

Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



Issue # 212 –
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WORLD DAY OF THE MARIANIST VOCATION

*“We desire to continue emphasizing its importance and we wish to give it a more specific character. For this purpose, we are establishing March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, as the **World Day of the Marianist Vocation**. If we have chosen this date it is because on that day we celebrate the vocation of Mary and her “yes,” just as we celebrate the “yes” of the Word to God’s plan of salvation. The Marianist vocation in all its forms is best understood in the light of the Annunciation, which is fundamental for the understanding and integration of our charism into our lives. This new World Marianist Day will be the occasion for prayer in common with the Family.”*



With these words, the World Council of the Marianist Family invites us all to prayerfully celebrate the **World Day of the Marianist Vocation on SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012**. Let us not miss this event with the Family. Each of our branches needs the support of the fervent prayer of each one of us in order to grow, to be renewed and to develop. On the 25th of March let our prayer rise from the four corners of the world. Let us listen to how the Word of life resounded in the heart of Mary when, at the “yes” of his Mother, he responded within her: “Behold, here I am.” Let a new missionary drive renew our personal and communitarian Marianist vocation.

The WCMF has sent a document as a guide to meditation, to reflection, to personal or collective prayer to all Units of the SM. These materials are also available on our website at www.marianist.org. Together, with Mary, let us celebrate, pray and listen to what the Spirit asks of us.

THREE PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS IN CONGO SECTOR

On Saturday, February 4, 2012, the Congolese Marianist Family celebrated and gave thanks to God for his wonders. Three of their sons and brothers: Simplice Pascal Molouaton, Jean Bosco Mukolo Mbau and Romuald N’Lumbu officially pronounced their perpetual profession in the Society in the Church of St. Raphael of Limeté in Kinshasa. Fr. Emery, provincial superior of the Passionists and president of the Association of Major Superiors of the Congo (RDC) presided at the Mass.



In his address, Bro. Christophe Muyuka, the sector coordinator who received their vows in the name of the provincial of France-Belgium, highlighted the importance of prayer and community life as the expression of an authentic religious life. He invited the professed to maintain fidelity to their commitment. In their speech of thanks, the professed invited the assembly to help them and to support them through prayer so that the fire of love that shown upon their commitment might remain strong and sustain them for many years to come.



THE MARIAN SANCTUARY OF ABIDJAN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



For 25 years, the Marianists have been animating this important pilgrimage site. The current rector, Fr. Mathieu Yapi, SM, tells us about the celebration of this anniversary:

The 25th anniversary of the Sanctuary was celebrated on Saturday, February 4, with a concert of hymns, charity fund-raising events and a Solemn Mass. The concert program consisted of Marian songs by 23 choirs from the three dioceses of the ecclesiastical province of Abidjan: Yopougon, Grand Bassam and the Archdiocese of Abidjan itself. These 23 choirs came to practice sessions at the Marian Sanctuary and finally, as a single choir, they led the singing for the Mass. It was a great first for the Ivory Coast. The organizer of these choirs was Maestro Dominique Anouha, a doctor of musicology and choirmaster of the Yopougon choir.



Matthew Yapi, SM, with the Apostolic Nuncio

Archbishop of Abidjan, Jean-Pierre Kutwa, presided at the Mass, in the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Ambrose Madta, of Cardinal Bernard Agré, of the President of the Episcopal Conference of Ivory Coast, Bishop Alexis Touably, and of three other bishops emeritus of Ivory Coast. There were about 7 to 8 thousand persons present. The offertory procession caught the attention of everyone. Twenty-five young people led the procession carrying all the flags of Africa. The procession also included symbols of African shrines that had merged into the Sanctuary of Notre Dame d’Afrique.



At the end of the Mass, the representative of the Archbishop of Abidjan announced: “two gifts are offered to the Sanctuary: the plenary indulgence for the Jubilee Year and the upgrading of the Sanctuary from diocesan status to national status.” It was made quite clear

that the Marianists would continue to animate the Sanctuary, as they have been doing since its foundation in 1987. It was a beautiful ceremony, rich in color and in graces.

Attendance at the Sanctuary never ceases to grow. As time goes on, we receive more and more pilgrims.



ICMF ANNOUNCES MARIST/MARIANIST RETREAT DATES

For many years the Society has enjoyed the privilege of its members joining with the Marist Brothers for renewal programs held at the Marist Retreat Center in Manzianna, Italy. Recently, Bro. Jack Ventura, SM, executive director of the International Center for Marianist Formation, announced the dates for the upcoming programs:

Third-Age Program (Spanish): August 10 – October 10, 2012

Third-Age Program (English): October 17 – December 14, 2012

Middle-Years Renewal Program (English): January 27 – June 14, 2013

Anyone interested in these programs, which also include a pilgrimage to Marianist places in France and Spain, should contact their Unit administration or Bro. Jack Ventura, SM (jventura@smcuria.it). Permission in any of these programs requires the approval of that person’s corresponding Unit administration.



TWO MARIANISTS ORDAINED IN INDIA

On January 29, Frs. Joseph Barla, SM, and Fr. Xavier Raj, SM, were ordained by Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo at the Marianist Novitiate Nirmal Deep in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.

Both Frs. Joseph and Xavier professed first vows on April 29, 2000, and perpetual vows on Jan. 5, 2006. Fr. Joseph is director of the Marianist Community in Binda and works in the Chaminade Rural Development Project (CRDP). Fr. Xavier is director of the Marianist Community in Khamman, Andhra Pradesh, and serves at the Jakob Gapp School. Congratulations and blessings to Frs. Joseph and Xavier! *(Courtesy Family Online)*

LENTEN CAMPAIGN: FORTY DAYS WITH THE FORTY LEAST

Once again the Marianist Family is sponsoring the Lenten campaign *Forty Days with the Forty Least*.



Resources for this campaign are available at: <http://www.40ultimos.org/>.

We urge you to make this campaign a part of your Lenten practice and to share it in your apostolic work as well.

EUROPEAN CENTER OF MARIANIST FORMATION



From Left to Right: Josef Grünstäudl, SM, Léo Pauels, SM, André Fétis, SM, Lorenzo Amigo, SM, Jean-Paul Federneder, SM and Ermenegildo Saglio, SM

Research, reflection, documentation, communication and formation occupied six Marianist religious on February 9 and 10, 2012, in Rome. Delegated by the CEM (European Marianist Conference), they came together to discuss the creation of a European Center of Marianist Formation (CEFM).

Lorenzo Amigo, SM (ES), Jean-Paul Federneder, SM (SU), André Fétis, SM (GA), Josef Grünstäudl, SM (OE), Léo Pauels, SM (FR) and Ermenegildo Saglio, SM (IT) proposed statutes for the center, identified its users, and considered who might take charge of the center, as well as its publications.

The commission members focused their attention on various topics: proposed orientations; ways to spread the Marianist charism to youth and how to connect with them on their level; how offer publications and formation, not only to the Marianist family, but to a wider public. At the end of the session, they outlined some general guidelines for setting up a symposium on the importance of faith in Marianist spirituality. Now, the commission will work on concretizing these plans.

GENERAL CHAPTER PREPARATIONS

During the second week in March the General Chapter Preparatory Commission (PREPCO) will meet to finalize many of the details regarding the XXXIV General Chapter of the Society of Mary to be held July 3-22, 2012. In addition to addressing practical details such as schedules and logistics, the Commission will execute its duties by formulating the final draft of the *Instrumentum Laboris* (based on the comments received from capitulants), as well as prepare the propositions that have already been received and will be submitted to the Chapter.



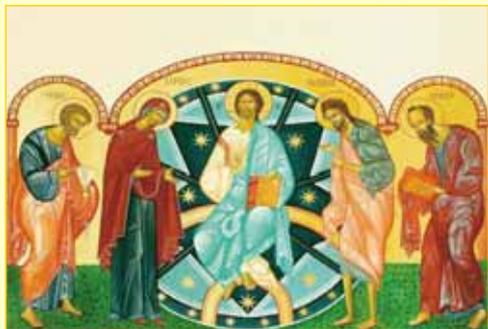
SM 2012
XXXIV GENERAL CHAPTER
CHAPITRE GENERAL
CAPITULO GENERAL

We remember that the theme chosen, after consultation of all the SM, is: “With renewed fervor and missionary momentum, in a globalized Society of Mary. The fire that enkindles other fires.” It expresses two areas of particular attention: the quality of our religious life and the dynamism of our mission, both with a reinforced sense of belonging to a common Society of Mary in which we have to share our strengths, and in working together to resolve our weaknesses.

The celebration of a General Chapter is a privileged occasion for the Society of Mary. We invite all members of the Society to enter into this event through prayer and active interest in the issues to be treated. You are reminded to consult the special General Chapter section of our website at www.marianist.org for additional information. Also, please remember the Marianist Sisters (FMI) in your prayers as they also prepare to hold their General Chapter this summer.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION TEMPORALITIES COMMITTEE MEETS IN ROME

Under the direction of Bro. Edward Violet, SM, Assistant General for Temporalities, the GA Temporalities Committee held its annual meeting in Rome on February 26-27. As in all of the Units of the SM, this standing committee advises the administration on investments, budgets, policies and other issues that arise in relationship to our temporal stewardship. Pictured (from left to right) Brothers Ed Violet, SM, Ron Overman, SM, Chola Mulenga, SM and Mr. Antoine Hùe, from the provincial offices of the Province of France.



G.A. COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SENT...

- **Death Notices:** #'s 2-5
- **Feb 27:** *VocSM* #9 from the Office of Religious Life to all members of the SM
- **Feb 14:** *Three Offices* from the Office of Temporalities to all members of the SM

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

- **Mar 8-12:** MC visits Switzerland
- **Mar 8-11:** AF attends visitation of International Seminary in Rome
- **Mar 12-15:** PREPCO meeting in Rome
- **Mar 20:** Meeting of the General Council in Rome
- **Mar 23-26:** MC visits Verdélais
- **Mar 29-May 11:** MC and EV visit Nepal and India