
Prot. N° 02/BI/18
Curia Generalizia

INFORMATION BULLETIN – 190

A new member of the Abbot General's Council

The Abbot General and his Council have chosen **Sister Rachel Agoukpe**, a nun of the Community of l'Etoile Notre-Dame (Benin), as new member of the Council of the Abbot General, following the return of Mother Regina Nebo to Nigeria after her election as Titular Prioress of her Community of Abakaliki.

Mother Rachel was born in 1966 in Cotonou (Benin). She entered l'Étoile N.D. in 1990 and made her solemn profession in 1997. She was delegate of RAFMA at the General Chapter 2017.

Vina - Dedication of the church

On July 2nd, the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the Abbey, the Most Rev. Jaime Soto, Bishop of Sacramento, joined the monastic community and invited guests to preside at the official dedication and consecration of the new church and altar.

A new life for the medieval stones of the 12th century Spanish Chapterhouse at the Cistercian monastery of Santa Maria de Oliva, Spain, which are now supporting the prayers of the Monks of the Abbey Church of Our Lady of New Clairvaux, Vina, California, USA. Deo Gratias!

Campénéac

Mother Marie Joseph Dhanger, Abbess of the monastery of **la Joie Notre Dame, Campénéac** (diocese of Vannes, France) since 2014, presented her resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on 24 June 2018.

On 5 July 2018, Dom Benoît Briand, Abbot of Timadeuc and Father Immediate of Campénéac, appointed **Mother Anne-Marie Gillot** as Superior *ad nutum* of the Community.

Mother Anne-Marie was one of the group of foundresses of Ampibanjinana (Madagascar) where she has been Titular Prioress from 2004 to 2016. At the time of her appointment, she was Novice Mistress of the Community of Campénéac.

Aiguebelle

Dom Eric Antoine, Abbot of the Abbey of **Aiguebelle** (Diocese of Valence - France) since 2010, presented his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on June 26, 2018.

On July 6, 2018, Dom Joseph Deschamps, Abbot of Port-du-Salut and Father Immediate of Aiguebelle, appointed **Father Georges Delomier**, as Superior *ad nutum* of Aiguebelle.

Dom Georges was born in 1945 in St Étienne (France). He entered Aiguebelle in 1966, made his solemn profession in 1971 and was ordained a priest in 1976. He was sent to Koutaba (Cameroon) in 1976 to help the community. He had been Titular Prior of Koutaba from 1988 to 1994 and Superior *ad nutum* from 2007 to 2008. He returned to Aiguebelle in 2016 and at the time of his appointment as Superior *ad nutum* he was Prior of the Community of Aiguebelle.

Naší Paní

On July 29, 2018, the Priory of **Naší Paní**, in the diocese of Prague (Czech Republic), was raised to the rank of Abbey, in accordance with the decision of the General Chapter, Assisi 2017.

On July 30, 2018, **Mother Lucia Tartara**, titular prioress since 2013, was elected the first Abbess of the Community for an indefinite term.

Kunambetta

Thanks to Mother Dominique of Soleilmont who has shared with us news from the Community of Kunambetta in Kerala (India) which has been hit hard in these days by terrible floods:

The property of the monastery of the sisters is flooded but being a little higher, the sisters are for the time being sheltered. They feared that the nearby mountain would crack and that there would be a huge landslide that could have buried the entire region, but fortunately the landslide was limited, at least for now. Many people in their villages have been moved to schools or shelters because their houses are flooded or, in some areas, completely destroyed due to landslides. All the districts of Kerala are affected. There are more than 350,000 people without housing and relief is difficult because they live in very remote places. The priest of the parish proposed to the Sisters to leave and to be housed in another religious community but the Sisters preferred to remain in the monastery because the water has not entered the monastery and they wish to stay with their neighbors who have not left the area and are close friends to the Sisters. They would welcome the neighbors in case the situation deteriorates further. For now, the end of the rains have not yet been announced and the rains are sometimes very violent. The families of some of the Sisters have been affected by this tragedy. There is a shortage of drinking water, etc... and of course diseases will be declared. It's really an unprecedented disaster...

About Kurisumala : the monastery is so high up on the mountain, that the brothers have not been affected by the flood. But the road to Erattupetta, the nearest town, occasionally gets blocked because of landslides.

Thank you for praying for Kerala, for all those families in distress and for our Sisters who are facing a moment of hardship.

Awhum

On June 26, 2018, **Dom Timothy Kelly**, Pontifical Commissary of **Awhum** since 2011, presented to the the Holy See the request to terminate the regime of Pontifical Commissary in the community of Awhum and presented his resignation as Pontifical Commissary. It was accepted on August 22, 2018 and became effective on the same day.

On July 23, 2018, in the course of his first Regular Visitation made as delegate of Father Immediate of Awhum, Dom Bernardo Bonowitz, Abbot of Novo Mundo, appointed **Father Matthew Onuh**, as Superior *ad nutum* of Awhum. The appointment became effective on August 25, 2018.

Dom Matthew was born in 1967 in Benue (Nigeria). He entered Awhum in 2000, made his solemn profession in 2007 and was ordained a priest in 2017. He was Prior Administrator of the Community since 2016.

Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°18 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter": [Formation/Newsletter](#)

Earthquake in Japan

A 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck the northern Japanese island of **Hokkaido** at about 3 a.m. local time on Thursday 6 September.

The monasteries of **Tenshien and Phare**, located in this region, violently felt the shock but did not suffer any material damage. There was a power outage that lasted several days depending on the location.

Thank you for praying for people of Island of Hokkaido who are facing a moment of hardship.

Death of Sister Hedwige

September 8, 2018:

Death of **Sister Hedwige**, nun of Blauvac, 105 years and 6 months old.

She was the oldest nun in the Order.

Sister Edwige Talagrand was born on February 02, 1913 in S. Laurent-les-Bains (France). She entered the monastery on March 11, 1941, made her simple profession on September 12, 1943 and her solemn profession on September 14, 1946. Sister was 105 years and 6 months old and had been in monastic vows for 75 years when the Lord called her. The day of the burial is the 75th anniversary of her profession!

Azul

Dom **Bernardo Olivera**, who was Abbot General of our Order from 1990 to 2008, was elected Abbot of Azul (diocese of Azul - Argentina) from 1984 to 1990 and reelected Abbot of Azul in 2009. 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 20, 2018.

On September 8, 2018, the Community of Azul elected as abbot for a for a six year term, **Father Santiago Maria Ríos**.

Dom Santiago Maria was born in Alsina (B.A., Argentina) in 1957. He entered Azul in 1979, made his solemn profession in 1985 and was ordained a priest in 1989. At the time of the election, he was Councillor of the Abbot General.

Huerta

A heavy storm in the afternoon of Sunday 9 September in the southeastern province of Soria (Spain) caused extensive damage to the **Huerta** Monastery. The water from three ravines forming a single river devastated everything it encountered on its way.

After a night of great concern, Monday morning the monks discovered the damage in the monastery where the water had reached up to one meter in height.

The ground floor of the monastery was very damaged; the water entered the church, overthrowing an altarpiece, damaging old books and reaching paintings. It reached the Gothic refectory, the cloister and areas used by the monks daily.

Fortunately, for the moment, city staff are working hard to remove the mud and clean the streets and the monastery, but it will take weeks.

We assure the Abbot, Dom Isidoro, and the brothers of the Community of Huerta of all our fraternal support, as well as the population of the surroundings.

Beatification of the Martyrs of Algeria

"My life was GIVEN to God and to this country..." Testament of Dom Christian de Chergé

On 1st September in Rome, a meeting was held (Bishops of Algeria and Postulator) with the Superiors General or representatives of the 8 religious Congregations involved in the Cause. At the end of this meeting, it was decided that the celebration of the beatification would take place on **December 8, 2018** in the basilica of **Santa Cruz in Oran (Algeria)**.

After several meetings with Cardinal Parolin, Secretary of State of the Vatican, and with Cardinal Becciu, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, it was agreed that the latter would come to preside over this celebration as Prefect of the Congregation and as Special Envoy of the Pope, carrying a message from His Holiness.

"Monseigneur Pierre Claverie, Brother Henri Vergès, Sister Paul-Hélène Saint-Raymond, Sister Esther Paniagua Alonso, Sister Caridad Alvarez Martin, Father Jean Chevillard, Father Alain Dieulangard, Father Charles Deckers, Father Christian Chessel, Sister Angèle-Marie Littlejohn, Sister Bibiane Leclercq, Sister Odette Prévost, Brother Luc Dochier, Brother Christian de Chergé, Brother Christophe Lebreton, Brother Michel Fleury, Brother Bruno Lemarchand, Brother Célestin Ringear, Brother Paul Favre-Miville will be given to us as intercessors and models of Christian life, friendship and fraternity, encounter and dialogue. May their example help us in our life today. From Algeria, their beatification will be for the Church and for the world, an impetus and a call to build together a world of peace and fraternity. "

Extract of the Communiqué of the Bishops of Algeria

It is obvious that celebrating the beatification in Algeria will involve a restricted presence of participants. In concrete terms, only "representatives" can be present: 6 or 7 members of each of the blood families and about ten members of each of the religious families. However there will be thanksgiving celebrations which will take place in France and elsewhere, after the beatification and it will always be possible to come to Algeria at another time to live a more intimate moment of pilgrimage.

(NB : For all members of the families and the Congregations of the 19 future blessed, there is only one contact: Father Thomas Georgeon, Postulator of the Cause with a single email address beatification19oran@gmail.com)

Flood in Huerta (2)

October 1, 2018

These two weeks have been very difficult, but we are now seeing the light. The brothers gave themselves generously for the cleaning and repair work. We also received a big help from the residents of our village and volunteers from the surrounding villages. It was very beautiful because people who did not get along managed to work together for the good of the monastery. We saw several people (even big fellows!), crying on seeing the state of "their" monastery. It was a beautiful experience, because at that moment we experienced the love of our neighbours. They are convinced that if the water had not entered the monastery, many houses in the village would have been damaged.

Most importantly, there were no injuries. Saturday, we will have a small feast to thank the whole village, inside the monastery in the Gothic refectory of the XIII ° S. We made a film that brings together all the videos that have been made and we will see it with our neighbours. As you see, good can also be born from a misfortune! The important thing now is to solve the problem of floods that are becoming more and more violent and frequent. We are in full negotiations with the administrative services.

Thank you for your prayers and your closeness.

Mepkin and... "Florence"

Thanks to Dom Stanislaus, Abbot of **Mepkin** (South Carolina - USA), who sent us news of his abbey which is located in the path of hurricane "Florence" :

Mepkin has dodged Hurricane "Florence" and we are well.

We were prepared for the worst. We went to the Library when we arose at 3 AM on Friday. Had all the Liturgy and our meals in the big conference room throughout the day. But since there were no winds or rain, we were free to roam around during the day. All the retreatants had been canceled.

Since the wind did not look to be serious during the night, we all went to bed in our rooms last night. But to be cautious, we did not rise till 6:30 Lauds. It rained most of the night, but just steadily, no big downpour. We are back to normal now, in the sense that the Liturgy is in the Church and the meals in the refectory. There is hardly any damage whatsoever.

Thank you all for your prayers and concern during this time.

With much love,

Stan

(15/09/2018)

Mariawald

The official closing of the **Mariawald Abbey** (Germany) took place on September 15, 2018. The decision for the closure was taken at the General Chapter, Assisi 2017 (vote 43). The celebration was presided over by Bishop Karl Borsch, Auxiliary Bishop of Aachen, in the presence of Dom Dominique-Marie, Abbot of Oelenberg (France) and Father Immediate, Dom Bernardus, Abbot of Tilburg (the Netherlands) and Pontifical Commissary of Mariawald, Dom François de Place and Dom Bruno Gooskens (Abbots Emeritus of Mariawald) and Dom Hubert of Engelszell (Austria). Three brothers from the Community were able to attend the closing. Sisters from the Communities of Maria Frieden and Donnersberg were present as well as many faithful of the region. At the end of the celebration, Dom Bernardus handed the keys of Mariawald to the Bishop: it is the diocese that now takes responsibility for the place which remains a place of prayer. The celebration concluded with the singing of *Salve Regina*. It was a touching moment after so many centuries of Cistercian life.

Following the closure, two brothers of Mariawald, including Dom Josef, the last Abbot of the monastery, went to the Cistercian abbey of Vissy Brord, in the Czech Republic. The six other older brothers are living in various retirement homes around Mariawald.

Port-du-Salut

Dom Joseph Deschamps, Abbot of **Port-du-Salut** (diocese of Laval - France) since 2006, having reached the age of retirement mentioned in ST 40.A of the Constitutions, presented his resignation to the General Chapter, Assisi 2017. The General Chapter accepted the resignation which became effective on September 8, 2018.

On October 4, 2018, the Community of Port-du-Salut elected as abbot, for an indefinite term, **Dom Gérard-Marie Meneust**.

Dom Gérard-Marie was Abbot of Melleray (France) from 1995 until the closing of the abbey in 2017.

Ordo 2018-2019

A copy of the Latin Ordo for 2018-2019 is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format: (« Resources/Liturgy/Ordo »).

Thanks to Fr. Justin of Genesee!

A new member of the Abbot General's Council

The Abbot General and his Council have chosen Father Juan José Domingo Falomir, a monk of the Community of San Isidro (Spain), as new member of the Council of the Abbot General, following the return of Dom Santiago Maria Ríos to Argentina after his election as Abbot of his Community of Azul.

Dom Juan José was born in 1966 in Burriana (Spain). He entered San Isidro in 1987, made his solemn profession in 1993 and was ordained a priest in 2001. He was elected member of Commission of Law at the General Chapter, Assisi 2017 and he was Chaplain of the Monastery of Alloz (Spain) at the time of his appointment.

Mepkin

November 3, 2018, Dom Stanislaus Gumula, Abbot of Mepkin, (Diocese of Charleston, USA) since 2006 has completed his term as Abbot of Mepkin.

The same day, Dom Elias Dietz, Abbot of Gethsemani and Father Immediate of Mepkin, appointed **Father Joseph Tedesco**, as Superior ad nutum of the Community.

Dom Joseph was born in USA in 1944. He was ordained a priest in 1979; he entered Mepkin in 2008 and made solemn profession in 2014. At the time of his appointment, **Dom Joseph** was the Junior Master of the Community.

Baumgarten

On November 6, 2018, the Community of Baumgarten (Archdiocese of Strasbourg, France) elected as abbess, for an indefinite term, **Mother Marie-Josée Stocker**.

At the time of her election, **Mother Marie-Josée** was Superior ad nutum of the Community.

Viaceli

Dom Alejandro Castro, Abbot of Viaceli (Diocese of Santander, Spain) since 1995, 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 September 14, 2018.

On November 8, 2018, Dom Pierre-André Burton, Abbot of Désert (France) and Father Immediate of Viaceli, after consulting the community, appointed **Father José Luis Monge** as Superior ad nutum of Viaceli.

Dom José Luis was born in 1944 in Navarredonda de la Rinconada (Spain). He entered Viaceli in 1959, and made his solemn profession in 1965. He was ordained a priest in 1969. He was the French-Spanish interpreter during the General Chapter of Assisi 2017; at the time of his appointment, he was bursar of the monastery.

Oseira

On November 11, 2018, Dom José Antonio Gimeno, Superior ad nutum of San Isidro and Father Immediate of Oseira, appointed **Dom Enrique Trigueros**, Abbot Emeritus of San Isidro, Superior ad nutum of Oseira.

Dom Enrique was born in 1941 in Barcelona (Spain). He entered San Isidro in 1964, made his solemn profession in 1970 and was ordained a priest in 1973. He was abbot of San Isidro from 2000 to 2012.

Images of the Beatification of the 19 Martyrs of Algeria

The image will not be released until after the celebration on December 8

- An image with the prayer of beatification is available for mailing, in 5 languages: French, English, Spanish, Italian and Arabic. Packets of 50 or 100 images.
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- A postcard of the icon is available for mailing. Packets of 25 or 50 postcards.

Order from: beatification19oran@gmail.com, giving your name and address. An offering to cover mailing costs is desirable. A small gift can be made to help with the organization of the celebration. Thank you!

Give the name on your transfer:

DOMICILIATION						
Code établissement	Code guichet	Numéro de compte	Clé RIB			
18206	00141	65013928546	58			
IBAN (International Bank Account Number)						
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Code BIC (Bank Identification Code) - Code swift :						
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Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°19 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter": [Formation/Newsletter](#)

Tre Fontane

Dom Giacomo Brière, Abbot of Tre Fontane (diocese of Roma, Italy) since 1996, having reached the age of retirement mentioned in ST 40.A of the Constitutions, presented his resignation to the General Chapter, Assisi 2017. The General Chapter accepted the resignation which became effective on October 27, 2017. He then served his community as Superior ad nutum until the appointment of a new Superior.

In order to find a solution for the future of the community, the Abbot General, at the request of Dom Gueric Reitz-Sejotte, Abbot of la Trappe and Father Immediate of Tre Fontane, presented to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) a proposal concerning the appointment of a new superior for Tre Fontane.

On November 22, 2018, the CIVCSVA appointed **Father Alessandro Gazzola** (C.S) as Superior of Tre Fontane for a three year term. The appointment became effective on December 3, 2018.

Father Alessandro Gazzola was born in 1955 at Bassano del Grappa (Vicenza, Italy). He entered the Missionaries of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians, and he was ordained a priest in 1982. On 2006 he was appointed as Rector of the Istituto Teologico internazionale scalabriniano of Rome. He was Superior General of his Congregation from 2012 until October 2018.

Daily Office Readings

December 10, 2018 3:11 pm

To assist those who prepare readings for the Liturgy of the Hours, Fr. Justin has sent three PDF files containing the list of Scripture Readings for Vigils, Lauds and Vespers, and Sext for every day of the liturgical year 2018-2019. These readings reflect the liturgical calendar of the Abbey of Genesee.

The files can be obtained from the Internet under the heading:
"Ressources – Liturgy – Cistercian Lectionary"

9th centenary of the Charter of Charity

June 16, 2019, on the solemnity of the Holy Trinity, there will be a Celebration at Cîteaux of the 9th centenary of the Charter of Charity during the OCSO Central Commission meeting. The General Abbots and General Prioresses of our Orders and Congregations will be present. You are fraternally invited to participate on this feast day.

Ávila

Mother María Luisa Gómez Tejada, Abbess of the monastery of **Sta. María de Santa Ana** (diocese of Ávila, Spain) since 1998, having reached the age of retirement mentioned in ST 40.A of the Constitutions, presented her resignation to the Abbot General. The Abbot General with the consent of his Council accepted the resignation which became effective on November 25, 2018.

Dom José Luis Monge, Superior ad nutum of Viaceli and Father Immediate of Ávila, after consulting the sisters of the Community, appointed **Mother María Luisa Gómez Tejada** as Superior ad nutum of the monastery of Ávila. She began her service on December 12, 2018.

Bull of Beatification of Martyrs of Algeria



LITTERAE APOSTOLICAE

Nos,
vota Fratris Nostri
Pauli Desfarges, S.I.,
Archiepiscopi Metropolitae Algeriensis,
necnon plurimorum aliorum Fratrum in Episcopatu
multorumque christifidelium explentes,
de Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum consulto,
auctoritate Nostra Apostolica
facultatem facimus ut
Venerabiles Servi Dei
PETRUS LUCIANUS CLAVERIE, O.P., Episcopus Oranensis, et XVIII Socii,
religiosi religiosaeque, martyres,
fideles Evangelii praecones, humiles pacis auctores,
insignes testes christianae caritatis,
Beatorum nomine in posterum appellentur,
atque die octava mensis Maii
quotannis in locis et modis iure statutis celebrari possint.

In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum,
die VIII mensis Novembris,
anno Domini bismillesimo duodevicesimo, Pontificatus Nostri sexto.

Francis
