

SSS INTERNATIONAL

n. 274 – December 20, 2018

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



www.ssscongregatio.org



The 25th hour at La Mure “A path of light”

On the night of **27 October 2018** we gained an hour with the switch to winter time. The Association of Sanctuary Cities in France suggested a way to live this additional 25th hour differently.



For this year's way of realising this, the whole of the Matheysine district became linked with the sanctuary of Our Lady of La Salette to celebrate this 25th hour.

The Association of “the Friends of Father Eymard in Matheysine” proposed a journey to visit the room where Father Eymard died 150 years ago, a short walk to the Eymard Chapel and the presentation of the three new windows. This itinerary closed with a musical entertainment provided by recorder playing.

At 4 p.m. about fifteen people went up to the 2nd floor of 67 rue de Breuil, where Peter-Julian Eymard lived his last days. The stages of his life were recalled

briefly. A text from his writings emphasised the mystery of the Eucharist, the “heart of his existence” (PR 149,13).

In the chapel, almost forty people took part in the presentation of the stained glass windows and the history of the chapel.

The afternoon event closed with musical entertainment. Various pieces of music, played on a variety of flutes, were well adapted to the setting.

A text from Father Eymard showed the link between light, stained glass and the Eucharist: “The Eucharist is light; it enlightens every man who places no obstruction to its light. Its light is gentle and penetrating, great and pure, strong and powerful. (...) It penetrates the soul deeply as the solar rays penetrate a crystal, making it like a fireplace of light” (St Peter-Julian Eymard, PG 283,2).

At 8:25 p.m., as in the other 17 sanctuary cities of the Association, the bells of the church at La Mure were rung.

FATHER MANUEL BARBIERO, SSS



Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka is gifted with two more Religious

In order to “to live the mystery of the Eucharist fully and to make known its meaning so that Christ’s reign may come and the glory of God be revealed to the world”, we are happy to record that two of our confreres, namely Bros. Melraj Revel and Oliver Julian, who had been admitted to make their final commitment in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament on the **1st of November, 2018**.

Having completed a three-month special preparation (P4), they made their Perpetual Profession at St. Thomas’ Church, Matale in the context of the Holy Eucharist, which was presided over by Rev. Fr. Dilan Fernando, SSS, the Provincial Superior, with the participation of the SSS religious and the immediate family members of the two finalists.



Three days later, on the 4th November, they were ordained Deacons at the SSS Scholasticate chapel, Kandy by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, the Bishop of Kandy. It was a celebration exclusively meant for the SSS family and the event witnessed almost all our SSS religious, participating and praying for the two Deacons.

While wishing them a fruitful Eucharistic ministry as Deacons, we pray that they may continue to be faithful to Jesus and walk in the path traced out by our Holy Founder, St. Peter Julian Eymard with courage and confidence. May our mother, our Lady of the Eucharist, intercede for them to become faithful followers of her Son Jesus Christ!

BROTHERS ROHITHA, SSS AND NELSON, SSS

Rome



Meeting of the Commission of Studies on the Founder and his Work (CEFO)

The meeting of the CEFO took place at the General House in Rome on **12-14 November 2018**. The Commission welcomed the presence of new members. Firstly, Father José Antonio Rivera Ruiz, a General Consultor who replaced Father Martin Tine, who is now a bishop; and also, Sister Maria Vu Thé Hue, the Assistant General of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Mrs Anne Marie Françoise Ndoeye from Senegal could not be present. Insofar as it was possible the Superior General took part at times in our work.

A reading of the Minutes of the meeting in November 2017 helped us to consider the work done so far and the next step. The main theme of this meeting focused on the liturgical year. The objective was to refer to texts based above all on Father Eymard’s preaching during the important seasons, such as Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, but also regarding the principal feast of Our Lord, the Virgin Mary, St Joseph, the angels, apostles, martyrs, etc.

In the course of the last year, as had been agreed at the last meeting, each one had endeavoured to find in the “Complete Works” those texts that he/she wished to present regarding a liturgical season or feast. We were surprised to find that we had before us an important volume of text. We raised the question: what method should be adopted so that Father Eymard’s vision of the liturgical year and feasts of the saints could be useful to SSS religious and laity. Following a long discussion, in which all were able to express their opinions, we decided upon two lines of approach: to select complete texts, which should be written (not notes), and to keep in mind always the usefulness for today; to consider producing two books – one, concerning the liturgical year (the highlights) and the other about the Sanctoral (the main feasts of the Virgin Mary and saints).

We divided into three small working groups, focusing first on one section at a time, each group making a selection of texts and presenting it to the whole Commission by offering suggestions and giving the reasons for these. We were aware that the texts would always require an introduction to show their context to specify what does not pertain to our sensitivity today. In accord with this approach, during the remaining days the CEFO worked on the following sections: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Ascension and

Pentecost. After reading and sharing in small groups, we gathered to pool our findings and to select texts about which there was a consensus of the majority of the Commission.

The CEFO invites the General Council to draw attention to the site of the General Curia in the Reserved Area set out in various languages. It will be necessary to point this out to Provincial Superiors, Formators, animators of groups of the Aggregation.



One topic kept recurring several times during our meeting: how to encourage spreading the work of the CEFO. Today formators have available material that can assist them, for example, the “Counsels of the spiritual life” that can be found on the website of the General Curia in four languages. Perhaps it would be necessary for the animators of lay groups to be helped by making suggestions. There remains the matter of translations. The General Council’s concerns are mainly regarding First and Ongoing Formation.

Take advantage of trips to inform, communicate. It would be necessary to have the material made available through the commissions of the Provinces, that of formation, that of the laity. There remain problems related to culture, since in some of these there is no inclination to read.

The next meeting of the CEFO is set for 11-13 November 2019, The venue for this has to be decided between Rome or Paris.

FATHER MANUEL BARBIERO, SSS



Eucharistic day Reunion of Charismatic Eymardian Family

Organizing Eucharistic congress/Eucharistic living-day more frequently is really a desire of the provincial council, also of the recent General chapter. Through these activities, our charism, sss mission will be introduced widely in order to bring Jesus in the Eucharist into human heart so that the Reign of Christ may come and God’s glory be revealed to the world.

It might be said that this desire partly came true on the Eucharistic living-day held on **17 November 2018**, a special day with many meanings: 159th anniversary of

foundation of SSS Aggregation (1859 - 17/11 – 2018); the feast of Vietnamese Martyrs (30th anniversary of canonization 1988-2018), Patron of Province of Vietnamese Martyrs. This day was not only an opportunity that the children of Saint Peter Julian Eymard gathered together from different parts of the Vietnamese territory to celebrate the said-above meanings, but also considered as a Eucharistic congress, in which all members of four branches had a opportunity to deepen their understanding about Eucharist, building up their sense of belongingness to the Charismatic Eymardian Family, strengthening their bond by sharing life with one another and expressed filial love with their Founder. It could be seen as a concretization of the final message of the 35th General Chapter:

“The Eymardian Family comprises the four expressions already indicated regarding St Peter-Julian Eymard’s charism. Each of these has received the grace of the Eucharistic calling and hence they all have the same mission.”

Then the Chapter exhorts us to do some practical things to develop the members' bond. "The Chapter considers that: 1) We have to go forward in developing a specific plan of formation for lay people. 2) We have to programme times of formation that involve the four branches of the Eymardian Family."

Beginning of this particular occasion time was dedicated for Eucharistic adoration. In fact, it is the Eucharistic Lord is a true bond, through which all members of the Charismatic Eymardian Family bound together. After time of Eucharistic adoration, the liturgical community spent time to honor their Founder.

Then two presentations of talk followed. One from Fr. Dominic Tam sss, who presented the theme "Martyrdom in daily life" through it, the Eymardian children had an opportunity to call to mind the Vietnamese ancestors who courageously offered their life to be testimonies for the Lord. The members of Eymardian family are invited to follow their footsteps in their daily life. From Fr. Joseph Ai sss' presentation, the attendants were deepened understanding liturgy of mass. This talk practically brought a big help for Eymardian children of whom the liturgical understanding, specially the Mass, Eucharistic theology are highly appreciated. They are also invited

to be aware of their mission and to translate effectively by Eucharistic testimonies in their daily life.

All the activities of the day such as adoration, presentations and life sharing brought them into a culminating moment, which is the Eucharistic celebration. In his homily, Fr. Paul Quang, animator of the Blessed Sacrament Aggregation highlighted the importance of testimony in life. "Actions speak louder than words", each member of Eymardian Family, depending on their state of life, needs to imitate the martyrdom of their ancestors, willingly to be witness of Eucharistic Lord to the end.

The Eucharistic table was prolonged by the fraternal table in which the members as usual shared a moment of joy, happiness, funny stories, recreation and concert.

We hope that this kind of fraternal meeting like this would not end up as the festival activity, but it really brings members together to share life and to do sss mission. We also hope that such Eucharistic day will be celebrated frequently in different levels so that the Eucharistic fire be lit to the four corners of Vietnam.

FATHER MARTIN PHUC, SSS





Meeting of the Blessed Sacrament Latin American Conference (CLAS) 2018 - Bogotá

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

Psalm 133

Dear brothers of the Eymardian Family, fraternal and Eucharistic greetings from Bogotá, Colombia. In a spirit of joy, fraternity and unity the CLAS met for the first time after the celebration of the Chapter of the two Provinces, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Argentina-Brazil-Chile) and Saint John XXIII (Colombia-Peru-Puerto Rico). This meeting took place from **19-21 November 2018** at the Vocational House of the Pre-novitiate Saint John XXIII, Bogotá.



The participants of the meeting were the following members by right of CLAS.

Fr José Antonio Rivera, General Consultor for Latin America;

Fr Camilo Gagnon, Superior of the St John XXIII province;

Fr Marcelo Silva, Superior of the Our Lady of Guadalupe province;

Fr Wilson Jesús Duran, CLAS Scholasticate Director and Consultor of St John XXIII;

Fr Antonio Jackson Frota, Treasurer of the Our Lady of Guadalupe province;

Fr Carlos José Sierra, Provincial Vicar and formator of St John XXIII province.

We opened the conference on the first day with an initial prayer in the morning followed by adoration. Then we recalled, by reading the Acts of the last CLAS meeting on August 2017 in Puerto Rico. We approved the text and began the workshops, reminding the new members of the CLAS mission, which is to **create community, fraternity and unity in view of the SSS**

International Mission. From there the most recurrent matters of the Conference were about First and Ongoing Formation.

In the message of the Superior General, Fr Eugenio Barbosa, presented by the Vicar General, Fr José Antonio Rivera, the importance of the Conference in the SSS mission for Latin America was underlined, together with the challenges it faces in the congregational journey towards internationality, like inculturation, an economy of solidarity and a spirit of openness to the new paths shown by the last General Chapters.

In view of service we elected the coordinators of CLAS: Fr Camilo was elected President; Fr Marcelo Vice President and Fr Wilson confirmed as secretary. The following are some important points dealt with at the Conference:

a) A relationship of further closeness and mutual collaboration with the Northern Provinces, Saint Ann (USA) and Saint John the Baptist (Canada): through Fr Camilo a path of dialogue has been established with the Provincials of these two provinces, resulting in some attempts of approach.

b) Reports of the processes of First Formation from CLAS for: challenges and perspectives: with joy we share the positive experience of welcoming two scholastics from the Senegal Region, Christophe and Francisco, along the journey of internationality, besides the other two from the two provinces of CLAS; we value as positive the process of alignment of the stages of First Formation, like the Project Follow Me.

c) Regarding formators in the novitiate and scholasticate: we began a process of revision of these two areas and we will continue the formation of new formators for these functions in the following years, with the approval of the General Government.

d) Evaluation of the Eymardian Year 2018: We had undertaken the formation of the first group of scholastics who were preparing for perpetual vows and ordained ministries from the Latin American Scholasticate. This pertained to the path followed by the scholasticates William, Alexandre and Alfred. The journey was very positive and there are some suggestions to improve it for future students.

e) Meeting of Young religious for 2019: we are starting to prepare a meeting for young religious (scholasticates, religious for the first years of perpetual vows and guests from the Eymardian Family) for June 2019. The objective of this meeting is to think about the SSS Vocation Apostolate for Latin America starting

from the witness regarding the *gift of self* in each religious. We must pray for the preparatory team.

f) SSS Mission of the CLAS from the Message of the 2017 General Chapter: we raised some possibilities of application of our Eymardian mission in the following years. Some proposals of joint actions were raised already at the direction of SSS Laity, at the International and Solidarity Missionary Formation of the Americas.

Finally we concluded our work celebrating the Eucharist and contemplating the “extension of the mystery” in the Scholasticate. We also shared the closing of the year of formation 2018 when everyone in their provinces will renew the vows before returning to formation in 2019. During the same celebration we participated in the “spirituality of the third table”, the gift of life of the Director of Scholasticate, Fr Wilson Jesús. We take advantage of this opportunity to express gratitude for the hospitality of the pre-novices of the St John XXIII Province. We also thank Fr José Antonio for his fraternal, prayerful and helpful presence among us. He was a true brother among brothers, as the Rule of Life reminds us. In gratefulness and the joy of serving,

FR MARCELO SILVA, SSS
SUPERIOR OF THE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PROVINCE



Fr Agostinho Maholele, new general consultor

The General Council has elected Fr. Agostinho Castigo Maholele sss on **October 13, 2018**, as substitute general consultor. His election is in accord with the favorable majority of the members of the Amplified General Council following the appointment of Fr. Martin Tine sss as bishop of the Diocese of Kaolack, Senegal, on July 25, 2018.

Fr. Agostinho is from the Province of Saint Peter Julian Eymard (France-Switzerland-Belgium-Germany-Holland-Mozambique). He was born on January 12, 1969, in Magude, Mozambique. In 1996 he joined the Congregation and made his novitiate in *Noviciat International “Le Cenacle”* in Thies, Senegal. He continued his formation years in *Seminario Medio Cristo Rei* in Matola (1991-1992), his philosophical studies in *Seminario Major de San Agostinho* in Matola (1993-1995), and his theological studies in *Théologat St Eugène de Mazenod* in Kinshasa (1997-2001). He made his profession of perpetual vows on April 28,

2002, and was ordained priest on September 29 of the same year.



He was engaged in various pastoral assignments: as director of aspirants (2002-2004), as parochial vicar (2002-2006), and as director of the Foyer in Maputo (2003-2006). He earned his licentiate and doctorate in Psychology for Religious Life at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome from 2007 to 2011. On his return, he was tasked to make the accompaniment and animation of the International Preparation for Perpetual Profession (IP4) in 2012 in France and Brazzaville.

He was one of the invited capitulars during the 35th General Chapter in Mundelein, Chicago, U.S.A. in June 2017. In May 2018, he was elected secretary of the SSS African Conference. More to it, Fr. Agostinho is a polyglot. He speaks Portuguese, Italian, French and English.

Fr. Agostinho takes over the following responsibilities: as Consultor in-charge of the African Conference; as Consultor responsible for the accompaniment of the Provinces of St. John Baptist, Blessed Isidore Bakanja and Our Lady of Africa, and the Region of Cardinal Emile Biayenda; and as Consultor in-charge of the Commissions on Formation.



The new general leadership

We wish and pray for God's blessings on Fr. Agostinho as he starts his new role in the Congregation.



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. 1548 - Father Juan Ignacio USABIAGA OYARBIDE

Province: O. Lady of the Blessed Sacrament
Community: Madrid-S. de Baranda, Spain
Death: 15 November 2018
Age: 95
Profession: 76
Priesthood: 70



N. 1549 - Father Albert BELINNE

Province: St Peter Julian Eymard
Community: Bruxelles, Belgium
Death: 20 October 2018
News received on 28 November 2018
Age: 88
Profession: 66 Priesthood: 59

N. 1550 - Father Jean-Paul ALLARD

Province: St John Baptist
Community: Québec, Canada
Death: 1 December 2018
Age: 91
Profession: 69
Priesthood: 63



N. 1551 - Father Eugène CHATAIGNIER

Province: St Peter Julian Eymard
Community: Colombier, France
Death: 11 December 2018
Age: 91
Profession: 70
Priesthood: 63



*Blessed Christmas
2018*

Happy New Year