

Familia Comboniana

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE COMBONI MISSIONARIES OF THE HEART OF JESUS

775

June 2019

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Holy Redeemer Guild

June	01 – 07 ER	08 – 15 LP	16 – 30 P
July	01 – 15 KE	16 – 31 M	

Prayer intentions

June – That the small steps towards opening between the Vatican and the People's Republic of China may help to increase the understanding and respect of the government towards all Christians living in China. *Lord hear us.*

July – That in moments of loneliness and difficulty we may feel the presence of the Lord and succeed in making these situations into occasions of closeness and listening to his Word so as to become light and hope for the whole world. *Lord hear us.*

First Professions

COTONOU (Bénin) (13) – 4 May 2019

Sc. ABONGA MAZOLIA Jean-Marie (CN)

Sc. BOUZOU Theo-Gracia (RCA)

Sc. DANGNINOU Codjo Constantin (TB)

Sc. DJIMINI Hermann Mahunan (TB)

Sc. EKLO Honyo Kossi V. Celestin (T)

Sc. MAKANGA YAOFANGOLA Joseph (CN)

Bro. MBOLIPATILANI MITEHINDULE Jean Bosco (CN)

Sc. MUHINDO KAPANZA Lwanzo (CN)

Sc. MUHINDO MUHIWA Fiston (CN)

Sc. OCLOO Komla Elisée (T)

Sc. OLENGA KALONDA Dieudonné (CN)
Sc. TAWIAH Emmanuel Essou Kwaw (TG)
Sc. ZIDA Koffi Magloire (T)

XOCHIMILCO (Mexico) (6) – 11 May 2019

Sc. CHÁVEZ Ixchacchal Mynor Rolando (PCA)
Bro. GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ Pedro Enrique (PE)
Sc. GONZÁLEZ ROBLEDO José Rodrigo (M)
Sc. ORTEGA RAMOS Salud Eduardo (M)
Sc. RAMÍREZ MENDOZA Kristeller (M)
Sc. YBAÑEZ Joevin Sebogero (A)

LUSAKA (Zambia) (8) – 4 May 2019

Sc. AWANGE Bernard Amolo (KE)
Sc. KOMAKECH James Kenyi (SS)
Sc. LEMESSA Mintesnot Simeneh (ET)
Sc. LIKONYE Emmanuel (MZ)
Sc. MASANJALA Hendreson (MZ)
Sc. MATIKI Herbert (MZ)
Sc. MWANGI Samuel Ngugi (KE)
Sc. SSABAYINDA Yuda (U)

NAMPULA (Mozambique) (4) – 25 May 2019

Sc. JONASSE Seventine (MO)
Sc. GIL Fernando (MO)
Sc. SAMUEL Miguel (MO)
Sc. SIMIÃO Ernesto Noventa (MO)

TOT. 31

Perpetual Vows

Sc. Dansou A. A. A. (Achille) (T) Lomé (TG) 01/05/2019

ITALY

GIM: 50 years old... and doesn't show it

About fifty years ago, a small group of Combonis, in Venegono Superiore, in the north of Italy, started a new approach to youth and vocations ministry which they called GIM: *Giovani Impegno Missionario* (Youth Involved in Mission). Soon afterwards, the Comboni Sisters and then the Secular and Lay Combonis followed suit, creating teams and, little by little, creating their own GIM methodology. Some of the GIM animators are well known.

It was a completely different experience from the vocations promotion carried out up to then, placing it in the broader context of service to youth and the local Church: a journey of missionary spirituality to help young people choose their way of life. The missionary and Comboni vocation has always been presented clearly and considerable results were obtained by way of vocations (Comboni Missionaries, Comboni Sisters, Secular and Lay Comboni Missionaries).

During their journey with the GIM, young people are accompanied personally with a view to vocational discernment.

When the experience began, one of the things that caused consternation was the fact that boys and girls formed part of the same group. In those times, it was a prophetic and almost scandalous gesture. There has also been an abundance of prophetic initiatives during the past fifty years: national GIM conventions, caravans, summer camps in Italy, Albania, Europe and in our missions in Africa and Latin America.

This Golden Jubilee is not seen as an exercise in nostalgia for former glories (the number of young participants is now very low, but not their quality) but rather as an opportunity to help those Italians who joined the GIM in the past, to meet together under a new impulse. We listened to the life testimonies of people for whom the GIM was a launch-pad for their choice of the mission, service, politics or alternative information, so as to be a stimulus for the times we live in.

It was decided to celebrate the Jubilee in Bari, in the south of Italy, in the region of Puglia, where there are many challenges but also many daring Christian and non-Christian responses. The young people placed themselves face to face with serious situa-

tions – the mafia, illegal labour, trafficking of women and pollution of the environment – and with the responses of committed groups. It would have been irresponsible to omit an encounter with the spirituality of Bishop Tonino Bello who continually challenges the youth. Speaking of challenges, Mons. Pino Caiazzo, Bishop of Matera, a pastor who knows how to talk to young people, and who bears the marks of his encounter with the mafia, gave a moving testimony.

It was a great honour to celebrate the Eucharist with missionary symbols and led by Fr. Alex Zanotelli, in the beautiful cathedral of Bari, where we were happy to penetrate its solemn atmosphere with our youthful and missionary enthusiasm!

Unfortunately, the rain prevented the concert by Fr. Fabrizio Colombo & Band being transformed into a great public meeting in the busiest part of the city. Our young people had it all to themselves and they lived it to the full.

Full steam ahead, GIM! There is still much work to be done!

Clandestine minerals on display

For two months our house in Brescia hosted a display of “*clandestine minerals*”. Attendance was good, especially among students, with over 800 visitors. The display was accompanied by interesting videos showing the different sorts of minerals – coltan (used in mobile phones), cobalt (batteries for electric cars), tungsten, tin, gold, etc. – and especially those who work mining them: many are children as young as eight who work very hard in unsafe conditions and for a mere pittance.

The visitors were amazed to find out about things people hardly ever speak of, situations of violence, injustice, child labour and illegal workers, etc. Head of the list is the Congo which provides 80% of world supplies of coltan and cobalt.

The display is available from the African Museum in Verona.

ACSE Jubilee

Celebrations for the ACSE Jubilee are continuing in Rome. Following the successful encounter between Fr. Zanotelli and Mimmo Lucano at the church of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Roma, introduced by the Auxiliary Bishop of Rome, Mons. Lojudice, recently appointed to Bishop of Siena, on 18 May there was a per-

formance by the ACSE "Rome University" choir in the ancient and beautiful church of St. Agata dei Goti. The concert included African and classical songs.

On 23 June there will be an ACSE celebration at the Comboni EUR Generalate: a conference by Fr. Giulio Albanese, Mass in the Congolese rite, dinner, films, etc. Colleagues, volunteers, migrants and friends are among those invited.

KENYA

Caring for creation – Administration and responsibility

David Platt once said "The desire to proclaim the glory of Christ to the ends of the earth must involve not only how to declare the Gospel but also how to demonstrate it visibly". This surely demands the radical evangelical testimony of the values that belong to it. Evangelical testimony, therefore, goes beyond merely announcing the Word; it must also involve the attitudes and responsibility of each person towards material goods.

It is this conviction that moved the General Secretariat for Finance to organise a workshop on the theme "Caring for creation – Administration and responsibility ", which was held from 13 to 18 May at the New People Media Centre in Nairobi. It was attended by scholastics and Brothers, some confreres of the province and the provincial bursar of Peru. The workshop was intended to increase the sense of responsibility of the participants in fundraising and in the administration of goods as well as to present the principles that guide good administration and book-keeping. The theme was approached from various angles: Canon Law, the Rule of Life, the Code of Conduct and the "Banana" programme, to mention but a few.

The experience was very formative and encouraging. It provided those of us working in basic formation with those fundamental elements so necessary for bringing together good administration and witness to evangelical poverty. The participatory presentations really did increase our sense of responsibility but also our feeling of belonging to the Comboni Family and reinforced the conviction that it is possible to be happy with just a few things in a world with abundance but never satisfied.

The valuable knowledge gained during the workshop challenged those who participated to continue to deepen their reflection on the responsible management of the material goods we have at our disposal, so that our witness as light and salt of the earth may be clearly seen in the most difficult fields of our ministry. (*Sc. Christopher Silwembe*)

MÉXICO

Religious Profession

On 11 May, the continental novitiate of Xochimilco enjoyed a day of celebration. Six novices from Mexico, Guatemala, the Philippines and Peru made their first religious profession, consecrating their lives to God for the mission in the Institute of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus.

The ceremony began at eleven o'clock in the morning at the novitiate chapel in the presence of a large gathering of priests and confreres including Fr. Alcides Costa, General Assistant, Fr. John Baptist K. Opargiw, General Secretary for Formation, Fr. Víctor Hugo Castillo Matarrita, Provincial of Central America, Fr. José Francisco Martín, Provincial of Peru, Fr. Enrique Sánchez G., Provincial of Mexico and those who were taking part in the Continental Assembly for Formation that was then being held at the provincial house.

The novices Ixchacchal Mynor R. Chávez, Pedro Enrique García H., José Rodrigo González R., Kristeller Ramírez M., Salud Eduardo Ortega R. and Juevin Sebogero Ybañez were surrounded by many family members and friends who had come to accompany and support these young religious as they demonstrated their desire to devote their whole lives to the mission.

During the celebration the provincial, Fr. Enrique Sánchez G. echoed the words of the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading, and invited the novices to live out the gift of their vocation, accepting it as a special grace that God had reserved for them from all eternity. He exhorted them to live out their consecration radically and responsibly, always bearing in mind that the mission is God's and he will always be the protagonist in the journey which they, as consecrated people, are now called to live out with all their hearts.

Concluding his homily, he reminded them of the need to continue to grow in Comboni spirituality, allowing the presence of Comboni on their journey to be a source of inspiration and confidence.

When Mass was over, all those attending – the entire Comboni family, the relatives of the newly-professed and a number of friends of the novitiate – continued the celebration into the afternoon, enjoying the traditional music of the maracas.

At the end of the day we were all happy and grateful to God for the grace of these Comboni Missionaries who will continue their mission in the various scholasticates and centres of formation for Brothers to which they have been assigned.

Let us ask Comboni and Our Lady of Guadalupe to accompany each of the newly-consecrated and to grant them to live each day the joy of the mission. (*Fr. Enrique Sánchez G.*)

PORTUGAL

A time for celebrations

The feast of our Comboni relatives was held on 28 April in Viseu, in the presence of around 150 people including relatives and missionaries. Bro. António Nunes (South Sudan), Fr. Luís Filipe Dias (Brazil) and Fr. Filipe Resende (Kenya) who recently returned to the province, shared their missionary experiences. The Provincial presented the state of the life of the province. Mons. António Luciano Costa, Bishop of Viseu, presided at the Eucharist. After a fraternal meal, a concert of classical music, open to the public, was held in the chapel of the missionary seminary.

The former Comboni students celebrated their annual gathering at the missionary seminary of Viseu on 4 May where they met with friends of their childhood and youth. Those present numbered 92 between students, parents and Combonis. The meeting was in honour of the students of the class of 1969 and they turned out in numbers. The Provincial presented the state of the Province and Fr. Fernando Domingues – who joined the minor seminary in 1969 – presided at the Eucharist and gave his testimony. There was also a presentation of a book of poetry (a percentage of the profits is to be sent to Mozambique to help the victims of Cyclone Idai) and the participants donated two scholarships.

Retreat for the Comboni Family

About forty members of the Comboni Family (Comboni Sisters, Comboni Seculars and Comboni Missionaries) took part in a common retreat at Leiria from the evening of 20 May to lunchtime on 25 May. The CLM theologian Susana Vilas Boas directed the spiritual exercises which had as their theme “A heart that beats for the mission”. Susana Vilas Boas worked for five years in the Central African Republic and teaches at the Portuguese Catholic University.

SPAIN

Comboni Family Assembly

On 11 and 12 May the V Annual Assembly of the Comboni Family was held in Madrid. About thirty missionaries of the four different branches – Comboni Sisters, Comboni Seculars, Comboni Lay Missionaries and Comboni Missionaries – met to reflect upon the theme of the Shared Mission.

The shared mission is a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and is not to be confused with a passing fashion or an improvised solution. It is an ever clearer understanding of the universality of the foundational charisms which cannot be monopolised by any one group but must be lived out by all of them: laity, religious and seculars, with neither confusion nor exclusion. All the charismatic Families of the Church are invited to take part in this process of a shared mission, not simply by “making room for the laity” or by the pragmatic “sharing of roles”, but as a journey of authentic communion. In the case of the Comboni Family this continually developing process is going ahead in different areas of the world with varying degrees of success. We all draw water from the same well of the Gospel and the same spirituality of Saint Daniel Comboni and make missionary these sources relevant and alive by being ourselves missionary.

The Assembly was led by Belén Blanco Rubio and Juan García Callejas, from the national CONFER team, who work with various religious families to reawaken and promote the spirit of a shared

mission. We also took some time to speak of the different activities in which we are engaged.

IN PACE CHRISTI

Fr. Pietro Coronella (02.07.1936 – 04.05.2019)

Fr. Pietro was born in Casal di Principe (Caserta), in the diocese of Aversa, on 2 July 1936, the fourth in a family of eight brothers and two sisters. At the age of twelve he entered the minor seminary at Aversa and later moved on to the major seminary in Salerno. When he had finished secondary school, he decided to become a missionary.

After joining the Combonis, he took his first vows in Gozzano on 9 September 1958 and perpetual vows in the Venegono scholasticate on 9 September 1960. He was ordained priest in Milan on 16 March 1961.

In September 1963, he was appointed to Sudan, and the school of Khartoum North, as a teacher. In 1965 he went to Wad Medani as curate in charge of Kosti where he moved a few years later to be the superior and parish priest.

We read in a page dedicated to him in the book by Fr. Giovanni Vantini, *La missione del cuore*: “He visits the groups of Christians in the city and in the nearer villages. He was assisted by the catechist David Kilonga. In 1971, in Redif, the poorest quarter, Fr. Coronella opened a school for three classes. Industries were springing up around Kosti and soon groups of Christians were formed there too. Fr. Coronella travelled unceasingly: he rented one or two houses in Dueim, Gebelein and at Tendelti. The number of Christians from the south was continually increasing. In 1972 Fr. Coronella initiated and pursued for a whole year an application to obtain some land, a plot of 10,000 m² in the Qoz quarter. He was given reason for optimism but when it came to signing the document, the plot had been reduced to 5,400 m². Bro. Girolamo Fortuna constructed all the buildings and, on 22 April 1973, the Apostolic Nuncio laid the foundation stone of the church”.

In 1974, Fr. Pietro was recalled to Pesaro in Italy where he stayed for three years as local superior and responsible for mission promotion.

Back in Sudan, in 1977 he was appointed rector of the minor seminary of St. Augustine and superior of the community of the Khartoum Welfare Centre and, later, parish priest of Omdurman. He stayed in Khartoum up to 1989 when he returned to Italy for a further three years and was sent to Casavatore.

“I have come back – he wrote to the readers of *Azione Missionaria* – not without great nostalgia for the Sudan where I spent almost 25 years of my missionary life. I was ordained priest in 1961 and, after a year of pastoral ministry in Italy, four of us set out by boat from the port of Naples for Lebanon where we did a course of Arabic with the Jesuit. A year later we were told by our superiors to proceed to the mission of Sudan. Many missionaries had preceded us along the Nile and many had sacrificed their lives ... Now that we have come back, we feel the urgent need to devote our missionary service also to the Churches we once left behind”.

Fr. Pietro again left Italy for the Sudan in 1994 and worked there until 2010.

He returned to Italy for health reasons and joined the Lucca community where he spent a year in mission promotion. He then went to Milan. In 2015 he went to Castel d’Azzano and the Bro. A. Fiorini Centre, where he passed away on 4 May 2019, having spent about ten days in intensive care. He was 82 years old.

His requiem Mass was celebrated on Tuesday 7 May, and on the following day he was buried in his home town, Casal di Principe. The funeral ceremony was led by Fr. Carlo Plotegheri who had known Fr. Pietro in the Sudan. He described him as “an intrepid missionary of many talents: this was why he was often sent to open new missions or to rejuvenate weaker ones. The parish of Omdurman later gave birth to five more, the fruit of his labours and his dedication. In Omdurman he started many prayer centres: there were eighteen of them at one point”.

We will conclude with the words of Fr. Rino Rufini who knew him in Sudan and accompanied him during his final years at Castel d’Azzano: “Fr. Pietro was a great missionary. His name should be written in capital letters. He engaged many people to help him with his missionary works. If I should depict him as a missionary, I would use the image of a comet. He is in the lead, followed by countless benefactors. Thanks to their generosity, he was able to accomplish many works of charity”.

Bro. Hermann Engelhardt (16.12.1944 – 06.05.2019)

Hermann was born at Laudenbach/Baden-Württemberg on 16 December 1944. His elder brother Franz (who died young in South Africa), was a student at the minor seminary of the “Missionary Sons of the Sacred Heart” in Bad Mergentheim. Hermann also joined the same seminary in 1956. On completing four years of secondary school, he decided to become a missionary Brother. In 1960 the Institute had just bought a farm outside the city of Palencia (Spain) to maintain the minor seminary of Saldaña, opened that same year. A group of four Brothers was assigned to the new foundation. Hermann joined them as a postulant Brother. Early in 1962 he returned to Germany to start his novitiate on 2 February in Josefstal. He ended the novitiate and took first vows on 2 February 1964.

After the novitiate, Hermann attended technical school in Ratisbon where he studied agriculture, alternating lessons with work, and also did a course in a nursery in Neumarkt/Baviera.

Having finished his professional studies, he returned to Josefstal where he was in charge of the garden from 1966 to 1973. On 2 February 1970 he took final vows.

After a brief spell in Mellatz, in 1974 he was transferred to Brixen where he again worked as a gardener. He left for the mission of South Africa in 1976. Bro. Hermann worked not only in the gardens. He had an open and pleasant personality and so was appointed formator and instructor of the group of Brother candidates at Josefstal and later at Milland. He enjoyed the company of young people and they had confidence in him.

In South Africa, his first field of work was at the vast mission station of Glen Cowie where he dedicated twenty-two years of his life. He was soon placed in charge of the gardens and, little by little, he transformed them into model kitchen gardens. He extended these gardens and employed workers whom he trained. He also helped many people to set up their own kitchen gardens, accompanying them with his advice and experience.

In 1999, Bro. Hermann was transferred to the mission of Mount Frère in the diocese of Kokstad. This mission had been assumed by the Combonis to reduce their quite large numbers in the diocese of Witbank. There, too, Bro. Hermann ran the kitchen gar-

dens, involving the people and always helping them. In 2012 the parish of Mount Frère was assigned to the diocese of Kokstad and Bro. Hermann was transferred to the mission of Maria Trost/Lydenburg, the mother station of the Combonis and in the diocese of Witbank, where he again cultivated the gardens. In 2016, health problems suddenly ended his time in South Africa.

Bro. Hermann returned to Ellwangen for medical treatment but he soon realised that his illness would shortly bring his life to an end. In order to render him the best possible care, for the final weeks of his life he was admitted to the hospice run by the Sisters of Saint Anne of Ellwangen. There he died on the evening of 6 May 2019. His remains were interred in the cemetery of Ellwangen amidst the graves of seventy-two other confreres who preceded him.

Bro. Hermann's life was founded on faith, faithfulness to prayer, availability to the community and to the people and joyful service to others. His attention was forever focused on his confreres, his neighbour and their needs. He sought the good of others. His life truly was one of service to God and to mankind. (*Confreres of the DSP/RSA/P. Alois Eder*)

LET US PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

THE FATHERS: of Fr. Francisco Javier Galicia (M), of Fr. Gerardo Sandoval (M); Salvatore, of Fr. Carmine Curci (LP); Primo, of Fr. Gilberto Ceccato (I).

THE MOTHER: Geltrude, of Fr. Fabrizio Colombo (I).

THE BROTHER: Josef, of Fr. Eduard Falk (PE).

THE SISTERS: Emilie, of Fr. Josef König (DSP), Vittoria, of Fr. Giovanni Battista Zanardi (†); Sr. Albina Maria Placida, of Fr. Pietro Settin (I).

THE COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS: Sr. Rosa Maria Barin, Sr. Paola Maria Albrigi.

MISSIONARI COMBONIANI VIA LUIGI LILIO 80 - ROMA
