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Caldey

On January 21, 2017, at the end of his third abbatial term, **Dom Daniel Van Santvoort** was re-elected Abbot of Caldey (Great Britain) for a new six year term.

Juigalpa

Mother Stella Maris Venezia, Prioress of the Monastery of Sta María de la Paz, Juigalpa (Nicaragua) since 2009, presented her resignation to the Abbot General on September 16, 2016. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on September 26, 2016.

On January 22, 2017, Paul Mark Schwan, Abbot of Vina and Father Immediate of Juigalpa, appointed **Sister Fabiana Barrera**, as superior *ad nutum* of Juigalpa.

Mother Fabiana was born in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1961, entered Hinojo (Argentina) in 1987 and made solemn profession in 1993. She had been one of the foundresses of Juigalpa in 2001. At the time of her appointment, Mother Fabiana was the book keeper of the Community.

Tulebras

On January 25, 2017, at the end of the first abbatial term of Mother María Pilar Germán Rojas, the Community of Tulebras (diocese of Pamplona, Spain) elected as abbess, for a six year term, **Sister María Victoria Sanz Chozas**.

Mother María Victoria born in Miraflores de la Sierra (Spain) in 1954, entered the monastery in 1987 and made solemn profession in 1993. At the time of her election she was cellarer of the Community.

Happy birthday, Sister Edwige!

On February 2, 2017, on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple,

Sister Edwige of Blauvac became 104 years. As her Abbess wrote: "She wonders what happened to her because it's so far beyond her understanding ... But she finds it's not bad !!!"

Sister Edwige Talagrand was born on February 02, 1913 in S. Laurent-les-Bains (France). She entered the monastery on March 11, 1941 and made her solemn profession in 1946. She is the Venerable Senior of our Order with **Father Bernard Bernard de Give**, of Scourmont, who will be 104 years in a few months... We already wish him a happy birthday!

During the year, we will also celebrate the hundred-first birthday of **Father Joseph Benedict Donnelly** of Guadalupe (born on October 03, 1916 and entered the monastery on January 22, 1965) and we will celebrate the one hundredth birthday of **Sister Casimir Hatanaka** of Tenshien (born on March 18, 1917 and entered the monastery on April, 27 1935)

We thank our brothers and sisters for their witness and their fidelity!

Engelszell

Dom Marianus Hauseder, abbot from 1995 to 2012 then Superior *ad nutum* since 2012, completed his service as Superior *ad nutum* of **Engelszell** (diocese of Linz, Austria).

On February 22, 2017, Dom Dominique-Marie Schoch, Superior *ad nutum* of Oelenberg and Father Immediate of Engelszell, appointed **Fr. Hubert Bony** as the new Superior *ad nutum* of Engelszell.

Dom Hubert was born in 1938 in Dijon (France); he entered Oelenberg in 1961, made solemn profession in 1967 and was ordained priest in 1972. At the time of his appointment, he was subprior of the Community of Oelenberg.

Klaarland

On March 20, 2017, at the end of her first term as Prioress, **Mother Rebekka Willekes** was re-elected Titular Prioress of the monastery of Klaarland (Belgium) for a new six year term.

Crozet

Mother Marion Risetto, Titular Prioress of **Crozet** since 1992, having reached the age of retirement stated in ST 40.A of the Constitutions, presented her resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation, which was effective on March 5, 2017.

On March 21, 2017 the community of Crozet elected as Titular Prioress for an indefinite term **Sister Kathy Ullrich**.

Mother Kathy was born in 1961 in Wichita, Kansas (USA). She entered Crozet in 2001 and made her solemn profession in 2009. At the time of her election she was cellarer and novice director.

Clairefontaine

Due to serious and longstanding difficulties in the community the General Chapter of 2014 asked that an Apostolic Visitation be carried out at Clairefontaine. The Apostolic Visitation took place in December-January, 2014-2015. On March 5, 2015 M. Rebekka of Klaarland was appointed Abbess Apostolic Administrator of Clairefontaine, directly under the authority of the Congregation for Religious (CIVCSVA) and for as long as it deemed necessary. M. Rebekka was assisted in her task by a *commission of aid*. A second Apostolic Visitation took place in November 2016.

The measures proposed by the Order and the Holy See to improve the situation did not, unfortunately, produce the fruits hoped for, and after much consideration and consultation the Congregation came to the conclusion that a community life lived in conformity with the Constitutions of the Order was no longer possible at Clairefontaine. Thus it decided on the closure of the abbey and, in its letter of February 3, 2017, asked the Abbot General to implement the decision.

The Holy See also accepted the resignation of M. Rebekka as Abbess Apostolic Administrator which became effective with the setting up of the *special commission* prescribed by our Constitutions to supervise the process of suppression (C. 67). The *special commission* met with the community of Clairefontaine on the morning of March 29 and the decision of closure was communicated to those present and to the absent sisters.

This is sad news for the Order but particularly painful for the community and each one of the sisters. Your prayers are asked for the work of the *special commission* and in particular that the sisters of Clairefontaine may be helped to find a monastery or environment where they can live out their monastic life in serenity and in the peace of Christ.

The members of the *special commission* are: Dom Armand (Scourmont); Dom Lode (Orval); M. Rebekka (Klaarland); M. Therese-Marie, OSB, (Hurtebise); M. Daniele (Generalate); M. Benedict (Arnhem); D. Gerard (Melleray). The Commission has chosen Dom Armand as its President and appointed M. Benedict Claustal Prior of Clairefontaine.

Oelenberg

On March 31, 2017, the Community of **Oelenberg** (diocese of Strasbourg - France) elected as abbot for an indefinite term **Dom Dominique-Marie Schoch**.

Dom Dominique-Marie was born in 1948; he entered Oelenberg in 2000, made his solemn profession in 2005 and was ordained priest in 2008. At the time of his election, he was Superior *ad nutum* of Oelenberg.

Mariawald

Dom Josef Vollberg, Abbot of the monastery of **Mariawald** (diocese of Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany) since 2006, presented his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on 27 November 2016.

On April 4, 2017, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) appointed **Dom Bernardus Peeters**, Abbot of Tilburg (the Netherlands), as Pontifical Commissary of Mariawald (Germany).

As Pontifical Commissary Dom Bernardus has the full governing powers for the Community of Mariawald.

Crozet

On March 21, 2017 the community of Crozet elected as Titular Prioress for an indefinite term **Sister Kathy Ullrich**.

Mother Kathy was born in 1961 in Wichita, Kansas (USA). She entered Crozet in 2001 and made her solemn profession in 2009. At the time of her election she was cellarer and novice director.

Esmeraldas

Mother Yosúa Llorente de la Peña, Prioress of the Monastery of Esmeraldas (Ecuador) since 2012, presented her resignation to the Abbot General in her letter of April 5, 2017, for reasons of health. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on April 19, 2017.

On May 6, 2017 the community of Esmeraldas elected as Titular Prioress for a six year term **Sister Celia Quezada Santos**.

Mother Celia was born in 1976 in Yantzaza, Zamora (Ecuador). She entered Esmeraldas in 1997 and made her solemn profession in 2003. At the time of her election she was subprioress and mistress of novices.

Happy birthday, Father Bernard!

On May 8, 2017, **Father Bernard Bernard de Give of Scourmont** became **104 years**. He is the Venerable Senior of our Order with **Sister Edwige** of Blauvac.

Father Bernard de Give was born in Liege, Belgium, on May 8, 1913. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1931, and became a Cistercian at the abbey of Scourmont in 1972.

We thank Father Bernard for his witness and his fidelity!

Vico

On May 31, 2017, at the end of her second abbatial term, **Mother Isabel Rivero Navarro** was re-elected Abbess of Vico (Spain) for a new six year term.

Carrizo

M. Blanca López Llarena, Superior *ad nutum* of **Carrizo** (diocese of León, Spain) since 2014, completed her service as Superior *ad nutum*.

On June 15, 2017, Dom Alejandro Castro, Abbot of Viaceli and Father Immediate of Carrizo, appointed **M. Stella Maris Venezia**, a nun of Hinojo (Argentina) fundress of Juigalpa (Nicaragua), as the new Superior *ad nutum* of Carrizo.

M. Stella Maris has been Titular Prioress of Juigalpa from 2009 to 2016.

Zundert

Dom Daniel Hombergen, Abbot of the Abbey of **Zundert** (Diocese of Breda - The Netherlands) since 2007, presented his resignation to the Abbot General on April 4, 2017. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on April 18, 2017.

On June 16, 2017, Dom Bernardus Peeters, Abbot of Tilburg and Father Immediate of Zundert, appointed **Father Guido Van Belle**, as Superior *ad nutum* of Zundert.

Dom Guido was born in Ninove (Belgium) in 1959. He entered Zundert in 1995, made solemn profession in 2001 and was ordained priest in 2005. At the time of his appointment, Dom Guido was the Novice Master of the Community.

Mistassini

On June 23, 2017, on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Community of **Mistassini** (diocese of Chicoutimi, Québec-Canada) elected as abbot, for an indefinite term, **Dom Clément Charbonneau**, a monk of Val Notre-Dame.

At the time of his election, **Dom Clément** was Superior *ad nutum* of Mistassini.

Ajimu

On June 30, 2017, the Community of **Ajimu** (diocese of Oita, Japon) elected as abbess, for a six year term, **Mother Gertrude Ikebe**.

At the time of her election, **Mother Gertrude** was Superior *ad nutum* of Ajimu.



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