



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

GENERAL BULLETIN

N° 2022/3 | OCTOBER



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

With immense joy and love we send you this October issue of the MSC General Bulletin, which includes notable events, visits, and accompaniments by the Missionaries of Sacred Heart worldwide.

As we speak very often in our meetings, conferences, and chapters, the sense of solidarity between the provinces, unions and Generalate is growing. The visits and accompaniments of the General Leadership team serves this purpose of creating solidarity. All these visits and accompaniments are to foster the sense of belonging to one MSC family encouraging everyone to grow and spread the love of God to every corner of the earth.

- The updates included in this bulletin are:
- The first MSC International Safeguarding Conference held in Rome
- The election of the new Superior General for the MSC sisters
- The OLSH General Chapter and their election of their Superior General.
- The JPIC desk information
- The students residing at the Generalate and studying in universities.
- Recent final Professions and diaconate and priesthood ordinations.



- Recent MSC deaths

Our hope is that the bulletin brings you information of what is going on around the world and within the MSC family, creating a connection between both. As we update ourselves with what's happening in the congregation, we are also invited to reflect on Mother Earth. Pope Francis requested us to be one with creation and its creatures and be aware of the abuse of creation. May the Spirit of the Lord direct each of us to have a sense of union with creation and the Creator who will help us to renew our relationships with every creature.

October always brings us great joy because it is the month when we remember the man who dreamt of a new world emerging, our Founder Fr. Jules Chevalier MSC. We are all part of that new world, and this is the reason for our celebration of his feast. Along with our celebration, let us spread the spirit of our Founder in the congregation and in the world.

The spirit of our congregation is one of love and kindness, humility, and simplicity; but, above all, it is a spirit of love for justice and concern for the welfare of all, especially the poorest ones (Constitution 13).

We wish you all a happy Founder's Day!

| *Richard Suresh, MSC*



A visit of the Superior General to South Sudan

Soon after arriving in South Sudan in November 2020 for my current appointment, I received a WhatsApp message from Fr Abzalón, the Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, wishing me the best with the new mission and saying that he would like to visit one day. In the height of the pandemic, travelling anywhere seemed unlikely, and the possibility of coming to Rumbek would test even the most credulous of believers.

Less than two years later, though, I was in Juba to welcome him early on a Wednesday morning. When I first arrived in 2017 on a research trip, the airport was a simple tent, with no chairs that worked, and a length of runway. Now we have graduated to a building with one carousel, a sort of Central African Knock International Airport if you will. After a brief prayer to St Jude, he successfully negotiated the labyrinthine entry visa process, and we were off.

Challenges and resilience

Part of the Superior General's mission was to see what was happening in Diocese of Rumbek and to explore if there was a need for a greater MSC presence. To that end, we spent our first day meeting with the head of religious missionaries in the country and then the coordinator of the Jesuit Refugee Service (both coincidentally Irish) to get the lay of the land and a sense of the reality of the people. That evening, we had dinner with Christian Carlassare, the newly ordained Bishop of the Diocese of Rumbek. He

returned to the country just last March to be ordained, following an attempt on his life in 2021. Over cremated nyama choma (a speciality of grilled meat), the Bishop told him of the many challenges the Diocese faced, but also about the resilience of the people who persevered through a long fight for Independence and the Civil War of 2013.

Before sunrise, we were back to the airport for our flight to Lakes State. The closest approximation to the domestic departures experience is if you imagine the chaos in Dublin Airport earlier this year, then squeeze it all into one-tenth of the space, occasionally switch off the power, raise the temperature about 20C, and then you're about half-way there. However, our guardian angels were working time and a half, and by 8:10am we had arrived in Rumbek and were heading to Loreto, which would be Fr Abzalón's base for the week.

Exploring Loreto and beyond

Fr Abzalón had the opportunity to explore the Loreto compound, beginning with the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Clinic. In addition to looking after all the students and staff, it has responsibility for nine local villages encompassing 27,000 people. Most come for vaccinations, nutritional support, and especially malaria treatment. In the primary school, there are 1,400 day pupils, with a further 340 boarding girls in the secondary school.



We are coming to the end of the first semester, so everyone was intent on their revision for exams. That afternoon he came to the Catholic University of South Sudan, Rumbek, where I work as principal. There, he met the young men and women who are training to be the teachers and the business people of the future.

It's hard to believe in recent years that to drive into the east of Rumbek would mean that you were taking your life in your hands. It would be highway robbery, except there was no highway and if you got away with just being robbed you would be doing well. With the arrival of the new governor last year there have been far fewer problems. On Friday, we joined the final-year students and some of the staff to be part in a peace walk to the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Thonadiel. We started off like good pilgrims at dawn and arrived eight hours later and 45km away, finishing with a short time of prayer. It was a witness for the villages we walked through of the country that could be built together if peace were to flourish.

South Sudan celebrated its Independence on the 9th of July 2011, and every year since then it has been a day for processions, speeches, and sports in Freedom Square. They have an understandable sense of pride over the establishment of their nation, but are conscious too of the outstanding issues that remain, most notably peace building, the rights of women, and the first elections that are due to take place next year. The Loreto students were out in force for the day and their marching was featured on national TV, to the great excitement of all the girls.

Pioneering work

The next few days allowed Fr Abzalón the chance to visit some of the local villages in Maker Kuei, where we are based. People live in simple

conditions with a quiet dignity and have a genuine warmth for visitors. He took a cooking class to learn how to make combo (a type of stew containing vegetables, peanuts, and meat) over a charcoal fire. He also attended some of my CRE classes in the secondary school and shared what life is like in Guatemala, his home country. It was a special blessing to have him celebrate our Sunday Mass for the students outdoors under the shade of the neem trees.

As his week came to a close, Fr Abzalón still had a lot to see. On Tuesday, we went to visit the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Mapourdit. The Daughters are the trailblazers of the Chevalier Family in South Sudan. They have been here for over twenty-five years and they endured many hardships before the country won Independence. Today, they continue their pioneering work in education and healthcare under the most challenging of conditions.

Thursday came around quicker than anticipated and Fr Abzalón headed back to Juba to get a COVID test and an onward flight to Rome. Looking back on his experiences he wrote to us that same week:

“The mission ... is a wonderful and prophetic project of education and integral promotion, especially of young women. The community there struggle day by day to build and transform this challenging and complex, but at the same time, beautiful reality. The Chevalier Family is present in South Sudan.” (Fr Abzalón Alvarado Tovar MSC, Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart)

Ben Nhialic areer kek a yin,



| Allan Neville, MSC
(Irish Province)

ACCOMPANIMENTS

Indonesia, Filipinas & India Acompaniment

A visit to Adelaide, Australia, was a welcome winter escape from the approaching heat of the Italian summer. I was delighted to see my mother again after two years, given the last time we were together was my father's funeral. I also briefly visited our

“profound disruption and profound possibility”, and they sought to contextualise our spirituality in this “change of era”. Their media team put the sessions on video to be available to the whole congregation, I have posted them on the Ongoing Formation website.



confrères at Henley (my home parish), which the MSC will leave later this year. I had some days in Melbourne. A highlight was to celebrate with the community the 80th birthday of Frank Andersen msc. Another significant moment was a visit to Shoreham where I lived before coming to Rome.

From Melbourne I went to Denpasar, Bali, a well-known resort island in Indonesia, for an MSC ongoing formation gathering of 26 confrères in their early years of religious life. I had 4 days with them on Spirituality of the Heart. The participants were very open. Their intelligence was welcome, and their desire to use the Spirituality to shape their ministry was exciting. We began our reflection with the question of what is happening to us in this time of

The gathering was organised was Berry Pareira MSC and his team. Two presenters, Mr. Frans Budi Santika, and MSC formator and wisdom-figure Hendrikus Suhendro MSC, also offered sessions before mine. I had the pleasure of meeting Lambert Somar MSC and members of his Foundation who gave great support to the gathering. Before I left Bali, Andrew Paparang MSC, showed me some sights of Bali. The most moving was the place of the 2002 Bali terrorist bombings, which killed hundreds. It is 20 years this October 12.

From Indonesia to Manila, Philippines to see the provincial Bogey Cabrera MSC and his Council regarding preparations for their Provincial Chapter, April 17-28, 2023, which I have been asked to facilitate. I stayed with the Chevalier Home >>>>



NOVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES

community which has diminished in size due to many deaths, some from COVID, during the last years. Janray Castañares MSC, only newly ordained, has had major surgery on a throat tumour, and Ray Sabio MSC was also seriously ill with cancer (we just received news he has died, may he rest in peace). After considered discernment, Bogey Cabrera has resigned his role as Provincial, in the hope of focussing on recovering his health, after his cancer surgery and several cycles of chemotherapy. We deeply thank Bogey for his dedication in leading the province over the last six years. We ask you to join us praying for him, Ray, and Janray. Jay-ar Babor MSC has taken on the role of Provincial until provincial-elect, Edwin Borlasa MSC takes up the position in January at the Province Assembly. Nords Adlaon MSC (Novice Master), invited me to speak with the novices. We had a great morning, as they reflected on their own experiences, and looked at Heart Spirituality in a process context.

Next was Bangalore, India, to facilitate two groups of confrères (about 30 in each) in the same 3-day retreat on the vision of Fr. Chevalier, his charism and spirituality, in the light of becoming a province. The Communal Wisdom process was used, together with the process-oriented approach to Spirituality of

the Heart. Many said they had never had a retreat like it before, and it had been an enriching experience to revisit their roots as MSC. The two retreats were punctuated by a day on Safeguarding presented by Fr. Joyes SJ. It was a good day with about 60 MSC present. After the retreats I visited the formation community. They have moved back to Hridhaya Bhavan in Richmond Town, where the scholasticate was previously located. I had a look through the school construction at Chevalier Bhavan, which is beginning to take shape and will hopefully be ready for the 2023 academic year. John Chinnappan MSC is now the Parish Priest at OLSH Bangalore and asked me to celebrate the Saturday night Mass, after which we celebrated the birthday of Arockia Swamy MSC. I returned to Rome grateful for our confrères and their dedication to the mission.



RETREAT WITH THE INDIAN CONFRERES

| *Chris Chaplin, MSC*

INDONESIA PROVINCE ACCOMPANIMENT

Retreat for 40th Religious Anniversary

For the first week of my accompaniment days, I and my three confreres did a three-day retreat for our 40th anniversary of vows, in a beautiful resort, owned by MSC, ‘Ohoimel Resort’, in Key Island. But in the morning of the last day of this retreat one of us, Fr Pius Rettob was found dead in his room. His funeral was held to coincide with the day of our vows’ anniversary, July 1. How God planned something out of our human plan. There was a deep sadness, but at the same time it became moment of joy in faith.

Visiting Districts



FUNERAL OF PIUS RETTOB, MSC

During this accompaniment I visited all districts: Moluccas, Jakarta-West Borneo, West Papua, Central Java-Central Borneo, and Celebes-East Borneo. I could not visit all the communities, but most of them. I want to thank all superiors of the districts who had organized well the trip and the meeting, and of course all confreres in every district. In every district and its communities that I visited, there were always meetings and moments of sharing and reflection. From my part I shared information about the concrete and real situation of the whole Congregation, especially the preparation for the next

2023 General Chapter, using the booklet sent by the General Administration

I was also able to meet some bishops of the local Church (Ambon, Pontianak, Purwokerto and Merauke) where we are working. They appreciated very much the presence and the service of MSC brothers and priests in their respective dioceses and they stressed the importance of the witness and the spirit of religious life in their pastoral service for the dioceses.

When I visited the Central Java District where our Novitiate House is, I was able to preside the Mass and on behalf of Father General I received the temporary vows of 15 novices. The day before, the Provincial had received 25 new novices for the new formation year 2022-2023. We thank God as up till now, we MSC still receive many candidates.

The Laity of the Chevalier Family



FIRST PROFESSION MASS

Beside visiting Districts, I participated in the National Gathering of the Laity of the Chevalier Family held in Wisma Samadi Klender, Jakarta, 8 – 10 July 2022. The theme was: “One Heart, One Spirit, One Community, one Mission”. >>>



CHEVALIER FAMILY IN INDONESIA

The participants came from 7 dioceses where MSC, OLSH, TMM (Maria Mediatrix) and FBHK (Brothers of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) are working. It was a well prepared and organized meeting by the Committee of the AKC of the Jakarta Diocese. It was not only time for ‘business’ but also time for prayer and reflection. The main topic was reflection on the history, identity, spirit, and mission of the international and national Laity of the Chevalier Family, and on the concrete situation of the

World and the Country. The Indonesian Laity continues to be the witness of God’s Love, to be God’s Heart on Earth, as “one heart, one spirit, one community and one mission”. My presence and my talk, and the virtual presence of Alison Mckenzie and Hans Kwakman via zoom, give the international meeting connection with the worldwide Laity of the Chevalier Family. The Indonesian group of the Laity is a well structured organization with its very active leadership, accompanied by a formation team called “Ametur Team”. In this national gathering a new national leadership team was elected. They are also committed to participate in the next 2024 International Gathering of the Laity of the Chevalier Family in the Philippines.

After this gathering, while visiting the Districts, I also visited some groups of the Laity, especially the groups in Moluccas (Saumlaki) and West Papua (Tanah Merah, Kapi and Merauke).

| *Paulus Pitoy (Polce), MSC*

NEW MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ISSOUDUN



The International Community of Issoudun has joyfully welcomed its newest member, Matthew Jong-hwan Park, MSC (from the Province of South Korea). Matthew arrived in Issoudun on September 19, the eve of the Feast of the Korean Martyrs. We are happy with the support of the Korean Province in this important mission of our Congregation. Best wishes to Matthew and the whole community.



Having been convoked well in advance, the formators and superiors of the American Conference of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (CAMSC) gathered in Guatemala from 10 to 17 July 2022. When we arrived and met, we experienced a joyful exchange of introductions and getting to know those we did not know in an environment of fraternity and closeness. Here we shared animatedly about the current reality of our missionary presence, and the future we wish to build, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. Canada and the United States were represented by the entities of Colombia and the Dominican Republic. For visa and related reasons, those from Venezuela (Yonys) and Haiti (Amos) could not come.

Julio César Molina MSC, member of the provincial council of Central America and Mexico, and of the CorAmerica Team, spoke to us a little about the integral reality of Guatemala, as the host country of our meeting, highlighting the multiculturalism and the historical marginalisation of the indigenous people. The commitment of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the accompaniment of the Guatemalans and especially of the indigenous people was also underlined.

This meeting took place in the context of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the MSC Americas Conference, which started in the early 70s,

precisely in Central America. Starting from a long period of communal discernment, we explored initial and ongoing formation, sharing our experiences and reflections, as Missionaries who are currently animators of formation and of the entities in general. The presentation of the topics was in the capable hands of Humberto Henriques, the liaison of the General Leadership Team, who guided us in the deepening and discernment, from where and how we are, to what we want.

This week has been the continuity of a process of accompaniment initiated in 2021 by the General House for the formators and superiors of our entities, in view of the demands of the changing times and the need to update ourselves as a Congregation. It was emphasised that this change of epoch presents many difficulties. It demands from us a great deal of willingness, confidence and clarity of purpose. In order not to get lost in a time of so many changes. We change in order to keep the spirit of our Congregation, its Charism, Spirituality and Mission alive in a new and emerging world. We listen to each other and together we discern what we believe the Spirit is asking of us, in a synodal practice as a key to community and ecclesial maturity, based on the Spirituality of the Heart.

From Theory U, we follow a process that starts with the experience of each formator as an individual, giving his opinion and expressing what he feels the Spirit is telling him, passing through the formation teams of our entities, to continental conferences such as the CAMSC, which we were sharing this week. They have also been doing so in Europe, Asia, Africa, until we have a clear understanding of the issues and problems that involve us "as a whole" as a Congregation. From now on, these materials will be taken to a general meeting of formators, next year, where the different continental proposals will be contemplated, discussed and studied, seeking to build the future we want for formation in the Congregation and shaping it in a document that will update the one produced in Valladolid 30 years ago and will be taken to the next MSC General Chapter, in September-October 2023.

We have analysed in community the situation of our initial formation as a Congregation and of the formators who live their mission of accompanying the future MSC religious. The problems of formation in the past, present and future were discussed, beginning with a good time of community discernment, with group work and planning that helped us to synthesise and move forward.

The Central American province organised the animation excellently and was very attentive to

the smooth running of our meeting, the evenings were shared communally with different activities, including a pleasant sharing with the MSC Laity and a party of Guatemalan Marimbas. We had time to visit Antigua and some markets in Guatemala City. We even dedicated Saturday to go to Quiché, as a pilgrimage to the tomb of Fr. Faustino Villanueva, in Joyabaj, being very well received by the members of the parish, where we concelebrated a lively Saturday Eucharist with the presence of a good group of faithful of the community. We thank all the brothers and sisters who made the celebration of CAMSC 2022 possible.

In the meeting of the Superiors we discussed: CorAmérica and its renewed Team; the Latin American Theologate, which lacks a formator; shared news about the international community of Issoudun; the MSC foundation of Mozambique; and the activities of the CA-MSC (Formators and Superiors meeting, every two years and Spirituality courses, every three years.

| *Juan Tomas, MSC*
(Coordinator of CA-MSC)



FORMATORS MEETING IN UAF

At the "Motema Mosantu" novitiate in Kimwenza on the outskirts of Kinshasa in the DRC, the UAF formators' meeting was held from Monday 25 to Saturday 30 July 2022. Roland ETOGA and François NDALI), the post-novitiate of Yaoundé (Fathers Bonaventure MBOYO, Marcel ARABO, and Bro Paul Ignace SAGNA), the DRC (Fathers Jonas, Ezekiel, Jean de Dieu, and Bro Paul TENDA, Simon LUMPINI and Xavier TIABONDOU). Also present at this meeting were Fathers Georges DIABONE in

began on Monday morning at 9am with Father Yvon, superior of the UAF, welcoming all the confreres and wishing them a fruitful meeting in the beautiful setting of the Novitiate.

During the meeting, several topics were discussed, based mainly on the Instrumentum Laboris: Follow-up Process of Initial Formation (IFAP). In this dynamic, where we are invited to walk under the model of Theory U, that is to say, to leave the old paradigms qualified as "obsolete" for the new



his capacity as the person in charge of ongoing formation in the Union, Yvon César BANACKISSA, the Superior of the UAF and Humberto, General Councillor, in charge of formation within the Congregation and animator of this session.

From the outset, it should be remembered that this meeting is the second stage (called, co-sensing) after the one which consisted in contacting individually the confrères formators on line. Thus, it is this process of co-sensing: listening and sharing together that guided the spirit of the work. These

ones, taking into account the new aeropages of the world and of the present Church ; we must in a word be open. The key word or innovative expression of this openness is to move from the ego to the ecosystem; a system in which everyone is involved, where everyone is called to participate, to collaborate, to think and to seek the common good for "us" and not for "me". It is to see concretely how together and collectively we can build our future where everyone is involved. This raises the question of what model or type of training and trainers we want tomorrow.

The other central aspect that has guided this work is the method. It is marked by personal work, first with a personal meditation, then in groups and finally by the work of the whole group by collecting the fruit of the sharing and exchanges of the different groups. This is in line with the orientation of the Generalate which would like to go beyond the "pyramidal spirit" and to start from the entities, to carry its discussions and exchanges in order to finally discuss them during the International Formators

Meeting.

The work of the formators' meeting came to an end on Saturday 30 July with the celebration of the Eucharist. Some photos of the closing with the novices and formators marked this end. The general themes of this session were: formation, discernment, accompaniment, interculturality, mission, walking and working together, and openness.

| *Xavier Tiaboundu, MSC*
(UAF)

INDIAN UNION PROVINCE PROCESS

As early as the 2017 General Chapter the question of when the Indian Union would become a province has been a topic of conversation in the proximity of my hearing. Then at the 2019 General Conference in Korea, after giving the 'green-light' to the erection the Province of the Pacific Islands, the Conference asked, "and what about India?", the suggestion being that the General Leadership Team would work with India on becoming a province and report back during the next General Conference. The 2021 Online Conference mandated the General Leadership Team to follow through on this with India. The October 2021 Indian Union Chapter also approved of the movement towards provincehood.

The Indian Administration must now begin the process of rewriting their Statutes and all their directories. To prepare spiritually, a series of three retreats has begun preparing Indian confrères by reflecting on the Charism and Spirituality of our founder through the process of Communal Wisdom.

The first of these retreats took place in July in Bangalore and was focussed on the "Vision of Father Chevalier". The second and third are proposed for 2023.

Articles on matters relating to what it means to become a province, will be made available for community reflections, over the next twelve months, and provide feedback for the 2023 General Chapter preparation. Property is being purchased in the north of Bangalore, closer to the airport, to enable hospitality and accommodation, retreats, and ongoing formation for the growing MSC community in India. It will also house the provincial administration. As the existing main compound at Chevalier Bhavan is now home to a large parish and soon to be opened school and is increasingly encroached on all sides by rapidly expanding urbanisation, this new property, it is hoped, will offer more space and ease of accessibility.

If the Indian Union is ready, the General Conference held at the close of the 2023 General Chapter will give the 'green-light' to the General Administration to erect the Province of India in the months that follow. An interim Provincial would be appointed whose task would be to prepare the first Chapter of the newly erected province, at which the Indian confrères will elect their own Provincial.

We wish our Indian confrères all the best and assure them of our prayers.

| *Chris Chaplin, MSC*



ACCOMPANIMENT OF RIO DE JANEIRO PROVINCE

Two and a half years had to pass before the accompaniment of the communities of this province could be completed. In March 2020, because of COVID-19, it was only possible to accompany the communities in the states of Goyas and Espírito Santo, as well as the communities of Bello Horizonte and Contagenn, in Minas Gerais and the parish of Praza Seca in Rio de Janeiro.

Now, thanks to the valuable preparation



made by Ronnie Diniz (Provincial) and the Provincial Team, I had the opportunity to LISTEN, feel, share and contemplate how the seeds of the Kingdom become visible in the following communities:

- State of Rio de Janeiro: Niteroi, Alcantara (parish and pre-novitiate), Belford Roxo

(parish and aspirancy);

- State of Minas Gerais: Contagem (parishes and formation house), Vale de Jequitinhonha (the towns of Joaima, Monte Formoso and Felisburgo), Muriae and Juiz de Fora (parish, provincial house and retreat house).

I met and was able to listen to the hearts and life processes of so many confreres who, together with the People of God, are co-constructing the opportunities for the Heart of Jesus to continue to be loved in all these places.

As we all know, in Brazil the distances, territories and population of our missions are great. Great also is the love, enthusiasm, spontaneity, sense of humour, openness, creativity, depth and sense of psycho-spiritual-human growth of our MSC confreres and lay leaders.

I must also say that this country, with the largest Christian population in the world has very great challenges. Difficult and complex situations according to the gigantic dimensions of the Brazilian territory. Just in those days it was the eve of the elections of governors and leaders of this beautiful country. The political electoral climate was volatile, tense, dense, uncertain, but at the same time, hopeful.

The presence of the MSC in these missionary territories of Rio de Janeiro and this part of Minas Gerais goes back almost 70 years. A large number of missionaries from the Netherlands, two of whom are still in these missions, have shown great commitment, dedication and commitment. Over the decades the native missionaries began to take over the leadership and management of all the pastoral ministries and initial formation.

I found confreres very dedicated, and loving what they do, with a lot of missionary experience. Confreres with great stories of commitment to justice, peace and integrity of creation. Confreres who maintain the flame of

radicalism and prophecy based on experiences that in the past were marked by the struggle for justice, insertion, accompaniment of the "Landless", and other similar projects. It is obvious that nowadays it is much more challenging to maintain this prophetic flame and the model of the Church People of God in the midst of conservative, patriarchal, Pentecostal, pyramidal ecclesiological projects and practices, almost ignoring Vatican II. However, the generation that is over fifty years old is trying to hand the prophetic baton on to the new MSC generations, who are gradually becoming the majority of the members. It is no secret that today, for all generations, this is a great challenge of openness to maintain these options that strengthen our MSC Identity. Openness, tolerance, listening, intergenerational dialogue are essential elements to live synodal attitudes on ecosystemic platforms in pastoral and community life.

The presence, organisation and spontaneity of the Laity of the Chevalier family is evident in all the missionary sectors of the Province. I was able to see the vigour, closeness and commitment of the Chevalier Family Laity as well as that of all the lay people of our parishes and social projects, who are the protagonists of our MSC Mission.

Certainly the great majority of apostolic ministries are from service in parishes, all of them with strong challenges in cities where historically the MSC have walked alongside the People of God. Peripheral areas in large cities and presence in the semi-urban and rural areas of the wonderful and challenging Vale de Jequitinhonha, in the north of Minas Gerais.

However, from these parish services they respond to modern evils from centres of social pastoral and personal growth. I was able to witness the wonderful miracle of life that is the "Albergue da Misericordia" in Alcantara. This centre receives people who, for one reason or another, were living on the streets. Also the work with dependent drug addicts in Vila Velha, the "kilo campaign" that in all



the parishes generates the spirit of solidarity and distributes a lot of food to many families in need, the Spiritual Growth Workshops that rebuild so many lives, as well as the attention to children through day-care centres to help so many working mothers. In the parish of Muriae there is also a popular pharmacy that helps the population with medicines in solidarity. Continuing with Muriae, there I met the organisation called "Pró-Moradia" founded by Fr. Tiago Prins, MSC and who, following a process of empowerment of their dignity and responsibility, have made it possible to build more than nine hundred houses for the same number of families. When I visited this "Barrio P. Tiago" I was simply speechless, not only because of the benefits that the families receive following an organisation that is not only a welfare organisation, but also because it is now an independent, purely lay organisation that runs this project.

An article limits the possibility of transmitting and describing the great and challenging mission that our confreres of the MSC province of Rio de Janeiro develop, authentic MSC testimonies that with courage, bravery, simplicity, freedom... do their best to make their vulnerabilities opportunities to keep following Jesus, at the service of the mission.

| *Abzalón A. Tovar, MSC*



« One temptation of consecrated life is to be satisfied with multiculturalism as an expression of its universality. To be satisfied with only a good cohabitation between people of different cultures is to miss the opportunity to live the experience of catholicity within one's own religious communities. On the other hand, multiculturalism, understood as the opportunity to accept the challenge of enriching exchanges between cultures, leads to living interculturality as a contribution to the fully human universality that we call Catholicity. This simple description shows that interculturality is the reciprocal exchange between cultures that can lead to the transformation and enrichment of all those involved. »

For a better balance of MSC community life, it is advisable to find a common denominator that will make the community grow. MSC dialogue is a key element in this process. It allows for the understanding of expectations and favours listening to each other in a climate of respect and trust. Each member needs to be able to step outside of themselves in order to let go of any preconceived notions about others. To be able to establish new perspectives of reflection that will bring solutions that will open the path on which all must walk and advance together in mutual respect. The result of this dialogue is the fruitfulness of the MSC mission. It is in this perspective that interculturality will be realised by moving from tolerance of differences to appreciation and celebration of the cultural difference of the members of the community.

Plural humanity reconciled in Christ

The Gospels are unanimous in teaching that even on the cross, awaiting his imminent death, Jesus continued to desire a reconciled plural humanity. Hence the forcefulness of the Pauline appeal:

"For all of you, in Christ Jesus, are sons of God through faith. For all of you, whom baptism has united to Christ, have put on Christ; there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:26-28).

Following Paul, (the parallelism suits us), we should not, pastorally speaking, have European, American, Asian, African, Oceanian MSCs... if not planetary MSCs (of the whole of humanity): who live, share and work together regardless of ethnocultural terminologies, if not *ubique terrarum*. The Spirit revealed to Father Jules Chevalier that the open side of Jesus was not a sign of failure in his life, but the victory of God's infinite love over the suffering of humanity. Jules Chevalier expresses this clearly. The pierced Heart of Christ is the sign of God's incarnate love for all humanity. This is why devotion to the Sacred Heart, as the Church understands it, is devotion to the love with which God has loved us in Jesus Christ (CS....). In this perspective, our love for God is justified by our love for our neighbour and the work of the whole (cf. 1 Jn 4:20). However, our love of neighbour in our context is not a love rooted in the multicultural, but an intercultural love.

MAIN ARTICLE

Just because we live on earth with the practice of certain selfish cultures does not mean that we should feel separatist differences among ourselves. Such a reality would be a counter witness to the dynamics of our MSC consecration and faith.

Our MSC religious identity must transcend our identity markers, but without erasing or denying our cultural differences. Paul himself continues to present himself as a Jew (Rom 9:3; 11:1). And it is precisely on the basis of the foundational element of

acquires a new identity. This is what Paul expresses to the Galatians when he says that they have 'put on Christ'. Our greatest challenge is to be patient with ourselves, to be patient with others, and to be patient in our circumstances.

MSC reflects the international nature of the Congregation. In all the countries where the MSC are located or present, they work together as members of different nations. In a world divided by cultural, social and religious diversity, the work of

Just because we live on earth with the practice of certain selfish cultures does not mean that we should feel separatist differences among ourselves.

Jewish identity, the fatherhood of Abraham, that Paul invites us to transcend the boundaries between Jew and Gentile. Abraham was considered righteous, not because of his works, but because of his faith (cf. Gen 15:6, quoted in Gal 3:6 and Rom 4:3).

The MSC, through their conversion to Christ, gain a new status which is nothing less than that of sons of God. Therefore, they have become members of a new family. This new family, based on faith in Christ, is a common and equal heritage given to all members regardless of their nationality or region of origin, social status or language.

In fact, by becoming an MSC, everyone

an MSC is dedicated to encouraging people to open their hearts and share God's love with each other. Hence our motto: "Loved everywhere is the Sacred Heart of Jesus!"

Our world is changing very rapidly. In our time, religious life suffers from an exaggerated personalism that is deeply wounded by multiform divisions. It is a world that is so afraid of those who seem different that it wants to erect walls and barriers between people. It is in this world that the MSC charism calls those who want to live the Gospel values to build bridges, to foster dialogue and to show the way to collaboration and to work effectively together on a common task. It is in this world that MSCs are called to lead people to value all that is good and creative in the other person so that together we can better live out our common gospel mission.

The Christian faith is truly open to an intercultural way of life. In this sense, it connects people from different cultures in a "we" that is the fruit of each person's conversion to a reality different from his or her culture of origin.

| This article is a summary of the thesis written by our brother François NDALI MOMBALA NGBOKO, MSC



FINAL PROFESSIONS OF TWO MSC FROM BURKINA-FASO IN SENEGAL



Burkina Faso's MSC vocation tree is taking root more and more, giving stronger branches. This is the blessed reality that we were given to read on June 18th, 2022 with the perpetual profession of two of our Burkinabe confreres, Hyacinthe OUEDRAOGO and Séraphin SAWADOGO at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Keur Mariama of Ndiaffate in Senegal. By saying yes totally and definitively to our Congregation, our two brothers have increased the number of professed perpetual MSC of Burkina-Faso "Country of Men of Integrity" to three, pending the definitive commitment of Brother Xavier TIABONDOU (from Burkina), who will pronounce his final vows in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on July 9th, 2022.

Our joy is immense and our impulse of thanksgiving to the Lord, very lively, for these young guys from Burkina-Faso who take the risk of the radical Sequela Christi in our MSC religious family, particularly in the African French-Speaking Union (UAF). We are convinced that these plants, which are growing and taking root, are the fruits of the seed of our confrere, Father Marcel NGUED and the work our brothers of the Dominican Republic with whom he worked. Our confrere Marcel NGUED died and was buried in the far east of Burkina Faso, in Tambaga, in the diocese of Fada-Ngourma. He was

killed in a motorcycle accident, after three years of mission, (October 22nd, 1992 – October 22nd, 1995). Fr. Marcel is the bearer of enormous graces and blessings for MSC vocations in Burkina-Faso, which continue to flow in large numbers, despite our absence in this country. Thus, following Father Evariste KYELEM, our first confrere from Burkina-Faso, there are now about ten young guys in initial formation, not to mention the number of external aspirants waiting for a favorable response to their application for admission to the Pre-novitiate. Three have just pronounced their Perpetual Vows, one has just finished his theological studies, and three are in the Post-Novitiate and three others in the Pre-Novitiate. We have been strengthened by all this, in our confidence in the following words of Christ: "If the grain of wheat which falls onto the earth does not die, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Therefore, we are challenged to dare to mission in this country, in which our "sisters", the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, have been working qualitatively and quantitatively since the 90s. Re-opening the MSC mission in Burkina-Faso, closed since 1995 with the departure of the confreres from the Province of the Dominican Republic, just after the death of Father Marcel NGUED, presents itself for the members of the UAF today as a call and a challenge. We are convinced that God is calling us incessantly to this country; even more so since Father Marcel never ceases to give us encouragement in our missionary calling.

Let us pray to the Lord, to continue to grow the MSC vocation tree in this "land of men of integrity" (Burkina Faso) in size and holiness. Let us implore him to open our hearts to greater generosity for the mission so that the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be loved everywhere forever!

| *Georges Moïse Diabone , MSC
(UAF)*



INTERVIEW WITH CARDINAL JOHN RIBAT, MSC

environmental impact of climate change. How do you experience the situation nowadays?

Cardinal John: In fact, people of the Western Pacific face severe threats from rising sea levels in recent decades. Papuans have been forced to move inland from ancestral lands along the ocean as rising seas inundated their homes. Thousands of people in the country of 8 million are facing the reality that most of the islands are in danger. Ocean levels have risen and are overtaking low lying areas. Drinking water is at risk, communities have seen their wells infiltrated by sea water, palm and coconut trees are dying, beautiful beaches changing... The same is true on hundreds of tiny islands throughout the Pacific basin. This is the most important issue for the Papuan Churches. As President of the Federation of Catholic Episcopal Conferences of Oceania I can tell you that my fellow bishops agree that immediate action is needed to assist people who are being forced to relocate; we are responsible to voice this disaster we are facing, the issue for us is: the families are suffering. The Church needs to be the voice of the voiceless! The Carterets Island has already been broken into three parts. The first Climate Refugees are there. Scientists predicted that most of the islands will have disappeared by 2050 !

André Claessens: Pope Francis invited you to be part of the synod on Amazon and to represent the Oceania Region which is struggling with similar realities. When you addressed this assembly you raised the issue of the land grabbing. You underlined that land is not owned by individuals but by clan or community: “when something is done to the land everyone feels responsible because it means life for them, it means their identity, their language and culture. Therefore if you loose your land you have lost all you have/loose your life”. What can the Church do at this time? you asked.

The last time our Cardinal Ribat (archbishop of Port Moresby, PNG and elected cardinal in 2016) came to Rome was for the Amazon Synod in October 2019. He arrived last Monday 26th August, accompanied by Fr. Sylvester Warwakai who was our companion in the Generalate community for the last three years. They came because Pope Francis convoked all his Cardinals for the consistory on Saturday 26th and a two days’ meeting on 29-30th of the month.

We are grateful Bishop John made himself available for a short interview on the eve of the Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4) Pope Francis invites us to celebrate yearly.

André Claessens: Bishop John not all confreres may be aware how much you are promoting in your ministry the integrity of creation. In March 2019 you got the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill (USA) to plead for action to address climate change. You also spoke at Catholic University of America in Washington and at St Ignatius Loyola Parish in New York City about the

Cardinal John: Indeed, I recorded that two of our PNG bishops, listening to the suffering of our indigenous people, were involved in negotiating a re-draft of the contract with the mining company, involving the people. Seabed mining is a new concern I raised as this project was to test a new technology to do mining in the waters. The Government signed an agreement with a company but people were not made aware of the very negative impact this project would have on the marine life, as the sea is our home too. The noise in the sea will destroy sea life. Among many destructions the breeding ground for Tuna fish is on the site where this project will be conducted. Because of much resistance on the part of an international NGO, combined with involvement of the Churches the company has withdrawn, but till today the license to mine has not expired so that the danger still exists; another company could take it up.

André Claessens: Recent elections provided the country with a new government. Is there any hope of improvement for the ordinary citizen?

Cardinal John: We must recognize these elections were the worst prepared ever since Independence! Remote areas were even not contacted. Corruption all over the place to buy the votes ... In the past our governments abused finance and were the “mouth” of the capital. The parliament has no sense of controlling the executive. Even Catholic deputies never come out openly. The Catholic Church and other faith communities are the only voice of the poor. No one seems to listen. Before the Eleventh Parliament starts working we will try to organize a gathering with the deputies to raise awareness about the present situation and try to foster the nation’s hope for improvement. We can’t give up hope !

André Claessens: In October we’re going to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the conciliar declaration *Nostra Aetate* about the Catholic Church and

inter-religious dialogue. You’ve always been very involved in it since Bishop Desmond Moore MSC challenged you. Is there any success in this Church commitment ?

Cardinal John: Oh yes. I must say that fighting one another has disappeared and throughout the decades dialogue has won. The efforts go down to the grass root level in common celebrations involving Muslims, Hindus, Baha'i and many other denominations. Not only the ecumenical dialogue with Lutherans and Anglicans is bearing lots of fruit, also inter-faith dialogue has become a reality since the Second Vatican Council. A recent example is the 2021 gathering about the “Golden Rule” where the representatives of the religions were asked to read out (without comment) what their respective ‘holy scriptures’ were telling about this common rule : do not to one another what you would not do to yourself ... But we must recognize that also some radical Muslim groups are trying to poison the conviviality of our faith communities.

André Claessens: We have been sharing as well on some other issues like the ongoing violence in West Papua and Church involvement in getting basic human rights respected. Also the growing involvement of China in the Pacific area and how Australia and the USA (building their first embassy in PNG) are pumping money in to counter the growing influence (the Solomon Islands have accepted China’s settlement) of this giant nation. The Cardinal also expressed his wish that his confreres might become still more involved in promoting justice, peace and integrity of creation in the Pacific area.

Thank you Cardinal John for keeping us awake and focused on the challenge to be the voice of the voiceless as religious communities in a rapid changing world.

| *André Claessens, MSC*

MSC GENERAL CHAPTER LOGOS - ROMA 2023

Designed by Sisko Alexander MSC



*"Did not our hearts burn
within us, as we walked
along together."
(Cfr. Luke 24:32)*

This logo is designed to help visualize the General Chapter 2023 theme.

1. The white background marks the journey of the MSC general chapter which is illuminated by the Light of the Resurrection of Christ so that it animates the lives and works of its members so that they are always full of joy in carrying out their vocations and missions, and remain focused on the holiness of life, and saving souls.
2. The two human figures represent the Two Disciples who were walking with God towards Emmaus. They are vulnerable, weak, and indecisive, but the fire of life burns in their hearts when they walk with God. At the end of the journey, the disciples turned their hearts to Christ who was crucified but rose again on the third day. The process of this chapter will follow the journey in Emmaus. A dynamic, continuous, and flowing journey process.
3. The green and dark blue colors in the two human figures symbolize a state of peace, tranquility, freshness, and a sense of security while walking with God.
4. The image of the Heart with burning flames symbolizes us missionaries who live the Spirituality of the Heart, burned by the fire of His love, so that our hearts are burning, and full of enthusiasm in carrying out the mission entrusted by God to the whole world.
5. The white cross or holy cross is a symbol of Christ as the center of our lives. Christ who was pierced in His side on the cross, so that blood and water flowed as a symbol of the birth of a new world, became the essence of the MSC proclamation.
6. The round circle symbolizes synodality and the world; that MSC members from various provinces, unions and regions are reminded to always walk together in the world, carrying the same spirit and mission: May the Sacred Heart of Jesus beloved everywhere. The circle also shows that we are a dynamic religious community, and always ready to move forward during changing times.
7. The fire yellow and red colors on the round circle symbolize a world that is always purified, so that it becomes the abode of mankind filled with joy and the power of love.
8. The MSC word on the semicircle with pink color symbolizes MSC which embraces the world with love and his life is always centered on the Heart of Christ.
9. The text of the MSC CAPITULUM GENERALE 2023 confirms the meeting of all MSC members.

| *Sisko Alexander, MSC
(Indonesia Province)*

Approvals from July to September.2022



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>
JULY 2022	WEDERSON FRANCISCO CAVALCANTI	SÃO PAULO	PRIESTHOOD
JULY 2022	RAFAEL PAVÃO SOUZA	SÃO PAULO	PRIESTHOOD
JULY 2022	CARLOS ALBERTO SEGURA SEGURA	INDIAN UNION	PERPETUAL VOWS
JULY 2022	ELVIS JOSELITO LÓPEZ OSORIO	INDIAN UNION	PERPETUAL VOWS
JULY 2022	MATHEUS KALEB BATMARO	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
JULY 2022	PHEROLD HONORÉ, GRESNORD BRUTUS	DOMINICAN REP.	PERPETUAL VOWS
AUGUST 2022	TIAGO DONIZETE DE PAULA LOPES	RIO DE JANEIRO	DIACONATE
AUGUST 2022	MARCOS PAULO ROSSI DE MORAES	CURITIBA	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	ROSENILDO DO NASCIMENTO DA COSTA	SÃO PAULO	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	JOHNNY ARNOLD	PACIFIC ISLANDS	PRIESTHOOD
SEPTEMBER 2022	MARBI JOHN ASHWIN	INDIAN UNION	PRIESTHOOD
SEPTEMBER 2022	TAMNO FRANÇOIS ARMAND FOKAM	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	SÉRAPHIN SAWADOGO	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	RONALD MAPANDA MASASI	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	MODESTE LOBO KWETE	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	DEODAT DON-DIEU TANDOU BITSINDOU	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	WEND KUUNI HYACINTHE OUEDRAOGO	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	GÉRARD ASSOGO NDOUMOU	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	XAVIER TIABONDOU	UAF	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	QUY THEIN BUI,	AUSTRALIA	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	TINH DAO ANH NGUYEN	AUSTRALIA	DIACONATE
SEPTEMBER 2022	DEVID FRANSISKUS ABRAM,	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
SEPTEMBER 2022	REXI ALFRIDS BAPTISTA KAWUWUNG,	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
SEPTEMBER 2022	THEOFILUS MANUNWEMBUN	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
SEPTEMBER 2022	ZAKARIAS MAYABUBUN,	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
SEPTEMBER 2022	HARDAELY PALLOAN	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS



MSC SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

The MSC Safeguarding Conference held in September this year prompted us to think about the care and protection of minors and vulnerable adults as an integral part of the ministry of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The 2011 General Chapter had already expressed the desire for the Congregation to engage with this very important and topical issue for the whole Church.

Present at this conference were representatives of each MSC province in the world. We counted among them the presence of priests, brothers and lay people. The days were marked by moments of prayer, dialogue, advice, listening, conviviality and much learning.

During these days we tried to understand what each province has already done during these years in matters of Safeguarding. Furthermore, we had the opportunity to understand that Safeguarding begins with ourselves. We will only be able to care for and protect others if we begin to care for and know ourselves.

The Conference provided us with moments of deepening and listening to stories of pain and suffering caused by different types of abuse. We had the opportunity to listen to victims of abuse. It is not easy to listen and "feel" the pain of the other, but it is important because it makes us create a fundamental sense of empathy.

The consultations of this Conference were important because

they allowed us to study cases, to think about forms of care and protection regarding victims and secondary victims, and to understand that it is necessary to create a "culture of Safeguarding" in our Congregation. We need to commit ourselves to this cause by seeking to care for and protect the lives of all, especially those who are affected by the various forms of abuse.

In short, we must work hard to find ways and means to prevent abuse from happening. Prevention and protection must be the fundamental goal in this ministry of Safeguarding, starting from initial formation and extending to ongoing formation, seeking to know the policies of protection and care of minors and vulnerable adults of the Congregation and of each country where we are present.

Our response in the face of these situations should not be silence and denial, but compassion and action. Our focus must be on accompaniment and support. We ended the Conference with the desire for the constant living of the triple A, that is, awakening, awareness and action.

*| Patrick da Silva Poli, MSC
(Rio de Janeiro Province)*





"BELOVED BY GOD TO LOVE ALL"

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MSC OF BRAZIL

Motivated by this theme we, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Brazil, gathered our three Provinces - São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba - for the National Assembly, which was held from 19 to 23 September in the city of Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais State.

Present were Edvaldo Rosa, Ronnie Anderson and Moacir Goulart, and our Superior General, Fr. Mario Abzalón, Superior General. Besides the significant number of participants, the richness of the diversity of generations and personal styles was noted.

Two facilitators helped us to reflect on the MSC Mission in Brazil: first, the Professor of Theology, Dr. Faustino Teixeira, who approached the missionary reality in global terms and the need to broaden the vision of the missionary, moving from a logical anthropocentrism to an ecosystemic thinking, supported by the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*. Another subject addressed was the urgency of ecumenical and, above all, inter-religious dialogue, whose stumbling block is the apologetics that closes itself to the universalisation of the Christian response, disqualifying the responses given by other religions.

Abzalón began with a round of discussions, answering questions and curiosities about the MSC Mission in various parts of the world. The central thread of the doth that Father General helped us to weave was the theme of Synodality, which is not an

tool, but the essence of being Religious and, consequently, of our Congregation.

Father Abzalón exercised a deep and sensitive counselling, promoting a communal discernment about what we want for our future in Brazil. Among the many inspirations which emerged, there was the constant need to unite ourselves more closely, beginning with appointments and interprovincial houses of formation, the unification of some pastoral commissions and a common project, assisted by the Provincial Superiors, which would give continuity to the reflection on the union of the Brazilian Provinces.

The Assembly was marked from beginning to end by an atmosphere of prayer and fraternity. Each day we celebrated life around the table of the Eucharist and experienced what we celebrate in the sharing of bread and joy, all seasoned with our MSC way of being, lightness and a good sense of humour. There was a unanimous desire to shorten the time until the next Assembly, which will be scheduled at the meeting of the Provincial Superiors.

Grateful to the Sacred Heart which unites us as brothers, we asked the maternal help of Our Lady so that, following her example, we may grow in the experience of the love of God in order to continue loving all the people He entrusts to us.

*| Washington Pablo, MSC
(Rio de Janeiro Province)*

STUDENT LIFE AT THE GENERAL HOUSE, ROME



Syendy (Kiky), Stefanus Ardi, Didier Mbela Bongoy, Michael Angelo and Steven Tandiyau

This year we saw the arrival of five young recently ordained MSC priests from two MSC Provinces and one MSC Union who have come to study in Rome. At the end of June, we welcomed Father Michael Dacalos, MSC, Father Stefanus Ardi Watusake, MSC and Father Steven Zepsito Bunga Tandiyau, MSC. Michael is a member of the Philippine Province while Steven and Ardi are members of the Indonesian Province.

Michael will be studying for a licentiate in Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute for six years. Ardi will be studying Dogmatic Theology at the Gregorian University for two years. Steven will be studying canon law at the Gregorian University for three years.

On July 24, Father Syendy (Kiky) Kanisius Kuntag, MSC arrived to take a break after more than ten years of pastoral ministry in Japan so that he could study spirituality at the Gregorian University for two years. Kiky is a member of the Indonesian Province.

On August 22, Fr. Didier Mbela Bongoy,

MSC, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the MSC Union of Africa Francophone (UAF), came to Rome to partake in the Institute of Anthropology Human Dignity and Care (IADC), participating in the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults diploma course offered by the Gregorian University which starts at the end of September. Didier is the third MSC to participate in this Safeguarding course, which was first offered in 2018. He will be with us for one semester.

We welcome these five young MSC to our community where they will be enriched with knowledge and information in the present to share with others in the future. We are grateful to have them with us in Rome. Their youthful enthusiasm for our mission spurs on all of us with hope for our MSC Society and the world. Welcome brothers!

| *Mike Miller, MSC*
(*Secretario General*)

GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART



The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated their 18th General Chapter, May 3-27, 2022, at the SVD Ad Gentes Center, Nemi, on the outskirts of Rome. Their chapter theme was "*Afire for God's mission in today's World*", inspired by Luke 12:49.

Due to the world-wide pandemic, the General Chapter could not be held in 2020. However, the chapter members came together in 2021 through pre-chapter virtual sessions. In these sessions, the emerging needs of the world, the Church and congregation calling for a response from the congregation were identified and a working document developed for further consideration at the chapter.

Fr. Chris Chaplin, msc presided at the opening Eucharist on May 3rd and offered a two-day workshop on "Communal Wisdom", a process of communal listening. These opening sessions created a spirit of

unity and collaboration among the chapter members that remained throughout the chapter even in the midst of covid-19 challenges which required some members to isolate and participate via zoom.

During the chapter, Directional Statements on *Respect for Humanity, Care for our Common Home, Participation in a Synodal Church and Congregational Transformation*, the fruit of the pre-chapter sessions, were confirmed to be embraced by the whole congregation and lived out according to the various realities. Through reflection and dialogue, the chapter members approved concrete actions to respond to the needs and desires that emerged from reports of the units, the congregational leadership team and treasurer.

On May 18th, the sisters elected the new Superior General, Sr Bonaventura Kim (Korea) and soon after the team was completed with four General Councilors: Sr. Deborah Reho (USA), Sr. Sophy Francis (India), Sr. Gratia Kim, (Korea) and Sr Laetitia Andowa, (Namibia).

The superior generals, Fr. Abzalón Alvarado Tovar, msc and Sr. Marife Mendoza, fdnsc were present for the closing Eucharist and dinner. The prayerful support of the Chevalier family throughout the chapter days was greatly appreciated.



The capitulants with Fr. Abzalón

The new General Leadership Team



ACTIONS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN KIRIBATI

Talking about climate change and its destructive and harmful impacts on the environment and people, Kiribati, is at the forefront and one of the most vulnerable to negative impacts of climate change. Climate change knows no boundary and it is a global issue, affecting everyone on this planet.

The scientific community has warned that climate change is ‘man-made’, that is, it is caused by human activities. Industrial countries, first world countries, developed nations and most populous nations are the most responsible for climate change.

However, Kiribati, although it is not responsible for climate change, is considered one of the most vulnerable to negative impacts of climate change, especially the rising sea levels, since the highest point is no more than 3 meters above sea levels; drought and fresh water shortage due to sea water intrusion, and coral bleaching and other climate change impacts.

In response to “Laudato Si”, the MSC in Kiribati, tried to engage itself through St Joseph’s

Parish, by inviting the youth to take part in the closing of the “Season of Creation: ‘Laudato Si activity’” - by picking mangroves seedlings to be planted after 3 days, which falls on Monday, October 4th, 2021, the closing of the Season of Creation and for the celebration of St Francis Patron of ecologists and environmentalists.

The program for that day was the celebration of the eucharist at 7am, at St Vincent de Paul Sector, Gasgony maneaba. The youth attended the mass together with members of the Catholic community at this Sector. The mass was followed by breakfast at the sector.

Around 9am, two volunteers from the ministry of environment gave an important message to the youth about our responsibility to take care of our environment. Later the youth began a clean up along the Ananau causeway (Bonriki). While some did a general clean up, most of the youth engaged in the planting of mangroves seedlings, which had been picked and prepared 3 days earlier.

The Catholic youth was reminded about the value of mangroves and the need to plant and to protect them, since mangroves have a vital role for marine habitat and breeding and for coastal protection.

Around 1,000 mangrove seedlings were planted on the 4th October, 2021 for the closing of the 'Seasons of Creation – Laudato Si' activity.

At the beginning of this year (January, 2022), the youth have another day of general clean up and the planting of more mangrove seedlings. So far, the youth had planted about 3 thousand mangroves in an allocated site with a plan to plant more and more as the years go by.

The youth were joined by the Catechist, aspiring catechists and the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. It was a simple but important step to engage the Catholic youth in caring for the environment.

This is a small concrete action to engage our youth in the care and protection of our common home as promoted by Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato si".

We plan to plant more mangroves during the coming Season of Creation from September 2 until October 4th, this year.



| *Martin Everi MSC*
JPIC Promoter in Kiribati

JPIC IN RIO DE JANEIRO'S PROVINCE



The Province of Rio de Janeiro held an assembly of the members of the Provincial Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission on 8,9 and 10 June 2022. The Provincial JPIC Commission is composed of three confreres and lay people from the various parishes where we are present. The assembly is held annually and this year its theme is: "What is the social doctrine of the Church and the evolution of Christian social criticism".

GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART



God, desiring what God wants, and seeking through careful discernment the directions that are emerging from prayer. The strong spirit of "WE" (congregational capitulants not province delegates) highlights their communality and synodality. A highlight for them was an audience with the Holy Father as the photo shows.

Your prayers have been deeply appreciated by the sisters, as are the simple and generous presence of MSC willing to preside at the evening Eucharist. Thanks all.

For me, I am exhilarated by the days here as facilitator.

The 20th FDNSC General Chapter, at Monte Cucco, Rome, September 7-28,2022, has been time of great joy and energy. The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart have today begun the last phase of their Chapter following the Spirit filled discernment for leader in which Sr. Marife Mendoza FDNSC was re-elected for a second mandate. Hearty congratulations to her and all the sisters.

The first phase of the Chapter was to reflect deeply using the Communal Wisdom process, on the life of the congregation through Province reports, Congregational Leadership report, and other documents considered in the preparatory phase of this Chapter. The sisters entered into a Spirit-led listening to the realities and matters for consideration, refining their statements in prayer, and proposing actions for the Chapter to consider. This work will be taken up further and final statements made in the third and last phase of the Chapter. It has been an inspiration to be among women whose hearts and minds are so open to



| Chris Chaplin, MSC

PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Two young men celebrated their perpetual profession in the Philippines on August 06, 2022 at the Scholasticate Community in Quezon City. They are: Jyrnell Salino, MSC and Florris Inocencio, MSC



PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN PERU

The confreres of the Andean Union welcomed the perpetual profession of Carlos Segura and Joselito López on 15 August 2022. Carlos will continue his ministry as an MSC brother, currently working in the administration of the Andean Union and Joselito, who was already a diocesan priest, will continue his ministry at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Lima.



PRIESTLY ORDINATION IN PERU

The Andean Union rejoiced at the ordination of one of its members, Omer Martinez Montenegro, MSC which took place in Lima on August 20, 2022. The Eucharistic celebration in which Omer was ordained took place in our parish of St. Philip the Apostle and was presided over by MSC Bishop Norberto Strotmann.



SHORT NEWS

PREPARATION COURSE FOR PERPETUAL VOWS—COR AMERICA

The new Team of Cor America offered a programme of preparation for perpetual vows, which took place online, from 17 to 14 July 2022. Among the participants were seven MSC (Carlos Segura - Perù; Joselito López - Perù; Francisco Saravia - El Salvador; Venancia Chó - Guatemala; Grenord Brutus - Haití; Phérol Honoré - Haití; Izaias Da Silva - Brazil) and one Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Ilma Soares Fernandes - Brazil).



CARDENAL RIBAT VISIT

Among the many confreres and visitors who have passed through the Generalate Community, we would like to highlight the presence of Cardinal John Ribat, MSC, who spent a few days with us in the month of September. John Ribat came to Rome to take part in the Consistory convoked by Pope Francis. After that he had a retreat here in Rome and then went on his journey.



LAYTY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY IN VIETNAM



On Sunday 11th September, a group of 14 "young" lay MSC in Vietnam renewed their commitment. They are called young lay to distinguish them from some of the other groups of lay MSC in Vietnam. True to the hopes of Fr Jules Chevalier, MSC lay people have been part of the MSC outreach in Vietnam since our foundation there, nearly 20 years ago.

NOVITIATE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Nine young men began their year of Novitiate in Santiago (Dominican Republic), on 15th August 2022: one from the Andean Union, three from the Province of Central America and Mexico and four from the Province of the Dominican Republic and one from the Colombian Section.

FIRST PROFESSION IN CONGO

NOVITIATE IN CONGO

Nine young men began their novitiate year in Kimwenza (Congo) on 15 August 2022.



Seven young men, members of the UAF, took their first vows in Congo on 06 August 2022, at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Kinshasa. They are: Guy Kodoro, Willy Magbela, Robert Sukama, Atangana Espoir, Abolo Boris, Claude Bokumbo, Guillaume Meli.

FIRST PROFESSION IN INDONESIA

Fifteen young men made their first vows in Indonesia on 25 July 2022 at the Novitiate in Karanganyar.



FIRST PROFESSION IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Three young men took their first vows in the Dominican Republic on 1 August 2022, at the Novitiate in Santiago. They are: Wisnel Mesamour, Fritzner Chéry, Yefry Núñez



MORTUI

MSC deceased between july and october 2022

NAME	PROVINCE	DATE	PLACE OF HIS DEATH
PATRICK O'CONNOR	IRELAND	22.07.2022	USA
HERMAN KOOYMAN	AUSTRALIA	30.07.2022	AUSTRALIA
MARCEL PICHONNAZ	FRANCE	01.08.2022	FRANCE
ALBERT SMIT	INDONESIA	11.08.2022	INDONESIA
JACOBUS PETRUS ZWAANENBURG	NETHERLANDS	17.08.2022	BRASIL
BARRY VINCENT BRUNDELL	AUSTRALIA	19.08.2022	AUSTRALIA
THEO BÄUMER	NETHERLANDS	28.08.2022	NETHERLANDS
MATHEUS GONIMASELA	INDONESIA	28.08.2022	INDONESIA
EUGENE THOMAS	USA	07.09.2022	USA
ARSENE BUYSSE	BELGIUM	08.09.2022	BELGIUM
RAYMUNDO SABIO	PHILIPPINES	16.09.2022	PHILIPPINES
MARTIN JAMES WILSON	AUSTRALIA	19.09.2022	AUSTRALIA
GERWIN LUMANGLAS	PHILIPPINES	24.09.2022	PHILIPPINES
SERGIO RICARDO AZEVEDO DOS SANTOS	RIO DE JANEIRO	24.06.2022	BRASIL
NICOLAUS AKERBOMM	NETHERLANDS	14.10.2022	NETHERLANDS



Let us cast ourselves
without hesitation
into his Heart.

Fr. Jules Chevalier, 1891



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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English Correction:

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