

Via Latina 22



News From the General Administration - Society of Mary

269 - March 2018



*On the occasion of Easter Sunday, 2018,
Via Latina 22 sends to its readers our
warmest greetings with a prayer that the
Risen Lord bring Peace to all peoples
around the world.*

TWO FORMER STUDENTS, MONKS OF THIBIRINE, TO BE BEATIFIED

In January, Pope Francis authorized the signing of the beatification decree of 19 martyrs of Algeria. They died in 1994, 1995 and 1996. The group includes one bishop (from Oran), 6 sisters and 12 male religious including 4 brothers; they are from 7 different congregations. Among them are the 7 Trappist monks of Thibirine, made famous by the movie *Of Gods and Men*.

Remarkably, two of the Trappists are our alumni.



Fr. Christian de Chergé, Prior, student of the Collège Sainte-Marie de Monceau in Paris.



Born in 1937, he was attended our school in Paris from 1947 to 1954, the school which was later transferred to Antony. He was a brilliant student, accumulating prizes and awards. He became a Trappist in France, then was sent to Algeria, to Thibirine, where he was elected Prior, a charge he kept until his death. Of a fiery temperament, extremely intelligent, he revealed in his life and his writings an insatiable quest for the God present within us and in our brothers. He wrote in 1983: "Christians and Muslims, we urgently need to enter into mutual mercy ... Our paths converge when the same thirst attracts us to the same well. ... The world would be less of a desert if we could recognize a common vocation, that of multiplying in passing the fountains of mercy."

A few days after their death, a Mass was celebrated in memory of the monks in the chapel of the school in Antony, June 23, 1996. The mother and the brother of Father Christian participated, and the family has kept its ties with us until today. ►

Fr. Bruno Lemarchand, student at Collège Fénelon, La Rochelle.



He himself said: "I attended the Marianist school in La Rochelle throughout my high school." Before becoming a monk at age 51, he worked for 24 years as a teacher and director in a school.

As a monk, he impressed others with his love of silence and his humility. He wrote of himself "... full of the desire to follow ... Mary and Joseph in their hidden life in Nazareth with Jesus, a life of contemplation of the Lord and of humble service to our brothers."

He also confided this moving testimony: "In La Rochelle [in the college of the brothers], the image of the Virgin Mary dominated the whole chapel and around that image it read: "May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified

in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary." I keep saying that several times a day. "

The 19 martyrs died in fidelity to their vocation, to God, and to their desire to stay in the midst of their Algerian brothers who also had so many victims in that period. Fathers Bruno and Christian were, in part, the fruit of the graces received during their education with our brothers. Let us give thanks to God, let us make known their beautiful witness and entrust ourselves to their intercession along with the people and the Church of Algeria.

† FATHER JAN KOWALSKI, REST IN PEACE.

Fr. Jan Kowalski, a Marianist Affiliate, died at the age of 88 on Ash Wednesday, February 14, in Czestochowa, Poland. A deep and sincere friend of the Marianists, he was one of those responsible, generously helping us, for our foundation in Poland. Father Emilio Cárdenas, SM, who attended his funeral, sent us the following biographical note:



Father Kowalski (1930-2018) entered the seminary of the diocese of Czestochowa in Krakow. Those were years of great difficulties and big challenges for Poland and for the Polish Church. He was ordained in 1954. After some years of pastoral work he continued his studies at the Catholic University of Lublin, finishing his doctorate in moral theology in 1967. The following four years (1968-1971) he spent studying in Fribourg, living in our Regina Mundi Seminary, where he met many Marianists from throughout the Society who remember him with affection and admiration. He learned French and German very well, which served him for going deeper into the trends of postconciliar moral theology.

Returning to Poland he became a university professor of a very sound moral theology. In Krakow he was the successor of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla in the Chair of Moral Theology. He wrote a large number of specialized books and articles. He was close to the laity: he was a counselor of the Polish Association of Catholic Teachers and for 25 years a moderator of the Marian Sodality of Krakow. He was above all a teacher and spiritual father to many young priests and not a few lay people. He cared greatly about his studies and his vocational fidelity. He sent numerous students abroad, some of whom lived with the Marianists.

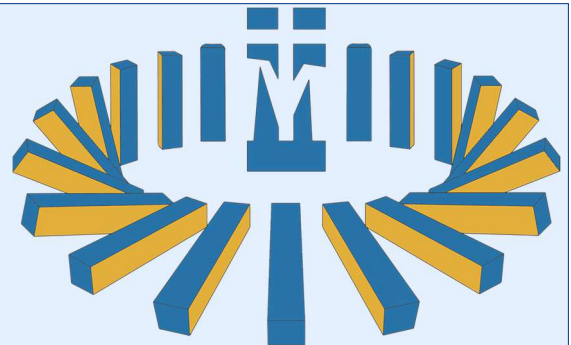
He was always closely linked to the Marianists, especially to our Swiss, Austrians and French brothers. He was affiliated through the General Administration in Rome. He empowered Marianist vocations. ►



He was a big help in our beginnings in Poland, in Czestochowa. He always had great respect for us. With admirable fidelity, he sent us his Christmas and Easter wishes every year in his own handwriting. He retired to the house for elderly priests in Czestochowa, where he died accompanied by the prayer and care of his former student priests.

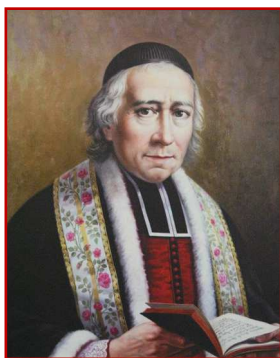
His funeral in Czestochowa was a manifestation of love, respect and gratitude. Two days later the burial took place in his native parish, Goleza, during which Archbishop Wacław Depo, among other recognitions, expressly thanked the Marianists publicly for the help and welcome we gave to Father Kowalski, especially during his studies in Fribourg. May he rest in peace.

You find all information regarding the XXXV General Chapter of the Society of Mary, including documents, bulletins and communications, in all three languages (French, English and Spanish) at: www.marianist.org



XXXV GENERAL CHAPTER
of the Society of Mary

July 8-29, 2018
Casa Generalizia
Via Latina 22, Rome



PRAYER INTENTIONS

We ask for a novena of prayer to Blessed Chaminade for the complete healing of young Ariel, 17 years old, former student of the Colegio Marianista Hermanos Amorós in Madrid. Ariel suffers from a brain tumor; he has already been operated on seven times, but the tumor returns. He has lost the vision of one eye and suffers severe head pains. The intention is proposed by Fr. Daniel Pajuelo, S.M. (Province of Spain).

ADDRESS CHANGES

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G.A. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Death Notices: # 5-7.**

