

EMI news

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Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers – Guatemala



The Newsletter of the International Missionary Benefit Society

Editorial

2019 ended with the traditional meetings of the International Missionary Benefit Society, with the Sections and then the Steering Committee. The key points of the year were highlighted, such as the substantial work on revising the Articles and the Internal Rules to update them in line with today's missionary Church, the meetings, the work on finding enhanced assistance solutions with the creation of a new option (option 2) and the multiplication of remote exchanges between actors (Sections, Administrators).

These occasions for sharing and thinking about the day-to-day reality of the missions and concerns are essential. They allow the IMS to fulfil its primary mission, as Father MENARD, our former President, used to say following in the footsteps of the founders of the association: **distributing all it receives by providing its services everywhere**

they are needed and when the Christian religious communities concerned are unable to benefit from local schemes.

I am happy that the Solidarity that characterises us is continuing with the creation of new services and our opening up to new Christian communities. **Indeed, as I am fond of saying "sharing multiplies". Opening up will enable us to make the wonderful service provided by the IMS available to all the missionaries of the Gospel.**



Sister Auliac

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> The IMS says good-bye to **Sister Charo and Sister Tecla**



Sister Charo



Sister Tecla

Sister Charo (secretary of the IMS' Central Africa Section) and Sister Tecla (manager of the IMS' East Africa Section) left the IMS in 2019. They very widely contributed to the success of the Association in their areas, both thanks to the quality of their actions for the member groups and the thousands of cases of assistance delivered following medical procedures.

Sister TECLA started her religious life in 1999 with the Franciscan Sisters of Saint-Joseph. Between 2002 and 2006, she studied mathematics, economics and accounting, before starting to work for the Conference of Bishops of Kenya (CBK) in 2008. Alongside her work for the Congregation, Sister TECLA served on the Finance Committee of the CBK; she held the position of executive secretary of the Men and Women Religious Committee of the CBK between 2008 and 2019. In 2011, Sister TECLA took over responsibility for the IMS' East Africa Section, created in 2007. She carried out a significant amount of work, in particular in managing and developing the IMS, mainly in Kenya. At the Franciscan Sisters of Saint-Joseph, Sister TECLA was a member of the Regional Council (2014-2017), before being appointed Regional Superior (2017).



Sister Tecla and Sister Dena



Sister Charo surrounded by Sylvie Cote (General Section), by Sister Marie-Anne and Father Assamba (Central Africa Section)

Sister CHARO had a first experience of Africa in Upper Volta in 1970 as an aid worker with the Sisters of Our Lady of Africa. During her religious and theological training in Spain, Sister CHARO also worked as a teacher. In 1977 she returned to Africa (Togo) as a Sister of the Assumption in a large school, before leaving to spend 30 years as a missionary in Cameroon. Sister CHARO then held responsibilities as an instructor, school manager and Spanish teacher, before participating in the creation of a training centre in Yaoundé. Employed as a secretary and accountant for the Priests of the Holy Spirit, Sister CHARO became an administrator of the IMS' Central Africa Section in 1998. At the same time as participating in accounting assistance missions for religious communities, she worked on a daily basis for the IMS Section until 2019, with a constant concern for delivering quality services to the many IMS Groups in the region.

Steering Committee

> November 2019 highlights: **3 IMS meetings**

As is the case each year, the Administrators of International Missionary Benefit Society gathered for their Steering Committee meeting. The work again took place at the Sisters of the Daughters of Charity, in the 7th district of Paris, with the highly appreciated support of four interpreter sisters.

The three phases of the meeting were chaired by Sister Elisabeth Auliac on 14 and 15 November 2019:

- Operational meeting of the seven Sections of the IMS,
 - Steering Committee preparatory meeting,
 - Steering Committee meeting.
- Operational meeting of the seven Sections of the IMS

The communication of operational information between the Head Office and the Sections is now a systematic regular occurrence, used to recall the key exchanges of the year and to listen to the questions from the Sections.

Sister Joan (new manager of the IMS East Africa Section) attended her first meeting, while Sister Marie-Anne was present in her new role (administrative manager of the IMS for the Central Africa Section).



Sister Auliac and S. Sacheli



J.N Dussart



Monsignor Moutel, bishop of Saint-Brieuc and Tréguier

• Steering Committee preparatory meeting

For the administrators, the primary purpose of this key moment is to listen to the Section managers; they present their activities and specific points relating to their mission.

This meeting was held in the presence of Monsignor MOUTEL, bishop of Saint-Brieuc and Tréguier (France). Chairman of the Economic and Social Affairs Committee at the Conference of Bishops of France, he has shown great interest in the actions of the IMS.

• Steering Committee Meeting

Finally, on the basis of the two previous meetings, but also following the work of the Board which goes on throughout the year, the Administrators examine the important points before making decisions to guarantee optimal functioning of the IMS and high quality services to the members.

After the creation of Option 2 (enhanced international assistance) in mid-2019, it was decided, in particular, to open up the IMS to lay people working for the Church and with reduced contributions for children. 3 countries have changed area within Option 4 (Ecuador from A to A+, Nigeria and Vietnam from B to C). Hospital benefits in Kenya have been adapted to the rates of health professionals. The foreclosure period (time limit for acceptance of healthcare invoices by the IMS) has been increased from 1 to 2 years.



The President, Sister Auliac, with the Steering Committee members (except Monsignor Gaspard Gneba, excused) and some technical advisors

Social fund

> The social fund, remember to use it

The Groups of the International Missionary Benefit Society receive demands for participation following the presentation of healthcare invoices. Depending on the procedures, part of the cost is borne by the group. Where this amount is significant in relation to the economic situation of the community, Groups may apply for exceptional assistance from the IMS Social Fund.

Several times a year, the Sections submit cases to their level 1 Social Fund committee;

remainder to be paid. Depending on the amount of the new remainder, the groups can make a final exceptional request to the IMS Head Office. The level 2 Social Fund committee will then examine the cases, with a possible further participation of 50%.

A bishop from Togo thus recently thanked the IMS, while giving thanks to the Lord, for its action and its 3 levels of assistance, without which the diocese would have found it hard to cope with the cost of hospitalising its priest.

"Social Fund" form available on the IMS website

Formation

> IMS training for the East Africa section



Ms Gladys CHERUTO BIWOT

Following the Steering Committee meeting of November 2019, Sister Joan Nekesa MUKHWANA (IMS East Africa Section manager) and Ms Gladys CHERUTO BIWOT (IMS East Africa Section administrator) received training at the International Missionary Benefit Society head office.

For a week, they supplemented their theoretical and practical knowledge of the IMS. The trainers of the Central Office (Ms HAREL, Ms GOFFIN and Mr SACHELI), supported by the General Section (Ms CORREIA, Ms COTE and Mr COLASSE), contributed in particular in the areas of Memberships/contributions, entry and checking of assistance, accounting, social fund cases, medical evacuations, communications and development.

Remember that IMS training is required to work for a Section and that the Central Office also organises refresher courses.



Sister Joan Nekesa MUKHWANA

IMS Diary Semester 1 2020



23-27 march

IMS Training
(Marist Brothers of Central Africa)

25 march

IMS Level 2 Social Fund Committee

25 march

IMS Board Meeting

14-17 april

President's Trip to Nairobi

27 may

IMS Board Meeting

1^{er} june

IMS East Africa Section transfer

24 june

IMS Sections' meeting

25 june

IMS Steering Committee

26 june

IMS General Assembly