

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ 2013-2014

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News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 1

July 2013

Who is Jesus for Me??

On June 29, the Church celebrated the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, witnesses and pillars of our Church. This feast gave me the opportunity to share a number of reflections with the Oblates united to mark the celebration of the foundation of their Institute. I would like to share these reflections with you.

The vocation of Peter is a response to the invitation of Jesus who gave him « the keys of the Kingdom. » (Matt. 16 :16-18) As for Paul, who probably never met Jesus face to face and was a persecutor of the Church, his conversion came from a vision on the road to Damascus. Peter was nicknamed the Apostle to the Jews while Paul was known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. Even if Peter and Paul were not always in agreement during their life time, they were in their death. That is why the Church honors them together.

They were placed close to the Virgin Mary in the list of saints since the early history of the Church. It is on account of them that the Church is called one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

I believe that it is very significant to have the celebration of the Oblates on this day. In the past, in order to attain holiness, baptized persons were called to flee the world in order to consecrate themselves to God. Neither Peter nor Paul made this type of separation from the world. They identified themselves as they were and evangelized the whole world with the Spirit of Jesus. They were simply themselves. Peter with his faith, strengths and weaknesses. Paul with all of himself. Even if they were not always in agreement, they remained faithful to themselves. They could have argued at the level of ideas and human concepts but in regard to the faith the two left a lasting treasure to the whole Church.

Why were they able to be such great legends in the Church? What did they do that their apostolate was so unique? Firstly, they discerned their call from who they were. Secondly, they had an experience of Jesus and the Good News according to their personality. In other words, Jesus traversed their life while respecting them.

This is important for us today. We are called to consecrate our life in the world today. We have to discern deeply our vocation. We have to experience the charism and the spirituality left to us by our Founder, Father Parent, by making them our own. We are living a profound experience of secular consecration. In this way, we should be able to pass on to the universal Church and to the world what we are and what we have.

How do we achieve our call and our experience of Jesus? First of all, I want to bring to your attention the question that Jesus addressed to his disciples in the Gospel : « Who do you say I am? » The reply from Peter is: « You are the Messiah . . . the Son of the living God. » (Matt. 16:16) He was completely certain about what he said. He replied with conviction and with a deep faith. Jesus responded to him

with swiftness in saying : « Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. » That is Peter! What about Paul? He gave a witnessing of his own life with pride and assurance. He expressed his faithfulness to his vocation in Christ Jesus that we find in the reading of this feast day : « I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge will give me on that day . . . »

The Church marks today the feast of Saint Peter and Paul who are examples for us, asking us who is Jesus for us? Can we say with conviction that we have run the race according to our own vocation? In order to respond, it is necessary to reflect upon our 2nd five. Through our life of presence of God, we can look at each person with positive eyes and without criticizing them. We are going to live all realities with a good regard without ever complaining about them. Like the Virgin of the Annunciation, we will be available to render all kinds of service. Finally, we will feel full of joy for who we are in recognizing Jesus present in us and in others while living a life of peace in the presence of God within the reality of the present moment. This here is going to create an atmosphere of peace wherever we will be living.

On this celebration day of the Oblate Institute, let us pray with Father Parent to give us the grace to live our charism and spirituality and to pass them onto others through our exemplary lives in the midst of the world.

News

On July 2, we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. Let us pay particular attention on this day and live within thanksgiving and joy. Happy celebration!

On this same day will be the 61st anniversary of the foundation of our big sisters the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. Congratulations to all with the assurance of our prayers.

July 12th will be the anniversary of the birth of our Founder, Father Parent. Let us think about him in our prayers.

The next meeting of the Central Council will be held July 15-18 at the Central House.

On July 20, members of the Canadian District will visit the Central House after their annual Congress.

Thought of the Month

For me – Jesus is my God. Jesus is my Spouse. Jesus is my life. Jesus is my sole love. Jesus is my everything. Jesus is all for me. Blessed Mother Teresa.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

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

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

Pierre J. Hubert and **Claire Thibault** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 6.

Luciano Carrasco Sánchez and **Sonia Mota**, of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on July 17.

Rénald Tremblay, the Institute's director of administrative services, has his birthday on July 20. He is a fine example of a person of service. He is of the greatest help to the central administration and he is totally dedicated to his responsibilities. May God bless and keep him in health, so that he may continue his ministry of service.

25 July, I will celebrate my birthday as well as my anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. I ask you for your prayers.

I wish all of these persons a HAPPY CELEBRATION and I ask you to pray for them. May God bless them and keep them in good health!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 2

August 2013

The reality of the present moment...

Pope Francis has made his first international visit as a pontiff to Brazil for the world youth day and attracted more or less three millions of young Catholics from all over the world. His visit has really provoked lots of questions to many people throughout the world despite of religious beliefs. His approaches and attitudes have even pushed many of them to look differently towards Catholic Church. When the whole world is reacting, I feel that if I am not reacting I fail in living the Charism of our Institute.

In the past three decades, the Catholic Church has lost millions of followers to smaller Christian denominations. Why? Are we the Catholics not leading an exemplary life? Were he preaching and actions not always going hand in hand by many? Were we not ready to accept and acknowledge our own mistakes and not ready for changes within ourselves? On the whole were we not convinced of the Gospel to proclaim and practice it even though we have committed ourselves to God in different ways? Have we failed in several ways to transmit our faith? What is the truth?

By this international visit, Pope Francis challenges the consecrated persons by saying "We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel outside in the world". He invites the entire baptized not to be afraid to go and to bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent. He further says that the Lord seeks all; he wants everyone to feel the warmth of His mercy and His love. He has shown this by actions of simplicity and love in all what he spoke during his visit. He visited the slum in Rio and the hospital of St Francis of Assisi where the recovering drug addicts are taken care of. He urged everyone to hold the hand of the one in need, of the one who has fallen into the darkness of dependency perhaps without even knowing how, and he insisted that we must say to him or her: 'You can get up, you can stand up'. Towards the end of his visit he even said "If a person seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge him?" Such beautiful gesture of love and exemplary life of our simple pope, has made a person from a Christian Denomination, who has come in protest against his visit as a Catholic Leader, to say: "Pope Francis, I'm an Evangelical, but I love you and I want to listen to you just the same."

As a Voluntas, how do I react to the gospel in the reality of the present moment? Whole world is reacting to all what Pope has done during his first international visit regardless of religious beliefs. What about me? How do I discern my Charism in the light of the Gospel?

**TO BE,
IN THE MANNER OF THE VIRGIN OF THE ANNUNCIATION,
THE INSTRUMENT OF CHRIST CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF THE FATHER,
IN THE REALITY OF THE PRESENT MOMENT, IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD,
“WHEREVER CHRIST HAS HIS RIGHTS”.**

Let us reflect and let us act!!!

News

Central Council

I am happy to inform you of some information from the **Central Council** meeting held on July 15-18, 2013. I thank you for your prayers. I wish to share with you the following information:

- Few members from different districts and regions have received stability in the Institute.
- The preparatory committee has been formed for the General Assembly 2016

Deaths

Antonymsamy Pathimanathan, the wife of Christy from Rameswaram team died in India, on July 8, 2013. They have been the members of the Institute from 1997.

Denis Legault, who has been a member of the Institute from 2004, died in Quebec on 28 June 2013.

We express our sympathies to their families and offer our prayers for the repose of their souls Let the mercy of God come upon them.

Thought of the Month

“Put on Christ!” in your life, and you will find a friend in whom you can always trust; “put on Christ” and you will see the wings of hope spreading and letting you journey with joy towards the future; “put on Christ” and your life will be full of his love; it will be a fruitful life.

Pope Francis, July 25, 2013

Birthdays

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.

August 6 is the birthday 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. He is the Director of the District in Formation in Sri Lanka.

August 26 **François Hamel** celebrates his sixtieth birthday. He has been the Director General of the Institute from 1998 to 2010 and the present canonical adviser of the central council.

Sebamalai Sahayam Logu and Alexander Calista Miranda, from Sri Lanka, give thanks to the Lord for 25 years of their union of marriage, on 27 August. I congratulate them and wish them success.

I invite all of you to be united in prayer with all those who celebrate their birthdays and anniversary in August. God bless them and keep them in good health!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 2

September 2013

Is it always possible to be thankful and happy?

I have thought this time to share with you a question that dwells in my spirit and returns often since the day I read the following text : « Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. » (1 Thess. 5 :16-18) Is it always possible to be thankful and happy? I am certain that you can pose this question to yourself from time to time.

Each one of us lives in space and in time. We are confronted with different realities and situations in our daily life. We traverse valleys, mountains, footpaths and straight and narrow ways. At the same time, we live times of joy and can feel sentiments of sadness. We are happy with persons who bring us great joys, and that can change our feelings of sadness. I can go on affirming that each day we are faced with asking ourselves the question: Is it always possible to be thankful and happy?

I believe that we can find the response in two values of our Institute: Presence of God and the present moment. It is only when we live our presence to God that we live the present moment and can give thanks to the Lord in all circumstances of life. The attitudes developed in the Sermon on the Mount, particularly, Matt. 6:26-30, (speaking about the lilies of the field and the birds of the air) encourage us to practice them, to live them in the presence of God and in the present moment. For each, a life in the presence of God creates a great confidence in daily life. The present moment takes away all of the worries of life. Thus, there is established a permanent peace. When this peace is lived by someone, it is possible to be thankful in all circumstances and to be happy. Consequently, we are aware that we are doing the will of God in Jesus Christ.

I continue to make efforts to put this into practice in my life. Is it always possible to be thankful and happy? This is a constant seeking in my spiritual journey. What do you think of it? Do you pose to yourself the same question? Do you strive also to find a good response? Let us seek all together the happiness and glory of God. Let us all try to become holy and as Father Parent would say: « let us not lose time. »

Thought of the Month

If you have never been happy, today is the time to start. Tomorrow or next year is too uncertain; perhaps, by then, we will be dead. * (Fr. L.-M. Parent, o.m.i.)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

On September 1, **Innasi Mudyappan**, of India and member of the Central Council, celebrates his birthday.

Jean-Paul Deschesnes and Carmen Trudel, of Canada, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 2.

On September 3, **Carlos Enrique Ausensi Román and Myriam Esther Ramirez Sanchez**, of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

Renée Croteau, the person in charge (with her husband Richard Normandin) for our publication of « The Present Moment » and volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday on September 6.

On September 24, **Mateo M. Mejía and Ana Rita Luzón**, of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

Anthony Bruno and Claudia Touhey, of the United States, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 28.

On September 29, **Michel Beauchamp**, Director of the Canadian District, will celebrate his birthday. Congratulations on your leadership.

I invite you to pray for them on these occasions and may God accompany all of them in their life journey.

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 4

October 2013

The New Evangelization

We are approaching towards the end of the year of faith. One of the most important aspects of faith today is the new evangelization which calls each of us to deepen our faith in response to the new challenges of contemporary world. New evangelization is a prophetic and revolutionary calling not only for those with special vocations, missionaries or priests but also to every baptized person. Entire people of God are invited to renew the relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. As Benedict XVI said, the centrality of the new evangelization is focused on re-proposing Jesus Christ and His gospel to all who experience a crisis of faith due to secularization. It is the proclamation of Jesus and His gospel to everyone by everyone with the conviction of “a personal and profound meeting with the Savior”.

We live because it is a free gift from God. God created all of us in His own image and likeness (Gn. 1:27). We lost the status of freedom but He did not want anyone of us to be perished. He came down to the world and redeemed us and gave us back the status (Phil. 2:6-11). He wanted us to live in that same happiness and thus sent the Holy Spirit to protect and safeguard it without losing. (Eph. 1:2-6) This is being neglected or not being seriously reflected today because of secularization. It is essential now to rediscover our faith and maintain an intimate relationship with God who is the source of our lives. Church continuously reminds all of us to feel the need and proclaim our faith in our families, workplaces and parishes and in our own milieu.

In order to understand the urgency of this call for new evangelization and in order to bring Jesus, His gospel and His church to the crowded lifestyle marketplace of the post-modern world I encourage to read the following documents when you have some leisure time please.

Documents of Second Vatican Council: Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Ad Gentus and Apostolicam Actuositatem.

Encyclicals: Evangelii Nunciandi and Redemptoris Missio

May God bless you !

News

Thanks

Cecilie Davidson-Corneau is retiring after the excellent work she has done for years as a volunteer at the Archives. She and her husband, Roger Corneau have worked hard to put all the documents in good order and archives are maintained perfectly. On behalf of the Institute, I say a great thank you to Cecile for everything she did to save the history of the Institute Archives. God bless Cecile and Roger and keeping them healthy.

We have a new person to the archives as part-time worker. Her name is Bouchra Gaflaoui. I welcome her among us.

Sacerdotal Ordination

Jesuraj Silva is ordained priest in Sri Lanka on September 26, 2013. Let us rejoice for one more priest that God has given to our Institute and to the Church.

Death

Fr. Mariampillai Bosco Mathuranayagam is died in Sri Lanka on September 10, 2013.

Fr. Arthur Beaulieu is died in Canada on September 15, 2013. He was director of the Canadian District from 1975 to 1981.

Our prayers are heading towards their families and friends in mourning. That God welcomes them and gives them eternal rest.

Articles for the Present Moment

Theme: "**Prayer and Meditation**". 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

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.

Thought of the Month

We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman. ... It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received."

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, 2010

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Also, on October 9, **Dionicio Reyes Gonzalez**, Director of the Altagracia (Dominican Republic), celebrates his anniversary.

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

On October 29, **Andrew Sioleti**, member of the Central Council celebrates his birthday.

May God help them in their good and bad times so they can continue their journey with the Lord!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 5

November 2013

The Team

The journal “The Present Moment” in 2012 was published with the theme: Team Life. There were several articles from our founder, different members and also from me expressing truth reality and experience of team life. We all read them. However I come back again this month in order to deepen the spirit in each member the spirit of our founder with the objective of our Institute.

Fr. Parent while explaining about team defines that:

- Team compels each member to practice humility daily;
- Team develops an attitude of respect for others;
- Team creates an atmosphere of fraternal correction with mutual love between members;
- Team shapes each member to review his/her life daily and allows the members to become saints.

The spirit of a team supposes an attitude of love, of responsibility and of mutual help. A big heart, healthy ideas and strong will are needed in order to be against someone. Each member of the team is there in a team not to judge but to carry the load.

Team is a place for creating trust and confidence in self and on each other. Each member of the team has to keep confidentiality of the team.

Forming a group or a clique one against the other or betraying and breaking the confidence of the trust shared in a team is not the quality of a Voluntas.

If I am a member of Voluntas Dei, I have to have these qualities and I have to fall in line with one team. It is a place of basic formation and ongoing formation. If I belong to a team only, I also belong to a district or region, thus to the institute and to the church.

Let us reflect profoundly on “My team and I” this month. I will come back next month with “the demands of team life”.

God Bless you

News

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:

Juliette ROY, Germain CÔTÉ, Denis LEGAULT, Antonysamy PATHIMANATHAN, Bosco MARIAMPILLAI, Rogelio Antonio PANDO URBINA, Arthur BEAULIEU

Meeting of the Central Council

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place at the Central House in Trois-Rivieres November 25-28. We ask you to pray for the success of this meeting.

Thought of the Month

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you carry nothing that you have received, only what you have given" (St. Francis of Assisi).

Birthdays

On November 2, **Richard Normandin**, member of the Institute and volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate his birthday. We accompany him with our prayers.

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 4 ♦ Number 6

December 2013

Expectations of Team Life

Dear Voluntas Members,

We are in the process of reflection and trying to live our team life. It is essential that we have a better understanding and accurate knowledge from our Founder in order to carry on a meaningful team life. Father Parent speaks about seven requirements that invite Voluntas in keeping the spirit of team life:

1. Selflessness
2. Fusion of ideas
3. Fusion of formation
4. Acceptance of group spirit
5. Acceptance of common objectives
6. Coordination of the efforts of all
7. Faithfulness to authentic discipline

Team life requires the refusal of demanding one's rights, the contribution of the qualities of each one for the team and the acceptance of the faults of others and difficulties. Father Parent states moreover that each one must develop a positive attitude in order to reveal his/her thoughts and ideas concerning a problem and ready to renounce his/her ideas and point of view whether accepted or rejected by the team.

The team is a fusion of the efforts of everyone and no one is permitted to provoke dissensions in the midst of the team. Each is called not to have either criticism or suspicion towards others and prejudices during team meetings.

According to Father Parent, teams can be formed in all realms but we must concern ourselves with persons wishing to become sincere wills of God.

The Father Founder awaits for what I cite:

We must orient our thoughts in the same direction.

We must work together.

We must support one another.

We must be concerned for one another.

We must loyally accept responsibilities.

We must love one another and speak of our love.

We must share our ideas and reflect together.

We must support the weakest.

We must sacrifice ourselves for the others in order to live our team life. That is why as members of the Institute, we can make the resolution to better live team life by saying :

- We seek solutions to our problems together.
- We develop initiatives together.
- We share our ideas, passions, self-discipline and our humility.
- We listen patiently to the words of others in the hope of cultivating the team.
- We give our points of view without imposing them or thinking that they are infallible, and
- We allow others the right to discuss, choose, refuse or accept them.

This is what our Founder wants of all of us, to follow our team as members of *Voluntas Dei*. Are we ready?

News

Meeting of the Central Council

I am pleased to share some information from the last meeting of the Central Council, which took place from 25 to 27 November. I want to thank you for your prayers. I want to share some information with you:

- The Central Council formed the committee for the preparation of the General Assembly 2016.
- The General Assembly 2016 will be held at the Ursulines in Quebec City from July 11 to 24, 2016.
- The latest financial statements and budgets of the districts and regions have been approved, and the money will be sent in two parts.
- The next meeting of the Central Council will be held from April 8 to 10 2014.

Preparing for Advent

Today, a new liturgical year begins: the liturgical year A and the beginning of Advent. Like the Virgin Mary of the Annunciation who has believed and lived her faith in God, let us take time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas

With this last letter of the year 2013, I wish you and your family and friends a Holy Christmas, peace, respect, good health and love! May the Child Jesus guide you throughout your life?

Thought of the Month

The Team is the Institutes' vehicle toward the will of God (*Louis-Marie Parent, O.M.I.*)

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Napoleon Gomez, Director of the District in Formation of India, will celebrate his birthday on December 13.

On December 14, **Vicente De la Cruz and Pilar Vasquez**, of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage.

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

On December 28, **Jean-Paul Chiasson**, Assistant Director General, will celebrate his birthday.

May the Child of the Crib and his Mother Mary bring you good health, peace and happiness!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 7

January 2014

Good-bye 2013... Hello 2014

Voluntas Dei members are called to live the « present moment » while keeping all in the spirit of the apostolic objective: though we are entering into a new year, we pray to God and thank Him for the year 2013. May this year that is beginning be for building peace and lasting fraternity.

Let's recall the past year; let's take the time to recognize our failures, our bad decisions ; also, let us be proud of our gestures and acts that have brought well-being and comfort. Then, it will be necessary to say good-bye to 2013 without, however, erasing it but without hanging onto it. May the year that is ending inspire us into the future, and may this baggage of experiences help us to welcome the first of January as well as « the World Day of Peace. »

Do we have the peace within ourselves that quiets and satisfies our interior self? Let's take the time to make « Peace » grow on this first day of the year in order to see 2014 being born in a peaceful and relaxed way, completely inhabited with serenity in the beauty of the magnificent day arising.

The Pope says that fraternity is the foundation and way to peace. That is exactly what our founding Father tells all of us. It is the objective of our Institute. May this be our motivation in this totally New Year 2014 that is starting its march in order to create a good and solid fraternity and communion among those with whom we interact daily, and let us be the bridge that connects the shores together with peace.

News

Celebrets

At the time of publishing these lines, we have completed the sending to the directors of districts/regions the celebrets for priests incardinated in the Institute.

Present Moment

This year the Present Moment will not be sent out in paper form. It will be available on the Web site. All of the members are invited to print it and share it with the members of your team who do not have access to the Internet.

The Directors of the districts and regions will be able to make copies and distribute them to their members, bishops, rectors of seminaries or to others that you deem necessary. It will be filed shortly on the welcome page of the Institute.

Members' Directory

The Directory will be available very soon on our site.

Ordinations

Father Alien Iliótes, from the District of Haiti, was ordained a priest on December 28, 2013. My best congratulations are extended to him. My prayers accompany him for a fruitful priesthood.

Thought of the Month

“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”
— Mother Teresa

Happy New Year 2014!!

To each of you my best wishes for health and peace during 2014!

May it bring you serenity, success and happiness!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 8

February 2014

Valentine's Day

The month of February is famous for Saint Valentine. Saint Valentine lived close to 270 years before Jesus Christ. At that time, Emperor Claudius II had announced an interdiction of marriage in order to send more young men into combat in the army. At that time, Valentine was marrying in secret young engaged couples. In learning about this, the emperor had him tortured and executed. Other versions exist, but what comes back the most is the fact that he was executed because he wanted to preserve « love, » the same love of God at the time He created the human person, the same love that Jesus brought to the world by giving His life for us. February 14th recalls and commemorates the devotion of Saint Valentine to love.

With time, this feast became a commemorative date for lovers, a day dedicated to those who love each other, and it is celebrated throughout the world. There are more than a billion cards exchanged on this day. In the exchange of wishes, this feast day is only second to Christmas; all of this for the love that people want to share with those closest to them. What does this love represent? Is it just to send a card to someone or does this love represent something more ; pure love, sacred love, love that gives hope, love for someone for whom we would give our life ? Can I in my daily life welcome this love into myself and also the joy of sharing it with my loved ones, my neighbours and with God Who loves me so much . . . ?

Pure Love begins primarily through the eyes, a physical aspect; then through acceptance we learn to know the other; then comes appreciation through which we feel good in the company of the other and share moments of life together ; at last comes the pleasure of being with this person. This brings a unique connection, emotional, physical, moral, psychological and spiritual. A deep and sincere love cannot disappear. This love becomes an intimate relationship that responds to expectations, founded on respect and trust. This unites the parties so that they are one. Nothing outside can fade this connection that welds these two together.

As Voluntas, married or celibate, where am I with love? How can I bring my love, a deep and sincere love, toward myself, my loved ones and God? This is the challenge that we are called to live every day.

News

Day of Consecrated Life

In the universal Church, February 2 is the special day for consecrated life. Let us take advantage of this day to thank God for consecrated life and most particularly for the call to secular consecration. Let us reflect upon our vocation and commitment.

Deceased

I have learned about the death of Thomas Furlong, a priest of the United States, who died on December 10, 2013. He obtained stability in 1981.

Eleanor Siehl, spouse of Robert J. Surowec of the United States, died on January 19th.

May God welcome them into His Kingdom and may our prayers accompany the families and friends of the deceased.

Directory of Members

The 2014 Directory of Members of the Institute is now available in the « members' section » of the Web site.

Present Moment

The edition of the journal, « The Present Moment » having as its theme « Prayer and Meditation » is also available on the welcome page of the site.

Statistics for 2014

As of January 31, 2014, the Institute has 882 members and is present in 21 countries. The distribution of members is as follows :

Priests incardinated in a diocese : 39

Priests incardinated in the Institute: 160

Cleric members incardinated in the Institute: 8

Laymen with temporary incorporation : 48

Laymen with definitive incorporation: 14

Candidates to Orders : 66

Associated members in the Institute : 547

Also, now, we have spiritually affiliated persons in the Institute. At this time, I cannot give you the number.

Thought of the Month

To look at others with the eyes of the heart, is the best way to find joy in living.
(*Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.*)

Birthdays

On February 6, Father **Guillermo Pérez**, Director of the region of Colombia, will celebrate his birthday. He is our precious translator for the texts in Spanish. May God bless and keep him in good health for the continuation of his apostolic ministry.

Sylvie Dagenais, secretary of the Central Administration, will celebrate her birthday on February 8.

Your thoughts and prayers are always welcome for them on this occasion. May God accompany them in their walk of life.

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 9

March 2014

Sense of Belonging

Two senses of belonging come to me in the spirit; the first sense is that which is acquired by birth, that is, being part of a birth family. This first sense of belonging comes to us naturally. It guides our steps until a certain age, It is related to learning, to first choices that we take, to the family house, to happiness and to the kindness of those whatever may be their opinion or belief. The family is serious. It is the harbour of peace, good meals and comfort. It is the house with the capital « H. ». It is there that each person finds a place of love around the table, responsibilities, even justice and rules.

Then comes another period of life where one makes choices, leaves the family nest and learns to know others and forges his/her own opinions. It is then that one makes grow his/her second sense of belonging; the spiritual family. This second sense of belonging comes to us through decision and choice. For me, I decided completely at first to consecrate my life to the Church. On account of this, I could become a priest, seminarian, layperson or married, happy to serve God. Then I wanted to join the Voluntas Dei Institute. I chose in complete freedom my sense of spiritual belonging. This choice brought me happiness and spiritual satisfaction. .

This new family, this new sense of belonging made grow in me the taste for equity, justice and what was at the level of my team, sector, region/district and the Institute in general. This is an ontological and essential work of a team and this throughout the world in concert with the universal Church seeking to serve Jesus and thereby serve God. The same end, the same rules and the same rights for all. In bringing my support to my team, I grow through it and that makes me rejoice.

In this season of Lent, it is important to look within oneself, to return to the interior of oneself and to pose to oneself good questions: Where am I? Who am I? Am I happy? What is my participation in my team . . . my district?

Would I be ready to die with Jesus in order to rise with Him at Easter? Also during this time of Lent, I invite you to deepen your sense of belonging to Jesus, but also to your natural family, to your spiritual family and to celebrate in your life the Pascal mysteries.

Canonical Visit to Colombia

I have just returned from a canonical visit to Colombia. The trip was a great success. The members have a positive energy. This country filled with hope is favorable for a great development of the Institute as well as for future vocations. Among others, Colombia is always a great challenge for me. For example, last year I was refused entry and had to make a half trip. Thanks to God, this year, I was able to visit.

But I would like to share with you a number of the challenges that I encounter frequently while traveling. Each time that I travel I have difficulty entering and also exiting certain countries. This is a great concern for me during the last three and eight months. The fact of traveling with a visitor's permit to Canada while fulfilling my duties as Director General is not easy. I count on your support of prayers in order that my visits may be easier in the future and that your prayers will support me in my work.

Canonical Visit to Cuba

In the month of March, I will go to Cuba for a canonical visit. I ask your prayers for the success of this visit and for the meetings that I will have with the members and the ecclesiastical and civil authorities that there may be a favourable openness of spirit.

Ordination

Let us rejoice for the coming of a new priest in Laos. Father Thomas Kondavong was ordained a priest on March 1st by our confrere, the Bishop of Pakse, Bishop Louis Marie Ling. He also ordains Sinoun from the Diocese of Parkse. Join your prayers with mine for this great day. Our fraternal salutations go out to the newly ordained.

Feast of the Annunciation

On March 25th, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. On this day our Institute will celebrate its patron feast day. Let us ask the Virgin to intercede for us in order that we may be given the strength and the necessary perseverance for our daily « yes. »

Deceased

Father Paul Boulay, member of Canada, died January 30, 2014. He was a missionary in the Dominican Republic for 40 years. His funeral will take place at Hato Mayor, R.D. Our prayers accompany his family and friends.

Fought of the Month

The more I will be indifferent to my own cause, the more that I will feel detached and free to accomplish all that God awaits from me.

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 10

April 2014

The Experience of Easter

During this month we will celebrate Easter. **What does Easter mean to me?** Each year is special and different from the preceding one. Jesus died on the cross and gave His life for me. Then he rose from the dead for me and also for all. Why? To reveal peace, light, the way, life and rebirth and a new breath !

« *And if Christ is not resurrected, our preaching is then in vain and our faith is also in vain.* » (Cor. 15, 14)

During the period of Lent and especially during the Easter Triduum, I am open to the Holy Spirit to transform me. How must I prepare for this transformation? What should I concentrate upon? Though my faith came to me at my birth, I live today in complete freedom this gift of my faith. What kind of responsible expression of my faith do I have? Have I made a priority the absence of criticism and complaint? Have I taken the time for reflection in order to blossom and to come alive again with Jesus at my side? A life filled with joy and peace throughout the year!

The Holy Spirit places before me events (good and bad) in order that I go beyond myself to pursue my journey leading to Christ, allowing me the place to blossom in the present moment in order to enlighten the future.

Each one of us through Baptism is called to participate in the paschal mystery of Christ, to be with Jesus, the Christ and to live the experience deeply with Him in order to become His witnesses. This is only possible if we remain united to Him.

Where am I?

Am I ready to die and be resurrected with Him ?

How will I live my experience of Easter this year ?

« Truly I say to you, unless a person is reborn, he/she cannot see the Kingdom of God (Jn, 3,3) ».

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Happy Easter

I wish all of you a Happy Easter of faith and joy and may it give you hope and rebirth.
May the Resurrected Christ bless you !

Meeting of the Central Council

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place April 28-30. I ask that you join us in prayer for the success of this meeting. Again, I ask you to send to us your documents at least 15 days in advance of the meeting.

Canonical Visit

I have returned from my canonical visit to Cuba. It was a great success. I thank you for your prayers.

Thought of the Month

Do you want to be one day the sower that sows flowers? Do you want to be a sower of a life, a tree? Do you want to be a sower of eternity, sowing peace, love and joy?
(*Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.*)

Birthdays

On April 5, **Bishop Louis-Marie Ling** will celebrate his birthday. Bishop Ling is the Bishop in charge of the Vicariat of Pakse.

On April 22, **Sylvie Ferland** who works at the Central House will celebrate her birthday.

May God bless them and keep them in good health!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 11

May 2014

Incarnated Holiness

We have just received an extraordinary gift of the Church in the canonization of two great popes: Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II. Through their respective personalities and missions, they have opened, illuminated, enthused and sown under the aegis of the Holy Spirit a fresh air in the Church. Their life and their teaching allows us « to demystify » holiness as being a reality possible with the help of grace and through doing things according to the desire of God. That is why the Church presents them to us as models of holiness. What is also marvelous is that our Pope, Francis, celebrated this double canonization on the Sunday dedicated to Divine Mercy. This speaks highly about and evokes the merciful heart of these two Holy Popes. Each one in his own way knew how to spread the joy of the Gospel.

The month of May recalls the death of our Founder, the beloved Father Louis-Marie Parent. This year, we will mark the 5th anniversary of his death that occurred on May 17, 2009. He was an inspiring figure for each of us. His great desire to serve the Church in various missions confided to him, his listening to the calls of the Holy Spirit through the intermediary of his superiors, his personal charisms placed at the disposition of the wishes of God shaped his life of intimacy (proximity) with God and his love of neighbour.

From Father Parent we have received a spirituality of happiness, a way of life capable of making us climb the mountain of the Lord. That is why the Church gave him to us as a way of sanctification.

Our Founder proposed to us a route of holiness typically secular so that all Christians can make it their own. Yes, and this is precisely in ordinary life, in the life of each day that we can live this plenitude of charity that makes us holy. « We will become holy when we are aware that the Holy Spirit is in us to make of us (other Christs), other instruments of the will of the Father. » (*Father Parent*)

With our faithful and generous efforts, particularly supported by the grace of God, the spirituality of the 5-5-5 is a « process to become a saint rapidly for with the help of the Virgin Mary all is possible,» according to the desire of Father Parent.

The month of the Virgin Mary is knocking at our doors. Let us pray again, especially with our spiritual mother during this month, particularly, meditating upon the daily rosary.

Thanks

The month of May closes the financial year in the Districts/Regions and at the Central Administration. At this time, I extend a sincere thank you in my behalf and in behalf of the Central Council, to the Directors of the American District, Canadian District and the Dominican Republic District, their Councils and members for their generous financial contributions. Their support helps greatly the Central Administration.

I invite you to join with me in prayer for all they have done and will do for the Institute.

Annual Report and Budget Forecasts

I 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 forecasts of the countries of mission are expected before June 20th 2014. These documents will be presented and studied at the plenary Council meeting that will take place in the month of August.

Fifth anniversary of the death of Father Parent

A Mass will be celebrated by the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, Saturday, May 17 at 11 am, at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Canada, to recall the 5th anniversary of the death of our founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent. I invite you to be united in prayer for this occasion.

Ordinations

In May, we will have 5 ordinations:

Aneesh-George, Dixon George and Rofin Raphel will be ordained May 13 in the Diocese of Kottappuram, India.

-Puthavialalopil Ajimon and Antony Prabhu will be ordained May 20 in the Diocese of Alleppey, India.

Congratulations to all, and to the District India. May God guide their steps and accompanies them throughout their journey. We invite you to join them in prayer for success in their mission.

Decisions of the Central Council

The Central Council has decided to hold its next General Assembly from July 11 to 24, 2016. It will be held at the Ursulines Centre in Quebec, Canada.

The preparation Committee for the General Assembly is formed:

- Andrew Mayer, coordinator
- Laurier Albert
- Fernand Turgeon
- Raymonde Jetté

The council admitted some members for stability.

Districts Assemblies

The Assembly of the District in formation Sri Lanka will take place from July 15 to 19, 2014.

The Assembly of the United States District will take place from August 4 to 9, 2014.

Thought of the Month

“Do to others as you would have them do to you. Be Merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (*Luke, 6.31, 36*)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

On May 6, **Freddy Sánchez** and **Antonia Silvestre**, of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage.

Donald Routhier and **Véronique Doyon**, of Canada, will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage on May 13.

Mario Laroche, priest of Canada, will celebrate his birthday on May 18. Mario was the Director General from 1980-1992.

On May 24, **Didi Horace**, Director of the District of Haiti, will celebrate his birthday.

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

I invite you to pray for them on this occasion. May God bless them and keep them in good health!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 4 ♦ Number 12

June 2014

Pope Francis discourse to the members of Secular Institutes

On May 10, 2014 members of secular Institutes met with Pope Francis. He gave a wonderful speech resuming the whole history of secular consecration. It is a great gift to all of us who are called to live this challenging mission. Father Parent has already given us this secular consecrated life. We are fortunate to have this vocation which is always relevant for today. Pope's reflection would help us to deepen our consecration. I invite you to read, reflect and make it yours in your milieu. Here is the original text of Pope Francis:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I welcome you on the occasion of your Assembly and greet you by saying: I know and I appreciate your vocation! It is one of the newer forms of consecrated life recognized and approved by the Church, and perhaps one that is not yet fully understood. Do not be discouraged: you are part of that poor and outward reaching Church that dreams!

By vocation you are laity and priests like others in the midst of others, you lead an ordinary life, without outward signs, without the support of a community life, without the visibility of an organized apostolate or specific works. Your only wealth is the all-encompassing experience of love of God and for this you are able to know and share life's trials in their many forms, maturing them with the light and power of the Gospel.

You are a sign of the Church in dialogue spoken of by Paul VI in the Encyclical *Ecclesiam suam*, "Since the world cannot be saved from the outside, we must first of all identify ourselves with those to whom we would bring the Christian message-like the Word of God who Himself became a man. Next we must forego all privilege and the use of unintelligible language, and adopt the way of life of ordinary people in all that is human and honorable. Indeed, we must adopt the way of life of the most humble people, if we wish to be listened to and understood. Then, before speaking, we must take great care to listen not only to what men say, but more especially to what they have it in their hearts to say. Only then will we understand them and respect them, and even, as far as possible, agree with them. Furthermore, if we want to be men's pastors, fathers and teachers, we must also behave as their brothers. Dialogue thrives on friendship, and most especially on service. All this, we must remember and strive to put into practice on the example and precept of Christ." (n.87)

The theme of your Assembly, "At the heart of human events: the challenges of a complex society", points to the scope of your mission and your prophecy. You are in the world but not of the world, carrying within you the essentials of the Christian message: the Father's love that saves. You are in the heart of the world with the heart of God.

Your vocation makes you interested in every individual and his or her deepest issues that often remain unspoken or masked. By virtue of the love of God that you have encountered and known, you are capable of closeness and tenderness. So you can be so close as to touch others, their wounds and expectations, their questions and needs, with a tenderness that is an expression of care that erases all distance like the Samaritan who walked by and saw and had compassion. This is the movement to which you have committed your vocation: to journey alongside each person and be close to every person you meet; because your being in the world is not simply a sociological condition, but it is a theological reality that calls you to be aware, to care for, recognize, see and touch the flesh of your brethren.

If this does not happen if you become distracted, or worse still, do not know this contemporary world but know and visit only the world that you are more comfortable with or more drawn to, then conversion is urgently needed! Yours is an outward reaching vocation by nature, not only because it brings you to others, but also because it asks you to live where every man lives.

Italy is the country with the largest number of secular institutes and members. You are a yeast that can produce good bread for many, the Bread of which there is so much hunger: someone to listen to people's needs, desires, disappointments, hopes. Like those who have preceded you in your vocation, you can restore hope to young people, help the elderly, open roads to the future, spread love in every place and in every situation. If this does not happen, if your ordinary life lacks witness and prophecy, then, I repeat to you, there is an urgent need for conversion!

Never lose the momentum of walking the streets of the world, aware that walking, even with an uncertain step or limping, is always better than standing still, locked within your questions or securities. The missionary passion, the joy of Christ that urges you to share with others the beauty of faith, reduces the risk of becoming stuck in individualism. The line of thought that proposes man as creator of himself, guided only by his own choices and desires, often vested in the seemingly beautiful garment of freedom and respect, threatens to undermine the foundations of consecrated life, especially of lay people. There is an urgent need to re-evaluate your sense of belonging to your vocational community which, precisely because it is founded on community life, finds its strengths in its charisma. For this reason, if each of you is a precious opportunity for others to meet with God, it is about rediscovering the responsibility of being prophecy as a community, to seek together, with humility and patience, a word of sense that can be a gift for the country and for the Church, and to bear witness to it with simplicity. You are like antennas ready to seize the seeds of innovation prompted by the Holy Spirit, and you can help the ecclesial community to take on this gaze of goodness and find new and bold ways to reach all peoples.

Poor among the poor, but with a burning heart never still, always on the move. Together [in community] sent out [into the world], even when you are alone, because your consecration makes you a living spark of the Church. Always on the road with the virtue that is of pilgrims: joy!

Thank you, dear friends, for what you are. May the Lord bless you and Mary keep you. And pray for me!

Pope Francis
On May 10, 2014
Vatican News

News

At its last meeting in April, the Central Council has unanimously approved that Cuba becomes a region. It was erected on May 1, 2014. Here is the director and his council:

FORNARIS HURTADO, Nestor, Director of the Region
BORRERO SIMON, Juan Carlos: Assistant Director of the Region
LLAGUNO, Felix Romeo: Councillor
FONSECA PONCE, Eduardo Enrique: Councillor
POMAREZ Roxana Jaime: Councillor

Thought of the Month

In the heart of a changing world in which unheard-of injustices and sufferings persist and are worsening, you are called to give a Christian interpretation to events and to historical and cultural phenomena. In particular, you must be harbingers of light and hope in contemporary society.

Saint John Paul II

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June 6, **Yvon Carpentier**, priest in Canada, will celebrate 50 years of priesthood. He was the Director General of the Institute from 1992 to 1998.

Michel Laroche, a priest in Canada, will celebrate 50 years of priesthood on June 6. He is one of the first members of the Institute.

June 8, **Andrew Mayer**, celebrate his birthday. Andrew is the coordinator for the preparation of the 2016 General Assembly and is part of the team of translators for the Central Administration.

Gerald Michaud, priest in Canada, will celebrate 50 years of priesthood on June 14. He is also one of the first members of the Institute.

May God protect them and bring them joy to continue their journey. I invite you to pray for those special occasions.

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