

# Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



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## EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE

### MARIANISTS ARE SAFE BUT DEVASTATION ABOUNDS

*As you undoubtedly know, a massive earthquake struck Chile on Saturday, February 27. With the presence of many members of the SM, FMI and Marianist Family present in that country, VL22 asked Fr. José María Arnaiz, SM, Regional Superior of the SM, to share some news and reflections.*

We are shaken.

A grateful salute to all the many people who were interested in the situation of the Marianist Family in Chile during the shocking earthquake (grade 8.9) that occurred in our country. I also share with you some important information and a little reflection.

This earthquake has caused a national catastrophe of unprecedented proportions. The human and economic impact will be very large. Full recovery will take many months. It is said that an earthquake is "misleading" as it has destroyed a lot more than is evident at first.

No one connected with the Marianist family has died or been seriously injured. There are over 300 deaths in the country [recent reports indicate more than 700 have died] and almost 100 missing. More than 500,000 homes are destroyed. Many public service buildings: hospitals, schools, museums, prisons ..., are all structurally damaged. Our Marianist presence is focused in Linares, Talca and Santiago. In the first two places there are many casualties and much damage. They are the second most affected region of the country. In Santiago we felt the quake to a lesser degree. It is difficult to estimate the expenses which I presume will be necessary to make repairs to the Residence Hall, the Parish of San Miguel, schools, the religious community of Puente Alto (Santiago), and that of the sisters in Talca.



During these days the Iberoamerican Children's Literature Congress was being held in Santiago, organized by the SM Foundation and the Grupo SM. The Congress opened with a massive turnout of some 800 people including a good number of foreigners. It was to have been very successful. With a day and a half left before its completion, of course, it had to be abandoned.

For those who lived through this experience for the first time, the impact and terror was much higher. Living through an earthquake as it occurs is an unforgettable experience that etches into one's memory the date and place and, in many ways, defines the future between what occurred before and after the "Great Earthquake of Cauquenes (2010)." What a rich sense of feeling fully alive when the earth settles down! For a moment one had the impression that only one's heart has the power to hold on to life, as the earth and all of one's surroundings crumbled. And for a moment as one looks around and sees what is essential, one is reminded of God. The strength of an overly aggressive and invasive nature shakes us back to our senses and sound judgment: today all creation matters, every life matters, we are all in the same situation, all without exception. The pain will leave its mark, and even more so, on the poorest of the poor.

We commend ourselves to your prayers so that, in this test, we might remain strong and generous.

*José María Arnaiz SM*

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR HAITI



The Society of Mary is grateful for the gracious outpouring of support and prayers for the people of Haiti in general, and for the Marianists associated

with this foundation in particular. We ask your continued prayerful support as they recover and face a difficult future ahead.

### REMINDER: LENTEN CAMPAIGN FOR 2010

For more information, go to the link:

[http://www.fundacion-sm.com/ver\\_noticia.aspx?id=21278](http://www.fundacion-sm.com/ver_noticia.aspx?id=21278)



### SNOW IN ROMA!

While many of you in the northern hemisphere have had plenty of snow this winter, such an event is rather unusual here at Via Latina 22, Roma. Yet, for a short time on February 12, the members of the communities of VL22 were in “meteorological solidarity” with those of you for whom snow is a common occurrence. Our little “blizzard” was an occasion for the Marianists and staff to enjoy the short-lived beauty of falling snow, which was, for many, the first such experience. We share some photos with you.



### MIXED COMPOSITION

Reminder: The report from last year’s Consultation on Mixed Composition is available in electronic form from your Unit Administrations.

#### ADDRESS AND INFORMATION CHANGES

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#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

- Jan 31-Mar 22: General Council visits the Province of the United States of America



#### G.A. COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SENT...

- Death Notices - #'s 3 & 4
- Feb. 4: Report of the Seminary Visitation
- Feb 4: 3 Offices: *Distribution of MSF and MFF for 2010*
- Feb 4: Final Report on Mixed Composition
- Feb 17: *Via Latina #189*