

**The 36<sup>th</sup> General Chapter  
Brothers of the Sacred Heart  
From an American, first-timer's perspective  
(continued)**



**Friday, May 11, 2018**

**Anniversary of the Death of Brother Xavier (William Arnaud),  
Savior of the Institute and the First Brother of the Sacred Heart**

Today, we celebrated the gift of Brother Xavier to the Institute. No, we didn't have cake or ice cream, and we didn't do any singing. We did have a special prayer with a reading from his Memoirs. He was also mentioned at Mass and in the Superior General's opening remarks. For all this, I know he was grateful. Most importantly, however, we honored this first Économe (Treasurer) and "First Brother" of the Institute by spending our entire day on *numbers*, namely *financial matters* and *money*!

Brother Raymond Hetu  
Got things sartered at our first session with a report on the Solidarity Fund named in Brother Xavier's honor. The Fund is divided into two parts, ARNO-A and ARNO-B. (O.K., they're not actually using the correct spelling of his last name but give the General Council

some credit. They tried!) The Solidarity Fund is held in an irrevocable trust. The interest on the ARNO-A fund is reserved to cover such items as initial formation, education of young brothers in developing nations, assistance for projects aiding young people in poverty, and urgent repairs and reconstruction due to disasters in the poorer entities. ARNO-B monies are restricted for aid to entities in financial difficulty and for families of brothers from the developing world who are in need. The General Council monitors the Fund, which was established in 2003, so that it can continue to assist needy provinces and delegations in difficulty, new entities that come into existence, works benefiting the young poor, and brothers' families in need now and well into the future (Ordinance 3, Chapter of 2000). Brother Raymond, as a current and former General Councilor, serves as one of our "protectors" of the Fund. The General Council serves as "Settlor" of the Fund.





Following Brother Raymond’s presentation and a well-deserved break, Brother Omar Andriamahaoka, our General Treasurer from Madagascar, informed the delegates of the financial state of the Institute. The greatest challenge facing the Institute is that the “donor” provinces, i.e., those provinces that have been the main sources of revenue for the General Administration and for projects of the Institute in developing entities, are comprised of members who are getting older, consequently have fewer wage earners, and have many financial obligations of their own. That is, their capacity to continue to produce revenue at the earlier rates and levels has significantly decreased. The “recipient” entities, those provinces

and delegations that are on the receiving side of the ledger, do not have many, if any, ministries which can directly contribute to the support of themselves. Therefore, with assistance from the Solidarity Fund and with some significant support from the donor provinces, the Institute is attempting to build such projects, schools, etc. to help these less financially secure entities become more self-sustaining. Two such projects are the construction of two schools – one in the province of West Africa (AFO) and a second in the Province of Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA). Several provincials from “recipient” entities expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the “donor” provinces.



The assembly recessed for lunch but not before voting at the request of ComCo to resume our afternoon sessions a half-hour earlier to take care of necessary business and thus avoid having to assemble on Saturday. The delegates voted unanimously to assent to ComCo’s request.



The Chapter reassembled at 3:00 PM in Deliberative Session to elect our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Councilors. Brother Alfred Faye, Elections Chair, once again addressed the group to ensure that we were all on the same page regarding election procedures. Brother André LaFlamme led us in the singing of Veni Sancte Spiritu, and we approached our tasks with solemnity. Brother Stéphane-Léon Sané of Senegal was elected third Councilor. Currently the Provincial of Senegal, he was quite emotional as he accepted election and came to the front of the Chapter room to receive the brothers’ good wishes. Others were quite moved, as well. One of the Senegalese brothers, a close friend and Councilor to Brother Stéphane- Léon, had to leave the room because he knew that his Provincial and brother would be leaving the Province, at least for 6 years. It affected several of us.

One more Councilor to go.

Brother Herbert Mangove, a brother from the Province of Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) was elected fourth councilor. The interesting thing about Brother Herbert is that he is not present at the Chapter. In fact, he is currently a teacher at Loreto Secondary School in Gweru, Zimbabwe. Both Brother Augustine, his current Provincial, and Brother Mark, our newly elected Superior General, had to call him in Zimbabwe. The Chapter took a recess as the phone call was made. Augustine and Mark reached him on his cell as he monitored students on the playground in Zimbabwe. As a former Provincial, he is no stranger to the service of authority. From what Brother Mark indicated, he was surprised and graciously said, "Yes!" I happily videoed Brother Mark's announcement to the Chapter that Brother Herbert had accepted, and the assembly gave him a standing ovation.

One of the major tasks of the Chapter is now complete. The General Council is now set for the next six years:

**Brother Mark Hilton, Superior General**  
**Brother Raymond Hetu, First Councilor**  
**Brother Denis Plourde Caron, Second Councilor**  
**Brother Stéphane-Léon Sané, Third Councilor**  
**Brother Herbert Mangove, Fourth Councilor**

It is a strong team for sure!



While everyone was still energized by the election and their results, Brother Raymond Hetu came back to the microphone to lead the assembly in a discussion of what would certainly have brought a smile to Brother Xavier Arnaud's face, a conversation about extraordinary financial powers, i.e., the permissions that are required to spend/borrow large sums of money or to alienate assets/sell property. His clear explanation of the new General rules and his use of real-life Institute examples left no need for further clarification. Gently, but firmly, he reminded each entity of the need to seek the necessary approvals before launching out into new projects, making large purchases, or relinquishing any land to another party.

The Chapter voted on several financial proposals and ended the day in time for everyone to take a quick break before evening prayer and supper. We recessed for the day confident that Brother Xavier would have been proud of our celebration

of his birth to eternal life!

This completed our second full week of Chapter. It has been quite an eye-opening experience filled with more excitement than expected for this first-time Chapter member! I can't wait to see what the next two weeks hold!