



Sadao Watanabe, Japan, 1972

Viator Web

Happy Feast of our Patron

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Message from the Superior General

My colleagues in the General House join me in wishing the whole International Viatorian community a happy Saint Viator Day. Far from a simple salutation, a wish, at its very root, calls upon the vow of commitment. To wish is to do everything we can to accomplish what we express to the other. Thus, we hope that the community adopts ever more the traits of the holy man from Lyon which Father Querbes wanted to offer as a model for his new association.

- Saint Viator Lector of the Church of Lyon knew how to carry and spread the Word entrusted to him. The Word is the Word, says St. John. The Word results in a state, in an action. Like the saint whose name we bear, may we be of service to the Word which always changes the world! At the time of the holding of the Synod on the new evangelization, may that trait of Viator call to us more than ever. May this grace be ours!
- We know the elements of history which link Viator closely to his bishop, St. Just. This proximity that led to the desert of Scete suggests the same loyalty, the same commitment to the Church which celebrates this year the 50th anniversary of a Council which changed its face. Let us be women and men who believe deeply in a Church, People of God, communal, bold in its evangelizing mission and responsive to the needs of the world! Our fidelity to the Church is rooted in a tradition that keeps the essential and welcomes the future with open arms. May this grace be ours!

The feast of St. Viator is an opportunity to be proud of our history and to embrace the challenges that lead us into the future.

Happy Saint Viator!

The traits of Saint Viator in Bogota, Abidjan and Kankakee...

Three stories...

Throughout salvation history, God has spoken through the words, signs and actions of those around us. One of them was the young Viator, who centuries ago already announced, nourished himself with and lived the Word of the Lord. This spiritual heritage is at the heart of what motivates the sons and daughters of Louis Querbes and as a divine gift, the Viatorian today are called to offer the freshness of the Word of God in all their actions.



In our communities, the Word of God is a daily food that fills our hearts with the desire to always announce it with courage and conviction, proclaiming that it is alive and highly effective.

We religious are called to proclaim that the Lord continues to suggest his word to our ears. We are the instruments so that God's Word is heard and echoes powerfully in our world and especially in the heart of men and women that want to meet God, the good shepherd.

Rafael R. SANABRIA
Bogota

A painting of St. Viator in the chapel of the Saint-Viator College in Bouake presents him as a young man full of zeal, surrounded by children and perhaps adults, to whom he is giving catechesis sessions or with whom he shares, develops and lives the Word of God. These images reflect quite well the reality of the Viatorian mission in Ivory Coast which is not defined only by the large institutions we lead and which give excellent results, but also and especially by the remarkable presence of Viatorian religious and associates within the parishes and in close collaboration with local church leaders. Especially in the bustling parish catechesis, liturgy and service of the altar, accompanying various prayer groups etc.



The Word of God, lived and deepened, is also reflected by the investment of several Viatorian of Ivory Coast in social action in favor of the vulnerable and disadvantaged. In my view, greater collaboration between Viatorian of Ivory Coast and a sincere commitment to the consolidation of each Viatorian Community would be the guarantee of a fruitful mission, because it is founded on rock. May the intercession of St. Viator obtain us this grace!

Anatole Camille GNAMIEN
Abidjan



Reflecting on these outstanding features in the life of St. Viator (fidelity, immersion in the Word of God, and his ability to share the Word with others) I find that today's members of the Viatorian Community, individually and collectively, exhibit these same features ... in so many, many ways. I feel that it is connecting with the Word of God that allows us, first to *know* the Lord, then to follow his example, and by doing so, share the Word with others.

I see this done in the Provincial Council, having witnessed these Gospel values: servant leadership ... commitment to, concern for, and patience with, each member of the Community ... and in their calling us to stretch our understanding and involvement in areas of international solidarity, stewardship, immigration, justice, and peace.

I see this in the Province's Viatorian Community Council: in their willingness to be involved at a whole new and creative level ... and, especially, in the optimism and trust and honesty they share.

I see this in the senior members: in their dedication to Scripture and prayer and in their ability to share their time, their wealth of experience, and their wisdom with the Community, in a whole new way ... in their continued Community service, involvement, and connection – well beyond retirement.

And I see this in the individual members of the Viatorian Community: in their acceptance of new people and new ideas ... in the respect shown even when differing viewpoints are very evident ... in the support and challenge offered ... and in the compassionate concern shown when one member is suffering.

In belonging to this Community and striving to emulate the characteristics of St. Viator and Father Querbes, I see members of this Viatorian Community seeking ways to better live out the vision through prayer and with courage, with faith and trust in God's providence.

As we celebrate this Feast of St. Viator, I thank God for St. Viator, for Father Querbes, and for all those who have followed them and offer me the example of their lives!

Marilyn MULCAHY
Kankakee

Some news!

The Viatorian of France. On October 1st, the news of the appointment of the new Superior of the Delegation of France arrived to the Viatorian of France as well as those of the Vice-Delegation of Ivory Coast. Father Léon Desbos, former Provincial Superior of Vourles and the restructured Province of France, has now assumed the pastoral care of the French Delegation.



Father Desbos is currently in Ivory Coast carrying the responsibility of financial services at the College of Bouake, as well as the Vice-Delegation. Generously accepting this request of his French brothers and sisters, he must delay his return to France, the time to prepare his successor. His arrival is scheduled for June 2013. However, October 21, he will officially become the new Superior of Ivory Coast. He will work with a transitional council formed by colleagues Pierre Demierre and Robert Bonnafous and associates Christine Legrand and Christian Pizot. In the coming months the appointment of two religious and two associates to the new council of the Viatorian Community of France, will be announced.

Congratulations to Father Leon Desbos for his availability and commitment to the community of France!

Official texts. Last October second, Superiors of the Provinces, of the Delegation and the Vice Delegation and foundations, were informed that the official documents from the General Chapter are now available in Word format on the website of the General Direction:
(<http://csviator.info/>)

After choosing the language, click Documents (note the password: csv), Chapter 2012 and you will find the following texts:

- * The new Viatorian Community Charter
- * The Acts of the Chapter
- * The moral report 2006 - 2012 Father Mark R. Francis, c.s.v.

The Capitular Acts and the Charter 2012 will soon be printed and sent in a single document. Until this is published, you can now have access to these texts.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who worked on the harmonization and the correction of these many pages, especially Father Mark Francis for the English version and Father José Antonio Lezama for the Spanish. Special recognition to both of you!

Extraordinary General Council (CGE). From January 22 to 29, 2013, the CGE will meet in Arlington Heights (Chicago). Remember, that according to our Constitution, the CGE has the function of solidarity between the General Council and all the Provinces and promoting the unity of the Congregation. (C.46)

Several topics are listed on the agenda, mainly, the assessment of the General Chapter 2012, the follow-up to the Chapter Acts, planning pastoral visits, a first look at the next General Assembly of the Viatorian Community, providing financial assistance to Ivory Coast, adjustments to *Vade Mecum*, the creation of a new website for the General Direction, etc.

New communication policy. The use of the Internet greatly changes the way we communicate. This is at the heart of the orientation to which the General Council intends to use as much as possible this means of communication to increase the speed of our exchanges and the availability of texts or documents. This means that printing and mailing documents from Rome will become fewer in the future.

Since the creation of the new website of the General Direction, it will become the preferred means by which information is transmitted. Obviously, this will change our habits, but provide better information. We will keep you informed of developments in this area.

Religious profession in France. Philippe Arnal, 34, hails from a village near Rodez. He belongs to a family with many influential branches in the region. His youth was marked by parish life of which he was an active member in youth movements, a serious and diverse university formation where “matters of faith” held a good position, and various commitments (leisure social, political) coupled with religious commitments especially among young people.

Teacher for ten years, he was attracted by the Viatorian life, but for various reasons and stages of his journey, he delayed his request until 2010. During about two years of postulate, while teaching, he became familiar with the community life of the Viatorian and entered the novitiate in September 2011. He will profess his first vows in the Congregation on the occasion of the Feast of St. Viator 2012.

Final Viatorian commitments. August 7, five Viatorian associates in the Province of Chicago made their final commitment in the Viatorian community. They are Catherine Abrahamian, Randy Baker, Henrietta Chamness, Lynda Connor and Patty Wischnowski. The international community celebrates this event!

Vatican diplomacy, an art! The changing of a general council requires all kinds of actions in respect to both the civil area (obtaining documents needed to apply for visas, residence permits, etc.) and the religious area. Who better than Father José Antonio Lezama to guide us to the right people. Guaranteed results, he knows how! A phone call here, a greeting to the servant of the Vatican City in Italian with well measured accents and an impressive

series of letters, board resolutions, delegations, etc...Obtaining the “official stamps” is a series of details which are of the diplomatic art. He tells us: *the first rule never let a Vatican agent see that you know more than him. The second, of course, not only patience and politeness are required, but a good dose of humility lubricates the gears and usually provides the desired result.*

Recognition to Father Antonio Lezama who has been so devoted, since the arrival of the new council, to seeing that all the right steps be made. And with what care he prepares the vicar general, Father Harry Célestin to take over. To compare the width of the smiles reserved for the student, the teacher rejoices...or is worried!



To Nourish our Reflections

**The UISG/USG (Union of Superiors Generals of men and women)
Justice and Peace Commission**

Last October 7th, the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation has released a letter to the participants of the 13th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the “New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith” held in Rome from October 7 to 28 2012.

We reproduce excerpts that reflect the main ideas of this letter.

- **Among the strengths of the *Instrumentum Laboris* is its centeredness on the person of Jesus.**

“The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.” (Par.8) In addition, the *Instrumentum Laboris* refers to the documents of Vatican II 27 times. As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Council, it is important to reawaken in our Church an awareness of the evangelizing vision and spirit of Vatican II.

- **Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world are a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel. (*Justice in the World*, #6)** The Church’s social doctrine is an integral part of her evangelizing ministry. Nothing that concerns the community of men and women - situations and problems regarding justice, freedom, development, relations between peoples, peace - is foreign to evangelization, and evangelization would be incomplete if it did not take into account the mutual

demands continually made by the Gospel and by the concrete, personal and social life of man. (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*)

- **It is primarily by her conduct and by her life that the Church will evangelize the world.**

The *Instrumentum Laboris* recognizes that the Church herself must be evangelized. Paragraph # 158 makes clear the need for this conversion:

“The work of evangelization is not so much an organized plan or strategy, as it is, fundamentally, a spiritual matter. ‘Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.... It is therefore primarily by her conduct and by her life that the Church will evangelize the world . . .’ (Par.158)

Although the call for conversion by the Church herself is included in the document, its primary focus appears to be conversion by individual members and Church communities. If the Church is to be credible in these times, individual conversion is insufficient. Structures, systems and policies of the universal Church require transformation in the light of the Gospel.

- **Charity and justice are not the same.**

Although there is an essential relationship between charity and justice, they are not the same. The *Instrumentum Laboris* lauds “charitable works.” However, working for justice involves changing systems, structures, institutions and public policies that are the root causes of social injustices. The Gospel is proclaimed both through “charitable works” and our work for justice.

- **The Integrity of Creation and a commitment to the future of our planet** (Par. # 57): In the light of the deterioration and destruction of life, an evangelization which promotes life must encourage an ‘ecological conversion’ by Christians made manifest in precise commitments. This concern has been well expressed in many papal and Church teachings over the years.

- **Transmission Contrasted with Dialogue:** Other Church documents (*E.g., Gaudium et Spes, Evangelii Nuntiandi*) understand evangelization as “dialogue with the world.” However, this document emphasizes again and again “transmission of the Christian faith” to various groups and sectors. “Transmission” denotes “senders” and “receivers.” There is a clear contrast between “subjects” who act and “objects” that are acted upon. There seems to be little room for mutuality: the possibility for us to be evangelized by God’s creation, by our experiences, by the “marketplace” – by the world that God sees as good and loveable.

The foregoing observations are some of those that have come to mind while studying the *Instrumentum Laboris*. Believe, moreover, that we will pray for you and all who collaborate in the work of the Synod on “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith”, in particular from October 7 to 28. May the Holy Spirit bless and guide your efforts.

Full versions of this letter in English and French are available on the site:
<http://www.crc-canada.org/>