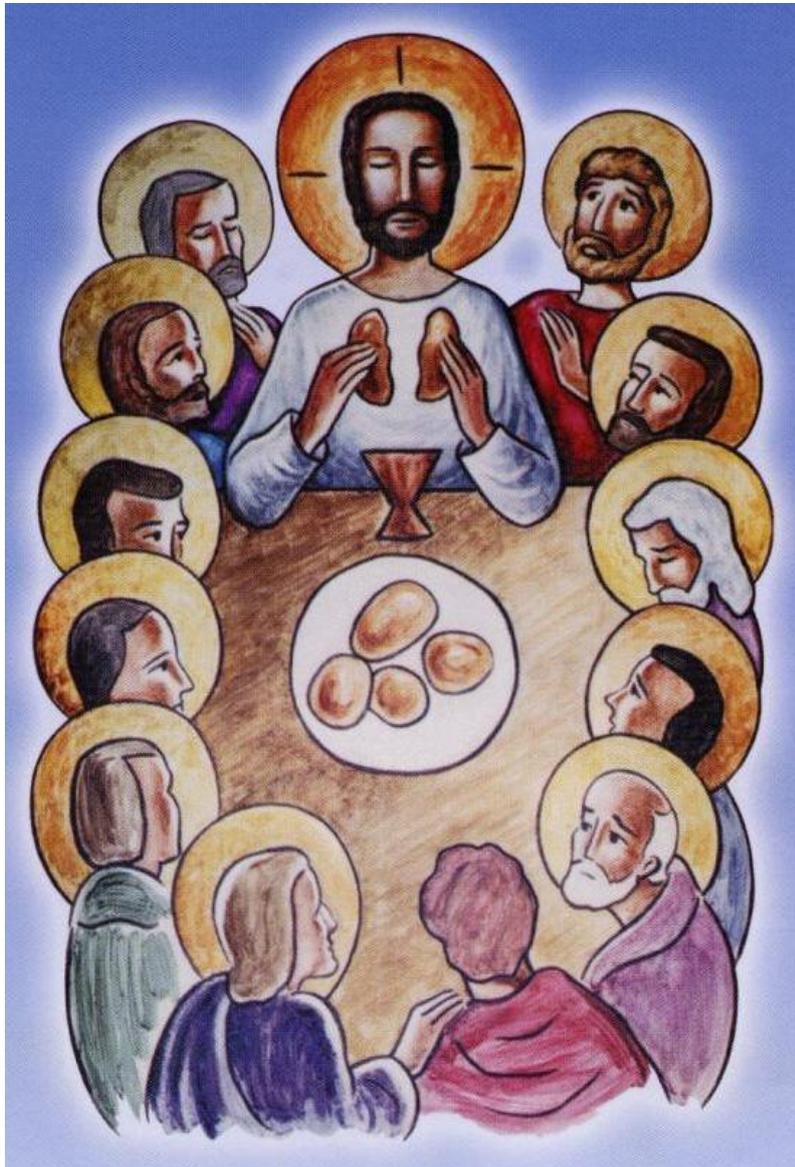


ἀπόστολος

**SOCIETY OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
PROVINCE OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



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Pictures: MSA USA

From the Desk of the Provincial



Dear Confreres,

We have finished our mandatory spiritual retreat where the preacher, Fr. Charles Bak, MSA, made us walk in the footsteps of Fr. Menard, touching different aspects of our discipleship. First of all, regarding the Mystical Body where Jesus is the Head and we are His Body, rightly he reminds us that we are the Mystical Body of Christ; this means we follow Him, not replace Him. Secondly, he refers how dynamic can be the fraternal life, where each one as a family puts his gifts and talents at the service of all. Thirdly, sin and suffering are part of our human condition, but the redemptive act of Jesus our Lord transforms our limitations in joy as prodigal sons reconciled with our celestial Father. Thank you, Fr. Charlie Bak, for the great help in our vocation as MSA. During this time, we were gathered together in My Father's House, which is directed by Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA. We thank him, because all the facility was placed at our service. Even the Spiritual Food at the table of the altar and the food at the table of fraternity were moments of tremendous renewal. So we would also like to thank the Commission for the Retreat. The last day, we had two continuous hours renewing the training to Protect Our Children, which is mandatory of our accreditation with Praesidium, Inc. and required to grant the letter of suitability to our members who do ministerial activities. We thank you, Fr. Dennis Connell, for being our liason with Praesidium, and for your nice presentation of this topic. So, we left the house of retreat with a sense that we are growing in our vocation as MSA and being open to continue to improve our charism and mission in the Church in America. And the presence of Mary is a great example of discipleship and fellowship for us MSA.

Convocation to the Sixth General Assembly 2017

With the theme, "the joy of the Gospel in our Mission," our General Animator, Fr. Isaac Martinez, MSA, has sent the letter of convocation and the ballot to elect the three representatives of the MSA USA Province for this Assembly in 2017. This assembly will be held in Bogota, Columbia. He reminded us to meditate and make suggestions about the following points: 1) our fidelity to our charism and mission; 2) the situation of our MSA Society, 3) questions proposed by the Commission, 4) revision of our Constitution and norms, and 5) election of the new General Animator. So, we make ours the recommendations of Fr. Isaac to take an active part in the preparation of this event by sending suggestions, reflections,

or commentaries to the Preparatory Commission. I, as Provincial Animator, recommend that all the MSA members pray the prayer for the General Assembly 2017 at the end of Evening Prayer.

PRAYER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.”(Mt 7,7).
“Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name
he will give you.” (Jn 16,23).*

**Lord Jesus, during the time in which we will celebrate,
the 6th General Assembly of the Society of the Missionaries
of the Holy Apostles, as always, open your heart to our prayer.**

**First of all, we bless you, we praise you and thank you,
for your constant solicitude toward our community,
in which all that we have received,
we have received it as coming from you.
Truly, your love for us is lifelong.**

**We are very conscious of our limitations and weaknesses.
We are also conscious, that our capacities
and gifts, are fruits of your love.**

**This is why, we ask you, to give us, through your Holy Spirit,
the necessary light, that will help us, reflect and initiate projects
for the next five years, as well as, the strength to show us
how to proclaim the Word of God, to insist whether it is convenient or inconvenient, to
encourage through all patience and teaching.**

**May we, thus work joyfully and peacefully, to make you known
and loved, You, Jesus, as well as the Good News of your Gospel.
May this joy from the Gospel, light up a fire in our hearts
and in our lives, and spread about us, as an enthusiastic invitation,
to come and work in your vineyard.**

**Almighty Father, we ask you for these graces, in the Name of Jesus,
your Son, your Beloved. Amen, Amen. Alleluia!**

Mary Queen of the Holy Apostles,	Pray for us.
The Holy Apostles	Pray for us.
Saint Francis of Assisi	Pray for us.
Fr. Eusèbe Menard and Mr. Hector Durand	Intercede for us.

Praesidium: The diploma we received by Praesidium, Inc. makes us, the MSA USA, responsible to improve better and better our service in the Church. We trust deep concern and holiness of life. We know the importance of reviewing yearly each one of the standards required, so that in 2018 we can renew our accreditation successfully. Thank you to all the members for showing interest and cooperation.

Padre Pio Chapel: The stained-glass windows were finished and we are thankful for the leadership of Fr. Jeffrey Thompson, the art of Mr. Robert Cantoni, and the support of the Padre Pio group. We also want to thank Fr. Edward Doherty, MSA, for the donation of these windows. The chapel place of worship is a point of contact between man and God.

Updating Our Goals and Objectives:

The Provincial Animation, December 2014 – December 2017, received from the last Provincial Assembly MSA USA a mandate for the next three years to improve the life of our Province in different aspects. Now, in the middle of our mandate, we let you know our improvement. Please support us with your prayers, with your talents, and with your fraternal concern.

I. APOSTOLIC LIFE

1.1. Establish a Provincial Vocational Center outside of Connecticut

The MSA USA Province, shall establish a Provincial vocational center outside of Connecticut.

Not yet realized.

1.2. Existence of Various Apostolates:

The Province shall establish a vocational center and financial help for new members.

Not yet: we have some interest to open a house of discernment in DC, and to collaborate in California with a house of retreat.

1.3. Provincial Stipend

The Provincial Animator shall receive a *stipend* so that he will be free to attend to the needs of the Province.

Not yet: The financial reality of our Province does not allow to have the Provincial Animator full time dedicated to the Province.

II. FRATERNAL LIFE

2.1. Promotion of fraternal life

Recommendation: The animator of the local MSA communities shall convoke a meeting of their members minimum once a month with an organized plan to develop their community: spiritually, fraternally and socially. (C&N art. 23 & art. 29.)

In progress: It is working according to the recommendation of the Assembly. We need to ask the minutes of each month to be sending to the Provincial Secretary.

2.2. Mr. Hector Durand:

We shall ask the General Animator to designated Mr. Hector Durand in our daily prayers, specifically recognized and recited within our daily vocational prayers along with Fr. Eusebe Menard.

Done: the General Animator has enacted a decree adding the name of the co-founder Mr. Hector Durand during the prayer for vocations.

III. FORMATION

3.1 Establishment of Seminarian Support Groups

The MSA USA Province shall establish support groups to fund MSA seminarians with the help of the MSA Associates.

Not yet: we need to create as soon it is possible this groups of support. We appointed Fr. Dennis Connell as responsible for the “Friends of Jesus”.

3.2. Formation Directory Update and Re-Organization

a) The Directory of Formation of the USA Province shall be updated consonant with our Constitutions and Norms in accord with the vision of our Founder, Fr Eusebe Menard.

b) Stipends shall be established to support MSA members so they may be free to attend the duties of vocation development and formation of MSA postulants and/or probationists.

Partly done: We need to review the directory of Formation; we need to have other member in the Province to work full time in the development of the vocations. We have one full time in the formation.

3.3. MSA Permanent Diaconate

The Provincial Animator shall study the feasibility of establishing a permanent diaconate.

Not yet: we have the rules for the permanent diaconate but needs to be established in dialogue with the Local Ordinary.

3.4. Creation of a fund for education

Proposition: The Province shall establish an educational endowment fund for furthering education of MSA seminarians and members.

Not yet: we need a fund of 7 million US to support the members in the MSA almost all elderly, we don't have yet the feasibility. We are very far of this reality, let us ask Saint Joseph to help us in this purpose.

3.5. Probation Time

The Province MSA USA will have a house and master of this time.

Done: we have the house and the master of Probation full time. We need urgently vocations, from USA or elsewhere.

IV. LAITY

4.1. MSA "Associates"

We need to have present when we work with the laity the following steps:

1. A provincial councilor must be appointed responsible for the laity.
2. We must teach them:
 - a) The Constitutions and Norms MSA (Art. 58 and 59).
 - b) History, charism and spirituality of the MSA.

In progress: we have appointed Fr. Jeffrey Thompson as responsible for the Laity in the Province. He is working with Mr. James Tabor creating the Menardian Disciples.

V. CYBER SPACE

5.1. Official Web

One councilor must be responsible for the web.

In progress: Fr. Charles Bak M.S.A. it is the responsible, we have a web: msausa.org

VI. ADMINISTRATION

6.1. Directory of the Province

All the members must know this directory and observe it.

Not yet: we need to publish and give to each member the directory.

6.2. Archive

Proposition: The Province shall appoint an official Archivist with a suitable location designated for the MSA archives

Not Yet: we need the place and the person to do this task.

6.3. The use of the Symbols MSA

Norms 86.2 and 98.1, 5 in the use of the MSA signs.

Done: we have received the faculty to legislate in our Province the pertinence of the use of the habit before the temporal promise.

6.4. Promote the tithe of the members

Every member must give the tithe to the MSA USA.

Not yet attain the goal: we have sent letters and reminders, but there are few who tithe, and many are so old they even need our financial support.

6.5. The writings of the Founder

We must review and translate the writings of Fr. Eusebe Menard, OFM.

In progress: we are publishing three books, two from Fr. Menard himself, other from the elders of the MSA for his centennial.

6.6. Meeting with the Local Animators

Create times of interaction with the Local Animators and their councils.

In progress: because we are so small community we have many times our participation in their meetings.

6.7. Meeting with the General Animator and his Council

Promote a meeting with them twice in the mandate.

In progress: we had projected a meeting next April 15, 2016, with the Animator General and his council, but the meeting was cancelled by the General Animator.

6.8. Provincial Assembly General 2017

- Confirm the Preparatory Commission
- Preparatory files
- Convocation
- Election of the Provincial Animator
- Date

In progress: one year before the end we need to create the commission, this will be in December 2016.