



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

Coords-Link, February 28, 2009

Dear Fellow Coordinators,

Africa and Madagascar. The month of February has passed quickly. Unfortunately, despite the intervention of the Association of Churches the duel between the president of Madagascar and the Mayor of Antananarivo still continue. Also worth mentioning is the African football championship (CHAN – Championship of African Nations) held in Ivory Coast where only local players were allowed to play (excluding those who play outside their countries). Congo, Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Senegal made it to the quarter finals. You can imagine what was happening in our Common Formation Centres in Ghana, Congo and Kenya where confreres coming from these countries live together “as one”! The Championship will be soon.

SVD AFRAM. According to the Calendar January 31 was the deadline for the submission of the summary of the answers to the questions formulated by the Generalate concerning the Brothers Vocation. The General Assembly will be held from June 29 to July 12 in Cebu City, Philippines, the venue which happens to be only a few kilometres from my birthplace. I thank all the provinces and region of AFRAM for having submitted their contribution. Thanks too to the youngest Mission, Zimbabwe for participating. The AFRAM ZONE will be sending 4 Brothers representatives: João Facatino (ANG), McDaniel Acquaah (GHA), Théodore Kakanou (TOG) and Guy Mazola (CNG). The priest representative is Fr. Sebastian Quadros (MAD) and I myself will be there as AFRAM Coordinator. The ASPAC Zone sends 10 Brothers and 2 Priests, EUROPE sends 4 Brothers and 2 Priests and PANAM sends 7 Brothers and 2 priests. The Generalate will be represented by Fr. General Antonio Pernia, Bro. Alfonso Berger (General Councilor), Fr. Pio Estepa (Mission Secretary) and Fr. Thomas Malipurathu (Secretary for Formation and Education). God willing, there will be 26 Brothers (70 %) and 11 Priests (30%). The AFRAM collation of the reports has been sent already to the Generalate. I'm sending you in the attached File a copy of it and to the svdafram website.

Mission Secretaries workshop. Thanks to the courage of the Provincial of Angola, Fr. Zeferino Martins and his collaborators the preparations for the Workshop are all set. There was a lively communication between the organizing province, the Area Coordinator for Mission Animation, Fr. Rolando Reyes, the Generalate Mission Secretary Fr. Pio Estepa and myself. All the Mission Secretaries were also alert in responding. For us who still remember the war and the difficulties of having a visa in Angola, this realisation is like a dream. Now all the visas are ready, waiting in the airport of Luanda. To add to God's surprise the Pope will be coming to Angola on the 20th of March. Some of us will have a chance to see him.

FEED-BACKS. We already have two feedbacks from the questions raised in the last UPDATE. We are waiting for more.

From the Mission Superior of Zimbabwe

Our opinions regarding the points you raised.

1. JPIC Workshop: We can discuss about it in the next Zonal Assembly in 2010. There is nothing very urgent to be dealt with immediately.
2. Treasurer's Meeting: Considering the budget constraints and other financial concerns it could be postponed to next year.

3. Communications Workshop: We in Zimbabwe are prepared to host it in November in Plumtree. There should not be any major problems for confreres to travel. We have moderate facilities to host it in Plumtree our Biblical Centre. Please let us know as early as possible the dates if others agree to it. You are all most welcome.

From The Generalate JPIC Coordinator.

In your last letter you ask for the opinions about the AFRAM Zone JPIC meeting. We were discussing here in Rome with other VIVAT member congregations the possibility of a VIVAT workshop in East Africa. With regard to the possible venue we thought of Nairobi, and the date: January or February of the next year (2010). What about having the JPIC meeting in the same place, before or after the VIVAT workshop, with the possibility for the JPIC coordinators to participate in it?

Dear Confreres, please take note of them in your discussion.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD
AZC