

Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



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CLOSING OF THE CHAMINADE YEAR: A TIME OF JOY AND RE-DEDICATION

For us Marianists, January 22 is always an important day on which to celebrate the legacy of our Founder, Blessed Chaminade. This year, as we concluded the year-long celebration of the 250th Anniversary of his birth, his feast day had special meaning. Throughout the Marianist world, and together with all branches of the Marianist Family, we came together during the weekend of January 20-22, to bring this special year to a close and to rededicate ourselves to the missionary zeal, devotion to Mary and family spirit that is such an important part of our Charism.

In **Bordeaux**, in the footsteps of Fr. Chaminade, the four branches joined together for an entire weekend of activities. One of the members of the MLC delivered a conference on Friday evening. On Saturday afternoon a concert of choral and organ music featured the newly installed organ at the Madeleine. Later that evening, three different generations from the Marianist secondary school, Ecole Saint Marie - Grand Lebrun, dramatized the words and life of the Founder. On Sunday, January 22, in the Church of Sainte Eulalie (where Fr. Chaminade celebrated Mass), Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard presided at a Mass officially closing the Chaminade Year. Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Superior General, was among the concelebrants. You can see photos from this event by clicking [here](#).



See more from around the world, on the next page →



↙ In **Rome**, the FMI, SM and MLC held a joint celebration at Istituto Santa Maria di Roma.



Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, presided at a Mass for the Marianist Family in the **Philippines**. Bro. Tim Phillips, SM, is also shown proclaiming the



reading. →

↓ Marianists in **Brazil** had a wonderful celebration. You can see many photos from this event by clicking [here](#)



The Marianist Family in **Switzerland** closed the anniversary year with a Mass in the Cathedral of Sion. Johann Roten, SM, delivered the homily. The Mass was broad-



cast by Radio Suisse. You can find more information and photos at the [Swiss Marianist website](#). →



The Province of **Meribah** organized a pilgrimage from New York to Washington DC. Nearly 200 people participated, traveling about 10 hours by bus! They celebrated Mass at the National Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Other activities included prayer, adoration and a presentation by a former student who is currently a professor at Washington's Catholic University. ↓



SIX MARIANISTS ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE



They come from three different continents, speak various languages and were raised in very different cultures. But, for the last three years, six Marianists have prepared together for ordination at the Chaminade International Seminary in Rome. Together, on January 14, 2012, they were ordained to the diaconate in the Marianist parish of Santo Nome di Maria in Rome. Archbishop Luis Ladaria, SJ, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith imposed hands on our brothers who have committed themselves to serving the Society of Mary and the Church through ordained ministry. Many members of the Marianist family were in attendance as well as friends of those ordained. Following the ceremony,

most attended a reception at the General Administration. Present for the ordination were both Fr. Lorenzo Amigo, SM, who has just completed his long-time service as seminary rector, as well as Fr. Francisco Canseco, SM, the new rector.



The new deacons will complete their seminary studies in June and return to their home Units for ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations to the following:

- Raymundo Domínguez González, SM (Mexico)
- Birendra Kullu, SM (India)
- Rajesh Kumar Lakra, SM (India)
- Prasad Nitta, SM (India)
- Jair Romero Guzman, SM (Colombia)
- Palakyem Casimir Tcheou, SM (Togo)

REMINDER: MARIANIST FAMILY PLANNING WORLD DAY OF THE MARIANIST VOCATION

The *Annual Message* from the World Council of the Marianist Family established March 25, feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, as THE WORLD DAY OF THE MARIANIST VOCATION. We make special mention of this now because it is important for all to prepare for this commemoration, both on local and Unit levels. Particular prayer, presentations and sharing about the Marianist Vocation, art work, etc. are all good ways to promote and celebrate our common and individual gift of a Marianist vocation. As always, we at *Via Latina 22* would love to hear about your activities and receive photos or any materials you may produce.



FIRST VOWS IN MEXICO

Congratulations to Bro. José Luis González Molina, SM, who professed First Vows on January 22, 2012 in the Chapel of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Amanecer Balvanera, Corregidora, Queretaro, where the Marianist Community is located. Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, was celebrant and homilist and District Superior, Bro. Edward Longbottom, SM, received the vows. After a light reception following the Mass, special guests were treated to a wonderful dinner prepared and served by Bro. Fermin García, SM, and his assistants from the school of Cullinary Arts “María Reina” in Puebla!



CLOSING OF THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE MARIANISTS IN TUNISIA

Opened on October 1, 1891, by a team of five French Marianists, the “Free Secondary School,” a private school, has celebrated its 120th anniversary throughout the year 2011. Since its foundation the school in Tunis has been known locally as the “Marist” school, although the Marists never had anything to do with it. The error apparently came from a confusion among the nineteenth century French colonials, whose children were the principal source of its students of the time.



Several events marked the year: a competition of drawings and models by students on the theme of “My School at 120 Years,” a gala with attendance by all the directors of the past 30 years, the Provincial of France and the Archbishop of Tunis, as well as some special invitees, including an alumnus who first entered the school in 1929!



Bro. Morand Foechterlé, SM

For the closing of the year, Brother Jean Marie, Vice-Provincial of France, gave two conferences on Marianist pedagogy, one for the teachers and one for the parents of the students. The task was not so easy in a country where Christian proselytism is forbidden outside churches recognized by the State. But he was able, with the help of the two brothers in the community and of a Tunisian teacher, to give a presentation, adapted to the local context, on our pedagogical values, which give life to the institution, and animate the hundred full time staff who teach and care for the thousand young people aged 5 to 15. In the community, and with the few Christians in the school, we also had a Mass of Thanksgiving for all the work done during these past 120 years, and asked the Lord to send Marianist workers into his harvest, so that we might continue to form these young people into the values of Tunisia and those of the Marianists. عيد ميلاد الماريست !



Bro. Bertrand Bougé, SM

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G.A. COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SENT...

- **Death Notice: #1**
- **Jan 3:** Prayer for the General Chapter (to be used in all communities of the SM)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR

- **Feb 8-16:** MC visits San Antonio and Madrid.
- **Feb 8-10:** Meeting of European Center for Marianist Formation, Rome
- **Feb 24-Mar 7:** JMA attends meetings in Spain.
- **Feb 25-28:** Temporalities Committee meeting, Rome.

NEW SUPERIOR FOR THE DISTRICT OF IVORY COAST

Congratulations to Fr. Georges Gbeze, SM, who has recently been appointed District Superior in Ivory Coast. The District of Ivory Coast is part of the Province of France. Fr. Georges succeeds Bro. Dominique LeBrenn, SM, who is completing his second term as superior. We thank both of these religious for their generous response to the call to leadership and offer them our support and prayers.



LENTEN CAMPAIGN FORTY DAYS WITH THE FORTY LEAST



Once again the Marianist Family is sponsoring the Lenten campaign *Forty Days with the Forty Least*.

Resources for this campaign are available at: <http://www.40ultimos.org/>.

We urge you to make this campaign a part of your Lenten practice and to share it in your apostolic work as well.

PRAYER FOR THE XXXIV GENERAL CHAPTER

The Preparatory Commission for the XXXIV General Chapter (PREPCO) has prepared a prayer to be used by all members of the SM as we approach this important event in our history. We are all strongly encouraged to join with the rest of the SM around the world in praying for the preparations of the General Chapter and its sessions next July. All communities are requested to incorporate this prayer into their communal prayer, beginning on January 23, 2012, with the conclusion of the Chaminade Year. This prayer will continue until the conclusion of the Chapter. You may download the prayer, in various sizes and languages, from our website at www.marianist.org. In the subsection "Family," find the "Society of Mary" and then the "General Chapter" section.