

# The Voice of the Central

Volume 9 ♦ Number 1

January 2010

## **The Present Moment**

The 2010 edition of the central administration's journal, *The Present Moment*, has already been sent to the district and regional directors. This edition is more focused on the Assembly General to be held June 6 to 19. Another special edition is dedicated to Father Louis-Marie Parent.

## **Director General's Visit**

I shall be visiting the members of the Institute in Colombia January 4 to 15. The region has been growing since it was established.

## **Happy Birthday**

January 22, to **George Hazler**, director of the United States District-in-Formation.

François Hamel  
Director General

# The Voice of the Central

Volume 9 ♦ Number 2

February 2010

## Statistics 2009

As every year I lately had to produce statistics for the Bureau of Statistics of the Vatican. As of December 31, 2009, there were 857 members in the Voluntas Dei Secular Institute. The year before, we were 864, which means a decrease of 7 members. The membership breakdown is as follows:

- 177 priests
- 004 permanent deacons incardinated in the Institute
- 056 single laymen
- 080 major seminarians
- 540 married persons associated to the Institute

The Institute is spread throughout the world. I indicated in parentheses the district to which certain members belong:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Canada             | 161 |
| Chile              | 032 |
| Colombia           | 017 |
| Cuba (Central)     | 004 |
| Dominican Republic | 256 |
| Ecuador (Central)  | 002 |
| Ethiopia           | 010 |
| France (Haiti)     | 004 |
| Germany (U.S.A.)   | 001 |
| Guadeloupe (Haiti) | 002 |
| Haiti              | 037 |
| India              | 151 |
| Italy (Central)    | 001 |
| Japan (U.S.A.)     | 001 |
| Laos (Central)     | 002 |
| Scotland (Central) | 001 |
| Sri Lanka          | 091 |
| Trinidad (U.S.A.)  | 008 |
| United States      | 076 |

## **2010 Assembly General**

A U.S. delegate to the 2010 Assembly General, Fr. John P. O'Neil will be unable to attend because of illness. His substitute is Mr. Gregory Kremer.

## **Visit of the Director General**

I shall be going to Ethiopia in early March. It shall be a first visit to the country and, for the members there, an opportunity to welcome their Director General. The Institute has been in Ethiopia since the beginning of 2002. Michael Craig, who was then a member of the central council, had been in contact with people interested in the Institute. Last summer we accepted two candidates to the seminary and they were sent to Sri Lanka for their philosophy and theology studies, and for training in the spirituality of the 5-5-5.

## **Death**

Mr. Adriano Alcantara of the Dominican Republic, widower of Mrs. Belgica Vasquez and a member with stability, died January 12. Our prayers accompany him in his passage to eternal life.

François Hamel  
Director General

# The Voice of the Central...

Volume 9 ♦ Number 3

March 2010

## Visit

In a few days' time I shall be visiting our members in Ethiopia. This is the first visit to that country by a director general. Two seminarians have already been sent to Sri Lanka for their philosophy and theology studies, while deepening their understanding and experience of the 5-5-5. The presence of the Institute in Ethiopia goes back to 2001 when several Ethiopians asked to join the Institute. In April 2004 Archbishop Souraphiel gave his permission for us to establish in Addis Ababa.

## District in Formation

The Chile Region is to be established as a district in formation on March 25. Congratulations, and especially our prayers for all the members of the Institute in Chile.

## Web Site

The Institute's web page has been updated. The updating will no be done regularly, in the future. On our site you will find the following official documents:

- The Constitutions
- The Formation Guides: Aspirancy, Probation, and Profession/Commitments
- The Present Moment
- Central Council Newsletter

Just go to [www.voluntasdei.org](http://www.voluntasdei.org)

Then you must go to the place reserved for the members. Please note that we have had to change the user name and the password. On the other hand this is an advantage to us since both user name and password will be the same for the three languages used in the Institute.

**User Name: Imparent555**  
**Password: IVDei958**

## **Death**

Alphonsine Goulet of Canada died February 8, 2010. She was an associate member of the Institute, with stability, and the wife of Lorenzo Lamontagne.

## **Patronal Feast**

Our patronal feast is on March 25. The feast of the Annunciation reminds us of our own “incarnation” in the world and our secularity. “Do not fear, Mary. You have found favour with God.” (Luke 1:30) In the very heart of our human involvement we can hear in us the voice of the angel saying: “Do not fear.” I invite all the teams to celebrate – in their own way – the patronal feast of the Institute.

François Hamel  
Director General

# The Voice of the Central...

Volume 9 ♦ Number 4

April 2010

## Ethiopia

I am just back from visiting Ethiopia, where I met extraordinary people who want to deepen their spirituality of the 5-5-5 because it gives meaning to their lives. Two young men were missing, though, as they have already left to study philosophy and theology at the major seminary in Kandy, Sri Lanka, where they live with the Institute's major seminarians.

## Death

Mrs. **Magdalena Luna Peña Fawcett** passed away February 2, 2010 in the Dominican Republic, at the age of 67. She was the wife of Rafael Fawcett. They were committed members in the Institute. Mrs. Fawcett has gone to be with Father Parent and the other members of the Institute who are now living the fullness of the presence of God.

## Happy Birthday...

To **Leo Grégoire**, April 10. Leo has been Secretary General of the Institute since 1998, and he carries out his duty faithfully. He is also the English translator of most of the documents of the Institute, and the majority of the forthcoming Assembly General have been given to him for translation. Besides this, he is also a living memory of the history of the Institute.

To **Cécile Davidson-Corneau**, April 14. Cécile is Archivist of the Central Administration. She has spent an enormous amount of time arranging and classifying all our archives. She performs a colossal task, besides all the services she renders the Institute. Following the Institute's fiftieth anniversary, Cécile set to work writing the history of the Institute, to be published shortly.

To **Sylvie Ferland**, April 22. Sylvie is the housekeeper-cook of the Central House, and all who pass by the House know about her sense of welcoming others and her readiness to respond to all requests.

To **André Côté**, April 26. André is into his second term as Canadian District Director, at this time.

## **Easter**

The feast of Easter leads us to the central mystery of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is no longer in the tomb, “he is elsewhere...” on each of our paths... at the heart of secularity!

François Hamel  
Director General

# The Voice of the Central

Volume 9 ♦ Number 5

May 2010

## Central Council and Assembly General

The central council met on April 9 and 10. Its next meeting will take place on June 3 and 4, just before the Assembly General, in order to clear the agenda. I ask you to pray for the success of the coming Assembly General that is to take place from June 6 to 19. The Assembly will be held at the Ursuline Spiritual Resource Centre, 20 rue des Ursulines, Loretteville, QC G2B 3W7, Canada.

I have just learned that Pierre-Maxis Paul of Haiti will not be able to attend the Assembly General. His substitute is Madelon Eustache.

## Story of the Institute

In line with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute, the Celebrations Committee had suggested that we write a story of the Institute. Unfortunately, the project could not meet the deadline of July, 2008. Thanks to Cécile Davidson-Corneau and her team of collaborators, the history project is now complete and available in the Institute's three official languages: French, English, and Spanish. The district and regional directors will shortly receive a CD version as well a hard copy of the story will be given at **the** Assembly General. It shall be their responsibility to ensure that all the members get a copy. It seems to me that this text should be integrated with the other texts on initial formation, so that newcomers to the Institute have a chance to learn about this facet of the Institute. The document is available on the Web page of the Institute.

I remind you that you have access to our website:

[www.voluntasdei.org](http://www.voluntasdei.org)

To open the section reserved to the members of the Institute, you need to know:

the user name: Imparent555

the password: IVDei1958

Please not the capital letters in the password.



## **Anniversary of the death of Father Parent**

On May 17, 2009, our Founder returned to the Father. A Mass will be celebrated at the shrine of Our Lady of the Cape on May 17, at 11:00 A.M. "He has sown far afield, and he continues to ensure that his work continues." I invite every district and region to remember Father Parent, for example, by offering a Mass for the repose of his soul.

## **My Father's Death**

A grateful thank you to all the members of the Institute who tendered their sympathy to me and my sisters on the occasion of my father's death, March 24. You supported us in your own way. Many priests celebrated the Eucharist for his soul's repose. It warms the heart, to feel such solidarity.

## **Death of Father Pépin**

Father Lucien Pépin, O.M.I. died on April 13 at the age of 77 and 10 months. He had been Father Parent's right-hand man at the beginning of the Institute. The first confreres remember him cordially and speak of him with much respect. Please keep him in your prayers.

## **Ordination**

**Vicente Humberto Morocho Corrales** of Ecuador will be ordained a priest on May 8 by Bishop Yarza of Guayaquil. Vicente is the first Ecuadorian to be ordained in our Institute. Congratulations and union in prayer on this special occasion in the life of Vicente and the Institute.

## **Happy Birthday...**

To **Mario Laroche**, May 18. He was Director General from 1980 to 1992.

To **Mrs. Claire Lafrenière** who is well-known to our regional and district directors. Mrs. Lafrenière is the accounting technician for the Central Administration.

François Hamel  
Director General

# La voix du central

Volume 9 ♦ Numéro 6

June 2010

This is my last letter to you as director general. Every month I have written to keep you abreast of the life of the Institute worldwide.

It was a great pleasure for me to serve the Institute, these twelve years. I learned much as I met our members throughout the world. I thank you all, and I shall continue to carry you in my heart.

## Assembly General

I have just learned that Alonso Posada Echeverry, the director of the Colombia Region has fractured his arm and will be unable to attend the Assembly, and that his substitute, Jaime Henao Arroyave is unable to come due to his mother's serious illness.

The director of the Haiti District, too, has sent me a message saying that the substitute there, Madelon Eustache, will be unable to attend due to problems he has with obtaining a visa.

You shall be able to follow the Assembly General because the reports presented will be available on our website the day after presentation:

[www.voluntasdei.org](http://www.voluntasdei.org)

User name: Imparent555

Password: IVDei1958 (note the capital letters)

You will find the documents in the **Basic documents which supply orientation and reflection** sub-menu.

## Happy Birthday

On June 6 to René Désilets who was director general of the Institute from 1970 to 1980. René is actually a missionary in the Dominican Republic.

Blessings to you all!

François Hamel  
Director General