



Secrétariat Central à la Formation - oco -

Abbaye Notre-Dame du Val d'Igny, 31 mars 2016.

Newsletter 8

To the Superiors, the Regional Secretaries,
the Brothers and Sisters interested by oco-formation.

Follow-up to the Seminar of new superiors in Rome, January 2016:

As announced in the previous *Newsletter*, Mother Giovanna from Matutum made available to all the conferences on the Constitutions she gave during this Seminar. You will find in **Annex 1** the text of the Constitutions 49 and 50 conferences (original text in English, French translation, provided by S.Laurence from Joie Notre-Dame).

Europe Mediterranean Region:

Sister Maria Francesca, the Regional Secretary, shares with us an **account of the International Congress of Consecrated Life** which took place in Rome from 28 January to 2 February 2016. Great concluding event of the Year of the Consecrated Life, this Congress, at the initiative of the CIVCSVA, brought together more than 5000 persons belonging to the various forms of consecrated life from around the world. The theme was: *Consecrated Life in communion in diversity of forms*. The purpose of the meeting was better know the great mosaic of consecrated life, to live a time of communion and together begin the path of the Great Jubilee of Mercy.

You will find in **Annex 2** the record made by Sister M.Illaria Bossi, from the monastery of Ghiffa, osbap (text of 12 pages, in Italian).

On March 11 **an afternoon of study** was organized by the Faculty of Theology of St. Anselm, Rome, for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Merton. The subject, *Sempre proteso verso Cristo: La teologia radicata nell'irrequieto viaggio spirituale di Thomas Merton*, was approached by six players. Two accounts of the meeting we have shared and are in Annexes:

Annex 3: report by Sister M.Roberta, osb of Fabriano (2 pages, in Italian); **Annex 4:** report by Sister Gabriella of Vitorchiano (1 ½ page, in Italian). One of the conferences, the one given by Jonathan Montaldo, is available in **Annex 5** (the text of the speaker: 11 pages, in English; in **Annex 6** the translation in Italian, 6 pages)).

The **session for Italian formators** projected in Valsereina in May on the theme: *The Anthropology of the Rule of Saint Benedict from a pastoral and experiential perspective*, hosted by Dom Guillaume and Mother Monica, had to be changed the date to the announcement in *Newsletter 7*: the session will take place from 16 to 21 May 2016.

News from the Propaedeutic School in Mvanda:

The Propaedeutic School "*Tata na beto*", created in 2014 at our Lady of Mvanda - (see *Newsletter 1*), works very well. This school is designed for candidates to religious life and who normally need preparation intellectual, christian and human basis, before engaging in a congregation. Each of the three annual sessions collects almost a hundred of novices, postulants and aspirants of all types for a week. Three Sisters from Mvanda attend school this year.

French speaking Regions:

The Regional Secretariat proposes a **session for formators of the Cistercian Family**, German-speaking and French-speaking, from 10 to 17 October 2016, in Wurmsbach Abbey (Switzerland). The theme is: *How forming and accompanying to a human and spiritual maturity?* The session will be moderated by Father Amadeo Cencini, Italian Canossian religious, and Sister Bernadette Steinmetz, religious of Mercy. Registration: for the 1.6.2016.

A **formators session** for all French-speaking Brothers and Sisters is organized from 12 to 22 July 2016 in Lérins Abbey. The theme is: *Life of fraternal communion and life of union with God*. Dom Vladimir, Abbot of Lérins, and Dom Pierre-André, Abbot of the Desert, will lead this session.

It is a formula renewed sessions Regional Secretaries were developed in response to the suggestions of some superiors. Before the scarcity of young people in formation, these sessions, which are under the acronym **FSC**, i.e.: **F**ormation at the **C**istercian **S**pirituality, now cater to all members of our communities who want to deepen the Cistercian spirituality. Do not delay for listings with the SRF: sr.marie-samuel@fille-dieu.ch.

An error in the Newsletter 7:

In paragraph *Internet Sites to visit*, the address of the site of the Abbey of Clairvaux is incomplete. The exact address, that allows to achieve *Clairvaux interactive tools*, is: www.clairvaux-2015.fr. Thanks to the Sister who has kindly reported the error.

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May 31, 2016.