

LAY VERNIAN ASSOCIATION

MINUTES N.6

COUNCIL OF 26.6.2014

The General Council of the Lay Vernian association meets following regular summons, at Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of Ivrea's house, at 92 Via Lungaretta, with the following

Order of the day

- 1- **Introductory prayer;**
- 2- **Council of 30.11.2013's minutes approval;**
- 3- **Association's spiritual lines definition for 2014.2015**
- 4- **Report on period 2012-2013 to our General Mother by the President, brief summary;**
- 5- **Pablo Suarez's report on Latin American and Mount Pleasant groups;**
- 6- **Lay Vernians' site updating;**
- 7- **Counsellors' visits to vernian communities programming;**
- 8- **Counsellor Pablo Suarez's considerations and proposals in order to improve the association's effectiveness and spirit;**
- 9- **General Mother's report on the African groups after her trip to the vernian communities there;**
- 10- **Annual contribution status.**

B)

1- The association's participation in the "synodal path" of family of 2014.2015 and its attention to the year of consecrated life, 2014.2015.

2- the association's participation in favor of the link that joins common good with family promotion, family founded on matrimony between man and woman, against the invasive alarming spreading, also at schools, of gender ideology. *(In the struggle for the family man himself is at stake. And it becomes evident that where God is denied, man's dignity is also dissolved. "He who defends God defends man" (SS. Benedict XVI)* For this matter's better understanding I include the whole text by Pope Benedict of 1.12.2012

The President, Vincenzo Fornace, Counsellors Mario Trombetta, Pablo Suarez and Massimiliano Genco are present. Mother Palma has delegated the Congregation General Counsellors for the task, because she is absent due to urgent reasons. Sor Donatella and Sor Salome are present.

The General Secretary, Mario Trombetta, takes up the job of writing the present minutes.

1- **Introductory prayer;**

Massimiliano Genco opens the Council reading a prayer prepared for this meeting, which seeks to answer Jesus's great question: "... but who do you say I am?"

2-Council of 30.11.2013's minutes approval;

The Secretary reads last Council's minutes, already sent by e-mail, it is unanimously approved.

3-Association's spiritual lines definition for 2014.2015

(omitted)

The President holds that it would be auspicious for the Association to hold a lively, attentive participation in the "sinodal path" of the family and consecrated life.(2014.2015)

Sister Donatella reminds us that in April-May the programmatic lines of the Congregation were drawn, based on Lucas' gospel, 1,26-47, annunciation and visitation.

Mario Trombetta points out that the lay people spiritual formative path had marked a plurianual itinerary, in the intento to follow Pope Francisco's exhortation, depicted in three points: "walking, building up, confessing" (Lumen Fidei) to interpret its style and imprompta.

The three major objectives for religious and lay people:"walking, building up, confessing", are almost synonyms of " Search, find,give testimony"

The mission, understood as "Comunication of the faith to others", is the consequence, the final fruit od the three previously premises mentioned in different ways.

(omitted)

This year the complete sense could be found in the "confessing" ,giving testimony or announcing

(omitted)

A profound debate follows, after which the following SPIRITUAL LINES 2014.2015 are drawn:

- Family, cradle of life, domestic church, promoter of missionariety.
- Mother Antonia and "her" family.

The following documents could be consulted, also to acquire more confidence with the Church Magistery:

- Familiaris Consortio, John Paul II, 1981
- Sacramentum Caritatis, Benedicto XVI, 2007, 27-28-29
- Evangelii Gaudium, Francisco, 66-77
- Humane vitae, Pablo VI, 1968
- Evangelium Vitae, Juan Pablo II, 1995
- Catholic Church Catechism, n,1534-1933. 1666

Pastoral Family directory, 1993 In our prayer, we will think about biblical texts:

Luke 1, 26-47; John 11, 1ss; Luke 10, 38-42 In what refers to our Founder:

"A gratis per amore" by Angelo Montonati y Funereal Prayer by Vallosio.

The Evangelic Icon related to Family missionariety will also be that of the Emaus disciples, who soon started the trip to Jerusalem, and, for the first time, that of Mary who, after her "yes" set off immediately to Isabel's to announce the good news, in sintony with Pope Francisco's words: "Walking, building up, confessing".

4-Report on period 2012-2013 to our General Mother by the President, brief summary;

Vincenzo Fornace shows the contents of 2012-2013 report to be presented to Mother Palma, which was drawn from the 11 responsible persons' reports. It begins:

“The present report, in accordance to art.22 of our Statute, is articulated in four chapters, the first and the second intend to describe individual groups' composition and localization, kinds of meetings held, activities carried out, responses to vernian commitments, accordance to the annual program in prayer, marian devotion, study and charity works.

A third part is dedicated to expose some considerations and reflexions arising from the comparison of data and deductible from elements picked from individual reports and the nature of the association, as set in art. 1,2,3 and art.12-18 of the Statute, showing lights and shadows about it.

Finally, in the fourth section, an attempt will be made to elaborate programmatic indications, according to statutory principles, in line with the most recent magisterial teachings and to incarnate the vernian charisma *hit et unc*, which we are called to be testimony of.

The following facts appear during the exposition:

- Group meetings: while the “most virtuous” meet weekly or even twice a week, for the most part the frequency is monthly or fortnightly. There are some groups whose meetings are held at longer intervals.
- Regional meetings: they should be complementary to the group ones, but in some realities they are considered “alternative” and people participate of only one of them.
- Meetings above described “more than only sharing prayer, have respected substantially and unanimously the proposed programme and the –Council's suggested lines in what respects reference texts, they have always had the presence of at least one congregations sister, and sometimes, on special occasions, under the spiritual direction of a priest”.
- The “ultraregional” meeting, such as the Vernian pilgrimage to Rome last year has seen an important number of lay people (about 200), coming from many Italian regions, which have received spiritual benefits and personal gratification.
- Positive meetings in all Vernian groups/regions due to multiple activities and charity projects.
- “In the strictly numeric plane and under the territorial presence profile, as substantial upholding of our association, since the movements have been compensated by new joinings and new openings”.
- It is necessary to keep in mind the association and the Congregation's almost symbiotic connection in the fact that the SCIC's vitality reflects itself positively in favor of Lay Vernians, as well as the fact that difficulty (leaving a territory) has a relapse effect on our association. However, some groups like Cascine Bica, Cirié, La Paz, Bácoli, for example, have continued their activity despite the sisters' departure. Others, like Palagianò, Tricase, Grumo Appula, Santa Maria Capua Vetere, have expressed their unease and “orphanity” feeling due to the Sisters' absence as their indispensable guide”.
- In such situations it is necessary to express more determination, consolidate the sense of

belonging to the Vernian Family, through the delving and embracing of the meaning of the vernian charisma given to us freely.

- From statistics it is verified that in some regions the average age is about 50, while in others it is 70. So, since vernian charisma has no age, it is necessary to admit that, either energy and enthusiasm diminish with age, or we must work to guarantee generational renewal.
- At ten years of the apostolic recognition decree of our association, it is good to proclaim a rather elemental truth, though of vital importance for any lay addition: while the entering person's participation, if active and frequent, constitutes a help for his soul's elevation in relation to God and his neighbour, the risk of reaching opposite effects exists if this participation is scarce and the commitment is minimal.

(Omitted)

- The report final part provides pragmatic indications in the light of the pope's magisterium. It is granted that vernian vocation should become an apostolic commitment to evangelization and catechism, tending to christian life, paying attention to one's own integral spiritual formation, available to produce deeds of evangelization and catechism. It is granted also that vernians' formation and activity, both individual and communitary, should be constant, attentive and obediently developed in the "attention to the Holy Father's word" (ST n. 15), with special attention to the present Pope's Magisterium.

(omitted)

To this end Pope Francisco's homily of 14.3.2013 and his first General Audience of 27.3.2013 are commented widely. A surprising providential harmony is found with the gratuitous vernian charisma, branded in Marian devotion to the Immaculate Virgin. Such a harmony is a joyful song, which at the same time warns us of the importance of such responsibility.

The General President's report will soon be spread to all the vernian world.

5- Pablo Suarez's report on Latin American and Mount Pleasant groups;

for racialization purposes of the intervening points 7 and 8 are joined, since they are Pablo Suarez's. (Visits programming of Counsellors to vernian communities, Pablo's reflections and proposals to improve the association's operativity and spirit.)

Pablo can only inform about news received by mail or telephone from the Mexican and American groups.

The Nuevo Laredo group works mainly with the local parish. They need a simple formation. It is followed by sister Salvatorina. They meet once a month.

In Argentina, the groups are followed by the new Regional Council, whose President is Pilar Cuevas.

The local groups have become seven, since a new group, though not of statutory numeric rigor, has been formed in San Martín, with five new lay people. They are followed by Pablo himself. This case is especially important because there is no SCIC community there.

Mother Antonia may produce unusual unpredictable things. He presents a calendar for future visits:

- Visit to the Mexican community: end of August.

- Visit to Ecuador's new community: october
- **Pablo Suarez's report on Latin American and Mount Pleasant groups;**
- visit to Mount Pleasant: 2015

He remarks that the association's first 8 years have seen an intense activity, both by the Council as by the groups/regions, and a unanimous participation also in support of the Founder's Beatification.

He is very worried by the slackening phase of this quadriennium characterized by:

- . diminishing of the number of lay vernians.
- . little reflected vocation.
- . Little participation in the Sacraments.
- . Little participation in the monthly meetings
- . Scarce or no participation in apostolic activities.

After the first associative period's operative phase, which has given us the Association's and statute's organizations, the holy See's approval, the subdivision in vernian regions and local groups, the numerous visits made to keep union in the world, we should have moved to phase 2, our faith deepening, and our vocation, through a strong formative motivation.

This is not happening, we run the risk of losing this quadriennium which will finish with the General Assembly of September-October 2015.

It is necessary to consolidate our lay movement, on the wings of Pope Francisco, so inspired.

He proposes consequently some practical operative rules:

- 1- General Council's both annual meetings should be at precise moments of the year, previously agreed on, in order to favour counsellors who come from far away and have job obligations.
- 2- The Council's Order of the day should be agreed on by the President, the General Counsellors and the regional Presidents.
- 3- The General President should hear frequently from the Regional Presidents in order to know the varied realities/problems.
- 4- The role of Regional and local Presidents should be reinforced in order to create strong, more active communities, sorting out future association's leaders.

Counsellors decide unanimously, after debate:

to meet on November 25, 2014 and, in following years, last week in November. To meet on the 27th of June 2015 and, in following years, last week in June.

- The President, with the Vice President's help, will contact General Counsellors and Regional Presidents via mail or telephone, at least three weeks before the Council to evaluate proposals for the Order of the day.
- Summon Counsellors and regional presidents to a meeting in Rome, two years after General Assembly, to compare vernian regions' problems and check on the advance of assembly's dispositions and programming. Regional presidents will be able to

delegate only in particular exceptional cases, after Council's previous agreement.

- The President, with Vice President's help, will keep constant contact with the Regional Presidents, also by mail.

6-Lay Vernians' site updating;

After various intents, frustrated due to technical problems, the Council decides to rely on the Caalbrese vernians' structure, they have managed a blog successfully, linked to the 's site.

Massimiliano Genco approves and, after a telephone call to those involved, accepts.

The Counsellors thank Isola de Capo Rizzuto's friends.

The team to who the material must be sent will be made up by Miss Antonella Cristofalo and Mr Arturo Riilo, from de Group of Isola de Capo Rizzuto.

The President will send a collaboration request mail in the name of the Council.

At this point the vernian Regions are invited to send reports, news, meetings, to the address to be decided as soon as possible.

(omitted)

7-Counsellors' visits to vernian communities programming;

A rapid round is made to update what was established in the previous Council, excluding Pablo Suarez, who has already presented his visiting programme during his intervention. The President will go to Campania in September to visit the locl groups. His trip to Puglia doesn't have a certain date yet.

Mario Trombetta will meet the Lebanese sisters' and lay community from 29.8 to 12.9. He will monitor the state of the group and update it on the most recent association's facts.

There will also be a series of meetings on subjects pre set by the sisters of Ghebaleh, such as "Family, domestic church" and the "Complementarity in the group diversity", with the "importance of spiritual human growth in the life of the group".

Massimiliano Genco will take part in the course for vocational animators in Bari, from 27/7 to 3/8, where sisters coming from all over the vernian world will be present as well.

On such an occasion he will also visit the Puglia groups, toughly tested by the departure of our sisters in some places.

Due to the General Counsellor Pina Mollo's health problems, the Abruzzo de Scerni group will be visited by Vincenzo Fornace or Mario Trombetta, at a date to designate.

The future formation cheks of the italian groups and regions will be folowed by Vincenzo and Mario.

9- General Mother's report on the African groups after her trip to the vernian communities there;

Sadly, this important subject has not been developed due to Mother Palma's sudden

absence. Counsellors ask her to express her considerations in writing or oral transmission to the Secretary General, as soon as she is free of her multiple occupations. The General secretary knows the African groups already, because he visited them twice, and has a major understanding of the individual realities.

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10-Annual contribution status.

Mario Trombetta presents the Association's current account status to the 18.6.2014 is 7,515 €, to which we add the 960 € handed to Mario by Pablo, from Argentine lay vernians.

The Vice President observes that:

- Since the opening of the account (30.1.2012) cash expenditures are practically non-existent. (in 2013, for example, only 200 € for Pilgrimage text copies) and the income is made up of the associative contribution of the "virtuous" groups/regions.
- This year's "campaign", though repeated, has already seen an important consensus. Piamonte, Argentina, Scerni regional groups (Abruzzo), groups from Santa Maria Capuavetere, Matino-Collepasso, Isola de Capo Rizzuto (Year 2013). Lebanon will pay Mario Trombetta on his visit.
- African groups are withholding the amount to finance the expenses of the delegates to the General Assembly.
- The money collected will finance not only the Assembly of 2015 but also the Regional Presidents' meetings planned. (always the second year after the Assembly)

Counsellors take notice of the situation and ask General Secretary to make these elements public and Treasurer Anna Bratti to put in evidence and call to their senses those groups or regions which are "little collaborative"

A discussion about order of the day, part B is opened.

It is observed that these points have already been considered at the moment of defining spiritual lines, and have been discussed especially in point 4, in the President's report.

The Council is adjourned, after exhausting the points of the order of the day, at 16.30, after a short prayer to the Virgin and our Foundress.

Secretary General

Mario Trombetta

President

Vincenzo Fornace