



VIA LATINA 22

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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

Annual Visit to the International Seminary

The canonical visitation of the Chaminade International Seminary takes place every year. A commission formed by a member of the General Council and a Unit Superior conducts the visitation. This year's visit took place from April 7 - 10, 2021. The two visitors responsible for this year's visit were Father Iñaki Sarasua, SM, Provincial of the Province of Spain and Father Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life.

As happened last year, the visit of the Seminary took place this year under special circumstances, due to the difficulties still caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For these days of visitation, the visitors are welcomed into the Seminary community, they follow its schedule, eat and pray with members of the community. This year the visit took place during the week of the Easter holidays, which allowed the seminarians time for interviews and interaction with the visitors. During these holidays, the two communities of the Seminary and the General Administration share meals together.



In the first place in the center, Fr. Iñaki Sarasua, SM, Provincial of the Province of Spain and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life.

The members of the commission took the time to meet with each seminarian and with the members of the formation team. They received a warm welcome and were impressed by many aspects of their community life, including the Marianist and academic formation programs as well as the fraternal dynamics of the seminary community. This year's visit drew particular attention to the way the community took into account the comments and suggestions made during the 2020 visit. In addition, the visiting team noted the strengths and challenges of seminary life.

At the end of the visit, the commission shared the contents of the report with the General Council before bringing it to the attention of the entire seminary community, with whom it shared its observations and proposed suggestions for the future. All Unit Superiors of the Society received a copy of the official written report.

Appointments in the Provinces of Meribah and Spain

The General Council, in its meeting of 23 April 2021, after having examined the results of two consultations that had taken place in the previous weeks in the Provinces of Meribah and Spain, made two appointments.



Fr. Thomas Cardone, SM, has been appointed as Assistant Provincial of the Province of Meribah for a second term of three years, beginning on June 1, 2021. The members of the Province as well as the General Council greatly appreciate the work done in his first term.

Fr. Thomas has generously accepted this appointment.

Bro. Miguel Ángel Dieste, SM, has been re-appointed as Assistant Provincial of the Province of Spain for a second term of three years, beginning on August 15, 2021. He will continue to hold the position of Assistant for Education.

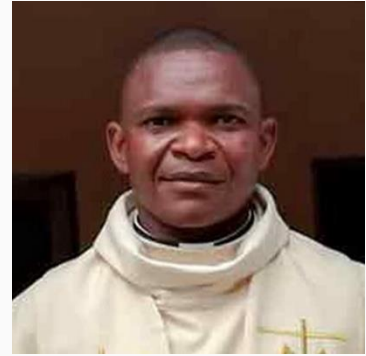
The support he received from the members of the Province in the consultation was very broad and the General Council thanks him for having accepted with great availability.



New Appointments in the Province of France

On April 3, 2021, the Provincial of France made new appointments at the head of the two African units under his authority.

In the Sector of Congo: Fr. Romuald N'Lumbu Mfunu, SM, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and currently vicar at the Parish of Saint Rita de Moukondo in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo, is appointed Coordinator to replace Bro. Denis Shamashanga, SM, who has completed his term of office.



In the District of Côte d'Ivoire: Fr. Noël Dominique Kouao Akobe, SM, who is currently completing a course of studies in Rome, Italy, is appointed Superior to replace Fr. Georges Gbeze Kouame, SM, also at the end of his mandate.

Both will begin their first term in August 2021.

Developing the Global Educational Pact



The global educational pact is underway. Following its effective launch on October 15, 2020, a roadmap was developed by the Union of Superiors General (UISG/USG) and the International Organization for Catholic Education (OIEC) to animate and assist Catholic educational institutions around the world in making this pact a reality.

The roadmap, which includes five actions, invites us to work, starting from the local level of each work and institution, in order to enter, in successive phases, into the construction of this alliance. A specific guide provides phase-by-phase guidance for this purpose. The Congregation for Catholic Education, which supports all these actions, is itself in the process of drafting a *Vademecum*, which will help to achieve a greater understanding and application of the seven commitments of the Pact. In the coming weeks and months, in consultation with the Assistants for Education of the

Units, all these questions should be addressed, in a very practical way, at the level of our works and institutions.

European Zone – Works concerning the Marianist Charism



The European Center for Marianist Studies consists of three sections: Rome, with AGMAR (Fr. Antonio Gascon, SM), Zaragoza (Fr. Rafa Iglesias, SM and Fr. Enrique Aguilera, SM) and Bordeaux (Fr. Robert Witwicki, SM). The center located in Abidjan also cooperates with the center in Bordeaux.

In addition, the CEM (European Marianist Commission) has encouraged the formation of a committed group of "experts" on our Charism. This group of about ten members was formed in Zaragoza on November 5, 2019; it is called GERME (Marianist Study

and Research Group of Europe). The pandemic has prevented the annual meeting of this group since that time. However, they were able to hold two video conferences: in October 2020 and in April 2021.

[For more information](#)

Statistics of our Educational Works 2020/ 2021

Despite COVID-19 and the constraints and difficulties it imposes on us on a daily basis, the work of our educational institutions is making progress. We warmly congratulate all the people involved. We thank them for making all these good things possible. The very complex COVID situation last year did not allow us to publish the statistics of our educational works. However, the collection of information is starting to be reliable once again. We are able to present you with a summary of the statistical data of our formal works of education, for the academic year 2020-2021.

As always, it is possible to obtain more information by downloading the complete pdf version of the Marianist Education Directory from our website: www.marianist.org. This pdf version, which is relatively public, does not show the personal data of individuals, except for the contact person of each institution. If necessary, the Assistants for Education of the Units know the parameters to access all the data of this Directory.

Unit	# of schools	# of Students	# of all Teachers	# of SM Teachers	# of Admin.	# of Consacra
Argentina	5	6714	844	6	25	6
Chile	6	6082	300	2	188	10
Colombia-Ecuador	2	3201	191	7	11	12
Eastern Africa	9	4120	222	20	36	37
España	18	23024	1590	18	138	64
France	10	11370	783	9	412	27
Côte d'Ivoire	2	2777	124	8	23	11
Italia	1	678	70	0	3	6
Japan	4	6753	485	1	63	10
Korea	1	538	46	1	5	4
Meribah	3	4706	272	25	33	31
Austria	3	2468	227	0	24	3
Peru	4	5571	409	0	80	5
Togo	3	1426	108	23	21	23
USA (non- University)	17	10956	912	8	384	27
USA (University)	3	17394	1075	12	617	35
USA (all)	20	28350	1987	20	1001	62
India	7	2944	138	30	18	31
SM TOTAL	98	110722	7796	170	2082	342

Observations:

1. Since the last statistics were published in 2019, three schools have opened: in Argentina, Brazil and Malawi. However, two schools had to close: in India and Colombia. Compared to 2018-2019, this represents one more school. Thus, the total number increases to 98.

2. The current 98 educational institutions have the following characteristics:

- 17 schools are single-sex, including 1 school in Eastern Africa that is all-girls;
- 81 schools are mixed (boys and girls);
- 40 schools provide pre-school education (Nursery and kindergarten);
- 54 schools provide primary education;
- 86 schools provide secondary education (Middle Schools and High Schools);
- 3 technical training schools ;
- 3 universities
- 25 boarding schools.

3. The total number of SM religious who teach is down by 35 members from two years ago (205 to 170).

On the Road towards Holiness



Mgr. Jacoupy, bishop of Agen (in the center), blessed Fr. Chaminade and M. Adèle.

How do we celebrate our Marianist saints and grow in our call to holiness? *Circular* No. 2 of the Superior General helps us to continue the journey of our vocation with our eyes fixed on Mary for whom the Annunciation, spontaneously and enthusiastically, brought about the Visitation. The image of walking captures the content of this circular. The Superior General points out that: "*Jesus himself does a lot of walking*" and adds that "*We are the disciples of a God who is always on our roads*". Fr. Chaminade's wish that we be "*the man who never dies*" is, in fact, that of being a *man on the move*, animated

by a desire to imitate Mary's Fiat. Let us remember this other sentence of the founder: *"We will have to go to the end of the world, if the good Lord calls us there."* Blessed Mother Adele speaks in a similar manner to her sisters: *"We would be glad to go to the farthest reaches of the world...to do his work."* A proverb even states: *"He who is used to walking gets tired if he sits down."* So let us continue the journey, certain that "Mary will never cease to visit us and all of humanity".

This walk, because it is done together in the Marianist Family and to the sound of the *Magnificat*, will be done, in spite of the fatigue of the journey, in joy and celebration. It will contribute in a special way to the proclaimed holiness of our Blessed Founders.

Request for Prayers



Prayers are requested for those of our brothers and sisters suffering from the COVID-19 virus. In particular, we commend to your prayers the members of the SM and FMI in India who have suffered the recent loss of Bro. Paulus Lakra and whose superiors, Fr. Sudhir and Sr. Tere, as well as other religious the Districts are still suffering from serious effects of infection. In addition, we ask you to remember Fr. Javier Nugent (PE) who is hospitalized in Lima where he is battling the virus. Let us remember all those who continue to suffer loss and difficulty as a result of the pandemic. Through the intercession of Blessed Chaminade may they find comfort, healing and recovery!

Novena of prayer to Venerable Faustino Pérez-Manglano (Marianist congregant), for the healing of Mrs. Maria, sick with an affection to the arm. *Intention proposed by the religious Bro. Hervé Guillo du Bodan, SM, (Provincial of France), and Bro. Dominique Michel, SM*

POSTPONEMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GOVERNMENT AND MEETING OF THE SUPERIORS OF THE YOUNG UNITS

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Council decided to postpone the General Government Assembly and the meeting of the Superiors of the developing Units for one year.

Previously scheduled for July 2021, the two meetings will not take place until one year later, in July 2022.

The precise information has been sent to the people concerned.

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: # 6-9.**
- **April 7: *Postponement of the General Leadership Assembly and Meeting of the Superiors of the Young Units***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors, sent by Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General.
- **April 8: *Circular #2 - Mary rose and went with haste into the hill country (Luke 1,39) - Led by Mary on the paths of praise and service***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General.
- **April 21: *THE UNIT CHAPTER- A Guidance Document -Specific standards for their performance during the time of Covid-19***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors and Presidents of Zonal Conferences, sent by Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General.
- **April 30: *Report on the visit to the Chaminade International Seminary***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors, sent by Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, General Assistant for Religious Life.