

# Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



Issue # 172 - December 2008

## PERPETUAL VOWS IN THE USA AND TOGO

Celebrating with 250 brothers, friends and family, Brother Brian Halderman, SM, professed Perpetual Vows on October 4th at Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. A reception was held at Purcell Marian High School after the Eucharist and profession. Brian professed first vows in 2004. In 2007, Bro. Brian received a master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis. He is a member of the Casa Maria community in San Antonio and serves in university ministry at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.



Brothers Jonas and Casimir respond to the call of the Regional Superior



Brian Halderman, SM receives his gold ring from Stephen Glodek, SM, Provincial of the Province of the USA

In Togo, during the Mass of Thanksgiving on November 16th marking the 50th anniversary of Marianist presence in the country, Brothers Jonas Kpatcha, SM, and Casimir Tch  ou, SM, proudly professed their Perpetual Vows. At the ceremony were visitors from many places throughout Togo, as well as from around the world, including the Superior General. The celebration of the anniversary

provided a wonderful context for these professions since it clearly became a celebration of religious commitments in the past, the present, and for the future.

## SUPERIORS NAMED FOR PERU AND KOREA

Following the customary consultations, the Superior General has appointed Regional Superiors of both Peru and Korea.

Bro. Philip (Felipe) Melcher, SM, has accepted the appointment as Superior of the Region of Peru. He succeeds Fr. Victor M  ller Bull, SM, who will complete his second term on December 31, 2008. Felipe is originally from the USA, but has been in Peru since 1977. He currently resides in Callao. His term of office is four years.



Bro. Felipe Melcher, SM

Fr. Pascal Lee, SM, has been appointed to a second term of office as Regional Superior of Korea. His new term, lasting three years, will begin on January 15, 2009.

We offer both of these men our congratulations and prayers for their appointments. At the same time, we thank Fr. Victor for his years of service in leadership to the Region of Peru and the Society of Mary.



Fr. Pascal Lee, SM



## EDUCATION ASSISTANTS GATHER IN ROME FOR TWO-WEEK MEETING

Under the direction of José María Alvira, SM, Assistant General for Education, his counterparts in the Units of the SM throughout the world gathered in Rome from November 10-22. The two weeks provided many opportunities for sharing information about the educational works of the SM. Participants made presentations about the educational works in their Unit and shared the strengths, weaknesses and challenges they see in this “privileged means” of evangelization. A good bit of time



was spent on discussing the work and role of the Assistant for Education. Guest speakers provided input on maintaining the charism in our works, and on collaborating with lay persons in our ministry of education. A series of reflections gathered from lay collaborators of Marianist schools throughout the world provided a rich source for discussion, along with, of course, the *Characteristics of Marianist Education*. Members of the General Council assisted by both presenting themes and participating in discussions.



One of the best attributes of the extended meeting was the opportunity to meet and interact fraternally with persons from almost all of the Units of the SM. Formal and informal sharing brought to light many common experiences and concerns, while at the same time highlighting the unique challenges that characterize each individual Unit.



At various times participants were happy to enjoy the many religious and cultural opportunities in Rome. They enjoyed participating in several excursions including, the Vatican Necropolis (Scavi of St. Peter’s Tomb), Subiaco and Castel Gandolfo, the tomb of St. Paul in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls and an evening visit to the General Administration of the FMI.



## World Council of the Marianist Family Meets in Rome

Members of the World Council of the Marianist Family pause for a photo in the new Oratory at Via Latina 22. The Council is comprised of the leadership teams of all four branches of the Marianist Family. They met in Rome from November 6-8, 2008. Be sure to read the Christmas Message and the Report from the WCMF posted on the website [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org).





The Community of the General Administration has begun celebrating the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours in a new oratory recently completed during the month of October. This oratory was designed and realized by Jesuit artist Fr. Marko Rupnik and his architect, Paolo Marciani. In addition, many other artisans contributed their work to create magnificent liturgical furnishings: the altar, lectern,



Marko Rupnik, SJ

stained glass, and wood seating, along with other, more ordinary aspect such as electricity, heating, air-conditioning, carpentry and painting. All of these complement the works of art contained here: wall frescos painted by Sr. Elisa Galardi and a mosaic covering the presbytery wall, a work of Fr. Rupnik and his crew.



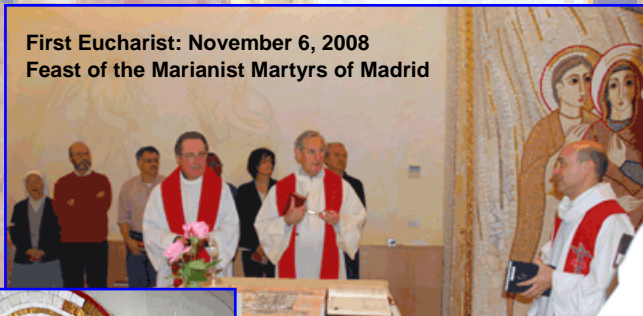
The oratory was made possible through a bequest left by an Italian woman in honor of her husband. The iconographic plan was rendered following consultation with Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Fr. Lorenzo Amigo, SM, and Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM. Indeed, all members of the community of the General Administration were able to contribute thoughts and suggestions regarding their new chapel.



The artist's intention was to create a fittingly sacred place for celebrating the Mystery of our Salvation through community liturgy. On the walls, the fresco of Sr. Elisa represents Blessed Chaminade flanked by the tree of original sin and the scene of

the Annunciation, the dawning of our salvation. On the opposite wall, Mary is depicted interceding with Jesus at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Jesus is the bridegroom and from his side flow blood and the water which the servant collects into jars to be converted into wine. These biblical scenes were pivotal to Blessed Chaminade as he explained our mission in alliance with Mary.

In the mosaic of the presbytery, Fr. Rupnik represents the scene on Calvary at the hour of our salvation. Christ is on the tree of the cross entrusting his mother to the disciple whom he loved. John, for his part, takes Mary in and protects her. The Mother bears us in mind as, with her hands on her heart and on her womb, she conceives of the Body of Christ, the Church.



First Eucharist: November 6, 2008  
Feast of the Marianist Martyrs of Madrid



## 50 YEARS OF MARIANIST PRESENCE IN TOGO

From November 15-17, 2008, the city of Kara, Togo, vibrated in communion with the Marianist family at the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Marianist presence in Togo. All those who were present could keenly sense the truth of the Gospel story of the mustard seed (Matthew 4:31-32) by the abundance of Marianist fruit in this place. Indeed, in a relatively short time, the Marianist seed has sprouted and yielded so much good fruit.

It was on October 9, 1958, that the first three Marianists set foot in the bush in the north-central region of this west African country. They came to assist at the Catholic Senior Institute of Kara (a small building of three classrooms) created two years earlier. So many things needed to be done and they quickly went to work in both the professional and pastoral ministries. People were struck to see how these "strangers" did the work themselves instead of ordering others as previous "settlers" had done.



50 years after this audacious act of Marian trust, on November 26, 2008, a diverse and grand multitude gathered in the Cathedral of Kara to celebrate the Golden Jubilee. They all recognized, in one way or another, how they had become recipients of the Marianist charism. To enhance the event, as a special grace of Christ, Our Lord, all witnessed two Perpetual Professions during this great celebration.

### E-MAIL AND ADDRESS CHANGES

**PROVINCE OF THE USA:**

- Bro. James Eppy: [jweppy@gmail.com](mailto:jweppy@gmail.com)
- Fr. Robert Hughes: [hughesre@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:hughesre@notes.udayton.edu)
- Bro. Paul Kageche N'dung'u: [pkageche@sm-ea.or.ke](mailto:pkageche@sm-ea.or.ke)
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**PROVINCE OF FRANCE:**

- Bro. Andre Vernhes: [andre.vernhes12@orange.fr](mailto:andre.vernhes12@orange.fr)

**PROVINCE OF ITALY:**

- Bro. Santino Pugliesi: [santino.pugliesi@tiscali.it](mailto:santino.pugliesi@tiscali.it)

**COMMUNITY CORRECTION:** Fr. Thomas Hogan (USA) is a member of Cupertino Community (US18A)



**Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year**

*From the Communities of  
Via Latina 22, Rome*

### General Administration Calendar

- **Nov 30-Jan 1:** AF and JMA visit India
- **Jan 8-10:** Meeting of the Extended General Council at the General Administration in Rome
- **Jan 11-15:** General Council Meetings, Rome

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

- Death Notices #'s **30-32**
- **Nov 1:** 2009 SM International Personnel to all Units (via Mail)