

# Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



# 224 – July 2013

## FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS IN IVORY COAST AND TOGO

**N**ine brothers professed their first vows on June 29, 2013. These newest of our confreres come from three different Units in the SM. From Ivory Coast are: Agoua Narcisse Anoman, Gninkan Mao Justin Coulibaly and Fabrice Ghislain Kakou. From Congo are: Rufin Monshita N'zaa, Médard Mesongolo Madioko and



Narcisse

Justin

Fabrice



Rufin

Médard

Rombaut

Rombau Kimbeni Ansey. Both of these groups celebrated the profession in Abadjin-Doume, Ivory Coast, near where they recently completed the novitiate.

Celebrating in Togo on the same day were: Prosper Meguema, Nicolas Assogba, and Jules Along.

We congratulate these brothers and accompany them with our prayers as they continue their formation in the Society of Mary.



Prosper

Nicolas

Jules

### ADDRESS CHANGES

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

- **Death Notices:** #'s 12-15.



### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

- **July 2-5:** AF attends Assembly in France.
- **July 9-11:** Meeting of the 200th Anniversary Committee, VL22, Rome.
- **July 15:** General Council Meeting, Rome.

# ICMF VISTS LEBANON

Bro. Jack Ventura, S.M., Executive Director of the International Center for Marianist Formation, was invited by the General Council to be the representative of the Society of Mary and to give the commencement address at the graduation and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee of St. Joseph School in Cornet Chahwan (Beirut), Lebanon.



St. Joseph School is recognized as one of Lebanon’s most respected Pre K – 12 trilingual educational institutions educating and molding youth into becoming future leaders across the globe.

The great success story and rich heritage of St. Joseph School can be accredited to the vision of the late Archbishop Elias Farah,



who took the initiative to found a co-educational trilingual (Arabic, English & French) Catholic school. To achieve his vision, Archbishop Farah sought the guidance of the Society of Mary, whose contributions were major factors in the establishment of St. Joseph School and its becoming a leading Catholic school in Lebanon. In early July, 1963, Bro. John Samaha, S.M. (Province of the US) arrived at the Beirut, airport to help implement the vision of Archbishop Farah. A year later, several other brothers joined Bro. John. While the Marianists would remain at St. Joseph School for only 10 years, their impact is still being felt in many of the methods St. Joseph School has adopted to educate young men and women. Due to the strong ties that still remain with the Marianists, many graduates have chosen to continue their education in the United States and in particular, the University of Dayton. In his graduation address, Bro. Jack reflected to the 1500 people gathered, the importance of becoming authors of a story filled with imagination just like Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and Mary, the woman of faith who said “yes” to God’s invitation.

*(The ICMF publishes a periodic newsletter. You may read it at: <http://www.icmf.info/english/icmf-newsletter/>)*

## REMINDER: WORLD DAY OF MARIANIST PRAYER

All members of the Marianist Family are reminded that on **October 13, 2013** we will once again celebrate the *World Day of Marianist Prayer*. This year, we will gather together spiritually around the shrine of the Madonna of Urakami in Nagasaki, Japan. More materials are forthcoming.



## FR. JOSÉ MARIA ARNAIZ, SM, MEETS WITH POPE FRANCIS

When the leadership of CLAR (Latin American Confederation of Religious) met with Pope Francis on June 6, Marianist Fr. José Maria Arnaiz was among the six delegates to attend the meeting. It was a very cordial meeting, about an hour in length, and the Pope was genuinely happy to meet those from an organization of which he once was a member. Several in the delegation, including Fr. José María, had been acquaintances of the Holy Father long before his election to the Papacy. In many aspects, it was a meeting of old friends. The discussions were open and frank and the atmosphere was relaxed and fraternal.

In a recent article prepared for the Spanish-language publication *Vida Nueva*, Fr. José María spoke of the encounter. Here are some excerpts from that article:



“ **The meeting with Francis held on June 6, together with the leadership of CLAR**, which was a grace, has also challenged me on a personal level. In contrast to how we knew aback in Argentina, he now truly possesses a contagious smile that he did not used to have, the serenity that he did not always transmit, a confidence from being in the hands of the Father and which formerly one could only detect from time to time. He now has a new tenderness, like that of a father and a brother.



“He possesses sincerity, pastoral sense, credibility, a “Latin American” aire, and many good things earned from his Jesuit education and from religious life. He speaks clearly, directly and with commitment regarding the poor who are always in his consciousness. **I am among those who once saw him as a “rising star”** and now see him as a marvelous reality. **Pope Francis has been surprising everyone and will go on surprising us all...**

“...He spoke of ordinary things, about the importance of showing tenderness. He also spoke about major topics: **power in the Church cannot be centralized in Rome** and based upon his person, as pope. He referred to the great socio-economic systems of our times which can be so inhuman. For him, more than a few people are systematically engaged in activities that result in so much poverty throughout the world.

More than once, he repeated one of his favorite themes: we cannot be self-referential; we must live with and for others. He reminded us not to be afraid to make mistakes; but, **we cannot fail to passionately search for that which is good.** “One should favor a ‘rugged’ Church and religious life.”

(*Vida Nueva* N° 2.853, 21 Junio 2013)