



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,

Birthdays normally bring great happiness and rejuvenate our energy to face the future. If it is our Creator's birthday, or a birthday of someone we love dearly, the delight is doubled, and the celebration grand.

This month we commemorate the birth of Jesus, and celebrate God's participation in humanity in flesh and blood. We are deeply convinced that God so loved the world he sent to us his only Son. Let us celebrate Christmas in a Christ-centered way; God born in a manger, for all of us.

We also observe another birthday. This month is the 168<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of our "little society". We hope you received the letter of Fr. Abzalón. As we return to the founding inspiration of Fr Jules Chevalier, may we once again feel stirred with passion, imagination, attraction, and afire for the Mission.

This Bulletin also comes as we journey toward our 2023 General Chapter. Many of the articles in this edition reflect on our walk along the Emmaus Road, a road which frames the General Chapter.

This is also a time of thanksgiving for what we have lived in 2022. The GLT and other members have written in thanksgiving about

different missions, ministries, formation communities, where each of you has been the heart of God on earth. We report on the General Leadership Team accompaniment to various MSC Entities. We hear about the chapters and provincial assemblies that have been held, where members have all sought to listen, discern, and plan for the future as it emerges. We read about the courage shown by confrères who have made temporary or perpetual vows, or ordination to ministry. We offer them our congratulations.

We report on the on-site meetings in Rome; the *ad limina* for ten Provincial and Union leaders appointed during the pandemic, and the Novice Masters' meeting.

It is joy and pleasure to publish the General Bulletin in December, a month which gives us great hope. May this Christmas bring light to each and every one of us.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)*

**We wish you all the blessings of Christmas and the New Year - 2023.**



| Richard Suresh , MSC

### Accompaniment of the MSC Ecuador Section



The MSC Ecuador Section members together with a group of Chevalier Family Laity and Friends of the MSC Seminary gathered for a week in Baños, Ecuador. The purpose of the meeting was to have the annual retreat and to have a one-day community meeting. I had the great opportunity to accompany them and to witness the missionary journey that this group of MSC are living in such a multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic country.

This MSC group has been very committed to the promotion of the Missionary Spirit among the Laity. They have collaborated a lot with the Missionary Centre of the Pontifical Mission Societies. There is also a strong commitment to the Indigenous Peoples' Pastoral in the Diocese of Riobamba, Ecuador.

Ecuador is an MSC Section belonging to the Curitiba Province, but for a long time it has



been and continues to be an intercultural community. The MSC currently living in Ecuador are 2 Brazilians, 3 Indonesians, 2 Ecuadorians and 1 Haitian.

The MSC Ecuador Section celebrated 25 years of MSC presence in 2021 and continues to strive to implement one of its mottos: Pilgrims of Hope and Loved by God to love others.

| *Mario Abzalón Alvarado Tovar, MSC*

# The USA Provincial Chapter



The USA Provincial Chapter took place at St Francis Retreat House in Easton, Pennsylvania from November 7-11. A beautiful and rewarding time spent with most of our MSC working in our USA MSC Province. In attendance were not only 16 of the US members and 6 members of the MSC Colombian Section, but also MSC from other provinces working in USA: 8 from, 1 from Philippines, 2 from Korea, 2 Indonesians, one from Senegal, one from Congo, one from Pacific Islands Province, and one from the Vietnam MSC community. The profile of MSC working in the US province is indeed very multicultural and international.

Prior to the Chapter some important documents were distributed which surveyed the current realities of the life, vision, and mission of the province. The Chapter process was built on our own heart spirituality and used the Communal Wisdom process which invited members to listen deeply to how the Holy Spirit was guiding them communally. Participants worked in groups of about eight and sharing the fruit of their listening and then allowing that to lead them into discussion. The process led them to the recommendations of the

Chapter which offered ways forward to continue the conversations on significant issues which had been started during the week.

The USA Province has a great warmth and welcome, and they certainly know how to celebrate. Each evening was an opportunity to socialise and hear the personal stories of the members. On one such evening each member gave a brief history of his life and ministry as an MSC - an amazingly diverse and gifted group of men.

Many thanks go to Fr. Richard Kennedy MSC, the Provincial, and all who supported him in the planning. Fr Chris Chaplin facilitated the Chapter and capitulants were grateful for the time, expertise and love he offered them.



| *Chris Chaplin, MSC*

## ACCOMPANIMENTS

# REPORT ON THE MSC CONGREGATIONAL NOVICE MASTERS MEETING, Rome, October 28 - November 3, 2022



This meeting gathered 9 novice masters from 8 provinces/entities in the Congregation across the world. We had one from Australia (me), two from Brazil (Getullio and Gilberto), one from the Philippines (Nords), one from India (Alex), one from Indonesia (Eddie) one from South Korea (Ireneo), one from Africa (Jonas), one from Pacific Islands (Tetoaiti). This meeting was facilitated by Chris Chaplin (Assistant General in charge of Ongoing Formation) and Humberto Henriques (Assistant General in charge of Initial Formation), with translation assistance from Mike Miller, the Secretary General, and Abzalón Tovar, the Superior General.

This was a gathering not to solve the problems of formation in our congregation and in today's context, to make any decisions or to update any formation documents, but the primary

invitation was to 'be together' in fellowship as formators, with prayerfulness and discernment, trying to listen collectively and communally to what the Spirit of God is saying to us, not merely as individual formators from different entities, but also as a whole, as one congregation. We are invited to shift from our ego-system to the emerging ecosystem, from 'the ME to the WE'. In this space of being together, praying together, sharing together, listening together, moving together, we experienced enrichment and nourishment from one another and from the whole body of novice masters. This enrichment called us to integrate and to become more whole as individual selves and as a community with a common mission given by God. Every morning, we spent a quality of time doing the practice of communal wisdom, articulated and promoted by

Brian Gallagher. This process might not be new to us in the Australian Province but might well be to many others in other parts of the world. This challenged us to deepen our personal awareness and to expand our horizon to that of the whole group, the whole community across the globe, through contemplative listening to self and one another. The resounding call was to let go of our intellectualising in the process and to move with the heart, its emotions and feelings, its sensing and telling of a story or an image.

During the day, we continued to proceed to formation agendas with this sense of communal listening from the heart. These agendas include:

- Re-evaluation of our novitiate programs and structures according to our experiences
- Building up group identity and recognising group vulnerabilities in the formation process
- The central role of formative accompaniment
- Psycho-spiritual framework in formation accompaniment
- Re-reading and re-evaluating the Valladolid Document
- Understanding the complexities and complications of our world today and of our formation candidates - a sense of dealing with mystery rather than mere problems and issues .
- Criteria for approving profession as MSC
- Co-sensing the possibility of international formation houses across the congregation
- Structural issues and challenges in novitiate (i.e. relation and communication with entity leadership, coherence between formation stages, cooperation within the

local formation team and with other teams from other entities, screening for candidates coming into formation, external resources in accompaniment and professional help)-

- What are our hopes and dreams for our formation coming into the future together?

By the end of the meeting, we communally felt greatly grateful for this opportunity to come and be together as brothers in common mission of making the heart of Jesus to be known and loved through our mission of accompanying new members of the community.

We are looking forward to more collaboration and 'being together' in the future, especially when another international conference of MSC formators is being organised and finalised for May 2023, prior to the General Chapter, and/or in any other ways we can. We continued to share our hope and our call to participate in and contribute to this same mission and vision of community and love.

| *Khoi Nguyen msc.*  
*Novitiate Director, Australian Province*



## ACCOMPANIMENTS

### European formators Meeting in Salzburg, 9-12 November 2022



If one thinks too briefly, he might find it strange that four formators (two Spanish, one Irish and one German) meet for three days with the Assistant General from Brazil (Fr. Humberto Henriques MSC) who is responsible for initial formation, to talk about this issue. Especially when you consider that there are just about the same number of formandi in the whole of Europe.

But on the one hand, of course, we ask ourselves what we can do better or differently to inspire more young people for religious life in a continent where Christianity is losing more and more importance. And on the other hand, as a worldwide community, we also have to think worldwide.

Thus, the meeting was an essential part of an international process (a kind of collection of material nourished by common prayer and sharing our aspirations), which serves to examine the congregation's formation guide lines, which are now 30 years old and to adapt them to the new challenges

and opportunities worldwide. The final step will be taken at an international meeting in 2023.

Even if Europe is currently limping in terms of new members, it can contribute from past experience, both successful and unsuccessful. And as experience shows we learn more from mistakes than from successes, if we are willing to face them and not shy away from change. This meeting proved that there is a great openness in the European provinces to look honestly at the past and to reflect on our present reality. This will give hope to the younger provinces so they will not repeat the same mistakes and will prepare the old provinces for the flood of new vocations that will hopefully come our way soon. If God and the young men (more or less young) are willing. In any case, we will be ready for it.

| Norbert Rutschmann, MSC  
(South German/Austrian Province)

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICE**



Central America and Mexico begin the six-month Spanish Course. At the same time members from India, the Pacific Province and the Philippines Province will join a hybrid English Safeguarding Course with some months on line and the last few months here in Rome. Later in 2023 one of the MSC from Vietnam will begin the six-month residential course

Following the Safeguarding Delegates Conference in early September with 32 participants, the Ad Limina meeting of recently appointed provincials and the Novice Masters meeting have been further opportunities to build a culture of safeguarding and protection of minor and vulnerable adults across our MSC world.

**Formation news**

At present in Rome a member of the UAF is attending the Diploma Course at the Gregorian University IADC. The new year will see a Spanish speaking dimension. One member of the Province of

here in Rome.

**Resources**

In South Africa they have produced a power point presentation that addresses their unique context. You may have some resources that you can share to help others.

**MSC Safeguarding Policy -international**

A draft world-wide policy has been circulated to all Provinces for their consideration and feedback. The revised edition will be submitted to the 2023 MSC General Chapter for consideration. It is available in French, Spanish and English.

**MORTUI**

**MSC deceased between october and december 2022**

NAME	PROVINCE	DATE	PLACE OF HIS DEATH
JOS BEELEN	AUSTRALIA	05.11.2022	AUSTRALIA
TONY LEO BOLT	AUSTRALIA	26.11.2022	AUSTRALIA
GERRY JOHN BURKE	AUSTRALI	04.12.2022	AUSTRALIA

## AD LIMINA VISIT



The *ad limina* visit to the MSC Generalate in Rome was a long-awaited visit I expected to have since I was appointed as Provincial Leader of MSC Indonesia Province in February 12, 2020. Yet it was just realized in October 2022 after covid-19, which restricted people to travel abroad. This visit became my first visits abroad.

There were many activities (sessions) during the *ad limina*, which I feel were very enriching, such as Communal Wisdom, Safeguarding, Leadership, Initial and Ongoing-Formation, Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation, and Laity. This *ad limina* visit also gave us, the superiors, opportunities to have individual conversations with the General Superior and General Leadership Team and

conversations with different offices in the MSC Generalate such as General Secretary, Safeguarding, General Bursar, Postulation and Procurator, and Archivist. All these activities opened-wide my perspective as a leader on how to manage a province in accordance with the expectations of the MSC Generalate as a model. Central to all these activities is personal reflections and sharing on how I, as provincial leader carry out my functions and roles in accordance with the principle of *good governance* and in the spirit of the Charism of the Founder and the Way of the Heart. Thank you very much for this opportunity given to me in this visit.

| Sam Maranresy , MSC  
Provincial of Indonesia



## ACCOMPANIMENTS

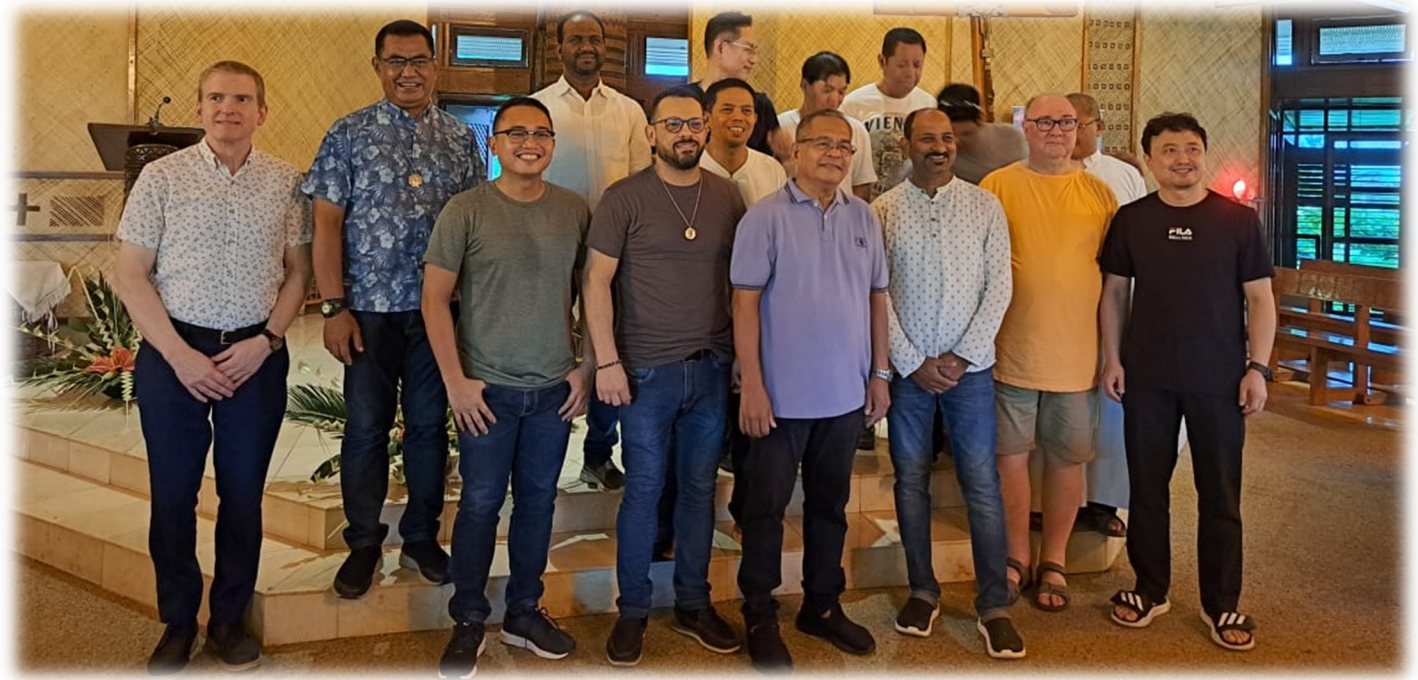
From 10 to 21 October another *ad limina* visit and leadership workshop took place. Together with the General Council 10 provincials were present for a time of living together, sharing and learning.

Each day was an immersion where we grew in a sense of responsibility and sharing about our provinces (entities) spread all over the world, getting to know more closely the different areas of administration of our congregation, learning and reinforcing the importance of awareness about our vulnerable brothers, understanding the role and new commitments that each leader is called to make. We were encouraged because we realized that God always accompanies us.

We also had the opportunity to dream as a congregation of common projects such as formation, JPIC and the Chevalier family. We closed this rich time by celebrating the anniversary of the death of our founder, Father Chevalier, and the 25th anniversary of our Father General, Father Abzalón Alvarado.

| Ronnie A. Diniz, MSC  
Provincial of Rio de Janeiro



**APIA MEETING**

The 2022 APIA conference began on the evening 28th of November with the joy filled celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Humberto Henriques, MSC and André Claessens, MSC - members of the General Leadership Team. The MSC forandi led the jubilant singing in harmonies and there was the traditional 'Bula' welcome after dinner. Tamati Sefo, msc Provincial, welcomed MSC representatives from Korea, Indonesia, Australia, Pacific Island Countries, India, Philippines, Japan and Vietnam to APIA 2022. Participants were then honoured by a traditional Fijian feast as well as the Kava ceremony with the official welcome given by elders of the Fijian community, paying their respects and honouring MSC visitors from foreign lands. Celebrations went long into the night with an array of traditional dancing and singing to bring a spiritual harmony to the days ahead".

**INITIAL FORMATION PROCESS**

The reflection/sharing by Humberto Henriques msc, was centred on the MSC Congregation's mission and the MSC Congregation's hope for the future. The purpose being to begin to attempt to

listen more deeply to a) each other, b) to the whole congregation.

We continued looking at identifying some of the best opportunities/ possibilities for the MSC congregation going to the future. We looked at some of the realities calling us forward. Humberto led the conference members on a journey to help enter into a new paradigm to listen together. And we then continued to pray in the style of communal discernment as we began to open up where the Spirit was leading us in the present and towards an evolving future - in God.

We were able to then come together to pray as a group and to express our sense of communion with one another and to give a vote of thanks – to Humberto, who led the Conference so expertly, our gracious Fijian, and Pacific Island hosts as well as each other. We felt very much at home with each other during these days and the journey will continue over the next few days as we venture into some social time together to experience the wonderful MSC Province of the Pacific Islands - and all that this new Province has to offer to us and to the world at large.

## ACCOMPANIMENTS

### SAFEGUARDING

We commenced this conference with the draft MSC General House produced document, entitled ‘Safeguarding For The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults’. Tim Brennan, MSC, via zoom from Rome, was able to guide us through the document which is going to be presented to all MSC Provinces around the world at the 2023 General Chapter to access and use as appropriate. So we were able to consider, ponder and evaluate the safeguarding policy document which will be ratified in 2023 at the MSC General Chapter.

After some input from Tim we went into groups to share the safeguarding journey from each of our MSC Provinces or Unions. We looked at the progress to date, difficulties and challenges. Also we spent time imagining what could be the next steps in our Provinces and Unions. Tim went to a great deal of effort to be with us because the zoom session finished for Tim at about 1:30 am (Rome time) in the morning. We were very grateful for Tim’s input.

### JPIC

In the afternoon we looked at some reflections on JPIC in the context of the APIA conference. We pondered on the theme entitled ‘The Pope, the environmental crisis, and the frontline leaders’. Fr Andre Claessens then showed participants a segment of the film, ‘The Letter’. After this we went into groups again and we shared our experience of what’s happening in our countries, what are the challenges, what is the climate telling us, and what are the possibilities for the present and for the future. Of particular importance was the reflection on, ‘what are the positives and the challenges that have you been living through in your country of origin.’

### SUPERIORS MEETING

The meeting started with Fr Tamati Sefo, MSC (APIA Chairperson) welcoming everyone to the start of the APIA Superiors Gathering. He then thanked Fr Humberto for facilitating the gathering of the formators last week and Fr Andre for facilitating the JPIC sessions this week. The superiors present were: Tamati Sefo, MSC (Provincial of the Pacific Island Province); Chris McPhee, MSC (Provincial of Australia); Bern Tethool, MSC (Superior of the Region of Japan); Benedict Ko, MSC (Provincial of the Province of South Korea); Edwin Borlasa, MSC

(elected Provincial of the Province of the Philippines); Sam Maranresy, MSC (Provincial of the Province of Indonesia); Darwin Thatheus (Superior of the Indian Union); Rey Tibon, MSC (member of Indonesia Province working in Japan) was present as secretary of APIA.

Superiors had the opportunity to return to the themes discussed at the last meeting in Australia (2018). They provided also a report on the situation of each entity, and discussed the possibilities for the future as a Congregation. At the end of the meeting it was decided that our MSC from India will host the next APIA meeting in 2024.

All our APIA meetings ended with a wonderful and profound celebration on the 8th December, presided by Fr. André Claessens, MSC. On this occasion we celebrated together the 168 years of our Foundation, the first vows of 5 new confreres of the Pacific Island Province and 25 years of vows of Fr. Tamati. After lunch we watched to various cultural dances and a festive afternoon with confreres and lay people from various parishes.

Thanks to our newest province of Pacific Island that prepared everyting beatifully to all of us! Vinaka vakalevu!



## JPIC REFLECTION

The 2021 General Conference suggested that a JPIC commission be set up to try to involve more MSCs in living this aspect of our vocation. It took some time to find some confrères available for this service. A first online meeting took place with Fathers Claude Mostowick (AU), Richie Gomez (PH) and Gabriel Naikoua (UAF/EU). From this meeting came the decision to dedicate the prayer-action of the first Friday of the month to the 7 objectives of Laudato Si. These objectives are also the subject of the DECLARATION published at the end of November 2021 on the 7-year LS Action Platform (see [www.ametur-msc.org](http://www.ametur-msc.org)).

### Relief Operation.



When we were having our zoom meeting Richie Gomes was very busy organizing the relief help for the victims of typhoon in Cotabato & Maguindanao and preparing for the typhoon Queeny that was on the way to hit the country. They are located in the gateway of these storms of the Pacific (20-25 every year! but their intensity is increasing now as a result of the climate change). The farm of the Center for the Poor (Butuan) is of big help to provide the basic products. The UN haven't the personnel nor the capacity to bring sufficient aid to

the victims and they rely on the Center to intervene. So, our help is well appreciated also by the authorities.

On October 4th the new documentary film about the message of *Laudato Si* called *THE LETTER* was presented by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development. It offers a compelling new message for our planet and a timely and authentic way to engage the audience. Subtitles available. Surf to YOUTUBE.

### COP 27.

Should we still believe in the COPs? These international conferences organised under the aegis of the UN for the past 27 years to officially coordinate climate action at the global level are proving to be increasingly disappointing year after year. In the early hours of Sunday 20 November in Sharm-el-Sheikh, after two weeks of negotiations, the delegations of 196 countries finally reached an agreement. One important advance was the recognition by the countries of the North of the irreversible damage they have caused to the countries of the South, and agreement was finally reached to create a fund to help the countries most affected by climate change.

WE'RE DOING OUR PART  
TO CARE FOR THE EARTH.



| André Claessens, MSC

## THE MISSION TO ACCOMPANY

*By Humberto Henriques, mSC*

*The road always gets shorter and the fatigue is always less when you have good travelling companions  
(Haved Nivah)*

### Breaking bread together

The origin of the word "accompany" is rooted in the Latin word "*companiono*", from *cum panis*, that is, the one with whom bread is shared. The same Latin root also gives rise to the word companion and, in this case, why not say travelling companion. All the symbolic richness of this reference can help us to understand what the divine mission of vocational accompaniment means for us formators within the House of Formation.

Because we are relational beings, we do not break bread or share the road with only one person. Even more so when we speak from the ecclesial context and Religious Life, the bread is the food that is broken in community and the road is the same for all, even if it is travelled in an individual way. On this basis we can certainly affirm that the first subject of accompaniment is the community as a whole. A community, be it missionary or of a house of formation, is the main subject of accompaniment.

Eating the same bread together does not only refer to the act of sharing food, but, above all, to life and to the journey that is made by walking

together. It will be very important here to highlight a passage contained in our Valladolid document, in which the former Father General, Kees Braun, msc, defines the House of Formation as "**A Formative Community**". I think there is an important paradigm shift here. When we speak of houses of formation or seminaries, we tend to think only of the physical place where formators and formandi are placed, some with the duty to "form" and others with the obligation to be "formed". But when we speak of formative communities, we can understand that the actor of formation is not only one (the formator), but several, or better, it is the community itself which forms.

Even if we consider this background of the community that forms, it is clear for all of us the fundamental role that the formator exercises as an accompanier. It is a specific duty which flows from his mission within a house of formation (formative community). It is up to him to accompany both the community and the individual who has entered the formation process.

The community's accompaniment aims at highlighting the limits and qualities of each person in his relationship with the other(s), as well as evaluating whether the members of the formative community are capable of evolving in humble service and in sharing the gifts received. A community will only be a true school of disciples if the members place themselves at the service and, through fraternal correction, denounce every possible trace of seeking power and annihilation of the other within the community. The accompaniment of the community is inserted in the context of discipleship and goes back to the community of the twelve who, before being sent on mission, were called to be with Him (cf. Mk 3:14).





Those who do not succeed in being together in community will hardly be able to be missionaries in the name of the community.

Individual accompaniment, on the other hand, aims at helping the one in formation to integrate progressively the various dimensions that characterise his life and personality in order to, living in community, embrace the congregational charism and serve the Lord. "In this process, three instances are articulated: *listening to life, the encounter with Jesus and the mysterious dialogue between God's freedom and that of the person*. Who accompanies, welcomes with patience, raises the truest questions and recognises the signs of the Spirit in the young people's response."

The young person who has decided to undergo the formation process is someone at a critical moment of life change. How each one works out this change will depend very much on who accompanies him and how he accompanies him. Regarding the 'how' - the strategy - we could here outline two, using the words of Pope Francis

on formation:

- The police way - the one in which the formator will use accompaniment and conversations to try to control the formandi so that he/she follows the rules and what he/she is told to do. I could also call this modality superficial, since it sees what emerges, but fails to perceive what is submerged and at the source of the formandi actions.
- Artisanal modality - that in which the guide values the formator as he is and teaches him to discern from what he brings with him, taking into account his lights and shadows. Here the formator may even be attentive to the rules which, by force, must be obeyed. But this will not be the focus of his attention. Rather, he should pay attention to the source, that is, to the place from which the formandi acts. Different from a superficial way of accompanying, this strategy is deeper and more coherent with the type of formation we want and with the Spirituality of the Heart.

## MAIN ARTICLE

The main purpose of Initial Formation is to help the formandi to know himself and to experience God's love even where it hurts. We see many beautiful spiritual discourses of people who speak of God's love, but who are not convinced of it because they have experienced and are experiencing great blows to their soul. Not to mention those who do not let anyone into their stories because they are self-sufficient or narcissistic.

To know that one is loved by God is a demanding task. Even we who have already travelled a good part of the way with the Master need to reconfirm this love. Feeling and knowing that we are loved is a lifelong task, since adversity and negative experiences insist on bringing our compulsions to the fore. So we can never say that we are totally complete and satisfied because our heart always desires God, but from time to time it also distances itself from Him.

For those who follow religious life, accompaniment does not end. It changes stages, it changes companions, but it is revealed as a necessity. We are always on the way and if we have a good companion it always makes the journey more pleasant and we will be able to love because we know that we are loved first. May our great contribution as formators be to inculcate in young people in formation the desire to travel the road always accompanied by a good companion, until the end of our entrustment.

Part of an article written by Fr Humberto Henriques, mSC in a conference given at the International Encounter of Novice Masters. To read the full article access our website: <https://ametur-msc.org/website/the-mission-of-accompany/>

## APPROVALS FROM OCT. TO DEC.2022

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>
25.10.2022	JAIME ROSIQUE MARDONES	SPAIN	PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION
28.10.2022	IZAIAS OLIVEIRA DA SILVA	RIO DE JANEIRO	PERPETUAL VOWS
28.10.2022	GABRIEL SHIKONGO	IRELAND	DIACONATE ORDINATION
01.11.2022	KENJI KONDA	AUS TRALIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
02.11.2022	LUÍS CLÁUDIO DA SILVA LIMA	SAO PAULO	PERPETUAL VOWS
28.11.2022	CHRISTOPHER NONGI	PNG	PERPETUAL VOWS
28.11.2022	EDWIN SUKENA	PNG	PERPETUAL VOWS
28.11.2022	VINCENT MOLOVA	PNG	PERPETUAL VOWS
28.11.2022	RICHARD MOMO	PNG	PERPETUAL VOWS
29.11.2022	DEAN NAVONA	PNG	DIACONATE ORDINATION
30.11.2022	MENDOZA LLOYD (HEMBRADOR)	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTLY ORDINATION
30.11.2022	BERMUDEZ FELIX II (REIN)	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTLY ORDINATION
30.11.2022	JOHN CHESTER PLEÑOS JR (FLORES)	PHILIPPINES	PRIESTLY ORDINATION
30.11.2022	SALINO, JYRNELL (BADANA)	PHILIPPINES	DIACONATE ORDINATION

## **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ISSOUDUN**

### **~ COMMUNITY WEEK 2022 ~**

As usual, every first week of October, this year from 3 to 8 October 2022, the international community of Issoudun organised a community week. We all broke with the pastoral routine of the Basilica of Issoudun and the Parish of Saint Vincent in Champagne Berrichonne. The community week is a time to review the 2021 pastoral year. It is a time to pray and examine how our practices serve the mission of the Church in Berry, the cradle of our congregation.

This activity took place at the monastery of Notre-Dame de la Gloire-Dieu, which is situated at the top of Mont Voiron, between Lake Geneva and the Mont Blanc chain. This high Marian place in Haute-Savoie offers, to the dazzled gaze, the splendour of Mont-Blanc which stands majestically in the middle of the Alps. For a week, our eyes were spoiled by the beautiful views of Mont Blanc. In addition, we had the chance to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi in the beauty of this place. As we know, St. Francis inspires nature lovers and ecologists alike, and he makes us think further with his penetrating view of creation. He sings it not only out of sensitivity, but in the conviction that all life

has its origin in God.

During this community week, two new faces have joined the international community of Issoudun. Raymond Lièvre, MSC, arrived at the Issoudun community on 29 January 2022. Before that, he was on mission in Marseille. Another new face came from South Korea, namely Fr Matthew Park, MSC. He arrived in Issoudun on 19 September 2022. He is beginning to acclimatise to the temperature and spirit of the community.



After the community's first session, he will go to learn French in Vichy in November 2022.

For the community week, our activities were presided over by Fr André Claessens, Assistant General. We lived our daily rhythms of prayer without joining the activities of the contemplative sisters, except for a few times for the evening service. There was one occasion when we celebrated Mass with them, especially during the celebration of St. Bruno's, the feast of the Congregation that welcomes us. On 6 October 1976, the feast of St. Bruno, the first Brothers of Bethlehem received the monastic habit and established their first monastery



## EVERYWHERE

in the Chartreuse mountains. In 1984, the Brothers numbered 22 and were divided into 2 monasteries. The Sisters are 250 living in 12 monasteries in France, Belgium and Italy. Brothers and Sisters constitute the same monastic family in two autonomous entities.

The schedule of activities for the community week was very well organised by Fr André. On the first day, we express our inner feelings and moods before starting the community week activity, which is called "what we carry in our backpacks". There were various moods expressed openly and in a brotherly atmosphere like MSCs. During the community week, we evaluated the missionary life project for 2021/2022 and drafted the missionary life project for 2022/2023.7 October, we took advantage of a day to make a pilgrimage to the places that were once places of life for St. François de Sales, namely Thonon les Bains and its surroundings. This activity was guided by a young man, a friend of MSC, namely Jean-Baptiste. "This pilgrimage reinforces what we did last February during our annual retreat on St. Francis de Sales at the Abbey of Sainte-Marie-de-la-Pierre-qui-Vire in the Yonne department," said Fr Gabriel Naikoua, MSC. After finishing our pilgrimage, we had lunch with Jean-Baptiste's



family. In the afternoon, we visited Fr Pierre Pythoud, MSC, who now lives as chaplain at the Carmel de Reposoir (a former Carthusian monastery). A pilgrimage that ended with a joyful visit.

On 8 October, we returned to Issoudun. At noon we had lunch in Paray le Monial. Some of us made a pilgrimage to the place where Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Truly, we close this community week activity with a meaningful pilgrimage, to a place where Fr. Jules Chevalier also made his pilgrimage, from where he returned to Issoudun as a new man.

The community week allowed the community to receive each other and to build peacefully over time. "The diversity of generations in the Issoudun CSM community is a grace. The elders give the younger ones the benefit of their experience and their fidelity, and they allow them to situate themselves in a history. The younger ones can help the older ones to renew themselves and to better understand the changes in mentality that are taking place. Encountering others requires a process of formation, dialoguing in many dimensions at the same time: context, cultures, charisma, history, personal processes, intellectual preparation... Only with the help of the grace of the One who invites us to this life is it possible to be open to the experience of interculturality as a dimension of our Christian, religious and missionary life.

| Yongki WAWO, MSC  
Member of the IC of Issoudun

## FR. ABZALÓN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION



The celebration of this 25th anniversary was an expression of our gratitude to God for having given the gift of priesthood to Abzalón. It was also an opportunity, of course, for us to express our personal appreciation to Abzalón, for sharing his priestly service with us at the Generalate, with God's people, and especially to all of you in the Congregation.

This particular jubilee was celebrated in the context of special circumstances. A community gathering for Abzalón was held on October 21, the day we remember the Founder, Jules Chevalier, who bequeathed to us this precious charism and mission which Abzalón lives so authentically. The

occasion also coincided with the completion of the *ad limina* visit of ten provincials elected or appointed during the pandemic who came to Rome to participate in a program of leadership and familiarisation with Generalate practice. The highpoint of the Jubilee was the festivities held on the actual anniversary of Abzalón's 25<sup>th</sup> year of priesthood, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

All the members of the General House community, led by the community Superior Mike Miller, worked together to prepare a joyful and fraternal celebrations. Our confrère Richard Suresh, with his artful skill, decorated so beautifully the chapel, courtyard, dining room, and other



corners of the house. The richness of our community's interculturality was expressed in the meaningful Eucharist through various songs and prayers in different languages. A very poignant and touching moment was the showing of a short video of Abzalón's life, containing many images of the man himself from infancy until now, donated willingly by his family and friends. These images were mixed with warm greetings from our confrères from numerous entities and formation houses, and from his family. Special thanks to Raul Ruiz Mena, the Provincial in Central America-Mexico for sourcing much of the footage. A sumptuous dinner followed, prepared by Benny Laisina and his team, which absolutely topped off a wonderful day of thanksgiving.

The celebrations were really very beautiful, full of happiness, friendship, and brotherhood. They were made so by the presence of the *ad limina* Provincials, our Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and MSC Sisters, and our local friends from the Ursulines and Congregatio Jesu sisters. Special guests included Guatemaltecos and family and friends of Abzalón, including the Guatemalan Consul to the Holy See.

Always united as one family we thank God for Abzalón and for his service as a Good Shepherd to our Congregation and the people of God.



# 168 YEARS OF THE MSC FOUNDATION



we were not  
**OUR HEARTS**  
**BURNING WITHIN US**  
as we walked  
along together?

luke 24:32



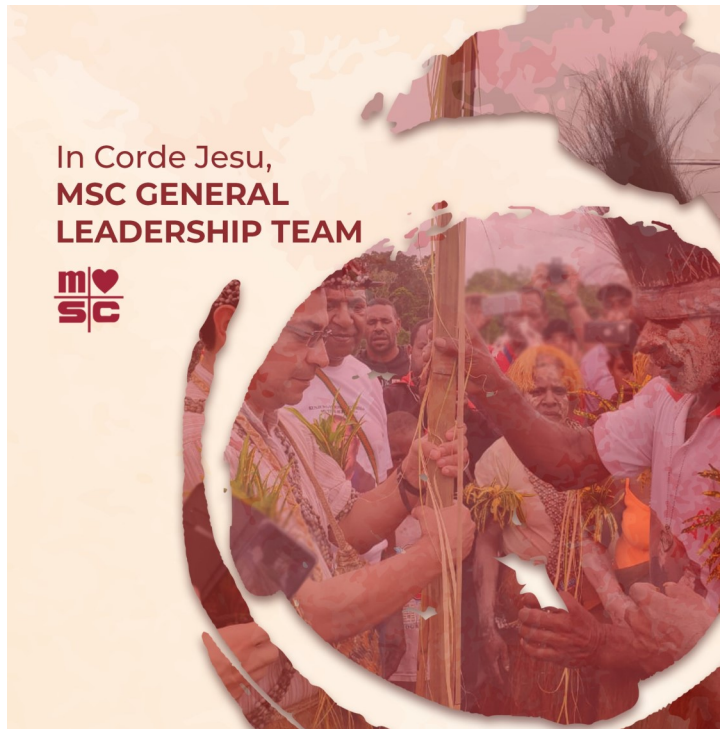
**MSC FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY**  
in the framework of the Road to Emmaus:

after 168 years since our foundation,  
**OUR HEARTS ARE STILL BURNING**  
like those of the disciples at Emmaus.

Wishing that your hearts continue to burn  
while walking and allowing yourselves  
to celebrate this anniversary in fraternity  
and with the People of God  
whom we are continually called to serve.



In Corde Jesu,  
**MSC GENERAL  
LEADERSHIP TEAM**



***AMETUR UBIQUE TERRARUM COR JESU SACRATISSIMUM!  
IN AETERNUM!***

**FOUNDER'S DAY AT THE GENERALATE**

The Generalate community, MSC sisters and OLSH sisters along with the Provincial and Union Superiors who were there for *ad limina* visit celebrated the Founder's day.



**DIACONATE ORDINATION—UAF**

On Saturday 15 October 2022 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) in the Union of French-speaking Africa, we have a great joy. God conferred the ministry of deacon on the four of us by the imposition of the hands of Monsignor Toussaint ILLUKU (in the middle). So, on his right, there are Deacons Modeste LOBO and Ronald MAPANDA (from the DRC). On the left of the bishop, there are Deacons Déodat from Congo Brazzaville and myself Xavier TIABONDOU from Burkina Faso. Let us always support them in their ministry and may God give them in this service a heart open to the needs of the world and give them a fruitful ministry.

**PERPETUAL PROFESSION - INDONESIA**

On Friday, October 21, 2022, at the MSC Pineleng Scholastic Community Chapel, our five brothers took vows for life in the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Eucharistic celebration was led by Fr. Antonius Dwi Rahadi MSC, as the Provincial Assistant.

Those who took vows:

1. Fr Theophilus Tosman Maria Manuwembun MSC (Amboina Diocese),
2. Fr. Arda Palloan MSC (Archdiocese of Makassar),
3. Fr. Rexi Alfrids Baptista Kawuwung MSC (Manado Diocese),
4. Fr Zakarias Chaken Holland Mayabubun MSC (Amboina Diocese),
5. Fr Devid Fransiskus Abram MSC (Diocese of Manado)

Proficiat to the brothers! We hope that this celebration of thanksgiving really raises their spirits and becomes a strength for them in carrying out their mission as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Pray for them to continue in the call of God. Ametur!

**PRIESTLY ORDINATION—INDIAN UNION**



The MSC Indian Union is very happy to share the joy of Priestly Ordination of Fr. Marbi John Aswin MSC, who was ordained on 18 November 2022.

Requesting your prayers for a faithful life of self-giving to others and that his priestly journey may be pleasing to Our Lord.

**PRIESTLY ORDINATION—IRISH PROVINCE**



Warmest congratulations to Fr Giacomo Gelardi MSC, who was ordained to the priesthood in his home town of Urbino, Italy, on Saturday, November 19th, in a celebration led by Bishop Fintan Gavin of Cork and Ross.

**REFUGEES**

In partnership with Caritas Rome, our Via Asmara Community decided to welcome a refugee couple from the war in Ukraine. They are Lucia (Ukrainian) and Aram (Armenian). They are living in the house ('caseta') that is next to the entrance gate of our General House. On December 20th we had the joy of sharing a meal with them.





*The world has hope again with the birth of a child.*

We wish that Christmas may be a time of new beginnings  
for you and your community.

And that in 2023, our hearts may continue to burn,  
so that our feet will stay on the road.



MSC COMMUNITY OF VIA ASMARA - ROME (GENERAL HOUSE)



**Missionaries of the Sacred Heart**

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**English Correction:**

Tony Arthur, MSC