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Curia Generalizia

INFORMATION BULLETIN – N° 199

Petition to the whole Order: Holy Mass for the eternal repose of Pope Benedict XVI

On behalf of all the members of the Order, the Abbot General has sent our condolences to Pope Francis and the assurance of our prayers for our beloved Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. In his letter he remained the Pope to the words of Benedict XVI on the occasion of the canonization of Raphael Arnaiz Baron, 11 October 2009:

"May he give himself so that his Brother Trappists and monastic centres continue to be beacons that reveal the intimate yearning for God which he himself instilled in every human heart."

We ask all our communities to celebrate the Holy Eucharist on the fifth of January for the eternal rest of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.



Bricquebec

The General Chapter of September 2022 voted (Vote 43) to ask the Holy See to discontinue the regime of Apostolic Commissary at Bricquebec, and Dom Bernard Duymentz, Apostolic Commissary of Bricquebec since November 2017, submitted his resignation to the Holy See. On 13 December 2022 the Holy See accepted Dom Bernard's resignation as Pontifical Commissary and returned Bricquebec to the structures of the Order.

On Jan 2nd 2022 Dom Pierre-André Burton, abbot of Citeaux and Father Immediate of Bricquebec (see vote 44 of the General Chapter, Sept 2022), appointed the same **Dom Bernard Duymentz** as Superior *ad nutum* of Bricquebec.

Nsugbe

On January 15, 2023, the Simply Priory of **Nsugbe**, in the Diocese of Onitsha (Nigeria) was erected as an Abbey, in accordance with the decision of the General Chapter of Assisi 2022, Second Part.

On January 16, 2023, **Father Marius Okoye** was elected the first Abbot of the Community for a term of six years.

Dom Marius was born in 1963 in Akpo Anambra (Nigeria). He entered Nsugbe in 1990, made his solemn profession in 2000 and was ordained a priest in 2018.

Newsletter Formation

The Newsletter n°33 of the Central Secretary for Formation can be obtained from the Internet under the heading "Formation/Newsletter":

[Formation/Newsletter](#)

News about Sept-Fons

By a decree of 17th January 2023, the Holy See appointed **Dom Guillaume Jedrzejczak**, Monastic Commissary of Latroun, as *Superior ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* to the community of Sept Fons with the task to prepare the community for a future election. There will be a Commission of aid composed by the two previous Pontifical Assistants, Dom Jean-Charles Nault osb and Mgr. Erik Varden ocso, Dom Pierre-André, abbot of Citeaux and Father Immediate and an Abbess of our Order.

Caldey

On January 20, 2023, Dom Daniel Van Santvoort, completed his fourth term of six years as Abbot of Caldey (Diocese of Menevia, Great Britain).

On January 21, 2023, Dom Damien Debaisieux, Abbot of Notre-Dame de Scourmont and Father Immediate of Caldey Abbey, appointed **Father Jan Rossey** as Superior *ad nutum* of Caldey Abbey.

Dom Jan was born in 1957 in Nieuwpoort (Belgium). He entered Caldey in 2009, made his solemn profession in 2014 and was ordained a priest in 1982. At the time of his appointment, he was Master of Juniors of the Community.

Mont des Cats

January 25, 2023: the Community of Mont des Cats (Archdiocese of Lille, France) elected as Abbot for an indefinite term **Dom Bernard-Marie van Caloen**.

Dom Bernard-Marie was born in 1953 in Loppem (Belgium). He entered Mont des Cats Abbey in 1978, made his solemn profession in 1986 and was ordained a priest in 2000. At the time of his election, he was Superior *ad nutum* of the Community.

Tulebras

On January 25, 2023, at the end of the mandate of Mother María Victoria Sanz Chozas, the community of Tulebras (Archdiocese of Pamplona, Spain) elected as Abbess **Mother Pilar Germán Rojas** for a six-years term.

Mother Pilar was born in 1966 in Zaragoza (Spain). She entered Tulebras in 1994 and made her solemn profession in 2000. She was Abbess of the community from 2011 to 2017 and is currently Pontifical Commissary of Alloz.

News from Mokoto

The **community of Mokoto** (R.D. Congo) and the neighbouring population are recently affected by the bombs since hostilities have resumed between the government and the M23 rebels. The population is emptying out of the town of Kitchanga, 15 km from the monastery. And the monastery is beginning to receive displaced people fleeing the fighting. The community is already isolated. There is no access to the main road that leads to Goma, the region's largest city.

We ask all communities of the Order to remember, especially in their prayers, the brothers of Mokoto and the population that has suffered for so many years from the recurrent violence.

Tenshien

Mother Cecilia Aoki, Abbess of N.-D. des Anges, Tenshien (Diocese of Sapporo, Japan) 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.

On 27 January 2023, the community of Tenshien elected **Sister Johanna Abe Makiko** as Abbess of the community for a sixed term.

Mother Johanna was born in 1969 in Tokyo (Japan). She entered Tenshien in 1998 and made her solemn profession in 2004. At the time of her election, she was Novice Mistress.

Syria

A terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria has killed thousands of people and very many more are injured or homeless. The sisters at Fons Pacis felt the tremor at the monastery, which was frightening, but they are not hurt and the building was not seriously damaged. They are hosting two homeless families. M. Marta Luisa asks our prayers for the disastrous situation in the country.

Bamenda

Dom Timothy Kelly, Pontifical Commissary of Bamenda since 2013, offered his resignation to the Holy See and this was accepted by the Holy See on 25 November 2022. The General Chapter of September 2022 voted (Vote 116) to ask the Holy See to discontinue the regime of Apostolic Commissary at Bamenda, and on 27 January 2023 the Holy See accepted this request and returned Bamenda to the structures of the Order.

On 4 February 2023 Dom John Bosco Kamali, Abbot of Victoria and delegated Father Immediate of Bamenda, appointed **Father Bonaventure Ogbonna**, monk of Awhum, as superior *ad nutum* of Bamenda.

Dom Bonaventure was born in 1954 in Ihitenansa (Nigeria). He entered Awhum in 1981, made solemn profession in 1988 and was ordained priest in 1994. Until recently he was novice master in Awhum.

Phare

On March 3rd 2023, the mandate of Dom Aloysius Yokouchi Hiroshi as abbot of Phare (diocese of Sapporo, Japan) having come to an end, Dom Steele Hartman, Abbot of Tarrawarra and Father Immediate of Phare, appointed **Father Franciscus Yoshimoto Kunihiko** as Superior *ad nutum* of Phare.

Dom Franciscus was born in 1958 in Kita-Kyushu (Japan). He entered Oita in 1988, made his solemn profession in 1993 and was ordained priest in 2006. He was abbot of the community of Phare from 2009 to 2015.

Mokoto

According to the latest information about the trouble caused by the M23 Rebellion which prevails around the community of Mokoto (DR Congo), the situation has deteriorated in recent days. The community is now in the area occupied by the Rebellion, affected by clashes and fighting.

Consequently, it is difficult for the brothers to access the main road. The Rebellion opened a small corridor that the population can use by means of motorbikes or on foot.

About two thousand people, displaced by the war, have found refuge with the community.

Thank you for continuing to carry in your prayers the community of Mokoto and the people who continually suffer from the violence.

Klaarland

On March 20, 2023, **Mother Rebekka Willekes** completed her second term of six years as Prioress of Klaarland (Diocese of Hasselt, Belgium). On the same day, she was re-elected Titular Prioress of the Community for a new six-year term.

Arévalo

Mother Esther Muñoz Martín, abbess of Arévalo (Diocese of Ávila, Spain) since 1994 reached the age mentioned in ST. 40.A of the Constitutions and submitted her resignation to the Abbot General, who accepted it with the consent of his Council. The resignation became effective on May 1st 2023.

On the same day, Dom Roberto de la Iglesia, abbot of Cardeña and Father Immediate of Arévalo, appointed **Mother Esther superior ad nutum** of the community.

Engelszell

Dom Hubert Bony, *superior ad nutum* of Engelszell (Austria) since 2017, offered his resignation which was accepted by the Father Immediate, Dom Dominique-Marie Schoch, abbot of Oelenberg, on May 9th 2023.

On the same date, the Abbot General, with the consent of his Council, at the request of the Father Immediate, in accordance with the *Statute for the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities* (nn. 10 and 16) suspended the exercise of the autonomy of the community of Engelszell and authorized the Father Immediate to appoint a monastic commissary.

On the same date, Dom Dominique-Marie Schoch, abbot of Oelenberg and Father Immediate of Engelszell, appointed **Dom Samuel Lauras**, abbot of Nový Dvůr (Czech Republic), as Monastic Commissary of the Abbey of Engelszell.

Tre Fontane

On Thursday evening May 11th, Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic orthodox Church in Egypt, visited our monastery of Tre Fontane because of a personal desire to pray at the place of St. Paul's martyrdom, as part of his official visit to Pope Francis to celebrate the Day of Coptic-Catholic Friendship.

This visit is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a historic Christological agreement by Paul VI and Pope Shenoudha III, putting an end to a 1,500-year-old theological controversy.

Earlier in the day, Pope Francis received a relic of the 21 Coptic martyrs on the beach of Libya and announced that they "*will be included in the Roman Martyrology as a sign of the spiritual communion that unites our two Churches*".

Engelszell

Over recent months, the situation of fragility of the community of Engelszell (Austria) deteriorated significantly. Despite the best efforts of all concerned – the brothers of Engelszell, the Father Immediate (Dom Dominique-Marie Schoch of Oelenberg), the monastic commissary (Dom Samuel Lauras of Novy Dvur), and the Commission for the future – it is judged not possible for the community to recover from this situation, and that it must be closed (cf Cst 67.2). The Abbot General has followed the situation closely; he visited Engelszell in April and attended a meeting of the Commission for the future.

Following the process described in the *Statute on the Accompaniment of Fragile Communities and the Suppression of a Monastery*, on 15th May 2023, the Abbot General and his Council, in the name of the General Chapter, voted to suppress the community of Engelszell.

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 Samuel Lauras, monastic commissary.

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

Vico

On May 31, 2023, **Mother Isabel Rivero Navarro** completed her third term of six years as Abbess of Vico (Diocese of Calahorra y La Calzada-Logroño, Spain). On the same day, she was re-elected Abbess of the Community for an indefinite term.

Sept-Fons

On 17 January 2023, the Holy See appointed Dom Guillaume Jedrzejczak as *Superior ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* of Sept-Fons. On 6 June 2023, the Holy See ended this mandate of Dom Guillaume and returned Sept-Fons to the structures of the Order.

The Abbot General visited Sept-Fons from June 3-8 to preside at a foreseen abbatial election. However, after hearing the brothers, he judged that the good of the community requires that the regime of *superior ad nutum* continue. Having first informed the Holy See, he then informed the Father Immediate, Dom Pierre-André Burton of Cîteaux, and gave him permission to appoint a *superior ad nutum*. In the light of the complexity of the situation, Dom Pierre-André delegated his authority to appoint a superior ad nutum to the Abbot General.

Therefore, on June 7th 2023, the Abbot General appointed the same **Dom Guillaume Jedrzejczak** as *superior ad nutum* of Sept-Fons in accordance with our Constitutions.

Laval

Mother Myriam Fontaine, Abbess of Laval, La Coudre, (Diocese of Laval, France) since 1995, 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.

On 15 June 2023, the community of Laval elected **Sister Béatrice Branchereau** as Abbess of the community for a sixed term.

Mother Béatrice was born in 1969 in 1965 in Ancenis (France). She entered Laval in 1994 and made her solemn profession in 1999. At the time of her election, she was Novice Mistress.

Some modifications:

▪ **Postal address of the community of Echourgnac**

Abbaye Notre Dame de Bonne Espérance
435 route de Bonne Espérance
24410 Echourgnac
FRANCE

▪ **Postal address of the community of Cîteaux**

Abbaye Notre Dame de Cîteaux
CS 40046
21700 Saint Nicolas-lès-Cîteaux
FRANCE

▪ **Change of the official name of the community of Huambo to Soke**
