
**Enlarged General Council
July 15-18 2008-07-18
Melle**



On y revient toujours

There was a real sense of homecoming as the 11 members of the Enlarged General Council gathered at Melle for their annual meeting.

Fr Paul Janssens who has taken over as Superior after the sudden and tragic death of Fr Alois, was there to welcome us and make sure we had everything we needed. Although this was a truly international gathering with confreres from Belgium, England, Africa and the United States, it was a truly family occasion; a chance to remember times past as well as to plan the future.

The meeting

The theme of our meeting was “Prospects for the future: 2 years on.”

Two years had passed since the dynamic and revolutionary chapter of 2006. The time had come to see what progress had been made in implementing the chapter decisions.

After listening to the regional reports, there was a lengthy and detailed examination of how far we had got with the process of implementing the Chapter. While it was clear that progress had been made there was still a lot to be done especially in the area of studying the Constitutions.



A plan for the future.

A plan for the future of the Congregation was studied and approved. This document contained some radical proposals concerning the formation of Josephite students in the years to come.

It was agreed that the Superior General would send this plan to all confreres with an accompanying letter of explanation.

Money, money, money.

Money matters were discussed in some detail. Future proposals for the Congregation needed to be financed and the time had come for re-assessment of the Congregation's income and expenditure. This would be done before next year's meeting.



Liturgy.

Fr. André was responsible for liturgy during the meeting. The meeting opened with a Eucharist in honour of the Holy Spirit. Fr André had prepared a special a special collection of hymns which we used during our different liturgical celebrations.

A special visit.

Members of the council took the opportunity of visiting the local Rest Home to meet with Fr Engelbert and Fr Eric. We found them in good form. Fr Engelbert was particularly delighted to see Fr Alfred again. He reminded Alfred of the time he had taught him when he was in the juniors class in a room over the bakery at Leuven.



Excellent hospitality.

As usual the hospitality at Melle was excellent. In between the meetings we not only enjoyed each others' company but the wonderful meals provided for us. Fr Jacob took to his bicycle in an attempt to offset the affects of these sumptuous meals. Small gifts were presented to those who had looked after us so well.

We shall be back.



Fr Martin on Chapter 2006

More photos from Fr Martin. Thanks for your photos!

<http://picasaweb.google.com/cjphotobank>

R.D.H.
Melle
18.07.08