
Prot. N° 02/BI/23
Curia Generalizia

INFORMATION BULLETIN – N° 200

Ajimu

On July 3, 2023, **Mother Gertrude Ikebe** completed her first term of six years as abbess of Ajimu (Diocese of Oita, Japan). On the same day, she was re-elected Abbess of the Community for a new six-year term.

Mistassini

The General Chapter of September 2022 was informed of the fragile situation of the community of Mistassini (diocese of Chicoutimi, Quebec, Canada), and of its likely imminent suppression. Since then, Dom Clément Charbonneau, abbot of Mistassini since 2017, with the support of the Commission for the Future, and keeping the Abbot General fully informed, has led the community peacefully through the process described in *the Statute for the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and the Suppression of a Monastery*.

On 5th July 2023, the Abbot General and his Council, in the name of the General Chapter, voted to suppress the community of Mistassini.

On the same date the Abbot General and his Council named a Commission for Closure to implement the suppression process, under the presidency of Dom André Barbeau, abbot of Val Notre-Dame and Father Immediate of Mistassini.

Let us pray for the brothers of Mistassini at this sad time.

Fons Pacis

On July 5, 2023, in accordance with Cst. 69.2, the Abbot General with the consent of his Council gave permission for the opening of a novitiate in Fons Pacis, foundation of Valserena (Apostolic Vicariate of Aleppo, Syria).

In accordance with vote 114 of the General Chapter of September 2022, Mother Giovanna Garbelli, abbess of Matutum, is currently the delegated major superior of this foundation. We support the sisters with our prayers for the future growth and flourishing of this community in the particular context of Syria.

Palaçoulo

On July 5th 2023, in accordance with Cst.69.2, the Abbot General with the consent of his Council gave permission for the opening of a novitiate in Palaçoulo, foundation of Vitorchiano (diocese of Bragança-Miranda, Portugal). We support the sisters with our prayers for the future growth and flourishing of this community.

Oseira

On July 5th 2023, the Abbot General, with the consent of his Council, at the request of Dom Juan José Domingo Falomir, abbot of San Isidro and Father Immediate of Oseira, suspended the exercise

of the autonomy of the community of Oseira (Diocese of Orense, Spain), in accordance with Cst. 34bis.1, and authorized the Father Immediate to appoint a monastic commissary. By this decision, the service of Dom Enrique Trigueros, superior ad nutum of Oseira since 2018, comes to an end.

On July 12th 2023, Dom Juan José appointed **Dom Carlos Gutiérrez Cuartango**, Titular Prior of Sobrado, as Monastic Commissary of the community of Oseira.

Mount Saint Bernard

On 28 July 2023, the Community of Mt. St. Bernard (Diocese of Nottingham, England) elected **Dom Joseph Delargy** as Abbot for a six-year term.

Dom Joseph had been abbot of the Community of Mt. St. Bernard from 2001 to 2013 and from 2020 to 2022.

Oelenberg

On 31th July 2023, **Dom Dominique-Marie Schoch**, Abbot of Notre-Dame d'Oelenberg (diocese of Strasbourg, France) since 2017, 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.

On 2th August 2023, Dom Samuel Lauras, Abbot of Nový Dvůr and Delegated Father Immediate of Oelenberg, appointed **Dom Dominique-Marie** as Superior *ad nutum* of the community.

Mokoto

The General Chapter of Sept. 2022 approved the erection of Mokoto to the rank of Abbey. The ceremony of erection and the abbatial blessing of Dom Vedaste were planned for November 13th, 2022, but had to be cancelled because of violence in the area.

Recently, Dom Damien Debaisieux, abbot of Scourmont and Father Immediate of Mokoto, was able to visit the monastery and presided at the erection to an abbey on July 30. (The abbatial blessing will take place later, when possible).

Dom Damien writes:

The monastery of Our Lady of Mokoto was erected as an abbey during the Eucharist on Sunday. The celebration, in which many displaced people participated, was marked by the beauty of the hymns and by joy.

The festivities continued with the community meal, which even included some Chimay beer!

It was a joyful occasion, despite the situation. That very morning, there were the sounds of bullets and shells in the village a few hundred metres away. The sounds of war resumed in the evening to round off the day.

The political situation in the region continues to be very difficult. The community of Mokoto is facing it with courage and unity. It is also coping with it in a spirit of charity, since it is hosting 15,000 displaced persons on its land. They find security and hope in our brothers.

So thank you to everyone for praying for our brothers and for the people; interceding for and hoping for peace. But thank you also for your prayer of thanksgiving for the help, the light and the hope that the community of Mokoto offers to a whole population in danger.

May the Prince of Peace protect our brothers and all these displaced people. May he be in their midst.

I thank you all,

F. Damien

News about Dom Godefroy Raguenet, Acey

4 August 2023

Dom Godefroy Raguenet de Saint Albin, Abbot of Acey, who was spending a few days of rest in the Abbey of Hauterive in Switzerland, left for a bike ride in the mountains on **August 3 in the morning**, has not returned in the evening and disappeared.

The police has immediately begun a search for him since that night. The bicycle has been found in a parking lot. It is assumed that he has continued walking through the mountain. His whereabouts are still unknown.

We ask the entire Order to pray for the safety of Dom Godefroy.

Dom Godefroy, Abbot of Acey

4 August 2023

After a day's search, the police has found the body of Dom Godefroy this afternoon. It seems that he has fallen down from a height of 51 metres and died.

May God grant Dom Godefroy eternal rest, and we pray for his family and for the community of Acey.

Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°35 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter": [Formation/Newsletter](#)

Ordo 2023-2024

The Latin version of the **Ordo for 2023-2024** is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format: (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) »)

Thanks to Father Justin of Genesee!

English Ordo 2023-2024

A copy of the English Ordo for 2023-2024 is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) ») : Ordo EN 2023-2024

Resignation of Bishop Prelate of Tromsø (Norway) and appointment of Apostolic Administrator sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation of H.E. Msgr Berislav Grgić from the pastoral governance of the Territorial Prelature of Tromsø, in Norway and at the same time has appointed *Apostolic Administrator sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* of the same Territorial Prelature **H.E. Msgr. Erik Varden, O.C.S.O.**, Bishop Prelate of Trondheim.

Bollettino 595 Sala Stampa della Santa Sede (translated from italian text)

Imari

On 13th September 2023, the community of Imari (Diocese of **Fukuoka**, Japan) elected as abbess for a six-year term **Mother Alberica Ueno**.

Mother Alberica was born in Kumamoto (Japan) in 1950, entered Imari in 1978 and made her solemn profession in 1986. At the time of her appointment, she was *superior ad nutum* of the Community.

La Palma

On September 26, 2023, the Community of La Palma (Diocese of Cartagena, Spain), elected as Abbess for a six-year term, **Mother Carmen Jesús Serrano Ruiz**.

Mother Carmen Jesús was born in Purullena Granada, Spain) in 1966. She was a perpetually professed member of the *Instituto Discípulas de Jesús* and transferred to La Palma in 2016 and made her solemn profession in 2020. The postulation was confirmed by the Abbot General and the dispensation for her short time of profession was granted by the Holy See.

At the time of her election, she was *Superior ad nutum* of the community.

Miraflores

Dom Teodoro Ekongo Satchenda, abbot of Miraflores (Diocese of Rancagua, Chile) since 2022, offered his resignation to the Abbot General for reasons of health (Cst 40). The resignation was accepted and became effective on 29 September 2023.

On 1st October 2023, Dom Elias Dietz, abbot of Gethsemani and Father Immediate of Miraflores, appointed **Brother Lucas Marckmann Soto** as superior *ad nutum* of Miraflores.

Dom Lucas was born in 1956 in Puerto Varas (Chile). He entered Miraflores in 2009 and made his solemn profession in 2015. At the time of his appointment, he was prior of the community.

Colloquium for the 5th anniversary of the beatification of the 19 martyrs of Algeria

We are delighted to share with you the program and practical information of our next bilingual conference which will be held at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid on 30 November 30 and 1 December 2023, and of the celebration which will take place the next day, 2 December at occasion of the 5th anniversary of the beatification of the 19 martyrs of Algeria.

<https://projects.unifr.ch/tibhirine/fr/evenements/colloque-2023.html>

The fully bilingual conference can be attended in person or online.

Registrations and information at : colloque.tibhirine@gmail.com

In the meantime, check out our latest publications:

<https://projects.unifr.ch/tibhirine/fr/publications/ecrits-de-tibhirine/>

<https://projects.unifr.ch/tibhirine/fr/publications/etudes-sur-tibhirine/>

<https://www.agape-libros.com.ar/Detalle/29033>

Your sincerely,

The conference organizing team (P. Thomas, La Trappe, Dr Minassian, P. Jean-Jacques Pérennès op., Mgr Claude Rault, pb)

Peace be upon Israel!

The Abbot General and his council call on the Order's communities to join Pope Francis' call on **Friday, October 27, to observe a day of prayer, fasting and penance for peace in the world.**

"Today too, dear brothers and sisters, our thoughts turn to Palestine and Israel. The number of victims is rising and the situation in Gaza is desperate. Please, let everything possible be done to avoid a humanitarian disaster.

The possible widening of the conflict is disturbing, while so many war fronts are already open in the world. May weapons fall silent! Let us heed the cry for peace of populations, of the people, of the children! Brothers and sisters, war does not solve any problem: it sows only death and destruction, foments hate and proliferates revenge. War cancels out the future. I urge believers to take just one side in this conflict: that of peace. But not with words — with prayer, with total dedication.

With this in mind, I have decided to call for a day of fasting and prayer, of penance, on Friday 27 October, to which I invite sisters and brothers of the various Christian denominations, those belonging to other religions and all those who have at heart the cause of peace in the world, to join in as they see fit. That evening, at 6 p.m., at Saint Peter's, we will spend an hour of prayer, in a spirit of penance, to implore peace in our time, peace in this world. I ask all the particular Churches to participate by arranging similar activities involving the People of God."

(Words of Pope Francis during the general audience of 18 October 2023)

Acey

On 7 November, 2023, after the death of Dom Godefroy Ragueneau de Saint-Albin, abbot of the Monastery of Notre Dame d'Acey (Diocese of Saint-Claude, France), on 4 August 2023, Dom Georges Delomier, superior *ad nutum* of Notre-Dame d'Aiguebelle and Father Immediate of Acey, appointed **Father Marie-Bruno Chabod**, superior *ad nutum* of the community of Acey.

Dom Marie-Bruno was born in 1969 in Pontarlier (France). He entered Acey in 1991, made his solemn profession in 1998 and was ordained a priest in 2007. At the time of his appointment, he was prior of the community.

Tamié

Dom Ginepro Riva, abbot of Tamié (Diocese of Chambéry, France) since 2011, reached the age of retirement mentioned in ST 40.A of the Constitutions offered his resignation to the Abbot General. With the consent of his Council, the Abbot General accepted the resignation.

On 15 November 2023, the Community of Tamié elected **Father Marco Bassignana** as Abbot for an indefinite term.

Dom Marco was born in 1955 in Cuneo (Italy). He entered Tamié in 1979, made his solemn profession in 1984 and was ordained a priest in 1994. At the time of his election, he was prior of the community.

Lamanabi

On 26 November 2023, the community of Lamanabi (Diocese of Larantuka, Indonesia) elected **Dom Antonius Anjar Daniadi** of Rawaseneng as Titular Prior of the Community.

At the time of his election, **Dom Antonius** was Superior *ad nutum* of Lamanabi.

5th anniversary of the beatification of the 19 martyrs of Algeria

Today, 8 December 2023

"Welcoming the other as if he were Christ."

On 2 December 2018, Pope Francis wrote a letter on the occasion of the beatification of the 19 martyrs of Algeria. In this letter, he wrote: *"Through the Beatification of our 19 brothers and sisters, the Church wishes to bear witness to her desire to continue working for dialogue, harmony and friendship. We believe that this unprecedented event in your country may trace in the Algerian sky a great sign of fraternity addressed to the entire world."*

A great sign of fraternity. It is the sign of prayerful hospitality and hospitable prayer that unites this group of 19 men and women.

A hospitality that went beyond simply making a part of the building available to guests. It was a hospitality based on the Rule of Saint Benedict which welcomes every guest who knocks at the door as Christ himself. This is why Father Christian could echo a quote from the Abbot of Landevenec: *"The monk, it is Christ who remains; his guest, it is Christ who passes."*

How different the world would be if we were all so hospitable to each other, without exception, and to Creation! This topic of hospitality is very topical in a world torn by polarization, war and violence, but also in a Church in search of synodality.

(From the «*Opening of the Colloquium for the 5th anniversary of the beatification of the martyrs of Algeria*» in Madrid, Dom Bernardus, Abbot General OCSO)

10 December 2023 marks the 55th anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton

"If you want to get to know me, don't ask me where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me *what I live for*, in detail, and ask me *what*, in my opinion, *prevents me from fully living for that which I live for.*"

(Thomas Merton, *My argument with the Gestapo*, 1969)

Los Andes

On December 15th 2023, **Dom Plácido Alvarez Castro Quiros** completed his fourth mandate as Titular Prior of Los Andes, in the Diocese of Mérida (Venezuela).

On the same date Dom Augustine Myslinski, Abbot of Conyers and Father Immediate of Los Andes, appointed **Dom Plácido** superior *ad nutum* of the community.
