

The voice of the central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 1

January 2005

Central House

See the photos of the blessing of the new central house at the following website:

<http://www.voluntasdei.org/Albums-Photos/Benediction/page.html>

Administrative Services

René Désilets went back to the Dominican Republic on December 13, to serve as pastor of a parish near the Santo Domingo airport. Since 2002, René had been with the Institute's administrative service, with the districts' and regions' financial statements and budget estimates portfolio. In this capacity he helped directors get the funds needed to build or expand several houses of the Institute. Thank you, René, for work well done!

Central Council

The next central council meeting will be held February 4-5, 2005. Other meetings are scheduled for May 13-14 and July 28-30 (plenary meeting). We recommend that you submit requests to the council at least one month prior to the meeting, to give the councillors the time necessary to study all the pertinent documents.

Death

I invite you to pray for Fr. Louis Roche from Indian Region. He past away December 26, 2004. He began his aspirate on December 21, 1982 and got stability on August 22, 1990. He was 81 years old.

Tsunamis

You read newspaper about tsunamis in Asian South East. They swept India and Sri Lanka. Fr. Thannikot phoned me to say that our members were safe, but some families of our Indian seminarians were afflicted. I did not hear from Sri Lanka.

Birthdays

Please pray for the following confreres who have birthdays, this month:

January 13: *Lloyd Shanthikumar*, director of the Sri Lanka Region. Shanthikumar and his council are studying the feasibility of a possible foundation in the Philippines. Shanthikumar made his studies there, and had maintained contacts.

January 22: *George J. Hazler*, director of the United States Region. George is also president of the American Conference of Secular Institutes.

January 26: *Michael Craig*. Michael is a member of the central council, and he has expended much energy in bringing our Institute to Ethiopia and Uganda. At the last central council meeting he was appointed to chair an international ad hoc committee (two members per country) for follow up to the Assembly General.

François Hamel
Director General

The voice of the central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 2

February 2005

Central House

On January 9 members of the Voluntas Dei Trois-Rivières Sector were welcomed at the Central House for a fellowship supper. We had the joy of having Father Parent join us, for this fraternal event. At the end of the meal he blessed us and then asked all the priests present to bless him.

India and Sri Lanka

As I mentioned in January, no member of the Institute was hurt or killed in the tsunami which devastated south-east Asia. We thank the Lord for this. I want to thank all those who forwarded donations to the central administration to help the families of our members affected by the catastrophe.

Statistics

Every year the Vatican statistics office asks us to submit the Institute's statistics to them. As of December 31, 2004, we had 812 members, compared to 791 in 2003, an increase of 2.7%.

Bishop:	01
Priests incardinated in the Institute:	107
Priests incardinated in a diocese:	33
Deacons incardinated in the Institute:	04
Deacons incardinated in a diocese:	01
Celibate laymen:	31
Major seminarians:	74
Married persons:	561

Grouping by country gives the following:

Canada :	147	Haiti :	56
Chile :	29	India :	168
Colombia :	18	Italy :	02
Cuba :	03	Laos :	01
Dominican Republic :	244	Scotland :	01
Ecuador:	05	Singapore :	01
Ethiopia :	04	Sri Lanka :	85
Guadeloupe :	02	United States :	44
		Venezuela :	02

Central Council

The central council meeting dates are February 4 and 5, at the central house.

Absence

I shall be in Rome from February 24 to March 8 to attend the executive meeting of the World conference of Secular Institutes. I shall take this opportunity to meet with the officials of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life.

François Hamel
Director General

The voice of the central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 3

March 2005

World Conference of Secular Institutes

I am writing this from Rome where I am now attending the annual executive meeting of the World Council of Secular Institutes. The executive is composed of twelve directors general, and our task is to study the situation of secular institutes throughout the world, and relations with the Roman congregations. Next Monday I meet with Archbishop Nesti, the secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life.

Central Council

The central council met from February 4 to 6. Here are a few highlights of the meeting:

Guillermo Perez Montoya has been appointed assistant regional director for Colombia-Ecuador.

For several years now some young men from the Congo have been asking to join the Institute. One of them, Guillaume Mabilu, was sent to Haiti to continue his studies. He had been journeying in the Institute since the beginning of the 1990s. Jacques Harvey has been appointed to accompany the group. After the council met with Jacques, and following the positive recommendation of some of the Congo bishops, the council has accepted 15 candidates to aspirancy. Jacques Harvey has been named in charge of this foundation, and is their go-between with the central council.

Pierre Hubert of the Canadian District has resigned the editorship of *The Present Moment*. Raymonde and Fernand Turgeon have accepted the position.

Web Site

The Institute now has an official web site. You can view it by going to:

<http://www.voluntasdei.org>

If you click the “Member’s area” you can have access to even more information. This space is reserved EXCLUSIVELY for the members of the Institute. For access to it, you need to give two pieces of information; this information is confidential. You know that we are a secular institute, and we must live our secularity in this area, too. “Member’s area” space is still in construction, and will be improved over time. You can reach it with this information:

user name: ivdei2005en
password : Imparent5553

I insist on the fact that the above information are private domain and that only members of the Institute can have access to them. This means that the information you get there, you keep to yourself.

I thank in a very special way Roger Corneau of the Canadian District who has been working on the web page for a few years now. Quite a few hours, days, weeks and months of unrelenting work have gone into creating this site, and he certainly deserves to be kept in our prayers, for this. THANK YOU, ROGER!

Patron Feast

I invite the members of the Institute to celebrate the feast of the Annunciation, patron feast of the Institute. Since March 25 falls on Good Friday, the feast has been transferred to April 4. I hope that all the members of the Institute will take this opportunity to become aware of the importance of renewing our original YES to the Lord.

François Hamel
Director General

The voice of the central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 4

April 2005

EASTER

For a few days now we have been celebrating the central element of our faith: “He has been raised from the dead and now goes ahead of you...” (Mt. 28:7). These words of the angel are so consoling, when he affirms that Christ goes ahead of us. We belong to a secular institute, and are men and women of the third millennium, living our faith between the day of Easter and Christ’s glorious coming in the present moment. That time is given to us to “create peace and fellowship in Jesus Christ.” With Christ’s resurrection, all is possible: peace, fraternity, freedom... life! To each of you, may the Risen Christ dwell in your hearts!

WEB SITE

Last month I announced the launching of our website. Comments received are filled with praise for the quality of the setup. However, if you come across an error here or there, be kind enough to point it out to the central administration secretary, Ms. Marie Meunier, who will see to having the correction(s) made.

THE PRESENT MOMENT

I assume that you have all received the January 2005 edition of the central administration’s journal, *The Present Moment*. An error has crept up, page 13: those celebrating their ordination or wedding anniversaries are not celebrating 25 years, but 35, and the journal’s policy was to underline golden and silver anniversaries. And so, the following should have appeared, instead:

- 25 years of priesthood:* Lloyd Shantikumar (Sri Lanka)
- 25 years of marriage:* Carmel and Rajasingham Duke (Sri Lanka)
Ayya and Inghassy Susai Vaz (India)
Ityane and Terfa Dinka (Ethiopia)
Sherlay and Jerome Francis (India)
Sahaya and Francis Jebamalai (India)
Luz Maria and José Martinez (Dominican Republic)
Yagappan and Leela Marceline (India)
Lidia nad José Navarrette (Chile)
Mariam and Joseph Thengapurakkal (India)
- 50 years of marriage:* Rosa L. And Angel M. Araujo R. (Dominican Republic)

Our best wishes to them for their witness to fidelity!

CONGRATULATIONS

On April 10, to *Leo Grégoire*, member of the central council and secretary general of the Institute.

On April 26, to *André Côté*, director of the Canadian District.

I suggest that you offer each of them a spiritual bouquet of prayer for their fidelity in carrying out their appointed tasks and their availability to the Institute.

François Hamel
Director General

The voice of the central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 5

May 2005

Holy Father

We learnt of the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2. He left his mark on the Church, these past twenty-six years. I want to remind you that the Supreme Pontiff is the first superior to whom we owe obedience (Const., 133). It is appropriate that “[a]t the death of the Holy Father and of the local bishop, each member offers special prayers for them” (Const., 100). John Paul II was a giant from every point of view, but especially at the level of the faith.

On April 19, the Church was given a new pope in the person of Benedict XVI. He is the first superior to whom we owe obedience.

Central House

On April 24 André Côté, director of the Canadian District, and Michel Villeneuve, director of formation for Canada, were welcomed at the central house where they attended a meeting of the Trois-Rivières Sector.

Website

I invite to regularly cheque the Institute’s website, where new texts are regularly added, especially in the section reserved to the membership.

Central Council

The next central council meeting will take place May 13 and 14.

Happy Birthday!

Jacques Harvey, the director of the Vocation and Mission Office, will be celebrating his birthday May 17. Since his coming to the central house, last June, Jacques has brought laughter and joy to all. He is a man of service.

May 27 will be the birthday of *Claire Lafrenière*, financial secretary of the central administration. We extend to her our best wishes and thank her for the good work she performs for the Institute. She works closely with Paul-Alain Monpas, our director of administrative services.

François Hamel
Director General

Voice of the Central...

Volume 4 ♦ Number 6

June 2005

Welcomed at the Central House

May 13-14, members of the Central Council;

May 15-20, Cecile Davidson Corneau came to work on the archives;

May 20, Louisette and Renald Tremblay of the Canadian District;

May 30-31, Guillermo Perez Montoya (Colombia), Fernand Gaumond (Canada), Gabriel Levesque (Canada).

Ordinations

Jean-Gérald Lominy of the Canadian District was ordained a priest on May 15;

Julio Cesar Veras Gomez of the District of Altagracia, Dominican Republic, was ordained a priest on June 5.

Jean-Gérald and Julio Cesar « united to the Bishop and under his authority, apply yourself to gathering together the faithful within the unity of one family to guide them by Christ and in the Spirit to God, the Father ». May you be Voluntas Dei priests by living the spirituality of the three 5's.

Happy Birthday

On June 6 to *René Désilets* who was the Director General of the Institute from 1970 to 1980. He is now a pastor in a parish in the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

I forgot in a previous edition the birthday of *Mario Laroche* who was the Director General from 1980 to 1992. His birthday was May 18. Mario has just accepted the responsibility of being the co-ordinator « in solidum » of a number of parishes in the Diocese of Amos, Canada.



François Hamel
Director General

Voice of the Central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 7

July 2005

Central Council

The central council will be holding its plenary meeting July 28 to 30; our councillors from Chile and Sri Lanka will be with us for this meeting.

The O.M.M.I.

The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate will be holding their assembly general from July 3 to 17. The assembly theme is: *Let us be bearers of hope and light in today's society*. Our prayers go with them.

Happy Anniversary

On July 2 the entire Institute is celebrating the *47th anniversary of our foundation*. A Thank You to Father Parent for his docility to the Spirit. May this anniversary be for all of us an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to God.

Happy Birthday

On July 4, to *Manuel Cornejo Garate*, director of the Chile Region and member of the Institute's central council.

On July 12, to *Father Louis-Marie Parent*, founder of the Institute. Father will be celebrating his 95th birthday. Let us give thanks to God for all that Father has been and is to us, and for the new path he blazed in founding the Institute.

On July 22, to *Paul-René Lavigne*, as errand-man.

On July 23, to *Marie Meunier*, secretary of the central administration. She does wonderful work despite the fact that she became a grandmother, last June!

On July 25, to *James Dunstan Selvaratnam* of Sri Lanka, who is a member of the Institute's central council.



François Hamel
Director General

Voice of the Central...

Volume 4 ♦ Number 8

August 2005

The central house had a visit from the following:

July 7-11: **Paul Boulay** (Dominican Republic)
July 7: **Laurier Albert** (Canada)
July 7: **Doreen and Jean-Guy Brillon** (Canada)
July 11-31: **Dunstan James Selvaratnam** (Sri Lanka)
July 25-30: **Manuel Cornejo Garate** (Chile)
July 28-31: **The members of the Central Council**

The Assembly General of the Oblate Missionaries

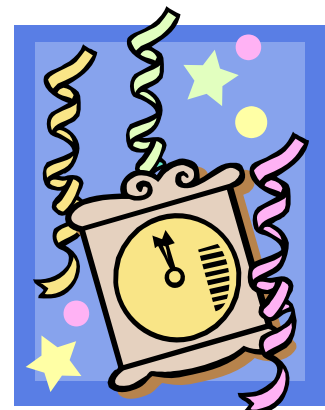
The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate held their assembly general in the Québec City region from July 3 to 17. A new president/director general was elected, **Mrs Claire Nantel**, as well as a new board of directors composed of:

Mariette Vallières, vice president/director general (Canada)
Judith Alvarado Peralta (Bolivia)
Marguerite Bilodeau (Canada)
Theresa Cademartori (United States)
Marie-Paule Malenfant (Canada)
Thresiamma Mathew (India)
Réjeanne Mathieu (Canada)
Jeannette Mougnot (France)
Odette Riverin (Canada)
Madeline Vas (Mauritius)

Our congratulations to them all who have accepted to serve, and the assurance of our prayer and fraternal collaboration in spreading the common spirituality given to us by Father Louis-Marie Parent, O.M.I.

Happy Birthday to:

Wilner Fils-Aimé, director of the Haiti District (August 4)
Yvon Carpentier, director general from 1992 to 1998 (August 5).
Yvon lives at the central house and spares no time in helping the Vocation and Mission Office.
Fernand Turgeon, member of the central council (August 6)



Raymonde Jetté-Turgeon, member of the central council (August 9).

Fernand and Raymonde represent the married couples, on the central council.

I ask you to keep me in your prayers, August 26, which is my birthday.

François Hamel
Director General

Voice of the Central...

Volume 4 ♦ Number 9

September 2005

Visitors to the Central House...

August 1 and 2: **James Dunstan Selvaratnam** (Sri Lanka)

August 2: **Raymond Pearson** (Haiti)

August 2 to 8: **John Flannigan** (Scotland)

August 26 and 27: **Gerald Michaud** (Canada)

New Fax Number

Please note that the United States Region has a new **FAX** number:

1-650-941-6309

Committee on Formation

The central council has appointed Laurier Albert director of the Committee on Formation for the Institute. He shall be assisted by Cécile Davidson Corneau who has already given several years to the committee. Membership on the committee shall be completed eventually.

Happy Birthday

September 1, to **Joseph Thannikkot Variath**, director of the India Region.

François Hamel
Director General



Voice of the Central...

Volume 4 ♦ Number 10

October 2005

Visitors to the Central House...

September 12: *Marcel Forest* (Canada)

September 14: *Guillermo Perez Montoya* (Colombia)

September 13-14 and 21-22: *Selvaratnam James Dunstan* (Sri Lanka), member of the Central Council, before returning home to Sri Lanka

Major Seminarians

According to reports submitted to the central administration for the Institute's central council plenary meeting, we have 64 candidates for the priesthood:

Canada:	01
Chile:	01
Colombia:	03
Dominican Republic:	15
Haiti:	11
India:	26
Sri Lanka:	07

Happy Birthday

October 12, to *Pilar Maximinio Matos Sanchez*, director of Altigracia District, Dominican Republic.

François Hamel
Director General



Voice of the Central

Volume 4 ♦ Number 11

November 2005

FATHER PARENT

Your prayers are especially requested for Father Parent. He fell twice, in early October: his legs are weakening. He was transferred to the Oblate infirmary at Richelieu, on Montréal's south shore, on October 5; at the infirmary the Oblates have nursing personnel to care for the patients. I visited him on October 20, and I found him in a good mood... he even joked as he used to. As of now we do not know whether he will be returning to Trois-Rivières. When I tell him that his legs are weak, he answers that all is weak, in him.

DECEASED MEMBERS, IN THE PAST YEAR

Louis Roche, India, priest with stability, died December 26, 2004.

Fernand Lachance, Canada, priest with stability, died February 13, 2005.

Angelina Nakkungu, wife of Emmanuel Kasiriye, Uganda, aspirant, died in March 2005.

Andres De Los Santos, husband of Femina Reyes, Dominican Republic, committed member, died March 17, 2005.

Livia Batista, wife of Confesor Camilo, Dominican Republic, committed member, died May 10 2005.

Nelson Varela, husband of Lidia Maria Pacheco, Dominican Republic, committed member with stability, died September 21, 2005.

Betania Rodriguez, wife of Elias de Leon, Dominican Republic, sommitted member, died September 25 2005.

Vareethadima Abraham Thulasi, wife of Manuel Vareethadima, India, died October 6, 2005.

On October 24, 2005, *Father Paul Verel Antoine* of Haiti, died at he age of 54, of stomach cancer. He was hospitalised 14 days. His funeral was held in the cathedral at Jérémie. May he rest in peace.

*“This is the will of my Father,
that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in him,
shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day”* (Jn. 6:40)

REMINDER - WEB SITE

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François Hamel
Director General

Voice of the Central...

Volume 4 ♦ Number 12

December 2005

Were received at the central house

November 13-18: *Cécile and Roger Corneau*, who came to do work in the archives and on the Institute's website.

November 15: *Jean Lacaille*, of the Dominican Republic.



Father Parent

I mentioned last month that Father Parent had been transferred to the Oblate Fathers' infirmary in Richelieu, on Montréal's South Shore. While his health has not declined any further, he is still residing there because the house is better adapted to the needs of elderly Oblates. Father Parent's postal and e-mail addresses remain the same. The e-mail address is: lsparent@globetrotter.net

Web Page

Some members have raised questions about the Institute's website, and wonder about the question of discretion asked for the password to enter into the page reserved for members. This practice is common to every secular and religious institute, as well as to a number of other organisations. The membership directory is on that web page. Without a password, or sharing it, all the members are exposed to being solicited for all kinds of things. Besides, discretion I called for regarding the membership of those in certain foreign countries which are not sympathetic to Catholicism. As to the other documents found on that page, they are not secret but have to do with the inside life of the Institute. One must exercise discernment.

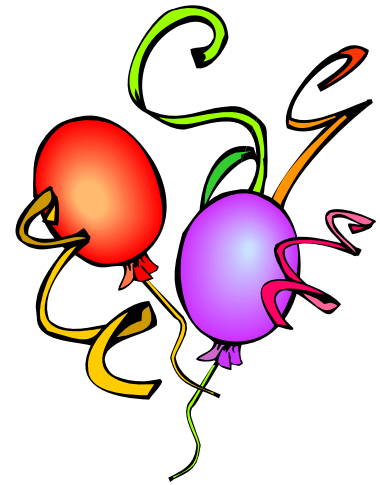
Another question has to do with birthdays. It stands to reason that I cannot list all the members who have a birthday on a given date, otherwise there would be no fewer than sixty of them to be noted, each month. The policy on birthdays has been to underline the birthday of members of the central council, the central administration personnel, former directors general, and former district and regional directors.

Happy Birthday...

December 15, to *Paul-Alain Monpas*, member of the central and director of administrative services.

December 25, to *Alonso de Jesus Posada Echeverry*, director of the Colombia Region.

December 28, to *Jean-Paul Chiasson*, member of the central council and assistant director general.



Christmas

I take this opportunity to extend to you my best wishes for Christmas. The mystery of the birth of Christ which we celebrate December 25 reminds us of our consecration in the midst of the world. Through our consecration, may we extend in the world the presence of Jesus who spent his life doing good to all, especially to the poor and the rejected of society.

François Hamel
Director General