



Secrétariat Central à la Formation - oco -  
Abbaye Notre-Dame du Val d'Igny, 30 novembre 2016.

## Newsletter 11

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

### African Regions:

#### A new initiative in matters of formation, the STIC:

This **Theological Studium Inter Congregations** is organized in collaboration between the Trappistines of Mvanda and the community of Tiberias in Kikwit. Mother Anna Chiara from Mvanda presents it:

The STIC works by sessions to allow the monks/nuns - the cycle is also open to other religious having finished their novitiate - to continue a solid theological and philosophical formation without having to be absent for a long time from the community and be sent to an Institute. The *Studium* is also open to committed lay people who wish to deepen their faith and give it a better intellectual base.

The course extends over three years, with three sessions of courses per year over a session of examinations for full-time students. Each session lasts 10 days (-1 given Sunday) and includes two courses.

#### Program for the academic year 2016-2017:

1. From 21/09 to 10/01 / 2016:

- Courses of *Anthropology* (30 h), by Father Benedict of Tiberias
- *Introduction to theology* (20 h), by Father. Jacques Sungu, OFM cap, Professor at the University of St Augustin of Kinshasa.

2. From 5/12 to 14/12/2016:

- Courses of *Theology Moral Basic* (30 h), by Father Jean Kinkaku, Professor at the Interdiocesain Seminary of Kikwit;
- *Canon Law (religious law)* (20 h), by Gilbert Nakaosa, FJK, Professor at the Catholic faculties of Kinshasa.

3. From 06/03 to 15/03/ 2017:

- Course of *Patristics* (30 h), by Father Chrysostom Tampwo, Rector of the major Interdiocesain Seminary of Kikwit;
- *Christian Revelation and African Traditions* (20 h), by Father Ntima, sj.

The courses planned for the next two years are:

- Course of 30 h: *Introduction NT + Synoptic; St Paul + Johannine Writings; Introduction OT + Pentateuch; Ecclesiology; Christology; History of the Church.*
- 20 h course: *Epistemology; Metaphysics; Prophets + Writings of Wisdom; Psychology and Faith; Theology of Religions, History of Salvation and Trinity.*

### A cycle for formation in Madagascar, the SIM:

In the years 2003-2004, the SIM was created for the Brothers of Maromby and the Sisters of Ampibanjinana. It addressed the young professed which have finished their secondary studies and understanding French. Mother Anne-Marie gave us some information about the SIM.

Three sessions per year were planned, followed by a personal work. A fourth session review assessed the work of the year. The first years of the operation of the cycle, there are courses of:

- *Theology*, by a professor at the Catholic Institute of Madagascar;
- *Monastic Spirituality*, by a Benedictine monk of Mahitsy (Antananarivo);
- *Holy Scripture*, by Sister Anne-Marie of Ampibanjinana;
- *Religious Life*, by Sister Perline;
- *Philosophy*, by a Malagasy priest, University Professor;
- *Methodology*, by Father John Chrysostom of Maromby.

The teachers from Tananarive could not move on a quarterly basis, as well at each session, which lasted 10 days, two professors' alternated courses. In general, there were morning courses and evening there were classes work.

This first formula did not last, the level being too high and too intensive for students. A new formula has been developed on the same principle, three sessions and personal work and a fourth assessment session. Each session had all the courses lasted for 1 h or 1 h 1/4. The courses had remained the same, but professors living in Fianarantsoa had been chosen.

Currently the number of courses has increased, as well as the subjects taught. Courses, according to teachers, are in French or in Malagasy or better bilingual, when the teacher knows both languages. The cycle is open to the Cistercian and Benedictine monks and nuns of Madagascar. It group this year 10 students.

### **Region ORIENS:**

### The meeting of the Japanese-speaking formators at Nishinomiya Abbey, October 17th -21st, 2016:



There was a total of 10 formators meeting for 5 days at Nishinomiya Abbey in Japan. The 2 monks and 8 nuns were from 7 houses of the Japanese Sub-Region. The objective this time was to take the initiative in planning the meeting ourselves, and to learn and grow together. Therefore, we spent all the time only on sharing, without a speaker. This was the first attempt for the Japanese Formators.

The situations in formation vary considerably among the communities. Because of that, each person freely gave his own presentation on their efforts in formation, according to the time available. The presentations were well prepared, so we had very fulfilling and close communications and exchanges of views about these matters. Furthermore, the common consciousness of all

members became deeper and increased through each other's questions and answers. We are looking forward to the next Formators Meeting of the Oriens Region in 2018 by an experienced speaker.

### [First Internoviciat meeting in the abbey of Chambarand, from 26 to 29 September 2016:](#)

A short record by a participant: "we were 35 participants: 19 in formation, 14 novice directors. Sister Lisa of Bose hosted the session and Jeanine Noëlle, psychologist, came to accompany the formators." This represents the South and East of OCSO France with some Benedictine communities who already have joint monasteries of the East for formation activities.

The alternation of lessons in a big group for all and small groups where novices and trainers were separated, novices with Sister Lisa working on *lectio* and the formators exchanging with Janine Noëlle on questions of accompaniment, worked both very well, everyone has found his account».

**Annex 1:** Chronicle illustrated of the meeting.

### [Session for French and German speaking formators, at Wurmsbach Abbey, from 10 to 17 October 2016:](#)

The meeting brought together some forty Brothers and Sisters from the Order of Cîteaux, of the OCSO, Bernardine Sisters of Esquermes and others of Oudenaarde, from twelve different countries. It was animated by Father Amadeo Cencini and Sister Marie-Bernadette Steinmetz.

A Brother kindly offers us a report of this meeting, see **Annex 2**.

**Annex 3:** Texts of conferences of the two speakers (F. Cencini: three documents, = 45 pages, in Italian; S. Marie - Bernadette; 45 pages, in French). You can find the text from F. Cencini also in French and in German, the text from Sister Marie-Benadette in German on the Order's website.

### [Session propaedeutic of the STIM: Tamié, from 14 to 22 February 2017](#)

Three courses will be given: *History*, *History of philosophy* and *Methodology*.

Brother Jean-Louis Osama, o.s.b. ensures, in twelve hours, the course *History of the Church*, trying to «go through the history of the Church from its origins until the election of the Pope Jean-Paul II». The course is done in the form of an overview of the major events in the history of the Church alternated with more thorough records well situated chronologically and inserted into the overall course study. (...) It comes to take a look at the past of the Church in order to better understand the present and look to the future with confidence, but also aware of the temptations and crises that can threaten the various Christian churches".

*Perspectives on the history of philosophy* will be opened by Mr. Bernard Obellianne. "The purpose of the course is to give the lineaments of a history of Western philosophy, from the Pre-Socratic to contemporary thought. (...) Emphasis will be placed on the philosophical approach to each author (...), the other on possible interactions between his philosophy and theology or spirituality. »

The course of *Methodology and theological articulation*, in eight hours, will be provided by Brother Bruno Demoures.

### [Session of the common cycle of the STIM: La Trappe, from January 13 to January 20, 2017](#)

The students will follow the second part of the *History of philosophy* and *Theology* courses, begun during the session at Bayeux, late summer (cf. Newsletter 10).

The first part of a new material will be added, with ten hours of classes, on the New Testament courses themed *Christ, the Fulfilment of the Scriptures*. The course will be given by Father François Lestang, of the Chemin Neuf - Community. Here is an excerpt from the presentation of the course: "we will begin our exploration by the first Letters of the Apostle Paul, then we will go on with the first Letter of Peter. From there we will visit the Gospels, notably the Gospel according to Marc, before opening our horizons to the mystery revealed in the Letter to the Ephesians and the Johannine corpus. This will allow us to taste the plurality of theologies of the New Testament, either about Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Church, especially in its report to Israel. Thus, we will measure the novelty of the Alliance in Jesus witnessed these texts... ».

## STIM – BAC session: at the Benedictine Abbey of Jouarre, from 12 to 22 February 2017:

The session includes four courses:

- *Synoptic (Luke/Acts)*, with Odile Flichy of the Centre Sèvres (10 hours);
- *Hermeneutics, Logical*, with Fr. Guilhem Cause of the Centre Sèvres (15 hours);
- *Trinitarian Theology*, with Father Michel Fédou (5 hours);
- *Spiritual Theology*, with Sister Sylvie Robert of the Centre Sèvres (10 hours).

## A session on the Rule of Benedict:

Sister Hannah, disciple of S. Aquinata Böckmann, will lead the study on the subject of *Humility*, from 12 to 18 July 2018 in the Benedictine Abbey of Maredsous. (More information, cf. Sister Bénédicte: [hurtebise@busmail.net](mailto:hurtebise@busmail.net)).

## Session IFHIM for professed Brothers and Sisters who are in responsibility, of all monastic families:

From 26 June to 1 July 2017, at the Benedictine Abbey of Jouarre, Sister Céline Rivard of the Montreal Institute of Integral Human Formation, will guide the session around the theme: *Draw in itself the strength to take a fresh look*. This formation is addressed to those wishing to “grow in humanity and discover ways to better live their fraternal service”. (Registration and information: [srtheophane@gmail.com](mailto:srtheophane@gmail.com)).

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**Newsletter 12:**

**February 28, 2017.**