

To fulfil the wish expressed by Brother Superior General in his letter of 8 December 1981, the first Missionary Symposium was held in Togo from August 15 to 20, 1983.

SECOLI encouraged the Districts to prepare for this between October 1982 and May 1983 with the result that the following four points were chosen for discussions.

- The mission (Evangelization, School, necessary initiatives).
- The Community (animation, inculturation, a life of witness).
- Initial and continuing formation and the need of training staff.
- The missionary spirit: why go on the missions?

The 24 participants from the centre and from various regions of the Institute, after intensive work, voted the following propositions. Because of a "coup d'état" in Upper Volta, a neighbouring country, the programme had to be shortened and thus the formulation of these propositions could not be perfected by the introduction of modi. As set out they concern the Institute as a whole.

## MISSION

1. The Brothers should, at regular intervals, reflect on the nature of their work, studying carefully the real needs of the country where they live and examining themselves as to whether their work is adequate for those needs. The assistance of competent persons should be sought for these periodical re-assessments.

2. In the light of Brother Superior's 1981 letter, par. 22a, schools in the Third World should examine their present commitment to see whether they are rendering a preferential service to the poor:

a) In countries where the majority work on the land we should favour agricultural foundations suited to the employment of young adults, not children. The final objective would be the formation of leaders for the rural districts.

b) In urban centres the Brothers must aim to form Christian leaders who will work for the promotion of the Church and of social justice in their areas.

4. The Brothers' work must always be carried out in association with their community, the witness of community life being of the highest importance in the developing countries.

## FORMATION

6. Our mission as Lasallians is primarily to bear witness to the Gospel truths and not only in a teaching apostolate. The formation of our Brothers and of our lay collaborators should lead them to become animators of our institutions which will thus remain centres of evangelisation both proclaimed and lived.

8. As there are at present insufficient formators to staff our multiple national novitiates we

propose the establishment of regional novitiates capable of being provided with competent personnel and adequate means for ensuring first-class formation.

9. Following the novitiate there should be a scholasticate period devoted to the continued deepening of the religious, catechetical and theological formation — this to precede the undertaking of academic studies. At the conclusion of this period of religious and academic training the Brother will be assigned to a community where his formation may be continued with the help of a visiting Brother counsellor.

## **STRUCTURES, RELATIONS**

11. The African Region should appoint a full-time delegate who would reside in Africa and would ensure liaison between the Region and the Centre of the Institute. The Region must specify his duties and provide him with the means and the authority to fulfil them successfully.

13. SECOLI should be the linking agent between the Third World districts and the sponsoring Districts and other funding organisations.

15. Since a greater representation of delegates from the Third World to the General Chapter is not possible, the Superior General and his Council are urged to invite more observers from these areas.

## **COMMUNITY**

16. Our communities should be involved in an apostolic project and should be much concerned to be seen as religious communities recognisable as such by their availability to others, their openness to, and concern for, their immediate neighbourhood, the simplicity of their life style, their prayer-life and their fraternal sharing.

18. The Brothers working in Africa should integrate themselves more fully into the local culture and customs, and should seek to discern the Gospel values and the apostolic possibilities implicit therein.

19. A willingness to study the local language is an integral element of a missionary vocation. It is essential that any Brother destined for the Missions be given sufficient time to learn the vernacular of the area he will serve.