

Report on the activities of the General Secretariat of Formation for ANALECTA, 2018 – 2019

1. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF FORMATION

Father Manuel Rodríguez Delgado, C.Ss.R., with officials of other General Secretariats, was officially installed as the Executive Secretary of the General Secretariat of Initial Formation on Monday, January 15th, 2018, in Rome. Fr. Rodríguez substitutes Fr. Luis Alberto Roballo, C.Ss.R., who diligently served as the executive secretary for eleven years.

The Secretariat of Initial Formation is accompanied by the Vicar General of the Congregation, Fr. Cecilio Alberto Eserverri, C.Ss.R., and the General Consultor, Fr. Rogerio Gómes, C.Ss.R.

Besides Fathers Eserverri, Gómes and Rodríguez, the members of the new Secretariat for initial formation and their corresponding Conferences are Fr. Vaclav Hypius, C.Ss.R. (Europe), Fr. Edilberto Cepe, C.Ss.R. (Asia/Oceania), Joseph Musendami, C.Ss.R. (Africa and Madagascar), and Bro. Larry Luján, C.Ss.R. (North America).

The General Council petitioned the five Coordinators of the Conferences to assume the responsibility of Continued Formation. This task was accepted by the Coordinators in their meeting in Rome in January of 2018.

2. MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF FORMATION

Up to now and during the present sexennium (2016 – 2022), the General Secretariat of Formation has met a total of four times, all of them in Rome except for the last meeting (November 2019) in Aparecida, Brazil. The meeting in Brazil facilitated the opportunity to visit the different formation houses of the Sao Paulo Province. The agendas and tasks of these meetings have been principally the follow-up on the areas mentioned in the initial 2017 meeting.

3. ACTIVITIES

In November of 2017, there was a transitional meeting in Rome with the new members of the Secretariat for the Sexennium, 2016 – 2022, organized by Father Roballo. At that meeting, reports were given on the notable and diverse activities and accomplishments of the Secretariat during the previous sexennium. During that week of meetings, with the active participation of Father General, Michael Brehl, Fr. Cecilio Alberto Eserverri and Fr. Rogerio Gómes, along with Fr. Luis Alberto Roballo, C.Ss.R., the vision and projected tasks for the new Secretariat were discussed. The most outstanding areas of attention for the General Secretariat during the new sexennium were identified, namely, the formation and courses for formators, the updating, according to the more recent ecclesial and Congregational documents, of the *Ratio Formationis of 2003*, the elaboration of fundamental elements of Redemptorist Formation programs (formally known as *Core Curriculum*), the evaluation process in response to Decision # 30 of the

XXV General Chapter, the publication of additional numbers of the volumes of *Redemptorist Formation*, and the compilation of “data banks” of pertinent initial formation information.

The Secretariat of Formation was present at the course for the Formators of the European Conference held in Trois Epis, France, in April (9-13) of 2018 and the courses for Formators of the Asia/Oceania Conference in Pattaya, in July (2–9) of 2018 and July (1 to 12) of 2019. The Secretariat also conducted the course for Formators in Kenya, Africa, in July (16-27) of 2018. Reports and evaluations of these courses were submitted to the General Council. Because of the Congregational process of Reconfiguration, instead of courses for formators in 2019, more emphasis in some of the Conferences was placed on encounters of formators to discuss the impact of the Reconfiguration process and Apostolic Priorities on Initial Formation.

During the years 2018 and 2019, several formation houses and common Novitiates in all the five Conferences were visited by the General Secretariat of Initial Formation. Also, during these two years, the General Secretariat of Formation participated in various meetings sponsored by the Conferences.

The Secretariat has contributed to the review of several *Ratios* of Conferences and formation houses.

In both years, 2018 and 2019, the Secretariat collaborated with Fr. Piotr Chyla, C.Ss.R., in both the English and Spanish Spirituality courses benefitting by establishing dialogues with participants who are formators. The Secretariat has also maintained a collaborative and on-going communication with the General Secretariat for Evangelization and the Office of Communications.

A continuing process has been followed in the updating of the *Ratio Formationis Generalis*, and the Fundamental Elements for each stage of formation.

4. PLANS, REMAINDER OF THE SEXENNIUM

There are two principle activities that will engage the service of the General Secretariat of Formation for the remainder of the sexennium. They are the process of visits and evaluation of the Congregation’s Initial Formation Programs as petitioned by the XXV General Chapter, Decision # 30, and the preparation of the next volumes of the series on *REDEMPTORIST FORMATION*.

Important for the evaluation of the initial formation programs has been the updating of the *Ratio Formationis of 2003* with the different published and promulgated Congregational and Ecclesial documents and the elaboration of documents containing the Fundamental Elements for each stage of formation. All the documents, consultations, strategy details and processes for the Evaluation of the Initial Formation Programs of the Congregation are practically in place. On receiving the recommendations and approval in December of 2019 from the General Council, the process will be put into motion.

The Secretariat considers the tasks for the next three years of utmost importance as the Congregation moves forward with the decisions made at the mid-sexennial meetings in the five Conferences and subsequently approved by the General Council, on Restructuring and Reconfiguration, the Missionary Apostolic and Fundamental Priorities and how these decisions influence initial formation.

Finally, the General Secretariat of Formation would like to express its gratitude to the different formators and formandi, Coordinators, Superiors, Secretariats of Formation, Fr. Luis Alberto Roballo, C.Ss.R. and especially to Frs. General, Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R., Bro. Jeffrey Rolle, C.Ss.R., Frs. Cecilio Alberto Eserverri, C.Ss.R., Rogerio Gómes, C.Ss.R. and Fr. Brendan Kelly, C.Ss.R., the Congregation's General Secretary, who all have been constantly and collaboratively present and attentive to all of the Secretariat's needs and processes.

Manuel Rodríguez Delgado, C.Ss.R.
Executive Secretary