



Secrétariat Central à la Formation - oco -
Abbaye Notre-Dame du Val d'Igny, 31 août 2016.

Newsletter 10

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

French speaking Regions:

Session for monks et nuns: in Lérins, from 12 to 22 July 2016 :

A member from the group kindly accepted to share the outline:

12-July 22, 2016 took place, in the Abbey of Lérins, a session to Cistercian spirituality on the theme: ***Life of fraternal communion and life of union with God.*** In the splendid framework of St. Honorat conducive to the wonderment and meditation (not to mention the relaxation after a working day), we went to lectures and personal work or group. The richness of the exchanges was favoured by the diversity of our origins: monks and nuns of all generations and branches of the Cistercian family: OCSO, OC, Bernardines of Esquermes ... and even a Benedictine!

The first days, Dom Pierre-André, Abbot of St. Mary of the Desert, invited us to "build the temple of the Lord with living stones." Over the texts of St. Bernard and St. Aelred, he emphasized the interaction between love just of self, love of neighbour and love of God, as well as the steps to enter the "cellars of the King" (Cf. *Sermon on the Song of Songs*, 23, 5-8).



In a second part, Dom Vladimir, Abbot of Lérins, has revisited the theme of the session based on ancient texts (RB, the different *Exordes*, the *Charter of Charity* and... the *Life of st Honorat*) or contemporary texts out of the three Cistercian branches in presence, thus making us taste the richness the heritage which we have "inherited" and that "our Order is the charity" (Cf. S. Bernard, *Letter to the brothers of Aulps*).

See **Annex 1**: the booklet with texts prepared for the session by Dom Pierre-André, who agreed to put it also at the disposal of the readers of this *Newsletter* (88 pages, in French).

[Part of the lectures given in 2015 at Cîteaux:](#)

The Newsletter 5 had made available the first section of the lectures given by Father Joel of Munkeby to the young professed gathered at Cîteaux from 14 to 24 July of last year, on the occasion of the 9th centenary of Clairvaux. The last section: *A monastic life for the whole Church and for the world*, was published in the *Collectanea Cisterciensia*, t.77 (2015) 4, p. 368-390. Attached, in **Annex 2**, the central section: *The Right in the service of Charity* (13 pages, in French).

[International Congress on Consecrated Life: Rome, from January 28 to February 2, 2016:](#)

The Newsletter 8 spoke of this Congress, organised by the CIVCSVA, thanks to a record made by Sister M. Ilaria of the monastery of Ghiffa.

In **Annex 3** you can find the collection of lectures given on that occasion (89 pages, in Italian).

[Session of re-entry for students in the common cycle of the STIM: Bayeux, from 23 August to 1 September 2016:](#)

This year centred on *Jesus, the Christ*, will open by two subjects: history of philosophy and theology (Christology and Holy Trinity). Presentation of courses by the teachers:

* Mr Bernard Obellianne ensures the course *Perspectives on the history of philosophy*, which traces a journey from Plato, Aristotle and Plotinus, passing through St. Augustine, St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Hegel and Sartre, until the last courses which will address the correlate between phenomenology and contemporary theology. A final session will serve as an introduction to questions of epistemology and hermeneutics encountered particularly in contemporary thought.

The purpose of the course is to give the lineaments of a history of Western philosophy, from the pre-Socratics to contemporary thought. Emphasis will be placed on the one hand on each author's own philosophical approach, on the other hand on possible interactions between his philosophy and theology or his spirituality.

* Father François-Marie Humann, Abbot of Mondaye, will give, during this first session, twenty courses on the Trinity and the mystery of Christ. He shall continue his teaching at the next session, in January 2017.

The purpose of the course is, in the light of the Resurrection, to deepen the relationship between the filial identity of Jesus Christ and his universal mission of salvation, and to show how the Trinity is the heart and the substance/matter of the Revelation. The purpose of this course is also to give the necessary bases to form the judgment and promote personal discernment in the current context. It comes to more firmly established faith in the Trinity and in Christ, the Word made flesh, in order to nurture the spiritual life and the commitment of all the existence following the Lord in the consecrated life.

[Two dates for the work of the STIM-Bac students:](#)

A course: "*Do not forget the hospitality*" (He 13.2), is given in the Centre Sèvres in Paris from 18 to 30 September 2016.

The 1st session of the year, will be held at the Abbey of Laval, from 10 to November 19, 2016. It will include three courses: two of special morality: *Moral social* and *Moral bioethics*, provided respectively by the Father Jean-Luc Védrine (Sulpician) and Father Patrick Verspieren (Centre Sèvres); and a course of *Fundamental Sacramentary*, given by Father Louis - Marie Chauvet.

[Biblical weekend in the Abbey of La Trappe: 29 and 30 October 2016](#)

In the context of Jewish-Christian dialogue, the association NA'IR organizes a meeting with Raniero Fontana (Congregation of our Lady of Zion), on the theme: *A Jewish Master, a living Torah, André Neher*.

Some sessions proposed by the *Service des moniales*, in France:

- From 24 to 26 November, *Study of the book of Isaiah*, by Anne-Marie Pelletier, at the Monastery of Benedictine Sisters of Veniere;
- From 6 to 8 September, *The life of Antony by Athanasius, a reflection on religious life*, by Brother Christophe Boureux, o.p., at the Monastery of Benedictine Sisters of Prailles;
- From 26 to 30 September, a session of *deepening of Biblical Hebrew*, with Sister Raffaella d'Este from the community of Bose, also at the monastery of Prailles.

Spanish Region:

Session for students in the P.R.E.M. cycle: 11 of October 26, 2016 at the Abbey of San Pedro de Cardeña (Burgos)

- * *Ecclesiology I*: F. Juan Antonio Testón Turiel
- * *The writings of John*: B. Israel M^a González (OCSO)
- * *Philosophy of nature and Science*: B. Miguel Ángel Arias (OCSO)
- * *Special Moral I: Moral of the person*: F. José Román Flecha
- * *Theology and spiritual History*: Sr. Rosa Ana Izquierdo (CCSB)

African Regions:

The Alliance Inter-Monastères now publishes three times a year a newsletter that "allows to follow more closely the work of AIM and have an echo of some aspects of the life of the monasteries on different continents". You may view this letter on the site of the AIM, under the tab: *monastic life*.

Here is some news regarding formation, gleaned in the spring edition of this newsletter:

- West Africa:
 - Last January, in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire, session for the monastic formators of West Africa: *Aid relationship and spiritual accompaniment of young people in formation according to the RB*, animated by S.Christine Conrath.
 - Last may, in the Abbey de l'Étoile: *Electricity course* for French speaking monks and nuns, offered by the AIM;
- Central Africa:
 - In July, in the monastery of Kappadu in India, session for the Central African superiors, given by Father John Kurichianil, Abbot of Kappadu.

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Newsletter 11 :

November 30, 2016.