

**The IMS present at the  
second plenary assembly  
of the Regional Bishops  
Conference of Francophone  
West Africa in ACCRA, GHANA.**

ACCRA's Cathedral



The Newsletter of **the International Missionary Benefit Society**

## Edito

**M**any countries around the world (140) have priests, monks and nuns who benefit from the solidarity of the International Missionary Benefit Society. Alongside the regular information efforts from the head office directed at the congregations and dioceses, the actions of the 7 local sections of the IMS are strong and dynamic in the field. Thus, increasing numbers of religious groups (Institutes, Episcopal Conferences...) are discovering the IMS in Central America and South America; in Africa the sections gather their groups and are in contact with the Episcopal Conferences. Indeed the IMS is a solution of choice for bishops and superiors in addressing the health problems of their members. However, the Association must evolve. This is why the

administrators are working on several projects : The first concerns the fluctuation of certain currencies, another the modernisation of the website, yet another establishing a monitoring system aimed at studying very high care expenditure. All these projects of the IMS have a clear goal : to offer the best services, in a spirit of sharing, to the Superiors and to the Bishops already united in the Association, as well as to those wishing to join it, in particular those who are the poorest.



**Father Michel Ménard**  
*President of the IMS*

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## > The IMS present at the General Assembly of the UISG

The International Missionary Benefit Society was present at the General Assembly of the International Union of Superiors General where 900 Superiors gathered in Rome in May 2016 around the theme "Weaving Global Solidarity for Life".

**Sister Marie-Alice TERRETTAZ** (IMS administrator), **Sister Daphné Alonso** (member of the Audit Commission) and **Little Sister Elena CELIA** (in charge of the IMS Group of the Little Sisters of Jesus) were present for a few days at this gathering and informed the sisters about the services of the IMS. There were many enquiries to discover or learn more about the mutual assistance association from those with managerial roles.

**The IMS has no borders.** Indeed, its international vocation means that it concerns all congregations, institutes and dioceses with no health cover. The way it operates makes it a solution that is suitable for each situation (the contributions requested are assessed according to the cost of living of the country).

Finally, and most importantly, for over 50 years the spirit of solidarity has remained unchanged: support for groups and beneficiary members, identical contributions regardless of age, no medical questionnaire when joining, taking into account long / major / costly care and exceptional aid via a social fund.



## > The IMS before the bishops of the RECOWA-CERAO

In February 2016, the second RECOWA-CERAO\* Plenary Assembly was held in Accra.

**150 Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and Priests** gathered to address the following themes: "The New Evangelisation and its specific challenges for the Church, Family of God in West Africa". Our IMS section manager for West Africa, Sister Eugénie DENA was invited to present the IMS and the activities of the section.

The English, Portuguese and French speaking representatives of the African region appreciated Sister Eugénie's talk. The IMS is well known on the sub-continent where it has provided great service to thousands of priests and monks / nuns since its creation. The Association is able to make a greater contribution in the absence of local health protection structures.



\* Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa - Conférence Episcopale Régionale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest Francophone

## Partnership

### > Saint-Joseph Hospital, partner of the IMS



It is important to recall that since 1 January 2016, the IMS no longer has an agreement with the AP-HP of Paris. Requests for cover are therefore turned down. The IMS has forged a new partnership with the Paris Saint-Joseph Hospital Group (GHPSJ), in Paris (75014).

How the system works: if the patient has a prescription from a doctor not working at the GHPSJ, for hospitalisation (check-up, specific examinations, administration of particular treatment, etc.), they need to contact the hospital for the said hospitalisation. At this appointment, they present a certificate from the IMS (online application on the site).

For surgery, the patient will see an anaesthetist, and if relevant, the medical biology laboratory for an examination.

The GHPSJ requests confirmation of cover from the IMS; the payment advice (or invoice) is then sent to the IMS.

Important: external hospitalisation care on the other hand is paid for by the patient who then requests the corresponding aid through their IMS group, as for all other care.

For requests for medical evacuation to France, we ask the IMS groups to prefer contacts with the Saint-Joseph Hospital Group, a partner of MUTAS, the organisation that carries out the evacuation operation.

To learn more, visit the IMS website.

## What's New

### > A new website for the IMS

In early 2016, the IMS website was overhauled.



A more contemporary design, easier access to information and dynamic content are what the IMS's new website now offers. For the occasion, interviews were recorded at the Steering Committee meeting of 18 November 2015 to contribute to and illustrate the various menus of the site: an interview with Father Ménard for the "President's Introduction" insert, Sister Alphonso and Sister Dena for the "IMS Section" and "IMS Group" sections. Each person gives their vision of the IMS.

New features have also been developed and some forms are now available online:

- ▶ **THE REQUEST FOR A CERTIFICATE via the « You are an IMS group » section.**
- ▶ **THE ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL FUND AID via the « aid and supplementary solutions » section for groups.**



The site has been translated into English and Spanish (access at the top right of the page using the flags).



**TIP :**  
Do not hesitate to use the « SEARCH » feature.



To learn more, visit the IMS website at the following address : [www.entraide-missionnaire.com](http://www.entraide-missionnaire.com)



## > IMS sections survey

Last April, a survey was conducted of the IMS section managers.

There were several objectives behind organising this survey:

- ▶ **FIND OUT** the perception and the motivation of the section managers for the IMS.
- ▶ **LEARN** about what the sections managers require from the IMS.
- ▶ **IDENTIFY** the needs of the section managers in terms of tools and support.

The questionnaire was sent to 7 IMS section managers:

- **General Section** (Michaël Colasse)
- **Belgian Section** (Lucien Lavrysen)
- **West Africa Section** (Sister Eugénie Rokia Dena)
- **Central Africa Section** (Father Henri Fouda)
- **East Africa Section** (Sister Tecla Chepng'eno)
- **Malagasy Section** (Father Peria Nayagam Dorai Raj)

- **Central America Section** (Brother Luis Carlos Gutierrez Blanco)

Generally, the IMS is defined as a relief fund which provides solidarity between its members. The missions of the IMS are to contribute to the good health of nuns/monks, and priests locally and provide economic and social assistance to missionaries around the world in the event of illness.

**The values that the IMS promotes are international solidarity, sharing and subsidiarity.**

The section managers recalled the obvious distinction between the International Missionary Benefit Society and an insurance company. The IMS has no vocation to make profits: it takes account of the resources available and contributions are adapted to the means of each group.

**As a reminder, the IMS has a social fund which, under certain conditions, provides exceptional cover of health care costs.** It is allocated by the commissions of each IMS Section (Level 1), as well as the International Commission (Level 2). The areas

in which it can intervene are various: hospitalisation, optics, hearing, medical evacuation, etc. The allocation criteria depend moreover on the responsibilities and means of the group. The case files of those groups with the lowest incomes are examined with the greatest of care.

## > Testimony of M. Dieudonné de Boissieu

**« Being receptive to the needs of the IMS sections and able to respond to their requirements and concerns on a day-to-day basis are the main support function missions of the Union Saint-Martin.**

The Union Saint-Martin is a mutual association founded in 1963. Independent, it is dedicated to the social protection of the clergy, nuns and monks but also members of civil society who recognise themselves in its Christian values.

The sense of sharing, pooling resources for the common good and the protection of the weakest are its responses to the challenges of today. The Union Saint-Martin offers to all those who recognise themselves in its philosophy, a reassuring and independent alternative. »

*Jean-Axel Dieudonné de Boissieu, Director General of the Union Saint-Martin and Director General of the International Missionary Benefit Society*



**Newsletter of the International Missionary Benefit Society**

Bi-monthly  
July 2016

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**Photo Credits:**  
International Missionary Benefit Society

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