

# SSS INTERNATIONAL

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



## Novitiate “The Cenacle”: first religious profession of 11 novices from Africa

On the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, **8 September 2018**, in Senegal, eleven novices having completed the novitiate pronounced their first religious profession in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. These newly professed are: Fredrick Bungembe and Emmanuel Byaruhanga from Uganda, Gérard Mangala from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Stéphane Amoikon, Victor Faye and Théophile Sarr from Senegal, Aubin N’siantimane, Berna Mampouya, Marcel Bissouaki, Romaric Ndzouba and Auguy Youlou from Congo Brazzaville.



The Eucharistic celebration, during which the novices made their vows, took place in the parish of Saint Peter-Julian Eymard at Koudiadiene. The celebration was presided over by the Regional Superior of the Cardinal Emile Biayenda Region of Congo Brazzaville and President of the African Conference (AC), Father Brel Malela Daouda sss, who had preached the

retreat, with the participation of some Senegalese confreres and some priests from the Diocese of Thies, members of the Eymardian family (from the Aggregation), without omitting to mention the families and friends of the novices.

In his homily Father Brel reminded the novices of the principle of the “three suitcases”: the first containing patience towards themselves; the second, patience towards others; and the third, patience towards God. He also recalled that they were being consecrated to the mission of the Congregation to “*live and reveal to people the glory of God*” (cf. RL n.1), and while doing this, in accord with the Founder’s desire, they commit themselves to be identified with Christ the Teacher – the way, truth and life – so as to be able to say like the Apostle Paul: “*it is no long I who live, but Christ who lives in me*” (Gal 2:20).

Following the Mass, all were invited to refreshments in the friendly atmosphere of the parish hall of Saint Peter-Julian Eymard parish and to rejoice with the newly professed.

BROTHER AUBIN N’SIANTIMANE, SSS



## Canonical erection of St Vincent Ferrer Parish

During the scheduled budget hearing of our parish at the diocese in November 2017, the Most Rev. Mylo Hubert C. Vergara, Bishop of the Diocese of Pasig, told Fr. Arnel Martinez, SSS, our Parish Priest, that Saint Vincent Ferrer Quasi Parish will be elevated into a full-fledged Parish. This was three years after we were placed under the administration of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Sis. Gler Marzo, Parish Finance Council treasurer, suggested that the declaration be held on **September 15, 2018**.

The good news was shared by Fr. Arnel to all the servants and the whole community. Everybody was filled with joy and excitement and eagerly awaited the day to come. A series of meetings took place to discuss the preparations for a momentous celebration. One of the primary considerations was how to raise funds for the event. Fr. Arnel suggested having a “Dinner for A Cause”; this was held on February 2018. He also came up with the idea of a Souvenir Book not only as a fundraiser but more importantly, as a reminder of the Canonical Erection that can be read by future generations.



As the months passed, all servants of the parish worked together to carry out such tasks as cleaning and making the inside and outside of the church beautiful, and doing major repairs including carpentry, masonry, electrical and repainting works, and building of perimeter fence.

Different committees were created to handle specific tasks including the Parish Media representatives who graced radio and television programs to announce the Canonical Erection. Invitations were sent out to government leaders of the immediate cities and barangays as well as the church leaders of both the Diocese of Pasig and Blessed Sacrament Communities. The big event was announced in all Sunday Masses preceding the actual date of the celebration.

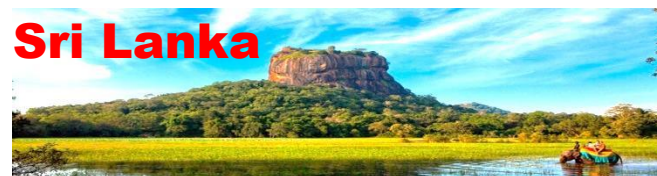
However, three days before the big event, the weather bureau warned the public of the super typhoon “Ompong” (Mangkhut) that was about to make landfall in the northern part of the country on the very day of our celebration. The news didn’t dampen our spirit. We proceeded with our Triduum Masses on September 12 to 14, 2018.

On the big day, September 15, 2018, all servants gathered at the Parish at 4:00 a.m. amidst the very strong winds and rain, for we were supposed to have our community procession in honor of our Patron, St. Vincent Ferrer. We still proceeded with the procession around the parish and prayed the Holy Rosary after. It

rained the whole morning, but amazingly it stopped in the afternoon. We were blessed with good weather from the start until the end of the celebration except for a heavy rain shower when everybody was already inside the church. We had a very meaningful, solemn and beautiful celebration of our Canonical Erection and the installation of our first Parish Priest, Fr. Jose Arnel A. Martinez, SSS.

We were truly grateful for the great blessing our community received from the Lord, but we were also saddened by the severe impact of the typhoon in the northern part of the country, including the loss of lives, on the very same day. And as part of our thanksgiving, Fr. Arnel mobilized the Parish 12 Apostles to go around the community to solicit donations for the victims of the typhoon.

MS. BABYLON M. BUHAT



## Visiting the families of the Scholastics

Pope Francis in his document *Amoris Letitia* says that “family bonds are essential for reinforcing healthy self-esteem. It is important for families to be part of the seminary process and priestly life, since they help to reaffirm these and to keep them well grounded in reality” (art. 203).

In keeping abreast with this teaching we, the SSS Scholasticate community of Sri Lanka, through the initiative of Rev. Fr. Justin Chawkan sss, the Director of Scholastics, were given a wonderful opportunity to visit with our families, reminding us and our parents of the importance of having parents involved in being part of the seminary formation.

These visits in the presence of the Very Rev. Fr. Eugenio Barbosa Martins sss, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, commenced on **September 18<sup>th</sup> 2018**. There can be no doubt that his presence greatly enhanced our visits due to his grace and agreeable and impressive company. His visit with us indeed reminded us that “a shepherd should know the smell of the sheep”. We all felt at home with him, as he truly brought to us the living spirit of our Holy Founder, St. Peter Julian Eymard.

It was also a very significant occasion for us to have our Director and the scholastics, including Bros. Louis and Emilio, our African Scholastics, encounter

personally, each member of our own families, sharing in the experience of their joys and sorrows. Our union with each of our parents made this initiation very strong. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, the smile of our parents, their generous hospitality, simplicity and warm welcome, touched our hearts, giving us more strength to walk on our journey towards priesthood. Our parents too made it a point to express their gratitude to Fr. General, our Director and all of us for making their day such a special one.



It is noteworthy, that we made use of the free time in between the family visits to accompany Fr. General to a well-known Catholic Meditation Center in Seeduwa. This was followed by an inter-cultural fellowship high tea at the Novitiate of the Marist Brothers in Tudella, where we were very happy to meet with the novices from eight different nationalities. We are deeply indebted, to Very Rev. Fr. General, for allocating his precious time, to be with us as the Vicar of Fr. Eymard.

SSS BROTHERS LAKSHAN AND ASIRI  
ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOLASTICS



## Programme of Preparation for Perpetual Profession (P4)

Begun on 10 July 2018 in Congo Brazzaville, more specifically in the community of the weir, the programme of preparation for perpetual profession (P4) ended on **30 September 2018** with the Eucharistic celebration in the parish of St Peter Claver presided over by Father Brel Daouda Malela, the Regional Superior of the Cardinal Emile Biayenda Region and President of the African Conference (AC).

As Father Brel said, the P4 has been an important occasion that will have enabled *“verifying the integration of the values and experiences lived in the Congregation since the novitiate (...). A time for intensifying a sense of community life in various tasks of the house, sharing the Eucharistic Spirituality, and rediscovering and evaluating the Eucharistic talents and gifts of each one for the mission.”*



Fathers Brel and Aimé with the scholastics after the closing Mass of the P4

The closing of the P4, coinciding with the sixtieth anniversary of Father Aimé Porret’s religious life, the Eucharist Celebration took on an additional feature insofar as it beautifully united one event being embedded in another.

In his homily Father Brel exhorted the assembly in the following words: *“avoid what could lead away from God, because Christ expects of everyone a real conversion of heart, an outstretched hand and reaching for the good, feet walking in pursuit of an ideal, eyes looking for and seeing the qualities of others even if they do not share the same faith as us.”* The aspects of this exhortation, he said, in substance describe the ministry of Father Aimé, who even at his age of 84 continues to be close to the sick by visiting them in hospitals and at home, bringing them what is uniquely needed: the word of God and the Body of Christ. His is a life that has known the sufferings and joys of the world, all sustained by listened and moments of encountering his God.

After the Mass, a meal was shared in the friendly atmosphere of the community with members of the Aggregation, members of the scholastics’ families and some Christians.

BROTHER EPHRÈME MABIKA, SSS



## Laborers are ready

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” (Mt 9:37-38). Jesus said this when he sent his disciples to preach the Kingdom of God.



That calling of Jesus is still living to many Vietnamese young people, especially to 7 newly ordained priests of the SSS Vietnamese Province.

On last **October 1, 2018** at Khiet Tam Church, Most Rev. Peter Tran Dinh Tu, Emeritus Bishop of Phu Cuong diocese, ordained to priesthood 7 SSS deacons, making them laborers in God’s harvest.

What happiness it is to the families of these newly ordained priests and the whole Church when there are more 7 skilled laborers. And the SSS Vietnamese Province is happier also to have them ready to preach the Eucharist to people nowadays.



After more than 15 years under formation process with various stages, these 7 deacons were considered to be worthy to receive the Holy Order of Priest even though they were always aware as our Holy founder St Peter Julian Eymard was that: “the Lord has called me to serve Him although I am not worthy”. From now on, their lives will be dedicated to the Eucharist. Following the footstep of Fr Eymard, they are steady and courageous to go out preaching the Eucharistic Lord on the field of evangelization.

May the grace and peace of the Eucharistic Lord, through the intercession of our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and St Peter Julian Eymard, be upon them and with them when they carry out the Eucharistic mission, making known His glorious name all over the world.

After the ordination, 7 apostles of the Eucharist are ready. Lord, send them into your great harvest.

FATHER MARTIN AUGUSTIN PHUC, SSS



## Return to the Inter-African Scholasticate “Emmaus”

The return to the Inter-African Scholasticate “Emmaus” was marked by two very important activities, namely, the community meeting and the opening Mass.

### *Community Meeting*

On **15 October 2018** the Inter-African Scholasticate “Emmaus” held its first community meeting. During this meeting Father Jean Willy, the Rector of the Scholasticate, presented the community project which focused on the essentials of formation in the scholasticate. This project sets out an outline of the scholasticate as regards the objectives followed and the organisation of the house. After the Rector’s talk, there was a sharing of ideas about the timetable, services and communal times together.

### *Opening Mass*

As customary, the opening Mass of the Scholastic year was celebrated on 19 October 2018. The Eucharist was held in the chapel of the Scholasticate. It was Presided over by Father Barthélémy Kangu, the Provincial Vicar of the Province of Blessed Isidore Bakanja (Dem. Rep. Congo), the concelebrants being Fathers Jean Willy Mupila, the Scholasticate Rector

and Jean-Paul Luzolo, the Director of the postulants. There were 13 scholastics present, coming from the five different provinces and the region of Africa, and members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Two texts were the central focus of meditation: *Romans 8:12-17* and *Luke 24:13-35*. The president in his homily spoke of the purpose of the Scholasticate as well as of the requirements of SSS formation based on RL n.58. Referring to the scriptural texts, he exhorted the scholastics to identify themselves with the disciples of Emmaus by living the same experience in order to spread the Good News and to be real missionaries of the Gospel. He emphasised also the importance of collaboration and the meaning of referring to the formators while aiming at excellence especially at the academic level in our way of acting.



At the end of the celebration, the Father Rector spoke in thanking the Superior General and his Council, the African Conference through its president, for the trust placed in his person and the formation team of the Scholasticate. He likewise expressed gratitude to Father Anaclet Bambala, the Superior of the Province of Blessed Isidore Bakanja, and to Father Barthélémy, its Provincial Vicar, the president of the celebration, as well as to all the SSS religious present at this Eucharist and to the members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Finally, he invited the scholastics to be mature and responsible, to acquire a sense of belonging to an international congregation, and also to be always available to the inspiration of the Spirit. After his works of thanks, the Father Provincial Vicar declared the year 2018-2019 of the Scholasticate Emmaus open.

This event was rounded off by a fraternal meal with the members of the Aggregation of Blessed Sacrament.

BROTHER AURÉLIEN NZITOUKOULOU, SSS



## Arrival of Philippine Fathers in Spain

On last 27 July we welcomed Fathers Dante and Allen. The collaboration in agreement between our Delegation and the Province of the Philippines (Our Lady of the Assumption) was thus concretised. This all began when last year at Chicago, during the General Chapter, the Father Provincial, Joseph Matitu, offered us his help, given our precarious situation regarding confreres: it was a sign of gratitude to the Spanish Blessed Sacrament religious José Agustín Odriozola and Martín Garmendia, who about 50 years ago left as missionaries for those lands and on the occasion of the Vth centenary of evangelisation by Spanish missionaries.

Since the General Chapter unto today there have been various letters exchanged and occasional telephone calls between the then-provincial Delegate, Father José Antonio Rivera, and Father Joseph Matitu, to clarify in a detailed way the agreement of collaboration outlined at the last Provincial Chapter, with the approval of international collaboration, and, finally, with the signing of the convention between the Provinces, the signing by the two Provincial Superiors and the confirmation by the Superior General.

The first objective, the most immediate, for Fathers Dante and Allen is to consolidate their knowledge of the Spanish language. For this, therefore, every morning from Monday to Friday they receive Spanish lessons for foreigners at an accredited centre, which is close to our community of Madrid-Sáinz de Baranda, where they reside at present and also have the opportunity to get to know our situation and culture.

The second objective, less immediate, is to start undertaking tasks and activities both in the community and in the parish: animation of the liturgy, accompaniment of groups, etc. Fathers Dante and Allen have been with us for a few days, but we have already had the joy of meeting them and we wish to share with you some of their experiences and expectations that they have related to us.

Father Dante, Dante Mejillano, was ordained a priest in 2003. He was a formator for many years and has accompanied groups of married couples and families. He has experience abroad, having worked in Uganda and Australia. He would like to foster the liturgy, to teach and work with children, youth and families. He plays the guitar, an instrument that brings joy and enlivenment during meetings. He thinks that

participation in the parish should be encouraged and work based on the needs required by the community.



Father Allen, Allen Peña, was ordained a priest in 2011. Since then his pastoral activity has been concentrated on formation and on parochial financial matters. Before beginning his preparation to become a priest, he worked as a university professor of philosophy. In 2008, while preparing for priestly

ordination, he worked in Argentina in our community of Buenos Aires. He plays the organ, has an artistic spirit, loves to teach and cook and would like as soon as possible to be involved in parish activity.

They are both eager to improve their level of Spanish and to be able to share in the parish activity. At one with the missionary message of Pope Francis, they express their gratitude to the Congregation's fostering it by internationalisation. We also support their insertion into the pastoral and community life in our community of Sáinz de Baranda.

Initially the agreement is for two years '*ad experimentum*'. We hope that the experience that they will have in a way of living in our country may be pleasant, even if at first it would be difficult since they have been used to seeing many faithful attending church and also because of the distance from their country and their family.

FATHER JOSÉ ANTONIO RIVERA RUIZ, SSS  
DELEGATE FOR SPAIN



## International community of La Mure - new composition

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018 the community of La Mure (France) comprises the following religious:

- Fr. Norman Pelletier, superior (USA)
- Fr. Nino Donda, parish priest (Italy)
- Fr. Antoine Makela, (RDCongo)
- Fr. Martin Ochola, (Uganda)
- Fr. Mateus Patricio, (Mozambique)



## New General Consultor

Following the consultation done by the General Council with the members of the Amplified General Council, and in front of their favourable answer, the General Council elected

**Fr. Agostinho Castigo MAHOLELE sss**  
of the community of Maputo in Mozambique  
as General Consultor

substitute for Bishop Martin TINE, until the next General Chapter in 2023.



## Elections of Chapters

### PROVINCE STS PETER AND PAUL

United Kingdom-Ireland - 10 October 2018

Superior Provincial	<i>Fr. Jim CAMPBELL</i>
Vicar Provincial	<i>Fr. Finbarr O'HALLORAN</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Darren MASLEN</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Peter DOWLING</i>
Treasurer Provincial	<i>Fr. Peter DOWLING</i>



fr. Finbarr, fr. Jim, fr. Darren, fr. Peter

### PROVINCE SAINT ANN

U.S.A. - 25 October 2018

Superior Provincial	<i>Fr. Anthony SCHUELLER</i>
Vicar Provincial	<i>Fr. John KEENAN</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Thomas SMITHSON</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. John Thomas LANE</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Robert STARK</i>
Treasurer Provincial	<i>Fr. Robert STARK</i>



fr. Thomas, fr. John Thomas, fr. Anthony, fr. Robert, fr. John

### PROVINCE OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Philippines-Uganda-Hawaii - 24 October 2018

Superior Provincial	<i>Fr. Roel DELA CRUZ</i>
Vicar Provincial	<i>Fr. Rudsend PARAGAS</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Reynaldo CAPILI</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Apolinario TY</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Victor DIOLATA</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Alde BUREROS</i>
Treasurer Provincial	<i>Fr. Alde BUREROS</i>



fr. Victor, fr. Apolinario, fr. Roel, fr. Rudsend, fr. Reynaldo, fr. Alde



*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. 1546 - Brother Albert GRENON

Province:	Saint John Baptist
Community:	Québec, Canada
Death:	24 October 2018
Age:	85
Profession:	66



#### N. 1547 - Father Angelo ALBERTI

Province:	O. Lady of the Bl. Sacrament
Community:	Ponteranica, Italy
Death:	29 October 2018
Age:	80
Profession:	60
Priesthood:	52

