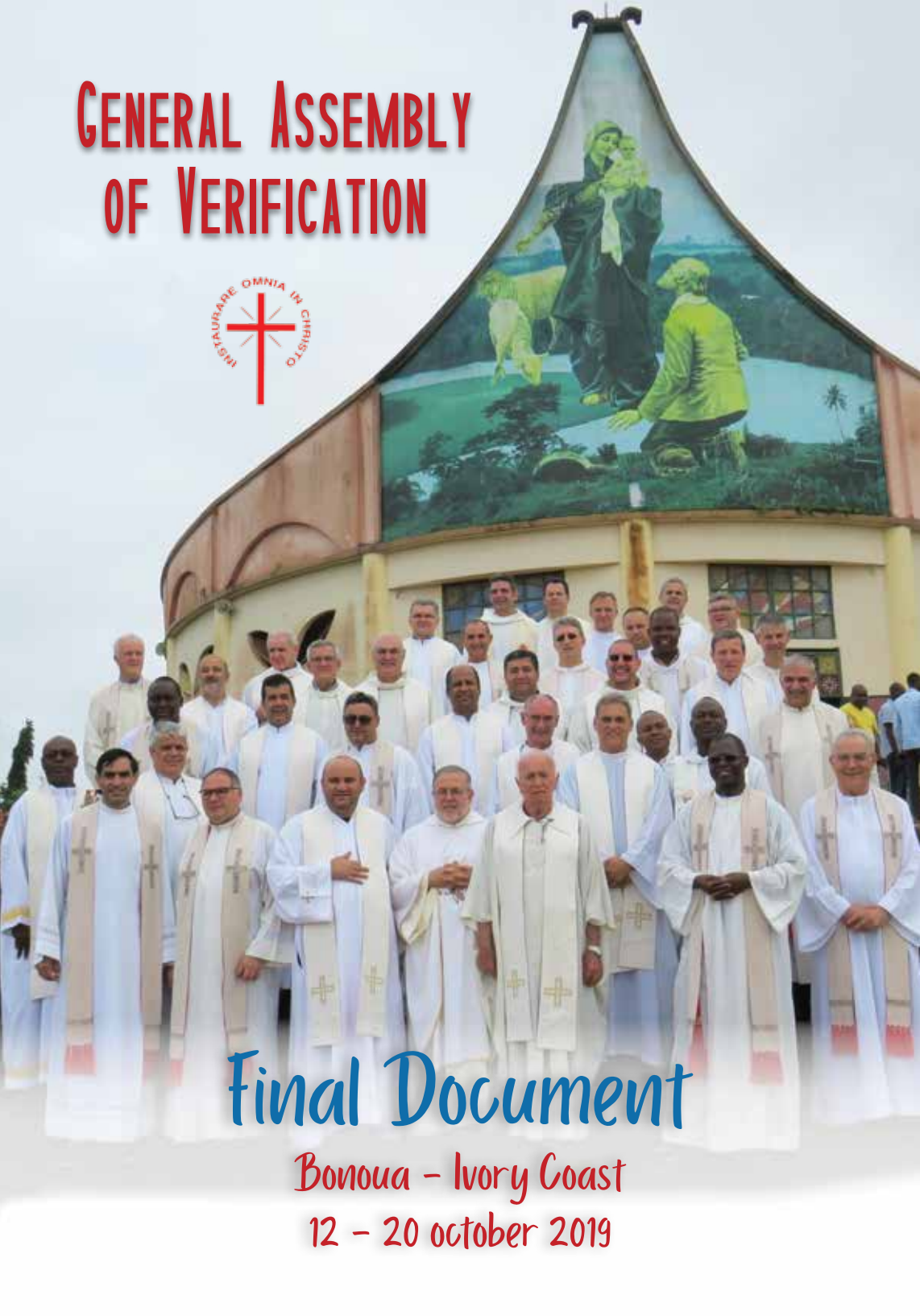


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VERIFICATION



Final Document

Bonoua - Ivory Coast

12 - 20 october 2019

Rome, 3 November 2019

Prot. TV/19.159

Dear brothers,

May the peace of our Lord always be with us!

At the moment of writing this presentation of the final document of the General Assembly of Verification, I take in my hands the text of the minutes of a meeting of August 12, 1915, in which “*the director*”, Don Orione, participated, together with 15 other priests. I read that, after the initial prayer, “*The Director takes the floor and with a truly moving voice speaks of the beautiful grace that the Lord has given us to be able to meet together*”.

I think of the emotion of Don Orione in gathering the brothers in a probably difficult situation. I understand it! The emotion for the “*beautiful grace that the Lord has given in being able to meet together*” was also experienced during the days of the General Assembly, from 12 to 20 October 2019, in Bonoua, Ivory Coast, cradle of the Congregation in Africa.

On that occasion, there was especially the feeling of the confreres of the “*Notre Dame d’Afrique*” Province who entertained us: the missionaries who saw the Assembly as the realization of a glorious dream and the native religious who felt really embraced by the members of a family “without borders”. I understand the missionary who, seeing the procession of the 45 participants of the Assembly, with a heart full of joy, confided to me an expression in the style of the psalmist: “*It seems like a dream*”

For those on the missions, the visit of family members is always an event. One can understand, therefore, going back in time, the feeling of Don Angelo Mugnai, the first orionine missionary in Africa, when he received, in 1973, two years after his arrival in Ivory Coast, the visit

of the Superior General, Don Giuseppe Zambarbieri: *“Imagine our joy when he announced that he would be with us at Easter. And he arrived in time for Holy Thursday, happy to embrace us and to find us happy and in communion with the people.”*

On the part of the members of the Assembly, especially those who were visiting the African continent for the first time, I sensed a widespread feeling of satisfaction and, even, amazement and wonder, particularly in the face of some events where they were put in direct contact with the people or with our African brethren or, again, with the history of the incarnation of the Orionine charism in that cultural environment.

The Assembly, from this point of view, was extraordinary, exceptional!

The missionary experience we have lived.

In the final evaluation, all the groups from the provinces emphasized the rightness of the choice of venue and also the methodology that put us in touch with the orionine reality in Côte d’Ivoire, experimenting, albeit for a short time, the activity of the Sons and Daughters of our Father and Founder. In fact, at different times, the programme gave priority to contact with people and works, with the services that our confreres perform to make Don Orione and his charism alive in Africa. During the days of the assembly, the day began with the celebration of Holy Mass together with the people who are devoted to the daily Eucharist in our Shrine. On other days there was participation in ceremonies that involved the faithful of our parishes of Bonoua and Anyama. The missionary visit to the chapels of the parish of Bonoua, organized by provincial groups, brought the participants even closer to the local reality. And then the solemn conclusion with the missionary pilgrimage, on foot, of the young people from the Parish of Bonoua to the Shrine, and with the Holy Mass of the Gathering of the Orione Family of the “Notre Dame d’Afrique” Province, this too in the Shrine.

Having experienced the Assembly in this way, the participants recognized that *“it was of great value to combine the work of verification with the concrete experience of meeting people and works, the knowledge of their history and the projection of growth prospects”* (Poland). For those who came from afar, *“from another continent, it was enriching to*

know such a diverse reality, built with so much sacrifice and generosity by religious and laity” (Chile). Some even suggested “that the mid-six-year Assembly be held in different places (countries), thus contemplating and getting to know new realities in the Congregation” (South Brazil).

Situated within the Extraordinary Missionary Month, called by Pope Francis, the positive effects of the experience of holding the Assembly in a genuinely missionary context were expressed in this way:

- ▶ *It was “a missionary experience that rekindled in us the vocational concern and the sense of belonging to the congregation. It awakened in us the desire to revive in our confreres, especially in the young, the missionary zeal and attention to the new suburbs” (North Brazil).*
- ▶ *The Assembly “aroused a strong sense of belonging and family” (Italy); we felt “like a living part of a Congregation”, therefore, “we will bring this family spirit into our communities, together with the desire to make many religious-priests saints for the sake of the whole Congregation” (Madagascar).*
- ▶ *“The experience in the Assembly revealed to us some keys to revitalize, from the existential and vocational point of view, the actual state of our vice-province: closeness to the people, transparency, touching the flesh of Christ, knowing and becoming incarnate in the situation” (Spain).*
- ▶ *The Assembly gave us the vision of a Congregation “which is alive, opening itself up and going out to encounter the poorest” and provokes one’s conscience towards a conversion “from individualism and self-referentiality that is invading us” (Argentina); “it helped us to broaden our horizons and to show that the charism of St. Louis Orion always has something to tell us and to say to the Church” (NDA).*
- ▶ *And again: the account given by the first missionaries and the current vocational fruitfulness in the Province of N.D. d’Afrique “will have to be told in order to enthuse all the confreres to carry out their activity with fidelity. These testimonies should become material for meetings, retreats and formation meetings” (South Brazil). In the*

same vein: *“The witness of the first missionaries inspires us, their simplicity has borne fruit in the people who have become part of the Orione family. And God has blessed their work with many vocations”* (DMI). Therefore, it is important *“to reaffirm the missionary spirit of every Son of Divine Providence, that is, to see themselves ‘missionaries’ where we are, as well as fostering missionary experiences in Africa/Asia/Madagascar and to re-launch the less motivated religious”* (Madagascar).

It is also interesting to know what the planning of the Assembly meant for the confreres of the Province “Notre Dame d’Afrique”. I have already conveyed a general appraisal (*“We seem to be dreaming!”*), but it is good to broadcast what their delegates have said:

- *“For us in the NDA Province it was a providential moment to thank the Lord and the Congregation for all that the first missionaries have done here, in a mission land, with so much commitment and enthusiasm”*; the Assembly gave us the possibility of *“of looking farther in time”*.
- *“We experienced a strong family spirit as a Congregation and as a Charismatic Family with the other members, the PSMC, the ISO and the MLO”*.
- *“The Assembly was like an invitation to watch over the good that Saint Louis Orione left us with his charism that now we should know how to hand on. It was like a call, making us discover the boldness and the effort of the pioneers so as to stimulate and spur us on to be also, in the today of our history, true witnesses of what the Lord and Saint Luigi Orione want from us”*.

How can the spirit of the Assembly be brought to the provincial and local realities?

As you can understand from these brief thoughts and reports, the Assembly was, for those who lived it personally, a strong experience of contact with a beautiful and fascinating orionine missionary reality. Now it will be up to the delegates, when they are back home, to share the

experience, to convey their impressions, to draw lessons and proposals for the local orionine work, but above all to help in spreading and putting into practice the conclusions of the Assembly. The provincial superiors and their councils will play a fundamental role in this last task.

I do not think there is any need to encourage the delegates to take part in the service of spreading and disseminating the experience gained during the Assembly. Chosen as representatives by the respective provincial assemblies, they must now become “multipliers” of a message, of a story, of a real content. I hope that they will not be afraid, hesitant or timid to speak of what has filled their hearts in contact with the charismatic reality of Africa, to tell a fruitful story of the incarnation of the charism, to speak of a successful mission. The re-launching of the Chapter can begin precisely from this point, from these motivations. And, if it happens spontaneously to express oneself with feeling, well and good! “But, Father, this is sentimentalism!” It cannot be so if it is manifested with sincerity and authenticity of heart.

Already during our meeting, the delegates gave suggestions on how to transmit the lived experience and the conclusions of the Assembly to the Provinces and Communities:

- ✓ To deepen the final document in the Provincial Council and propose it to the communities through the various participation bodies (secretariats, conferences, meetings...);
- ✓ To present the final document to the directors, endeavouring to concretize with them the indications for the re-launching of the Chapter;
- ✓ In mission countries, to hold regional assemblies to welcome and re-launch the proposals of the final document locally;
- ✓ To propose to the confreres, at meetings, area meetings, meetings by age groups and retreats, a summary of the contents of the Assembly;
- ✓ To foster a “permanent missionary culture” in the itinerary of initial formation, for example through the organization of “popular missions” during school holidays and the realization of an orionine

missionary course for young people undergoing formation;

- ✓ To generate at the provincial level some concrete activities for financial aid to the missions, for example, by restarting again and motivating further the Orionine Missionary Day;
- ✓ To make known in the area around our works, the orionine missions in the world, also organizing campaigns of solidarity or long-distance adoption;
- ✓ To resume what was decided and planned by the provincial assemblies of verification. In fact, the General Assembly does not cancel the work already done, but enhances it and harmonizes it with the decisions at the congregational level, presented below.

The Assembly: an impulse towards the future

In the letter of convocation of the Assembly of 13 October 2018, I listed some reasons for the celebration of the Assembly in Africa: to give continuity to a tradition that expresses the internationality of the Congregation (previous assemblies were held in Poland [1995], Chile [2001], Spain [2007], Brazil [2013] and now in the Ivory Coast); to highlight the African continent that has become an important component of the Family; to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the realization of the VI^o General Chapter that approved the motion for opening in Africa; to celebrate the “extraordinary missionary month” in the context of the missions.

Being in Bonoua for the actual Assembly, we realized that these reasons were not sufficient to justify such a decision. However beautiful and significant they may have been, they were motivations that put us back in the past. It was “*to remember and narrate our glorious story*”; this undoubtedly pushed us to thank the Lord, but it could put us in a mode of passive attitude, without initiative and resigned. Finally, it could have been an attitude of “nostalgic Orionines” or, again, to name the main disease fought against by the first missionaries in Côte d’Ivoire, a “paralyzing nostalgia”.

It has been repeated several times that we also have “*a great history*

that must be built” and we should treasure that “*glorious history*” to illuminate our present time and project ourselves into the future. It is our “missionary tradition” and, as Cardinal Kasper reminded us in a recent homily in the Parish of All Saints, “*Tradition does not only preserve the past but also the future*”. Thus, dear brothers, we went to Bonoua in search of our future, “*to rediscover that fervour*” and those dynamics of the pioneers who embodied and acculturated the charismatic insights of Don Orione in Africa. And they are:

- Closeness and compassion: the ability not only to see but to feel the needs of the neighbour and be willing to do something for him; the same passion that Don Orione had so that the poor could experience that “Divine Providence is there”;
- The sharing of a life made of simplicity, poverty, adaptation to environments in a context of life far from everything else;
- The ability to patiently and intelligently understand the situation and to offer a simple, effective response that has transformed society and culture;
- Trust in Providence, combined with initiative, in seeking support for the mission by creating a network of benefactors and supporters of the nascent work in Africa;
- The proclamation of the Gospel made especially through the witness of life in the awareness that the missionary is not a conqueror, not even in the name of Christ;
- A great investment in the formation and in creating, at the very start, a strong family atmosphere.

Now that the Assembly is an event in our history, it is necessary to implement the dynamics of verification and re-launching the Chapter in our provincial and local realities. We must ensure that our works, our presence, our ministries, our vocations, are an effective response to what the Holy Spirit asked of Saint Louis Orione yesterday and, today, of us, his followers. To help us in this task, here is the final text of the General Assembly of Verification.

The final text

The Assembly in Bonoua, of course, was not just making contact with the people and the orionine history of the Province “Notre Dame d’Afrique”. Even though the planned and attained missionary experience was greatly valued, the moments of specific assembly work must also be highlighted.

The Assembly was set up with the method of listening and discernment. In particular, the listening was carried out through the report of the General Council, the presentation of the Provincials, the report of the members of the Charismatic Family (Mother Mabel Spagnuolo for the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity, Marie Jeanne Kouakou for the Orione Secular Institute and Armanda Sano for the Orione Lay Movement) and finally, through the reading in the groups, the contributions received from the Provincial Assemblies.

In the final evaluation, we verified that more time was needed for the presentation of the Provincials, but also a more systematic and uniform content. In addition, it was said that there could have been more time to make proposals about ways of re-launching the guidelines of the Chapter, through shared decisions taken at the plenary session and not only in the groups.

The commitment of the confreres in the groups was of great value when they tried to answer three questions that guided the listening to the reports and reading the contributions of the Provincial Assemblies. And they were: Which goals were achieved? What difficulties were encountered? In what ways can we intervene to re-launch the Chapter?

On the basis of the contributions of the groups, the General Council prepared the final text trying to give a common form to the presentation, clearly emphasizing the task of each individual in the re-launching of the Chapter: the Superior General and his Council, the Provincial and his Council and the Local Director with his Community.

Some clues for interpreting the final text

As you read the document, you can see, clearly outlined, in the various headings, the strong points of the reflection of the assembly.

I would like to recall here three concerns that have accompanied all the work and have been a motive for the formulation of the actions.

1st- It was noted with pleasure that, after the Chapter, a majority of the confreres began to become aware of the need to work on the human aspects of being religious, so as to create a harmonious and liberating internal unity between “being” and “wanting”. It was realized, however, that this work is not yet finished, but it takes time and perhaps will never cease.

Therefore, one of the concerns of the members of the assembly was to ask themselves: how can we further help our confreres on this path? How can they be strengthened in their daily effort of fidelity?

The journey is not a simple one because it requires us to go out of ourselves, out of our own zone of security and comfort to put God, the community, our neighbour (the brother) at the centre.

2nd - A second aspect noted is that the awareness of being a family is growing among us. This is true both internally, that is, in our relations as a Congregation, and externally, that is, in our relations with our Sisters, with members of the Orionine Lay Movement and the secular institutes.

As far as the Congregation is concerned, there was a need to continue along this path and, therefore, to work in harmony and coordination between the three levels: general, provincial and local. Consequently, the actions that the delegates asked to be undertaken were duly itemized, indicating who should take the greatest care of an action, in order to harmonize and enhance the work of all.

As far as the Charismatic Family is concerned, we stressed the value of working together not only with the laity, consecrated women and the sisters, but also of appreciating their being Orionine, that is, members of the same family, so as to be able to make a journey together that also concerns other areas such as formation, the joint planning of activities

and the consequent sharing in decision-making.

3rd - Another recurring theme was the desire, expressed by many, to know better our charism and our spirituality in their various facets. This translates into the need for more opportunities and tools to be formed, to learn and put the charism into practice.

This aspect is particularly important when one lives in places such as parishes where it is easy to lose one's identity, since one is immersed in structures such as dioceses where the same work is done by other congregations but above all by many diocesan priests. Here, the temptation to conform to others is strong. The same applies to works of charity where the need for efficiency requires more and more professionalism and time; then the work of administration could swallow community and pastoral commitments.

Driven by these three concerns, the delegates discussed and proposed the various actions that you will find in this document. It is therefore important to keep in mind the field of reflection in which these actions were formulated so that they do not become disembodied indications that would inevitably be ignored.

Dear Brothers, in conclusion, let me recall the feelings of amazement and wonder that invaded us in the days of the assembly. I'm sure that what can make us more orionine starts exactly from amazement, from wonder. It is the sense of wonder that makes us realize that Don Orione's charism never ages and is always capable of rejuvenating itself, of expressing itself in a new and effective way, of enculturating itself, making life beautiful and healthy, especially that of the poorest, as has happened concretely and, in a paradigmatic way, in the Province of "Notre Dame d'Afrique".

Therefore, interpreting the Assembly under the key of "wonder" is not a defect, nor is it falling into sentimentalism. Even less a pseudo-excuse to make up for some fault or methodological insufficiency. Forgive me for insisting on this, but I consider it as the remedy to combat the main problem that all the reports, with different tones, have identified in the present time, that is the lack of enthusiasm, inertia or indolence,

the waning of vocations, the crisis of identity and belonging to the Congregation.

Let us, therefore, do something that can give us back the sense of wonder, of amazement or, at least, let us set ourselves in motion, in search of the beauty and wonder that the charism is capable of giving us. Let us remember, above all, the dynamism of the Gospel parable that makes us affirm that the charism is a talent that cannot be hidden: it makes sense and is expressed only if it is put into motion, if it is put into practice in the concreteness of our lives.

The Assembly was an extraordinary experience of “wonder”, in which the “living charism” amazed us. Seeing and experiencing its beauty did us much good!

Now, go on, on your way! May the heavy judgment of the children of the Gospel not fall on us: “*We played the flute and you did not dance; we sang a lament to you and you did not cry!*” (Lk 7:31).

It is time for the *Hail Mary and forwards!* May the concluding document of the Assembly be of help to us. Don Orione will certainly be with us.

Fraternally,

P. Tarcisio Vieira
General Superior

VERIFICATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FINAL DOCUMENT

The General Assembly of Verification was held in Bonoua (Ivory Coast), from 12 to 20 October 2019.

In its different phases (community - province - general), the Assembly was structured according to the 3 Orientations (Formation, Community Life and Charism) + the Line of Action n. 7 (Towards the peripheries). The guidelines include the contents of the other Lines of Action of the XIV General Chapter.

3 ORIENTATIONS	LINE OF ACTION	+ 1 LINE OF ACTION
1° To train people and religious	LINE 1: The humanity of the religious	LINE 7: Towards existential peripheries world
	LINE 2: Religious live by God	
	SPECIAL THEME D: Vocation of the religious brother and hermit	
2° Putting community life and the valorization of the confreres at the centre	LINE 4: The vital relationship with the community	
3° Updating the charism	LINE 3: The religious identified in the charism	
	LINE 5: Religious in mission, witness and service	
	LINE 6: The Congregational Apostolate, a gift to the Church	
	PARTICULAR THEME B: Religious Community in the Parish	
	PARTICULAR THEME C: The organic nature and continuity of youth ministry	

1ST ORIENTATION

TO TRAIN PEOPLE, RELIGIOUS, ETC.

L 1: HUMANITY OF THE RELIGIOUS

The Assembly has pointed out that, in the last three years, the Orione religious, although carrying out an appreciable charitable activity on the borders, has sometimes been the victim of individualism, typical of our time, often disguised as initiative, and of the consequent fall into isolated and self-referential protagonism.

Taking this fact into account, in order to re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- To propose a re-reading and updating of the physiognomy and identity of the Orione religious. It should facilitate the reflection with the elaboration of useful texts (forms, charismatic path, conferences).
- It should check the effectiveness of the tools of ongoing formation already in use.

The Provincial Council

- To make the confreres aware of the dangers of self-referentiality, making appropriate use of the Secretariats.
- To use the meetings of the directors to underline the link between charisma and quality of religious life.

The local community

- All should undertake to deepen their sense of being religious and Orionine, using the means provided.

L 2: THE RELIGIOUS LIVES BY GOD

The Assembly noted that the quality of prayer in the provinces has increased. But often the Orionine religious is still immersed in a network of multiple and sometimes dispersive relationships and in multiple management tasks, risking being flattened into the horizontal dimension of daily life. It happens, then, that the time that he does not reserve for prayer, for fraternity and that he dreams of pouring into the apostolate, does not produce the hoped-for effects.

For this reason, the Assembly has asked the Congregation to make a further effort of being attentive to “Renew with creativity the spiritual life, both personal and communal, so that it may truly be a relationship with God, the source of life that animates the apostolic activity. (14CG).

Therefore, to re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly proposes:

To the General Council:

- ▶ Develop a “methodology of Orionine spirituality”.

To the Provincial Council:

- ▶ Make use of retreat courses to experience more creative and shared moments of prayer.
- ▶ Promote awareness actions about the need for prayer, fidelity to personal meditation and lectio Divina, and the value of spiritual sharing.

To the local community:

- ▶ The directors should continue to promote a more incarnate community prayer that includes the real situations and intentions of the people we meet every day.

2ND ORIENTATION

PUTTING COMMUNITY LIFE AT THE CENTRE

L 4: THE VITAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

A) During the Assembly it was said that, for us Orionines, the important thing is not only to respond to social and historical challenges with the service of charity; it is the way in which we do it. That is, the most effective responses to social challenges, from the evangelical point of view, go hand in hand with the quality of fraternal life in community. In this sense, many speakers highlighted the growth in awareness of a good community life, but it was also noted that, in some situations, the excess of pastoral and administrative activity is hindering the vital commitments of community life and that often activities are privileged at the expense of fraternal life.

To re-launch what the Chapter has told us about the importance of fraternal life in community, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- ▶ To organize internal, or even inter-congregational, courses on the theology of consecrated life and community dynamics.

The Provincial Council

- ▶ To use the help of experts or tools for ongoing training in community life.
- ▶ Support local directors in promoting fraternal communion in their communities.

The local community

- ▶ Each religious should put community life and the appreciation of his confreres at the centre of his daily life and implement a self-discipline that guarantees its results.

- ▶ The local director should establish the Community Day in the planning calendar, with the Lectio Divina at the centre, meetings, monthly retreats and some community outings.
- ▶ The local director should encourage the practice of fraternal correction and revision of life.

B) The Assembly has highlighted that the community project and the apostolic project, launched years ago as ideal tools for fostering our living and working together, in recent years are considered with distrust, as dynamics of difficult realization. Therefore, they have been neglected.

Believing that they are, however, adequate tools for us to live together in the apostolate, to re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- ▶ To study new ways, simpler and more attractive in language and form, for proposing again the use of such means to the brethren.

The Provincial Council

- ▶ To encourage and support communities that are unable to develop community and apostolic projects.

The local community

- ▶ Each community should strive to welcome and implement these dynamics.

3° ORIENTATION

UPDATING THE CHARISM

L 3: THE RELIGIOUS IDENTIFIED IN THE CHARISM

A) The Assembly noted that in many Orione religious, thanks to the work of formation in recent years and initiatives to help extreme poverty, there is greater identification with the charism and spirit of belonging. However, it pointed out that orionine often lives its charismatic identity more in the activity it performs than in the harmonious maturation between his consecration, spirituality and mission.

To re-launch the Chapter, therefore, the Assembly stressed that formation to the charism can never be taken for granted and must be continued throughout life and at all levels. Therefore:

The General Council

- Should deepen the critical and actualizing study of the charism with particular attention to pastoral practices that could help us to renew our way of approaching people as “orionines”.

The Provincial Council

- Should prepare appropriate teaching aids for the charism so that religious can understand its multiform vitality, live it as consecrated persons, transmit it to the laity, give identity to works and parishes.
- The Secretariat for Formation should help the brothers to deepen the value of consecrated life, which is also at the basis of the duties linked to the priestly ministry, especially by valuing the presence of the Religious Brothers.
- In initial formation, better use can be made of holyday times or summer periods, for strong experiences or apostolic camps.

The local community

- ▶ The community should also be involved in the formation of the laity to the charism.

B) Holding the Assembly in Bonoua allowed us to see and touch with our own hands a reality of vocational exuberance, conquered above all through a vocational pastoral ministry made up of the witness of life, the systematic accompaniment of the young formandi and the grafting of the charism into the bosom of African society. In this context, the Assembly wished to reaffirm, once again, that vocational animation and accompaniment are of fundamental importance for the vitality of a religious family and that more must be invested in the process of vocational discernment.

To re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- ▶ To act in spreading and promoting a vocational culture.

The Provincial Council

- ▶ In communities where it is not yet in being or where it is in its infancy, accompany and facilitate the formation of the coordination of youth and vocations ministry.

The local community

- ▶ To work tirelessly in the search for new vocations.

L 5: THE RELIGIOUS IN MISSION, WITNESS AND SERVICE

A) The Assembly, which brought together qualified representatives from all over the Orione world, was the right place to recognize that the dynamism of our charism is well actualized and concretized in the daily life of many religious and many works. However, at times there is little evidence of the commitment to make our works speak, an expression of the motherhood of the Church. In fact, the Assembly recommended that

the identity of the works as “beacons of evangelization for the world” be clear.

To re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- ▶ To develop an online system for updating statistics of all charitable works.

The Provincial Council

- ▶ To provide - where there are not yet - the creation of the Secretariats, structures of communion and participation.
- ▶ The Secretariat of the Works should collaborate with the communities in the use of the apostolic budget.
- ▶ To prepare brothers, especially the younger ones, to assume responsibility for the works.
- ▶ Where appropriate, one should not be afraid to entrust the management of a work to a person in charge of the structure.

The local community

- ▶ Should take up again the theme of the apostolic budget, translating it into concrete planning and making use of an ad hoc team.

B) One of the strongest experiences that the participants of the Assembly say they had staying in Bonoua was to form a “family”. In fact, we are not an isolated congregation, but part of a Charismatic Family wanted and supported by the intercession of Saint Louis Orion. It is therefore important to commit ourselves so that this reality becomes an apostolic force.

Therefore, to re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- To share, with all the Charismatic Family, itineraries for a common formation.
- To encourage reflection and study the identity and purpose of the MLO and the MGO.

The Provincial Council

- To promote among the brethren a deeper knowledge of being a charismatic family.
- Wherever possible, even if one does not work in the same houses, FDP and PSMC meetings should be promoted at the level of provincial councils to encourage requests for equal collaboration in various sectors: formation, frontier experiences, pastoral planning, study groups.
- To respond to the ISO's request to participate in vocational initiatives and to be accompanied in the various stages (vocational discernment, first formation) and in the places where they are present.
- It should guarantee the spiritual and charismatic accompaniment of the members of the MLO and encourage their participation in the vocational teams.
- To think about charismatic formative moments shared between religious and laity.

The local community

- To organize moments of biblical, charismatic and professional formation for the laity who revolve around our works.

L 6: THE CONGREGATIONAL APOSTOLATE, A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

The Assembly, listening to the report of the General Council and elaborating the final Message, felt being asked to stress that “the first mission of the religious is to be religious and the mission of the Orionine is to be Orionine” that is to give primacy to God because from Him we receive the reason for our being, our apostolate and our mission in the Church.

To re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- ▶ To start a process of reflection on the characteristics of the “Orione parishes” to formulate a system of charismatic values appropriate to this specific apostolic area (Charismatic Budget for Parishes).
- ▶ It should take on the formation of the “new” missionaries and the animation of their reception in the communities to which they are destined, in order to encourage the work of inculturation, without losing the sense of their being Orionine religious.

The Provincial Council

- ▶ To help those who work in parish setting to deepen the foundations of the orionine consecrated life.
- ▶ It should make an effort to raise awareness among all about the importance of communication.

The local community

- ▶ To harmonize the parish pastoral project with the community project.

+ ACTION LINE 7

TOWARDS THE PERIPHERIES

L 7: TOWARDS THE EXISTENTIAL PERIPHERIES OF THE WORLD

The Assembly noted with joy that the Congregation, through the Provinces, has opened up to the peripheries thanks to confreres and lay people who are convinced that they are giving their lives for this purpose. It also verified that this experience of the “outgoing Church” has generated a culture of welcome, sharing and closeness and has brought vital sap to personal and community level. It was also stressed that going to the existential peripheries has made us meet travel companions, allowing us to work in networks with other congregations and other non-ecclesial bodies.

However, the Assembly was also an opportunity to recognize that, in the face of new poverty, in some religious there are fears arising from shyness and resistance arising from the bourgeois spirit or, on the contrary, a reckless individualism.

We are also struggling to understand and being with young people.

In order to motivate the religious to go where the Lord wants us now and, therefore, to re-launch the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- To discern the new frontiers of the charismatic apostolate, insisting that we work together with the whole Orione family of the place and, in particular, with the young.

The Provincial Council

- In the annual and triennial planning there should be a concrete interest in new forms of poverty, for which some religious should be trained.

- To think on how to carry out a work of sensitization and formation of the confreres about the need to enter the new networks of charity.
- The Provincials should encourage missionary experiences of significant charity for seminarians, brothers and priests.

The local community

- In the community project, it should identify and include a space for concrete response to the poverty of the place.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Assembly, in different contexts, gave voice to: the issue of sobriety and simplicity of life; to the questions concerning the new perspectives of the management of the works; to the need to take care of benefactors and volunteers; to the question of the sustainability of the works and the search for new sources of resources.

To re-launch these themes of the Chapter, the Assembly asks:

The General Council

- ▶ To awaken in the confreres, from the early years of religious life, the culture of industriousness in the search for funds for our works and avoid the tendency of being maintained.

The Provincial Council

- ▶ To think about activating an office for ENRIs that operates effectively in the search for funds to achieve the financial self-sufficiency of the works.
- ▶ To let some students, attend some courses of economic and administrative management without prejudice to theological studies.

The local community

- ▶ To take to heart the setting up of the single fund and achieve economic transparency.

AGV 2019 - ACTIONS DIVIDED BY SUBJECT

A - GENERAL COUNCIL

1. To propose a re-reading and updating of the physiognomy and identity of the Orione religious. It should facilitate the reflection with the elaboration of useful texts (forms, charismatic path, conferences). [LINE 1]
2. It should check the effectiveness of the tools of ongoing formation already in use. [LINE 1]
3. To develop a "methodology of Orionine spirituality". [LINE 2]
4. Organize internal, or even inter-congregational, courses on the theology of consecrated life and community dynamics. [LINE 4]
5. To study new ways, simpler and more attractive in language and form, to propose the use of these means to the brethren. [LINE 4]
6. To deepen the critical and actualizing study of the charism with particular attention to pastoral practices that could help us to renew our way of approaching people as "orionines". [LINE 3]
7. To act in spreading and promoting a vocational culture. [LINE 3]
8. To develop an online system for updating the statistics of all the charitable works. [LINE 5]
9. To share, with the whole charismatic family, itineraries for a common formation. [LINE 5]
10. To encourage reflection and study on the identity and purpose of the MLO and the MGO. [LINE 5]
11. To start a process of reflection on the characteristics of the "Orione parishes" to formulate a system of charismatic values appropriate to this specific apostolic area (Charismatic Budget for Parishes). [LINE 6]

12. It should take on the formation of the “new” missionaries and the animation of their reception in the communities to which they are destined, in order to encourage the work of inculturation, without losing the sense of their being Orionine religious. [LINE 6]
13. To discern the new frontiers of the charismatic apostolate, insisting that we work together with the whole Orione family of the place and, in particular, with the young. [LINE 7]
14. To awaken in the confreres, from the early years of religious life, the culture of industriousness in the search for funds for our works and avoid the tendency of being maintained. [ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS]

B - PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

1. To make the confreres aware of the dangers of self-referentiality, making appropriate use of the Secretariats. [LINE 1]
2. To use the meetings of the directors to underline the link between charism and quality of religious life. [LINE 1]
3. To make use of retreat courses to experience more creative and shared moments of prayer. [LINE 2]
4. Promote actions of awareness of the need for prayer, fidelity to personal meditation and lectio divina, and the value of spiritual sharing. [LINE 2]
5. To use the help of experts or tools for ongoing training in community life. [LINE 4]
6. To support local directors in promoting fraternal communion in their communities. [LINE 4]
7. Encourage and support communities that are unable to develop community and apostolic projects. [LINE 4]
8. Prepare appropriate teaching aids about the charism so that religious can understand its multiform vitality, live it as consecrated persons, transmit it to the laity, give identity to works and parishes. [LINE 3]

9. The Secretariat for Formation should help the brothers to deepen the value of the consecrated life which is also the foundation of the duties linked to the priestly ministry, especially by valuing the presence of the Religious Brothers. [LINE 3]
10. In initial formation, better use can be made of vacation times or summer periods, for strong experiences or apostolic camps. [LINE 3]
11. In communities where it is not in being or where it is in its infancy, accompany and facilitate the formation of the coordination of youth ministry - vocational ministry. [LINE 3]
12. Where they do not yet exist, provide for the creation of secretariats, structures of communion and participation. [LINE 5]
13. The Secretariat of the Works should collaborate with the communities in the use of the apostolic budget. [LINE 5]
14. Prepare the brothers, especially the younger ones, to take responsibility for the works. [LINE 5]
15. Where appropriate, don't be afraid to entrust the management of a work to a Facility Manager. [LINE 5]
16. It should promote among its confreres a deeper knowledge of being a charismatic family. [LINE 5]
17. Wherever possible, even if we do not work in the same houses, FDP and PSMC meetings should be promoted at the level of provincial councils to encourage requests for equal collaboration in various areas: formation, frontier experiences, pastoral planning, and study groups. [LINE 5]
18. Give an answer to the request of the ISO to participate in vocational initiatives and to be accompanied in the various stages (vocational discernment, first formation) and in the territories where they are present. [LINE 5]
19. It should guarantee the spiritual and charismatic accompaniment of the members of the MLO and encourage their participation in the vocational teams. [LINE 5]

20. Think of charismatic formative moments shared between religious and laity. [LINE 5]
21. It should take on the formation of the “new” missionaries and the animation of their reception in the communities to which they are destined, in order to encourage the work of inculturation, without losing the sense of their being Orionine religious. [LINE 6]
22. Help those who work in a parish setting to deepen the foundations of the orionine consecrated life. [LINE 6]
23. Raise awareness of the importance of communication among all. [LINE 6]
24. In the annual and triennial planning there should be a concrete interest in new forms of poverty, for which some religious should be trained. [LINE 7]
25. To think on how to carry out a work of sensitization and formation of the confreres about the need to enter the new networks of charity. [LINE 7]
26. Provincials should foster missionary experiences of significant charity for seminarians, brothers and priests. [LINE 7]
27. To think about activating an office for ENRIs that operates effectively in the search for funds to achieve the financial self-sufficiency of the works. [ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS]
28. To let some students, attend some courses of economic and administrative management without prejudice to theological studies. [Administrative matters]

C - LOCAL COMMUNITY

1. All should commit themselves to deepening their sense of being religious and Orionine, using the aids provided. [LINE 1]
2. The directors should continue to promote a more incarnate community prayer that includes the real situations and intentions of the people we meet every day. [LINE 2]

3. Each religious should put community life and the appreciation of his confreres at the heart of his daily life and implement a self-discipline that guarantees its results. [LINE 4]
4. The local Director should establish the Community Day in the planning calendar, with the Lectio Divina at the centre, the meetings, the monthly retreats and some community outings. [LINE 4]
5. The local director should encourage the practice of fraternal correction and revision of life. [LINE 4]
6. Each community should strive to welcome and implement these dynamic. [LINE 4]
7. The community should also be involved in the formation to the charism made to the laity. [LINE 3]
8. Work tirelessly in the search for new vocations. [LINE 3]
9. It should take up again the theme of the apostolic budget, translating it into concrete planning and making use of an ad hoc team. [LINE 5]
10. Organize moments of biblical, charismatic and professional formation for the laity who orbit around our works. [LINE 5]
11. It should harmonize the parish pastoral project with the community project. [LINE 6]
12. In the community project, it should identify and include a space for concrete response to the poverty of the place. [LINE 7]
13. To take to heart the setting up of the single fund and achieve economic transparency. [ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS]

PARTECIPANTS

GENERAL COUNCIL

01	Tarcisio Gregorio Vieira	<i>Superiore generale</i>
02	Oreste Ferrari	<i>Vicario generale</i>
03	Fernando Fornerod	<i>Consigliere generale</i>
04	Assamouan Pierre Kouassi	<i>Consigliere generale</i>
05	Laureano de la Red Merino	<i>Consigliere generale</i>
06	Fulvio Ferrari	<i>Economo generale</i>

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10	Gianni Giarolo	<i>Delegato 2</i>
11	Giovanni Carollo	<i>Delegato 3</i>
12	Giuseppe Volponi	<i>Delegato 4</i>

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42 Maria Jacqueline Sawadogo *Coordinatrice PSMC*
43 Marie Jeanne Kouakou *ISO – Costa d’Avorio*
44 Lucie Kofi *ISO – Costa d’Avorio*
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