



**Monday, 8 January 2018.**

Dear confreres, today at the CMC in Bunju (Tanzania), the members of the Continental Council for Africa and the members of the General Council have taken a training course entitled "Leadership and Authority". It was animated by Fr. Hipoliti Marandu, imc.

This formation was a mandate of the XIII General Chapter at n. 99: *"The task of the Continental Council, in collaboration with the General Government, will be to plan and organize a course on the service of authority addressed to the Province's Superiors and their respective councils. Courses will preferably take place in the Continent itself. The course, as well as dealing with specific issues such as the different styles of exercise of authority, will present the Church and Institute documents on this subject, with special attention to the Code of Conduct, as well as the civil laws on the subject of responsibility"*.

At the beginning of this formation, Fr. Godfrey Msumange took the floor to welcome all the participants of this formation and thank Fr. Hipoliti Marandu for his availability to help us in this theme of vital importance for our Institute today.

During the morning, we covered two themes: the absolute obedience of Christ and obedience in Canon Law.

Fr. Marandu developed the kenosis of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Phil 2:6-11 and the implications that this has for our life because obedience is a powerful means of sanctification for the missionary if it is an obedience based on faith.

He went on to explain the implications to our consecrated life of canons 593, 596, 601, 618, 622, 630, 654, 678 and 696.

During the afternoon, he made a reading of current sensitivity that emphasizes personal freedom, personal fulfillment and self-reference. This situation calls into question the life of the missionary who lives in continuous formation and lets himself be shaped by the grace of God.

He went on to point out the physiological consequences of the stress caused by the service of authority.

He evoked two outcomes: the rediscovery of each missionary of the key points of Christ's lifestyle and the return to the specific sources of the Consolata, emphasizing two attitudes: vigil and prudence.

After an exchange, three points were raised: linking obedience and authority to the personal path of faith, avoiding the false dichotomy between saving the person or saving the Institute because the Institute itself is made up of people, and confronting the personal crisis situations of missionaries, because it is the responsibility of the one who is called to exercise the service of authority.

At 6:00 p. m., all the missionaries taking part in the Continental Assembly celebrated the Eucharist, which was presided over by Fr. Godfrey Msumange and which blessed with the presence of the seminarians of the Propaedeutic.

We give thanks to God for this formative and informal day of exchange and we ask the Lord to send us his Holy Spirit so that this moment of fraternity may also be a moment of discernment for us Consolata Missionaries in the continent of Africa.

