

**BEING AND WORKING...  
following Mother Antonia's footsteps!**

Number 2

Dearest Vernian Family,  
the Lay vernian Association General Council has been held in Rome, at the Congregation's General House, July 4th. Besides Mother General, our president, Vincenzo Fornace, the vice president Mario V. Trombetta, Counsellor Anna Maria de Rosa and the General treasurer, Anna Bratti, were present.

We connected, via video conference, at 15.30, with those members who couldn't participate personally: Counsellors Pablo Suarez (Argentina), Najat Tayeh (Lebanon) and the general Secretary Antonella Cristofalo (Calabria). They were informed about the work done in the morning, they presented their suggestions and approved the Council's operation.  
As in January, we wish to inform all, in a synthetic form, about what has been treated.

**1) Assembly fulfillment**

After fervorous prayer to the Holy Spirit, to receive help and illumination in these times, and after formalities, we verified if all the 2019 Assembly's resolutions have been fulfilled.

The last issue to solve was the Regional Counsellor's list, those responsible for "formation" and "mission", whose tasks were defined in the first number of "Being and operating". After consultation with all the presidents, we have their names:

<b>AT GENERAL LEVEL</b> Pres, Vincenzo Fornace	<b>FORMATION</b> <b>MISSION</b>	Anna Maria de Rosa Mario V.Trombetta Pablo Suarez
<b>AT REGIONAL LEVEL</b> Pres, Gigliola Bianchi	<b>FORMATION</b> Reg.PIEMONTE Reg.LOMBARDIA- EMIL	Mario Zannini Anna Bratti
Pres. Emilio Borella	Reg.CAMPANIA	Vincenzo Toscano
Pres. Anna M.de Rosa	Reg.PUGLIA	Ludovica Lecci
Pres. Barbara Maruccia	Reg.ARGENTINA	Rosa Roccasalva
Pres. Liliana Santoro	Reg.LIBANO	Clemence Phahed
Pres. Miled Hosri	Reg.Kenya	Simon Kweyu
Pres, Paul Denga	Reg. Tanzania	Mathias Morris
Pres. Madeje	<b>MISSION</b> Reg.PIEMONTE Reg.LOMBARDIA- EMIL	Isabella Gaudi P. Mario V.Trombetta
Pres, Gigliola Bianchi	Reg.CAMPANIA	Rosanna Di Lauro
Pres. Emilio Borella	Reg.PUGLIA	Nicola Ontario
Pres. Anna M.de Rosa	Reg.ARGENTINA	Pilar Cuevas
Pres. Barbara Maruccia	Reg.LIBANO	Mireille Khairallah
Pres. Liliana Santoro	Reg.Kenya	Loice Auma Okoth
Pres. Miled Hosri	Reg. Tanzania	Oliva Masangia
Pres, Paul Denga		
Pres. Madeje		

The small local groups of Nuevo Laredo (Mexico) and Mont Pleasant (USA) remain excluded temporarily. The Calabria Vernian region is expecting a new Regional Council.

On the other hand, Anna Maria has contacted all the Association's responsible people, in Italy and abroad, in order to introduce and monitor the formative path in the various areas.

In respect to the Mission, Pablo and Mario will coordinate soon with the responsible persons for the three charity projects, also for other developments in their areas.

**Pablo Suarez** will follow the Mission in Argentina, Mexico and the United States.

**Mario Trombetta** will follow the mission in Italy, Africa and Lebanon.

Naturally, we know that the pandemic will make the work in these programs difficult, both at formative and operative level.

## **2) Spiritual lines 2020 and 2021 and informative pamphlet.**

About 2020 spiritual lines, we confirm what is expressed in number 1 of Being and working. We are family, and all of us, missionaries and lay persons, have decided to follow the Congregation's annual programme. This one will be in September, due to the virus. General Mother thinks that in 2021 the stress will be on the Eucharist, sanctity and service, with eyes and thought around the tenth year anniversary of our Foundress's Beatification, and she anticipates that the Evangelic icon of the period will be the parable on the "washing of feet" (John 13)

During the discussion arises from Anna Maria's first contacts, the fact that some people might be interested in other subjects, specially current subjects or some of spiritual contents. The Council reiterates something that has already been stated: that it is necessary to follow a common line. We are, we repeat it strongly, mother Antonia's family, we operate in various parts of the world, **the Statute expresses clearly that formative aspects of formation must be in charge of Mother and her Council.** Anyway, there is no opposition to any particular subject that may be treated in some of the regional encounters, in agreement with the responsible of formation and the regional President, according to the degree of interest and preparation of the audience.

We find, in some cases, that the formation of some groups may be limited to the reflexion on the Sunday Word. "Listening groups" are undoubtedly of utility, but the Council considers that a further step must be taken, sharing also the proposed associative lines, adapting them to local realities.

The text concerning basic and permanent formation, titled "**Lay vernians: documents and formative path**", drawn up and presented by Mother Raffaella, is approved by the General Council. Given its importance and utility, it will be translated into Arabic, Swahili and English. The Spanish version is already made. It will be officially handed to the Association on October 2nd in Rivarolo. The pamphlet will be accompanied by a letter of presentation by Mother Raffaella, from the President and Anna Maria, responsible counsellor for Formation.

Still, Mother Raffaella insists on continuous deepening of some documents cited there: in particular the Statute, the Promise formula, and the Vatican Decree of May 2004.

## **3) New charity projects.**

We expected a suggestion from the Congregation for the third charity project, which should concern Africa. This is proposed by the Mother after consultation with her Council. It will be called "Morogoro". It will concern that arid place of Tanzania, where there is no water (it is impossible to dig even a well!) Therefore, it is necessary to build two big cisterns and two tanks (estimated cost, about 20.000€)

The projects, in agreement also with the Verna Fraternitas Onlus Council, will only be three, in order not to disperse the little economic funding available.

Contrary to what was agreed in the preceding Council, it is decided to assign specific Italian vernian regions the three activities in order to avoid concentration in one of them, leaving the others without financing.

From the debate that follows it arises that the Council thinks it's more efficient, to publicize and sponsor the projects, the support of the Sisters of the various communities where lay people work. Mother approves and it will be activated in this sense.

PROJECT	TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	VERNIAN REGION
LIBANO	<b><u>Mary Immaculate in Ghebaleh's support</u></b> The survival of a school of about three hundred children has been threatened by the country's financial and economic impoverishment, lack of care of Catholic schools, and bloody internal conflicts.	Lombardia- Emilia (except Crevalcore)
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	<b><u>Argentine elderly assistance</u></b> The serious economic crisis that has struck all latin America has created new poor and people at risk. In Argentina many old people are alone, without means of support, isolated in some lonely inaccessible places.	Piemonte
<b>TANZANIA</b>	<b><u>MOROGORO: Two big cisterns and tanks</u></b> The terrible dryness in the area risks the population's survival. Due to the gradual drying up of all water sources and the phreatic layers underground, it is not even possible to dig wells.	Emilia (Crevalcore) Puglia Campania Calabria

#### **4) Association life in uncertain times. Use of modern communications systems.**

Counsellors who are present (who Pablo and Najat will join later) inform of the year first months situation in all vernian regions, in Italy and abroad.

The damage created by the virus arises, in all sectors, public and private, in the world of work and commerce, finance and economy. All voluntary associations have been struck. They took care of humanitarian problems and care of others. The pandemic, and measures taken to contain it, have resulted in isolation rather than communion and sharing, present in the Association's DNA.

Our Association has been clothed in immobility and paralysis.

**The Council hopes that it september, according to the present situation, there may be a resumption of the formative and operative activities, and we may proceed and perpersevere in the associative life.**

The president points out that an Association that pursues moral ethical spiritual objectives like ours can not be put in quarantine any further.

Where possible, and when possible, we must make use of technological means, such as video conference (for example the Regional and General Councils) and whatsapp groups. We must also use the communication and materials posted in the official site, which is to be valued.

#### **5) Visits to all Vernian Regions/Groups.**

The division among all Counsellors in various areas of the vernian world remains the same, as decided in the Council of January 2020. Obviously nobody has been able to program a trip in the countries or regions . In October we expect that Vincenzo or Mario or Anna Maria, together or individually, may at least go to Puglia and Calabria.

#### **6) Associative Treasury**

Anna Bratti briefly exposes the current account situation of the Association. The Assembly had destined almost all the surplus of the preceding administration (2.000€ ) to a charity project run by

the Verna Fraternitas Onlus. In the first months, again because of the virus, few groups have sent the Associative contribution and our economic resources amount to few euro cents. Most regions, when asked, have promised to send the contribution in September. We hope so.

**7) Next Council.**

- 1) In normal times the date for the following Council is fixed. According to program it should be in January 2021. given the uncertainty created by the virus we haven't yet put a date. We will propose it a little ahead and decide if we'll have it in Rome or elsewhere, and whether have it presentially or on line.

Milan, 17.7.2020

For the President and his Council

Mario V. Trombetta.

