

MARCH -2023

NUNTIA



VISIT OF FRS TOMAŽ MAVRIČ AND PAVLE NOVAK TO THE REGION OF RWANDA-BURUNDI



Desde el 12 al 22 de marzo de 2023

The trip began in Central Africa, where they met with some members of the Vincentian Family. Then, they visited Mbaiki and Safa, where Father General had the opportunity to greet the Vicar General of the Diocese of M'ba and to visit the 13 Houses project led by the Daughters of Charity. The day of Tuesday 14th began with the prayer of Lauds led by the Daughters of Charity and then they shared breakfast. They continued the journey to Bangui where they had the opportunity to visit the Daughters of Charity present there. On Wednesday 15th, after the Eucharist and breakfast, Father General spoke with the confreres present there and with some of the sisters. Then they left for the airport to go to Rwanda, where the members of the Regional Council were waiting to welcome them to this country. On Thursday 16, the day began with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Lauds at the Philosophy Seminary in Gahogo, taking advantage of the new chapel, recently completed.





Here the Regional Meeting took place, where the members of the Region presented their works present in these three countries and spoke about the financial situation of the Region, the construction of the formation house and the increase of vocations to the CM. Father General addressed his message, shared some points of the GA and also expressed some aspects and wishes he has for the Region regarding the missionary projection and the expansion of the Region in another country.



During this visit, Father Tomaž together with the missionaries celebrated the 25th anniversary of the presence of the Congregation in Rwanda and they were also able to visit a refugee camp in Mahama, Burundi, where they met with more than 1,000 refugees and shared a meal with some of the poorest members of the community. On the last day of the trip, Father Tomaž visited the Daughters of Charity Seminary in Butare before travelling to Burundi for more meetings with the Vincentian Family.



This visit gave new strength to the members of the CM and the whole Vincentian Family in working with exiles, children, families and all those who for some reason find themselves in vulnerable situations.



CAMEROON



In Bafoussam, around the Visitor, the Council with the Local Superiors of the Vice-Province of Cameroon took place. It was a meeting that falls within the framework of the Visitor's Guide as a formation and information session on the phenomenological, juridical, structural and synodal approaches to the Office of Local Superior.





In his message today, the Visitor reminded the various Superiors that the local community is the place where the Congregation is realised. Charism and spirituality are lived in community; and the role of the Superior is to incarnate and make incarnate the charism and spirituality.

The different exchanges and sharing of the Superiors allowed the Visitor to become more aware of the concrete problems (individual and community) that the Superiors encounter in their offices. He promised them greater proximity to the central administration in the exercise of their office.

In conclusion, the Visitor invited the local Superiors to take more responsibility in making decisions that commit the community; this requires a synodal approach, he insisted. It would also be necessary for the Superiors to appropriate the texts of the Congregation for a synodal leadership; this would prevent our Superiors from being "kingpins".

The Council ended with a Mass of thanksgiving to the Lord, during which the Visitor asked everyone to ask for the grace of shame in order to cry over our indifference and lack of appropriation of the texts, charism and spirituality of the Congregation in the exercise of our different offices.

P. Laurent Georges ZIBI, CM
Office communication Vice-Province of Cameroon



VISIT OF THE ASSISTANT
GENERAL,
FR NELIO PITA



From 17 to 22 March, Fr. Nelio Pita, the Assistant General entrusted with the accompaniment of our Province, visited Saragossa. It was a courtesy visit with the aim of getting to know the Province and to make it available to all of us.

On his arrival, on the 17th, he met with the Visitor and the programme for the following days was drawn up. Naturally, the first thing on the agenda was a visit to the Virgen del Pilar that same afternoon, and Nelio was surprised at the ancient roots of Marian devotion in Saragossa.

The 18th and 19th were spent in Barakaldo and Pamplona. As assistant in charge of the follow-up of SIEV, Fr. Nelio met in Barakaldo with Fr. Corpus, director of the Master in Vincentianism, and with the three missionaries who are still preparing there to teach the subjects. He also had the opportunity to meet with the three theology students and to spend some time with the community. All in all, it was a very full day.

On Sunday, we went to Pamplona, where Fr. Nelio was keen to greet the missionaries in the Residence and to see the facilities. We celebrated the Eucharist with the residents in their chapel and then greeted each one of them quietly. Lunch was an opportunity to spend some time with the missionaries of the Church community. The tasty food was accompanied by the jota sung by Fr. Martín and finished off with a vibrant irrintzi. In the afternoon there was still time to visit the Citadel, Estafeta Street and other points of interest in the city.

On Monday, the 20th, after visiting the Seo, Santa Engracia and the Seminary of San Carlos, where Fr. Nelio was impressed by the constancy of the studies there of St. Vincent, we visited the community of Boggiero with whom we participated in a well prepared and joyful meal to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph.



On the 21st we spent the day in Casablanca. The Provincial Council was convened and the session opened with the presence of Fr Nelio. Each of the councillors presented the activities of the Province in its various areas: Parishes (Fr. Felipe Garcia), Formation of our members and Schools (Fr. Corpus Delgado), Popular Missions (Fr. Mikel Sagastagoitia), Vincentian Family (Fr. Javier Barrera), Honduras and Ethics Committee (Fr. Visitor), Economy and Vocations Ministry (Fr. David Carmona).

There was still time on the morning of the 22nd to visit the Aljafería, which impressed Fr. Nelio so much because he did not expect to see a sample of Arab art so far north. He left in the afternoon with a very good taste in his mouth and very happy with the richness of the visit. For our part, we thank him for his presence and his support.

S. Azcárate Gorri, C.M.

FIRST MEETING OF CLAPVI PROVINCIAL COUNCILS



On 13 and 14 September 2022, the Executive Council of Clapvi met in Bogotá, at the Provincial House of the Vincentian Missionaries of Colombia. They were days of reflection and work, initiating a new triennium of the Conference and projecting where to continue walking together. The fire of the Assembly held in Rome and, later, of the General Assembly, generated warmth and concern for the steps to be taken in the future. Aware that "we are all in the same boat, called to work so that there will be no walls separating us, so that there will be no 'others', but only one 'we', great as all humanity" (Pope Francis), we stopped to look at the road travelled and the many fruits we have gathered in these fifty years of Clapvi's life.

With our eyes full of hope, we came up with the idea of meeting the Visitors and Councils of all the Provinces, Vice-Provinces and Regions that make up the Conference to look together at how we can continue to move forward. We knew the difficulties and the costs, but we wanted to dream about the fruits that such an event could bring. "If we dream alone, a dream remains a dream. If we dream together, the dream becomes a reality", as Fr Tomaž Mavrič often said. We set ourselves a challenging, challenging and challenging goal: "To recover the dynamism of Clapvi as a mechanism of unity, fraternity, integration, updating of the charism and formation among the Provinces of Latin America and the Caribbean". With this slogan we prepared the invitations and sent them to each Visitor and Regional.



From 8 to 12 February 2023, at the Casa de Retiros Buenos Aires, in Chinauta, Cundinamarca, Colombia, we held our First Meeting of Provincial Governments of Clapvi. The convocation was large: about fifty missionaries of the Congregation of the Mission were present, including Visitors, Councillors, members of the General Curia and speakers. The presence of Fr. General and the General Assistants, Frs. Aarón Gutiérrez Nava and Nelio Pereira Pita was also a great joy for all.

On the 8th the different delegations arrived and then we moved to the Retreat House. The spacious place and the kind attention of the hosts quickly made us feel at home and at home. On the 9th we started with the work itself. The method used, as the dynamic of the meeting, was the one already known by all: See, Judge and Act.

Fr. Gabriel Naranjo from the Province of Colombia was in charge of animating the work on this first day from the "Historical perspective and the contribution that Clapvi has made to the Congregation from its theological and charismatic reflection". How was the Conference born? What happened to us along the way? As a witness of its beginnings and collaborator on various occasions, he said that "I wish that this perception of the beginnings of Clapvi would come to the surface and I would let that which I have inside me be seen". The method proposed for these days, Fr Gabriel reminds us, was reinterpreted by Aparecida, especially by the Synthesis Document. "There, 'Seeing' is titled as listening to contemporary voices, 'Judging' as an evangelising gaze, 'Acting' as paths of life, truth and freedom". On the other hand, he reminds us that Pope Francis, in his letter for the Year of Consecrated Life, "takes up this method and speaks of 'Seeing' as a grateful look at the past, 'Judging' as an intense experience of the present and 'Acting' as a hopeful embrace of the future". It is from this perspective that he retraced the path travelled by Clapvi, emphasising different aspects that have given strength to the Congregation in this part of the world.

At the end of his talk, the participants worked in groups and, after sharing their reflections, Fr. Gabriel addressed us some final words, by way of closing, highlighting that "Clapvi can create a new reconfiguration of the Congregation that does not rest so much on the Provinces but on the networks. The future of the Church and of the Communities is going to be more about the networks than about the Provinces". He also stressed the need to speak of a new face of the clergy, especially a more missionary one in the light of Aparecida that responds to the new needs that arise today.



On the last day of work, 11 February, Fr. Guillermo Campuzano from the Western Province of the United States shared with us his reflection on "The revitalisation of the Congregation of the Mission from the reinterpretation of the Vincentian charism in Latin America". A reflection on "the challenges facing our charism in the present time and in the context of a Church that is trying to reform itself from within under the guidance and inspiration of the first Latin American Pope".

Father Guillermo took the opportunity to share three hermeneutical keys that he considers fundamental in the reinterpretation of the charism and the revitalisation of the Congregation. On the eve of the celebration of the V centenary of the Congregation founded by St. Vincent de Paul in 1625, he stressed that we are facing a real opportunity "to discern and intuit where the Spirit is leading humanity, the Church, the Congregation of the Mission. We ask ourselves: where is God calling us, what frontiers must we cross, what walls must we break down, where is God?"

These three hermeneutical keys are: 1) The crisis of discipleship in the Church: the re-foundation of the image of God and of the experience of missionary discipleship in the Congregation of the Mission, 2) The ecological leap of the Vincentian charism in the experience of the Congregation of the Mission, 3) The ethical leap of the Vincentian charism in the experience of the Congregation of the Mission.

At the end of his presentation, and after the reflection of the groups as a result of what was shared, Fr. Guillermo closed by saying that there are various issues that affect the poor that we have to question and we have to ask ourselves "how they are part of our Vincentian agenda, how it matters to us, how it involves us, how it makes us think in another way, for the leap to the common good. We cannot be indifferent, resigned, apathetic or disconnected in our parishes or in the houses where we are".

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič also shared some elements that he considers key for the Congregation for the next six years: "In the next six years, I ardently wish that all these preparations, events, meetings and initiatives will help us personally to revitalize our identity and also to help others to be on fire and in love with the Vincentian spirituality and charism, so that we can all become 'Mystics of Charity' in the 21st century and beyond".

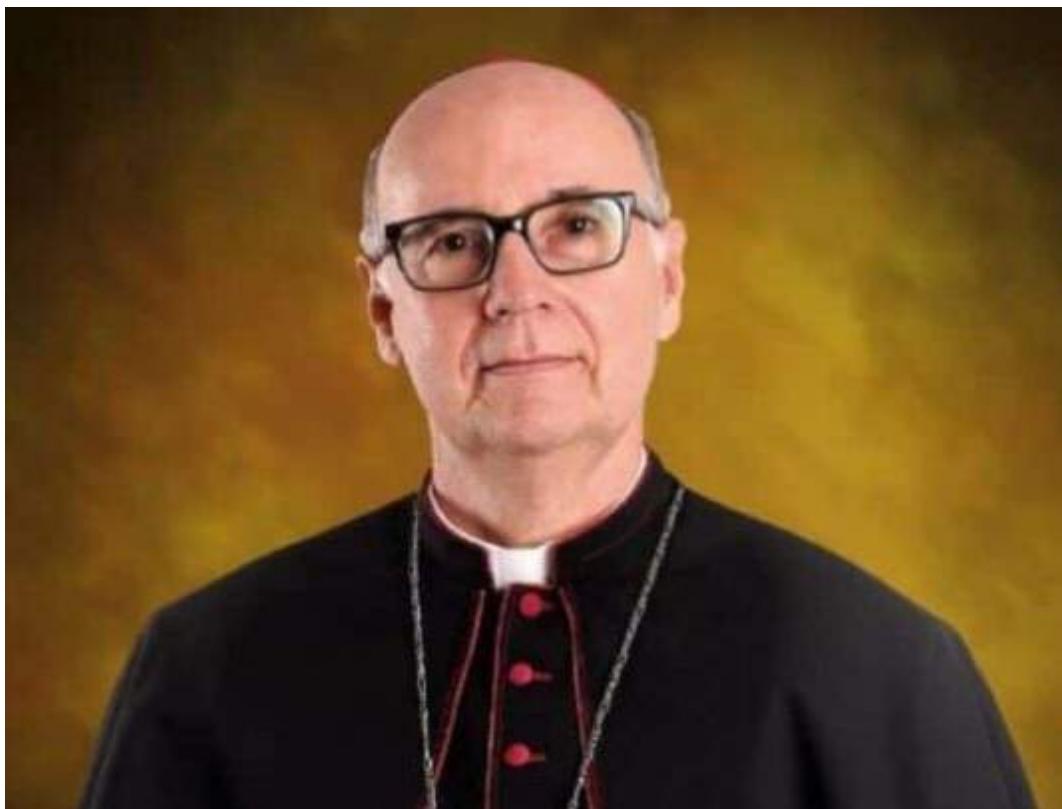
We were accompanied during these days by Fr. José Vicente Nascher, CM, from the Province of St. Vincent de Paul - Spain, who for years had been a missionary in Honduras when the Holy Father appointed him as the new Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, in Honduras, who shared with us that "what the Pope has chosen has been an unworthy member of the Congregation of the Mission and that is because he wants there to be a member of the Congregation of the Mission who is humble, simple, meek, mortified and with zeal for souls. I am convinced that if I live these virtues, and with your prayers, I will be a good servant. I owe everything I am as a priest to my family and to the Congregation and I will always carry it in my heart and I ask you to carry me in your prayers".

The evaluation of the First Meeting of Provincial Governments of Clapvi has been positive. Undoubtedly there are still things to be corrected, but all have expressed to a greater or lesser extent the benefits of the sharing and the meeting. In a way, the General Council has taken this initiative in discussing the priorities to be included in the planning of the current six-year period, proposing that the next Assemblies of the Visitors' Conferences also involve the Provincial Councils, the Provincial Treasurer and the Provincial Secretary, according to a timetable that they have expressed in the last letter of Tempo Forte.

"We are called to be experts in the art of encounter: the synod is not about organising events or making a theoretical reflection on the problems, but about taking time to be with the Lord and to favour the encounter between us, a time to give space to prayer, to adoration, to what the Spirit wants to say to the Church; to focus on the face and the word of the other, to meet face to face, to allow ourselves to be touched by the questions of so many brothers and sisters" (Pope Francis). We make our own these words which reflect the experience lived during those days in Chinauta.

P. Gustavo M. González, CM.
Executive Secretary of Clapvi





NEW ARCHBISHOP OF
TEGUCIGALPA
HONDURAS



"With simplicity we recognise that many things are not in our hands, but we say here are our open hands to achieve together a Honduras in which we can all live with dignity and equity", said José Vicente Nácher Tatay, CM to the faithful in his first homily as Archbishop of Tegucigalpa.





During the Eucharistic celebration, which was attended by the Papal Nuncio to Honduras, Gábor Pintér, and which lasted for more than two hours, Nácher Tatay, CM received the ring, the solideo and the pastoral staff from the hands of his predecessor, Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga.

In his first words as Archbishop of the Church in Tegucigalpa, our confrere stressed that God has made known "his will to the humble and simple, whose concern is not efficiency and eloquence, but truth and charity".

In his homily, he pointed out that we must be humble in order to "always know who we are and what our mission is, and simple in order to always live in his truth, with transparency and purity".

José Vicente expressed very affectionate and sincere thanks to the Honduran cardinal, who was appointed archbishop of Tegucigalpa in 1993, for doing "so much for the local and universal Church" and whom he "unworthily", he added, succeeds as archbishop.

A native of Valencia, Nácher Tatay was ordained a priest in 1991, and holds a degree in Sociology from the University of Alicante and in Philosophy and Theology from the Faculty of Theology of Catalonia.

The new archbishop, 58, wept as he remembered his parents, Vicente and Mercedes, who were unable to accompany him for health reasons, but said that "their affection and their faith are with us". "With humility and simplicity, this is how we want to begin and continue to allow the Spirit to be the one who leads us to evangelise, that is, an archdiocese that is and brings the Good News to the poor, the blind, the wounded, the bereaved," he stressed.

He further affirmed that Christians are "peace-conscious, as Pope Francis has expressed", and therefore believe "in the power of truth, justice, love and freedom as the foundation of stable and integral social progress".





OPENING OF THE DIOCESAN ENQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED MIRACLE OF THE BISHOP OF SKOPJE MGR. JANEZ FRANČIŠEK GNIDOVEC, C.M. (1873-1939)





On 10 March 2023, in the Episcopate of Skopje (North Macedonia), in the presence of Bishop H.E. Msgr. Kiro Stojanov and the Procurator General of the Congregation of the Mission, Fr. Giuseppe Guerra, C.M., the Diocesan Inquiry into the alleged miracle of H.E. Msgr. Janez Frančišek Gnidovec, C.M. (1873-1939) was opened. During the first Session, the Tribunal was constituted with the Judge Delegate, who will preside over the Diocesan Inquiry, the Promoter of Justice, the Notary Public and the Medical Expert *ab inspectione*; the Officers, the Bishop of the place where the miracle took place and the Postulator, took an oath to faithfully perform their duties and to keep the secrecy of office.

Unlike the Inquiry into the virtues, the martyrdom or the offering of life, in the Diocesan Inquiry into the alleged miracle, the collection of documentary evidence is carried out, it is advanced to the preliminary phase, without anticipating the process in its investigative purpose. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the members of the Vincentian Family involved in the preparation of this event. Luigi Canotto, C.M., the Daughters of Charity, Sister Vita and Sister Zina, and all the others who accompanied us during all the stages of the preliminary process of the Inquiry.

In the next few days, the witnesses will be summoned to appear for the examination of their testimony; they will be heard by the Officers, following the questions prepared for the interrogation. Once the collection of evidence is completed, the Investigation will move into its final phase.



We invite all the members of the Vincentian Family to accompany the development of the process with prayer. Also with the following prayer:

Lord, our God, your servant Janez Frančišek Gnidovec (John Francis Gnidovec), out of his love for you gave himself entirely to the service of the poor. Glorify your servant that the Church may raise him to the honours of the altars, so that we too may be enlightened by his example. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



On 27 March 2010, the Holy Father authorised the promulgation of the Decree on the heroic virtues of Janez Frančišek Gnidovec. In view of the beatification, we started the diocesan investigation into the alleged miracle. During his long and fervent journey, Gnidovec matured the desire and decision to join the Lazarists, whom he came to know closely during the missions in Ljubljana. His bishop, Bishop Jeglič, introduced him to them, saying that he had brought him to them to be made a saint. It was 8 December 1919. On entering the novitiate, Gnidovec said to the director who welcomed him: "Now I am yours".

Janez Gnidovec's life continued to be filled with missionary service, prayer, penance, untiring activity even in preaching and confessions. At the end of his novitiate year, he was appointed director of the seminary (of which he was already a spiritual guide) until 1924, when the nuncio Ermenegildo Pellegrinetti, on 30 November in Ljubljana, in the church of the Sacred Heart (officiated by the Lazarist Fathers), consecrated him bishop of the diocese of Skopje-Prizren: a vast territory that included Macedonia, Kosovo and small portions of Serbia and Montenegro.

The new bishop, whose coat of arms bears the motto "I have become all things to all people", is devoted to everyone, without distinction, including the people of Laram, so that they may publicly profess the Catholic faith. Gentleness and tenderness do not abandon him, nor does he spare personal means and efforts.

To attend to the needs of his flock, he works personally, regardless of the long miles to be covered, the fatigue, the excessive cold and heat, climbing mountains, crossing streams, with the very rare and occasional relief of the odd ride on horseback or mule. During his travels he gives away everything he has and, penniless, exhausted by fatigue, he sleeps in the cold.





Many years later, on 22 August 1974, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, on the occasion of her visit to Ljubljana, recalled that in November 1928 (she still had her Albanian maiden name, Gonxhe Bojaxhiu), in Prizren, she had received the blessing and the missionary crucifix from Bishop Janez Francisek Gnidovec, who was her bishop. Under the name of Sister Terezija Bojaxhiu, she became a Missionary of Charity in India (and in the world). Mother Teresa of Calcutta offers a precious memory of the bishop who blessed her departure for the mission on 22 August: "He was a 'saint'. We all considered him as such... When I left Skopje, he celebrated Holy Mass for me, gave me Holy Communion and a blessing, and said to me: You are going to the mission. Give everything to Jesus. Live only for Jesus, let Him be the whole of your life. Now he prays for me and I have an intercessor before God.

A secret and admirable dialogue of charity between saints... In an unconscious competition, they offered their fidelity to the Lord to be only the praise of his glory and the sincere welcome of each brother.

P. Serhiy Pavlish, C.M.
Assistant Postulator General

MORE THAN A HOME:
A 13 HOUSES PROJECT
HELPING PEOPLE WHO
ARE HOMELESS IN
ASTURIAS, SPAIN



HOUSES | MAISONS | CASAS

Billions of people experience homelessness in the world, and its causes and forms are diverse. Therefore, it requires answers that go beyond providing a home but which also include wider and more holistic aspects. For example, the provision of psychological support and the promotion of independent and dignified living.

This is what the Daughters of Charity are doing in Asturias, together with other Vincentian branches (AIC, SSVP and AMM) and two collaborating bodies (Cajastur and Alimerka foundations) with the project: 'Welcoming people who experience homelessness'. This started in February 2020 and is part of the 13 Houses Campaign to respond to the thousands of people experiencing homelessness in Spain.

The aim of the project is to provide a safe home for vulnerable families (often refugees who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness). To date, the project has five apartments: three in Oviedo, one in Gijón and one in Avilés. Based on the charisma of its founder: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' (Matthew, 25:35-40), the project does not only aim to provide a home. In addition, the project aims to offer many tools as possible to support people to live their lives independently and with dignity.

Among the various services offered by the project, there is the provision of food via soup kitchens, and support offered with job searches and residence-permit applications. The families often come from very difficult previous circumstances, and need the time and space to be adequately supported. One of the beneficiaries coming from Colombia to Spain said:



“We lived in an unsanitary basement, in unsuitable conditions, we suffered for the situation, especially for our son. [...] With the support of people from the project team of the ‘13 Houses’, we have had, not only housing but food, basic necessities, the possibility of finding small jobs to move towards greater autonomy.”



Thanks to all these services in place, the apartments are temporary accommodation for families who will be able to gradually gain their independence.



VI CIF FOR THE FAMILY AND VINCENTIAN MOVEMENTS



Dear brothers and sisters of the Congregation of the Mission and of the Vincentian Family:

May the Grace and Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

We continue to invite the VI CIF FOR THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY. Sunday July 2 to Wednesday July 26. Address: 95, rue de Sèvres. Lazarist Mother House. 75006 Paris. France. In this Meeting classes are combined with visits to Vincentian places. We will learn about the rich Vincentian theology. We will look at possible solutions to the problems that afflict the poor. In addition, this year we will give some talks related to Communications within the Vincentian Movement.

I remind you that a Certificate of Participation will be delivered. To register I ask you to write to me at andresmotto@gmail.com The cost is 1950 euros. In an attached file I send you the Program of this CIF in three languages and some photos. Vacancies are limited and registration closes on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. In this formative task we walk together, so I beg you to spread this information. I say goodbye, telling them that we will continue to meet at the CIF, our common home.

Pbre ThD. Andrés MOTTO, CM
CIF Director

VINCENTIAN
SOLIDARITY
OFFICE



Vincentian Solidarity Office

Paving the Way to a Child – Friendly Environment in Ethiopia

The ever-growing Dawn of Hope School in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia now has over 500 students ages 4 to 16. It started as a daycare and feeding program for children from impoverished families. It now provides a quality education to all these children who have no other options for schooling.

One obstacle to education remained until recently. The playground area was unpaved. In the summer the grounds were dusty and in the winter they were muddy. The mud and dust were dragged from the outside into and all over the school. The puddles in rainy season attracted mosquitoes which spread malaria. When the staff and students get sick, they miss school days.

Heavy rains sometimes even flooded classrooms, which also meant missed class time.





Becoming Fishers of Development in Cameroon

We've all heard it many times. "Give a man a fish, he eats for a day; teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime." The confreres of Yaounde, Cameroon have taken this a step farther. They have built a fish farm on the seminary grounds. With it, they will feed the seminary, their city and the surrounding areas for years to come. With the help of a local aquaculture expert, the confreres built 3 large concrete tanks on the premises of the Yaounde Seminary. Their plans include several species of freshwater fish. They hope to produce 6 tons of fish per year.

All of Africa is coming to the realization that fish farming can provide food security and affordable nutrition. Many nutrition experts think fish is a healthier protein source than red meat. In Cameroon in particular, freshwater fish has become very popular since almost anyone can afford it and it is easily transported.

In addition to making the seminary food secure, jobs have been created in the community to maintain the fish farm. The confreres have also partnered with local women who will smoke the fish and bring it to market, generating income for them and their families and contributing to the local economy of Yaounde.

NOMINATIONES

GONZÁLEZ PRIETO José Antonio	25/03/2023	General Director DC
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NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
ALARCON Ferdinand	Sac	12/03/2023	PHI	56	28
MARTÍNEZ BETANZOS Benito	Sac	30/03/2023	CAE	93	73

MOVEMENTS

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