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

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**Coords-Link, June 30, 2010**

Dear Fellow Coordinators,

I'm sharing with you what I wrote to our Fathers Provincials, Regional and Mission Superiors,

**CNG Provincial chapter.** Last June 1-3 the CNG Province held its 17<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter with the theme: "Rise up... and walk" (cf. Mc 2,9ff). There were 31 capitulars present with an average age much younger compared to the preceding chapters. It was therefore an important learning process for the future generation of leaders. Five resolutions and ten recommendations were passed the majority of which won unanimous votes.

**Ongoing formation in BOT.** Fr. Sunny John, Mission Secretary of the Province organized a 2-day workshop for brothers and priests who made their final vows between 1990-2004 from 3-4 June in the provincial House, Francistown. It was attended by 13 confreres from Zambia, Botswana and South Africa districts. There were inputs and reflections on community and evangelical councils followed by personal sharing. They pointed out that "one of the things that have been lessening the religious missionary flavour in our lives was the lack of consistent prayer life". (Word Aflame, July-August)

**Year of the Priest.** The Eternal City has welcomed around 15000 priests coming from all the corners of the world to close the Year of the Priest last June 11-19. They gathered to pray, to exchange and listen to the teachings of the bishops and to the Pope. Special mention goes to Fr. Ariel Tampus of Gaborone, Botswana who was among the delegation of all Southern African Dioceses. He reported: "There were forty five priests from the whole of Southern Africa which included delegates from South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, and Lesotho. Our journey started with a tour of the city of Rome... On the last day of our stay, we had the chance to visit the place of St Francis and St Claire in Assisi."

**AFRAM Formation Board.** The 9<sup>th</sup> AFB meeting was held in Kinshasa, D. R. Congo last June 13-18. We discussed on the new document from the Generalate "*Re-imagining the pathways of our common vocational journey*" and pointed out the elements that could enrich the revision of the Handbook of the Common Formation Centers (CFC) which already needed updating. We examined further the project of opening a fourth CFC in Angola for those who want to study in Portuguese language. Moreover AFRAM is willing to send formandi to other countries outside the Zone who appreciate the African presence in their Scholasticate.

Aside from CFCs AFRAM has "common Novitiates" in Ghana for the English speaking and in D. R. Congo for the French speaking. Soon Angola will reopen its Novitiate. Hopefully in the future it could also accommodate other Portuguese speaking Novices. It is interesting to note that all the six AFRAM provinces and one Region have houses for Philosophy and Postulancy programs. The Zimbabwe Mission has already taken steps to restart. Mozambique Mission wants to inaugurate soon its formation program.

One of the dreams the AFB still want to realize is the exchange of Formators in the Zone. Hopefully with determined programming this will come true in the near future. Next year a month's course for future Formators and current Formators who need basic formation is organized in Ghana. As we train more confreres there will be a wider choice of AFRAM Formators.

During our evaluation we saw that all the recommendations made by the previous AFB meeting were implemented though some still need to be retained. We also appraised the implementations of the recommendations given by the Assembly on Brother Vocation (Cebu 2009) in our formation programs. The reports were positive and encouraging.

**Date of Workshops.** Please note that the Workshops for the Biblical Pastoral Ministry and for Communications have been fixed for 19-24 September 2011 in Atananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. We will be lodged in the Theologate and Regional House of Déhoniens' Fathers. The original proposed date was April 2011. It was moved because it falls on the season of cyclones. The provincial/regional/mission (if there is) BPM Coordinators are asked to give their proposals as possible points for the Workshop before October 30, 2010. I hope that a deadline will also be set for the area of Communications. Fr. Sebastian Quadros, the AFRAM Area Coordinator for BPM was appointed by the Regional Council as the principal coordinator of the Workshops. He is at the same time the Vice-Regional of Madagascar.

**MAD, June 26.** Madagascar celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence. Since 2008 the country is facing serious economic and political crises. There is neither legitimately elected president nor approved Constitutions. The people are divided too. Others have refused to display the flag at their windows as they used to in previous years.

**ANG, June 29.** On the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, the patrons of the Province, the Novitiate was reopened. It is situated in Kifangondo, in the Diocese of Caxito, Province of Bengo. The two Novices are Garcia de Sousa Kiangala and Alberto João Domingos Vicente. The Novitiate period is fixed for one complete year (instead of two) as decided by the Provincial Chapter and approved by Rome.

**CNG, June 30.** The Democratic Republic of Congo celebrated its 50th anniversary of Independence. The UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon, the King Albert of Belgium, the King of Morocco and thirteen heads of states, plus other important guests came to participate in the celebration. Whereas years ago we only witness the deterioration of the country, today we can see positive changes particularly the roads and infrastructures. But the majority of the people still live below poverty level. Many would say: "It was their feast, not ours!" Most would rather talk about commemoration instead of celebration. It is a time for evaluation and not so much of jubilation. It is high time to work instead of singing and dancing.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD  
AZC