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*Prot. N° 01/BI/20*  
Curia Generalizia

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN – 193**

### **Happy birthday, Mother Caridad!**

On January 3, 2020, **Mother Caridad Lorenzo Marcos of Carrizo (Spain) became 100 years.** She was born in Villanueva, Spain, on January 3, 1920. She entered Carrizo in 1939.

***We thank Mother Caridad for her witness and her fidelity!***

### **Happy birthday, Father Gervasio!**

On January 11, 2020, **Father Gervasio Fauvarque of Frattocchie (Italy) turned 100.**

**Father Gervasio** was born in Montmorency, France, on January 11, 1920. He entered Mont-des-Cats in 1937 and transferred to Frattocchie in 1946. He was Prior and then Abbot of the Community from 1969 to 1996.

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

### **Mount Saint Bernard**

Dom Erik Varden, Abbot of Mt. St. Bernard since 2015, presented his resignation after his appointment as bishop-prelate of Trondheim (Norway) on October 2, 2019.

On January 22, 2020, the community of Mt. St. Bernard elected as Abbot for a six year term, **Father Joseph Delargy.**

**Dom Joseph** was born in 1962 in Hornchurch (Great Britain). He entered Mt. St. Bernard in 1986, made his solemn profession in 1991 and was ordained priest in 1995. He was abbot of Mt. St. Bernard from 2001 to 2013 and, at the time of his election, he was prior of the community.

### **Frattocchie**

Dom José Otero, superior ad nutum of Frattocchie (Italy) since 2011, presented his resignation.

On January 26, 2020, the community of Frattocchie elected as abbot for a undetermined mandate, **Father Loris Tomassini.**

**Dom Loris** was born in 1961 in Orciano (Italy). He entered Frattocchie on 1990, and made his solemn profession on 1995. He was ordained a priest on 1988. At the time of his election, he was Novice Master and prior of the community.

### **El Encuentro**

On January 28, 2020, at the end of the mandate of Mother Inès Gravier, the community elected as it's abbess **Mother María Esther Mares Silva** for a definite term.

**Mother María Esther** was born in 1958 in México, D.F. (Mexico). She entered El Encuentro in 1993 and made her solemn profession in 1999. At the time of her election, she was prioress of the community.

## **Acey**

Dom Jean-Marc Thévenet, Abbot of O. L. of Acey (diocese of Saint-Claude, France) since 2003, 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 January 3, 2020.

On January 24, 2020, Dom Georges Delomier, Superior *ad nutum* of Aiguebelle (France) and Father Immediate of Acey, appointed **Father Godefroy Raguenet de Saint Albin** as Superior *ad nutum* of Acey.

**Dom Godefroy** was born in 1970 in Versailles (France). He entered Aiguebelle in 2001, made his solemn profession in 2007 and was ordained a priest in 2011. At the time of his appointment he was finishing a sabbatical year with the Cistercians in Hauterive (Switzerland) after having served three years as chaplain to our sisters in Fons Pacis (Syria).

## **Viale Africa**

Sister Juliette Simonnot (OSB) completed her service as portress at the Generalate and she is replaced by **Sister Marina Riquelme González** of Humocaró (Venezuela).

**Sister Marina** was born in 1951 in Argentina. She entered Humocaró in 1985 and made her solemn profession in 1992. She was a cook at the Generalate from 2004 to 2008.

## **Sujong**

Mother Juliana Tatara, prioress of Sujong (diocese of Masan, South Korea) since 2014, 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 February 1, 2020.

On February 27, 2020, the Community of Sujong elected as Prioress for a six year term, **Sister Emmanuel Hong**.

**Mother Emmanuel** was born in 1966 in Cheju (South Korea), entered Sujong in 1994 and made solemn profession in 2001. At the time of her election, she was Subprior of the community.

## **Newsletter Formation**

The Newsletter n°24 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":  
[Formation/Newsletter](#)

## **Kokoubou**

On March 21, 2020, Father Marcellin Dhecadjevi completed his term as Prior of the monastery of Kokoubou (diocese of Parakou, Benin).

On the same day, the Community elected as prior for a six year term **Father Clément Sobakin**.

**Dom Clément** was born in 1975 in Aplahoue (Benin). He entered Kokoubou in 1998, made his solemn profession in 2004 and was ordained a priest in 2014.

At the time of his election, he was choirmaster, the responsible of the mermalade factory.

## **The Generalate and Coronavirus**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Some of you have kindly expressed your interest and concern for us here at the Casa and how we are faring, living as we do in Italy, the present epicentre of the Coronavirus outbreak and its deadly consequences. I am glad to be able to say that all twelve of us in residence are well, as far as we know, though some are perhaps more anxious than others.

Life goes on here as normal in terms of the monastic day and timetable, but the big difference is that we are all present in the house at the same time due to the restrictions introduced two weeks ago by the government in a decree aptly entitled "I stay at home!" And so we do! We don't have a choice: exits are allowed for real necessities (food and medicine), for essential work, and for particular personal reasons. Checks are made by the police and one needs to carry an official document justifying one's reason for one's journey.

Our cellarer, Brother Javier, who gets our provisions once a week, was stopped at police check points both going and returning from a recent shopping trip. So enforcement of the restrictions is being taken more and more seriously. I can see this just from looking out my window and seeing that the car park in the square is completely empty. Normally, on working days, it is packed tight with about 150-200 cars. Now there is not a car to be seen. Every day is like a Sunday! The goal is, of course, to reduce human contact and the risk of passing on the virus. The universities are closed, and so our two students (Fathers Maxi and Antonio from Rawaseneng) are working from home while the Abbot General and his Councillors are grounded! But we have plenty with which to usefully occupy ourselves.

In this country the epicentre of the Coronavirus is Northern Italy and, in particular, the region of Lombardy, which is about a 5-6 hours' drive from us here in Rome. Living for the past few weeks with blue skies and sunshine beaming in the window, it seems strange to hear of the havoc that Coronavirus is wreaking just a few hours up the road. The number of deaths per day in Italy is around 600-700, and most of these are in the North. We hear of the heroic, round-the-clock work of doctors, nurses, hospital workers, clergy, religious, the civil authorities, and even the Army as they give themselves (and, in a number of cases, *their lives*—33 doctors have died) in the service of the afflicted. One feels small in the face of such self-sacrifice, compassion and solidarity. Three cheers for humanity!

Some days ago a few of us saw a brief video clip that had to do with the city of Bergamo (birthplace of Pope Saint John XXIII). In it we saw 15 large Army trucks full of coffins taking away the dead after nightfall to other towns and provinces, because neither the cemeteries nor crematoria of Bergamo could cope with the numbers of the deceased! It was a macabre reminder of the extent of the loss of life as well as of the struggle of those fighting the virus and the suffering of the bereaved, separated from their loved ones in their suffering and in their death.

Coronavirus has broken in on our world and disturbed the plans of rulers and of nations, and also of our own small monastic world, in a way which no one was prepared for. Our agendas for meetings, visitations, travel plans, even hospital visits, community projects or just daily community life have all been derailed. Many of us are perhaps experiencing enclosure in a way that was known only to those who lived in the monastery thirty or forty years ago! We have been pushed out of our comfort zone and called to realise in another way the fragility of our lives and how little control we have over them.

We have a new terminology now: we speak of "social distancing" to refer to keeping a safe distance from each other to avoid passing on or contracting Coronavirus! We can see the struggle among the nations of the world, the struggle to protect our own land and at the same time the desire to collaborate with others. We close our borders and at the same time we need each other. We want to find a cure and we work with others, and yet we want it for ourselves first—if we can get away with it. We live in a situation of crisis and a defining moment for humanity. We need God's help. And we also need to encourage one another, as St. Paul says. The Italians, at least in some popular quarters, do some of that by singing and making music from their balconies and so lifting their spirits. A little bit of that has happened at the Casa too.

We noted here that on Sunday afternoon, March 15, Pope Francis made a short "pilgrimage" to the Icon of Our Lady Salvation of the Roman People at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, and he then went on to visit the miraculous cross in the Church of St. Marcellus, also in Rome. This cross was carried through the City in 1522 to end the great plague. Pope Francis went there to pray for an end to this pandemic, for healing for the sick, for lasting peace for the dead and the comforting of the bereaved. He encouraged the use of the prayer he recited on this occasion for our present circumstances. Living in Rome as we are, we here at the Casa have taken to saying the attached prayer together after Vespers and then spending some moments in silence. We find it good to do this and we trust that it does good.

So now you have a little window into our present life at the Casa. Thank you for your concern. Let us entrust ourselves with confidence into God's hands and pray together for the wellbeing of all, and especially for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and for the healing of the ills it has brought to the lives of so many.

With our fraternal prayers and good wishes,

On the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord,  
March 25, 2020.

Eamon Fitzgerald  
Abbot General

### **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR AN END OF THE PANDEMIC**

*O Mary, you ever enlighten our way as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you shared in Jesus' pain with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide for us. As at Cana in Galilee, you will see to it that joy and feasting return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to cling to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us, for He took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows so as to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

### **Mass in Time of Pandemic**

The Congregation for Divine Worship has issued the official text of the Mass in Time of Pandemic, along with official translations into Italian, Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, and German. These texts may be accessed at this link:

<http://www.cultodivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/documenti/decreti-general/decreti-general/2020/messa-in-tempo-di-pandemia/adnexus.html>

### **Echourgnac**

A number of sisters in the community have been tested for the Coronavirus and seven of them have tested positive. They are following the required procedures and while the virus is not virulent we commend them with all those who suffer amid this epidemic to your prayers. The latest information says the abbess has tested negative while the chaplain, released from hospital, is living in confinement.

### **General Chapter**

Due to the world-wide spread of the New Coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic and the consequent restrictions on movement, travel and assemblies of people, the Abbot General, with the unanimous consent of the Council, has decided to postpone, to September 2021, the General Chapter which was to be held in September 2020.

**Therefore, the General Chapter of 2021 will take place at Domus Pacis, Assisi, and will open on the morning of September 2 and close on the afternoon of September 23, 2021.**

This decision, while based on our programme and needs, is in line with the general indications given by the CIVCSVA in its letter of April 2, 2020, authorising the postponement of General and Provincial Chapters.

The agenda for the General Chapter 2021 is the one prepared by the Central Commission Meeting held at Cîteaux in June, 2019. It will probably be necessary eventually to add new points to that agenda.

Particular issues that may need to be addressed or clarified will be processed as necessary.

Abbot General and Council.

Rome, 8 May, 2020

Memorial of Bl. Christian de Chergé and Companions, Monks and Martyrs.

## **Prairies**

In September 2019, during the Regular Visitation of Dom André Barbeau of Val Notre-Dame assisted by Dom Michael Ryan of Bolton, the community of Prairies, in accord with CST 67, voted for its suppression. After more than 50 years as superior, Dom Marcel Carbotte (84 years old) Abbot of the Prairies (1969-2014), then superior ad nutum (2014-2020), will soon move with an elder monk (86 years old) into a private house in a nearby village. This house is a few meters from the Retirement Center, where three of the four other Brothers of the Prairies' community of six monks live.

On May 14, 2020 Dom André, the Father Immediate, appointed, **Father Emmanuel Cottineau** as the new superior ad nutum of Prairies. **Dom Emmanuel's** task is to facilitate the transition of the two Brothers to their new home, to ensure the transfer of the cemetery and to secure the arrival of the Coptic Orthodox community. The Coptic Community will take over the monastery.

**Dom Emmanuel** was born Gerard Cottineau on November 3, 1956, in Nantes (France). He entered Port-du-Salut in 1980, made solemn profession there in 1986, and was ordained a priest in 1987. After having served various communities of the Order, **Dom Emmanuel** settled in Val Notre-Dame. **Dom Emmanuel** professed his stability at Val Notre-Dame in 2014. He has also obtained Canadian citizenship. Dom Emmanuel was in charge of the Abbey's Warehouse and Production Workshops at the time of the appointment.

## **Preparation for the General Chapter of September 2021**

As a result of the postponing of the General Chapter to September 2021 the following points are brought to the attention of the members of the Order:

1. House Reports for the General Chapter: We thank those communities who have already sent their House Reports to the Generalate (these reports will be placed in the file of the community at the Generalate). In this new situation however, it will be necessary for all communities to prepare a report that reflects the reality of 2021 as well as significant elements in the evolution of the community since the last General Chapter. This new House Report should be sent to the Generalate before May 1, 2021.
2. The Abbot General and members of the Council continue their service until the General Chapter of 2021 (See St. 83.2.A and can. 186, CIC).
3. Delegates of Fathers Immediate who were appointed following the recommendations of the General Chapter of 2017 continue in office until the General Chapter of September 2021, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
4. Superiors whose resignations were not accepted at the General Chapter of 2017, or by the Abbot General, and who were to present them at the General Chapter of 2020 remain in office until the General Chapter of 2021 where they will present their resignation (See Can. 186, CIC and Vade Mecum III, footnote 1).

Abbot General and Council

<https://www.ocso.org/2020/05/16/preparation-for-the-general-chapter-of-september-2021/>

## **Bon Conseil**

Mother Marie St-Pierre, Abbess of Notre-Dame du Bon Conseil (Archdiocese of Quebec, Canada) since 1989, 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 May 18, 2020.

On May 18, 2020, Dom André Barbeau, Abbot of Val Notre-Dame and Father Immediate of Bon Conseil, appointed **Mother Marie St-Pierre** as Superior ad nutum of the Community.

El 18 de mayo de 2020, Dom André Barbeau, Abad de Val Notre-Dame y Padre Inmediato de Bon Conseil, nombró la Madre Marie St-Pierre Superiora ad nutum de la Comunidad.

## **Happy birthday, Father Bruno!**

On June 6, 2020, **Father Bruno Lair of La Trappe (France) turned 100.**

**Father Bruno** was born in Louviers, France, on June 6, 1920. He entered La Trappe in 1941.

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

## **Newsletter Formation**

The Newsletter n°25 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":

[Formation/Newsletter](#)

## **Covid-19:A Sharing of Experience**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic our monastic communities are living in a new and unforeseen situation, which is worldwide and affects each of us in one way or another.

We wish to invite you to share your experience with your Brothers and Sisters in the Order. We would like to know how you have lived these months, and what effects this experience has had on your community life, for example, on daily life, liturgy, work, the economy, hospitality, your relationship with the local Church, etc. What are your present needs and how do you see prospects for the future?

We are not asking for an official report, but rather a direct account, short and straightforward, expressing the concrete reality of your community life, which could be of much interest to others.

Texts should be sent to the Generalate before the end of August. They will be made available in the "Reserved Area" of the Order's web page.

In this new situation, the result of a worldwide health crisis, each community should realize that it is not alone in facing challenges. As Pope Francis has said, "We are all in this together". It is our hope that this simple proposal may contribute to a healthy fraternal sharing, and be a first step in facing the current challenges of the Order in the spirit of the Charter of Charity.

The Abbot General and his Council

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### **15 MOUNT SAINT BERNARD**

**Dom Joseph Delargy 1962, Abbot 2001-2013; Abbot 2020-2026**

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### **28 ACEY**

**Dom Godefroy Raguenet de Saint Albin 1970, Sup.ad nutum 2020**

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