

Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary

Inauguration of *ACEMS* (Asian Centre of Marianist Studies)



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Spurred on by a request from the General Administration that centers for Marianist Studies be established in each of the continental zones throughout the Marianist world, the leaders of the four SM Units in Asia (Japan, Korea, India and Philippines) have decided to establish an Asian Center for Marianist Studies (ACEMS).

In a recent newsletter entitled *Morning Star*, the first to come from the new center, Fr. David Fleming, SM, its first director, shared some of the details:

Name and Address: The Center for Asia has been baptized as *ACEMS* (Asian Centre for Marianist Studies). Its first Director is Fr. David Fleming, and it is located at Deepahalli near Bangalore, India.

Similar centers for study and research in Marianist life already exist in Europe (the Chaminade Center in Bordeaux, Madrid's SM Publications, Rome's Seminario Chaminade) and in the USA (NACMS in Dayton). With the encouragement of the General Administration, other centers are also being established for Africa and Latin America.

ACEMS is meant to be at the service of all branches of the Marianist Family in all parts of Asia: SM, FMI, Marianist Lay Communities, in Japan, Korea, Philippines, India, Nepal, any other part of the continent....

The main purposes of ACEMS are:

- to foster and promote knowledge and study of the Marianist charism,
- to make our charism better known for all kinds of audiences – popular and specialized
- to encourage study and publications in all the appropriate languages
- to provide resources to help in making our charism known
- to offer support and help to Marianists of all branches in studying the charism
- to develop a group of “expert” Marianists who can continue to deepen and pass on our charism
- to organize seminars and workshops from time to time for these purposes.



The Chaminade Educational Centre at
Deepahalli-Bangalore, home of ACEMS

ACEMS is building up an **extensive library** of Marianist books, pamphlets and media in Bangalore to support Marianist studies in Asia.

A **coordinating team** was appointed by the councils of each SM Unit to organize ACEMS. Founding members of this team, along with Dave Fleming, are Hirokazu André Takada (Japan), Chan Bok Dominic Park (Korea), Ignase Arulappen (India), and Pablo Rambaud (Philippines).

Getting organized: Finances will not permit frequent meetings, but a first organizational session of this coordinating team was held December 4-6, 2009, at the beautiful S.M. novitiate (the area is called “Eden”) near Davao City, Philippines. Fr. Andy from Japan was not able to attend this first meeting, and he was replaced by the Regional Superior of Japan and President of the SM Asian Zone, Fr. Kazuo Louis-Ibaragi Shimizu. This meeting worked out a program for the work of ACEMS until the next General Chapter (2012) and defined more exactly the scope and the plans for the new Centre.



Members of the ACEMS Coordinating Team (L→R): Pablo Rambaud, Louis Shimizu (substituting for André Takada), Dominic Park, Dave Fleming and Ignase Arulappen.

Upcoming projects of the Centre include:

1. **An Asian Seminar on “Marianist Servant Leadership”** will be organized by ACEMS from August 7-20, 2011, at Deepahalli-Bangalore. It will be offered to Marianists of all branches of the Family, with the



Main chapel at Deepahalli – “Seat of Wisdom”

aim of deepening our ability to guide our Family for mission within our varied Asian contexts, in the spirit of our Founders. The hope is for up to 30 participants, including many now in positions of leadership in communities and ministries. Presenters and facilitators will include Bros. Edward Violett, Raymond Fitz, Tom Giardino, Frs. Dave Fleming, Pablo Rambaud and others. Simultaneous translation will be available in Japanese, Korean and English. Members of the branches of the Marianist Family should check with Unit superiors for more information.

2. **Fr. Chaminade at 250 years:** April 8, 2011 will be Blessed Father Chaminade’s 250th birthday. The Year 2011 has been declared a “Chaminade Year” and all Marianist groups and

institutions are invited to celebrate this year with some special activities and observances. ACEMS is planning to publish a special Marianist Asian Booklet with reflections, readings and prayer services for the year 2011. They will also publicize your ideas and suggestions for observing the Chaminade Year.

ACEMS welcomes ideas and suggestions. These can easily be made by sending an e-mail to Dave Fleming (his address is available in the *SM International Personnel* and other resources).





Chola Mulenga appointed to lead the new Region of Eastern Africa as its First Regional Superior

Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Superior General, recently announced that Bro. Valentine Chola Mulenga, SM has been appointed to serve as the first regional Superior of the soon-to-be created Region of Eastern Africa. Currently, Chola serves as District Superior of the same Unit, a position appointed by the Provincial of the Province of the United States of America, on which the Unit currently depends. Upon the Unit's independence, to take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2010, Chola will be installed as Regional Superior.

In his letter to the brothers of Eastern Africa, Fr. Manuel noted that the members have articulated "great confidence in Brother Chola's leadership gifts. They see him as a man of prayer and faithfully committed to his Marianist vocation, one who leads by example and is collaborative in his manner of leadership."

We are grateful to Chola for his willingness and generosity in accepting this appointment in response to the call of his brothers. The Society of Mary has appreciated his service as District Superior, importantly noting in this service his keen ability to be a catalyst for unity within the District. We now ask our Blessed Mother and the Holy Spirit to guide him as he works together with his brothers to establish the new Region!

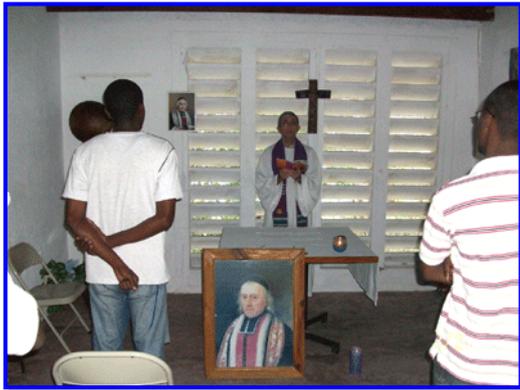


Prayer Intentions

Your prayers through the intercession of Blessed Chaminade and our blessed Marianist Martyrs are requested for the following intentions:

- The Miguel Bielza, brother of Fr. Juan Bielza, SM (MA) and Fr. Enrique Bielza, SM (CH), who suffers from cancer. After surgery in December, there has been no improvement in his condition. *Intention proposed by Fr. Juan Bielza, SM (MA)*
- Professor D'Urso of the University in Catania (Italy), a good friend of the Marianists. She was treated for cancer in 2002, but last year the cancer reappeared and has begun to spread. *Intention proposed by Bro. Giovanni Onore, SM (CE).*





The Haitian Marianist Community was able to celebrate the Feasts of St. Joseph and the Annunciation

Thanks to the kindness of the Benedictines, they are able to use a small structure at the monastery as their community house.

The General Administration, the Region of Canada, and our brothers in Haiti are very grateful to so many members of the Marianist Family who have generously contributed to help rebuild our Marianist presence in Haiti. Over the next several months, we will begin to explore options for this rebuilding and move toward solidifying, once again, our life mission in this country which is so fruitful in faith and culture, but was so devastated by the recent disaster. Anyone or any Unit that wishes to help may still do so by contacting the Assistant General for Temporalities at gentempsm@smcuria.it.

Haiti Update

Our brothers in Haiti report that they have been welcomed on a temporary basis at the Monastery of St. Benedict, located about 40 miles (65 km) outside of Port-au-Prince. Several members of the two communities have reconvened after they were dispersed following the tragic earthquake. Over the next few months, the rest of the members of the foundation are expected to return.



Together Again: Members of the community and those in formation.



One of the buildings on the property of the Benedictine Monastery outside of Port-au-Prince

ADDRESS AND INFORMATION CHANGES

- Patrice Comoé (IV): comoepat@gmail.com
- Giancarlo Bonutti (IT): ccca@fuse.net

Corrected Address:
Region of Colombia-Ecuador

**Administración Regional
Carrera 11B / N°19-29 sur,
Barrio Ciudad Jardín sur
Bogotá, Colombia**

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

- **Apr 6-10** JMA attends meetings in Spain
- **Apr 11-May 6:** AF and EV visit Congo and Ivory Coast
- **Apr 15-17:** Education Comm. meeting in Rome
- **Apr 20-May 5:** MC and JMA visit Togo
- **May 7-11:** AF visits France
- **May 7-10:** EV visits USA

G.A. COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SENT...

- **Death Notices** - #'s 5-7
- **Mar 8: VocSM #3** to all Units in the SM
- **Apr 1:** World Council of the Marianist Family—Marianist World Day of Prayer for Vocations