

COMBONI MISSIONARIES

PROGRAMME OF ONGOING FORMATION ON THE MISSION 2026-2027

INTRODUCTION

The 19th General Chapter committed to dedicating a year of ongoing formation to reflection on mission (CA 2022, 25.1). In its six-year planning, the General Council mandated the General Secretariat for Mission (GSM) to organise an Institute-wide formation program for 2026 and the first part of 2027.

Contents of the programme

The GSM has developed a proposal that, in terms of content, addresses five themes of particular importance to the Institute, as reflected in the General Council's letter on the mission of May 1, 2025:

1. Mission: Returning to the Source
2. Decolonial Mission
3. Mission Beyond Ordinary Pastoral
4. Inculturation and Interculturation
5. Economy and Mission.

Program Methodology

Regarding the program's methodology, the proposal involves and integrates different levels of reflection: first and foremost, the personal level, offering three short essays—for each theme—to provide insights and stimuli for reflection. These contributions reflect experiences and contexts from different continents and are proposed as possible keys to reinterpreting personal mission experiences. The program's fundamental level of reflection, however, is the community level. Each community is invited to dedicate a day to sharing and discernment on each of the five themes. The GSM has produced worksheets to facilitate this work at the community level, which occurs once every three months. Finally, at the provincial level, we are asked to gather community reflections and summarise the key points shared. For sharing at the Institute level, the community and provincial reflections will be uploaded to a dedicated platform accessible from the GSM website (combonimission.net).

Calendar

Each topic will be presented in a webinar (in five languages) that illustrates the work to be done and in which the authors of the short essays will introduce their contributions and key insights. The process will be structured as follows:

Webinar Date	Theme	Contributions
15/01/2026	Mission: return to the essential	<i>Mission: a question of love</i> (Father David Glenday) <i>The "Cenacle of Apostles": in mission as communities</i> (Bro. Alberto Lamana) <i>The Comboni Mission in the discernment of the General Chapters (1985 -2022)</i> (GSM)
16/04/2026	Decolonised Mission	<i>The urgent need for a decolonised model of mission: a style of mission for our time</i> (Fr. Stefano Raschietti SX)

		<i>Comboni and distancing from colonialism</i> (Prof. Giampaolo Romanato) <i>A decolonised style of mission in Africa</i> (Fr. Antoine Pooda)
14/07/2026	Mission beyond ordinary pastoral	<i>An “outgoing Church”: the missionary pastoral as the paradigm of all Church activities</i> (Maria Soave Buscemi) <i>The specific Comboni pastorals according to continental priorities</i> (GSM) <i>Missionary parishes: the case of Kariobangi – Nairobi</i> (Fr. Jean Paul Bitia)
13/10/2026	Inculturation and interculturation	<i>The requalification of the mission through inculturation and interculturation</i> (Prof. Carmelo Dotolo) <i>Dialogue and inculturation in the Comboni mission in Asia</i> (Fr. Paolo Consonni) <i>The challenge of inculturation in Africa</i> (Fr. Edward Kanyike)
12/01/2027	Economy and mission	<i>Sustainable models of mission: the pastoral among the Nuer</i> (Fr. Fernando González Galarza) <i>Missionary youth pastoral and social works</i> (Bro. Jonas Yawovi Dzinekou) <i>Economy and mission</i> (Bro. Alberto Parise)

Walk together and rekindle the fire of the mission

The proposed program offers the opportunity to pause and reflect for personal and community growth, starting with a conversation between personal and community experience, a journey of faith, and the stimulation of in-depth explorations of topics particularly significant to the Institute's mission.

Although rich and varied, the program easily adapts to the pace and rhythm of daily life. On a personal level, the three short readings for each topic can be integrated into the rhythm of prayer and personal reflection. To facilitate reading, each contribution (usually 4 or 5 pages) is preceded by a half-page abstract and a 1.5-page summary. At the community level, a day every three months is scheduled for guided sharing and discernment, the outcome of which, from time to time, will be community decisions to translate the fruits of the work accomplished into practice.

In conclusion, the program guides us on a journey of action and reflection on the mission, with a shared horizon, yet strongly contextualised and connected to the experiences of individual communities. A journey that will bear fruit in proportion to the availability and commitment of individual missionaries and local communities.