



VIA LATINA 22

298 - March 2021

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

Perpetual profession in Ivory Coast



L-R: Fr. François Nanan, SM, Fr. Georges Kouame Gbeze, SM, District Superior, Bro. Justin Gninlkan Mao Coulibaly, SM and Fr. Jean-Edouard Gatuingt, SM, Assistant Provincial of France.

On Sunday, January 31, 2021, Bro. Justin Gninlkan Mao Coulibaly, SM, pronounced

his perpetual vows in the Society of Mary (District of Ivory Coast). The celebration took place at the Parish of Notre Dame d'Afrique in Biétry-Abidjan (Ivory Coast). The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Jean-Edouard Gatuingt, SM, Assistant Provincial of France, delegate of the Provincial Superior to receive the vows. He was surrounded by several fellow Marianists, including the District Superior of the Ivory Coast, Fr. Georges Kouame Gbeze, SM.

At the end of the ceremony a warm and fraternal sharing took place with the parents, family and friends of the perpetually professed, in the premises of the College Notre Dame d'Afrique de Biétry.

The day was very pleasant and included the presence of the Marianist family, who were still excited about the celebrations of January 22nd, the feast of Blessed Chaminade. Everything took place in strict compliance with the measures required by the covid-19 pandemic

Perpetual profession in Eastern Africa

February 27, 2021 was a great day for the Religious of the Society of Mary in the Region of Eastern Africa. On that day, they had the joy of celebrating the perpetual profession of vows of Bro. Antony Owino, SM. The profession ceremony took place during a Eucharistic celebration at Matero Boys Chapel in Lusaka, Zambia. Marianist brothers and a few friends of the school and community attended the Mass and Profession.



L-R: Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM, Bro. Antony Owino, SM, and Fr. Bernard Ombina Lugutu, SM.

The current pandemic prevented the Brothers from inviting most of their friends and family members to join them in person for the Profession, thus making the ceremony more private and more solemn. The Mass however, was live-streamed on the Marianists Vocation Facebook page. In this way, a good number of people were able to watch and pray with Bro. Antony as he professed his vows.

Fr. Gabriel Kirangah. SM, the Regional Superior of the Region of Eastern Africa, presided at the Mass and gave the homily. He directed his words to the future work of Bro. Antony as he continues his journey in religious life.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, the few people in attendance, together with the Brothers present, shared some refreshments and congratulated Bro. Antony. This moment also provided Bro. Antony the opportunity to express his gratitude to the Brothers, his family and the many people that have played a vital role in his journey of Faith.

Appointement of the Regional Superior of Eastern Africa

Recently, the General Council conducted a consultation regarding the appointment of the next Regional Superior of the Region of Eastern Africa. Responses arrived from almost all members of the Region.

In its meeting of February 18, 2021, the Superior General, with the support of the General Council, appointed Father Stephen Wanyoike Mburu, SM, as the next Regional Superior of Eastern Africa. We are very grateful to Father Stephen for his willingness to serve the Region and the Society of Mary, as leader of the Region of Eastern Africa.



Father Stephen is born on April 25, 1973 in Kenya. He made his first vows on August 1, 1998 in Nairobi, Kenya. On January 22, 2005, he pronounced his perpetual vows. After three years at the Chaminade International Seminary in Rome, Italy, he was ordained marianist priest on October 24, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Father Steven will begin his first term of five years on May 23, 2021.

We would also like to thank Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM, and his Council for their years of service.

We deeply appreciate his generosity and dedication to the Region.



Meeting of the Superiors of the Africa Zone in Lomé - Togo

After several postponements and hesitations related to the health restrictions in force in the different countries, the meeting of the African Marianist Conference (CAM), initially scheduled for early November 2020, was able to take place, with its annual dialogue and exchange, in Lomé (Togo), from February 22 to 24, 2021. This meeting saw the effective participation of the four Unit Superiors of the Africa Zone, which includes the Regions of Eastern Africa and Togo, the District of Ivory Coast and the Sector of Congo.

In anticipation of the canonical visit of the General Council to the Region of Togo, scheduled from February 28 to March 21, Bro. Maximin Magnan, Assistant General for Education, arrived a week earlier, in order to be able to take part in this meeting and accompany the four superiors of these Units in their work.



L-R: Fr. Georges Gbeze, SM (IV), Bro. Denis Shamashanga, SM (CO), Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM (General Assistant), Fr. Jonas Kpatcha, SM (TO) and Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM (EA).

The synthesis drawn up by the Superior General at the end of the meeting, by video conference, of the Extended General Council of November 19 and 20, 2020, and sent to the Presidents of the Zones and the Superiors of Units was at the heart of the deliberations and consultations of the superiors during this meeting.

Starting next summer, the composition of this zonal conference will be greatly changed, because three quarters of the Unit Superiors will have finished their terms and will be replaced by other persons. The fruits of the present meeting, which focused on the collaborations that are underway in the area and that could evolve into "common projects", will therefore constitute, as a starting point, the work of the

new members of the CAM.

On the way to Easter with Faustino

On March 3, we remember, in a special way, Faustino's departure to Heaven. This remembrance gives us the opportunity to give thanks for this young man and to ask for his help in regaining some enthusiasm in these gloomy times. He knew how to be positive, with the Lord's help, even in difficult situations. "How wonderful is Christ! »

We propose, for your meditation, three attitudes of Faustino that can accompany us our journey towards Easter.

"NO" to criticism:

Faustino refused to criticize others and always found something to excuse their shortcomings, even if they had done something wrong. "If sometimes we talked about somebody and criticized them, he would become upset and say: 'Please don't be critical all the time, he probably has good qualities too.'"



A broad view of the world: Faustino was aware of what poor people in the world experienced. He saw how few young people loved Christ. He was interested in humble people and spoke with them. He and a friend helped a troubled youth.

A call to holiness:

"Holiness is a consequence of baptism; therefore we are all called to become saints. Lord, make us saints! »

"It's hard to become a saint, but we'll try, and maybe we'll succeed..."

Have a good journey to Easter!



First circular from Béatrice Leblanc, President of IO of MLC

Béatrice Leblanc has just written her first circular to the members of MLC. It is entitled: *Transformed and Transforming, Formation in Marianist Lay Communities*. We hope that it will be an opportunity for exchange, deepening and beautiful initiatives in community.

You may read or download the circular in various languages by clicking the links below.

[ENG](#) - [ESP](#) - [FR](#)

G.A. Communications recently sent.

- **Death Notices: N° 3**
- **Feb. 3: *General Leadership Assembly and the Meeting of the Superiors of the Young Units***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors, sent by Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General.
- **Feb. 3: *The Society of Mary – Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons, in three languages***, to the Unit Superiors and their Councils, sent by Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General.
- **Feb. 8: *Question about the Marianist Charisme***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors and Assistants for Religious Life, sent by the World Council of the Marianist Family.
- **Feb. 15: *Message for the Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by the World Council of the Marianist Family.

