



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

AFRAM UPDATE 0710, October 31, 2007

Dear Fr. Provincials, Regionals and Mission Superiors,

I share with you this time a summary of the different matters discussed during the meeting of the Generalate and the Zonal Coordinators.

- 1. Zonal Structures.** The General Chapter passed a recommendation (#3.6) to study further the role of the Zone in the Society. Is there a need to add a juridical aspect to the Zone and give administrative roles to Zonal Coordinators? The AFRAM Zonal Assembly has already expressed its opinion: it prefers to keep the status quo, i.e., that the Zone remains in the level of animation. This was also the opinion of the other Zonal Coordinators and the Generalate. On the other hand the Zone could develop more the possibilities of mutual help among provinces, regions and missions. There are examples of expressions of solidarity in terms of financial help and consultations in terms of first assignments. Therefore instead of reviewing the juridical structure it is better to study further how the Zone, in terms of animation, could be helpful to the running of the Society.
- 2. On Education.** The General Chapter passed the resolution 2.6 endorsing to the Society the document "*We give you our Word*" as basis for continuing reflection on the common orientation and guidelines for our work in education. The General Council decided to send the documents to confreres accompanied by guide question for discussion. Last September 7, Father General has sent you both. A document on education has been published in 1981. It would be helpful to read it before you hold the discussions and submit your reports on April 30, 2008.
- 3. Financial support for the Zonal Coordinator.** This issue was raised by the Zonal Coordinator of ASPAC, Fr. Bill Burt, due to difficulties of receiving the annual contribution of the members. The other Zones, fortunately, did not have this problem. Please take note of the contribution to the AFRAM Zone for your next budget.
- 4. Election of the General Council in the next Chapter.** The Coordinator of Europe, Fr. George Fernandes, suggested that prior to elections the Capitulars of each Zone meet to propose three names as their possible candidates for the General Council. They will be presented to the Assembly by the President or the Coordinator of the Zone. While the General Chapter keeps its freedom to elect even those not in the list, this step could give a good orientation in the choice of candidates.
 - During the discussion it was pointed out that Councillors, in principle, do not represent only a Zone. Each one represents the whole Society. Thus the General Visitor may come from any of the Zones. Moreover, our places of origin are not necessarily our places of mission. On the other hand, it is true that in practice, the choice of Councillors during elections take into consideration the representation in terms of Zones.

- A positive point of this proposal is that it may provide a healthy atmosphere to talk freely about “who we are electing” and “why we are electing such a person”.
 - In the end, since the proposal was addressed to the General Council, then it will have to be taken up in the General Council.
- 5. Proposals of the JPIC Coordinators.** The Zonal Coordinators were supposed to gather the feedbacks from the Zones on proposals of the JPIC Coordinators made after the World Social Forum in Kenya. Unfortunately the document seems to have not reached the provinces, regions and missions. It was then recommended that the proposals be discussed in the next meeting of the Zone. I hope that in the meantime our JPIC Coordinators organize some discussions in the Zonal and provincial levels. A question was also raised concerning the liaison with VIVAT and how to work together with it in the level of the Zone.
- 6. Feedback on survey on Lay Collaboration.** In response to the General Chapter’s recommendation 3.3 the Generalate Mission Secretary, Fr. Pio Estepa, sent to the Mission Secretaries a questionnaire to have a better knowledge of the lay groups collaborating with us. Up to that date many have not yet sent back their responses. I hope that our mission secretaries take some time to give some information about lay collaboration in their respective provinces, regions and missions.

Dear Fr. Provincials, Regionals and Mission Superiors,

We are now in the month of November. As was decided in the last Zonal AFRAM Assembly the Executive Committee will meet this coming February in Benin. One point in the Agenda is the distribution of New Scholastics to the three CFCs. If you have any point to be discussed please do let me know.

Please excuse me for the delay of this UPDATE for October (0710). I also have problems of publishing an issue of AFRAM Contact. You can help me if you send me some short news about your provinces, regions and missions. Thanks for your kind consideration.

Fraternally yours in the Divine Word,

P. Xene A. Sanchez, SVD
Zonal Coordinator