



Secrétariat Central à la Formation - ocso -

Abbaye Notre-Dame du Val d'Igny, February 28, 2017.

## Newsletter 12

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

Region REMILA:

### Course for Formators, in Hinojo :

From the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, in the monastery of Hinojo (Argentina) was given a course for the formators of the REMILA. The theme proposed, in continuity with the course from two years ago, was: "How to embody the spirituality and the monastic values of the Cistercian Fathers in the XXI century?" The conferences were given by Father Michael Casey from Tarrawarra, who had given already the course earlier in 2014.

Of the fourteen communities that make up our Region, eleven were represented, with a total of 16 participants. All of them are Sisters and Brothers who provide different services in the area of the initial formation in their respective communities.

The dynamic of the course was intense: three conferences of an hour in the morning, and in the evening one hour of activity in small groups and then one hour in the plenary.

The themes exposed in the conferences were:

- guidelines and presentation of the monastic sermons of S. Bernard
- Tradition, Interpretation, Re-formation
- the grace of the discontinuity, the conversion as a repeated experience
- anthropology of S. Bernard, the ontological optimism of the Cistercian Fathers
- fraternal life in community
- formation plan of S. Bernard - In the XXI century

These themes were presented with many substantial quotations from the Fathers, especially from S. Bernard.

In the months before the course, all participants read and personally worked on Saint Bernard's Sermons *De Diversis*, this allowed us, with a collection of selected texts, to listen to the major themes on education which S. Bernard most directly addressed to the monks.

All the course turned on these aspects of formation, however, throughout the several conferences some points were underlined in a particular way. Between others: the main role that comes to human will, in order to update our potential, i.e., the assent given by the free will to the action of God, what gradually will lead us to the full conformation with His will; the alternation in spiritual life of periods that are experienced as positive or negative, which is inherent in human life - changing in time and in space - and how to manage to continue the spiritual growth; and the essential social-communitarian way of life which, among many other consequences, makes from our personal openness to common life a main element in the vocational discernment.

With these several themes treated, all had been strongly motivated to continue with the reading and the deepening of our monastic Fathers, we consider this irreplaceable for our own vocational growth and for the task that is



committed to us in the formation of new candidates. We recognize with gratitude the depth and proximity of Fr. Michael in his courses, and his very practical and experiential tips on various pastoral aspects to take into account at the stage of initial formation.

Given the vast distances that separate the majority of our Houses in the REMILA, the richness of the course for formators was not only in the topics shared but also in the very fact of meeting us, we all appreciate it and we are grateful for this opportunity that we have to meet every two years.

### **French speaking Regions:**

#### [Sharing of an article on the liturgy:](#)

Father Martin Lortie of Val Notre Dame comes to publish a reflection on *The richness of the liturgy of the hours: a new perspective*. Thanks to the kind permission of the Director of the journal *In His Name*, the article is available in **Annexe1**: (5 pages, in French).

#### [Congress of the superior majors of Italy, Rome, November 12, 2016:](#)

The Regional Secretary of the REM share us the conference given by Brother Luciano from Bose at that meeting. The title was: Announcing the Gospel: a community where the mercy of the Father is showing.

(Text in **Annex 2**: 13 pages, in Italian)

#### [Session for students of the common cycle of STIM, Pradines, April 24 to May 2, 2017:](#)

In the benedictine Abbey of Pradines will be held the session with the theme *Metaphysics: reflection on being (the one, the true, the beautiful, the good)*.

The course will be provided by Father Paul Favraux, s.j., who explains in his presentation: "the philosophy of St. Thomas, seen through the Kantian and heideggerian filter, or even the Hegelian one, is perhaps the only possible metaphysics of the being as a being, from the thomistic distinction between existence and essence. (...) The ethical implications of such a vision are not negligible: with the being as a strictly divine prerogative, the creature, especially human, is only a being 'in need' but a being rich of himself and, therefore, able to give himself. »

#### [Different sessions in French speaking monasteries of Europe-Israel:](#)

- \* Cabanoule, 8-10 March, session on *To try to become older in a good way*, by Mr. Alvaro Escobar Molina;
- \* Bonneval, 13-17 March, by Madame Marie-Reine Mezzarobba, session titled *Christian anthropology: the desire*;
- \* Chambrand, end of April 2017, session on the *Canticle of Canticles*, by Madame Anne-Marie Pelletier;
- \* Echourgnac, 24-28 may, session on the *Eucharist, school of charity*, by Madame Frédérique Poulet, Professor at Angers;
- \* Les Gardes, a session of *Patristics* (I - III century), with conferences spread over several months, by Madame Marie-Laure Chaïeb, Professor at the University of Angers;
- \* Latroun, monthly conferences by the Father Joseph Doan Nguyen of the Biblical Institute in Jerusalem.

The secretariat for formation in French speaking Regions announces the launch of a series of sessions on *The great figures of Holiness in the Order in the twentieth century*, which opens with a session at the Abbey of Acey, from 17 to 22 July 2017. Sister Gabriella from Vittorchiano will present our *Sister Maria-Gabriella*, and Sister Augusta from Vittorchiano, the *Father Romano Bottegal*. This session is for Brothers and Sisters of all ages.

The meeting of Italian formators will take place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 in the Abbey of Piona (Cistercian Order). The theme will be: *The Vow of Chastity in a post-Christian world*. Speakers: Mother Monica and Dom Guillaume.

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**Newsletter 13:**

**May 31, 2017.**