First Professions in Ivory Coast and Congo

After two years of novitiate, our brothers Anselme Miessan, SM, Gérard Konan, SM (both from the District of Ivory Coast), Prince Loute, SM, and Serge Mungesungu, SM (both from the Sector of Congo), professed their first vows in the Society of Mary.

Let us give thanks to God and to Mary who chose them for her service. In addition, she wished to put them at the service of their brothers as well as the people of God. The celebration took place on Saturday, June 29, 2019, at the Marianist novitiate, Our Lady of the Pillar. This day was also the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, the great pillars of the Church.
Let us pray to God for these men, so that they may be like these pillars of the Church, religious according to the heart of God. May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified by the Immaculate Virgin Mary! Amen.

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**First Professions in the Region of Eastern Africa**

![Image of seven men in robes]

Left to right: Bros. Jude Rapando, SM; Robert Manda SM; Desire Mpoya, SM; Peter Kapalu, SM; Jackson Sampa, SM; Julius Kitaka, SM and Kelvin Maona, SM.

The Region of Eastern Africa celebrated the joyous occasion of the first profession of vows, Saturday 17 August 2018. Peter Kanguya Kapalu, SM, and Jackson Nkole Sampa, SM, from Zambia, Robert Manda, SM, Kelvin Maona, SM, and Desire Mpoya, SM, from Malawi, and Julius Mwatu Kitaka, SM, and Jude-Thaddeus Rapando, SM, from Kenya pronounced their first vows as members of the Society of Mary in the Novitiate Chapel in Limuru, Kenya.

Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM, Regional Superior, was the main celebrant of the Eucharist, with Fr. Bernard Lugutu, SM, Head of Religious Life, as concelebrant. Fr. Gabriel gave the homily and received the vows.

The parents of Bro. Jude-Thaddeus and Bro. Julius were able to attend the celebration and represent all the parents. The father of Bro. Julius, Mr. Paul Kitaka Muvya, spoke on behalf of the parents, and Bro. Robert Manda, SM, gave the vote of thanks on behalf
of the newly professed. Novices from the Loretto Sisters and the Little Sisters of St. Joseph made up the choir with their beautiful singing. Members of the Marianist Lay Community in Kenya were in attendance as well as representatives of the ministries where the newly professed were active during their novitiate, and, of course, other friends. Continuing with lunch and the cutting of the cake the celebration was a great occasion for all.

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**First Profession in Brazil**

Fr. Iñaki Sarasua, SM, receives the vows of newly professed, Bro. Gustavo Pollon, SM, on behalf of the Province of Spain.

On September 7, Brazil’s Independence Day, we celebrated the first vows of Gustavo Pollon as a Marianist religious. This celebration took place in the city of Marília. Gustavo’s formation took place in Marília and Bauru. His novitiate year was done in Zaragoza under the spiritual and human wisdom of Fr. Lorenzo Amigo, SM.

The whole Marianist Family in Brazil participated in this event with joy and faith, accompanying Gustavo and renewing their commitment as Marianists. The Provincial-designate of Spain, Fr. Iñaki Sarasua, SM, received his first vows. Everyone present commented that it was a simple celebration but also one of great inspiration and joy. This wonderful day ended with a fraternal meal. Guests attending this meal included the family of Gustavo as well as a number of MLC’s and FMI.
We thank our heavenly Father and our Mother Mary for this enormous grace.

Peter Heiskell, SM, Ordained to the Priesthood in New York

The Marianist religious of the Province of Meribah (Long Island, New York) were joined by many of their students, their families and lay collaborators to witness the ordination of their brother, Peter H. Heiskell, SM, as a Marianist priest on August 17, 2019. The ceremony was held at Chaminade High School in Mineola with the Most Rev. Christopher Cardone, OP, Archbishop of Honiara (Solomon Islands) presiding. Fr. Peter recently completed three years of study at the Chaminade International Seminary in Rome. He now returns to ministry at Chaminade High School, where he had been a teacher for more the 25 years. There he will serve as school Chaplain.

The beautiful ceremony included three bishops, the brothers and priests of the Province, and some visitors from the Province of the USA, as well as theology classmates of Fr. Peter, fellow alumni of Chaminade and even a delegation from the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome, where Peter ministered during his seminary years. Of course, members of Peter’s mother and family also attended, including his
brother, a recently ordained married deacon from California, who served during the ceremony. One of the school’s choirs provided the music at the liturgy.

Following the Ordination Mass, a reception was held at the school for the nearly 1000 people in attendance.

**Appointment of a New Regional Superior for the Region of Japan**

Fr. Isao Jean-Baptiste Aoki, SM is completing his third term as Regional Superior of the Region of Japan. The General Council, after consulting the religious of the Region of Japan, has asked Fr. Koichi Joseph Ichise, SM to accept the call to serve as Regional Superior of this region. We thank Fr. Koichi for having accepted this call with a humble spirit and a willingness to give himself generously to this service.

Fr. Koichi has been the director of the Kosei Shudoin School in Sapporo. In addition, he has collaborated with the local diocese in other tasks involving education. Fr. Koichi made his first vows in 1978 and was ordained a priest in 1987. We offer him our prayers and our fraternal support.

At the same time, we want to congratulate and thank Fr. Aoki for his great service as Regional superior, after having spent many years in Brazil.

Together with his Council, he has sought to guide the Region with wisdom. The General Administration wishes to express its appreciation for his time of service.

The change from the current administration to the new administration will take place on April 1, 2020. Let us remember these brothers as well as all of the religious of the Region of Japan in our prayers.
In light of the 2015 General Leadership Assembly and in the spirit of the recommendations of our recent General Chapter, the four Latin American Regions (Argentina, Chile, Colombia-Ecuador and Peru) are working to bring these Units closer together.

One of the important activities of this process was a meeting of the active perpetual professed from these four Regions. The brothers of the foundations of Brazil and Cuba, who depend on the Province of Spain, and the community of Mexico, which is part of the Province of the United States, also attended this meeting. The meeting took place in Lima, Peru and brought together thirty-one religious and the four members of the General Council.

It was a time of fraternal sharing and dialogue about the state of Marianist life and mission on this continent and how to best meet current challenges. The reflection focused on the implementation of the General Chapter, particularly in the areas of collaboration with the Marianist Family, vocations, religious life and education. The need to strengthen the links between the Units is obvious – each Unit needs the support of the others. Each unit can also makes its own contribution to this cooperation. This very fraternal time was an important opportunity to bring the brothers closer together and to increase the growth towards unity for the entire Latin American Marianist presence.
Meeting of CLAMARED (Lima, July 4-6, 2019)

In the days immediately preceding the meeting of the perpetually professed brothers of Latin America mentioned previously, those in charge of education from the 4 Regions of Latin America, religious and lay, met with a representation from Mexico and Cuba. CLAMARED has already been in existence for a few years and is working to strengthen the collaboration between the Units concerning the 17 schools on the continent. During this meeting, new statutes were developed and several joint projects were discussed.

The Superior General appoints Fr. Luis Casalá, SM, as president of CLAMAR

The restructuring of the Latin American Units is necessary and can open new opportunities for the Marianist life and mission in each of these countries. This is why the superiors of the four Regions also met in Lima from July 4-6, 2019. At that meeting they adopted four common projects for their Units – the novitiate, which will be located in Santiago de Chile, initial formation, the school network (CLAMARED), and the Marianist Formation Center (Celafom). As the text from the General Leadership assembly of 2015 makes clear, these projects, since they are being done in common, fall under the full authority of the President of the Zone.
He would act on these projects, as an ad hoc major superior would do. In order to give full authority to this President, the Superior General, after listening to the wishes of the Unit superiors of the Zone and with the agreement of his council, appoints the President.

Fr. Luis Casalá, SM, from the Region of Argentina has been appointed President of the Latin American Zone (CLAMAR). This appointment is for three years and begins on December 12, 2019. He is responsible for the four projects mentioned above. He will also assist the Units in their continuing reflection on restructuring. We thank him for his readiness to take on this new responsibility.

Latin America is, after Europe, the second Zone to have adopted the restructuring path based on common projects as described at the General Leadership Assembly in 2015.

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World Day of Marianist Prayer at Our Lady of Atacora

This year for the World Day of Marianist Prayer, we are going to the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Atacora in northern Benin (West Africa). Atacora is the name used in Benin for a mountainous massif located in the northwestern part of the country. This same massif is also found in Togo where it has the name of Monts Togo and in Ghana where it has the name of Akwapim Hills.
The Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Atacora belongs to the diocese of Natitingou where the Society of Mary has been present since 2007. There is a Marianist community composed of 7 members that is in charge of a co-educational school in that diocese. This community is called the Blessed Sabino Ayastuy community.

Inaugurated on January 22, 2000, “Our Lady of Atacora, Mother of Unity and Good Counsel,” is a place where pilgrims from all over Benin come together to pay tribute to Our Lady and to solicit help for all kinds of needs. There are even pilgrims coming from neighboring countries such as Togo and Burkina Faso. Whether they are Christians, Muslims or pagans, they all feel at home with the one whom many pilgrims have named the “Queen of Families.”

Gathered around her with the Marianist Family of Togo and Benin, we want to pray this year for the intention of our entire Marianist Family as well as for the local and universal Church. In particular, we will join forces with the Region of Togo, which will be closing the celebration of its diamond jubilee at that time.
As noted in recent publications from the Assistant General for Education, we will commemorate the bicentenary of the commitment of the Society of Mary to education on November 3, 2019.

Each Unit has the ability to adjust this date according to local needs. The website of the General Administration (https://www.marianist.org/site.php?id=656) suggests three graphics you could use as a visual support for the announcement of this celebration. In addition to the image used as a cover for SM 3Offices No 151, you will find, among others, the poster in the image above. It illustrates the current extent of Marianist education on five continents, beginning with the first school started in Bordeaux in 1819.

When your commemoration is over, we would be happy to hear about the activities you have organized locally to mark this event. Send your report and comments to – port2@smcuria.it.
The Alliance Mariale recognized as a Secular Institute of Diocesan Rights

We want to share some good news with you. On August 15, after receiving a favorable opinion from the Congregation for Institutes for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and from the bishops concerned, Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard, Archbishop of Bordeaux, established the Alliance Mariale as a secular institute of diocesan rights and definitively approved its statutes.

This is great news for the Alliance Mariale, which is receiving official recognition as the fruit of almost sixty years of existence. Each of its members is now strengthened in their vocation and mission within the Church.

It is also great news for the entire Marianist Family. This recognition reinforces its Charism as an authentic way to achieve a true Christian and missionary life. The Alliance is now present in 13 countries (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Togo, Ivory Coast, Congo Kinshasa, Congo Brazzaville, Canada and Japan). We extend our congratulations to the Sisters of the Alliance Mariale and their leader, Christiane Barbaux (France). We join with them in a profound prayer of thanksgiving.

New 2019-2020 International Personnel

The 2019-2020 edition of the International Personnel of the General Administration of the Society of Mary in Rome has been shipped recently. As usual, copies will be sent directly to the Administration of the Units to be distributed within the Units.

We thank all the Marianist Units who have contributed with precise and timely information.
G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices:** # 21 - 32.
- **July 16:** *The Bicentenary of the Commitment of the Society of Mary to Education*, in three languages, to all Assistants of Education and to all Superiors (all communities and works in the SM), from Bro. Max Magnan, SM, General Assistant for Education.
- **Sep. 5:** *SM 3Offices #151 (200 Years of Commitment to Education for the Society of Mary)*, in three languages, to all members of the SM and to those in the Leadership of all works of the SM, from Bro. Max Magnan, SM, General Assistant for Education.
- **Sep. 9:** *Marianist World Day of Prayer - October 13, 2019*, in three languages, to all the Marianist Family, from the World Council of the Marianist Family.
- **Sep. 12:** *Letter of Convocation to the General Leadership Assembly (GLA)*, in three languages, to all Superiors and Zonal Presidents, from Fr. André Fétis, SM, Superior General.
- **Sep. 12:** *Marianist Solidarity Fund (MSF) and Marianist Formation Fund (MFF) 2020*, in three languages, to all Unit Assistants for Temporalities and Superiors, from Bro. Michael McAward, SM, General Assistant for Temporalities.
- **Sep. 19:** *Survey of the Patrimonium and Meeting of Temporalities Assistants (with Guidance Manual for Completing the Unit Survey)*, in three languages, to all Unit Assistants for Temporalities and Superiors, from Bro. Michael McAward, SM, General Assistant for Temporalities.

G.A. Calendar

- **September 22 - October 19:** The entire General Council visits the District of India (Province of the USA).