



Information Newsletter
General Treasury
N° 16 - Roma, 15th July 2011

Dear All,

warm greetings from Rome!

We have come to our usual six-month update, at a time when we are preparing the Continental Assemblies for the Provincial Bursars, which will take place between August and November in Bobotà, Lomé and Cairo.

Below are the main issues that have lately come to the attention of the General Treasury.

1. Yearly Financial Report of the General Direction

During the Consulta of June, the General Council approved the 2010 Financial Report of the General Direction. The booklet containing the entire report will be sent to all the Provincial/Delegation Superiors and Bursars.

It can be said that this document is a tangible witness to the care the Lord has for the workers in His vineyard, as it provides them in a generous way with the means that are needed. It is also a witness to the concrete solidarity among the different circumscriptions and between them and the centre.

Any confrere has the right to examine the report if he so wishes and can approach his provincial bursar to be shown it. For reasons of confidentiality, the figures are not published on the *Bulletin* or the Website.

2. Yearly Financial Report of the Circumscriptions

All the circumscriptions have presented their yearly financial report, which is a very good sign. A part from a few exceptions, they are all self-sufficient. Some are particularly (and happily...) burdened with the costs of the training of a large number of candidates. It is a new field where to grow in solidarity.

The majority of the reports were complete and well presented, while others had some information missing. We shall continue to encourage the use of the reporting formats with their cross verification checks prepared by the General Treasury as they guarantee

more accuracy and make the work of revision easier.

The second part of the Balance Sheet (Cash, Bank statements and Deposits verification) is not yet sufficiently appreciated by some Provincial/Delegation Councils: the need for a yearly thorough and real verification of the cash and bank positions is not always fully understood.

There are still some ambiguities concerning the funds. In some rare cases, they clearly aim at "hiding" the profit of the year; in some others, the costs and profits of some essential activities of the province are reported in the funds and not in the *Profit and Loss Account*. In this case, there is no concern for transparency, but what is missing is a clear picture of the whole life of the body and its parts. The financial management may end up being independent from the planning.

3. The Council for Finance

From May 4th to 7th the meeting of the Council for Finance was held in Rome.

For the first time, among the participants there were Fr. Timothée Hounake Kouassi (TGB), who replaced Fr. Antonio Dasilva as representative of French-speaking Africa, and Fr. Luigi Codianni (Italy - already member of the Council some years back), replacing Fr. Santiago Jimenez as representative for Europe.

The meeting was dedicated mostly to the revision of the Financial Reports of the General Direction and of the circumscriptions.

The next meeting will be from 30th November till 2nd December 2011.

4. Decisions of the General Council

The Consulta of June, besides discussing the Financial Reports, approved some deeds of extraordinary administration:

a) Reconstruction of the residence for the community in charge of Comboni College

Khartoum, with annexed library for the public.

- b) Selling of the house of Mocoa e Indail (Brazil South): the communities were closed down on 31st December 2010.

5. Training Course for Provincial/Delegation Bursars - Rome 14 - 27 October 2012

Every year, an average of 5-6 provincial/delegation bursars are replaced. Some are at their first assignment in the field of administration, others are out of practice after years spent in different kinds of activity. It is realistic to expect that at least ten bursars have to be trained every two years.

For this reason, the General Council has approved the suggestion of the General Treasury to organize a training course for the bursars, which will take place in Rome from the 14th to the 27th October 2012.

Among others, there will be topics of accounts and Finance, Civil and Canon Law, Norms and practises of the Institute.

Participation in this course is highly recommended for new or future provincial/delegation bursars; even the experienced ones could find the course beneficial or input with their know-how.

6. Handing over between bursars

The handing over between outgoing and incoming provincial/delegation bursars - every year there are a few - is a very important moment and demands a certain degree of formality.

Neither the General Directory for Finance nor any other official document gives any provision on the formal accuracy of such a procedure.

The handing over is not merely an operation between the outgoing and the incoming bursar, rather it has to take place under the supervision of the Provincial Council, which has the final responsibility for it.

For this reason, the handing over has to be accompanied by the complete bank reconciliation report, and the transferral of responsibility has to be registered in official minutes. In November, the Council of Finance will resume the reflection on the issue and propose some guidelines.

7. Help to the Earthquake Victims in Haiti

A total of € 415.664,47 was gathered for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The sum was distributed as follows:

- a) € 120.000 to the Petits Frères de Sainte Thérèse, for the benefit of 2.100 families, which received seeds and agriculture tools.
- b) € 80.000 to the Monfortani Missionaries, for the reconstruction of popular housing.
- c) € 80.000 to local churches, for the reconstruction of two schools and assistance to children's education.

There remains € 135.664,47 that is still to be allocated.



I would like to conclude by remembering the recent celebrations for the independence of South-Sudan: we were all present - I am sure - at least with our minds. If we look at the events of the last fifty years, we must acknowledge that it is an enormous step ahead, and yet it is only the beginning of a journey full of uncertainties. Let us continue to pray and work so that peace may always prevail in Sudan.

Fr. Claudio Lurati
General Treasurer