



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

Coords-Link, August 31, 2008

Dear fellow coordinators, here are the news for August I sent to the Provincials, Regionals and Mission Superiors. Many items are also of your interest. Warm greetings!

Formators Workshop. Last July 28 to August 2 we held the AFRAM Formators Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, a district of the SVD-BOT Province. The participants were those working in the Novitiate and in the Pre-Novitiate Houses of Formation. All the provinces were well represented: ANG, BOT, CNG, GHA, KEN, TOG and the region of MAD. Worth noting is the presence of a representative of the Mission of MOZ which signifies its intention to open a formation house in an opportune time. Fr. Thomas Malipurathu represented the Generalate.

The Theme of the Workshop was *"The impact of secularization on religious formation in Africa and the different ways or styles of formation"*. Fr. Gabriel Afagbegee dealt with the topic of secularization. Indeed Africa's youth is no longer isolated as it was years ago. The telephones, the Internet, the Computers and all kinds of Mass Media are opening their horizons and keeping them in contact with the entire world. How can we keep the balance between the changing environment and their rooted-ness to their culture? How to reconcile African traditional values and that of the secularized society? The big "C's" (Christ, cross) and the small "c's" (car, credit card, checks, cell phones, computers, cinema)? The theme on the *"Different styles of Formation"* was presented by Fr. Gothard Rosner, the Provincial of the Missionaries of Africa. He was a long time professor and formator and General of their Congregation. He gave us three models: the didactic model reflecting the institutional model of the Church, the existential model done in small formation communities and the community centered method which puts emphasis on a faith experience in a Christian community.

These inputs have helped the group to deepen the analysis conducted by Fr. Joy Panamthanam and to come out with a common syllabus for the different stages of formation namely the Propaedeutics, the Philosophy / Postulancy and the Novitiate. The real need of developing the human maturity of the candidates in the initial stage of formation has been underlined.

While working together on the syllabus some confreres pointed out that some many of the points have already been taken up during the Formators Workshop for Vocation Promoters held in June 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. In order to avoid repeating what has already been done we saw the need of keeping files and documentations in the formation houses. We are planning to stock these documents in our AFRAM Website: www.svdafram.org Please do make a visit and eventually give some contributions.

Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Omir Oliveira and Bro. Albertus Babu who organized and hosted the Workshop. Congratulations to Bro. Guy Mazola, our AFRAM Formation Coordinator. We are also very grateful to Fr. Provincial Paul Shiju and our confreres in Zambia who had

welcomed us and gave us the possibility to see different places and the amazing sites in Livingston.

AFRAM Area Coordinators. As you might be nearing the end of the tedious task of nominating coordinators and officers of your province let me present to you the elected AFRAM Area Coordinators and their email addresses:

- (1) Formation – Bro. Guy Mazola aframareacoofor@yahoo.fr
- (2) Communications – Fr. Miroslaw Wolodko mirekwolom@gmail.com
- (3) JPIC - Lawrence Kithinji jpiclawrence@yahoo.co.uk
- (4) Biblical Pastoral Ministry – Krystian Traczyk krysvd@svdzimbabwe.com
- (5) Mission Animation – Rolando Reyes rolexsvd@yahoo.com .

Please communicate to them the **names** and **email addresses** of your coordinators. Send copies to the Generalate and to the AFRAM Zonal Coordinator.

AFRAM Area Meetings. The list is very important because most of the Area Meetings and Workshops are scheduled for 2009. These should be preceded by lively interactions among provincial/regional/mission coordinators, the area coordinator, the Zonal Coordinator and the Generalate Coordinator. Time then is running out.

Here are the activities with the latest update:

1. Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) will be held in **South Africa** (instead of Botswana) in February 9-13, 2009. Hosting us is the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Petersburg. It is run by our confreres.
2. Mission Animation (MA) will be held in Luanda, Angola in March 8-13, 2009
3. AFRAM Formation Board Meeting will be held in Nsawam, Ghana in June 8-12, 2009.
4. Treasurers Meeting will also be held in Nsawam, Ghana in June 8-12, 2009
5. Communications Workshop will be held in Zimbabwe. The exact dates will still have to be fixed though it is targeted for October or November 2009.
6. Biblical Pastoral Ministry will also be held in Zimbabwe targeted for October or November 2009.

For the Host Provinces and the sending Provinces please foresee these Workshops in your Budgets.

AFRAM Representatives. Fr. General's Circular letter of August 4 gave the list of participants for the General Assembly on Brother Vocation. Out of the 8 brother candidates and 2 priests candidates 6 confreres were retained (4 brothers and 2 priests). Because of the limited number not all provinces, missions were represented. But those who will go will represent AFRAM and not their respective provinces, regions and missions.

1. Joao Facatino
2. Emmanuel Affum
3. Theodore Kakanou
4. Guy Mazola
5. Sebastian Quadros
6. Zonal Coordinator

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Fraternally yours,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD

AFRAM Zonal Coordinator