

# SSS INTERNATIONAL

n. 264 – March 2, 2018

SSS Generalate  
Via G. B. de Rossi, 46 - 00161 Rome – Italy



[www.ssscongregatio.org](http://www.ssscongregatio.org)



## Blessed Sacrament religious and laity together toward the future

In view of the next Provincial Chapter of “Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament” Province, to be celebrated at Malmantile from February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, the Blessed Sacrament religious have wanted to listen to the accounts of the stories of the Church and the laity with whom they form the Eymardian family.

Around 40 lay people, representing all of those who, united in the Eucharist, are journeying together with the Blessed Sacrament religious in their work of evangelization, catechesis, human promotion, were invited to “offer a hand” with the objectives that pertain to a Provincial Chapter: to verify the journey undertaken, to discern God’s will in our “today” and to make sound and concrete decisions for the following years.

I have the honour of being part of this group that with curiosity, amazement, sincere availability, in an atmosphere of joyous fraternity, met at Malmantile, from the afternoon of Saturday **January the 13<sup>th</sup>** until lunchtime of Sunday January the 14<sup>th</sup>, to understand in a better way what is a Chapter, the complexity of our Province and the intense work done by a Provincial Council. It was a preparatory encounter for the occasion of listening, sharing and exchange that we will live from the afternoon of Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> February.

“We need you! We need to share with you faith in Jesus, hope in his promises and the Love that abides in us and moves us to make him known and loved by the people who live around us, our families, our Blessed Sacrament communities, our parishes... the area in which we live... we want to listen to your experience, your desires, because we need your competence and your capacities to look together towards the future”. This is the impressive request that

the religious made to us in their letter of invitation, repeated during the weekend in January at Malmantile

To assist the Capitular Fathers to elaborate a Life Project for the next four years, to be realized also with the help of the laity, we were asked to divide into groups and prepare a reflection/witness about the meaning and importance of the Eucharist (celebrated, prayed, lived) according to the following topics:

- a) Personal life of faith;
- b) Family Life;
- c) The life in parishes/sanctuaries (groups or associations included);
- d) Poverty in the different ways in which it presents itself (lack of work – economical crisis- value crisis – migration);
- e) The youth: their future – vocation – vocations;
- f) Collaboration and sharing of life with the nearby Blessed Sacrament Community.

At the meeting in February we have to be more precise about what we ask the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament regarding these topics. We will also discuss the possibility and desirability of setting up a “kind of movement” of Blessed Sacrament laity, to share a spirituality (=life of faith) centred on the “breaking of the bread” (Eucharist).

Fr Domenico Avogadro and Fr Maurizio Zorzi asked us to speak with serenity and in truth, endeavouring to go beyond the actual problems of our specific realities, and having an outlook that will be open to the whole Blessed Sacrament family, in order to help in shaping a “re-start” project, which would be entrusted to the Capitular Fathers regarding the times and ways of giving answers and solutions to the problems of the individual communities. “We will listen with joy and gratefulness, we will treasure what you offer us. We are sure that, together with you, the future will be more motivating and fruitful.”

Thank you, Blessed Sacrament Fathers, for this great trust you have put in us. Thank you for this important moment of sharing and fraternity, made possible by the deep passion that we all have for the

Eucharist, where we recognize God's love giving meaning and always new horizons to our lives.

To conclude I will like to cite the words of Saint Peter Julian, the great lover of the Eucharist:

"as long as we fail to have a passion of love for the Eucharist, we will have done nothing (...) develop a passion for the Eucharist, Love like a man who loves a woman passionately (...). The one who is loved must love (...) love is an exaggeration. To exaggerate is to go beyond the law. Well, love must exaggerate!. We don't think of it, but we really love only when there is passion! (Saint Peter-Julian Eymard, October the 31<sup>st</sup> 1867, PR 124,1).

DANIELA BAGGI



## Visit of the General Council to the "Emmaus" Scholasticate in Kinshasa

After the meetings of the third regional Chapter of Congo Brazzaville, held from 7 to 11 February 2018, Fathers Martin Tine, Philip Benzy and Brel Maloula, the Vicar General, General Treasurer and new Superior re-elected by the Region Cardinal Émile Biayenda respectively, arrived in the territory of the Province Blessed Isidore Bakanja in the Dem. Rep. Congo on Monday **12 February 2018**. Their stay ended on the morning of Saturday 17 February 2018. Their trip in fact had a dual purpose.



First, the visit of the Interafrican "Emmaus" Scholasticate: the Fathers began at the Scholasticate before undertaking their visit to the other communities. On the evening of Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> these persons devoted some time in fraternal conversation with us. Thus, in addressing us Father Martin communicated Father General's greetings and above all many

encouraging words to the houses of formation and the scholasticate in particular. This stage is the time of integrating spiritual values, intellectual or professional activities and pastoral commitments as the *Rule of Life* indicates in n. 58 §2.

Then, Father Philip Benzy, the General Treasurer of the Congregation, praised the community life of the scholastics of Kinshasa, comprising 5 different nationalities. This shows clearly our unity in diversity, in accord with 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.*"

Father Benzy, a specialist in the financial affairs of the Congregation, also put before us some of the difficulties our family is going through at present, but he is hopeful that these will be overcome soon if we are bonded together by living in the Eucharistic spirit.

Father Brel, the Superior of the Region of Cardinal Émile Biayenda and Vice-President of the African Conference, urged everyone to live in brotherhood for a better future, to reflect about the issue of internationality, an idea emphasized at the 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. Finally, Father Denis N'Dene, the superior of the scholasticate community, raised some questions for clarification, to which Father Benzy responded precisely and lucidly.

Secondly, the visitors departed for the provincial house and continued their visitation of the communities of the Province, beginning by the community of Lonzo, their going on to Kikwit, passing by the community of the Postulancy and Sanga Mamba in the capital city.

### ***After their visit what is there to say regarding the future of the Scholasticate?***

In reflecting about the state of the Congregation and after the Superior General's letter on the financial state of the Congregation, some of us, like the disciples of Emmaus, lost even a sense of faith because our fear being engulfed by the financial crisis. But after Father Benzy's detailed explanation, we found assurance in that we have something to offer one another: the Eucharist. If we live in the spirit of the Eucharist the crisis will not cross our threshold. So, our intellectual theological climate, relying on philosophical understanding and wisdom, links us directly to the word of God, who is the Teacher of all, in whom we will find solutions to overcome the various difficulties that threaten us. And the essential end of the Scholasticate "Emmaus" consists in enlivening an effectively apostolic life as scholastics to become already initiated, in the light of the principles of this theological and philosophical wisdom, to face the serious problems that today are impinging on our Eymardian family.

BR EPHREM NSIMBA MABIKA, SSS  
SCHOLASTIC



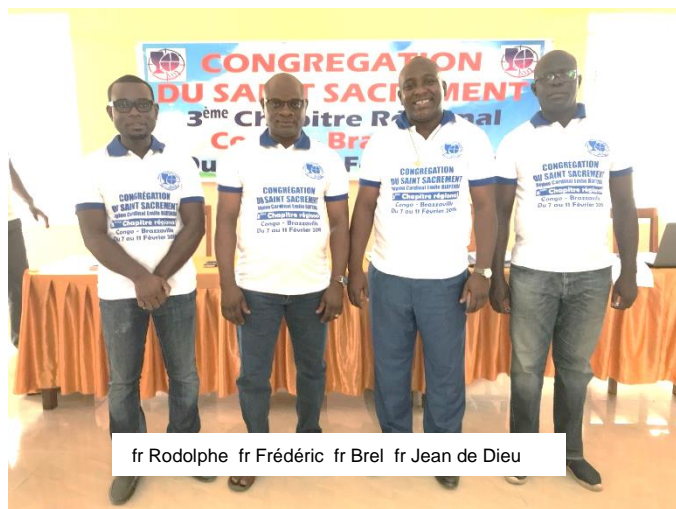
## Elections of Chapters

### REGION CARDINAL ÉMILE BIAYENDA

Republic of Congo

10 February 2018

Superior Regional      *Fr. Brel MALELA DAOUDA (2)*  
 Vicar Regional         *Fr. Jean de Dieu PASSY*  
 Consultor Regional     *Fr. Frédéric MALANDA*  
 Consultor Regional     *Fr. Rodolphe MBOYA*  
 and Treasurer



### PROVINCE MADONNA DEL SANTISSIMO SACRAMENTO Italy-Austria-Cameroon-Spain

27 February 2018

Superior Provincial      *Fr Domenico AVOGADRO (2)*

28 February 2018

Consultors Provincial    *Fr Gabriele DI NICOLO*  
                                      *Fr Guglielmo ROTA*

1 March 2018

Consultors Provincial    *Fr Maurizio ZORZI (2)*  
                                      *Fr Gino DAL CERO*  
                                      *Fr Matteo MAGRI (2)*

Treasurer Provincial    *Fr Matteo MAGRI (2)*  
 Delegates to Gen.Chap. *Fr Fiorenzo SALVI*  
                                      *Fr Rizieri SANTI*

Substitute delegates    *Fr Luca ZANCHI*  
                                      *Fr Lino DIEZ VALLADARES*

Vicar Provincial         *Fr Gabriele DI NICOLO*



## March 21, 1865 Gift of Personality

*Great Retreat of Rome - NR 44,119 (OC V, 370)*

### Thanksgiving

Towards the end of my thanksgiving, I made the perpetual vow of my personality to our Lord Jesus Christ in the hands of the Most Blessed Virgin and of St. Joseph, under the patronage of St. Benedict (his feast); *nothing for me as a person*, with a prayer for the grace that is essential to this gift: nothing by me. The model of this gift: the *Incarnation of the Word*.

Just as in the mystery of the Incarnation, the sacred humanity was deprived of its own person, so that it no longer sought itself as, an end, no longer had any interest of its own, no longer acted for its own sake - for it had another person substituted to its own, that is, the Person of the Son of God, who sought only the interest of His Father and had His eyes fixed on Him always and in all

things; so must I be without any desires and interests of my own, and have none but those of Jesus Christ, who abides in me to live therein for His Father and gives Himself in Communion to do just that in me: *Sicut misit me vivens Pater et ego vivo propter Patrem; et qui manducat me et ipse vivet propter me (As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me will live because of Me)* [Jn 6,57].

It is as if my Savior said: In sending Me through the Incarnation, the Father has torn out of Me every root of self seeking by leaving Me without a human person and uniting Me to a divine Person in order to make Me live for Him; in the same way, through Communion, you will live for Me, for I shall be living in you. I will fill your soul with My desires and with My life, which will consume and reduce to nothing everything that is personal to you; so much so that it will be I instead of you that shall live and shall desire everything in you. Thus will you be entirely invested with Me; My heart will beat within your body, My soul will act through your soul; your heart will be the receptacle and the pulsation of My heart.

I shall be the person of your personality and your personality will be the life of My person in you. – *Vivo ego, jam non ego, vivit vero in me Christus (It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me)* [Ga 2,20].