

Prot. N° 02/BI/13
Curia Generalizia

INFORMATION BULLETIN – 180

Mount St Bernard

On June 11, 2013 Dom Joseph Delargy completed a second six year term as abbot of **Mount Saint Bernard Abbey**. On that same day an election was held which was inconclusive. After following the required procedures the Father Immediate, Dom Brendan Freeman, appointed **Fr. Erik Varden** as Superior *ad nutum*.

Dom Erik, born in Norway in 1974, entered the monastery in 2002, made solemn profession in 2007 and was ordained priest in 2011. At the time of his appointment he was Prior.

New Melleray

Dom Brendan Freeman, Abbot of New Melleray (archdiocese of Dubuque - USA) since 1984, having reached the age of retirement mentioned in ST 40.A of the Constitutions, presented his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on July 17, 2013.

On August 3, 2013, Dom Augustine McGregor, Abbot of Mount Melleray, (Ireland) and Father Immediate of New Melleray, after consulting the community, appointed **Dom Mark Scott** as Superior *ad nutum* of New Melleray.

Dom Mark was born in 1948 in Sacramento (CA, USA). He entered New Clairvaux Abbey, in Vina, California, on October 15, 1978, and made his solemn profession on January 5, 1986. He was ordained a priest on October 31, 1987. Thirteen years later, in August of 2000, he was appointed superior of Assumption Abbey, in Ava, Missouri. In December of 2001 the Ava community elected him as their abbot for six years. After completing his term of office he was chosen to be the editor of the Order's journal, *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*.

Holy Trinity

On July 6, 2013 **Dom David Altman** completed his term as abbot of **Holy Trinity Abbey** (diocese of Salt Lake City - USA).

On August 3, 2013, Dom Elias Dietz, Abbot of Gethsemani and Father Immediate of Holy Trinity, appointed **Dom Brendan Freeman**, Abbot Emeritus of New Melleray, as Superior *ad nutum* of Holy Trinity.

Dom Brendan will take up his new responsibilities in September.

The Death of Dom Ambrose

In the late morning of August 24, 2013, **Dom Ambrose Southey** died.

Dom Ambrose was born in 1923 in Whitley Bay (Great Britain). He entered Mount Saint Bernard in 1940 and made solemn profession in 1945 and was ordained a priest in 1948.

He studied Canon Law in Rome from 1951 until 1953. He was named Prior of Mount Saint Bernard and elected abbot of that Community, 9 July, 1959.

He was elected Abbot General of the Order May 7, 1974, and remained in office until the General Chapter of 1990. During that Chapter Dom Ambrose presented his resignation from the ministry of Abbot General.

Later he was named Superior *ad nutum* of Bamenda Abbey (Cameroun) which he served from 1993 until 1996, and Superior *ad nutum* of Scourmont Abbey (Belgium) 1996 until 1998. Dom Ambrose later accepted the ministry of Chaplain for the Community of Vitorchiano and remained there until he returned definitively to his community of Stability, Mount Saint Bernard.

He was 90 years old, had been in monastic life for 71 years and 64 years a priest when the Lord called him.

Dom Ambrose is remembered for his generous personal service to all our Communities and his interest in developing the Constitutions of the Order.

Funeral rites for Dom Ambrose

The funeral Mass for **Dom Ambrose** was celebrated at the monastery of Mount Saint Bernard on Thursday, **29 August, at 11.00 a.m.** The Mass was presided by Mgr Malcolm McMahon, O.P., Bishop of the diocese of Nottingham (Great Britain), in the presence of Dom Eamon Fitzgerald, Abbot General of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance.

All Trappist communities were especially united in prayer with the brothers of Mount St Bernard, to bid a last adieu to one who devoted himself for so many years to the service of the brothers and sisters of the Order.

Cistercian Congregation of St. Bernard

On September 6, 2013, **Mother M. Angelines de Frutos** was elected for a six year term Abbess President of the **Cistercian Congregation of St. Bernard in Spain**, the congregation of contemplative nuns officially associated to the OCSO.

At the time of her election, **Mother M. Angelines**, nun of the monastery of Las Huelgas, was Promotrix of the Chapter of the CCSB. She assisted as an observer at the last OCSO General Chapters.

She replaces Mother **M^a Jesús María Fernandez Estalayo** who had been Abbess President of the Las Huelgas Federation of Cistercian Nuns when she was elected in 1995 first Abbess President and Supreme Moderator of the Cistercian Congregation of St. Bernard when this Federation became an autonomous Congregation.

Jacona

Dom Rafael del Valle Elcid, Prior of the Monastery of Jacona (diocese of Zamora - Mexico) since 2004, having reached the age of retirement mentioned in ST 40.A of the Constitutions, presented his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on August 1, 2013.

On October 2, 2013, the Community of Jacona elected as Prior for a six year term, **Father Marco Antonio Maldonado Jaramillo**.

Dom Marco Antonio was born in 1965 in Mexico (Mexico). He entered Jacona in 1986, made his solemn profession in 1992 and was ordained priest in 2012. At the time of the election, he was Novice Master and second Superior.

Ordo 2013-2014

The **Latin Ordo** and the **English Ordo for 2013-2014** are now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format : (« Resources/Liturgy/Ordo »)

Thanks to Fr. Justin of Genesee !

Bamenda

Dom Charles Amihere completed his term of Abbatial Office at **Bamenda**(Cameroon) 6 August, 2013. Dom Charles remained in office until it was possible for the recently appointed Father Immediate, Dom Erik, of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, assisted by Mother Regina of the Council of the Abbot General, to conduct the Regular Visitation. During the Visitation at Bamenda Abbey, it was determined not have an election at this time and to appoint a Superior *ad nutum*.

With the necessary permissions from the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life, and the generosity of Prior Peter Eghwudjakpor, OSB, of Ewu-Ishan Priory, Edo State, Nigeria, Brother Michael Asogwa, OSB, was appointed Superior *ad nutum* of Bamenda Abbey on 7 October 2013. Brother Michael will be assisted by Father Joseph Udo-Udo, OSB, also of Ewu-Ishan Priory.

Cause of the Martyrs of Algeria – Tibhirine

On October 7th Archbishop Bader of Algiers, with the agreement of the Abbot General and his Council, appointed Father Thomas Georgeon, monk of La Trappe and present Secretary of the Abbot General, as **postulator of the cause of Archbishop Claverie and his 18 companions** (among them our 7 brothers of Tibhirine). The appointment was approved by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on October 11, 2013.

Bonneval - Sr. Lydwine

The abbess and sisters of the community of **Bonneval** have asked us to share this message with all the brothers and sisters of the Order:

“On Wednesday 23rd October 2013, some walkers found human remains about 45 minutes walk north of the monastery. The police moved in and combed the ground. Tests have confirmed that it is the body of our **Sr. Lydwine**, who disappeared on 8th November 2012. We confide her, and ourselves, to your prayers.”

Bethlehem

Dom Celsus Kelly completed his sixth term of six years as Abbot of Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey (Portglenone, Northern Ireland) on November 8, 2013. On the same day, Dom Celsus was re-elected Abbot of the Community for a six year term.

Philippines

As many of you know a very strong typhoon passed through **the Philippines** on Friday November 8. Dom Gerard of Guimaras reports that thank God, there was no damage to our monasteries in **Guimaras** or **Matutum**.

Please pray for the people of the Philippines affected by this disaster, and especially for the monks and nuns who may have families in the disaster areas.

Shuili

On Nov 26, 2013 Dom Paul Kao, Superior *ad Nutum* of Lantao appointed **Fr. Francis Lim**, as Superior of Shuili.

Fr. Francis was born in 1939. He made solemn profession and was ordained priest in 1997. He was the Superior of Shuili from 1999 to 2001.

The 82nd General Assembly of the Union of Superiors General : meeting with the Pope

Vatican City, 29 November 2013 (VIS) – The Union of Superiors General held its 82nd General Assembly in the Salesianum in Rome from 27 to 29 November. The story of three experiences provided the basis for reflections and encounters focusing on the challenges of leadership in the light of the Magisterium and following the example given by Pope Francis. The Holy Father chose to meet with the Superiors for three hours, rather than the short encounter envisaged: no address was prepared in advance, but instead a long, colloquial and fraternal discussion took place, composed of questions and answers.

The first group of questions related to the identity and mission of consecrated life. A radical approach is required of all Christians, the Pope stated, but religious persons are called upon to follow the Lord in a special way: “They are men and woman who can awaken the world. Consecrated life is prophecy. God asks us to fly the nest and to be sent to the frontiers of the world, avoiding the temptation to ‘domesticate’ them. This is the most concrete way of imitating the Lord”. When asked about the situation of vocations, the Pope emphasised that there are young Churches which are bearing new fruit. This naturally gives rise to a re-evaluation of the inculturation of charism. The Church must follow the example of Matteo Ricci in asking forgiveness for and looking with shame upon apostolic failures caused by misunderstandings in this field. Intercultural dialogue

must press for the introduction persons of various cultures, expressing different ways of living charism, in the governance of religious institutes.

The Pope insisted upon the importance of formation, which he presented as founded upon four fundamental pillars: spiritual, intellectual, communitarian and apostolic. It is indispensable to avoid every form of hypocrisy and clericalism by means of a frank and open dialogue on all aspects of life: "formation is an artisanal craft, not a form of policing", he commented; "its aim is to form religious persons with a tender heart, not acid, not like vinegar. We are all sinners, but not corrupt. Sinners are to be accepted, but not the corrupt".

When asked about brotherhood, the Pope said that this has a great force of attraction, and presupposes the acceptance of differences and conflicts. At time it is difficult to live in fraternity, but without it no fruit may be borne. In any case, "we must never act like managers when faced with a brother's conflict: conflict instead must be caressed", said the Pope.

A number of questions were asked regarding the relationships between religious persons and the particular Churches to which they belong. The Pope confirmed that he had experience of the possible problems: "We bishops must understand that consecrated persons are not helpers, but rather charisms which enrich dioceses".

The final questions regarded the frontiers of the mission of consecrated persons. "They must be sought on the basis of the charisms", answered the Pope. Situations of exclusion remain the first priorities. Alongside these challenges he mentioned the cultural and educational mission in schools and universities. For the Pope, the pillars of education are "transmitting knowledge, transmitting methods, transmitting values. By these means, faith is communicated. The educator must measure up to those he educates, and must give careful thought to how to proclaim Jesus Christ to a changing generation".

Before taking leave of the 120 Superiors General present, the Pope announced that 2015 would be a year dedicated to consecrated life. He added, "Thank you for what you do and for your spirit of faith and your service. Thank you for your witness and also for the humiliations through which you have had to pass".

(<http://visnews-en.blogspot.it/2013/11/meeting-with-superiors-general-pope.html>)

The 2014 *Elenchus*

The 2014 *Elenchus* is being prepared. If you would like any changes or corrections made to your entry, you must inform the secretariat (ocsoroma@gmail.com) by Tuesday, 31 December 2013, at the latest. Please, send only the information that you have not already sent to the secretariat. Also, let us know how many copies of the *Elenchus* you wish to receive if the number is different from last year.

Thank you !

Decrees of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints

Vatican City, 9 December 2013 (VIS) – Today in the Vatican, the Holy Father received in private audience Archbishop Angelo Amato S.D.B., prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and authorised the promulgation of decrees concerning the following causes:

MIRACLES

- Venerable Servant of God Giovannina Franchi, Italian foundress of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother of Como (1807-1872).

MARTYRS

- Servants of God Mario Vergara, Italian, professed priest of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions and Isidoro Ngei Ko Lat, Burmese, layperson and catechist killed in hatred of the faith in Shadaw, Myanmar, in 1950.

HEROIC VIRTUES

- Servant of God Maurice Garrigou, French priest and founder of the Institute of Our Lady of Compassion (1766-1852).

- Servant of God Clemens Fuhl (born Vinzenz Fuhl), German, professed priest of the Agostinian Order (1874-1935).

- Servant of God Marcell of the Virgin of Carmel (born Marcell Boldizsar Marton), Hungarian professed priest of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites (1887-1966).

- **Servant of God Romano Bottegai**, Italian professed priest of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists), born on December 28, 1921 in San Donato de Lamon (Belluno, Italy) and died in Beyrouth (Lebanon) on February 19, 1978.

- Servant of God Rosalie Cadron-Jette, Canadian foundress of the Institute of the Sisters of Misericorde (1794-1864).
- Servant of God Maria Rosa Teresa Gay Tibau, Spanish foundress of the Religious of St. Joseph of Girona (1813-1884).
- Servant of God Maria Oliva of the Mystical Body (born Maria Oliva Bonaldo), Italian foundress of the Daughters of the Church (1893-1976).
- Servant of God Orsola Mezzini, professed religious of the Sisters of the Little Mission for the Deaf-Mute (1853-1919).
- Servant of God Maria Scolastica of Divine Providence (born Orsola Maria Rivata), Italian professed religious of the Sisters Disciples of the Divine Master (1897-1987).
- Servant of God Raffaele Cordero Molina, Puerto Rican layperson (1790-1868).

(http://www.vis.va/vissolr/index.php?vi=all&dl=1bcbe1e6-d011-8823-b8e6-52a5d67a404e&dl_t=text/xml&dl_a=y&ul=1&ev=1)

Viaceli

Dom Alejandro Castro Rodríguez completed his third term of six years as Abbot of Viaceli (Spain) on December 14, 2013. On the same day, Dom Alejandro was re-elected Abbot of the Community for a six year term.

Information

The Information Bulletin n°180 that records the News which appeared between the month of June and the month of December of 2012, can be obtained from the Internet under the heading: "News / Bulletins."

http: http://www.ocso.org/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=110&lang=en

The Necrology notice for n° 2013-2 can be found under the heading: "News / Necrology Page".

http: http://www.ocso.org/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=156&lang=en

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A centenarian at Westmalle

Father Tillo Declercq was born in Izegem, Belgium, on August 10, 1913. He entered the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Missionaries of Scheut) in 1932, and was ordained a priest in 1938. He was a missionary in the Philippines for many years. He entered Westmalle in 1960, and made his solemn profession in 1962.

He worked in the brewery at Westmalle, was chaplain to the sisters at Nazareth, and prior of the community at Westmalle for several years. Before taking a well-earned rest in the infirmary, he was responsible for looking after the poor who call to the monastery.

A centenarian at La Trappe

Father Godefroid Bouvier des Noes was born on August 24, 1913 in Feings (France). He entered La Trappe in 1932, made his solemn profession in 1938 and was ordained a priest 1939. Chaplain at la Clarté-Dieu from 1967 to 1972, he went several times to Mokoto to help the Community between 1972 and 1979.

A centenarian at Echourgnac

Sister Guerric Marq was born on August 29, 1913 in Paris (France). She entered Igny on January 15, 1936 and made her solemn profession there on April 21, 1941. On September 12, 1945 she was one of the second group sent from Igny to Echourgnac to help the community in difficulty. She made stability there in 1948.

She was in turn mistress of the lay sisters, prioress, and subprioress, and for many years was in charge of the cheese-making.

On January 28, 2013, the 75th anniversary of her monastic profession provided the opportunity for her and for the community to begin the year with thanksgiving...

Although today her weak sight does not allow her to carry out all the projects which her spirit still suggests to her, her striking dynamism continues to surprise those who meet her!

A centenarian at Les Neiges

Dom Claudius Valour was born on October 6, 1913 in Yssingeaux (France), the ninth and last child of a deeply Christian family: he had three brothers who were members of the Paris Foreign Mission Society and a sister who was a religious. He entered the seminary in 1933, but finally chose the monastic life and entered the abbey of Les Neiges on October 30, 1936 where he made temporary profession on December 8, 1938. Mobilized in the beginning of the war, he was taken prisoner from June 1940 until May 1945. During his captivity, he forged numerous and lasting bonds of friendship, such as those with Father René Laurentin and Father Louis Simoneau, the future Bishop of Versailles. When he returned to the monastery, he weighed only 40 kilograms and the bells were rung for him! He made solemn profession on January 6, 1946 and was ordained a priest on August 4 of the same year. After modernizing the farm and maintaining the forests, he was appointed Master of the novices, then Prior in 1951.

On April 2, 1959, the community chose him as the 7th Abbot of Les Neiges and he chose as his motto: "With righteousness and love, led by Mary".

Enterprising, fast and determined, his abbatial service was marked by a certain prosperity enjoying a time of economic growth. He welcomed a good group of brothers after the closing of the abbey of Bonnetcombe (Aveyron) in 1965, and contributed, with Mother Marie de la Trinité Kervinant, to the establishment of the community of Cabanoule (Gard) of which he accepted the paternity in 1978, as he had done for Bonneval in 1965. He also received the paternity of the community of Les Dombes (Ain). He was a founding member and also the second President of "La Fondation des Monastères" from 1972 to 1982.

At the age of 69, in 1982, he withdrew from the abbatial charge, and served as chaplain first in Cabanoule then in Chalais, and later in Japan, as chaplain of the nuns of Tenshien. Finally he was chaplain for ten years for the sisters of Laval.

At present, Dom Claudius continues to participate in the conventual life with a remarkable assiduity. Although unfortunately he has become nearly completely deaf, he comes to Lauds, Mass and Vespers and follows everything perfectly in the books!

His Abbot affirms us that he doesn't take any medicines, never uses the elevator and has... a very good appetite!

A centenarian at Mont-des-Cats

Brother Aimable Flipo was born on December 23, 1913 in Lille (France). He entered Mont-des-Cats on March 10, 1933, and made his temporary profession on March 5, 1937. Having been mobilised during the 1939-45 war, during which he was taken prisoner, on his return from captivity he made solemn profession on June 20, 1943. Sent to Frattocchie from 1946 to 1950, he was then given the task of overseeing the construction of Belval (1950-1957), and subsequently of Monte Cistello, where he was cellarer from 1963 to 1968. On his return to Mont-des-Cats he was secretary to Dom André Louf for many years. This year he celebrated 76 years of monastic vows.

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Modifications to the Elenchus Monasteriorum :

E-mail Addresses and internet site addresses are regularly updated on the site <http://www.ocso.org>, so they are not mentioned here

[62*] Esmeraldas

**Monasterio Trapense
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Wishing you a happy and blessed New Year!