

**Conclusions of the 2nd Assembly
of the Comboni Lay Missionaries in Africa**



KINSHASA, D.R.C.

July 21-25 2014

KINSHASA (DRC) 2014



The 2nd Continental Assembly of the Comboni Lay Missionaries took place in Kinshasa, DRC on July 21-25, 2014. The participants included five priests, two sisters and 18 lay people, among them the six coordinators of the French-speaking and English-speaking African provinces. They were joined by representatives of the CLM Central Committee.

The objective of the Assembly of Kinshasa was to establish a concrete plan of action based on the resolutions of previous gatherings – the Continental Assembly of Layibi in 2001 and the International Assembly of Maia in 2012 – having as a theme: “Beginning with what we have starting from our reality.”

Keeping in mind the current challenges of our African reality, where God calls us to live our vocation as witnesses of his love, according to the charism of St. Daniel Comboni, at the service of mission, which is a gift from God, and after having reflected together, we have come to some conclusions that will allow each province to set up a plan of action. These are the conclusions:

Vocation

- ❖ We want to encourage each CLM to live one’s vocation as it was defined at Layibi; to overcome life’s difficulties and to keep the commitments we have as fathers-mothers, workers and Christians, thus giving witness to our vocation.
- ❖ As it was said in Maia, the CLM communities need to formulate processes that will allow the full development of the personal vocation of their members during their entire lifetime. This means setting up a program of prayer, retreats, sacramental life and revision of community life.
- ❖ In order to facilitate a joint journey in our vocation as an International Family of CLM, we encourage the new groups to keep in touch regularly with the Continental and Central Committees, in order to get help from those responsible for the coordination. We believe that it is necessary to follow the common lines of the international organization.

Relations among the CLM

- ❖ The movement holds one single vision. We must all collaborate and work together harmoniously to live this common path.
- ❖ In order to facilitate the integration of new CLM in the local CLM groups, we must strengthen communications and networking between the sending group and the receiving group, the Central and Continental Committees and the MCCJ provincials.
- ❖ In order to reach full integration, we invite the new CLM to take part in the group's activities: ongoing formation, assemblies, retreats, administrative practices and financial contributions...
- ❖ We encourage CLM working in countries where we have no local members to promote our vocation and form a local group.

Formation

As a movement of CLM in Africa, we are committed to make our formation journey together, in order to follow Christ according to the charism of Comboni who calls us to make common cause with the people to whom we are sent.

The decisions taken in earlier Assemblies guide us on this journey of formation, where we should keep in mind the following aspects:

- ❖ The provinces must cooperate in the preparation of the various programs and materials for formation;
- ❖ We must share programs and topics of formation between the provinces and with the Central Committee;
- ❖ We must translate in all languages the formation documents.

Economy

- ❖ We want to include the economy in our spiritual life, in order to live a life based on Providence. In this context, we ask the groups to include the topic of our relations with money in their formation programs, placing our stability and confidence in God.
- ❖ In the process of our financial autonomy, we invite the various groups to form their members in the various aspects of finances, such as: development projects based on the local needs, the search for funds, accounting...
- ❖ Knowing that we all belong to this family of CLM, we are called to be responsible for and to support the group. In this sense, all the CLM must contribute to the fund of the local group. From this fund, the group in turn should contribute to the international common fund, managed by the Central Committee.
- ❖ We are also called to inspire the local Church and all people of good will to support our missionary activity.
- ❖ In order to reach our financial autonomy, we invite the groups to start fund-generating activities such as in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, pharmacies, movies, internet and photo-copying centers, production of local handicrafts, talks, formation, dialogue and promotion of events...
- ❖ It is not enough to engage in projects, but we are also called to give financial reports with great transparency (ledgers, bank accounts with more than one signature...).

Organization

- ❖ **Each Province must have:**
 - A Coordinating Team made up of: a coordinator, a secretary and a treasurer. This team must send its reports to the African and to the General Committees.
 - A person in charge of communications (blog, Facebook, Twitter).
 - A Formation Team which must: plan and prepare the topics of formation; ensure the follow-up and the evaluation of the formation given.
 - Each group must have someone from those in charge of formation who will be networking with those responsible at the national level.

❖ **African Committee:**

- The Central Coordinating Team is made up of: a coordinator, a secretary a treasurer.
- Its duties are:
 - I. Ensure communications with the Central Committee.
 - II. Call and organize continental meetings.
 - III. Provide for communications between the provinces.
 - IV. Take care that the decisions taken at the various assemblies be implemented.