

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

Brothers Gather for Their Province Chapter

Seventeen Brothers of the American Province of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and two lay delegates gathered at the Notre Dame Spiritual Center, Alfred, Maine Nov. 7-9, 2012 for the Provincial Chapter. They undertook a review of the decisions and recommendations of the congregation's General Chapter held this past March in Ploermel, France. The theme was "evangelization through education."



Chapter members readily acknowledged that the charism of the Brothers has always been to evangelize youth but the Church's recent emphasis on the "new evangelization" is an opportunity for the Brothers to reexamine and renew their commitment to their still relevant charism.

Superior General Br. Yannick Houssay opened the gathering by reviewing the General Chapter, and Br. Gerard Byaruhanga, assistant general, followed with a call for evangelizing the evangelizer.

Richard Jusseaume, president of Walsh University and a lay delegate to the General Chapter, stressed that the Brothers need to be the driving force in organizing the Mennaisian laity who wish to share the Brothers' prayer life and to renew their relationship with the Brothers. They are eager to engage in ministry.

Later that afternoon Br. Robert Smyth, a Canadian assistant provincial and also a General Chapter delegate, explained how the Mennaisian family is organized in the Canadian Province.

The second day's two sessions followed a set procedure as recommended by Br. Jerome Lessard, Provincial. After a private review of the relevant section in the General Chapter report, the Brothers gathered into small groups for shared discussions. This was followed by a general session of group reports with questions and answers on such topics as "our call to serve the poor," "solidarity with the missions," and "the role of the retired Brother."

The last morning was devoted to the "status of the province" initiated by Br. Yannick in his concern for the future of the Brothers. Practical issues, and resolutions as well as pertinent comments on the creation of a culture of vocations with input by associate delegate Stephen Veit concluded the Provincial Chapter.

Several Brothers present noted how informative and enriching this Chapter had been. Everyone enjoyed the fraternal, peaceful atmosphere.

Br. Guy Roddy



The Chapter Steering Committee was comprised of Brothers Superior General Yannick Houssay, Provincial Superior Jerome Lessard, Asst. General Gerard Byaruhanga and Asst. Provincial Guy Roddy.

Missionary Animation

The celebration of World Mission Day this year has had a very special meaning. It came in the context of the opening of the Year of Faith and of the Synod of Bishops, both having the same theme: the New Evangelization. It is for us, members of the Mennaisian Family, an invitation and a challenge at the same time to reaffirm our desire and commitment to engage with greater courage and zeal in the *mission ad gentes* so that the Gospel of Jesus may reach the ends of the earth.



Today the Church badly needs the apostolic zeal and enthusiasm of our Founders – Gabriel Deshayes and John de LaMennais – and of the first Brothers who were sent to the missions to make the name of Jesus known and loved. Like St. Paul, we should be attentive to those who do not yet know Christ or who have not yet experienced the fatherhood of God, in the awareness that missionary

“cooperation includes new forms – not only economic assistance, but also direct participation to evangelization.” (Blessed John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, n. 82).

Our last foundation as a Congregation in **Indonesia** was already ten years ago in 2001. With two scholastics and two novices it is beginning to take roots. Since then several new communities were opened in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and most recently in Manila, the Philippines.

Presently in celebrating the Year of Faith, the Congregation is re-launching its missionary activity as it prepares to establish a mission in **South Sudan**. The Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Uganda is spearheading this new foundation.

Together, let us keep this fresh initiative in our prayers, commending it to Father de La Mennais, he who sent missionaries convinced that Catholic education had much to offer a developing country. I invite the Brothers and their associates throughout the world to share in this work through their prayers, financial assistance and even by volunteering their labors in behalf of some of the most disadvantaged children and young people.

Br. Gerard Byaruhanga, assistant to the Superior General, is responsible for the mission provinces and the US and Canada..

P.S. On completing his visit to the US, Br. Yannick spent a week in **Mexico** visiting the two Canadian Brothers Gaetan Arsenault and Mario Couture who for the past six years have worked at the J-P II Center in Huatusco (State of Veracruz), a ministry directed by the Canadian-based AGAPE Movement. “I have found devoted ministers striving with great generosity to evangelize young people in a vibrant Church community.”

Walsh U.s’ Blouin Global Scholars Program Reflects the Brothers’ Missionary Charism



At the start of this Fall Semester, 15 Walsh students made history in launching the community of students and faculty dedicated to using scholarship and service to address major global issues. The scholars live in Walsh’s newest residence hall, “The Commons” and take classes in fellowship in a learning community equally committed to global service. The first cohort will study alternatives and solutions to address the problem of world hunger through global food production and distribution.

This venture is inspired by the example of the Brothers of Christian Instruction – present in 25 countries – and guided by the mission of Walsh University. The program is named in honor of Br. Francis Blouin, the third president of Walsh University, who retired in 1992, having exemplified servant-leadership and global service during his 13 years in office. In 2004 he accepted the invitation to establish Kisubi Brothers University College in Uganda. Health issues forced him to return to the United States in Spring of 2011, leaving behind a flourishing institution.

Thank you, Benefactors — as of Dec. 3

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Please remember The Brothers of Christian Instruction in your will.

Brothers Visit Early US Mission Sites

On January 31, 1903 seven Brothers of Christian Instruction from France landed at the Port of New York in the United States aboard the Steamship "La Lorraine" after an eight-day voyage from Le Havre, France. Five of these were destined to be the first of 18 Brothers under the direction of the Mission Superior, 37 year-old Brother Bruno [Joseph Marie LeCloarec] who would spend 7 years and 4 months in the Rocky Mountains of the United States Northwest in the newly-formed Holy Angels' District of the Brothers of Christian Instruction. The cross-continental journey by train went by way of Montreal and LaPrairie, Quebec, Canada where they were joined by a 6th French companion: 22 year-old Brother Salvius Gru who had been teaching in Canada for five years. On February 14, 1903 the six FIC's arrived at Sacred Heart Indian Mission on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, a mission founded in 1842 by the Jesuits in Desmet in northwestern Idaho. The 6 brothers spent 6 months learning the English language.

The invitation to come to the USA was formally introduced at a whole community gathering of Brothers at our Motherhouse at Ploërmel in northwest France in August, 1902. Jesuit Provincial of the Red Indian missions in the far west of the United States, Father George De La Motte SJ asked for Brothers to come and teach in these missions. The FIC Superior General, Brother Abel Gaudichon, and his council readily agreed. The timing of the request was providential because in 1903 Brother Abel received official notice that the Brothers of Christian Instruction were officially forbidden to teach, forbidden to wear the cassock, and disbanded in France, and the property and buildings of the Ploërmel Motherhouse seized by the government. Soon 7 additional FIC's arrived in New York on an 8-day voyage on the Steamship "La Gascogne" on Sunday July 19, 1903. They also travelled cross-continent by train via Montreal and LaPrairie and were joined by 3 brothers who had already been teaching in Canada including Br. Hervé Gru who was the twin-brother to Br. Salvius. These 10 brothers, including 3 scholastics, arrived at St. Ignatius Mission in western Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation to join with Bros. Bruno and Salvius.



Other missions where the Brothers taught: St. Francis Regis near Colville, WA (est. 1869); St. Paul in Hays, MT (est. 1887) on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; Holy Family (est. 1890) located 15 miles east of Browning, MT on the Blackfeet Reservation; St. Mary (est. 1886) located 5 miles east of Omak, WA on the Colville Indian Reservation; and St. Andrew (est. 1847) located 8 miles east of Pendleton, OR on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.



Brothers Albert Heinrich and Charles Thomas visited the region on their August jubilee trip. An account of this pilgrimage can be found on the province's website: FICbrothers.org

St. Ignatius mission founded by Fr. Pierre-Jean De Smet SJ in 1854, is a favorite destination of tourists today for the current 1893 church contains

58 fresco religious paintings on the walls and ceilings painted by an untrained Jesuit Brother Joseph Carignano who had been a cook at the Mission. In July, 1904 the 16 brothers in the Rockies missions gathered at St. Ignatius for relaxation, for sharing, and for the annual retreat. This year they were visited by Superior General Reverend Brother Abel Gaudichon. Two additional brothers would arrive in September, 1904 making a total of 18 missionaries. The brothers would gather at one of the missions each July for similar meetings at which time they would receive their yearly assignments. They would be at least 2 FIC's per mission who would teach and supervise Indian boys for the 10 month school year beginning in early September. Of interesting note, only two of the Brothers - Br. Bruno and 29-year old Br. Constantin Marie Roulin - had perpetual religious vows. Much to the disappointment of the missionary brothers, the Jesuit Superiors, and the western Indians, the Brothers of Christian Instruction were asked to leave the Northwest by the General Chapter of 1909. In June, 1910, the brothers were reassigned to Plattsburgh, NY, to Canada, and to other FIC missions in various countries. *Br. Albert Heinrich*

There will always be one Brother of Christian Instruction who stayed behind in the Rockies 24-year old Br. Alarius Nédélec - who died on September 10, 1904 and was buried in the cemetery at St. Ignatius Mission, MT.



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Publisher: Br. Jerome Lessard, FIC
 Staff: Brothers Robert Michaud and David Denicourt
 Layout: Bro. Rogers M. Kazibwe
 To receive by mail or electronically, please use this contact information:
 The Clarion Desk
 P.O. Box 159
 Alfred, ME 04002-0159
 Email: jlessard40@yahoo.com

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East African Brothers Enliven Their New Communities

Two US Brothers' communities recently welcomed new confreres. In Alfred, ME Br. Rogers Kazibwe came to offer his services, mainly as "secretary" to the provincial. In Canton, OH Tanzanian Brother Essau Mlengule and Kenyan Brother Eric Gitunda started classes in the pursuit of a graduate degree. Their enthusiasm and youth bring a most appreciated boost to the communities receiving them.



Originally assigned by his provincial to accompany Br. Henry Monday, but delayed by visa issues, Ugandan Br. **Rogers Kazibwe**, 46, arrived in the US several weeks before Br. Monday's one-year visitor's visa expired.

Br. Rogers first saw a Brother of Christian Instruction when a retired brother visited his school. In 1990 he started his formation as a postulant in Kisubi. After completing studies and several years of teaching he professed his perpetual vows in 2001.

His higher education first yielded an advanced diploma in journalism from St. Augustine's University in Tanzania. For six years he served as the Executive Secretary of the Social Communications Commission of the Ugandan Episcopal Conference.

His main responsibility was to animate communication in and among the various 19 Catholic dioceses in Uganda. While in office he liaised with various national and international media houses. He participated in meetings of the regional AMECEA and of SIGNIS, the international association of Catholic communication organizations with headquarters in Brussels, a position which enabled him to assist in obtaining grants from the Propaganda Fidei for social communications projects. Granted a sabbatical he obtained a Licentiate in Mass/Communications from the Gregorian University in Rome. His most recent employment in Uganda prior to coming to Alfred

was as Dean of Students at Kisubi Brothers University College. In Alfred he assists the provincial in preparing documents including THE CLARION.

Br. Eric Gikunda, 36, comes from a large Kenyan family. In 1996 Eric joined the Brothers after high school, and took his final vows in 2007. He holds a degree in Biology and a diploma in Religious Education from Tangaza College. Af-



ter four years as a teacher, he served for three years as Headmaster at Blessed Baskanja School, a co-ed school of 200 in Mpeketone. Brother enjoyed working on a 4-acre tea farm owned by the Brothers in Meru. While pursuing a MA Educ degree at Walsh U., Br. Eric relaxes while walking or indulging in recreational reading.

From the same St. Michael Province comes **Br. Essau Mlengule**, 36, presently at Walsh pursuing an MBA. This Tanzanian native entered the Moshi novitiate in 1998, professing final vows in 2005. He obtained his BA degree from the Univ. of Dar es Salaam. Essau taught economics during his first 4 years before becoming Deputy Headmaster of St. Anthony's Secondary School, a facility serving 1600 students in Dar es Salaam. Among his interests are walking and watching soccer games.



News Bulletin

Former Superior General, Br. Albert Tremblay, 90, is now a resident at the Brothers' Infirmary in LaPrairie, Canada. Since completing his 12-year term he was living in Dolbeau in the Lac St-Jean Region of Quebec Province.

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PO Box 159
Alfred, ME 04002-0159

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be yours throughout 2013