



Information Newsletter
General Treasury
N° 18 - Roma, 20th July 2012

Dear All,

half-way during the year, I would like to present an update on various financial issues concerning our Institute.

1. European Assembly. With the European Continental Assembly for Provincial Bursars and Procurators, which took place in Rome from 23 to 27 April, we have completed the round of continental assemblies. They had as main objective the review of the document on the Total Common Fund, prepared by the Secretariat General for Finance.
The participants have discussed and agreed on some proposals for the funding of projects. The proposals will be reviewed by the Provincials of the Continent and the General Council.
2. Council for Finance. The Council for Finance met from May 2nd till 5th.
Fr. Vitos Manuel Beco Ancaes joined in the meeting for the first time, as the new representative for the America-Asia group.
The meeting concentrated mostly on the revision of the financial reports from the General Direction and the circumscriptions.
The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 5-7 November 2012.
3. Provincial reports 2011. All the circumscriptions sent in their financial report for the year 2011. The remarks on the reports from the Council for Finance will be sent to the provinces concerned.
The General Treasury will try to draw the Comprehensive Financial Report for the whole Institute, collecting the data from the provinces and joining them with those of the General Administration.
4. Financial Report of the General Direction. During the Consulta of June, the General Council approved the 2011 Financial Report of the General Direction. As usual, copy of the report will be sent to all the Provincial/Delegation Superiors and Bursars.
As it was explained on previous occasions, any confrere has the right to examine the report if he so wishes and can approach his provin-

cial bursar to access it. For reasons of confidentiality, the figures are not published on the *Bulletin* or the Website.

5. Norms for the Provincial Total Common Fund. During the meeting of May, the Secretariat General for Finance reviewed the draft of the *Norms*, taking into considerations the observations received.
The document is now ready for its presentation and discussion during the Inter-capitular Assembly.
6. Projects. During the Consulta of June, it was decided that in future the requests for project funding addressed to the General Council will be examined only twice a year: in March and in October.
The General Council also recommends the respect to the norm 5.1 of the General Directory for Finance, where it says that, in case a confrere presents a project to a province different from the one of his radical membership, the requests "above USD 5,000 have to be sent to the General Treasurer's office, which has the responsibility to consider, approve and send them on".
On this regard, it is specified that "request" means the project in its entirety. It is not allowed to bypass the obligation to ask the consent of the GC by splitting the project into smaller requests below the ceiling indicated in 5.1.
From now on, whoever presents a request for assistance to the GC, has to use the proper formats. They will soon be sent out to the Provincial Superiors and Bursars.
These formats try to gather the relevant information in a synthetic but comprehensive manner, giving special attention to the involvement of the community.
The reporting on the outcome of the project is also considered indispensable and for this purpose another format has been prepared.
In any case, the supporting letter from the Provincial Superior remains essential for the approval of a grant.

7. A new Chart of Accounts. The Secretariat General for Finance has made a great effort during the past months to review the Chart of Accounts.

With the updated Chart of Accounts, we hope to achieve what demanded by the XVII General Chapter: "TCF might include every activity in the budget of the Circumscription: projects, sector, pastoral and community activity and expenses." (AC '09 150.3)

Currently, the updated Chart of Accounts is being tested. Its final adoption is expected in January 2013.

The Chart should simplify the operation of joining the accounts of the General Direction with the ones of the Provinces, in order to obtain a Comprehensive Report for the whole Institute.

8. Software for account. After examining several options, the General Treasury is now verifying a new software for its book-keeping at a practical level.

The software currently tested is called *Banana* (www.banana.ch). It is produced in Switzerland and is already available in at least five languages.

The choice has taken into consideration various aspects: cost, functioning, accessibility and availability of learning tools.

9. Training course for Bursars - October 2012. The course is confirmed. There are 16 confreres registered: 3 brothers and 13 priests. They are sent by the America/Asia group (7), English-speaking Africa (5) and French-speaking Africa (4).



Suakim: the foundations of the old mission

Among the people registered in the course, 9 are provincial bursars, 3 are expected to become, 3 are members of provincial secretariats for finance, 1 is the administrator of a Diocese.

The course includes also a training session on the use of the new software for accounts.



Suakim (sudan): with Fr. Luigi Cignolini

It is only four days since I came back from Sudan. My stay in S. Comboni beloved country ended with two days spent in Port Sudan, from where Fr. Cignolini took me to visit the ancient city of Suakim. On a sun-stricken summer morning, we visited the place where the old mission stood. The area is still our property. What remains of the old building are the foundations of the walls (see photo). Meanwhile, an internationally funded project is reconstructing the most important monuments of the city, even though with little care for the preservation of the original forms and shapes.

My instinct would push me to try to reconstruct the old mission right away. It would be nice, but for the time being we wait for more refreshing times.

Best wishes for your work and, for those who can afford it, a very restful holiday.

Fr. Claudio Lurati
General Treasurer