

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ 2010-2011

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Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 1

July 2010



You already know the results of the elections that were held during the 2010 Assembly General that took place June 6-18. I have been elected Director General and, with the grace of God I hope to carry out the task of “creating peace and brotherhood in Jesus Christ”. I count on all of you to pray for the central council that is composed of:

First row:

Andrés Solano Sosa
S. James Dunstan
Innasi Mudiyanpan
Jean-Paul Chiasson, Assistant Director General

Second row:

Pierre Marois, Secretary General
Andrew Sioleti
Manuel Cornejo Garate
Raymonde Jetté Turgeon
Fernand Turgeon

I want to thank François Hamel and his council for their direction of the Institute, these past twelve years. They performed an exceptional job, and the Institute has increased considerably.



Birthday

July 4: **Manuel Cornejo Gárate**, member of the central council and director of the Chile, the District in Formation.

On July 12, **Father Louis-Marie Parent** would have turned 100.

July 20: **Rénald Tremblay**, Director of the Institute's administrative services.

July 23: **Philippe Désiré**, Director of the Haiti District.

I wish them all the joy and happiness with the Blessings of God. May Father Parent who is in heaven intercede for all the members.

July 25: **S. James Dunstan**. Please pray for me.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 2

August 2010

Prayer

Our Institute`s spirituality helps all members to create a peaceful atmosphere in the midst of the world and very especially the second five deepens our attitude to love and serve God and others without destructive criticism and useless complaints. Fr. Parent in his book, “The Present Moment”, wrote a beautiful prayer that expresses our spiritual attitudes. I would suggest that this prayer be prayed by every member daily before he/she starts his/her day. It would bring a positive outlook towards other and would aid one to live the secular consecration.

JUST FOR TODAY

Lord Jesus,
give me the grace to think of you
every hour, just for today
so that I may live in your presence.

Lord Jesus,
empty my heart of all sadness,
hate and spite, just for today
so that I may love without criticizing,
and serve without complaining.

Lord Jesus,
help me to follow your footsteps
just for today,
so that following your example and Mary`s,
I may be, every day of my life,
an element of peace. Amen.

Assembly General

The ninth assembly general of our Institute was successfully over on the 18th of June. The consensus method was used during the assembly. There were five workshops that discussed the documents that have been collected from the ideas of the members by the

preparatory committee. The following proposals were made and handed over to the central council to implement for the next six years.

- Defining the terms: secularization and secularity
- Forming a financial committee for the central administration
- Change of Rule No. 11, #4 & 5
- Using Web for formation
- Refocussing the formation in relation to “5-5-5” spirituality
- Deepening the formation of vows and commitments of the members
- Creating an attitude of poverty
- Maintaining a relationship between the authority and the members
- Policy between the Directors to accept a member of the other districts/regions
- Defining the politics of using the Help Fund
- Restarting the lay missionary movement
- How to start new foundations of the Institute
- Incorporation of “spiritually affiliated persons” in the Institute

The central council will study these proposals in the next council meeting that will be held on 1st and 2nd of September and implement them with the help of the implementation committee according to the priorities.

Thought for the month

“Every day, do what you can with what you have and where you are.”

Anonymous

Birthdays

August 5th is the birthday of **Yvon Carpentier**. He was the Director General from 1992 to 1998. He retired from his pastoral work. He is living at the central house now. He is an asset to the central house with his deep spiritual experiences.

August 6th is the birthday of **Fernand Turgeon** and the 9th is the birthday of **Raymonde Jetté**. They are the couple who have been serving the Institute as council members during the last mandate and reelected for a second term. They are the editors of the annual bulletin “The Present Moment”.

August 26th is the birthday of **François Hamel**. I don't need to tell who he is as he has been the Director General for the last 12 years. Let us all pray for him and for his bright future.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 3

September 2010

Voluntas Dei per Mariam Immaculatam

“FIAT” (Yes) of Blessed Virgin Mary at the Annunciation is the concrete expression of the openness to the will of God. This is the total surrender to God. Jesus did the same throughout his life especially at the Garden of Gethsemane. The apostles along with Mary waited at the upper room for the Spirit with the same attitude. Fr. Parent founded our Institute with the same spirit and because of that he gave it the name “Voluntas Dei”. He expects the same from every Voluntas. Fiat is the sign of love: to love and to be loved according to the plan of God because God himself is nothing but love.

How to be a “fiat”? How to be a Voluntas? According to Fr. Parent, it is a simple daily exercise. He says that every person, every event and every experience that we encounter everyday should give us a message of God. It does not matter whether it is good or bad. What is important is that we feel the presence of God in those persons, events and experiences and be able to discern the will of God in those encounters. He further says that a Voluntas is called to “be the will of God” as Jesus and Mary.

I invite you all this month to reflect on our moto. Let us ask ourselves how we exercise our moto daily, and how we can be a “fiat” and a Voluntas every day.

Father Parent pray for us from heaven in order to learn more to discern God`s will and to live as Voluntas, Amen.

Some News...

District-in-Formation of United States

The District Assembly of the United States District-in-Formation was held on August 4-7, 2010. I am happy to announce you the new Director and his council in the United States:

Director:	Antony J CIORRA
Assistant:	Julián GONZÁLEZ-MONTENEGRO
Councillors:	Gregory KREMER
	Joel LIVINGSTON
	Carol TOTH

I wish the Director and his council all the best and pray to God to bless them abundantly to be successful in their service of authority. I extend my sincere thanks to George HAZLER who has been untiringly serving for the last sixteen years for the growth of the Institute in the United States. It is during his time that the United States was canonically erected to the state of District-in-Formation from Region. I also thank all the councillors who collaborated with him during his time of office as a Director. May God bless them all.

District-in-Formation of Sri Lanka

The District Assembly of Sri Lanka District-in-Formation was held on April 11-15, 2010, and Sri Lanka has also its new Director and his council now:

Director:	Antony SAHAYANATHAN
Assistant:	Lazar SEBASTIAN CROOS
Councillors:	Sebastiampillai Anton MARIATHAS Santhiogupillai SOOSAIPILLAI ANNAMALAI Joseph NAVARATNAM Anne JOYCY

I wish the Director and his council all the best and pray to God to bless them abundantly to be successful in their service of authority.

Canadian District Congres

I had a beautiful visit to the Congres of the Canadian District which was held on August 5-7, 2010. It was an excellent opportunity to come to know the members of the Canadian District. The theme was "Choose Life". It was well prepared and organized. Towards the end of the congres, one priest and three couples were incorporated into stability, one couple started their stage of probation, and all the other members renewed their vows and commitments. Above all, there was a celebration of the appreciation of the completion of life in the Institute. District Director marvelled the commitment of the members in the Institute who completed 50 years, 45 years, 40 years, etc. It was an encouraging aspect for the other members to continue their lives of commitment.

V.M.O.

Month of September is the month that the V.M.O. asks the benefactors to help the major seminarians of the Institute. This is a special month that we also should pray for the vocations to priesthood. Please, keep all the seminarians in your prayers and pray for more vocations to priesthood.

Central Council

The Central Council will meet on September 1-2, 2010. Please, pray for the success of the council.

Decease

Fr. Stephen Gnanaprakasam, a professed member of the Institute, died in India at the age of 84. He was a member incardinated to the Diocese of Trivandrum. He was in the regional council of India from 2002-2006. He was also a spiritual director for the minor seminarians at Bethel. We express our sympathies to the members of India as well as to the Archbishop of Trivandrum, and the priests of the diocese. May the soul of Fr. G. Stephen rest in peace with our founder in heaven in the company of Blessed Virgin Mary, saints and angels.

Thought for the month

“As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart”. (Lk. 2/19)

Birthdays

Innasi Mudiappan celebrates his birthday on September 1. He is the Central Council member who comes from India.

On September 9, **Ramón A. Araujo Tejada** celebrates his birthday. He is the Director of the Dominican Republic District.

May God keep them both in His care and protection.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 4

October 2010

Peace

Peace is one of the main characteristics of a Voluntas. The objective is requesting primarily to create peace. What is peace? Peace is commonly understood as the absence of hostility, war or a non violent life style. It is more than that. For a Christian, peace is a gift of God that brings tranquility, security, no fear, no anxiety, no worry, and no frustration. It is a state of life assured by Jesus Himself who is the Prince of Peace (Is. 9/6) by saying, "Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you" (Jn. 14/27). Fr. Parent wants this peace to be created within each member and among all members; consequently he expects all the members to be the peacemakers and become the children of God in the midst of the world. "Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God" (MT.5/9). The very peace concept is there in final stage of incorporation of the Institute – Stability. Each member who journeys towards Stability or who is in Stability is expected to enjoy the peace that Jesus gave to His disciples because it is the stability of life, unwavering spirit, relaxation of mind and an atmosphere of love. When a Voluntas can feel this peace at every moment of his/her life, he becomes salt, light and leaven of the dough giving testimony of Christ in the midst of the world. Do I feel the peace of Christ within me? Am I stable with my own decisions and be able to enjoy the peace within me to create it wherever I am? ... Let us all reflect this month and form ourselves to be the peacemakers of Jesus Christ.

News

- The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. This is the month that encourages us to practice the last "5" of our spiritual exercises. Let us be aware of it and pray the holy rosary throughout the month.
- Rome has officially opened the cause of martyrs of Laos at the head of the congregation for the cause of saints. Please let us pray for the success of this intention.
- As requested by the Assembly General of June 2010, the financial administration committee has been formed and met the first time on September 07, 2010.

Decease

Joachim Boutet, a professed member of the Canadian District, passed away on September 10, 2010. I express my sympathies to his family members, District Director and the members of the Canadian District. I also invite all the members to pray for the repose of his soul.

Thought for the month

“Peace is impossible if we do not feel the life of God in the center of our being.”

Fr. Parent ([In the Footsteps of Jesus](#), p. 128)

Birthday

Andrew Sioleti celebrates his birthday on October 29, 2010. He is the member of the central council. He is a priest in charge of the pastoral team of the hospitals in New York. May God give him good health to continue the good work that he is doing to the Institute, the Church and the society.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 5

November 2010

Fellowship in Jesus Christ

“God created humankind in his image... male and female he created them.” (Gn.1/27) They were in full communion with God and with each other. The fall of man to sin and the abuse of freedom affected the profound relationship of man to God. God wanted to reconcile the humanity to Himself and among themselves. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1Tim.1/15) and he reconciled all to God through his suffering, death and resurrection. In order to achieve the salvation brought by Jesus all are expected to believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ and be baptized (Mk. 16/16). Jesus also assured his return on the last day to judge the living and the dead. We are called to march together towards the last day. This is our faith, this is what we profess. In this faith, we have our fellowship in Jesus Christ and we pronounce the communion of saints. This implies the three states of the Church: Pilgrim Church (those alive on earth), Suffering Church (those undergoing purification in preparation for heaven), and Glorified Church (those already in heaven). The Church is in communion with Jesus Christ in varying degrees and in different ways. All believers on earth are sharing with the saints by asking their intercession (Rev.5/8) and in support with the dead by praying for them (1Tim1/16-18).

The Church devotes the month of November to the faithful departed brothers and sisters. They shared the same fellowship in Jesus Christ with faith and walked in the footsteps of Him with hope as we are today. Some faithful departed have attained God's glory to whom we can pray for help whereas some are still on the process and they need our prayerful participation.

Each Voluntas has a duty by the very commitment to the Institute to live its objective. It begins with the communion of saints. As we are entering into the month of November, let us recall the objective of our Institute and start our fellowship with and for the faithful departed. So many, who walked with us are no more with us today. This is the moment to be in union with them. By being in communion with them, we can also remember their exemplary lives and follow their footsteps in order to attain the glory of heaven.

Let us be connected to the faithful departed this month and fulfill our duty according to our Constitutions: each member is committed to praying for the deceased member (can be of family, Institute or Church in general) – Const. # 98.

Let us Remember

We have lost the following members during the last year.

- Adriano Alcantara, member with stability from Dominican Republic, died on January 12, 2010;
- Alphonsine Goulet, associate member with stability and spouse of Lorenzo Lamontagne from Canada, died on February 2, 2010;
- María Madelena Luna Peña, associate member and spouse of Rafael Dario Fawcett Castillo from Dominican Republic, died on February 22, 2010;
- Fr. Stephen Gnanaprakasam, profess member from India, died on July 2010;
- Joachim Boutet, profes member from Canada, died on September 11, 2010.

I am sure that I don't need to remind you to pray to, with and for Fr. Louis-Marie Parent, our Founder, who is the source of Voluntas Dei.

Let us pray for all faithful departed including our family members, Institute members, the benefactors, relatives, friends and very especially for the souls that are not remembered by anyone.

Fr. Pierre Marois, director of the Vocations and Misions Office, will celebrate a special mass on 2nd November for all the faithful departed very especially for our members deceased and for all the faithfull departed of our benefactors.

May their Souls rest in Peace with the Mercy of God.

Thought for the month

“I am going to concentrate on what's important in life. I'm going to strive everyday to be a kind and generous and loving person. I'm going to keep death right here, so that anytime I even think about getting angry at you or anybody else, I'll see death and I'll remember.” (Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider, Northern Exposure, Do The Right Thing, 1992)

Birthdays

Andrés Solano Sosa celebrates his birthday on November 10. He is a member of the Central Council coming from Dominican Republic. May God bless him to do his priestly ministries with good health.

Anne Penelle, the secretary of the Central Administration celebrates her birthday on November 20. She is a God given gift to our Institute. She is a committed and deep spiritual person who is doing a marvelous contribution to manage our administrative services. May God continue to bless her with His blessings.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 6

December 2010



Communion in Jesus Christ

The Word was made flesh. This is the foundation of the spirituality of our life as Christians. God became man. Why? Simply to become a human being in all things, in every situation, in every condition. This is what we, too, are called to live. Our communion in Jesus Christ must be lived person to person. Humankind's sacred history shows that the vertical relationship (between heaven and earth) is not "enough." God sent the prophets to be go-betweens, and their voices, the word failed to establish this relationship between God and humankind. So God became man in Jesus Christ who lived like every other human being of his day. He entered into a relationship with the men and women of his time. He reached their hearts, welcomed them and loved them just as they were, and he journeyed with them. This is what our vocation as baptised reminds us. We have been chosen to share the love we have received with those around us, with those with whom we live. As *Voluntas Deis*, this mission has been given to us in a special way since the objective of our spirituality is to create peace and fraternity in Jesus Christ. To live in communion with others is a real challenge. God entered the world as a newborn child, and the children of Bethlehem were murdered by King Herod who feared losing his kingdom. Jesus sat at the tables of the poor, the sick, the prostitutes, and we blamed him, we criticised him, judged him, and harassed him. He stood up against the opposition of the powerful of his day, and he was condemned and crucified. But God raised him from the dead and glorified him. Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus by renouncing ourselves, and let us live as lambs among wolves. Let us share our love and peace with those we meet, with no expectations from them but trusting fully in God who will reward us some day, as He did for Jesus by raising him up from the dead and glorifying him.

Approaching Christmas

As we get closer to Christmas, let us thank God for all He has given us during the year 2010, and let us also prepare our hearts to celebrate the Nativity. I wish you all a happy Christmas, and may Infant Jesus bless you through the intercession of Mary and Joseph!

News

Committee for Implementing the Decisions of the 2010 Assembly General

The Committee for Implementing the Decisions of the 2010 Assembly General held its first meeting on September 5. This meeting set forth the priorities of the proposals voted on at the assembly, to be implemented.

Canonical Visitation of Canada

I have started my canonical visitation of Canada. It started with a very good meeting with the district council. In November I visited the members of the Anglophone Sector EAST which is composed of New Brunswick's Emmanuel Team and Toronto's Corpus Christi Team. I also met with the Bishop and Archbishop of these dioceses. Both are very happy to have members of the Institute in their diocese.

Ordination

Patric Desseide of the Haiti District will be ordained to the priesthood December 19, at Port-au-Prince. Congratulations to Patric and to the Haiti District. Let us rejoice in this new ordination, and let us be united with our new priest in prayer, on the day of his ordination.

Death

I have lately heard of the death of **Mrs. Rosa Parra**, an associate member with stability, from the Dominican Republic. She was the wife of Mr. Eduardo Vilorio. She died July 17. I tender my sincere condolences to the husband and the members of her family, as well as to the director and members of the Dominican Republic District. I invite all the members of the Institute to pray for the repose of her soul.

Web Page

I am pleased to inform you that the photos of the General Assembly 2010 are available now in our web page in the form of video and in photo gallery. I invite you to view them.

Thought of the Month

“... the shortest way to peace remains the practice of justice and charity which involve respect for one’s neighbour within whom we are called to dialogue, for the building up of a civilisation of Love...” (The Church’s Social Doctrine)

Happy Birthday!

To **Napoleon Gomez**, December 13. Napoleon is the director of the India District in Formation.

To **Pierre Marois**, December 23. Pierre is the director of the Vocation and Mission Office, and secretary general of the Institute. He does wonderful work at the VMO, he has created bonds with the benefactors and puts much energy and effort to raise funds for the missions and the seminarians.

To **Alonso de Jesus Posada Echeverry**, December 25. He is the director of the Colombia region.

Finally, to **Jean-Paul Chiasson**, December 28. He is the assistant director general of the Institute.

May God bless them with health and happiness, and the strength to continue their ministry!

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General



Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 7

January 2011

VOLUNTAS DEI VS. VOLUNTAS MEI

There are two sides to every human being, one being generally positive, and the other, negative. These sides are indispensable, and each one of us must confront them. It often happens that one of the two sides dominates and stifles the other. Whenever in our daily life the positive side dominates the negative, we do not pay too much attention to the fact. But when the opposite occurs, when the negative side is the stronger, we exaggerate things, and this cannot do other than create problems in life. We all know by experience that even if there is one side that acts before the other, both of them are present, whether we like it or not. What is important is that we see the difference between the two of them. This is the battle we all wage, and this requires training, formation, and spiritual mentoring. Many councillors in various disciplines – spiritual, psychological, intellectual – have discussed this reality, and have produced a large amount of reflection to help us recognize that difference. One of these masters was our beloved Founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent: he asked all the Christians, and especially the members of the Voluntas Dei Institute, to discern the Will of God (VOLUNTAS DEI) by focusing on the positive and detaching oneself from one's own will (VOLUNTAS MEI) and one's negative aspects.

We are already entering the second decade of the third millennium. Let us accept this invitation from Father Parent as a particular challenge. Let us be more aware of what is happening around us, let us look for the difference between VOLUNTAS DEI and VOLUNTAS MEI by living our Voluntas Dei life, and let us discern the will of God beyond our own personal will.

News

Canonical Visitation to Canada

In December I continued my canonical visitation to Canada and visited the members of the Anglophone Sector West which comprises the St. Benefice and Winnipeg teams in Manitoba, as well as the members of the Ottawa Sector which is comprised of the “Grand Rivière,” “Bergers de la vie,” “Hull,” and “Arc-en-ciel” teams. I also met the archbishops of these archdioceses. They are very happy to have members of our Institute in their dioceses, and they invite more priests of the Institute to come to their regions, and they encourage us to recruit in their dioceses.

Celebrets

The celebrets are being sent out this week to the district and regional directors for distribution to the priests incardinated in the Institute.

Website

I am happy to announce that photos of my canonical visitation of the past months are now available on our website, in video format. You are most welcome to view them. Besides, you can now consult the 2011 edition of *The Present Moment* by clicking the “Who Are We?” section of the website.

Monthly Suggestion

Let us develop the habit of practicing the examination of conscience before going to bed. Let us look back on our day and ask ourselves how many times we have followed the will of God, and how often we followed our own will. Then, let us take this exercise as a guide for us to live tomorrow.

Anniversary

Father Emilio Rosolen of the United States District-in-formation celebrates his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination on January 1, 2011. Please keep him in your prayers.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 8

February 2011

Consecrated Life

Consecrated life is a sign of one's attachment to the service and worship of God. This is expressed in prayer, rites, and celebrations. In biblical culture we find references to the consecrated of Moses. According to Jewish Law, a child was consecrated to God forty days after its birth. Mary and Joseph consecrated Jesus to God in the temple, according to the Law. The Church has chosen to celebrate, on February 2 each year, the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Candlemas Day), and the day is dedicated as the World Day of Consecrated Life.

All the baptised Christians are consecrated to the Blessed Trinity. God chooses all those consecrated in Jesus Christ through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit to take part in His saving work on earth. Consecrated life is therefore a Christian's primary vocation as baptised, and God invites each and everyone of us: "You are now consecrated to the Lord; Come forward!" (2 Chr. 29:31). Furthermore, the Lord says: "Sanctify yourselves, then, and be holy" (Lv. 20:7).

According to the will of God, all are called to sanctify their lives by separating themselves from a sinful life. On His part, God prepares His people by sanctifying it. This consecrated life is a constant call to all who are baptised in Jesus Christ.

Some people discern deeply within a special call from God, and they consecrate and dedicate their lives in a definite Way by the commitments to evangelical obedience, poverty and chastity, through joining an institute of consecrated life or a society of apostolic life.

We, of the Voluntas Dei Secular Institute, are called by God to a special consecration to His service and the service of humankind, in the midst of the world. Our secular consecrated life requires a radical commitment to following Christ in the theological, ecclesial, apostolic and missionary aspects of our call, while remaining open to the challenges and the hopes of the world today.

This is a very special journey that God has put us on in order to sanctify us through the work of our beloved Founder. Let us thank God for our special vocation to secular consecrated life in the Church, and let us live by these words of Father Parent: "It is impossible to attain holiness through any other means... Jesus came to do the Father's will: the 'Voluntas' must carry out that same will. Jesus made himself obedient unto death: the 'Voluntas', if to follow his example. [The 'Voluntas'] can do nothing by himself, he can do everything in Jesus who strengthens him and who sends him the Holy Spirit and His gifts" (Louis-Marie Parent, O.M.I., July 1958).

ADDRESS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

It often happens that correspondence addressed to the central administration reaches a wrong address. Please note the correct address and make the necessary corrections in your list of addresses:

*Voluntas Dei Institute
7385, boulevard Parent
Trois-Rivières (Québec)
Canada G9A 5E1*

Thank you for your collaboration!

News

New Council for the Chile District in Formation

The Assembly of the Chile District in Formation was held in early January. I am happy to announce the names of the new Director and his council:

Director:	Marcos Alejandro GUERRA ROMERO
Assistant Director:	Manuel CORNEJO GÁRATE
Councillors:	Henry Omar BERNAL ARANCIBIA Mario Alonso ARAYA RODRÍGUEZ Pedro Ernesto AMÉSTICA CANALES Rossanna de Fatima LATORRE MUÑOZ

I wish good luck to the new Director and his councillors, and I pray God to bless them abundantly, that their service of authority be filled with success. I sincerely thank Manuel CORNEJO GÁRATE for his eight years in helping the Institute grow, in Chile. It was during his term of office that the Chile Region was canonically erected to the status of district in formation. I also thank all the councillors who collaborated with him during his years as director. God bless them all!

New Council for the Colombia Region

I am pleased to announce the new Director of the Colombia Region, and his councillors:

Director:	Guillermo PÉREZ
Assistant Director:	Jaime Alberto HENAO ARROYAVE
Councillors:	Santiago ARMIJO ORTIZ Maximiliano GÚZMAN ROA Alicia FRANCO CORREA

I wish good luck to the Director and his council, and I pray God to bless them abundantly, that their service of authority be filled with success. I sincerely thank Alonso POSADA ECHEVERRY who served, these past years in helping the growth of the Institute in Colombia. I also thank his councillors who collaborated with him during his term as director. God bless them all!

Web Page Committee

The first meeting of the Web Page Committee was held on January 10. It is considering the possibility of modifying to website in order to include information from all the districts and regions. You are invited to send information and news from your district or region to your director who will ensure that it is forwarded to the central administration in a timely manner by the one responsible for the district or region web site.

Central Council

The next meeting of the Central Council will be held February 23-25. All items forwarded two weeks prior to the meeting for discussion then will be addressed. Please pray that this meeting be crowned with success. Thank you.

Canonical Visitation to Canada

This month I complete my canonical visitation to Canada with the visit of the Montréal, Abitibi, Mauricie and Québec Sectors.

In a Spirit of Fraternity...

Sharing is a beautiful gesture. I know that some of you do not have access to the internet and so cannot read the Director General's Newsletter. In a spirit of fraternity, I urge those of you who have access to the internet to share this monthly bulletin with those in their team who have no access. Thank you.

A Thought for the Month

The call to holiness is accepted and can be cultivated only in the silence of adoration before God's infinite transcendence: "We must admit that we all need this silence filled with the presence of Him who is adored" (*Vita consecrata*)

Birthday

On February 6, **Father Guillermo Pérez**, the new director of the Colombia Region, will be celebrating his birthday. Guillermo is a precious help to the central administration as translator. Please pray for him on that day.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 9

March 2011

The Annunciation

Every year on July 2 we celebrate the anniversary of the Institute. So, why is the Annunciation our patronal feast? It is because the Voluntas Dei Institute was born of God's desire, and not of that of Father Parent. Following the publication of Pope Pius XII's Apostolic Constitution *Provida Mater Ecclesia*, Father Parent asked his superiors to found a new spiritual family, but the request was not granted. Our Founder submitted to his superiors in obedience, and he patiently waited. If it was God's will that a new secular institute be born, this would be made known to him in due time, in spiritual discernment through the Word of God, the events of the time, and the decision of authority.

Throughout her life, Mary discerned the will of God and adhered to it. In this she is a model to us who belong to the Institute. The most eloquent example of this is the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). The Angel Gabriel announces to her that she is with child through the Holy Spirit, that she shall have a son who is to be called Jesus, one who would be called Son of God. Mary is here confronted to a great mystery. What she has been told is unimaginable! However, in an act of pure faith, she says yes to the will of God.

If the angel's visit and the will of God were a mystery to Mary, her *Fiat* is just as great a one, and the Church has chosen to celebrate it each year on March 25. This is the time for us to recall that we, too, must discern the will of God in our daily life, and adhere to it. But how can this be? This is done by being open and by asking questions, as the Virgin did: Why? How can this be? There are stories in the Gospel that illustrate the lack of openness. The story of Zachary (Luke 1:5-23) comes to mind. He was not at all open to hearing the will of God who had to show him a tangible sign: Zachary lost his voice and regained it only when he decided to follow the will of God. Joseph's attitude of being close-minded differs from Zachary's (Matthew 1:18-25). Joseph refuses God's will even before it is made known to him. But when the voice of God resonates in his heart, Joseph adheres to it and carries it out.

During this month of March, let us take the time to ask ourselves, "Is my attitude like Mary's, Joseph's or Zachary's? Do I listen to God speaking to me through His Word? How do I react to events? What is my attitude towards authority that is over me? Let us pray God to keep our hearts open and disposed to respond to His will, and let us apply ourselves to acknowledge our resistance and overcome it. Let us not forget that it is when we react positively to events that we are truly Voluntas Deis. Openness of heart and obedience to the divine will leads us to profound joy, and it shall make our lives bear fruit. May we celebrate our patronal feast in joy!

News

Central Council

I thank all of you for your prayerful support for the success of the Central Council meeting. I am happy to share with you few things discussed:

- The committees of the central administration presented their working documents towards the growth of the Institute in particular and general. They were approved and forwarded to them for further progress.
- The Statutes of the District-in-formation of the United States is approved by the Central Council.
- Few members have received their Stability in the Institute from different districts and regions.
- The theme of 2012 issue of "The Present Moment" will be: **The Team Life**. The editors Raymonde Jetté and Fernand Turgeon will soon establish the necessary contact so to collecting articles. Those who are interested to share their experiences are most welcome to contact the editors. You will find their postal address and their electronic addresses in the directory of the Institute that is available in the Members' Area of the web page.
- The next Central Council meeting will be on July 25 - 29, 2011.

Institute's Web Page

You can now access the video and photos of my Canadian District visitation to the Abitibi, Québec and Trois-Rivières sectors. Besides, the 2011 Institute directory is available in the members' section.

Statistics for 2010

As of December 31, 2010, the Institute had 862 members in 20 countries. The statistics of the members are as follows:

Priests incardinated in the Institute:	151
Priests incardinated in dioceses:	29
Clerics incardinated in the Institute:	3
Single laymen without Stability:	43
Single laymen with Stability:	13
Seminarians:	71
Associate Members:	552

Thank You



For 21 years Mrs. Denise Caron volunteered her precious services to the central administration. Every month – and often with help from her husband Maurice – she looked after the monthly mailings to our benefactors, and she also performed other tasks that we greatly appreciated. Mrs. Caron is now retiring, and it is with deep gratitude and much affection that we say to her and her husband a heartfelt thank you for all they gave to the Institute.

I am happy to announce that Mrs. Renée Croteau and Mr. Richard Normandin have accepted to take over from Mr. and Mrs. Caron. Renée and Richard joined the Institute in 1987 as associate members and received their stability in 1996. Welcome to you both!



A Thought for the Month

The instinct of a man is to pursue everything that flies from him, and to fly from all that pursue him. (Voltaire)

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

*Happy
patronal feast!*



Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 10

April 2011

Resurrection

“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is void of content and your faith is empty too” (1 Cor. 15:14). These words of Saint Paul tell us that the Christian faith is founded on the Resurrection, and that for us baptised, this should not only be a belief but also a personal experience.

It happens so often that our paths are straight while we are on the Damascus road. Before his encounter with the Risen One, Paul was persecuting Christians and he was persuaded that he was in this way doing the Father's will. He then experienced the Encounter. He was blinded by the light of Christ and in this way he lost his sight, his personal vision of things. He had to take stock of his life: “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up and go into the city... (You are) the instrument I have chosen to bring my name to the Gentiles” (Acts 9:5b, 15b). The experience was the same as with the Samaritan woman. She takes stock of her life and Jesus reveals himself to her as the expected Messiah. And the Good News that he brings to her, is that she is loved, unconditionally loved, and that her sins are forgiven. Because she has personally experienced it, this merciful love overwhelms her and transforms her to her very depths. She can now leave her past behind her, she can enter into the new life, and carry the message through the witness of the joy that is seen in her.

We do not deserve our salvation, no more that we can earn it through our personal effort. It is freely given to us. Besides, our justification to the divine life is inherent to our faith in the risen Jesus Christ. Every year, the Church sets aside a period of time – Lent – for us to prepare for the celebration of the greatest of all mysteries: Jesus Christ died for our sins and we have received the gift of God which is eternal life in Christ Jesus our lord (Rm. 6:23). Forty days are offered to us to prepare and renew ourselves spiritually so that we may enter fully into the Easter joy. Forty days for us to seek out God even more intensely, to take a serious look at our lives, to repent and accept His forgiveness. Forty days to allow Him to open our eyes and transform our hearts. Forty days to leave aside sadness and lethargy, and to learn to be happy.

How have I myself decided to live out this experience of Lent? Do I have a profound desire to encounter the Risen Lord? Does it allow myself to pause and pray to receive his light and joy? Can I see where my assurance as a persecutor is hidden? Our resurrection begins in the present moment, with the free choice to believe: “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then” (Dt. 30:19).

True celebration is found in what we live, in how we live our everyday events. This celebration can be authentic only if our words and actions witness to our personal experience

of having encountered the Risen Lord. Let us offer to God “the sacrifice of being happy”¹. As baptised we are all called to reveal the resurrection. As *Voluntas Deis*, we have answered this call in a special way. Let us put all of our zeal to evangelising through our joy in believing that Jesus is risen, through our unshakeable trust in his love, convinced that Love always conquers.

¹ Louis Evely, *Joie de croire*, Éd. p.11

Happy Easter!

Happy Easter! May the Risen Lord bless us all so that we may be his true witnesses.

News

Congratulations

I am happy to announce that on March 25, Bishop Gerald-Cyprien Lacroix inaugurated his episcopal ministry as Archbishop of Québec and Primate of the Canadian Church. Archbishop Lacroix is a former Director General of the Pius X Secular Institute. We will him well, and I invite you all to pray for success in his new responsibilities.

Good News!

On March 25, our patronal feast, **Anthonipillai Tony Jerai**, a Sri Lanka layman of the Institute who had been imprisoned since 2008 at the time of the Civil War, was released from prison. Thanks be to God!

Ordination

Michael Devin Coonghe, of the Sri Lanka District in Formation, is to be ordained a priest on April 28. Congratulations to Devin and to the Sri Lanka Region. Let us rejoice in this new priest, and let us be united to him in prayer, on the day of his ordination.

Stability

Fathers Cecil Noronha and **John Jake** have been officially welcomed in the Canadian District; they have become incardinated in the Institute and have been granted stability.

Website

We have been updating our website, and I invite you all to visit it and encourage others to do the same, as a way of promoting vocations. Besides, your comments and suggestions for improvement of our website are always welcome.

Death

André Morin, permanent deacon and professed member of the Institute, died in Canada at the age of 82. He was incardinated in the Institute. May his soul rest in peace in paradise in the company of our Founder, the Virgin Mary, the saints and the angels.

Our prayer This Month

Crucified and risen Lord,
teach us to confront the battles of daily life,
so that we may live more fully.

You humbly and patiently welcomed
the failures of human living,
like the suffering of your crucifixion.
So then, help us to accept the sorrows and struggles that are our daily lot
as opportunities to grow and to resemble you all the more.
Help us confront them patiently and bravely,
as we place our trust in your support.
Amen.

(Mother Teresa)

Anniversaries and Birthdays

April 10, **Anutha Bary Virgin and Maria Joseph Sylvester Fernando** of the Sri Lanka District in formation, who celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. I invite you to pray for them on this occasion.

April 26, **Mary Avvai and Amirthanatha Amalanathan** of the Sri Lanka District in Formation celebrate their 25 wedding anniversary. I invite you to pray for them on this occasion.

Mrs. Sylvie Ferland has her birthday April 22. She is the cook and housekeeper at the central house. Everyone, residents and visitors, have been appreciating her well-prepared meals as well as the enthusiasm and happiness that are hers.

André Côté has his birthday April 26. He ends his second term as district director this spring. May God bless him with good health, that he may continue his ministry for many years to come.

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 11

May 2011

A Month for Remembering

According to Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, but for us Voluntas Deis, it is also the month of our Founder. Father Louis-Marie Parent, who had a profound devotion to Mary and the Church throughout his life, died May 17, 2009. This year I have chosen this month to share with you a bit of my experience with this uncommon man who was everything for us in the Institute. For those who knew much more than I did, I hope that my testimony will lead you to review your own lives in a spiritual way. For those of you who did not have the chance to know him, this might be to you a source of inspiration.

I joined the Institute in 1986 and I was introduced to Father Parent through the Voluntas Dei spirituality. From the very beginning of my formation I hoped to have a chance to meet him, but this was wishful thinking. For years I was confronted with challenges, difficulties, and temptations, and I was strengthened by this rich spirituality that is ours, as well as by being united in heart and prayer with Father Parent. Then in 2002, this dream became reality when I first visited Canada. An unforgettable memory for me: without my asking for anything, the person who met me at the bus terminal took me directly to Father Parent's residence. This meeting came as a surprise to both him and me, but we met each other.

That summer, Father Parent was still in good health. His mind was clear and sharp. He greeted me with a warm smile that lit up his face. He was so glad to meet a Voluntas Dei from a mission country. I felt his whole being inhabited by the divine, by a love that came from deep within his being. He was calm, relaxed, an image of simplicity, positive, and well grounded in the present moment. From then on, everything I had experienced in my spiritual development through the spirituality he had given us became very concrete and real.

I stayed and worked two months at the shrine of Our Lady of the Cape, in Cap-de-la-Madeleine. The shrine is close to the residence of the Oblate Fathers where Father Parent lived. Every evening I was free I visited him. He always welcomed me enthusiastically with the words, "Welcome, Dunstan!" and he gave me the accolade. This memory is etched in my heart. We often prayed together and celebrated the Eucharist together, concelebrating in turn. He generously shared many things with me. His mind and speech were clear, because they were full of wisdom.

In Canada until 2004, I returned to Trois-Rivières at every summer vacation, and I spent as much time as I could with him. Then, after my election as a general councillor of the Institute, I had the opportunity of seeing him every year. Despite his memory lapses, he always remembered my name. In 2008, at my summer visit, Father Parent told me, before I even opened my mouth: “Dunstan, this is perhaps the last time that we see each other. I am old and God is calling me.” And this was our last meeting.

To me, Father Parent is a man of God, a saint. I have as an explicit sign of this the ties that he had with Sri Lanka. In May, 1975, the day of the Sri Lanka Mission foundation, he had requested a sign from God, a rain shower at a time of drought. It rained three times, just as he had asked, and he laid the cornerstone to the house while holding his umbrella. The house was destroyed during the civil war, and this pained Father Parent. He prayed very much for an end to the war. One day in May of 2009, I received two bits of news: one was about the death of Father Parent on May 17, and the other was about the ending of the civil war!

I would have dearly loved to attend his funeral, but this was not possible. With all my personal memories of him and the sadness of not having been able to attend his funeral, I had the chance to visit his grave and pray. On that day, I felt in my heart that he was speaking to me as Jesus did to his apostles; “Go... Teach them to obey all the commandments that I have given you. And know that I am with you always, to the end of time” (Mt. 28:20).

Like Father Parent before me, I invite you to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary, and also in those of our beloved Founder.

News

The Haiti District Assembly was held April 26 to 29. I am pleased to announce the new Director and his council:

Director:	Fr. Didi HORACE
Assistant Director:	Fr. Evens FRANCIS
Councillors:	Fr. Madelon EUSTACHE
	Mrs. Marie Carmel VALCOURT
	Mr. Harry CHERY

My best wishes to the Director and his council. I pray God to bless them abundantly so that they may carry out their service of authority successfully. I sincerely thank Philippe Désiré who served these last four years, looking after the growth of the Institute in Haiti. I also thank all the councillors who worked with him during his years as director. May God bless them all.

“Holiness is acquired by following Jesus, not by fleeing reality and its trials, but by confronting them in the light and with the power of his Spirit.” on May 1, the one who spoke these words, **John Paul II**, became a blessed in the Church of Rome. Let us join

the whole Church to give thanks to God for having given us such a great witness to Christ.

I am pleased that an addition will be made to the inscription on Father Parent's tombstone, stating that he is the founder of the Voluntas Dei Institute. Thank you to the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (O.M.M.I.)!

A Thought for the Month

“You are apostles by vocation, you are therefore called to reflect Christ: this is your objective. In order to reflect Him, you must have Him with you through the state of grace, and give Him to others through the gift of yourself to others. Give Him to others through your words and especially your example” (Louis-Marie Parent, Letter to the O.M.M.I.s, June 1958).

Birthdays

Mario Laroche has a birthday on May 18. One of the founding members of the Institute, he served as director general from 1980 to 1992. May God bless him and keep him in health so that he may continue his priestly ministry.

Didi Horace has his birthday on May 24. He is the new director of the Haiti District. May God bless him with good health, that he may continue his ministry for many years to come.

Mrs. Claire Lafrenière has her birthday on May 27. An accountant technician with the central administration, she is well-known to the district and regional directors, and she is of great service to the Institute. God bless her!

S. James Dunstan, I.V. Dei
Director General

Director General's Newsletter

Volume 1 ♦ Number 12

June 2011

In the Footsteps of Jesus

When we plan a trip we take the time to prepare so that we may enjoy it to the fullest. We consider the activities we plan on doing, the places we want to visit, and we make a list of what we want to take along. It is the same thing with life in general. We all have objectives, and they are what allow us to take to the road and walk. Having an objective is therefore decisive for each one and for the choices made. If God's choices are always good, we cannot say as much concerning ours. This is well illustrated in the Genesis story of the Bible. Jesus offers Himself as a model, to us Christians. As June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and this year marking also the feast of Pentecost, we enter a special period of time when we allow the Holy Spirit to descend on us in order to help us in our reflection regarding the meaning of walking in the footsteps of Jesus, and on the need of the grace of God in order to do so.

God always comes first. He chose us long before we were baptized. This is what Jesus said: "It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure..." (Jn. 15:16). As *Voluntas Deis*, we have answered a personal call from Jesus to walk in his footsteps as a consecrated person living in the world. The voluntary choice of a particular lifestyle to witness to Christ is not enough, though. The man or woman wanting to walk in the footsteps of Jesus must have courage and be deeply convinced, and for this, there must have been an encounter sometime, somewhere. This encounter happens in the deep recesses of one's being where the heart has opened to the person and message of Christ. The true encounter upsets us and turns us radically to Jesus who becomes the centre of our lives. It is then only that we choose to follow him. However, this requires that we drop excess baggage that comes from our education, our socio-cultural milieu, and our personal history. In order to follow Jesus we must leave behind certain things, views, mentalities, and ways of acting. This is not easy, but once we have experienced the presence of Christ in our lives, it is possible because he does not leave us alone on the road. The Holy Spirit works in us, to lead us to dispossession of oneself.

An apostle is therefore one who has had a personal calling from Jesus to experience his presence and that of the Good News. But we live in a world inhabited by both believers and non-believers. As consecrated persons, we try to witness to the Gospel values and to live them to the fullest, but this is not always welcome. Just like Jesus, we are often confronted with misunderstanding and perhaps even persecution. This is why we need to be and remain convinced. We find our strength by living in the presence of God, that is,

by listening to the messages He sends us through others, experiences and events of our daily lives. When we are in a relationship of communion with Jesus, when we are in the presence of God, we avoid destructive criticism and useless complaining. We remain available in order to be of service to others. This brings peace to us despite the difficulties we encounter, and it gives us the strength to pursue our witness. As we near Pentecost, may we open wide the doors of our hearts to the Holy Spirit so that he may help us enter ever more deeply in the love of God, and help us share in the life of Jesus. May the outpouring of his grace regenerate us in order to make us convinced and convincing witnesses.

News

New Canadian District Council

The District Assembly was held May 19 to 23, 2011. I am pleased to announce the new director and his council:

Director:	Fr. Michel Beauchamp
Assistant Director:	Fr. Laurier Albert
Conscillors:	Mr. Andrew Mayer
	Mr. Jacques Théberge
	Fr. Richard L'Archer
	Mr. Alain Dagenais
	Mrs. Odette Burelle

My best wishes to the director and his council. I pray God to bless them abundantly, so that they may successfully carry out their service of authority. I sincerely thank André Côté for his eight years as director with concern for the growth of the Institute in Canada. I also thank all the councillors who collaborated with him during his years as director. May God bless them all.

Deaths

Mr. Jean-Luc Hurtubise, associate member with stability and member of the Canadian District, passed away on May 11. He was the husband of Louise Bernier. I tender my sympathies to his wife and the members of his family, as well as to the director and members of the Canadian District. I also invite all the members of the Institute to pray for his eternal rest.

Institute's Web Page

Those of you who are used to visiting the Institute's web page may have noticed the changes already made, to refresh its appearance and information content. He invites you to consult our web page and to encourage others in your milieu to do so. This is a way of making others aware of our spirituality and our lived experience, and in this way could be a source of vocation promotion.

A Thought for the Month

No man can follow Christ and go astray. (William H.P. Faunce)

Birthday

René Désilets celebrates his birthday on June 6. He was our first director general, from 1970 to 1980, following the directorship of our Founder, Father Parent. René presently ministers as a missionary in the Dominican Republic. May God bless and keep him in health so that he may continue on with his priestly ministry.

Father **Christy Selvarajah** of the Sri Lanka District-in-formation celebrates his 25th anniversary of ordination on June 19. Please keep him in your prayers.

June 21, **Soosaiammal and P.M. Savarimuth** of the India District-in-formation, who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. I invite you to pray for them on this occasion.

June 28, **Mary Cosentino and Louis Richard** of the Canadian District, who celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. I invite you to pray for them on this occasion.

Father **Serge Laroche** of the Canadian District celebrates his 25th anniversary of ordination on June 28. Please keep him in your prayers.

S. James Dunstan, I.V. Dei
Director General