

Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



Issue # 166 - April 2008

MIXED COMPOSITION: A TREASURE AND A CHALLENGE!

If we were to define the uniqueness of the Society of Mary in the Church, Mixed Composition is undoubtedly one of the first points that each of us would especially name. We also know that this essential aspect of our lives, and one so dear to our Founder, has undergone a fairly rapid evolution in recent decades. This necessitates a legitimate watchfulness: How to understand this change? How to make sense of today's Mixed Composition. Is there a balance to be maintained between brothers and priests? What are our respective missions in today's world? How does this tradition fit into new cultures? ... and the list goes on and on.

The last General Chapter wished to open this reflection and dialog more explicitly. Some elements involved were published in Appendix 1 of the Chapter document ("Religious in the Marianist Family", § 2). Yet, the Chapter was clear that the dialog needed to be continued and deepened. Therefore, the General Council has been working at this task in view of the forthcoming General Chapter.



A committee was appointed, under the responsibility of Fr. Andre Fétis, Assistant General for Religious Life, and it includes Bro. Tom Giardino (project coordinator) and Bro. Pedro Gonzalez Blasco. The committee met at the General Administration on March 11 and 12. With the collaboration of Fr. Manuel Cortés, the committee developed a plan of action for the period up until 2012. Here is an outline:

1. With the help of Pedro Gonzalez Blasco, an expert in the field, a questionnaire is being prepared to conduct a consultation in the Society of Mary. Everyone will be asked to reflect on his experience of Mixed Composition and to share his thoughts. The survey will take place in early 2009. A few months after its completion, a summary will be published.
2. This document will then become one element of reflection in the hands of a group of Marianist experts who will meet for a symposium on Mixed Composition in early 2011. These specialists will provide a detailed study on this issue from a number of angles, especially from the historical, theological, canonical and missionary points of view. We hope to make materials from this study available to all as well.
3. Follow this, proposals will be developed for presentation to the 2012 General Chapter.
4. The General Chapter will then have the task of deciding what direction it wants to give to the Society of Mary in order to strengthen our understanding and experience of Mixed Composition in the coming years. →

General Administration Calendar

- Mar 31-May 3: MC and EV visit Regions of Japan and Korea
- Apr 2-12: JMA attends meetings in Spain
- Apr 12-23: JMA and AF visit Austria and Germany
- Apr 23-May 2: JMA and AF visit Switzerland

G.A. Communications Recently Sent...

- *Directory of SM Marianist Education* printed copy and CD sent by post to all Unit Heads for distribution to Unit educational works and any others who wish to have it.
- Apr 5: Circular #2 of the Superior General

It is a long process which will depend on much input and a great deal of reflection from all members of the SM. Is not this worthy of such attention? Already, we are open to any suggestions and we thank you all for the part that you will contribute to this project. Your contributions will be very valuable since the gift of Mixed Composition is truly a jewel of our charism, of which we are justifiably proud. *André Fétis, SM*

PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN ARGENTINA



On Saturday, December 29, 2007 in the Parish of the Resurrected Christ, in the city of General Roca, Argentina, Brother Federico Nantes, SM made his Perpetual Profession in the Society of Mary. Religious, family members and friends traveled from many different parts of the country to be with him on this occasion. Argentine Marianist sisters even came from Chile! All were heartily welcomed by the parish community. Following the Eucharist, the celebration continued with “empanadas” and local-style dancing. Federico took as a motto for this step in his religious life: “Consecrated to God for my whole life.”

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We recommend the prayers of the Marianist Family asking the intervention of the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for the following intentions:

Pascal, from Mirandol, France, 44-year-old cousin of Brother Claude Reynès, suffers from kidney cancer that has damaged his spine and caused paralysis of his lower limbs accompanied by great suffering. He must remain day and night on his back, motionless.

Intention proposed by Brother Claude Reynes, SM



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PROMOTING JUSTICE AND PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

We want to explore in depth over the next years what it means for us to be building a Marian style of church. What the implications and actions of such a church are for our communities, our mission, our transmission of the Marianist charism, our dialogue between faith and culture, and our commitment to peace, justice, and the integrity of creation will call for a response from us all.” These are the terms in which the General Chapter of 2006 (13A) reminds us of our work in the world today. The last area mentioned in this passage is Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). For sure, Marianist involvement in this area (JPIC) is real in many of our units, but we know that to ensure a lasting change, it will have to be an ongoing effort.



Bro. Remy Sandah, SM

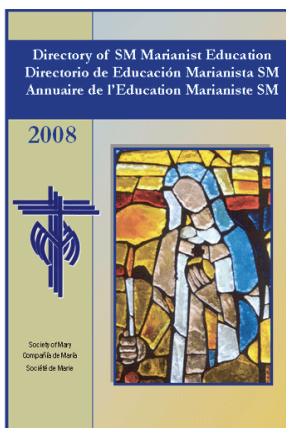
In Rome, there is a group call JPIC Promoters. It is composed of men and women religious from different congregations in Rome. In fact, this group resulted from activities of the Unions of Superiors General of Religious Institutes (both men and women’s). JPIC is organized into subgroups languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese) and include several commissions (Integrity of Creation, human trafficking...). Members share ideas and make proposals on how to promote the views of the Church on Justice of the Peace and the Integrity of Creation with NGOs and international political bodies. They also seek to promote the work at grassroots levels, for example, in support of activities undertaken in levels of religious communities within JPIC. You may have recently received a letter from one group working for the Integrity of Creation, which is making a survey in the hopes of establishing a database. We are grateful for your reply.



In this space, Via Latina 22 will offer monthly information, sharing and exhortation hoping to highlight issues related to justice, peace and the integrity of creation. This will help us all be better informed and more supportive of so much work that is being done both within and outside the Society of Mary.

- Remy Sandah, SM

2008 Directory of SM Marianist Education



The 2008 Edition of the *Directory of SM Marianist Education* has been sent to all Unit Administrations. It can serve as a good resource for communication and understanding between SM institutions. This year, in addition to the PDF version, we have offered an “interactive” version designed to be used on your computer. Contact your Unit Administration to obtain a copy of the printed version or the electronic files.

Second Circular of the Superior General

Fr. Manuel J. Cortés, Superior General, issued his second circular on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 31, 2008. The circular is entitled: *The Spirit of the Society is the Spirit of Mary – Part II – In Mission with Mary*. This work serves as the conclusion of his first circular, published one year ago. The original text, written in Spanish, has been translated into English and French. You can contact your Unit Administration to obtain a copy or go to our website at www.marianist.org.

