

News of the Director General

Volume 9

2018 – 2019

<i>1. July 2018.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>2. August 2018</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>3. Septembre 2018.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>4. Octobre 2018.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>5. Novembre 2018.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>6. Decembre 2018.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>7. January 2019.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>8. February 2019.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>9. March 2019.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>10. April 2019.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>11. May 2019.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>12. June 2019.....</i>	<i>24</i>

News of the Director General

Volume 9 ♦ Number 1

July 2018

Dear friends,

The month of July reminds us of our foundation that occurred precisely on July 2nd, 1958. This year especially, as you all know, we celebrate, on this very date, the 60th anniversary of our foundation. Our Institute is *secular* which means it is having a very special relationship with today's world. Our consecration and mission are meant to be lived in the midst of the world and adjusted with the signs of time. So, my dear friends, let us evaluate from the essence of our secular consecration how our spirit of brotherhood works within our team life, and how we do live our vows and commitments accordingly to our specific charism.

Jesus was *incarnated* into our world making himself part of his own Creation, as well as of our human history. He came among us in order to elevate the whole Creation and humanity into God's Kingdom. He came to heal the whole being of each person, and not for political reasons. As members of the Voluntas Dei Institute, this is what we are also called to live and experience: an incarnated consecration in the midst of today's world, that is, the synthesis of both the secularity and the consecration as inspired by the incarnation mystery of Jesus himself in this world. This way of relating to the world inspires us to dedicate ourselves to the people, helping them to recognize God, in his Creation, in the events of human history, in his people, and especially in their hearts. From this secular consecration emerges a continual dialogue between the contemplation of God and the realities of the world. The mission emerges from this dialogue where one contemplates the mystery of Incarnation and proposes to the others to recognize and live this same mystery within their own lives.

The mission in the IVDei is lived within a fraternal frame which does not necessarily evolve from a common life like for religious communities, but rather from a *team* of which members meet together on a regular basis. It is the setting where we are invited to build peace and brotherhood in Jesus-Christ. This team life has to be discerned and reinforced in each member's vocation and formation; it also has to be facilitated in a way where each team member feels responsible for his/own team as well as for his/her own vocation. The team is the opportunity where diversity and unity meet: as we say so well in our Institute, "unity in diversity", and, "diversity in unity". The team is the setting that facilitates discernment in the different aspects of our engagement, and that reinforces service and altruism as opposed to self-centeredness.

Sixty years ago, Father Parent discerned this possibility for a deep brotherhood within a team life setting, and accordingly to this, he formulated a beautiful charism for our Institute. Therefore, according to this specific charism of ours, we are called to live our evangelical counsels in one of these three manners: 1) *vows* (for consecrated members), 2) *commitments* (for married couples), and 3) *promises* (for affiliated persons). The consecration in the IVDei is lived in the secularity of daily life with the challenges and realities of the world, but also simultaneously inspired by the values of the Gospel.

We all need to take time personally to review our own commitment in this light, as we are taking the 60th year of our foundation. On this occasion, I wish you all the best, and bless you all, asking God to deepen and to bring to maturity, for each of us, the sense of belongingness to the Institute, according to His own Will and plan.

Fr. Parent's Thought

« My strength, my leverage point in order to change the world from inside, is to live in the present moment, to live today. » (P. Louis-Marie Parent omi).

60th Foundation Anniversary

As you all know, July 2nd will be the very day of our 60th foundation anniversary. I wish to each and everyone of you a very joyful anniversary on July 2nd! Let's give praise to the Lord for this great gift to the Church and to the World our Institute is. I also invite all the priests of our Institute to celebrate Mass on that very day for the intentions of our Institute, and I invite the other members to attend and unite to these masses.

Deceased in June

On June 8th, *Joseph McGlynn* from USA died. He was the husband of Kathryn Montie.

July Birthdays

On July 2nd, it is the birthday of *Marcos Alejandro Guerra Romero*, Director of the Chili District.

July 12th will be the birthday of our Founder, *Fr. Louis-Marie Parent*. Let's thank God for all of his life and his works among us. May his soul rest in peace!

On July 20th, it is the birthday of *Rénauld Tremblay* who is responsible for the committee on harassment.

On July 22nd, it is the birthday of *Paul-René Lavigne*, precious friend and collaborator of the Institute.

On July 23rd, it is the birthday of *Frank de la Cruz*, deacon and Councillor as associated member at the Central Council.

On July 25th, I will celebrate my birthday, as well as my Ordination anniversary. I humbly ask you to pray for my intentions so that I may continue the mission the Lord is asking me to fulfill as Director of our Institute accordingly to his will.

Marriage Anniversary

On July 14th, *Rénauld TREMBLAY* and *Louissette SIMARD* from Canada are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Stability Anniversary

On July 2nd, *Serge GRANGER* and *Lise DURAND* from Canada are celebrating their 25th anniversary of stability.

Aspirancy Anniversary

On July 4th, *Fr. Gerard J. STEFFENER* from the USA will celebrate his 25th anniversary of aspirancy.

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 July. 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 9 ♦ Number 2

August 2018

"To Evangelize" means what for a Voluntas Dei?

Dear friends,

We are at the beginning of our 60th year and anniversary of foundation. The Lord invites us both to give thanks and to renew our mission as individuals and as an Institute. With these few lines, I will try to sketch out some ways to help us better understand what it means to "evangelize" for a Voluntas Dei. St. Paul said: "Woe to me if I do not evangelize! (1 Corinthians 9:16) But what exactly does the word "evangelize" mean in the context of our Institute?

One could easily think that to evangelize consists first of all in preaching as Paul and others did. And that's very true! But we also know that not everyone is able to preach. The same St. Paul speaks indeed of the diversity of charisms and, consequently, evangelization can take place according to the charisms that each one has. I would like to propose a simple way that I believe to be within the reach of each one of us.

Recently, I asked myself the question: "When was the last time I brought someone to Jesus? ... have I been able these days to accompany someone to Jesus as a priest and more precisely as Voluntas Dei?" And just after this questioning, members of my own family came to me in person that I may accompany them to Jesus. What I did was to simply try to be more attentive to their needs. We sometimes forget that evangelizing is more often within our reach than we think: an event, a meeting, the death or illness of someone, all these situations can constitute opportunities to evangelize, more specifically to accompany people to Jesus.

When I'm accompanying someone, I'm not always talking to him/her or teaching morals. When I accompany a person, firstly, I am attentive to his/her needs, to his/her difficulty; I start by listening to him/her. Then, afterwards, I can insert a simple word of encouragement, or support, and above all, I can invite the person to trust in Christ in the situation that he or she is concerned with. I can also go a step further, if the context lends itself, and I can pray with the person by offering him or her to Jesus for peace and surrender. And afterwards, I let the Holy Spirit act ... Let's never forget that if, humanly, we can support the situation materially speaking, we have a responsibility to do so. Did not Jesus say, "Whoever gives only one glass of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward." (Mt 10:42). Therefore, we have the responsibility to accompany human beings materially speaking, as well as spiritually towards Christ.

Dear friends, you may find that I am not describing great pastoral programs that claim to lead to evangelization. I am describing us as evangelizers in the day to day situations; this is where we work as members of a secular institute. So, let's take advantage of the simple opportunities available to us to make a difference, that is to say, not only to encourage people humanly or psychologically speaking, but also,

if their hearts are open, to talk to them about what Jesus did in our own lives, so that by witnessing of his presence and his action, we can arouse in them hope and confidence.

Fr. Parent's Thought

« The others will see Christ in us, only if we succeed to incarnate him in our lives. » (*P. Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

Director's News

As you all know, we will be having our Central Counsel meeting from August 6th to 8th, here at Central house. Please pray for the success of this meeting.

It is with great joy that we announce to you the ordination of three new priests in Kerala, last July: these are Marydasan PRASANTH, Bosco SHIBIN, and Vibindas VIJAYAN. Let us pray that they may become wonderful *Voluntas Dei* priests in the world and in the Church.

August Birthdays

August 5th, *Yvon Carpentier*, priest from Canada, former Director General, will celebrate his birthday.

August 8th, *Mr. Guy Veer*, associate member from Canada and actual Director of Administrative Services, will celebrate his birthday.

August 19th, *Jomanas Eustache*, priest from Haïti, member in the actual Central Council, will celebrate his birthday.

August 26th, *François Hamel*, priest from Canada, Assistant Director General, will celebrate his birthday.

August 8th, *Mrs. Ynocencia Ozaria*, Frank de la Cruz's wife and associate member of the actual Central Council, will celebrate her birthday.

Aspirancy Anniversary

August 6th, *Anthony Ciorra*, priest and Director of the USA District, will celebrate his 25th anniversary of aspirancy.

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 August. 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 9 ♦ Number 3

September 2018

Message from the Director General on the 60th Anniversary of Foundation

“This year is a wonderful year for us members of the Voluntas Dei Institute as we celebrate our 60th anniversary of founding. This anniversary is a great opportunity for each one of us to *revise* and, above all, to *revive* our personal and community mission as members of this Institute. Moreover, it is an incredible opportunity to *review our growth process towards maturity and commitment.*”

This is the beginning of my message to all members on the 60th anniversary of our Institute’s foundation. We live a period of growth in the Institute; this includes both joys and challenges. That is why we must return, each one of us, to the basis of our Institute’s foundation as Father Parent would have wished, namely, to our specific spirituality, to our fraternity and solidarity, and also to our missionary enthusiasm.

This message is on our website and is available in three languages, French, English and Spanish. I invite you fraternally to read it and to make it yours.

Thought from Father Parent

“Peace is in me, but it needs my assent to give the efficiency that the Lord expects from me.”
(Father Louis-Marie Parent omi).

News from the Director

We have just experienced our last Central Council meeting, August 6-8, which was very successful, thanks to your prayers. I enclose here the latest decisions of the Council:

- 1) We accepted to the stability Rev. Francis Berna I.V.Dei and Rev. Michael Seis I.V.Dei from the USA District.
- 2) Very soon, I will write a letter to each of the District and/or regional Directors, as well as to some members, concerning the implementation of the proposals of the 2016 AG, so that each member will be able to put these into practice. On this subject, I would ask everyone to put all of his/her heart and soul to achieve the objectives of the AG 2016.

In Kerala (India), unfortunately, heavy floods caused a lot of damage to the properties of our members and to our Seminary. There are also losses of life. We ask you to pray for this region strongly affected by natural disasters.

Birthdays

On September 1st, *Innasi Mudiappan*, priest from Kerala, India, and a current councillor on the Central Council, will celebrate his birthday.

On September 6th, *Mrs. Renée Croteau* (wife of Richard Normandin), an associate member of Canada and a volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

On September 19th, *Eustace Fernando*, priest and Director of the Sri Lanka District in Formation, will celebrate his birthday.

Wedding anniversary

On September 25th, *Seemampillai Uthaya Kumar* and *Devasagayai Theresamalar* from Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these people on their birthday, as well as for all the others who are celebrating a birthday in September. May God continue to bless them and accompany them on their journey of life.

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

News of the Director General

Volume 9 ♦ Number 4

October 2018

Dear Friends,

As you know, the month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. As devotion to the Blessed Virgin was very dear to Father Parent, I feel inspired in this letter to share with you a historical fact that concerns Sri Lanka, Father Parent and the Blessed Virgin Mary. This helps to keep alive and present to our collective memory some features of the history of our Institute.

In 1975, Father Parent personally visited Sri Lanka for the fourth and last time. In that same year, there was a drought in the whole country and Father Parent decided to use this sign to allow him to discern the Lord's will concerning the permanent foundation of the Institute in Sri Lanka. He simply prayed for the rain to fall on the country. The rain came down three times: it began to rain then it stopped; it started up then it stopped a second time; then, again, a third time. With this special sign, Father Parent grasped that God's will was to found the Institute permanently in Sri Lanka. He then placed the foundation stone of formation house in the village of Muhamalai not too far from a small shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary under the patronage of Our Lady of Good Health. The *Voluntas Dei* then became at that time the guardians of this sanctuary.

In 2000, the village of Muhamalai was the center of an ethnic war resulting in several hundred deaths, as well as the destruction by bombing of numerous buildings including the small sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health and the house of formation that Father Parent had erected. For having narrowly escaped a bombing myself, one can feel again and experience all the anxiety of this tragic war and its consequences.

I then thought of sharing my experience with Father Parent and the then Director General, Father François Hamel IVDei. Father Parent remembered the small shrine, and the little statue of Our Lady of Good Health, as well as the sign that he had once asked to the Lord concerning the foundation of the Institute in Sri Lanka in 1975. He then asked François and I to go to Muhamalai to retrieve the statue of Our Lady of Good Health from the rubble and to bring it back to Canada where it would be safe.

In 2004, Father François Hamel and I left for Muhamalai, still declared a war zone. After having encountered several difficulties, we arrived at the location of the small shrine, place which had been bombed. Fortunately, we found the statue which had remained intact, without any damage, and we brought it back to Canada. When Father Parent saw the statue, he was filled with joy. He exclaimed, « Let's keep this statue here to make us think of praying the Virgin Mary to obtain peace in Sri Lanka. » Thus, every day he prayed intensely for peace in Sri Lanka. Even toward the end of his life, when he began to have small memory loss, he always asked us, « Has peace returned to Sri Lanka? » That he did not forget; it was a great preoccupation for him.

I was in India when the morning of May 18, 2009, I received the phone call from the Central House about the news of the death of our dear Father Parent. In Canada, it was the evening of May 17th. Shortly thereafter, I received another great news, that of the ceasing fire in Sri Lanka: the war was over. This

concordance of events is not random for me; it shows us how close Father Parent was to the Virgin Mary and the will of God. The small statue of Our Lady of Good Health is now here at the Central House in Trois-Rivieres; she reminds us every day of the closeness that Father Parent had with the Virgin Mary in order to find, thanks to her, the path to the will of God.

As we are in October, I invite you all to pray to the Virgin Mary, our Mother, as Father Parent did with so much ardor, to better discern in our turn the will of God in our lives.

Voluntas Dei per Mariam Immaculatam!

Thought of Father Parent

« Peace is really the summit of the spiritual journey. It is the peak of a pyramid whose basis is the conscious presence of God. » (*P. Louis-Marie Parent omi*).

News of the Director

From September 2nd to 9th, 2018, I made a canonical visit to the Dominican Republic. The trip was fruitful, and we took this opportunity to strengthen our fraternal bonds.

Birthdays

On October 3rd, *Robert Lebel*, priest in Canada and the present Canadian District Director, celebrates his birthday.

On October 9th, *Nestor Fornaris Hurtado*, priest in Cuba and present Director of the Region of Cuba, celebrates his birthday.

On October 11th, *Anthony Ciorra*, priest in the United States and present American District Director, celebrates his birthday.

On October 29th, *Andrew Sioleti*, priest in the United States and Councillor on the Central Council, celebrates his anniversary.

Anniversary of Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

On October 8th, *Fernand Gaumond*, Permanent Deacon in Canada, celebrates his 25th anniversary of ordination.

Anniversary of Marriage

On October 19th, *John W. Reuter* and *Elizabeth L. Grossi* of the United States celebrate their 50th anniversary of marriage.

Anniversary of Incorporation in the Institute

On October 5th, Father *Evynx Monestime*, priest in Haïti, celebrates his 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these people on their birthday, as well as for all the others who are celebrating a birthday in October. May God continue to bless them and accompany them on their journey of life.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 9 ♦ Numéro 5

Novembre 2018

To Be Holy

Dear Friends,

With this month of November beginning with All Saints' Day, I would like to speak to you about a theme dear to Father Parent, that of *being holy!* Father Parent had always this idea in his head throughout his projects, foundations and spiritual meetings both, on a one-to-one basis and in groups. *To be holy* was for him the existential goal to be sought, the objective to be attained in a life of relationship with God and others. All of his spirituality of the 5-5-5 gravitated around the objective of holiness. You will say to me perhaps: « Was not his objective that of peace, fellowship and charity? » Certainly! But, undoubtedly you will agree with me that peace, fellowship and charity in Jesus, the Christ, more than being personal objectives, are they not also the means to arrive at holiness? It seems to me that one does not go without the other, that holiness and fellowship go together hand in hand.

All the Christian spiritualities that have emerged since the coming of Christ have as their aim to bring people to holiness, whether it be the Carmelite spirituality, the Franciscan spirituality, the Dominican, the Benedictine, or the Ignatian spiritualities, *etc.* Each in its own way contributes to the shaping of the heart of man and woman for the purpose of transforming them into Christ.

Our spirituality of the 5-5-5 has also the same role that of bringing us to holiness, that of transforming us into Christ. It does it in its unique way, practical, simple and embedded in daily life especially lived in the midst of the world. It constitutes an effective way of bringing us to Christ and transforming us into Him, with Him and through Him through the five attitudes of life, through the privileged moments of prayer and through the five (or more) acts of charity or kindness toward others.

The team is the privileged place where our spirituality of the 5-5-5 is lived. As Father Parent said so very well, the team constitutes the laboratory *par excellence* where we can experience and multiply the attitudes of life, the various forms of prayer and acts of charity and fellowship that concretize our desire to become holy in Jesus Christ.

I draw your attention to the role that the *review of the day* can play (otherwise known as the daily examination of conscience) in the fact of becoming holy. If at the end of each day, we take the time to well examine how we have lived the day in the light of Christ, of His Gospel, of our 5-5-5 spirituality, as well as of our objective to create peace and fellowship in Jesus Christ, our tomorrow will be much holier than our today and yesterday; our future will become clearer through Christ and His grace; our present moment will be lived more in the presence of God, and our past—even wounded—will be overflowing with the mercy of the Father.

A simple question emerges at the time of making this review of the day: « How did I consider the events of this day? Did I perceive them and react to them in a positive or negative way? » The reply made in all honesty before the Lord will help us to straighten out, to reorient ourselves, and to make adjustments.

To be holy, is a daily long-term job. It is a work upon oneself that demands honesty, insight and faithfulness toward God, toward others and oneself. It is a long-term investment that focuses on fellowship, on service, on unconditional welcome of the other, and on peace. It is a constant seeking in the present moment of the positive that arises in all aspects of our lives.

Dear friends, in closing, let us be in thanksgiving and gratitude for all that God has given us of knowledge and understanding concerning daily holiness *via* Father Parent, our holy Founder and especially through his spirituality of the 5-5-5.

Thought of Father Parent

« To become holy firstly engages us before anything else to welcome the Lord who seeks to live through us His own Gospel. » (*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place November 26-28, 2018 at Trois-Rivières. Thank you for praying for the success of this meeting.

In this month of November, let us remember in our thoughts all of our deceased members especially those who have died this year. Let us think of our Founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent, already in the glory of the Father, and let us pray with him that he will help us in becoming holy.

The Central Administration would like to thank Fr. Gildardo Noreña I.V.Dei for his dedication as Director of the OVM from early March of this year to October 23rd inclusively. Fr. Noreña has completed his term and will return to Colombia shortly.

Birthdays

November 2nd, *Richard Normandin*, from the Canadian District, volunteer at the Central House.

November 3rd, *Patricia Blandon*, affiliate and accountant at the Central House.

November 5th, *Marie-Andrée Groarke*, archivist at the Central House.

November 24th, *Laurier Albert*, from the Canadian District, member and secretary of the Central Council.

November 30th, *Francis Evens*, Director of the Haïti District.

I invite you to pray for these members on the occasion of their anniversaries as well as for all others who live whatever anniversary 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 9 ♦ Number 6

December 2018

To Forgive in the Faith

Dear friends,

We are approaching Christmas and New Year. In this time of rebirth, we all wish to rejoice and enjoy this holiday season with family and friends. Unfortunately, we often experience unresolved feelings of resentment towards certain people, which prevents us from living the holidays in complete inner freedom and truly at peace with each other.

Recently, I was meditating the readings of Mass and I told myself that it takes a lot of faith to forgive as Jesus wants us to forgive. Looking more closely at Paul's letter to Titus (1: 1-9), I identified fifteen qualities that Paul gave to Titus as criteria for choosing his future community leaders. These same qualities can serve us when we are forgiving someone. Here they are: *to be without reproach, without arrogance, without anger, not to be drunk, not to be brutal, not to be greedy for money, to be welcoming, to be a good friend, to be reasonable, to be just, to be holy, to be in self-control, to be attached to the Word, to be worthy of faith and to conform to sound doctrine, and, finally, to be able to exhort with sound teaching.*

Dear friends, if we pass the test of these fifteen qualities, I assure you that we are on the right path to be able to forgive the way Christ wants it. In addition, the Gospel of Luke 17 (1-6) challenges us to forgive relentlessly those who repent of their faults. On this, the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith in order to achieve such availability in forgiveness. Jesus replies that they just need to have as big as a grain of mustard of faith to get there. Let's look at our inner disposition: do we have faith as big as a mustard seed? If so, we have the inner disposition which is essential to be able to forgive in faith and in the Holy Spirit those who have offended us.

In short, it is important for us to ask for the grace of faith and charity to be able to forgive as Jesus wants. When we pray to God, we must also be sure that we are going to get what we ask for! Let's start by asking for small things: "Lord deliver me from my headache, my anger, etc.", but, let's be sure to get it! "Lord, I ask you, thanking you in advance for answering my prayer." That's what Jesus did at Lazarus' resurrection, and that was a big thing to ask! He said, "Father, I give you thanks because you have answered me. I knew it well, me, that you always answer me." Was his prayer answered? Yes! Lazarus came out alive from his tomb.

My dear friends, I wish that all of us may practice our forgiveness in this faith manner: always ask for the grace of faith by thanking in advance that we are getting it. Let's take a moment of silence to make a first practice: go down deep inside of ourselves to see if there is anyone to whom we owe a pardon ... Now let's say in faith this prayer of forgiveness:

Most Holy Father, in the name of your Son Jesus, by the grace of his Holy Spirit, I forgive ... (name the person in our heart) all the harm that person did to me. I ask you Father, to bless him/her, to heal him/her, to release him/her, to draw him/her to you by Jesus Christ your Son. And I ask you to free me from all my grudges. Amen.

Now we are ready to live our holiday season in peace, and to welcome Jesus into our hearts at Christmas.

Thought of Father Parent

« The builder of peace concentrates especially on the positive aspects of the neighbour, seeking with patience to detect its qualities, gifts . . . » (*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

Our meeting of the Central Council took place from November 26 to 28, 2018, as planned in Trois-Rivières. Thank you for praying for the success of this meeting. Given his health condition, Mr François Hamel I.V.Dei resigned as Assistant Director General and Councillor to the Central Council. The latter accepted his resignation by thanking him sincerely for his great contribution and wishing him a speedy recovery. To replace him on the Council, Marc-Arthur François I.V.Dei was elected as Councillor and Andrew Sioleti I.V.Dei as Assistant Director General.

We have the joy of having a new priest in the Institute: ordained on November 24th, 2018, in Dominican Republic, *Rafael Antonio Rodriguez de la Cruz* I.V.Dei is happy to serve now as a priest.

Mr. Pierre Marois I.V.Dei has agreed to return as Director of the OVM. We thank Pierre from the bottom of our heart for his precious help.



I take this opportunity to offer to you all my best wishes for joy, love and good health during this season of Christmas and New Year's. May God bless you as well as all those you cherish!

Birthdays

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

December 23rd, *Pierre MAROIS I.V.Dei*, of Canada, interim director of O.V.M.

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

Marriage Anniversaries

December 7th, *VEGA, Juan and Maria* from Chile, will celebrate 50 years of marriage.

December 18th, *SAVIÑON, Angel and Griselda* from the Dominican Republic will celebrate 25 years of marriage.

December 29th, *GUNASEKERA, Indrajith and Marian* from Canada will celebrate 25 years of marriage.

Aspirancy

December 4th, *TREMBLAY, Rénaud and Louise* from Canada will mark 25 years.

I invite you to pray for all these members for their anniversaries as well as for any other who will live whatever anniversary during December. May God continue to bless and accompany them during their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 9 ♦ Number 7

January 2019

The Challenge of Fidelity

Dear Friends,

We are beginning a new year and, as always, we want it to be better than the year before. Even in improving ourselves, we also want to be a better person than in the past, and for that to happen, we very often take resolutions that we apply as best as we can. We are called to be faithful to God, but, unfortunately, our human condition brings us too often elsewhere. And it is then that we become distant from God, fearing to remain in His presence. We do not always do this consciously, but it is often what happens, like Adam in the Garden of Eden; after his fall, he hides himself so that God does not see that he is naked.

But God calls him anyways: « Adam, Adam, where are you? » God calls us also despite our failures: « Jim, Michael, Bob, Alicia . . . (put your name in), where are you? » And we have difficulty facing God on account of our infidelities. Even, we sometimes say like Adam: « It is not I who did it, but the woman you gave me. » And the woman replies, « It is not I but the serpent. » In this way, we hold others hostage to justify our own failures. « It is not my fault. It is because of so and so, or yet, it is on account of such and such circumstance or event. »

Thus, we are called not only to be faithful to God, but even more, to be true and honest with ourselves, and with others. Truth and humility go hand in hand; if I am honest regarding my failure, if I acknowledge my fault without trying to justify myself, then I adopt an attitude of humility that pleases God and that propels me forward. Also, I leave it to others the responsibility of acknowledging their own failures without judging them.

God left Adam and Eve the freedom to eat from all the trees in the garden, except for one tree, that of the knowledge of good and evil. And it is in this ban that the serpent worms himself in to make believable the opposite and to render the fruit attractive. So, it is for us: God let's us lead our life freely, except for the evangelical counsels that He asks us to hold and to keep whole in the light of our commitment. It should not surprise us that it will be through this way that the crafty little devil will worm himself in to tempt us regarding poverty, chastity and obedience. But always what saves us is our attitude of wisdom and humility in the truth.

Dear friends, as we begin the year 2019, let us take the time to thank God for all the graces of conversion and return to Him that He has granted us in the past, and for all these occasions where humility and truth have prevailed over denial and lies. Let's take the time also to evaluate ourselves in our way of living the evangelical counsels and, in general, in our attitude regarding the call that the Lord addresses to us as *Voluntas Dei*. Do we have humble and true hearts before

the Lord? Or do we constantly justify ourselves to our mistakes? God loves us and does not condemn us. Let us go to Him with confidence!

Thought of Father Parent

« Fidelity is an indispensable quality of our covenant. Fidelity is to covenant what the heart is to life. » (*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

Our next meeting of the Central Council will take place on January 14, 2019, via video-conference. I request again your prayers for the success of this meeting.

Birthdays

On January 25th, *Pablo Daniel ZORRILLA*, Director of the District of Alta Gracia in the Dominican Republic will celebrate his birthday.

Anniversary of Marriage

On January 26th, *Louis SABARIMUTHAN* and *Sahayarani* of Kerala, will celebrate 25 years of marriage.

Aspirancy

On January 20th, *Agustin GERMAN JIMENEZ* and *Eustasia* of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate 25 years of aspirancy.

On January 20th, *Basilio MERCEDES CARRASCO* and *Maria* of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate 25 years of aspirancy.

On January 20th, *Agustin MERCEDES* and *Matilde* of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate 25 years of aspirancy.

On January 20th, *Andrès MOREL* and *Ambrocia* of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate 25 years of aspirancy.

I invite you to pray for these members for their anniversaries, as well as for all others who will be celebrating any anniversary in January. 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 9 ♦ Number 8

February 2019

Progressing in Responsibility

Dear Friends,

Last month, we focused on the challenge of remaining faithful to our commitments and of keeping our resolutions made at the beginning of the year. We have seen also how the attitudes of humility and the desire for truth in our own responsibilities become indispensable elements to attain our transformation, not only on a personal basis, but also on common grounds through the witnessing that we bear.

This month, I invite you to look more particularly at our sense of responsibility, how it progresses, how it shines forth in our environment. As a priest, as a married person, as a parent, as a consecrated person, or as an affiliated person, we all need to position ourselves on how we should manage our daily responsibilities before the Lord and before our sisters and brothers in Christ. This is valid not only from the human and professional point of view, but also from the spiritual point of view. Thanks to God, we have the *Constitutions* and several writings of our Founder that put us on the trail of taking adequate responsibility as a member of a secular institute. The daily meditation of our 5-5-5 spirituality, of the Gospel and of the Bible in general, are instruments *sine qua non* for our human and spiritual progress.

Moreover, our *Constitutions* and our spirituality lead us to continually and positively question ourselves, -- among other things, through the *review of the day*--, we examine our manner of sharing not only our material goods but also our time and efforts, that is, all that involves the gift of ourselves.

Nowadays, there is a lot of negativism in the air; most particularly, the media report their share of bad news and sometimes of dubious interpretations. In this context, our witnessing must be clearer and more convincing; we cannot be content with half measures; radicalism in favor of goodness and charity is imperative in our behaviour and in our choices more than ever, and this cannot be held without a dose of wisdom and discernment. These are graces to ask at all cost.

Dear friends, let us ask the Lord that the testimony of our responsibility be true in the eyes of people around us; that our language be kind and positive, and that our vision of life be full of hope in spite of the hardships we have to face. In this way, we will actively and

effectively contribute not only to the expansion of our institute, but also to the progress of the Church, and especially to the coming of the Reign of God and to the fulfillment of the Father's will, on earth as in heaven.

Thought of Father Parent

« The intelligent being needs others; he/she must live, collaborate and share with other human beings. » (*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

From February 3-14, I will make a canonical visit to Sri Lanka. Denis Fortier, the Director of Administrative Services, as well as Mudiappan Innasi, Central Councillor, will be with me during this visit.

Birthdays

February 6, *Guillermo PEREZ I.V.Dei*, Director of the Region of Colombia, will celebrate his anniversary.

February 19, *Violaine Couture*, omni, secretary at the Central House, will celebrate her anniversary.

Anniversaries of Marriage

February 17, *Bogalech EBIYO* and *Margasa ABDISA* of Ethiopia, will celebrate 25 years of marriage.

February 22, *Desaigne SHIFERAN KABETA* and *Atsede TOLA GORO* of Ethiopia, will celebrate 25 years of marriage.

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

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General

News of the Director General

Volume 9 ♦ Number 9

March 2019

How Far Will You Follow Me?

Dear Friends,

Last month we saw how the witness of our responsibility must be authentic in the eyes of the people around us. We have understood that radicality in favour of the good and charity is imperative in our behaviour and choices more than ever, and that this cannot hold without a dose of wisdom and discernment.

This month, in addition to celebrating the Annunciation, our feast day, we are entering the Lenten season, more precisely starting on March 6th with *Ash Wednesday*, to prepare ourselves for Easter. This will be for us another opportunity to formulate and put into practice new resolutions in our faith journey. The theme that the magazine, *Vie liturgique (Liturgical Life)* proposes to us is as follows: *How far will you follow me?* This theme throws us a personal challenge: are we ready to go to the end of ourselves to follow Christ? We can turn to Mary, full of grace, to receive the graces of perseverance necessary to examine our lives in the light of the Gospel, and to bring to our commitment a new and sustained fervour.

We live in times of persecution and misunderstanding. The Church is strongly shaken at its base by scandals of all kinds. Our Pope Francis has put his hand to the plow to uproot the evil and bring to life the good. We sense that he is ready to go *to the end of himself* to straighten up the Church. We too, are called to go further. We are called to weed our personal spiritual garden and to pull out the couch grass that prevents the good shoots from coming to the surface. The Chinese proverb says: “If you clean your yard well, the whole city will become clean.” The time of Lent is a time of purification, of reorganization of our inner life which reflects itself also in our external behaviour. It is a moment to make adjustment, to reconcile, to accept what we cannot change, but also to discern what we can, and what we need to change.

This is not about withdrawing into oneself, but rather of entering into oneself to better go out towards the others and to help change unfortunate situations of life. Perhaps, like the Virgin of the Annunciation, we ask ourselves: « How is this going to happen? » The angel reminds her that for God nothing is impossible. Are we involved in delicate situations? Do we want to help someone get out of the doldrums? Do we wish to straighten up our lives so that it is truly aligned with holiness? Let us remember that nothing is impossible for God. In the manner of Father Parent, let us cultivate a spirit of humility strongly animated by a spirit of faith and charity through the challenges that life offers us. Instead of allowing ourselves to be crushed by these challenges or difficulties, let us nourish ourselves with the trust of Mary in order to bounce back stronger.

Dear friends, let us ask the Lord for the grace not to withdraw into ourselves, nor to run away from the challenges before us. Let's be people of service, peacemakers, builders of fraternity with

our eyes fixed on Christ Who gives us all graces. Our Institute and the entire Church will only be better served.

Thought of Father Parent

"No matter how hard I endure, God does not forget me. He is constantly with me. "*(Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.)*

News of the Director

On March 25, we will have our next meeting of the Central Council. I thank you in advance for thinking of us in your prayers. Thank you also for praying on the occasion of my last canonical visit to Sri Lanka. During this visit, on February 5th, a new Regional Council was elected:

Fr. Lloyd A.R. SHANTI KUMAR was elected Regional Director;

Fr. Sebastiampillai ANTON MARITHAS was elected Assistant Director;

Fr. Anthony JESURAJ SILVA, Mr. Jovampilai ANTON PREMATHAS, Mrs. Thavithu MATILDA VASANTHY and her husband, *Mr. Pavilu HENRY ARUMAINATHAN*, were elected Councillors.

We wish them the best as we accompany them in our prayers.

In addition, on the same day, **March 25**, we will celebrate our feast day, the Annunciation. I ask you to offer your prayers of thanksgiving and blessings for our Institute during your celebration of the Eucharist.

Anniversaries

I invite you to pray for the members who celebrate any anniversary during the month of March. 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 9 ♦ Number 10

April 2019

To Pass Over

Dear Friends,

In a few days we will arrive at *the Paschal Feast (Easter)*; this word comes from the Hebrew word *pessah* which literally means « to pass over. » If we remember the epic story of the exit from Egypt in Exodus, chapter 12 to chapter 15, we see how the Lord *passed* through Egypt with various plagues, more especially with the final scourge of the death of the firstborn of the Egyptians. Among others, the angel of death *passed over* the houses marked with the blood of the pascal lamb; in other words, death did not enter in these houses to extinguish the firstborn of the Hebrews. It *passed over*. Also, at the time of the crossing of the Red Sea and of the desert later on, the Lord *passed before* or *ahead* of the people in a column of fire at night, and in a cloud during the day to guide and fortify them during this crossover. Thus, the Lord *passes before us* or *ahead of us* all along our lives if we believe so, and if we are attentive to it.

In our turn, with Him as guide, the Lord invites us *to pass through* our trials and challenges of life with His strength and grace. He does not allow us to cross alone; he is present with us as He once was with the people of Israel. Also, He invites us most often *to pass over* the pettiness of others, over insults, or any other disagreeable situation in which we find ourselves. That does not mean that it is inappropriate for us to seek dialogue, or even, to express our feeling. But, on the end, it is more a matter of *passing over*, that is, of moving beyond, by forgiving and accepting with the grace of resilience that accompanies us. All of this is quite adjusted to us as “peacemakers” through our vocation and spirituality.

The Lord invites us to be the « traversing » people like the « Hebrews » whose Hebraic root *ivrim* means « traversing » or « going across ». He wants to propel us beyond difficulties; He invites us to « traverse » them with faith. He does not want us to remain in the darkness or in sin. He reminds us that the resurrection goes far beyond death and the tomb. He wants us to walk in the new life that is destined for us, accepting the sanctification which is a part of it. It is with an attitude of faith that we will be able to go beyond, to cross over, to propel ourselves further, and higher than our simple human life, whatever our conditions of life, miseries or poverty. Only faith will allow us to advance in a new life through reconciliation, and accepting to feel uninstalled, as well as accepting ourselves as we are.

Easter thus encompasses this reality of *passing over*, of *going beyond* whatever overwhelms us on this earth, in order to reach the spiritual dimension of our being, and it is firstly within ourselves that can be realized this transformation.

Thought of Father Parent

« The human being grows when he/she accepts him/herself, corrects him/herself and seeks to live the best of him/herself. » (*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

On March 25th we had the most recent meeting of the Central Council. I thank you for your prayers on this occasion. We accepted to stability . . . To ordination to the priesthood . . .

Easter arrives shortly. Let us prepare our hearts and spirits for this great feast, the most important in our liturgical year. On this occasion, let us not forget the spiritual renewal that we receive from the sacraments.

Anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood

On April 10th, *Marc-Arthur FRANÇOIS* of Haïti will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Aspirancy

On April 25th, *Francis and Magdaline ANANTHARAYAR* of Sri Lanka will mark 25 years of incorporation to the Institute.

Birthdays

On April 14th, *Mme Cécile Davidson* of Canada, responsible for the archives of the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as any other members that will celebrate an anniversary/birthday in April. 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 9 ♦ Number 11

May 2019

Ten Years Already!

Dear Friends,

We have already arrived in May, month of Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Let's take advantage of this month to revive our Marian devotion, to savour the daily recitation of the rosary and specially to meditate upon the holy mysteries. We have numerous prayer intentions to submit to our Mother of Heaven: certainly, the intentions of our Institute, our missionaries throughout the world, our seminarians, our sick, our missionary projects, etc. However, there are also the intentions of the whole Church, those of our Holy Father, the Pope, and those of the local Churches that suffer in various ways. Let us not forget our role of intercession to obtain peace in the various conflicts that overwhelm the present world, conflicts that all too often cause the migration of hundreds of thousands of persons. These migrants are living terrible moments of insecurity and uprooting. Let us carry them all in our Marian prayer as well as the victims of war and natural disasters.

As you know, May 17th is an important date for us: it will be the tenth anniversary of the death of our Founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i. This will be an incomparable opportunity for us to recall the precious memories of events lived with our beloved Founder. With these revived memories, we will be able to renew our filial affection not only for our Founder, but also for all who have contributed to the founding of the Institute. The affection we bear to a person does not disappear with the death of that person; on the contrary, it is transformed and becomes a spiritual springboard to bring us closer to the merciful heart of God. With the renewal of our filial affection will come also, hopefully, the reactivation of our specific spirituality.

Indeed, this will be an appropriate time to deepen in a special way, in the manner of Mary, the various aspects of our 5-5-5, a gift that the Holy Spirit gave to Father Parent not only for the secular Institutes which he founded but also for the whole Church. Following the example of our founding Father, let's graft our prayer to that of Mary's. Let's take Mary home, into our lives, imitating Father Parent who has always walked with her.

In closing, I would like to insist that our prayer be a thanksgiving for Father Parent. Why not consecrate the entire day of May 17th (or another close date) to prayer and to the study of one or other of his writings, in team or in a large group, precisely to revitalize the spirit of our Founder in our Institute? At the time of these meetings, perhaps we could bring, each one of us, a memory related to Father Parent that we could be shared within the group?

Finally, let's not be afraid to entrust to Father Parent himself the intentions of our Institute as well as our personal intentions. Let's trust that he is already in the heart of God and that by being thus

in God, he is able to take care of us. As he himself opened his heart to the Holy Spirit, let us take this opportunity to open ours to the same grace that he has received and that has transformed him.

Thought of Father Parent

« Let's open the big book of God's life; we will find mercy, strength and kindness . . . » (*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

Please keep in your prayers our next Central Council meeting that will be held on May 27th.

Birthdays

On May 18th, *Mario LAROCHE* of Canada, former Director General.

On May 18th, *Johny PUTHENVEETIL*, present Director of the Region of Kerala (India).

On May 28th, *Rory MURPHY* of the United States, Councillor on the Central Council.

Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate

On May 21st, *Joël LIVINGSTON* of the United States will celebrate his 25th anniversary.

Anniversary of Marriage

On May 16th, *Issithor* and *Thirumakai GRACIUS* of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as for all members who will celebrate any anniversary during May. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General

Let's Put the Holy Spirit in There!

Dear Friends,

For everything that we live, it is important to put the Holy Spirit in there; be it at work, in leisure activities, about health issues, in our decisions, our relationships, our attitudes, without forgetting our prayer-life. The Holy Spirit has his place everywhere and he wishes to get involved with everything we do and in all that we are! He has the right to “mind our own business”! Allowing him to act in all the areas of our life can make a huge difference in the expected results.

As you know, the feast of Pentecost will take place on June 9th. This celebration not only highlights the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and disciples of Jesus, but also reminds us of the birth of the Church. The event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the young community of believers was, indeed, the starting point of the Church of Christ on earth. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit, the apostles and the disciples were overwhelmed by fear. They enclosed themselves not only behind the locked doors of their homes, but they also locked themselves psychologically within themselves by taking no risk in faith. As soon as they had experienced the Holy Spirit, everything changed in them: from fear they passed to confidence, from insecurity they passed to boldness. Their life was transformed.

It should be so for us too! With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we should move from a negative to a positive spirit; move from criticism to wonder; from complaint to praise; from tepidity to fervour; from apathy to enthusiasm; from self-centredness to being of service; from animosity to peace. In summary, with the grace of the Holy Spirit in us, we should be able to deepen our spirituality of the 5-5-5 and proclaim the Good News of salvation through the witness of our personal transformation.

We have just put our finger on the particular Pentecost that Father Parent lived and transmitted to us through this enthusiasm for the 5-5-5. Each spirituality given to the Church throughout the centuries has been, and continues to be, with its own specificity, a renewal grace of Pentecost. Our 5-5-5 spirituality is, indeed, a unique opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and to give him all the space He needs.

If we look at the story of the construction of the tower of Babel in Genesis, we notice that the builders acted in their own name and especially for their own misplaced vanity. At the beginning of the project, all spoke the same language and understood each other. But as the construction progressed, their language became confused and they no longer understood each other. Result? They ended up being divided among themselves, dispersed and so, they had to interrupt building the tower.

At Pentecost, on the other hand, the apostles expressed themselves in various tongues from the beginning; then, the more they allowed themselves to be taken by the Holy Spirit, the more this linguistic diversity gave way to the unity of hearts. This is also our goal, for all of us, Father Parent's spiritual daughters and sons. We come from diverse countries, languages and cultures, but we are all united by the same Holy Spirit, by the same desire to work in unity, *to create peace and fellowship in Jesus Christ*. This is our apostolic objective! Is this not emerging from Pentecost, or, if you wish, from the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives?

In closing, I wish that we all open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, that we let ourselves be touched by this Spirit of the living God to be able to work together, more and more, better and better, *to create peace and fraternity in Jesus Christ.*

Thought of Father Parent

«Charity is infused within us by the Holy Spirit so that we may love God in Himself and in others »
(*Louis-Marie Parent o.m.i.*)

News of the Director

We thank you for your prayers addressed for our Central Council meeting held on May 27, 2019. Here are the names of the 21 couples who were admitted to stability in the Dominican Republic : DE LA CRUZ, Victor and Irene; GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ, Victor Manuel and Sadys; GARCÍA SANTOS, Martin and Monserrat; MATOS SANCHEZ, Salomon and Yisel; STERLING, Antonio and Bartolina ; BASTARDO DE LA CRUZ, Pedro and Dilenia; CARPIO REYES, Radhames and Juana; CIPRIAN MERCEDES, Pablo and Reyna; MARTE ROSARIO, Modesto and Miguelina; MOTA DE SALAS, José and Ana; PAREDES SOSA, Ezequiel and Widalys; PEÑA PEÑA, Juan and Dominga; SANTANA DIAZ, Rodolfo and Rafaela; VALDEZ, Manuel de Jesús and Onelia; DE LA CRUZ JIMÉNEZ, Marino and Esperanza; HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ, Orlando and Luz; SANTO DISLA, Silverio and María; MARTE MARMOL, Fausto and Casimira; NIN LANTIGUA, Rafael and Andrea; PAREDES CLASE, Saturnino and Nila; RODRIGUEZ VALDEZ, Wilston and Gennys.

Two members from the District of Haiti are also receiving stability and incardination: one as priest, DOMOND, Jean-Théodule, and the other as candidate to priesthood, HECTOR, Laurent.

Finally, two other priests from the District of the United States will also receive shortly stability and incardination in the Institute: ANDERSON, John and MOROCHO, Gonzalo.

Our sincere congratulations to all these members! May the Lord bless abundantly your respective journeys.

Birthday

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

Anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood

June 22, *Fr. Florentine RAJARATNAM* of Canada, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 28, *Fr. Pierre MAROIS* of Canada, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

June 29, *Fr. Roland POITRAS* of Canada, will celebrate his 50th anniversary.

Anniversaries of Marriage

June 15, *Alfonso and Maria Consuelo PEÑA* of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

June 26, *Sebamalai and Kulas EMMANUEL LOGU* of Sri Lanka will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

I invite you to pray for these people as well as for all members that will be celebrating whatever anniversary in June. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their journey of life.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General