The Present Moment





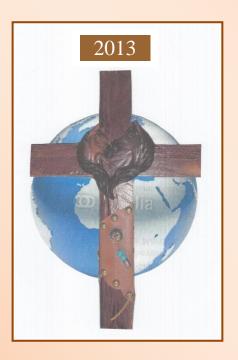




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The Present Moment

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Christian witness for Contacts

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FROM THE EDITORS ...



by Renée Crôteau and Richard Normandin

Dear Readers,

It is with joy that we communicate with you for the first time through the intervention of the journal, *The Present Moment 2013*, for which the theme this year is: Christian Contacts.

To introduce ourselves, we want to explain the cover page. For twenty-five (25) years we have been in the Institute. We have lived our faith with the support of the spirituality and the essential values. It has been three (3) years since we have returned to our city of origin. We share and witness to our faith life and work with our new neighbors.

At the time of our 40th anniversary of marriage, they gave us the wooden cross that you see on the cover page. It is very significant for us. It reminds us of all of the Christian contacts that we have with them and all those who come to them because of the stable that is a point of gathering. (The cross symbolizes our witnessed faith, the horses form a heart, love and friendship among us and the blue pearls, prayer).

It is now up to you to become acquainted with the different ways of living « Christian contacts » in our Institute.

We express a very special thank you to all those who have collaborated nearby and from afar in the production of this 2013 edition of the journal.

Good reading.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ...



by Father S. James Dunstan

Each year, our journal, "The Present Moment" comes to you in order to invite the large family of Voluntas on a specific theme to share throughout the year; this beginning of 2013 proposes to you the theme "CHRISTIAN CONTACTS."

Contacts are truly important IN OUR LIVES. More often you have human contacts, more efficient is your success. In our days, the contacts have become easy through the advancement of the development of medias, the internet, e-mails, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, etc. People are pressured to make new contacts from one end of the world to the other. Today, the world is like a similar big city.



Christian contact is a pathway quite superior to all other contact. It brings about interpersonal relationships with people.

Jesus Christ occupies the centre of each. All of us are called to become brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ and also to treat one's neighbour centred on Christ. St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians: "if I live, it is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me. (Gal. 2:20). Jesus dwells in us; each human being is equal and we are called to respect our neighbour. That is why St. Paul underlines and even insists on. . . (Gal. 3:28): " There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither

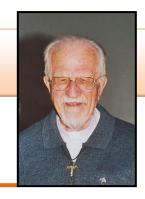
male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This is the attitude that we are called to develop.

Father Parent invites all Voluntas to attain their project through peace and fellowship in Jesus Christ; in addition, to place importance on Christian contacts as one of the essential values of the Institute.

This journal presents a number of witnesses of the experiences of members who wanted to share on "Christian Contact," throughout the journal of the Institute. I thank all those who have contributed to the publication of this journal.

May God bless us all in order that we may live our lives centred on Jesus so that we can bring to all a fantastic world through "Christian Contacts."

FROM THE PEN OF FATHER PARENT ...



by Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.

Here are several excerpts from the writings of Father Parent speaking to us about « *Christian contacts*. » The *Aspirant's Guide*, second edition, The Fifth Essential Value: Christian Contacts, pages 4-23 and following.

«Christian contacts assume that one's formation is ongoing and that there is a sustained effort. Paul warns us: Make my joy complete by your unanimity, possessing the one love, united in spirit and ideals. Never act out of rivalry or conceit; rather, let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others' interests rather than his own (Ph. 2:2-4)... clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you (Col. 3:12-13).

To achieve this, one must take into account at least four attitudes or behaviors.

Self-Confidence

This is the basis of contacts or meetings with others.

Open-Mindedness

You must be on the same wave length as others, know their interests and their real needs. Just as the sculptor can extract an image of Christ from a piece of wood, so too, must you find in others an image of God or the qualities of a child of God.

Attention to Others

Know how to listen attentively. No one is ever indifferent to someone who listens, who is attentive and sympathetic. You will make more friends by listening than by telling your story.

Focusing on the Other

You must be sensitive to others who are vulnerable, who have fears and security needs. You must develop a sense of humour which relaxes and releases stress. Humor makes everyone feel at ease.

Christian contact indicates the degree of your personal union with God. It is the instrument that Jesus uses to connect with those he wants to save and make holy.

Christian contacts will transform you and produce in others positive responses which in turn can change the course of their lives.

In conclusion: « these Christian contacts, specified in the 3rd « 5 » of the spirituality, are your point of departure for becoming and remaining an instrument of Jesus for spreading His love in the midst of the world. »

Father Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.

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TESTIMONIES OF CHRISTIAN CONTACTS...

Christian Contacts

When I think about « Christian contacts », I tell myself that they must be identifiable with human contacts in that they are more beautiful, valuable and enriching etc. Do we not say that Christian values are human values at their highest level? Thus, I see in Christian contacts a lot of charity in the manner of Jesus.



Already, in the earliest years of my youth, people told me I was helpful. That did not necessitate effort on my part. It was second nature to me thanks to God. A psychologist would say, without doubt, that this was a way of enhancing the image of myself through attracting compliments from persons to whom I had rendered service.

Even in secondary school, though I had chosen the option of « chemistry-physics » in the last two years of this stage in my education, the guidance counsellor said that he did not see me so much in this branch but morose in social sciences.

It must be said, for me, contacts with persons were very important for my relationship with God, Who, in my youth was limited to Jesus Christ as a big brother and that one did not see and was only able to confirm through the other that I mingled with and with whom I could enter into contact concretely. My naive confidence in the presence of God in the other carried me along in whatever was proposed to me by those who surrounded me. That is what brought me to the Voluntas Dei Institute.

In the meetings that I made with those who were involved in my formation, (like Raymond Gendron, et al.) I felt a connection that united us. Like when he brought me to visit the members of the Gatineau Sector, I was encouraged to think about them when I returned to the Major Seminary to pursue there my formation as a future priest, in Trois-Rivières. I felt supported in my journey and privileged to be with such a group like the Institute compared to other seminarians who did not have such a support. It was also at a Congress, through contact with members that I perceived the Institute as the best means for discovering the will of God and accomplishing it and it was then that I decided to respond to the call of the Lord by joining the Institute. In my desire to do my pastoral year in Abitibi, contact with the people guided me in my journey. I wanted to help my colleagues who were not numerous and to support also their work with the people. And that is why the country side or the nature as well as the physical environment where I went to work hasn't had any importance to me.

I must say this is what still motivates me. Persons are very important for they are my brothers and sisters and cease not to remind me of Christ, and I try always to remember it in my contacts. Even with the handicapped for which I have worked lately. Already, as a seminarian, I had worked as a volunteer in a type of hospital that was a work of Cardinal Leger: « Le Foyer de Charité » of Pointe-aux-Trembles. There were there both physically and mentally challenged persons. I was, then, on known ground when I went to offer my services in *l'Arche* community of Jean Vanier about three years ago. For those who do not know it, Jean Vanier created an organization that offers a family milieu to people who are intellectually challenged. I have also lived with them during this time. I have even accompanied a handicapped person who is in a wheelchair in order that he could go with his mother who desired for a long time to make a voyage with him. We took the plane and the boat and I slept in the same room as her son. When I awoke in the morning, my thoughts turned me toward him to know if all was well with him, if he had well slept and if he was ready to get up and wash himself and dress for breakfast. The reflection that came to me at that time was: « God the first servant. » Did he not indeed say: « Whatever you do to the least of mine, you do to me »?

Here is roughly what I think about Christian contacts so important to being Voluntas Dei.

Father Jacques Harvey, I.V.Dei. Canada



Presence in my Community

At the time of a friendly meeting between the two teams of the Trois-Rivières Sector, we shared together the Eucharist. At the prayers of thanksgiving after communion, Germain Cote shared the following:

« In regard to elderly members of the Institute and perhaps in a particular way about the last days of priests, Father Parent, to my knowledge, did not give any teachings or directives concerning this subject, especially since he belonged to a religious institute where the superiors group together their elderly members. »

At present, I am a priest retired retiring to a house for elderly there must be a better option for That which provides this idea to secular institute should be able with persons of the world since priests, our ministry. The Bishop do not do ministry outside of my occasion.



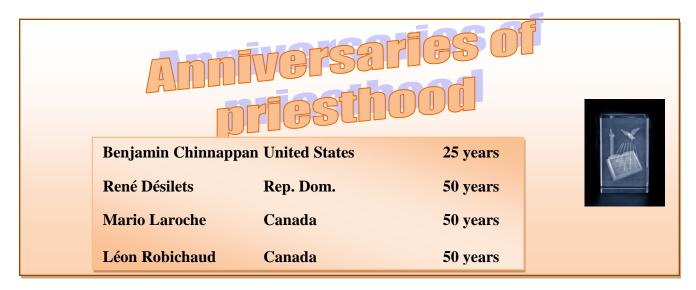
in Victoriaville. I had thought about priests. And yet, I told myself that us, members of a secular institute. me is that an aging member of a to live his aging, illnesses and death this is the field of our action and for of the diocese is in agreement, but I residence except for the rare

I did not imagine the good that can come from spreading the spirit of our spirituality. My presence as a priest, in particular, has brought a great deal of joy and support to the elderly. There is also a light and real ministry in these groups sometimes neglected in religious services. Our life with them and in the same social and physical conditions edifies and comforts them. I hear sometimes the expression: « We have a good priest among us and he lives like us. » (They sometimes add: « he is top-quality »)

Here is the small witnessing that someone has suggested to me to write as a service to the members of our Institute. Thank you for allowing me this small intervention.

Father Germain Côté, I.V.Dei. Canada





Experiences in hospital



Towards the end of my teenage years, I attend a summer camp where the theme was to learn to pray with the Word of God. Being from a Christian family, I had already received a great introduction to this level. However, with this intense experience of brotherhood and prayer, it was given to me to discover Jesus-Christ in other dimension: its proximity to the people, his compassion for the sick and poor, the reception given to the sinners and his unconditional love for us, for me, yeah, for me.

Twenty-four years ago, I made my début as a beneficiary attendant at the hospital, and of course without naming it at the time and perhaps unwittingly consciously, I was developing this great essential value that we find in the institute, the Christian's touch.

In the aspirant guide, including issues of this value as "a reflex of Jesus Christ, or his attitudes that you need to reproduce in your life and as an instrument that Jesus uses to reach the people that he wants to save and sanctify."

Today as being involved in spiritual care, I am located in the heart of the wounded humanity, poverty, fear, loneliness, anguish, suffering, human misery, and tormented soul. So on my way in the present day, in the present moment, it give me so much opportunity to be transformed by the Lord's face through my brothers and sisters in need and constantly developing attitudes proposed by the institute end the gospel, particularly that of all unconditional love to the way of Christ did. This love "is nothing if I don't share and if has my heart, I did not give my hands".

Daniel Gagné, probationer Canada



Christian Contacts vs Human Contacts

The **sharing** of our experiences of Christian contacts is in itself already a Christian contact. The invitation that incites us there and the animation that results from it constitute a human dynamism that becomes the beating heart of a **collective Christian** contact, a mobilization of charity that « builds peace and fellowship in Jesus Christ. »

However, what is a Christian contact? To say that it is a contact in the manner of Jesus appears to me to be a bit rapid and does not suffice for me personally: hazy words, while easing one's conscience, dissolved, in my eyes, the concrete reality produced **by my creative responsibility in a Christian contact.** If I cannot identify or give the elements essential and constitutive of a Christian contact, it is difficult for me to have full awareness of it and to **assume in depth responsibility** for it. It results in a **superficial product (action) of my human behaviour,** a relative or partial failure of my Christian growth and of its missionary or apostolic impact.



Thus, let's agree that a contact is human to the degree in which it assumes or manifests in a way respect for the persons, their inalienable dignity and freedom. But, for it to be Christian, such a welcome and gift of self to the other without judging must as well correspond to an experience of faith, that is to say, to write a gospel page: « I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers/sisters, you did it to me. » The image of God and His Presence in the other become the source of my relational respect and the occasion to offer a true and discreet adoration of this Presence.

Like the fruit of a long, persistent, enriching and contagious desire of God, nerve of all healthy vocations. That is, in my eyes, a real Christian contact. Certainly, all takes place through a mysterious flash of the trained conscience and through a moment of eternity forging the framework of our lives and giving it its weight and value. Let us admit, that here is drilled the eventual well of a truly spiritual experience (mysterious experience of God) accessible to the simplest of folks.

To educate, animate and train in a pertinent fashion the relational culture of today's world in this meaning of Christian contacts, would it not be the new evangelization cast at our doors during this year of faith? A new evangelization from our particular spirituality? A Will of God, a real intent of God for us? All is seminal in the heritage of our patrimony. All is to be unfurled. Discernment and creativity as far as the eye can see. What a FUTURE!

Thank you for permitting me this **Christian contact!**

Father Vincent Therrien, I.V.Dei Canada





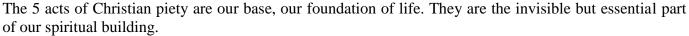
Essential Value

I am convinced that all our Voluntas Dei spirituality leads to love.

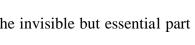
If it was not for Christians contacts, for our charity, the Christian life does not make sense.

God is love and the greatest commandment of Christ is realized in everyday contacts by Christians.

I always had this in mind throughout my 41 years as a member of the Institute.



The five attitudes are ways of life that are given to us to realize ourselves as Christians. They are like the visible structure of the building.



The 5 Christians contacts made consciously every day is an easy way to practice and evaluate the experience of Voluntas Dei spirituality. They are the pinnacle of our Christian building. They are the reason of our daily lives. I consider my life to be a continuous service to others.

I cannot not love my brothers and I think we should express every day, with little loving service, how much I want to identify with Christ.

I've never tried to do great things for others, but every day I work to make small services, which are full of meaning. Such as helping an old man cross the street.

In the bus, I often have the opportunity to help someone who has their arms full and must pay for his bus pass.

At the Bank, on several occasions I have given my place in the queue for seniors or someone pressed more than me. I also had the opportunity to help people prepare to make a deposit or withdrawal.

Since a year ago I contribute financially to a family who has had serious health problems and employment.

I visit the sick to pay them spiritual help, either by confession, anointing of the sick or bringing them Holy Communion.

I consider it a valuable service when I can replace a priest who must be away of his parish. This is what I do almost every day for many years. This is my favourite work and I'm thinking that this is one of the Christian contacts that the Lord gives me the opportunity to achieve.

Fortunately, there are many opportunities that present themselves on my way every day to make these small Christian contacts, and many others without deliberately choose God presents us daily.

Father Guillermo Pérez Montoya Colombia



Christian Contacts experienced

My name is Elmer de Jesus Bedoya Rendon.



I live in Armenia (Quindío) for the last six months.

I got to know the Voluntas Dei Institute. In fact I know very little about the life in the Institute. But the little experience I have makes me love it. I see something very special. I think that it provides means for human being to be sanctified by him.

I started experimenting the Christian contacts. I have quickly realized that these are acts of love for our brothers.

They are an opportunity to do well to those in need.

For the moment, what I started to do is:

- Pray a lot for my brothers and especially for those who are not in good term with me.
- Share something with those who need my help (food, clothing, etc) -.
- Help at home, my parents, my brothers and sisters.
- Listen to those who want to tell me something.
- Giving good advice to those who need it.

In these things, I think I can grow a lot as a person and in the process of holiness. I would also desire to upgrade to these Christian contacts to do of them something great.

Elmer de Jesus Bedoya Rendón, I.V.Dei, Colombia



Deceased 2012

Canada

Raymond Gendron Jean-Léon St-Pierre Irvine Lewis Sri Lanka

Asirvatham Anthonipillai India

Antony Cruz Crispin Romulus United-States

William McClellan

Dominican Republic

Benjamin Morel Alcantara



Experiences as a doctor

My meetings with Christian charity are based, as it is the purpose of the Voluntas Dei Institute, on the work activity:

- 1. Visit people in hospitals and clinics, which should go through the work activity of these cases, what is done is explained by the intervention of clinical standpoint which mean your health and what are the prospects against the evolution of the disease. Most often, people in hospital and their families do not know what the course of their disease is. Also a verse in the Bible, generally in the Psalms, is a short session, inviting them to thank the Lord for the blessings and trust in Him as the Almighty.
- 2. Intervention with families of hospitalized, performing legal advice, particularly in the guide procedures with social security systems, which treated and the time to make the ordering process laboratory when in the room of the sick, a prayer of confidence to the Heart of Jesus, to give strength to the family environment against the violation of patients' health.
- 3. Intervention with families experiencing intergenerational conflict, most prevalent in the work area, providing them with arguments and tools so to reduce together the conflict.

Orientation activities and support patients was conducted in the municipality of Pivijay also accompany families was conducted in the same municipality, the number of families facing conflict in the family environment was 7, in terms of patients and their families were served weekly average 9 patients and their families during the months of April to July 2012

Gildardo Antonio Norena, I.V. Dei Colombia



Relationship between prayer and life

In light of the spirituality of the Institute, I try hard to live everyday in the best way possible in my behaviour with those who surround me and with whom I live.

Wanting each day to improve my spiritual life according to the rules of the Institute, I begin my day by giving thanksgiving to God for the day that He gives me. I ask also the Holy Virgin Mary for the strength to bring about all that I must accomplish with her powerful intercession with her Son.



When it is possible, I participate in the Eucharist each day. I do my spiritual reflection and meditation on the Rosary and on the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I am aware that there are people at my side that are ill and I want to share with them my time since they have need of someone to accompany them and give to them a breath of hope.

I think that it is also important that each person senses that until that day, even if they no longer have health, that the persons surrounding them want to share the difficulties that their situation causes them.

In my place of daily work, I try hard to give a good example of Christian life to the two young children of the lady who works with me. They are not very religious. I say to them that God is a good person and that He must love us for having created us and that each day He gives us what we need. I try to take away their erroneous ideas about the Church and its ministers by telling them that they are only human and can therefore have faults. This exists also in numerous professions where there are elements that come to give a negative evaluation. I came to realize that the young university daughter at a given moment had had difficulties with her friend: I took the Bible and searched for a reading in which I hoped to encounter a message from God that would give her peace. In this way, I felt calm to see that these religious pills that I give them from my personal and Christian life soothes them and at the same time remain for them something for their personal life.

I have also learned from the Institute to pay attention not to criticize my neighbour and to avoid useless complaints. Better each day to accept what God sends me knowing that He gives us what we need. In this sense, I feel very enriched by all that I have received from the Institute and the teachings that our founder has left us during his life.

Javier Antonio Quintero Osorio, I.V.Dei Colombia



Guidelines for Christian Contacts

All Christians are called to be holy. Leviticus 11:44-45, tells us: For I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls upon the earth. For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God; you shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. »

This call to holiness is not an option. It is necessary that each Christian adopts a proactive attitude, never passive. This here calls us to conceive a plan or a project of holiness in order to help us in the realization

of this desire expressed by God to be holy since He is holy. We can compare this idea with an enterprise. Your life is a great enterprise and in order for it to be successful, the administration will have to define well and declare a series of plans or projects that become the targets to attain that must arrange the strategies and the way of bringing the work to fruition.

For us, Christians, who belong to the secular Voluntas Dei Institute, the strategies for the way of realizing the project of holiness, for attaining the objective of personal salvation and also for the way of being an instrument of specific salvation goes hand in hand with our spirituality. The spirituality is something simple and deep and at the same time it impresses on me.

This spirituality is structured according to what we call the « 5-5-5 », and through concern of convenience we add « five essential values ». According to the dictionary of the Spanish language, when we speak about values, we speak of « quality, virtue or a utility that makes something or someone appreciated, » but we also speak about « the importance of a thing, an action, a word or a statement. »

On the other hand, the same dictionary speaks of something essential: « substantial and indispensable. »



In a society that, apparently, has nothing of value and everything seems negative, the Voluntas Dei Institute presents five essential values. They are:

- a. Spirituality
- b. The Team
- c. Positiveness
- d. The Present Moment
- e. Christian Contacts

Christian contact is a concrete expression of the charity of Voluntas. It is there we become another Christ today. Well, this last value which has the order of practice allows us to reflect on charity. William Barclay declared: « More people became an integral part of the Church out of the kindness of true Christian love than for all of the theological arguments of the world » (cited in the book: « The Habits of Jesus » from Jay Dennis, p. 37.) Jesus is a builder of relationships, says the same author speaking about the habits of Jesus to build relationships. Jesus is not superficial. He went to the heart of others. From the beginning of his preaching, he invites to conversion and calls his disciples to the very end, on the cross itself, when condemned to death, He wins eternal life. Jesus demonstrated an interest in the person.

In this sense, Christians cannot separate or alienate themselves from Christ, otherwise we will be traitors for Christ or we will not do His will. According to the Spanish philosopher, Julian Maras, the key word of Christianity is « love » (cf. « The Christian Point of View, » Julian Maras, chapter XI). We do not cease in saying « Love is the condition that characterizes the Christian, that identifies him/her and that distinguishes him/her » (Ibid p. 95).

In our Voluntas life, this essential value of Christian contact as expressed in the Aspirant's Guide obliges us to have confidence. Above all, we will discover ourselves with a particular dignity: being « children of God. »

It requires also a spirit open to developing the capacity to accept others as they are like Jesus who had a friendly attitude toward sinners.

We discover "instruments of salvation" for others and especially for those closest to us. Those whom God has placed in our care, we need all the attention for themselves and not be indifferent, but caring people, friendly and attentive.

We conclude with the following thoughts:

1. As the Christian contact is a fundamental value that is easily noticeable. Ask yourself:

The others, they feel comfortable in your presence?

2. Many things are enemies of this fundamental value:

In fact, go against this value, pride, prejudice, guilt, selfishness, having too many occupations.

3. Attitudes that can help us develop this essential value:

Be yourself, recognize yourself as unique, find God in all people that you find on your way, be kind, gentle and smiling, take the initiative to build relationships and contacts with others, do not wait until others will seek you, encourage those in need through words and acts of kindness, be someone who gives more than someone who takes and finally, repair the broken relationships. God will always be there to help us.

Frank Luis de la Cruz and Ynocencia Ozoria Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



Concrete opportunities to exercise Charity

I am Rinoy Thomas, a seminarian in the India district in formation of the Voluntas Dei Institute, doing my philosophical studies in **Our Lady of Miracle** Major Seminary Aluva. Here I would like to share with you all, some of my experiences where I could be a real 'Voluntas' in doing some acts of charity in my seminary circle and in my ministry places. In our constitution, we describe ourselves *as persons of service*. i.e. "....accepting all acts of devotedness asked by the legitimate authority; being faithful to their responsibility, and always being of service by training themselves to respond to every request."(Fr. Louis Marie Parent, "In the footsteps of Jesus" pp.98-99). This simple article calls us to have a sense of responsibility in doing charity and to have Christ like qualities in doing



The Will of the Father. As a seminarian I know that I have my own limitations in exercising charity yet I have made use of the possibilities which was given to me in my seminary set up. As we know, Faith, Hope and Charity are the main Christian Virtues. Among these virtues, Charity or love holds the keyposition. For example, if someone asks about Charity, then we need to say about love, as both are two sides of the same coin .These theological virtues turn us towards our neighbor. According to Voluntas Dei Spirituality, "The Third Five" (Concrete occasions of Charity) emphasizes us to be charitable to fellow being. So, here, I point out various instances through which we could do charity to our neighbors as a seminarian in the institute.



Sunday Ministry in Parishes: Our Founder in his book "In the footsteps of Jesus" tells us very clearly that, why we should exercise charity or why we should make use of the possibilities to serve others, he makes his point very clear by saying that "to serve is good for the normal evolution of our personality, our character and our whole being. To accept to serve or to officially recognize ourselves as being of service is an indication of psychological, moral and spiritual health. If we cease recognizing our possibilities to serve, we become sleepers, or dreamers. The world comes to

us insofar as it discovers us to be supple, simple and fraternal; thus we can create durable friendship". (Fr. Louis Maria Parent, *In the footsteps of Jesus*. p.110). Realizing this fact, I could explore myself as real 'Voluntas' in my ministry places since The word ministry itself means a service or a help. When I take Catechism for students, it was a great help to the Parish Priest. It is also a ministry. For instance, I am going every Sunday to St. Joseph's church, Vellarappilly. Being a Syrian church, the Holy Mass extends

more than one hour. Just before the Mass there is song practice or quiz competition. During the Mass time, the children test my patience. When children do some jiggles, I used to control them. After the Holy Mass along with students I pledge.

Then pledging along with Catechism teachers I become active. Then we go to our respective class rooms. I teach one of the senior classes. Since they are seniors I give more attention them. For making classes active and energetic I use to tell stories, Bible quotations, singing and even dancing with them in accordance with Christian devotional song. It is all the part of my ministry. Biblical notions and history of the Church are immersed to their minds through various activities. So they are benefitted through my classes. I try to make that experience with students based on love. Hence, when I love and do this, it will become a hundred percent activity. Moreover, the contacts with the Priest and the parishioners help me to stay alive in hard circumstances and face challenges of the outer world. It's all a wonderful experience. When I was doing all these as a 'Voluntas' I felt that more than a responsibility it is my service for them.

<u>In the Seminary:</u> Each member in the institute, in the depths of their hearts, strives to merit the title "Voluntas Dei" because the church has chosen us to be the persons of service. The members of the Institute Voluntas Dei develop their adhesion to the will of God especially by cultivating a spirit of recollection, humility and fraternal charity. I found seminary was also a place for me to do some fraternal charity to my own companions. Since Every Saturday we have to revise our lessons. It helps our minds to share different ideas and intellectual knowledge .Mostly each one, from three batches will get the chance to teach the lessons to others, it not only cherishes one's knowledge but also helps his companions to know thoroughly the topic. By dictating notes we could clarify our doubts on Philosophical notions. Weekly academic revisions make me an instrument of Charity by helping others in their studies. The revision is thus a smooth step to face exams. The academic curriculum flourishes the brothers to have an ultimate idea, which made me an instrument to show love towards my brethren.

In the philosophy College: The aim of our founder to start this institute is also to render service, to accept all acts of devotedness and to give our lives to the service of members of the great human family. Each time when we give ourselves to others, we resemble the Author of good. It is mark of friendship that causes the heart to celebrate. The Sacred Heart Philosophical College, the place where we go as day scholars was also a place for me to extent my helping hand to others. We used to help our companions in study matters. By appreciating them in their good efforts and talents we could love them. Although the students are coming from different states and joining the Keralites, they are good in terms with us. Sharing and bearing each other, we become close friends. Moving towards the abstract Philosophical ideas, we have to be more intellectually nourished. An abstract science would be more difficult. Though professors try to clarify our doubts still there will be some who are extremely backward in studies they come to me for clarifying their doubts and I help them.

As members of the institute Voluntas Dei Wherever we are, we can exercise charity. Thus the IVD Spirituality of "The third five" helps to create peace and brotherhood throughout the world. Doing five acts charity daily makes me happy. Happiness leads to smile. When we smile it goes for miles and miles, and everyone will be smiling. As Psychologists say. 'When we start a day with a smile, then that day will smile at us'. Likewise, if we start a day with a charitable work, then the day will offer us its benefit. Above all doing a charitable deed helps to have a better relationship with God. According to Thomas-a-Kempis, "He is truly great who has a great Charity." As Thomas Aquinas quotes "Charity is the form, mover, mother and root of all virtues". So, we can ask God's grace for an attitude of charity. In view of our founder, we are invited to model our lives on Jesus. "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". (Jn. 6:68) He will not let us fall, we will have our quota of happiness and he will give us the necessary energy and dynamism. Let us set to work then and to strive to live intensely the

present movement. May the Heavenly Father, bless us every day to live in His presence and to love everyone, throughout the world in Jesus Christ.

Rinoy Thomas, (Seminarian) I.V.Dei India



Christian witness for contacts

The notion of Christian - Contact is very practical in our spirituality. It is because of that, it is listed among the "Essentials of our Spirituality".

Man, being created in the image and likeness of God, by nature and in his essence, he is in contact with God. Both the philosophers and the theologians of the world history have developed the "aspect of contact" in their own field. The great philosopher Aristotle defined man as the "Social Being" – the one who is in contact with the society by his very essence. In fact every birth of a child is the expression of contact of oneself (Child) to its parents. Thus man cannot be born without contact and he cannot live without that too; for "Contact" is part and parcel of human life.





Meanwhile, every Voluntas Dei member is called to make his own contact "Christ – Centered". Thus, it becomes Christian - Contact. Christian - Contact is not merely our attitude, but it is our mission too. As we relate with others in our own context of life, we should make use of such time to give Christ's presence to others.

Personally I have experienced this, when I was the Assistant parish priest at St. Sebastian's Cathedral, Mannar. Being one with the youth of the Cathedral, by my own way of being, I was able to

establish Christian contact, especially with the youth. Day by day, it is important for us to allow ourselves to become the instruments of Christian - Contact.

Therefore, let your heart to be inspired by Christ presence, and be "Inspirational" to others for them to see Christ in you. It is there, Christian contact is being lived.

Father Michael Devin Coonghe, I.V.Dei Sri Lanka



NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE...



Please note that this section of the journal gathers together the articles sent to us by the Directors of the Districts and Regions. They also contain information taken from the available annual reports.



News of Canadian District

Excerpts from the Annual Report written by Michel Beauchamp Director of the Canadian District.

An Inspiring Key-Note:

«We encourage you not to let the grace received from God be without effect: to be the instrument of Christ in the heart of the world. » 2 Co 1b-2. Excerpt from the charism of the I.V. Dei.

Priority:

To open to the world the treasure of our spiritual heritage with a special emphasis on the 20-40 age group.

Activities, Questionings and Observations:

- ***During a weekend in October a retreat for youth at Versant-la-Noel.
- *Pastoral visits with personal meetings, teams and sometimes sector.
- ***The search for an office for the district was realized with the help of « Father Parent » . . . to whom Michel turned in prayer. An office was found and so too an excellent secretary.
- ***Questionings: the future of the Institute and aging, youth more and more absent from our churches.
- « We can foresee the birth of a new Church, present and adapted to men and women of our time, to the life and to the present reality having the human being at the heart of its message. »

***District full of life:

Whatever it may be, illness, old age, a considerable amount of work, a large family, solitude, widowhood, difficult relationships or weaknesses inherent in the human condition, it is **REMARKABLE** to witness in our district how the hearts and lives of the members are opening to the transformative action of God. The way to think, to see and express oneself are truly and positively influenced by our spirituality.

***Team life is sacred!

For the vast majority of us, it is clear that it is important to be attentive to being faithful to the meetings and to encourage one another.

A good team, formed by the members over a long period of time, could find itself entrenched in comfortable ways of thinking and doing: « I invite you to take often and simply the pulse of *those coming to see* and *new arrivals* in order to assure yourselves that they are finding their place among you. »



Each month, « *The Letter to Members* » is sent to us to maintain the connections with all of the members of the district. It is a tool of sharing that provides information on the activities of the Director and his Council within the context of a spiritual reflection on the colours of our treasure. As such, the vocation of « *The Togetherness* » must be rethought.

A complete program continues to be developed in order « to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and Father Parent. »

SACERDOTAL ORDINATIONS

| Cuba | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Juan Carlos Borrero Simon | 2012-03-24 |
| Haiti | |
| Angelot Étienne | 2012-03-25 |
| Dadi Alabart | 2012-03-25 |
| Jean Louisnet | 2012-08-19 |
| Sri Lanka | |
| Alan Varapiragasam | 2012-08-22 |
| Inde | |
| Francis Xaviour | 2012-12-26 |
| Joseph Panakal | 2013-01-02 |
| _ | |





News from Haiti District

Haïti is the cradle of the missionary expansion of the Institute. This is the first country in which the Institute was established for its expansion. Still the members of the first time are there in Jacmal. The District Haiti is divides in three sectors whit six teams: The sector of Jacmel, the sector of Grand Anse and the Western sector. Sector South East has two teams of couples and aspirants. Sector of Grand Anse under the gaze of the Father Yves SEVERE, Sector Grand Anse is awakened from his sleep. Stimulated by the passage of the Director General, it is booming and gathers on the third Sunday of the month. Thus, in addition to the three areas that are located within the District, there are teams composed of overseas priests who are serving in a foreign land. The team is led by Guadeloupe Father Déséïde Patrix, the team of France by Father Evynx Monestime. Overall, the District of Haiti has 32 priests, 12 seminarians, 58 associate members for a total of 102 members.

The deacons have been ordained priests there Dady Angelo on May 20, 2012. The father is Angelot appointed vicar in the parish of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Turgeau Puerto Principe and father Dady, vicar in the parish of St. Yves Saint Basil in the diocese of Miragoane.



There was a friendship visit made to the bishops Mgr Guire POULARD, archbishop of Port au Prince and his auxiliary Mgr Marie Glandas Eric Toussaint, Mgr Pierre André Dumas, bishop of Nippes, Mgr Gontrand DECOSTE Joseph, bishop of Jeremy, Mgr Chibly LANGLOIS, bishop of Les Cayes and president of the Episcopal Haitian conference so to have a better understanding and relation of the Voluntas Dei Institute with thwe local church.

There was also a visit to the parish of Our Lady of de la Merci at Galette Roches Blanches in the

archdiocese of Port au Prince founded by the Voluntas Dei. Today, father Solomon is the parish priest. Another parish that was visited is Our Lady Mary de la Petite Rivière in the diocese of Jeremy so to be with father Irilan Maximé who was having difficulties so to help him with a pastoral witnessing.

A number of priests work in missions outside of the country. The Institute is receiving requests from Bishops of Haiti to take responsibility of certain parishes. An effort to bring back priests outside of the country has been put into place in order to respond to the new needs. There is development in Port-au-Prince and in the diocese of Nippes. Three new parishes have been erected in this diocese.

The team in France is making good progress. This group comes together to pray, to deepen the spirituality and to socialize. These members belong to three dioceses, that of Chartres, Metz and Paris. There are priests, seminarians, lay persons and married persons. It must be noted that since the putting in place of a team the connections and strengths have not ceased to increase among them and with the people that surround them. These team meetings give a lively pastoral and missionary thrust, all in stimulating studies.

A house has also been constructed and opened to receive tourists or groups who come to Haiti for studies or humanitarian works. It is siutated in Jacmal. It is a way of increasing the revenues of the district so that it can develop more. This project is well thought out, well managed and realizes effectively revenues for the district.

Wedding Anniversaries 2013



| Chandran Govindan and Jayalakshmi Chandra | India | 25 years |
|---|----------------------|----------|
| Jean-Pierre Sonia and Mardy Sonia | Haiti | 25 years |
| Luciano Carrasco Sanchez and Sonia Mota | Dominican Rep. | 25 years |
| Sebamalai S. Logu and Alexander C. Miranda | Sri Lanka | 25 years |
| Carlos E. Ausensi Roman and Myriam E. Ramirez | Chile | 25 years |
| Mateo M. Jejla and Ana Rita Luzon | Dominican Rep. | 25 years |
| Pierre Hubert and Claire Thibault | Canada | 50 years |
| Jean-Paul Deschesnes and Carmen Trudel | Canada | 50 years |
| Anthony Bruno and Claudia Touhey | United States | 50 years |
| Vincente De La Cruz and Pilar Vasquez | Dominican Rep. | 50 years |
| | | |

News from the United States District



The District in Formation of the United Sates is in full growth. They already have a number of sectors at great distances from one another. One of the members has organized virtual team meetings on the internet and Skype. In this way, contact is made several times a month with its 87 members: 36 priests, 48 married persons, and 3 celibate laymen. In addition, there are 11 persons spiritually affiliated with the Institute. They are spread out in 3 sectors:

The Annunciation (Sector East), the Visitation (Sector West) and the Assumption (Sector International Teams). This is a sign of the growth of the district. Already, the meetings of 2 sectors have been announced for the spring of 2013.

At the summer congress of 2012, with the presence of the Director General, Father James Dunstan and

Father Pierre Marois, invited speaker, persons who participated. Father Pierre complete day on his 50 years of Institute and gave a witness of a lived Father Parent on his devotion to the gave the orientation for the theme for attitudes of Mary: «Fiat, Ecce, and

there were 75
Marois animated a experience in the experience with Virgin Mary. This 2012-2013: the three Magnificat ».

A number of priests are carrying out in order to promote the Institute. From

missionary preaching these contacts, a

certain number of vocational requests are arising. At the same time, a brochure about the Institute is distributed. The members of the district are involved in a variety of spheres of work (in parishes, hospitals, schools, universities, prisons . . .).

The district has a WEB site that is in the process of restructuring. It is for making known the Institute in the United States through the new technology. A consoling fact is appearing, that of the presence of young members. In about 10 years, the future Church of the United States will be comprised of Latino communities. A special attention is therefore being directed toward interesting Latino persons.

The person in charge of formation provides the teams with excellent orientations for the meetings. To 3 members he has offered them to take courses in spiritual/theological formation in view of preparing them to assume roles of leadership in formation. There are a lot of new requests for information that shows the vitality of the Institute in the United States.

The District in Formation of the United States continues to grow and shows signs of spiritual maturity in the spirituality of the 5-5-5.



News from the Indian District in Formation

The district in formation counts actually (May 1, 2012) 106 members: 27 priests, 31 seminarians and 48 married persons. There are 16 candidates for Holy Orders at the seminary in Alwaye. The students from the major seminaries during their summer vacations are visiting their dioceses to inform about the charisma, the spirituality and the apostolate of the Institute. There are always youngsters interested. In



actuality, the Institute is planning to expand her mission from South India to North and North East India. There are at the moment seminarians sent to study in North East India. And finally, the number of married couples is increasing due to the motivation given to them by the priests in their parishes. At the end of the year, there will be the ordinations of two priests incardinated in the Institute. They have completed their studies in the major seminary of Kandy, Sri Lanka and now they have returned to their country.

The Voluntas Dei priests are committed to their apostolate in their respective dioceses where they are engaged in parish ministry. They enjoy good reputation due to their deep commitment in their milieu for their parishioners. The committed persons of the Institute are serving in different organizations helping especially the poor. Through their team meeting they grow in the Voluntas Dei spirituality.

The district is sending priests to work outside of the country for foreign missions as in Australia to look for new foundations. The Institute's priests participate in the National Conference of Secular Institutes. It is a good contact of relationship with others. There is a project to purchase land in the state of Tamil Nadu with a view to open a formation house for candidates to priesthood from that region and for the neighbouring states and to conduct animation programs for the associate members from that region.

We can say that the Institute in India is growing in number of priests foreseeing priestly ordinations every year continuously. The married couples are committed to live the charisma and spirituality of the Institute by living them in the society in which they are. They are working at inviting other people to join them. We can easily say that there is great hope to grow stronger the Institute in India.



News from Sri Lankan District in Formation

Sri Lanka is a District in formation. It comprises three (3) sectors: Jaffna, Mannar and Colombo. There is a Minor Seminary «Thiruvady» in Jaffna, Voluntas Dei Seminary in Kandy, and the Intermediary Seminary in Kochchikade.

The Sri Lanka District gladly welcomes the Voluntas Dei Institute's seminarians from India for their theological studies and formation. After completing their four (4) years of theological study and formation, they are personally preparing to receive the ordained ministries and return to India. This year there are two seminarians who are returning to India for their ordination to priesthood.



There are 11 major seminarians at this moment: 7 Sri Lankans, 2 Indians and 2 Ethiopians. At the minor seminary, the number is 11. Besides the academic programs, the major seminarians are animated through weekly meetings on the life and mission of the Institute, monthly recollection and monthly Holy Hour on the first Friday for the intention of the benefactors. They also participate in monthly meeting with married couples. It is the same program for the minor seminarians who are initiated into the Aspirancy guide.

We have eight team meetings regularly: 4 in Jaffna sector, 2 in Colombo sector, 1 in Colombo and 1 in Kandy, and finally 2 in Mannar sector: 1 in Mannar and 1 in Pesalai. It is well organized. During the team meeting, the members get the opportunity to share the word of God, to share the lived experiences of our spirituality, to study the Constitutions, to share the events in the families and to make resolutions until the following meeting.

Actually, there are 126 members: 11 priests, 6 laymen, 102 married persons and 7 seminarians. There were seminars, retreats and special sessions organized in all the three sectors during the past year. A special gathering of all the members took place at Easter to know better each other and share their joy and happiness. There were priests ordained this year.

News from the District of Dominican Republic (Altagracia)



Recruitment has been quite good from the standpoint of associated members, i.e. couples. There are new people who have joined the district. It must be noted that a number among them are young professionals in different spheres of know how. However, a lessening in priestly vocations is being felt even if at present we are maintaining a good rate in the seminary. The district at present comprises 230 members, and this is the district with the most members.

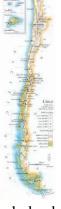
Formation is an essential element. The teams come together every 15 days. There, they share formation animated by a priest who accompanies. It is a fraternal sharing with a snack. What marks our district is the annual congress when the members renew their vows and commitments. It is a time of socializing, formation, prayer and study. It is held ordinarily toward the end of the month of July. Priests are present in 7 dioceses and in some fifteen parishes always surrounded by a great number of married persons.

The major seminarians live in the house of formation « the Good Shepherd, » and they pursue their studies at the major diocesan seminary. Another group studies at Hato Mayor and these are the minor seminarians.

A new situation is appearing: priests in retirement. In the situation of priests in this country, it is necessary to have a residence to receive them. This is one of the projects of the district.

The Institute is very present in our country. It is our desire to continue to serve the Church.





The District in Formation, Chile, is divided into three (3) sectors: South, Centre and North and comprises 4 teams: 1 in the South, 2 in the Centre and 1 in the North. The members of the Institute in Chile constitute: 3 priests, 4 celibate laymen, 4 major seminarians, and 18 associated members for a total of 29 members. Since the last Assembly General, 3 spiritually affiliated persons have joined the Institute. One seminarian is at present in his pastoral year after having completed his studies in theology. Due to the great distances, the teams meet each month for a

whole day. We distribute the documents of the Director General and the Director of the Office of Vocations and Missions by photocopying them for the benefit of all members.



Chile is a country geographically very extended in length. This does not facilitate communications. A couple from the North sector has had to travel to the South where the South sector is a little farther away. This means that they have great distances to travel for their team meeting. They are doing it a present while seeking to create their own team where they live.

A national meeting takes place each year in March in order to centre on real-lived situations, to socialize and to renew together vows and commitments. It is a time to reflect on the pastoral priority of the Latin American Conference of Bishops of Aparecida: The Mission of Youth 2012 in the context of the continental mission.

This year there was the ordination of a member from Cuba who completed his studies at La Serena in the North sector. He was ordained a priest in Chile. Afterwards, he returned to exercise his ministry in Cuba and rejoin Father Nestor Fornaris, a Voluntas priest of Cuba.

A constant effort is carried out in the realm of formation by the person in charge of formation. He maintains contact with the members while providing them with the documents to work on and read in order to deepen the spirituality of the Institute and their commitments within their respective communities. The house of formation continues to fulfill its role with a good orientation and direction assured by its rector Father Manuel Cornejo. This is a residence of formation as Voluntas since the seminarians study at the university. This unremitting work carries fruits filled with hope in this corner of the world where the Institute continues to grow.

News from Colombian Region



The Region of Colombia consists of 7 celibate laymen of whom 4 are candidates to the priesthood, 6 married members, 1 widow and 2 priests for a total of 16 members. The two teams live at great distances from each other. The meetings take place in each sector, that of Medellin and Armenia respectively. Each year, at the farm of a friend, all meet together for a retreat and the annual congress. They retain the services of a good preacher.



A small journal entitled, "Colombia Noti", appears regularly with beautiful spiritual reflections. It is sent to the Spanish speaking districts.

The meetings in Armenia take place conjointly with the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate who live in the region. They are mutual enriching experiences of accompaniment and growth.

The region is awaiting the canonical visit in January 2013

that coincides with the annual meeting. The members are very happy to receive the Director General and to get to know him personally.

Internet Sites to be consulted ...



Voluntas Dei Institute:

The Oblates and Missionaries of Mary Immaculate:

The Oblats:

The Missionary Recluses:

Canadian Conference of Secular Iinstitutes:

The World Conference of Secular Institutes:

Voluntas Dei Institute (District of United States):

Conference of Secular Institutes of United States:

Vatican:

www.ommi-is.org
www.omiworld.org
www.reclusesmiss.org
www.ccis-ccis.ca
www.cmis-int.org
http://www.voluntasdeiusa.org
http://www.secularinstitutes.org
http://www.vatican.va

www.voluntasdei.org

Stability 2012

Canada

Guillaume Mabilu Paul-Jean Leclair Huguette Désormeaux and Denis Legault

United States

Joel Livingston and Carol Toth

Italia

Alfredo Sioletic

India

Emmanuel Jose and Betsy Jose Yagappan Marceline and Leela Mariadsi Peter Aneesh George Ajimon Puthavalalappil Rofin Raphel Dixon George

Sunil Francis Prabhu Antony

Sri Lanka

Nadarajah Wilson and Daisy Jenova OLIVIER Sivarajah and Sahayam PETER Joseph George EDWARD PIERIS and Josephine DIAS Rajasingham Duke Xavier and Carmel DUKE Anthonipillai TONY JERAY Sebamalai and Alexader SAHAYAM LOGU

Pavilu Henry and Matilda Vasanthy ARUMAINATHAN Sebastiampillai and Valarmathy GABRIELPILLAI Pathinathan and Carmelita LEONARD LAMBERT

Swampillai Francis and Reeta Rohini SAVUNTHARAM

Maria Joseph and Amutha Mary Virgin SYLVESTER FERNANDO

David and Reeta THEVATHIRAVIAM

Christopher Cliford and Philomena Sinnarani WILLIAMRAJAH



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HAITI

HORACE, Didi

FRANCIS, Evens EUSTACHE, Madelon CHERY, Justin Harry VALCOURT, Marie Carmel



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MAROIS, Pierre
MUDIYAPPAN, Innasi
SIOLETI, Andrew
SOLANO SOSA, Andrés
JETTÉ-TURGEON, Raymonde
TURGEON, Fernand



CHILE

GUERRA ROMERO, Marcos Alejandro

CORNEJO GARATE, Manuel BERNAL ARANCIBIA, Henry Omar ARAYA RODRÍGUEZ, Mario Alonso AMÉSTICA CANALES, Pedro Ernesto LATORRE MUÑOZ, Rossanna de Fatima



SRI LANKA

SAHAYANATHAN, Anthony

SEBASTIAN CROOS, Lazar MARIATHAS, Sebastiampillai Anton SOOSAIPILLAI ANNAMALAI, Santhiogupillai, NAVARATNAM, Joseph JOYCY, Anne



UNITED STATES

CIORRA, Antony J.

GONZÁLEZ-MONTENEGRO, Julián HALLEY, Jim KREMER, Gregory LIVINGSTON, Joel TOTH Carol



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

REYES GONZALEZ, Dionisio

ARAÚJO TEJADA, Ramón Antonio SÁNCHEZ-BURGOS, Vicente CARRASCO SORIANO, Guillermo ANTIGUA HERNANDEZ, Primitivo



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GOMEZ, Napoleon

INNASI, Mudiyappan SENGOL, Joseph PUTHENVEETIL, Jony D. LOURDURAJ, Rex JEYA, Maria Poorana

