

*Prot. N° 02/BI/24*  
Curia Generalizia

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN – N° 202**

### **Ordo 2024-2025**

The Latin version of the **Ordo for 2024-2025** is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format: (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) »)

***Thanks to Father Justin of Genesee!***

### **Oelenberg**

The community of Oelenberg (Alsace, France) has been aware for some time of its situation of fragility. The monastic commissary, Dom Samuel Lauras of Nový Dvůr, with the help of the Commission for the future, has worked diligently with the brothers to consider all their options, and the Abbot General and his Council have followed the situation closely. After serious consideration it was judged that it is not possible for the community to recover from this situation, and that it must be closed.

The Central Commission, meeting at San Francisco de Mostazal, Chile, in June, and acting as Plenary Council of the Abbot General (ST 80.I), heard a report on the situation. The brothers of Oelenberg had already spent three months in different communities of the Order between February and May, with a view to possibly continuing their monastic life in those communities.

Following the process described in the *Statute on the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and the Suppression of a Monastery*, on 13 June 2024, the Abbot General and his Plenary Council, in the name of the General Chapter, voted to suppress the community of Oelenberg.

On the same date the Abbot General and his Plenary Council named a Commission for Closure to implement the suppression process, under the presidency of Dom Samuel Lauras, abbot of Nový Dvůr.

Please pray for the brothers of Oelenberg at this sad time.

### **Kunnambetta**

The Central Commission, meeting at San Francisco de Mostazal, Chile, in June, and acting as Plenary Council of the Abbot General (ST 80.I), considered the request of M. Dominique Graulich, abbot of Soleilmont, the founding house, that the foundation of Ananda Matha Ashram, Kunnambetta (diocese of Calicut, India) be raised to the rank of simple priory.

Having heard (a) a report on the history and current situation of the community of Kunnambetta; (b) the favourable opinion of Dom Damien Debaisieux, abbot of Scourmont, Father Immediate of Soleilmont; and (c) the favourable opinion of the ORIENS region, presented by Dom Raphael Shioya Hisashi, titular prior of Oita and co-president of the region, on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, the Abbot General and his Plenary Council, in the name of the General Chapter, voted that Kunnambetta be raised to the rank of simple priory.

## **Sept Fons: foundation at Bâdi, Senegal**

The community of Sept Fons has for some time had a project of foundation at Bâdi, diocese of Tambacounda, Senegal. Its roots go back to 1999, but the project developed more in recent years. Permission for the foundation of Bâdi was given by the Pontifical Assistant when Sept Fons was outside the structures of the Order, but the situation needed to be regularised within the Order according to the *Statute on Foundations*.

Therefore, the Central Commission, meeting at San Francisco de Mostazal, Chile, in June, and acting as Plenary Council of the Abbot General (ST 80.I), considered the request of Dom Guillaume Jedrzejczak, superior *ad nutum* of Sept Fons, that N.-D. de Bâdi be recognised as a foundation. All the necessary documents and information were supplied. Having received clarifications about various points, on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, the Abbot General and his Plenary Council voted the approval of Notre Dame de Bâdi as a foundation of Sept Fons (ST 84.1.B.a). This will become effective only when there are six solemnly professed monks as founders, foreseen for October 2024.

The website of Bâdi is at [www.notredamedebadi.sn](http://www.notredamedebadi.sn)

## **Bricquebec**

Dom Pierre-André Burton, abbot of Cîteaux and Father Immediate of Bricquebec, has appointed **Father Simon-Marie Nguyen** as superior *ad nutum* of Bricquebec (Diocese of Coutances, France). This appointment will be effective on September 14th, 2024.

**Dom Simon-Marie** was born in 1989 in Thanh Chương (Vietnam). He entered Bricquebec in 2011, made his solemn profession in 2017 and was ordained a priest in 2021. At the time of his appointment, he was novice master.

## **Happy birthday, Sister Aelred!**

**On 29 July 2024, Sister Aelred Bourru de Lamotte celebrated her 100th birthday.**

**Sister Aelred** was born in Reichshoffen (France) on 29 July 1924. She entered Laval on 2 February 1958 and made her solemn profession on 8 September 1963. She was superior of Grandselve (Cameroon) from 1985 to 1991, and then responsible for the sisters residing in Meymac until 1995, when she returned to Laval. Today, she continues to serve at the reception desk of the monastery.

*We thank **Sister Aelred** for the beautiful testimony of fidelity!*

## **Happy birthday, Brother Alberic!**

**On 29 July 2024, Brother Alberic Gardner turns 100 years old.**

**Brother Alberic** was born in Fulton, New York (USA), on July 29, 1924. He participated in the Normandy landings during World War II and then served in the U.S. Army the Korean War. He entered Genesee on 15 January 1953 and made his solemn profession on 15 August 1958. He managed and worked on the farm for 50 years. Even today he is active and serves the community by working in the library.

*We thank **Brother Alberic** for the beautiful testimony of fidelity!*

## **Generalate**

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, the community of Viale Africa had the joy of welcoming a new cook, **Sister Elizabeth Nnakimbugwe** from Butende (Uganda).

**Sister Elizabeth** was born in 1975 in Uganda. She entered Butende in 1997 and made her solemn profession in 2006.

## **Sept-Fons**

By decree of the *Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*, the Abbot General presided over an election at the Abbey of Sept-Fons (Diocese of Moulins, France) on 23 August 2024, in the presence of Dom Pierre-André Burton, abbot of Cîteaux and Father

Immediate of Sept-Fons, and Mother Anne-Emmanuelle Devêche, Abbess of Blauvac. Dom Emmanuel Cottineau, councillor to the Abbot General, acted as secretary of the election.

The community elected **Dom Thomas Getti** as abbot for a term of six years. Which was determined by the Dicastery. **Dom Thomas** was born in 1965 in Rouen (France). He entered Sept-Fons in 1991, made his solemn profession in 1996 and was ordained a priest in 1999.

### **Kasanza**

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024, the community of Kasanza (Diocese of Kikwit, R. D. Congo) elected **Dom Léonard Zibula** as Titular Prior of the community.

**Dom Léonard** had been Superior *ad nutum* of the community since 2019.

### **Happy birthday, Brother Benjamin!**

**On 2 September 2024, Brother Benjamin Grondin of Bellefontaine (France) turned 100.** **Brother Benjamin** was born in Soullans, France, on 2 September 1924. He entered Bellefontaine on 20 April 1951 and made his solemn profession on 18 November 1956.

***We thank Brother Benjamin for his witness and fidelity!***

### **Orval**

On 21 September 2024, Dom Damien Debaisieux, abbot of Scourmont and Father Immediate of Orval, appointed **Father Xavier Frisque** as Superior *ad nutum* of Orval (Diocese of Namur, Belgium).

**Dom Xavier** was born in 1967 in Ixelles (Belgium). He entered Orval in 1989, made his solemn profession in 1995 and was ordained a priest in 2024. At the time of his appointment, he was novice master of the community.

### **7 October, Day of prayer and fasting for peace**

We encourage all communities of the Order to join Pope Francis' call for a day of prayer and fasting on Monday, October 7, 2024 for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East.

*"In such a dramatic time in our history, when the winds of war and the flames of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations, there is need for this message."* (Pope Francis, homily openingsmass Synod, 2 October 2024)

### **Kunnambetta**

On October 7, 2024, the foundation of Ananda Matha Ashram, **Kunnambetta**, in the diocese of Calicut (India) was raised to the rank of Simple Priory, in accordance with the decision of the Central Commission, Chile, 2024.

On October 11, 2024, **Mother Mary-Ann Kiriyanthan Devassy**, superior of the community since 2011, was elected the first Titular Prioress of the community.

### **English Ordo 2024-2025**

A copy of the English Ordo for 2024-2025 is now available on the website, and can be downloaded in PDF format (« [Resources/Liturgy/Ordo](#) ») : **Ordo EN 2024-2025**

### **Visit of Saint Thomas Aquinas to Nový Dvůr**

*The Bohemian Friars Preachers* are organising a pilgrimage around Saint Thomas Aquinas in the Czech Republic until 1 November 2024, which began at the Nový Dvůr abbey. An eminent relic, his skull, was venerated there in prayer from 18 to 20 October 2024.

## Mvanda

On 22 October 2024, Dom Vedaste Vitichomo, abbot of Mokoto and delegated Father Immediate of Mvanda, appointed **Sister Barbara Cacherano d'Osasco** as Superior *ad nutum* of Mvanda (Diocese of Kikwit, Dem. Rep. of Congo).

**Mother Barbara** was born in 1961 in Genova (Italy). She entered Vitorchiano in 1990, made her solemn profession in 1996 and was sent to Mvanda in 2003. At the time of her appointment, she was the bursar of the community.

## Phare

On 28 October 2024, the community of Phare (Diocese of Sapporo, Japan) elected **Dom Franciscus Yoshimoto Kunihiro** as Abbot for a six-years term.

**Dom Franciscus** was born in 1958 in Kita-Kyushu, Fukuoka-Ken (Japan). He entered Oita in 1988, made his solemn profession in 1993 and was ordained a priest in 2006. In 2008 he came to Phare, where he was appointed superior *ad nutum*, and then abbot from 2009 to 2015. He has been superior *ad nutum* of the community of Phare since 2023.

## Mount Melleray, Roscrea, Mellifont: Our Lady of Silence

The communities of Mount Melleray Abbey (diocese of Waterford and Lismore), Mt. St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea (diocese of Killaloe), and Mellifont Abbey (diocese of Armagh), all in Ireland, have for some time engaged in a process of reflection and discernment about a union of the three communities.

On 3 November 2024, feast of St Malachy, following votes of the conventual chapters of the three communities, Dom Rufus Pound (monastic commissary of all three communities) requested the union of these three communities, by which is meant the suppression of the three existing communities and the establishment of one new community. On the same date, the Abbot General and his Council, acting in the name of the General Chapter, approved this union. The new community is called **Our Lady of Silence** and has the rank of Abbey.

The Abbot General and his Council then appointed Mother Marie Fahy, abbess of Glencairn, to exercise the authority of Father Immediate of the community of Our Lady of Silence until the General Chapter of 2025.

Mother Marie, having obtained the permission of the Abbot General to appoint a superior *ad nutum*, consulted the brothers of the conventual chapter of O. L. of Silence, and appointed the same **Dom Rufus Pound** as superior *ad nutum*.

The brothers of O. L. of Silence will come together in one of the existing monasteries to begin the life of the new community as soon as possible. The definitive location of the new monastery will be decided later.

Let us pray for the brothers of this newest community of our Order!

## Chimay

On 4 October 2024, at the request of Dom Damien Debaisieux, abbot of Scourmont and Father Immediate of Chimay, the Abbot General and his Council, in the name of the General Chapter, suspended the exercise of autonomy of the community of N.-D. de la Paix, Chimay (diocese of Tournai, Belgium), and appointed **Mother Pascale Fourmentin**, Abbess of Arnhem (Netherlands) as *Monastic Commissary* of the community of Chimay (Cst. 34bis.1). This appointment became effective on 7 November 2024.

By this decision, the service of M. Catherine Pagano, superior *ad nutum* of Chimay since 2011, comes to an end.

## Kokoubou

On 24 October 2024, Dom Clément Sobakin, titular prior of Kokoubou (archdiocese of Parakou, Benin) since 2020, on the recommendation of Dom Jean-Marc Chéné, abbot of Bellefontaine and Father Immediate of Kokoubou, offered his resignation to the Abbot General, who accepted it with immediate effect.

On the same date, the Father Immediate appointed **Brother Polycarp Wisungnin Javlon**, monk of Bamenda (Cameroon), as superior *ad nutum* of Kokoubou.

**Dom Polycarp** was born in 1965 in Baseng, Buea (Cameroon). He entered Bamenda in 1994 and made his solemn profession in 2001. He was ordained to the diaconate in November 2024, and his priestly ordination is foreseen.

This appointment became effective on 1 November 2024.

### **Daily Office Readings**

To assist those who prepare readings for the Liturgy of the Hours, Father. Justin has sent three PDF files containing the list of Scripture Readings for Vigils, Lauds and Vespers and Sext (Readings up to Ash Wednesday) for the liturgical year 2024-2025.

These readings can be accessed at the following link:

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

### **New Melleray**

On 23 November 2024, at the request of Mother Rebecca Stramoski, abbess of O.L. Mississippi, who currently holds the authority of Father Immediate of the community of New Melleray, the Abbot General and his Council, in the name of the General Chapter, suspended the exercise of autonomy of the community of New Melleray (archdiocese of Dubuque, USA), and appointed **Dom Joseph Wittstock**, Abbot of Berryville, USA, as *Monastic Commissary* of the community of New Melleray (Cst. 34bis.1). This appointment became effective on 1 December 2024.

By this decision, the service of Dom Brendan Freeman, abbot of New Melleray from 1984 to 2013 and superior *ad nutum* since 2021, comes to an end.

### **Azul**

On 8 September 2024, Dom Santiago Maria Rios completed his six-year mandate as abbot of Azul (diocese of Azul, Argentina).

On 13 September 2024, at the request of Dom Vincent Rogers, abbot of Spencer and Father Immediate of Azul, the Abbot General, with the consent of his Council, asked the Holy See for permission to name Brother Mario Arredondo as superior *ad nutum* of the community, in accordance with the rescript of Pope Francis of May 2023 concerning non-cleric superiors.

The Holy See granted this permission on 11 November 2024, and on 8 December 2024 the Father Immediate appointed **Brother Mario Arredondo** as superior *ad nutum* of Azul.

**Dom Mario** was born in 1955 in Rosario, Santa Fe (Argentina). He entered Azul in 1977 and made his solemn profession in 1983. At the time of his appointment, he was prior of the community.

### **Colloquium on the Degrees of Humility of Saint Bernard**

(Rome, Saint'Anselmo, 4-8 November 2024)

The videos of the lectures given during the *Colloquium on the Degrees of Humility of Saint Bernard* are now online. You can find them at the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcF7ivcsqtAHLvvQLR4t\\_0wdyPjKwJF9p](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcF7ivcsqtAHLvvQLR4t_0wdyPjKwJF9p)

You can also find them by going to the Athenaeum website <https://www.anselmianum.com/it/> and clicking on the "Youtube" button on the banner at the top of the home page (it's the last button on the right, after Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

\*\*\*\*\*