

News of the Director General

Volume 7♦

2016-2017

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News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 1

July 2016

General Assembly

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Finally we have now arrived at the 10th General Assembly, from July 11th to 21st. It will be held at the Ursuline Sisters' convent at Loretteville, Quebec, Canada, with 37 delegates representing all the countries where our members live and witness. As you know, the theme of this Assembly is "*Rooted in the Presence of God as Voluntas Dei*". It is very important that all of you be united in prayers with and for all of us, so that we all remain in the Presence of God in the present moment, in order to evaluate the past and to plan the future for the good of our Institute in particular, and for the good of the Church in general.

All the documents that we are going to study and discuss are available on the Website of the Institute, in the members' area, and this way you will be able to follow the General Assembly, and be united with us spiritually.

As you all know, the General Assembly is the highest and supreme authority of our Institute where all the delegates elected by all members come together to decide upon the global guidelines that will orient our Institute towards the future. The Assembly is also meant to elect the Director General and the Central Council who will be mandated to implement the decisions of the 2016 General Assembly for the next six years. Please pray that all the delegates be inspired by the Holy Spirit to choose the leadership that is needed for this, with the grace of discernment according to the will of God.

We count on your prayers and may God bless all of us that we all be able to carry out the mission of the Institute in the spirit of our Founder, Fr. Parent, whose birthday also falls during the Assembly (July 12th). It is also very important to note that July is the month of our foundation and that it is now in its 58th year of existence as Secular Institute with the Pontifical right.

God bless us all!

News

Dates to Remember

On July 2nd, we will celebrate the 58th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute. Please pay particular attention to this day and live on this day thanksgiving and joy. Happy celebration!

On this same day will be the 64th anniversary of the foundation of our big sisters the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. We congratulate all with our assurances of prayers.

Next Central Council Meeting

Our next Central Council meeting will be held from July 4th to 6th at the Central House. I invite you to pray for the success of this meeting.

Special Visitor

We are honored to receive our one and only Bishop in this Institute, *Most Rev. Louis Ling*, Bishop of Pakse in Laos. He will be the Honorary President of our 2016 Assembly. We are also happy to let you know that, finally, the government of Laos has consented the request of the Holy See for the Beatification of the Martyrs of Laos which will be held on November 11th 2016. It adds to our joy that one of these Martyrs is a *Voluntas Dei* member, *Luc Sy Manokhoun*.

Thought of the Month

“It is the quality of the presence of God and an experience of peace that allows the being of service to become aware of the mission that she/he must fulfill daily” (*L.-M. Parent, o.m.i.*)

Ordination

We praise God because we shall be blessed with a new priest in Colombia: *Esmaragdo Tamayo Munera* will be ordained on the day of our foundation, July 2nd.

Birthdays

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

July 4, *Manuel Cornejo Garate*, will also celebrate his birthday. He is a member of the Central Council and Assistant Director of the District in formation of Chile.

July 12, is the birthday of our dear Founder, *Fr. Parent*. Let's keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

July 20, *Rénald Tremblay*, coordinator of the Committee on Harassment, will celebrate his birthday.

July 22, *Paul-René Lavigne*, a dear and longtime friend of our Institute, will celebrate his birthday.

I wish these people my warmest wishes for their anniversary, and ask everyone to pray for them. May God bless each and every one, and keep them all in good health.

On July 25th, I will celebrate both my birthday and my priesthood anniversary. I invite you to please offer your prayers or me.

Devotedly yours in Jesus and Blessed Mother Mary,

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

News of the Director General

Volume 7♦ Number 2

August 2016

Prayers and Support

Dear Friends,

A very sincere THANK YOU for the confidence that each one of you has shown me in choosing me as the Director General for a second mandate !

Even if it is a great challenge to undertake, I discerned beautifully and well the will of God for me and I have accepted to walk forward in accepting this challenge for the glory of God and the well-being of the members of our Institute.

To respond to this call, I have need of the prayers of each one of you. Please keep me in your daily prayers. Without your support, I cannot fulfill this responsibility. Further, I would be very grateful for your collaboration all of the time.

As God demanded of Saint John (my patron saint) in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, that what is important is not honour and power but to drink the cup of the Lord, that of obedience in service.

It is with this precise attitude and after having prayed and reflected that I decided to accept for a second time the mandate of the Director General.

Please be assured of my availability to serve each of you like the Virgin of the Annunciation. May God bless you abundantly !

News

Gratitude to the outgoing Central Council Members

I cannot forget to express my special gratitude to those who walked with me during the last six years in developing the Institute by being the members of my previous Council. BIG THANK YOU To: Jean-Paul Chiasson (Assistant Director General), Pierre Marois (Secretary General), Manuel Cornejo, Raymonde Jeté and Fernand Turgeon. May God bless you all!

Gratitude for the Assembly General

As you know our Assembly General took place July 11-21. I extend my gratitude to all of the participants and all those who brought their contribution. I want to especially thank the President of the Assembly, Father Daniel Leblanc, o.m.i., the honorary President, Bishop Louis Ling, IVDei, the secretaries of the Assembly Pierre Hubert IVDei and Andrew Mayer, I.VDei, the technical secretary Marie-Andrée Groarke, the translators, Monique Piché and Victor Mozo, the messenger, Thomas Kandavong IVDei, as well as the members of the Centre de spiritualité who welcomed us so well. Thank you for the untiring devotion of our cook, Danielle Jean, who took up the challenge of cooking during the days of welcome at the Central House.

Also, a sincere thank you to all of the persons, who worked very hard in preparing for the Assembly General. Let us first note the tremendous contribution brought by the Committee of Preparation composed of Andrew Mayer, Laurier Albert, Fernand Turgeon and Raymonde Jetté. Thank you also to all the other Councillors of the Central Council. Let us note also the dedication of the directors of the various districts and regions. Our gratitude also extends to Marie-Andrée Groarke, Claire Lafrenière, Paul Lavigne, Violaine Couture, Sylvie Dagenais as well as all those who assisted in various other tasks in the preparation of the Assembly very especially Guillermo Perez, Andrew Mayer and Pierre Marois who helped for translations.

Élections

During the Assembly General of the Voluntas Dei Institute, by the grace of God, the delegates elected the Director General on July 19, 2016. **Reverend Father Selvaratnam James Dunstan, I.V. Dei** was elected and began his second mandate.

The Assembly also elected the members of the Council. They are :

François Hamel (Assistant Director General)
Andrew Sioleti
Laurier Albert
Innasi Mudiyanpan
Rory Murphy
Jomanas Eustache
Frank de la Cruz and
Ynocencia Ozoria

Thought of the Month

In order not to deprive, it is necessary to constantly centre ourselves on the presence of God, to question ourselves. : «Are we where God wants us?» « What would he want if we were in his place?» (P. Parent)

Birthdays

Yvon Carpentier will celebrate his birthday on August 5. He was the Director General of the Institute from 1992-1998.

Guy Veer, Director of Administrative Services of the Voluntas Dei Institute will celebrate his birthday on August 8.

Jomanas Eustache of Haïti, newly elected Councillor of the Central Council, will celebrate his birthday on August 19.

François Hamel will celebrate his birthday on August 26; he is newly elected as a Councillor on the Central Council. He was the Director General from 1998-2010.

Ynocencia Ozoria, spouse of Frank Luis De La Cruz, of the Dominican Republic, newly elected Councillor on the Central Council, will celebrate her birthday on August 28.

I invite you to join me in prayer to mark these birthdays. May God bless them and keep them in good health!

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

News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 3

September 2016

Assembly General of CMIS (WCSI)

From August 21-25, I was very happy to participate in the Assembly General of the World Conference of Secular Institutes in Rome. We were close to 140 participants coming from 25 countries representing close to 32,000 members of some 200 secular institutes. We had the honour of welcoming Cardinal Joao Braz of Aviz, the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life who presided the opening Mass on August 22nd. We were also gratified by our meeting with the Holy Father during his general audience of Wednesday.

I would like to share with you three important aspects that came out of this Assembly. Firstly, the theme of our *identity*. Who are we as members of secular institutes? Are we aware and convinced of our identity? If so, it will be better expressed in words and in acts, and thus, be shown tangibly and better transmitted around us.

In the second aspect, we underscored *formation* : CMIS (WCSI) commits itself to implementing a general formation for all of the secular institutes with the common base being the traits of consecrated secularity. This general formation, put forward by the CMIS, will be brought to the awareness of the Magisterium of the Church in order for it to take into account the specificity of secular institutes in the framework of consecrated life in general. Also, these common traits can help each secular institute who will be able thereafter to add to it its specific formation, charism and distinctive colour. Finally, each individual will be able also to bring to it his/her own personal charism, all being synchronized in harmony.

Finally, the Assembly brought out *the importance of working together with the authorities of the local Church*. The members of secular institutes do not walk in parallel with local Churches; they must involve themselves, play a role and take part in the activities of these Churches where they are implanted. Moreover, the local Churches will come to understand and incorporate to their mission the specific role of Secular Institutes members.

The Pope summarized well what he expects of the members of secular institutes : « daily discernment that allows the finding of a balance between being at the same time fully lay

and fully consecrated, and, in this way, « *finding God in everything.* » He insisted also on the importance of formation and fraternal life, even without imposed community life, that must help to create unity between « *action and contemplation.* »

Finally, he reminded us of the importance of interpreting the «*signs of the times*» by allowing ourselves to be guided by God while accepting the « *complexity and the precariousness of our times* » : this is the mission of consecrated lay persons who while bearing in their daily life the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, must form an « *advance wing of the Church in the new evangelization.* » (Vatican News)

I end by saying to you my great joy in sharing with you such a message of hope while hoping that it will also bear fruit in your lives.

Thought of the Month

It is the quality of the presence of God and an experience of peace that allows the being of service to become aware of the mission that she/he must fulfill daily. (*L.-M. Parent, o.m.i.*)

Birthdays

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

On September 6, **Renée Croteau**, a volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

Priesthood Anniversaries of this month:

On September 5, **Whalen Bosse** of Canada will celebrate his 40th anniversary of priesthood.

Marriage Anniversaries of this month:

ALARCON CANDIA, Sergio Hernan and VILLAGRAN RIVERA, Sonia Angélica — 40 years/ CHILE

CHAPLIN, Ernest and COGLIANDRO, Palmina — 30 years/ USA

CUETO MEJIA, Ramon Aridio and CAPELLAN CAMACHO, Margarita Maria — 20 years/ Dom.Rep.

KEERTHAPONGALAM, Joseph and Mary Josephine — 30 years/ SRI LANKA

LUNDI, Gérard and Lalite — 30 years/ HAITI

TAVERAS PICHARDO, Faustine and GARCIA RAMIREZ, Maria Edita — 30 years / Dom. Rep.

First Vows Anniversaries of this month:

DE LA CRUZ, Vicente, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years/ Dom. Rep.
GERMAN JIMENEZ, Agustin, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
MALDONADO, Ramon, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
MATOS, Maximinio, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
MERCEDES, CARRASCO, Basilio, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
MOREL, Andres et JIMENEZ-MOREL, Maria Providencia — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
ROUTHIER, Donald, Mr. and Mrs. — 10 years / CANADA
SANCHEZ CARRASCO, Luciano, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
SANCHEZ, Freddy, Mr. and Mrs. — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
THEVATHIRAVIAM, David, Mr. and Mrs. — 10 years / SRI LANKA

Anniversaries of Incorporation to the Institute, this month:

ARAYA RODRIGUEZ, Mario Alonso, Mr. and Mrs. — 10 years/ CHILE
BRITTO ANTONY, Eugene — 20 years / INDIA
JACOB PRAJOSH, David — 10 years / INDIA
LENIN, Antony P. — 10 years /INDIA
LIZANA, Manuel Alejandro, Mr. and Mrs. — 10 years / CHILE
NGAN, Vincent et FOURNIER, Hélène — 10 years / CANADA
NIBU, Nepolian T. — 10 years / INDIA
ROSHIN ROJIN, Michael — 10 years / INDIA
SANCHEZ BURGOS, Vicente — 20 years / Dom. Rep.
SENGOL, Joseph — 20 years /INDIA
VIPIN, Edward Joseph Bose — 10 years / INDIA
XAVIER, Francis Kuttappasseri — 10 years /INDIA

I invite you to pray for them on their special occasion. May God accompany them in their life journey.

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

News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 4

October 2016

Formation of Candidates to the Priesthood

Greetings to all in Jesus and Mary,

As you know already (i.e. letter of September) I made a presentation concerning the Voluntas Dei Institute in Rome this past August. In order to allow you not only to know what I said but also to remind you about the major points of the formation that we give to future priests and members of our Institute, I thought I would share with you a summary of my words.

After indicating that our Institute is composed of priests, consecrated celibate laymen, committed married couples and persons spiritually affiliated, I presented the stages of formation to the priesthood that we offer.

For the formation of future priests, our Institute firstly follows the Decree on priestly formation «*Optatam Totius*». Then, in order to attain the specific objectives of our secular Institute, our major Seminary includes studies in philosophy and theology, and especially formation in the midst of the world. This corresponds also to a text from St. Paul in the letter to the Hebrews (5 :1) where he indicates clearly that « every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God . . . » This involves that men intervene with persons in the world.

In this way, formation carried out in the Institute will bear upon these aspects in link with this perspective. It is therefore important to integrate well the following 3 points when a young man presents himself to you to become a priest among us :

1. Is the candidate called to ministerial priesthood ?
2. Is he called to secular consecration ?
3. Is he called to serve in the Voluntas Dei Institute ?

I wish to remind you that general formation to the priesthood within the Voluntas Dei is contained in the following 6 points :

- a) To give a **human formation** that involves knowledge of self and maturity as well as an openness to others and an intimate relationship with God.
- b) **Spiritual formation** that is ongoing and allows for the deepening of the grace of Baptism and the capacity to live according to the spirituality of the 5-5-5 in complete conformity to the will of God.
- c) When thinking about **intellectual, pastoral and missionary formation**, it is important to allow the candidates to receive indispensable formation in philosophy and theology and in all other pertinent domains. In the Institute we aim at formation in pastoral attitudes that comprise among others

welcoming and dialogue. At the missionary level, each must understand what is the mission of the Church and that of the Institute which involves going wherever Christ has His rights.

- d) A particular aspect of our formation is to be **able to read the signs of the time**. This means that a priest must continually bring about his own « up to date » according to the era and the society in which he lives always keeping in mind the Gospel and the Constitutions.
- e) Coming close to the end of this list, the following point is very important. The candidate to the priesthood must be **an agent or instrument of the Holy Spirit** and must let Him be expressed through oneself. Our priests are agents of the Institute in the sense that they express the spirit of the Institute. They are **first of all Voluntas Dei** then, as such, they are priests serving the Church with the Voluntas Dei colour. Obviously, they are also agents of the Christian community.
- f) Finally, our Institute insists on formation to **secular consecration** for each priest will work in the world that surrounds him. He will be inserted in the midst of the world but without belonging to the world (Perfectae Caritatis no. 10) and will attempt to gather together and unify the various persons and cultures and build peace in Jesus Christ.

As you know, and with the objective that each one understands well the mentality of the Voluntas Dei Institute, all diocesan and all religious priests who wish to join the Institute must follow the same procedures and the same formations as that of aspirants to the priesthood.

The above is a summary of my small presentation which gave rise to a number of questions to which I was pleased to respond.

News

The next Central Council meeting will take place on October 14. Please pray for the success of this meeting of the Council.

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Virgin Mary. We invite you to pray in a special way the rosary.

Birthdays in October :

On October 03, **Robert Lebel**, from Canada and Director of the Canadian District will celebrate his birthday.

On October 09, **Nestor Fornaris**, from Cuba and Director of the District of Cuba Region will celebrate his birthday.

On October 11, **Anthony Ciorra**, from the United States and Director of the District of the United States will celebrate his birthday.

On October 29, **Andrew Sioleti**, from the United States and member of the Central Council will celebrate his birthday.

Anniversary of Priesthood :

On October 9, **Raymond Pearson**, priest in Canada, will celebrate his 40th anniversary of priesthood.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

DE LA ROSA CARPIO, Carmelo and CONTRERAS DE LA ROSA, Quenia Maria---10 years/ Rep. Dom.
SCHOTKA, John and Judith – 60 years/ United States

Anniversaries of Stability:

CHELLAYYAN, Michael and MICHAEL, Valsala – 10 years/ INDIA
DEL ROSARIO, Alejandro – 25 years/ Rep. Dom.
DUNSTAN, Selvaratnam James – 20 years/ CANADA/ SRI LANKA
RIJO-VILLA, Gregoria, Mme – 25 years / Rep. Dom.
RIVERA, Maria, Mme – 25 years / Rep. Dom.
THOMMAN KUTTY THOMPSON, Ollattupurath – 10 years / INDIA

Anniversaries of First Vows:

ARULAPPAN, Francis, M. and Mme – 10 years/ INDE
DIAZ, Felix Maria, M. and Mme – 20 years/ Rep. Dom.
GRANGER, Serge, M. and Mme – 30 years/ CANADA
GUZMAN, José Maria, M. and Mme – 25 years/ Rep. Dom.
MARTINEZ, José, M. and Mme – 25 years/ Rep. Dom.
MATOS SANCHEZ, Pilar Maximinio, M. and Mme – 25 years/ Rep. Dom.
PIMENTEL, Manuel Maria, M. and Mme – 25 years Rep. Dom.
REYEZ GONZALEZ, Dionicio – 25 years/ Rep. Dom.
TRINIDAD GERVACIO, Antonio Manuel, M. and Mme —25 years/ Rep. Dom.

Anniversaries of incorporation in the Institute :

BORRERO SIMON, Juan Carlos – 20 years/ CUBA
ÉTIENNE, Anthony – 25 years/ France
ERMIAS, Degefu—10 years / ÉTHIOPIA
EUSTACHE, Madelon – 40 years/ HAITI
GEBRIEL BASHE, Getahun – 10 years/ KENYA
GOBANNA, Ermias – 10 years/ ÉTHIOPIA
GOMEZ LINAREZ, Carlos Manuel – 10 years/ Rep. Dom.
YACOB, Daniel – 10 years/ ÉTHIOPIA
HELISO, Terefe – 10 years/ ÉTHIOPIA
MAMO, Derese –10 years/ ÉTHIOPIA
OLIVE, Noé and JOSEPH, Marie-Flore – 20 years / HAITI

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

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

News of the Director General

Volume 7♦ Number 5

November 2016

Attitudes for Approaching Prayer

The month of November begins with All Saints Day when we celebrate the saints and is followed by a day dedicated to the deceased. This logical sequence reminds me that we are all united through our faith in Jesus, the Christ. Further, we, *the Militant Church* in pilgrimage on earth, receive the prayers of the *Triumphant Church* (the saints and angels) and have the duty to pray for the *Suffering Church* (the deceased).

This task encourages me again to share with you the importance of our prayers and their effects upon our daily lives. I read somewhere that in order for a prayer to bear fruit, four elements are required to receive the grace of God and to be productive.

Firstly, we must try to be perfect like our heavenly Father is. This is not an easy task, but at least we must be aware of it and journey in this direction — as Father Parent said, we are called to be perfect here on earth.

Secondly, if someone is aware of the essence of holiness, he/she will be open to love each person just as Jesus did. Humanly speaking, we have the tendency to love others in a subjective rather than in an objective way. If someone wants to obtain a positive response to prayers, it is very important that it's not a possessive or self-centred prayer, but must come from that person's loving experience taken from his/her daily life.

Thirdly, when we have an attitude of availability to serve others, we must be capable of valuing them and looking positively upon all. When someone prays, God sees how he or she perceives the others, sometimes better than the person him/herself does it. He lifts up this praying person on account of his/her availability to serve others.

The last point and certainly not the least, what is important to pray well is our humble awareness and acceptance of our human frailties. This humility will exalt the one praying and will give to him/her peace, joy and glory.

In this way, dear friends, in developing the four above-mentioned elements, we will remain united in prayer within the *Militant Church* in union with the *Triumphant Church*, and ask God for his clemency for the *Suffering Church*.

May God bless you !

Thought of the Month

Holiness is not something that we give ourselves, it is a divine attitude that we receive freely. (*L. M. Parent, o.m.i.*)

Let's Remember Our Deceased

In the month of November, the Church invites us in a special way to pray for our deceased. Let us pray for Father Parent and the deceased members of our Institute. I recommend especially to you the following persons who have left us this year :

- Jean Lebrun spouse of Marcelle Perrier/
Canada
- Sebastian Croos/ Sri Lanka
- Doreen Connelly, spouse of Jean-Guy
Brillon/ Canada
- Léo Deshaies/ Canada

Next Central Council Meeting

Our next Central Council meeting will take place November 23-25, 2016. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Birthdays in November :

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

On November 24, **Laurier Albert**, from Canada and member of the Central Council, will celebrate his birthday.

On November 30, **Francis Evens**, Director of the District of Haiti, will celebrate his birthday.

Anniversaries of Priesthood :

On November 22, **François Hamel**, member of the Central Council and former Director General (1998 – 2010), will celebrate his 30th anniversary of priesthood.

Anniversaries of Marriage :

JOHNPILLAI, Joseph, M. and the late JOHNPILLAI, Ponnammah —50 years / SRI LANKA
RAJ, Arockia Amal and GILDA, Mary – 30 years / INDIA

Anniversaries of First Vows :

LIVINGSTON, Joel, M. and TOTH, Carol – 10 years/ United States

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute :

FRANÇOIS, Marc-Arthur – 30 years/ United States
KONICKI, William – 10 years / United States

I invite you to pray for them on this 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 7 ♦ Number 6

December 2016

Beatification of Luc Sy, IVDei

My dear sisters and brothers Voluntas Dei,

It is a great great honor for me to announce you the beatification of the first Voluntas Dei, **Luc Sy IVDei**, a married member from Laos who was a missionary catechist in the region of Vientiane, capital of Laos. He was a probationer in our Institute along with Bishop Louis-Marie Ling, then deacon, and he undertook missionary work in an area where priests were prevented from evangelizing. Consequently, he went there to evangelize as a layman.

Luc Sy was born in 1938, and baptized in 1951. He entered the Voluntas Dei Institute in 1965 as an aspirant, and became probationer the year after, in 1966. In January 1970, the Bishop of Vientiane officially commissioned him as missionary catechist, in the region of Vientiane, in the mountains where many villages of refugees were found. These were considered “hot zones” where he generously visited the sick, gave communion, shared his own goods, and prepared children for baptism. He was known for his helpful attitude and his unconditional love for everyone; he made no distinction between Christians and non Christians. Luc really added to the development of the Christian faith in this area. Both, Louis-Marie Ling IVDei and Luc Sy IVDei regularly renewed their faith through monthly retreats and lived by the spirituality of Voluntas Dei; in this, they became witnesses by their lives in the midst of several risky challenges against their faith.

On the eve of March 7, 1970, Sunday of *Laetare*, Luc, along with two other companions were ambushed as they were on their way to visit catechumen friends in Dene Dine. Louis Marie Ling IVDei survived the ambush, but Luc Sy as well as his other companion, Phô Inpèng, were martyred later on. Louis-Marie Ling testified of Luc Sy this way: “The day we spent together, on the eve of his death, he prayed all day long, from morning till evening without interruption. In the evening, when I saw him, he told me: ‘Now, I’m ready.’”

From that day, **Luc Sy** is being honored for his sanctity and martyrdom. He was and he is remaining as a living example for other catechists. Khamu Christians revere his memory still today.

Working in Laos as missionaries, evangelizing the people in a communist context was not an easy task. There were several priests both religious and diocesan, along with lay people, who had to give their lives as martyrs for evangelization. Now, the Universal Church has recognized 17 martyrs who gave their lives in a significant way for Christ, from 1954 to 1970, and has proclaimed them as “Martyrs of Laos”. The official celebration of the beatification of these 17 martyrs will be held in Vientiane, Laos, on **December 11th, 2016**.

Let us be united in prayer with our “first blessed Voluntas Dei”, *blessed Luc Sy*, and ask ourselves how much dedicated we are to our own commitment as Voluntas Dei members and as Christians in general. Let us ask him, also, to intercede for us, in order that we may obtain the courage and the necessary wisdom to face the present day challenges of our secular reality, some of which may become hindrances to our own Christian way of life today.

May God bless us all, and help us to be authentic missionaries.

Thought of the Month:

Becoming a saint commits us to welcome the Lord who seeks to live his own Gospel through us. (*L. M. Parent, o.m.i.*)

Next Central Council Meeting :

The last Central Council Meeting was held from November 23-25 at the Central House. All the Council Members were present on this occasion. We are grateful for your prayers for the success of this meeting. Concerning the decisions that were taken at this meeting, I shall be on canonical tour, this month, in Laos, Sri Lanka, Australia and India.

Birthdays in December:

On December 27, Danielle JEAN, cook at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

Anniversaries of Priesthood:

André FREDO LESLY will celebrate his 10th priesthood anniversary on December 27 2016.

Jean Fénel BOURDEAU will also celebrate his 10th priesthood anniversary on December 27 2016.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

HERNANDEZ, Ramiro and AMPARO, Maria Antonia – 40 years/ Dom.Rep.

SANTOS-VARELA, Ana Altagacia – 50 years / Dom.Rep.

PIO VALDEZ, Martires and TRINIDAD, Dominga – 50 years / Dom.Rep.

PENA PENA, Juan Elias and CARRASCO SORIANO, Dominga – 10 years / Dom.Rep.

SALADANA PICHARDO, Marco Antonio and Lilibeth – 10 years / Dom.Rep.

Anniversaries of First Vows :

RAJARATHAM, Florentine – 50 years / CANADA

RENGIFO DORADO, Edward , M. and Mrs – 10 years / COLOMBIA S.A.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute:

FRANCIS, Evens – 25 years/ HAITI

HORACE, Didi – 25 years / HAITI

MADUTHINUPILLAI, Athiriyampillai — 40 years / CANADA

PAUL INNOCENT, Allan – 25 years / GUADELOUPE

RICHEMOND, Yves-Gérard – 25 years / GUADELOUPE

VELIZ GONZALES, Jimmy Osciel – 10 years / CHILE

I invite you to pray for them on this 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 7♦ Number 7

January 2017

Reflection on Peace

Dear Friends,

Firstly, at this time I wish to extend to you my sincerest wishes of peace and joy at the beginning of this New Year.

Also, it seemed to me appropriate to begin this new year by sharing with you a reflection on peace. To do this, I wish to be inspired simultaneously by our spirituality, by the Gospel and by the message of Pope Francis marking the 50th World Day of Peace.

First of all, peace is a gift that our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ gives us when he says only a few hours before His death : «Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.» (Jn 14, 27). How does one interpret this? In the face of all situations of distress or anguish, God is there and He does not forget us. He simply asks us to open ourselves to His gift of peace in the needed moment. «The peace of Christ becomes mine when I accept it as a divine gift, a supernatural gift, » Father Parent tells us.

Peace begins within oneself; if I welcome the peace of God within myself, I will be at peace with myself and at peace with others. Firstly, it is important to work on oneself, on one's own interiority. « For from within, out of the heart of ...[the person]... come evil thoughts . . . »(Mk 7, 21). Thus, if I am well disposed interiorly in recognizing the grace that dwells within my brother and sister, I will be open to dialogue with them. On the other hand, if I harbor in my heart jealousy or ill will, or let negative criticism or complaint take hold of me, it will be difficult for me to establish a relationship of peace and trust with this person.

In this way, peace can emerge when each person knows how to recognize in the other, whoever he/she is, a sacred being, a gift of God, a person who merits dignity and respect. This attitude, which is firstly rooted in contemplation and prayer, is at the basis of all exercise of non-violence of which Pope Francis speaks about, and this, even if the person has been a victim of violence: «When they know how to resist the temptation of vengeance, the victims of violence can be the most credible protagonists for non-violence and building of peace,» (Pope Francis, *Message of January 1, 2017*).

In complete humility, in the face of God, to know how to acknowledge the other in his/her grandeur, even the poorest; this means not falling into the trap of the superiority complex, an attitude that comes too quickly, unfortunately unbalancing the harmony in relationships.

It is certainly a question of humility and truth, but also one of justice. Peace can only occur in totality when the steps to achieve it are in concert with justice for all people involved. There cannot be true peace without the sincere and honest attempt at justice and equality for all. To break down the walls of *apartheid* by considering the other as equal is the inescapable point of departure for peace to be realized.

Finally, peace cannot be realized without unconditional forgiveness. In all conflicts, there are wounds on one part or the other. Reconciliation is not always possible on account of the limits of the human condition. However, forgiveness, in the spiritual realm, is rendered possible through the grace that we receive from Jesus Christ when on the cross he said : « Forgive them Father for they know not what they do, » (Lk 23, 24). This is the grace to be requested in order to receive true peace. However, God through Jesus Christ can also heal our wounds through the forgiveness that we agree to give in His name, and in faith. As Father Parent says: «The human being builds him/herself more through forgiveness than through hatred or grief.»

This is to what we are called; this is what I wish for you and I as Voluntas Dei members during 2017, to be builders of peace in the manner of Jesus Christ.

Shalom, Peace to All!

Thought of the Month

The peacemaker centres especially on the positive aspects of the neighbour seeking with patience to detect among the others their qualities and gifts . . . (*Louis-Marie Parent omi*)

Canonical Visit

At present, I have completed my canonical visit to Laos and Australia. The ceremony of the beatification of Luc Sy was very impressive to live at the side of the Director General of the Oblates, the Director of the *Pères des Missions Étrangères de Paris*, Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals. Let us continue to give thanks for our first member beatified. After the holidays, I will be in Sri Lanka and will end my canonical visit in India, then return to Canada at the end of January. Thank you for praying that these visits will bear fruit within our Institute.

Birthdays in January :

On 25 January, Pablo Daniel ZORRILLA RAMIREZ, Director of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate his birthday.

Anniversaries to the Priesthood :

Marcos A. GUERRA ROMERO of Chile will celebrate his 10th anniversary of priesthood on 20 January 2017.

Abraham JOHN CHURCHIL BAS of India will celebrate his 15th anniversary of priesthood on 2 January 2017.

Jean Carlo JULES of Haïti will celebrate his 20th anniversary of priesthood on 26 January 2017.

Jean-Mary LUC will celebrate his 10th anniversary of priesthood on 8 January 2017.

Anniversaries of Marriage :

John BUCKMAN and Mary TOBIN of the United States will celebrate their 50th anniversary on 28 January 2017.

Eleodoro FRIAS and Sonia Maria SANTANA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 40th anniversary on 1st January 2017.

Margasa GETAHUN and Askale TADASEK of Ethiopia will celebrate their 25th anniversary on 28 January 2017.

Anniversaries of First Vows:

Ollattupurath THOMMAN KUTTY THOMPSON of India will celebrate his 15th anniversary of first vows on 2 January 2017.

Emmanuel JOSÉ of India will celebrate his 15th anniversary of first vows on 2 January 2017.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute :

Ramiro GARCIA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 35th anniversary of aspirancy on 23 January 2017.

Jean Carlo JULES of Haïti will celebrate his 30th anniversary of aspirancy on 7 January 2017.

Yves RICHARD and Laurette TREMBLAY of Canada will celebrate their 30th anniversary of aspirancy on 28 January 2017.

Consuelo SOSA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 35th anniversary of aspirancy on 23 January 2017.

Vincent THERRIEN of Canada will celebrate his 50th anniversary of aspirancy on 27 January 2017.

Lorenzo LAMONTAGNE of Canada will celebrate his 30th anniversary of aspirancy on 28 January 2017.

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

P.S. If we have forgotten to note an important event in your life within the Institute, this month, please let us know and it will be our pleasure to indicate it in a subsequent letter.

Happy 2017!!

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI, Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 7♦ Number 8

February 2017

Evangelical Counsels

As you know, on February 2nd, the universal Church celebrates the Presentation of Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:22ff). By fulfilling the requirement of the Jewish law (Exodus 13 :2, 11-13), the couple, Mary and Joseph, presented their first born to be consecrated to God. Thus, this ritual of consecration is an opportunity for the Son to *to offer Himself to the Father* for his human mission— « Here I am Lord, I come to do your will » (Psalm 39) ; *He offers Himself also to the world* for the salvation of all as it is said in the letter to the Hebrews : Christ « had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people » (Hebrews 2 :17).

The Church takes advantage of this feast day to celebrate Consecrated Life. Thus, February 2nd will mark the XXI World Day of Consecrated Life. On this occasion, I invite each and every one of you to remember again how your vocation sprouted as a *Voluntas Dei*. To remember a gift received is in some way to update its grace for today.

Obedience – Usually in religious life institutes, the three vows are presented in this order: poverty, chastity and obedience. Father Parent proposed to present obedience firstly since, from this latter vow, arises the dynamism for the two other vows. Indeed, obedience enlightened by the *Word of God*, the *Constitutions*, the *signs of the time* and by the *authorities* can do nothing else but guarantee vows of poverty and chastity that are aligned with the very life of Christ. By means of these four media, we can be better inspired by the Holy Spirit in order to discern the will of God in our daily life and thus reiterate with joy our *fiat* with Mary.

Poverty – It is important for each and every one of us, single or married person, to pursue the objective of *sharing* our riches as recommended in the Scriptures: «He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none ; and he who has food, let him do likewise (Luke 3 :11).»

Father Parent presents sharing in this way: your talents are gifts that God offers you. You share them with the Institute, the Church and the world. You are a gift of God for the Institute and the Institute is a gift of God for you, for the good of the Church. We also share the same spirituality of the 5-5-5. It is a spiritual wealth that we cannot keep for ourselves. Thanks to the first 5, we achieve spiritual exercises that open our hearts to the concrete attitudes of life that are stipulated in the second 5. Finally, these attitudes launch us automatically into the accomplishment of acts of charity and kindness according to the third 5; the latter express both our spirit of poverty and our concern for sharing. In this way, when the time comes to give monetarily, Father Parent gives us a concrete way of doing it: set aside a little money each day according to one's means. It's little to give at the moment, but at the end of the year it represents a reasonable share.

Chastity – For Father Parent, chastity is above all a question of faithfulness, whether it is for a person engaged in consecrated celibacy or for a married couple. The person who lives consecrated celibacy commits to

being faithful to God and to His Kingdom in the gift of oneself. Couples commit through marriage to be faithful to one another in the gift of oneself in mutual fidelity.

Consequently, on February 2nd, I invite all of us to take the time to meditate upon our consecration as members of a secular institute and upon the evangelical counsels that animate each one of us according to our particular modality of commitment.

Thought of the Month

« Our charity must be sufficiently fervent to be shared »... (Louis-Marie Parent omi)

Canonical Visit

I have just completed my canonical visit to four countries: Laos, Australia, Sri Lanka and India, and I have arrived back at the Central House in Trois-Rivieres. Thank you for your prayers that accompanied me during this tour. Thank you for continuing to pray that these visits bear fruit in our Institute. To know more, consult our web site: soon, you will find in it details of my visit to these countries. Here are, nonetheless, some interesting tidbits to be transmitted now:

Laos :

It was a formidable Church experience to find myself among representatives and Director Generals of the OMI, MEP, of Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals at the ceremony of the beatification of Luc Sy, IVDei. This event highlighted the importance of the vocation of committed lay people.

Australia :

The Institute is relatively new in this country. In the present moment, we have five priests in this country. The Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishop of Sale welcome with great satisfaction the members of our Institute. They are touched by the spirituality and the charism of the Institute. The Archbishop of Melbourne would like to welcome an additional two priests.

Sri Lanka :

We have been able to reacquire our property. The Bishop welcomes well the fact that we are constructing there a church building, and that we are doing our priestly ministry in this place. During my stay in Sri Lanka, we inaugurated a new centre of formation « Parent Illam », Muhamalai.

India :

I was able to reorganize the administrative system there. There is a great deal of potential among the members of this country. There are also a number of vocations in sight. I therefore have a lot of hope for the sequel of events in this area.

Next Central Council:

On February 10, our next Central Council meeting will take place by video-conference. I thank you in advance for praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire us during this meeting.

Birthdays of February:

On February 6, Guillermo PEREZ, Director of the Region of Colombia, will celebrate his birthday.

On February 8, Sylvie DAGENAIS, secretary at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

On February 19, Violaine COUTURE, secretary at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

Santiago DEL ROSARIO and Severa GUZMAN of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate their 40th anniversary on February 25.

Hubert DOUCETTE of Canada will celebrate his 65th anniversary on February 26.

Samson and Jesilda JENNINGS of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 15th anniversary on February 4.

Arokivasamy RAYMOND DEROSE and Reeta Croose of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th anniversary on February 19.

Anniversary of Stability:

Guillermo PEREZ will celebrate his 40th anniversary of Stability on February 14.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute:

Soosa Michael ALBERT and Maria A.FLOSY of India will celebrate their 30th anniversary of Aspirancy on February 14.

Henry O. BERNAL, ARANCIBIA of Chile will celebrate his 25th anniversary of Aspirancy on February 7.

Serge GRANGER and Lise DURAND of Canada will celebrate their 35th anniversary of Aspirancy on February 14.

Maria RIVERA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate her 35th anniversary of Aspirancy on February 4.

Jean-Pierre and Mardy SONIA of Haïti will celebrate their 15th anniversary of Aspirancy on February 4.

Jacobo PAYANO SANTANA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 25th anniversary of Aspirancy on February 15.

Gregoria RIJO-VILLA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate her 35 anniversary of Aspirancy on February 4.

I invite you to pray for them on this occasion, and may God accompany all in their life journey.

P.S. If we have forgotten to note this month an important event of your life in the Institute, please inform us and we will be pleased to note it in a later letter.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI,
Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 9

March 2017

All is Possible to God

Dear Friends,

This month of March is entirely inhabited with Lent that begins on the first day of the month. We will be living this Lent with our Blessed Mother, the Virgin of the Annunciation whose feast day, also our Patronal Feast day, we will celebrate on March 25th. At the moment of Mary's *fiat*, Christ becomes corporally present in her own body. Thus, He says to His Father: «Here I am, I come . . . to do your will» (Ps. 39). This double *fiat* starts after the angel reassures Mary by telling her that **nothing is impossible for God** (Luke 1: 37).

Here is how I connect these words of the angel with our own Lenten commitment. I invite us at first to enter into ourselves . . . to make this reflection by placing ourselves in the presence of God with what we are today. Also, I share with you my own personal experience and in this way I involve myself in this exhortation.

I do not know about you, but for me, unfortunately, the time of Lent is not always undertaken with the depth and seriousness that it is due. If I go back 31 years before being a part of the Institute, at the time that I lived Lent with my family, we were diligent in prayer and in daily Mass no matter our priorities of work or studies. Also, each day, we offered small sacrifices of charity by abstaining from sweets or food and then placing its monetary value in a box. On Easter day, the content of this box were then given to the priest of the parish to be distributed to the poor.

I notice that I have relaxed somewhat my practice in this regard by justifying myself in this way : as a *Voluntas Dei* I already give every day, I am already doing my daily prayers, I celebrate the Mass each morning, etc. Thus, I am already doing enough. The question I am posing to myself at this time: «Is it possible to do more during Lent? » The angel responded to Mary: «Nothing is impossible to God» (Luke 1: 37). On this, Father Parent added: «Anything is possible, *if you try*. » In other words, if I take a step more for God, He will support me in making two even three more. Thus, we must *try* to do more than what we do ordinarily, and God will support our effort in order for us to produce more. What seems to me impossible to achieve from the beginning becomes, thereby, possible with a little effort and patience on my part. It is in this way that I understand the seriousness of my commitment and feel called to do more during the Lent period.

What made Mary believe that all is possible to God? She first asked a question to the angel: «How is this going to happen? » If she hadn't asked this question, she would not have had the response from the angel that all is possible to God. She, therefore, *tried* to better understand by posing a first action, i.e. asking the question. This first action brought her further along in her journey. I say this because, sometimes, we abstain from asking questions or making actions out of fear or pride even though these could help us to move forward.

In this way, dear friends, let us thus begin Lent and celebrate also the feast of the *fiat* of the Virgin of the Annunciation, by taking a first step in our decision to do MORE for the Lord and let's allow Him to work within ourselves in order that we may produce more acts of charity (3rd-5) by being true witnesses of Christ and true sons and daughters of Mary.

Thought of Father Parent

« Let us give to others the kindness that we have received from God and with which they will go without taking away anything from us. Charity cannot exhaust itself if we share it. (*Louis-Marie Parent omi*)

Statistics of the Year

As of 31 December 2016, the Institute comprises **974 members**, as well as **63 affiliated persons** and is present in **22 countries**.

The distribution of members and persons affiliated is as follows :

Priests incardinated in a diocese: 39
Priests incardinated in the Institute : 180
Cleric members incardinated in a diocese : 6
Cleric members incardinated in the Institute : 2
Celibate laymen with temporary incorporation : 32
Celibate laymen with definitive incorporation : 23
Candidates to the priesthood: 66
Associated members : 626
Persons affiliated : 63

Here is the number of members by country.
The District of belonging is written in parenthesis :
Germany (U.S.) 2
England (U.S.) 1

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Australia (India) | 5 |
| Canada | 141 |
| Chile | 32 |
| Colombia | 16 |
| Cuba | 9 |
| Scotland (Central) | 1 |
| Ecuador (Central) | 3 |
| United States | 81 |
| Ethiopia (U.S.) | 70 |
| France (Haïti) | 11 |
| Guadeloupe (Haïti) | 4 |
| Haïti | 65 |
| India | 116 |
| Italy (Central) | 1 |
| Kenya (U.S.) | 1 |
| Laos (Central) | 2 |
| Dominican. Rep. | 252 |
| Sri Lanka | 154 |
| Switzerland (Sri Lanka) | 1 |
| Trinidad (U.S.) | 6 |
| Total | 974 |

Central Council:

The Central Council met February 10 and 18 via video-conference. We thank you for your prayers. Here are the major lines of our decisions :

- 1) According to the Directives of the 2016 Assembly General and following the last canonical visit of the DG to India, and also in order to ensure the growth of the Voluntas Dei Institute in this country, the Central Council has decided to separate the « District in Formation » of India into two distinct REGIONS.

Here is the decree for the canonical erection of these two REGIONS :

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 towards finding a new Juridical Status for the “District in Formation of India” that is more suitable to the present reality;

Considering the growing number of members in India related to a good promotion of vocations;

Considering the vitality of the sectors and the teams in India could be stimulated;

Considering the hope of development;

Considering the difficulty for self-financing, and in a special way, the need to set up an organization of benefactors to help the Institute;

Considering the reality and the request of the members of India after the Canonical visit in December 2016 and January 2017;

After having consulted the members of the Central Council of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei at the meeting of February 10th and 18th, 2017, as per the suggestions given by the Assembly General in 2016 to have two different Regions, one for each State in India, instead of making an official district,

decrees

**THE CANONICAL ERECTION
Commencing on March 1st, 2017**

**THE REGION OF KERALA
and
THE REGION OF TAMIL NADU**

With all rights and privileges provided by the Rule No: 15 of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei

Given at Trois-Rivières, Québec
On February 20th, 2017

Rev. S. James Dunstan, IVDEI
Director general

- 2) The following is the Nomination certification of the Kerala Region Council :

NOMINATION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF KERALA

The Reverend Father **S. JAMES DUNSTAN**, Director General of the Voluntas Dei Secular Institute, after having received the approval of the Central Council of the Institute on February 10th and 18th, 2017 and after having issued the decree of the Canonical Status to India by dividing the District in Formation into two different Regions, appoints:

The Reverend Johny D. Puthenveetil
Regional Director of Kerala

The Reverend Francis Xaviour Sabariyar
Assistant Director

The Reverend Antony Victor Joseph Everystus
The Reverend Ajimon Ponkurish Puthiyavalappil
Mr Soosa Michael Albert
Mrs Maria Anthonial Flosy
Councillors

This appointment takes effect March 1st, 2017 for a period of four years.

Signed at Trois-Rivières, Québec
February 20th, 2017

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

- 3) The following is the Nomination certification of the Tamil Nadu Region Council :

NOMINATION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF TAMIL NADU

The Reverend Father **S. JAMES DUNSTAN**, Director General of the Voluntas Dei Secular Institute, after having received the approval of the Central Council of the Institute on February 10th and 18th, 2017 and after having issued the decree of the Canonical Status to India by dividing the District in Formation into two different Regions, appoints:

The Reverend Joseph Sengol
Regional Director of Tamil Nadu

The Reverend Abraham John Churchil Bass
Assistant Director

The Reverend Cletus Jones
Mr Rex Lourduraj
Mrs Maria Poorana Jeya
Councillors

This appointment takes effect March 1st, 2017 for a period of four years.

Signed at Trois-Rivières, Québec
February 20th, 2017

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

The next Central Council meeting will take place April 21, 2017. I thank you in advance for praying that the Holy Spirit will inspire us during this meeting. If you have documents to submit for this meeting of the Council, please send 15 days in advance of the meeting.

Feast of the Annunciation

On March 25, the Church will celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. On this day, I wish all of the members of the Institute a joyous celebration of our Patronal Feast day. May the Virgin of the Annunciation help us to discern and be the will of God.

Deceased Members :

Quintas Don Bosco, a major seminarian in Sri Lanka, died January 25 while on vacation with his family. He drowned while fishing. May his soul rest in peace. Let us be united in prayer with this family and the members of Sri Lanka.

Josephine Dias Jacob, spouse of Joseph George Edward Pieris, member of the District of Sri Lanka, died on January 2017. Let us pray for the repose of her soul and let us be united with her spouse in this time of sorrow.

Joseph Navaratnam, member of Sri Lanka District, husband of Anne Joycy, passed away on February 28th, 2017. Funeral will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Let us pray for the repose of his soul and let us be united with his wife and children in this time of sorrow.

Anniversaries of Priesthood:

March 1, Yves MASSÉ of Canada will celebrate his 20th anniversary of priesthood.

March 24, Damian COLICCHIO of the United States will celebrate his 55th anniversary of priesthood.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

Agnes AUGUSTINE-GNANAPRASAM of India will celebrate her 45th anniversary of marriage on March 24.

Ramon PERALTA and Angelica PEÑA of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 45th anniversary of marriage on March 25.

Anastacio RODRIGUEZ and Santa DE LA CRUZ of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage on March 26.

Abad MEJIA GONZALEZ and Paula BASTARDO ROMERO of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage on March 28.

Anniversary of First Vows :

Jean LACAILLE of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 50th anniversary of first vows.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute:

Romulians COMPERE of Haïti will mark his 20th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 25.

Andrew FRANCIS of India will mark his 20th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 25.

Oscar E. GUERRA BUSTOS and Primitiva Del Carmen ROMERO GONZALEZ of Chile will mark their 20th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 2.

Juan Otomanns VEGA HUERTA and Maria Eugenia OLIVARES PASTEN of Chile will mark their 20th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 2.

Cesar B. NIEVES MERCEDES and Merelgilda ESPIRITUSANTO DE GRACIA of the Dominican Republic will mark their 15th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 14.

Confesor SOSA MARTINEZ and Andrea CASTILLO GUZMAN will mark their 15th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 24.

Timothy SULLIVAN of the United States will mark his 10th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 3.

James HALLEY of the United States will mark his 10th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 3.

Benjamin CHINNAPPAN of the United States will mark his 10th anniversary of Aspirancy on March 3.

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

P.S. If we have forgotten to underline this month an important event of your life in the Institute, please inform us and we will be pleased to do so in the next letter.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI
Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 10

April 2017

To Give and To Receive: The Transformation of Easter



This year, Easter will be celebrated during the mid-part of April, and the Easter Triduum will occur from April 13-16. The first half of the month will then consist in an intensive preparation for Easter. Therefore, we have arrived at the last sprint, at the last part of Lent, and even if, perhaps, we feel a bit out of breath by our daily efforts, we continue to live the present moment and our charity with greater depth according to the very features of Lent that are prayer, fasting and penance (almsgiving.)

So that, when the feast of Easter arrives on April 16, there will be the joy of transformation lived in faith. We will have offered to the Risen Christ our most precious jewels. By allowing ourselves to be loved and reconciled by Him, He will increase tenfold for us the graces of a new life that will allow us to continue our journey during the second half of the month of April and even after.

I want to bring your attention to the following equation: *when we give, we receive*, but also, *when we receive, we are able to give*. With the first part of the equation, we are certainly familiar; didn't Jesus Himself evoke this principle? « Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. » (Mark 10: 29-31) Each one of us has already felt or lived inside of us the grace, the satisfaction that brings about the gift of oneself and sharing.

As for Jesus, He gave His life, His time, His energies in order to save us. So with this gift that He has already made to us, it's just like a tap on the back to allow us to go further in the gift of ourselves, in sharing our resources.

When we arrive at the second part of the equation, *better to receive in order to give better*, there may be a little challenge. And, certainly yes! We need just to go through a test of illness or other, to understand that this step is also a part of the transformation. If I want to be able to give again, it is important in these moments of tests that I accept to receive from others the helping hand necessary so that I may be able to give again. In Christ, the test becomes an opportunity for transformation. At that time, I can take a different route like the disciples of Emmaus who, having experienced the test, accepted to receive the Risen Jesus, and could thereafter continue their life with a new breath.

As for Jesus, did He not also live the step of receiving? He who had suffered and died, also accepted at the very heart of His own test, to receive from the Father the strength of the resurrection and the Holy Spirit that He shares with us still today.

Thus, each time that we celebrate the feast of Easter, we move closer to the eternal Easter: the journey of transformation operates in us step by step, *in giving* but also *in accepting to receive*.

In summary, I invite each one of us to commit ourselves into the following process: firstly, let us think of what we want to offer Jesus on the Cross. Secondly, let us receive the grace of the paschal mystery by allowing Him to work within us to transform our lives. And finally, let us rejoice in the new life that has been given to us by Christ.

Happy Easter to all!



Feast of Easter

On April 16, in the Church, we will celebrate the feast of Easter. On that day, I wish to all of the members of our Institute to open themselves more fully to the strength of the resurrection of Christ present in our lives.

Thought of Father Parent

« To share is to learn *to give* without humiliating; it is to learn how *to receive* with simplicity » . . .

(Louis-Marie Parent omi)

Central Council :

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place April 21, 2017. I thank you in advance for your prayers that the Holy Spirit will inspire us during this meeting. If you have documents to submit for this meeting of the Council, please send them 15 days in advance.

Birthdays :

April 5, Bishop Louis-Marie LING of Laos.

April 10, Joseph SENGOL of India, Director of the region of Tamil Nadu,

Anniversaries of Priesthood :

April 7, Prévoit Jr. Irilan MAXIME of Haiti will celebrate his 15th anniversary.

April 7, Evynx MONESTIME of France will celebrate his 15th anniversary.

April 12, Andrew FRANCIS of India will celebrate his 10th anniversary.

April 15, Santiago John Paul VINOTH of Australia will celebrate his 10th anniversary.

April 19, Antony K. SHABIN of Australia will celebrate his 10th anniversary.

April 18, Ollattupurath THOMMAN KUTTY THOMPSON of India will celebrate his 10th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

April 11, Gérald PAUL and Maculanie CLERGER of Haïti will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

April 21, Emmanuel LÉVEILLÉ and Marie Carmel FIGARO of Haïti will celebrate their 10th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Stability :

April 25, Christy APARANAM of India, 10th anniversary.

April 25, Gratian AYYAPILLAI and Saroja GRATIAN of India, 10th anniversary.

April 25, Rex LOURDURAJ and Maria Poorana JEYA of India, 10th anniversary.

April 25, Amal Arockia RAJ and Mary GILDA of India, 10th anniversary.

April 25, Manickan SUSAI and Rosary REETHAL of India, 10th anniversary.

April 25, Inghasy Pillai SUSAI VAZ and Ayya Pillai ANBU of India, 10th anniversary.

April 30, William J. McKEONE of the United States, 10th.

Anniversaries of First Vows and Commitments :

April 4, Evynx MONESTIME of France, 20th anniversary of first vows.

April 23, Salomon JÉRÔME of Haïti, 25th anniversary of first vows.

April 25, Joseph JOHNPILLAI of Sri Lanka, 25th anniversary of first commitments.

April 25, Pushparani SEBASTIAMPILLAI of Sri Lanka, 25th anniversary of first commitments.

April 27, Dady ALBATRE of Haïti, 10th anniversary of first vows.

April 27, Justin Harry CHERY and Marie Carmelle VALCOURT of Haïti, 10th anniversary of first commitments.
April 27, Angelot ÉTIENNE of Haïti, 10th anniversary of first vows.
April 27, Jean Louinet GUERRIER of France, 10th anniversary of first vows.
April 27, Alien ILIOTÈS of Haïti, 10th anniversary of first vows.
April 27, Millien LHÉRISSON of Haïti, 10th anniversary of first vows.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute:

April 4, Jean Adrien ÉMILE and Marie Alina LIZAIRE of Haïti, will celebrate their 15th of aspirancy.
April 4, Justin Harry CHERY and Marie Carmelle VALCOURT of Haïti, will celebrate their 15th of aspirancy.
April 4, Mécène SANON and Nadrelle LUNDI of Haïti, will celebrate their 15th of aspirancy.
April 25, Sebastiampillai ANTON MARIATHAS of Sri Lanka, will celebrate his 25th of aspirancy.
April 26, Selvaratnam James DUNSTAN of Sri Lanka/ Canada, will celebrate his 30th of aspirancy.
April 27, Jean-Baptiste FILS AIMÉ of Ecuador, will celebrate his 10th of aspirancy.

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

P.S. If we have forgotten to mark an important event of your life in the Institute, please inform us; it will be our pleasure to underline it in the next letter.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI
Director General



News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 11

May 2017

Dear friends,

As you may know, in 2017 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal; she appeared to three young shepherds, Lucia (10 years old), Francesco (9) and Jacinta (7). These apparitions of Our Lady went on from May 13th to October 13th of 1917 and were preceded, from 1915 to 1916, by the apparitions of the Angel of Portugal to the same children as a preparation to our Lady's visits. Just to remind you, 1917 marked the end of World War I.

There are three aspects I would like to underline today from these apparitions. First, the prayers and messages inspired from some of these apparitions insist on our dedication to the Holy Trinity, underlining the absolute unity among the three persons of same nature within the One God. Second, Our Lady insisted upon the daily prayer of the Holy Rosary for peace within us and in the world, as well as for peace of the souls in need of salvation. Finally, these messages were authenticated by the great miracle of the Dance of the Sun on October 13th 1917 when approximately 70,000 people were gathered on the Cova da Iria (place of apparitions) under pouring rain. As the Sun started waving in the sky, coming closer to the earth, the people's wet garments dried up in a fraction of a second, and their eyes were not affected by looking at the Sun.

A lot could be said concerning these apparitions. But let me expand a bit on the second element, the **daily Rosary to obtain peace**. Today, we also live in a context of war, of terrorism and of corruption at all levels. No need to give you examples here. The need for peace is very high: peace among nations, peace within the soul of each person, peace within the families and communities, *etc.* One cannot expect peace among nations if, first of all, each individual does not start to work genuinely at obtaining peace within oneself, and within one's own environment. A Chinese proverb goes this way: «If you want the earth to be clean, start by cleaning up your own backyard.» Working at peace is an everyday challenge for us all, and for us *Voluntas Dei*, it is an essential part of our mission.

So how does the daily Rosary fit into peacemaking? Our Lady presents this prayer as a very powerful tool of intercession. Making peace includes personal efforts, but most especially includes personal prayer through the Rosary, so that Mother Mary may complete and add up to whatever is missing from our limited efforts. This way she can help rebuild the Trinitarian unity and, thus, the peace among all human beings.

We, as *Voluntas Dei*, are like the three young shepherds of Fatima. We share with them the mission to build peace in the world through our charity, but also through our prayer, and especially through the daily Rosary.

Therefore, in this month of May, month of Mary, let us commit ourselves to a deeper and more dedicated daily Rosary, as we pray to obtain peace in the world, peace for souls in need of salvation, and peace in our lives, families and communities.

Month of Mary

In the Church, the month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mother Mary. As *Voluntas Dei*, Mother Mary has a special place in our spiritual life and in our mission to build peace. Let's take this opportunity to get even closer to her and to the Trinity through the daily Rosary and other means of intercession.

Thought of Father Parent

« Let us ask Mother Mary to accomplish within us marvels of graces, so that we may love and serve God like she did. » (*Louis-Marie Parent omi*)

Central Council :

The last meeting of the Central Council has taken place last April 21st, 2017. I thank you warmly for the prayers you did for this meeting.

Recent news:

In India, last April 24th, a member was ordained to priesthood. Let's thank God for **Roshin Michael**, our newly ordained priest, a gift to our Institute and to the Church. Let's pray also for the success of his ministry.

N.B. For the next section, we have decided, following some of your comments, to indicate the 25th and 50th anniversaries only. This way the DG's letter will be a more reasonable length.

Birthdays :

May 18, Fr. Mario LAROCHE, from Canada, former Director General.

May 18, Fr. Johny D. PUTHENVEETIL, actual Director of Kerala Region in India.

May 28, Fr. Rory MURPHY from USA, a member of Central Council.

May 28, Ynocencia OZORIA from Dominican Republic, a member of Central Council.

Anniversaries of Priesthood :

May 20, Fr. George F. HAZLER of USA will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

May 31st, Mariano RAMIREZ and Naida OGANDO from Dominican Republic will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute:

May 30th, Eric CADET and Christa DEMEVIL from Haiti will celebrate their 25th anniversary of aspirancy.

May 30th, Gérald PAUL and Maculanie CLERGER of Haïti will celebrate their 25th anniversary of aspirancy.

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

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI
Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 7 ♦ Number 12

June 2017

How to Overcome Seven Temptations?

For the month of June, I thought I could share with you excerpts from the homily that Pope Francis delivered during his trip to Egypt at the end of April of this year. Being a good father, he left thus a spiritual legacy to the clergy and consecrated Catholics in Egypt as well as to each of us as *Voluntas Dei*; indeed, we are going to see together how his remarks illustrate well, among other things, our second 5.

During his homily, the Pope noted seven temptations upon which we need to focus our attention : (1) to allow oneself to get carried away instead of guiding, (2) to complain continually, (3) to gossip and to be jealous, (4) to compare oneself to others, (5) to let *pharaonism* take over, which he explained in this way : « that is to harden one's heart and to close it off from the Lord and brothers and sisters ». (6) Also the temptations that lead to individualism, and (7) to walk without compass or goal.

Let's look firstly at what he says about the *first temptation*, that «of allowing oneself to be carried away rather than guided». As Christian models, we often fulfill the role of *pastors* in our respective realms. «The good pastor has the duty to guide the flock (. . .) Pope tells us. «He/she cannot allow him/herself to be carried away by deception and pessimism (. . .). He/she has always a caress of consolation even if his/her heart is afflicted. He/she is a father/mother when the children treat him/her with gratitude but especially when they are not grateful. Our faithfulness to the Lord should never depend upon human gratitude.» Here is a way of acting that reflects well what it means to be a *peacemaker*, the 5th point of our second 5.

In regard to the *second temptation*, the Holy Father places us on guard against the «temptation of complaining continually». Does this not remind us of the 3rd point of our second 5? *Absence of useless complaint* . . . Thus, the Holy Father invites us to remain under the anointing of the Holy Spirit in order that we may transform «any obstacle into opportunity and not any difficulty in excuse! » To remain under the anointing of the Holy Spirit calls us to be continually *in the presence of God*, the 1st point of our second 5.

The third temptation, represents a real challenge for whomever wants to advance in the spiritual ways: « the temptation of gossiping and jealousy. » The Holy Father does not mince his words. He claims that this temptation is « very bad, » even « dangerous » when one allows oneself to be carried away by words that wound the Body of Christ rather than building it up. In opposition to this temptation, our 2nd point of the second 5, *absence of destructive criticism*, invites us to praise God for the success of our brothers and sisters rather than sabotaging their reputation and allowing some doubt to remain about them. In this way, we can build peace.

The Holy Father does not skimp on « *the temptation of comparing oneself to others*. » In acting this way, we take away of the uniqueness and originality of each person. « To compare ourselves to those who are better than us makes us fall often into resentment; to compare ourselves to those who are worse than us makes us fall often into pride and laziness. » Jealousy can easily prevent the rooting of the sense of wonder. On the contrary, the Pope recommends *to serve* humbly our brothers and sisters in praising God for « the diversity of characters, charisms and opinions », as well as « to listen to the Holy Spirit ». We touch here upon the 4th point of our second 5, *being of service*.

Regarding the *fifth temptation*, the Pope makes the connection between a historical and biblical reality that occurred in Egypt, but which we can all live at different times in our existence: he calls *pharaonism* the temptation that hardens the heart and closes it off from the Lord and brothers and sisters. «It is the temptation to feel above others and therefore to submit them by vain glory: it is to have the presumption to be served rather than to serve.» In order to counteract this temptation, our spirituality invites us *to serve* others humbly while being *in the presence of God*.

«The temptation of individualism, *in sixth place*, is a follow-up to *pharaonism* explained above. «It is the temptation of egoistic people who, while journeying, are losing track of their goal, and who, instead of thinking of others, think only of themselves without feeling any shame about it, on the contrary, by justifying it.» Here, our *third 5* can act as a preventative medicine: our acts of charity granted and accepted in daily life redress in us selfish tendencies.

Finally, here is the *seventh*, «the temptation to walk without compass or goal. The consecrated person (. . .) lives a shared heart between God and worldliness. He/she forgets his/her first love. We are consecrated persons; we live for the Lord since the Lord gave His life for us. Let us offer Him the whole of ourselves each day.

What is interesting is that the Pope also gave us the remedy to help us not to yield to these temptations. « It is not easy to resist these temptations unless we remain grafted to Jesus : ‘Remain in Me as I am in you. Likewise, the vine shoot cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains *grafted* to the vine, and neither can you unless you remain grafted to Me.’»

«The quality of our consecration depends on the quality of our spiritual life.» We have just seen that for us as members of the Voluntas Dei Institute, this means living deeply our 5-5-5 spirituality.

Dear friends, let us take advantage of this month of Pentecost to ask the Holy Spirit to clothe us with courage, strength and renewed fervor in the Risen Christ. *Come Holy Spirit!*

Thought of Father Parent

“Absence of useless complaint softens the heart, fortifies the faith, teaches some self-control and fixes one’s gaze on God”
(Louis-Marie Parent omi)

Let’s rejoice with His Excellency the Cardinal Louis Ling IVDei

Mgr Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun I.V.Dei, 73 years old, is, at the moment (May 2017), the Apostolic Vicar of Paksé and Apostolic Administrator of Vientiane (Laos). He becomes the first Cardinal originating from this small country of south east Asia where a minority of some 45,000 catholics try their best to live out their faith within a communist context.



We, the Voluntas Dei members, are giving thanks and glory to God for Most Reverend Louis Ling and especially for the Church of Laos towards his nomination as Cardinal.

Dear Bishop Louis, we all pray that God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior, in the union of the Holy Spirit, may protect and bless you with good health in order that you may keep on serving the Universal Church for a long time.

The Consistory Ceremony, when 5 chosen bishops are going to be elevated to the rank of Cardinalate is going to take place on June 28th at the Vatican. The 5 new Cardinals will celebrate Mass with the Pope on the next day, June 29th.

Central Council:

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place by videoconference on June 9, 2017. This will be a continuation of the April 21 meeting; there will be nothing else added to the agenda. I thank you in advance for your prayers for the success of this meeting.

Ordinations:

April 24, **Michael Rojin Roshin** IVDei of India, ordained as priest.

May 6, **Paul Paradis** IVDei of Canada, ordained as priest.

June 28, **Eduardo Enrique Fonseca Ponce** IVDei of Cuba, will be ordained as priest.

Let us thank the Lord for this gift given to the Institute and to the Church and let us pray for the success of their ministry.

Birthdays:

June 6, René DÉSILETS, of Canada, former Director General.

ERRATUM: Ynocencia OZORIA of the Dominican Republic, member of the Central Council, will celebrate her birthday in August and not in May as mentioned in the May letter.

Anniversaries of Priesthood:

June 4, Laurier ALBERT of Canada, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 6, Alejandro DEL ROSARIO of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

June 10, Jean-Paul CHIASSON of Canada, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 10, Danis RIDORE of the United States, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 17, Marcel FOREST of Canada, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 27, Ronald GALT of the United States, will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Marriage:

June 6, Rodolfo S. DIAZ and Rafaela B. FERREIRA of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate their 25th.

June 10, André MORIN and Pauline POIRIER of Canada, will celebrate their 50th.

June 19, Saverian and Thresammah SEBASTIAMPILLAI of Sri Lanka, will celebrate their 50th.

Anniversaries of Incorporation to the Institute:

June 13, Denis FORTIER and Michelle FERRON of Canada, will celebrate their 25th.

I invite you to pray for these members on their anniversaries and may God continue to bless them abundantly, and accompany them in their journey of life.

S. James Dunstan, IVDei,
Director General