

Pilgrims on the path of prayer

ECHOES of the

General Council

Number 114 – September – October 2024



The Institute's General Government held its 2nd ordinary session from September 23 to October 16, 2024 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome. The session began later than in previous years, due to the Bicentenary celebrations of the Mother House on September 14 and 15 in Ploërmel, which were attended by the entire General Government.

These echoes bring to the attention of the entire Congregation the following information and decisions

1. Animation of the Congregation

1.1 Echoes from the visits in the Provinces and Districts

Brother Hervé Zamor, Superior General, was in **Haiti** from July 7 to August 26, 2024. Together with the brothers of the Province, he took part in the annual retreat and in the various highlights of the Province: the first vows of the Novices and various formation sessions for the brothers and the Mennaisian Family. He also met the new Brother Provincial and his assistant for a time of exchange and formation. This year, there is only one novice. He has joined the novitiate in Dapaong, Togo, which has received 3 novices from Congo, 2 from Rwanda, 1 from Togo and 1 from Haiti.

Then, from September 1 to 12, 2024, the Superior General took part in the first two weeks of the Picpus Fathers' General Chapter in Rome.

Brother Jean-Paul Peuzé, from Rome or France, continued his virtual visits to the sectors entrusted to him. He helped the new Provincial team in Uganda to take up its duties, and had several online meetings with various countries in West and Central Africa. He also accompanied the Sant'Ivo Community in Rome on the death of Brother Marcello Simeoni.

Brother Miguel Aristondo spent July and August in Bilbao. He helped draw up the Province's animation booklets, visited the summer camps, presented the Chapter document to the Brothers and took part in the Brothers' retreat. At the end of the summer, he visited several communities.

Brothers Vincent Ssekate and Gildas Prigent divided their time between the visits and accompaniment of the communities in the sectors they are responsible for, and a stay in Ploërmel, where, together with the other members of the team, they co-animated the session of the young Brothers preparing for final vows.

Bicentenary of the Mother House and Jubilee celebrations

The entire General Government met at the Mother House a few days before the Bicentenary celebrations. The Congregation's website gave a wide coverage to the event. Brothers Jean-Paul Peuzé and Mario Forino celebrated their Golden Jubilee this summer in Ploërmel, along with the other brothers who celebrated their 60th, 70th and 80th anniversaries in the Institute. On the same occasion, Brother Superior General officially sent Brothers Stéphane Le Pape, Christian Usengimana and Philippe Douli on mission to East Timor.

1.2 Rule of Life

The new Rule of Life was submitted to the Dicastery of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life last June. The General Government is still awaiting its approval.

However, the General Council has decided to introduce the new texts in the **2025 Religious Calendar**. This is an excellent opportunity for ongoing reading of the Rule of Life.

1.3 Mission of East Timor

The 3 missionary Brothers (Stéphane Le Pape, Christian Usengimana, Philippe Douti) are currently in Portugal, learning Portuguese until the end of the year.

The Superior General has asked that each community of the Congregation take a weekly hour of adoration, to entrust this new mission to the Lord.

1.4 Theme of the Year

The Congregation's Annual theme for 2024-2025 is part of the spiritual journey proposed by the Church in preparation for the Jubilee, with the theme: "**Pilgrims of Hope**" which begins on December 24, 2024.

A **2nd animation booklet** has been prepared and sent to the major superiors. It is essentially in two parts: the first concerns **Brothers' communities**, who are invited to deepen their understanding of Chapter 7 of the Rule of Life on Prayer. The second part proposes times of ongoing formation for **Brothers and Lay members of the Mennaisian Family**, based on Pope Francis' catechesis on prayer.



1.5 Online Session of Brother Major Superiors

Following the establishment by the Superior General and his Council of 6 Commissions made up of Major Superiors or other resource persons under the responsibility of a Brother Assistant (see Echoes of the previous General Council), this online session provided an opportunity to share the work accomplished by these Commissions since last June.

Orientations and lines of action were drawn up for each of the Commissions. These were enriched by the exchanges, proposals and suggestions of the Major Superiors present at this online session.

At each new session of Major Superiors, a new progress report will be presented. This is a new way of working in synodal mode: the aim is to help the General Government in its mission of animation, formation and accompaniment of the different realities of the Institute.

2 Decisions of Brother Superior General and his Council

2.1 Creation of the two new Districts

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has decided to create two new Districts: one bringing together the Brothers of the DRC and the other, those of Rwanda. One of the main reasons for this decision is to help prepare the future of these 2 sectors: spiritual life, organization, animation, management, and this, from now on, in an autonomous way, according to the Rule of Life.

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints:

- **Brother Damien HABIMANA**, Visitor of the District of Rwanda for a mandate of 4 years.

Pending the conditions for the status of District, the sector Congo of the former District Saint John Paul II becomes a **Delegation** under the immediate dependence of the Brother Superior General. The Brother Superior General is therefore the immediate Major Superior of this delegation.

The Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints:

- **Brother Bruno DJUKALEMA**, Delegate of the Congo DRC for a mandate of 1 year.

2.2 Nominations

In accordance with the new Rule of Life, Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appoints :

- **Brother Pancras AMUSIIMA**, Director of the Kisubi Postulate (Uganda) for a 3-year term.
- **Brother Benedict ODHIAMBO**, Director of the Moshi Postulate (Tanzania-Kenya) for a 3-year term.

2.3 Admission to perpetual profession

Brother Superior General, with the consent of his Council, admits to perpetual profession :

- Brothers: **Alfred MUKASA**, **Deo RUHWEZA**, **Julius MANDELLA**, **Leonard SSEMANDA WASSWA**, **Noah TUSASIRWE** and **Richard KAGODA** of the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Uganda - South Sudan).
- Brothers: **Abel Augustine KIULA**, **James Gwao OSOGO**, **Paul MUAKA MUSAU**, **Paul Joshua MWITI**, and **Pius Kimathi MURIUNGI** of the Province of Saint-Michael the Archangel (Tanzania - Kenya).

3 Communication

The next Click Info – No. 9 will be published in December. It will be sent to your e-mail addresses as usual. Please contact the General Secretariat if you have any new e-mail addresses.

There will be no paper edition of La Mennais Magazine this year.

The website of the Congregation (www.lamennais.org) will shortly be undergoing a little “updating”. It is important that news from all sectors reaches the General Secretariat on a regular

basis. Each major superior has been asked to appoint a contact person to pass on information (photos, articles, reviews) which will also enrich the Congregation's archives.

Calendar of the members of the General Council

Brother Hervé ZAMOR :

1 – 20 November 2024 :	Rome
12 November 2024 :	Dicastery for Evangelization
20 – 22 November 2024 :	USG meeting
26 November – 7 December 2024 :	Ivory Coast
16 – 22 December 2024:	Tanzania
30 December – 10 February 2025 :	Haiti
17 February – 7 March 2025 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Jean-Paul PEUZE :

5 – 24 November 2024 :	Uganda, visit to the Houses of formation
25 November – 6 December :	Rome
9 December – 23 December :	Polynesia, visit to the Delegation
January 2024 :	Rome then to Uganda
17 February – 7 March 2025 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Vincent SSEKATE :

28 October – 13 November:	Kenya – Tanzania
14 November – 4 December :	Kisubi
4 December – 22 December :	Tanzania
24 December – 5 January :	France – Provincial Chapter
17 February – 7 March 2025 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Miguel ARISTONDO :

25 October – 27 November :	Rome
December :	Spain
January r :	Visits to the communities of Spain
17 February – 7 March 2025 :	General Council in Rome

Brother Gildas PRIGENT :

November :	Indonesia - Japan
December:	Rwanda - Congo
January :	Indonesia
17 February – 7 March 2025 :	General Council in Rome

The next session of the General Council will take place in Rome, from February 17 – March 7, 2025