



VIATOR-INTERNATIONAL

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

On the move...

News from the Congregation



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Word of the Superior General

On the move...

While the fever of the soccer World Cup has recently captivated gazes, uniting our different Viatorian countries—from France to Spain, from Ivory Coast to Haiti, from Colombia to Japan, to the United States—in the same fervor, we have been able to observe how sport, between dreams and disappointments, remains a powerful engine of hope.

This dynamic, made of enthusiasm and perseverance, resonates singularly with the life of our Congregation this month of July. We are going through a hinge period, marked by the effervescence of the preparations for the Youth Congress and the Extraordinary General Chapter. These meetings are not simple institutional obligations; they are the essential stages of a community on the move, seeking with humility and determination the best ways to embody our mission today.

In this breath of renewal, we have the great joy of presenting to you our new website, a tool now updated, witness to our will for openness and communication within the extended Viatorian family.

However, the mission knows no respite. While prospects for new foundations are appearing on the horizon, we remain conscious of the reality of our resources, both human and financial.

It is here that the Word of God illuminates us and calls us to a lucid discernment: "Whatever city or village you enter, look for a worthy person there and stay with them until you leave. As you enter the house, greet its inhabitants. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it." (Mt 10:11-13)

This call of the Gospel is an invitation to action, to authentic encounter, but also to a healthy management of our missionary energy. It reminds us that our presence is a gift of peace. If, at times, we encounter closed doors or arid paths, we are invited not to

let ourselves be paralyzed by discouragement, but to "shake the dust off our feet" to resume the path where life calls.

Viatorians, let us not remain still. Let us allow ourselves to be inhabited by this positive dynamic that assures us that life never extinguishes in the face of difficulties. Let us learn to look where it emerges, with faith and audacity, to continue, together, building the future.

Fr. Nestor Fils-Aimé, c.s.v.,

Superior General

COJEVIR 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT · BURKINA FASO

COJEVIR 2026: The countdown has begun!

A little more than a month before the celebration of the Congress of Young Viatorian religious (COJEVIR), the effervescence is growing within the organizing committee. While preparations are moving at a good pace to make this event a memorable moment of our community life, Mr. Sylvain Brabant, logistical support, wishes to remind participants of three essential actions that must be undertaken without delay.

Logistical priorities: Three crucial stages

To ensure the smooth running of the congress and facilitate the welcome of each one, please pay special attention to the following points:

- **Book your plane ticket:** If you have not already done so, we invite you to proceed with your booking now. This diligence is essential to ensure the fluidity of your trip and allow us to effectively plan your arrival.
- **Start your visa procedures:** Depending on your country of residence, processing times may vary. Do not delay in completing your electronic visa application to avoid any administrative setback.
- **Respond to the online questionnaire:** This is an absolute priority. As of today, only 18 participants have responded. A response is expected from each one. This information is essential to organize your transport, take into account your particular needs, and order your official t-shirt. The form also collects your precise arrival and departure dates.

A historic meeting

The Congress Committee is hard at work to make this meeting a resounding success. In addition, we have the pleasure to announce that the congress anthem is now available for you to prepare to experience these moments of fraternity.

We are anxious to welcome all the brothers at this historic moment, as we continue, together, our path:

"On the way to the bicentennial of the Congregation in 2031"

**PRAYER FOR THE CONGRESS
OF YOUNG
VIATORIAN RELIGIOUS
(COJEVIR 2026)**



Lord Jesus,

you who broke down barriers to reveal the universal love of the Father, we thank you for our Viatorian vocation.

Gathered in congress, we turn to you with confidence and boldness.

Guide us and make us educators and catechists after your own heart.

Inspire in us the zeal of Venerable Louis Querbes to accompany the youth and the impoverished of our world. Help us to build fraternal communities, true oases where faith is lived, deepened, and celebrated.

Accompany our Congregation in its reconfiguration.

As in the time of the apostles, deliver us from the fear of change.

Teach us to share our human and spiritual riches so that, in mission, we may form but one heart and one soul.

Open our minds to the richness of our internationality.

May our cultural diversity become a prophetic sign for our time, testifying that your Gospel is a force of communion that gathers beyond all origins.

Saint Viator, pray for us.

Support us so that we may live the charism of our founder with creativity and fidelity.

Holy Spirit, come and inhabit our congress with your presence.

Make us missionary disciples, grateful for our heritage and bold witnesses of the future.

Amen.



*En route vers le bicentenaire de la Congrégation
On the Road to the Congregation's Bicentennial
En camino hacia el bicentenario de la Congregación*

Extraordinary General Chapter 2026

GOVERNANCE · CHAPTER

Program of the Extraordinary General Chapter (EGC) 2026

Mr. Matthieu Daum, facilitator for the Extraordinary General Chapter, has developed a program in agreement with the General Council for the Extraordinary General Chapter. While awaiting the official program for the Extraordinary General Chapter, the fundamental themes around which the work will be structured are presented here.

Central objective:

To move from a logic of maintaining entities to a dynamic of regeneration of the Viatorian mission by 2031 (Bicentennial).

- **Opening and Framing:** Anchoring in the Mission
- **Opening ceremony and Eucharist:** Roll call of the 32 capitulants and 5 Viatorian associates. The opening Eucharist sets the spiritual foundation: **the Spirit precedes all restructuring.**
- **Governance formalities:** Formal ratification of the facilitator, scrutineers, and secretaries. Reading and approval of the procedures (Regulations of the Extraordinary General Chapter).
- **Framing of the mandate:** Reminder of decision DC 3 (2024).

- **Exchange on the dialogue with the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (DICLSAL):** it is about demonstrating that the Congregation is listening to the universal Church and that its reconfiguration decisions are not simple administrative maneuvers, but a response to the call of consecrated life.
- State of the situation: Truth without compromises
- **Reconnection with the path traveled:** "Re-centering" exercise where each capitulant names their state of mind.
- **Mural mapping (The "Puzzle"):**
- **Collaborative construction:** Distribution of data by region and theme (finance, demography, mission). The figures are related to life stories and the reports of the Superior General and the General Treasurer.
- **Mirror of inertia:** The goal is to objectively visualize what will happen to the Body if the status quo is maintained.
- **Voice of the youth (2026):** Integration of the proposals of the Youth Congress (Burkina Faso, August 19-25, 2026).

This contribution is not consultative, but structural: it acts as a catalyst to move away from traditional patterns of thought.

- **Contemplation of reality:** Prolonged silence in front of the mural, followed by a plenary exchange focused on the emotions felt (fears, hopes, guilt, impulse).
- **Mutation of Mental Schemas**
- **Regeneration of intention (Contribution of Mr. Matthieu Daum):** Interactive presentation using Theory U. The challenge is to move from "management of decline" (repairing the pieces) to a "regeneration of intention" (anchoring the mission in a new scheme).
- **Circles of depth:** In small groups, the capitulants explore their own resistances: "What is in me that wants to protect the old scheme?".

- **Solemn commitment:** Symbolic ceremony of the primacy of the Body. The capitulant publicly renounces acting as a delegate of their province to become a delegate of the integrity of the Congregation.

Discernment

- **Radicality workshop:** The facilitator forces the group to explore "revealing" (or impactful) scenarios.
- **The Vision 2031:** Co-elaboration of a common narrative on the face of the Congregation in the Bicentennial. It is not a plan, it is a realistic utopia that guides the choices.
- **Mini-Desert (Retreat):** Time of absolute solitude, outside the walls of the chapter room. The instructions invite the rereading of the founding texts in light of the challenges identified in the preceding days, to let the "new" be born.
- **Harvest and confirmations:** Sharing the fruits of prayer. This time allows for adjusting the consensus on radical orientations.

Decisions, Mandates and Operational

- **Planning Final Consensus:** Validation of the 2031 vision and emergency measures for entities in a state of extreme vulnerability.
- **Legal section (Art. 47):** Amendment or clear interpretation of Article 47.
- **Roadmap 2026-2030:**
- **Thematic working groups:** Development of precise mandates for the commissions (canonical, financial, formation).
- **Milestones:** Definition of clear deadlines for the necessary legal studies.

- **Bicentennial:** Final presentation of the young people's proposals for the festivities, integrated as a sign of vitality and continuity.

Closing and Sending

- **Solemn vows:** Adoption of resolutions and constitutional mandates (secret or open vote, depending on severity).
- **Spiritual closing:** Final Eucharist presided over by the Superior General. Delivery of an act of collective commitment. Sending on mission: the capitulants do not return to their province, they return to the "renewed Body".

News from the Congregation

COMMUNITY · INTERNATIONAL

News from the Congregation

New showcase for the Viatorian mission (new website)

We are pleased to announce that the Congregation's updated website is now online!

Thanks to the hard work and attention to detail of Mr. Collinx Mondésir, webmaster of the General Direction, our digital platform is renewed. This new version, modern and intuitive, is ready to receive you.

We warmly invite you to discover it from now: <http://csviator-intl.org/>

This site is much more than a simple information page: it is a privileged space to immerse yourself in the heart of our identity.

We encourage you to browse the different sections to better appreciate and make others appreciate the richness of being and acting Viatorian throughout the world.

Happy visiting to all!

Participation of the Superior General in the 105th Assembly of the USG (Union of Superiors General)



Fr. Nestor Fils-Aimé participated in the 105th Assembly of the USG (Union of Superiors General), which took place in Sacrofano (Rome) from May 27 to 29. The theme of the assembly was: "Transmitting the charism in the service of government". It was an excellent moment of formation. It follows that the charism is a dynamic reality that must be constantly updated. It allows us to be witnesses of the word of Jesus before his people, while offering a response to what Jesus would represent for the men and women of today. The charism remains, above all, a gift of the Spirit.

Resolutions of the General Council (June 19-21)

During the working session of the General Council at the end of the visit to Spain (June 19-21), some resolutions were adopted regarding the Province of the United States:

C.G. 2026-041: The Superior General, with the unanimous consent of the members of the Council, approves the establishment of the Novitiate of the Province of Chicago in the rectory of St. Patrick's Parish in Kankakee (Illinois).

C.G. 2026-042: The Superior General, with the unanimous consent of the members of the General Council, in accordance with Article 178, paragraph 2, of the General Regulations, extends the mandate of the Provincial Superior and his councilors until the beginning of May 2027.

Reconfiguration



In the framework of the reconfiguration process and the preparation of the Extraordinary General Chapter, the services of a canonist who possesses great experience and enjoys an excellent reputation have been retained. She is also Superior General of her Congregation: the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie. It is Sister Bonnie MacLellan, cssism. Two Zoom meetings took place on July 7 and 17, bringing together Sister Bonnie MacLellan, Mr. Matthieu Daum, Fr. Nestor Fils-Aimé, and Fr. Alain Ambeault, Director General of the Canadian Religious Conference. The challenge was to best articulate the issues raised by the reconfiguration with canonical requirements. Some beautiful leads have been cleared.

Rome Community



Life has begun and is developing quietly. The students have begun their Italian language learning program. Here is an excerpt of a message addressed to Fr. Gerardo Soto after the announcement of the first meeting of the local community: "I am very happy that the local community is well started. It will be the prototype of what we envision for our Congregation. Consequently, you are a laboratory. I wish you a good path. I look forward to joining you."

Works at the “Berceau” in Vourles

"Everything is going in the right direction. We are reaching the finishes, which will require more vigilance. The staircase is in the process of being installed..." (excerpt from a message from Mr. Jean-François Verdière, supervisor of the works).

For his part, Fr. André Crozier writes to us: "The 'drywallers' are active in filling the holes a little everywhere to prepare the work for the painters. They have worked during this day of national holiday." A photo illustrates well the national holiday of July 14, which saw the French national team lose to the brilliant Spanish soccer team that reaches the final of the 2026 World Cup.



Madagascar Project

Prospects with a view to the possibility of opening a new foundation are under study. The Superior General met with Brothers Stéphane Sané and Joseph Pierre, Superior of the General House of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Rome, in order to present to them a possible project of insertion in Madagascar. The latter put the Superior General in contact with the Provincial Superior of the Brothers in Madagascar, Br. Jean Tsimanavaka. Currently, two places for insertion are being considered, among which are the cities of Antananarivo and Antsirabe. A letter has been sent to the bishops of these two dioceses. Contacts are being established with a view to an exploratory visit next September, with Mr. Richard Fiola, Viatorian associate and volunteer for this missionary project.

Formation Dossier



Following the meeting of last June 23, the Provincial Superior of France, Fr. Sylvain Konan, as well as the Regional Superiors of Burkina Faso (Fr. Céraphin Ouédraogo) and Haiti (Fr. Wilford Douze) met for a meeting around the question of a common Francophone novitiate in Bouaké (Ivory Coast) starting next year. Here is a summary:

The participants (Frs. Sylvain Konan, Céraphin Ouedraogo, and Wilford Douze) have validated the principle of creating a common novitiate in Bouaké, Ivory Coast. This project seeks to strengthen interregional collaboration by welcoming, starting this year, six novices (three from Burkina Faso and three from Haiti).

Highlights of the exchanges:

- **Formation:** The preferred orientation consists of a first canonical year in Bouaké, followed by an apostolic year in the novice's region of origin. The formation team will have to be reinforced by contributions from the regions of Haiti and Ivory Coast.
- **Logistics:** A detailed state of the premises of the infrastructures and material conditions in Bouaké will be carried out by Fr. Sylvanus Djama to guide the planning.
- **Administration:** The mobility process (visas and invitation letters) is initiated, with particular attention paid to processing times for Haitian candidates.

Next steps:

- **July 13:** Presentation and validation of the project before the Regional Council of Burkina Faso.
- **Immediate actions:** Collection of the novices' passports and finalization of the state of the premises of the formation site.

- **Follow-up:** A next meeting will be convened to finalize the organizational and pedagogical modalities on the basis of the feedback obtained.

Mission Development Office

The reflection process currently underway on the reconfiguration makes it imperative to favor bodies that move in the direction of internationalization and greater fraternal communion. The General Council has established fruitful contacts with several resource persons and expresses the desire to move forward in the creation of this office. Fr. Victor Camara will coordinate the project. The following brothers will be invited to be part of the reflection group: Br. Tomas Arranberri (Spain), Br. Michael Gosh (USA), Br. Jean-Marc St-Jacques (Canada), Br. François Zoma (Burkina Faso), Br. Guy-Marc Hinthia (Ivory Coast), Fr. Élie Dieudonné (Haiti).

Meeting of Treasurers in preparation for the Extraordinary General Chapter

On the initiative of Fr. Fredy Conteras, General Treasurer, a meeting of the Treasurers (provincial and regional) is planned in Chile, in Puente Alto, on September 9, 10, and 11, with the goal of the preliminary preparation of the Extraordinary General Chapter.

More news from the International Viatorian Community

COMMUNITY · INTERNATIONAL

For more news

Websites of the Provinces and regional newsletters

For more news, we recommend visiting the websites of the different Provinces:

- Province of Canada: www.viateurs.ca
- Province of Chicago: www.viatorians.com
- Province of Chile: www.viator.cl
- Province of France: www.viateurs.fr
- Province of Spain: www.csviator.es and Vida viatoriana Magazine

... and the newsletters of the Regions, Foundation and Communities:

- FASOVIAT of Burkina Faso
- Échos du Scolasticat (Ivory Coast) and Viat'Ivoire
- ÉCHOS DES VIATEURS D'HAÏTI
- El Chaski (Peru)
- Infos de Jutiapa "Saliendo hacia las periferias"

Calendar of the International Viatorian Community

CALENDAR · 2026

Calendar

Upcoming events of the International Viatorian Community

August 19-25, 2026	Congress of Young Viatorian Religious in Burkina Faso
September 9, 2026	CoPil Meeting
September 22 - October 4, 2026	Canonical visit of the General Council to the Foundation of Colombia
October 15-22, 2026	General Council Meeting in the Region of Ivory Coast
November 29 - December 8, 2026	Extraordinary General Chapter in Spain

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CLERICS OF SAINT VIATOR

FRANCE

3, rue Louis-Querbes
69390 Vourles, France

ITALY

Via Cassia 1038-1040
00189 Roma, Italia

+33 6 71 01 22 39 · +1 514 817 3854

supgen@csviator-intl.org

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