



Secrétariat Central à la Formation - ocso -

Abbaye Notre-Dame du Val d'Igny, May 31 2018.

## Newsletter 17

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

**Region RAFMA:**

### [Report of two sessions for formation:](#)

From 7 to 17 August 2017, an Inter-Monastic session of Central Africa met in Lubumbashi (Congo), gathering 33 brothers and sisters from 8 different monasteries around the theme: *The Monastic Vows*. The session was led by Dom John Bosco of the Abbey of Victoria in Uganda. Brother Justin, the RAFMA Regional Secretary, gives us a substantial report.

From 4 to 8 November 2017, an Inter-Noviciats session took place in the diocese of Goma (DRC). The session whad to subjects: *Vocation-Motivation* and *Discernment*. It was given by Father Georges Kozuch, Pallotin. Brother Justin, here again, is the echo.

See the two reports in **Annex 1**: 7 pages, in French.

**[American Region:](#)**

### [Junior Seminar 2018 at Conyers:](#)

The annual junior seminar of the American Region was held at The Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA, from April 16 – 28. All the juniors of the Region were invited to attend; this year there were 14, 4 women and 10 men. Sr. Anna O'Meara of Our Lady of the Mississippi, with a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Catholic University, focussed on theology with a series of conferences on the *Incarnation*. Dom Thomas Davis, former abbot of Our Lady of New Clairvaux, drawing on his own study and translation of our Cistercian fathers, offered a series of conferences on the *Meditations* of William of St Thierry.

In their written evaluations, juniors often mention these gatherings as a significant time to get to know other juniors, to share their own experiences of the monastic life and to get know the host communities more deeply.

### [Developing a Cistercian Presence on Social Media:](#)

The superiors and the vocation directors of the American Region proposed developing ways to communicate with future candidates through digital media. The *Williams Group*, an agency which had worked with other Catholic religious communities, proposed a strategic communications workshop which was implemented before the 2017 Regional Meeting. Listening to superiors and vocation directors respond to various questions, they developed some text in clear language that communicates our values. They are currently working on redesigning our regional website

to make it easier to update, to include greater visibility for search engines, and to simplify the site so that viewers are directed to an individual monastery's website for more specific information. Representatives of the Region have reviewed draft versions of the site and offered input and corrections. The new Regional vocational website was launched during March 2018.

At a meeting to review the work by *Williams Group* at Berryville in February, the superiors voted to define a job as a director of digital communications for a trial period of one year. This director will be a lay person with background in digital communications and, most likely, experience in working closely with one of our monastic communities. This director will work with representatives of the Region to communicate our Cistercian identity through social media.

### Spanish Region :

#### Women's internoviciat:

An information from Mother Angelines: March 17 the two months of the Nun's Internoviciat in Monte Sion have ended. Some Sisters have completed the entire cycle, while others have just started it. We are happy with the progress of this Internoviciat.

PREM (Program of Monastic Regional Studies): report from the RSF, the Father Carlos Maria.



The first half of Class VI was given from April 10 to 25, 2018, at the monastery of La Oliva. There were 26 students of several monasteries of the ocso and the CCSB, among those: 4 osb. The topics covered were: *Right Canon II: Right of consecrated life* (F. Juan José Domingo, ocso); *History of the Church I: ancient and medieval* (F. Miguel Maria Vila, ocso); *Phenomenology of religion* (F. Roberto of the Iglesia, ocso); *Special Moral II: Social ethics* (F. Jose -

Roman Flecha); *Logic and epistemology* (supplements) (F. Bernabe Dominguez, ocso).

Once the young in formation assisted to the 6 courses, covering a total of 11 semesters, and had passed all exams, he can stand for the baccalaureate in Theology, at the *University of San Damaso* of Madrid.



Formations which are planned this year (as well as the formations that are regular, such as the PREM and the Internoviciat):

- Courses for novice directors, 25-29 June, in the Benedictine Abbey of Montserrat (Barcelona). The theme of the course is: *Listening in spiritual accompaniment*. The speaker is Carlos Domínguez Morano, sj.
- Workshop on St. Bernard (part 2), from 6 to 9 November, to the monastery of Huerta. The speaker is Juan María of the Torre, ocso.

### Symposium on the liturgy, in Austria:

The Secretary of the liturgy of the Cistercian Order organizes, 27 to September 30, 2018, a symposium, in German, on the theme: *The liturgy in the Cistercian Order*. The meeting will be held at Lilienfeld Abbey, not far from Vienna (Austria). The invitation is addressed especially to Cistercian and Trappist Brothers and Sisters, who have a function in the field of liturgy in their monastery.

The speakers come from the abbeys of Heiligenkreuz, Hauterive, Lilienfeld, Wettingen-Mehrerau and Sticna. Workshops in small groups will be facilitated by Sisters of Helfta, Marienstern, Boulaur and Steinerkirchen. Towards the end of the Symposium, Dom Mauro - Giuseppe Lepori will give a lecture on *The liturgy, centre of monastic life*.

**Annex 2:** Flyer, in German.

Meeting of Italian formators at Subiaco:

Sixteen Brothers and Sisters came to Subiaco from 9 to 13 April 2018 around Dom Guillaume (recorder) and Mother Monica (moderator). The theme of the meeting was: *The relationship between the world of youth approaching our communities and the RB*. S. Maria Francesca, the RSF, offers an illustrated account of the pilgrimage of the group to the *Sacro Specio*.

See **Annex 3**: 3 illustrated pages, in French; **Annex 4**: 2 illustrated pages, in Italian.

Session for the formators of the Cistercian Family:

As every two years, the Secretariat to the formation of the three Regions - CNE - RéCiF - REI offers a session for German and French speaking formators. The session will be held from 8 to 15 October 2018 to the Abbey of Orval (Belgium). The theme will be: *Discerning a monastic vocation in an individualized and fragmented world. What are the implications in the formation?* It will be moderated by Mother Hildegarde, Abbess of Marienstern-Gwiggen, o.c. (Austria) and Father Jacques of the Abbey of Rougemont, o.c. (Canada).

Sessions which are programmed in our communities:

\* Campénéac: June 26 - 30, 2018, session on *The Revelation of St. John*, given by Christine Pellistrandi (College of Bernardins, Paris);

from July 31 to August 4, 2018, session on *Henri de Lubac*, by Marie-Gabrielle Lemaire (Institute of Theological Studies, Brussels);

\* Cabanoule: in July 2018: *Discovery of Orthodoxy*, by Father Jean Gueit, of the Russian Orthodox Church.

**Formation in Ecology:**

In Landévennec Abbey, in France, from 20 to August 30, 2018, a session will be given on the topic of *Ecology*, with speakers like Elena Lasida, doctor Lecerf, Fabien Revol, Dominique Lang and the Abbot President of the Congregation of Subiaco. This formation is open to solemn professed, who have less than 65 years.

For any information : [claire-elisabeth@abbaye-limon-vauhallan.com](mailto:claire-elisabeth@abbaye-limon-vauhallan.com) .

**Sessions of the Monastic Formators' Program, during 2019:**

This formation for formators, which takes place partly in Rome and partly in Assisi, was presented at the last General Chapter. A reminder: the next sessions are scheduled for March 17 to June 14, 2019. Registrations for the 28 people who may be admitted to the formation, will be to do for September 2018 at the latest.

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**Newsletter 18**

**August 31, 2018.**