A short time ago, the “Chapter Room” and “Capitulants Chapel” were set up at the General Administration as a test for the upcoming General Chapter. What is normally the large Chapel of the GA will serve as the meeting place for the Chapter, while the “Sala Chaminade,” normally a room for smaller meetings, will serve as a temporary chapel. The test went well and served to remind all of us here at VL22 of the important event we will host in a very short time.

Over the course of the last few months, capitulants have been collaborating with the Preparatory Commission to structure the work of the Chapter. They have worked on an Instrumentum Laboris that discusses the current state and future directions of the SM. They have responded to consultations about themes and critical aspects for discussion. PrepCo is now assembling the results of the latest consultation dealing with ways to understand and structure the SM as a global community.

Meanwhile, practical preparations for travel, translation, accommodations and hospitality are all being addressed.

PrepCo has proposed that from June 24 until the last day of the Chapter, July 22, each day, on a rotating basis, 5 or 6 specific communities of the Society of Mary engage in concentrated prayer for the work of the Chapter. Each community can choose its own way to do enter into this prayer, or the Unit can give common guidelines, should it seem preferable (prayer, fasting, reflection ...). The list of communities and the day for their prayer is on the General Chapter website at www.marianist.org.

We invite all members of the SM to take an active interest in the General Chapter. There are many ways to do so:

- Continue to offer prayer, particularly the Prayer for the General Chapter.
- Visit the website in the SM section of the Marianist Family website (www.marianist.org).
- Follow the Chapter on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/SMgc12) and Twitter (@smromasm).
- Sign-up to receive periodic updates (PDF versions) via e-mail. You do this by sending a note to the Secretary General at gensecsm@smcuria.it.

We ask our Founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade to intercede on behalf of the members of the SM and the FMI that their respective Chapters might be fruitful and serve to prepare us for our mission long into the future!
The last major visit of the General Administration before the upcoming Chapter in July was made to the District of India. For six weeks, March 29 – May 8, Fr. Manuel and Bro. Ed visited all the communities and apostolic works of the District.

As of May 1, the District counts 99 professed Marianists, of these 59 are perpetually professed and 40 in temporary vows. Geographically, the District is located in five states in India (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Orissa), and in Eastern Nepal (Bharwal and Biratnagar). There are 16 communities. Apostolically, the District conducts seven schools, two residential skill training centers, two job training centers; a program for street and working children, and one parish.

Fr. Manuel presides at the Palm Sunday Eucharist for the small Catholic community of Bharwal, Nepal which was held in the Marianist Community Chapel.

Bro. Ed cuts the ribbon for the new students’ boarding center at the R.C. Mission School, Binda, India.

Fr. Manuel addresses the students of Prabhat Tara School, Singhpur, during a morning assembly.

Fr. Manuel and Bro. Ed have a meeting with the second year novices about to make their first profession of vows at Nirmal Deep Novitiate, Ranchi.

The “Chief Guests” (left to right): Bro. Ed, Rt. Rev. Binay Kandulna and Fr. Manuel, duly adorned by the parishioners during the cultural program following the dedication Mass at the new Blessed Chaminade Parish.
Fr. Manuel is the main celebrant for the First Vows Eucharist at the novitiate. The Celebration also honored him during this, his Golden Jubilee Year.

First Profession of Vows

Fr. Manuel cuts the ribbon to inaugurate Blessed Chaminade Parish. Fr. Ignace Arulappen, SM, Novice Master, looks on.

Bro. Augustus, District Superior, presents Bro. Albert Xalxo with the Rule of Life just after he professed his vows.


Bro. Augustus unveils the dedication stone of Blessed Chaminade Parish.

Blessed Chaminade Parish, Singhpur
**SUPERIORS APPOINTED FOR CANADA AND ITALY**

Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Superior General, recently announced the appointment of two Unit superiors. Fr. Gérard Blais, SM, has accepted his appointment as regional superior of the Region of Canada. He succeeds Fr. Eugène Côté, SM, who is completing his second term. For the Province of Italy, Fr. Luigi Magni, SM, has been appointed to a second term as Provincial. Luigi also serves as president of the Conference of European Marianists (CEM).

We are grateful to Gérard, Eugène and Luigi for their generous service to their respective Units and to the SM at large. We ask God’s blessing on them and the members of their Unit.

**CONGRATULATIONS...**

**JOSÉ MARÍA ALVIRA, SM, NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF FERE-CECA Y EYG**

Assistant General for Education, José María Alvira, SM, who completes his second term of service in the General Administration with the upcoming General Chapter, was recently appointed Secretary General of the national Catholic educational association, FERE-CECA y EyG, which is a consortium of Catholic schools throughout all of Spain. We congratulate Chema on this appointment and wish him God’s blessings as he moves to a new role in his long-standing commitment to Catholic Education.

**HOWARD HUGHES, SM, TO BE HONORED AS NPM PASTORAL MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR**

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians for the USA will honor Bro. Howard Hughes, S.M., as Pastoral Musician of the Year when it gathers for its national convention in Washington, DC, in July. In his letter of invitation to Brother Howard, the President of NPM, J. Michael McMahon, declared, “Board Members agreed unanimously that you have created compositions for the liturgy that are beautiful, delightful, and spirited, and that have fostered strong participation by the worshiping assembly as they pray the texts you have set to music.” Howard is a well known composer and performer of liturgical music. Many of his compositions have been published and remain in use throughout the world. Currently, Bro. Howard is organist and music director for the Marianist Center in Cupertino, CA. Congratulations, Howard!

**DISTRICT OF IVORY COAST SHOWS APPRECIATION TO BRO. DOMINIQUE LEBRENN, SM**

The Marianists of the District celebrated his service, dedication and leadership of Bro. Dominique LeBrenn, who has just completed his term as District Superior. The jubilant gathering of many members of the Family of Mary on May 1 included a Mass presided by Georges Gbeze, SM, Dominique's successor, followed by a festive banquet. Congratulations and thank you, Dominique!
BUSY DAYS AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY

The month of June is very busy for those studying at the Chaminade International Seminary in Rome. It is the month when final examinations are taken as the year comes to a close. Prior to this period of intense study, the seminary community found some time to play “calcio” (soccer) against a team of students from the Marianist Istituto Santa Maria in Rome. The hastily formed squad of seminarians held their own against the more experienced Roman students. While they are probably not yet ready to compete in the tournament of Roman seminaries (Clericus Cup), they enjoyed the break from studies and the friendly interaction.

This year, six seminarians will complete their studies and return to their Units. Pictured here are (l-R): Jair Romero (CE), Raymundo Dominguez (MX), Casimir Tcheou (TO), Prasad Nittamaria (IN), Birendra Kullu (IN), Rajesh Lakra (IN). We pray that their future ordination will be a grace, not only for them, but for their brothers and those they serve. May Mary, our Mother, guide them!

On May 21, Fr., Francisco Canseco, SM, Rector, presented the first and second year seminarians for installation in the ministries of lector and acolyte. Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Superior General, officiated at the Mass of installation with members of both communities at VL22 attending.
Prayer Requests:

Prayers are requested through the intercession of Mary and Blessed Chaminade for the healing (cure) of Dino Pocaro (age 78) of Cleveland, Ohio, who is suffering from the effects of a Parkinson’s Disease-like illness and is confined to a wheelchair. Mr. Pocaro is a long-time friend of the Marianists. Request submitted by Bro. Jimmi Masuura, SM (JA).

Prayers are requested through the intercession of Blessed Chaminade for the cure of Daniel Arnold, a student at the University of Dayton, a Chaminade Scholar, who was recently injured in a boating accident and remains paralyzed below the waist. Intention submitted by Fr. Jerry Chinchar, SM (US).