



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

GENERAL BULLETIN

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

With joy for being able to share our missionary life through our General Bulletin, this is the first issue of the year 2022, the year in which our Entities (Provinces and Unions) begin to prepare for the General Chapter 2023. In addition, several processes are underway in the areas of Initial and Ongoing Formation, MSC Laity, Communications, Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), as well as what was voted on at the last online General Conference that ended last September.

We know that the signs of our times are harsh, terrible and diabolical in the sense that they continue to divide peoples. As if the pandemic that seems to be showing signs of improvement were not enough, Russia's war against Ukraine brings us more fear and insecurity. It also brings with it a question about so many other veiled wars going on in the world such as in Mozambique, Palestine, etc. Besides, of course, the urban wars against those who are "different". All this leads us to think how we, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, can be bearers of the peace that flows from the Heart of the Son of God today, beginning with the community conflicts that also often challenge us? Lent, as a preparation for Jesus' victory over death, will

help us to stop, to access our interior desert and to ask the Lord for the grace of conversion.

A short while ago we finished a 15-day meeting in Issoudun, the spiritual patrimony of our Congregation and the place of our International Community. Besides the strong inspiration of our founder, who knew how to go through difficult times with wisdom and confidence, we saw the International Community of Issoudun as a sign of the future of our mission: to build unity in interculturality in order to be a great witness to society. In Issoudun, we have a community of 7 members and 6 different nationalities, able to overcome their differences seeking unity in the Heart of Jesus.

We wish each one that Easter may be the victory of interculturality over nationalism, the victory of the ecosystem over egosystems, the victory of communion over division, the victory of love over hatred, of peace over any kind of war.



| Humberto Henriques, MSC

ERECTION OF THE ANDEAN UNION



"The company seems risky, but we are guaranteed the divine blessing ...": this historic step from "Peruvian MSC Region" to "Andean Unión MSC" that we have taken on January 6, 2022 is in connection with the spirit of initial risk that motivated our founder, Father Jules Chevalier and many of our missionary brothers.

The celebration of the Eucharist, the reading of the Erection Decree and the signing of the act of the MSC Andean Union, by the MSC and guests, is the point of reference for an historical before and after in the birth of our missionary entity in this part of the world.

Our "Union" has been gestated over time listening to varied voices and feeling the heartbeat of many MSC confreres from Latin America to finally be born vulnerable and loving, tender and defiant but with the blessing of the merciful God for joy and surprise shared with many. We continue to be the same confreres and the reality in our mission communities is the same, but we have the company of Jesus, the good shepherd. The beating of our hearts is strengthened when we again meet as challenged brothers. We feel that our identity as the "MSC

Andean Union" will help us to make explicit the gifts received and to weave an MSC spirituality embodied at the service of the kingdom of God in the Church.

As the MSC Andean Union we thank our confreres in the North German Province for being part of our history and the Generalate of Rome for having made this birth possible. This project of Andean Union was born with Fr. Mesías Neyra MSC as superior of the Union and Fr. Abzalón Alvarado Tovar, the Superior General.

At the end of the Eucharist, at the foot of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, we received the lit candle to always illuminate this mission with the grace of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and surety of being favored with the intercession of Our Lady. In Peru and together with you, we joyfully profess: "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Loved everywhere, forever."

| *Joselito López, MSC (Andean Union)*

NOVIATE IN BRASIL

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere! Forever!

On the 30th day of January, in the year 2022, the community of the MSC Novitiate in Brazil had a moment of sharing and prayer with Father Humberto Henriques, MSC, presently General Councillor for Formation. Also present at this meeting were the novices: Diego Zambrano, Guilherme Bernal, Mateus Borodiak, Pedro Henrique, Valmir Silva, Yordy Blanco, Mateus, Tomás de Aquino, Raislan and Leider Carvaral.

The novitiate community was on the eve of the profession of first vows of Diego Zambrano, Guilherme Bernal, Mateus Borodiak, Pedro Henrique, Valmir Silva, Yordy Blanco, so the atmosphere was one of joy and anxiety.

In the first moment of the meeting, Father Humberto introduced himself and led the group in a community discernment, highlighting the importance of this process of discernment so that we can hear what the Holy Spirit wants to speak to the community. First a short text was read which affirmed the need for fraternal care among the members of the MSC community, a responsibility that concerns not only the provincials, but all those who make up the congregation. Then we had a silent meditation, followed by sharing. Each of the novices, after meditating on the words spoken and being ready to listen to the Holy Spirit, could share the fruit of his meditation. Finally, still in an atmosphere of prayer, we had a harvest, when it was possible to say how each one felt on hearing the sharing of his brother.

In the second moment, Father Humberto

proposed three questions to the community: what do I look like today? What do I expect from the Congregation? What do I have to offer to the Congregation? Humberto presented the aspects of formation through the "U" theory and the Spirituality of the Heart, explaining that during the formation process each one in formation lives his experience with God through encounter, intimacy, conversion and mission. He also emphasised that the period of the novitiate is a confirmation of the whole process lived in the previous stages. At the end, each novice could present his responses to the previous questions.

In the third and final moment, Fr. Humberto made himself available to answer any questions that the community had. This was an opportunity to get to know the congregation better at the international level, as there were questions about the formation processes in other provinces, the missions of the congregation in different countries and areas of activity, as well as the plans of the General House for the congregation in the coming years.



| *Guilherme Bernal, MSC (São Paulo Province)*



Yordy Blanco



Valmir Silva



Diego Zambrano



Guilherme Bernal



Mateus Borodiak



Pedro Henrique

Congratulations! To our New Ongoing Formation Facilitators!

| Chris Chaplin, MSC



Congratulations to the eight MSC who have completed the first online Training for Facilitators of Ongoing Formation – Julius Katjipa (Southern African Section of the Irish Province), Jaime Rosique Mardones (Deacon, Spanish Province), Darwin Thatheus (Indian Union), Bogey Cabrera (Philippines Province), Joshua Gopini (Indian Union), Bob Irwin (Australian Province), Roy O’Neill (Australian Province), Ireneo Lee (Korean Province).

Together with their Trainers, Georges Diabone, MSC (U.A.F.), Ireneo Lee, MSC (Korean Province), Tony Nolan, MSC (Irish Province), and Chris Chaplin, MSC (General Leadership Team), these men celebrated their achievement on Thursday February 10, in a moving online ceremony.

A wonderful surprise was the presence of Brian Gallagher, MSC from the Australian Province, author of *Communal Wisdom: a way of discernment for a pilgrim church* and founding Director of the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Melbourne, who unexpectedly joined us online. Brian helped us with some of the ceremony, a welcome inclusion

for a man who has trained many facilitators over the years.

The ceremony also acknowledged Edwin Borlasa (Philippines Province), Bonaventure Mboyo Longomo (U.A.F.), and Yonys Mendoza



(Venezuela Community of the Irish Province), who also participated in the course. The presence of Bonaventure and Yonys highlighted the need for the course to be translated more fully into French and Spanish. Humberto Henriques (General Team) and Georges Diabone supported these men as Trainers in their attempts to navigate the course in a language not their own. Our gratitude goes out to each of them, and we laud their efforts.

A central part of the ceremony was the testimonials of the participants, we share some here.

Roy O'Neill MSC

Although I was familiar with being a facilitator, much of what was there was an extremely helpful revision for me. It was a very orderly way to re-train in the necessary skills of facilitation. It also provided me with other aspects of facilitation that I had not considered and challenged me to reconsider how I might put them into practice in the future.



Bogey Cabrera MSC

Facilitation demands a continuing transformation of oneself such as deep listening skills, empathy, self-awareness, sensitivity to what is happening to the group, discernment skills, etc. I am thankful for this Ongoing Formation Facilitation because it has taught me that there is the MSC way of facilitating, the way of the heart in facilitating. I highly recommend this course for more MSC confreres to take in the future.



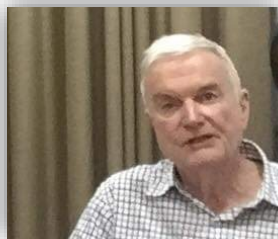
Darwin Thatheus MSC

I am happy to say that the MSC Ongoing Formation Facilitators' Training Course is so enlightening and enriching! The course is so valuable to me because as a new facilitator trainer I feel that it has changed my thought process and given me more effective skills that are required for the Facilitators.



Bob Irwin MSC

There are many aspects of the course that make it very helpful and enriching. The content is relevant, allows to move from what I knew to many new insights and techniques. It certainly provided many insights into using facilitation skills for multiple situations. I would recommend it to any of my brothers. Lack of experience in facilitating or even IT skills, or age are not a problem. My trainer made it so much easier.



Joshua Gopini MSC

I found the Course interesting, challenging and rewarding. I really appreciate the richness of the "Spirituality of the Heart", when I go deeper, I am met with new inspirations and new enthusiasm. Some of the values of our founder and human psychology explanations are really challenging. It stretched my capacity for listening, with genuine desire to understand the other. I see myself a little differently and clearly now than before.



Jaime Rosique MSC

I really liked the innovative approach to teaching. I was expecting reading materials and then some questions or exercises for reflection and the first activity I came across is, what you think a facilitator does and find a suitable image, before receiving any input whatsoever. That inductive way of teaching and the companionship of fellow students and trainers made the course very enriching and inspiring.



Julius Katjipa MSC

What a blessing it was: an enrichment that stimulated the curiosity within me. Opening a new reality of being present, reflecting, discerning and acting with a willingness of learning, understanding, changing and achievement. Therefore, my hope is to avail myself, activating the skills, so that our entire entity benefits from the facilitation assistance, by seeing, observation and interaction. Living with a deep conviction and authenticity.



ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY IN THE CURITIBA'S PROVINCE



The Province of Curitiba gathered all its members, including the Ecuadorians, for the Elective Assembly that took place from February 7 to 12, 2022.

We began the Assembly with a process directed at enabling the members of the Province to identify the future they wish to co-construct. Through various proposed activities the meeting flowed in the direction of naming the weaknesses and the possibilities of the group.

Currently the Curitiba Province is responsible for the mission in the southern and central-western areas of Brazil, as well as the section of Ecuador. For the first time, the Ecuadorian members, Marcelo Campoverde and Gabriel Peña, were present at the Provincial Assembly.

Besides the meeting during the day, every evening there was a Eucharistic celebration together with the lay people of the parish community of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and recreation after Mass.

After the whole process, on Thursday, the confreres elected Fr. Moacir Goulart de Figueiredo as provincial superior, to lead this project for the future of the province. The consultation for the appointment of the councillors was also done and, next day, on Friday, the provincial presented the Team during the closing celebration of the Assembly: Fr. Joao Roberto Garbosa, Fr. Aloir Luiz Salla, Fr. Franciskus Wahyudi and Fr. Eugenio Luedke Filho.

The presence of Fr. Edvaldo Mendonça (Province of São Paulo) and Fr. Ronnie Diniz (Province of Rio de Janeiro Pro) during the election, showed unity among Brazilian entities.

We are immensely grateful to Fr. Dirceu Lopes, who has led the Province for the last 6 years, and to Fr. Moacir for accepting a mission as the new provincial leadership.

| Humberto Henriques, MSC



Moacir's departure from the section of Ecuador, where he was the superior, made necessary the election of a new coordinator for Ecuador. Therefore, on 15 March the new leadership team for the Ecuador section was announced: Rikardo Senduk as superior, Deacon Gabriel Peña as vice superior, Fr. José María (Zequinha) as secretary and Fr. Marcelo Campoverde as bursar.

We wish a fruitful time to the confreres of Ecuador, especially in the continuation of the Andean process.



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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>
January.2022	RAFAEL PAVÃO SOUZA	SÃO PAULO	DIACONATE
January.2022	WEDERSON F. CAVALCANTI	SÃO PAULO	DIACONATE
January.2022	EMANUEL E. DA SILVA	SÃO PAULO	DIACONATE
January.2022	RAUL PEREZ	USA	PERPETUAL VOWS
January.2022	RICARDO PERDOMO	USA	PERPETUAL VOWS
January.2022	ANTHONY VICTOR	PAPUA N. GUINEA	PERPETUAL VOWS
January.2022	CHRIS ANTON	PAPUA N. GUINEA	PERPETUAL VOWS
January.2022	BENEDICT SAUA	PAPUA N. GUINEA	PRIESTHOOD
January.2022	JOHN PENI	PAPUA N. GUINEA	PRIESTHOOD
January.2022	MICHAEL MILU	PAPUA N. GUINEA	PRIESTHOOD
March.2022	WANDERLEY P. DOS SANTOS	SÃO PAULO	PRIESTHOOD

MORTUI

MSC who died between December.2021 and March.2022

NAME	PROVINCE	DATE	WHERE HE DIED
ETIENNE FETZ	FRANCE	30.12.2021	MARSEILLE
RICCIUTI ALDUS	ITALY	13.01.2022	ROMA
HENRY (HENRICUS, SIMON, MARIA) DE HEIJ	NETHERLANDS / PHILIPPINES	24.01.2022'	TILBURG
JOSEPH SANTOSO HARDJOSOEMANTO	INDONESIA	03,02.2022	YOGYAKARTA
ADRIAN (AD) NORBERT GERARD FRANCIS MARIA VAN HEST	NETHERLANDS / PHILIPPINES	05.02.2022	MANILA
SJENG (JAN GUILLAUME MARIA) CUIJPERS	NETHERLANDS	16.02.2022	TILBURG
GABRIEL GERMAIN DELACOMBAZ	FRANCE	19.02.2022	MARSEILLE
ALFONS KERSCHER	SOUTH GERMAN	26.02.2022	HOHENWARTH
LUIGI RISSO	ITALY	09.03.2022	BRASIL
CHARLES PATRICIO	PHILIPPINES	21.03.2022	QUEZON CITY

ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ISSOUDUN

For two weeks, from February 21st to March 5th, 2022, there was something special in the international community of MSC in Issoudun. This privilege was manifested in the presence of the Fr. superior general, Fr. Absalón Alvarado Tovar MSC and all members of the MSC General Council (Fr. Andre Claessens, MSC, Fr. Chris Chaplin, MSC, Fr. Paul Pitoy, MSC, and Fr. Humberto Henriques, MSC.). *“This is certainly an historical event in the history of the congregation of MSC, because it is probably the first time that the Fr. Superior General and his council came to Issoudun together,”* said one member of the MSC international community in Issoudun.

The confreres on mission in Issoudun at this time are Fr. Gerard Blattmann, MSC (Switzerland), Fr. Emerson (Dominican Rep.), Fr. Gabriel Naikoua (Cameroon), Fr. Raymond Lievre (France), Fr. Sebastian et Fr. Martin (India), Fr. Yongki Wawo (Indonesia). They all expressed deep joy at the willingness of the Fr. superior general and his Council to come and see more closely the reality of the pastoral mission in Issoudun. As the birthplace of the congregation, the mission in Issoudun has been the responsibility of all members of the congregation, since 2017. *“The presence of the MSC General Council in Issoudun really gives us a “new breath” and “joy to all of us members of the community,”* said P. Sebastian.

The two-week joint activities were well planned. The first week (21 to 26 February) was the time for the meeting between the members of the international community of MSC in



Issoudun and the members of the MSC General Council. This of course really illustrates very well the synodal spirit in the shared mission. The second week was the time for the internal meeting of the MSC General Council.

During the first week, there was time to share our respective vocations and missions. There was also a time when each member of the Issoudun community spoke with the MSC General Council, etc. *“We don’t come to Issoudun to give answers, but mainly to listen to your sharing,”* said P. Absalon at the opening of the joint meeting with the MSC Issoudun community. The MSCs working in Issoudun expressed with full openness the reality of the mission they are experiencing.



Some of the guidelines provided by the MSC General Council helped the members of MSC in Issoudun to see the reality of the mission in Berry more deeply. After a lively sharing and in a brotherly atmosphere, we were invited to write about *the practical steps, concrete resources, actual obstacles, and current realities, respectively*. In addition, each member of the MSC Issoudun community made suggestions for a better future mission at the birthplace of our congregation.

It was interesting that language was not a barrier to the sharing. At the beginning all tried to express ideas and feelings in English. By staying for two weeks in Issoudun, the MSC General Council, who previously spoke English, got used to speaking French, the language of the founders of MSC. Truly extraordinary.

At the end of the first week's meeting, Fr. Absalon revealed that the “vrai patrimoine” in Issoudun are the MSC members who work in Issoudun. These are certainly words of motivation for MSCs working in Issoudun to bring to life the birthplace of the MSC Congregation by maximizing “self-giving”

according to the talents given to each of them.

On the evening of March 4, 2022, a farewell “conveniat night” was held. At that time, each of the confreres presented the unique dance from their respective country. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to spend two weeks living together in spirit as “brothers” in Issoudun. This certainly describes the words in the psalm often cited by Fr. Jules Chevalier “« *Ah qu'il est bon qu'il est doux de vivre ensemble en frères !* » (Psaume 132).

Last but not the least, *the visit has been accompanied by the Holy Spirit manifested by closeness, fraternity and attentive listening. It was a time to reread and share the quests, desires, hopes for our life and mission. This visit impels us to renew our gaze, to be the presence of God, to continue weaving our life and mission in the light of the Gospel, giving life to the calls of the Congregation and the community of Issoudun in the reality in which we are inserted.*

| Yongki Wawo , MSC
(International Community of Issoudun)



The steps outlined below are not sequential, but rather they identify aspects of the journey beginning with an inspiration and requires continual assessment and discernment as the journey with Jesus unfolds, as it did for him. At each step or encounter with Jesus, the “missionary disciple” can share with him as revealed in the gospels. Hence, the references provided may provide room for our own imagination in our relationship with Jesus.

Step One: Discovering the presence of Jesus - the call

- The attraction: John the Baptist said to two of his disciples “Look there is the lamb of God” (Jn 1:35)
- The response: and they followed him (Jn 1:37)
- A Query: “What are you looking for?” (Jn 1:38)

- The hesitancy: “where do are you staying?” (Jn 1:38)
- The invitation – “come and see!” (Jn 1:39)
- The initial response – “stayed with him that day” (Jn 1:40)
- The announcement of Andrew: “We have found the Messiah”! (Jn 1:41)
- Andrew brought Simon to Jesus: “you are to be called Cephas!” (Peter) (Jn 1:42)
- The challenge for the each of the apostles to follow Jesus as referred to in the gospels: they followed him into the country sided to listen to his words about God, not just so that they should believe, but specially so that they (and we) should possess eternal life in which we may see, and love, and have all our desires fulfilled. (Jn:1/50)



THE STEPS IN THE FORMATION OF A “MISSIONARY DISCIPLE”
Por Paul Cashen MSC

The call to be a missionary disciple in the mind of Pope Francis begins with our baptism. As most of us were baptised as children, we have the task of catching up on what this call means as an adult. This could lead to a course in theology or an experience of catechesis or taking up a ministry in the church. If we reflect on the disciples of Jesus and how they were called to ministry, it centres on their attraction to the person of Jesus. If we follow their journey in the gospels there are lessons that we can learn and can adapt to the circumstances of our lives. It will take us on a very personal journey that is hard to imagine until we allow ourselves to be open to journeying with him.

Step Two: Listening and learning about Jesus – the reality of the call

“Christ is the lamp that illuminates the whole of Scripture: the gateway and foundation of the revelation of God’s presence.” Augustine

Jesus reveals his call to us through his actions (Jn: 2/1f), in his engagement with individuals (Jn:3/1), to communities (Jn: 4/1f), and to the disciples (Jn: 5/16f) For our reflection is what was their response?

- Jesus opened his followers to a deeper understanding the Father’s love: *the parables help us to appreciate a new way of living: they focus on how to love each other. (Lk: chs. 12-16)*
- Jesus sent them to ‘spread the good news’: it was not enough just to listen to Jesus and be guided and assisted their own lives, but they had the task of *discipleship: to reach out to those who were searching for God, and to bring the good news of Jesus to all they met on their journeys. (Lk: 10/1-20)*
- Jesus highlighted moments of revelation which focused on those in need: *curing the sick, raising the dead, identifying the marginalised, reaching out to goodness of others. (Lk: 8/22f)*
- Jesus chose individuals to continue to bring the good news: *he chooses those who responded to his invitation to be with him (Lk:6/12f), from the Transfiguration (Lk: 9/28f) to the Upper Room gatherings after his resurrection (Lk: 24/36f).*
- Jesus reached out to each person to be aware of their place in the Father’s love: *Thomas here are my hands and my side.....doubt no longer but believe! (Jn: 20/24F)*
- Jesus shared the challenges of his life with his followers: some responded with faith and hope – *“who would we go to?” (Lk:9/57f)*

- Jesus confirms our relationship with him: *At the breaking of bread did not our hearts burn within us! (Luke 24/30f)*

Third Step: Recognising the gifts of the Spirit among the followers Jesus

Our relationship with Jesus, as his disciples, is more than a personal commitment to him, it is a commitment to all of his disciples: *“You are my friends – if you love one another”. (Jn: 15/9f)*

- The Spirit distributes gifts to different people just as he chooses. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; *“there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord. (1 Cor: 12/4-11)*
- Each of us has spiritual gifts to offer in the context of the Body of Christ (1 Cor: 12/18f): in our vocation as a disciple of Jesus is from God who *“has appointed various kinds of gifts”* for the sake of the whole Body of Christ.
- The love of Christ allows our gifts to be seen and accepted by myself and through the inspiration of others: mine are not the only gifts to be accepted. **(Eph: 3/8-12)**
- Identifying *“the thorn in my flesh”*: in our commitment to Christ, we will undergo tests that recognise in my humility *“the graciousness of God towards me”*. (2 Cor: 12/7-18)

Four Step: Four areas of life and ministry and ongoing reflection and discernment

The following aspects have been identified as essential elements in the lives of those who commit themselves to the service of the church. Initially, they focused on those chosen as priests and deacons (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 1992).

The human dimension – to see ourselves as God and others see us! (*Mentoring and Supervision – not naval gazing*)

- Humans as adults learn through experience: in the first place for most of us, our experience of family life has been enhanced by our parents, who at our baptism have undertaken the responsibility of “teaching their children of the love and goodness of God and the practice of the faith”. (Baptismal promise)
- As we move from childhood to adulthood, we have the task of developing our personal relationship with God. *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become an adult, I have put away childish things.* (Eph: 13/11f) In this context we rely on others to assist us to move beyond our childish ways in relationship with each other and therefore able to relate to God as an adult.
- Human sciences have shaped ways and means of assisting us to discover the mysteries of creation, which include the dignity and beauty of the human person and the changing world in which we live. This level of experience enables the human imagination to move away from magic and fatalism to a trust in God’s providence and love.
- This is the link between the personal experience of God’s love and the challenges faced in everyday life, is the presence of Jesus Christ who lived, suffered, died and rose: he becomes the source of our faith, hope and love.

The spiritual dimension – discovering the presence of God in everyday life
(Spiritual Direction enables us to be open to God’s call)

- Faith in God’s love is ever evolving in the human person, as Jesus himself experienced: he sought solace from his

Father “into your hands I commend my spirit”! (Lk: 23/46f)

- As human beings we are moved beyond the practical and routine encounters in life, to be surprised and shaken to the core of who we called to be. This spiritual dimension begins with an encounter that moves us beyond what we expect. To respond to this dimension, we are called to share our experiences with others, we can’t rely on ourselves. “Will you stay with me and pray with me!” (Lk: 22/40-43).
- We are tempted to live, isolated from others. But through others with the sharing of memories and imagination we can discover more about ourselves. In this process, Jesus wants us to remember him, not just as an historic figure, but as he reveals aspects of God’s love in our everyday lives. (Lk: 12/27f)



The intellectual dimension – bringing the presence of God to others “*the widow’s mite*” (Lk:21/1-4) (Theology and Philosophy)

- Western civilisation is built on thousands of years of human experience. One of the oldest expressions of our relationship with creation is the work of astronomers. Today’s astronomers strive to understand and evaluate the human experiences in conjunction with the mysteries of the universe: we reflect and build on the discoveries of those who have gone before us.
- As we come to understand the world we live in, we can engage with the people who have explored, recorded, explained and managed the way we live today. This requires the research, debates and discussions to continue and expand our knowledge of who we are and what we can contribute to each other. As followers of Christ, we are called to be open to the human, environmental, universal challenges that change our way of being with God. To adapt to the circumstances the situations we encounter is to follow in Christ’s footsteps. (Lk: 16/18f).
- The moral question of today revolves around “what is truth?” (Jn: 18/39) If we are to add to this current debate (or reflect on the significance of Pilate’s dilemma), we are challenged to bring the presence of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Spirit, and the graciousness of the Father with words and actions in ways our world can respond to the “good news” that Jesus brings. The questions of theology and philosophy today, require us to engage a secular world as a spiritual engagement that requires our trust and openness as Christ displayed himself displayed in his life and resurrection.
- The church as an organisation is challenged to developed ways of assisting humankind to

live better lives and support and care for those in need. (1Peter 5:1-4) Vatican II’s statement on “the signs of the times” requires followers of Christ respond to the changes both in the human dimension of society and the circumstances of a changing universe. It includes all the facets of life, the human perspective and earth’s evolving and living response to the physical changes to the environment. Pope Francis has reiterated the call of Vatican II for the church to look outwardly, he encourages listening as the first step in engaging the work of the Spirit in our lives and the lives of those around us, especially those who have no voice.

- Thus, scientific studies of the circumstances and situations we encounter are essential if we are to explore the graciousness of God, it applies to all areas of human endeavour and experience. Thus, openness to the thoughts and reflections of those around us is a challenge to a church that seemingly has had all the answers. There are areas that face us that have no immediate answers: the fears, worries, concerns, traumas we encounter everyday either in our personal experiences or the pressures of the media. At the same time, we are called to share and celebrate our good experiences, especially as the basis of accepting and loving those around us. The church requires new words to reach out to those in need....as Jesus did. (Lk: 8/9F)

The pastoral dimension – “Who touched me?” (Lk: 8/45-47) - **Recognising and appreciating the concerns of others.**

- **The sacraments** are the church’s outreach to others. The practice of caring for others is the essence of the sacraments that are steppingstones on our journey of faith. However, as Vatican II emphasised, the symbols, the actions and the words in the sacraments, require a reformation so that

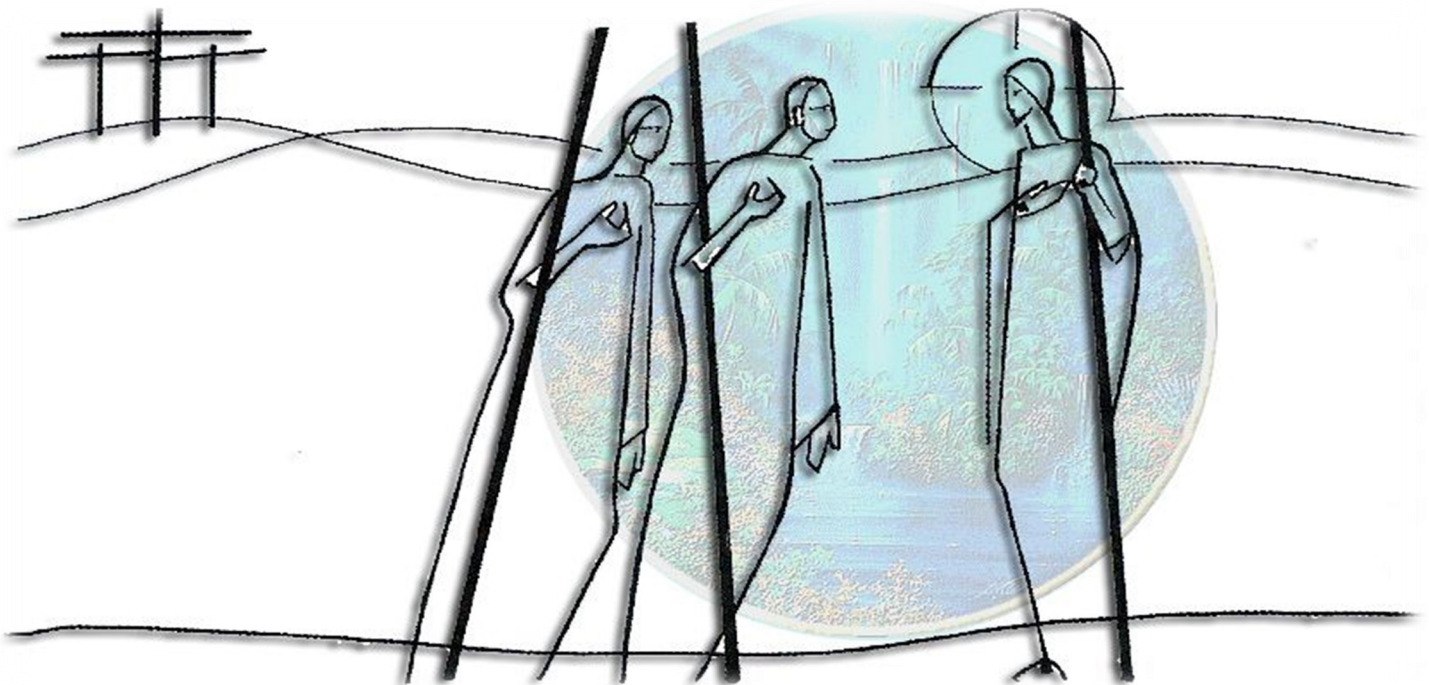
the mystery of the sacrament is easily understood and relates to the cultural and life of receiving the sacraments and those who support them. In the sacraments, pastoral practice is more than just ritual to be performed, but a moving celebration of God's gift of faith.

- **Pastoral care:** the way to reach out to those in need is summed up by Francis: he over and over emphasis' the ability of the church to listen to those in need and respond

are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses". (1Cor: 4f)

Conclusion

The missionary disciple will continually reflect and respond to the inspiration of the Spirit that comes to them from many areas of life and experience. The preparation of those who are called to serve in the mission of the church, involves the ongoing practices in self-



in ways that recognise their concerns. The “need” in the minds and hearts of others, takes an attitude of active listening, akin to the Clinical Pastoral Education method, listening and reflecting with the person in need, rather than being the “fixer” who solves problems. (Jn: 4/1-42)

- **There are specialists** who are trained to assist people in need. The art of listening or the experience of assisting those who are struggling to talk about their concerns, or can provide support and comfort without demanding a response. However, “not all are called to be teachers or prophets....all these

knowledge, in assessing the commitment to serve, in ongoing reflection and discernment of their ministry and the openness to changes in the direction when the “signs of the times” challenge the depth of our commitment to Christ. This journey has steps to assist us respond to the promptings of the Spirit, often we can be caught up in outward responses that require ongoing reflection and discernment. (Lk:20/45f)

Please note, this reflection is based on a longer paper entitled *Formation for Missionary Disciples*, which is available online.

<https://ametur-msc.org/website/2022/03/22/formation-for-missionary-disciples/>

INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICAN THEOLOGATE

The Latin American Theologate in El Salvador is a project of the Congregation that arose from the idea of several MSC, who sought to unite in the same place the young people who are in the last stage of formation in the different MSC Provinces of Latin America. They thought that this work would be a great advancement for the Congregation, since sharing the same formative stage opens us to fraternal relationships between the different cultures and inserts us in the shared mission. The headquarters of the Theologate is in El Salvador and is called Casa José María Gran, in honour of the Blessed missionary murdered in Guatemala.

In August 2014, the Theologate was opened, welcoming six young religious in formation, five of them from Central America and one from the Dominican Republic. Over the years the group has increased. In this last stage of formation we are accompanied by a team of formators composed of two priests. The nationalities that have made up this international community have been: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Dominican Republic.

We did our theological studies at the Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeón Cañas" (UCA). While we prepare ourselves intellectually, we put our mission into action by collaborating in the various communities and pastoral work of the San Luis Gonzaga Parish as

well as, in the recovery house for alcoholics, La Esperanza, coordinated by the MSC of Central America. Our presence has also had an impact together with the Prison Pastoral in the Mariona Penal Centre and the Migrant Pastoral in the Migrant Attention Centre known in El Salvador as "La Chacra". Other pastoral work in which we have participated has been in the Divina Providencia Hospital, a place where people in the terminal stage with cancer are being cared for. Through the known parishes, we have been involved in evangelisation work in Honduras, Nicaragua and in the indigenous areas of Guatemala.

As the years go by, we are seeing the fruits of this Theologate. Currently, there are thirteen companions who have already received their ministries, eight of them are priests and five are transitional deacons. The most recent ordained was Jesús De León Mercedes, Noelito. He was the first of the Dominicans to be initiated into the Theologate.

With our missionary presence in El Salvador, we continue to make known "the love that God has for us" under our motto: "The Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere, Forever!"

*| Juan Gabriel C. Estévez , MSC
(Dominican Republic Province)*



SAFEGUARDING MINISTRY IS THE MISSION OF THE HEART!

One word to describe my experience of attending the diploma course of safeguarding in Gregorian University is newness. I started this course with the fear that the program would be filled by complex and boring psychological theories. But everything was changed when the course began. I experienced many new things and it was amazing. The method used in this program was a student centered approach and it was very interesting and inspiring. Attending this course was a moment of grace for me. It was a moment of ongoing formation and refreshed my commitment

as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart. During the course there was always one question appointed to us: *what do you feel?* After

following an explanation or reading a topic, we were invited to do personal reflection. It was an opportunity to go deep into our heart and to discover every movement or reaction that comes inside that relates to one particular topic. It was an opportunity to recognize myself more and to feel the moments of being touched by the infinite love of God.

Remedy for the illness of society

There is a famous quote that 'experience is the best teacher.' This applies to the church in

relation to cases of sexual abuse of children by clergy. Sexual abuse of children in the church has been around for a long time. However, the church often made many mistakes in handling such cases in the past. I was reflecting during Jesus' time. Jesus confronted many people, and the group Jesus most often criticized was the religious leaders. The main reason was the attitude of religious leaders who often used religious authority for their own benefit. They manipulated people by covering up their faults. They abused the trust of people instead of

protecting them! The church has to change in regards to the how it handles clerical sexual abuse. A few months ago there was viral news about the 'Munich report' where

Pope Benedict XVI was accused of mishandling the sexual abuse report when he was archbishop in Munich. We have to stop the 'culture of covering up' otherwise we will lose our nature as a church or even against Jesus himself. It is time to be humble and open up to everyone, especially those who are affected by sexual abuse in the Church. It is important for the Church to humbly admit all past mistakes as a concrete act of openness and listen to the victims.



Once our professor said that the safeguarding ministry is a ministry that comes from the depths of our heart. It is the mission of the heart, a mission that comes from the core of our vocation to love one another. The spirit of this program is in line with our main mission as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart: to be on earth the heart of God. Promoting human dignity is the concrete act of our mission. Talking about human dignity means that we are talking about everyone. This is our nature as human beings namely promoting human dignity. This program specifically invited us to be concerned about protecting children and vulnerable people. We are invited to make them the center of our mission. Protecting children and vulnerable people is our mission. It is more than just a responsibility to the legal law. It is part of the DNA of our mission as Missionary of the Sacred Heart. Protection of children and vulnerable people is a sacred ministry which requires our sincere willingness to serve people. It is the divine invitation for us to be a remedy for the illness of society in the present time. It is time for us to go beyond not just apologizing for all past mistakes. This is an opportunity for us to step forward in an active way in preventing various forms of child abuse in society. Let us work together to create a safer world for the children. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus beloved everywhere.

| *Bram Tulusan , MSC*
(Provincia de Indonesia)

ORDINATIONS

Some confreres have been ordained in recent months and we want to congratulate them for their discernment and commitment. "May they be shepherds with the smell of the sheep".

Fr. John Peni MSC

He was ordained on 25 February 2022 in Papua New Guinea.



Fr. Yustinus and Fr. Marianus

Fr. Yustinus F.A Lerebulan, MSC and Fr. Marianus Sarkol, MSC, were ordained in Ambon Cathedral on 29 January 2022 in Indonesia.



MSC DEACONS

On the Solemnity of St. Joseph, three confreres of the Province of São Paulo were ordained deacons: Emmanuel Elisclibe, Rafael Souza and Wederson Cavalcante (Dedê) in the Shrine of the OLSH in São Paulo (Brazil).



SHORT NEWS

PERPETUAL VOWS

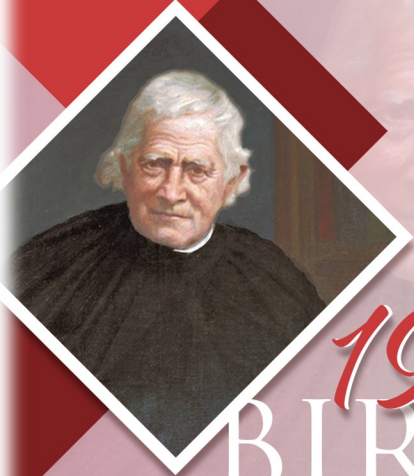
The Colombia section (Province of USA) welcomed two members of Perpetual Profession on 23/02/2022. They are: Ricardo Perdomo Arámbulo and Raúl Pérez Valdés. Our greetings to the two MSC confreres.



VISIT OF THE GENERAL TO THE USA




The Center Valley MSC community had a wonderful informal visit with Father General, Abzalón Alvarado Tovar on Thursday 17th February.

The day proved to be a great opportunity to enjoy the enthusiastic spirit, charisma and knowledge of our current Father General.



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English Correction: