

Father Moïse Ndione elected Moderator Father of the Foyers de Charité

During the course of their general meeting at the Foyer de Charité of Châteauneuf-de-Galaure (Drôme - France), the 250 delegates (priests and laity) of the 78 Foyers de Charité around the world elected the new head of the work, who will be called "Moderator Father" from now on. At the age of 57 years, Father Moïse Ndione (Senegal) is taking on this role for an initial term of office of four years.

This election, validated by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (Vatican), forms part of the new governance arrangements decided during this meeting by a vote.

"Moderator Father", a new role

Until now, the Father of the Foyer de Charité of Châteauneuf-de-Galaure (first Foyer founded in 1936 by Marthe Robin and Father Georges Finet) was automatically also responsible for the Foyers de Charité. Father Bernard Michon took on this responsibility from 2000 to 2016. These two roles have now been separated in order to deal more effectively with the international development of the work.

Father Moïse Ndione was elected Moderator Father from among the member-priests of the Foyers de Charité during the general meeting of the Foyers for a term of office of 4 years, which may be renewed twice. This election was validated by the Pontifical Council for the Laity (Vatican) with which the Foyers are directly linked.

The mission of the Moderator Father is to govern the work of the Foyers de Charité in collaboration with the International Council, composed of 4 priests and 4 lay people, half of which is elected during the general meeting and the other half of which is appointed by him. He is responsible for ensuring the unity between the Foyers and represents the work before the relevant authorities.



Biography of Father Moïse Ndione

Born on 14 November 1959 in Senegal, Father Moïse Ndione was ordained a priest in 1988 for the diocese of Thies. His first years of ministry were as a parish priest. He was also appointed to head the Charismatic Renewal for his diocese.

As father of the Foyer de Charité of Cap de Biches, near Dakar, from 1997 to 2015, he became a member of the International Council of the Foyers de Charité in 2008.

Having been coordinator of the Foyer de Charité of Châteauneuf-de-Galaure since January 2016, Father Moïse Ndione will lay down his duties to take on his new role.

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A general meeting lasting two weeks

From 7 to 22 June, the 250 delegates (priests and laity), which represent the 78 Foyers de Charité of the world, prayed, discussed, debated, discerned and voted on the following four major objectives:

- Reviewing the past
- Restructuring the pedestal (*working on the statutes of the Foyers de Charité, setting up new structures*)
- Setting the guidelines for the future (*defining the major spiritual and pastoral guidelines for the next four years aimed at young people and families in particular*)
- Entrusting the mission (*electing a Moderator Father and the International Council*)

Following a vote on an amendment to certain articles of the canonical statutes it was agreed to define the distinction between the government duties of a Foyer Father (responsible for the community) and his role as a spiritual director/confessor more clearly by not allowing both roles to be held concurrently. The concept of spiritual paternity will be examined in greater depth over the next few years.

Changes to the governance of the Foyers de Charité

During this Meeting, several changes to the governance of the Foyers de Charité were passed and subsequently ratified by the Pontifical Council of the Laity.

They are the fruit of a long process of reflection initiated several years ago and which will be pursued further:

- Distinction between the role of the priest responsible for the Foyer de Charité of Châteauneuf-de-Galaure and that of the new Moderator Father of the Foyers de Charité.
- Term of office of 4 years, renewable 2 times (up to the age limit of 75 years), for the Moderator Father.
- Closer collaboration between the Moderator Father, the International Council and the Foundation Council of the Foyer de Charité (*registered non-profit foundation*).
- Creation of a general secretariat with a permanent operational structure composed of members from different Foyers or lay people appointed by the International Council for a set period of time. This general secretariat will coordinate various domains: mission (pastoral), finances, human resources, buildings and communications. Thierry Coustenoble, who is a lay member of the Foyers (member, until now, of the Foyer of Courset - Pas de Calais, France), was appointed general secretary.



The Foyers de Charité

The Foyers de Charité are an international Catholic Work formed in 1936 at the instigation of Marthe Robin (who was declared Venerable in 2014) and of Father Georges Finet which offer spiritual retreats that are open to all, believers and non-believers. Currently, the 78 Foyers de Charité, which are spread across four continents, welcome more than 50,000 people per year.

There are about one thousand members (priests and laity) who have made a lifelong commitment to these communities.

www.lesfoyersdecharite.com

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