

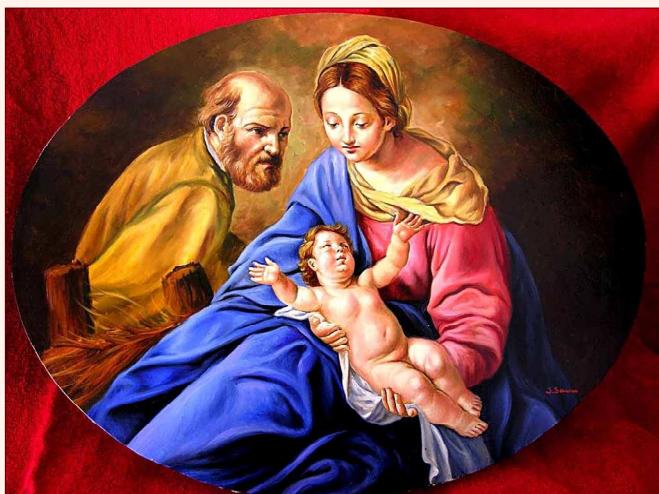


Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary



256 - Dec 2016



THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
AND THE CHAMINADE SEMINARY
WISH ALL BROTHERS AND
SISTERS, COLLABORATORS
AND FAMILIES,
A HOLY CHRISTMAS AND
A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

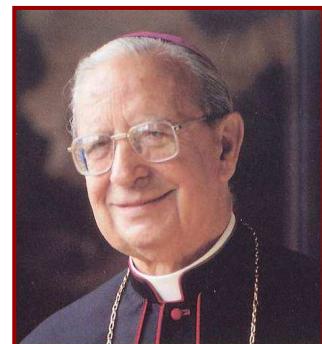
TWO MARIANIST ALUMNI DECLARED BLESSED



Fr. Stefano Kurti

On Saturday, November 5, in Scutari, Albania, Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided over the ceremony of beatification of 38 martyrs, victims of the former Communist regime in that country. Among them was Fr. Stefano Kurti, an alumnus of the Marianist Collegio Santa Maria in Rome. Born in Ferizaj (Kosovo) in 1898, he studied at Santa Maria in grade and high school. Upon his ordination to the priesthood in 1922, he was assigned as a parish priest in Kosovo and in 1930 moved to Tirana, the capital of Albania. He was arrested on October 28, 1946. He was freed, but after several subsequent arrests, he was shot on June 11, 1970.

With Father Kurti, there are now two Marianist alumni who have been beatified. Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, Prelate of the Opus Dei (successor of the founder, St. Josemaría Escrivá), was born in Madrid in 1914. After earning his *Bachillerato* (high school diploma) at the Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Pilar in Madrid, he entered the School of Highway Engineering. In 1935 he joined Opus Dei and in 1944 was ordained priest, celebrating his First Mass in the Neo-Gothic chapel of the Colegio del Pilar. He was Prelate of Opus Dei from 1982 and a bishop since 1991. He died in Rome in 1994. Declared Venerable in 2012, he was beatified two years later in Madrid on September 27, 2014.



Mons. Álvaro
del Portillo



THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY MEETS IN ROME

The charism received through the inspiration of our Founders is lived through a diversity of vocations within the Marianist Family. In addition to the institutes of religious life, the FMI and SM, Marianist Lay Communities (MLC) and the consecrated members of the Alliance Mariale round out the four branches.

Most years, during the month of November, the leadership councils of each of these branches gather for three days of common meetings. They constitute the *World Council of the Marianist Family*. Part of the meeting is for sharing news from each branch. In addition, a good bit of time is given to planning common efforts such as the World Day of Marianist Prayer (October), and the Patronal Feast of the Marianist Vocation (March). Finally, the Council endeavors to support each branch in living and deepening its Marianist vocation, according to the particular mode of that branch.



The Alliance Mariale and the International Team for the Marianist Lay Communities take advantage of this gathering in Rome to hold their own meetings before and after those of the World Council. All the days of their presence among us at Via Latina, and joined by the General Council of the FMI, we enjoy wonder conviviality. This year, we were particularly grateful to have with us, for the first time, the entire Council of the Alliance Mariale. The international Superior has been a regular participant, but this year she was joined by councilors from Ecuador, Canada, Ivory Coast and the assessor, Fr. Jean-Edouard Gatuingt, SM, superior of the Marianist Community at the Madeleine in Bordeaux. Here we will not offer a summary of the meeting, since this will soon be provided in a separate publication. We encourage you, however, to read this summary carefully, as well as the forthcoming Christmas message.





MEETING OF EUROPEAN BROTHERS AT LOURDES, FRANCE

About 110 brothers met at Lourdes from the evening of Saturday, October 29, to the morning of Tuesday, November 1, for the European Marianist Assembly. That assembly had been called by the superiors of the European Units as an opportunity to strengthen the bonds among the brothers through better mutual acquaintance, giving them at the same time the chance to grow in their feeling of belonging to Marianist Europe. Thanks to the meeting, it becomes easier and more natural to foresee collaborative projects among the Units and to develop the dynamic of restructuration set in action by the General Leadership Assembly of July 2015.

All the European Units were represented: Austria, Spain, France, Italy, and Switzerland; the entire General Council was present, along with the Secretary General, Fr. Romolo Proietti Segnalini. The new President of the Zone, Bro. Jean-Marie Leclerc, currently Assistant Provincial of France, coordinated the assembly with the assistance of a committee of brothers from the different Units.

Besides the times of celebrations, prayer, presentations, the dialogues in small groups fostered conversations among the brothers from the various Units. Three moments from Mary's life provided orientations for the reflections: the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the Wedding Feast of Cana, stressing Mary's attitudes: openness to encounter, service, and fraternal love. A logo expressed the richness of the meeting: a heart for each Unit, hands outstretched for giving and receiving, and the Marianist cross for the charism that brings us together at the heart of our European diversity.

Exceptionally beautiful weather and the inspiring atmosphere of this great Marian pilgrimage site made the experience a great success. The meeting was a beautiful sign of hope for Marianist life in Europe and beyond. The brothers are already looking forward to other meetings of this type, which will probably be scheduled every three years, as well as to other more informal get-togethers according to the local possibilities of the communities that are geographically closer.





THE CAUSE OF FR. DOMINGO LÁZARO



On Thursday, November 30, the meeting of the theologians for the study of the *Positio* on the reputation for holiness and virtues of the Servant of God, Domingo Lázaro Castro, SM (1877-1935), took place in Rome. Father Domingo was the first Spaniard to be named a Marianist provincial (1916-1924); He bought the magnificent Neo-Gothic building that became the Colegio de N.S. del Pilar in Madrid (1921), and pushed it to its highest educational prestige. He was the founder of the Federation of Friends of Education (1930 – the association of Catholic schools in Spain).

The theological censors have posed a series of problems for the cause concerning the spiritual personality and certain decisions taken by Father Lázaro while he was Provincial. The Postulator General must respond to those difficulties so that the Cause might continue in the normal processes of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

NEW RESOURCE ON MARIANIST HISTORY

To mark the Bicentennial of our foundations, on December 8, 2016, a new resource will be inaugurated under the rubric "resources" on the marianist.org website. It consists of more than 400 pages of maps, lists, statistics and general information about Marianist history.



This material was prepared over the past 20 years by Bro. Lawrence Cada and Carol Ramey (Director *emerita* of the North American Center of Marianist Studies - NACMS in Dayton). The material was developed for use in formation of SM and FMI novices. It will be useful for research and teaching anywhere about Marianist history and traditions.

It includes a "Wikipedia"-like set of entries to identify persons, places and concepts of key importance in our Marianist heritage.

This material is in English, but its lists and maps should be helpful even for those who have difficulty reading English, and users of other languages are welcome to translate these materials.

Over time, more material on Marianist history can be added to this resource, which is being managed by Fr. David Fleming. Many thanks to Bro. Larry Cada, to Carol Ramey, and to the NACMS staff for their work in making this material available.



REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Prayer to Blessed Chaminade is requested for the healing of Mrs. Margaret Perez, who is suffering from an advanced case of leukemia. Margaret worked for 20 years in baptismal ministry with the Marianists in San Antonio (USA). The intention is proposed by Bro. Edward Loch, SM.



FR. MANUEL CORTÉS, SM, SUPERIOR GENERAL, MEETS POPE FRANCIS IN ROME



Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, attended the recent meeting of the 88th General Assembly of the Union of Superiors General.

The meeting was held from November 23 to 25 and the theme was “go and bear fruit. The fruitfulness of the prophecy.”

With the other 139 superiors, Fr. Manuel had the privilege of meeting with Pope Francis on Friday, November 25, 2016, at the *Aula Nuova del Sinodo*, in Rome.

BRIEF NEWS OF THE GUESTS OF THE G.A.

- Nov. 22-27: Fr. Javier de Aguirre, as new Regional Superior of Argentina, met the General Council.
- Nov. 26-30: Fr. Martin Solma, Provincial Superior of the USA, and Bro. Tom Giardino, his Assistant for Education, were in Rome for meetings with the General Council.

ADDRESS CHANGES

- Bro. Herbert Dreiling (OE): dreiling@mariannisten.at
- Fr. Marcel Boisselier (FR): marcelboisselier@yahoo.com
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G.A. CALENDAR

- **December 1 - 11:** Entire General Council visits the Region of Austria-Germany .

G.A. COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SENT

- **Death Notices:** # 28.
- **Nov. 9:** *Request of info regarding the Directory of Marianist Educational Works 2016-2017*, in all three languages, sent to all SM Assistants of Education (except Latin America), by the General Assistant of Education, Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM.
- **Nov. 23:** *Reminder - Marianist Apostolic Works* (three languages) sent to all Assistants of Education and Superiors, by Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM.

