



March 2019

Year 12 - N. 3



# COSMO On line



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## THE GENERAL COUNCIL

### COMMUNIQUÉ – 27

#### COUNCIL SESSION (December 3, 2018)

##### 1. Report on the Canonical Visitation of the Marianum Study Community: Approval

The liaison Councilor, Fra Sergio M. Ziliani, read the report on the Canonical Visitation of the Marianum Study Community (November 26-30, 2018). After a discussion and some observations, the report was approved.

##### 2. European Conference: Erection of a Pre-Novitiate

The Prior General, Fra Gottfried M. Wolff, informed the General Council that the European Conference had erected the Servite Priory in Genoa (Largo Santa Maria dei Servi, 5) as a pre-novitiate house. Fra Benito M. Isp was appointed Master.

#### COUNCIL SESSION (December 10-14, 2018)

From Monday, December 10 to Friday, December 14, 2018, the General Council met at the *Stella Mattutina* Convent of the *Suore Addolorate Serve di Maria* in Naples to prepare its program for 2019. The meeting began with establishing a schedule and work method that would not conflict with the host community's routine. An outside meal with the community sisters was planned for the evening of December 13.

##### 1. Canonical Visitations: General House, Tyrolese Province, Arco Cloistered Convent

The General Council determined the dates for canonical visitations to:

- Marianum Study Community: because of the celebration of the General Chapter (October 2019) the annual visitation was suspended;
- Sant'Alessio Formation Community (March 4-8)
- Monte Senario Community (September 2-6)
- San Marcello Community (September 17-20)
- Cloistered Community of nuns at Arco (January 14-17)
- Tyrolese Province (TIR) (May 13-June 3)

##### 2. Ghiara Anniversary – Reggio Emilia

On May 11, the General Council will take part in the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Translocation of the *Madonna della Ghiara* to



Reggio Emilia. To mark the occasion the Servite Family March will be held at the same time.



## **COUNCIL SESSION (January 28-29, 2019)**

### **1. USA/AUS: Report on the canonical visitation of the Delegation: Approval**

Fra Souriraj M. Arulananda Samy, the liaison councilor for the Australian delegation, read the report on the canonical visitation (October 10-14, 2018) in English. After an exchange of opinions and observations the Council approved the report.

### **2. MEX/IDN: Report on the canonical visitation of the Priors in Indonesia: Approval**

Fra Souriraj M. Arulananda Samy, the liaison councilor, read the report on the canonical visitation (October 16-30, 2018) of the communities in Indonesia. After an exchange of opinions and observations some corrections were made, and the report was approved.

### **3. Report on the Canonical Visitation of the Arco Monastery (cloistered convent): Approval**

Fra Sergio M. Ziliani, Co-Visitor, read the report on the canonical visitation of the Servite cloistered convent in Arco (January 14-16, 2019). After an exchange of opinions, the General Council approved the report.

### **4. Evaluation of the Meeting with the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty on January 26, 2019**

The General Council considered the meeting with the teachers and officials of the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty (January 26, 2019) positive. Our discussions were calm, and our consideration of the subjects discussed was realistic. We faced our problems with courage and candor.

### **5. MEX: Survey of the province on the possible canonical erection of two communities**

The results of a survey of the Mexican Province on the possibility of erecting two new communities (Jelimpó in Indonesia and Morón in Cuba) arrived at the General Curia and were positive.

### **6. VEN (Milan): “*nihil obstat*” of CVCSVA for rental contract**

The General Council received the “*nihil obstat*” of the CVCSVA [Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life] for the rental contract of a building in Milan that belongs to the Venetian Province.

### **7. Regnum Mariae**

The General Secretary for the Servite Secular Order and Lay Groups, Fra Souriraj M. Arulananda Samy, was invited to attend the *Regnum Mariae* (REM) Council in Candia. He was asked to speak about the social situation in India; there are some Indian ladies who have shown interest to join *Regnum Mariae*. The First Sister asked Fra Souriraj to accompany her to Uganda and act as an interpreter during her visit to the Ugandan members of *Regnum Mariae*. Fra Souriraj is considering cancelling his visit to the Secular Order in Canada and instead visit the Secular Order in Uganda.

## **COUNCIL SESSION (February 13, 2019)**

### **1. VEN-PRG: Request to unite the two Provinces**

The General Council discussed a letter dated February 6, 2019 and signed by the Prior Provincial of the Venetian Province, Fra Lino M. Pacchin (VEN) and the Prior Provincial of the Piedmont-Romagna Province, Fra Pietro M. Andriotto (PRG) in their own name and on behalf of their respective councils. In this letter they ask that the necessary legal procedures begin to unite the two provinces PRG and VEN.

After a long and serious discussion, the General Council decided to have the two provinces conduct a survey of all the friars of their respective jurisdictions and of the two separate provincial chapters. The General Council will assume responsibility for consulting the Priors Provincial, Provincial Councils and respective jurisdictions in the European Region.

### **2. BRA: Request a visit of the Postulator General of the Order to the Brazilian Province**

The General Curia received a letter dated February 8, 2019, from the Prior Provincial of the Brazilian Province, Fra Charlie M. Leitão. In this letter Fra Charlie asks that the Postulator of the Order, Fra Franco M. Azzalli come to Brazil for one month (April 29 – May 29, 2019) to gather information that would be needed (at the appropriate time) to launch the canonization process of Fra Paolino M. The General Council approved this request and will pay for the airplane ticket.

### **3. MON-Nampula: Request for collaboration in the formation of sisters**

During the preceding Council Session Fra Jorge Luis M. Jiménez Delgadillo was asked if he would assume the task of collaborating in the permanent formation of nuns in the cloistered convents in Mozambique (Nampula, Licinga, Xai-Xai). Fra Jorge Luis considered the language problem (Portuguese – Spanish) but expressed his willingness to assume this responsibility in July and August. Fra Jorge Luis was asked if he might also visit the community of friars in Matola.

### **4. OSSM: Visit to the Fraternities in Lombardy and the Veneto**

Fra Souriraj M. Arulananda Samy, Secretary General for the Secular Order and Lay Groups, spoke about his experience visiting the Secular Order Fraternities in Lombardy and the Veneto. A report will later be prepared for all the Secular Order Provinces in Italy.

## GENERAL OFFICIALS AND SECRETARIATS

### 1. SERVANTS OF MARY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The recently published volume 68 of *Studi storici dell'Ordine dei Servi di Maria* (2018) recalls a particular aspect of the catastrophic event that was the First World War.

*Studi Storici* studies different aspects of the involvement of Servite men and women in what Pope Benedict XV called a “pointless massacre.” Slightly less than 9,700,000 soldiers died and more than 21 million were wounded – many suffered from these wounds for the rest of their lives.

About 950,000 civilians died as a result of military operations and another 5,800,000 suffered the effects of the war: famine, lack of food, sickness, epidemics (especially the lethal Spanish ‘flu) along with the racial persecutions that broke out during the conflict.

The participation of religious men and women in the War is almost totally ignored in the major history text books. For this reason – but more especially out of duty and affection for our brothers and sisters caught up in the conflict – the Order’s Historical Institute in 2015 began research in the vast documentation found not just in the Order’s General Archives but elsewhere as well.

In an effort to document this aspect of the War the entire issue (volume 68) of *Studi Storici* is devoted to this subject.



The first article was written by Don Giancarlo Rocca, the former editor of *Dizionario degli Istituti di Perfezione*. It is a list of all the Italian studies on the presence and contributions of religious men and women: *Religiosi e religiose negli studi italiani sulla Prima Guerra Mondiale*.

This is followed by two articles written by the General Archivist, Odir Dias: *Le principali fonti dell'archivio generale OSM sulla Prima Guerra Mondiale* and *L'Ordine dei Servi di Maria alla vigilia della Prima Guerra Mondiale*.

A long article by Fra Franco M. Azzalli describes the involvement of young people in formation, priests and lay brothers in the war (both in the war zone and in the communities in Italy): *Fra Fratelli di Maria italiani nella Prima Guerra mondiale*. The article includes the activity of the Prior General, Fra Alexis M. Lépicier and his vicar, Fra Agostino M. Sartori.

A scholar from the *Université du Luxembourg*, Professor Maria Luisa Caldognetto, writes about the emblematic situation of the cloistered nuns of Arco in the Trentino. *Un monastero tra due confine: le Serve di Maria di Arco profughe nel turbine della Prima guerra mondiale*. It describes the peculiar situation of the cloistered nuns whose convent lay in a border area that changed political allegiance repeatedly as the boundary between Italy and Austria shifted during the war.

This issue of *Studi Storici* concludes with an article by Sister Giuliana Vitali: *La Prima Guerra mondiale nell'esperienza di alcune comunità delle suore Mantellate Serve di Maria*.

Because of limited space we will publish another issue of the review that includes more articles on the same subject.

OSM Historical Institute

### 2. CURRENT ARCHIVES OSM : Annual Statistics for the Order (December 31, 2017)

	ANN	AUS	BRA	CAN	EGY	ESP	IND	ISL	MEX	PHI	PRG	SMA	TIR	USA	VEN	ZUL	Total
<b>(NV) Novices</b>	03	-	04	-	02	1	07	-	10	06	-	02	-	-	-	-	<b>35</b>
<b>(TP) Temporary Professed</b>	05	-	14	-	29	-	21	-	41	23	03	02	-	-	03	01	<b>142</b>
<b>(SP) Solemn Professed</b>	04	01	04	04	02	-	-	01	06	04	05	05	06	06	11	-	<b>68</b>
<b>(DE) Deacons</b>	-	-	01	-	02	-	-	01	-	-	01	-	-	02	-	02	<b>09</b>
<b>(PB) Priests</b>	48	06	30	30	31	11	64	21	61	35	45	24	15	35	79	07	<b>542</b>
<b>(EP) Bishops</b>	-	-	02	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	-	-	-	-	<b>05</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>792</b>

## JURISDICTIONS AND PRIORIES

### 1. EUROPEAN CONFERENCE MEETING



The European Conference met at our Priory in Denia March 18-21). The Priors Provincial of the Tyrolese Province and the Province of the Isles were justifiably absent.

There was a fraternal discussion of a variety of subjects beginning with the conclusions of the European Provincial Councils meeting in Verona (October 2018). We reviewed the suggestions offered to the European Conference and discussed collaboration in formation at all levels (initial and ongoing/permanent) with an emphasis on the youth/vocation apostolate. Another important subject of discussion was finances; we followed the Holy See document on “Finances in service of the charism and the mission” as well as an overall view the finances of our European jurisdictions – both the promising and the less promising aspects. We did not neglect the area of culture. Culture in its broadest sense is the

background for the formation and growth of our friars; it is also the area in which credible witness can be given. Another subject of great interest and discussion was the work being done for a possible unification of the Venetian and the Piedmont/Romagna provinces. Other subjects were brought up and discussed – areas in which we could collaborate.

During our working time together, we celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the co-Patron of our Order; we witnessed the local folkloric celebrations known as “*las fallas*.”

We plan to hold our next meeting in October 2019 during the General Chapter.

### 2. SAN MARCELLO – ROME: 650<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our presence in the Church of San Marcello in Rome (1369-2019)

According to the evidence of an authentic notary act March 26 marks the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Servants of Mary taking possession of the church and building of San Marcello in Rome. With the Bull *Apostolicae servitutis officium* (December 7, 1369) Pope Urban V gave the church to the Servites. From that time forward in public documents the complex, church and priory, is referred to as the *Venerabilis ecclesia et conventus S. Marcelli de Urbe Ordinis Fratrum Servorum Beatae Mariae Virginis*. The parish of San Marcello was suppressed on March 19, 1909. San Marcello was one of the most ancient and important “matrix/mother” churches in Rome.



## PROFESSIONS, ORDINATIONS, ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to friars, **Francesco M. Rigobello** (VEN), **Gabriele M. Meccariello** (ANN), **Gino M. Da Valle** (ANN), and **Umberto M. Scalabrini** (PRG) on the fiftieth anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood (April 7, 1969). Congratulations to fra **Edwin M. Roque De Leon** (SMA) on this occasion of his temporary profession (March 25, 2019).

## UNIFAS

### THE ASSOCIATION OF THE “SORROWFUL VIRGIN” *Associazione “Beata Vergine Addolorata”*

The Association of the Sorrowful Virgin was originally known as the Pious Reparation Work in honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary [*Pia Opera riparatrice ad onore di Maria SS.ma*]. In 2014 it was recognized as an “*opera propria*” of Sisters Servants of Mary of Reparation [*Riparatrice*]. The statutes of this association have been definitively approved by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life with a decree dated January 28, 2019. This event is certainly an occasion for praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. It is the result of the renewal and Church inspired experimentation undertaken since 1993 in Brazil, Ivory Coast, Italy and Bolivia. The text of our Statutes was approved at the Third International “*Consulta*” held at Rovigo (October 18-21, 2018). It expresses the identity of our lay associates and their commitment to “living in the world as witnesses of the Gospel and the service of love and reparation in union with the charism of the Servite Sisters of Reparation and the spirituality of the Servite Family.”

The understanding and promotion of this Association involves formation and growth among lay people as lovers of a characteristically Marian spirituality who “express their life in a spirit of service and communion of life;” they express the values of our charismatic Family – values that reflect all genuine evangelization.