2015

Voluntas Dei Institute Volume 16

The Present Moment



n the Midst of the World



CENTRAL COUNCIL

DUNSTAN, S. James

CHIASSON, Jean-Paul
CORNEJO GARATE, Manuel
MAROIS, Pierre
MUDIYAPPAN, Innasi
SIOLETI, Andrew
SOLANO SOSA, Andrés
JETTÉ-TURGEON, Raymonde
TURGEON, Fernand



The Present Moment

Voluntas Dei Institute 7385, boulevard Parent

Trois-Rivières, Qc Canada - G9A 5E1

Telephone : (819) 375-7933 Fax : (819 691-1841

Editor and Writer:

Layout:

Dírector general: Translation: Renée Crôteau and Ríchard Normandin Sylvie Dagenais (ivd.cent@cgocable.ca)

James Dunstan (directeurgeneral@cgocable.ca) Andrew P. Mayer, Guillermo Pérez, Pierre Marois



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FROM THE EDITOR...

Dear Readers,

We have here again this year your witnessing and news from every place where the mission of Father Parent bears fruit. The theme of the journal, **The Present Moment** in the Midst of the World.

Unfortunately, this year, only a few have responded to our call. Thus, we are deprived of beautiful witnesses of the Voluntas Dei life.

This « Present Moment » so important to Father Parent, calls us to reflect upon the way in which we can live it in 2015. It is sometimes weaved with tough challenges and sometimes dotted with flowers that help us to live as true Voluntas Deis.

Whatever may be our way of life, it is deeply rooted in the heart of our life in the midst of the world.

We invite you then to read about this way of living « The Present Moment in the Midst of the World, » the theme of our journal for 2015.

A very sincere thank you to all who have collaborated from near and far in the development of this 2015 edition of the journal.

Good reading,

Renée Crôteau and Richard Normandin Editor and Writer



FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL...



This publication of the journal has as its theme « The Present Moment in the Midst of the World. » In each moment of life, events have happened or are happening. It is very important « to let go », not to cling to them. In my life, also, things have happened and are happening. It is necessary to be grateful for « the essential value: the present moment » and let ourselves be guided through these experiences of life.

« When I wanted to enter the diocesan seminary, my father died. I was attracted to the Voluntas Dei Institute newly installed in the context of the Church at that time. The participation of lay people in the process of formation was a challenge on the eve of my ordination to the priesthood. During the civil war, to be Tamil and to live in Sri Lanka meant living between life and death. I was elected the first non Canadian Director General of the Institute, and living in Canada without a residence permit was difficult. Understanding the needs of other cultures of different districts and regions was also a challenge; to discern and to establish priorities with a leadership, pastoral, charismatic and administrative, were an integral part of my work. As a person living in the presence of God in the reality of the present moment in the midst of the world, I feel at peace and I am happy. »

Whatever have been the events that we have lived, we ought to feel a great peace under the ardent grace and blessings from God. The sole thing that we can say to ourselves today is that we must be enlightened about and know our own limits; to linger less on the concerns of the past and the anxieties of the future, but live fully the present moment. Giving ourself entirely to God and allowing ourself to be guided; we can better act from the now knowing our limits while being totally free, the door wide opened to God who watches over us.

The spirituality of Father helps us each day to live the presence of God in the reality of the Present Moment in the midst of the world as well as to welcome the peace at the depths of our hearts.



How are you experiencing living the reality of the present moment in the midst of the world with the presence of God? That is the theme of our journal. May each of you evaluate your life and try not to place too much importance on the past and what tomorrow will be in order to live the present moment.

May God bless all!

S. James Dunstan, I.V.Deí Dírector General



2016 Assembly General

Place: Ursulines de Québec,

20, rue des Dames-Ursulines, C.P. 81276 Succursale Loretteville, Québec, G2B 3W7

Tel.: (418) 842-2424

Date: From July 11 to 24, 2016

Let us pray and prepare ourselves individually, within teams, sectors, regions and districts for the upcoming 2016 Assembly General.



FROM THE PEN OF FATHER PARENT...



The Present Moment in the Midst of the World.

Let us immerse ourselves again in several writings of our good Father Parent.

- « We forget that the important time of life is the present moment, that there is no moment of my life that will be more important than this present moment. » (The Present Moment, page 27.)
- « I will endeavour to live intensely the present moment by accomplishing positive and valuable actions. » (The Present Moment, page 24.)

Let us reread this prayer that says the same thing according to this topic:

My Today.

« Jesus, it is today that I unite myself to you, so that you may pour into me enough wisdom to enable me to savor your will.

Jesus, it is today that you lend me your heart so that I may discover your presence in my neighbour.

Jesus, it is today that you envelop me with your Spirit, so that I may see your cross, and accept my own without complaint.



Jesus, it is today that you receive me as a friend, that you give me the courage and a taste for service which put me into the hands of your Father so that I may please Him in everything.

Jesus, it is today that I sense your Spirit flowing through my whole being, bathing me with peace, filling me with joy.

Jesus, it is today that you are the essence of my life and the love that animates me; that you invite me to learn from Mary. Amen » (The Present Moment, page 202.)

Jesus, may this prayer help us to be « a modern Church, passionately open to this world willed by God, able to grow and show greatness. » (Guidebook for the Professed or Committed Member, page 1-9)

And « to be in the world, with the world, but to be there as a consecrated person, that is to say « not as everyone » for it is Christ Who lives in me and has need of me to incarnate Himself in the world. » (Guidebook for the Professed or Committed Member, page 2-11.)

Good reading





WHEN OUR WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Michelle: My name is Michelle. My husband Denis and I are committed members of the Voluntas Dei Institute for over 20 years. We have three adult children (two daughters and a son), five grandchildren and a sixth that will arrive in the coming February.

On July 13, 2012, our son and his wife welcomed their first child, a little girl named Béatrice. The first months of Béatrice's life were very trying. She cried 20-24 hours a day, not sleeping, not drinking well, with a lot of vomiting, constipation and suffering from infantile spasms (like epilepsy.) Parents and grandparents took in turn the role of rocking her (in our arms while walking.) Béatrice suffered greatly.

At the end of 8 months, after a number of examinations, the shock came. We learned that Béatrice is affected by a rare genetic syndrome, FoxG1. She lacks an essential gene for the development of the brain. She has little chance of speaking or walking one day. Further, she must take a number of medications to control epilepsy, burning of the stomach, sleep problems, problems of the intestines and attempts to control her neurological fits that make her suffer enormously. At two years of age, she was operated for a gastronomy (feeding tube) since she was hardly eating and choking a lot. For us grandparents, health took a turn for the worse. After more than a year of helping our son and his wife, we had to stop since we no longer had the strength.

On my part, this ordeal confronted me with my own frailty: physical, moral and spiritual limitations. How to continue to live when my grandchild and my son are suffering so much? How to accept no longer to help them? At the beginning, I prayed to the Lord to come and get her, but His will was otherwise. Then, in time and with help, I came to accept the unacceptable. In fact, I do not accept the pain of Béatrice, but Béatrice like she is with her pains. With the grace of God, I see in Béatrice this priceless treasure that has been entrusted to us. I see Béatrice like a « Living Host ».

When the cross became too heavy to carry, I understood that it is the cross that carries me and Jesus is there with me on the cross to help me and my family. This cross, united to Jesus, is the bearer of life. It is my



hope, strength and support. Béatrice is a gift. With the help and prayers of our family, the Institute and friends, I can now live each moment in peace, joy and trust knowing that Jesus is there, living in Béatrice.

To live the present moment in my life in the world is what I am called to as a Voluntas Dei and Béatrice is a part of my life and this world.

Denis: Life followed its course. The three children studied a long time, married and now have good jobs. The first two grandchildren arrived: what joy and happiness! Then arrives Béatrice who cries and cries. We hope that all will sort itself out even if we have concerns that this beautiful grandchild may have something serious. When the verdict came down after 8 months of sleepless and exhausting nights of concern (parents and grandparents), our world was turned upside down and we lost all of our points of reference.

Our lack of power in the face of the suffering of Béatrice and the feeling of helplessness of my son and his wife gnawed at me and affected my health, physical as well as moral including my work. Even my spiritual life was sidelined not having even the strength to be present at our I.V. Dei team meetings, while having the impression that God was not listening to our prayers.

With distance, support and help, I have « begun again » to live the present moment while being aware of my physical limitations. While praying constantly for Béatrice, I try to support my son and his wife. Life continues to offer us beautiful moments. Two other grandchildren have been added since and in the coming February, Béatrice will have a little brother. Further, my plan of retirement begins to take shape.

The prayers and the support of our I.V. Dei team and many other members and friends of the Institute allow us to continue to journey and grow through these challenges and difficulties.

In the present moment we find God.

Michelle Ferron & Denis Fortier, married members Canada





TESTIMONY

In all m'y youth, I searched how to serve the Lord in the world, thinking that the only form of consecration was the priesthood or to be religious, until I met Father Juan Carlos at the time he was seminarian, who showed me a new way to devote to the service of the Lord through a consecrated layperson. There I have found a rich dynamic that allows me to continue with my normal activities and with my pastoral work. As a worker and where I am, I may show my brothers the riches of the Gospel through the teaching of Father Parent in following Christ through the three five as a lifestyle.

Discover the consecrated secularity has been the work of the Spirit, who stirs in my heart all, because nothing comes from me but from Him. My work, which is not negligible, is to be faithful to his action which means not to put obstacles to what He suggest in my heart as a gentle breeze and that sometimes I think it is my imagination and let it pass by, losing the opportunity to really meet my own being. Nothing is imposed, and thus I found my calling. Seeing myself being interested in the presence of God in the hearts of my fellow beings I want to reveal his face. So let them recognize that we are not alone, that God is in our lives, in the depths of our hearts, that He loves us and wants our happiness that accompanies us at all times, especially in times of increased suffering where more force is present, strengthening us to overcome.

Also we recognize his presence in everyday events, in the smallest and the largest, in all God has something to let us know. Knowing it I recognize and rejoice in it to find the Kingdom of God present in the world, next to me. Having eyes to see and communicate is the work of a Secular Institute. His task is nothing else, therefore, to give hope to men and women of today by making them discover God in the midst of his people, loving and caring through many men and women who are seduced by the Spirit (even unknowingly) and are presence of God in all brothers.

Now that come for me the moment of my consecration through the evangelical counsels I mature my daily faithfulness to God as did the Mother of Our Lord in the realism of the present moment. For me, it happens to be a great adventure that I will go with Christ to change



that wall of indifference and also invites them to meet the specific objective of our institute which is to be a worker in the harvest and a builder of peace and brotherhood in Christ and all this I think is achieved in the company of Mary of the Annunciation.

This is my vocation, a gentle but steady breeze that penetrates and transforms my life so to be a sign of God's action in the hearts of people in the events of their lives. In this way I answer to a strong call to work so that His Kingdom becomes present in all areas and dwells the righteousness of God among men.

Juan Alberto Gomez Morales, Celibate layman Cuba



The Present Moment in the hearth of the world will live in ...

THE ETERNAL PRESENCE OF GOD ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE

Our only way to live in the present moment is to be fully embodied in our world today. The world cries for peace, respect, brotherhood, confidence and love. He is desperately seeking all these attitudes. They can only be achieved if first we live them in our heart. How can we demand that they be lived if at first we do not put them in practice in us? This is our insertion in the world: live and live in the present moment with God and our neighbour the desired realities by the actual world. So to get meaningful action in today's world, we must always be rooted in the present, the only touch with reality. Saint Augustine points out that "the future and the past are not." "The present of the past, he says, is memory; the present of the present is the actual focus; the present of the future is it expectation. "It is just being knowledgeable people in the heart of the world. It is to be there with the memory of the past that makes sense because it transforms our reading of contemporary realities and with our expectation of the future that makes more active our current engagement.

Memory, attention and expectation are three facets of the three facets of our Christian life in today's world. With these aspects we are invited to live and to live in the "immediately" with all that it contains in positive and in negative, in positive to make it more effective in the present and the negative to bring forth and live positive realities so to cancel these aspects that degrade our world. We will be looking at the world with a different light by producing the best results, the positive in the present time. The "we lived", the "we live" and the "we will live" make all the difference. Certainly conjugating in the present, the "we live" puts positiveness, enthusiasm, optimism, openness and finally the progress in life. It is the combination of this that helps us to live fully and confidently this time not anywhere but in the heart of the world. This is the only place where the will of God for us can be lived.



To live with more assurance and with more fruit in the present moment in the heart of the world, let us have recourse to the one who in her Annunciation with her "yes" given in the present moment before the angel, achieving the promise of the Father to send his Beloved Son to be always with us in the present moment in the heart of the world.

Pierre Marois, priest, I.V.Dei Canada





THE PRESENT MOMENT IN MIST OF FAMILIES

Shawinigan-South, May 19, 2014

I am happy to be affiliated with a religious group that suits my aspirations. I live exclusively to know God in Jesus Christ. My greatest desire is to do His Will. I have projects that I will pursue next year. They deal with midday catechesis and I aspire to make known this project for it responds to the needs of today's families. This year more than 300 children enrolled in this midday catechesis in the parishes of Shawinigan South and Notre Dame of Mount Carmel. I am proud that these young people come to dine at the Church and to learn to know about our Lord, Jesus Christ. I have also the responsibility of preparing the youth at the school of Val Marie au Cap de la Madeleine for their confirmation. For me, that is more than that. It is to help them to discover the way of the Truth: God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is to give them the taste and the reasons to believe and also to open their eyes to the Reality of life. I continue my presentation of biblical films at night for adults and I want to undertake a new project in the autumn of 2014 for adolescents and young adults.

I believe that the Voluntas Dei Institute can help me and resource me and who knows what else? God's plans surpass our meagre expectations! I have been present at all of the meetings except for the last two on account of my work in the Church. I feel at ease in the group. The priests have a richness and a deepness of their faith that connects with me enormously. I find comfort in the spirit of the group and I sense a real support for my projects in the Church. I love the basic ideology of the Voluntas Dei and I find there the opportunity to improve my character in trying to achieve a total absence of complaint and criticism (this touches a weak point in me). I find the writings of Father rich and incisive. They make a lot of sense to me.

Danielle Perron,. Spiritually Affiliated Person Canada





Deceased 2014

Thomas Furlong, priest with Stability (United States)

Eleanor Siehl, member with Stability, wife of Robert J. Surowec (United States)

Paul Boulay, priest with Stabilily (Dominican Republic)

<u>Léo Grégoire</u>, priest with Stabilily (Canada)

John D. Bosco, priest with Stabilily (India)

Sacerdotal Ordinations

Thomas Kondavong, (Laos)

Aneesh George, (India)

Dixon George, (India)

Raphael Rofin, (India)

Puthavialalapil, (India)

Antony Prabhu, (India)

Mariyathas Godwin Camillus, (Sri Lanka)

Jenson Xavier, (India)

Vinod Kandamparambill, (India)



WILL OF GOD AND THE PRESENT MOMENT

The omnipotent God lives in the present and has no past or future. There is no time limit for Him to determine His life or activities. For him everything is here and now present.

It is evident that we find it very difficult to understand the PRESENT MOMENT of God without his past or future as we live in time and space and have all the three tenses. We tend to project our experience of time on God and say that He too is like us having his past, present and future. We forget the fact that the time too is a created reality like any other things in the world which has a beginning and end. The dawn of time arose along with the creation and will have its termination with the end of the world.

Every event of our life happens in the present. These events are recorded and become our history. An event recorded in history will not be repeated anymore. It's like the water flowing down from a mountain to the sea. The water at a particular time and place will not come back to its place once it leaves. There is no reverse possible. The time too is like this water once gone will never come back.

Our future is a mystery. We are in the dark with regard to our future. Nothing is known or certain about it except only of our own death which also we will not know when it will come. Everything about our future is unknown to us but known to God. He only knows what events are ahead of us. Dreaming about our own future is a waste of time which has an impact on God. It has no relevance to the future of our lives.

One is called to learn from the past and plan for the future making use of the present to discern the Will of God which is available only in that present moment. God reveals his Will to the one;

Who meditatively reads the Word of God,
Who involves himself in deep contemplation,
Who follows the simple humility of Mother Mary,
Who listens to his right conscience,
Who obeys to the church authorities in the light of faith,
Who observes and learns from the events of nature,



Who listens to the men of God who discern His Will all the time.

All these seven ways of knowing the Will of God is a reality of the present moment. They indicate that a person is here and now actively involved investigating His plan for himself or herself. When this person is aware of himself or herself in the Present Moment of God, he or she reaches the wavelength of God by the Holy Spirit and is able to know His divine Will. This is how Jesus while living on this earth discerned and discovered the Father's Will and identified himself with it. This is also how Mother Mary found out the Will of the Father for herself and became a humble servant in His sight. And this is the same story of all the saints who lived the divine Will.

To the one who wants to discern and discover the divine Will of the Father, the Holy Spirit plays an important part assisting him or her with His seven gifts. It is essential for that person to have a close communion with Him who can enlighten the mind, heart, and soul of that person. The Holy Spirit is not a new discovery to any one as He has already taken His seat in that person when he or she was baptized and confirmed.

The Holy Spirit will become active in a person when he or she cooperates with Him by allowing Him to take hold of his or her life completely. For him or her to live with the Holy Spirit must not be a temporary affair but should be a lifelong experience of commitment which implies a companionship with Him in the spiritual life. Before taking any decision he or she must have the habit of consulting his or her spiritual companion to get enlightened about the will of God. As time goes on he or she will discover that the decisions taken without consultation of the Holy Spirit could become blunders made, not knowing what exactly the Will of God was.

Anthony Philip, priest, I.V.Dei Sri Lanka





Wedding Anniversaries

25 years

Saturnino Paredes Classe & Maria Lopez Tieno (Dom. Rep.) – 6 January

<u>Jacob Bruno Dias & Jeyaseedan Madona Marilin</u> – (Sri Lanka) – 24 February

Erick Cadet & Christina Demevil – (Haiti) – 12 June

Christudasan Stephen Croos & Mariarani Dalima – (Sri Lanka) – 31 October

James Joseph Yogaraj Croos & Agnes Sebastian Croos – (Sri Lanka) – 31 October

Jesuthasan Richman & Christiana Rochanthy Croos – (Sri Lanka) – 7 November

50 years

<u>Jean-Claude Bouchard & Huguette Fortier</u> – (Canada) – 24 June

Guy Lavoie & Carmen Lapierre – (Canada) – 3 July

Salvador Diaz Hernandez & Dignora Batista Suarez – (Dom. Rep.) – 15 August

<u>Harold Napier & Ellen Napier</u> – (United States) – 9 October

<u>José Santana & Carlixta Montenegro</u> – (Dom. Rep.) – 20 November

Anniversaries of Priesthood

Calonge Lemaine – (Haiti) – 25 years

Marc Laroche – (Canada) – 25 years

Xavier Ponnayyan – (India) – 25 years

Yvon Carpentier – (Canada) – 50 years

Michel Laroche – (Canada) – 50 years

Gérald Michaud – (Canada) – 50 years



WHAT TEAM LIFE MEANS TO ME TODAY?

It is with much delight that I consented to write this article for The Present Moment since I love the Voluntas Dei Institute immensely. It is also my wish to share with others my views on Team Life from the perspective of our Founder Fr. Parent.

When I go through the words of our Founder found on page 99 of his book "In Intimacy With Jesus" I simply become astounded to see how exactly he matches his thought with that of St. Paul expounded in Eph.4:29-32. Reading through this text of St. Paul, I become convinced of the fact that all of us are called to serve as a continuation of Christ's life and that I am commissioned to love my neighbor as I love myself. It binds us to have consideration for others and to bear one another's burdens. In the words of our Founder "...it calls us to respond to the inspiration of the Spirit and the thought of the Virgin". If we make a serious reflection on this marvelous thought, I think, team life will no longer be a difficult task to achieve. What is most important is to monitor ourselves everyday whether we get into the spirit of GIVING rather than RECEIVING. So many things will flash in our mind when we think of the act of giving or receiving.

We may be wondering as to what is there to give to others. Well, it need not to be 'silver and gold', even a kind and sympathetic hearing to the tale of woe of our suffering brother/sister can be a great gift or comfort for him/her. Because listening to a person who suffers, the psychologists say, would give him/her great relief and comfort. We must see that the sufferer draws much strength and courage from our words. It is only then that we should see the possibility of offering him/her any other material help which we can afford and which can really bring him/her out of the difficulty.

Sharing of what we have with others is another aspect of team life. Every one of us is endowed with talents and abilities by God which we are expected to cultivate in order that they bear fruit. Further, we are called to reflect on the clarion call of our Founder, "Each must contribute something of self and live the best they can" (In Intimacy



With Jesus, page 49). Reflecting on this, I found that my God-given talent in music must be turned out into something through which I too could contribute in a small way for the greater Glory of God. The end result of this reflection was the production of my Tamil Musical C. D. named "Thiruvula Ragangal" (Melodies of the Will of God) which I released on 8th April, 2013 at the Church of Our Lady of Martyrs of Mannar before the full gathering of the Voluntas in Sri Lanka. The CD opens with the Theme Song "Mariyannai vazhi irai siththam" (which means - Voluntas Dei per Mariam Immaculatam). I authored its lyrics and music in full. The translation of its Chorus and Refrain is appended here for the benefit of the readers of The Present Moment:

Chorus:Let us live the Will of God for ever, through Mary Our Mother. Let us wage a war against evil and let us achieve holiness through the Three Fives.

Refrain:Let us march forward to build up Peace and Fraternity through Christ Jesus today.

Edward Pieris & Josephine Dias, married members Sri Lanka



THE PRESENT MOMENT PRÉSENT IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD

I am eighty years of age. A year ago, the moment came for me to change my point of insertion in the world.

With the <u>required discernment</u>, in regards to my health and with wise family advice, I made the move into a residence in the midst of independent and semi-independent retired persons. The moment of wisdom, to let go. With also trust and <u>abandonment to Providence</u>. A formidable challenge!

I was plunged into a human world and into an environment essentially new to me. I perceived there a new <u>school of life</u>, in a certain way, seeking a jump of belated youthful life under an autumn sun. I presented myself there simply according to the elementary marks of my Canadian, Quebec, Christian and priestly identity, that is, according to the rights and duties fundamental to all citizens. « In the world with the means of the world. »

But very soon what an adventure of evangelization became apparent! It appeared to call me according to the evident calls of God that noticeably led me there where I live, but without knowing then His specific intentions. I made myself available from day to day, « one day Surprisingly, impromptu opportunities of service at a time.» presented themselves. They knitted together the moments of my open existence, that which I wanted and at the same time what I felt eucharistic, i.e., all offered with the resurrected Jesus. The time of meals also permitted the richness of fraternal sharing, each new under the auspices of free questions. Exploration, intense prayer, observation and pertinent creativity became welcomed within this social milieu where in which mingled a vesperal simplicity, the fragrance of peace, respect, reserve and cordiality. Evidently, a good number of Christian values, intrigued or smacking with differences, showed themselves there with expectation. Whether identified early, a variety of requests came my way. The 50 passed years in Trois-Riveres have left marks, creating thirst.



The long moment of my insertion has happened consequently through amical listening, clear commitment and discrete participation and rootedness, notably in a way very unintended through song and music therapy. Faithful to my genes, what pleasure to sing with my erlder brothers and sisters, sparkling with desires but patient in their limitations. An authentic missionary adventure.

Very soon some talks and workshops may be suggested to me. Catechetical or humanistic, these aspects may be very soon a part of my time, complemented by the homiletic texts already required by our internet site at the request of our Director General. The management of the residence is solliciting me assiduously. Lets avow that there exists here a certain cultural and sapiential level that is sufficient and remarkable. The greater part of the residents have exercised diverse responsibilities in a number of cultural and social disciplines. The level of essentially judged expectations is sufficiently elevated. The presence of a chapel inaugurated by the Bishop as well as by priests and a number of deacons is seen as a positive; established under an implicit magnifying glass, it allows a human contribution to these places. Will it « make a difference? »

Vincent Therrien, priest, I.V.Dei Canada



Stability

Agustin Ospina Vanegas & Maria Cristina Murillo Ceballos – (Colombia)

Edward Rengifo Dorado & Martha Lucia Velasquez Salazar – (Colombia)

<u>Jim Halley</u> – (United States)

Rory Murphy – (United States)

William Konicki – (Colombia)

Vinod Kandamparambill – (India)

Jenson Xavier – (India)

Vincent Ngân et Hélène Fournier – (Canada)

André Morin et Pauline Poirier – (Canada)

Mario Alonzo Araya Rodriguez - (Chile)





DISTRICT OF CANADA

<u>Council:</u> Michel Beauchamp, district director

Laurier Albert, assistant district director

Odette Burelle, councillor Jacques Théberge, councillor Richard L'Archer, councillor Alain Dagenais, councillor Andrew Peter Mayer, councillor

Members: 53 priests

1 candidate to Orders2 permanent deacons9 celibate laymen

88 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

11 affiliated persons

Sectors: 8 sectors

<u>Teams:</u> 21 teams

- The Annual Congress took place July 17-19, 2014 at Trois-Rivières.
- Formation: In order that all members of the teams in the district may have the same formation, an animation leaflet was provided having the theme: « Move forward in the rhythm of Mary of the Annunciation.»
- The Preparatory Committee for the 2015 District Assembly is working under the theme: « *Green Light:... Move Forward!* »





News

DISTRICT OF CHILE

<u>Council:</u> Marcos Guerra Romero, district director

Manuel Cornejo Gárate, assistant district director

Henry Bernal Arancibia, councillor Mario Araya Rodríguez, councillor Pedro Améstica Canales, councillor Rossanna Latorre Muñoz, councillor

Members: 3 priests

5 candidates to Orders

1 deacon

3 celibate laymen

20 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

6 affiliated persons

Sectors: 3 sectors

Teams: 4 teams

- The annual Congress was held March 13-16, 2014 at La Serena.
- Formation: The house of formation maintains its rhythm of growth and development with activities of spiritual, community and pastoral studies.
- The Central Administration recommends that all of the members of the district have the same formation.







REGION OF COLOMBIA

Council: Guillermo Pérez, district director

Jaime Alberto Henao Arroyave, assistant district director

Maximiliano Guzman Roa, councillor Mario Araya Rodríguez, councillor Alicia Franco Correa, councillor Santiago Armijo Ortiz, councillor

Members: 2 priests

1 permanent deacon

3 candidates to the priesthood

2 celibate laymen

8 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

2 affiliated persons

Sectors: 2 sectors

Teams: 4 teams

- This year two retreats in preparation for Christmas were held on account of the distances within the sector; one at Armenia and the other at Medellin.
- There are two candidates to the priesthood who have completed their studies and are receiving Voluntas Dei formation.
- The annual Congress always takes place the week before or after February 2. This year, we had the canonical visit of the director general, Father James Dunstan, during the Congress.







REGION OF CUBA

<u>Council</u>: Nestor Fornaris Hurtado, region director

Juan Carlos Borrero Simon, assistant region director

Eduardo Enrique Fonseca Ponce, councillor

Roxana Jaime Pomarez, councillor

Members: 2 priests

1 candidate to the priesthood

2 celibate laymen

4 committed members (couples)

Sectors: 2 sectors

<u>Teams</u>: 3 teams

Activities

• Cuba has been under the Central Administration since 2014. On May 1, 2014, the Central Council elevated it to a region under the recommendation of the Nuncio and the Cardinal of Havana.







DISTRICT OF THE UNITED STATES

<u>Council:</u> Anthony J. Ciorra, district director

Julián González-Montenegro, assistant district director

Carol Toth, councillor
Joel Livingston, councillor
James P. Bono, councillor
Timothy M. Sullivan, councillor

Members: 36 priests

5 candidates to Orders 1 celibate layman

38 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

14 affiliated persons

Sectors: 3 sectors

<u>Teams:</u> 6 teams

- The District Assembly and the annual Congress took place in August, 2014.
- Ethiopia has become a sector of the United States and is developing healthily.
- The internet site has generated a lot of interest and attracts about 450 visitors per month.
- The programs of formation continue to improve. The lessons of the team have attained a level of excellent quality.







DISTRICT OF HAÏTI

Council: Didi Horace, district director

Evens Francis, assistant district director

Justin Harry Chery, councillor Marie Carmelle Valcourt, councillor Madelon Eustache, councillor

Members: 38 priests

12 candidates to Orders

2 celibate laymen

50 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

Sectors: 3 sectors

Teams: 8 teams

- This year, the members celebrated their 50th year of existence in Haïti.
- In March 2014, the Voluntas Dei participated in a Mass of thanksgiving for the first Haitian Cardinal.
- The patronal feast day of the Institute was celebrated in the district of Haiti on March 25, 2014.
- Some members are in mission in France, Guadeloupe and the Dominican Republic.







DISTRICT OF INDIA

Council: Napoléon Gomez, district director

Dassayyan Shaiju, assistant district director

Joseph Sengol, councillor

Johny D. Puthenveetil, councillor Chandran Govindan, councillor Jayalakshmi Chandran, councillor

Members: 34 priests

37 candidates to Orders

58 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

Sectors: 3 sectors

<u>Teams</u>: 9 teams

- The annual Congress took place May 15-17, 2014.
- There has been four new priests in the district this year.
- A property in Tamil Nadhu has been purchased in view of building a house of formation.
- Two priests are already in mission in Australia and three others priests have been sent to develop this Voluntas Dei mission.







DISTRICT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<u>Council</u>: Dionicio Reyes Gonzalez, district director

Ramón Aantonio Araújo Tejada, assistant district director

Vicente Sánchez Burgos, councillor Guillermo Carrasco Soriano, councillor Primitivo Antigua Hernandez, councillor Mercedes Antigua Hernandez, councillor

Members: 19 priests

13 candidates to Orders

3 married permanent deacons

214 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

Sectors: 4 sectors

<u>Teams:</u> 17 teams

- The annual Congress was held July 24-26, 2014.
- The District Assembly will take place July 20-24, 2015.







DISTRICT OF SRI LANKA

Council: Fernando S. Eustus, district dirrector

Anthony Philip, assistant district director Reeta Rohini Savuntharam, councillor Swampillai Francis Savuntharam, councillor

Anthony Marsuline, councillor Varapiragasam Allan, councillor

Members: 13 priests

10 candidates to Orders

6 celibate laymen

116 committed members (couples and widowers/widows)

Sectors: 4 sectors

Teams: 14 teams

- The District Assembly took place July14-17, 2014, on the theme of « Peace and Fraternity in Jesus Christ within the Context of Sri Lanka, » and a new council was elected.
- The theme of team animation with a guide was prepared in 2014 and submitted to each team.
- A new priest has been ordained and a new mission has begun in a new diocese (Ratnapura).
- The publication "Thiruvulam" (Voluntas Dei) which had been stopped will be republished in January 2015.





INTERNET SITES TO BE CONSULTED

Voluntas Dei Institute: www.voluntasdei.org

Voluntas Dei Institute (United States district) www.voluntasdeiusa.org

The Oblates and Missionaries of Mary Immaculate: www.ommi-is.org

The Oblats: www.omiworld.org

The Missionary Recluses: www.reclusesmiss.org

Canadían Conference of Secular Institutes: www.ccis-ccis.ca

The World Conference of Secular Institutes: www.cmis-int.org

Vatican <u>www.vatican.va</u>

WHERE WE ARE...

