



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

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in re: News after the 7th Zonal Assembly

Dear Fathers Provincials, Regionals and Mission Superiors,

May the grace and peace of the Lord be with you!

A month has already passed after the 7th Zonal Assembly. You must be very busy now, trying to catch up with the time which elapsed when you were out of your respective provinces, regions and missions. I could imagine though that once in a while you look back to the time we were together as a Zone with the presence of Fr. General, Fr. Secretary General and Fr. Treasurer General. The volume of the points which we treated in the agenda showed how many things are of common interest for us. Progressively we engrave in our consciousness what Fr. Emmanuel Fianu exhorted us to do: *"Think Zonal and act locally"*.

While thinking of the future of AFRAM I was trying to imagine ways to arouse and maintain the interest of all the members of our Zone on Zonal matters. Perhaps you can help me on that. What can we do to instill in the heart of our confreres the love for AFRAM? Then, I came across an African proverb which says: *"We can't row the canoe fast with one paddle!"* With several paddles rowing in harmony we can go farther in responding to the actual and urgent needs of the Church in Africa and Madagascar.

Three weeks ago I have sent the Acts of the 7th AFRAM Zonal Assembly to Rome. The General Council will study the document and eventually gives its approval. Special attention is to be given to the amendment of the Statutes that we have voted upon and the different recommendations which came out during the Assembly itself and those coming from the different areas and groups which the Assembly has adopted.

I'm sorry that the AFRAM Contact did not come out last May as was expected in our AFRAM Statutes. The time between the changeover and the dead-line was too short.

Please do send me, as soon as possible, articles (preferably half a page only) from your provinces that would be of interest for the whole Zone. The richness of the Newsletter will depend on your contribution.

Thank you very much! Hope to hear from you soon!

Fr. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD
AFRAM Zonal Coordinator