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Curia Generalizia

INFORMATION BULLETIN – 186

Kopua

On May 12, 2016, Dom Steele Hartmann, Abbot of Tarrawarra and Father Immediate Delegate of Kopua, appointed **Father Niko Verkley** as Superior *ad nutum* of the Community.

Dom Niko was born in 1938 in La Haye (The Netherlands) and entered Kopua in 1966. He made his solemn profession in 1971 and was ordained priest in 1974. At the time of his appointment he was Novice Master.

Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°9 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading: "Formation/Newsletter" : [Formation/Newsletter](#)

Nsugbe

In the course of a Regular Visitation made at Nsugbe Dom Robert Ezika, Titular Prior of the monastery offered his resignation to the Abbot General, who, in the absence of a Father Immediate, made the Visitation.

On July 27, the day when the resignation became effective, **Fr. Benedict Okakpu** was appointed Superior *ad nutum* of Nsugbe.

Dom Benedict was born in Abatete (Nigeria) in 1966, ordained priest in 1994, entered Nsugbe in 2006 and made solemn profession in 2012. At the time of his appointment Dom Benedict was novice master.

Awhum

Father Laurence Ezeilo, after serving for five years as Prior Administrator of the Community of **Awhum** (Nigeria), has resigned and is about to return to his community of Mont-St-Bernard (Great Britain).

On July 25, 2016, Dom Timothy Kelly, Pontifical Commissary of the Abbey of Awhum, named **Brother Matthew Onuh** as the new Prior Administrator of the Community and the appointment became effective on the same day.

Brother Matthew was born in 1967 in Benue (Nigeria). He entered Awhum in 2000 and made solemn profession in 2007. At the time of his appointment he was the second Superior.

Bamenda

Brother Michael Asogwa, OSB, after serving for three years as Prior Administrator of the **Bamenda** Community (Cameroon) will return to his monastery of Ewu-Ishan (Nigeria) at the beginning of Advent to become the Superior of a foundation that his community is preparing in Nigeria.

On August 3, 2016, Dom Timothy Kelly, Pontifical Commissary of the Abbey of Bamenda, appointed **Br Polycarp Wirsungnim Javlon** as the new Prior Administrator of the Community. The appointment will become effective on August 20, 2016.

Brother Polycarp was born in 1965 in Baseng, Buea (Cameroon). He entered Bamenda in 1994 and made solemn profession in 2001. At the time of his appointment he was Novice Master.

Berryville

On August 10, 2016, at the end of the third abbatial term of Dom Robert Barnes, the Community of Berryville (diocese of Arlington, USA) elected as abbot, for a six year term, **Father Joseph Wittstock**.

Dom Joseph born in 1957 in King William's Town (South Africa); ordained a priest in 1984, he entered the monastery in 1991 and made solemn profession in 1995. At the time of his election he was Cellarer of the Community.

Sobrado : 1966 - 2016

In the year 2016, the Monastery of **Sta María de Sobrado** (La Coruña, Spain) celebrates the 50th anniversary of its refoundation.

Ordo 2016-2017

A copy of **the Latin Ordo for 2016-2017** is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format: (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) »). Thanks to Fr. Justin of Genesee!

The Cistercian Congregation of St. Bernard

On September 13, 2016 the eighth General Chapter of the Cistercian Congregation of St. Bernard (CSSB - Las Huelgas) was opened and presided by Mother Angelines de Frutos, Abbess President of the Congregation, in the presence of Dom Eamon Fitzgerald, Abbot General of OCSO. It is being held in Las Huelgas until September 23, 2016.

We offer to all the Communities of the Cistercian Congregation of St. Bernard our fraternal prayer and support throughout this time of discussion, discernment and decisions.

Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°10 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading: "Formation/Newsletter" : [Formation/Newsletter](#)

Snowmass

Dom Joseph Boyle, Abbot of Snowmass (Archdiocese of Denver - USA) since 1985, 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 21, 2016.

On September 29, 2016, after the conventual chapter had voted for an undetermined abbatial mandate, an election was held in which **Dom Joseph**, who is 75 years of age, was postulated as abbot of Snowmass.

The Abbot General confirmed the election, in accordance with Statute 40. A bis of the Constitutions. (See vote 49 of the Acts of the General Chapter of 2014).

Lantao

On October 3, 2016, the Community of Lantao (Hong Kong) elected as abbot, for a six year term, **Dom Paul Kao**.

Dom Paul was born in Taiwan in 1959 and entered Vina in 1990. He made solemn profession in 1997 and was ordained priest in 2005. At the time of his election, he was Superior *ad nutum* of Lantao.

San Isidro

Dom Juan Javier Martín Hernández, Abbot of the monastery of **San Isidro** (diocese of Palencia, Spain) since 2012, presented his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on 4 September 2016.

On 7 October 2016, Dom Pierre-Andre Burton, Abbot of N.- D. du Désert and Father Immediate of San Isidro, appointed **Br. José Antonio Gimeno Capin** as Superior *ad nutum* of the Community. He began his service on that same day.

Dom José Antonio was born in Barcelona in 1977. He entered San Isidro in 1998 and made solemn profession in 2004. At the time of his appointment, he was secretary and cellarer of the Community.

English Ordo 2016-2017

A copy of the **English** Ordo for 2016-2017 is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format (« Resources/Liturgy/Ordo ») : Ordo EN 2016-2017

Imari

Mother Catharina Shibuya, Abbess of **Imari**, whose resignation was accepted by the General Chapter of 2014 (vote 22) and which would become effective at the time of the 2016 Regular Visitation (vote 23) was postulated as abbess on October 29, 2016.

The Abbot General has confirmed this postulation (See vote 49 of the Acts of the General Chapter of 2014). Therefore Mother Catharina will offer her resignation again to the General Chapter of 2017.

Maromby

On 20 October 2016, Dom Marc-André Di Péa, Superior *ad nutum* of Mont-des-Cats and Father Immediate of **Maromby**, appointed **Br. Timon Rakotofanomezana** as Superior *ad nutum* of the Community of Maromby.

Dom Timon was born in Madagascar in 1969. He entered Maromby in 2003 and made solemn profession in 2010. At the time of his appointment, he was Claustal Prior of the Community.

Ajimu

On November 8, 2016, Mother Joanna Sato, Superior *ad nutum* of **Ajimu** (Japon) has presented her resignation to Dom Charles Robilliard, Superior *ad nutum* of Bricquebec and Father Immediate of Ajimu.

On the same day, Dom Charles appointed **Sister Gertrude Ikebe** as Superior *ad nutum* of the Community of Ajimu. She will begin her service on December 8, 2016.

Mother Gertrude was born in 1969, entered Ajimu in 1995 and made solemn profession in 2002. At the time of her nomination, Mother Gertrude was Prioress of the Community.

December 1st 2016

Centenary of the death of Blessed Father Charles de Foucauld (1858 - 1916)

*"Dear ND des Neiges where I received the holy habit,
And where the Good Lord has given me so many graces. "*
Letter of July 14, 1890 to Father Eugene

Charles de Foucauld, known in religion as Brother Marie-Alberic, entered Notre Dame des Neiges on January 16, 1890.

He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on November 13, 2005. His canonization is hoped for, requested and awaited.

Born in 1858, the year of the apparitions of Lourdes, he had a youth at once golden and painful. His parents and his grandmother died when he was a child. A turbulent adolescence led him to a military life somewhat faulty. His dazzling but lasting return to God was the fruit of his meeting with the prayerful people of Islam, the enlightened Christians of his family and Father Huvelin who prompted him to make his confession in 1886 as he wanted to "be educated in the truths of the Catholic faith." His religion becomes his love.

After the beginning of his religious life at ND des Neiges, he spent 7 years in Syria in a monastery dependent on ND des Neiges: ND du Sacré Coeur in Cheiklé, near Akbès (at that time in Turkey). He left the Cistercian Order on February 14, 1897, on the eve of his solemn vows, with the permission of Dom Wyart, then Abbot General.

Charles becomes Brother Charles of Jesus, a priest of the diocese of Viviers (Ardèche-France). It was at Notre Dame des Neiges that he prepared for his ordination and where he celebrated his first Mass on June 10, 1901. He then went to Beni Abbes, Tamanrasset and then to the Hoggar ... He went "from beginnings to beginnings by beginnings that have no end." Although not outwardly manifested, he remained deeply attached to everything he received at the Trappist monasteries of Neiges and Cheiklé. It was there that, in charge of the formation of young aspirants to the monastic life, he had begun to present them with "meditations on the gospel" ... rather than repeating the Usages!

The course of his life was cut short in the distant shocks of the 1st world war: he was assassinated the 1st of December 1916.

In his lifetime he would have no disciples, but a multitude of believers, prayerful people and

apostles of our time who take him as a model. He writes: "We should not interfere with the temporal government, but we must love justice and hate iniquity ... But if a temporal government commits a grave injustice, we must tell them so ... We do not have the right to be sleeping sentries or mute dogs "...

With Saint Teresa of Lisieux, he is a beacon for the 20th century!

Today, at ND des Neiges there are only a few buildings that would be known by Father de Foucauld. On the other hand, since his beatification, a chapel, where a relic is venerated, was dedicated to him (in 2006). A memorial site also brings together some memories.

Mont-des-Cats

On December 10, 2016, the Community of **Mont-des-Cats** (diocese of Lille, France) elected as abbot, for an indefinite term, **Dom Marc-André Di Péa**.

At the time of his election, Dom Marc-André was Superior *ad nutum* of Mont-des-Cats.

Los Andes

An armed robbery at the monastery of Los Andes

The Brothers of the Trappist community of Our Lady of Los Andes have confirmed the information published in the media concerning an armed robbery in which the brothers were sequestered for five hours in their monastery:

"The criminal activity began around 3 pm and continued until 8 pm. A group of armed persons arrived at the monastery and began taking members of the community, guests, visitors, and the administrative staff, a total of about 30 persons. They sequestered us, bound us hand and foot, most face down, in a fairly small place. Only one employee was beaten, but there were only minor injuries.

We are grateful for all the messages of solidarity we have received from individuals, religious communities or official bodies.

We continue our contemplative life of prayer and work according to the rule of our Father Saint Benedict, with the conviction that this is the best contribution we can make to the harmony and peace of our country. These unfortunate events are not going to make us deviate from the call we have received from God.

We carry in our prayers those who perpetrated this crime by wishing them a change of life so that they can pursue happiness where it really is: in God.

We entrust ourselves to your prayers."

Fr. Placido Alvarez, superior of the monastery.



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