Add to all this our spirituality of the 5-5-5 that marked the life of our Founder as well as all his writings.

Unlike a member of a religious congregation who relies above all on authorities to understand the will of God in the tasks entrusted to him, the member of a secular institute relies first of all on the daily re-reading of « the signs of the times » through the incessant presence to God in prayer, in the midst of the world. What do we mean by « signs of the times »? It means to be able to recognize « the veiled

message of God » through the events that arise in our lives in the present moment and in the world in which we live. God is not disconnected from our history. He incorporates Himself there. He again incarnates Himself today, showing us the route to be able to accomplish His plan of love in our humanity, according to our personal talents and means that we have at our disposal.

Dear members, I wish you to meditate deeply on the meaning of our mission through the *Constitutions*, and within our present moment, whether alone or in teams, in order that we become better at aligning our lives according to the will of God in the slipstream of our own identity as members of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei.

Thought of Father Parent

« Our name, 'Voluntas Dei', is already for each of us an invitation to do whatever pleases God . . . To unite our actions completely to the good pleasure of God, is to become holy, to work for the salvation of souls, to obtain the glory of God; it is to be ourselves praises of his glory.

The 'Voluntas Dei' must quickly become saints. The Church calls out for us and we must be ready. »
(*Louis-Marie Parent, omi*, January 1963).

News of the DG

Our sincerest congratulations to Fathers *Francis Stephen MICHAEL I.V.Dei* of Tamil Nadu (India) and *Joseph OKOKO I.V.Dei* of Canada who have obtained their stability and incardination in the our Institute.

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Father *Serge Laroche I.V.Dei*, that occurred on August 17th. His funerals were held in Victoriaville on Saturday, August 22nd. He leaves behind in sorrow a number of brothers and sisters, namely Father Mario Laroche I.V.Dei (ex Director General), Michel Laroche I.V.Dei and Marc Laroche I.V.Dei.

Birthdays

September 1st, Father *Innasi Mudiyanpan* of Tamil Nadu, currently Councillor at the Central Council.

September 6th, *Renée Croteau* of Canada, Associate Member and volunteer at the Central House.

September 21st, *Denis Fortier* of Canada, Director of Administrative Services.

I invite you to pray for these persons, as well as for all others that will be celebrating an anniversary of any kind during the month of September. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General