

# Director General's Newsletter

Volume 3 ♦ 2012-2013

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# Director General's Newsletter

Volume 3 ♦ Number 1

July 2012

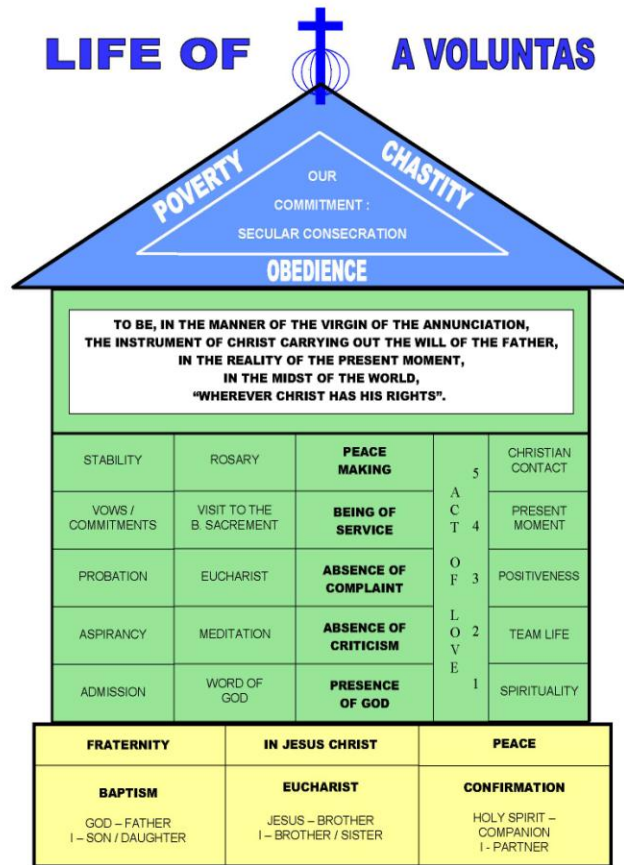
## TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I invite you today to meditate on our identity as Voluntas Dei. Who are we? What is the life of a Voluntas Dei? Firstly, we are Christians that make of us « temples of God. » We are Christians called to sanctify our lives through secular consecration, that of the Voluntas Dei. I propose to you today to meditate on the life of a Voluntas Dei in the image of a temple to be constructed.

« Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you ? »  
(1 Cor 3,16)

### Foundations

**The foundations** (in yellow): The life of a Voluntas Dei must rest on something solid and durable. It is built fundamentally on the basis of a Christian life deeply lived. The foundations of our life are the Sacraments of Initiation into the Christian life: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation. Identifying us respectively with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, these sacraments are the very expression of the Holy Spirit. Once well rooted in the Christian life, a person can be called to consecrate his/her life to God in a particular way. This person can then carry within him/her the desire to become a Voluntas Dei if he/she adheres to the objective of the Institute and wishes to make it his/her own. When everything is in place,



we have the foundations well achieved upon which one can commence to build a Voluntas Dei temple.

### **Formation**

**The walls** (in green): The walls of our Voluntas Dei life define the interior space that is ours. Upon these will rest our common apostolic project. They have as their function to allow what we could call a « spiritual practice », and also protect us against the exterior elements so that we can remain peaceful and strong in our walk in the footsteps of Christ. The essential elements of our Voluntas life are spread throughout three groups: 1) the five steps of incorporation ; 2) the spirituality of the 5-5-5 and the five essential values.

**The ceiling** (in white): Once the walls are built, one can realize the ceiling upon which rests the roof. This is the charism of the Institute that gives its own identity to the whole construction. It is our specific colour, the aspect of the life of Christ that we wish to give to the world.

Now our construction is well advanced. All this work permits the formation of our Voluntas Dei being. Once brought to stability, our residence rests on solid foundations and we can enter deeply and truly into secular consecration.

### **Witnessing**

**The roof** (in blue): It covers our Christian life and gives to it a specific style. It is at this level that we can really live secular consecration through our commitment to live the evangelical counsels: poverty, chastity, obedience.

**The bell tower** (our logo) : Our life is now a true Voluntas Dei temple. We are ready to witness to Christ according to the specific colour of the Institute. The bells call, invite and challenge those who are on our path. We are « reference points in the landscape in order that each may situate oneself. » We have become light of the world, in the midst of the world.

## **NEWS**

The next meeting of the Central Council is planned to take place at Trois-Rivieres July 2-5, 2012. We ask you to pray for the success of this meeting.

On June 27, the Central Administration welcomed Sylvie Dagenais to the post of secretary replacing Anne Penelle who is leaving her job at the Institute to join a diocesan team. On behalf of the Institute, I express my gratitude to Anne for her work and precious assistance for four and a half years with us. Further, I extend wishes of welcome to Sylvie Dagenais who will assume the role of secretary and manage the web site.

On July 2, we will celebrate the 54th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. Let us give special attention to this day and live a spirit of thanksgiving and joy.

On this same day will be the 60th anniversary of the foundation of our big sisters, the Oblates Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. Our congratulations go out to all with the assurance of our prayers. I invite you to offer a Mass for them.

I also ask you to pray for the intentions of our beloved founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i., whose birthday occurs on July 12.

At the end of the month of July, I will participate in the Congress of the Assembly General of the World Conference of Secular Institutes that will be held in Assisi, Italy.

## **TOUGH OF THE MONTH**

« In the end, it is not the years of your life that count, but the life in your years. » (Abraham Lincoln)

## **BIRTHDAYS**

On July 2, Marcos Alejandro Guerra Romero, Director of the District in Formation, Chili, will celebrate his birthday.

On July 4, Manuel Cornejo Garate will celebrate his birthday. He is a member of the Central Council.

On July 25, I will celebrate my birthday as well as the 15th anniversary of priesthood. Thank you for praying for me on this day.

On July 28, Yves Richard and Laurette Tremblay will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage.

On these occasions, I invite you to unite yourself in prayer with all of these members who will be marking an anniversary in July. May God bless you and keep you in good health!

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

# Director General's Newsletter

Volume 3 ♦ Number 2

August 2012

## The Present Moment

Father Parent often said to those journeying with the Institute: « You are a gift of God. » He added : « You are a gift to the Institute and the Institute is a gift to you! » When one reflects on this well, it is true that we are gifts of God and our life as Voluntas is also. What deep meaning do these words of our Founder have? They tell us that we did not choose our vocation. It is God who predestined us to become who we are.

« Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons...[daughters]... through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace. . . In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will . . . »

(Eph 1 : 4-6. 11)

Each of us is unique and has been chosen by God. As Christians, our baptism is a pure gift from God. Even the adult who receives it is carried by the deep desire for it that has been sowed by God Himself. That is already a good reason to render thanks each day: to have been chosen to be the « places of God », adoptive daughters and sons. But it goes even further. Who among us can pretend to have always known that his/her vocation was to be a Voluntas? If we are honest, if we look over again our journey, we will be able to observe that it was not so evident and that God had predestined us for this vocation.

Each one of us is a pilgrim and follows one's own pathway. Sometimes, the path way of our life descends steeply and we have the feeling that everything is going too fast. Sometimes, the pathway of our life is too steep and we find arduous and breathless the hill to climb. Then, we travel across the plain and we feel again the comfort of walking without effort and rushing. And then comes an exit to take, a choice to make between two possible ways, a detour that arises. And there, sometimes we lose ourselves. Sometimes we turn around. Sometimes we become impatient. But we end by retrieving our way to arrive at a safe harbour!

The destination to attain is our end, our personal objective, our vision. It is this objective that gives us the direction to take, the markings on the route and the motivation to continue. The vision is a gift of God who gives us the strength to move forward and the faith necessary to surmount obstacles. The person who has a personal objective discovers the mission that God has entrusted to him/her for the building up of the Kingdom. Our mission is linked to our potential, values and interests. It is also connected to our strengths and

weaknesses. In order to discover it, two means are necessary. The first is to know oneself well. The second is to live the present moment.

Why live the present moment with such importance? Because the destination will be attained if the pilgrim does not choose the path to be followed but the path that has been adjusted to the journey traced out for him/her. That is why it is necessary to listen, be attentive to the signs and open to what is proposed. We Voluntas Dei are not the saviours of the world. We are called «to be in the manner of the Virgin of the Annunciation instruments of Christ living the will of the Father in the reality of the present moment. » The total secret of our life is there, in the present moment. It is the gift that Father Parent has made to the Institute. The pilgrim cannot make his/her way nor face accidents on the way if his/her regard is behind him/her. Likewise, he/she cannot walk while looking several kilometers ahead without risking falling or tripping over one's feet. That is why it is necessary to let go of the past, not live in the future but live the present moment.

The present moment is the most important moment of my life since it is in this moment that I can be happy, discover my strengths and weaknesses surpass myself and love. Each present moment if lived well is a stone that is added to the construction of the temple that I am called to become. It is the reason for rejoicing since it is given to us to create something beautiful and positive.

## News

### Plenary Central Council

I am happy to inform you of some information from the last plenary meeting of the **Central Council** held July 3-5, 2012. I thank you for your prayers. I wish to share with you the following information:

- A number of members from different districts and regions have received stability in the Institute.
- The financial statements and projected budgets of the districts and regions were approved and the money will be sent in two parts.
- The Central Council decided to apply the decisions of the 2010 Assembly General to each district and region. The Councilors have taken responsibility to supervise the decisions with the coordination of the directors of the districts and regions.
- The next meeting of the Central Council is planned for November 6-8, 2012.

### World Conference of Secular Institutes

I participated to the World Conference of Secular Institutes (WCSI) from July 24 to 26. It was held in Assisi, Italy. There were 191 institutes present during the conference. The General Assembly followed with 126 delegates, General Directors and their delegates. Both activities were very interesting.

### Canonical Visit

I will be in the United States during the first week of August to make my canonical visit. Your prayers are always welcomed.

### Visit to the Institute

Father Nestor Fornaris Hurtado, Cuba, made a visit to the Central Administration in July. We were very happy to receive him. The District of Cuba is in full expansion. Our Institute in Cuba has been officially approved by the government.

### **Death**

I learn with dolor the pass away of **Jean-Leon St-Pierre**. In the name of the Institute and in my own name, I celebrated a mass at Assisi for him. I accompany his wife Paulette with my prayers. We thank Jean-Leon for all these years of testimony among the Institute. Jean-Leon was an associated member of the Ottawa team in the Canadian district.

### **Thought of the Month**

« *Happiness is a disposition of the spirit that we create for ourselves through our manner of accepting and using the present moment.* » (Father Louis-Marie Parent)

### **Anniversary**

August 5 is the birthday of **Yvon Carpentier**. He was the Director General from 1992-1998. He resides at the Central House in Trois-Rivières. May God bless him and keep him in good health in order that he may continue his priestly ministry.

August 6 is the anniversary of **Fernand Turgeon** and August 9, that of his wife, **Raymonde Jetté**. Raymonde and Fernand have served two terms as members of the Central Council.

**Anthony Sahayanathan** celebrates his birthday on August 24. It is the District Director in training Sri Lanka for two years. May God bless and keep healthy so he continues his priestly ministry.

August 26 is the anniversary of **François Hamel**, executive director of the Institute from 1998 to 2010 and counselor in canon law. May God bless and keep healthy so he continues his priestly ministry.

On this occasion, I invite you to unite in prayer to all those members that will highlight a birthday in August. God bless them and keep in good health!

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

# Director General's Newsletter

Volume 3 ♦ Number 3

September 2012

## **The World is Beautiful**

All of us know this excerpt from chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes that says to us:

There is a time for every matter under heaven :

- a time to be born and a time to die;
- a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to weep and a time to laugh;
- a time to speak and a time to keep silence;
- a time to love and a time to hate;

In daily life there are ups and downs, Monday mornings and Saturday nights and it is necessary to say sometimes, it seems that it is Monday all week long.

Why? Simply because life is just like that. It cannot always go well or to the contrary always badly.

All of us are called to travel through these darker times of our life without being personally responsible for them. Illness can surprise us and this becomes a heavy burden to carry. A separation, a distancing, the lost of a family member, the death of a dear friend, a personal setback, etc.

What to do? How to react? One can isolate oneself to live the sorrow all alone and close-up on oneself. One can also blame oneself for the wrong and wound oneself interiorly and even refuse precious help from a friend. It is certain when we close all of the windows of our home, of our life, the sun cannot enter, light is absent, our neighbors do not have access to our heart and not only are we unhappy but we make others unhappy and anxious about us.

However, there are times more joyful in a human's life, when one feels loved, appreciated, valued because one has done a similar gesture, been considered on account of a particular intervention with an unknown person, been recognized for a difficult job well done; there one has the desire for life and even of communicating this desire of life to everyone.

One looks outside in order to feel the sun that lights and warms all of nature; to hear the birds that sing, to admire the colors of the flowers, and to walk and feel the earth under one's feet. All is beautiful. All is marvelous and a spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving rises toward the Lord to say thank you to Him. One is happy and this happiness shines forth all around one.



To be happy, it is to see, touch and commune with the creation of the Lord. We are children of the Lord and we have been created to be happy. And, it is perhaps here that our faith in God should make us live and our ability to be positive expressed. The Lord assures us of His love, presence and support, and we have the faculty to make and to see positively the life of each day.

As members of the Voluntas Dei Institute, we are called to live our faith in accordance with the Gospels in the example of the Blessed Virgin of the Annunciation.

Let us live this positive attitude in joy and deep peace and let us accept to share it in our milieu of life with our neighbors.

## **News**

### Ordinations

We have had two ordinations in August :

- Jean Louisnet of Haiti that took place on Sunday, August 19.
- Alan Varapiragasam of Sri Lanka, on Wednesday, August 22.

Congratulations to the two of them as well as to the Districts of Haiti and Sri Lanka. May God guide their footsteps and accompany them all along their journey. We invite the members to unite themselves with them in prayer for success in their mission.

### Visits

We have had visits in August at the Central House from Father Paul Boulay as well as Father Rene Desilets, two Canadian missionaries in the Dominican Republic. We were very happy to receive them.

### Canonical Visit

During the first week of August, I experienced a beautiful meeting with the members of the Institute in the United States. To see and listen to all of the members gathered together at their extremely well organized Congress was for me spectacular. We had a day of contemplation with the Council followed by three days of retreat with the members. This was an excellent experience. It is with pleasure that I will renew this experience at the time of their next meeting.

This month, I will meet the members of Ethiopia, Germany and ending up in France. Your prayers are always appreciated for the good unfolding of this trip.

## **Thought of the Month**

Each stroke of inspiration of the positive is a pathway that God reveals to us in order to bring us to Himself. (*Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.*)

## **Anniversaries/Birthdays**

**Innasi Mudyappan**, member of the Central Council celebrates his birthday on September 1. May God keep him under His protection.

**Michel Beauchamp**, celebrates his 25th anniversary of priesthood on September 5th and his birthday on September 29. He is the Director of the Canadian District for the second year. May God bless him and keep him in health so that he continues his priestly ministry and leadership of the Canadian District.

On September 6, **Renée Croteau**, member of the Institute and volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday. We accompany her with our prayers.

I invite you to pray for each on their special occasion and may God accompany them in their journey of life.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 4

October 2012

## Responsibility for Formation

Consecration has « numerous branches whose roots are immersed in the Gospel and provide abundant fruit in all seasons in the life of the Church. » These various branches comprise: monastic life, the Order of Virgins, Hermits, Institutes consecrated entirely to contemplation, religious apostolic life, secular Institutes, Societies of apostolic life and finally the new forms or renewed forms of consecration (cf. *Vita Consecrata*, 6-12).

The status of consecrated life was established in 1947 for all the baptized with the objective of participating in contemplation and apostolic life while living in the world. They are called to live their consecration according to the rules of their own institute and according to their style of life. They also have their own formation and follow an on-going formation. In reality, formation has always had an essential role in the long process of preparation for consecration and the offering of self to God.

The person in formation for consecration must firstly identify him/herself progressively with the attitude of Christ. (Phil. 2:5), and develop him/herself in accordance with the mystery of His death and resurrection. He or she must allow the Spirit to consider more and more the depth of each thought of the Son and must share in this complete personal sacrifice to the Father and to his/her brothers and sisters. Consequently, each person who identifies with the vocation to consecration is expected:

- To learn to love the truth
- To be loyal
- To respect everyone
- To have a sense of justice
- To be compassionate
- To have integrity
- And especially to be balanced in his/her judgment and behavior;

and to make oneself holy by leaning on the open and free spiritualities of secular institutes that respond to the needs of individuals called to live in the complex and conflictual situations of the world.

*Now the Lord is the Spirit. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from*

*one degree of glory to another ; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Cor 3 : 17 :18).*

Saint Paul is marveled by the work of the Holy Spirit who transforms persons into the very image of Jesus Christ who is Himself the very image of God. This grace of the New Testament includes all who are joined to Jesus Christ through faith and baptism. Indeed, all that God does is pure grace. Touched by this grace, we render ourselves available for the work of God's transformation. As such, let us prepare a place so that the Lord may dwell within us and transform us. This must be internalized through comprehensive, systematic and practical formation that must be rooted in the Gospel.

Again, the reality of living this secular consecration in order to sanctify the life of one's neighbor and the formation to achieve this is totally different from religious consecration. The religious have their community. They have time for prayer, but also time to put into practice the attitudes and activities of their community. Since secular institutes do not have centers of formation or directors to verify if each consecrated person is living the spirituality, charism, objectives or the rule, each person must assume his/her own responsibility of formation. He/she must self-evaluate before God to see if he/she has done so and then has abandoned oneself to God in regard to the world. If the person feels ready, he/she must take the initiative to ask the person in charge to proceed to the next stage of his/her integration. Above all else, it is necessary to find a mentor to guide one during continuing formation or not.

Being Voluntas, can I take my own initiatives to form myself?

Let us meditate upon and take our consecration into our own hands to become holy!

## **News**

### Articles for *the Present Moment*

Theme « Christian Contacts » : we have not as yet received the totality of articles for this publication. It would be appreciated and very important to receive them by October 15 at [rinenormandin@videotron.ca](mailto:rinenormandin@videotron.ca)

### Canonical Visit

I am happy to inform you that I have returned from my canonical visit and I am in my office until my next visit to Ecuador. I had wonderful visits to Germany, Ethiopia and France even if I experienced some challenges here and there. This is normal when one travels to a foreign country. I received a warm welcome and I was able to respond to almost all of the members personally as well as their teams. Thank you sincerely for your prayers and support.

October is the month of the Rosary. I invite you to practice the 5th of our spiritual exercises with a particular devotion. Let us be deeply united to our Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary.

## **Monthly Thought**

Discernment in its fullness forms a heart practiced and sharpened to listen to the Word of God with the tenacity to follow these words of love. It is truly a gift of God, but not made in advance or fallen from heaven completely formed. It is a gift cultivated through a life of prayer and the seeking of self-knowledge, (Ernest Larkin)

## **Birthdays/Anniversaries**

**Nestor Fornaris**, priest in Cuba, celebrates his birthday on October 9.

**Dionicio Reyes Gonzalez** celebrates his birthday on October 9. He is the Director of the Altagracia District for the second year (Dominican Republic).

**Anthony J. Ciorra**, Director of the United States District in Formation celebrates his birthday on October 11.

**Andrew Sioleti**, member of the Central Council celebrates his birthday on October 25.

**J. Robert Suroviec** and **Eleanor Siehl** will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage.

May God bless them and keep them in good health so that they may continue their journey with the Lord!

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 5

November 2012

## **The need for formation and a personal reflection further to a number of my canonical visits**

I have just returned from a trip to Europe that brought me this time to Ethiopia, and made me discover and meet members of our Institute and I wish to mention, formidable members. Indeed, this was a real discovery for me. Members of our Institute who have read the books of formation in order to become true *Voluntas Dei*. They know the history of the Institute. They live the spirituality, and my presence among them gave the opportunity to express their joy and happiness in belonging to the Institute. They spoke to me about the means employed to witness their identity as Christians in daily life and as members of the Body of Christ, including their mutual love. This was a true discovery for me and a real comfort for a director.

Over more than 2 years, I have met the majority of our members and what a rich experience for me. This visit demanded a meeting of the members in their homes or places of work and made me be witness to their great generosity. This is an immense source of energy and joy that I cannot keep only for myself.

I received the confidences of our students who are preparing themselves to become priests one day, and I felt their joy of having discovered the spirituality of the 5-5-5 of Father Parent after having heard the call of the Lord to the priesthood. I have better understood their plans, not only of becoming priests but of being holy priests. This made me live moments of thanksgiving that are easy for me to communicate to you.

In all of these visits, I met members who are advancing in age, that is to say, that illness comes knocking at the door and that can complicate things. Nonetheless, they are members happy in their vocation but need more and more help to function well.

There are also members who suffer in their milieu of life, or, in difficult working conditions. Here, our positive and practical spirituality can help in the establishment of love, a spirit of mutual support and fraternity.

I also met members less happy, in the interior of themselves, since they no longer accept with a good heart their situation. Will it cause a distancing from the Lord? . . . A distancing from their Institute? Who knows? It happens sometimes that they may no longer be interested in meeting their confreres and are no longer at ease with them. Could it be that prayer and this meeting with the Lord each day no longer find an echo in their heart? It is not for me to pass judgment.

It remains possible that these few members might be again seeking meaning in their life and even after several years to follow Christ!

Here I avow, that this makes me suffer in my heart of a priest and I pray for them in asking myself how can I help them or still how can we help them? After all, they are our sisters and brothers!

Following this rich experience and as head of the Institute a conviction dwells deeply within me: the necessity of a solid preparation in order to face up to our world in crisis and the importance of a good formation to live our fidelity to Jesus and His Mother Mary if we really want to be witnesses of Jesus crucified.

If our seminarians believe that they have graduated and attained the summit on the eve of the ordination to the priesthood, they are in error. This is not the end, but only the beginning.

If couples sign their first commitment and believe that the time of preparation is terminated, they are mistaken. This is not the end, but only the beginning.

If a priest that has been ordained for 10 or 20 years thinks that he is now well established and installed, he is wrong. This is not the end and he still has a number of years to live in order to carry out his faithfulness, vocation and mission.

For new members and also for all of us, we need to meet the Lord each day in prayer time, in a life of presence to God and in a presence to our confreres at the time of team meetings. Why? Simply because this is a fundamental and essential connection, a basic condition for expressing and proving our belonging to the Voluntas Dei Institute.

Otherwise, what remains for us? Let us remain united to Jesus through our life of prayer and presence to God and to our brothers and sisters by our fellowship and participation in our team meetings. It is our strength and vocation.

### **Thought of the Month**

If you're trying to achieve, there will be roadblocks. I've had them; everybody has had them. But obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.  
[Michael Jordan](#)

### **Storm in the United States**

At this moment, a storm rages in the United States. I ask you all to pray for our members who are at the heart of this turmoil. I am in communion with them and I send all my prayers for our members and the director Antony Ciorra so that God protects all of them.

## Let's Remember

In November, the Church invites us to pray more particularly for the deceased. Let us pray for Father Parent and for the members of the Institute who have passed away. I recommend especially to your prayers those who have left us this year:

- **Morel Alcantara Benjamin**, died in the Dominican Republic in 2012
- **Asivatham Anthonipillai**, died in Sri Lanka, 17 January 2012
- **Jean-Léon St-Pierre**, died in Canada, 22 July 2012;
- **Raymond Gendron**, died in Canada, 30 July 2012.

Let us also pray for the deceased members of our family, benefactors, friends and all those who have need of our prayers.

May their souls remain in peace through the mercy of God.

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

**Andrés Solano Sosa**, member of the Central Council, celebrates his birthday on November 10. He has been a member of the Central Council since 2010. May God bless him and give him health and the grace necessary for his ministry.

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



# News of the Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 6

December 2012

## **To Journey with the Voluntas Dei Institute**

We all have to journey in life with different points of view. We are traveling toward maturity and intellectual, economic, physical and psychological perfection and toward a spiritual maturity that carries us on the pathway of perfection. We pay attention to not committing errors that would complicate our lives with uncertain decisions. This goes hand in hand with our vocation to consecrated life. As we have reflected upon it in the past month, it is very essential that we as responsible persons advance with clarity and with a good discernment when we journey from one stage or other of incorporation and without negligence after having received stability. Let us make a general survey of our commitment as Voluntas Dei member on the topic of our evaluation this month to see where we are at present.

The Voluntas Dei Institute is a secular institute that invites all the baptized to respond in a responsible way to the vocation that God gives him/her. This is a gift of God for all for the sanctification of each one. When the person is committed to discern the call that comes from the depth of the heart, he/she seeks the help of the person responsible who will help him/her to respond to the vocational call. Team life, then, becomes the fundamental tool for knowing the Institute, its charism, spirituality and the objective of the Institute. The aspirant is invited to journey with the team and when the time comes for him/her to confirm that it is here that the Lord is calling him/her to give him/herself and to consecrate him/herself to God, the member can request to go further in his/her journey. This first stage of belonging is the period of pre-Aspirancy or Candidature, a period that could last for 6 months to two years.

The second stage is Aspirancy during which one familiarizes oneself more with the Institute. This is the stage in which one aspires to become a full member. In order to do so, the member acquaints him/herself with the study Guide that is published by the Institute as well as with the other tools of animation of the team. Each member must take the time necessary to assimilate well the contents of the Guide before advancing to the next stage of incorporation. Although the team animator procures for him/her the necessary tools, it remains the responsibility of the member to assimilate well the contents. This stage can also last from 6 months to 2 years.

The third stage is Probation that lasts from 2 to 4 years. This period finds its parallel in the stage of novitiate in religious life. This is a preparatory period to definitive commitment to consecrated life through the profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and

obedience. The member must prepare him/herself seriously during this period in order to commit him/herself to this way that is his/her. The commitment is made to God to respond to the vocation received either as a celibate or married person.

The fourth stage is Profession (for celibate laymen) or Commitments (for married couples). It is here that one promises to God to do the best through love of God thanks to the evangelical counsels. This is the greatest sacrifice that one can offer to God and it is a good example for others in view of their salvation. The member will renew his vows or his/her commitments annually and each is called to live the evangelical counsels throughout the year.

The fifth stage is Stability, the equivalent to perpetual vows in religious life. In this stage, the member declares that he/she is stable in his/her commitment to consecrated life. Stability must be requested after 5 to 7 years of profession or commitments and it is accorded by the competent authority. Once Stability is granted, the member must be stable in his/her consecrated life.

Stability involves a great responsibility for each member even if the formation in the strict sense is ended; the member must take the initiative for his/her on-going formation. Each member must study and adjust his/her personality with the historical dynamics, the cultural evolution and the modern teachings of the Church. As members, called to be true witnesses of Jesus Christ, continuing formation will enlighten each member consecrated in order to help him/her fulfill his/her mission of being « a universal sacrament of salvation » in a world that is in crisis.

As a *Voluntas Dei*, how do I consecrate my life during my period of formation until Stability? And, how do I update my consecration as a member of the *Voluntas Dei* Institute? Do I have a clear vision of my commitment?

Let us pray that the Lord will enlighten us with His graces in order to be truly committed *Voluntas Dei*.

## **News**

### Meeting of the Central Council

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place at the Central House in Trois-Rivieres December 17-19. We ask you to pray for the success of this meeting.

### Deceased

**Irvine Lewis**, Ontario/New Brunswick Sector, member of the Emmanuel Team, deceased November 3. He leaves behind in sorrow his wife Anne Landry-Lewis; two members of the Institute for 34 years. I offer my sympathies to his spouse as well as to the members of his family. I invite the members of the Institute to pray for the repose of his soul.

## **Preparation for Advent**

Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is a period of preparation for the birth of Jesus. During this time of awaiting, let us pray and unite ourselves with the Virgin Mary of the Annunciation who knew how to believe and live her faith in God.

## **Merry Christmas**

I take this opportunity in my last letter of 2012 to wish you, your families and friends a holy Christmas of peace and love! May the Child Jesus keep you in His care.

## **Thought of the Month**

Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it. (*Greg Anderson*)

## **Birthdays/Anniversaries**

**Alfred Anthonipillai**, of Sri Lanka celebrates his 50th anniversary of marriage, on the 6th of December; he and his wife are the first members in Sri Lanka. I wish Alfred health and my prayers go out to him for the repose of the soul of his spouse Sebamalaiammah Alfred.

**Napoleon Gomez**, Director of the District in Formation, India, celebrates his birthday on December 23.

**Pierre Marois**, Secretary General and the Director of the Office of Vocations and Missions, celebrates his birthday on December 23.

**Jean-Paul Chiasson**, Assistant Director General, celebrates his birthday on December 28.

May God sustain them in their vocation and bless them all!

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

# News of Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 7

January 2013

## The Year of Faith

We have successfully completed the year 2012. We are joyfully entering into the year 2013. I give thanks to God the Almighty Father with all of you for all the good He has done and we have received from Him throughout the past year.

The Holy Catholic Church is celebrating ‘the year of faith’ starting from October 11, 2012 till November 24, 2013. Holy Father Benedict XVI invites the whole church to deepen everyone’s faith by re-establishing the true nature of faith in the midst of the world during this year of faith. In the developing world, faith becomes a challenging reality and is slowly dying. It is a grave responsibility for every Christian to safeguard the gift of faith through word and deed. He further says, faith “summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world”. It is “ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church”. (Apostolic letter of the year of faith: *Porta Fidei*)

The year of faith marks three important momentous occasions:

\*50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council

\*20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

\*World Synod of Bishops on the theme of “New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith (October 07 to 28, 2012)

During the year of faith, Holy Father calls the universal Church to refocus the content of faith and consequences of accepting and living that faith. For this he recalls the year of faith of 1967 and reminds statements of Pope Paul VI. The martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul reveals their faith in word and action, sincerity and authenticity. He wanted the people of God to make ‘an authentic and sincere profession of the same faith’ of Saints Peter and Paul and emphasized it to be ‘individual and collective, free and conscious, inward and outward, humble and frank.’

In total, Pope Benedict XVI wants us to live the year of faith as witnesses of Jesus Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit. All the faithful should rediscover personally or collectively the documents of Second Vatican Council by understanding them in accordance with the signs of the time of the world today. He also insists on Catechism of the Catholic Church. For him it plays a key role as it consists of riches from the Scripture and a long tradition of the Church. World is growing today like a tasteless salt and hidden light (Mt. 5:13ff). The people of today are like the Samaritan woman who still experience the need to go to the well thirsting for the Good News of Jesus which invites everyone to believe in Jesus and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within Him (cf. Jn. 4:14). The methods of evangelization have to be updated. There is a need of new evangelization towards living our faith. This was deeply analysed during the last Synod of Bishops from 7 to 28 October 2012.

This is being implemented in your own parishes in different forms. I also urge you my dear brothers and sisters to take this seriously and live this as consecrated persons. We received the

gifts of faith from God and responded positively by saying yes through our own vocations. We are special people because we live in with the people of the world, as Pope says, who are tasteless salts and lights in a hidden places and who are unable to express their thirst or shy to fetch a pail of water. As secular consecrated persons, we have more openings to live our faith. Let us all take an extra effort to live out our faith in all the places where we are. Let us give taste to others to safeguard their faith like salts of the earth, enlighten those who are in darkness of faith or who are spiritually blind and give water or show the well to fetch water for those who are thirsty to listen to God.

May I wish you all Happy and Prosperous New Year 2013 with the blessings of God! May the Holy Spirit inspire all of us to live our faith fully and fruitfully!

## Happy New Year 2013!

To each and every one of you my best wishes of peace and prosperity for a good and happy new year 2013!

May it give you the courage to spread love around!

## News

### Journal "The Present Moment"

You can view the journal of Voluntas Dei Institute, "The Present Moment", directly on our website.

### Membership Directory

The updated membership directory is also available on our website

### Celebrets

At the time of publishing this, we conclude the sending the district / regions célèbrets for priests incardinated in the Institute.

### Central Council

I am pleased to share some information from the last meeting of the **Central Council**, which took place from 17 to 19 December 2013. I take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers.

- Some members of different districts and regions have received their stability in the Institute.
- According to the Constitutions no. 204, the Central Council recognized the United States, which was a district in formation, eligible to become a distinct district. We are pleased to announce that from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, the United States will become officially a district.

- The next meeting of the **Central Council** will be a Plenary Central Council and will be held from next April 8 to 12 in another place as yet undetermined.

### Ordinations

I announce with great joy that we have two new priests Francis Xaviour Sabariyar, who was ordained on December 26, 2012 and Joseph Panakal on January 2, 2013. Both are from India, the district in formation. From all the Voluntas Dei and myself, congratulations to both ordained and May God guide their steps.

### Canonical Visitation

From January 7 to 28, 2013, I will be doing the canonical visit in Colombia and Chile. Pi-erre Marois will accompany me in these two countries. Thereafter, I will visit the orphan-age and school in Ecuador, the project of late Father Maurice Roy, with Jean Lebrun, President of Enfant Tiers Monde (ETM). Your prayers are always welcome.

### **Tought of the Month**

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. (Jas. 2:18)

### **Birthdays**

On January 20, Chandran Govindan and Jayalakshmi, India, will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. God accompanies them to keep them healthy.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 8

February 2013

## Council Vatican II

We are in the year of faith that marks three important and memorable events. I am happy to share with you the contents of each of them. One of the them is the 50 anniversary of the II Vatican Council which is the 21st ecumenical council, an occasion of spiritual renewal for the Church. Pope Benedict XVI invites us to reread the documents in the context of the present in order to update and live the contents of these documents to propagate the faith.

The II Vatican Council affected the life of millions of people and changed the course of the history of the Church entirely. It is distinguished as one of the most important councils with its great inspiration that « opened the doors and the windows of the Church. Pope John XXIII convoked the council on October 11, 1962. It was the largest of all of the ecumenical councils. There were about 2600 Bishops from all parts of the world in attendance. The total was more than 3000 participants including theologians and other experts.

Pope John XXIII surprised the whole world when, after only three months of his pontificate, he announced the convocation of the council. The Pope spoke about the necessity of the council putting up to date the Church, the promotion of Christian unity and showing the modern world that the Church had been transformed and intellectually reinvigorated. The vitality of the Church was placed in evidence by its forgiveness and reconciliation, in particular, through its invitation made to Protestants, Orthodox's and other non-Catholics. Pope Paul VI continued the same spirit in contributing to the liturgy, ecumenism, religious life and evangelization.

In all, the II Vatican Council had four sessions from 1962-1965 and produced 16 historic documents divided into three categories: 4 constitutions, 3 declarations and 9 decrees. The Council modernized the liturgy, renewed the priesthood and religious life and reinforced the role of lay Catholics, opened up dialogue with other churches and non-Christians and identified the Church as « the People of God », in harmony with the problems and hopes of the world. Here are the 16 documents of the II Vatican Council. These documents have given a great opening to all lay persons consecrated in the life of the Church. It will be greatly useful for us to study and integrate them into our lives in order to live our commitments. I encourage everyone to read at least a document that relates to our personal life and to internalize it in order to evangelize our own circumstances of life.

1. *Sacrosanctum concilium*, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 1963.
2. *Inter Mirifica*, Decree on the Means of Social Communication, 1963.
3. *Lumen Gentium*, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 1964.

4. *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*, Decree on the Catholic Eastern Churches 1964.
5. *Unitatis Redintegratio*, Decree on Ecumenism 1964.
6. *Christus Dominus*, Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, 1965.
7. *Perfectae Caritatis*, Decree on the Up-To-Date Renewal of Religious Life 1965.
8. *Optatam Totius*, Decree on the Training of Priests, 1965.
9. *Gravissimum Educationis*, Declaration on Christian Education, 1965.
10. *Nostra Aetate*, Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, 1965.
11. *Dei Verbum*, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, 1965.
12. *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, 1965.
13. *Dignitatis Humanae*, Declaration on Religious Freedom, 1965.
14. *Ad Gentes*, Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, 1965.
15. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, 1965.
16. *Gaudium et Spes*, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 1965.

## News

### Absence of Father Pierre Marois from the Central House

Pierre Marois will be absent from the Central House from February until June 2013. He will be at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts in Gaspésie replacing a sick priest. He will continue his work as the Director of the office of Vocations and Missions thanks to the internet. We wish him good success in this parish.

### Day of Consecrated Life

Within the universal Church, February 2 is the special day set aside for consecrated life. Let us take advantage of this day in order to give thanksgiving to God for consecrated life and most particularly for the call to consecrated secularity. Let us reflect upon our vocation and commitment.

### Deceased

It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of Juliette Roy, wife of Guy Veer, who died on January 3rd at l'Hôpital Jeffery Hale, Québec. The funeral took place at Sainte-Geneviève Church in Québec City. Guy and Juliette were the first couple to join the Institute. Our gratitude goes out to Guy and Juliette for their work accomplished within the Institute. Our sympathies and prayers go out to Guy and his family, a support during this time of sorrow.

Another of our members has just joined Our Father. Father Germain Cote died at the age of 86 on January 8th at l'Hôtel-Dieu d'Arthabaska. He was exposed in the chapel in the church of Ste-Victoire. The funeral took place on January 15th at 10:00 a.m. We pray in support of his family as well as for the repose of the soul of Father Germain Cote.



### Ordinations

Father Joseph PANAKKAL, from the District in Formation of India, was ordained a priest on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2013. My best congratulations are extended to him. My prayers accompany him for a fruitful priesthood.

### Members' Directory and Annual Journal

The 2013 Directory of Members of the Institute is now available in the « members site » on the Web site. The edition of the journal « The Present Moment », of which the theme is « Christian Contacts », is also available in the welcome page of the site.

### Statistics of 2012

As of January 31, 2012, the Institute comprised 862 members and was present in 22 countries. The division of members is as follows:

Priests incardinated in a diocese : 32

Priests incardinated in the Institute: 158

Priests incardinated in a diocese: 3

Cleric members incardinated in the Institute: 6

Laymen with temporary incorporation: 41

Laymen with definitive incorporation : 17

Candidates to the priesthood: 75

Faithful associated members of the Institute: 530

### **Thought of the Month**

«We only see well with the heart. The essential is invisible to our eyes. » (A. De St-Éxupéry)

### **Anniversaries and Birthdays**

On February 6, **Father Guillermo Pérez**, Director of the Region of Colombia, will celebrate his birthday. He is our precious translator for texts into Spanish. May God bless him and keep him in good health so that he can continue his apostolic work.

**Sylvie Dagenais**, secretary of the Central Administration will celebrate her birthday on February 8. Thank you for her work for the Institute.

**Jean-Pierre Sonia** and his wife **Mardy Sonia** of the District of Haiti, will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage on February 27. I pray for the both of you on this occasion and may God accompany you in your journey of married life.

Your prayers and thoughts are always welcomed for them on their special occasions. May God accompany all of them in their journey of life.

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

# News of The Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 9

March 2013

## The Pope

Pope Benedict XVI resigns from his ministry as Pontiff. He expressly declared that this is « a decision of great importance for the life of the Church. » He was the 265th Pope and the last papal resignation was about 598 years ago. Although this was a great surprise for the whole Church, it was a shock that shook the whole world. A number of commentaries, positive and negative, from different media, emerged concerning his resignation. The Pope represents the visibility of Jesus, the Christ for the world. He is the leader of the entire Church that was constructed and continues under the foundation of the Apostles (Eph. 2 :20) chosen and sent by Christ as witnesses.

Among the Apostles, Peter occupies the first place since he received a special mandate from Jesus, the Christ. Jesus declared, at the time that Simon became Peter, the « rock, » and upon whom Jesus would build His Church, that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matt.16 :18) It was known for him that he had the « power of the keys. » (Matt. 16 :19). He also obtained through Jesus a specific pastoral ministry – « Look after my sheep. » (John 21 :15-17) The Apostles became part of a « college » that later carried the name of the College of Bishops. Thus, the one who became the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, was the leader of the universal Church and the Vicar of Christ.

The Vicar of Christ is now taking his retirement since he feels that his health no longer allows him to render justice to his work. This demonstrates the wisdom and the discernment of the Holy Spirit. He does not think only about himself but about the imposing responsibility that he had been entrusted with as successor of Peter. He shows the practicality of the Pope. He represents the servant of servants. He shows to all ministers the way to practice the virtue of humility.

We are all called to serve the Lord. We serve the Gospel and spread it among all the people. The resignation of our Supreme Pontiff constitutes a sign, for all those who are called to serve God in the Church, to live in humility, to be aware that all of us are just simple instruments for realizing the plan of God. We should not cling to the positions that have been entrusted to us. It is very important to note, according to the example of our leader, that if one discerns that he/she can no longer perform a service, it is wise to leave that function to allow someone else to replace one according to the will of God and the signs of the time.

First of all, it is important, before making a decision so important, to proceed to examine one's conscience before God as well as obtain the advice of competent persons to assess if this decision seems correct and if the time is right.

We are entering a month in which 117 Cardinals will be gathering together for the conclave. They are going to pray in the Sistine Chapel and elect a new Pope. The 266th Pope will be elected this month. All of us carry a spiritual responsibility in concert with the Cardinals to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire them in the election of the Supreme leader of the Church. The Church is living in the time of the laity. The Church faces numerous challenges related to faith and morals. The pluralism of the world requires the Church to respond to numerous questions related to the faith and to other questionings. We need a leader who is physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of managing the tasks of a Pope.

Lent invites us to give more time to prayer. Let us pray and do penances during these days of Lent while asking the Holy Spirit to inspire the Cardinals for the election of a Pope for this era in order to pursue the mission entrusted by Jesus, the Christ, to Peter as chief of the Apostles.

### **Thought of the month**

-Let us ask to have a Gospel spirit in order to follow the will of the Father in all things by allowing ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit. *(Fr. L.M. Parent)*

### **News**

#### **District of the United States**

I am at present in the United States accompanied by Francois Hamel, former Director General and Andrew Sioleti, Fernand Turgeon and Raymonde Jetté, all members of the Central Council for the purpose of the elevation of the District of the United States in Formation to a new legal status. I am happy to let you know that the United States is becoming the 4th country to be officially erected as a District.

I extend my congratulations to Anthony Ciorra, Director of the District, his Council and to all of the members of the District. May God bless them!

#### **Beginning of Lent**

We are now in Lent. This is a privileged time to take time to pray, do penance and fasting. I ask each one of you to prepare yourself interiorly, to think of the One Who gave His life for you and to purify yourself as you approach the paschal time.

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

# Director General's Newsletter

Volume 3 ♦ Number 10

April 2013

## **New Life**

In winter, nature goes numb, seeming to die. Then, after a time, rays of sunshine more and more blazing come to warm up this motionless nature in order to give back to it life. At that time, it is spring. Lent is a bit like winter; it is a time of repentance, a time of purification and reflection, a time to take stock of our life and make sacrifice, a time of lent in light of the death of Christ. Then, we rejoice and get dressed up in view of the resurrection. A new spring resurfaces and makes resplendent regeneration, « a new life! »

Each spring is a time for rebirth. Let us look around us, the feverish buds are already stretching out in the light of giving fruit. The bulb in the patient earth is beginning to show the tip of its stem which will open up unto a multitude of flamboyant flowers.

We are comparable to nature. We sprout with great fervor in a world that is in constant evolution. Our spring is a time of learning. They are the years of youthfulness to learn, to develop the self and also a time of full energy until the day when we leave school in order to attain a prosperous summer, a time to sow filled with work and energy but also with tenderness and love. This is the summer of our life. Bit by bit comes the harvest; the time of abundance, work, efforts taken, rewards for services rendered and future retirement. In order to move through our winter! We are carried to compare it with a time of rest, a rest well merited, a moment to look back on what we have accomplished and to plan the remaining moments. Jesus suffered for us. He died for us and was resurrected in order for us to see all of the grandeur of His Father, God!

Like Jesus Who built His Church stone after stone until the summit. At each stop, a new disciple followed Him in order to gather together His Church and to pursue His pathway until the very highest summit. This was His reason for coming among us, His winter being that of the Cross. However, Jesus does not stop there. Jesus guides us throughout our life and engages us on the pathway that goes toward the Father, the pathway of eternal life that all of us will take one day, the fifth season, that of the resurrection, that of New Life!

## **Happy Easter**

I wish all of you a Happy Easter filled with faith, hope and peace. May the Resurrected Christ bless all of you.

## **New Pope**

« Habemus Papam », we have a new Pope; Pope Francis. I thank you sincerely for your prayers. I invite you to unite with the universal Church for our new Pope. I have found a prayer of Pope Francis that connects with the « 5 » of our Institute:

### **A prayer on each finger**

1. The thumb is nearest you: So, begin to pray for those around you. They are easier to remember. To pray for our loved ones is a “sweet duty.”
2. The following is the index: Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, professors, doctors and priests. They need support and wisdom to tell them the correct direction of others. Keep them in your prayers always.
3. The next finger is the greatest: It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, members of Parliament, entrepreneurs and managers. These people lead the destiny of our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's help.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Although many will be surprised, this is our weakest finger, as any can tell you a piano teacher. It should remind us to pray for the weak, with many problems or prostrate by disease, they need days and nights of prayer. Never be too pressing to pray for them. You should also pray for weddings.
5. And finally our little finger, the smallest finger of all: This is how we see ourselves before God and others. As the Bible says, "the last shall be first." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for you. When you have prayed for the other four groups, think about your own needs in mind, and you pray best for you.

### **Patronal Feast Day**

On April 8th, the Church will celebrate the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the patronal feast day of the Institute. May the Virgin intercede for us in order to give us strength, perseverance of faith to join ourselves to her « yes » each day.

### **Meeting of the Central Council**

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place 8-17 April in Latin America (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). During this visit, the members of the Central Council will have the opportunity to meet the members of the Dominican Republic as well as those of Haiti. This visit by the Central Council will provide an opportunity to the members outside of Canada to learn about their culture and life and to share fellowship with them and also share their life.

I wish to thank sincerely the members of the Central Council for their voluntarism, the gift of themselves and also for the fact of their willingness to defray themselves the cost of the trip. In closing, I wish to thank the Directors of the Districts, their Councils and their members for the warm welcome that will be accorded during our visit. Your prayers are always appreciated for the good unfolding of this event.

## Visit to the United States

On March 1, the United States was officially erected as a District. Almost all of the members were present; a grandiose celebration awaited us with human joy and warmth. I am happy to share with you the official document of the canonical erection of this District :



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Tel: +1.819.375.7933 Fax: +1.819.691.1841  
[ivd.cent@cgocable.ca](mailto:ivd.cent@cgocable.ca)

### Juridical Status

Reverend Father Selvaratnam James Dunstan, Director General of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei,

**Considering** the evolution, in the course of the last years, of the process directed toward finding a new juridical status for the district in formation of United States of America that is more suitable to the present reality;

**Considering** the growing number of members in United States of America related to a good promotion of vocations;

**Considering** the vitality of the sectors and teams in United States of America;

**Considering** the hope of development and in a particular way taking into account the responsibility taken toward members in Japan, Germany and Trinidad and Tobago;

**Considering** the capacity for self-financing, and in a special way, the putting into place of an organization of benefactors to help the missions of the Institute;

**Considering** also the capacity for self-management of the present Council and the moral guarantees for the future;

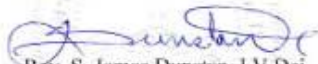
After having consulted the members of the Central Council of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei at the meeting of December 17, 2012, concerning the request of the Council of the district in formation of United States of America to acquire a new juridical status,

Decrees

THE CANONICAL ERECTION  
Commencing March 01, 2013  
THE DISTRICT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With all rights and privileges provided by the Constitutions (articles 189-200) of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei.

Given at Norwalk, CT  
March 01, 2013

  
Rev. S. James Dunstan, I.V. Dei  
Director general

### **Canonical Visit:**

I will visit Cuba from April 18-29. Your prayers are always welcomed for the success of this visit.

### **Thought of the Month**

I am the **Way, the Truth and the Life**; no one can go to the **Father** except through me  
...(John 14 :6)

### **Anniversaries and Birthdays**

On April 5, Bishop **Louis-Marie Ling** will celebrate his birthday. Bishop Ling is the Bishop in charge of the Apostolic Vicariate of Pakse. May God bless and keep him in good health in order that he may continue in his episcopal ministry.

**Baba Mulugeta Busha and Kumsa Dawite Guiti** of Ethiopia will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage on April 11th.

On April 22 will be the anniversary of the birthday of **Sylvie Ferland** who is the cook at the Central House. May God bless her and keep her in good health.

**Daniel Patrick Buckley and Patricia Power** of the United States will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage on April 23rd.

May God keep all of them in good health and bless them.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 11

May 2013

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

We are in the middle of « the Year of Faith ». We have participated in different activities within our respective parishes and dioceses. In January, I wrote to you in regard to this theme that suggested three important points. In February, I commented on the first theme. Now, I am presenting the second point: The Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Pope John Paul II convoked an extraordinary Synod of Bishops in January 1985 to publish a catechism. After seven years of composition, the Catechism was promulgated marking the 30th anniversary of the II Vatican Council. It was published at first in French then translated into a number of languages some time thereafter.

The Catechism is the collection of several documents of religious introduction from the era of the beginning of Christianity. It is formulated and precised within a summary of principles in the format of « questions and answers. » It includes the fundamentals of Christian life in simple terms and comprises four important parts, namely, « The Profession of Faith, » « The Celebration of the Christian Mystery, » « Life in Christ, » and finally, « Christian Prayer ».

The Catechism is not a simple collection of doctrines. It provides the essential in order to understand better what we as Catholics believe. Simple questions as « Who is Jesus? », « Who is God? », find their response in a clear manner and understandable to all. What we must believe in the revealed word of God, what is the profession of faith. The Catechism explains without ambiguity or complexity. It guides toward the truth of the Bible in matters of faith and morals. It gives us also an explanation of the meaning of what we believe.

- That which we believe concerning the revealed Word of God
- That the faith we profess forms a unity
- That Christianity is the religion most credible in the world, and at the heart of Christianity, that the Catholic Church pursues its seeking after fulfillment and truth
- That by consequence, we as Catholics have a grave responsibility for the education of the world that is walking into the darkness and shadow of death.

Certainly, the Catechism is only a beginning, but it promises to be a strong initiative for reviving a Catholic world asleep in regard to our duty.

That is why the Catechism of the Catholic Church has not been made in vain. It is the hope to restore the understanding and unity of all Christians back to God. It furnishes to the believing Catholic not only information about what must be believed, but also it gives us an explanation of the meaning of what we believe. This book of reference explains and opens



the way to the Father, where to find true faith expressed in a simple language. I invite you therefore to consult frequently the Catechism of the Catholic Church and lead a life full of faith with the conviction that « the body without the soul is dead; similarly, faith without works is dead. » (James 2:26)

## **News**

Again, here is the month of May, the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Let us pray with our spiritual mother by meditating on the rosary each day.

May 17th will be the fourth anniversary of the death of Father Louis-Marie Parent. From the heights of heaven, he watches over us and prays for us. Have a particular thought on this day for the one who founded and modeled who we are today.

I invite all of the priests of the Institute to celebrate a Mass in his intention and the other members to participate in the Eucharist in thanksgiving for our beloved founder.

## **Visit to Haiti and the Dominican Republic**

I am just returning from a visit to the districts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti where the meeting of the Central Council took place for the first time outside of the Central House and was a great success.

Not only the Directors and Councilors of the Districts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic but also all of the members gave to the members of the Central Council and to me a warm welcome. This was a complete plenary Council in respect to reflection, cultural exchange and experience of life; this opened a total other vision of the very nature of the Institute for all of us. I wish to thank warmly all those who had thoughts and prayers for this event of incomparable richness: I am happy to share a number of the decisions that were taken during this meeting.

The following seminarians have received approval for their ordination to Diaconate and Priesthood:

Puthavialalappil Ajimon  
George Aneesh  
George Dixon  
Antony Prabhu  
Raphael Rofin

Few requests for stability were accepted. Then, the Districts of the United States and Colombia presented their requests for Aspirancy.

## **Thanks**

The month of May closes the financial year in the districts/regions and the central administration. I take this opportunity to thank personally and on behalf of the Central

Council, the Directors of the American, Canadian and the Dominican Republic, their Council and their members for their generous financial support. Their support helps greatly the central administration and the districts and regions of mission countries. I invite you to join with me and offer thanksgiving for all that they have done and will do for the Institute.

### **Annual Report and Budget Estimates**

I also remind the directors of the districts and regions that their annual report must be sent to the central administration and that the financial statements and budget estimates of mission countries are expected before June 21, 2013. These documents will be presented and studied at the plenary Council that will take place in the month of July.

### **Cuba Visit**

I had a very good visit to Cuba. The situation of the Institute has developed a lot. I met the apostolic nuncio of Cuba, Cardinal of Havana and the archbishop of Santiago. All of them are very much opened towards the secular institute and they are interested in recruiting more vocations as it is one of the modern trend to evangelize the world very especially Cuba. We have two priests, one seminarian, one celibate layman and a married couple right now in Cuba.

Let us all pray for our members in Cuba.

### **Web Site**

Our site has been modified and rearranged with a new style. Other applications will allow you to consult via your mobile device. The writings of Father Parent are available on the welcome page. I encourage you to visit this site and more particularly to read it and share it with your teams. You can consult it from now on at: <http://www.voluntasdei.org/>

### **Canonical Visit**

In May, I will visit India in order to convoke the Assembly to elect a new director of the district and his council. I will go there via Laos to visit Bishop Louis-Marie Ling.

I invite you to pray for the good unfolding of this visit.

### **Monthly Thought**

The surest road of love is the path of hope that we find at the crossroad of faith.

### **Birthdays/Anniversaries**

18 May, **Mario Laroche** celebrates his birthday. Mario was the Director General from 1980 to 1992.

24 May, **Didi Horace**, Director of the District of Haiti, celebrates his birthday.

**Benjamin Chinnappan**, priest of the United States, will celebrate his 25th anniversary of priesthood on May 26.

**Claire Lafrenière**, accountant at the Central Administration, will celebrate her birthday on May 27.

May God bless them and keep them in good health so that they may continue their journey with the Lord!

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 3 ♦ Number 12

June 2013

## Unity in Diversity

“I pray that they may all be one” (John 17:21), Jesus wanted all to be united as one body in him. It is through this faith that Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians, “All of you are Christ’s body and each one is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27) Therefore as baptized persons, all are called to serve God in union with Jesus. Every individual has a unique purpose in life which is achieved through the gifts and graces we have received from the Holy Spirit.

I have always felt that this is the spirit Fr. Parent had in mind when he founded our Institute. Our institute invites every baptized individual to live the Spirituality of 5.5.5 by consecrating oneself in the midst of the world. The previous General Assembly (2010) inspired all the participants to go deeper in line with our founder in making the institute more welcoming to other persons discerning to live the Spirituality of 5.5.5, to sanctify their lives as “Spiritually Affiliated Persons”. Consequently, Voluntas Dei Institute is open to all; whether clergy or lay, single or married, literate or illiterate, rich or poor. It invites all persons in the world no matter where he/she lives, what he/she does, to be a part of the sanctification and holiness.

I am currently in India. Our Institute has established its district both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. A few years have passed since a few of our seminarians were first sent to the Northeast of India for an exposure, and on my current visit, I was fortunate enough to have been able to visit the seminarians. To my surprise, I am living here an experience of *Unity in Diversity*. The Northeast is a unique region consisting of centuries of emigrants from Burma, Tibet and China. The several dialects, cultures, talents, personality differences, economic varieties, religious practices, coexist as one in this region hence, making this community fascinating and inspiring. Their differences stand as a unifying point rather than a tearing factor; their differences worked together to create a community that displays one of the most attractive lifestyles I have ever beheld.

Although the people in the Northeast were not baptized or united in union with Christ, they were all connected in spirit. I was motivated by this spirit and I questioned myself as to how a Christian should live in the spirit of unity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, how much more should a consecrated person live in accordance to that spirit? And so now, I invite all of you to reflect upon your life as a part of this institute. How much of this unifying spirit is felt between you and the diversity of the talents of those living among you as a clergy, a celibate layman and married person? How do I play a role in unifying others of a diverse community in the name of Jesus? As this month is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, let us pray for the spirit of unity and love and let us display this spirit in action in our daily lives.

May God bless you!

## News

### District Assembly in India

The District Assembly was held from the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 till the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The theme of this assembly was, 'Relevance of the Secular Institutes in the Indian context'. There were 16 participants present in the assembly. The president of the assembly was Fr. Wilfred. The new district director and his council were elected on the final day of the assembly.

District Director:	Rev. Fr. Napoleon Gomez
Ass. District Director:	Rev. Fr. Shaiju Das
Council members:	Rev. Fr. Joseph Sengol
	Rev. Fr. Johny Puthenveetil
	Mr. Govindan Chandran
	Mrs. Jaya Lakshmi Chandran

May God bless them in their service in building up the institute in India.

### Monthly Thought

The value of our action is not measured by how difficult it is to accomplish it but rather by the love we put into living it. (*Father Louis-Marie Parent*)

### Birthdays/Anniversaries

June 8, **Andrew Mayer**, celebrates his birthday. Andrew is the coordinator for the General Assembly 2010, and he is on the translator team of the Central Administration.

**Mario Laroche**, priest in Canada and former director general of the Institute, celebrates his 50th anniversary of priesthood on June 22.

Also, on June 22, **René Désilets**, former director general of the Institute, celebrates his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

**Léon Robichaud**, priest in Canada, celebrates his 50th anniversary of priesthood, on June 30.

God bless them and I invite you all to pray for these special occasions.

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