

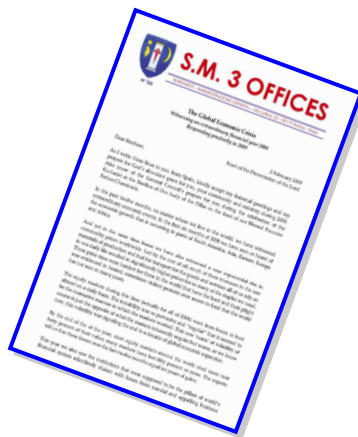
Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



Issue # 176 - March 2009

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION



OFFICE OF TEMPORALITIES:

8 February 2009: *SM Three Offices - #122: 2009 Funding Distribution*

16 February 2009: *SM Three Offices - #123: Global Economic Crisis*

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE: (coming soon)

6 March 2009: *SM Three Offices - #124: Mixed Composition Initiative*

23 March 2009: *Special E-Mail message to all members of the SM*

All members of the SM are asked to review these documents and, where requested, respond promptly.

General Administration Calendar

- Mar 13-16: AF and JMA visit Albania.
- Mar 15-23: EV, MMc and RS attend. Temporalities meeting in Madrid.
- Mar 25-28 General Council Meetings, Rome.

G.A. Communications

- Death Notice - #2
- Jan 31: Report of the Visitation to the International Seminary
- Feb 8: *SM Three Offices #122 - Funding Distribution*
- Feb 8: Special Edition of *Via Latina 22*
- Feb 16: *SM Three Offices #123 - Global Economic Crisis*

CONGRATULATIONS: FR. LUIGI GAMBERO, SM

Premio René Laurentin – Pro Ancilla Domini award from the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Mariology (Marianum), Rome. The award will be bestowed at the conclusion of the International Mariological Symposium to be held next October. In a recent letter to Fr. Luigi, the Superior General, Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, said: "Thank you for the long years of study, research and teaching that you have dedicated to Mariology, contributing to the formation of many generations of students and dissemination of the knowledge of the person of Mary... The entire Society of Mary joins me in expressing our appreciation for your work, which is a source of pride for all members of our congregation."

Fr. Luigi Gambero, SM (IT), well-known scholar and teacher in the area of Mariology, was recently selected to receive the prestigious



40 DAYS WITH THE LAST 40...

Members of the Marianist Family from all over the world are using the resource: *40 Days with the Last 40* as part of their Lenten prayer and reflection this year. If you have not been to this website, you are encouraged to visit it and make it a part of your Lenten season.

Anyone who is using this with a group during Lent, or in a special way, is invited to send a short description of what you are doing, along with one or two photos. We hope to include a report on some of these uses in the next issue of *Via Latina 22*. You can send your response to port2@smcuria.it.



CANA PROJECT ENHANCES THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS IN BRAZIL



The Cana Project, supported by the Marianist Family present in the Diocese of Baurú, is betting on education as a necessary way to ensure social transformation. "Without education, there is no growth and autonomy, no well-paid jobs," says Brother Domingo Fuentes, SM, president of the Project. To promote some 300 children, youth and adults from the *Ferradura Mirim* neighborhood, in Baurú, several educational initiatives are employed, such as reading, educational support, information technology, courses to generate income and job training,



sports and entertainment, music, citizenship and the strengthening of human relations. "The educator must work with a person rather than simply 'a need.' We must see persons for who they are, their values, not for what they lack. Simply giving oppresses. You have to *be together*," he emphasizes.

The inspiration

The Bible tells of the first miracle of Jesus at Cana, when he turned water into wine, at the request of his mother, so that the host would not face a difficulty during the marriage feast. "What serves as inspiration for us is our rootedness in the Gospel and the figure of Mary. She went to a feast and was responsive to the needs of others, involving all, Jesus and the servers, in the solution" explains Bro. Domingo.



Thus, Project Cana joins its efforts with various sectors of society: churches, universities, businesses, public agencies, NGOs and volunteers, in order to carry out its social-educational activities.

The story

It all started in the 1980's, with lay Marianists providing catechesis for children on the steps of the Immaculate Conception Monastery, in Bethany Village, when the neighborhood of *Ferradura Mirim* didn't even exist. In 1995 the CANA Community Association was created. It is composed of lay and religious Marianists who, in addition to educational activities, went to work as community organizers confronting demands in the neighborhood, such as securing an improved drainage network, asphalt roads, and lighting. After some years of campaigning for the collection of resources, the new entity's headquarters was inaugurated in May 2008, with its rooms, courtyard, dining room, sports courts and chapel. They are now working towards adding a library.



The neighborhood

One of the dreams of the Cana Project is to help improve the structure and image of *Ferradura Mirim*. "There is a lot of unrecognized good here in this neighborhood. People who live here suffer prejudice in schools, at work ... The challenge is to transform the mentality of someone who does not believe he has a future," said Bro. Domingo. He noted that the neighborhood has a number of problems such as unemployment, lack of documentation for houses and land, violence, and difficulties with accessibility. Often buses and mail can not reach them. Meanwhile, much has been achieved already and they are hopeful that other challenges can be overcome with the involvement of the whole community. "We have a group of people who want to make a positive contribution to the country. We have enabled the participation of the people of the neighborhood and boosted the credibility of young people. People feel comfortable here," he says proudly.



NEITHER TOO LITTLE NOR TOO MUCH! *by Remy Sandah, SM*

Concern for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is a true challenge for many NGOs and other organized groups. Conscious of our responsibility towards our human brothers and sisters, and as stewards of our planet, such groups try to address many of the urgent problems facing today's world. As part of their active efforts to animate religious congregations, members of the JPIC Commission of Rome, and their various working groups, are very willing to share information about needs and efforts. Ignorance is the first thing to overcome since every person can only act according to the extent of his own knowledge of the problem. Correct and detailed information is one of our best weapons.



But, providing the right information is itself a challenge, because it is not enough to flood the news avenues with information about our subject matter, rather, we must find the right information that can motivate and lead to appropriate action, depending on the corner of the world which we inhabit. What is necessary and urgent in one environment, is not necessarily so in another. The JPIC Commission has several publications aimed at a wide audience. This material is available in different languages and different media (booklets, brochures, CD-ROMs, Internet sites). But, for specific, location-based information, we need the assistance of local religious communities who live daily problems related to JPIC. By sharing these local issues, some of the general documents may be modified and adapted to assist or spotlight a specific geographical environment or the charism of a particular congregation.



So, I invite you who are interested, whether for your own purposes, or for a ministry in your locality, to send me a note, so that I may know who wishes to receive and/or share more information with regard to JPIC issues. Without getting bogged down with too much information, let us share, among us, enough information to be as effective as possible in addressing the real JPIC issues that we experience in our day-to-day situations. I welcome your feedback which can be sent to me at genadminjpic@smcuria.it.

INFORMATION CHANGES:

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Congo (FR)

- Gilles de Almeida: dealmeida@gmail.com

Mexico (USA)

- Bro. Mario Lenin: marioasun@yahoo.com

Peru

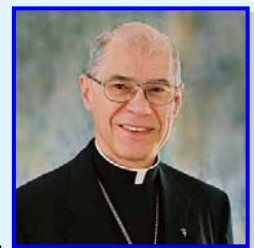
- Bro. Philip Melcher: fmelcher@hotmail.com

USA

- Bro. Bernard Hartman:
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- Bro. Gary Morris: theatrprof@yahoo.com
- Bro. William O'Leary: wpsm2008@hotmail.com

ARCHBISHOP

RAYMOND ROUSSIN, SM RETIRES AS ARCHBISHOP OF VANCOUVER, CANADA



On January 1, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Raymond Roussin, SM, Archbishop of Vancouver, Canada. He was immediately succeeded by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, coadjutor archbishop of the archdiocese for the past 18 months.

Archbishop Roussin, former Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria and the Diocese of Gravelbourg, both in Canada, had also been Provincial of the former Marianist Province of Canada.

Like the faithful of the dioceses where he served, the Society of Mary is profoundly grateful for Bishop Ray's example of generosity and extraordinary humility in his service to the people of Canada and the Universal Church.