

# Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



## SPIRIT OF SARAGOSSA SEMINAR

Nineteen members of the FMI and the SM will gather in Rome at the Marianist Sisters' General House from 19-28 March for formation as directors of the *Spirit of Saragossa* directed retreat. This retreat is a resource offered to Units primarily for those about to make perpetual profession.

Those participating are: **FMI:** Kikuko Kobayashi (Japan); Marianna Kang (Korea); Fatima Silva (Brasil); Michela Messina (Italy); Lucie Sandé (African Unit); M. Laurence Cosnard (France); M. José Jáuregui (GA); Mary Louise Foley (USA); **SM:** Ignace Pagnan (Togo); Mathieu Abou Yapi (Ivory Coast); Georges Gbeze (Ivory Coast); Lester Kaehler (USA); Michael Lisbeth (USA); Francis II Young Kim (Korea); Ignace Arulappen (India); Gabriel Kirangah (Eastern Africa); Valentine Chola Mulenga (Eastern Africa); Thomas Cardone (Meribah); Angel Pardo García (Chile).



The Coordinating Team, under the direction of the International Center for Marianist Formation, includes: Teresa de Jesús Castro, FMI (Chile); Martin Solma, SM (Eastern Africa); André Fétis, SM

(GA); and Thomas Giardino, SM (ICMF). There will be other presenters, staff and translators serving the program. **Please keep all of these persons in your prayer for this vital dimension of our common vocation.**

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### General Administration Calendar

*For all trips, the final date shown is the date the person is back in Rome*

- Mar 5: General Council Meeting with the FMI General Council in Rome
- Mar 19-28: *Spirit of Saragossa* Seminar in Rome
- Mar 24-Apr 10: EV and JMA visit Chile
- Mar 28-Apr 10: MC and AF visit Chile
- Apr 10-25: MC, AF, JMA and EV visit Argentina

### G.A. Communications Recently Sent...

- Feb 2: *Via Latina 22* Issue #154
- Death Notices 6, 7, & 8
- Feb 22: *SM Three Offices: Solidarity and Formation Funding Decisions*

## CONGRATULATIONS



### Profession

←Bro. John Bosco (KO) Shin professed Perpetual Vows in Seoul, Korea on January 22, 2007.

### Appointment

Fr. Luigi Magni (IT) → has been appointed Provincial of the Province of Italy for a 5-year term beginning on August 12, 2007.



## FOCUS: Province of France: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

As we move toward Spring 2007, the Province of France, in its Western-European territory, continues its missionary task. Here are some highlights:

- We maintain several school apostolates, where some religious teachers and educators collaborate, with communities present in: Antony, Bordeaux, Sainte-Maure, Saint-Dié, Colmar, and Réquista. In Belfort the religious supervise the animation of the school. The school is under the responsibility of a lay collaborator. Here the brothers are joined in their common work by our Marianist sisters from France.



**Marianist Family Fraternities**

- There are several pastoral ministries: Chapel of the Madeleine, pastoral work in several dioceses (Troyes, Aix in Provence, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Albi, Brussels and its surrounding area...).
- We work to animate members of the other branches of the Marianist Family, as much as possible, including the JFM (Young people of the Marianist Family).
- The accompaniment of the older brothers in the last years of their lives and mission is an important work for us.
- Other specific works include those near underprivileged populations (Lyons, Colmar...) or in specialized sectors (chaplains of hospitals).
- In addition, we are engaged in work on a series of publications: books (at the Maison Chaminade - Bordeaux), reviews, Internet site, e-learning, etc.



**E-Learning**

The Province, in spite of its thin manpower, and with a boldness that can only be explained as an expression of religious faith and spirit, has been conducting several building projects:



- Opened recently:
  - House of Faith at Antony
  - Student Residences (Antony, Paris)
  - Internet courses in Marianist Spirituality
  - Let us not forget the Novitiate, where our brother, Marc, assisted by our brothers in Saragossa, prepares to profess first vows!
- Preparing to commence:
  - The assumption of responsibility of the Marian Sanctuary of Verdelsais in September 2007
  - The transformation of the houses of Saint-Hippolyte and Rèves for new forms of mission.

In August 2007 a large gathering of the Marianist Family — called JOADES — will take place. We hope it will provide a new dash of faith in our charism (rekindle the flame!); a renovation of our manpower – as the young people will take part in it; and an awakening of the urge to take up responsibilities and challenges with joy and hope for the future.

Even as we seek to find new ways of diffusing our charism through the media, we know well that nothing replaces personal and community witness through lived charism. Thus, we are delighted that Fr. David Fleming is coming to preach the major retreat of the Province this year. — Robert Witwicki (FR)



**Marianist Family**

## LIVING AND SHARING OUR CHARISM: *Founders Day in Switzerland*



To Celebrate the Feast Days of our Founders, Marianist religious and lay persons joined together in Sion on January 14, 2007. Fr. Eduardo Benlloch, SM, of Saragossa was present to lead a presentation and discussion. Fr. Eduardo shared Fr. Chaminade's "missionary project" with them. It dealt with Fr. Chaminade's conception of the birth of a new vision of the Church during the time shortly after the French Revolution. Nowadays, in Saragossa, Fr. Benlloch accompanies four novices — three Spaniards and one from France — on a similar spiritual journey. Likewise, there are many pilgrims to Saragossa today who discover Fr. Chaminade's adopted city and his beloved basilica containing the statue of Our Lady of the Pillar. Here Chaminade prayed and discerned the mission that he would later carry out in France.

Fr. Benlloch cautioned us to not imagine William Joseph Chaminade alone at Saragossa, blessed by a clear vision of how to channel his energy, and a vision needing only to be concretized upon his return to France. On the contrary, the intuition that he had in Saragossa would require development and refinement - and it would be at the price of many trials. Fr. Benlloch's understanding, far from an idealistic vision, was based on the historical facts that Fr. Chaminade remained in exile in Saragossa a little more than three years, from October 11, 1797 until November 1800. Driven out of France by the Revolution, he arrived there on the vigil of the Feast of Lady of the Pillar. He found himself in an environment of peace and serenity leaving behind the political upheavals which shook France. In Saragossa, he lived through a deep transformation: "The faithful priest, to the point of risking his life, did not shrink from his mission: he became daring, innovative, creative and a founder." Fr. Chaminade, having returned to France, was very much the same person who had left three years before, yet he was undergoing a slow evolution.



Eduardo Benlloch, SM

What then "really did happen at Saragossa?" wondered Fr. Benlloch. The words of William Joseph Chaminade, reported by others in those days, do not reveal it. Thus, other avenues need to be followed. Fr. Benlloch spoke of what his investigations have revealed. He examined, in turn, what Chaminade brought to Saragossa; how he lived there; what he did and wrote upon his return to France. Chaminade arrived at Saragossa carrying the "baggage" of his past experiences: as treasurer at the College of Mussidan, as a priest under the Reign of Terror; with his own interior attitudes and convictions: a solid faith, a love for Mary and an inclination toward the religious life. His reflection on the Creed brought him to some certain convictions: as Christ was born of Mary, so too, each of us must also be born of her. There in Saragossa, Chaminade took part in the meetings of the exiled French priests. With them he prepared handbooks for the missionaries and reorganized the Diocese of Tarbes into "missions" — no longer into parishes. For that, the priests were to encourage the apostolate of the laity, to develop them, convinced that "the lack of priests is not always a misfortune." As soon as he returned to France, Chaminade resigned from his apostolic post as administrator of the Diocese of Bazas (close to Bordeaux). He sought and accepted nomination as Missionary Apostolic for all of France. He founded the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1800; the first members made their dedication on February 2, 1801. At that time, Chaminade also wrote instructional manuals for them. His missionary project thus started with the laity: "We were born upside down," said Fr. Benlloch. Then, only fourteen years later, Chaminade will write notes on the religious life and put this written work in a letter to Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon. Growing this way, in a manner filled with difficulties and tests, Chaminade took a long time to concretize what he had foreseen in Saragossa.



### Marianist spirituality

In the afternoon, Fr. Benlloch specified, using a table, the characteristic features of Marianist Spirituality, which already had distinguished the first members of the Congregation. Fundamentally, the elements of Marianist Spirituality belong to Christian spirituality, he spoke of the mission, community, faith, Mary, and the Church. But Marianists specify them, and accentuate them, in a way that is particular to them and that defines the nature of their spirituality. The Marianist's mission is to form others in faith, to communicate the faith, to animate groups of faith, to evangelize society, by finding concrete ways to do so. Members form communities, based on faith and personal relationships, while they are present in the world as missionaries. We live out lives in spirit of "family." Our faith is a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, being conformed to him, according to the spiritual way traced by the Founder. Mary is, for the Marianist, the mother of Jesus, the woman associated with our calling and the one who educates us. She willingly allowed the Holy Spirit to form her, and assist her in her mission, which is to incarnate Christ in the world, and to bring others to him. The Marianist, finally, is integrated into the mission of the Church in a spirit of close cooperation between lay people, priests, and religious, who grow as a family. "We all must live Marianist Spirituality and have a Marianist identity" so as to perpetuate the Founder's charism, affirmed Fr. Benlloch. →



**Sharing Our Charism (con't.)**

A fitting end to the gathering was the celebration of the Eucharist. Fr. Bernard Truffer presided, assisted by Fr. Benlloch. This was a wonderful way to reflect on the theme of the Wedding at Cana: the first sign given by Jesus, inviting us to listen, and then to act. "Do whatever He tells you." This truly is the "Marianist attitude." — Jean-Paul Federneder (SU)

## Francophone Program for Sabbaticals & Ongoing Formation:

Opportunities continue for Marianists to participate in programs of spiritual renewal in collaboration with the Marist Brothers. These programs are coordinated for Marianists by the International Center for Marianist Formation (ICMF). Information for programs in 2007- 2008 as well as a fuller description of the courses can be obtained by consulting the ICMF web site: [www.icmf.info](http://www.icmf.info).

**In French:** For religious between **60-79** years of age: 19 August – 14 October 2007. Site: Marist General House, Rome, Italy. (3 places available.)

**The aim** of the program is to provide time and resources for reflection, learning and sharing on diverse aspects of our life. **The approach** involves time for personal and group prayer; conferences and discussion in the mornings; the afternoons are free for personal work and relaxation. There will also be a pilgrimage to the Marianist places of origin (e.g. Saragossa, Bordeaux, Agen, etc.) and cultural opportunities on free days.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact your Unit Superior or Brother Tom Giardino, SM of the International Center for Marianist Formation for more information. [tom.giardino@udayton.edu](mailto:tom.giardino@udayton.edu) or consult the ICMF website: [www.icmf.info](http://www.icmf.info). All participation needs the approval of your Unit Administration. [TFG]



### Cardinal Rosales takes Canonical Possession of Marianist Parish in Rome

Cardinal Gaudencio B. Rosales, Archbishop of Manila, Philippines, took possession of his titular church in the Diocese of Rome on March 5, 2007. The church, given to him by Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of his elevation to the Cardinalate last year, is the Marianist parish church, *Most Holy Name of Mary* near Via Latina. Superior General, Manuel Cortés, SM (above, right), was present as Fr. Loris Floriani, SM (above, left), welcomed the Cardinal to the parish. The Cardinal was principal celebrant at the parish Sunday Eucharist. Concelebrants included many Marianists, as well as priests of the Philippines and the Diocese of Rome. A parishioner greeted the Cardinal on behalf of the parish. Cardinal Rosales spoke of the prayerful and familial link that now bonds the people of this parish and those of the Archdiocese of Manila.

## E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES:

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