



AFRAM ZONAL COORDINATOR  
Centre de Formation Commune  
12e rue Limete, Q.I. n° 14  
B.P. 7463 Kinshasa I  
République Démocratique du Congo

Tel.: [00243] 999970721

E-Mail: [aframco12@yahoo.com](mailto:aframco12@yahoo.com)

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

---

Coords-Link, April 30, 2010

Dear Fellow Coordinators, Bro. Rudy, Fr. Mirek, Fr. Sebastian, Bro. Guy and Bro. João,

Greetings from the AFRAM Zone! Here are some news I shared with the Provincials and which I would like to share with you too. If you have other news please be kind to send them to me.

**Budget for AFRAM activities.** September opens the "er" months, announcing the coming of Christmas in December. Your provinces are now preparing the budget for the year 2011. In the last Zonal Assembly (2010) it was unanimously decided that the *"Travel expenses of area coordinators will be budgeted by the their provinces/regions"*. This will apply this time to the Area Coordinator for JPIC, for Mission Animation, Communications and for Formation. The Area Coordinator for the BPM does not travel for the workshop because he is hosting the meeting in Madagascar. Another important clause of the Zonal Assembly concerning budgets for Area Coordinators is this: "Their office needs and materials are covered by the zonal coordination budget". That means the bill for the Internet, AFRAM mails, AFRAM Website, publication of the Workshop report, etc. are charged to the Zonal Coordinator budget.

**Change of Date.** It was noticed that the dates set for the Workshops for JPIC and Mission Animation fall on the Holy Week. A new date is fixed. It will be from **May 9 to 14, 2011**. Kindly mark these dates in your diary and communicate the same to the Mission Secretaries and JPIC coordinators so that they can plan for it accordingly. For your information there is also an AFRAM Formators' course proposed for June 12 till July 9, 2011 (to be confirmed).

**Tentative agenda for Workshop.** I know how difficult it is to get answers from the provincial/regional and mission coordinators concerning the points for the coming Workshop. Please don't get discouraged to "animate" them. I request you to please present a tentative agenda for the Workshop including the points you have already gathered and perhaps even mentioning where the points came from so that others realize that they have not done their contribution yet. Let's put a deadline to all the four areas on **December 15**. I hope this is ok for all of you.

**VIVAT International.** The Board of Directors of VIVAT International whose actual president is our Fr. General Superior Antonio Pernia is planning to organize a Workshop for the Francophone Africa similar to the one held in Nairobi, Kenya for the members in Anglophone East Africa. Hopefully it will be realized in 2011. As you might know other members have joined the NGO founded by the SVD and the SSps: the Spiritans (CSSp), the Oblate Missionaries of Mary (OMI), the Combonian Sisters (CMS), the Combonian Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus (MCCJ), the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC) and the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary (MSHR).

**First SVD-ZIM Mission Assembly.** I had the privilege to conduct the annual retreat of our confreres in Zimbabwe and to facilitate the first Mission Assembly, thanks to the invitation of the Mission Superior Tadeusz Grenda. Both events took place last September 5-11. A few days before that, the mother of Fr. Tadeusz passed away. We present our condolence to him and continue to pray for her eternal rest. He therefore went to Poland to join the family. In his absence Fr. Mateus Ruron took the relay.

The SVD Zimbabwe is the youngest Mission in the AFRAM Zone. It is interesting to note however that the SVD presence in the country goes back to the 1940's! A confrere, as chaplain, accompanied a Gypsy

community who fled Europe and migrated to Zimbabwe. He died in Harare the capital of the host country. For more information you may ask Fr. Krystian Traczyk. Happily he found the tomb of our confrere after a long research. In 1987 the SVD missionaries belonging to the BOT Region (at that time) took over the mission of Plumtree in Zimbabwe situated in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo. As confreres increased in number other parishes were erected until they constituted a district. In January 2008 the SVD-ZIM held its last District meeting in view of its future status as a Mission detached from the BOT Province. Three years later, in September 2010 the first Mission Assembly was held.

It is interesting to see that the three years planning of 2008 has been realized to a great extent. In the 2010 Assembly eleven recommendations have been passed. A good number of new confreres have come to reinforce the Mission. New ventures are projected like extending the Mission from Bulawayo to Harare the capital, reopening of the pre-philosophy program, engaging a lay team for the Biblical Apostolate in Ilizwi Center, expanding the bookstore, initiating the organization of lay collaborators, etc. Zimbabwe has passed over the economic crises and the shops are once again furnished with goods. Hopefully things get still better in the years to come in the country. We hope the same to the SVD Mission in Zimbabwe.

**SVD Friends in South Africa.** The BOT Mission Secretary, Sunny Vattapparayil, shared his joy of the founding of the SVD Lay Association in South Africa. There were about 30 families to begin with. There was a simple but a very meaningful celebration. He said: "I printed an SVD calendar - 2011 to mark this occasion. Each family was given a Vademecum and small prayer cards. We will have the next gathering in November before I go home for holidays. They want to meet as a group once in three months. I hope and pray that this association would grow as time goes on..."

**Contact with AFRAM SSpS Sisters.** The Generalate has responded to our request for more information about our SSpS sisters also working in Africa. The coordinating team is composed of Sr. Mary Laureen Lahnan (Ghana) **Chair-person:** pltssps@4u.com.gh, Sr. Stella Alappatt (Ethiopia) srstellassps@gmail.com and Sr. Damiana, Ludgardis Dani-Bao (Togo-Formator): inadanibao@yahoo.com. Fr. General said: "As you can see, the SSpS are organised on the Zonal or continental level differently from us. And within the SSpS itself, the continental structure differs from continent to continent (for example different designations like "Contact Person" or "Chair-person"). In any case, the Joint Councils would like to encourage you to share information from both sides of the Arnoldus family if even only via e-mail." I hope that we can get closer to our sisters in the Arnoldus family and eventually work together for a common venture. During our VIVAT meeting for example in Nairobi we were happy to meet Sr. Benigilda Ladia from Ethiopia representing the SSpS of East Africa. I know that in our provinces and regions where there are both SVDs and SSpSs efforts are made to enliven our family ties. I hope it can also be true in the AFRAM Zonal level.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD  
AZC