

News of the Director General

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Take a moment, reflect and move forward!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have completed 11 years of my service to our Institute as the Director General. When I look back to the past, I feel only one thing: God's power, grace and guidance; as per the name of our Institute: *Voluntas Dei - not voluntas mei*. I started with so much visions, plans, hopes, and ideas. Coming to the achievement, it is not at all my wish but God's will has been done.



I could not travel anywhere for the last 19 months. Everything was crippled by this pandemic. So much that we planned and hoped for were completely abandoned. These helped me to discern God's will through his word, especially in Acts 16: 6 - 10. Paul and his companions prepared one direction, but the Spirit guided them differently.

We all have accepted our own call from God. How many of us still live in the same spirit of the first day of embracing our call? When I was elected second time, I thought that I have the experience of the first term therefore I can do much better during this term. Finally, I feel the discernment of the Holy Spirit: " you are not the savior of the world; you are only an instrument of Jesus Christ who called you to continue the work started by Jesus Himself ". This year I am completing 30 years of my first profession in the Institute and if I recall my secular consecration, I failed many times to realize, " *Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.* " (John, 6: 27).

Father Parent, our founder, has given us a profound spirituality with proper exercises to develop a positive attitude in the present moment and to do our activities according to the will of God in our own milieu as consecrated persons. It looks very easy but it is really impossible to practice unless and otherwise we integrate our soul with God who constantly calls us with a true examination of conscience.

Heavenly Father, send us your Spirit to discern your holy will and to have the serenity to differentiate my wishes from your will.

Thought of Father Parent

“Do well what is asked of you each day and you will arrive exactly upon the landing where God wants for you for eternity.” (*Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.*).

News from the DG

During the month of July, the Voluntas Dei Institute celebrates its 63rd anniversary of foundation. Likewise, the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate are celebrating their 69th anniversary of foundation. Let us give thanks to God for these two Institutes.

Birthdays

4 July, Fr. *Manuel CORNEJO GARATE*, Director of the District-in-Formation of Chile.

12 July, Father *Louis-Marie PARENT*, our Founder, would celebrate his birthday. Let us, on this day, think of him on his 12th anniversary of departure to heaven.

22 July, Mr. *Paul LAVIGNE*, an affiliate and volunteer for a long time at the Central House.

23 July, Mr. *Frank Luis DE LA CRUZ*, deacon and member of the Central Council.

25 July, I, *James DUNSTAN*, your humble servant. Please keep me in your prayers on that day.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as for all other members who celebrate their Birthdays in July. May God continue to bless them and accompany them on their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General