



MISSIONAIRES OF THE SACRED HEART GENERAL BULLETIN

Nº 1 | APRIL - 2021

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

A few days ago we celebrated together as Chevalier family St Joseph's Day. In the message we sent to everyone we recalled the special place that this holy man holds in the life of the Congregation and in the life of the Church. The main article of this issue of our General Bulletin, written by Fr. Fernando Clemente, MSC, asks us if we continue to care for the "friends of the Heart of Jesus" in our mission spread throughout the world. In the certainty of the intercession of the Spouse of Mary, our Patris Corde, we want to share with you some news from the General House or that come to us to be shared



with the whole Chevalier Family. Among this news, we highlight the preparation for our 26th General Conference, this time in an online format. We will have 3 sessions of the conference: 3 days in June, 3 days in August and 5 days in September and it will be attended by

all the Provincial and Union Superiors, the members of the General Council as well as a good part of the General Administration.

We take this opportunity to welcome with joy two new MSC who have joined our General Administration team: Hengki Ponamon and Richard Suresh. Hengki is the new Archivist of the Congregation and Richard the new Assistant to the General Secretariat and the General Administration. To them our gratitude for their availability.

Besides various news about our accompaniment in the MSC entities around the world, this Bulletin also contains the latest statistics of the number of confreres and the countries where we are at present.

After a little more than a year, the world has not been able to cope with this Coronavirus health crisis and many countries are still facing a third and strong wave of infections and deaths. Some confreres have been affected by this virus and unfortunately we have already lost some MSC to coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic. We hope that each one is protecting himself and, in the mission, protecting the people of God, especially the poorest and most affected by the crisis. May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph intercede for us and bring us even closer to the Heart of Jesus.

Sappy Reading!

| Humberto Henriques, MSC

MSC GENERAL CONFERENCE 2021

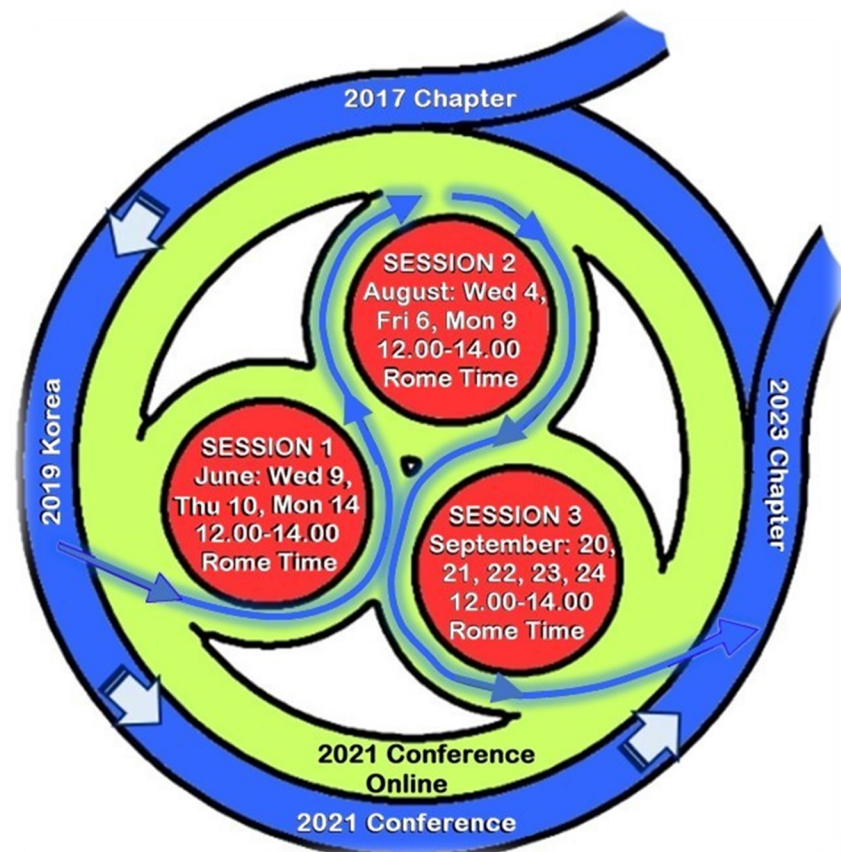
Well, I am going to realise a new thing, which is already appearing. Can't you see it? Yes, I will make a way in the wilderness, and I will set meadows in the desert. (Is 43:19)

We share with all of you that we have begun the journey of preparation for our next MSC General Conference. It will be the first conference in MSC history to be held online.

We are living in a crucial time for consecrated life in general, and we are not referring only to the pandemic situation, but to the present moment that our world is living and facing. Consecrated life faces a crossroads where it either transforms and focuses on living from its identity or it ceases to have meaning and significance - it dies. There is no other way than transformation and authenticity.

Certainly it is a challenging time of much suffering for humanity and for mother earth, but, unlikely as it may seem, it is also a time of opportunity and new ways to make the Heart of Jesus loved everywhere. And the realisation of the next General Conference is no exception in this new normality that we are all experiencing everywhere.

The road will be very different from the one we are used to, but we feel called to deconstruct and unlearn in order to discern, listen and build in synodality and communion what the Spirit and the Mission are asking of us today.



The General Conference seeks to strengthen the WHOLE of MSC Mission everywhere. Each MSC makes the WHOLE of mission present wherever it is, therefore, all MSC are part of the Conference. We thank you for your prayers and contributions so that the preparation and the realisation of this Conference can be an instrument at the service of the Mission.

The Conference will take place in three different moments, which are part of a dynamic and interactive WHOLE that seeks to achieve the objectives of every General Conference. (MSC Const. No. 225-228).

| Absalon Alvarado, MSC

ONGOING FORMATION COMMISSION



We have a saying in English, “necessity is the mother of invention”. Perhaps we all have found ourselves rising to the challenge of creativity in the last twelve months or so. I have asked myself, “How do you do ongoing formation if you can’t travel?” Answer, “find another way.”

Georges Diabone msc (UAF), Ireneo Lee msc (Korea), Luis Carlos Moraes msc (Saõ Paolo), Tony Nolan msc (Ireland), and I, are members of the General Administration Ongoing Formation Commission. Together we have reflected on how to do ongoing formation in these current times. We concluded that while there is a place for overseas study programs and regional teams like Cor America and Cor Vitae, most ongoing formation takes place at home. In the local context resources can be adapted to culture, language, and other aspects particular to the *sitz im leben*. We began writing a handbook of programs asked for by the 2017 General Chapter. Some of these, like the mentoring program for those in their first five years I was asked to implement in some entities. It became apparent that what worked in one place didn’t necessarily work elsewhere. Furthermore, one person with his own culture and language is unable to work across the whole Society. What to do?

One answer is to train local facilitators to use and adapt resources to local circumstances. This only works if the facilitators are competently trained in recognised programs. The Commission set this as a target, and over many hours of focussed work, they began developing an online platform to realise this vision. The MSC Ongoing Formation online platform is the result, with the tagline “*Building Integrity for Mission*”. It is still in construction,

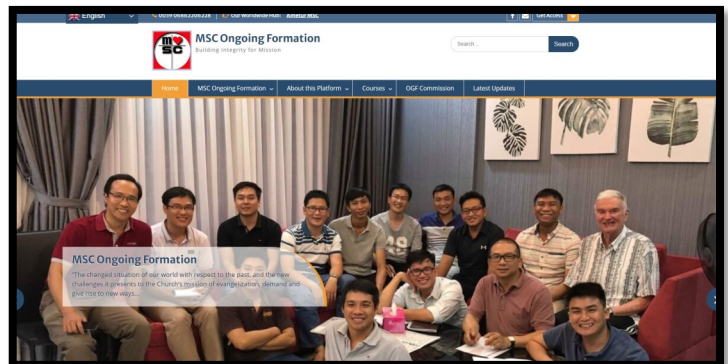
with a planned launch of July 30. It serves three groups of users:

FACILITATOR TRAINING qualifies suitable MSC as facilitators of ongoing formation. The first training will be ready in August. The course curriculum is only available to successful registrants.

COURSES for MSC PARTICIPANTS led by recognised facilitators. Still in development they become available online for facilitators to use with participants after September. Access is limited to registered participants. Courses include the COMMUNAL WISDOM process of communal discernment, preparation for INTERNATIONAL MISSION, LEADERSHIP training, MENTORING for members in their first five years, formation for FINANCE personnel, INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY and SAFEGUARDING, COMMUNITY LIFE formation for building mission in brotherhood, FORMATION FOR AGEING, HEALING PROGRAMS to help us grow our capacity for mission in a hurting world.

RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR ALL. Provided with open access it includes spiritual, professional, and personal development READING, information on STUDY COURSES for religious and clergy, and WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMS, and RETREATS offered by MSC and other providers.

We invite you to take a look at the platform at <https://ongoing-formation.msc-chevalier.org/> Sincere thanks to the members of the Commission for their amazing work – yes, they built the site and the courses themselves.



| Chris Chaplin, MSC

UAF CHAPTER



The chapter was held in Ngazobil with about 20 participants, on the edge of the small Senegalese coastline, which made it possible to find some coolness because of the temperatures rising to 38 degrees during the day. The confreres came from the 3 districts (Congo, Cameroon, Senegal) of the Union and from the South African section. There was a special guest, the former Superior of the UAF, our first African bishop Mgr Toussaint Iluku (Congo) ordained on 21/7/2019. The chapter was accompanied by a facilitator, Fr Christian Ehemba, Provincial Superior of the Piarists. Our Union already has 108 members and will soon be 40 years old. The present Superior is Fr. Yvon Banackissa, originally from Congo-Brazza. The professed members are 44 from Congo DRC, 33 from Cameroon, 14 from Senegal, 5 from Congo-Brazza and 7 from Burkina. There are still 3 European missionaries working in the Congo mission.

The first week was mainly devoted to listening to the reports written by the communities on their experiences and presented as responses to the Lineamenta sent out by the Superior of the Union. A highlight was on Saturday 6 March when we travelled to Gandigal, the place chosen for the construction of a school in a new district of the capital city which is rapidly expanding. First, the architect talked to us about the project and the different stages of its

realisation. Then we went to the 19,000 m² site, which has already been properly fenced off so that the goats and donkeys no longer have access to it. The morning ended with the laying of the foundation stone, blessed by Bishop Iluku. This means that each of our districts will have a school complex.

Afterwards, we visited the dispensary of the FNDSC community in Gandigal for a fraternal meal, and then we were invited by the community of the Daughters of Our Lady in Bandia who have set up their novitiate for Africa less than 10 km from Gandigal.

On Sunday we had the opportunity to visit some tourist places in the capital Dakar and to enjoy a delicious meal offered by a member of the N.D.S.C. Fraternity. This excursion ended with a visit to our pre-novitiate in Dakar.

During the second week the members of the chapter worked hard to take up in a frank dialogue the elements worthy of attention in the different reports. This allowed us to have a better understanding of the realities lived in the districts and to realise the richness of this international and intercultural experience, but also the great challenges to be faced in this geographical and cultural diversity. Also the reality of UAF members on mission outside the continent and of students sent for specialised studies



was taken into consideration. A whole list of recommendations was drafted to share with professed confreres and those in formation (50).

One of the great challenges we have in common with our Young Diocesan Churches in Africa is that of self-financing. The pandemic crisis has shaken the continent and revealed our extreme vulnerability. The vaccination of the population is still in its infancy. At the same time, we realised that the MSC provinces in the world are practising solidarity with the Union, but their financial situation is no longer good and they have a serious lack of vocations. It is we ourselves who must take our destiny into our own hands and move forward in great solidarity in order to be able to accomplish the traditional and new missions that are - and will be - entrusted to us. The chapter was very clear on this and the implementation of this solidarity must be intensified. Moreover, our Congo District will be able to celebrate in 2024 the centenary of the MSC presence on African soil. For them, the time of the pioneers is largely over. At the same time, it must be recognised that it is not easy to manage the heritage that the European colleagues have bequeathed to Congo and Senegal. Cameroon is at an advantage in this respect because the MSC only started there in the 1980s and the infrastructures are still relatively recent. Another great challenge is the formation to be given to young MSC and in our schools where we would like to transmit our spirituality and show that



the less fortunate in our societies are not left behind.

The chapter ended on 11 March with a meeting with some members of the N.D.S.C. Fraternity, a Eucharistic celebration and a fraternal meal prepared by the Daughters of the N.D. and the Daughters of the Heart of Mary who run the diocesan centre in Ngazobil.

As for myself, I took the road for the diocese of Kaolack to meet the confreres in their mission places in Kaolack, Ndiafatte and Gossas. The last week of the month was spent in the formation community in Dakar. What a rich experience. Thanks to all the confreres for their hospitality and collaboration.

| *André Claessens, MSC*



After the second UAF chapter in Ngazobil, André stayed in the country to visit the places where the MSC have been working since 1953: Kaolack, Ndiafatte, Nioro, Gossas. In recent years several missions have been given to the diocese of Kaolack. In the last week he was at the pre-novitiate in Dakar. Thank you all for the fraternal welcome during these weeks of living together.

ANDEAN REGION

Through the General Bulletin we have been recording the process that the Andean Region is following to revitalize the charism in that part of the world. For a long time our confreres belonging to the four countries of the Andean region (Peru, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador) have been meeting and discussing new ways and possibilities to restructure the entities there in view of the mission.

In February of last year (2020) we began a more accurate and objective process by offering a space for listening and dialogue between the confreres of these entities and the Generalate so that we could identify the future that is emerging.

During the year 2020 we have dedicated ourselves to preparing a Working Document so that each entity can reflect on different possibilities for the future. Along the way, the Region of

Peru needed to change its structure and at the Regional Conference in January 2021 they proposed to prepare themselves to become the Andean Union, as they are no longer part of the Province of North Germany. With this, the current Region of Peru began the journey to transform itself from a Region to a Union. During the discernment of the group, it was seen clearly that this could be the beginning of the Andean Union. This implies a great openness on the part of Peru to welcome also other possible groups into a new structure in the near future.

So, last March 5th we took another significant step in this process. The General and the facilitator of this process, Sr. Maria Eugenia, a religious of the Assumption, were able to listen to

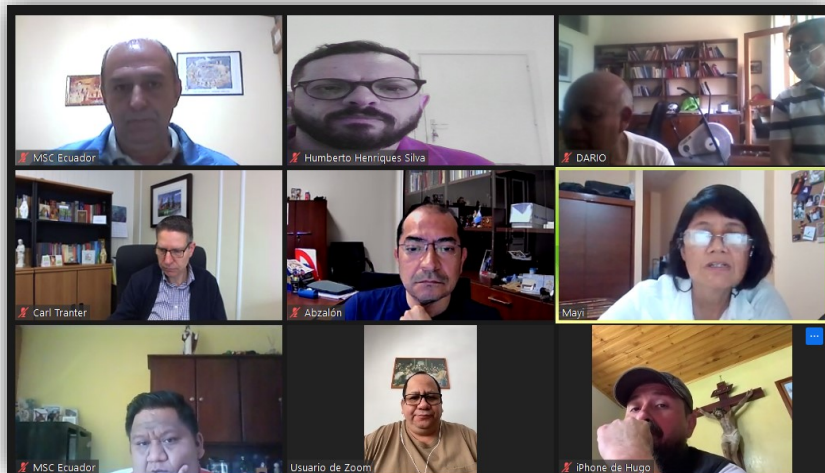
the feedback from each group in response to the Working Document. Each group shared its aspirations, dreams and fears. The situation of each of the groups is unique and intertwined with many other factors that need to be considered. Therefore, for the next steps in this beautiful restructuring process will involve the Region of Peru (which has already started to make its way to become an MSC Union and could become the first entity of the Andean Union), the Section of Ecuador (which is established as part of the Province of Curitiba but is open to a different future) and the Community of

Venezuela (which feels called to join the Andean Union in the near future). The Section of Colombia (part of the Province of the USA) has decided not to accompany this process of the formation of the Andean Union

because it still feels that it still has a great contribution to make to its mother province and to the missionary project it is developing in the USA, but that at another time it they may join the Union.

Our heartfelt thanks to all the confreres in these four entities for their effort and openness to the process started last year. Without counting the steps we have reached so far in this long journey, the most significant thing is to feel the involvement, the commitment and the joy of the shared mission. All the meetings have been marked by good humour and by the commitment to keep on making the Heart of Jesus loved! Onwards!

| Humberto Henriques, MSC



GENERAL ARCHIVES

In December 2020, Robertus Sumarwata, our General Archivist, returned to Indonesia after having worked for more than 6 years at the General House. We thank him for his many years of silent works in serving the Congregation. Since his departure, Paulus Pitoy has been the acting archivist, because the new Archivist has not yet arrived. But thank God, after quite a long wait, finally in February 2021 Hengki Ponamon, the new General Archivist, arrived at the General House. He came from Indonesia after carrying out his mission in Cuba for nearly seven years.

Working as an archivist is different from working in other pastoral works as Hengki had done before. Such work requires a special kind of preparation. Therefore, Hengki is now preparing himself for his new work by first learning Italian and then taking a course for archivists. During this time of preparation, in carrying out his duties in the Archives, he will be still assisted by the acting archivist.

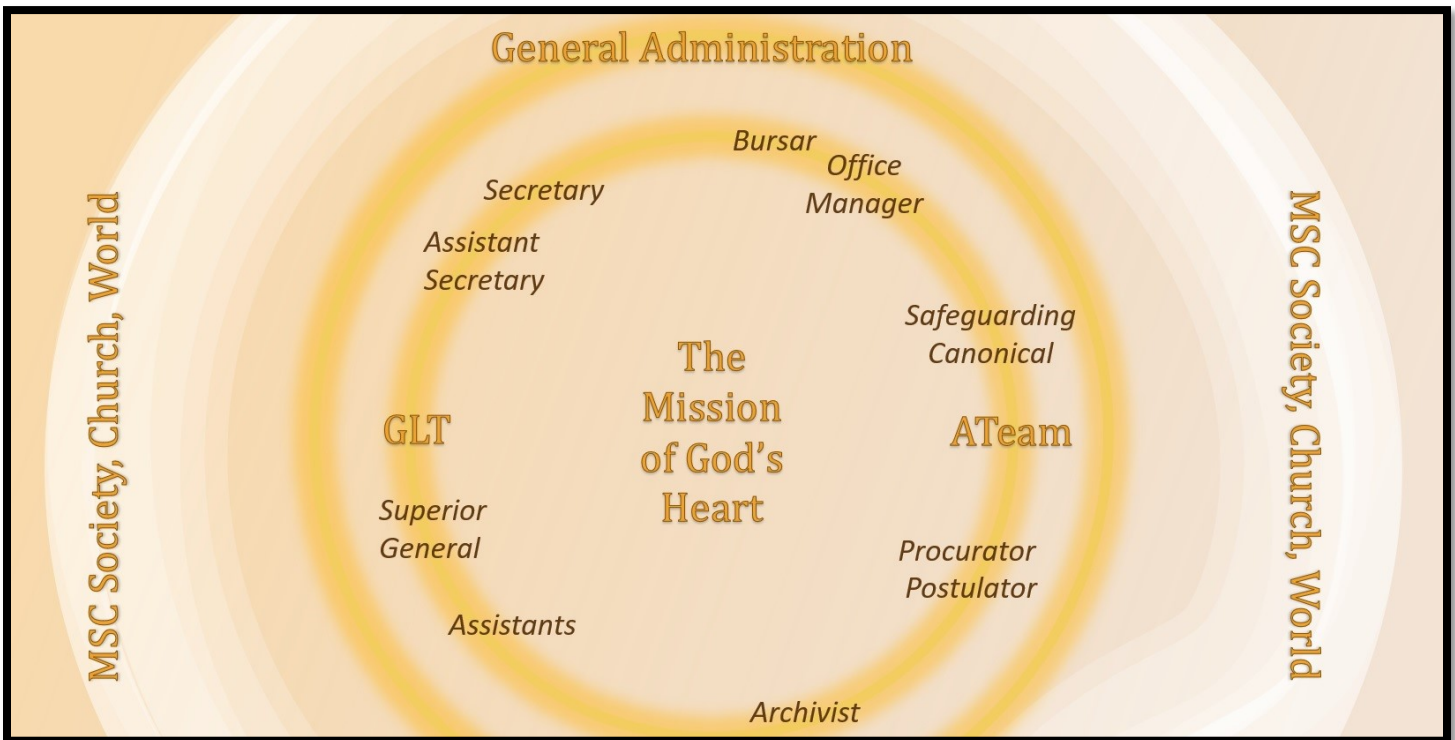
Just to remind you the leaders of Provinces and Unions not to forget to send to the General Archives what are prescribed in the numbers 221 and 222 of our Statutes. And whatever you need in connection with the Archives, please contact our General Archivist using this email address, archivist@msc-chevalier.org

| *Paulus Pitoy (Polce), MSC*



Hengki Ponamon, MSC (Province of Indonesia)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION MEETINGS



Thrust into international leadership three years ago, the General Leadership Team has had a very steep learning curve in its first three years. Apart from the massive task of five strangers coming together from the four corners of the earth to build a cohesive team, was the mystery of learning how administrations operate at the General level. Bumping up against the edges of congregational structures, we gradually discovered how the boundaries define an administration, and how open or closed they were to its influence.

Administrations are made up of people. Roles and responsibilities, functions and systems don't actually exist separately to the individuals who shape them. So, one of the significant undertakings of the Leadership Team has been to work together with the permanent members of the General Administration to co-create a group who can relate well and function in service of the Society's mission.

Our constitutions use the term "collaborators" for the members of the General Administration that include the Secretariat, Bursar, Postulator, Procurator, Archivist and since 2018 a permanent position for Safeguarding. In the last six months there have been some significant changes of collaborators. Benny Laisina has taken Hans Ngala's position as Bursar, Robertus Sumarwata finished as Archivist, and Hengki Ponamon will begin archive training programs this year, while Polce Pitoy acts in that role for the present time. Richard Suresh has joined the Secretariat as an Assistant to the Administration. As collaborators, all these people co-labour for the whole Society, but one might be mistaken in thinking that they are here to labour for the other group – the General Council. The vision of leadership that steers us is better imagined as a complete circle of equal parts having different functions. We have moved away from constitutional terminology such a collaborators and

and councils to a language which better describes the leadership paradigm out of which we aspire to work. We speak of the council as a leadership team and the collaborators as an administrative team, together forming the one General Administration.

Calling on the wisdom of the group we have developed some organisational strategies to strengthen both teams and the administration as a whole. We have begun to have quarterly meetings of individual offices with the leadership team. The initial purpose of these meetings is to develop a common understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each member of the Administration. These are also opportunities to hear specific issues and to affirm individuals in the gifts they bring to their ministries.

It has also been important to institute quarterly meetings of the whole administration so that everyone hears everyone, including those in an assistant role, one of whom is Ms. Sophia Amante, a laywoman whose exceptional contribution in our finance office and management of the domestic needs of the General House is gratefully acknowledged. Team leadership should encourage the voice of all the players no matter what their position. This builds ownership and trust. Equally

everyone has the responsibility of listening in such a way that all feel heard. Indeed, empathic, and generative listening is at the heart of this vision of leadership. Everyone in the team is called to accept the leadership of their own role so that we develop a team of leaders who can together follow the common wisdom, rather than a leader with a team of followers following his wisdom.

The sound of joy in a team says something about the quality of the relationships that exist between them. We have discussed how our Administration gatherings should not be business only, but also social opportunities, times of prayerful deep listening in communal wisdom, retreats in common, and supported group work with external facilitators who can help develop cohesiveness and effectiveness. All of this contributes to a happy working environment, which motivates our willingness to give ourselves fully in service of the wider community of members in our entities.

I conclude with a word of gratitude to all the Administration for their willingness to embrace these processes so readily. Thank you.

| *Chris Chaplin, MSC*



Saint Joseph and the "friends of Heart of Jesus"



spirituality that is the devotion to St. Joseph and the relevance of invoking him as patron of the "friends of the Heart of Jesus". With this in mind, let us now make a brief visit to our sources, that is, to study what our Founder has written about St Joseph.

St Joseph and the "Little Society" of the MSC

In the first place, it is important to note that the invocation "St Joseph, model and patron of the friends of the Heart of Jesus" goes back directly to Fr Chevalier. His book, "Le Sacré-Coeur de Jésus", testifies to this. There we see that in September 1855, on the occasion of the installation and blessing of our first chapel (which was an abandoned stable), a question arose in the heart of our founder: "under what title may we invoke Saint Joseph in this sacred place, all dedicated to the Heart of Jesus?" After much prayer and reflection, the idea came to mind of giving the father of Jesus the title of "Saint Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart".

In fact, Fr Chevalier followed his intuition and began to call St Joseph "friend of the Heart of Jesus". After a while, however, as he wished to use this title publicly, it was necessary to submit this invocation to the judgement of the Holy Office, as had been done with the title of "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart". However, the Holy See replied that to be "friend of the Heart of Jesus" did not appear to be a sufficiently glorious title for the Spouse of Mary. Thus an alteration was made, so that St. Joseph could be invoked as "Example and Patron of the Friends of the Heart of Jesus".

It is likely that you, being part of the Chevalier Family, have at some time in your life heard in our prayers the invocation "Saint Joseph, model and patron of the friends of the Heart of Jesus, pray for us!" This is something very ancient and quite widespread among us. However, when praying it, we may ask ourselves: Does it still make sense to use this invocation today?

Well, my intention here is not to make an academic study of the subject. I would like simply to share a reflection on this important aspect of our

Two years after the inauguration of that little "Church-stable" of which we have just spoken, there occurred another event which highlights the relationship of trust that our Founder had with St Joseph. It happened that one morning on their way to their stable- church they found part of the building had collapsed. And it was precisely the side where the altar of St Joseph stood. As they had no means of repairing the damage, Chevalier turned to the image of the Saint among the rubble and said to him: "The disaster happened on your side. So it is you who will have to repair it!" Before long, a benefactor came forward to repair the little church. This made our founder redouble the confidence he already had in the head of the Holy Family.

Further evidence could be cited, but I believe that this is enough to give us an idea of the esteem in which Chevalier held St Joseph. Being a founder, he wanted to communicate this same devotion to his religious family. Witness to this are the first "Rules" (1855 and 1857) in which he presents St Joseph as "depository and faithful guardian of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary", the "Formula Instituti" (1869) and the Constitutions of 1877, in which one can read: " the Congregation will place its houses now and in the future under the protection of this illustrious patron; therefore it will always acknowledge him as their Owner and Provider."

A "spirituality of the heart" in the style of Joseph?

After Vatican Council II, in the wake of the promulgation of the decree *Perfectae Caritatis*, the Consecrated Life experienced an intense movement back to the sources. Each Institute began the process of seeking to rediscover the reasons for its existence

and to carry out an "aggiornamento" of its way of being and acting in the Church. It was something similar to the process done by art restorers, who, on receiving a painting that has been repainted many times, go on scraping away layer by layer until they arrive at the original design.

It was no different with us. In the spirit of the Council, many confreres have seriously dedicated themselves to this work, and from this effort have come excellent reflections which have borne fruit in the current text of our Constitutions and in a great number of publications on our spirituality. Of all that has been elaborated, however, I would like to highlight the valuable idea of the "Spirituality of the Heart", so dear to E. Cuskelly, who was our Superior General during this process of conciliar renewal.

The "Spirituality of the Heart" is a way of giving new meaning to what was called for a long time the "Devotion to the Sacred Heart". To do this it was necessary to study the texts of our founder, to try to understand the "spirit" of what was being communicated by Chevalier, so that, with this renewed understanding, it could be "translated" into a more contemporary language that would make sense in today's world. In this way, as the writings of our founder became more and more appreciated in-depth, it was perceived that when he spoke of the "Heart of Jesus" he was not referring only to a series of devotional practices. There was something deeper in his understanding: he was referring to the contemplation of that compassionate Heart of Jesus described in the Gospels. The Heart of Jesus, therefore, for Chevalier, was not something vague and ethereal, but something very concrete and questioning. Our spirituality was about being attentive to the way Jesus 'used' his heart: to observe who

were the people he praised, to observe with whom he sat down to eat, and also to pay attention to the behaviours and people Jesus censured. As we engage in such contemplation of the Heart of Jesus, we should ask ourselves if we are using our hearts in the way he used his. If we are not, then we need to change something. This is the "spirituality of the heart": contemplating the heart of Christ and trying to make our heart like his.

Our spirituality, understood in this way, makes room for a practice that, besides being Christocentric, is also, so to speak, 'evangelocentric'. It is the Heart of Christ of the Gospels that we follow. And as we put his word into practice, life becomes fuller and more beautiful, and this then motivates us to be missionaries. Now, if living the Gospel brings joy, then we go "everywhere" spreading joy! We become a fire that lights other fires, and we go out setting the world on fire, because we are disciples of the One who came "to set the earth on fire" and who wants "everything to be opened" (cf. Lk 12:49).

The "spirituality of the heart" has helped us to rediscover the Heart of Jesus in the post-conciliar period. And, faithful to our founder, we have not left our "Foundress" aside. In the same vein there has also been a rich Mariological reflection on the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, which has resulted in many beautiful things.

But Saint Joseph, poor man... few remembered him.

Fortunately, Pope Francis has invited us to celebrate the *Year of Saint Joseph* from 8 December 2020 until 8 December 2021. And this might be a beautiful occasion for us to rediscover the place of Saint Joseph in the Spirituality of the Heart. Is this

not the opportune moment to repair this gap, in fidelity to what our Founder always held dear?

At first it may seem like hard work. But, looking in the right direction, perhaps we will find a way towards a "Josephine spirituality of the heart". You see, our founder wanted to honour St Joseph in his "relationship with the Heart of Jesus". If we don't have much to research about St Joseph explicitly in the Bible, we can try to look for him in what the Heart of Jesus reveals to us indirectly about him.

Since we believe in the Incarnation, that is, that Jesus became a human being like us, it is a logical conclusion to believe that he needed to be educated; after all, every human being is like that. He needed to be taught to walk, to speak, to work, etc. But in addition, as the process of educating a child goes beyond the transmission of technical skills, Jesus' education also included, so to speak, an affective education. The way we relate to others, how we deal with our affections, our self-esteem, much of this we learn from our family. Well, if it was and is like that with all of us, it could not have been any different with God made human. Thus, it was in the home of Nazareth that the Eternal Word learned to be an affectionate person and to use his Heart...

We do not have really reliable written accounts of what it was like living in that home of Nazareth, but we can deduce what Jesus' education was like by observing his behavior as an adult, through what the Gospels tell us.

And what is the person we find in these writings like? First of all, a man full of tenderness, who embraces children, who is capable of letting himself be touched on the feet by a woman, who accepts being sprinkled with perfume with his hand

on her head, who weeps the loss of a friend without any shame. Now, all this affection lived in such a balanced way is only possible for a well-balanced person. Seeing him as an adult, we can even imagine what his childhood must have been like in that home in Nazareth. How many times would Joseph have come home tired and greeted Mary with a kiss, before Jesus' attentive eyes? How many times would that same Joseph have laid down on the ground to play and laugh with the growing child? How many times would Jesus have slept on Joseph's lap? All these demonstrations of affection and human respect, possible in any family, took place in

*He distributed the treasures
of the Heart of Jesus
and wished
to enrich us with them*

Julio Chevalier, Meditations I, p. 723f



Nazareth always full. A poor person's house always has room for one more. At the table there is laughter, affection; there are neighbours, relatives, friends. I can almost see the child Jesus being passed from lap to lap. He attempts his first word "abba! Everyone laughs, Joseph is moved when he hears the child calling him this. This is the life of a normal family.

In fact, the theologian Leonardo Boff, in his book "St. Joseph, the Personification of the Father",

suggest that perhaps this is the greatest contribution of Joseph in the formation of the Heart of Jesus. Christ teaches us to call God "abba". This word, so common in the mouths of children even

Nazareth and marked Jesus forever? They were people. Normal people. Curious how, at times, we run the risk of imagining the home of Nazareth as if it were a chapel where Mary and Joseph lived in perpetual adoration of the Most Holy Child, burning incense and singing the "Tantum ergo". To imagine a Holy Family in this way would empty the mystery of the Incarnation, which had such an impact on Chevalier.

In his public life we see Jesus sitting down to eat with anyone, without any ceremony. Why not believe that this could have been typical of his family life while growing up? I imagine the house of

today, is a cry: daddy! It was the way Jesus addressed Joseph. If Jesus had not had a good experience with this word in his home, he would never have called God the "Father in heaven", who is merciful, who does not allow the lilies of the field to lack clothing or the sparrows lack food, who makes it rain on the just and the unjust. The expression of the word 'Abba' on Jesus' lips is therefore due to Joseph.

In this sense, I believe it is not wrong to say that the Gospel contains a deep but barely visible Josephine dimension. In the Gospel Joseph does not speak, but, in a certain sense, everything in the Gospel speaks of the influence of Joseph.

The "friends of the Heart of Jesus

I recently had a conversation on these subjects with an old friend of mine. And I told him that in our Congregation we call St. Joseph "the example and patron of the friends of the Heart of Jesus". His first reaction was amused: "My God, what a long name!", but then he kept thinking and added: "Patron of the friends of the Heart of Jesus? Who are the friends of the Heart of Jesus?". I kept silent. I found the question too profound. Then I began to reflect. I remembered the table of Nazareth, as I imagine it, I remembered the passages in the Gospel where Jesus is at table, I remembered the Pharisees who were angry because Jesus "welcomed sinners and ate with them" (Lk 15:1) and I meditated at length. I thought it important to link friendship and table-fellowship, because in general we only go out to eat with those who are our friends. So, if we want to know who Jesus' friends are, let us see with whom

he sits down to eat.

So I asked an artist of my acquaintance, Timóteo André (@_theo.art), to draw me a picture. I said to him, "in your opinion, if the Holy Family lived today, who would be Jesus' friends?" I thought it would be interesting to take the theme back to the time when Jesus lived with his family, because there must be the beginning of Jesus' custom of welcoming everyone to his table. The artist surprised me, then, with this drawing in which Jesus is Brazilian and black, and is sitting on the pavement in front of his house, surrounded by the poor, flanked by a "mãe-de-santo" (Afro-Brazilian religious leader), a Buddhist monk, surrounded by all those who are the victims of prejudice. Mary, the mother, stands watching them. Joseph, the father, sits down together with them, touching his son's shoulder. He likes his Son's friends. They are "friends of the heart" of Jesus (in Portuguese, when we want to say



that someone is much loved, we say that the person is a "friend of the heart"). I stoop to look at the figure of Joseph, who is very much at ease there. If they are friends of his Son, they are friends of his too. I can see him going to get something to eat from home to share with the group, laughing at their jokes, listening to their complaints?

That is when I think of our Little Society. That is when I think of Saint Joseph, patron saint of the "friends of the heart" of Jesus. I also think of that stable that was transformed into our first chapel, I think of the barn that became our first convent. I think of Chevalier and Maugenest sweeping the chapel, cooking their own food, working like Joseph, their hearts on fire...

We are now more than 150 years old, we have walked a lot in the world, we have done a lot. But the most fundamental question I believe we should always ask ourselves is: have we been in the right places and with the right people? Are we, with St Joseph, looking after the 'friends of the heart' of Jesus? Is our mission everywhere really committed to being close to all those that no one wants to have as friends today?

In our time there continue to be evils, as there were at the time of Joseph and of Chevalier. Countless friends of Jesus still suffer and even die, victims of racism, xenophobia, homophobia, machismo, hunger, shootings, disease? In a world of so many wounds, Joseph invites us, MSC, to sit at the table that he himself made to welcome Jesus and his friends and at that table to give to those who feel wounded the medicine of inclusion, of love, of attention, just as the Heart of Jesus has always done. Joseph invites us to be on the right side of history, on the side of God's preferred ones, of the poor, of the

excluded. Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, we announce this human, friendly and accessible Jesus. May it never occur to us to get lost on the way, to make wrong choices and end up sitting at Herod's banquet table, whose only dish, it is said, contained the head of a poor decapitated prophet. The God of those who sit at Herod's table is akin to Herod himself. Our table is different! It is the table of the carpenter, the table of laughter, of inclusion, of shared love. It is the table of the human and neighbourly God, the table of God-Love.

It is with all this in mind that I think: today more than ever, it is current to continue to ask: St Joseph, friend of the friends of Jesus, teach us to be, we too, their friends, "In aeternum" and "ubique terrarum". Amen.



| *Fernando Clemente, MSC*
Provincia of São Paulo

TO THE LORD THE WORLD AND ITS RICHES, THE EARTH AND ALL ITS DWELLERS (Ps 23)

This year started with many dreams, most of us called it the year 20/20 where everything was sure to succeed. Yes, utopia brings life but we had forgotten that the real builder is God, and it is up to Him alone to correct humanity and give it the grade it needs for He is the master of time and history. The health crisis that we are going through because of COVID-19 has pushed back the limits of our security, and has exposed our narcissistic egocentricity which makes us pretend to be living with others though in reality we live far from each other.

Nevertheless, within our still disunited and torn humanity, the Lord continues to work for peace and reconciliation. Indeed, he never ceases to send us pastors to continue to guide his people on the path of witness and fraternal charity. His generosity is so unfathomable that he has chosen three of our confreres Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of the U.A.F/ District of Senegal, for diaconal and priestly ordinations.

When we speak about ordination in our dear Senegal and everywhere else, it makes one think of a beautiful flowered garden. Indeed, the garden is the Church, and the flowers are those men whom God has chosen to guide his people as the letter to the Hebrews tells us: "Every high priest is taken from among men; he is appointed to intervene on behalf of men in

their relations with God; he must offer gifts and sacrifices for sins... One does not attribute this honour to himself, he is called by God, like Aaron" (Heb 5, 1.4). So when we talk about ordination, smiles are already on our lips, joy in our hearts and pride on our faces.

Like a gardener who leaves in the early morning to breathe the fresh air of his new, happy blossoms, like the pride of the parents, friends, acquaintances and supervisors of those chosen for ordination. These relatives, friends, acquaintances and farmers are all those who have dug up, turned over the earth, watered, and fertilized the plant so that it can come to flower. And all this under the benevolent gaze of the sun, without whom no photosynthesis can take place. The plant that gives fruit goes through its flowers.



Amougou G. A. ZANG (left), Augustin DIOP (center) y Pêgdwendé R. E. KYELEM (right)

And today, on this Saturday 12th December 2020, the flowers of our plant that is the congregation, in the garden that is the Church, are our brothers: Pêgdwendé Romain Evariste KYELEM, Amougou Georges Angel ZANG, who have been ordained deacons, and Augustin DIOP who has been ordained priest with 5 other diocesan deacons who have been ordained priests. All took place under the benevolent sun of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart which illuminates the whole Keür Mariama shrine of the diocese of Kaolack/ Senegal.

These flowers will have to die to bear fruit because it is thanks to them that the word "harvest" has a meaning. The budding, like the birth of the vocation in these valiant Missionaries of the Sacred Heart is a bearer of hope for the world, for if it is aborted the flower will not see the light of day, let

alone the fruit. The population will remain hungry, with no one to feed them, famine could set in. However, the fruits that our colleagues bear nourish the human soul not just the stomach.

May God give to these beautiful flowers of 2020 all that the heart needs to blossom : goodness, gentleness, humility; patience, kindness, self-control, fidelity, peace, joy ; may he give them love, the universal sentiment that can bring together all humans without distinction of any race, religion, ethnic group, nation. With such a seed in the heart, even arid lands can gain moisture, and spiritual famine can recede.

| Fr. Marie-Bernard L. NDOMBASI, MSC (UAF)



MORTUI

MSC deceased between December/2020 and March/2021

NAME	PROVINCE	DATE	WHERE HE DIED
RICHARD EUGENE HUBER	USA	16.12.2020	Bethlehem, PA
KEVIN FRANCIS GUTHRIE	AUSTRALIA	28.12.2020	Kensington
HILARY JOHN FISCHER	USA	04.01.2021	North Auroa, IL
EDMUND STRAUCH	NORTH GERMANY	20.02.2020	Münster, Hiltrup
JOHN FAHNESTOCK	USA	29.01.2021	Palm Springs, CA
ANDRÉ MAYOR	FRANCE	10.02.2021	Issoudun
RAY FLAPPER	AUSTRALIA	22.02.2021	Kensington
JAN HELDER	NETHERLANDS	26.02.2021	Fortaleza, Brasil
BRUNO JOYAL	DOMINICAN REP.	28.02.2021	Santiago, RD
JOSEPH ANTON HEGGLIN	FRANCE	08.03.2021	Slovakia—Nitra
HAROLD FRANCIS BAKKER	AUSTRALIA	14.03.2021	Douglas Park

PERUVIAN REGION: An MSC heritage: between fear and challenge

In January of this year (2021) the MSC in Peru met as in other years, but this time with a great expectation that strongly challenges the MSC horizon in Peru. The news that our Province, North Germany, is in the process of reorganisation

affects us in our belonging, self-image and missionary projection. We accept this reality with faith, fear and hope. The January days were the opportunity to face this challenge, not from half-truths or personal impressions, but from our Peruvian reality: as diverse and united brothers between Germans and Peruvians, between older and younger people. This is the heartbeat of the MSC in Peru.

This reality was a great opportunity that forced us to contemplate with admiration our hands and to tune our listening to our MSC heartbeat in tune with the heartbeat of Jesus. To continue the MSC mission in this "ensantada" land of Peru has always implied and implies connecting with our source: the why and what-for of the MSC in the Church and in the world? In our assembly, the presence of fear made itself felt through the protection of the heritage we have achieved and the reluctance to share it. We are missionary men, fruit of our history, who cherish the heritage we have created and seek to maintain the structures we have built and learned. But the presence of hope has helped us to access the softness and strength of the heart incarnated and directed towards the project of the kingdom of God. Thank God not all is said and done; but we feel challenged and called to enter as disciples of Jesus with fresh and open eyes into this Easter.



We turn to memory – the time between 1980 and 2019 - to raise awareness of the invitation to begin the process of nominal and relational change as a Region of Peru. A process that, due to circumstances at the time, was not

taken up or developed. One of the favourable characteristics of the MSC Peru Region is that it has organised itself and proceeded with inter-connected independence from the mother Province. Today we are being invited to forge a new identity and to assume responsibility for our own on-going creativity.

In Sacred Scripture, names do not correspond to socio-cultural trends or family tastes. The names imply a strong identity in tune with the will of God happening in history. The name "Andean Region" was discussed and sounded out at the South American level through different meetings, such as the CA-MSC. At the assembly other proposals for a name for the new entity emerged such as "Andean Union", "Latin Union" and "Union of Peru". Through open and guided dialogue it was necessary to articulate the desire, meaning and administrative implications of the different names. In the process of the development of the "Andean Region" project, finally, between fear and hope, with our new Superior, his team of councillors and as confreres, artisans of our own history, we entered into this open horizon, carrying with faith this heritage of life expressed in the name "Andean Union MSC".

| Fr. Joselito López, MSC (Region of Peru)

MEETING OF BRAZILIAN FORMATORS



On March 15, 2021, the National Meeting of the MSC Formation Board of Brazil was held in the online modality through the digital platform Google Meet. Getulio Saggin, and the Provincial Superiors of the three provinces, respectively, Edvaldo R. Mendonça, São Paulo Province, Ronnie A. Diniz, Rio de Janeiro Province, Dirceu R. Mendonça, Rio de Janeiro Province, , Dirceu D. Diniz, Rio de Janeiro Province, and Fr. Dirceu Lopes, Province of Curitiba.

In the morning each formator explained how he has worked with the formands and spoke about the difficulties and progress made during this time of pandemic. In the afternoon, Professor Dr. Marcello Neves guided a formative moment on the Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti, motivating a rich reflection on the evangelical need to build a culture of fraternity among all peoples.

The day was carried out in an atmosphere of prayer and exchange of experiences. This meeting, held twice a year, is an effective means of cultivating communion and consistency in MSC formation in Brazil.



"Fratelli tutti"

| Washington Pablo O. Moura, MSC
(Province of Rio de Janeiro)

RICHARD SURESH is our new Assistant to the Secretariat and the General Administration



On the 16th of November 1980, a small baby boy was born to Jothi Ratchagadoss and Antoniyammal in Tamil Nadu. He was the third of four children, with an elder brother and sister and a younger sister, all of whom are married. Forty days after he was born, he was baptised with the name of Richard Suresh and that is me.

I was enrolled in a Catholic school in Tamil Nadu where I first encountered the love of Christ through the nuns who taught me. I later joined the MSCs in 1998 and went on to make my first vows on June 2, 2001 and my perpetual profession was on May 26, 2007. I was ordained on September 17, 2010 in Puducherry, India.

Following my Ordination, for a year I assisted the Superior in the Scholasticate as Administrator. The next year I was given the responsibility of being the Assistant Parish Priest at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Bengaluru, India. For the next 6 years, I supported the Indian Union Superior in his administration as Union Bursar.

As I was finishing my term as Union Bursar, I was invited by the Generalate to be a part of the General Administration team as Assistant Secretary General. After much deliberation and prayer, I accepted the invitation as I felt that it was a call from God to experience His work more closely in the land where Catholicism had developed.

On 23rd January 2021, I landed in Rome and after a brief quarantine, an orientation given by Fr. General Abzalón and Fr. Chris Chaplin enabled me to relate better to living in the Generalate. I started work with Fr. Michael Miller in the Office of the Secretary.

Although it has been a few months since I arrived in Rome, the learning under Fr. Mike has been immense and yet there is still an ocean of knowledge that I have yet to attain. I am truly blessed to be a part of this community which has confreres from various parts of the world. My interaction with them has opened my eyes to the beauty of other cultures and enriched me. I hope by the grace of God and with the support from

| Richard Suresh, MSC (Indian Union)



We affectionately affirm these brothers of ours mentioned below. We hope that their commitment will be without reservation to make the Heart of Jesus loved everywhere.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>
January.2021	Jean De Dieu Loofi Epaso	UAF	DIACONATE
January.2021	EUGÊNIO Luedke Filho	CURITIBA	DIACONATE
January.2021	RONEY Lima	RIO DE JANEIRO	DIACONATE
January.2021	PATRICK da S. P. dos Santos	RIO DE JANEIRO	DIACONATE
January.2021	Washington PABLO de O. Moura	RIO DE JANEIRO	DIACONATE
January.2021	Julieto Jr. AMANEO	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTHOOD
January.2021	Chris John ABASTAS	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTHOOD
January.2021	Ronie BOTONA	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTHOOD
January.2021	Michael Angelo A. DACALOS	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTHOOD
January.2021	Ace YU	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTHOOD
January.2021	Janray G. CASTAÑARES	PHILIPPINES	DIACONATE
February.2021	Chiranjeevi POLISETTI	INDIA	DIACONATE
February.2021	Dayalan S.	INDIA	DIACONATE
February.2021	Pedro BOURSQUOT	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PRIESTHOOD
February.2021	Ernxon GASTON	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PRIESTHOOD
February.2021	Jesús de León MERCEDES	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	DIACONATE
March.2021	Nicholaus JAMREWAY	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2021	Marsiano TAMBOTO	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2021	Aloysius Sever LEFUBUN	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2021	Yoviarus TARUKAN	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2021	Advento MASINDA	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2021	Bernardus RAHARJO	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2021	Petrus Katan PIRAN	INDONESIA	PRIESTHOOD



Two Indonesian MSC were ordained as priests on 21 February 2021: Mathias Batfian, MSC and Yos Haris Ruban, MSC.

By the laying on of hands and the consecrating prayer of Bishop Manoel dos Santos, MSC, our brother Eugenio Luedke Filho, MSC, was ordained deacon on March 12, in the Community of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Florianópolis - SC - Brazil.



Two confreres, Bro. Chiranjeevi and Bro. Dayalan were ordained as Deacons on 22 March 2021 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Bangalore, India.

On 25 March 2021, four of our Filipino confreres were ordained priests at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Butuan City. They are: Julieto O. Amaneo, Jr, MSC, Chris John A. Awa, MSC, Michael Angelo A. Dacalos, MSC and Rev. Ace S. Yu, MSC.



MSC Statistics 2020

GENERAL FIGURES MSC



1588 Members
22 Bishops
1176 Priests
122 Brothers
268 Temporary and Perpetual Vows



present in
50 countries



20 Provinces
3 Unions
3 Regions



51 Formations Houses

MEMBERS PER PROVINCE/UNION/REGION

EUROPE

43 North German
40 South German/Austria
43 Belgium
31 Spain
44 France
85 Ireland
28 Italy
33 Netherlands

AMERICAS

17 Canada
35 Centroamerica and Mexico
30 Curitiba
45 USA
19 Region of Peru
58 Dominican Republic
34 Rio de Janeiro
55 São Paulo

ASIA-PACIFIC

140 Australia
78 Indian Union
338 Indonesia
103 Philippines
110 Papua New Guinea
11 Region of Japan
45 Pacific Union
32 South Korea

AFRICA

15 Región of South Africa
102 Union of French-speaking Africa (UAF)



PRESENCE IN 50 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Australia | 16. Fiji | 31. Nauru | 46. Switzerland |
| 2. Belgium | 17. France | 32. Netherlands | 47. United States of America |
| 3. Brazil | 18. Guatemala | 33. Nicaragua | 48. Venezuela |
| 4. Cameroon | 19. Haiti | 34. Austria | 49. Vietnam |
| 5. Canada | 20. Honduras | 35. Papua New Guinea | 50. Wallis and Futuna |
| 6. Colombia | 21. India | 36. Paraguay | |
| 7. Democratic Rep. of Congo | 22. Indonesia | 37. Peru | |
| 8. Congo Brazzaville | 23. Ireland | 38. Philippines | |
| 9. Croatia | 24. Italy | 39. Portugal | |
| 10. Cuba | 25. Japan | 40. Dominican Republic | |
| 11. Germany | 26. Kiribati | 41. Samoa | |
| 12. Ecuador | 27. South Korea | 42. Senegal | |
| 13. El Salvador | 28. Marshal Islands | 43. Slovakia | |
| 14. England | 29. Mexico | 44. South Africa | |
| 15. Spain | 30. Mozambique | 45. South Sudan | |





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MSC General Leadership Team



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Website under construction

BEATOS MÁRTIRES DEL QUICHÉ



On 23 April next, the beatification ceremony will be held for the three Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who, from Spain, went to that corner of Central America to fulfil their commitment to the MSC charism: 'We will be ready, trusting in God's grace, to give, if necessary, our lives for them' (MSC Const., 12).



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

General House: Via Asmara, 11 - 00199 - Roma - Italy



English Corrections

Tony Arthur, MSC (Australian Province)

