



Annual Meeting of the General Council

Association of the Miraculous Medal

March 26, 2018

Paris, France

Participants:

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM, (Director General); Fr. Carl Pieber, CM, (Subdirector General); Sister Iliana Suárez, DC, (General Councilor), Sister Carolina Flores Moreno, DC, (Secretary); Julio Adolfo Castellanos, (member of the General Council); Nicholas Gibboni, (member of the General Council); Štefan Strieška, (member of the General Council).

The participants were received and lodged in the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity.

The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist which was presided by Fr. Bernard Schoepfer, CM (Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM and Fr. Carl Pieber, CM, were concelebrants).

The meeting then began with a prayer that was offered by Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM.

[1] Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were revised and then approved.

[2] Reports

Fr. Carl Pieber, CM gave the following reports:

Report on the number of members

In the information that has been obtained in recent months, it is obvious that some of the data is not accurate. It is supposed that this is due to a lack of clarity with regard to the distinction between members and committed members.

Therefore, it is suggested

- To review the manner in which the blessing and the imposition of the medal is made so that those individuals who are being invested understand the commitment that they are accepting.
- When investing an individual with the medal, obtain some personal contact information and also provide the individual with a reminder about the commitment is being accepted.
- Members are those who receive a blessed medal and commit to praying the novena prayers daily and wearing the medal. Their name and contact information (perhaps only email address) are recorded and they are counted as members

- Committed members are those who have gone through a period of orientation and commit themselves for life to be members of the Association, say the novena prayers and become involved in some work that directly helps the poor.

It was decided that Father Carl Pieber, CM would send a letter to the National Councils clarifying the distinction between members in name and the committed members. At the same time Father will request that he be sent the number of committed members and the name of the individual providing that information.

Data provided in the annual reports

Father highlighted the fact the most constant ministries of the members are: home visit, care for refugees (especially in collaboration with members of other branches of the Vincentian Family), visiting the sick and distribution of food.

Contact with the National Councils

Father Carl will maintain monthly contact with the National Councils.

National Councils without Statutes

The Councils that do not have approved Statutes will be offered assistance in obtaining that approval.

Video

Our Director General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM, has requested a 5-6 minute video about the Association in order to present it at the next meeting of the Visitors. This video will be developed in Philadelphia and will be translated into six languages.

Countries where the Association is in the process of being established

The following were mentioned as new countries: Laos, Romania, and Belize ... there is also the possibility of establishing the Association in Miami (USA).

Appointment of Advisors

It was recommended the members of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity who have a deep pastoral understanding and an enthusiasm for accompanying the members be appointed as advisors.

When lay persons are appointed to this position, it was recommended that they be accompanied by some religious man/woman. The leadership of the laity should be promoted since the available number of Daughters and members of the Congregation of the Missions is very limited.

[3] Financial Report

Sister Carolina Flores Moreno distributed the 2018 report. She thanked the Econome at the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission for the support that the Association receives in managing their accounts. The information was analyzed and approved.

[4] General Assembly 2020

The General Assembly will be held on November 13-17, 2020 in Mexico City. Father Carl will visit the City in order to organize some aspects of this event.

In addition to the program that has been developed, attention should also be given to the following:

- A session of the General Assembly should be devoted to membership.
- In addition to the individuals mentioned in the General Statutes, to invite to the Assembly persons from those countries where the Association is not established and other persons who are important with regard to the forward progress of the Association
- Include discussion of the following themes: [1] caring for members: do the national associations contact them once a year? Do they ask them about their commitment? Do they invite them to become members? [2] National Associations need to send \$0.25/person to the International Association. This is necessary for the following reasons: (a) it connects them to the other Associations throughout the world (b) it supports the work of the International Association that extends supports and help to other national associations (c) it supports poor Associations in the world who experience war and natural disasters (d) it supports the advancement of the Association in countries where it is not present, (e) it fulfills the obligation and responsibility they took on as a valid association when they entered the international association.

[5] Various matters

The next meeting of the General Council will be held in 2020 at the time of the General Assembly.

The meeting concluded with a prayer that was led by Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM.

Translated:
Charles T. Plock, CM
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