



VIATOR-INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

n°1 | December 25, 2024

English Version

HIS STEPS WILL TRACE THE PATH

On December 10, the General Council reached the first 100 days of its mandate. In everyday life, the first hundred days of a government set the tone, announce the major orientations and imprint the philosophy as well as the operating mode that the management team will favor.

The day after his election, taking up the words of Psalm 84, the Superior General reiterated his total confidence in God who always goes before us:

“... and his steps will trace the path (Ps 84, 14)”

The steps of God will trace the path of our community, spiritual and apostolic life. This confidence and hope have inhabited the General Council since it took office on September 1.

This newsletter, on the eve of the New Year celebration, re-traces some of the steps taken in the life of our international Viatorian community in recent months.

Enjoy reading!

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GENERAL COUNCIL NEWS



The General Council took office on September 1st. To symbolize their willingness to be of service, the members of the Council all wore an apron.



Br. Darius Amani, absent on September 1st, was able to join the Council in Lyon



The General Council held its first face-to-face working session at the Domaine Saint-Joseph in Ste-Foy-lès-Lyon, from September 2nd to 6th, 2024. This was an opportunity to define the work plan, the distribution of tasks and the main orientations for the next six years.





The Superior General participated in the festivities commemorating the 25th anniversary (1999-2024) of the “official” Viatorian presence (*note: Br. François Veyrié of the Province of France stayed there for about ten years between the end of the 1980s and the mid-1990s*) in Burkina Faso.



Provincial Election Assembly, Accueil Saint-Joseph, Rodez, October 11, 2024

On October 11, 2024, Fr. Nestor Fils-Aimé, Superior General, presided over the election assembly in the Province of France. Fr. Sylvain Kouadio Konan was elected Provincial Superior and Br. Robert Bonnafous, Councilor. The new Provincial Superior chose Br. François Veyrié to complete his Council.



Brothers François Veyrié and Robert Bonnafous surround Father Sylvain Konan, the new Provincial Superior of France



On October 21, the feast of Saint Viator, during a celebration presided over by the Superior General at the parish church of Vourles, Father Kouadio Sylvain Konan pronounced his profession of faith and officially took office as Provincial Superior of France.

From October 14 to 18, 2024, the Superior General and Fr. Fredy Contreras, General Treasurer, visited Rome to explore the possibilities of having a pied-à-terre or a house not far from the Holy See. Several religious congregations were met:

- The Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of Monteils
- The Brothers of Saint Gabriel
- The Brothers of the Sacred Heart
- The Camillians
- The Brothers of Christian Instruction
- The Brothers of the Christian Schools
- The Daughters of the Church
- The Picpussians (Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary)

The Superior General stayed in Haiti from October 29 to November 14 as part of the final report on the construction of the Villa Saint-Viateur. Due to the closure of the airspace following the terrorist attack by armed gangs against commercial aircraft, Fr. Nestor was able to leave the country in extremely perilous conditions through the mountains and the sea to the Dominican Republic. From there he undertook a long journey to participate in the assembly of Superiors General in Rome and meet the General Council as planned.

The Superior General participated in the 102nd Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG) in Rome from November 19 to 22, 2024. The theme of this assembly was: "How to be a synodal and missionary consecrated life"



*102nd General Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG),
Sacrofano, Rome, November 20-22, 2024*

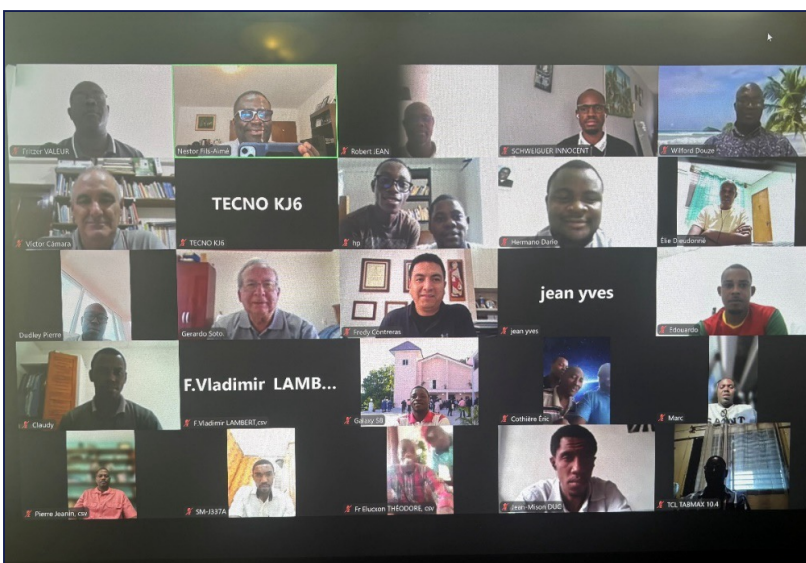


Second working session of the General Council in person at the Generalate of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Rome, November 24-28, 2024

The General Council held its second session in person in Rome at the Generalate of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart from November 24 to 28, 2024. On this occasion, on Wednesday, November 27, the members of the General Council made a pilgrimage to Assisi, especially the Viatorian places confronted with war and violence of all kinds, particularly Haiti, Honduras, Colombia, Burkina Faso, Peru, etc.



The General Council is on a pilgrimage to Assisi



The Council held a meeting with the Region of Haiti on Saturday, December 21. This virtual pastoral visit aimed to bear witness to the communion and closeness of the General Council with the people and the Viatorian community of Haiti. It was a great moment of sharing. Nearly thirty religious Viatorians responded to the invitation of the General Council.

NEWS FROM THE VIATORIANS AROUND THE WORLD

Canada



THREE VIATORIANS HAVE PASSED AWAY IN RECENT MONTHS:



Mrs. **Yolande Gagnon**, Associate, died at the age of 75, on October 20, 2024. She was the spouse of Mr. Gilles Gravel, both members of the Sacré-Cœur community in Montreal.



Fr. **Gervais Dumont**, died on November 6 at the age of 85. Fr. Gervais Dumont, a great Viatorian figure over the past fifty (50) years. He held various positions in the Congregation: Provincial Superior of Saint-Laurent (Canada), Animator of the missionary personnel of the Province of Canada, Vicar General of the Congregation, Provincial Assistant... He was also a missionary in Haiti and Burkina Faso.



Fr. **Jean-Claude Secours**, who died on December 2 at the age of 90. He was very involved in parish and school pastoral work and ultimately at the Sanctuary of Lourdes in Rigaud.



The Villa Saint-Viateur (formerly Villa Manrèse) in Port-au-Prince

The social, political and economic situation is still chaotic. In this context, the Villa Saint-Viateur was built and put into operation. Fr. Robert Jean returned from Canada to be its General Director.



Blessing of the mausoleum by the Regional Superior, Fr. Wilford Douze

The Saint-Viateur novitiate of Haiti opened its doors on November 26 under the direction of Fr. Kénel Verna. Three novices are following their formation for the Viatorian religious life. They are Messrs. Pither AUGUSTIN, Wesley FRANCIQUE and Sam Wilby Etienne MATÉLUS.

On November 2, Fr. Wilford Douze, Regional Superior, blessed the mausoleum built on the site of the future regional house. The remains of the three confreres buried on the grounds of the Villa Saint-Viateur were transferred there. They are our confreres, Laurent Lepage, Robert Selme and Pierre-Louis Joseph who died respectively in 1990, 1997 and 2018.

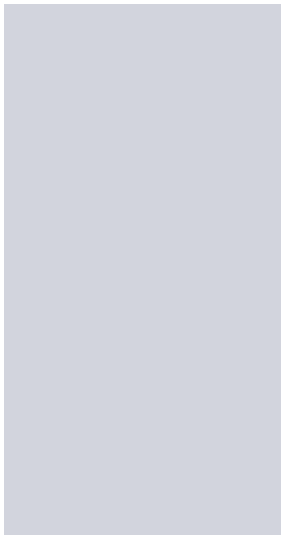
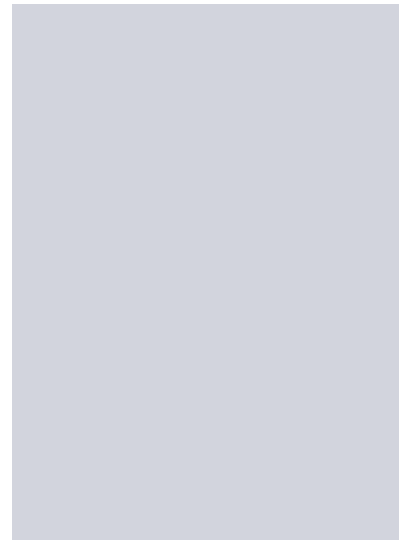
Burkina Faso



THE VIATORIANS OF BURKINA FASO CELEBRATED IN A GRANDIOSE MANNER THE SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIATORIAN FOUNDATION.

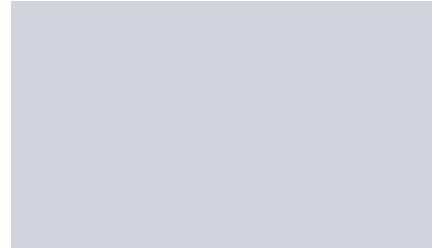


THE CULMINATION OF THE FESTIVITIES WAS THE SOLEMN MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUAGADOUGOU ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, PRESIDED OVER BY THE MOST REVEREND PROSPER KONTIÉBO, METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF OUAGADOUGOU.





During the celebration, in the presence of Fr. Nestor Fils-Aimé, Superior General, and Br. Jean-Marc St-Jacques, Provincial Superior of Canada, the creation of the Burkina Faso Region was made official by a special liturgy.



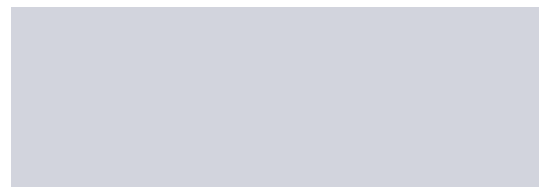
Br. Victor Zongo, Regional Superior, presents the Decree marking the erection of the Foundation as a Viatorian Region of Burkina Faso



Construction of the Resource Center and Novitiate in Bragraogo, Burkina Faso



The Saint Viator Novitiate will be moved to the new headquarters in Bragraogo. At present, the new Master of Novices, Fr. Irenée Hien, has three novices under his charge: Pascal Koudougou, Léonard Ouédraogo and ZONGO Marie Clément Zongo.





From December 2 to 8, Father Serge William Batio-
no and Brother Jean-Marc St-Jacques visited the
Viatorian community of Japan. Several meetings
with the Viatorians enhanced the stay: the man-
agement of the Saint Viator Rakusei school, the

community of associates, a celebration in memory
of our deceased and a preparation for the Christ-
mas celebration. It was during this stay that Mrs.
Megumi Oda was confirmed in her role as animator
of the community.



In Tunja, Colombia, where the Viatorians have been serving nine years, last Saturday, November 16, Brother Deacon Juan Carlos Ubaque received Priestly Ordination from Monsignor Gabriel Ángel Villa Vahos, Archbishop of Tunja, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santiago Apóstol.

This celebration was attended by religious men and women, priests, associates, family and friends of Juan Carlos and of course the Viatorians; among them Father Mark Francis, CSV Provincial Superior and other Brothers from Chicago.

After the celebration, there was a small fraternal meeting at the San Viator School in that city. For his part, Father Fredy Contreras, CSV, General Treasurer and rector of the College of Tunja, welcomed the guests and then an artistic and cultural program prepared by some students of the school was presented.



First blessings of the new Priest



Fr. Juan Carlos Ubaque



DEATH OF BR IGNACIO GONZÁLEZ DE ZÁRATE



Br Ignacio González de Zárate died in Valladolid on December 9, 2024 at the age of 99, in his 81st year of religious life. Born on September 9, 1925 in Echávarri-Viña, a village near Vitoria (Álava), he entered the novitiate in Loupiac (France) in 1942 where he took his first vows in 1943.

RELIGIOUS SONG AWARD IN SPAIN

Fr. José Javier Ruiz de Eguílaz was a finalist for the Best Religious Song Award in Spain. The song: “Me sé sostenida por Dios” (“I know I am supported by God”) was presented for honors in two categories: “best song of praise” and “best author/composer”. It was precisely in this last category that it was classified as a finalist. It was composed by JJ Ruiz de Eguílaz with the collaboration of his friend Rogelio Cabado based on the testimony of a Poor Clare nun left ten days before her death.



Fr. José Javier Ruiz de Eguílaz

Honduras



On Sunday, November 24, the feast of Christ the King, a fraternal and spiritual day was organized in the parish of Jutiapa. The theme was the year of prayer as preparation for the Jubilee “pilgrims of hope”



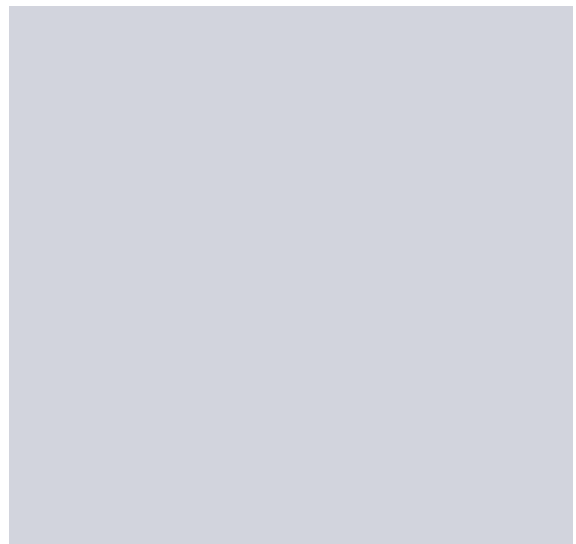
SERSO HONDURAS CELEBRATES 26 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY WORK IN JUTIAPA AND SURROUNDINGS.

On November 28, the birth of SERSO HONDURAS (Servicio Solidaridad Honduras) was celebrated, which was born on November 28, 1998 in the context of Hurricane Mitch in Jutiapa, Honduras. During all these years, SERSO HONDURAS has worked for the integral development of families and communities in the Municipality of Jutiapa, in the North Coast of Honduras, thanks to the continuous support of SERSO SAN VIATOR of Euskalherria.



THE SAN VIATOR EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF JUTIAPA EXPERIENCED THE GRADUATION OF ITS FIRST BACCALAUREATE CLASS

It all started in 2015 with 58 students divided into four classes. Ten years later, on November 29, 2024, a moving graduation ceremony took place...





The Viatorian communities of Ivory Coast celebrated Saint Viator both in the works and in the local communities. A good moment of conviviality!



The photo of Saint Viator at the foot of the altar at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Fruits of the Young Viator Home (Bouaké)



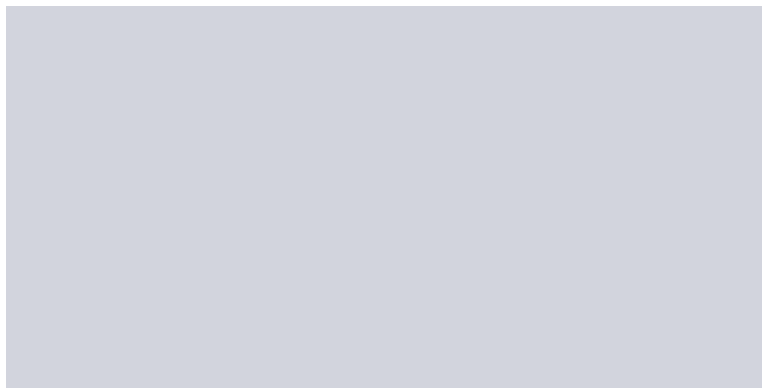
The religious and associated Viatorians celebrating Saint Viator



The Novice Master, Fr Sylvanus DJAMA and the two novices

ENTRY INTO THE NOVITIATE

During the feast of Saint Viator, two young postulants entered the novitiate. They are: AKA Anoblé Yves-Alain and BOUIN Tieu Alexandre



PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

New priestly ordinations in the Viatorian Region of Côte d'Ivoire. On Saturday, November 16, 2024, Brothers François KOYE and Maurice KOUADIO were ordained priests by Monsignor Jacques AHIWA, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bouaké.

This event brought together the entire Viatorian community who came to surround the new priests with their affection. With these ordinations, the Region has 13 priests. Good mission to the brothers!



The newly ordained (Fr. François KOYE and Maurice N'GUESSAN) surround Br. Darius AMANI, General Secretary



APPOINTMENT OF A NEW ADMINISTRATOR IN THE IVORY COAST REGION

Since October 21, the new provincial of France, Father Sylvain KONAN and his council have taken office. The new provincial superior and his council have appointed Fr. Sylvanus DJAMA as Administrator of the region until Sunday, August 3, 2025. The new Administrator will have to manage the current affairs of the Region and set up the necessary bodies for the election of a new superior of the Region during the election chapter of the region to be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

Fr. Sylvanus DJAMA was Father Sylvain's assistant as superior of the Vice-Delegation and is the current novice master.



The new Administrator of the Region of Côte d'Ivoire, Father Sylvanus DJAMA, CSV

IN THE CALENDAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL VIATORIAN COMMUNITY

January 18-24, 2025: Meeting of the Extraordinary General Council (EGC) in Bouaké (Ivory Coast)

January 22, 2025: Celebration of the accession of Ivory Coast to the status of Region

January 2025: Launch of the calendar of the 4th assembly of the Viatorian Community

June 13 to 21, 2025: Visit of the Province of France

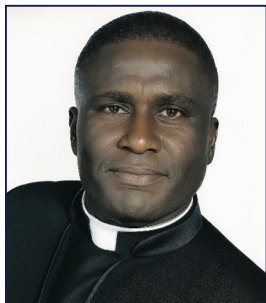
August 28 to September 5, 2025: Visit of the Region of Burkina Faso

September 8 to 15, 2025: Visit of the Region of Ivory Coast

October 18-25, 2025: Fourth assembly of the Viatorian Community in Valpré (France)



CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL



Fr. NESTOR FILS AIMÉ, General Superior

3, rue Louis-Querbes, 69390, Vourles France
and 10 634, rue Grande-Allée, Montréal, QC H3L 2M5 Canada
Cell : + 1 514 817 3854
e-mail : supgen@csvgator-intl.org



Fr. VICTOR CÁMARA CÁMARA, General Vicar

Apartado n°2 – JUTIAPA C.P. 11101
ATLANTIDA – HONDURAS
Cell : 00 504 97 25 78 40
e-mail : vicgen@csvgator-intl.org



Br. KOUADIO DARIUS AMANI, General Secretary

Communauté du Scolasticat, Bonoumin
Abidjan-Riviera II CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Cell : 00 225 07 59 92 75 65
e-mail : secgen@csvgator-intl.org



Fr. FREDY CONTRERAS MORENO, General Treasurer

Avenida Universitaria #62-100
Código postal 150003 Tunja, Boyacá (COLOMBIA)
Cell : 011 57 320 477 8989
e-mail : tregen@csvgator-intl.org



Fr. GERARDO SOTO TOLEDO, General Councilor

Pedro Montt 350
Ovalle (CHILE)
Cell: 00 569 9015 3815
e-mail : congen@csvgator-intl.org

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