



# Via Latina 22

Società di Maria – Marianisti



1 March 2005

N° 135

## 1°) G.A. CALENDAR:

(N.B. For all trips, the final date shown is the date the person is back in Rome.)

- \* 31/01-21/03: JA, JMA make **Official Visit to USA.**
- \* 31/01-22/03: GJC makes **Official Visit to USA.**
- \* 31/01-24/03: DF makes **Official Visit to USA.**
- \* 27/03-19/04: PP attends **NCEA (Philadelphia); Family Visit (USA).**
- \* 30/03-03/04: **Gen. Council** hosts **CEM Councils Meeting, Rome.**

## 2°) G.A. E-MAIL, FAX & POSTAL MAILINGS:

*Legend: em = E-Mail, fx = Fax, and pm = Postal Mailings*

- \* 03/02 – **Evaluation of the Seminary;** to all Unit Heads, etc. (em)
- \* 03/02 – **General Chapter Voting Addenda;** to all Unit Heads, etc. (em)
- \* 10/02 – **Prayer Intentions, 2-05;** to all Unit Heads, etc. (em)

## 3°) CONGRATULATIONS:

*First Vows*

- \* **Choi, Savio Bong gyu (KO):** February 2, 2005 – Seoul, Korea.

## 4°) VISIT TO USA CONTINUES:

During all of February, all four members of the General Council continued the visit to the USA Province. Last December they visited California and Hawaii, Fort Worth and New Orleans. In February they returned to the country, beginning on the East Coast and moving on to Ohio and Texas. The new Province of the USA includes about 430 Marianists working within the United States, as well as about 175 in dependent Units abroad.

In February, Fr. George Cerniglia and Bro. Javier Anso began in the Northeast with visits to the small Marianist communities (about 25 members) engaged in quite a vari-

ety of ministries in Boston, Connecticut, Brooklyn (New York), Baltimore, Cape May and Washington. Included among their ministries are seminary teaching, outreach to Latin-American immigrants, animation of lay Christian communities, direction of a home for disadvantaged youth, legal service to the poor, a center for family-oriented retreats, a parish, and service in schools.

Meanwhile, Fr. David Fleming and Bro. Jose Maria Alvira headed south and visited the Marianist center for family retreats in North Carolina, Chaminade High School in Hollywood, Florida, and our two works in Puerto Rico - Colegio San Jose and the parish Nuestra Señora de la Providencia. The visitors found the schools vibrant and of high quality, fully conscious of their Catholic and Marianist identity. The retreat center and parish are both highly appreciated in areas where pastoral service to Catholics had been minimal in the past.

All four visitors then went to Ohio, where the concentration of US Marianists is greatest. Fr. George and Bro. Jose Maria visited our two parishes, three high schools and social-service centers in Cleveland and Cincinnati. Meanwhile Fr. David and Bro. Javier concentrated on the more than 100 Marianists in Dayton, including those serving in varied departments at the University of Dayton, those working at two parishes, at Chaminade-Julienne High School, at the Marianist Mission, the Bergamo Center, the North American Center for Marianist Studies, the novitiate, the Mercy-Siena retirement community, and a variety of service projects in the Dayton area.

The last week of February saw all four visitors converging on San Antonio to visit about 85 Marianists working at St. Mary's University, Central Catholic High School, several parishes and varied other ministries in that city.

The visit will continue through most of March, finishing after a session with the Provincial Chapter in St. Louis. (DF)

## 5°) THE FASTING THAT I WISH:

As you know, the General Council during these months is visiting the Province of the United States. Last Friday, February 11, it was at the Cape May community where the Marianist religious and a magnificent group of lay people have a very interesting program of retreats and encounters for families and young people. Certainly a very necessary apostolate which hopefully will be developed more in the Marianist Family.

On that Friday, the community invited me to share some reflections during the homily. Since the first reading from the prophet Isaias, as well as in the second, the Gospel of St. Matthew spoke of fasting, I didn't have any difficulty in choosing a topic. I would speak of fasting. Taking advantage of the hospitality of Via Latina 22, and given the fact that we are in Lent, allow me to share those reflections with you.

Ordinarily we associate fasting with "eat less". In many communities the religious do something or make some sacrifice as a sign of penance and solidarity with those who suffer from real hunger. These practices, which are sometimes accompanied by prayer and some concrete action to share our re-

sources are very beautiful and necessary. They help us become more humble and more needful ourselves, also.

Nevertheless, I would like to comment on another dimension of fasting and put it in relation, as Isaias does, to the struggle for justice. In this sense, I remember having heard a Marianist religious for whom fasting was not eating less, but eating more, but more of the products bought in stores of commercial justice where we know that the farmers have received a just price for their work.

The world needs our fasting, and there are many things from which we should fast. We should "fast" from thinking only of ourselves, or our country, without taking into account the consequences of our decisions on the lives of others (be careful of buying those very cheap products made in countries where the rights of workers - children sometimes - are not respected!). We should "fast" from imposing our points of view on others without respecting the rights of the weakest, whether they are persons or countries. We should "fast" from using violence and work for peace and the peaceful solution to conflicts. We should "fast" from consumerism, living in a more sober, simple and austere way. We should "fast" from abusing nature as if it were only ours and not also of those who went before us and also the future generations. **THE RICH SHOULD LIVE MORE SIMPLY SO THAT THE POOR MAY SIMPLY LIVE.**

Some years ago, in a conference on population and development the countries of the Third World were accused of being poor because they have so many children. I recall the response of a group of African women. They manifested with a placard which read; "You ask us to have only one child, but you want two cars." Fasting means listening to others, and changing our lives!

The fasting that God wants should make us more and more active in

the struggle against poverty and more in favor of respecting human rights, peace, justice and the integrity of creation.

This, which sometimes seems so difficult, isn't if we really want to do something. In Cape May the Marianists - religious and lay - are working to help people through their programs to have more confidence in themselves and their capabilities (we should "fast" from the fatalism of saying "nothing can be done"); to be more in solidarity and think also of others. As one of their beautiful prayers says: "We can walk on the water." If we really want to, we can in fact even walk on the waters! (JA)

## 6° ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAMS:

Below is information from the International Center for Marianist Formation about upcoming programs that you are encouraged to consider:

**Spanish Speaking: For religious between the ages of 50 – 65. 4 August – 21 December 2005.** at the Center for Marianist Spirituality, El Escorial (Madrid) Spain.

**The aim:** prayerful reflection and sharing on the topics for this stage of life and to nourish for the years ahead.

**The approach:** time for personal and group prayer; conferences in the morning, the afternoons are free for personal work; Sundays are free. There is a retreat at the end of the program. There will also be a pilgrimage to the Marianist places of origin (e.g. Bordeaux) and cultural opportunities on free days. A pilgrimage to the Holy Land as part of the program.

The topics treated include relevant issues e.g.: biblical themes, communication and interpersonal relationships, spirituality, Mary, contemporary religious life, sexuality and celibacy, Jesus, self-awareness, solidarity, etc.

**Marianists will be part of the staff for certain sessions that will involve Marianist topics e.g. the Rule**

**of Life and the Letters of the Founder.**

To learn more about this special opportunity, please contact your Unit Superior or Brother Tom Giardino, SM of the International Center for Marianist Formation ([tom.giardino@udayton.edu](mailto:tom.giardino@udayton.edu)). Participation will need to be approved by your Unit Administration.

**French-Speaking: For religious between the ages of 60 – 79. 5 September – 14 November 2005** at the Center for Marianist Spirituality, Manziana, Italy (about 1 ½ hours outside of Rome).

The aim and the approach of this program are similar to that mentioned above, though with topics particular to this age group. This program also includes a pilgrimage to Marianist sites in France and Spain. Again, please contact your Unit Superior or Brother Tom Giardino.

There will be no English-speaking programs in 2005. They will begin again in 2006. (TG)

## 7° PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The following Personnel changes, corrections or additions have taken place recently. These are changes to the **2004-2005 International Personnel** listings:

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