

# The Present Moment

Volume 13

2012



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## FROM THE EDITOR ...



by *Raymonde Jetté and Fernand Turgeon*

Dear Readers,

What a joy to connect with you again in order to present to you the *The Present Moment*, 2012, having as its theme the team: «... the requisite place for living and for listening to the Word of God, the place for an ongoing reading of the signs of the times, and for the discernment of the will of God. The team is a place of choice for exercising hospitality, love and spiritual and apostolic formation. » Const. Art. 37

The message of the Director General is consecrated to this theme that is fundamental to us. The journal, *The Present Moment*, is also a place for sharing the lived lives of the members of the Institute. That is why you will be able to read in it the witnesses of a number of members from different regions who are experiencing the richness of team life.

We thank the collaborators who have contributed to the content and the presentation of this issue.

Enjoy!

### Internet Sites to be consulted...



Voluntas Dei Institute:

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

The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate:

[www.ommi-is.org](http://www.ommi-is.org)

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate:

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

The Missionary Recluses:

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

Canadian Conference of Secular Institutes:

[www.ccis-ccis.ca](http://www.ccis-ccis.ca)

The World Conference of Secular Institutes:

[www.cmis-int.org](http://www.cmis-int.org)

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The Journal *The Present Moment* is  
published by the Voluntas Dei Institute

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ...



### Team Life

*by S. James Dunstan*

Last year, we looked at consecrated secularity that defines us as an organization. This year we want to witness to what differentiates us from other secular institutes: our team life. The human person was not created by God to live alone: he/she was created to be a social being. His/her life is enriched by the two lived realities of giving and receiving. It is from this point of view that we must first understand what is a team.

Team life, in its first expression, begins in the family. The family lives a complementarity of individuals that comprise it. Each must be respected there since each brings his/her qualities, abilities and gifts received. The father must assume his role, and likewise the mother and the children. If one of the members does not share with the others, the spirit of the family is affected. When the members of the same family work together, joy, peace and fraternity can be felt.

The same principal applies in work teams. All employees in a given place contribute to the success of the team, each according to his/her role. For one, it can be to manage, for another to conceive the plans, and for another to participate in the realization of the tasks. Whatever is the place of each in the group, the team will meet its vision and realize its common mission if the talents, qualities and the efforts of each one are put together. This is the only way they will attain their objective.

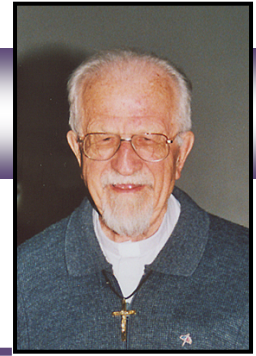
Team life is not common life. It involves putting into common that which is unique to each person, personal qualities and gifts, and that for the common good. To live in the team is then also to bring one's assistance to those in need and to participate in the edification of one another. It is to know and to accept that all can make mistakes but beyond these mistakes there is always something good upon which to build.

For the members of the *Voluntas Dei*, team life has a great importance since it is a school of formation. The team is the first place to exercise hospitality, fraternal love, the spiritual and apostolic life. Every human being has a need to be formed. As a child, we received our first formation from our family. Then, we acquired other understandings and competencies through our schooling. And when we joined a work team, we received the necessary formation to contribute to the success of the group. However, in order to be formed by the others we need to be open. And openness is only possible through the action of the Holy Spirit.

The team is an excellent place to practice our spiritual attitudes. When we place ourselves in the presence of God, we abstain from destructive criticism and useless complaint. Seeking to build on what is positive and with what is positive, we develop the sense of forgiveness. True forgiveness brings us to live without eyes focused on the past but on the present moment and in an attitude of fraternal love. We can then cultivate concern for being of service to one another and becoming peacemakers.

The first quality of the team is love. Its objective is for us to learn to love one another. This is why it is the desirable place for the gift of self. It is the responsibility of each member to believe in the team and take their one's place in light of the common good. When we work together toward the same goal, our team can become a model for others. Team life is the best means that Father Parent had considered for us to learn how to build peace and fraternity!

## FROM THE PEN OF FATHER PARENT ...



by *Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.*

*Here are several excerpts from the words of Father Parent on the topic of the “team”...*

“The team is the vehicle of the Institute oriented toward the will of God” (June 1982), Const. page 28.

«Why the team?

- To help us to discern the will of God, cling to it, love it and serve it.
- To help us to persevere in love of God and neighbor.
- To help us each day in personal and collective charity.
- To help us to give to our brothers and sisters throughout the world the greatest number of opportunities to attain salvation, » (May 1966), Const. page 28.

“The Church, the People of God and chosen race, will reach its highest efficiency when all the Christians have joined into teams, when we shall see at the same table and on an equal footing priests, religious and lay persons discussing the salvation of souls . . . aid to be brought to others, etc. To accept such a life which highlights the qualities of each one implies supernatural humility and exceptional respect of the Church’s values which God dispenses to each Christian in baptism, (December 1965), Const. page 28.

*We also propose to you excerpts from the publication «In Intimacy With Jesus», 1987, pages 130-134, where Father Parent helps us to reflect upon the spirit of the team.*

“We saw how, at the beginning of the Church, the early Christians supported one another, lived together, shared the same hopes, sacrificed their goods, said and proclaimed : ‘How good it is when brothers and sisters live together, loving one another, helping one another . . . ’”

According to St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians : (4, 1-4) : “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call . . . ”

To the Thessalonians, St. Paul wrote : “ But concerning love of the brethren you have no need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; “ (1 Thess. 4, 9).

On page 133, he adds: “St. Paul, counseling the Romans of his time, touches us even today. If methods change, nerves retain the same reflexes. ‘May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus . . . Welcome one another then as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.’ (Rom. 15, 5-7). Welcome--- there is a word that is essentially Christian, welcome as Christ did.

There is the perfection in our contacts with others, above all those who are near to us: our family, the team and our work milieu. All for the glory of God, for the realization of His plan. Welcome presupposes forgetfulness of self, emptying ourselves of self-love, clearing out our imagination where we have often collected toxins from our sufferings.”

Throughout Colossians, St. Paul fills our hearts with a healthy hope and gives us the means to respond. “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful,” (Col. 3, 12-15).

## A Few New Councils of District or Region in 2011



**Justin Harry Chery, Marie Carmel Valcourt, Didi Horace, Evens Francis and Madelon**



**Guillermo Perez, Maximiliano Guzmán, Alicia Franco, Jaime Henao and Santiago Armijo**



**Marcos Alejandro Guerra Romero, the new director of district-in-formation Chile**



**Jim Halley, Julián Gonzalez, Anthony J. Ciorra, Carol Toth, Gregory Kremer and Joel Livingston**



**Dionicio Reyes Gonzalez, the new director of Dominican Republic district**

## TEAM LIFE...



### **Our Team Meetings**

**by Carmen Trudel, Associate Member, Canada**

This is how the meetings of the Wabakin Team, Abitibi Sector, Canada, occur. With a warm welcome, we gather together once a month on the first Friday of the month. Each in turn receives the team members at their place. In this way of doing it, we get to know each other better in our respective milieus.

It is necessary to admit that sometimes we have to do a juggling act according to the agenda of each one. The meetings last for about 5 to 6 hours.

The meetings take place in the following fashion. We commence with the celebration of the Eucharist. This allows each person to express him/herself and

to delve into the Word of God. The writings of Father Parent are good references. The leaflets of animation are also tools that help us to share.

After the Mass, we share supper interspersed with news. Afterwards, we pray the rosary and have more discussions.

Before departing, we verify if the agendas are in agreement with the next meeting date.

Thank you to the members who have received the team during the course of the year.

Voluntas Dei per Mariam Immaculatam



### **Testimony Concerning my Team**

**by Doreen Connelly Brillon, Associate Member, Canada**

What a surprise I received when I was asked to write an article for The Present Moment – explaining the different aspects about our team. My first reaction, that's easy because I thought of a woman in my team who always says that our team is the best. For a long time, I always thought she was bragging but I have now come to the same thinking, that we are really a great team (not Best but Great – almost the same thing, Eh!)

We are a very lucky gang in our team – Grande-Rivière in the Outaouais sector within the Canadian district. Since the beginning of my presence in the Institute, we have always had at least one priest with us plus one or two couples. In 2011, Laurier

Albert, the sector facilitator, made some changes in different groups, so he is no longer a member of our team. Since then, he has never refused to come and join us for our special nights, Lent and our end of year Celebration.

Our group this year consists of three couples but there is another couple joining our team. They have asked us to join our group and they are indeed very welcome. I am sure they will be a plus in our discussions. In September 2010, Guillaume Frenette was born – so last year he was really the baby in our team – he did not miss a meeting and needless to say, neither did his parents!



*In order, first row: Julie Desrosiers and baby Guillaume, Marcelle Lebrun, Roland Frenette, 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Jean-Guy Brillon, Doreen Connelly, Louise Simard, Rénaud Tremblay and Jean Lebrun*

We have our meetings every two or three weeks and we are very flexible. If someone is going to be away for a certain amount of time, we will work around the time to get our meetings in. Our priority is to have all our members in attendance. Our meetings start at 7 p.m. with discussion on a chosen theme ending with a prayer. Around 9 pm, we then sit around the kitchen table with coffee and lunch and most important all the latest news, since our last meeting.

Our team is very loyal to follow the themes chosen by the district for the year. If the yearly themes are

not available, our team, for some reason, does not have any problem. For example, we have taken out our book for the Aspirant, which is a great help for our youngsters, and it is always good for everyone to take a few steps back. We have also scratched our preparation when someone was in need of a tap on the back. Our meetings are prepared by different people each time and the prayers are also prepared by someone else. For 2012, we have already been asked in our evaluation of 2011, to have discussions on the life and works of Father Parent, for those that did not have the opportunity to meet him in person.

I must tell you all about the feeling I have the times we get together. There is always happiness in the air whenever someone comes in the door (hugs and kisses). Doesn't it sound like a real family! In my evaluation of 2011, I told Julie and Roland how I was impressed with how deep their faith was and that I would really like to be like them and be able to express it so clearly.

In our discussions, every person has a chance to say what they want to say...even the ones that have no problem with talking, are really good to know when to stop.

Our team: Julie and Roland Frenette, Marcelle and Jean Lebrun, Louise and Rénaud Tremblay, Doreen and Jean-Guy Brillon.



**Team Life for Me**  
**By Jacques Théberge, Celibate Layman, Canada**

Recently, a friend told me that he would like to get to know our Institute. I did not speak to him immediately about the Voluntas spirituality, but I told him quite simply: "If you come with us, it is necessary that you are able to place on your agenda the team meeting since it is a priority." If he is

ready to place the life of the team at the heart of his journey, I will give him the rest. For me, this is primary.



I have been a member of the Institute for a little more than twenty years. All that has been given to

me by the Institute, the life of the members, the joy of living our spirituality, the deepening of it, the fraternal connections built up over the years, the sharing of joys and sorrows, the questionings, all of this has been accessible to me through team life. The team: the place of life, prayer, formation, growth, the place where one develops the spirit of belonging and pride in being a member of the Institute.

I admit that I have never been able to understand how a member could live without actively participating in team life. I am not speaking here about ill members or those who are isolated on account of work or service. For me, team life is indispensable.

Since my entry, I have been lucky to live in the midst of a team that has kept a certain constancy, a nucleus of members that have not changed, a certain form of stability and continuity. Other elements have also greatly helped me: the presence of all categories of members, the regularity of meetings, the depth of sharing rendered possible by this nucleus of members remained the same over the course of the years. Strong fraternal connections and concern for one another follows from it. What another lives and shares with us is not any more at the level of simple information but more at the level of solidarity, deep connections and fraternal affection. With time, the team is like an extended family. It is good to live in it.

I firmly believe that the stability of the team is important. It is indispensable for the forging of connections of trust. These connections make our meetings moments desired and enriching. It is no longer the simple accomplishment of an obligation. I have grown with and through my team. The team grows with and through each member. The sharing on the leaflets of animation creates a unity throughout the Canadian District, a common journey. However, we go beyond the orientation of the leaflets in order to listen to the lived life of the members. We love to mark the great events of the year. "Our daily life in the midst of the world" is

enlightened, analyzed and supported by our spirituality and team life.

I have been privileged over the years to be a member of a team, while growing, has maintained a fixed nucleus. Even if I am spoiled at this level, I believe that the team is always to build. It is important that each member feels responsible for the beauty of his/her team and for shining forth. It is necessary to dream about it according to the vision of Father Parent. It has the importance and value that each gives to it. The presence of all of the categories of members and of all ages is also a great richness. The "longest attached members" have given me the spirit and the history of the family. The "younger members" have brought to me the joy of discovering all of the treasures that the Institute offers us. The innocence of the first days preserves us from a spiritual sedentary and stimulates us to live better the message of the Institute.

To celebrate anniversaries in the team, and to celebrate the life that gushes out in each milieu, is like the bursting forth of the sun on a rainy day. Team life allows us to share gifts, charisms, the talents of each person, and to celebrate the presence of God through prayer and when possible through the Eucharist. Together, we celebrate the One who gathers us and welcomes us "in the manner of Mary."

I believe, that through the team, life is transmitted to us and welcomed. Without it, how can we feel the joy of belonging to a spiritual family? How do we share and live our charism? Without the team, it would be for me so easy to become odorless, colorless and without flavor. Far from the team our "color" dissolves, pales and blends in with the rest of the landscape. To be in a team for me is like being in the Church. This framework, flexible and firm at the same time, keeps me "in the same barque", in the same boat.

From my experience, I have handed onto you quite simply what is for me team life.

Through Him with Mary





## Team Life

### By Monique Jeanson, Associate Member, Canada

A team started slowly in 1996, with prayer meetings led by Father Gérald Michaud. Due to the numbers, we divided into 2 teams a few years ago. Presently, our team consists of 3 couples in Stability, one couple in Probation and 2 couples considering Aspirancy. Our team consists of:

Claude and Monique Jeanson : married for 36 years, parents of 8 children, grandparents of 8

Jacques and Lise Lavack : married for 34 years, parents of 3 children, grandparents of 2

Louis and Mary Richard : married for 25 years, parents of 5 children

Marko and Zeljana Nikolic : married for 19 years, parents of 6 children

Martin and Joséphine Phiri : married for 19 years, parents of 4 children

Evan and H el ene Tymchen : married for 17 years, parents of 7 children



**Prayer during the visit of the District Director, Andr e C ot e, with both teams in Manitoba**

We meet at each others' homes every other Friday, to sing praises to our Lord, reflect on a scripture passage (usually Sunday's Gospel), and we deepen our walk with Christ through Father Parent's writings. This last year we have spent many wonderful hours reading and delving into "The Footsteps of Jesus". We come to our meetings tired

from the week and we leave uplifted and ready to face the world.



**H el ene Tymchen, Mary et Louis Richard, Lise et Jacques Lavack  
Marko et Zeljana Nikolic, Monique et Claude Jeanson, Josephine et Martin Phiri**

Through Father Parent's teachings, we have grown in leaps and bounds towards spiritual maturity and holiness. We share deeply and openly our daily trials and our battles with our sinfulness. We uphold and encourage one another as only one can do with the presence of God in our midst.

We strive to maintain a life free of complaints and criticism, continuously fighting our laziness and rebellion. Every time we meet, we peel away another layer of hardness from our hearts. It is good to have these brothers and sisters to walk with on our path to holiness.

It is also good to welcome other IVD members from the east. The visits I most enjoyed were those from Father Andr e, Andrew Mayer who was not a priest at the time, as well as Father Hamel. Marcelle and Jean Lebrun, as well as Doreen and Jean-Guy Brillon, have been to the far west to visit us, and brought us pearls from the east. We cannot fail to mention Father Robert Lebel's concerts and conferences. Such a gift! We have really enjoyed all the visits, as we often feel far from home, so to

speak. It is good to put faces to the names we read in our directory.

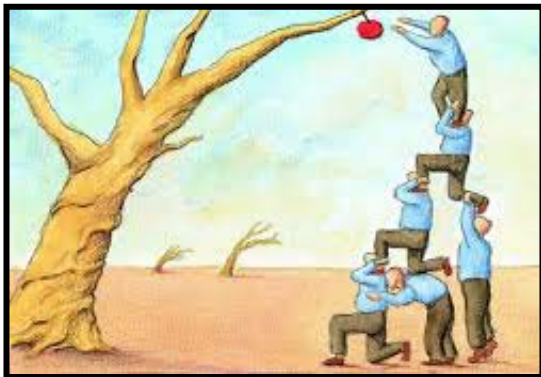
Father James' visit last November was especially encouraging and uplifting. God has blessed our Institute once again.

May our Lord continue to be glorified a thousand fold through his servants, Fr. Parent, teachings and writings, and through our witness in His holy service.



### **Voluntas Dei Team Life in Sri Lanka by Varapiragasam Allan, seminarian, Sri Lanka**

I, Allan, one of the members of the Voluntas Dei Institute from the Sri Lanka District-in-Formation, am very happy to write an article on the theme of team life for "The Present Moment". The term team life is very significant for all of the members of the Voluntas Dei Institute. All members are bound to live as a team, because the relationships within the team stimulate the members to discover their solidarity in Christ with everyone, principally with those who suffer the most and who are the least favoured.



In team life, love, the presence of God and being of service are true fundamental values. The love of God and love of our neighbour constitute all perfection. That is what is mentioned in the Constitution, chapter VI, article 37 and following: "The team is the requisite place for living and listening to the word of God, the place for an ongoing reading of the signs of the times and for discernment of the will of God." Further it is said: "The team is a place of choice for exercising

hospitality, love and spiritual and apostolic formation." In conjunction with this, in the letter to the Philippians 2:3-5, it is said "Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another always considering others better than yourselves, and look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had."

So, in the Voluntas Dei Institute, all the members who live as team should have the above attitudes to be fruitful in the mission to which all have been commissioned by Jesus Christ. Above all, for our members, team life is at the heart of our consecrated life. It is where our members share their living experiences, listen to the word of God, read and understand God's signs in our milieu. As a result of that, we discern God's will for us. We members seek to consecrate our life to God in the world that is constantly changing. It is therefore important that each member be committed to a life-long project of self-knowledge, personal expressions of faith and tailoring our attitudes and motives to those of Christ. The team, in the Institute, provides the members with the opportunity to discover hidden talents and gifts, and for each of us to go forth to share these talents and abilities in our daily life, work and social relationships.

In comparison to my life prior to joining the Institute, I would not have been able to realize the talents and abilities that I had. However, after joining the Institute, when I started living team life,

the team, in the Institute, provided me with the opportunity to discover my own hidden talents and abilities. I made use of this opportunity to bring out my talents and to do Jesus' mission in the team as well as in the midst of the world, wherever I go.

Therefore team life in the Institute is inevitable for all of us to discover the will of God, abilities and talents, and to create peace and fellowship in Jesus Christ, and to carry out Jesus' mission in the midst of the world.

## **Team Life**

**by Father Marcos Guerra, director of district-in-formation Chile**

Team life is a fundamental part of the Voluntas Dei formation. It is an essential value that the members must live in their secular consecration in order to make efficacious the fraternity to which we are called in our consecration. As Father Parent said: Team life is a laboratory of experience where each member brings his/her life as it is. In this way, through sharing in the team, each person contributes to the growth of the other.

In our District in Formation, Chile, the teams meet one or two times per month according to the possibilities. In a general way, a plan is established by the team to manage systematic formation. This planning contains the selected themes. Each month, one or other of the team members is responsible for the theme.

The meeting does not comprise solely the study of the proposed theme. The animator plans also a time of listening and sharing among the members in regard to what they are living at a personal, family, social or work level or events that they have experienced. The reading of the Word of God allows us to live the presence of God in each of our meetings. On occasion, drawings and charts are used to represent the scenes of the Gospel. The celebration of the Eucharist is an important time that allows us to live together and deepen what each of us brings in our heart. The Eucharist revitalizes in us the divine life and renews our energies to pursue our journey that is often riddled with obstacles.



I would like to give to you an example of our lived life by sharing with you the experience of a meeting gathering together the teams of La Serena.

- Arrival at 8h30. We pray together the Laudes.
- Afterwards, breakfast. We provide for an hour of freely sharing on a variety of topics : birth of a grandchild, a new work experience, the development of pastoral life, community life at the house of formation, etc.
- Celebration of the Eucharist with the church community. The Voluntas Dei members participate actively: reading of the epistle, reading of the universal prayers, bringing up of the gifts.
- Period of free sharing among the members. Preparation of lunch by a different team at each meeting. The meal is shared in common under the provision of the team of service.
- At the end of the meal, the animator calls the members together for the presentation of a report made by a member of the team. The report can be presented either under the form of a « powerpoint presentation, » poster, questions and answers, skit or via some other means. Afterwards, the members share freely on the theme giving their point of view, making

comparisons with the Word of God, analyzing the reality that is theirs as well as the repercussions of these realities at the social and cultural level in our country. Examples of discussions: statutes, certain points of discussion to be clarified, important points to be discussed at national meetings.

The other points that we address are those contained in the guides of formation.

The meeting usually ends with a plenary session. Around 16h00 we depart, very motivated to pursue our way, thanks to the fraternal sharing and the team life that we have just experienced during our Voluntas Dei meeting.



### **Gathering of the Teams in Colombia by Gildardo Noreña Castaño, Celibate Layman, Colombia**

The annual meeting of the Voluntas Dei teams of Colombia took place July 1-4, 2011 in an enchanting location where there is the agricultural production of coffee. The members, coming from all parts of the country, were received warmly by the welcoming team. Enthusiastic and fraternal welcoming is one of the traits of team meetings.

in their fraternal associations through the common energy that constitutes Voluntas Dei.

During the course of the afternoon, the animation team presented the program and those responsible for it. Several clarifications concerning the unfolding of the activities were given. The Armenia and Medellin teams shared the tasks.

On July 2, we gave thanks to God and to Father Parent for the foundation of the Institute that is 53 years of age. The Eucharist of this day was an occasion of gratitude.

After the celebration, we had lunch that was followed by a break. Afterwards, we entered into the central theme that was presented in regard to the experience of the life of the team: "Consecrated life in today's world: an interesting journey from the perspective of the anthropological dimension of the human in consecrated life." It concerned the psychological dimension of consecrated life and also the theological dimension enlightened by the biblical and ecclesiological spirit.



**Under the photo: María Dora González, Marta Velásquez, Carlos Alberto Orduña, Santiago Armijo and Santiago Velásquez (pre-aspirant)**

The first activity was a «camp fire» or «bonfire». Around the embers, the participants grew stronger

Gildardo Noreña Castaño gave a brief review of the different forms of consecrated life in the Catholic Church while bringing out the advantages of this way of life. The second part of the theme was directed toward a consecrated life in today's world. A summary chart allowed a comparison between the consecrated life before the Vatican II Council and consecrated life in its present form.

The spiritual dimension of team life comprised the following elements: daily Eucharist, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, morning Lauds and Vespers and the recitation of the rosary.



**Under the photo there appears almost all of the members of Colombia including two Oblates, two affiliated persons as well as two invitees.**

During our meetings, we broach the themes concerning consecrated life, particularly, the spirituality proper to our Institute: the 5-5-5,

charism, apostolic objective, the positive, the present moment, Christian contacts and the Constitutions.

In review, we have had the habit of discussing, meditating upon and sharing all that is related to our *Voluntas Dei* life. This is done through consensus, workshops, displays or group discussions.

At the time of our meeting, several difficulties were mentioned by the participants: great distances to be traveled to the destination of the meeting and the cost of traveling there. However, all of this is surmounted and compensated by the joy of meeting again the members and coming together as a team.

In regard to positive points, there were very strong moments from the point of view of team life. We departed from one another with the hope and fervent desire that the next meeting may be in the near future.



### **Team life for Witnessing of the Faith and Fellowship by Joseph Boss Vipin Edward, seminarian, India**

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion.” (Ecclesiastes 4:10)

Greetings of peace and fellowship from *Voluntas Dei* team members of Alleppey in the state of Kerala. Our team consists of 12 married couples. I am very happy to share with you about our team life as a member of the *Voluntas Dei* Institute. By the grace of God, we are able to gather once in every month in one of the member's house. Team meetings commence with a hymn to Holy Spirit followed by a prayer by the priest who conducts the meeting. Then, a passage from the Gospel and the Aspirant's Guide are read aloud for discussion and

sharing. All of the members actively participate in the sharing followed by what the priest gives as a detailed class on *Voluntas Dei* spirituality. After the sharing by members, all join together for the intercessory prayers. We also discuss in the team about the resolutions of the month and the other matters for the growth of the team. The team meeting is always concluded with a small prayer and a blessing by the priest followed by a small refreshment.

We discuss various spiritual topics, mainly on the theme of prayer, Love, Joy and Happiness in the Spirit, Love of God and neighbor, We also discuss various other topics based on the spirituality of the

Institute, its charism, purpose of team life, Mother Mary and the Will of God, and the three fives of the Institute, etc.



The members in our team are very happy to be a part of the team. We enjoy love and hospitality in all the team meetings. We also welcome the parish priest of the particular area and we welcome families from the area who are looking at the team meeting with curiosity so that they may be attracted by the **Voluntas Dei** spirituality and life style.

We also share in the full joy that God grants through fellowship in the team. This idea of shared joy appears repeatedly throughout John's Gospel and Epistles. *"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete"* (1 John 1:3-4).

In fact, fellowship and sharing are a significant part of our team. All of the members actively participate in the sharing of the Word of God and in the sharing of spiritual insights. They are also happy to share their experience of God that they encounter in their daily life. Our team has become part of the Church's mission of evangelization. Thus, our team is so far successful in accomplishing the missions that we have undertaken. The members are also happy to be a part of the team. Many people are being attracted by our gatherings in different places and have expressed their willingness to join the team.

The only difficulty for our coming together for the meeting is the problem of distance and the location of the meeting since families are spread out in this vast locality. Still, given their time and energy, they consider it as a sacrifice for the growth of team life and to get nourished by the spirituality and the charism of the Institute.



## Anniversaries of priesthood

**Michel Beauchamp**  
**Damian Colicchio**

**Canada**      **25 years**  
**United States**      **50 years**

## Bay State Team

by **Palmina G. Chaplin, Associate Member, United States**

The Bay State Team is a diverse team located in Central Massachusetts. From a vocations perspective, the Bay State Team consists of priests, laymen and women and married couples. The members come from many different backgrounds, careers and life experiences including work within education, sales and marketing, nursing, engineering and missionary work. We are priests, deacons, children of aging or deceased parents, siblings, parents, grandparents and supportive friends. All our members are involved in various areas of parish life such as readers of the word, Eucharistic ministers, catechists, hospitality ministers and bereavement ministers. The bond that ties us together is our desire for a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Bay State Team meets on the first Monday of each month in the home of Pam and Ernie Chaplin. Each meeting begins with prayer, breaking bread together followed by a formation session. The level of commitment to our team meetings is extremely high. On occasion members must travel and choose to “skype” into our meeting rather than miss it. Each month we share the responsibility for leading prayer and for preparing our meal.

Fr. Bill Konicki, a professed member of Voluntas Dei, is the facilitator of the Bay State Team. At each meeting, members of the team are given the opportunity to “check in” and to share what is happening in their lives. Other members of the team respectfully listen, support and affirm each other in the context of the three 5’s. Because of this practice, our team has become more like an extended family and the team has become a “safe haven” for each of our members. The Bay State Team is a place where members are assured of confidentiality, non-judgmental acceptance and prayerful support for their continued faith journey.

After everyone has had the opportunity to share what is going on in their lives, we begin our formation by discussing pre-determined topics. This past year, our theme was “gratitude” and we read the book entitled, “Uncommon Gratitude” by Sr. Joan Chittister together. We discussed each chapter in great length as it related to the spirituality of the Institute as well as how it related to each of our personal circumstances. In past years, we have read formation guides together and discussed in detail the 5 attitudes of the Institute as well as ways we live out our spirituality in each of our individual lives.

The success of the Bay State Team has been in welcoming new members who are like-minded and are committed to exploring their calling to consecrated life together. The present size and composition of the team fosters fellowship and intimacy among members.

Our members are in similar places in the formation process, thus truly on this journey together. Because we are the only Voluntas Team in New England, the challenge for the Bay State team is to continue to welcome new members without compromising the continued formation of all team members.



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE...



Please note that this section of the journal gathers together the articles sent to us by the Directors of the Districts and Regions. They also contain information taken from the available annual reports.

### United States - Excerpts from the Annual Report 2011

In the United States District in Formation there are 87 members : 35 priests, 8 celibate laymen and 44 married members.

There are two sectors : the Annunciation Sector (East coast) and the Visitation Sector (West coast). The new sector structure offers great promise for the growth of the Institute in the United States.

The 2010 Assembly developed a four year strategic plan that guides the decisions and direction of the District in formation.

The formation program has been reorganized under the direction of Greg Kremer, the formation director.

The mission program has been reorganized under the direction of Fr. James Burns and shows promise of raising more funds for our missions. Father James Musumeci has been appointed coordinator of mission preaching opportunities for Voluntas Dei.

Generally our relationship with local bishops is a good one. We participate and are represented in the United States Conference of Secular Institutes (USCSI).

Father Anthony Ciorra concludes his report saying: "Overall, I am happy to report that the United States District in Formation is doing very well. The District has matured in its Voluntas spirituality and identity and shows great promise for future growth and development".

### SACERDOTAL ORDINATIONS

#### **Sri Lanka**

Michael Devin Coonghe                      2011-04-28

#### **Canada**

Andrew P. Mayer                                2011-08-06





## Canada - Extraits de documents reçus

The Assembly of the Canadian District took place May 19-23, 2011 with the theme: “Walk in my footsteps” Our Director General, Father James Dunstan, was present at the opening of this Assembly.

Here are a few excerpts from his presentation: «Walking in the footsteps of Jesus is not the result of an act of the will : it is a response to a personal call from Christ, a call that is heard in the depth of our being, to the extent that our heart is open and we are detached from ourselves. We live, today, in a world that rejects faith in Jesus Christ. It is a time of crisis for our Institute that was created to serve God’s very project. He or she who wants to walk in the following of Christ must have courage and be deeply convinced, and this is possible only if we have personally encountered Jesus Christ. »

“Voluntas Dei of the Canadian District, you face a world that has forgotten Jesus Christ and His Church. In the footsteps of Jesus and of Father Parent, you too, are called to break down barriers in order to give God and the Gospel to the world. There is your call and response.”

“May the Holy Spirit that has guided the Church from the very beginning and who has been guiding the Voluntas Dei for more that 50 years, lead the Canadian District to light and life!”

Father Andre Cote, the exiting Director, concluded his report in the following way: “At the time of visits, meetings with the members or working committees, I could, myself, sense and appreciate how our way of life and spirituality is transforming hearts. I thank each and everyone of you for your quality of being, and let us continue to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and with the heritage left to us by our Founder.”

In June 2011, at the time of his first communication sent to the members, the new Director of the Canadian District, Father Michel Beauchamp, gave a number of steps to follow:

- In the rhythm of the footsteps of Father Parent, in the daily practice of the 5-5-5-, walk in the footsteps of the Lord!
- Commit ourselves where we are, for Peace and Fraternity. Discreet in service, peacemakers, determined and contagious!
- Always in these footsteps, go to our team meetings in the light of a heart to receive and give in order to be formed.
- You who are, in the midst of the world the instruments of Christ, I encourage you not to let the grace received from God be without effect (2Cor. 6 :1b-2).



In the Canadian District, a leaflet of animation entitled “Walk in my footsteps...” is being used for the team meetings during 2011-2012. This leaflet takes the theme of the District Assembly and invites us to share authentically within the team. The gospel values retained are: love, knowledge, confident prayer, conversion and mission.

Undoubtedly these themes will help us to walk in the footsteps of Christ and in the manner of Father Parent.

**New Council of the Canadian District : Odette Burelle, Richard L’Archer, Michel Beauchamp, Laurier Albert, Alain Dagenais, Jacques Théberge and Andrew P. Mayer**

## Sri Lanka - Excerpts from the Annual Report 2011

“You are a gift to the Institute and the Institute is a gift to you”. How very true are these words to all of us! Yes, all of us are gifts of God and each one of us is a gift to others. This I feel, could be the sum and substance of our life in the Institute.

We are called to be the apostles of peace and brotherhood in Jesus Christ and to be the instrument of God’s holy will after the image of Jesus and Mary. This charism given to our founder is the charism given to all of us personally for the kingdom of God. Each one of us is empowered with special gifts and charism. It’s up to us to integrate our individual charism with the charism of our founder to discover our identity as Voluntas Dei members. All of us are working towards the goal.

In our district in formation we have 125 members: 10 priests, 5 celibate laymen, 96 married members and 14 seminarians. We have organized the district in formation in 3 sectors: Jaffna, Mannar and Colombo and we have 12 teams. All our members live their witness of consecration in their own respective parishes.

During the civil war, our house Parent Illam, Muhamalai, was destroyed and the local authorities seized our property. Efforts are made to hand back our property.

Common team of Jaffna sector takes place on the 4th week of every month, and the spiritual talks are being given by Fr Sebastian Cross and Mariya Selvan Frankduff, candidate for priesthood. Members are very active in participating in meetings and other activities. Also, retreats were given to members of Mannar and Colombo sectors. The major seminarians were the preachers.

Anthonipillai Tony Jeray, who had been imprisoned for last 3 years, was released on 25th of March, 2011. We are indeed glad and express our happiness because he is released.

The members of the Sri Lanka District in formation are extremely grateful to the Director General and his councilors for their continuous concern and support toward growth, development and financial affairs.

Formation is done primarily in the team meeting. Retreats are organized during the season of Lent, Advent, and in preparation for steps of incorporation in the Institute (in August). The Aspirants’ guide, the Probationers’ guide and the Constitutions are being explained through special sessions organized in each sector outside of the regular team meetings.

At present the Voluntas Dei Institute is present in six Dioceses. Our relationship with the local ordinaries is smooth and healthy. The Oblates Superiors and priests always extend their helping hand to us whenever we are in need. They are ready to provide accommodation and other facilities to our students to go to the seminary and our missionary promotion course among the Sinhalese.

There is a rapid growth in Sri Lanka. So many vocations are there in our country. As we have an opening to do mission work, it is easy to go all over Sri Lanka not only among the Catholics but also among other religious people. This is really a speciality of our spirituality.

*To work in a team is to accept the rhythm of Christ in the large team of the Mystical Body.*  
*(Louis-Marie Parent)*

## Chile - Excerpts from the Annual Report 2011

Chile, District-in-Formation, comprises 31 members: 2 priests, 4 celibate laymen, 5 major seminarians and 20 associated members.

The first large gathering of the members of the district in formation brought together the majority of the members in January 2011 in the city of La Serena. The theme for the meeting was: «Voluntas Dei, Witnesses for the World.»

This was a fraternal gathering involving dialogue among the members. The workshops of formation were directly related to the themes presented at the 2010 Assembly General. This was also the occasion to review our insertion in the world and in the milieu of pastoral work taking into account the points of priority established by the bishops of Chile following the 5th Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Conference.

Since our members are present in various social and pastoral milieus, they have the heart of « building peace and fraternity in Jesus Christ. » They place the accent on the personal and communal encounter with Jesus Christ and connect with families, youth, immigrants and prisoners. To go toward the weak and the marginalized is a pressing challenge for the Church in Chile.

Teams meet once or twice per month in order to strengthen their fraternal bonds, deepen their formation and celebrate their faith. Chile has three sectors each with a Sector Facilitator occupied with formation and accompaniment.

The development of the house of formation is going on. Each member of the district is welcomed to the house of formation. Meetings promoting vocations are organized. They involve young men who feel called to the priesthood and also diocesan priests showing an interest in our Institute.

During his visits to the different sectors, the Director of the District in Formation meets the bishop of the area to establish connections and to maintain good relationships.

From the point of view of finances, we now have some benefactors from Chile. This assistance allows us to go forward with hope of realizing our projects of development.

# Wedding Anniversaries



<b>Gratian Ayyapillai and Saroja Gratian</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>25 years</b>
<b>Leonardo Grullon Paulino and Dominga Cruz Gomez</b>	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<b>25 years</b>
<b>Gilbert McCarthy and Ginette Guay</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>25 years</b>
<b>M. Joseph McGlynn and Kathryn A. Montie</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>50 years</b>
<b>Yves Richard and Laurette Tremblay</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>50 years</b>
<b>J.Robert Suroviec and Eleanor Siehl</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>50 years</b>

## Visit to the Tomb of Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i. by Father Mudiyappan Innasi, India

Dear Friends of the Voluntas Dei Institute,

At the request of Raymonde Jetté and Fernand Turgeon, I am writing about my experience of visiting the tomb of Father Parent.

First of all, I take this opportunity to thank Father Dunstan who proposed this valuable idea of visiting the tomb of Father Parent. Guided by him, all of the members of the Central Council paid homage at the tomb of Father Parent with a sense of gratitude. Though he is gone, he is not forgotten by us.



I was happy, being an Asian, to see him buried among the ordinary people, in the common cemetery, even though he was a priest, a founder of congregations including the Voluntas Dei Institute, a person highly respected and recognized as a holy priest by the people on a global level. Buried as an equal with anyone else on earth reflects a secular spirit as he said: "to carry out the word of God to anybody in any corner of the world and be identified among the people". The tomb of Father Parent is a sign of the simplicity of someone who lived for higher values looking up to heaven for divine inspiration.

It was a nice gesture that we, the members of the Central Council, along with Father Dunstan, prayed together in front of Father Parent's tomb. While praying, I can assure you that everyone felt the importance of continuing the vision of Father Parent's "mission" in the name of Jesus. Everyone, present, realized the necessity of his/her contribution to the administration in order to keep our Institute on the track of its charism.

I am personally happy to see that Father Parent, even in death, is still loved by the o.m.i. since he is buried among them. Father Parent is not spiritually dead, as I sensed at the bottom of my heart while I stood in front of his tomb. His smiling face still shines forth and his hopeful words still roam around, and he still lives within me.



I was happy to visit the tomb of Father Parent. It is my wish that one day, at least once, all of the members of Voluntas Dei in different parts of the world will have the opportunity to visit the tomb of Father Parent and experience what I did.

Father Parent intercedes to our Father and to Jesus for all of us. He still accompanies each one of us.

Voluntas Dei per Mariam Immaculatam

## **To Live Well the Present Moment** **by Father Léon Robichaud, Canada**

I refer, at first, to a visit that my confrere, Mario Laroche, had with Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i. when he was quite elderly. At that time of his life, Father Parent said: “I have preached the present moment all my life, now, it makes me live it.” Further to this reflection, allow me to communicate several thoughts on the present moment.

### **Interior Freedom**

We can only exercise our interior freedom in the present moment. Our interior freedom has no power over our past or future. The only freedom that we can exercise on our past is that of accepting it as it exists in our memory. The only true connection with our freedom is the present moment.



For the Christian believer, the present moment is that of the Presence of God. “God yesterday, today and tomorrow.” Saint Matthew proclaims: “I will be with you always until the end of time (28:20). To avoid projecting into the future or living in the past, is the grace for which we must ask. Our frustrations, regrets, expectations take their source from our attitude of departing from the present moment. To return to the present moment appeases the heart.

### **To Love in the Present**

There is only one moment for loving, the present moment. To choose to love now liberates one from the past without concern for the future. St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians (3: 12-13-14) proposes present moment to his friends and disciples: “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Saint Theresa of Lisieux repeated the same thing: “To love, I have nothing but today.”

### **To Make Oneself Available**

In our personal and intimate relationships with others, we must be present without any other concern than the openness of the heart to the other . . . that is, in total availability of heart without the wish to monopolize, to be simply welcoming. A heart with the desire to impose its views is not one that is available in the present moment.

### **One Day at a Time**

The one who is sad or lonely lives only a moment at a time. Projection into the future and refuge into the past are sources of psychological suffering.

Saint Matthew (6:34) gives us a liberating word: “Each day has enough trouble of its own.” By regretting the past and leaning into the future, we add to our present suffering.

To live well disengaged from the past and the future, the wisdom is summed up in the exercise of carrying well the weight of the day in the present moment. To leave the past to the mercy of God and the future to Providence and live well the present moment is the grace to ask in each moment of the day.

The Gospel according to Matthew (6:25-26) confirms this for us: “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.” Saint Matthew does not recommend to us to be lacking in foresight. No! He proposes that we act and live without anxiety, without a concern that gnaws at the soul. Things seldom happen as we expect them. Thus, why be anxious about the future?

### **List of Anxieties**

Our anxieties like our fears are often the fruit of our imagination, that folly of logic. We are always happier when we welcome events as they present themselves, one after the other while accepting the grace of the present moment in a spirit of trust. The possible fears of the future give us more trouble than the drawbacks of the present moment. Often, we have to repeat to ourselves: “Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

### **Grasping the Present Grace**

The best way of savoring a peaceful life is always to live in the present free of the past and the future. The present life is always the best. The past and the future are the two obstacles to the beauty of life. The expectations of a better future are the causes of our frustrations. Our frustrations are proportional to the intensity of our expectations according to psychologists.

In the present moment, we must do what we have to do. Our duty is to prepare a clearing of peace within us, a peace that can be communicated to others.

To risk waiting to live in the future places us in a position that makes us only pass to the side of reality, that reality of the present that can make us happy. We should live each present moment without concerning ourselves with knowing if we are in the good time. God only asks us to live well the present moment.

### **Listening to the Other**

To live well the grace of the present moment makes us capable of being present to the other in front of us. In our interpersonal relationships, listening is essential. To speak to another is silver, but listening is gold. The art of listening is a grace to be requested.

To well welcome the other, I must have a heart inhabited by compassion and kindness, a heart freed from anxiety, preoccupations and bitterness.

By living the divine presence in us, we achieve an interior experience of peace that makes us capable of welcoming the other (wounded), just as he or she is and not like we would like him or her to be.

### **To Find the Good Measure**

I conclude by being inspired by the doctor, Saint Luke (6:27-38): “ But I say to you that hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you . . . And as you wish that they would do to you, do so to them . . . Be merciful as your Father is merciful... Do not judge others... forgive others... Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The good measure is the most certain way of achieving interior freedom, a freedom that allows living the present moment.

# Stability 2011

## Canada

Cecil Noronha  
John Yake

## Colombia

Maximiliano Guzman Roa  
and Alicia Franco Correa

## United States

Timothy Corbley  
Robert and Eleanor Suroviec  
Domenic and Elaine Basile

## Sri Lanka

Ratnam and Jeya Selvaratnam  
Mariathas Godwin Camillus  
Joseph P.S. Panakal  
Francis Xavier Sabariyar  
Zacharias Thevathas and Mary Selvasarosa  
Francis and Mary Magdaline Anantharayar  
Joseph and Mary Josephine Keerthapongalam  
Amirthanathan and Mary Avvai Amalanathan  
Arganchipillai and Mary Josephine Mariathas



## Deceased

### Canada

**André Morin, permanent deacon with stability**  
**Jean-Luc Hurtubise, associate member with stability**

### Dominican Republic

**Anastacio Gonzalez Reyes, associate member with stability**  
**Marina Santana, associate member with stability**

### United States

**Fr. Malachy Higgiston, professed member with stability**

# VOLUNTAS DEI INSTITUTE

## THE MANAGEMENT TEAMS OF DISTRICTS AND REGIONS

### UNITED STATES

#### **CIORRA, Antony J.**

GONZÁLEZ-MONTENEGRO, Julián  
HALLEY, Jim  
KREMER, Gregory  
LIVINGSTON, Joel  
TOTH Carol

### SRI LANKA

#### **SAHAYANATHAN, Anthony**

SEBASTIAN CROOS, Lazar  
MARIATHAS, Sebastiampillai Anton  
SOOSAI PILLAI ANNAMALAI, Santhiogupillai,  
NAVARATNAM, Joseph  
JOYCY, Anne

### COLOMBIA

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HENAO ARROYAVE, Jaime Alberto  
ARMIJO ORTIZ, Santiago  
GUZMAN ROA, Maximiliano  
FRANCO CORREA, Alicia

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ALBERT, Laurier  
MAYER, Andrew P.  
THÉBERGE, Jacques  
L'ARCHER, Richard  
DAGENAIS, Alain  
BURELLE, Odette

### HAITI

#### **HORACE, Didi**

FRANCIS, Evens  
EUSTACHE, Madelon  
CHERY, Justin Harry  
VALCOURT, Marie Carmel

### INDIA

#### **GOMEZ, Napoleon**

INNASI, Mudiyanappan  
SENGOL, Joseph  
PUTHENVEETIL, Jony D.  
LOURDURAJ, Rex  
JEYA, Maria Poorana

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CHIASSON, Jean-Paul  
CORNEJO GARATE, Manuel  
MAROIS, Pierre  
MUDIYAPPAN, Innasi  
SIOLETI, Andrew  
SOLANO SOSA, Andrés  
JETTÉ-TURGEON, Raymonde  
TURGEON, Fernand

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ARAÚJO TEJADA, Ramón Antonio  
SÁNCHEZ-BURGOS, Vicente  
CARRASCO SORIANO, Guillermo  
ANTIGUA HERNANDEZ, Primitivo  
ANTIGUA HERNANDEZ, Mercedes

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#### **GUERRA ROMERO, Marcos Alejandro**

CORNEJO GARATE, Manuel  
BERNAL ARANCIBIA, Henry Omar  
ARAYA RODRÍGUEZ, Mario Alonso  
AMÉSTICA CANALES, Pedro Ernesto  
LATORRE MUÑOZ, Rossanna de Fatima