

*Prot. N° 02/BI/20*  
Curia Generalizia

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN – 194**

### **Dom Erik Varden**

After being appointed bishop of Trondheim (Norway) in October of last year, **Dom Erik Varden** (Mt. St. Bernard) was granted a period of leave to recover his strength from exhaustion. Having recovered his well-being, he looks forward to taking up his pastoral task.

The Episcopal consecration will take place in Nidarosdomen on October 3, 2020.

<http://www.katolsk.no/nyheter/2020/07/bispevigsel-i-trondheim-3-oktober>

### **Information**

The Information Bulletin n°193 that records the News which appeared between the month of January and the month of June of 2020, can be obtained from the Internet under the heading: "News / Bulletins."

http: [Bulletins](#)

The Necrology notice for n° 2020-1 can be found under the heading: "News / Necrology Page".

http: [Necrology Notices](#)

### **Online documentary shows life of the Trappist monks in Uganda**

**Tilburg/Kijonjo** - On the occasion of the feastday of St. Benedict, the Abbey of Koningshoeven/Tilburg (NL) in cooperation with its Ugandan daughterhouse launches the online documentary film "**The monks of Kijonjo**". An interactive website will show the unique life stories of the monks in the Ugandan daughter house Our Lady of Victoria Abbey. As a viewer you will be taken into the regular daily routine of monastic life and learn more about the personal challenges of the monks. In addition, the Christian faith is made visible in the African context.

### **St. Benedict**

St. Benedict lived from 480 - 547 and is considered the father of monastic life in the Western Church. The Rule of St. Benedict gives form and substance to the life of Trappist monasteries around the world.

### **Online documentary film**

In 'The Monks of Kijonjo' the viewer gets to know the Trappists of Kijonjo. In this monastery, located in the southeast of Uganda, 24 African monks from 5 different nationalities live together in silence, simplicity and solidarity. Through videos, texts and photos, an honest picture of African monastic life and the personal challenges involved are drawn; why do you decide to become a monk? What does this decision mean for you as an individual? What role do tribal differences play within the monastery?

Fragments of the documentary film can now be seen on the website. The entire film will be released at a later date.

Please visit: [www.monksokijonjo.com](http://www.monksokijonjo.com)

## **Gethsemani**

On July 11, 2020, at the end of his second term as Abbot, **Dom Elias Dietz** was re-elected Abbot of **Gethsemani** (USA) for a new six years term.

## **Spencer**

On July 23, 2020, at the end of the mandate of Dom Damian Carr, the community of Spencer (USA) elected Abbot **Father Vincent Rogers** for a six years term.

**Dom Vincent** was born in 1952 in Santa Monica (USA). He entered Spencer in 1977, made his solemn profession in 1986 and was ordained a priest in 2010. At the time of his election, he was Cellarer of the Community.

## **Humocaro**

Mother **Paola Pavoletti** completed her second term of six years as Abbess of Nuestra Señora de Coromoto - Humocaro (Venezuela). On July 25, 2020, she was re-elected Abbess of the Community for an indefinite term.

## **Experientia**

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



Supplementary Volume – Responses  
<https://www.ocso.org/formation/experientia/>

The texts are in the original language of the authors.

## **Prairies**

In September 2019, the Community of **Prairies** (Canada) made the decision that the Monastery will be suppressed. The two Brothers remaining in residence have transferred to Notre Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba.

Their new address :  
Abbaye Notre Dame des Prairies  
17, Rue Chanoinesses  
C.P. 490  
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, MB  
R0G 1M0  
CANADA  
Tel : 1 -204- 248- 2877  
Pas de fax  
Adresse mail : [manucott@hotmail.com](mailto:manucott@hotmail.com)

## **Rivet**

### **LET IT BE KNOWN**

That since the Abbaye Sainte Marie du Désert has approached the final stage of its closure, Dom Pierre-André Burton; abbot of the Abbaye Saint-Marie du Désert has informed the filiations of that Abbaye of the necessity to seek another Mother House in the Order to be affiliated to the Order.

Since the General Chapter will not be in session before September 2021, on 6 July 2020 the Conventual Chapter of the Abbaye Sainte-Marie du Rivet a filiation of Sainte-Marie du Désert, voted to change their Filiation immediately and requested to be accepted into the filiation of the Abbaye of N.-D. des Neiges in the diocese of Viviers in France.

On 11 July 2020 the Conventual Chapter of the Abbaye Saint-Marie du Désert unanimously expressed its consent to the decision. On 8 March 2020, the Conventual Chapter of the Abbaye of Notre-Dame des Neiges had unanimously accepted the possibility of the filiation of the Abbaye of Sainte-Marie du Rivet whenever the community of Sainte-Marie du Désert can no longer continue its service.

The Abbot General and his Council at its meeting on 21 August 2020 unanimously accepted the decision of the Abbaye Sainte-Marie du Rivet to be affiliated to the Order through the Paternity of the Abbaye of Notre-Dame des Neiges.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary this decision is effective immediately though subject to review at the next General Chapter.

Casa Generalizia Trappisti  
Rome, Italy  
21 August 2020



Dom Eamon Fitzgerald, ocso  
Abbot General

### **For Your Information and Prayers**

On 01 July 2020 the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life decreed (Prot. n. 3022 / 2020) that the **Priory Saint Mary of Jassonneix at Meymac** of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance has been suppressed.

The documentation for the suppression was presented to the Congregation by the Abbot General and His Council on 07 February 2020. The decree was signed 01 July 2020 but only published on 10 August 2020.

The Stability of each member of the Community of Meymac returned to the founding Community, the Monastery N.-D. de Le Coudre (Laval). The situation of the property and all the other aspects essential for the suppression has been arranged following the Constitutions and Canon Law.

### **For Your Information and Prayers**

On 03 July 2020 the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life decreed (Prot. n. 2481 / 2020) that the **Abbaye Notre-Dame of the Sacred Heart of Chambarand** of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance has been suppressed.

The documentation for the suppression was presented to the Congregation by the Abbot General and His Council on 12 February 2020. The decree was signed on 03 July 2020 but only published on 10 August 2020.

The Stability of each member of the Community of Chambarand had been carefully prearranged. The situation of the property and all the other aspects essential for the suppression has been arranged following the Constitutions and Canon Law.

### **La Oliva**

On september 2, 2020, since the Abbot of the Monastery of La Oliva (Diocese of Pamplona, Spain), Dom Isaac Totorica, had died, the Community elected **Dom Francisco Javier Urós Murillo** as new Abbot for a six-year term.

**Dom Francisco Javier** was born in 1963 in Pamplona (Spain). He entered La Oliva in 1993, made his solemn profession in 1999 and was ordained a priest in 2019. He went to Las Escalonias, a fondation of La Oliva and was Superior since 2016. At the time of his election, he was Prior titular of the Community of Las Escalonias.

### **Viaceli**

On August 25, 2020, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) appointed **Dom Roberto de la Iglesia Pérez**, Abbot of the San Pedro de Cardeña (Spain) Abbey as **Apostolical Commissary** of the **Santa María de Viaceli Abbey, Spain**.

As Apostolical Commissary, **Dom Roberto** has the full governing powers for the Community of Viaceli.

## **Happy birthday, Father Guy!**

On September 6, 2020, **Father Guy Desclaux of Désert (France) turned 100.**

**Father Guy** was born in Gamarde, France, on September 6, 1920. He entered Désert in 1941.

***We thank Father Guy for his witness and fidelity!***

## **Ordo 2020-2021**

A copy of the **Latin Ordo for 2020-2021** 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°26** of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":

[Formation/Newsletter](#)

## **Orval**

On October 1, 2020, Dom Nathanaël Koninkx, Abbot of Westmalle (Belgium) and Father Immediate of Orval, appointed **Father Bernard-Joseph Samain** as Superior ad nutum of Orval.

**Dom Bernard-Joseph** was born in 1947 in Graux (Belgium). He entered Orval in 1970, made his solemn profession in 1976 and was ordained a priest in 1983.

## **Episcopal ordination of Bishop Erik Varden**

October 3, 2020, **Dom Erik Varden** (Mt. St. Bernard, Great Britain) was ordained a Bishop-prelate of Trondheim, Norway

<https://www.ocso.org/2020/10/03/episcopal-ordination-of-bishop-erik-var-den/>

<https://youtu.be/Se6TZ40Athg>

## **Désert**

### **LET IT BE KNOWN**

The **Abbaye Sainte-Marie du Désert** has been officially suppressed by the vote of the Abbot General and His Council acting in the name of the General Chapter (ST 44.2.B) on 28 September, 2020. The effective date of the closure is 3 October 2020.

All the requirements from the Constitutions for the suppression of a Community of monks have been fulfilled. The Holy See granted the necessary permission for the act of extraordinary administration related to the property and monastic buildings on 4 September 2020 Prot. n° 45 774 / 2020.

## **Prairies**

### **LET IT BE KNOWN**

The **Abbaye Cistercienne N-D des Prairies** has been officially suppressed by the vote of the Abbot General and His Council acting in the name of the General Chapter (Cst 82,2) on 23 September 2020. The effective date of the closure is 09 October 2020.

All the requirements from the Constitutions for the suppression of a Community of Monks have been fulfilled. The necessary permission for the act of extraordinary administration related to donating the monastic buildings to the Coptic Church of Saint Mark, Winnipeg, Manitoba, was granted by the Abbot General and his Council in the name of the General Chapter St 42,2.B (Prot. N° 758.20), 28 September 2020.

## Mount Melleray

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The Conventual Chapter of **Mount Melleray Abbey** responded to the efforts of the General Chapter of 2017 to arrange the Paternity of Communities, whose traditional Paternity line had been altered, by requesting to be a Daughter House of Bolton Abbey.

The 2017 Chapter had assigned Mount Melleray to the Abbey of Val Notre Dame. In addition to the Abbot of Val Notre Dame's Regular Visitation, other meetings between the Communities were arranged. The Conventual Chapter of Val Notre Dame concluded that their fragility did not allow them to accept the responsibility of a geographically distant Community of another culture.

Upon the request of Mount Melleray Abbey, the Conventual Chapter of Bolton Abbey accepted the responsibility of being the Mother House of Mount Melleray Abbey, and so Dom Michael is the Father Immediate.

Since the relationship of Mother House to Daughter House is foundational to the Order, rather than delaying until the next General Chapter to finalize this relation, the Abbot General and his Council acting in the name of the General Chapter (C. 82.2) approved the change that the Paternity of Mount Melleray Abbey is now the responsibility of Bolton Abbey.

The effective date of the change is 28 September 2020.

## La Oliva

**Dom Francisco Javier Urós Murillo** elected abbot of La Oliva Abbey (Spain) on September 2, 2020. His abbatial blessing was celebrated on October 7.

## Zundert

On October 12, 2020, the community of Zundert (Diocese of Breda, The Netherlands) elected as Abbot for a six year term, **Dom Guido Van Belle**.

**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 election, he was superior ad nutum of Zundert since 2017.

## Spencer

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

In an effort to better serve their pastoral responsibilities, the Conventual Chapter of the Abbaye N.-D. de Bellefontaine found it necessary to request that **St. Joseph's Abbey (Spencer)** to be included in the tradition of another Community that shares their perception of the monastic way and whose Abbot can be their Father Immediate.

The Conventual Chapter of St. Joseph's Abbey requested to be included as a Daughter House of Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey. The Genesee Conventual Chapter accepted the responsibility to be the Mother House of St. Joseph's Abbey (Spencer).

The relationship of Mother House to Daughter House is basic structure of the Order, for that reason the Abbot General and his Council acting in the name of the General Chapter (C.82.2) approved the change that the Paternity of St. Joseph's Abbey (Spencer) to Our Lady of Genesee Abbey. The effective date is 30 September 2020.

## Novo Mundo

Dom Bernardo Bonowitz, Abbot of Nossa Senhora do Novo Mundo (Diocese São José dos Pinhais, Brazil), for reasons of health gave his resignation from the office of Abbot of Novo Mundo to the Abbot General (Cst 40). The Abbot General with the consent of his Council accepted the resignation which became effective 1 October, 2020.

On 18 October 2020, Dom Gerard D'Souza, Abbot of Our Lady of Genesee Abbey (Diocese of Rochester N.Y., USA) and Father Immediate of Novo Mundo, appointed **Father Gabriel Augusto Vecchi** as Superior ad nutum of Nossa Senhora do Novo Mundo.

**Dom Gabriel** was born in Santo André (São Paulo) Brazil in 1978. He entered Novo Mundo in 2000, made his solemn vows in 2005 and was ordained a priest in 2015. At the time of his appointment, he was Prior and Novice Master at Novo Mundo.

### **English Ordo 2020-2021**

A copy of the **English** Ordo for 2020-2021 is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) ») : Ordo EN 2020-2021.

### **Rochefort**

November 06, 2020: **Father Pierre Bihin** was born in 1949 in Bruxelles (Belgium). He entered Rochefort in 1968, made his solemn profession in 1975 and was ordained a priest in 1990. Father was 71 years old, had been in monastic vows for 48 years and 30 years a priest when the Lord called him.

### **Zundert**

**Dom Guido Van Belle** elected abbot of Maria Toevlucht Abbey (Zundert ,The Netherlands) on October 12, 2020. His abbatial blessing was celebrated on November 13.

### **Vitorchiano**

A number of sisters of the Vitorchiano community (Italy) tested positive for Covid-19. A group of 11 sisters infected and isolated first in the Guest house; another group of young professed sisters and novices, in the novitiate; four other sisters in an isolated place in the community. They are following the required procedures. We commend them with all those who suffer amid this pandemic to your prayers.

### **Daily Office Readings**

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 2020-2021.

These readings can be accessed at the following link:

["Ressources - Liturgy - Cistercian Lectionary"](#)

### **Death of Mgr. Henri Teissier Archbishop emeritus of Algiers (1988-2008)**

**Mgr. Henri Teissier** died in the early hours of this morning, Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Born in Lyons in 1929, after seminary studies in Paris and Arabic studies in Cairo he was ordained priest in Algiers in 1955. He was appointed bishop of Oran in 1973 and then coadjutor at Algiers in 1981. In 1988 he succeeded Cardinal Duval as Archbishop of Algiers where he remained until his resignation in 2008 for reasons of age. His remaining years were spent between France and Algeria. He died at Lyons as the result of a stroke.

**Mgr. Teissier** gave 65 years of his life to Algeria in evangelisation, inter-religious dialogue, prayer and spiritual guidance, carried out in a very difficult and troubled political and social context, especially during the dark decade of the 90's. Many of us will know of him from his association with the brothers of Tibhirine. **Mgr. Teissier** visited the monastery frequently to pray and share with the brothers in community and individually during the period that preceded their kidnapping. After their death he promoted the cause of their beatification and was able to be present for the beatification of the 19 martyrs of Algeria at Oran on December 8, 2018.

Even though his life was threatened on many occasions **Mgr. Teissier** chose to continue to live in Algeria witnessing to his profound desire to build fraternity and peace in the school of Christ. May he rest in peace. (See: Vatican News – internet, Dec. 1, 2020.)

### **Excerpt from a letter from "Atlas :**

On 12/1/2020, at 02.31, Brother Nuno wrote:

Hello to all of you who have written to me...

I have just arrived from Rabat, and tomorrow during the day it will be difficult for me to find time to write to you. So I am going to write immediately to tell you that our Brothers Jean-Pierre Schumachier, our senior, and Jean-Pierre Flachaire, our Prior, and Brother José Luis were hospitalized yesterday in the Clinique Pasteur in Rabat.

Brother Antoine is at the monastery as well as André and I, and a guest on sabbatical who is visiting.

As for our three brothers, they are in a stable condition for the moment. Since the chest scans they had done at the Midelt Hospital on Monday afternoon revealed lung infections they have been receiving treatments. P. Jean-Pierre Schumachier: 25% of the lung affected; P. Prior: 55% of the lung affected; José Luis: 45% of the lung affected).

I spoke personally with the head of the department in Rabat yesterday at 3:00 p.m. He informed me that all three were fine (as far as possible) without needing artificial respiration and awaiting a more complete check-up.

The diagnosis, for the moment is suspected Covid-19 virus.

The protocols of the Health Department of our region obliged the hospitalization outside Midelt for these cases. All three are patients at risk due to other chronic health problems.

Thank you for your friendship and prayer

God bless you.

Your brother, Nuno from Sao José.

### **Palaçoulo**

In the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, the **Community of Santa Maria Mãe da Igreja** (Palaçoulo, Portugal) began its regular life in what will become the guest house of the Monastery.

### **Generalate**

On the 11th December each of the members of the Community at Viale Africa 33 received a paper from the "Sistema Sanitaria Regionale ASL Roma 2" declaring that each was virus free! The quarantine began 7th November and ended 11th December.

Each of us had the swab test three times: Fr. Maximilianus had Covid symptoms, the cough, breathing issues and tested positive. The entire Community was tested. At the end of Fr. Maxi's quarantine we had the test and Fra Javier and Fr. Antonius tested positive but without symptoms. At the end of another quarantine we were tested, Fra Javier and Mother Rachel tested positive without symptoms. On 9th of December we were all tested and two days later declared virus free!

### **Newsletter Formation**

The Newsletter n°27 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":

[Formation/Newsletter](#)

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