

MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere Loved!



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GENERAL BULLETIN

Dear confreres, formandi and all of the Chevalier Family,

This, our first General Bulletin of 2019, brings us Good News, reports of experiences and events that, step by step, are building the history of our MSC Religious Family at this time in our history, with its challenges and joys. It is all a process and, dedicated to the accompaniment of our brother confreres and our entities, we want to invite everyone to dream together the dream of God through the dream of our founder, Fr Julio Chevalier.

It is by dreaming this dream that we begin to prepare our General Conference, which will be celebrated next September in South Korea. We ask for openness of mind, heart and will to begin this process that will involve not only the Superiors, but all the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

The bulletin also includes news of our visits to the Entities, Meetings, Encounters, as well as news about the new Superior of the Union of India and the formation of an International Team for Ongoing Formation.

As a way to nourish our spirituality and our commitment to Justice and Peace, we will find in this issue of the Bulletin an account of a prophetic work carried out by the confreres of the Philippines in an attempt to raise awareness on the topic of Climate Change. We hope that this testimony will encourage us to think of ways to put into practice our social commitment within each Entity, each reality, each culture.

We take this opportunity to remember the importance of St. Joseph in our Congregation as we celebrate his feast this month.

The evangelist Luke summarizes the biography of Joseph by saying that he was "just" (Lk 23:50). Mary and Joseph had learned to trust in God and this trust allowed the two of them to say their "yes" - Joseph also had to say his "yes". The figure of Joseph reminds us of our missionary presence in the mission of the Heart. A careful father, a dedicated and poor worker, a migrant in search of a new homeland. In the celebration of this holy protector, let us remember that, as MSC religious, we are constantly invited to become caring parents for the people, dedicated and poor workers in the Church and migrants in search of a new Kingdom. Our Constitutions remind us that "We also honor St. Joseph, and place ourselves under his protection. Faithful and just, he was intimately united with Jesus and Mary in love. (Const. 19).

Happy feast of Saint Joseph to all. Let us celebrate our faithful protector united in intention and heart.

Humberto Henriques, MSC

*He distributes the treasures
of the Heart of Jesus
and wishes
to enrich us with them.*

Julio Chevalier, Meditations I, p. 723f



SPANISH PROVINCE

For two weeks (November 25 to December 8, 2018) I lived the experience of accompanying our MSC Province of Spain. Like all the other Provinces of Europe, Spain is living a moment of discernment, uncertainty and hope for the future that emerges within a complex reality, but at the same time full of life. There are many challenges to which our confreres must respond. I knew most of them beforehand. In fact I made my First Vows and Perpetual Vows as a member of this province. I can say that I found confreres filled with many experiences of mission, of education, and of parishes. The Brothers, who are mostly older in age, still have many desires to serve the People of God.

We have two schools (Sagrado Corazón in Pontevedra and San Miguel in Barcelona), several parishes in: Valladolid, Madrid, Valencia and the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Barcelona. Of course there is another presence of this province in three parishes in Paraguay. But if I focus on what I accompanied in the Iberian Peninsula, I can see that, even with difficulty, there continues to be a significant response and presence in Spain. The youth and the families are today, from the European reality, in the schools. Therefore, I see with much hope the efforts that the lay leadership teams and the

MSC in charge make to continue making present the Charism, the Spirituality and the MSC_Mission from this educational reality.

The magazine Mother and Teacher and the work with the Fraternity and the Laity of the Chevalier Family are still alive, and even in a moment of renewal and updating. Let us hope that this new moment is really a moment of resignification from the media.

The House of Valladolid, with the significant presence of the older confreres, is always a "joy" for being the depository of so many years of missionary dedication of its members. From and with their limitations they continue to do many ministries of attending to those who need it. Thank you brothers for your missionary witness.

The last day of my accompaniment to the Province (December 8) was the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Coronation of the Image of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in the Sanctuary of Barcelona. Congratulations on this event.

Thanks to each and every one of the members of this part of the Spanish Province for their welcome and closeness, as well as for the openness in personal and community dialogues.

Abzalón Alvarado, MSC



Beside, the image of OLSH in Barcelona, where we celebrate the 8th of December.

Above, a photo with the laity. They are teachers who continue to spread the charism at the Sacred Heart College in Pontevedra.

REGION OF PERU



First-Five Years Meeting



Timoteo, our newest bishop



With Dieter, Diomer and Ruben



With Miguel and Américo



With Dario, Joselito and Raul

Following the recommendations of our Chapter, as well as our desire to create something new with the entities of Latin America, we organized a meeting of sharing, spirituality and coexistence for the confreres who are in the period of the First Five Years of Ministry after their Perpetual Vows.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I was in the three communities of the Peruvian Region for a few days sharing life and mission with our Peruvian and German brothers from February 3 to 18.

In Peru we are present in Lima (7 confreres live there in the capital and 1 in the prelate of Caravelí), Trujillo (city in the North where 3 confreres plus 5 candidates in formation in the Pre-Novitiate) and Acari (in the South where 4 confreres live). Apart from those who are in Peru, we also have an MSC in first vows (Omer) studying theology in El Salvador and another 4 MSC as bishops in Peru. The last bishop-elect of this region was Timoteo, with whom I had the joy of having a cup of coffee at the Diocesan Seminary of Trujillo, where he has been living since his episcopal ordination, on January 5th, 2019.

In addition to these parish works (5 parishes in all), the MSC maintain 3 houses with vacation programs for poor children. This work began with the German MSC who realized that the children in the camp had no holidays. During the holidays, they stayed at home and, most of them, underwent heavy work in the fields to help their parents in farming. From this reality, the German MSC thought of creating a kind of "Summer Camp" for these children. And so was born the project that, after 40 years, now serves about 1,500 children per year in the period of January and February. These three houses are located near the three communities of the Peruvian Region: one in Lima, one in Lomas (near Acari) and one in Trujillo.

While in Acari, I also got to know the olive plantation that our Brother Raul takes care of to have financial help for formation. It is a large area with many olive trees. At this time of the year, they prepare themselves for the harvest and for the sale.

As in all our Congregation, the theme of Restructuring is alive in the Region of Peru, since the Province of North Germany (Mother Province of the Peruvians) is also going through a process of restructuring and needs to disconnect from the Region of Peru and let them continue the mission in these Andean lands. Despite all the implications and the time required for the processes, the confreres in Peru are free and willing to continue the mission of the Heart in whatever way is best for the Kingdom and for the Congregation.

We ask the Lord of the harvest to make the enthusiasm and the desire to continue announcing his Sacred Heart everywhere sprout in the same way that he makes the fruits of the Olive Tree Sprout. Thank you to the confreres of Peru for the happy moments of conviviality that I have been able to live with you.

Humberto Henriques, MSC

ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE PROVINCES OF SÃO PAULO AND CURITIBA IN BRAZIL

From January 2 to February 17, 2019, in the name of the General Team, I accompanied almost all the missions of the Province of Sao Paulo and all the missions of the Province of Curitiba. It is very difficult to summarize in a few lines the dedication and witness that many MSC continue to live along thousands and thousands of kilometers of this immense and welcoming country.

In both provinces I participated in their respective Provincial Assemblies.

In Sao Paulo I was able to accompany the moment of restructuring and discernment of missions that the Province is living. Our confreres are trying to respond to this challenge with hope, pain and daring. Since 1911 the presence has been mostly in Parishes and Shrines, but also a strong educational presence. Even today the Congregation has four important colleges, as well as houses of formation. There is a strong presence in the Southeast: South of Minas Gerais (4 parishes and 1 formation house), Interior and City of Sao Paulo (6 parishes and 2 formation houses), in the North the mission in Sao Gabriel de Cachoeira, Amazonas and in the Northeast there are presences in Maraghon (2 parishes and 1 formation house) and Fortaleza (2 parishes). There are many works and missions where the MSCs, young and old, continue to give their lives to the service of the Gospel. I had the opportunity to speak personally with almost all the members and also in moments of community sharing. It was also a great opportunity to participate in the opening of the novitiate and the first vows, as well as in an ordination to the priesthood.

The cordial, sincere and very close atmosphere, both in the rural communities, in the cities of the interior and in the peripheries of the big cities, helped a lot in the experience of this accompaniment.

The Assembly in Curitiba was at the same time elective. Dirceo Lopes, msc was re-elected for a second term. I had the opportunity to accompany the different missionary areas: Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Southeast of Paraná (2 parishes), Curitiba (3 parishes and 1 formation house) and Florianópolis (1 Parish and 1 House of Formation). The meeting with the Belgian confreres who have been in Brazil for many years was fascinating. I was able to "drink from this source of Charism and Mission msc". Each and every one of the members of this province of Curitiba allowed me to accompany them in their discernment and research, as well as in the ordinary life of the communities.

In both Provinces I was able to have meetings with the Laity of the Chevalier Family, as well as with their national coordination. Heartily thank each and every one of the members of the Provinces of Sao Paulo and Curitiba for this time in which they allowed me to "walk" with them and to discover the life that is emerging within these two entities full of life and hope.

Abzalón Alvarado, MSC



SÃO PAULO'S PROVINCE ASSEMBLY



CURITIBA'S PROVINCE ASSEMBLY

NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE INDIAN UNION

In mid-January Fr. Thatheus Darwin msc was appointed by Father General to the position of Superior of the Indian Union. We thank Father Darwin and his Team for taking up this Leadership. The appointment came at the end of a long process of accompaniment which involved visiting the members in their communities and places of ministry and consulting with those in overseas mission. The focus of the accompaniment was the question “what does God want for the future of the congregation in India”.

We thank Fr. Charles Babu and his Council who have led the Union over the past three years.

The Indian Union is one our younger entities with around ninety professed members and a steady stream of candidates in different stages of the formation process. The members are exceptional men with many gifts and many have professional training or achievements in higher studies. Darwin has been in leadership at Chevalier Academy, our school at Dindigul in Tamil Nadu. He has done a fine job with both the school infrastructure and the building up of the school community and academic strength.

Darwin is assisted in leadership by Fr. Joshua Gopini msc, who has been formator of the Philosophy students and Superior at Warangal, and who has taken on the role of full-time assistant, and is on the Council along with Fr. Julius Kumar msc of the Indian Union Communications Office Chevcom, Fr. Prasad Rao msc, formator and Superior of the aspirants at Mysore, and Fr. Irudaya Raj msc Director of the Missions Office.

The installation ceremony took place on Sunday March 3, after which they participated in two days of leadership formation. Please keep them and the Union in your prayer.



ONGOING FORMATION COMMISSION

The 2017 General Chapter recommendations on Ongoing Formation included the establishment of a committee that would work on realising ongoing formation across the congregation in multiple areas. The General Administration has approved an Ongoing Formation Commission that consists of four members working together with Chris Chaplin who has responsibility for this portfolio on the General Team, they are Sam Maranresy msc a Formator from the Indonesian Province and the Director of the Cor Vitae Team, Georges Diabone msc working in post-Novitiate formation and from the U.A.F., Luis Carlos Araujo Moraes msc Formator and formerly of the General Administration from São Paulo province, and Tony Nolan msc working in supervision and counselling from the Irish Province.

The five will convene in Rome for their first meeting of five days April 1-5. A draft manual of ongoing formation in the Society is already in process and forms the agenda for their meeting. It reviews the existing documents pertaining to ongoing formation, outlines the task and parameters of the Commission's work, and will contain the details of the ongoing formation programs which were outlined for development in the Chapter recommendations. This manual will be a valuable resource for implementing the programs within our entities. We hope a draft version in different translations will be available for the General Conference in Korea in September this year. Please keep the work of the Commission in your prayers.



Chris Chaplin, MSC

TILBURG

On January 4 – 6 th André was a guest in the international community in Tilburg. He had the opportunity to discover the house that has been bought since they left Rotterdam and how the Fathers Tarsis Siswanto, Doni Srisadono (both from Indonesia) and brother Harrie De Bruyn & Theo Te Wierik (provincial) are living together since May 15th. Fr. Dandan (Philippines) was on holidays. In March they expect a second Philippino confrere, Fr. Bench Balsamo, to join the community. Two other confreres from the main community in Tilburg, Ben Verberne and Hans Kwakman, are helping the community to find its way in a new society and another Church reality as well. A lot of attention is given to language study and inculturation so that everyone can feel at home after a necessary period of estrangement. By small steps the confreres are integrating and taking up responsibilities. Fr. Tarsis is already a member of the provincial leadership team.

André Claessens, MSC

NORTH GERMAN CHAPTER

From Tilburg André made the journey to Münster by train for the second part of the provincial chapter that started in Hilltrup on 2 – 5th September 2018. In the meantime the members of the province had the opportunity to share in their respective communities about how they look at the future of their province that has to face the reality of lack of personnel to accomplish all the tasks listed up in our Constitutes and Statutes. The North German province has still 3 confreres below 70 years of age. Two confreres from the Indian Union are also active in parish work. On Tuesday 8th took place the election of the provincial. Father Martin Kleer accepted a third term in office. We wish him a fruitful continuation of his ministry of leadership. In the new configuration of the province the region of Peru won't no longer belong to the province.

André Claessens, MSC

ARTICLE: CENTER FOR THE POOR

BY RICHIE GOMES, MSC (PHILIPPINES PROVINCE)

MSC - Center for the Poor

How long has the Center been open? How was the experience leading to its opening?

Hammer clobbering down nails, brushes sweeping across surfaces, shovel plunging into the soil and bits of laughter and conversations filled the Center every day as they prep for the brimming first half of 2019 with their jam-packed projects and activities.

The Center for the Poor has so many irons in the fire with its ongoing constructions and improvements on both its social programs and physical structures. The buildings and facilities are hastened to be used for the various activities of and in the Center to fully realize its purpose. Several

“We need to see with the eyes of faith the beauty of God's saving plan, the link between the natural environment and dignity of the human person.”

social programs are also making strides, focusing on human development and environmental awareness.



Unique in character and purpose, The Center for the Poor is the working arm of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart holding itself responsible as the force that acts in response to the ministries of the congregation. Its concentration is on making a mark in the community through environment stewardship, strengthened social action and media apostolate.

The Center formally opened its doors six months ago (last quarter of 2018) greeted by overwhelming response from the people.

“What drives us MSC to establish Center for the Poor [is] because of this

prevailing issue of our time. As again our Pope's admonition that man betrays God by destroying the environment. Simply put, to abuse the earth is to abuse ourselves; to protect and to love the earth is to protect and love ourselves. We need to see with the eyes of faith the beauty of God's saving plan, the link between the natural environment and dignity of the human person.” Fr. Richie Gomez, Center for the Poor in-charge said with pride when asked how the Center came to be.

Projects

In general, what do you aim to complete and start this year a center in terms of its physical constructions and planned activities/programs?

The Center

While in its infancy, the Center is working diligently to construct the physical structures, which shall become the supporting facilities of the Center.

Fr. Richie pointed out the essence of the structures inside the Center, to quote “[p]hysical structure of the Center is very important in a sense that we want to showcase to people alternative lifestyles. Evidence-based of living sustainably is possible just like simply following the Law of Nature. We need actual demonstrations [in] an open place for sharing traditional/sustainable knowledge as we called it “BEST GREEN PRACTICES.”

At present, they are creating an Earth Kitchen. This amenity is an open kitchen made from bricks with cook stoves fired up using biofuel from their yard waste. It is among the amenities that showcase how the community can maximize natural resources without depleting it. The Center will also soon have canopies and cottages for shades suited for outdoor activities on the landscaped grounds. Training hall & dormitories are likewise being completed to fully support living functionalities in the Center.

However, the most important endeavor that the Center focuses on is on the development of the community from the children or the youth and slowly spreading its web of coverage to the greater community. Fr. Richie explained that since they first opened its doors, they have implemented scholarship programs for disadvantaged youth, livelihood projects for the vendors and continuing education on environmental awareness.



Zero-Waste Lifestyle

What’s a more effective way to teach others than by example?

The underlying principles of the Center point out that formal continuing education and awareness can also be a medium to forward discipline supported by actual practice. That is, being a steward of the environment should both be in the mind, heart, and action. It is why it would not come as a surprise that the activities of the Center involve both theoretical and practical activities.

They began their environmental stewardship primarily through a Zero Waste lifestyle evidenced by seminars, workshops, and clean-up drives as a running start. They’ve had clean-up drives of esteros or canals and vacant lots and seminars and workshops like the Zero Organic Waste seminar on the other hand.

To further put into practice the Center’s environmental principles, they also put up solar energy and biofuel amenities powered using more of their yard waste. For water consumption, they utilize rainwater through the process of natural filtration methods.

Fr. Richie explained why when we plan on improving our lives, we begin with our surroundings. He said “[r]eturning to the soil what is beneficial and the soil can give us [back] fruits and vegetables which we need at our table [like] the process of BOKASHI, [which is a] food preservation or fermentation [process] for us to attain “Zero Food Waste”. This food management practice not only reduced their waste, but is a method to develop microbes and probiotics necessary to keep better health.

Success

Can you share some success stories since your operations?

The Center redefined success, where they highlight that is not quantifiable or can simply be boxed in either black or white, success or failure. It is premature to count its triumphs. In fact, Fr. Richie expressed that counting the success of the Center this early not something prolific--- it can run counter to their productivity and motivation. Their principle is very simple, but challenging at the same time:

“We just live day by day, gathering broken pieces of shattered lives and dreams, rebuilding broken pieces of abused surroundings, healing an ailing body, restoring tainted relationships. Working on this level most of the time is frustrating if you look at it on a Result or Output based perspective, rather we believe in a Process-Oriented Lifestyle. Good or bad, we don't judge. Success or failure, we don't count the cost. For ultimately our goal is always to give LIFE IN ITS FULLNESS.”



The future

What can we expect from the center in the coming years?

Fr. Richie envisions a place where their activities roll out naturally and spontaneously to allow their projects to develop in unprecedented results.

“Personally, I want to live out "ZERO EXPECTATIONS". Because the more we expect the more frustrations we received. As the person-in-charge the Center for the Poor I want always to

discover and unfold the best version of everything: rediscovering forgotten treasures in our cultures; reviving old songs and beauty of surroundings; restoring and repairing damaged identities.”

They want a place where there is a strong sense of sharing and healing, where they believe encourages and set off new knowledge, dreams, and aspirations.

In closing, Fr. Richie lipped, “The Center for the Poor hopefully [can be] a place where the Kingdom of God is present, as Jesus proclaimed in the Beatitude - "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit for theirs the Kingdom of Heaven”.

celebration of Mass with Priyo and Carol at the main Church in *Johokubashi*. Thanks to all!

TRANSLATIONS AND CORRECTIONS

ENGLISH – MIKE MILLER,
MSC (General Secretary)

MSC CENTER FOR THE POOR INC. - BUTUAN

1st St., Pareja Subdivision, Brgy. 27 Bayanihan
Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, 8600 Philippines
Tel # 3420891 msccenterforthe poor@gmail.com
cp# 09266405474 www.centerforthe poormsc.com