



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

GENERAL BULLETIN

N° 2023.2 | AUGUST - CHEVALIER YEAR



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Dear brother Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, young people in formation, and members of the Chevalier Family,

The highlight of the year 2023 for us will certainly be our next General Chapter. We understand that the Chapter is the most synodal place for a religious congregation. A significant place where we will be called to discern the movements of the Spirit to open us to greater possibilities for the future of our mission as MSC.

To achieve our goal, many efforts are being made throughout this journey, whether by the Council and General Administration, or by the Provinces and Unions. The Provincial Assemblies and Chapters, as well as the Commission meetings, offer us important elements for community discernment during the Chapter in September. The online pre-Chapter sessions that were held so far have introduced Chapter members not only to the themes but also to the process—based on the Spirituality of the Heart—that will be used. In this Newsletter, you will find some important information about all these preparations so that each member feels part of the process.

We are also happy to share with you some news about what has been happening around the world in our entities. And of course, as all this happens under the founding inspiration of our founder, in the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of his birth, we also dedicate a significant space to bring you our main article, continuing the one from the previous issue and some information about the CHEVALIER YEAR. A few days ago, we found in our archives a letter from Pope Pius IX, written almost 100 years ago, addressed to the congregation on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder. We share here this jewel of our history to inspire us even more during this jubilee.

We hope this information brings joy to your heart as you realise how much life we have in our Congregation. Through the mission of each member, the Heart of Jesus is made present everywhere.

Happy reading!

| Humberto Henriques, MSC



MSC CAPITULUM GENERALE 2023

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF BELGIUM

In three rounds our province came together to take to heart the preparations of the General Council and to develop suggestions for our future and our daily religious life. On December 1, 2022, and January 12 and February 9, 2023, we felt bound together as we reflected on what was important to us. These three days gave us a taste for coming together, meeting each other and engaging in conversation about the deepest things in life.

This intense preparation together enabled us to make decisions quickly after a day of conference for all the confreres (April 12, 2023) and the following two days of Chapter (April 13-14) with the thirteen confreres expected. Yes, we had long felt our poverty (in number of members and strengths, in taking on responsibility including in governance) and decided to put the question to the General Chapter and the General Council of the Congregation that we should no

longer be a province with too many burdensome obligations.

The provisional recommendations of the previous chapter were reviewed and reinforced as we continue to work for our future and the warmest possible community. This last chapter in April (after less than two years), we had to hold it before the General Chapter. What was more, with the pandemic, we're out of the rhythm of triennial chapters.

We plan to hold another chapter next year, in July 2024. It is as if we are getting the hang of it! Just when we're feeling the weight of it earlier, but we're discussing a renewed future.

**| Herman Cooreman, MSC
Provincial Superior**



UAF CHAPTER



On March 5, 2023, coming from Italy, Senegal, Congo, and Cameroon, we started the Chapter, trusting in God's Mercy and carried by his Spirit. In the daily listening to and sharing of the Word of God, before the work of the Chapter, we made ourselves available, listening to Christ speaking to us through the Gospel, listening to each other, too, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. In fact, the theme of the Chapter, "Were not our hearts burning within us as we walked along the road together" (Lk 24:32), invited us to do just that.

Throughout our work, we were in this spirit of mutual and fraternal listening, synthesizing the responses of the Districts to the Chapter's questions, without forgetting the occasional inspiration of the capitulants to deal with the themes of safeguarding and the protection of minors and vulnerable people, with the help of our confrere, Didier Mbela, trained in Rome in this area, the Constitutions and leadership, Formation and Mission.

Our interest broadened when we heard about the vision of our schools in relation to the Educational Project of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart developed by Fathers Charles Biloa and Yvon César Banackissa. Meanwhile, where there is talk of a religious family, there is also talk of finances. Were

our hearts not in raptures as the Union bursar gave us an overview of our finances!

Father General online speech on the theme of the Chapter gave us great hope for the future of our mission in Africa.

One of the highlights at the end of the Chapter was the election of delegates to the General Chapter in September 2023. The following were elected in the spirit of CS 259-261:

- Christian Mongay (1st Union delegate)
- Jenner Kihoulie (2nd delegate)
- Georges Diabone (1st substitute)
- Nicolas Kanaga Diatta (2nd substitute)

During this Chapter, we benefited from the services of Father Octave Fonku, Rector of the Claretian Scholasticate, for the moderation of our work. Thank you to the Generalate for its encouraging presence, reflected in the presence of Father André Claessens, the Congregation's Vicar General.

**| Yvon César Banackissa , MSC
(Union Superior, UAF)**

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF FRANCE-SWITZERLAND

***Were not our hearts burning within us,
as we walked down the road TOGETHER?***

This was the theme for the Assembly and Provincial Chapter of the France-Switzerland Province 2023, which took place in Issoudun on March 27 to 31, 2023. The Chapter was preceded by a Provincial Assembly wherein the existing lay groups in the Province were represented. In addition, Sr. Marie-Christine Kunzi, Provincial of the FNDSC France-Switzerland, was able to join us on the second day. They shared their

further, even if we may be held back by our various human limitations.

André Claessens, Assistant General, was the visible link with the whole Congregation. Mrs. Caroline Dry, a member of a secular institute dedicated to the Sacred Heart, along with her professional skills as a clinical psychologist, was a great help in facilitating our speaking out and our discernment so that we could adjust to one



experiences in the society and in the Church.

It is in the spirit of Father Jules Chevalier himself that religious must work with the laity to make known the richness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus so that it is increasingly recognized throughout the world. For each of us, this was a source of richness for the rest of our work. Yes, in this period of synodality, it is appropriate to remind ourselves that, alone we go faster at the risk of exhausting ourselves, but that, together we go

another. It was undoubtedly a challenge to attempt such a journey in such a short time.

The basis for our reflections was the Emmaus story, which the members of the Council presented to open our days in prayer and sharing, as can also be read on the Prayer for the General Chapter.

During the Chapter, there were several subjects to discuss. Of course, we talked about the future of Issoudun, with our buildings now

oversized in relation to our needs, in the context of the strong secularization that is invading us and forcing us to think differently about how we live out our mission. Proclaiming the Gospel is part of a new paradigm that we cannot ignore. This is bound to have an impact on the way we feel, our dreams, our expectations, our hopes, etc. We need to consider the principles of reality, without which we could become utopians and wishful thinkers. The very mystery of the Incarnation obliges us to this principle of reality: we are not above ground! But we also need to know how to trust as Father Jules Chevalier and Mother Marie-Louise Hartzler did in their day.

We are also moving towards the creation of a new community close to a major urban area, with the mission of being present on the "periphery" according to the pastoral intuition of Pope Francis. This community would be proposed to an entity of the Congregation that would come on mission to Europe.

Once again, we realized that JPIC (Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation) is a concrete expression of our Spirituality of the Heart.

In accordance with the Constitutions and Statutes of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Daniel Augu   was elected provincial, having obtained the two-thirds majority required for this third mandate. The Superior General, Fr. Mario Abzal  n Alvarado Tovar, confirmed the election, thanking Fr. Daniel for his availability for this service of governance in the present situation.

| Yongky WAWO, MSC
(Member, International MSC
Community in Issoudun)

MSC NEWS OF HOPE.

New Country.

New MSC Presence.

New MSC Formation House.

It is with great joy and hope that we announce that at the beginning of August 2023 a new MSC presence will start in Nairobi, Kenya (East Africa).

It is an initiative of the Province of Ireland, through the MSC Southern Africa Section.

This mission also begins as a community with international collaboration: a confrere from UAF (Lucien Beh Evina) and one from India (Antony Peter), together with a native Kenyan MSC belonging to the South African Section (Peter Ng'ang'a).

This way, the Heart of Jesus continues to be loved everywhere.

Congratulations to our confreres and courage in the new mission.



Lucien Beh Evina, Peter Ng'ang'a, Antony Peter

XIV DOMINICAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



The XIV Dominican Provincial Chapter was held on the week of April 17-21, 2023, at Monte de Oración, San Victor, Moca, Dominican Republic.

In an Easter context, the Chapter took place in an atmosphere of fraternity, with a good community atmosphere, where there was space for each of the participants to express their feelings freely on the different elements of the Chapter agenda.

During the week, there was a climate of prayer and reflection, beginning and ending each working day with a time of prayer. The work time was divided into two morning meetings and two afternoon meetings, with their respective breaks and time for meals and rest.

The Provincial Superior, Fr. Juan Tomás García, opened the Provincial Chapter on April 17, invoking the Holy Spirit and inviting everyone to a moment of prayer. He then welcomed each of the members of the Chapter assembly and presented the motivations for the Chapter. He then went on to propose the organization of the program for the week and the activities, with their respective timetables. Juan Tomás García as Moderator and Fr. Roberto Núñez as Secretary were proposed and approved by the Chapter Assembly.

Bernard Mongeau and Fr. Marc-André Gingras, from the community of Quebec, and Joel Dépré, from the community of La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada, recalled the process that led to

the merger of the Canadian Province and the Dominican Province, pointing out that it was the first time in our Congregation that a Province was dissolved so that its members could join another Province.

The work of the week was organized as follows: from Monday to Wednesday, the pre-capitular commissions were heard. Each commission presented its work and proposals to the assembly. In response to each commission's presentation, the assembly reacted with considerations and contributions, which they then had to incorporate into their final proposal.

The commissions were as follows: 1) Initial and ongoing formation, 2) Parish ministry, 3) Justice, peace and integrity of creation, and 4) Prevention of abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.

The Thursday session saw a return to work in the commissions, to incorporate as far as possible the contributions of the assembly to what was presented by each commission. Then each commission presented their final proposals for the conclusion of the Chapter.

On Friday morning, a vote was taken on each of the proposals presented by each commission. After the proposals of the different commissions had been presented and submitted, there was time to listen to the general opinion of the assembly.

Fr. Marc-André Gingras spoke on behalf

of the companions of the community of Quebec, Canada, and of their views on the consultation on the elderly to which they responded. He thanked them and emphasized the climate of welcome and fraternity experienced during the Chapter.

Juan Thomas exhorted the capitulants to push forward the conclusions of the Chapter and to live it with determination, so that the necessary results could be obtained. Immediately after the celebration of the Eucharist, a photo was taken and the minutes were signed by each of the capitulars.

**| Juan Tomas, MSC
(Supérieur provincial)**

AUSTRALIAN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The MSC Australian Chapter was held on April 17 to 24, 2023. During the gathering, our men has elected Stephen Hackett as the new Provincial of the MSC Australian Province. We are so grateful that Stephen has lovingly accepted this new ministry in our MSC Province. Accordingly, he will leave the office of the General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference in June and will start his new responsibility as the Provincial on July 1, 2023. The whole congregation extended their gratitude to Chris McPhee and his administration in leading the province in the last six years.

The Chapter also has elected 2 delegates to the General Chapter taking place in September-October 2023. They were John Mulrooney and Peter Carol, with two reserves: Peter Hendrik and Chris McPhee.

The days often started with a liturgical opening, followed by reports from different Committees,

and then reflection and sharing in groups pertaining to the reports presented earlier in the day. One of the highlights was during a Friday night wherein Bishops Vincent Long and Terry Brady, together with the directors in various MSC ministry fields, attended. The night was full of joy and laughter. During the night, Andre Claessens, General Councilor, gave a speech expressing his hope and desire for the future of our Congregation.

The Chapter officially ended with the statements affirmed by all members about the Voice of the Heart, St. Mary's Towers, Vietnam, Japan, Laudato Si, Senior Living, Re-visioning Mission, Safeguarding, and Finances. It was then followed by the Eucharistic celebration to pray for the continued journey of our Congregation.

**| Hoa Tran, MSC
(Province of Australia)**



2023 PHILIPPINE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The MSC Philippine Province held their provincial chapter in April beginning with a Eucharistic celebration led by the incoming Provincial, Fr. Edwin Borlasa, MSC. This Chapter built on the work the province had done in the previous year at both its Provincial Conference and Province Assembly, and worked to set directions for the province for the next years. The Chapter used and appreciated deeply the practice of Communal Wisdom.

The Province is gifted with many talented men who assisted the Chapter through the secretariat and technological support. Each day some delegates were tested positive with COVID and went into quarantine, but this did not stop the proceedings. By the end of the first week, a third of the delegates were infected. However, members came online and participated in the Chapter sessions on screen. Fortunately, none of those sick suffered seriously and all were back in the Chapter hall by the last day of proceedings. There was a wonderful spirit of brotherhood among the delegates and staff who were good humoured throughout.

The Chapter liturgies were simple and sensitive, offering the members a chance to reflect on the day's proceedings and bring them into the evening liturgy as prayer. The music was wonderful and the Filipino voices strong.

The Chapter considered many important issues to do with such matters as the amazing work of The Centre for the Poor, on Education, the Media Apostolate, Lay presence at Assemblies and Chapters, Changes to Statutes, the Restructuring of Administrative Districts within the Province, Ongoing Formation, Sustaining the Mission, on what the Filipinos call *'Tatak'*, Spirituality of the Heart.



Congratulations to the Philippines Province and we pray for the implementation of the Chapter recommendations by the new leadership.

| Jommy Burgos, MSC
(Province of the Philippines)

IRISH MSC OPEN PROVINCIAL CHAPTER



We rejoice in having celebrated our first Open Chapter with 40 members present from all territories of the Province. We are deeply grateful for the close accompaniment of Fr. Absalón Alvarado MSC, our Superior General, for the members who attended, the Chapter staff who supported us, and the prayers of the entire Province.

Like those on the road to Emmaus, our desire has been to recognize the Lord walking among us, welcoming every aspect of who we are, holding our hopes and dreams close to his heart.

Once again, he has invited us to be signs of compassion to our world, especially those in need and those who have experienced being excluded by our society.

This week has been one of honest conversation, sharing, struggle, and searching. The discerning conversations began in the pre-Chapter process and will continue over the coming years. As we shared together on the Chapter Road, five areas of our MSC life emerged, calling us to deeper reflection and consideration:

- Our MSC Mission
- Our partnership with the laity
- Healing of past and present hurts
- Mapping the future of Venezuela and Southern Africa
- Our MSC Mission for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

In small groups we opened ourselves to where the sharing, listening, and discerning might take us as a Province.

Like those who were on the Emmaus Road, we now also return to Jerusalem, return to our first love, not totally certain of what the future holds, but with life, hope, and passion for that future and for the mission entrusted to us, eager to continue the conversation with the larger Province community.

Chapter Redaction Committee

ACCOMPANIMENT

ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF RIO DE JANEIRO



"He has put his Spirit in our hearts (2 Cor 1:22)". This biblical text, which has been inspiring the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of the Province of Rio de Janeiro since its III Chapter in January 2023, was also the theme of the Elective Assembly, held from 3 to 7 of July 2023 in Juiz de Fora/MG.

At first, the assembly was advised by Daniel Seidel, executive secretary of CJPIC at CNBB, who helped the group to look at the evils of the time, with hope to list the work that has been done and the prospects for the future. This important formative moment culminated after a six-month period of discussing and evaluating CJPIC in the Small Meetings of the four sectors of the Province.

Subsequently, the members of the Province had a moment of community discernment, guided by Fr. Moacir Goulart, Provincial Superior of Curitiba, who was delegated by the Superior General to assist the

election. After this process of listening to community desires, the vote was held to re-elect Fr. Ronnie Anderson as Provincial Superior and then to elect his Council: Fr. Ruaro Cândido (Vice Provincial), Fr. Francisco de Assis, Fr. Pablo Moura, and Fr. Daniel Paiva.

If the days were cold in Juiz de Fora - and how they were! - the Assembly, on the other hand, took place in a warm atmosphere of fraternity and joy, characteristics proper to those who experience the effects of the Spirit of Jesus acting in their hearts.

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

Approvals from March 2023 to June 2023



We affectionately confirm our brothers mentioned below. We hope that their commitment will be unreserved, to make the Heart of Jesus loved everywhere.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>APPROBATION</u>
MARCH 2023	Marcelinus Lilo and Richardo Bill Lira	INDONESIA	PRESBYTERATE
MARCH 2023	Marcos Paulo Rossi De Moraes	CURITIBA	PRESBYTERATE
APRIL 2023	Kabuua Tonganibeia ; Lotu Faraniko Maotapule Tuloto ; Mendhi Iva	PACIFIC ISLANDS	DIACONATE
APRIL 2023	Rosenildo do Nascimento da Costa	SÃO PAULO	PRESBYTERATE
APRIL 2023	Tinh Dao Anh NGUYEN ; Quy Thien BUI ; Hung Quoc LE	AUSTRALIA	PRESBYTERATE
APRIL 2023	Gabriel Shikongo	IRELAND	PRESBYTERATE
MAY 2023	Tiago Donizete de Paula Lopes	RIO DE JANEIRO	PRESBYTERATE
MAY 2023	Izaias Olveira da Silva	RIO DE JANEIRO	DIACONATE
MAY 2023	Sesu Raj R. ; Karthik Raja Sekar	INDIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
MAY 2023	Antonio Posadas Cruz	UNITED STATES	PERPETUAL VOWS
MAY 2023	Antonius Nugroho .	INDONESIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
MAY 2023	Petrus Bajo Piran	INDONESIA	PRESBYTERATE
MAY 2023	Dang LE ; Hung Duy TRAN ; Huy Quang NGUYEN ; Loc Nguyen PHAM ; Vu Thanh NGUYEN ; Thi Anh PHAM ; Thien Hoang MAI ; Truc Xuan MAI ; Thanh Van LE	AUSTRALIA	PERPETUAL VOWS
MAY 2023	Devid Fransiskus Abram ; Rexi Alfrids Baptista Kawuwung ; Theofilus Manunwembun ; Zakarias Mayabubun ; Hardaely Palloan ; Fransiskus Xaverius Sikteubun	INDONESIA	DIACONATE
MAY 2023	Melvin Saludares Ellaga ; Primitivo P. Danao Jr.	PHILIPPINES	PERPETUAL VOWS
JUNE 2023	François Armand Fokam Tamno ; Séraphin Sawadogo ; Ronald Mapanda Masasi ; Modeste Lobo Kwete ; Deodat Don-Dieu Tandou Bitsindou ; Kuuni Hyacinthe Ouedraogo Wend ; Gérard As-sogo Ndoumou ; Xavier Tiabondou	UAF	PRESBYTERATE
JUNE 2023	Roland Kabore Wendbarka ; Alfred Gomis ; Brinda Nguele Auchemy	UAF	PERPETUAL VOWS
JUNE 2023	Isidro Castro López , Nicolás Castrillo Tzunuk ; Edgar Anibal Cordero Ordoñez	CENTRAL AMERICA	PERPETUAL VOWS
JUNE 2023	Venanzio Choc Cho ; Francisco Antonio Saravia Márquez	CENTRAL AMERICA	DIACONATE
JUNE 2023	Noelguens Excellent	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	DIACONATE
JUNE 2023	Jyrnell (Badana) Salino	PHILIPPINES	PRESBYTERATE

ON THE ROAD TO THE 2023 MSC GENERAL CHAPTER

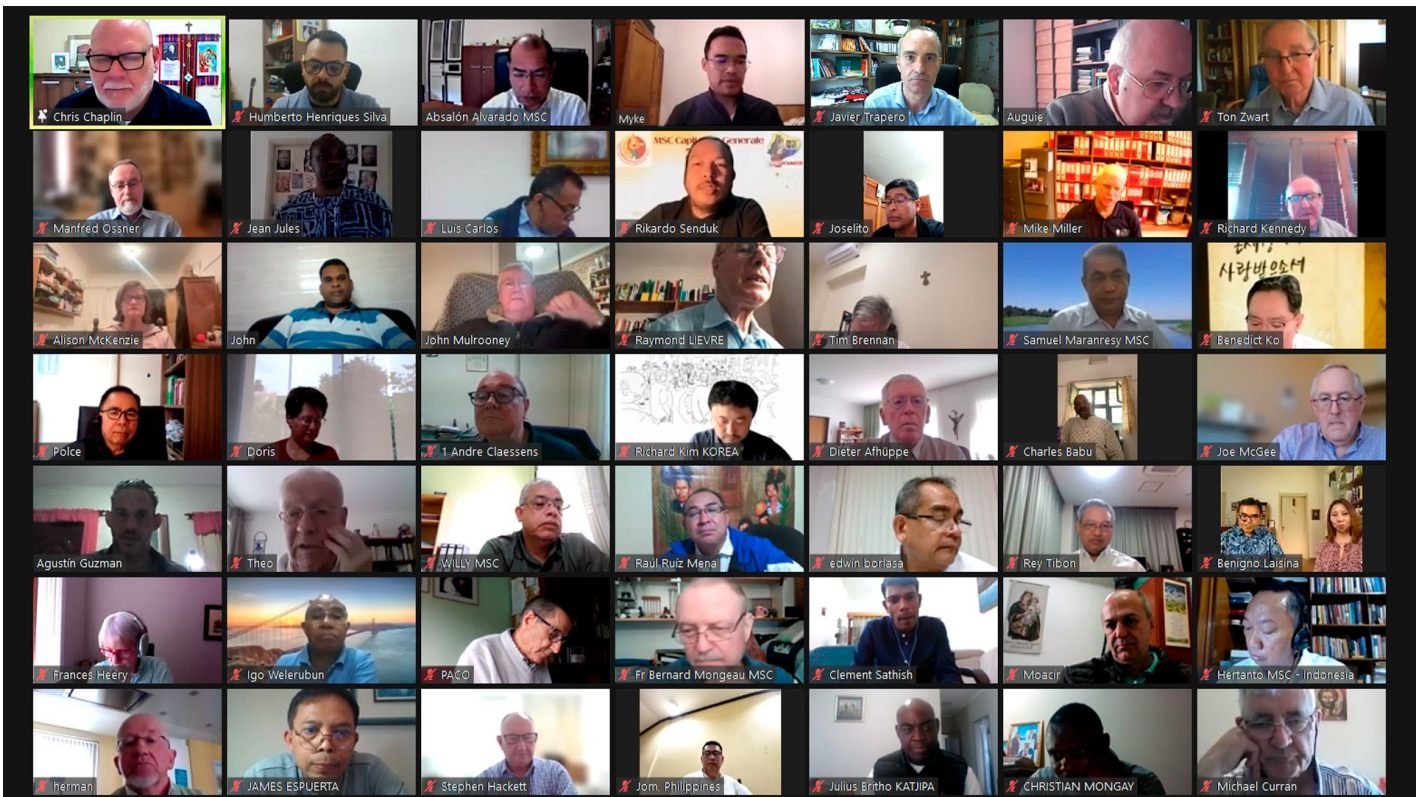


*"Were not our hearts burning
as we walked along the road?"
(Luke 24:32)*

ECO+
-EGO

The text of Luke 24:13-35, which tells of the appearance of the risen Jesus to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, has been the symbol of what we hope for our 2023 General Chapter. With the whole Church, our religious family wishes to open itself to the experience of a greater and more effective synodality, moving from the ego to eco, with ardent hearts and feet on the way.

It is true that in our Provincial Assemblies/Chapters and in the General Conferences we have already been reflecting on important themes for the life of the whole Congregation. However, these events were only the "warm-up" before the actual journey, which we have already begun to tread through the online sessions in preparation for the General Chapter.



So far, we have had three sessions: the first one, held on May 30 and 31, gave us the opportunity to introduce ourselves and to start working in groups, seeking to familiarize ourselves with the methodology that will be used in the Chapter, that is, "Communal Wisdom". After this meeting, a few days later, the Preparatory Document for the Chapter entitled, "Jesus appeared and walked with them", was sent to all the participants, in which we all had access to a compilation of the ideas that each MSC entity could send to the General Leadership Team.

In the second session, held on June 20 and 21, there was plenty of time for group work in which participants were able to share their impressions of the preparatory document to which they had access. At the end of the work, all groups were able to share their ideas. After this session, participants received the report from the General Administration entitled, "Things that have happened in the last few days". The third session, on 11 and 12 July, aimed to share the ideas that emerged from the reading of the General Leadership Team report.

A final online session before the General Chapter is still expected on 9 and 10 August.



In addition, the logistics team has been working on the practicalities of the Chapter. Therefore, we ask you: do not forget to send your travelling information to **Richard Suresh (secgen2@msc-chevalier.org)**, as well as the size of t-shirt you wear. In case you need a visa to enter the European Union, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can arrange the Letter of Invitation, if you have not already done so.



Finally, we would like to inform you that Brother Bernard Mongeau, at the invitation of the Generalate, will be a member of the General Chapter as a representative of the Brothers of the Congregation. Therefore, all Brothers who wish to present something for the consideration of the Chapter may contact **Bernard (econoprovcan@videotron.ca)**.

In this process towards the Chapter, may we be enlightened by the Risen Lord and may our burning hearts become a flame that ignites other flames, illuminating the world with the love of the Heart of God. May it be so.

ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE INDIAN UNION – APRIL 2023



After a long wait after my first visit in 2018 (pandemic time included), I was again able to accompany almost all the communities of our Indian MSC Union for two and a half weeks. The priority on this occasion was the individual listening to each member. I was able to accompany the different mission areas and formation houses.

There was an opportunity to listen individually to about 50 confreres out of the 65 to 70 MSC religious living in India (about 15 confreres from India are on missions in different continents)

To touch contemplatively the richness, mystery, and vulnerability that each of us has in our hearts is a wonderful gift and a great opportunity for me as a leader.

Each Union member is precious because he has many values, hopes, qualities, and vulnerabilities. I found that every member seeks to do

their very best, be it in parishes, schools, formation houses, and/or administration of the Union.

In the State of Tamil Nadu:

I participated in celebrating the refurbishment of a sub-station church in Gengapuram Parish. Then, I accompanied the communities of Chevalier Academy in Dindigul and Coimbatore. These two MSC presences include a diversity of ministries such as parishes, a school ministry, a future care center for the elderly, and probably a retreat house.

In the State of Karnataka:

I accompanied the members of the different MSC communities and scholasticate in Bangalore and the formation house in Mysore. Alt-

though I could not get to all parishes, I met different confreres working in various parishes in other dioceses of Karnataka.

In the State of Kerala,

Personal and community meetings were held at the novitiate house and parish in Ernakulam district, Cochin, Kerala.

In Telangana State,

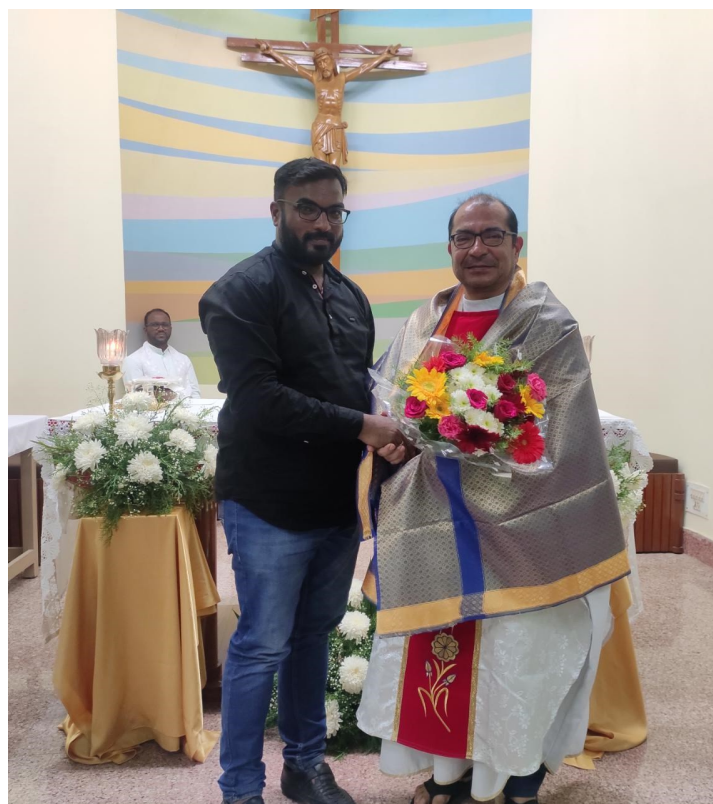
I accompanied our confreres working at the formation house in Warangal and other parishes in different dioceses around Hyderabad and Warangal. We had our personal and community meetings at the Salvatorian house in Warangal.

After these trips, we spent valuable time working with the Union Council and local superiors. It was an opportunity to name and take up different and serious challenges they face nowadays.

One of the most important future projects is the ongoing process of becoming an MSC Province. There is still a long way to go and several stages to be fulfilled, but this is one of the challenging goals that give life to this mission.

I also witnessed the development in the following buildings,

- MSC House at Chevalier Academy in Dindigul.
- The new Chevalier Academy in Bangalore is almost completed.
- The formation house in Warangal is also nearing completion.
- The formation house in Mysore is now fully



completed.

Several MSC provinces have helped to make these dreams a reality. I try not to forget any of them: the Netherlands, South Germany/Austria, mission offices in Ireland, and Australia. And to all other MSC entities which collaborate every year so that this great mission in the most populated country in the world can continue to make it possible to be the heart of God in the heart of India.

**| Abzalón A. Tovar, MSC
(Superior General)**

ACCOMPANIMENT

KOREA ACCOMPANIMENT 2023



In May this year, with the help of the Provincial, Benedict Ko, MSC, I was in South Korea for accompaniment with our confrères. I was there previously in 2018 for their first Provincial Chapter, meeting the members and visiting their ministries. In 2019, I was with them again when the MSC General Conference was being held in Busan. Due to the pandemic, I was unable to attend their second Provincial Chapter in 2021, though I attended online.

From my arrival at Incheon Airport, the warmth of the Korean people was there. Michael Cho, MSC drove me to the Provincial House at Paju-si [former novitiate]. I stayed a few days meeting some of the Council and the community. A special highlight was blessing the construction of the new Province House in Gyeonggi-do. It is well designed, with space for the province administration, and living space for confrères, especially those who are ageing.

I travelled with good friend and Novice Master, Ireneo Lee, MSC, and the two novices John Jang and John Ko, from the north of the country to the south. We visited the MSC Sisters in Busan and toured their newly constructed motherhouse. It is an amazing achievement. We continued our travel on to Yangsan and Ulsan to meet confrères, staff, and clients in care homes for disadvantaged, orphaned, or disabled boys. Collaboration with lay staff here is important. Meeting confrères is always an opportunity for a meal together. Korean food is delicious especially BBQ which happens right on the table in front of you.

We drove north again to the MSC retreat house at Ganghwa. Travelling with the novices was an excellent experience. They are learning English and used the opportunity well, showing great interest in the congregation, their vocations, and the interior life. The journey was

perhaps one of the most joyful I have ever had. I am delighted we have men like this wishing to be MSC.

Children's Day is a holiday in South Korea observed on May 5. Clients and staff from our care homes drove to Ganghwa for a wonderful day of recreation together. The Ganghwa retreat centre could accommodate the approximately 50 kids and staff. The children are very caring of one another, a reflection of the family atmosphere encouraged in the MSC care homes.

In Ganghwa, I also met up with many of our confrères. The formation house is also there and Richard Kim, MSC is responsible for the aspirancy and pre-novitiate. We have one aspirant, Pancratio Jung, and one postulant, Lino Lee, and together with the novices we enjoyed an outing together, having wonderful conversations. The evening ended with table tennis back at Ganghwa where they displayed their endless energy.

Our Korean confrères are in ministry in several MSC provinces. The ministry of MSC Brothers and Priests is very socially oriented – no parishes or traditional ministries. Their energy and life is a great witness to our charism and mission.



| **Chris Chaplin, MSC**
(Assistant General)

ACCOMPANIMENT

ACCOMPANIMENT TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE PROVINCE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Arriving in Papua New Guinea for an MSC is and always will be a unique opportunity to reach the first mission territory of our Congregation. It is always exciting and, at the same time, challenging. But most of all, it has been a grace from God to have the long-awaited opportunity to be with our confreres in Port Moresby in person.

On this occasion, my presence was limited to the communities and members of Port Moresby.

I had the great opportunity to listen to almost every MSC member living there. We could not be on-site in PNG for more than four years for various reasons beyond our control. It made the individual and community conversations, including everyone in initial formation, very deep and fruitful. I learned a lot from each of our confreres in Port Moresby. I thank each of them for opening their hearts and

allowing me to discover the heart of Jesus in each of their hearts.

Then for four days, we went on a journey of sharing, listening, and leadership training with the new Provincial Team. We were able to name the challenging realities that they are facing. There is much to rebuild in human relations and communication within the Province and the whole Congregation.

However, I could sense the good intention and the search for technical and facilitation aids this Provincial Team is making. The proposal of shared leadership that they are trying to put into practice is highly appreciated.

I recognize that there is a long way to go and that we, as General Administration, are also responsible for some challenges that still must be faced in this great missionary territory. Nevertheless, I am confident that by walking together in synodality, we will be able to move

forward.

I also had the great opportunity to be at the Patronal Feast of our Parish San Charles Lwanga, which allowed me to be with our parishioners and the Laity of the Chevalier Family, as well as with the MSC Sisters and the FDNSC Sisters.

The highlight was the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. We had a fantastic day at the Boismenu MSC formation house, almost all the MSC of Port Moresby celebrated together, and religious and lay people from the Chevalier Family were present.

I must not fail to mention that I see with great hope the new multidisciplinary committee working to make the Serra Projects possible for

the Church in Papua New Guinea. I had a deep sharing with them, together with the current Provincial.

I thank each of the confreres who made this accompaniment possible. I am particularly grateful for the efforts that this Provincial Administration will continue to make to be a living part of the whole MSC Congregational Ecosystem.

**| Abzalón A. Tovar, MSC
(Superior General)**





The International Council had programmed that the fourth assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family will be held in the Philippines in January 21-29 2024. This meeting was supposed to be held in 2023 but was postponed to 2024 due to the timing of its preparation coinciding with covid. The theme of the Assembly is, ONE IN HEART IN CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME. The venue is in Don Bosco Retreat House, Lawaan, Talisay, CEBU CITY.

There are four aims of this Assembly:

- Deciding, discerning together the mission as laity
- Enhancing global solidarity
- Formation in Spirituality of the Heart
- Organizational matters.
- There will be some keynote addresses:
- “One in Heart in Caring for our Common Home” by Sr. Merle Salazar FDNCS.
- “Spirituality of the Heart as reflected in *Laudato Si’* and *Fratelli Tutti*” by Fr. Hans Kwakman MSC.
- “The Journey to the Heart always leads to a journey back out into the world” by Rita Cleuren.
- “Spirituality of the Heart – a remedy for the ills of our time” by Bonifacio Dano.

FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY

- And there will be also two workshops:
- “Practical Ways of Embedding *Laudato Si’* principles into our Lives and Groups” by Aidan Johnson
- “Formation of Effectives Groups” by Maria Olimpia Klose.
- The International Council together with the Local Committee have been working hard to prepare this meeting. As integral part of the Laity of the Chevalier Family we are invited to participate:
- In the level of local country groups discuss about the documents in preparation for discussion and voting: - The Revised Guiding Principle and Organizational Directions of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, - The Roles of: National Council Chairs Spiritual Companion, - Financial Responsibilities of National Councils. (all these are sent through the bulletin “The Encounter of the Heart, 2023 edition”
- Sending members as many as we can, at least 2 delegates. The International Council is ready to help those entities who are truly financially unable to send their delegates. This kind of help is only for the registration. And for this intention, the International Council needs the recommendation of the Provincials whose members (lay msc) are requesting help. This is necessary to ensure that the help provided goes to the right people to participate in the Assembly.
- Fundraising to give financial support to IC and the Local Committee for those entities



- that are financially unable to send delegates.
- Spiritual assistance by praying together for this assembly.

Sr. Merle up until the official handover in the Assembly.

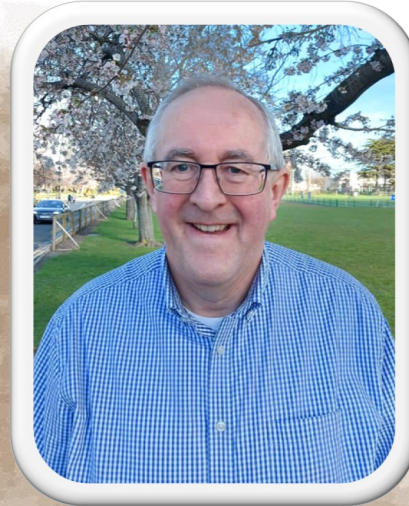
Another important piece of information is that in that assembly there will be the official handover of the new Spiritual Companion for the International Council, from Fr. Hans Kwakman MSC to Sr. Merle Salazar FDNsc who was already appointed as the new Spiritual Companion by the ExCom of the Tri-generalates. Fr. Hans will still work together with

| Paulus Pitoy, MSC - Polce (Assistant Général)

ELECTED OR RE-ELECTED PROVINCIALS



P. STEPHEN HACKETT, MSC
Provincial-elect of
the Province of Australia



P. JOSEPH MCGEE MSC
Provincial-elect of
the Province of Ireland



P. DANIEL AUGUIÉ, MSC
Re-elected Provincial of
the French-Swiss Province



P. RONNIE A. DINIZ, MSC
Re-elected Provincial of
the Province of Rio de Janeiro

ACCOMPANIMENT

The Mission in Mozambique: A SPIRIT OF LOVE FOR JUSTICE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE POOREST



New Parish entrusted to the MSC

In the first week of July, I accompanied our missionaries in Mozambique. This visit took place a few weeks after the visit of Fr. Luiz Carlos, MSC, provincial of São Paulo. In addition to what is typical of the work of the General Leadership Team in monitoring, some situations required our presence there, such as the restructuring of our presence in Mozambique in this time of war.

I believe everyone followed here in our General Bulletin – and in some articles on the website – the situation in Mozambique due to the chaos that the 'war' has already caused, especially in the province of Cabo Delgado where we are. In the Diocese of Pemba alone, there are currently 1 million displaced people, that is, people who have been forced to flee from their homes and set up camps in other cities. More

than 9,000 people were killed or missing, according to the diocese.

Since the war began, the previous bishop, Dom Luiz, forbade us to return to Meluco, the parish where we had been assigned from the beginning, because by being there, the missionaries were putting their own lives and the lives of the Christians present there at risk. Mainly to save the lives of Christians in Meluco, Fr. Eduardo, resigned and moved to Pemba. With the arrival of a new bishop, Dom Antonio Juliase Ferreira Sandramo, he continued with the same ban on our missionaries and offered a pastoral area near Pemba so that Fr. José Eduardo could exercise his ministry there and so we have continued to this day.

Roney Lima, MSC arrived in Mozambique

on March 26, 2023 to compose the missionary team, together with Fr. Edward. Since then, in addition to attending to this quasi-parish of Metuge, the two help in some other diocesan works, such as the Pastoral da Comunicação (Radio). They have recently started to hold vocational meetings with young people interested in joining us. All this, however, in a provisional way, without making anything official.

- That is why it was important for me to come to Mozambique because, after the visit of Fr. Luiz Carlos and his impressions, I was able to meet with the two missionaries and, soon after, with them and the bishop, to rethink the future of our mission in Mozambique. After a long discernment and conversations, we decided on the following:
- The Mozambique mission is an unstable mission because of the current war situation. Furthermore, as Christians are a minority, there is no interest on the part of the government to support any Catholic mission there. Many religious congregations have had their homes and possessions burned since the war began. Although two sisters were kidnapped at the beginning, no religious man or woman was killed. In summary, we are aware that all the investment made in this mission may eventually be lost. However, we are convinced that we must continue there if we really want to be in places where nobody wants to be.
- Meluco, the parish we took over when we arrived, is no longer a possibility for us. We don't know if it will be in the future because, as I said, everything is very uncertain. The house we built is still intact – together with the nuns' house next door – and there is someone who takes care of the house. From time to time, with great care, the MSCs go to Meluco to check how things are going.
- Edward and Fr. Roney expressed the desire to have a missionary reference, that is, a parish where they were established. Therefore, after many conversations, we decided to leave the parish of Meluco and take over the



Meeting with the Bishop of Pemba

ACCOMPANIMENT

parish of Metuge, which is 120km from Pemba. I was visiting a sector of this parish and I could see that the Christians were happy with our missionaries and wanted them to stay permanently. The bishop was also happy with our decision to accept the quasi-parish of Metuge. With this formalization, the procedures for the canonical erection of the Parish of Santo Antônio de Metuge will be carried out.

- The MSC will not live, for the time being, in the territory of this parish. In addition to not having a home where they can live, living in Pemba is the best solution right now. They set up a scheme in which it will be possible to serve the parish on three days of the week and return to Pemba for other work with the Diocese. MSCs currently live in a house in the Diocese. However, this house is inside a school and we saw that this situation must be temporary. Furthermore, if we want to start welcoming candidates for formation, we need a better structure. Several possibilities are being studied for our discernment.
- We talked about opening a Formation House in Pemba. José Eduardo and Roney will soon present a concrete proposal to the General Leadership Team to make this house viable. Since the arrival of Fr. Roney, he began to accompany 9 young people who showed the desire to start a vocational process with us, most of them parishioners of this parish of Metuge.
- The ideal for this mission is that we have at least 3 missionaries. We are negotiating with the UAF the possibility of an African member to be part of this mission, but the mission remains open to any MSC that feels called to compose this team.

It is important to mention the link between our missionaries and the men and women religious of other congregations who are there on this mission. After the war started, many religious left the diocese, but many remained in the same spirit of detachment

and trust in God. Some of them form a real fraternity of material and psychological support to survive the difficulties of the mission.

In the days I spent in the MSC community in Mozambique, in addition to experiencing the vulnerability of being in a dangerous place, the most important thing was living in a community where the spirit of our Constitutions is present, “a spirit of family and fraternity, made of mercy and mutual forgiveness, meekness, humility and simplicity, hospitality and a sense of humour. He is, above all, a spirit of love for justice and concern for everyone, especially the poorest” (CS 13 and 32).

**| Humberto Henriques, MSC
(Assistant Général)**



NEW MSC AT THE MOZAMBIQUE MISSION



Hello, brothers and sisters! I'm Fr. Roney Lima, MSC from the Province of Rio de Janeiro. I have been here for four months at the Mission in Mozambique.

Since I entered the formation house in 2008, I had contact with confreres and their stories that strengthened my resolve to go to missions outside the country. In 2017, my novitiate class had the opportunity to accompany all the preparation of Fathers José Eduardo and Benedito Cortez (at the time Master of Novices) in the process of opening the mission in Mozambique. It was at this stage of formation that I felt that I could be one of many of our brothers available for the mission. From then on, I began to share this desire with the confreres.

In 2022, during a provincial assembly, Fr. Humberto Henriques, general councilor, spoke to our province about the difficulties of the mission in Mozambique in terms of the availability of

confreres, especially native Portuguese speakers. Upon hearing such a call, which converged with my yearning, I was sure that my life as a consecrated person should take this path. After several conversations with my Provincial, Fr. Ronnie, confreres, friends, and family started a 40-day prayer time, asking the Spirit of God to enlighten me with the best answer about my participation, my small part, in building the kingdom of God here and now. And today, I'm here in response to all the time of prayer and preparation.

I arrived here on the 26th of March of this year. In the first month, life here proved to be amazing. The landscape is beautiful and extremely contrasting with poverty. I visited almost all the villages that our quasi-parish Santo Antônio de Metuge serves. Only 2 communities left that we didn't reach due to the destruction caused by a cyclone.

In the first 15 days I was diagnosed with my first malaria (I tried to escape, I couldn't) and with typhoid fever. I stayed for a week being medicated and accompanied by Fr. Jose Eduardo. During these days that I was sick, I received visits from our parishioners who were very concerned, as well as the religious men and women who are here. I felt a true climate of solidarity and a spirit of communion. Thank God I recovered and didn't have any sequelae.

The people here always say that religious men and women respect their history and treat them like real human beings. This is impactful,



as we need to come from as many places as consecrated to remember and restore awareness of human dignity.

Even living in a simple reality, they exude faith and joy. When we are gathered to celebrate, they always offer the best they can: the best harmonies of songs with a lot of dancing; the colorful 'capulanas' that become true gala costumes and even the offerings of their 'maxambas' (plantations).

Some people ask me: what about nostalgia? Well, I miss you most days. I remember my father, my brother, the confreres and friends. And that's good because it helps me not to forget where I come from and what brought me here. With every good memory I have, I offer the people here the love I received through my presence and pastoral activities.

Brothers and sisters, many of us have the desire, inner disposition and readiness to go on a mission. Courage! Strengthen missionary ties! Meet our missions! **The "wealth" we need may be in the "yes" still kept in the heart.**

I carry one certainty with me: "He is happy who entrusts himself to God". The Lord has offered me great joy even in situations of great challenge and instability.

Here, together with them, I offer my best. At the other end of the world you are offering the best you can. EVERYWHERE we are making the Sacred Heart of Jesus loved. May it be like this forever, with each breath we take, with each sweat on our hands, with each beat of our hearts.

MAIN ARTICLE

JULES CHEVALIER:

A MAN WITH A SPIRITUALITY OF THE HEART

JOAQUIM HERRERA, MSC

1. Following advice

Jules Chevalier, in 1857, wrote thinking about the mission of the formators on the future members of the "little Congregation": "he will recommend to them in a special way the immortal letters of Saint Paul. This great apostle is the teacher of preachers; His works, compendium of Catholic doctrine, perfect model of apostolic eloquence, will be the manual of our missionaries".

Given this inclination of Jules for the Apostle of the Gentiles, it is worth starting this point starting from the experience of Paul. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, when Saul's conversion is narrated, there are two questions that he asks: Who are you, Lord? What do you want me to do? (Cf. Acts 22, 6-10). The first is oriented to the knowledge of Jesus. The second is not only a question directed towards action, it is, above all, a search oriented towards being. On his way to find the answer to his two questions, Paul will come to say admired by the greatness of the knowledge of Christ: what for me was gain I considered, for Christ, loss. Even more, I consider everything loss compared to the superior knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for which I give everything for lost and consider it rubbish as long as I win Christ. In the same text he adds the answer to the second question: and to be united to him (Cfr. Phil 3, 7-9). Knowing the Lord Jesus, Paul will dedicate himself to identifying with him to the point of affirming in the letter to the Galatians: I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And while I live in mortal flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me (2, 20). In Pablo the saying of popular wisdom comes true: "you are what you love".



2. Some conclusions

If the basic charism is faith, and with it the peculiar vision of God the Father and of his Son incarnate by the action of the Holy Spirit (Who are you?), spirituality is the concrete way of living and putting into practice the concept of God who gives meaning to our existence (what do you want me to do?).

Spirituality is the way of living our integral option for Christ and our unique vision of the Lord. Allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit to identify ourselves with the one in whom all plenitude resides and who loves us with a human heart. Letting God be God in our life so that he makes us people who think, feel and act like his "favorite son". Live personally for Christ, with him and in him, according to the way we have discovered him in the Gospel. The union with Christ lived from our founding charism, being men with the heart, source of life, similar to that of Christ. Identify with Christ, man totally for the Father and for others, to be men of and for God serving others.

Jules Chevalier writes: "our personal union with Jesus surpasses all imagination. It is not only a union through imitation and love. It is to make us one thing with him. The complete Christ is formed by him and by us.

As Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, our founding charism helps us to have an understanding of God of Love, revealed in the Heart of his Son with some peculiar characteristics that



give a specific nuance to the knowledge of his love and of his Heart in the biblical sense. If we perceive the concept of God through the Heart of Christ and in our response we are invited to clothe ourselves with the same sentiments as his, making our hearts similar to his, it is logical that we speak of a spirituality of the heart.

Frequently we should enter a process of demystification: spirituality is not a series of rites, norms or religious practices with value in themselves. We should also carry out a detoxification process that would allow us to suppress what has been added to spirituality and that prevents us from living its essence: the action of the Holy Spirit so that we have the life of God, a life that has its own name. : Jesus Christ, way, truth and life (Jn 14,6).

3.- With a requirement

In order to let God be God in our life and allow him to make our heart similar to that of Christ, we must have, as an indispensable requisite, the attitudes of the "anawin", of the poor in spirit. It is in them that God can fully act. The "anawin" are those who:

- They recognize their values and qualities and know that they have received them freely from God. They are, therefore, grateful people.
- They constantly seek God and recognize that they are loved by him, hence they are trustworthy and hopeful people. They know that for God nothing is impossible.
- They are aware that what they have received has a social mortgage, since the manifestation of the Spirit is granted to each one for the common benefit (I Cor 12,7). They are people who share and serve.
- They are aware that their being in the world has a reason for being in the mystery of God. Consequently, they are people committed to history from their own reality.

Of the people who put their trust in God and expect everything from him, of those who are grateful and share their gifts and their lives in solidarity with others, of these, Jesus affirms, is the Kingdom of heaven (Cfr. Mt. 5.3). These are the poor in spirit, the humble, the "rest of Israel", those who allow God to take away their hearts of stone to give them a heart of flesh (Cf. Ez 36,26), those who let him be God in them so that he can do wonders (Cfr. Lc 1,48-49).

4. Characteristics

If our spirituality is the concrete way of living our concept of God, it must have characteristics that coincide with the peculiar vision of the Lord Jesus with which the Holy Spirit has enlightened us. Our spirituality of the heart, therefore, must:

- Have an experience of the tender, compassionate and merciful love of God.
- Make the courage and strength of Christ your own as an experience of his love that is given without limits.
- Being aware that the fidelity and constancy of those who love us with eternal love and manifest themselves as the Good Shepherd, demand a similar response.
- Be attentive to the will of the Father to carry out "in obedience and fraternal charity" his salvific and liberating plan.
- Caring for others, especially the poorest and most needy, feeling sent to the same mission as Christ.
- Enter fully into the dynamics of love, learning to die to self in order to place the you, that of God, that of the brother and that of the ene-

my, that of the needy and that of the oppressed, that of the poor and that of the one who lives without sense, for above our self, our interest, our own peace of mind.

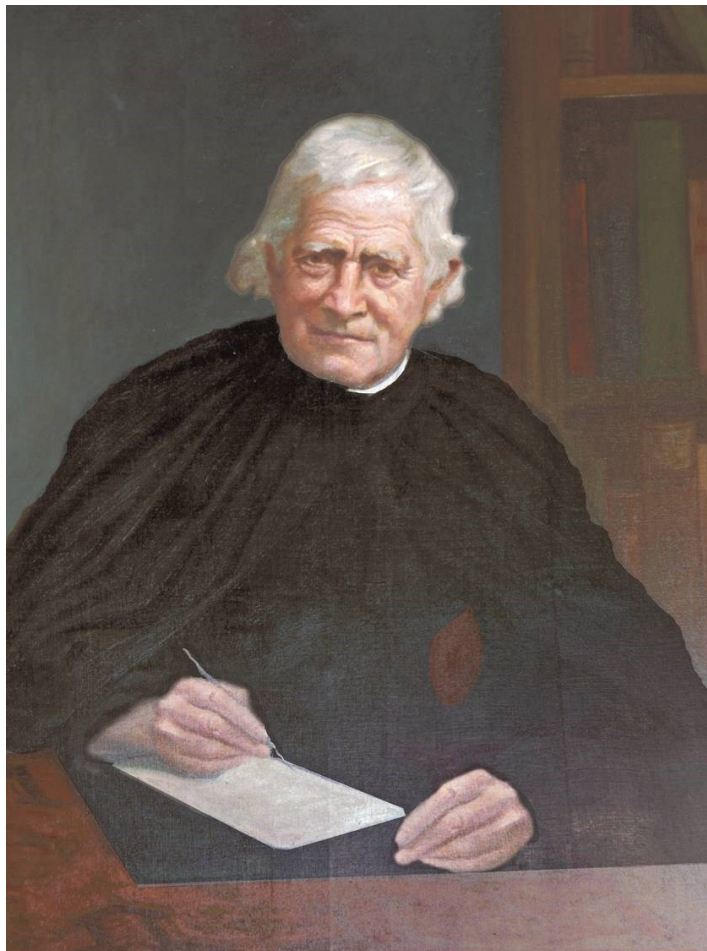
The Set of these characteristics, lived in a dialectical struggle and in a dynamic process of growth, make the spirituality of the heart real in the light of our founding charism.

5. The use of appropriate means

We all know that what is worth a lot, costs a lot. Nothing in our ordinary walk in the process of becoming a person, a Christian or a religious, is achieved by spontaneous generation. Also in spirituality personal effort is necessary to collaborate freely with the free action of the Holy Spirit. To achieve objectives it is necessary to seek and put into practice appropriate and adequate means. Some pedagogical means that allow us to acquire habits of action and facilitate the achievement of the desired ends. Asceticism, personal mastery, putting the evangelical counsels into practice, compliance with the Constitutions... and everything we have studied in the matter of spirituality, has its validity to help us live the spirituality of the heart fully. A spirituality that has to be inculturated,

But do we seek and use means to live according to our concept of God? An end without means is a vain illusion.

Jules Chevalier writes: "if we do not fully live the life of the Heart of Jesus, we must consider ourselves unworthy of the name of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart... Those who assume the glorious name of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart can only consider themselves worthy of it only in the to the extent that they have managed to lead the very life of the Heart of Jesus".



| This text is part of the third book (On The Journey) of the collection for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the MSC, written by Father Joaquim Herrera, MSC.



CHEVALIER YEAR



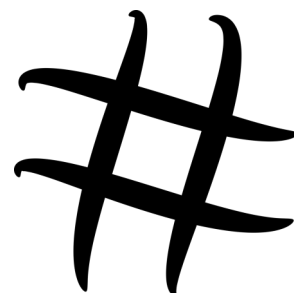
CHEVALIER YEAR WEBSITE

The Chevalier Year Commission is happy to announce that a new website for the Chevalier Year has been constructed and is now ready to be accessed. It is a sub domain of the website of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. To access, please click this link jchevalier.ametur-msc.org. This link will bring you to the “homepage” where you can then choose your language. You will find News, Images, Articles and other resources.

In addition, you can use the hashtag **#jchevalier200** on your Social Networks. It is an easier way to identify posts about the Chevalier Year.

We invite you to share news, photos, and videos of your Chevalier Year activities. For example, photos and videos showing how you opened the Chevalier Year in your country, province, or community. With your permission, we will upload what you send in the NEWS section of the website.

Please send your articles, news, photos, and videos to Mr. Javier Trapero on this email address: comunicacion@misacores.org



The Chevalier Year is a worldwide celebration of the whole Chevalier Family. Let us be part of each other's celebrations by sharing with each other through the website our news, photos, and videos.



a man with a heart on fire for mission!

1824-2024

A BIT OF HISTORY

Letter from Our Most Holy Father Pope Pius XI on the Occasion of the Centenary of the Birth of the T.R.P. Chevalier

To our dear Son Adrien Brocken
Superior General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Pius XI, Pope

Dear Son,
Greetings and Apostolic Blessing.

Among the servants of God who, in the last century, endeavoured to promote Catholic worship by creating institutions in keeping with the times, we must certainly place in an eminent position the Founder of your Congregation, Father Jules Chevalier, whose centenary of birth you are about to celebrate.

It gives us great joy to recall the great work he undertook while ministering in the parish of Issoudun, namely the development of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to bring souls back to God.

And it was not without divine assent that he seems to have formed this plan, since not only did he work hard to consecrate mankind to the Sacred Heart, but also, overcoming all sorts of difficulties, he gathered around him an army of valiant Missionaries, who, fired by the zeal of souls, under the auspices of the Virgin Mother whom he himself hailed for the first time with the beautiful name of "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", are striving to extend the reign of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

The pious Founder was not disappointed in his expectations; his sons, in fact, having spread in a short space of time to the different regions of Europe and America, have everywhere rendered great services to religion and society, particularly by taking care of the education of young people.

But above all they made their apostolic zeal shine through their admirable activity in the Missions of Oceania and the Philippine Islands.

No fatigue, no danger could prevent them from bringing the light of the Gospel to these unfortunate peoples, sitting in the shadow of death. It is therefore right that you should celebrate this Centenary of your Father's birth, but at the same time it is fitting that, on the occasion of this happy event, you should develop his virtues within yourselves, so as to continue his works with greater zeal.

For our part, we will gladly add to your joy by taking part in these solemnities. We are confident that the seminary you founded in the Eternal City on the occasion of this anniversary will soon be able to welcome students of your different nationalities.

Thanks to this opportune foundation, your young students, while living the common life with you, will learn, in this centre of Catholic unity, to attach themselves closely and strongly to the Apostolic See, to obey it and to serve it humbly, as has always been practised in your Institute since its origin.

In this hope which delights us, as a pledge of heavenly gifts and as a mark of our paternal benevolence, to you, most dear Son, to all your religious, to all those who, in any way, belong to your Congregation and help its works, we most affectionately impart our Apostolic Blessing.

Given in Rome, near St Peter's, on 1st March, in the year 1924, the 3rd of our Pontificate.

Pius XI, Pope.





A SHARED HEART INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF MSC INITIAL FORMATION

The whole good of our Congregation is in our hands, for on the good observance of the rules depend the religious spirit, the perfection of its members and the vigour of the whole Institute. Let us therefore act in such a way that the work we have accomplished may truly be for our Congregation like a fountain of life, like a fountain of water springing up to eternal life (Father Jules Chevalier, 1898).

In the following lines, I will try to give a short historical overview of the shaping of the different documents up to the experience of the MSC International Initial Formation meeting held in Rome, Italy. As is known to many, the General Administration carried out a laborious work during five long years with formators and trainees, with and by means of interviews, meetings at the level of Entities and Continents, among others. All this work was called, "Accompaniment of the MSC

Initial Formation". In addition, more than 90 formators participated in the meeting, not counting the superiors, from which came the document called, "Instrumentum Laboris", it should be noted that this first stage was called "Co-Initiate".

With all this gathered information, the second stage began. In a similar way to the previous one, it was called, "Co-Feeling". On this occasion, the formators and superiors of each continent, the novice masters and the Continental



MSC Entities of CA-MSC, UAF, PEC, and APIA participated. The purpose of these meetings was to extract the richness of the document of the first stage, from which was born a new document called, "Instrumentum Laboris, Part II". It should be noted that this document and the "Valladolid Document" were the two great treasures for the development of the third stage, "The Witnessing".

Finally, we met in Rome, Italy, for our International MSC Initial Formation meeting, which took place from the 16th to the 29th of May this year, with the participation of our Superior General, secretary, facilitators, translators, logistic corps, and formators from Africa, the Americas (CA-MSC), Asia and Oceania (APIA-MSC), and Europe (PEC-MSC), all supported and sheltered by the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus.

It was truly a very enriching experience: the academic, cultural, social and spiritual aspects of all the meetings made us contemplate the Heart of Christ, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and the spirituality of our founder, Father Jules Chevalier. It should be added that in addition to the academic formative spaces, there were other spaces for prayer, meditation, contemplation, individual and group work, by country and region. It is also worth mentioning the unforgettable community outings and the Bohemian evenings. In short, there was enough time to do everything.

In conclusion, I cannot overlook the fact that the study and deepening of these two treasures: the "Instrumentum Laboris II" and the "Valladolid Document" were the basis for the new decision making, obviously in the light of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the sum of all the forces, not only of those who were present at this meeting but also of the Provincials, Superiors, Seminarians, MSC Lay Religious, Parishioners and in general the whole

Chevalier family, made it possible for the Heart of Jesus to be present in the four movements inherent to our MSC spirituality, that is to say: Encounter, Intimacy, Conversion, and Mission.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart accompany and enlighten you at the next General Chapter.



**| Miguel Piamba, MSC
Colombia Section**

Navachethana Mission Station- Pandithahalli (Mandya-Syro-Malabar Eparchy-India)



The name NAVACHETHANA comes from the root word in Sanskrit *नव चेतना* (*Nav cetanā*), which means, “new”, that is, having life. It could be translated into our local languages in India as “New Life”. The **Navachethana Mission Station** is one of the twelve mission stations under the Jurisdiction of Mandya-Syro-Malabar Eparchy. It was established in 2010 mainly to cater to the pastoral concerns of the Syro-Malabar migrants from Kerala to Karnataka. It is one of the three Syro-Malabar Eparchies in the state of Karnataka. Navachethana Mission Station had already existed even before Mandya became a diocese. It was started by Missionaries of St. Thomas (MST) in 1996. When the diocese was created, they donated the place to the diocese to further the mission. The mission station is situated in a village called *Pandithahalli*, which is almost 45 kms away from the diocesan headquarters (Mandya) and 50 kms from a historical city in the southern India, Mysore.

The priest’s residence is located in the midst of 28 villages but none of which has a Catholic family. A vast majority consists of Hindus (95%) and a few

Muslim families. At the time of the inception of the center, the social scenario was a bit conducive for the mission. But as the years passed by, the ministry in the villages, especially visiting houses and talking to the villagers by going to them, created tension and hostility because they thought that the missionaries came to convert them to Christianity. By that time the mission had developed into a collaborative movement and sisters were invited to see the various possibilities of the mission here, the Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate (MSMI), a congregation from Kerala. The priests and the sisters first lived in rented houses, then both communities gradually bought properties and built houses for their residences. As there were two sisters who were also nurses, they thought of entering the mission of health care and started a dispensary on the presbytery campus. This mission has been active since its beginning in 1998. The pioneers thought of different activities to get connected to the people and gradually they worked out a few programs which could be operated on the presbytery campus, e.g., tailoring classes and

social awareness programs. The priests and sisters were gradually welcomed by many villagers to their houses, and then they started some women empowerment programs.

Thus, they started Self Help Groups (SHGs). Now there are 35 SHGs, but this program does not cover 28 villages because entry to some of the villages is not that easy since the Hindu fanatics are very strong in those villages. We are able to visit 16 villages through this program. It functions under the social service wing of the Eparchy and the director of the social service department is the in charge of this program.

One of the sisters from our place is the coordinator of this program along with the supervision of the priest in charge of the mission station. At present, we work mainly through these SHGs in the villages and conduct awareness programs and help the villagers to come together for supporting one another especially by creating a banking system among themselves. This banking system can be registered under a government scheme after functioning for a period. It would help them to get national and local government funding for cottage industries or small-scale industries. All these help them to look after their families and support the education of the children.

On May 20, 2022, an MSC was appointed to look after the station and to find out new ways and means to expand the mission. At present, we form a small community of 6 members: 1 priest (Fr. Lal MSC), 4 sisters (Sr. Beena MSMI, Sr. Grace Manuel MSMI, Sr. Daniya MSMI, and Sr. Seema MSMI) and 1 doctor (Dr. Reji Jose, MBBS). We usually begin our day with the Morning Prayer

which is followed by the Mass and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Our prayers and meals are common. The priest is the over-all in charge for the mission programs. The bishop of the Eparchy, the Most Rev. Sebastian Adyantharath, suggested that communion and collaboration are necessary for the growth of the mission. So, days of recollections, adoration, prayers, meals, and outings are done in common. We go to the villages to organize the functioning of SHGs and to conduct social awareness programs and medical camps. At times, we give care to bed-ridden patients by going to their own houses. We have restarted the tailoring class to help poor women who are struggling for a job in order to look after their families. The bishop is very supportive and encouraging to venture into new areas of ministry for the growth of the mission station.

I thank Fr. Thatheus Darwin, MSC, Superior of the MSC Indian Union, and his council members for allowing me to be part of this mission. Their constant prayers, support, and encouragement are my key motivating elements in trying to be the Heart Christ on Earth.

I also thank Fr. Abzalon, MSC, for his kind words and encouragement. It was a great inspiration for me when he told me that he was very much interested in a mission like this and a big salute to all the members in the general administration team for their constant support and encouragement to the Indian Union.

**| Lal Thomas Karappilly, MSC
Indian Union**

EVERYWHERE

Personal Growth and Renewal Program for the Superiors of Indian Union (June 27-29, 2023)



The sunset with a fresh breeze from the surrounding mountains filled the place with life and energy, and a grand welcome was extended by Chevalier Illam community members at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. There were ten participants: Frs. Darwin, the Union Superior, Tijo, Joji Babu, Praveen, Prabu, Joshua, Peter, Alexander, Charles, and myself. On the very first day, we gathered at the holy chapel for the inaugural session. After the opening prayer by Fr. Praveen, we were guided by the resource person, Fr. Victor Joseph C.M.F, who is the director of the De-addiction Center at Dindigul. A few inspiring and reflective points that are worth sharing are as follows:

- One's foundation of love is the Christian faith that is received in early childhood. Faith formation in early childhood becomes the source of inspiration to become a consecrated person. Who ignited the fire of vocation in my life? From where did I get the daring spirit to respond to God's call? As prophet Eli helped the little boy Samuel to realize the call of God, who inspired me? Who made me

know that I have a vocation within myself?

- Self-awareness brings a healthy personality which makes a human being an integrated person. Each one is expected to be aware of his physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and moral values. A committed person needs to focus on his integration, constant enthusiasm, serious responsibility, deep listening, genuine appreciation, profound humility, healthy humor, true friendship, sincere commitment, and, most importantly, prayer life.
- The purpose of the religious call is to build a 'human building'. Religious life must have human values as a base. To be a good religious means 'fully human'. God calls us to live for others. Mutual respect, spending quality time, appreciating and encouraging one another, sharing and showing love for each other, etc. are the basic concepts of time with and for others. Only a good human being could be a good Christian.

Darwin, the Indian Union superior, brought out fivefold wisdom, the five major areas that all our union members are expected to dwell

on. They are as follows:

1. My loyalty to our MSC Spirit, the spirit of our charism in line with our founder's spirit.
2. What is the spiritual depth of my religious life? Am I spiritually sound enough to be united with my Lord? Do I follow my spiritual exercises regularly?
3. What is the reality of my intellectual growth? Do I take interest in updating myself intellectually? Am I a skilled person for my effective ministry? How do I equip myself to be a fruit-bearing minister?
4. Heart for the poor: kindness and mercy towards the poor of society. Do I show concern for the poor around me?
5. How do I show the importance and the right approach to the safeguarding policy in my daily mission?

The concluding day of our renewal program was spent with a fraternal picnic wherein the participants were allowed to be in connection with God, themselves, and others. Indeed, it was a very heart-touching gathering that we had at Dindigul for three days. Though it was short, it led us to a guidepost, to refuel ourselves, to rejuvenate our energy. We cherished, progressed, and strived to carry out our mission more effectively. Yes, let our Lord's words "If you love me, you will obey..." continue to echo in our hearts.



| John Peter, MSC
In charge for Ongoing Formation

EXPERIENCE OF THE MARTYRS' JOURNEY IN QUICHÉ - GUATEMALA

The experience begins with the discovery that the lands of Quiché are extraordinary places: beautiful landscapes, temples of great architecture, parishes in great number, humble and hard-working people and a deep religious spirituality.

We, formands of the Latin American Theologate, which is in El Salvador, were invited to retrace the path of the MSC martyrs and, through this pilgrimage, affirm and rediscover our vocations. We went to the places where each of them worked and where they were killed along with the seven catechists who accompanied the people pastorally. The three witness of the MSC priests and the 7 catechists, martyred in the lands of Quiché, encourages missionary life, showing us that there are no frontiers to evangelise: "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation" (Mk 16:16).

Our journey began in the north of Quiché, in Lancetillo, where we found the relics of Blessed Juan Alonso, MSC. Then we passed through Chicamán where the testimonies of the relatives and friends of Blessed Reyes Us Hernández moved us especially about the way in which he was martyred. Then, we passed through Cunén, near the ravine (the place where Fr. Juan Alonso was killed), where we had a retreat in the morning.



In honor of Fr. Juan Alonso, and as a place of pilgrimage, a chapel is under construction. From there, we took the route to Chajúl where the Blessed Fr. José María Gran, MSC and his sacristan Domingo Batz were killed in cold blood; and in honor of them, a chapel has been built there. Following the route to Sacapulas, where Blessed Miguel Tiú Imul was born, the parish priest Antonio Sarat gave us the opportunity to talk with relatives of another candidate for beatification, they were a humble family of deep faith. In Zacualpa, the Franciscan brothers and sisters were already waiting for us, as was Sister Julia, the Mayan spiritual guide. She guided us through the history of the house and the testimony of the youngest Blessed of the group, Juanito. Each one had his or her profound experiences on the tour, some words that impacted the group: "I was



waiting for you", "You carry a lot of negative energy", "one of you will have a dream tonight". A unique and unforgettable experience.



The last visits were to Joyabaj, where the relics of our Blessed Brother, Fr. Faustino Villanueva MSC, are kept. And in Chichicastenango, the municipality where our three Blessed brothers were first buried. The Dominican Sisters received us with great appreciation and affection. And we spent some time in the house of three brothers from Guatemala: the family of Fermín Morales, Edgar Cordero, and Jacdro Asencio.



On our return to El Salvador, this biblical quote resonated with the group: "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15,13) It was inspiring and challenging to discover that the MSC Fathers, the lay catechists, left everything in order to be a message of love and hope for the people in a time of great conflict. To leave everything to go and die in the great mountains, as was the case of Blessed Alfonso, who was thrown into a ravine and on top of a rock, is a living proof that love surpasses all limits.

| Jacdro Nain Asencio y Asencio
*(Pre-Novitiate of
the Province of Guatemala)*

SUPERVISED PASTORAL EDUCATION (SPE) PROGRAM FIJI *April 8, 2023 MSC Ongoing Formation Commission*

The Graduation Mass of the Supervised Pastoral Education (SPE) program (January-March 2023) was celebrated by Fr. Augustine KIM, MSC, Supervisor of the SPE program of the Archdiocese of Suva, at the Pacific Regional Seminary (PRS), on the 31st of March 2023. It was the third graduation of the SPE program on the Pacific Islands since January 2022.

There were eight seminarians who graduated last March. They finished 4 years of theological studies at PRS and are now in their pastoral year this 2023. Out of the eight graduates, two are from MSC, six are from the different dioceses of the Pacific Islands – two are from the Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru, one is from Toga and Niue, one is from Port Villa Vanuatu, one is from Samoa, and one is from Caroline.

They had undergone a deep process for ten weeks to know who they are and to learn how to minister to people they meet in their respective pastoral areas. They learned how to reconcile and accept their woundedness, people, and self so that they may become full gifts for other people and instruments of God.

SPE is a method of professional, theological, and pastoral education wherein a student/ trainee learns pastoral care and counseling skills within the context of a responsible relationship and under the direction of a clinically trained SPE supervisor. It provides continuing education for the theological,

psychological, and emotional concerns of persons in crisis.

SPE program is open to seminarians, the religious, clergy, lay leaders, and other denominations as well. It is an ecumenical pastoral education program and helps to get their clear personal and religious identity as well. The next SPE program begins on the 6th of June 2023.

Priests from left, Fr. Simon, MSC, Rector of PRS, Fr. Augustine Kim, MSC, SPE supervisor, Fr. Frank Hoar, Columano, Fr. Keleto, MSC, Formator.



| **Augustin KIM, MSC**
MSC in Fiji

FIRST & PERPETUAL VOWS



FIRST VOWS: Jaswin & Vijay Kumar
PERPETUAL VOWS: Karthik and Sesu Raj
ENTITY: Indian Union
DATE: 02.06.2023

PERPETUAL VOWS:
LABORE W. Roland (Burkina) & Alfred GOMIS (Sénégal)
ENTITY: UAF
DATE: 17.06.2023
PLACE: Parish of Gossas, Diocese of Kaolack (Sénégal)



DIACONATE ORDINATION



NAME: Jyrnell Salino, MSC
ENTITY: Province of the Philippines
DATE: 01.10.2023
PLACE: Virgen della Regla Parish – National Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City (Philippines)

NAME: Devid Fransiskus Abram, MSC; Rexi Alfrids Baptista Kawuwung, MSC; Zakarias Mayabubun, MSC; Fransiskus Xaverius Sikteubun, MSC; and Hardaely Palloan, MSC
ENTITY: Province of Indonesia
DATE: 7/1/2023
PLACE: Sacred Heart Chapel, Minor Seminary in Pineleng (Indonesia)

NAME: Teofilus Maria Manunwembun, MSC
ENTITY: Province of Indonesia
DATE: 08.07.2023
PLACE: Church of Saint Joseph in Ambon, Mollucas (Indonesia)





NAME: Kenji Konda, MSC
ENTITY: Province of Australia
DATE: 03.17.2023
PLACE: MSC Monastery Chapel, Sacred Heart,
 Sydney (Australia)

PRESBYTERAL ORDINATIONS

NAME: Felix Bermudez, MSC; Lloyd Mendoza, MSC;
 and John Chester F. Pleños Jr, MSC
ENTITY: Province of the Philippines
DATE: 01.10.2023
PLACE: Virgen della Regla Parish
 – National Shrine in Lapu-Lapu (Philippines)



NAME: Raúl Pérez Valdéz, MSC
 and Ricardo Perdomo Arambulo, MSC
ENTITY: Section of Colombia – USA Province
DATE: 03.19.2023
PLACE: Santa Margarita Maria de Alacoque Parish in Bogotá (Colombia)

NAME: Jaime Rosique Mardones, MSC
ENTITY: Province of Spain
DATE: 22.04.2023
PLACE: Parish of Our Nostra Señora del Camino,
 in Pontevedra (Spain)



NAME: Emanuel Elisclibes
ENTITY: Province of São Paulo - Brazil
DATE: 01.05.2023
PLACE: N. Sra da Conceição Parish – Pacatuba-CE (Brazil)

NAME: Francis Xavier LE QUOC HUNG, MSC
 - PAUL BUI THIEN QUY, MSC
 - ALPHONSUS NGUYEN DAO ANH TINH, MSC
ENTITY: VIETNAM
DATE: 03.06.2023
PLACE: Chapel of the Scholasticate of the Province,
 in Manila (Philippines)

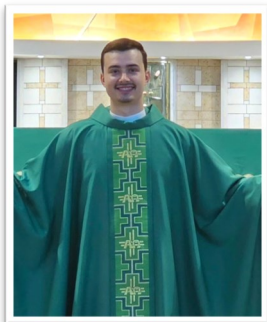




NAME: Gabriel Shikongo MSC
ENTITY: Province of Ireland – Community of South Africa
DATE: 06.17.2023
PLACE: Catholic Church of the Holy Rosary, in Swakopmund (Namibia)

NAME: Hyacinthe OUEDRAOGO
 and Séraphin SAWADOGO
ENTITY: UAF
DATE: 7/1/2023

PLACE: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
 in Ouagadougou (Burkina-Faso)



NAME: Tiago Donizete, MSC
ENTITY: Province of Rio de Janeiro
DATE: 08.07.2023
PLACE: N. Senhor dos Passos Parish in Rio Preto-MG (Brazil)

NAME: Xavier Tiabondou, MSC
ENTITY: UAF
DATE: 08.07.2023

PLACE: Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Fada (Burkina-Faso)



NAME: Déodat Don-Dieu BITSINDOU, MSC
ENTITY: UAF
DATE: 09.07.2023
PLACE: Cathédrale Sacré Cœur de Brazzaville

NAME: Marcos Paulo Rossi de Moraes, MSC
ENTITY: Province of Curitiba (Brazil)
DATE: 7/15/2023

PLACE: São José Parish, in Francisco Beltrão-PR (Brazil)



NAME: Ronald MAPANDA, MSC; Modeste LOBO, MSC
ENTITY: UAF
DATE: 15/07/2023
PLACE: Cathédrale du Congo à Kinshasa

NECROLOGIUM

Deceased MSC between March to June 2023

NOM	PROVINCE	DATE	PLACE
Michael Anthony Serrage	IRELAND	25.03.2023	DUBLIN
Joseph Falloon	IRELAND	30.03.2023	DUBLIN
John Christopher James Conroy	AUSTRALIA	09.04.2023	DOUGLAS PARK
Maryanus (Mario) Benedictus Weleng	INDONESIA	12.04.2023	TOMOHON
Jan Van Goozen	NETHERLANDS	14.04.2023	TILBURG
Hans Smida (Permanent Deacon)	SOUTH GERMAN	28.04.2023	BIRKENECK
Karl Bernhard Hesse	NORTH GERMAN	14.05.2023	VUNAPOPE (PNG)
Iobi Aroito	PACIFIC ISLANDS	15.05.2023	KIRIBATI
Lambert Poelmans	BELGIUM	23.05.2023	BORGERHOUT
Gaston Laberge	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	13.02.2023	QUEBEC (CANADA)
Gerard Dreesen	BELGIUM	21.02.2023	CANADA
Mario Di Ianni	ITALY	30.06.2023	ROMA



MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART

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Corrections (English):

John Walker, MSC
(Australian Province)