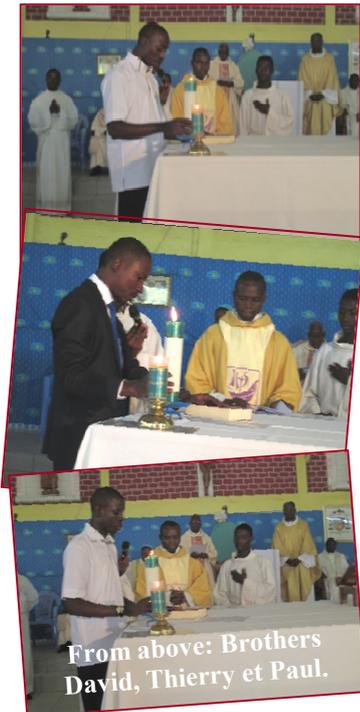


Via Latina 22



News From the General Administration - Society of Mary

PROFESSIONS IN TWO REGIONS OF AFRICA # 235 - Aug 2014



From above: Brothers David, Thierry et Paul.

The Marianist Region of Togo celebrated the perpetual profession of Bro. Thierry Tchamie Kadja on Saturday, July 12, 2014 at the Cathedral in Kara. At this same celebration, two new Brothers made their first vows, Bro. David Simtcha Kokoma and Bro. Paul Gnô Solima Ela N'Dakpazé. The celebration began about 9:00

a.m. with a procession. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Ignace Pagnan, Regional of Togo, with about ten concelebrants, including the Vicar General of the diocese of Kara who represented the Bishop. At the beginning of this grand celebration, the Vicar General, Fr. Innocent, delivered a welcome message testifying to the high appreciation for the Marianists in the diocese. After this message, the moment came for the dialogue between the Regional and these young religious, in which they expressed their desire and their will to take their vows in the Society of Mary.

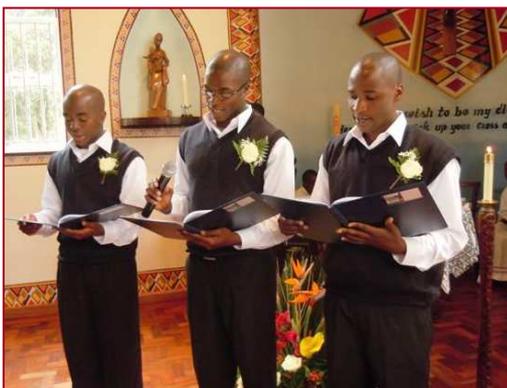


Kondwani Chimpikizo (from Malawi), Elvis Mwewa (from Zambia), and Joel Kaira (from Malawi) made their first profession of vows in the Society of Mary at the Marianist Novitiate in Limuru, Kenya, on July 12, 2014. Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM, Regional Superior, was the celebrant of the Eucharist and homilist; he also received the vows and was assisted by Brother Valentine Chola, SM, member of the Regional Council. Sr. Franca Zonta, FMI, Superior General of the Marianist Sisters, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, was also present on a visit to the region. The

newly professed have been assigned to communities and works in the Region. Kondwani Chimpikizo to the Faustino Aspirancy Formation Community in Lusaka, Zambia; Elvis Mwewa to the Davis House Community in Nairobi, Kenya with ministry at Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School; Joel Kaira to the Mombasa Community in Mombasa, Kenya with ministry at the Marianist Development Project.



L-R: Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, Brothers Chola Mulenga, Elvis Mwewa, Joel Kaira, Sr. Franca Zonta, FMI, Bro. Kondwani Chimpikizo. Photo courtesy Bro. Patrice Kagai, SM



Bros Joel Kaira, Elvis Mwewa, Kondwani Chimpikizo, addressing the community during the vow ceremony. Photo courtesy of Bro. Timothy Phillips, SM

TWO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF FORMATION

In response to a request of the General Chapter (*To Enliven the Fire*, 38b) three international meetings about formation have been organized by the General Council. Two of them just took place in Rome, at our Generalate. The English-speaking group (July 7-17, 2014) included 34 participants coming from the Units of Eastern Africa, India, Meribah, the USA, Korea, Japan and Austria. The French-speaking group (July 21-31, 2014) gathered 26 participants coming from the Units of Canada, Congo, Ivory Coast, Togo, France and Italy. These two meetings were led by a committee of four religious (André Fé-

tis and Maximin Magnan from the General Administration, David Fleming and Jomo Mwaura, both of whom are presently novice-masters). The presence of the whole General Council also underlined the importance of these meetings, along with the contribution of a representative of the General Council of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate in each meeting: Sister Susanna Kim (General Assistant for Religious Life) for the first meeting and Sister Ana Lúcia de Góes (General Assistant for Education) for the second. During these ten-day sessions, presentations made by participants alternated in a rather intense rhythm with

times for dialogue in the general Assembly or in smaller groups representing either the various areas of responsibility (vocations, prenovitiate, novitiate, council members....) or various Units of the Society.

A special hallmark of these seminars is the fact that, probably for the first time, the Assistants for Instruction and Religious Life of the different Units also took part in a meeting about formation. The objective was to undergird strong collaboration between the Unit Assistants and the formators and to underline the coherence between formation and active community life.



The presentation of Fr. Manuel Cortés for the EN speaking group.



The EN speaking group in front of the G.A. fountain, Rome.

Presentations and sharings were rich, allowing participants to reflect on the *Guide for Formation in the Society of Mary*. Among special emphases we note: coherence and continuity



The FR speaking group in front of the *Madonnina*, Rome.

in the formation process, especially through collaboration among formators themselves and with their Unit Councils; a solid discernment of vocation at each step of the process, particularly regarding each one's orientation as a brother or a priest; the concern that each step of formation should accomplish its task fully; the choice and preparation of formators; an emphasis on continuity between the dynamism of initial formation and ongoing formation; the creation or strengthening of a culture of formation in each Unit...

We also reflected on certain challenges of the present time for our religious life, particularly on the use of new means of communication and on the call for commitment to justice in the world.

We found time to experience intercultural community and prayer. A day of relaxation allowed everyone to marvel at the beauty of Orvieto and Bolsena, meditating on the rich Eucharistic teaching linked to these towns – a teaching which lies at the origin of our feast of Corpus Christi. One group also had the privilege to celebrate Mass at the tomb of the apostle St. Peter.



The FR speaking group during a working session.

A third group, Spanish-speaking, will meet in Bogotá, Colombia, next January 12-22, 2015. That will bring this first step of reflection on formation to an end. But in each Unit the lasting results of these meetings will be perceptible, for the good of formation in the whole Society.

Many thanks to all who took part in these meetings!

