



Secrétariat Central à la Formation - ocso -

Abbaye Notre-Dame du Val d'Igny, 26 novembre 2018.

## Newsletter 19

To the Superiors, the Regional Secretaries,  
the Brothers and Sisters interested by ocso-formation.

### Region RAFMA:

#### [Retreat in the community of the Canons of the Holy Cross, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:](#)



Father Justin, the RSF in the Region, shares us the text of annual retreat that he has given to the community of Canons Regular of the Holy Cross, in August 2018.

The theme of the retreat was: *The vita mixta, Contemplation in action, way of salvation. The benefits and challenges in current religious life.*

See text in **Annex 1** (46 pages, in French).

### Region ORIENS :

#### [Regional meeting of educators, Guimaras \(Philippines\):](#)

This meeting was held from 23 to 29 September 2018, hosted by Dom Guillaume. 27 monks and nuns took part, coming from 16 communities belonging to the two Sub-regions Japanese and English. Father David, RSF of the Japanese Sub-region, and Brother Samuel, from Tarrawarra, replacing of the English-speaking RSF, have developed a summary of the work of every day of the session (see **Annex 2**: 5 pages, in English) and an evaluation of the meeting, made by different groups (see **Annex 3**: 4 pages, in English).

The next regional meeting is scheduled for 2021.

### French speaking Regions :

#### [Session for formators of the Cistercian Family, in the Abbey of Orval:](#)

From 8 to 15 October 2018, held in Orval (Belgium), the 10th session for German and French speaking formators oc and ocso. The theme was: *Discerning a monastic vocation in an individualized and fragmented world. What are the implications in the formation?* The session was led by two members of the Order of Cîteaux, Mother Hildegarde, Abbess of the Abbey of Marienstern-Gwiggen, in Austria and Father Jacques, Novice director of the Abbey of Rougemont in Canada.

The Secretary of the RéCif, Father Thomas, shared us the conferences, with the benevolent agreement of the two speakers you will find these in **Annex 4** (83 pages, in French), as well as an echo of those days, rich in lessons and fraternal sharing, which is offered by Sister Christine of Klaarland.

## Spanish Region :

### [PREM \(Regional Program of Monastic Studies\):](#)



9-October 24, 2018, was held in the monastery of Sobrado, a session of the cycle of philosophical and theological studies. 27 students ocso and CCBE, and 6 osb met on this occasion. The following subjects have been addressed: *Introduction to Sacred Scripture* (Sister Olga Nicolau, osb); *Philosophical anthropology* (Father Juan Antonio Teston, of the Theological Institute of Santiago de Compostela); *The fathers of the Church, until Nicaea* (Father Juan Maria de la Torre, ocso); *Introduction to the sacraments* (Dom Roberto of the Iglesia, ocso); *[Additional] Greek* (Brother José Gerardo Bermell, ocso).

For most students, it was the first time they were in Galicia. It was therefore essential to visit the tomb of the Apostle St. James. On the day of the walk - which is always welcome in the middle of these days filled with courses - the group visited the Sisters of the monastery of Armenteira. The group was welcomed with a dinner in the cloister; in the afternoon, the Group visited the Cathedral and the Museum of Santiago, while making the salvation to the Apostle, in the space behind the altar. The visit ended with Vespers in the monastery of San Pelayo, located next to the Cathedral and where a community of Benedictine Sisters live.



### [Course on St. Bernard \(2<sup>nd</sup> part\):](#)

Last year began an annual cycle of formation on Cistercian Mothers and Fathers. The second series of conferences of this cycle was held from 6 to 9 November 2018, at the monastery of Huerta. Sixteen monks and nuns of different age came together. The course was devoted to: *The symbolic presentation of the monastic experience with Bernard of Clairvaux*. The group has worked on: *The Monastic Liturgy; The development and the synchronic content of the liturgical moments; The feeling: the five senses; The function of the experience*. The speaker, Father Juan Maria de la Torre (ocso), always surprises us with his wisdom, his monastic experience and a life dedicated to the search.

Report from F. Carlos Maria, regional secretary.

\*

**Newsletter 20**

**February 28, 2019.**