

# *News of the Director General*

## *Volume 8*

*2017 – 2018*

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# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 1

July 2017

## *Tribute to Our Big Sisters, the Oblates!*

On July 2, the secular institute of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate will celebrate its 65th anniversary of foundation. As you already know, our « big sisters, the Oblates » and we, Voluntas Dei, share not only the same founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i., the same spirituality of the 5-5-5 but also the same anniversary day for our two foundations.

Indeed, 65 years ago in 1952 Father Parent was inspired by the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII, *Provida Mater Ecclesia* (February 1947), to find the secular institute of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate.

On the occasion of this anniversary, I would like, on behalf of the entire Voluntas Dei Institute, to congratulate our big sisters and offer them our best wishes for continuation and assure them of our most fraternal prayers.

Numerous and beautiful memories mark the last 59 years of our mutual collaboration since the moment of our birth as an institute in 1958, six years after the foundation of the Oblates. We must recall that the Oblates were there since the beginning of our foundation with Father Parent in order to support us in all possible ways. Not only were they an immense support for our houses of formation in Trois-Rivieres (QC) and in Red Rapids (NB), but they also were instruments of promotion and development of our Institute in several countries internationally.

On this 65th anniversary of their foundation, I take the opportunity to thank them from the depths of my heart for all that they have done and still do and will continue to do for the Voluntas Dei Institute.

The intention of Father Parent was that the two Institutes might grow together hand in hand through living the spirituality of the 5-5-5, while developing themselves mission wise, and in creating peace and fraternity.

At this time, my dear Voluntas Dei friends, I invite you to be united in prayer with our « big sisters » as they celebrate their 65th anniversary of foundation. My wish for our two Institutes is as follows: that we, Voluntas Dei, might support our Oblate sisters in our own missions and work together in our milieus to witness to all that we share the same Founder and spirituality. It is important that we strive to achieve the desire of Father Parent. If we do not have the privilege of the presence of Oblates in our own districts or regions, then let us see how we can recruit new vocations for them. Similarly, if we profit from the presence of Oblates in our milieus, let's also be diligent in finding for them new vocations. In this way, we conserve the family spirit since we are united.

I wish to conclude by wishing the Oblates a very joyful 65th celebration. May the Lord abundantly bless them with graces of good health in order that they may continue to achieve their charism in the midst of the world.

## *Thought of Father Parent*

« Your shining forth is the prolongation of the life of Jesus in you ». *Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i. I.V.Dei.*

### *News of the Month*

**On June 28**, at the time of a consistory at the Vatican, our confrere, Bishop Louis-Marie Ling IVDei, was promoted to the cardinalate with four other new Cardinals. I had the chance to attend this ceremony as formal secretary. I also had the immense happiness of participating in the Mass the next day on the occasion of the feast of St. Peter and Saint Paul where the Pope and the five new Cardinals con-celebrated together.

**On July 2**, let us rejoice and be in thanksgiving for our anniversary celebration of foundation, i.e., our 59 years of existence.

### *Next Central Council*

The members of the Central Council will meet in person from **July 31-August 3 at the Central House**. If you have documents for this meeting, please send them at least two weeks in advance. I thank you for your prayers for the success of this meeting.

### *Birthdays*

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

July 12 will be the birthday of our Founder, Father *Louis-Marie Parent*. We thank God for his entire life and his work among us.

July 20, *Rénald Tremblay*, Chairperson of the Committee on Harassment.

July 22, *Paul-René Lavigne*, longtime friend of the Institute and precious collaborator.

July 23, *Frank de la Cruz*, Deacon and Associate Member, as well as Member of the Central Council.

July 25, *S. James Dunstan*, Director General of the Institute will celebrate his birthday as well as his anniversary of priesthood.

### *Anniversaries of Marriage*

**ERRATUM:** On June 10, André MORIN and Pauline POIRIER of Canada celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and not their 25<sup>th</sup>.

### *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

July 11, *Lloyd A.R. Shanti Kumar* of Sri Lanka, 25years.

I invite you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries and may God continue to bless and accompany them in their walk of life.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI,  
Director General

## *Cardinalate in a Difficult Context*

As you are aware, during the last week of June, I was in Rome to participate in the Consistory of five newly designated Cardinals by the Holy Father of whom one is one of our *Voluntas Dei* confreres, his Eminence Louis-Marie Ling of Laos. Since this was my first consistory and that I acted as « protocol secretary », I had the opportunity to visit more deeply the interior of the Vatican and I was able to address a number of Cardinals. What I learned concerning these last nominations of Cardinals touched me deeply. Contrary to the usual procedure for choosing Cardinals, this time the Holy Father employed other criteria. The Cardinals themselves were astonished to learn among other things of the nominations of Cardinals Louis-Marie Ling of Laos and Gregorio Rosa Chavez of Salvador.

When I spoke to Cardinal Chavez, he explained to me that he is not only the auxiliary Bishop of his diocese but also a parish pastor. Imagine the impact of this nomination and the life testimony that this involves at the Church level in his country, in his archdiocese and in his parish. Further, he was a great friend of Blessed Oscar Romero executed while celebrating a Mass in the capital of San Salvador. When we examine the context in which Cardinal Ling lives, we can notice similarities: Cardinal Ling is the modest Apostolic Vicar of Pakse in Laos, a country where it is often difficult to make known one's faith, and further, he is the cousin of Blessed Luc Sy IV Dei, also a deceased martyr. As you can notice, we have in front of our eyes two similar contexts where two modest bishops coming from popular milieus, in conditions where it is often difficult to express one's Christian faith, are raised to the rank of Cardinalate.

In light of this experience, I would like now to share with you the following reflection on the Parable of the Sower. Our God acts as the Sower of the divine Word. He sows everywhere the Good News of salvation: seeds fall on the pathway, others in rocky ground, others among thorns and finally some seeds fall also in good soil. This parable could firstly bring us to reflect upon the way with which we receive the Word on a personal basis and how we put it into practice. Do we welcome the Word in a soil which is available, or, is the Word simply not on our agenda? Are we implementing it to produce fruit in our daily lives or are we letting distractions of all kinds take the upper hand?

Now, I would like to share with you another interpretation that would place this parable in parallel with the context in which one exercises commitment. Let's consider for a moment the seed on the pathway as being a place that does not welcome at all the Word. The seed thrown on rocky ground and into the thorns could represent places that welcome the Word partially but give no follow-up or full agreement to it. Finally, the good soil corresponds to the places that welcome and maintain the Word in a continuous manner.

Thus, the Holy Father wishes to show to the world, and the entire Church that whatever is the context where the committed person militates, whether this milieu is favorable or not to the Word, if this person is truly committed to following Christ, he/she will produce fruit at all costs. In this way, for the Holy Father, someone can be elevated to the rank of Cardinal especially if he has been challenged or tested for his faith and has persevered in spite of everything.

In conclusion, I invite you to reflect on these two interpretations of the parable: the first that was explained by Jesus Himself Who brings us to consider the quality of the « soil » of our hearts where we welcome

the Word, and the second, as I have just illustrated to you, that of a commitment which is tested in a context of challenges for the faith, but in the end still produces good fruit.

As members of a secular Institute, consecrated to God in the world, let us take the time to meditate on how we happen to welcome the Word and bear fruit through the challenges that arise in our lives!

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« No matter the tests that I experience, the good Lord does not forget me; He is always with me, » Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.

### *News of the Month and the Central Council*

This month on August 15, we celebrate the great feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. This is the patronal feast of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate.

We are in the process of planning the procedures for the Beatification of Father Louis-Marie Parent, our Founder. We are inviting you to bring this process to your daily prayers in light of a good discernment.

We are at present in the full midst of our meeting of the Council of administration. All of the members are present at the Central House. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

We are giving thanksgiving for the ordination of Alexis IBBARA that took place in the United States on June 17, 2017. Let us continue to pray for his priestly ministry.

We pray also together for the repose of the soul of our confrere, priest of Sri Lanka, Christy Selvarajah IVDei, who died June 21, 2017. May he rest in the peace of his Saviour.

### *Birthdays*

August 5, *Yvon Carpentier* of Canada, former Director General.

August 18, *Guy Veer* of Canada, Director of Administrative Services will celebrate his 90th birthday. I wish to note that M. Veer is always available and devoted to active service of the Institute as well as the Church.

August 19, *Jomanas Eustache* of Haïti, present councillor at the Central Council.

August 26, *François Hamel* of Canada, present Assistant Director of the Institute.

August 28, *Mrs Ynocencia Ozoria* of the Dominican Republic, present associate Councillor at the Central Council.

### *Anniversaries of Stability*

August 22, *Michel Villeneuve* of Canada, 50 years.

### *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

August 7, *John Campoli* and *John O'Neill* of the United States, 25 years of aspirancy.

I ask you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries and may God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI,  
Director General

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 3

September 2017

## *Our Founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent omi*

In December 2016, at the time I was present at the beatification ceremony of the 17 martyrs of Laos, of whom Luc Sy IVDei was one, I had the opportunity to meet Father Roland Jacques omi, the postulator for the cause of the 17 martyrs of Laos. On this occasion, six Oblate Fathers were present, along with Cardinal Ling and myself; together, we took the time to share a number of reflections on the possibility of opening the cause of Father Parent's beatification. Since Father Roland expressed his personal support for this idea, I believed it was good to invite him to Canada to continue our conversation on the subject. He then came for a visit in Trois-Rivieres from June 8-11, 2017. He met the Bishop of Trois-Rivieres, His Excellency Luc Bouchard, the present President of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, Madam Denise Durocher OMMI, as well as the Superior General of the Recluses, Sister Celine Martel. He also took the time to do a preliminary exploration of the Oblate Fathers' archives in Richelieu, Quebec, as well as the OMMI's and Voluntas Dei's archives in Trois-Rivieres.

Later, toward the end of June, when I went to the Consistory in Rome, Father Roland omi and myself had a conversation with Father Thomas Klosterkamp, omi, General Postulator. At the same time, Father Roland took the time to go over the archives of the General House of the Oblate Fathers in Rome. From all of these explorations and various meetings, Father Roland sent us a summary indicating the steps to follow in order to open the cause of Father Parent's beatification.

Afterwards, Denise Durocher, the President of the OMMI and myself discussed this project with our respective General Councils, and it seems that it may be too early to proceed now with this cause. Also, we are feeling the need to take the time to make a good reflection within our hearts, and to pray for discernment in regard to this project. The Provincial of the Oblate Fathers of the Province of Notre-Dame-du-Cap in Canada, Father Luc Tardif omi, as for himself, is opened to the idea of opening the cause. The Recluse Sisters, for their part, are also in the process of discernment in their contemplative prayer.

Here and now, it is good to specify that we are already discerning without a shadow of a doubt in our minds that Father Parent is a saintly man and that he is already in heaven with the Lord. Fortunately, or unfortunately for him, he was better known by the members of the various foundations and by his own congregation. On the other hand, he is perhaps less known by the local population. In other words, popular devotion towards him is not emerging sufficiently in this geographical area at the present moment, in order that we may take immediate steps with the Congregation in Rome.

Further, Father Parent has written a large number of books and articles on spirituality and he has made numerous recorded reflections on the Word of God; within such a procedure, all of that content must be scrutinized in detail and this can take a certain time.

In closing, it is important to clarify that the event that triggered the idea – that is, the beatification of Luc Sy, which led us later to consider the project of the beatification of Father Parent – has not been sought in itself. This event presented itself to us naturally and it was through the course of meetings that the idea of the beatification of Father Parent germinated. When events align themselves in the same direction, there is perhaps there a sign to consider . . .

At the present moment, let us continue to discern the will of God in the manner of the Virgin of the Annunciation. As she did herself, let us bring our questions upon this emerging reflection by considering



all of the challenges that may come with such a commitment: « How is this possible? » In remaining patient and open to the Holy Spirit, let us allow the will of God to be realized through submitting ourselves to it totally.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« Holiness is not something that we give ourself, it is a divine attitude that we receive freely. »  
Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.

### *News of the Month and the Central Council*

The meeting of the Central Council took place July 31-August 2, 2017 at the Central House in Trois-Rivieres as planned. Our meeting bore lots of fruits; thank you for your prayers.

Please note that the following persons were accepted to stability: Canada, *Clément Lafortune* and *Carole Lagacé*; Éthiopia, *Getahun Gebriel*; United States, *Lenin Delgado*, *William J. Reuter* and *Élizabeth L. Reuther*, *Paul Lang* and *Eileen Lang*.

The next meeting will take place on September 25 via video-conference. From November 28-30, the meeting will take place in person. The January 29, March 26 and the May 14, 2018, meetings will take place via video-conference. The summer meeting will take place August 6-8, 2018.

### *Birthdays*

September 1, Father *Mudiyappan INNASI* of India, member of the Central Council.

September 19, Father *Fernando EUSTUS*, Director of the District of Sri Lanka.

### *Anniversaries of Marriage*

September 2, *Henry Arumainathan PAVILU* and *Matilda Vasanthi THAVITHU* of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

September 26, *Francis* and *Mary Magdaline ANANTHARAYAR* of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

### *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

September 15, *Philippe MANTOUT* of Canada and *Prévoit Jr MAXIME* Haïti will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

September 2, *Agnès AUGUSTINE-GNANAPRASAM* of India will celebrate her 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries, as well as for any other who may be celebrating any anniversary in September. May God continue to accompany them in their journey of life.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI,  
Director General.

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 4

October 2017

## *The Month of the Holy Rosary*

Dear friends, on October 7th, we will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. On October 13th, we will mark the centennial of the last apparition of Mary at Fatima, and, we know also that the whole month of October is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. That is why I believe it is appropriate in this letter to return on the theme of our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary.

Our Holy Mother, the very saintly Virgin Mary, is known under numerous titles, but always, she is the same person. Indeed, she is considered as the Mother of Jesus, and, by way of consequence, she is the Mother of God. She is also called Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Guadeloupe, Our Lady of the Cape, and so on and so on.

Why would the Church allow throughout its history that we invoke her under these different titles? In this way, we are able to attribute to her the maximum of possible qualities, and we truly believe that she deserves them all.

For those who do not believe in our beloved Mother, all of this makes no sense. But, for those who believe in her, this allows us to understand that she is the most venerated person after the Holy Trinity. Indeed, she is the most involved person in the salvation plan after the Trinity, and with the Trinity.

In this perspective, in the month of October, it is given to us to contemplate our Blessed Mother as **Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**. At Fatima, the Virgin Mary left us an important message. The crux of the message goes as follows: *do not offend your God, neither in His person, nor in the person of others, nor in your own person by not following His commandments*. The objective of the message is that each one of us must become holy by living the commandments of the Lord, in His love, grace, and through praying daily the Holy Rosary. In John 2, at the wedding of Cana, the Virgin Mary asks the servants to do whatever Jesus commands them to do. This connects with the crux of the message in the sense of obedience in love. Consequently, when we do not love or do not obey in love, we offend God.

Jesus understood the journey that He was called to live with His Holy Mother; through her, He received the necessary encouragement to accomplish His mission of love. Also, he believed in her particular participation in the salvation of the world in order that all might be led to the Kingdom of God. That is why, He sends her to in these apparitions in order to deliver us an exhortation, or at least an invitation of love. This love consists in a total abandonment. In this way, when Jesus gave His Mother to John at the foot of the cross, Mary abandoned herself entirely in love to the will of her Son, just as the Son, Himself, abandoned Himself entirely to the will of His Father. Then, John, our representative who was the privileged witness of the last moments of Jesus' life, submitted himself also totally to the will of the Father and the Son, by taking Mary into his home.

As such, during this month of the rosary, let us come toward our Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, by abandoning to her our whole life in the physical, mental, psychological aspects, etc. And let us ask her to intercede with Jesus, her Son, that He may touch us in our whole being and give us the grace to obey Him



in love in order to become witnesses of love who abandon themselves totally to God like Mary did in listening to Jesus in His Word.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« Let us ask for an evangelical spirit in order to follow the will of the Father in everything, by allowing ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit » Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.

### *News of the Month and the Central Council*

The Central Council held a meeting via video-conference on September 25. We thank you for your prayers. We decided to welcome to stability the following four members of Sri Lanka: *Jovampillai ANTON PREMATHAS*, *Suresh CHRISHANTHA PERERA*, *Crispin EDWIN* and *Rasamalar EDWIN*, *Antonypillai SWAMPILLAI* and *Fatima Rani ALBERT*.

The next meeting will take place November 28-30, in person this time. Thank you for continuing to pray for us and the projects of the Institute.

We are happy to count among us a new priest, Gildardo Noreña IVDei of Colombia, ordained on September 16 at the Sanctuaire Notre-Dame-du-Cap in Trois-Rivières, by Cardinal Gérald Lacroix i.s.p.x, Archbishop of Québec, within the framework of the National Congress of Secular Institutes.

### *Birthdays*

September 6, *Renée CROTEAU* of Canada, volunteer at the Central House. Sorry for forgetting!

October 3, *Robert LEBEL IVDei*, Director of the Canadian District.

October 9, *Nestor FORNARIS IVDei*, Director of the Region of Cuba.

October 11, *Anthony CIORRA IVDei*, Director of the United States.

October 19, *Tony JERAY IVDei*, of Switzerland.

October 29, *Andrew SIOLETI IVDei* of the United States and member of the Central Council.

### *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

October 6, Fathers *Paul JANVIER* and *Jean-Pierre JACCIUS* of the United States, 25 years.

October 21, *Luciano C. SANCHEZ* and *Sonia MOTA* of the Dominican Republic, 25 years.

October 28, *Joseph M. Mc GLYNN* and *Kathryn A. MONTIE* of the United States, 25 years.

I invite you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries, as well as for all others celebrating whatever anniversary they have during the month of October. May God continue to bless and accompany them in their journey of life.

S. James Dunstan, IVDEI,  
Director General

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 5

November 2017

## Let's Prepare Ourselves!

On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, published by Pope Benedict XV on November 30, 1919, our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, invites us all to prepare an *extraordinary month* dedicated to missionary life, in October 2019.

In the light of this, accepting the proposal of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, I hereby call for an *Extraordinary Missionary Month* to be celebrated in October 2019, with the aim of fostering an increased awareness of the *missio ad gentes* and taking up again with renewed fervor the missionary transformation of the Church's life and pastoral activity. The Missionary Month of October 2018 can serve as a good preparation for this celebration by enabling all the faithful to take to heart the proclamation of the Gospel and to help their communities grow in missionary and evangelizing zeal. May the love for the Church's mission, which is "a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people, grow ever stronger!" (*Letter of Pope Francis on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter, Maximum Illud*).

« May he or she that preaches about God be a person of God » (Benedict XV, in *Maximum Illud*, 1919). The missionary activity of the Church should be manifested with ardor and passion, and today, Pope Francis wants that we renew our ardor and passion in the mission by encouraging each one of us, especially consecrated and committed persons, to pray and reflect upon our own specific mission.

The message of Pope Benedict XV is an explicit call to holiness through our being and our life in order that the apostolate be effective. Thus, each person must carry out his/her life in union with Christ, shining forth the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit whatever maybe one's personal mission. In this way, the one who preaches the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ, will really be convinced and involved joyously in his/her mission with an authentic love and merciful attitude of a kind that the recipients of this love and mercy are going to truly feel in their heart that all of this well-being comes from God Himself.

This wonderful invitation from Pope Francis connects directly with the spirit of our Founder, Father Parent, who has invited us incessantly to become saints. In order to arrive there rightly, he has bequeathed to us a marvelous spirituality that allows us to be missionaries in the midst of the world and to witness to the Gospel wherever we are and wherever we work, therefore, wherever Christ has His rights. It is in this spirit that Pope Francis expressed himself in his message on the occasion of the World Day of Mission 2017: «Mission inspires a spirituality of continual exodus, pilgrimage and even exile. » (*Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Mission 2017*).

In this message we can recognize our charism of availability to the will of the Father according to the signs of the times, in the midst of the world and in the present moment: to be there with our total passion, our ardor wherever Christ has His rights by carrying within ourselves this remarkable charity that Mary herself lived.

Dear brothers and sisters, I invite you then to rediscover in the days to come your own personal mission, and that of the Institute within the Church's mission, as consecrated or committed persons following Christ. May the holiness that dwells within us become comforting hospitality to those that we will encounter. May our lives become exemplary so that the reign of Christ manifests itself fully according to the will of the Father.

In light of this marvelous invitation of Pope Francis, are we ready to prepare ourselves for the *Extraordinary Month of Missions* in 2019?

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« If the head and the heart are full of God, the hands are supple, available and charitable . . . To become a saint engages us first of all, and above all to welcome the Lord who seeks to live through us His own Gospel. » *Father Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*

### *Deceased Members*

During the month of November, the Church invites us in a special way to pray for deceased persons. Let us pray for Father Parent and in particular for the members of our Institute who died in 2016-2017:

- Quintas Don Bosco, major seminarian from Sri Lanka
- Josephine Dias Jacob, spouse of Joseph George Edward Pieris, from Sri Lanka
- Joseph Navaratnam, spouse of Anne Joycy, from Sri Lanka
- Christy Selvarajah, priest from Sri Lanka
- Robert Suroweic, spouse of Eleanor Siehl, from the United States

### *News of the Month and of the Central Council*

The next meeting will take place November 28-30 in person. Thank you for your continuing prayers for us and for the projects of the Institute.

Our sincere congratulations go to our confrere, Fr. François Hamel I.V.Dei, Assistant Director, for having been recently elected as the President of the Canadian Canon Law Society, for a period of three years.

### *Birthdays*

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Richard NORMANDIN*, Canada, volunteer at the Central House.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Mrs. Patricia Blandon ZULUAGA*, Canada, accounting technician recently hired at our Central House.

November 5<sup>th</sup>, *Marie-Andrée GROARKE*, Canada, member of the staff at the Central House.

November 24<sup>th</sup>, *Laurier ALBERT*, Canada, Councillor on the Central Council.

November 30<sup>th</sup>, *Evens FRANCIS*, Haiti, Director of the District of Haiti.

I invite you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries as well as for all others that are celebrating an anniversary of some kind in November. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 6

December 2017

## Pope Francis *versus* Father Parent

Since the election of Pope Francis, my question and perhaps that of yours, has been the following: « Has Pope Francis read one or another of Father Parent's books? Or, at least, has there been some kind of communication between the two of them since their ideas are similar? »

I would like to elucidate this question through the last message that Pope Francis gave to the Italian Conference of Secular Institutes that was held October 28-29, 2017 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of *Provida Mater Ecclesia* (1947). Through the application of « five verbs » that he suggested, the Pope brought out the spiritual attitudes necessary for the daily life of members of secular institutes. Do they not recall for us the « five attitudes of life » of Father Parent?

Here is a very eloquent little anecdote: very recently, he placed a small word on his office door that said: « No complaints. » He invited in this way persons that would come to see him to be dressed in a positive attitude before entering his office. This same invitation we recognize also in the spirituality of Father Parent: *Absence of destructive complaint* is one of the five attitudes of life promoted by Father Parent to guide us toward holiness.

Since the beginning of his Pontificate, Pope Francis has shown an inclusive approach toward those that he meets. He welcomes all no matter their beliefs, social status or state of health; whether they are employees of the Vatican, refugees, travellers, prisoners, Cardinals or even men or women of state, he makes himself accessible to all and treats each one according to his/her needs. In this unconditional welcome of all, I see again another essential attitude that Father Parent placed in the forefront during his life. Since the beginning of the Institute, he took under his wing all who felt marginalized or overwhelmed by situations, by taking care of all.

In order to practice such attitudes, both Father Parent and Pope Francis had to become persons of the present moment, living in the presence of God. Both are thus able to discern the will of God according to the signs of the times. Neither one or the other was preoccupied about what would be said about himself. Neither one or the other was concerned about the past or the future. The two discerned the will of God *in the day*, and *in the now*, by depicting the signs of the times in light of the Gospel and the Tradition of the Church.



I also observed another common and extraordinary aspect to these two personages. I knew Father Parent personally and I had the opportunity on several occasions to meet the Pope individually. I noticed that the two showed themselves as being down-to-earth persons, humble, without any superiority complex over others, but having the ardent desire to accomplish the will of God.

Dear friends, in closing this parallel between our good Pope Francis and Father Parent, I invite you to delve into a meditation on the « five verbs » that the Pope bequeathed to us in his message to the Italian Conference of Secular Institutes: pray, discern, share, take up courage and have sympathy. Here is the English translation of the message taken from Holy See Website:

*Pray*, to be joined to God, close to His heart. Listen to His voice, before every event in life, living a luminous existence that takes the Gospel in hand and takes it seriously.

*Discern*, to be able to distinguish essential things from ancillary ones; this means refining that wisdom, cultivating it day by day, to enable you to see what responsibilities it is necessary to take on, and what the priority tasks are. It is a personal but also a community path, and so individual effort is not enough.

*Share* the fate of every man and woman: even if the world's events are tragic and dark, I do not abandon the fate of the world because I love it, as and with Jesus, unto the end.

*Give courage*: with the grace of Christ never lose trust, which knows how to see good in everything. It is also an invitation we receive in every Eucharistic celebration: Lift up your hearts”.

*Have sympathy* for the world and for the people. Even when they do everything to make you lose it, be animated by the sympathy that comes to us from the Spirit of Christ, that makes us free and passionate, that makes us “stay within” like salt and leaven.

The Pope concludes his message by inviting us to cultivate these five actions daily as consecrated persons, witnesses of the resurrection of Christ who act as leaven in the dough of the world, i.e., like « the soul that animates the body. »

In conclusion, it is unlikely that Father Parent had met Pope Francis or that Pope Francis had read the books of Father Parent. Nevertheless, we know perfectly well that both are animated by the same spirit, by the same passion. They have in common the Holy Spirit, the divine breath that Jesus gave us to guide our lives in charity. Are we ready to take these two great men as models for our life? Let's not hesitate to adopt their approach of charity and we will be filled with blessings.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« The one who applies him/herself to avoiding destructive complaint develops in his/her heart a great tact. » *Father Louis-Marie Parent omi.*

## *News of the Month and the Central Council*

We have just finished with success our November 28-30 meeting of the Central Council in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic and now I take advantage of my presence in this country to meet confreres of the District Altagracia.

At the time of the meeting of the Central Council, we welcomed to stability members of the District of Haiti: Renand Délicieux, Jean-Paul Desrosiers, and Willy Jeudi. We have also welcomed to stability a member of the region of Tamil Nadu (India): Rajan Thomas, as well as a member from the Canadian District, Arunprakash Paul.

We also received news that our confrere Cardinal Louis-Marie Ling has been installed as Apostolic Vicar of Vientiane, in Laos, November 16, 2017.

### *Christmas Wishes*



Dear Friends,

The feast of Christmas is on our doorsteps. Allow me to wish each of you a special coming of Christ in the crèche of your hearts. May Christmas be lived in sweetness, deeply and in humility and especially with love according to what our Saviour Himself lived on the day of His birth. Happy birthday Jesus! Merry Christmas to all!

### *Birthdays*

December 12, *Roger CORNEAU I.V.Dei*, of Canada, volunteer at the Central House.

December 23, *Pierre MAROIS I.V.Dei*, of Canada, present Director of O.V.M.

December 27, *Mme Danielle JEAN*, of Canada, our cook at the Central House.

December 28, *Jean-Paul CHIASSON I.V.Dei*, of Canada, Chairperson of la Fondation *Les Équipières sociales*.

### *Anniversaries of Marriage*

December 19, *Marino DE LA CRUZ JIMENEZ* and *Esperanza ALVAREZ DE LA CRUZ* will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage.

December 25, *Diriba WADAJO* and *Ijigayo BAYISA* of Ethiopia will celebrate their 25th anniversary of marriage.

I invite you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries as well as all others who are celebrating whatever anniversary in December. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

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



## *To Improve Our Personal Responsibility Toward the Institute*

Dear Friends,

A year is coming to an end under the watchful eye of God and a new year is beginning through His grace and kindness. At each new beginning, we desire to renew ourselves physically through better habits of life, intellectually through projects that stimulate us, and spiritually by taking on better dispositions regarding our commitments toward God and the Institute.

I would like to draw your attention to this last point: to renew ourselves spiritually by taking on better dispositions regarding our commitments toward God and the Institute. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, our founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent put everything into place in order that we have the means at our disposition to renew ourselves spiritually within the context of our Institute. We have received the spirituality of the 5-5-5 placing in value charity wherever Christ has His rights. Each day, we are stimulated by acts of charity, more and more spontaneous towards our neighbours. Each day, we are encouraged and supported by incessant and constant prayer that keeps us in the presence of God and His grace in the present moment. Each day, we are called to live the attitudes of life that lead us to a more perfected charity and to a more devoted attention towards God and others. In short, we have everything in hand to become saints in fullness if we really put in it all our heart and attention.

In considering this way the soundness of our spirituality and its constructive effects, I inspire myself from its spirit to propose several hallmarks that will allow us to go further in our personal responsibility toward the Institute:

- To walk accordingly to the ways of the Institute by **the spirit, by the heart and through practice**: by **the spirit** through having high esteem for our *constitutions* and our *spirituality*, considering them as the will of God in our personal lives; through the **heart**, by loving warmly all of our members and all that constitutes the Institute as being what is the happiest and most important thing in our lives; through **practice** by trying hard to place ourselves daily at the service of the Institute.
- It is also necessary to consider the Institute as being *the spiritual family* in which we have been received, and to which we belong in a special way since we share together the same spiritual goods. Justice and gratitude compels us therefore to honour, love and to be useful to it as much as we can by continuing among other things to honour the memory of our founder; by speaking well of our members, our directors and their decisions; by living an exemplary life in all things; by being constantly watchful over charity and justice in view of the improvement and sanctification of our Institute; by encouraging vocations; by helping suffering members; by bringing our generous

support to our directors; finally, by praying daily for our Institute, for those that direct it and for the challenges to be surmounted.

In this way, the vision of the Institute, and our devotion to it will be enhanced: we will love and honour it with all our hearts, and we will work harder to be useful to it in all circumstances.

Dear friends, this is my sincerest wish for this new year. May God bless all of us and give us the grace for this transformation.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« Each positive inspiration is a route that God reveals to us in order to bring us to Him. » *Louis-Marie Parent omi.*

### *News of the Month and The Central Council*

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place via video-conference on January 29, 2018. We rely again on your prayers for the success of this meeting.

### *Birthdays*

January 25, *Pablo Daniel Zorrilla I.V.Dei*, Director of the District of the Dominican Republic.

I invite you to pray for this member on the occasion of his birthday as well as for all others who are celebrating an anniversary in January. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

Again, my best wishes to all for a happy and holy 2018!

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

## *Consecrated Life and Leadership*

Dear Friends,

Each year, at the beginning of February we celebrate consecrated life. Using the Gospel of January 4 (John 1: 40-42), I am inspired to share with you some reflections on consecrated life and leadership:

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him: « We have found the Messiah » (Which is translated Anointed.) He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, « You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas » (which is translated Peter.) (John 1: 40-42)

In this Gospel excerpt, I was seized by the attitude of Andrew, the brother of Simon-Peter. Indeed, Andrew is the first of two brothers to have met Jesus. He automatically speaks of Jesus to his brother Simon and presents him to Jesus. We would expect Jesus to give precedence to Andrew by appointing him leader of the group rather than choosing Simon-Peter, since Andrew was the first of the two to meet Jesus. But, Jesus chose Simon as « the Rock » of His birthing Church, i.e., as leader of the group of Apostles. What strikes me in this excerpt is to see how Andrew joyfully stepped into the background at the choice of Jesus. He was not at all offended that his brother Simon took the leadership of the group even though he had encountered Jesus after him. Andrew is completely happy with his role of presenter and feels good about his second place. He does not covet first place among the Apostles and he feels happy in the role that he plays with Jesus. He presents . . . then he withdraws. It is also the case in the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Andrew presents to the Lord the 5 loaves and 2 fish, then he withdraws, leaving Jesus to accomplish His miracle (John 6 :1-15).

Is this not the case in our lives as consecrated persons? Most often, the role that we play in the midst of the group to which we belong is secondary, accessory, or even hidden to most people's eyes. There is only a small percentage of members that will have the first places in authority. And even in authority, our role should be one of service and humility with all. Did Jesus not say to His disciples at the washing of the feet:

You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right for so I am. If I then your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. (John 13, 13-15)

The responsibility of the one in authority is greater, more outstanding and more demanding in this sense. The example of the Lord Jesus here inspires us further to serve more in total humility, to educate without demeaning, to straighten out without crushing, and to interpellate without judging or comparing.

Since the majority of us have a secondary role in our respective groups, it is important that we feel happy and comfortable in that role, that we occupy our place with who we are really, and that we deploy there all of our passion, fervour, faith and love for Christ. Like Andrew, may we be happy to make the presentation of facts or persons to Jesus, then, have the wisdom to draw back and let the Teacher accomplish His will.

This way of being and proceeding allows us a great inner freedom as consecrated person. In this way, we do not seek to pull the strings to control everything from where we stand, but rather, we seek to embark in the strings that

the Lord knows very well how to pull from where He stands. In this way, we remain in inner joy and peace since all comes from God and returns to Him.

My dear friends let us know how to be joyful in the role that we occupy even if it is minimal! In this way, we will keep before God a peaceful and free heart. May His holy will be done in us as consecrated persons! AMEN!

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« The first virtue of the apostle is humility, in the denial of oneself and unselfishness », *Louis-Marie Parent omi.*

### *Yearly Statistics*

Up till December 31st, our Institute had 967 members, and 51 spiritually affiliated persons, in all of the 22 countries where the Insitute is present.

#### **The distribution of members and affiliated persons goes as follows:**

Priests incardinated in a specific diocese : 38  
Priests incardinated in the Institute : 183  
Clergy members (permanent deacons) incardinated in a specific diocese : 7  
Clergy members (permanent deacons) incardinated in the Institute : 1  
Single lay men with temporary incorporation : 34  
Single lay men with permanent incorporation : 18  
Candidates to priesthood : 67  
Associate Membres : 619  
Affiliated Members : 51

#### **Here is the number of members in each country. The belonging district is written within parentheses:**

Germany (USA)	2
England (USA)	1
Australia (India)	5
Canada	141
Chile	28
Colombia	19
Cuba	9
Scotland(Central)	1
Ecuador (Central)	3
USA	78
Ethiopia (USA)	69
France (Haiti)	11
Guadeloupe (Haiti)	4
Haiti	63
Italy (Central)	1
Kerala (India)	98
Laos (Central)	2
Dom. Republic	252
Sri Lanka	153
Switzerland (SL)	1
Tamil Nadu (India)	20
Trinidad (USA)	6

### *News of the Month and the Central Council*

As you know, the last meeting of the Central Council took place on January 29th via video-conference. Thank you for your prayers that helped us in our decision-making. At this Council meeting, we welcomed *James Huth* to the Stability of Canada District.

### *New Ordinations*

We are very happy to announce the presbyteral ordination of 4 members of Haiti on February 24, 2018: *Faustin Louis, Renand Délicieux, Jean-Paul Desrosiers* and *Willy Jeudi*. Let us thank the Lord together for them and pray for their new priestly mission.

### *Birthdays*

February 6th, *Guillermo PEREZ*, Director of the Region of Colombia.  
February 8th, *Sylvie Dagenais*, Secretary at the Central House.  
February 19th, *Violaine Couture*, Secretary at the Central House.

### *Anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood*

February 9th, *Nestor H. FORNARIS*, Director of the Region of Cuba, will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

### *Anniversaries of Marriage*

February 10th, *Roger CORNEAU* and *Cécile DAVIDSON* of Canada will celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage.

I invite you to pray for these persons on the occasion of their anniversary and also for all others who will be celebrating an anniversary in February. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

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

## *Give Glory to God and Do Good to Others*

This year, the month of March is totally consecrated to the liturgical season of Lent; the Holy Week is also included in March except for Easter that comes on April 1st. Thus, I have thought to propose to all of us a way of living this Lenten season by *giving glory to God and doing good to others*. The Scriptures remind us that we have been created in the image and likeness of God; thus, all that we undertake should necessarily be to give glory to God and to do good to others. Indeed, our life is a real gift from God; He holds us in His hand and we owe Him all that we are and all that we do. Even when we think that the good we do is from us, we should remember that nothing would be possible without God's grace.

This is the way that Jesus thought, and most especially, this is the way he lived: *giving glory to God and doing good to others*. Always, he was on the watch to do good and to render health to all he met, whether it be Peter's mother-in-law or the possessed man, He always found the means to liberate them, to save them. Also, He would retire alone in the night to pray to His Father and to give Him praise and glory for all that He received during the day and for all that He would receive the next day. Does this not remind us of the indispensable "review of the day" so dear to Father Parent, our founder? Indeed, Jesus always sought to give glory to His Father and not to Himself, and when He had finished His witnessing and healings within a village, He went elsewhere and began anew another cycle of preaching and healing. He remained positive despite the challenges and pitfalls, for He knew that this was the will of His Father, and He remained deeply connected to Him in prayer.

Perhaps, we could also make of our Lent an opportunity to live our pitfalls and challenges in a positive way, in a spirit of praise as Saint James tells us in his epistle. It's true that it's not easy. But the Lenten period is a wonderful opportunity to practice, isn't it? Trying to live the challenges in joy in order that our faith and endurance may increase; in other words, becoming more solid in faith, more mature, more complete, more responsible. Seeing each challenge not as a yoke that grinds us down but as a lesson of life that allows us to become a better person.

Some time ago, I watched a small video that made me reflect upon the above. We could see a mother duck that waited on top of the stairs for her little ones to climb the steps one by one. They tried to climb, but some fell back. She was there watching over them as she waited for them. Sometimes, she'd help one or the other with her beak and she waited for everyone to be on top of the stairs before continuing her journey; she left no little one behind her.

Dear friends, it is the same for us with the Lord. The mother duck is the Lord; we are His children trying to climb to Him and falling back sometimes. However, the Lord remains at our side always even if we fall back or have difficulties. At other times, He gives us a helping hand so that we can move forward, and He never abandons us.



This Lenten season allows us therefore to examine how we are living our challenges, our trials. If we see them negatively, the peace of God cannot come into us. If we see them in a positive light, as an opportunity for growth, God gives us the grace to go through. Knowing how to count the blessings and how to draw positiveness from any negative situation, all of this allows for growth and progress in the love of God.

Let's not forget that, within our reach, the best sign of God's love is the **Eucharist** that we share daily. Indeed, in this sacrament, Jesus gives Himself in person and becomes our nourishment, our bread of life! There is no greater sign of God's real presence than this one. Do we know how to appreciate it? Or, do we come to Mass mechanically without understanding its deepest meaning?

During Lent, I invite each one of us to come to each Eucharist as if it were the first time, as if we were going to encounter Jesus in person, which is truly what happens. I invite us to descend deeply within ourselves to adore the Lord Who comes to save us personally. Remember: we are His little children, His *ducklings* and He, *the mother duck*, is unceasingly taking care of us. Therefore, whether we are in a time of personal challenges or in a time of joy, let us remain in praise in order *to give glory to God in doing good to others*.

My dear friends, I pray to the Lord that He will help us to live a Lent authentically turned towards Him and to others.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« A recipe for happiness: know how to recognize the good in others. . . A true sport to practice would be to chase away the dark ideas and to harvest the positive values », *Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*

### *News of the Month and Central Council*

Our next meeting of the Central Council will take place on March 23, 2018. Thank you for supporting us with your prayers.

### *Pope's Message for Lent*

Dear friends, I especially encourage you to read and meditate the message that the Holy Father wrote for this Lent. His invitations and his arrests are always appropriate and nourishing for our spiritual life. You will find this message on the website of the Holy See.

### *Patronal Feast Day*

I would like simply to remind you that our patronal feast day of the Annunciation falls on April 9th instead of March 25th which is Palm/Passion Sunday.

### *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

March 25<sup>th</sup>, Joseph S. and Rajaprema MARIYANAYAGAM of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

March 25<sup>th</sup>, Saverian and Thresammah SEBASTIAMPILLAI of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as for all others who will be celebrating an anniversary during the month of March. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 10

April 2018

## *To Do His Will: To Live in His Presence*

Firstly, I would like to send to all of you my best wishes of joy, peace and blessings for an Easter filled with hope.

We have just celebrated the Pascal Triduum in remembering that Christ accomplished the will of the Father to the very end of His life. Now, as our Institute is called « *Voluntas Dei* » if there is anyone who wants to fulfill the will of God that is us as members of the *Voluntas Dei* Institute. Father Parent left us a spirituality that names and specifies how to enter into the will of God and how better to accomplish it. Among the points of this spirituality, let us name more precisely *the presence of God*. Let us see now how we can enter into the will of God while living in His presence.

As you know, the theme of the last Assembly General bore this emphasis: *Rooted in the Presence of God as Voluntas Dei*. » Two years or almost have gone by since. At this stage, I thought that it would be good that we make a small return on how we have lived this theme until now, question of actualizing and consolidating, carrying it out and our belonging to the Institute and its spirituality. At this time, where are we personally, in teams and in districts/regions in our *rooted in the presence of God as Voluntas Dei*? The expression « *as Voluntas Dei* » is very important since it underlines our proper identity, particularly, being in the presence of God while being in the midst of the world to build fraternity. Must I remind us about what comprises secular prayer and how it takes upon itself charity and love coming from our spirituality of the 5-5-5? It is useless to tell you that while being in the midst of the world, there are plenty of opportunities that present themselves to us for prayer; each event, each encounter, each new circumstance becomes an opportunity *sine qua non* to go within oneself, whether it may be in intercession, praise or adoration. This is not always done in a physical chapel for us *Voluntas Dei*. The world, the daily that it comprises, become our « chapel, » that is to say, our privileged place to encounter the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And this prayer, we do in joy, love and peace in the manner of Jesus and Mary our true models rooted in the presence of God.

Father Parent left us jewels of reflection on the presence of God. Let us take for example his book *In Intimacy with Jesus*; this volume constitutes a real gold mine to enlighten us on this theme. Perhaps you will tell me that I have not had time to read it? At this time, I give to you this simple advisement. The majority of us go often on the internet. I suggest to you to keep open the window of our web site. In this way, when you have one or two minutes free, you can go to our website of *Voluntas Dei* and click on the tab « Documents » then « mail of the good God »; you will be able to find there a series of meditations of Father Parent notably on the presence of God. Remain there for a few moments and meditate upon one of his thoughts. You will see just by stopping there you will procure a moment of relaxation and interior peace.

Each one of us participates in meetings of the team and that of the district/region. Why not take a few minutes at the end of the meeting to live the presence of God by meditating on this point by using a thought of Father Parent? In a way yet more important: let's take advantage of these meetings to elaborate personal initiatives and of the group to progress on this point. It involves commencing with an evaluation of what we have accomplished in this regard and to go further in proposing new steps of development.

I end with reminding us at what point it is important to develop our connection of belonging. The fact of seeking together new ways of deepening *the presence of God* can allow, among others, an impact on our promotion of vocations. Indeed, it is the whole life of the Institute that will be invigorated. Perhaps to begin with this simple question: what am I doing personally and daily to grow in the presence of God? And also, what am I doing that together the Institute may grow in the presence of God?

Let us ask Father Parent to intercede that we may enter more and more into the will of God through developing our presence of God daily through meditation on his thoughts and especially through meditation on the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ Who lives through our daily life.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

« The presence of God is an encounter, it is a relationship of friendship . . . It is the quality of the presence of God and the peace lived daily that gives to the being of service the awareness of the mission that must be fulfilled each day. » *Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*

### *News of the Month*

We have with us now at the Central House in support of Administrative Services, Father. Gildardo NOREÑA IVDei, priest of Colombia. He will become the Director of the Office of Vocations and Missions (OVM) on March 19, 2018. We thank him for accepting to render this service to the Institute.

We wish to extend sincerest gratitude to Father Pierre Marois IVDei for his excellent work at the head of this service during numerous years. Pierre has carried out this work with a great deal of professionalism and immense generosity. Thank you, Pierre, and may God bless you!

### *Birthdays*

April 5, Cardinal Louis-Marie LING of Laos.

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

### *Anniversaries of Ordination*

April 24, John REMIGIUS, India, the region of Kerala, will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

### *Anniversaries of Marriage*

April 17, Saulo Bienvenido CRUZ and Modesta LEONARDO CASTILLO of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

### *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

April 18, Lucia FLUENTES AMARILES of Chile will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these persons on the occasion of their anniversary as well as for all others who are celebrating an anniversary whatever that may be in April. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 11

May 2018

Dear Friends,

We are now in May, the month of Mary and this time, the month of Pentecost, and without failing to mention the month of our dear Father Parent's arrival in heaven. The letter of this month will therefore be on the Holy Spirit and on His way of expressing Himself through each of our Institutes.

Father Parent was always faithful to the charism of the foundation of his own community, the Oblate Fathers (OMI), even if he was the founder himself of other groups. Indeed, he was able at the same time to be rooted in the charism of Fr. Eugene de Mazenod and to be open to the newness of the Spirit through the foundation of a contemplative community such as the "Recluses". Later, he could combine contemplation and action in the foundation of the secular institute of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. As he said so well: « While keeping your head in heaven, keep your two feet on the ground, » that is to say, that all contemplation finds its meaning in concrete action and all action finds its source and inspiration in contemplation. Secularity in this way would become impregnated by the presence of God while giving it a direction that is more oriented towards the concrete needs of the surrounding: to present the world to God and to present God to the world. The integration of these two poles, contemplation-action is also an important component of the secular Institute *Voluntas Dei* where many forms of consecration meet in diversity: priests, deacons, married couples, as well as consecrated laymen and spiritually affiliated men and women. All these baptized people gather together in unity and diversity with a similar affiliation, giving hands and feet to the spirituality of the 5-5-5-, a spirituality lived daily in contemplation and action.

Like our Holy Mother who did it herself so well, Father Parent opened himself to the action of the Holy Spirit, attentive to the will of God according to the signs of the times. Like the Virgin Mary waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit in her life and in the life of the nascent Church (Pentecost), how can we ourselves listen to this same Spirit as baptized persons and as *Voluntas Dei*? How can we read the signs of the times in light of the Holy Spirit?

Dear friends, in this month of May, with the help of Mary, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will transform us in our way of expressing contemplation in action, and in our way of living action while contemplating.

## *Thought of Father Parent*

« It is the quality of the presence of God and of peace lived that gives to the being of service the awareness of the mission that must be fulfilled each day. » (*Father Louis-Marie Parent omi*).

## *Central Council and Monthly News*

We had our last meeting of the Central Council on April 6, 2018. Thanks to each and everyone of you for your prayers for the success of this meeting. The next meeting will occur on May 14, 2018 through videoconference.

As I have said previously, on May 17th is the anniversary day of the death of our Founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent. I ask you therefore to offer your Mass to his intentions on the 9th anniversary of his death. Through his intercession may we be able to continue his work and fulfill the will of the Lord each day.

On May 13, *Getahun Gebriel*, will be the first Voluntas Dei ordained to priesthood in Ethiopia.  
On May 19, in Tamil Nadu, India, *Rajan Thomas I.V.Dei* will also be ordained as priest.

We wish to these two future priests great success in their new ministry and assure them of our support in prayers.

We are happy to inform you that on April 19, Cardinal Ling, I.V. Dei, had a private audience with Pope Francis. During more than 30 minutes, they discussed open heartedly. The Holy Father encouraged him and said to him this surprising statement: « You are a living martyr. » This brings us to a deep reflection on our role as Voluntas Dei in our respective *milieux*. Three days later, that is April 22nd, he took possession of the Basilica Church of San Silvestro in the Capite in Rome as Cardinal-priest. Let us be reminded that Bishop Louis-Marie was elevated to the rank of Cardinal on June 28, 2017. He is one of us and we wish him our congratulations and we encourage him in his ministry through our fervent prayers.

### *Birthdays*

May 14, Fernande St-Onge ommi, secretary of Father Parent, will celebrate her birthday. With gratitude let us keep her in our prayers as she continues to this day to occupy herself with the sale of the books of Father Parent as well as the cataloguing of all of his files.

May 18, Mario Laroche I.V.Dei of Canada and former Director General.

May 18, Johnny D. PUTHENVEETIL I.V.Dei, present Director of the region of Kerala.

May 28, Rory MURPHY I.V.Dei of the United States and member of the Central Council.

May 28, Ynocencia OZORIA I.V.Dei (spouse of Frank Luis de la Cruz) of the Dominican Republic and member of the Central Council.

### *Anniversaries of Ordination*

May 29, Timothy CROBLEY I.V.Dei of the United States, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

May 29, Michael SEIS I.V.Dei of the Dominican Republic, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

May 29, James Patrick BURNS I.V.Dei of the United States, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### *Anniversary of Marriage*

May 22, Paul S. and Gina P. ARULNAYAGAM I.V.Dei of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### *Anniversary of Incorporation in the Institute*

May 20, Marcelle PERRIER I.V.Dei of Canada will celebrate her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these persons on the occasion of their anniversary as well as for all others that will celebrate an anniversary in May. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

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

# News of the Director General

Volume 8 ♦ Number 12

June 2018

Dear Friends,

We are already beginning the month of June, the month of the Sacred Heart, the month of the feast of Saint John the Baptist and the month which begins a new fiscal year for the Voluntas. Here is a month well filled both at the spiritual and material levels, a month to stop, to reflect and to start anew in different ways.

As you know, John the Baptist is, with Jesus and Mary, the only saint whose birthday we celebrate solemnly in the Church. For the other saints, we celebrate the day of their birth in heaven. Jesus had said of him that no other man born of a woman was as great as John the Baptist. Jesus, Himself, recognized the greatness and the holiness of this person who more or less bridged the First and the New Testament. Indeed, we say of him that he was the last prophet of the First Testament announcing the coming of the Messiah, and the first prophet of the New Testament who identified Jesus as being the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Are we as ready as he was to announce openly our faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord of our lives?

What I would like to underline about John the Baptist is his love for truth and holiness. He was radical in his speech just as he was in his way of living whether it be in the way he dressed, he ate, and he meditated on the Word. He urged people with vivacity and boldness. He was not afraid to say to Herod that his sin of adultery was not compatible with the will of God. Let's imagine what would happen if someone used the same boldness in denouncing adultery in our world today!

When the people came to ask him: « What must we do? » He responded by telling them not to collect more than what they needed for their livelihood, not to steal from anyone, not to employ any means of violence, and not to bring any false accusation against anyone. Here are fundamental principles that we could use in the midst of the world, where we live, where we detect corruption, violence, calumny and false accusations of all kinds. Just as John the Baptist was in a certain way a consecrated person, that is, a model for the world of his time, we are also called to shine the light of Christ through our life and to witness daily as consecrated/committed persons. It is sometimes difficult to shine forth justice, truth and charity with the goal of establishing peace. This is a call that can even be costly for us like John the Baptist who had to give up his life for having told the truth to King Herod.

Dear friends, in the example of John the Baptist, let's not be afraid to show Jesus to the world and to shine forth the love of His Sacred Heart. Like he did in building a bridge between the former world and the new covenant in Jesus, let us be also, according to our call of consecrated/committed life in the midst of the world, living bridges between the religious world and the secular world. Let's be the feet and the hands of the Sacred Heart in order to go forth and to act wherever Christ has His rights. With boldness, let's speak the truth and let's become true instruments of peace. Like John the Baptist who invited the people of his time to stop and reflect and then to get going anew, let's have the courage to stop now and again to reflect, and to adjust our lives to the light of Christ in order to get going anew with the strength of His Spirit. At last, through our prayer and adoration, through our acts of charity and our attitudes of life, let's consecrate the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus each day during this month of June and throughout our life.



## *Thought of Father Parent*

« I am love, why not hand over yourself to me? I am a heart, is this not the refuge that you need? » (*Father Louis-Marie Parent omi*).

## *Visit to Rome*

I had the great joy of participating in the *International Conference on Consecration* at the beginning of May in Rome. This conference was organized by the Congregation for Consecrated Life. You will be able in time to see the contents on our web site.

## *Central Council and News of the Month (to update)*

We had our last meeting of the Central Council on May 21. Thank you to each of you for your prayers for the success of this meeting. The budget of the Central Administration for 2018-2019 was approved. Also, we admitted to stability four seminarians in the region of Kerala (India): *Jerin Devasi, Joy Muthappan, Rinoy Thomas* and *Savio Francis*.

## *Birthdays*

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

June 8, Andrew MAYER of Canada, translator at the service of the Institute.

June 25, Gildardo NOREÑA of Colombia, new Director of the Office of Vocations and Missions at the Central House.

## *Anniversaires of Ordination*

June 8, Jean LACAILLE of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 8, Gilles POULIN of Canada will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 8, Michel VILLENEUVE of Canada will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

## *Anniversaries of Marriage*

June 3, Yohannis ABABBO and Sara GANDHORE of Ethiopia, 25th anniversary.

June 12, Réginal THOMAS and Shella MONTINA of France, 25th anniversary.

## *Anniversaries of Incorporation in the Institute*

June 10, Primitivo ANTIGUA H. and Mercedes ANTIGUA H. of the Dominican Republic, 25th.

June 10, Ramon CUETO M. and Margarita CAPELLAN C. of the Dominican Republic, 25th.

June 10, Domingo DE LA CRUZ and Juana GARCIA of the Dominican Republic, 25th.

June 10, Frank DE LA CRUZ and Ynocencia OZORIA of the Dominican Republic, 25th.

June 10, Domingo HERRERA A. and Luz GARCIA of the Dominican Republic, 25th.

June 11, Gaston PIGEON of Canada, 25th.

June 27, Jean-Gérald LOMINY of Canada, 25th.

I invite you to pray for these persons on the occasion of their anniversary as well as for all others who are celebrating whatever anniversary during the month of June. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

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