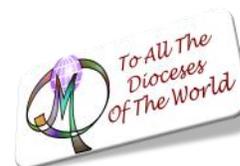


ASIA MISSION AD GENTES BULLETIN



No. 23, December 2012

Names of Yesterday

Dear Brothers, Lay Marists and Volunteers,

Christmas is a beautiful word. It normally brings to mind, images and experiences of tenderness as well as warmth, reassuring thoughts and moving religious sentiments and experiences. However, such a picture risks making us nostalgic and tying us to the past. The places, persons, local churches surrounding and welcoming us in the different places of AMAG, offer a unique opportunity to look into the wonder of the mystery of Christmas with new eyes and hearts.

Rabindranath Tagore, the great Bengali poet, puts it this way, "Do not say 'It is morning' and dismiss it with a name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a newborn child that has no name". The question is, "What shall I call this year's Christmas?"

As wisdom is known by its works, new vital names that define the depth of our own persons and show the way to deep transformations are

likewise to be found in simple, basic actions: a word of joy to the person I find difficult to communicate with; the gift of time to listen and share with people who are feeling lonely and isolated in my community and neighbourhood; an act of fraternal service spending a good deal of time trying to cook something new for my community or cleaning a corner of the house. Or, if one hears the Spirit calling one's heart to do something beautiful (like Teresa of Kolkata) perhaps for the first time: kneeling down in the street next to the poor and sharing food and money with them, embracing them as a gesture of deep compassion and communion in suffering!

Who knows, when we allow the spirit of Christmas to blow firmly into our hearts, we might be surprised. An open heart can free us from the boredom and insignificance of going through Christmas and calling it with the names of yesterday!

Be open, and have a have a Merry Christmas!

Your Brother,

Luis.



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ORDINARY COUNCIL MATTERS

The AMAG Council had its second annual face-to-face meeting of year 2012. Luis, Juan C, Canisio and Alex were present at the meeting that took place at Lat Kraban (Camillian Center), near Bangkok. Br Michael had the painful experience of having his passport stolen just a couple of days before the meeting, so he could not join us in person. However, he was able to participate in all our sessions via Skype and provided excellent secretarial work. Br Joe McKee, our Vicar General and delegate of Br Emili for the AMAG Sector, joined the meeting as well. After three days of reflection, we met for the Ordinary Council meeting on 3 December 2012.

Summary:

Sector Council Meeting, 3 December 2012

1. Br Eugenio Sanz has been appointed the Interim Project Coordinator for West Bengal and Bangladesh (until July 2013).
2. MoUs are being developed for Br Miguel V (with MAPAC) as well as for Br Canisio and the novices (with the Province of East Asia).
3. Br Roberto M has been appointed the Community Econome (CHN) for three years.
4. Christine K has been appointed the Community Finance Manager (CHN) for three years.
5. Br Cesar H has been appointed the Sreemangal Community Econome for three years.
6. Br Juan C has been appointed the Director of the Orientation Course in Phnom Penh from 15 March to 15 May 2013.
7. Br Luis has been appointed the Sub-director of the Orientation Course in Phnom Penh from 15 March to 15 May 2013.
8. Neiva Hoffelder has been appointed the Finance Manager of the Orientation Course in Phnom Penh from 15 March to 15 May 2013.
9. The Dragon Community (CHN) has been given permission to purchase a second-hand van.
10. The Talit Project proposal regarding the allocation of donated funds has been approved.
11. The orientations for the 2013 Community Life Plans draft, with a few adjustments, have been approved for implementation.
12. Names of the Preparatory Committee for next year's Assembly were approved for consultation with those concerned regarding their willingness to accept their appointments.
13. The consultation process of the appointment of the new sector Superior was recommended to the General Council.
14. The Hong Kong credit card option will be continued.
15. Community budgets have been recommended for approval by the General Council with a couple of adjustments to be made in CHN due to community changes.
16. Repairs and rental of an additional house for the Postulancy in Davao has been approved in principle.
17. The financial contribution for the operation of the FMSI-Asia desk in Bangkok was approved.
18. The proposal that second-year novices from the AMAG Sector do their community immersion within the Sector was approved in



principle.

19. The Formation Commission's proposal to have their face-to-face meeting in Phnom Penh in late April 2013 was approved. A representative from Vietnam will be invited to join the meeting.

20. Brs Pepito and Canisio will join the meetings of the Province of East Asia Formation Commission if invited.

21. Br Peter Rodney has been confirmed as the facilitator of the Constitutive Assembly.

Supplementary Meeting: 7 December 2012

22. Br Ismael V has been appointed the interim AMAG representative to the Asia Regional Lay Sub-committee.

The next Council meeting will be an audio conference on 29 December 2012. It would be appreciated if any items for consideration could reach the Sector Superior at least one week before the meeting, supported by documentation, if necessary.

2013 COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECTS

Recently, I e-mailed all Community Superiors a copy of the orientations and support materials to help communities to produce their respective 2013 CLP. I encourage communities to take ONE FULL DAY or TWO

DAYS away from the community house to work on the 2013 CLPs. Community Superiors are reminded that the 2013 CLPs are to be e-mailed to Br Luis not later than 31 December 2012.



STUDY OF THE TWO DOCUMENTS ON AMAG PROJECTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

"GUIDELINES FOR THE CHOICE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AMAG MISSION PROJECTS"

and

"SUSTAINABILITY: MARIST PROJECTS, INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES AND SECTOR"

are to be studied in community throughout the month of January 2013. I am asking Community Superiors to organise at least TWO meetings for this purpose.

Two questions to be shared in community:

What should be changed in this document?

What should be added to this document?

It is important that everyone reads the documents and prays over them in preparation for the community sharings and discussions. Proceedings of these community meetings are to be e-mailed to Br Luis not later than 31 January 2013.

With the help of these proceedings, the Spirituality Commission will produce the final draft of both documents that will be submitted to the AMAG Council. These documents will be submitted for the approval of the Constitutive Assembly in August 2013.



MOVING AHEAD WITH THE CONSULTATION REGARDING THE AMAG SECTOR SUPERIOR

We hope that the General Administration will launch this consultation before the end of January 2013. One of the important pieces of information that will be supplied to all in the process of consultation is the name list of those eligible for the appointment.

The AMAG Statute 5.2.1 reminds us of the following, "The Sector Superior is appointed for three years by the Brother Superior General and his Council, after consultation with the Brothers of the Sector. At the time of his appointment, he must have at least **ten years of perpetual profession**. He may be re-appointed. Only in exceptional circumstances may he be appointed for a third term".

Brothers in AMAG that have less than 10 years of perpetual profession, please send a note to me stating the date (day, month and year) of your perpetual profession. This will make it easier for me to produce the actual list.

Brother Superior General and his Council may decide to include in the lists, names of Brothers, outside of the Sector, who might be eligible for this appointment.

AMAG SUPERIOR CALENDAR

(December 2012 – August 2013)

December 2012

17 - 31: Visit Cambodia
29: AMAG Council meeting (Skype)

January 2013

1-15: Bangkok / Orientation for the FMSE-ASIA Director
5: Assembly Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)
12: AMAG Council meeting (Skype)
13: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)
16 -19: Visit West Bengal
20 - 26: Visit Bangladesh
27 - 28: Joint meeting of Community Superiors (West Bengal / Bangladesh) in Mymensingh (Bangladesh)
29: Joint meeting of all Brothers in Bangladesh (Mymensingh)
31: Fly to Hong Kong

February 2013

2 - 6: Joint meeting of Brothers and Lay Volunteers from CHN and Philippines in Hong Kong
2: Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)
7 - 11: Bangkok
9: Council meeting (Skype)
10: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)
12 - 18: Visit New Horizons (Quoc Oai) VN
22 - 23: Joint meeting of Community Superiors (Thailand / Vietnam / Cambodia) in Pailin

March 2013

2: Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)
3 March - 18 May: Phnom Penh - Orientation Course for new missionaries
9: Council meeting (Skype)
10: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)
30: Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)

April 2013

5 - 6: Marist Asian Conference (MAC) meeting in Nengombo (Sri Lanka)
8 - 16: Visit of Br Joachim Ezeagu (Provincial of Nigeria)



- 13: Council meeting (Skype)
- 14: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)

May 2013

- 4: Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)
- 11: Council meeting (Skype)
- 12: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)
- 15: Orientation Course in Phnom Penh ends
- 16 - 18: Wrap up of the Orientation Course by the Orientation Team
- 19 - 29: Visit Vietnam

June 2013

- 1: Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)
- 8: Council meeting (Skype)

- 9: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)

July 2013

- 6: Preparatory Commission meeting (Skype)
- 13: Council meeting (Skype)
- 14: Spirituality Commission meeting (Skype)
- 20 - 25: Council and Preparatory Commission meeting in Bangkok
- 26 - 31: Annual Retreat for all AMAG members (Hua Hin, Thailand)

August 2013

- 1 - Free day (Hua Hin -Thailand)
- 2 - 6: Constitutive Assembly (Hua Hin, Thailand)

CONCLUSION

Dear Brothers, Lay Missionaries and Volunteers,

Let's make this blessed season of Christmas a time for community building. It may take that extra effort to be of greater service to fellow community members, that word of encouragement, that time of special prayer for the one who might need help, that act of kindness, that better preparation of a prayer or meal. Let us find through concrete actions of love, the new name we wish to call this coming Christmas.



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