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*Prot. N° 02/BI/19*  
Curia Generalizia

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN – 192**

### **Clarté-Dieu**

On July 6, 2019, **Mother Hortense Mituga** completed her first as Abbess of the monastery of La Clarté-Dieu (Democratic Republic of the Congo). On the same day, she was re-elected Abbess of the Community for a new six year term.

### **Tre Fontane**

Father Alessandro Gazzola (C.S) presented his resignation to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) and the Holy See accepted the resignation.

Dom Gueric Reitz-Sejotte, Abbot of la Trappe and Father Inmediate of Tre Fontane (diocese of Rome, Italy), appointed **Father Emanuele Jablezynski**, as Superior ad nutum of Tre Fontane. The appointment became effective on July 19, 2019.

**Dom Emanuele** was born in Ravenna (Italy) in 1947. He entered Tre Fontane in 1971, made solemn profession in 1977 and was ordained a priest in 1983. At the time of his appointment, he was the Prior of the Community.

### **Saint-Nicolas-lès-Cîteaux**

#### **A fire ravages a forage barns of the abbey**

Thursday, July 18, at approximately 10 a.m., two forage barns of the Abbey of Cîteaux caught fire and were destroyed completely. Again during the night of Saturday/ Sunday, a third shed was destroyed by flames. Both fires destroyed the entire forage crop.

From various quarters we have received messages of support for which we are grateful.

Here a photo link:

[saint-nicolas-les-citeaux-explosion-dans-le-quartier-de-la-ferme-de-l-abbaye](https://www.cisterciens.org/saint-nicolas-les-citeaux-explosion-dans-le-quartier-de-la-ferme-de-l-abbaye)

### **Colloquium on the Charter of Charity**

From July 16 to 19, at O. Cist Monastery, Our Lady of Dallas, USA

*"Almost 60 monks and nuns participated, both OCSO and O.Cist, and several lay experts in the history of the Order. Among the participants were the General Abbots of the two Orders.*

*It was the first time that a meeting of this character was held in the USA, gathering mostly monks and nuns of the two Cistercian Orders belonging to communities in the USA and other nationalities (12 countries and 4 continents).*

*During the days of the meeting we prayed and reflected together. And there were presentations on the history of the Charter of Charity but also on how we are living this fundamental document of our*

*history today and how it can help us to walk together towards the future responding to the needs of the Church and our contemporaries."*

Link to a video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1juPLA2XsQ8uNBqRDGVmtWBY8ATtTe6kx/view>

link to access the photos:

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMLbwcHasBvfmKs0H3kRkii9t22zB5\\_DITG9Im6KJ-vjkO-OQ9vv8Zd4TJV4ddraw?key=MTlianpTWm9BMVIKRIRNWRIMDBMZIIWeilIeVIR](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMLbwcHasBvfmKs0H3kRkii9t22zB5_DITG9Im6KJ-vjkO-OQ9vv8Zd4TJV4ddraw?key=MTlianpTWm9BMVIKRIRNWRIMDBMZIIWeilIeVIR)

## **Valserena**

Mother Monica Della Volpe, Abbess of Valserena (Italy) 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 July 25, 2019.

On August 17, 2019, the Community of Valserena elected as abbess for a six year term, **Sister Maria Francesca Righi**.

**Mother Maria Francesca** was born in 1951 in Milano (Italy), entered Valserena in 1977 and made solemn profession in 1984. She was in charge of the formation of the Community and junior mistress before her appointment.

## **EXPERIENTIA**

A Program of Reflection and Sharing  
OCSO Project approved by the General Chapter of 2017

Volume Two Units 6-10

<https://www.ocso.org/formation/experientia/>

## **Carta Caritatis Celebration at Las Huelgas**

Dear brothers and sisters of the Cistercian Family:

Cordial and fraternal greetings.

We send you the Conferences presented at Las Huelgas Session on the occasion of the 9th Centenary of the Charter of Charity.

We hope you find them useful and a spiritual benefit. Although they will appear in n° 274 of CISTERCIUM, we assume that it would be helpful for you to have this material as soon as possible.

Our best wishes for your communities and always at your disposition.

The CISTERCIUM team

<https://www.ocso.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Conferencias-Carta-Caritatis.-pdf-ES.pdf>

## **Bamenda**

### **NEED FOR PRAYERS**

Brother Polycarp, the Prior Administrator of Bamenda Abbey in the English speaking territory of Cameroon, informed us of a difficult situation. The two English speaking sectors of the country have been in "lock-down" down since 26 August. The "lock-down" will continue until 16 September.

The "lock-down" does not permit movement of any kind. If a person breaks the law, he or she may be shot in the act, or there will be some punishment. The "lock-down" is for all the weekdays. Saturdays and Sundays business can be as usual and supplies obtained for the week.

The reason for the "lock-down" is to prevent the children from going to school as a protest for the Government's failure to appoint English speaking teaching professionals in the areas. This is the fourth year that the children will not have formal schooling.

Bamenda Abbey is affected by the fact that their cattle workers cannot come to work. The monks have been warned if any worker does come; a monk will be taken as a hostage to the rebels' camp. No markets are functioning, so the monastery milk products cannot be sold, and their herbal medicine clinic and shop have remained closed. It is a situation that seems to be ignored entirely by international news agencies. The monks and the people of the Cameroons will be encouraged to know that we remember them.

### **Ordo 2019-2020**

A copy of **the Latin Ordo for 2019-2020** is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format: (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) »)  
Thanks to Fr. Justin of Genesee!

### **Newsletter Formation**

The Newsletter n°22 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":  
[Formation/Newsletter](#)

### **Gedono**

Mother Martha Driscoll, Abbess of Pertapaan Bunda Pemersatu – Gedono (Indonesia) since 2000 having reached the age of retirement mentioned 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 became effective on September 1, 2019.

On September 29, 2019, the Community of Gedono elected as abbess for an indefinite term, **Sister Cornelia Ellis Lisnawaty**.

**Mother Cornelia** was born in 1965 in Bandung (Indonesia), entered Gedono in 1996 and made solemn profession in 2005. She was the Junior Mistress and Chantress before her election.

### **Nazareth**

Mother Beatrijs Peeters, Abbess of Nazareth (Diocese of Anvers, Belgium) since 2002 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 31, 2019.

On September 30, 2019, the Community of Nazareth (Diocese of Anvers, Belgium) elected as abbess, for a six year term, **Sister Katharina Michiels**.

**Mother Katharina** was born in 1963 in Varsenare (Belgium), entered Nazareth in 1995 and made her solemn profession in 2000. At the time of her election, she was Novice Mistress.

### **Mount Saint Bernard**

The Holy Father has appointed as bishop-prelate of Trondheim, Norway, the **Reverend Fr. Erik Varden**, currently abbot of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, Leicestershire, England.

**Dom Erik Varden** was born on May 13, 1974 in Sarpsborg (diocese of Oslo) Norway. He entered Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in 2002, was appointed Superior ad nutum there in 2013 and elected its abbot in 2015.

The Abbot General and Council, on behalf of the Order, offer our heartfelt congratulations to **Dom Erik** on his appointment. We assure him of our prayers as he takes up this new ministry to the people of the diocese of Trondheim and to the Church in his native Norway.

Together with the brothers of Mount Saint Bernard we thank **Dom Erik** for his services as Abbot of the community and for his service to the Order. And, while we cannot but feel a sense of loss, we believe that in his "Yes" to the "Holy Will of God" there will be blessing not only for **Dom Erik** and his flock in Norway but also for Mount Saint Bernard Abbey and the Order. For in His will is our peace, joy and true freedom.

## **Arnhem**

Mother Julian Pieters, Abbess of Arnhem (Archdiocese of Utrecht, The Netherlands) since 2016 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 1, 2019.

On October 7, 2019, the Community of Arnhem elected as abbess for a six year term, **Sister Pascale Fourmentin**.

**Mother Pascale Fourmentin** was born in 1968 in Enghien (Belgium), entered Brialmont in 1994 and made solemn profession in 2000. She changed her stability to the community of Arnhem. At the time of her election, she was Junior Mistress and cellerar.

## **English Ordo 2019-2020**

A copy of the **English** Ordo for 2019-2020 is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) »): Ordo EN 2019-2020.

## **The Generalate - The Abbot General's Council**

**The term of office for a Councillor of the Abbot General who is replacing a Councillor who is leaving the service for any reason**

In May and September of 2018 when the Abbot General consulted the Regions concerned by the resignation of Mother Regina and Dom Santiago María. The Abbot General mentioned that the term of office of those who replace the Councillor would be until the General Chapter of 2020. However, the Law Commission has studied the situation and commented that until the present when a similar situation occurred, the person chosen completed the term of office of the one who was being replaced. (See the Report of the Law Commission – Scourmont 2019 p. 5-7)

At the meeting of the Abbot General and his Council on 18 October 2019, it was unanimously agreed that the practice that has been in effect until the present should be maintained. That being the case, the term of office for Mother Rachel will be completed at the Chapter of 2023 which would have been the end of Mother Regina's term. The term of Dom Juan José will be completed at the next General Chapter, 2020. Dom Juan José is completing the term of Dom Santiago-María who had been chosen by the Abbot General and his Council for a three year term at the 2017 Chapter.

The Law Commission has proposed the addition of ST 84.1.A.Ter. This addition does not introduce anything new but clarifies the situation. A decision will be made to introduce the following text into the Constitutions.

ST 84.1.A.Ter

*If a member of the Abbot General's Council tenders his/her resignation between two General Chapters, it is the responsibility of the Abbot General to accept his/her resignation, with the consent of his Council.*

*In this case and when the office of a Councillor becomes vacant for any other reason, it is the responsibility of the Abbot General to appoint a replacement to complete the term.*

## **Bethlehem**

**Dom Celsus Kelly**, Abbot of O. L. of Bethlehem (Diocese of Down and Conner, N. Ireland) since 1977, 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 asked him to complete his term.

On November 8, 2019, Dom Richard Purcell, Abbot of Mt. Melleray and the Father Immediate, with the consent of Abbot General, appointed **Dom Celsus** as Superior *ad nutum* of the Community.

## Viaceli

Dom Pierre-André Burton, Abbot of Désert and Father Immediate of Viaceli, appointed **Father José Ignacio Mazano Fernandez-Heredia**, Superior *ad nutum* of Viaceli (diocese of Santander, Spain). The appointment became effective on November 27, 2019.

**Dom José Ignacio** was born in 1950 in Sevilla (Spain). He entered Huerta in 1997, made his solemn profession in 2000 and was ordained a priest in 1980. He was Superior of the Pre-foundation Monte Sión before the appointment.

## Orval

The Holy Father has appointed as bishop of the diocese of Ghent, Belgium, the **Reverend Father Lode Van Hecke**, currently Abbot of the Abbey of Our Lady of Orval, in the diocese of Namur, Belgium.

**Dom Lode Van Hecke** was born 16 March 1950 in Bruges, Belgium. He entered the Abbey of Orval 1976, made solemn profession in 1983 and was ordained priest in 1995. He was elected Abbot of Orval in 2007.

The Abbot General and the Council, on behalf of the Order, offer our sincere congratulations to **Dom Lode** on his nomination. We assure him of our prayers as he takes up this new ministry for the people of the diocese of Ghent and for the Church in Belgium. And we hope that his availability to the service of the Church will also be a special source of blessing for the community in Orval and for our Order.

## La Trappe

**Dom Guerric Reitz-Sejotte**, Abbot of La Trappe (Diocese of Sées, France) since 2004, presented his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation which became effective on December 2, 2019.

On December 5, 2019, Dom Olivier Quenardel, Abbot of Cîteaux (France) and Father Immediate of La Trappe, according to the procedure outlined in C.39.2.B, appointed **Father Thomas Georgeon** as Superior *ad nutum* of La Trappe.

**Dom Thomas** was born in 1967 in Paris (France). He entered La Trappe on 1994, and made his solemn profession on 1999. He was ordained a priest on 2002. He was the Superior *ad nutum* and Abbot of Frattocchie from 2008 to 2011 and the Secretary of Abbot General from 2012 to 2015. At the time of his appointment, he was Novice Master of the Community and Postulator of the cause of the Martyrs of Algeria.

## Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°23 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":

[Formation/Newsletter](#)

## Mount Saint Bernard Abbey/Trondheim

Further precisions on the situation of the former Abbot of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey:

"The **Very Reverend Father Erik Varden**, newly elected Bishop Prelate of Trondheim, for reasons of health, and following the directions of his doctors, needs to take a period of rest. The Holy Father, taking this and the medical recommendations into account, has decided to suspend the Episcopal consecration for now. He grants **Father Varden** a period of rest for several months, awaiting a hoped-for recovery."

Announcement of Archbishop James Patrick Green, D.D., Apostolic Nuncio to Norway

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