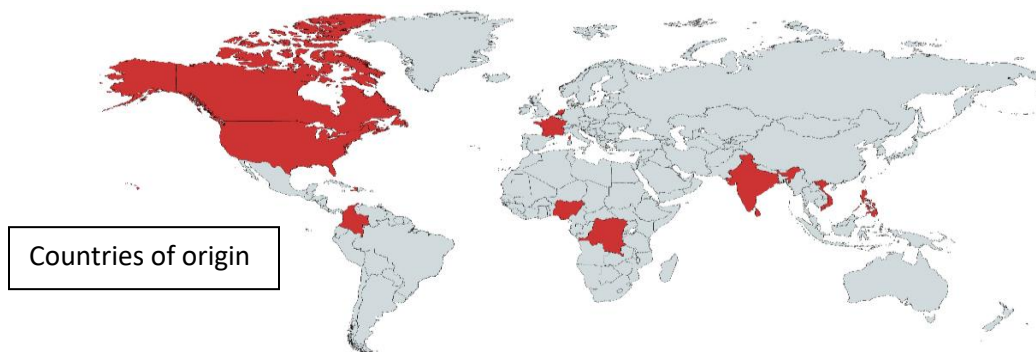


The Canadian District, birthplace of Voluntas Dei Institute and of our founder Fr. Louis-Marie Parent, continues to embrace diversity and to adapt to logistical issues in 2020.



With members and affiliates grouped in over 20 teams living in milieus separated by up to 3,000 miles and as much as four time zones, and hailing from at least 10 different countries, we have to find ways to communicate. A feat made more interesting since the first language of many are not the Canadian official languages of French and English. They include Tagalog, German, Sinhala, Igbo, Dutch, Creole, Vietnamese, Spanish. With different countries of origin, such as Canada, USA, Nigeria, Netherlands, France, Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Haiti, Vietnam, Columbia, comes differing cultures.



Even our district committee meetings, our websites and Facebook pages are bilingual - French and English.

The covid-19 pandemic has added some complications.

We have responded by holding virtual meetings and phone calls. Many found that we were blessed to be able to meet more often virtually this past spring than ever before. The District Council was also obliged to make the unfortunate decision to cancel our annual congress where we would have the chance to meet and share face-to-face. 2020 was to be the year we experimented with both a French congress and English congress rather than just one bilingual congress. Regardless of the challenges, this 'health break' has brought out many good things, like turning off the 'autopilot' of our usual lives into a slower more intentional existence, into the present moment.