

SSS INTERNATIONAL

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SSS Generalate
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Journey to Senegal

At the request of Fr Edgard Diémé, I was invited to animate the annual Spiritual Exercises or Retreat (**9-13 October 2017**) of the religious of the Province, recently erected by the XXXV General Chapter, and that in 2018 will celebrate its first Provincial Chapter. The topic that was given to me was the first five numbers of the *Rule of Life*, as if to make an imprint on this new adventure of the impulse of a renewed sharing of our identity and mission. We were welcomed in the house for spirituality of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, in Ngazobil (30 km from Popanguine), located a few hundred meters from the sea.



House of spirituality at Ngazobil

Each of the five days of the retreat were marked by a number of the *Rule of Life*, dedicating the morning meditation to a reflection on the text, and the afternoon for a deepening of the contents through the light of some of Father Eymard's texts. As we know, the texts of the first chapter are the pillars on which the whole

framework of the *Rule of Life* is developed. It is as well to recall how important it was to approach the texts together, as religious now belonging to the youngest Province of the Congregation, called to serve with courage and dynamism this Church in this part of the world, based on our charism.

The following week (16-20 October) I was asked by Father Abraham, Novice Master, to animate a Session in our Inter-African Novitiate "Le Cénacle", at Koudiadiene. There are now 11 novices, they have just entered their second year of novitiate. They come from Congo-Kinshasa (1), Uganda (2), Senegal (2), Congo-Brazzaville (6). During the month of November, there are expected the arrival of 5 more novices who will begin their first year. Together we went through the nn. 1-45 of the *Rule of Life*, by giving a synthetic presentation of the part regarding formation (RL 46-61) and government (RL 62-100).



Novitiate at Koudiadiene

The novices showed a great interest in knowing better the structure, dynamic, actuality and the inspiring force of our *Rule of Life*, the evangelical path for those whom the Lord has called to follow Father Eymard. The only difficulty was the heat, that in this season (though winter) reaches to 35-40 degrees. We entrust now to

the Lord the task of fertilizing the seed that was planted.

This journey to Senegal was for me also an occasion to celebrate the 25 years of profession with three confreres who in 1991-1992 I had accompanied as Novice Master just in the same place where we began now our Inter-African Novitiate. May the Lord keep them faithful and persevering in the gift of themselves to Christ and the Church.

FR FIORENZO SALVI, SSS
DIRECTOR CE, PONTERANICA



Eucharistic fire on the four corners of the world

On the request of Cardinal Patrick Rosario of Arch diocese of Dhaka (Bangladesh), who is the titular of our parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and Canadian Martyrs in Rome (Italy), Fr. Eugênio Barbosa Martins sss, General Superior, and Fr. Maurizio Zorzi sss, Parish Priest, with the approval of the General Council, chose me to represent the Congregation and the Parish for the occasion of the Papal visit to Bangladesh on **1st and 2nd of December 2017**.



Father Benzy with Cardinal Patrick Rosario

The visit of the Pope to Bangladesh was significant in many ways. a) Historically: Bangladesh celebrates 500 years of the arrival of Christianity in the country, b) Spiritually: as the Church in Bangladesh received the first Cardinal, the visit of Pope gives hope to the faithful and c) Politically: the issue of Rohingya refugees was causing problem in South Asia. Pope visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh was seen as a crucial because both the countries were directly involved in the issue. The two days program of the visit of the Pope was very well executed with heavy security.



In the Eucharist 16 deacons were ordained to priesthood and there were around 90,000 to 100,000 people participated. The Pope preached on the sanctity of Priesthood and requested people to always pray for priests.

In the afternoon Pope met the foreign dignitaries invited by the Church in Bangladesh. Cardinal introduced everyone to Pope including our Congregation. The inter-religious meeting where 2500 people and heads of various religions participated was a witnessing example for the Pope.

The three advises of the Pope for the clergy and religious were: 1) Appreciate your vocation, 2) Stay away from the gossipers because they are the modern terrorist and 3) Be a joyful person were very much appreciated and proved to be a timely advice for the religious.

In the evening before leaving Bangladesh he met the youth. To them he told to respect the elderly and be away from false happiness.

More than the words, his gestures spoke very louder.

Next day on the 3rd of December 2017 I went to the archdiocese of Chittagong which is in the southern part of the country. The archbishop has invited the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and agreed to give us the cathedral parish. Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cathedral was founded on the year 1600 and the parish has 5515 Catholics.

Though it will be an initiative of the SSS Asian Conference, province of Sri Lanka with the help from India is working out the logistics to start a community there.



Cathedral of Chittagong

Christianity first came to Bangladesh through the region of Chittagong in the year 1518 by the traders from Portugal. Thus, the diocese and the Church in Bangladesh celebrate 500 years of the presence of Christianity in 2018.

To commemorate this occasion the Archbishop of Chittagong most Rev. Moses Costa has decided to invite two congregations of men religious. They are SVD Congregation and Blessed Sacrament Congregation. Both the congregations are directly connected and their charism is inspired by the word and flesh of Jesus Christ. So that these two congregations can help to deepen the spirituality in the diocese among the laity, religious and priest of the diocese.

We see very rarely a bishop gives the cathedral parish to a religious congregation. But the Archbishop of Chittagong took a decision to give the cathedral parish to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and he gives the following two reasons. They are 1) to deepen the Eucharistic spirituality among clergy, religious and laity and 2) the clergy of the diocese will be freed to work in the interior parishes where foreigners cannot go.

The Archbishop wants to have the religious of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament as early as possible and before the end of 2018.

It was really a wonderful experience to visit the diocese of Chittagong and I personally believe that there is a lot of scope for the Eucharistic mission.

Along with the promising project in Bangladesh, we are also following up the project of SSS presence in Taiwan. After having received an invitation from John Baptist Lee, DD, Bishop of Hsinchu Diocese, on the 20 of October 2017 Fr Joseph Matitu sss, superior of the Province of O.L of the Assumption, Fr Joseph Ai sss and Michael Thanh sss from the Province of Vietnamese Martyrs had a first meeting with Bishop John and Fr Truong, Vicar general of the Hsinchu Diocese. The Bishop expressed his warm welcome and was joyful for this evangelical collaboration. He

hopes that SSS religious will be sent soon in order to start Eucharistic mission in his diocese.

Our presence in these countries will be more challenging but will be on the direction of the dream of our Founder that is to spread the Eucharistic fire on the four corners of the world. We enjoin the whole Eymardian Family to pray for the success of these new endeavors.

FR. PHILIP BENZY SSS & FR. JOSEPH BINH SSS
GENERAL CONSULTORS



Hospitality at San Benedetto del Tronto

The festal celebration of the 60th anniversary of priesthood ordination of Fathers Brugnetti Luigi and Troiani Igino and First World Day of the Poor, was held at the Blessed Sacrament House and St Joseph's Parish on 19 December 2017.

The Blessed Sacrament Community of St Benedetto del Tronto, besides offering the great gift of perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, has the great vocation of being welcoming. Since its arrival at the centre of the city, just after World War II, in a historical moment of great poverty and need, the community has shown that its "heart" is always open. An open heart to every request for help, both material or spiritual; open to draw near, to create communion without distinction, putting together in daily life the "Eucharistic table" with the "table for the poor". St Joseph's Parish, inserted and rooted in this Blessed Sacrament reality (*Caritas ante litteram* – love before words), has breathed and absorbed this style of hospitality, enriching many of its diocesan activities with the table of sharing.



The 1st World Day for the poor was yet another occasion of conviviality between the Blessed Sacrament Community, the Parish and the poor, who shared the joy of the common table. The table, in fact, represents a celebration, communion, warmth, relaxation, exchange, friendship, “family” ...

In this special “family” all the Blessed Sacrament religious, with their Provincial Father, wanted to celebrate a very important event for the community: the 60th anniversary of Priesthood Ordination of Fathers Igino Troiani and Luigi Brugnetti. As always, the community welcomed more people to celebrate with them. The volunteers of the parochial “Caritas” prepared with care the room, to give everyone a warm welcome, as every mother would have done. They cooked and served “the family” the good and rich Sunday meal. And it was a celebration!

reference to our *Rule of Life* n.8: “A community is made up of persons who differ in their capabilities, duties and circumstances. This diversity manifests the wealth of the gifts of the one spirit.”



This style of hospitality doesn’t want to stop in giving, but it concretizes itself in drawing people close to one another, in listening, sharing, welcoming, while creating and showing models of behaviour based on reciprocal respect.

VIRGINIA FALÀ COSIGNANI

Everything began with prayer directed by Fr Olivier Ndondo, treasurer of the community and parish priest of the parish, followed by a few words by Fr Denis N’Dene, superior of the community and vicar of the parish, and some words from the responsible of the aggregates. After these words, the scholastics in charge of culture invited the assembly to share the meal, the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands, a sign of unity, of joy, of celebration and communion.

To add to this festivity we had music from our different traditions and especially everyone took part in the rhythm of the dance, which was one of the important points, and a sign of the atmosphere of fraternal solidarity. Even though we have not reached yet an agapè on earth in fullness, nevertheless, our feasts are small signs that give us a foretaste of eternal joy. We are all invited, recalling simply the words of Jean Vanier, who said that the *community is the place of celebration and forgiveness*. This celebration also marked a return to an original time, in other words the recovery of the past in the present, lived as a sacred moment and outside of usual time. This occasion of solidification of the relations between the religious and the aggregates was also an expression of setting aside time and its commemoration, to recall again the poetic words of the Abbot Bernard Ndiaye.



Christmas in the Eymardian Family “Emmaus” Scholasticate with the Aggregates

On Tuesday **27 December 2017**, at the Inter-African scholasticate community “Emmaus”, on the feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr, the Eymardian family of the Blessed Anuarit parochial community in Kinshasa (priests, scholastics and aggregates) had the joy of consolidating its links with a festive meal, according to our tradition.

During this day, all the religious of the community together with the aggregates got involved for the success of this activity; this was through multiple important chores to mark our unity in multiplicity with

After the agape, Fr Denis, Director of scholastics, thanked the aggregates again for the support and encouragement in the formation of the scholastics. It was with a closing prayer that this day ended. Definitely, this time was an important moment for our community life, a moment when our community in union with the aggregates became aware of its unity, a moment when it showed its Eucharistic joy. For the memory of this day will renew our daily life.

BR EPHREM ULGARIC NSIMBA MABIKA, SSS
SCHOLASTIC



Fourth Study Day at the Inter-African Scholasticate

This memorable and worthwhile initiative, which has been called a "Study Day" until today, was born on 29 December 2015 at the Emmaus Scholasticate. During this Study Day, Scholastics organize meetings during which a theme of reflection is presented, exposed, discussed and debated. To recall a bit of history, the first day took place on December 29 2015 under the theme: "The year of mercy, what impact?"; the second, on March 29 2016 under the theme: "New Information and Communication Technologies (NICTs)"; the third took place on December 27 2016 under the theme: "New Information and Communication Technologies: What Impact in our Society?"; finally, the fourth on **December 30th 2017**, under the theme: "In-depth questions on the family".



The meetings of this fourth Study Day were held in the presence of members of the Inter-African Emmaus Scholasticate community, and also, in a special way, in the presence of some Christian couples of the Blessed Anuarite Parish. Everything took place in an atmosphere of studious sharing and exchange on the realities and crises that undermine the family.

BR DIVIN MABOUNDOU NGONGO, SSS
SCHOLASTIC



"The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n°2205).

The fourth Study Day was held in the multipurpose room of the Emmaus Scholasticate, with Bro. Divin Maboundou Ngongo acting as moderator, and four scholastics, valiant and studious, who gave their presentation on:

- "Family, natural fact or social institution", by Br Boniface Faye;
- "Praise of marriage. Reading of Mt 19,3-6 ", by Br Magloire Makengo Maleso
- "The family in the light of some documents of the Magisterium: 'Gaudium et Spes,' 'Familiaris Consortio' and 'Amoris Laetitia'" by Br Ephrem Mabika
- "The Eucharist, God's gift to live as a family" by Br Jean-Luc Ephrem Diémé



Two Professed Final Vows and Ordained Deacons in India

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Province of Kristu Jyoti (India) gratefully received two of its young religious definitively to its fold as they professed their final religious vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. The provincial superior, Fr Joseph Jegaraj Hari, received the final vows of Br Amalraj Dennis Francis Xavier, sss, and Br Arokiasamy Ruban Mahimainathan, sss, in a solemn ceremony on the **9th of January 2018**.



The following day, they were ordained deacons by the laying on of hands of Bishop Neethi Nathan, bishop of Chinglepet Diocese in Tamilnadu.

Both celebrations were held in a Chapel at Karunalayan in Chennai and joyously participated by tens of concelebrating Sacramentino and other priests, and witnessed by well-wishing confreres, family and friends.



Thanks for the cooperation and support of SSS Associates and generous benefactors, the Congregation in India is growing steadily in number and accordingly in spreading its Eucharistic mission.



from left to right: fathers Carlos Sierra, Camille Gagnon, Victor Zuluaga, Wilson Duran →



N. 1526 - Father Angelo CARMINATI
 Province: O.L. of the Blessed Sacrament
 Community: S. Benedetto del Tronto, Italy
 Death: 25 November 2017
 Age: 95
 Profession: 73
 Priesthood: 67

N. 1527 - Brother Anthony JUKES
 Province: Saints Peter and Paul
 Community: Liverpool, England
 Death: 17 December 2017
 Age: 65
 Profession: 44



Elections Province *San Juan XXIII* Colombia-Peru-Porto Rico

17 January 2018
 Superior Provincial *Fr. Camille GAGNON* (2)

18 January 2018
 Vicar Provincial *Fr. Carlos José SIERRA* (2)
 Consultor Provincial *Fr. Wilson DURAN* (3)
 Treasurer Provincial *Fr. Victor Hernan ZULUAGA* (2)
 Delegate to the General Chapter
Fr. Alvaro VASQUEZ
 Substitute Delegate to the General Chapter
Fr. Jaime RODRIGUEZ



The death of a brother will be celebrated as a Paschal event filled with hope. We shall faithfully carry out the prescribed prayers for our deceased (RL 13).

N. 1528 - Father Lawrence SULLIVAN
 Province: Holy Spirit
 Community: Melbourne, Australia
 Death: 30 December 2017
 Age: 92
 Profession: 66
 Priesthood: 61

N. 1529 - Father Francesco MAISTRELLO
 Province: O.L. of the Blessed Sacrament
 Community: Ponteranica, Italy
 Death: 31 December 2017
 Age: 90
 Profession: 72
 Priesthood: 65