

Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



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NEW LEADERS MEET FOR SEMINAR AT VIA LATINA 22

As has been customary, the General Administration once again hosted those superiors who have taken office over the last three years for a two-week long seminar at the Generalate. The meeting took place from November 14-26 and was attended by some 16 superiors from four continents. Activities included presentations and conversations with members of the GA, special presentations by Marianists with experience in leadership, including Bro. Stephen Glodek, SM, former Provincial of the Province of the USA and Bro. Thomas



Giardino, SM, former Assistant General for Education and current Executive Director of the International Center for Marianist Formation. Presenters from outside the SM included Fr. Santiago González, CMF, who spoke about the Holy See's instruction Authority and Obedience in Religious Life and Fr. Robert



Geisinger, SJ, Procurator General of the Society of Jesus, who reviewed some pertinent aspects of the Code of Canon Law.

In addition to the formalities, participants informally shared fraternally with each other and the communities at Via Latina.



Morning Prayer each day was in Italian, the language of the communities. In the evening, the Liturgy was celebrated alternating between English, French and Spanish. Twice, the entire group joined the seminary community for the Eucharist together. Among these fraternal opportunities was the celebration of the annual Thanksgiving Feast, a traditional harvest holiday of North America, and a visit to a local pizzeria for a farewell

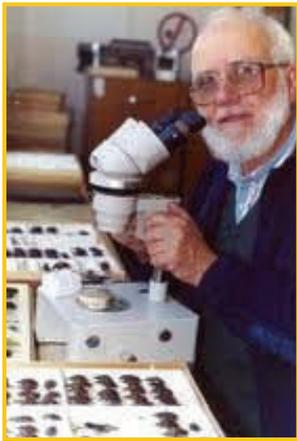


cena. It is hoped that this program will assist superiors in the important task of leadership which they have generously accepted.



MEETING TO DISCUSS “NON-FORMAL” EDUCATION

José María Alvira, SM, Assistant General for Education, hosted a small group of Marianists in a dialog about non-formal education. The meeting took place in Rome from November 29 until December 1. These dates were chosen so as to take advantage of the presence of several superiors for the New Leaders Seminar that took place immediately before this meeting. The meeting included sharing of reflections, challenges, experiences and plans about our educational works that are conducted outside of the traditional classroom model. It was particularly helpful as background for the Educational Project initiative (*see related article in this issue of VL22*). Later on, more information regarding the results of this meeting will be communicated.



GIOVANNI ONORE, SM, KNIGHTED BY PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

As the official delegate of Giorgio Napolitano, the President of the Republic of Italy, the Italian ambassador to Ecuador presented Marianist Brother Giovanni Onore, SM, with the honor of becoming a knight in the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity. The Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity (*Stella della solidarietà italiana*), one of four orders of Italian knighthood, was founded as a national order by the 1st President of the Italian Republic, Enrico De Nicola, in 1947, to recognize civilian and military ex-



patriates or foreigners who made an outstanding contribution to the reconstruction of Italy after World War II. Today, this honor is bestowed on those whose achievements are considered outstanding contributions to society. The insignia, which appears on a set of medals and decorations, bears the inscription *Solidarietà Italiana* encircling a depiction of the Good Samaritan.

Giovanni Onore, SM, is a member of the Province of Italy, who has served in Italy, Africa and, for many years, in Quito, Ecuador. He is a noted entomologist, with particular expertise in the study and preservation of the eco-systems of the Amazon region, His work has led to the discovery of several species and, over

the years, he has shared his knowledge and research with both those in the scientific field and those in education. On a recent visit to Italy, Giovanni presented the medals he received to be kept at AGMAR, the General Archives of the Society of Mary. We congratulate Giovanni for this personal honor which he has shared with the SM.

PRAYERS FOR A BLESSED ADVENT AND JOYOUS

CHRISTMAS!

- From the
Communities at
Via Latina 22,
Rome



← Advent wreath at the GA made with the original sculpture featured in this year's *Advent Meditations*

MARIANIST EDUCATION: A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The document, *Characteristics of Marianist Education*, which was presented at the General Chapter of 1996, constitutes an excellent instrument for clarifying and reinforcing those elements of identity within our educational works. Although they are used in varying degrees, they most certainly serve, more and more, as an important reference point for all. The General Chapter of 1991 had called for a formulation of “the common elements of the Marianist educational tradition” (*Mission and Culture*, General Chapter of 1991, 34.3). In order to respond to this call, the authors – coordinated and directed by the Assistant General at that time – created a document that served to concretize some of the elements of our pedagogy and set out those characteristics that all Marianist schools should exhibit. A few years later, the three universities of the United States elaborated these and published the document: *Characteristics of Marianist Universities*.



The members of the Coordinating Commission for the plan: José María Arnaiz (CH), Charles-Henri Moulin (FR), José María Alvira (GA) and Thomas French (US)

During the meeting of Assistants for Education from all of the Units of the SM, held in Rome during November 2008, as well as during the General Leadership Assembly the following July, the desire to further develop the content of this document about our educational characteristics was expressed. To this end, we would focus on the circumstances of the young people in the societies where we are present, as well as that of their families. We would do so conscious of current educational and pedagogical trends.

Therefore, the time seems right to carry out a process of deepening and development of the *Characteristics*, and in doing so, seeking the cooperation of both religious and laypersons who are involved in Marianist education. To accomplish this, an international team has been tasked with defining objectives, identifying materials that need to be developed, selecting potential partners, and planning the process. This committee met in Rome for the first time last April. Subsequently, from September 12-14, they had another meeting, this time in Buenos Aires (Argentina). The work of the commission, which has taken into account responses to a consultation sent to about thirty Marianist educators around the world, has been formulated into a near-final draft. We will try to develop several sections further, so that they may give rise to a complete publication.

The following list of various topics, which would be presented along with an introductory explanation, will give you an idea of what aspects are planned to be treated:

- **Charism and Educational Mission.** Marianist Charism and spirituality, as the foundation of our educational mission. Formation in the faith.

Educational Principles. Fundamental philosophy and anthropology of Marianist education.

Context. The fabric of the social, cultural and ecclesial context; applying educational theories, pedagogical science and new technology.

Identity of Marianist Education. As a consequence of all of the above, along with our rich tradition, the characteristics of Marianist education provide guidance for the preparation of our students for the future and offer our own unique style to our ministry.

Educational Action. Centers, actors and audiences. Educational principles are translated into concrete actions and institutions of different levels, each of which try to create an educational community with the participation of all those involved in it.

Animation and leadership. Administration and animation in different areas (academic, pastoral, administrative, economic, personnel) within educational works must be consistent with the above principles and

be able to implement them.

A plan that is open to the future. Marianist education comes from strong roots and set out to complete the **mission** of formation in the faith. It seeks to be truly embodied in the different situations in which it develops and its **vision** is oriented towards the Kingdom of God, convinced that the values we pass on will help build a more just and fraternal world.

This last section will be subject to further concretizing and leave the plan open to future contributions, if they seem appropriate.

As you can see, this emerges from our roots, stemming from the origin and particular character of Marianist education, as well as the best of our experience. With this approach, we hope to present and propose a blueprint for the future, faithful to our great principles and attentive to the challenges we face. The characteristics of Marianist education would thus be framed in a comprehensive study that intends to be thorough and rigorous, albeit affordable.

The aim would be to develop a good tool for information, reflection and training in various Marianist environments – a reference point and inspiration for local educational plans. This tool would be intended for use by Marianist educators and those preparing to become so, whether lay or religious, as well as anyone interested in Marianist education. It seeks to be a theoretical reflection, but also address more practical matters, so that it may be helpful in assuring the continuation of truly qualitative and truly Marianist education in the future.

José María Alvira

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHAMINADE YEAR

As we draw nearer to the beginning of our celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the birth of our Founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, our preparations for the jubilee year are well underway. Calendars have already been sent to all Unit Administrations, as well as to the FMI, the MLC, Alliance Mariale and others who have requested them. At this time, we have no more calendars left to distribute. Pins for each member of the SM have also been sent for distribution through the Unit Administrations.

Many resources are being prepared to help you celebrate this anniversary. These will be available on the website at www.marianist.org at the beginning of January 2011. Included among the resources are prayers, meditations, formation materials and photos. They will be available in a variety of languages and will be completely formatted for immediate use. They have been in preparation for the better part of a year and we are most grateful to the many people who, along with Fr. André Fétis, Assistant General for Religious Life, have assembled the materials and their translations.

As a preview, and to assist in your preparations, we include here the *Prayer for the Chaminade Anniversary Year*. It is also available on the website.



PRAYER TO FATHER CHAMINADE

Blessed Chaminade,
 in troubled and troubling times
 you found a way to keep your faith
 in God and in human destiny.
 Certain that the Lord's Word
 would be fulfilled
 you dedicated yourself
 to the Woman chosen by God
 to bring forth to the world
 the Word made flesh.
 Watch over us and bless us as we also strive to
 become a communion of saints whose lives
 bring forth Christ,
 a community of missionaries of Mary
 whose joy it is to work along with her
 for the coming of the Kingdom.
 May the Spirit who came upon her
 and who inspired you
 lead us to that faith of the heart
 which will enable us
 in all our different works to
 "Do whatever He tells us."
 And so may the Father and the Son and the Holy
 Spirit be glorified in all places through the
 Immaculate Virgin Mary.

Amen.

MARIANIST CAUSES — AN UPDATE

- **Cause of Faustino Pérez-Manglano Magro:** Last year at this time the *Congress of Theologians*, a committee within the Congregation for the Causes of Saints ruled favorably on advancing Faustino's cause. Last month, the Congregation's member cardinals began the final study of the *Positio* and we expect a ruling early in the New Year as to Faustino's being declared *Venerable*.
- **Cause of Fr. Vicente López Uralde, SM:** On December 13, 2010, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints will formally open the *transunto*, the documents relating to the diocesan process held in Cádiz, Spain in the Fall of 2008.
- **Cause of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade:** All of the documentation having to do with the cure of Rachel Baumgartner Lozano and the Archdiocesan process held last summer in St. Louis has arrived at the Vatican. On January 17, 2011, the formal opening of the extensive material (*transunto*) will be held at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Sometime in the future, as yet unspecified, the cure will be studied and a ruling made. Given the volume of cases already before the Congregation, we are not certain as to how long this waiting period will be.



Let us Keep all of our Marianist Causes in our prayers!

Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM, Postulator General and Bro. Michael McAward, SM, Secretary General, greeted His Eminence Card. Angelo Amato, SDB, Prefect of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints, in the Apostolic Palace on the occasion of the recent Consistory.

ADDRESS CHANGES

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G.A. COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SENT...

- **Death Notice:** #18
- **Nov 13:** Calendars and pins for the Chaminade Anniversary Year sent to all Unit Administrations
- **Nov 16:** *Three Offices* #130 from the Office of Temporalities regarding the Haiti Solidarity Fund
- **Nov 29:** *VocSM* #5 to all Unit Administrations

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

- **Dec 19:** Meeting of the General Council
- **Dec 22-30:** MC and EV visit Haiti
- **Jan 4-8:** Symposium on *Mixed Composition* at the General Administration, Rome
- **Jan 9-12:** Annual visitation of the Chaminade International Seminary, Rome (AF)
- **Jan 13-15:** Meeting of the Extended General Council, Rome