

Via Latina 22
00179 ROMA (IT)SOCIETE DE MARIE
SOCIETY OF MARY
COMPAÑIA DE MARIA

A VOCATION BULLETIN

**Vocsm, second edition!**

And a new logo to mark the occasion: thanks to Rogelio Nuñez, SM, in charge of the Vocation Ministry for the Province of Madrid, for having shared his talents with us. An invitation to cast out our nets, to let the Spirit speak to us or to invite listening... Thank you, Rogelio!

André Fétis, sm

Let us allow the breeze of the Spirit to come in and we shall have the vocations he judges necessary.

Fr. Manuel Cortés, Superior General

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Please do not hesitate to send me news and photos of your activities, suggestions of texts, of documents, of websites... This bulletin is yours, ours. Thank you!
(genrelsm@smcuria.it)

The future is in the hands of the Spirit. And vocations also, because it is he who calls. To us belongs the present. "Do not concern yourselves about tomorrow; sufficient to the day is its own toil." "Seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and the rest shall be given to you in addition." What really concerns me regarding the future is not the lack of vocations but fidelity at the present moment to that which, here and now, the Spirit is asking of us regarding the coming of the "Kingdom of God and his righteousness." If in the present one responds with fidelity to his call, he will undertake to nourish and project it into the future. If not...

[In face of the] lack of vocations, [the solution] is not, as some think, to show a "youthful appearance," to mount a kind of attractive showcase based upon one or two communities of young and dynamic religious. Vocations are not born "of the flesh." The History of Salvation, which is the history that I really believe in and to which I have dedicated my life, is marked by very old men who, against all logic "of the flesh," became fruitful, very fruitful. Why? Only because they entrusted themselves to the Word of God and followed it with fidelity. "Salt of the earth," "sacrifice the son that you have clutched on to as a guarantee of the future...." And Abraham obeyed. "Leave the well established life that you have developed for yourself in the desert of Midian with your wife, your sons, your flocks... and go back again to Egypt, the place from which you fled to save your life...." And Moses obeyed. They did not say: "Let the young ones do it, Lord, I'm no longer up to those efforts...." In this history of the Kingdom, upon which the Lord has embarked us, the danger of unfruitfulness comes not from age but from the immobility in which, at times, we "castle" our life to protect it. The Spirit is the wind that blows, "you know not whence it comes nor whither it goes," this Spirit is movement, and wants us to be capable of moving. These are new times, "new wars," Fr. Chaminade would say, that demand new methods of making ourselves present and active in the mission. We need, therefore, to open the gates, lower the drawbridges, break down the walls of our "castles," both personal and communitarian, if we have fallen into the temptation of creating them... Let our communities be visible and accessible.... And the breeze of the Spirit will enter into them. And we shall have the vocations that he judges necessary. Of this I have not the slightest doubt.

(Interview with the Superior General after the visit to the Province of Madrid, *Vida Marianista*, #59 – Madrid, February 2009)



"A time to get excited about the Christian vocation and about the Marianist vocation:"

The Vocation Ministry in Colombia – Ecuador

Good morning, Carlos-Julio. You are responsible for the vocation ministry of the C-E Region. Could you introduce yourself briefly?

Peace. I am Carlos Julio Barragán Martínez, SM, a Colombian Marianist priest. I was born in Bogotá 45 years ago. I entered the Marianists in 1987. For about the past 15 years I have been the leader of the Youth Vocation Ministry. At present, I am the Pastor of Our Lady of Charity Parish in Bogotá.

Can you describe for us the vocation ministry in CE?

Our objective is to promote, cultivate and mentor children's, youth and vocational groups in all our works which labor for the Kingdom of God.

For that:

- A Regional Team for Youth Vocation Ministry has been formed.
- We have developed a common Project for Youth Vocation Ministry for the Region of Columbia and Ecuador.
- 12 working papers for vocational discernment have been produced, as well as a brief biography of Miguel Angel Quiroga, SM, the Marianist murdered by the paramilitaries for defending the poor, as a model of the following of Jesus...
- A preliminary project for the *Movimiento Michel* has been organized.

Besides all this, we have some regional activities, such as: two vocational meetings a year — a general one in the first semester and the other a local one in the second semester; two annual meetings of those assigned to structure the *Movimiento Michel*; and the "Miguel Angel Quiroga" Cultural and Sports Meeting.

How are the Marianist communities involved in this ministry? What is your most important role?

Each Marianist community has to name a mentor for the Youth Vocation Ministry. They encourage the young people who are interested in our community and in our Charism. They accompany these recruitment processes in each work. My role is to constantly encourage this work and to counsel and encourage the brothers responsible for each work. Another role that I have is to visit each young man who is in the recruitment process at each work. Once a year, I do a "vocation tour" to meet and carry on some vocational chats with them, and visit the schools, works, etc.



With the Marianist Family in La Paz—Bogotá

And the Marianist Family?

Each branch of the Marianist Family names a person responsible for vocations. We meet with them and plan joint activities. We have also developed a vocational primer jointly with the entire Marianist Family. The team is made up of Sister Marleny Cuartas Rico, FMI, Nidia Rodriguez Salazar, CLM, and Father Carlos Julio Barragán, SM.

What preparation is recommended to a young man before he can ask to enter the pre-novitiate?

The specific objective of this stage is to personally mentor the youth who experiences a call to the Marianist religious life, to help him to discern if, as much in the call itself as in the person who feels it, the necessary signs are there for it to be considered a true calling.

The person who experiences the call must be helped to acquire the capacity for analyzing it and situating it correctly in his life. For that there must be: self-knowledge, deeper understanding about what is and what is signified by the Christian vocation, and interiorization of the latter.

At this stage, it is a question of analyzing and discerning the call. Nevertheless, one must be careful that the person who experiences it not think that it means putting his call "under suspicion." This stage is not only a time for examination, but also a time for encouragement and enthusiasm towards the Christian vocation and for the Marianist vocation. It is a time to come to discover the exciting possibilities they hold and, supported in this discovery, to understand also the renuncements that it necessarily implies.

Do you have materials to help us to carry on this ministry?

Yes, we have the materials (12 papers on vocational discernment). Whoever is interested can send me an e-mail and I will send them with great pleasure: carjulio2000@yahoo.es.



Latacunga (Ecuador)

What seems to be the most important thing in vocation ministry?

To be fully convinced that the road we are traveling is a road to happiness. In this way we make this happiness transparent and infect others with our life witness. And God will raise up new vocations with our cooperation.

Many thanks, Carlos Julio, and good luck in your work!



**CONCERN ABOUT A JOINT VOCATIONAL WORK
VOCATION MINISTRY OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY IN COLOMBIA**

I am Nidia Rodríguez Salazar, Lay Marianist of Colombia. With joy and gratitude I received the invitation which the Lord Jesus gave me to follow him concretely in the lay life according to the Marianist Charism. Concerned about making the teachings of Jesus real within myself and about freely accepting the presence of the Holy Spirit, in the year 2002 I began my process of Christian formation in the "Huellas Marianistas" ("Marianist Footprints") Lay Community of the city of Bogotá, D.C. Wanting to live out deeply the commitment I had made to Mary at the altar, to be a coworker in the mission of making Christ present to the world, I agreed to be the Representative of the CLM to the Vocation Ministry of the Marianist Family in Colombia.



The idea of Vocational Ministry in the Marianist Family came up as a response to the concern about joint vocational work, responding to the need to animate, to strengthen and to mentor more persons in the vocational processes within the Family. This was formally solidified as one of the orientations and lines of action for the years 2007-2011, worked out in the MEETING OF CLAMAR OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY in January 2009, in Bogotá, D.C.

Vocation Ministry of the Marianist Family in Colombia is organized with one member of each of the three branches present in the country (CLM- SM- FMI): Father Carlos Julio Barragán SM, Marleny Cuartas FMI and Nidia Rodríguez Salazar CLM. The truth is that, in the Family, it is only recently that this work is getting under way. Nevertheless, it has been very well accepted. We proceed with expectations and with an attitude on the part of all to succeed in this project of the Marianist Family.

Nidia Rodríguez Salazar, CLM



THE MICHEL MOVEMENT (MM):

- **A youth and vocation ministry** for forming young people with a human, Christian, Marianist vocation, so that their lives might bear witness in the Church and in society,
- Which **defends** the cosmos as a work of God for all generations,
- Where one will live **without hatred** or rancor and where abuse will disappear from every manner of speech,
- With a **critical consciousness** about the religious, social, political, and cultural reality of society
- In order to live and transmit **hope, faith** and **love** according to the principles of Jesus of Nazareth,
- Which will further the **education** and on-going formation of all its members.

Michel (1972-1998) murdered by paramilitaries in Lloró (Chocó)

A Marianist movement which forms children, adolescents and young people in faith so that they do what Jesus asks of them with a merciful heart after the youthful manner of Michel Angel Quiroga Gaona: "Michel"

- STAGES:** CHILDREN'S STAGE (6 to 11 years)
 ADOLESCENT STAGE (12 to 16 years)
 YOUTH STAGE (17 to 21 YEARS)
 ADULT STAGE (22 years and above) with the CLM.

National meetings of the MM have been held since 1998 (+Michel) in the form of the Marianist Olympics, and with the purpose – which was also the dream of Michel – of integrating children and young people into our works. In 2008 it was decided to alternate each year between sports activities for integration and a cultural meeting. This year (October 2009) a cultural meeting will take place at the Finca Santa María, near Bogotá: the **First Formation Camp for Animators of the MM**. In this camp we will work on proposing MM to young people so that they become "empowered" in MM and with their help we can solidify the movement.



Nelson Mendieta & Edgar Palacios, SM





SPAIN : "enREDate": A surge of prayers for vocations in the Marianist Family

"enREDate" ["Get Involved"!] was born in the Vocations Committee of the Family Council in Spain. We were spending time working on raising vocational consciousness in the two Marianist Provinces of Spain. We quickly realized that the essential element of vocation is a call, a grace from the Father. Inspired by the saying of Jesus "ask the master of the harvest to send workers into the harvest," we started the project of raising to the Lord a real clamor of prayer.

"enREDate" is a community of men and women who pray daily for vocations to the Marianist Family. The lay members pray for religious and priestly vocations, while the religious pray for lay vocations, most especially for those from the place where the person praying lives.

We get a commitment for a daily prayer time of five minutes for vocations and we conclude with a prayer common to all those involved. We put the Marianist Family into the hands of God daily. We trust that He alone knows what is best for us. We pray that He care for Marianist vocations: those that already are and those that are to come.

Each trimester we send out a simple bulletin with vocational news about the Marianist Family, the *Enredate*, designed by Paz Cortés, a Marianist Fraternity member in Valencia. A couple of years ago we started the Chain of Prayers. Each "involved" person is assigned a particular day of the year in which he shares with someone: his community, family, friends... a larger network of prayer for vocations. Its goal is to expose the topic of "vocation" to our surroundings. (Cf. http://www.marianistas.org/publicaciones/index_publicacion.php?Nombre=Enredate&Numorden=41)

On May 3, 2005, we began this NETwork with the first registration and now we are around 400, some of us abroad. Currently the team includes: Adrián Mazarío, Begoña Santapau, Paz Cortés, Juan Serra and the undersigned, all of the Marianist Fraternities of Valencia (Spain).

M^a Inés Marco, MLC, Spain

Signing up is easy, write to:

Internet: enredate@marianistas.org

Mailing address: M^a Inés Marco Adrián-RED
Colegio Nuestra Señora del Pilar
Avda. Blasco Ibáñez 35
46021 Valencia, Spain

Explanations:

1 – RED, in Spanish, is the equivalent of the English word NET or "network." Here there is a play on words of the two meanings.

2 – Enredarse in Spanish means "get into the net," "get involved."
"enREDate" is an imperative: "get into the network!"

IN BRIEF...

U.S.A. The well-known Catholic weekly, *The New Catholic Reporter* published an interesting interview of the national committee head for vocations of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the United States last September 14: "New study reveals rays of light on the vocations front." In that interview, the author mentions "three men's orders that have had success with vocation ministry," one of the three being the Marianists. Congratulations to the vocations team of the US and their leader Charles Johnson, SM, for that recognition.

You can find this interview on the Internet:

<http://ncronline.org/news/new-study-reveals-rays-light-vocations-front>

MEXICO: Vocation Day in Tancanhuitz.

San Luis Potosí: held on 20-23 August 2009 in Tancanhuitz, SLP. 35 young men attended. Bro. Fermín García, S.M., and Bro. Rigoberto Martínez

were the organizers of the day. This program of "2 by 2" intends to go to various places in order to promote vocations for the Society of Mary.



Marianist vocational day (19-22 June - Querétaro)

3.10. We need to find new ways to encourage the young adults among us, and to more effectively reach out to other young adults so that they may make the most their talents in the Church.

MLCs IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD, Nairobi, August 2009



IVORY COAST: From August 2-24, 2009 twenty young men participated in **Marianist Work Camp 2009** at the Collège Notre Dame d'Afrique (Biétry-Abidjan). The program included work times in the college, times for reflection, prayer and, above all, engagement with Marianist life through the community and the animators. The animators were Fr. Noël Dominique Kouao Akobe and Brothers Lambert Kouassi and Patrice Comoé.

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