

# Via Latina 22



# 268 - Feb. 2018

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary

## PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS IN IVORY COAST

On Saturday January 20 in the parish of *Notre Dame d'Afrique de Biétry*, Abidjan, the District of Ivory Coast celebrated the perpetual professions of Bros. Djédjé Yves Agbadou, SM, Dié Kissi Guy-Frédéric Kouamé, SM, and Claudel Noël, SM.

The ceremony began with a procession of the professed, accompanied by their parents, a symbolic way to show that the parents willingly offer their son in faith to the Lord.

The ceremony was graced with dialogues between the Apostolic Nuncio and the professed, between the District Superior and the professed, the brothers manifesting their will and their faith, their abnegation of self before God in a prostration that expressed their complete availability to the divine call, and then the reception of their perpetual vows by the District Superior, Fr. Georges Gbeze, SM.



L-R: Bros Noël, Kouamé and Agbadou.

## PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS IN CONGOS



Bro. Loubiya.

"This is the day that the Lord has made, a day of celebration and joy!"

Thus began the word of thanks of Bro. Messi Gatien Loubiya, SM, at the end of the celebration of the perpetual vows, presided over by His Excellency Archbishop Anatole Milandou of Brazzaville, on January 20 in the Moukondo parish church in Brazzaville.

Bro. Denis Shamashanga, SM, Coordinator of the Congo Sector, presented Brother Messi and asked Fr. Jean-Edouard Gatuingt, SM, Vice-Provincial of the Province of France, to receive his perpetual vows.

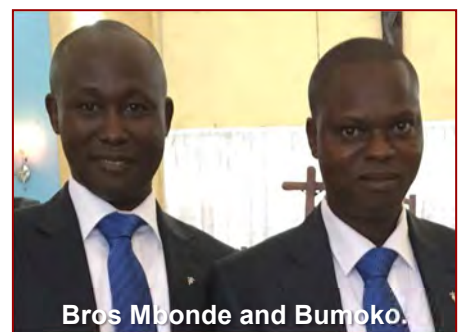
It was indeed joy and recollection that marked this beautiful and animated celebration with the rhythm of the singing and traditional Congolese music.

One week later, on January 27, the Sector of Congo celebrated with thanksgiving the perpetual vows of Bro. Christophe Mbonde, SM, and Pierrot Bumoko, SM, at the Saint Raphael parish in Kinshasa, staffed by the community of Limete in Kinshasa.

That celebration was presided over by His Excellency Bishop Donatien Bafwidinsoni, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa, and friend of the Marianists.

Bro. Denis Shamashanga, SM, Coordinator of the Congo Sector, by delegation of the Provincial Bro. Hervé Guillo du Bodan, SM, received the vows of Pierrot and Christophe.

We wish the Bros. Messi Gatien Loubiya, Christophe Mbonde and Pierrot Bumoko a beautiful, long and fruitful religious life in the Society of Mary of the Congo.



Bros Mbonde and Bumoko.

## CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF FR. JOSÉ MARÍA SALAVERRI

*His own words serve as his "Testament" during his funeral.*

On February 1, 2018, Fr. José María Salaverri, SM, eleventh Superior General, members of the Province of Spain, and devoted Servant of Mary, was called back to the House of the Lord. He was well aware that his physical state was deteriorating and was patiently awaiting a blessed reunion with our Founder, his beloved Faustino, confreres, friends and family, all of whom would be waiting to escort him into the arms of our Blessed Mother.



Shortly before he died, Fr. José María, a prolific letter-writer, penned a final letter, addressed to his community superior. In addition to giving some specific indications for his inevitable funeral, he took the opportunity to share some final thoughts with the superior. It was a beautiful letter, so characteristic of the faithful religious that he was. In fact, it is indeed a fitting Testament of his life and vocation. Fr. Manuel Cortés, Superior General, and spiritual son of Fr. Salaverri, presided at the funeral and community superior, Bro. Javier Pérez Valencia, SM, read this letter during the homily. We thought that, as a tribute to his service to the Society of Mary, we would share the letter with you as well.

*May the Lord welcome Fr. Jose María into paradise. May he serve as an intercessor for all Marianists and for our mission!*

To my community Superior

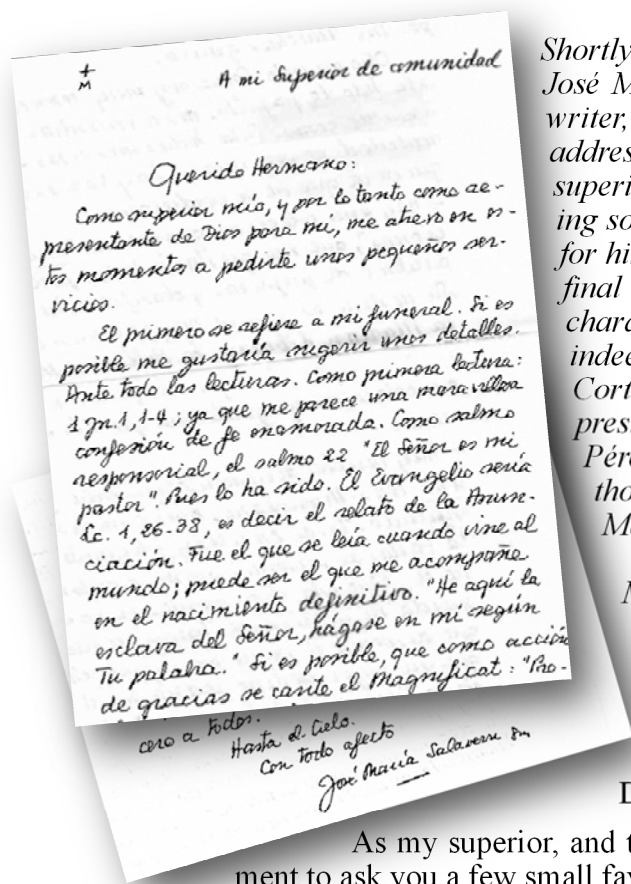
Dear Brother:

As my superior, and therefore as God's representative to me, I dare at this moment to ask you a few small favors.

The first one refers to my funeral. If possible I would like to suggest some details. First of all, the readings. As the first reading: 1 Jn 1:1-4; As it seems to me to be a wonderful confession of faith in love. For the Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 22 "The Lord is my Shepherd." Well, He was. The Gospel could be Lk 1:26-38, i.e. the story of the Annunciation. It was the one that was read when I came into the world\*; It shall be the one which accompanies me at my definitive birth. "Behold the Servant of the Lord, let be it done to me, according to your word." If possible, as an act of Thanksgiving, the Magnificat would be sung: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... for he has looked at his servant, in her lowliness" And, please, truly pray a lot for me. Many thanks.

I take this last opportunity to say "See you in Heaven!" to all the people who have somehow been linked to me during my pilgrimage on Earth: My brothers and sisters and my family, my brother and sister Marianists, my very dear friends, pupils, and so many people with whom I have had contacts, weather longstanding or simply passing...➔

\* Fr. Salaverri was born on March 25, 1926, the Feast of the Annunciation.





To all, I ask forgiveness if ever, for whatever reason, even unconsciously, I may have offended them, or if I have not been able to give them all that they could have expected of me as a person, as a religious or as a priest.



**11th Superior General  
1981-1991**

But let them know that I am very grateful for their presence in my life... for their attention to me, for their affection, for their friendship. I've always felt very loved by so many people. I'd like to have reciprocated in the same way. I have tried, of course, to love with all my heart, in the most complete way a virgin heart, consecrated to the Lord, can love. I will continue to love them – and now with a purified love, renewed and amplified by a God who is Love. And from heaven, if it is the Lord's will, I hope to help them until we meet again in our common Homeland.



**Assisting Fr. Manuel during the community Eucharist a few years ago.**

I also want to express my immense gratitude to the Lord for the gift of a religious vocation. It has been a splendid gift, not deserved, and a source of joy, not only spiritual, but also one filled with human fulfillment.

It occurs to me, finally, to express to all that it is, indeed, worthwhile to devote oneself to Mary. How wonderful the Lord has been in giving me, in giving us all, to his mother! I have tried – I think with all my strength – to know, love and serve her, and make her known, loved and served. She has been the star of my life; Her's, has been the force that has supplemented my weakness in difficult times; Her's, a loving presence that has pervaded my life. She has molded my personality; She has marked my relationship with others; She has taught me delicacy; She has helped me to love virginally. She has enlightened me to love the Church passionately and unconditionally, of which I have always sought to be a faithful son. She has taught me to respect and love, with lucid and faithful love, the Successor of Peter, all the popes of my life. Yes, I am happy and proud to have I been a son of Mary and the Church.

By chance, even better, let's say by His Providence, I went to a religious congregation dedicated to Mary. In it I have tried to see myself as, and be, a docile instrument in the hands of the Virgin.

I've loved the Society of Mary, sometimes painfully. I would like to see in it a more austere personal and communal life; Greater fidelity to the teachings of the Church; More "piety" in the life of prayer; A presence of Mary, deep, yes, but also simple... Simplicity has been a characteristic virtue of the Society, and should not be lacking...

I will be told, and rightly so, that much of it was in my hands, since I have had positions of the utmost responsibility in the Society. It is true, and that is why I assume that part of the responsibility that falls to me, and I hope that the Lord will take more account of my great desires, than my feeble achievements.

But, I see I've gone beyond the thoughts I had intended to express.

I end with a joyful and sincere thanks to all.

See you in Heaven!

With all affection *José María Salaverri*



**Fr. Salaverri's sister, an Ursuline sister, read the First Reading. His other sister, brother, and sister-in-law were also in attendance**

## ORDINATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD IN INDIA



**L-R: (front row) Frs. Sebastian Bara, SM, and Raj Mohan, SM, with the bishop; (second row) Fr. Jinu Muthukattil, SM, District Assistant of Religious Life, and Fr. Sudhir Kujur, SM, District Superior.**

**H**is Excellency Bishop Telesphore Bilung ordained Deacons Raj Mohan, SM, and Sebastian Bara, SM, to the priesthood at Nirmal Deep, Ranchi, India, on January 28. The ordination ceremony was done with the most respect and reverence. Fr. James Dungdung, SM, and the aspirants made the whole ceremony prayerful through their melodious voices. The District Administration is grateful to Fr. Arul Raj, SM, and the Nirmal Deep Community Brothers for organizing the ordination celebration and hosting all the guests. The newly ordained brothers will celebrate their first Mass in their home parishes.

Congratulations and best wishes to these brothers as they begin priestly ministry in the Society of Mary.

## DIACONAL ORDINATIONS IN ROME

**F**our Marianist seminarians, Suman Dungdung, SM (India), Daniel Griffin, SM (Meribah), Romuald Nlumbu Mfumu, SM (France-Congo), and Oscar Salazar, SM (Colombia) were ordained deacons on Saturday afternoon, January 13, by Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria, S.J., Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Pillar at the Marianist General Curia.

Archbishop Ladaria, for many years a professor at the Gregorian University in Rome, where he taught many Marianist seminarians, has a great affection and sympathy for the Chaminade International Seminary at Via Latina 22, and is often called upon to preside over the diaconal ordinations.

Thanks to the presence and collaboration of numerous friends of the ordinands, their compatriots, family members, study companions, Marianist religious and representatives of the Marianist Lay Communities of Rome, as well as the employees of the Curia, each year a climate of fraternity and joy is created during the liturgical celebration and the subsequent refreshments. We congratulate Suman, Daniel, Romuald and Oscar for their diaconal ordination and we pray for them on their way to the priesthood.



**L-R: Bros Oscar, Romuald, Suman and Daniel with the bishop.**



## SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SESSIONS FOR RELIGIOUS OVER 65 (in *ENGLISH LANGUAGE* or *SPANISH LANGUAGE*)



**English language meeting of 2017 in Rome.  
Among the Marist Brothers, (from right to left)  
Fr. Christian Janson, SM & Fr José Ramirez, SM (Chaplain).**

Manziana: For the Marist Brothers, and for a growing number of Marianists since 2003, this name means a session of spiritual renewal for religious over 65 years old. We are quite numerous in this category in the Society of Mary, all likely to be interested in this program.

Manziana is the site of most of the sessions: a village north of Rome where the house of the Marist Brothers is located. Address: Fratelli Maristi, Manziana, Italy.

Manziana 2018: the session in English takes place

from October 8 to December 8 (arrive in Rome at Via Latina one or two days before). The director of this session will be Brother John Klein, American Marist.

An equivalent session in Spanish, AMANECER, will take place from September 1 to October 31, 2018, in Rome.

The Manziana/Rome programs are for the participants a renewing of the course of their lives, in a climate of thanksgiving and great fraternity. It is also an opportunity to consider how to better live one's mission in the years to come, with the opportunities and limits of advancing age.

These sessions always involve a pilgrimage of the religious to the well-springs of their Charism: for the Marists, to the region of Lyon, for the Marianists, to Bordeaux, Périgueux, Agen, Spain ... This means that one must be in sufficient physical form for participation in these trips. The Manziana program supposes, in fact, relatively good health.

For a more complete documentation, Marianist religious interested in this proposal may contact me at: [robert.witwicki@gmail.com](mailto:robert.witwicki@gmail.com) or [cfmcoordonateur@gmail.com](mailto:cfmcoordonateur@gmail.com). With the approval of their Superiors, they will then be able to register for the session, following the procedure that I will communicate to them.

For your good and that of the Society of Mary, my fraternal greetings to my confreres of the Third Age!

*Robert Witwicki, SM - Coordinator, Centers for Marianist Studies*

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## G.A. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Death Notices: # 1-4.**
- **Jan. 10: *Bulletin#2***, in all three languages, sent to all Units Superiors, from the Preparatory Commission of the XXXV General Chapter 2018.
- **Jan. 17: *3 Offices (#148) and the handbook for the animation of Zonal Centers for Marianist Studies***, in all three languages, sent to all Units Superiors, Zonal Presidents, Directors of Marianist Study Centers, from the General Assistant of the Religious Life, Fr. André Fétis, SM.
- **Jan. 25 (EN), 26 (FR) & 29 (SP): *Via Latina 22#267-Special issue***, in three languages, to all Superiors of Units, from the Secretariat of the General Administration.
- **Jan. 31: *Communication#2 - Lineamenta and the Reports of the General Administration (plus appendix of the Office of Education)***, in three languages, to all participants of the XXXV General Chapter, and to all Superiors of Units, from the Preparatory Commission of the XXXV General Chapter 2018. Notice that the same documents will also follow by regular mailing.
- **Feb. 2: *Financial Documents***, in three languages, to all Unit Administrations, from the General Assistant for Temporalities, Bro. Michael McAward, SM.
- **Feb. 5: *3Offices#149 - Solidarity and Formation Fund Grants 2018***, in three languages, to all members of the SM, from the General Assistant for Temporalities, Bro. Michael McAward, SM.

