



AFRAM ZONAL COORDINATOR
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*"We can't row the canoe fast with one paddle"
(African proverb)*

Coords-Link, November 30, 2009

Dear Fellow Coordinators,

Greetings from Kinshasa. I hope you are doing fine. I have already received some presentations of candidates for some AREA Coordinators but many have not done it yet. I thank those who wrote to their respective provincial and regional coordinators and ask those who have not done it yet to do it as early as possible. Here are some thoughts about Coordinators.

Words of my AZC predecessor Emmanuel Fianu. "... but I believe the way forward is to have a Zonal Coordinator who is convinced of the usefulness of the Zonal structure, someone who is charismatic or prophetic and ready to move along with the system without being easily discouraged by the lack of response from Provincial administrations or the pressures from some quarters to quickly find solutions to problems that may be at their own doorsteps. Someone who is willing to accept criticisms and work through them instead of looking for praises and gratifications. *(Report during the 7th Zonal Assembly 2007)*

The (Area) Coordinator (Qualities)

- He should be someone who is more vested with what is going in the zone
- He should keep contact with all the other coordinators of the zone.
- He should be the point of reference for organizing the networking.
- He should be a liaison between the provincials and the Generalate.
- He should organise coordinators meetings possibly every three years. These meetings should be venues of on-going formation for coordinators

My added comment. For the success of AFRAM Coordination, in our present times, we should choose a confrere who has access to Internet and who cares to write regularly to keep contact with the coordinators of his area, the Zonal and Generalate Coordinators and the provincials, Regionals and mission superiors. Otherwise everything is blocked.

SVD Philosophy House, Lusaka. The SVD Botswana province set another leap in her contextualized initial formation program when Fr. Marek Marciniak, the vice provincial blessed the new SVD Philosophy House and Chapel in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The simple, but colorful ceremony took place on 12, November amidst a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Provincial Fr. Shiju Paul. All confreres from Zambia District, the Provincial council, staff members from St. Bonaventure College where our seminarians pursue their degree in philosophy, and representatives from neighboring religious houses were present for the occasion. The envisioned formation house is to be completed in three stages of construction of which two phases have been completed so far. Bro. Albetus Babu, Frs. Al and Wojciech Szypula have walked extra miles in spite of their teaching assignments at the college to complete those two phases (Word Afflame, December 2009).

AFRAM Novices. The Area Coordinator for Formation, Bro. Guy Mazola has written to provincials for the propositions of the distribution of Novices to our Common Formation Centers and to other countries requesting for African Theology students. This year we have 27 candidates! The last AFRAM Board meeting reconsidered the possibility of sending some of our candidates outside of AFRAM. This was approved by the Execom after consultations with the major superiors.

Ghana provincial chapter. The 2009 Provincial Chapter of the SVD Ghana Province kicked off on 26 th October 2009 and ended on 30th October 2009. In all, there were 36 capitulars present – 20 ex officio members and 16 elected delegates. Many issues were discussed during the chapter. Some of the central themes that came up for discussion were: Vision and Mission Statements, SVD Spirituality, Formation and Personnel needs, Finance and Accounting, Self-reliance, Document on Brother Vocation and Prophetic Dialogue, Proposing a theme and issues of concern for General Chapter, Provincial House at the Castle Drive, SVD contracts with the dioceses, Decision on Tuba Land and a discussion on Tesano Land. (*Ghana December Newsletter*)

VIVAT Meeting. Preparations are on the way for the Vivat meeting in Kenya. Here is an excerpt of Fr. Narciso Cellan's letter to me – the Secretary of the Organizing Committee: "It will start in the evening of Jan 11, 2010 and will end on the 15th. The venue is Dimesse retreat house in Karen, Langata. There will be 7 delegates from the province attending, plus Fr. Romy Cagatin (who is now in Burundi) and you. Ours would be a sizable "crowd" in comparison to the other delegate-groups. Of the eight member-congregations of VIVAT, seven are working in East Africa. We are anticipating between 50-60 participants to show up for the workshop.

- The basic objectives of the workshop are to create networking among VIVAT member-Congregations in East Africa, and, most significantly, to put up a VIVAT core team in the region, which could act as a coordinating body. The choice of Kenya as the venue of the event is not by accident. The presence of UNEP (United Nations Environmental Program) in Nairobi bears importance.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD
AZC