

MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere Loved!



Vol. 08 / Nº 3 - 2019 October

GENERAL BULLETIN

Dear brothers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, formandi and members of the Chevalier Family,

We celebrate once again the anniversary of the death of our founder. For us Christians, the death of a follower of Christ, who gave himself totally to the mission for the building of the Kingdom of God, means a life from which more lives spring. Thus we are today, as springs from the life of our Founder, called to be ever more united to the trunk that is Jesus, to bear fruit in the various places where we have been planted. This is how we are today, busy offering medicines for the evils of this world from the Heart of Jesus.

One of the most dangerous evils in the world today is certainly climate change. And during this time, many positive signs have been presented to us as the indications and directions for the way we should go.

One of these great signs is the Amazon Synod, which addresses the challenges the church faces in that part of the world, but also awakens once again our ecological awareness, our commitment to the planet, and our awareness of being part of the whole. In this Bulletin we want to share some reflexions of the experiences of a brother who lived in the Amazon for 18 years, Jorge de Oliveira.

Another positive sign lived within our Congregation is the 25th General Conference held a few weeks ago in South Korea. A clear invitation to paradigm shift, to generative listening, as well as a clear invitation for all of us to recognize that "we are part of the whole, and THE ALL is more important than the part". We offer in this Bulletin a synthesis of what happened in this Conference so that we can all take ownership of the future.

In addition to these two important events, we share news and photos of important moments experienced by MSC around the world.

Enjoy, share and stay connected to our missionary family through the Bulletin, social networks, but especially through your prayers and heart.

Humberto Henriques, MSC



October 21th, 2019

TRANSLATIONS AND CORRECTIONS

TONY ARTHUR, MSC (AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE)



AMAZON: the cradle of life

A superficial glance can fail to notice countless important details of life. With a more attentive look, we see beauties that until then did not seem to exist. After spending a good part of my priestly ministry immersed in the Amazonian forests and rivers, I learned to stop and participate in that wonder that is our beloved Amazon. There, I was able to contemplate what the Bible calls the Garden of Eden, the cradle of life. God planted there, with his own hands, all the requirements for life to be born and flourish with all its vigor and majesty.

Each Amazonian species has its own richness and beauty. Greed threatens the Amazon in a deadly way, fighting in a desperate way, with political and economic forces, to destroy the beautiful in the name of profits. Indigenous peoples have long been threatened. They resist with untiring bravery, and seek the strength to survive and remain happy in their paradise, but the "serpent" continues to lurk, offering "poisoned apples" to those who only want to live in their Garden, in the garden of their home. They try to destroy their culture, beliefs and, not itself only to having.

To take from the is the same as house, their life... It is the them, slowly and centuries, the present in this its sins committed



infrequently, life justify the greed of away the land indigenous people taking away their mother, their same as killing painfully. For Church has been battle. In spite of during history, it

was and still is a protective shield of this reality. Now, with a more comprehensive look and prophetic courage, it puts this situation before the eyes of the world. The approaching Synod calls the attention of all groups, for or against life, and opens a necessary discussion so that life can overcome death, the beautiful can overcome profit and man can be valued more than gold or silver.

In a speech that I heard in a village, an Indian said: "We have two mothers: the earth and the Catholic Church; one supports us, the other protects us". Screaming, praying, fighting for Amazonia is an obligation on all those who believe in life as the work of God. To defend Amazonia is to fight for everything that is most beautiful and harmonious that God has given us as a gift so that we can learn to recognize Him in the wonders He has done and continues to do for us.

Jorge de Oliveira, MSC (São Paulo's Province)

PNG - LA TERRA DE LO INESPERADO



Papua New Guinea has existed since the foundation days of the MSC and remains a very significant place for all MSC. Treading this "holy ground" has been for me, as a missionary, a moment of much reflection and my further commitment as an MSC.

Papua New Guinea is an historical place where for more than 130 years our fellow MSC have given their lives to the service of the mission. They were pioneers in this vast territory, first as a group of individual Papua New Guinea Islands, today as a single country. But it is also a place of ancient cultures, about 860 different languages, with a rich cultural diversity in its traditions. Each welcoming ceremony that allowed me to experience the richness of the local symbols and rich traditions.

The PNG MSC currently are about 114 members, the vast majority native MSC from different regions, tribes and cultures of Papua New Guinea. In the new vocations I saw a promising future emerging.

In the past they were MSC from other countries (France, USA, Germany, Australia and some of Spain). Today it is one MSC Province. The MSC presence is located in a variety of regions of Papua New Guinea; in the high mountains of the mainland and in many different islands. Today we MSC are present in the following dioceses: Kerema, Bereina, Alotau, Lae, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kavieng, Daru / Kiunga and Port Moresby.

As in other regions of the world, the chance to meet and to listen to our MSC confreres of PNG is the most valuable gift I can receive from the service leadership. There is youth, enthusiasm, joy, hospitality, among the attitudes that are a feature of these mission lands.

For those who arrived from the Western world, there is no alternative but to take off one's shoes to a culture and a lifestyle so different from what is the conventional for us. This land deserves our respect, while so different from our own cultural origins.

There are also many challenges: community and pastoral situations for improvement, of course. This makes them missionaries on a journey in search of new presences and commitments. These challenges and frailties give this Province MSC the possibility to continue struggling. We hope they continue the commitment to be authentic MSC.

I concluded by thanking each and every one of the MSC and the whole Chevalier Family, especially the MSC lay people who are always present and who value our charism, spirituality and mission. I pray that the Blood of Christ shed on Yule Island at the beginning of the mission continues to fertilize this beautiful and meaningful MSC mission territory.

Abzalón Alvarado, MSC

INDONESIA PROVINCE

Diversity, multiculturalism, and at the same time unity are words that resonate in my being as I think of these two months of accompaniment to the MSC Province of Indonesia.

There is a great MSC richness that I could feel while coming to know so many of our MSC confreres, who come from an immense cultural diversity. And I underline the richness because every day I had the opportunity to meet new MSC confreres, each with great values and engaged in so many different apostolic ministries.

To feel the greatness in the quality of the missionary dedication and commitment, but also the numerical greatness of the MSC Missionary force in the midst of the more than 18,000 islands that make up this immense country.

The province of Indonesia is made up of 345 MSC, distributed in five Districts together with the provincial and formation communities. The MSC Districts are as follows: Central Java/South Kalimantan; Mollucas; West Papua; Sulawesi/Kalimantan East.; Jakarta/Western Kalimantan-Sumatra.

Each District has so many strengths and riches especially in its members that it is impossible to summarize them here. Of course there are great challenges that each person and therefore each MSC District is called upon to face. There is so much life emerging from within each confrere, from within the different apostolic works and, above all, from within each Culture. I was also able to experience in a special way the source of life that emerges through the witness of the lay brothers and sisters. The Chevalier Family is very much alive and in some



MALLUCAS DISTRICT



MARAOKE COMMUNITY



MENDIPTANA COMMUNITY

places especially committed to the mission.

We are accustomed as MSC to conceive of this Province for its *Ad Gentes* missionary activity, which is certainly so valuable and admirable. But

now God has shown me the immense size of its *Ad Intra* mission within Indonesia. There are many needs to be met.

Community life has to remain a priority, as well as initial and ongoing formation. Leadership formation at all levels is also important, especially at the level of District Leadership Teams. Trying to do Generative Listening with the confreres, I felt the cry of the need for ongoing formation based on processes of integral human development.

Another wonderful element is the abundance of vocations, it gives much hope to feel and listen to the life that cries out in the hearts of so many young MSC in formation. They invite us to a truly prophetic commitment after the witness of our confreres killed at Langgur in 1942. The heritage of their martyrs is helping our brothers in Indonesia face, with prophetic and missionary Spirit, this moment of transformation that we are living today as society and as Church.

Worthy of mention is the accompaniment in the reconstruction of life in Palu, Central Sulawesi, as well as the different commitments to the defense of the environment and human rights especially in West Papua. One should also mention the commitment to the integral development of people, and the promotion of education, rehabilitation and Credit Unions, among others.

I confirmed that being a minority in Indonesia has been an opportunity rather than a weakness. Being a minority as Catholics, the members have developed an authentic spirit of family, fraternity and mutual support. The parishioners know each other and help each other.

Thank you to all the confreres of this wonderful MSC Province for their witness and support in carrying out this accompaniment.



SCHOLLASTICATE



JAKARTA DISTRICT



CENTRAL JAVA DISTRICT

I conclude this report by congratulating the Sulawesi District on the beginning of the Jubilee for the 100 years of MSC presence in Manado.

TARIMA KASI.

Abzalón Alvarado, MSC



VISIT TO THE FRENCH PROVINCE

Strasbourg



On Monday 26th I arrived in Strasbourg where 7 confreres are living in a nice house near the former scolasticate building that is now being used as a formation centre for the national security services. Their kitchen provides food to the community. All members of the community are retired, the average age of the members is 80 years. One can only be surprised by their ‘curriculum vitae’ and grateful for their great availability for the ministries of the province. Three of them worked in Senegal, Cameroon and S. Africa. One member served many years in the general administration. I got the opportunity to visit the study room of Fr. André Bohas who has agreed to undertake the painstaking job of writing the ‘positio’ for the beatification of Father Founder. He himself calls it a ‘monkswork’. Yes, a lot of asceticism is needed to clear the job! I wondered if there isn’t any younger confrere who could rescue him?

Orléans



On Thursday 29th I travelled to the city of Orléans where we used to have 2 communities, but recently the leadership decided to close one house in order to provide elsewhere better healthcare for some elderly confreres. So, in the near future only 4 confreres will remain in this city where the Congregation celebrated recently 50 years of presence. On Saturday the 2 communities met for a barbecue and on Sunday I was able to meet with the parish community where the MSC are helping out.

Thil

On Monday morning the provincial, Daniel Auguié, drove me to Thil (near Miribel-Lyon) where the province has a property. On the way we made a stop in Nevers where S. Bernadette joined a religious community. In Thil three retired confreres are living, the oldest is a Swiss man who worked many years in Switzerland, the 2 others were missionaries in Africa. When asked they help out in the local communities. This community is also in charge of the website of the province. On Tuesday afternoon Fr. Cuisinet gave me the opportunity to visit Ars, the village where S. John Vianney has lived and Châtillon where S. Vincent de Paul was parish priest for some time.

Issoudun

On Thursday morning the provincial drove me to Issoudun. On the way we made a stop in Taizé. Hundreds of young people gather here from all over the world and enjoy the hospitality of this ecumenical community initiated by Brother Roger in the sixties.

Our last stop was the cathedral of Bourges. When we arrive in Issoudun it was 6pm.



150 years ago this statue of OLSH was crowned.

In the park, the preparations for the national pilgrimage were well advanced. A whole group of Tamil people have come from Paris to help the local community and its personnel.

On Saturday the pilgrims arrived in the morning by train or car, as well on 4 coaches with people from other regions. The theme of the pilgrimage was **“Holiness, a way for every day”**. The liturgy started at 10.30am. It was an opportunity to meet the new archbishop of Bourges, Mgr Jérôme Beau, who was with us for the whole day.

More than 1000 people took part in a well organised pilgrimage. Once upon a time there would have been 12000 pilgrims! Anyhow it was very prayerful and also a delight for the heart because a group of Tamil pilgrims from Paris made lovely flower decorations and performed Indian liturgical dances!

From Monday till Wednesday we gathered with the provincial council.

Andre Claessens, MSC

VISIT TO THE SOUTH GERMAN/AUSTRIAN PROVINCE

Fr. Manfred Ossner met me at München airport on June 9th and drove me to the lovely mission of **Steinerskirche** where the provincial chapter began on the 11th. On Thursday 13th Fr. Andreas Steiner was unanimously re-elected for a 3rd mandate. Congratulations Fr. Andreas!

After the chapter I was welcomed in the community of **Birkeneck** (7 confreres) together with the other members of the *Financial Advisory Board* . From there Fr. Michael Huber took me to his community in **Rebdorf** where I was very impressed by the huge compound and property of the MSC mission and the beautiful renovation of the parish church. In recent years the big school has been sold to the diocese. Actually still 3 confreres are living here. Fr. Michael will be appointed as vicar general of the diocese next September.

On 20th he drove me to another big establishment, **Donawörth**, where the MSC also used to have an important secondary school. Only 3 elderly confreres are now left over.

The same day I arrived by train in **Salzburg – Liefering** community (5 MSC). On Saturday morning there was also a ‘Blitzbesuch’ on the program to the nearby community of **Freilassing**, just over the border with Germany. Here also 3 confreres are living.

After the Sunday liturgy in the parish church I returned to Rome. Last year Fr. Abzalon visited these places and reported more exhaustively in the Bulletin. He could also visit the pilgrimage centre of Maria Kirchentel. It is wonderful to think about what resulted from the expulsion of religious from France in the 19th Century, how this dark moment in European history enabled our spirituality to spread over Europe and worldwide.

Didn’t Fr. Chevalier tell us that for God obstacles also can become means or opportunities?



Andre Claessens, MSC

ONGOING FORMATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

A five week visit to the Philippines Province over June – July, began with the Ceremony of Investiture of six novices (4 Filipinos and 2 Vietnamese) into the international Novitiate. The well-prepared celebration was an occasion of great joy with the novices ready to invest themselves in the task of religious formation ahead of them. We thank God for the gift of their vocation and join them in prayer for their continued growth in the love of God.

The second leg of the journey was in Agusan and Surigao, in the south of the Philippines. I flew to Butuan City and stayed at the Centre for the Poor, a prophetic work of the Province under the care of Richie Gomez, MSC. From Butuan I saw MSC Del Monte eco-project and churches in San Luis district. Tans Legaspino was there who I first met many years ago in the Pacific Union.

We drove north to Surigao City. Here again we met with members at the district centre, before settling in at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for the Mentoring program with the MSC in their first five years of ministry and their mentors. Some of our time together was hosted by Gene Pejo MSC at the



OLSH Shrine, Surigao. Two days with the young msc and their mentors, followed by two 2 days with mentors only for training. The week concluded with a visit to Mainit Parish and a dip in the local thermal springs. Lito Redondo MSC was most hospitable. Back to Surigao overnight at Bilang Bilang Parish and next morning Mass at five out-stations with newly ordained Ron

Ron Lobo, MSC, before lunch and a flight to Lapu lapu, Cebu.

Lapu Lapu city is on the island of Mactan, Cebu, in the central region of the Visayas. Here I stayed with our community at Nuestra Senora de Reg La Parish, the national shrine to Our Lady of the Augustinian Rule. MSC confreres Bong Corpuz (who I knew from the Cor Novum program in Issoudun), Migs Dairo, Jun Diamante, and Alwin Malto, have a demanding ministry to this popular place of devotion and sacraments. From here to Cordova City and five days of ongoing formation with MSC in the Transition to Midlife Group 6 -15 years in ministry. The program explored spirituality of the heart as a formative process, obedience, power and authority, clericalism in the context of our prophetic call, safeguarding issues, and shifting our

thinking from control to listening. It was a rich time with a fine group of men. We were blessed to be able to use the facilities of the Gabi resort thanks to the kind offer of the local Mayor a friend of the superior Sammy Patriarca, MSC.

The weekend that followed saw visits to MSC parishes and meeting our men, including; Looking Ga, Ricky Bermudez and Bob Villanueva at Marigondon, Jimmy Duero at Pusok, and Rey Semeros at Babag where they celebrated a big parish Fiesta.

Then I flew to Manila and went south to the Augustinian Regulars house in Laguna for a third ongoing formation program this time for MSC in Midlife. This was a similar five day program as with the transition group but with a focus on midlife issues. There were 25 MSC in the group and their participation was excellent. It was all ably organised by Ramil Baluran, MSC, responsible for ongoing formation in the province. My thanks to him. After

the days in Laguna I returned to Chevalier Home in Quezon City for a rest day.

My final two weeks were in Tagaytay, located on a volcanic ridge, south of Manila. Here I worked with the Cor Vitae Team to facilitate two weeks of process work for religious formators - those responsible for training sisters, brothers and priests in our religious family. The two five-day modules were on *Integrity in Ministry* and then *Processes in Group Facilitation*. The international formators group of ten MSC Sisters, Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and MSC priests, was joined by two Superiors, Hoang Nguyen, MSC from Vietnam and Bogey Cabrera, MSC from Philippines, undertaking the modules for leadership training. The participants brought great energy and commitment to the modules, and together with their wonderful hospitality and sense of fun made for two very rewarding weeks.

Chris Chaplin, MSC

FINAL VOWS PROGRAM IN IRELAND

I left the Philippines on Friday and arrived in Rome Saturday. On Sunday I flew to Dublin and drove to



St. Anne's Retreat Centre at Portarlinton, County Offaly, to join six European Scholastics for their ongoing preparations for final vows, for a five day workshop. The program support team was led by Joe McGee, MSC (formator in Dublin), and included Sr. Josephine Enemo OLA and myself. The scholastics are, Giacomo Gelardi (Irish Province), Jaime Rosique (Spanish Province), Benjamin Houessou (French Province), Domenico Rosa and Piotr T. Zlobinski (Italian Province), and Daniel Filipek (South German-Austrian Province). The program included sessions on the vows led by local presenters. We wish all our European scholastics the best and hold them in our prayers.



Chris Chaplin, MSC



INITIAL FORMATION: EVERYWHERE!



SCHOLASTICS OF CURITIBA'S PROVINCE

I would like to share with you, my brothers, the wonder of being with our formandi in the Province of Curitiba in July and with the formandi in Vietnam in September.

After the Meeting of Formators and Superiors of CA-MSA in São Paulo, we went to Curitiba. At present, the Province of Curitiba has 2 formandi in Propaedeutics, 8 in the Pre-Novitiate, 1 in the Novitiate and 4 in the Post-Novitiate.

Talking with some of them, formally and informally, we discover the great dreams that

they bring in their hearts and the gifts that they bring with the personality of each one, ready to contribute to our mission.

One of the beauties that the Province of Curitiba brings in the area of formation is its internationality: in the house of formation in Florianopolis we have a Haitian professed MSA and the International Theologate in El Salvador has a professed MSA of Curitiba. Beautiful and demanding experiences of internationality and openness lived among us.

On the other side of the world, after a month in Rome preparing for our General Conference in August, I had the opportunity to be with our MSA group in Vietnam for a week. There are 5 Pre-Novices, 6 Novices (doing novitiate in the Philippines) and 14 Post-Novices who undertake their formative process in a non-Catholic country and still have enough challenges to officially establish the Congregation there.

In spite of all the difficulties, our Vietnamese missionaries have an enormous conviction that this country needs our charism. All those in formation say this very clearly, which fills us with hope and conviction that they are on the right path.



VIETNAMESE FORMANDS



In fact, I have to testify to the affectionate and joyful way that these brothers of ours have. And, of course, a great ability to ride motorcycles in the midst of chaotic traffic! There are millions of motorcycles in action in the city of Ho chi Minh 24 hours a day. There I had the opportunity to further develop my capacity for commitment and confidence, every time I hitchhiked with one of our confreres on his bike! In the words of Bob (Australian MSC who takes care of English classes and MSC accompaniment for the first 5 years), the bikes there are like fish in the aquarium, going from one side to the other, without hitting each other.

In addition to being with those in formation during this week, meetings with the MSC laity, MSC sisters and OLSH sisters were part of my very full schedule in Vietnam.

It is difficult to express in words our gratitude to all our brothers involved in our mission around the world, as well as the warm welcome they always show. There is a true witness that our charism is full of energy from one side of the planet to the other. Ametur!

Humberto Henriques, MSC

LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY IN PHILIPPINES

I had the opportunity to visit the Lay MSC of the MSC Philippine Province on the occasion for their CFLA 8th National Congress, held in Cebu City from May 16-19, 2019. The participants came from 5 districts: Manila, Agusan, Surigao, Nueva Ecija, and Cebu. The district of Cebu was the host of the meeting. It was really a well-prepared meeting. There were reports from every district and the national board, evaluation, sharing, workshop, inputs from some speakers about Lay Spirituality and Mission, Pastoral Care of the Youth, and the election of the new national board.



I had also the occasion to meet and to share with every district, before, during, and after the congress. I have the impression that the CFLA of Philippine Province is a well-organized group. They have their own statutes, regular meetings (district and national), formation program, apostolate/mission, and a good team of leadership. The sense of belonging to the group and the sense of unity among themselves is very strong. They are very committed to the life of the group and their apostolate. They have spiritual, and social-charity programs, especially for JPIC matters. There is also good participation, relationship and collaboration between the CFLA and the MSC, especially their spiritual coordinators (district and national).



Paulus Pitoy (Polce), MSC



LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CUBA



The MSC of the Dominican Republic have a big number of Lay MSC. Every year they have a national gathering of all the members, held on the first week of September in the Spirituality Center, “Monté de Oración”.

The Lay MSC in the Dominican Republic is also a well-organized group with their own good leadership team, helped and supported by the MSC. They have their own statutes, their own leaders at the national and zone level. They have also a process for the initial formation of their members, as well as ongoing formation programs. They have printed the on-line program of the Spirituality of the Heart in book-form and distributed it to the members as part of their formation. They carry out their apostolate in collaboration with the MSC mission. The thing that touched me very much is how, through the witnesses of their simple daily life, they live their spirituality of the Heart according to their concrete situation.

It was also a great experience being present among the lay MSC in the Dominican Republic spread out in various zones: San Domingo, La Romana, Jaragua, Santiago, Samaná, Sánchez, and Nagua. I also visited our lay MSC in Cuba, but I was unable to go to Haiti because of the bad political situation in the country

Paulus Pitoy (Polce), MSC

AD LIMINA VISIT IN AUGUST

On Friday, 2 August, 2019, five new MSC Provincials/Superiors, Fathers Yvon Banackissa (UAF), Richard Kennedy (USA), Ben Ko (Korea), Juan de Jesús Rodríguez (Dominican Republic) and Darwin Thatheus Francis (India), began to arrive in Rome for their Ad Limina visits.

That first weekend, Fr. Mike Miller was a tour guide for Fr. Richard and his traveling companion, Mr. Michael Larsen, showing them some of the usual sites in the ancient part of Rome, as well as enjoying the culinary Italian arts. On the first Friday evening they gathered with the local community for a social hour.

On Sunday, August 04, several members from the General House participated in a Eucharistic celebration at 10:30 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sanctuary in Piazza Navona, wherein Francesco Villari, who made his novitiate in the Dominican Republic, professed his first religious vows as a Missionary of the



Sacred Heart, and Domenico Rosa renewed his vows for another year according to the statutes of the Italian Province.

Afterwards, we all enjoyed a delicious lunch (pranzo) in the adjacent Provincial house. We are grateful to the MSC Italian Provincial, Fr. Giuseppe Galliano, for the invitation to participate in the new life of the Province.

Beginning on Monday morning, the Provincials met individually with the

whole General Council and then individually with each Councilor, sharing information on the situation of their Provinces and their relations with the whole Society. Each Provincial was then briefed on the various responsibilities and obligations of their office, meeting with the Archivist, Bursar, Postulator and Procurator, the Safeguarding Office, and the Secretary General. All five Superiors participated in the mandatory meetings, social hours, prayers and daily Masses with the local community. The Superior and General Council celebrated a Mass together and later enjoyed a meal in a local restaurant on Wednesday, August 7. It was a full week of sharing information, developing relationships and praying together in community.

Fr. Richard and Michael left Rome on Thursday as they had to return to celebrate the 50th anniversary of vows of Br. James (Jim) Miller, MSC. By the following Sunday all five Superiors had left for their respective Provinces/Regions, better informed and connected with the MSC international community.

Each one said that he enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about being Provincial and the direction that the Society is taking now to become more integrated in our common mission to make the Sacred Heart of Jesus be known and loved everywhere.



Mike Miller, MSC (General Secretary)



25th General Conference: “whole is greater than the sum of its parts”



The 2019 General Conference makes it big in Korea as the “Land of the Morning Calm.” It is also the 25th General Conference of the Congregation, exhorting every participant to make it also a Jubilee moment, says Mario Abzalón Alvarado Tovar, MSC, the Superior General. The General Conference is slated on September 23 to October 4, 2019 at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Busan, South Korea. Secondly, it is also significant for Korean confreres being their debut, a new entity in the congregation to have granted the province status. The preparation was enormous and it was marked with a superb Korean hospitality.

The administration team came in advance so as to prepare for the nitty-gritties of the affair. The participants from all over the world came in trickles on Saturday but Korea especially Busan, was expecting a storm. Not only the heavyweights of the Society were expected but also a storm. Flights were cancelled due to inclement weather. Many were stalled at the airport, luckily almost all came in on a Monday as the weather gets better.

The facilitating team (Chris Chaplin and Br. Joe Mckee, FMS, together with Abzalón, carefully tailored the design of the program with all its flexibility considering that other participants were affected badly by the weather. But it was with great laughter and sharing when each participant comes: a reunion of good friends, overwhelmed with stories and humors of the last meetings they had. It seemed that they have completely taken aside the travails of their journey to the “Land of Morning Calm,” more particularly, Busan, South Korea where smiles are extravagant and generous from the hosting province.

The site of this year’s Conference was in a retreat house owned by the MSC sisters, the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Busan. The cordial hospitality of the Korean confreres, the MSC sisters and the support of lay partners from both MSC Fathers and Sisters made it more convivial for the Conference participants. The first week was devoted into soul-searching as leaders where there was an invitation on shifting paradigms in leading. The second week was articulation of clear directions in leadership, structure, and zeal for mission.

On shifting paradigm in leadership and mission. Paradigm is of necessity which guides our way of acting and behaving. There are a lot there which can be assumed by leadership. The spirituality of the heart process approach is one underlying and emerging paradigm for leadership, for dynamic relationship and more importantly in mission. The spirituality comes into flesh as a process and an emerging paradigm during the conference. The participants were made to realize that at the center of everything of being and doing, there is our underlying HEART spirituality. It is emphatic listening in pragmatic terms. Compassion.



Congregationality. There was an emphasis of being linked with one another. It has never given that of significance other than this conference. That has been articulated already in previous congregational engagements, whether Chapter of Congregational. It is following the principle of systems thinking, that the “whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” It made every member of the congregation, provinces and regions responsible to the congregation. Acting locally, has bearing in the universal MSC world. We act locally as an entity and think “whole” as an MSC.

In view of Europe’s waning vocation, and confreres are advancing in age; hope flickers in the Conference that the spirituality of the Sacred Heart will always be timeless and classically bound for the future, for every need and for every situation. The world needs us. The old MSC provinces, may have been wary about the lessening numbers but it is not all about waiting for the last one to switch off the light. It is neither the long wait for the funeral. Rather, the reflection leads beyond the experience of difficulties but of the hope for spring. It may be autumn, this time for the congregation but soon comes the springtime where new life blossoms.

The reflection brings them to an inspiration to explore rich ways of expressing the Spirituality of the Heart, because, certainly, everyone searches for love, for meaning in life especially the young people who is in wanting with directions and guides. Synodality with them is a necessity as the Pope (Francis) puts it.

This is not the first time that the congregation experienced difficulties, the elderly participants quipped. The experience of difficulties was experienced by the Fr. Founder; the difficulties are just means to an end if God desires us to do something, and He would use our current situations to push for it. What would Jules Chevalier would say about the situation. Our charism says to us not to give up.

MSC provinces see the opportunity of pushing to create pockets of international communities which are currently done by European provinces. Initial and on-going formations are areas where international collaboration has been in the pipeline which the General Team is carefully and skillfully spearheading.

In closing, the General Conference has augured much of the missionary character of each member. Forward looking to living in a multi-cultural community and doing mission anywhere not to fill -in the missing gaps of the once established ministries that slowly wane along with the community but in the forecasted new way of living the spirituality of the heart in a new context. A new wine in a new wineskin.

The General Conference ended on October 4, 2019 with the exhortation of the Fr. General Abzalón, to co-create. We are all one family; we are responsible for each one. There could be differences but they can be surmounted with generative listening, an expression of the heart spirituality. What started well, it ended well. All things end well.



Jommy Burgos, MSC (Philippine Province)



CA-MSC: A LOOK AT JUSTICE AND PEACE IN INITIAL FORMATION!

The meeting of formators and superiors - CA MSC - took place from 14 to 20 July 2019 at the retreat house of St. Joseph in the city of Sorocaba. Thirty members from different countries of Latin America were present. Humberto Henriques, Councillor in charge of formation and Fr. Tim Brennan, responsible for the new General Secretariat that deals with the protection of minors and the integrity of the ministry. Sr. Caroline, Missionary of

the Sacred Heart, member of Cor America and Fr. Carl Tranter from Ireland. The fundamental theme of the meeting was: Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation with a focus on formation.

The first days were dedicated to the fundamental theme, which was developed by the Dominican friar Jonh João Xerri. As missionaries we perceived the importance and urgency of an ever more ecological and integrating practice. The advisor helped us to see clearly that the dimension of justice and peace is something inherent to our charism. After this wide-ranging debate, the "COR-AMÉRICA" team proposed to the assembly a work of reflection in groups in order to think about the practical dimension of the theme in our houses of formation. Then came the document that contains the main ideas to be integrated into the plans for initial and ongoing formation.

Father Humberto Henriques, General Councillor, addressed us on the fourth day. The fundamental theme of his speech was the recommendations of the chapter for formation. According to Fr. Humberto, the process of formation for the congregation is in the deepest sense an experience of feeling loved by God. It is not only a rational process, but above all an affective one. It is a progressive discovery of the love of God that is in the deepest part of the spiritual life. The general chapter reaffirmed that formation is about being MSC and not just priests. Fr. Humberto recovered some points of the document of Valladolid and invited everyone to strengthen the links with the General House especially in the area of communications. In the second moment of that day, the assembly welcomed the other member of the General House, Fr Tim Brennan. The theme dealt with was the protection of minors and the integrity of the ministry. Fr. Tim briefly recalled the theme of recent years of the Church, and the steps already being taken in the congregation. We ended this day with a beautiful get-together and the traditional Brazilian barbecue.

On the following day all the members of CA were invited to a walk to the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora Aparecida in the city of Aparecida do Norte. Everyone had the opportunity to get to know the "capital of the Catholic faith" of Brazil, a beautiful space of faith where the Brazilians meet at the feet of the Virgin Mary.

The last day of the meeting was marked by the meeting of the superiors. It was a time of sharing life and walking together. Finally, we can say that our meeting of CA - MSC 2019 was an enriching opportunity to strengthen the bonds and to realize how beautiful our MSC family is. May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart intercede for us today and forever. Amen.

Luiz Deyvis, MSC (Rio de Janeiro's Province)

100 YEARS DUTCH MSC PROVINCE:

*don't lose yourself in the past
do not resign yourself to what has been achieved
achievement is not yet a reason
to retreat into time*

They are the words of our beloved deceased MSC brother, Nico Tromp.

Don't lose yourself in the past... That's something we certainly did not want to do at the start of our celebration of '100 Years of the Dutch MSC Province'. We, sisters, brothers and covenants, are not going to lock ourselves in the past, afraid of having to face the present. What we did want to show was that we are very grateful people who can still build on what our fellow sisters and brothers have accomplished before us.

They and we have lived up to the words of Jesus: "Go out to all nations ... as far as the world reaches ... even to the far corners of our own country ...!" We sing it in our liturgy and we, the worldwide Chevalier family, have made it happen, with many others. We still continue to do this every day.

In the meantime new Provinces have come into being and over time other provinces had developed from them: we have become grandparents. Some of our sisters and brothers have stayed behind in their home countries to make the work of others possible.

Now that we have grown old and are slowly coming to the end of life, we can look back thankfully at what we have done well, as a journalist said to us: "You can stand for so much good that you have done. Show that!" Show everyone that it is still possible to get out of the mausoleum, as Nico Tromp writes, where there is nothing but death and stagnation. Don't commit yourself to a museum, because you've earned your living with work, bed and bread.

But there was also another reason to remember this anniversary.

And that reason was that, as old as we are, we are looking for supporters in you and those of you who keep the hope of a new future alive. A future in which the name of our God may again be mentioned with respect. Where people look after each other...worldwide...Where they also look after our earth, which is weighed down by so much violence. Where again there is a 'heart' for God, for each other and for this earth.



Theo te Wierik, MSC (Dutch Province)



BEATIFICATION OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD: JOSÉ GRAN CIRERA AND 9 COMPANIONS.



On June 11, 2019, the meeting of the Theological Congress of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints was held in the Vatican to discuss the alleged martyrdom of the Servants of God José Gran Cirera and IX companions. These were three professed priests of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and seven lay faithful killed in Guatemala between 1980 and 1991; the youngest, Juan Barrera Mèndez, was 13 years old while the oldest was 80.

At the end of their meeting, the nine Theological Consultors unanimously expressed a positive vote (9/9), thus confirming the certainty of the martyrdom reputation of these 10 Servants of God.

This report of the theologians (169 pages) will be examined, during the next year, by the Cardinals and Bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints gathered in the Ordinary Session. If their opinion is positive, the cause will be transmitted to the Holy Father who will give his final judgment.

Jean Jules (Procurator)

BISHOP ORDINATION OF OUR AFRICAN CONFRERE, TOUSSAINT ILLUKU



The new Bishop of Bokungu-Ikela, Bishop Toussaint Iluku, was ordained Bishop on Sunday, July 21, 2019 at the Shrine of Mary Queen of Africa, not far from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Africa in Bokungu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He succeeds Bishop Fridolin Ambongo, who was transferred in 2016 to the Archdiocese of Mbandaka-Bikoro and then to the Archdiocese of Kinshasa in 2018. And it was Bishop Ambongo who was the principal consecrator, the other two being Bishop Emery Kibal of Kole who has been Apostolic Administrator of Bokungu-Ikela since 2018, and Bishop Ettore Balestrero, Apostolic Nuncio in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There were also about ten other bishops, including the emeritus bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Mbandaka. In the assembly, the faithful came in large numbers from the diocese of Bokungu-Ikela and elsewhere, such as the President of the National Assembly, Jeanine Mabunda, from the capital Kinshasa, as the personal representative of the President of the Republic Félix Tshisekedi.

Bishop Toussaint Iluku Bolumbu, former superior of the Sacred Heart Missionaries for the French-speaking African region, chose as his episcopal motto verse 68 of chapter 6 of the Gospel according to Saint John: Verba vitae aeternae habes (You have the words of eternal life).

Jean-Baptiste Malenge, OMI