



VIA LATINA 22

303 - September-October 2021

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

First profession in the Region of Korea

On July 5th, 2021, Bro. John Shim, SM, made the first vows at Marianist Center of the region of Korea during the mass for the memorial of St. Andrew Kim, the first Korean priest, presided by Fr. Dominic Park, SM, Regional Superior.



Bro. John Shim, SM, surrounded by some members of the Korean Region after the celebration

Due to Covid-19, there were limitations in the number of people who could be present in the Marianist Center, but they were enough to represent the whole Korean Marianist family: Marianist laity, sisters and brothers. It was filled with the Holy Spirit, uniting the Marianist family.

Although Fr. Chris Wittmann, SM, the novice director, could not attend, his presence was felt through his message of blessing sent from the USA. As Fr. Chris Wittmann said in his message which was read by Fr. Dominic Park at the end of the Mass, the Korean Marianists quickly discovered that Bro. John was 'a faith-filled Catholic and a wonderful brother to live with in community'.

He is the second Korean Marianist religious to complete the novitiate program in the United States. Through his first vows, the future the region will become brighter.

Perpetual profession in the Region of Togo

On Saturday, September 11th, 2021, three brothers from the Region of Togo, David Simtcha BOKOMA, SM, Prosper Possobagnindou MEGUEMA, SM and David Bakolayida MIGNOUNA, SM, pronounced their perpetual vows in the Society of Mary at the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Niamtougou, in the Diocese of Kara. The Mass was presided over by the Regional Superior, Father Jonas KPATCHA, SM, surrounded by about twenty priests, in the presence of members of the Marianist family, consecrated persons, relatives and friends of the professed who came from everywhere.



L-R: Bros. David MIGNOUNA,SM, Prosper MEGUEMA,SM, and David BOKOMA,SM

The Regional Superior received the vows of the three brothers. In his homily, he indicated that: *"It is only those who have tasted the savor of the word of God [...] who make the adventure of religious life [...] One does not improvise oneself a son of Mary, friend of Jesus and servant of God."*

After the celebration, all the participants were invited to a wine reception.

Perpetual Profession in the Province of Spain

On September 12, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, our brother Wolph Paul, SM, made his perpetual profession in the Society of Mary. The beautiful and joyful celebration took place in the chapel of the Marianist school in Valencia, where Wolph has lived and collaborated for the past 8 years. He was accompanied by numerous Marianist religious from all over the Province, as well as many friends of the local Marianist Family, Marianist Sisters and members of the MLC. The celebration was recorded and broadcast live on the Internet, so that his family members from Haiti could join in.



Bro. Wolph Paul, SM, with the Provincial, Fr. Iñaki Sarasua, SM

Bro. Wolph was born in Haiti 36 years ago, where he professed his first vows in 2012. A year later, after the closing of the Marianist community in Haiti, he joined the Province of Spain, where he completed his formation process. At the beginning of the new school year, he was assigned to the Marianist community of Ciudad Real.

Perpetual Professions in the Province of Meribah

The Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, the patronal feast of the Society of Mary, has also been a traditional day for religious profession in the Society. This year, the Province of Meribah joyfully celebrated the perpetual profession of two members, Patrick Cahill, SM, and Andrew Santoriello, SM. The profession took place at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York. In attendance were the religious of the Province of Meribah, representatives of the Province of the USA, the FMI, the local diocese, as well as family and friends of our brothers. Among the nearly 180 people in the school's auditorium were many students and alumni from both Chaminade High School, where Andrew is a teacher and Kellenberg Memorial High School, where Patrick teaches. Many of these students were members of Sodality groups, or the Faustino Club, for those considering a religious vocation.



L-R: Bro. Timothy Driscoll, Provincial, Bro. Andrew Santoriello, Bro. Patrick Cahill, Fr. Thomas Cardone, Asst. Provincial.

The Mass, profession and reception which followed, was an opportunity to share and witness the family spirit that is so characteristic of the Marianist Charism. Also, as Brother Timothy Driscoll, SM, Provincial remarked in his introduction, the event was a great opportunity to witness and celebrate the gift of mixed composition that is so unique and important in the SM. He mentioned, with some humor, that despite the presence of a visiting archbishop, the diocesan bishop, many Marianist and diocesan priests, the perpetual vows of these brothers would be received by a lay religious, the provincial, in a sign of our common Marianist vocation and a testimony to the bonds of fraternal life we all share.

We wish Brothers Patrick and Andrew all God's blessings as they continue their ministry in the education of young people, and continue to grow in their vocations.

Priestly Ordination in the Province of Spain

On July 10, 2021, surrounded by light and sea, the priestly ordination of Alejandro Borrella Romero, SM, a religious of the Province of Spain, took place in Cadiz. The Bishop of the city, Rafael Zornoza, ordained Alejandro. The ceremony took place despite the obstacles caused by Covid and the necessity to wear masks



Fr. Alejandro Borrella, sm, receives the laying on of hands from Msgr. Zornoza

The first reading for the Mass recounted the vocation of Isaiah. The second reading contained the proclamation of Jesus Christ from the second letter to the Corinthians, like a treasure we carry in earthen vessels. The Gospel was the narration of the birth of Jesus according to St. Luke. Alexander chose these readings because he wanted to show his way of understanding the priestly ministry, which is: united to Mary, to bring Jesus into the world.

The Bishop, in a homily with abundant allusions to our charism (words of our Founder, some quotes from the General Chapter and the *Rule of Life*), offered concrete ways of incarnating Christ in the world: by faith and personal fidelity, by a profound experience of God; by preaching without adulterating the Word, and by serving God at all times, in the most needy, in the youth and in dialogue with the lay world and its culture. In short, it was a warm and simple moment of community and ecclesial encounter.

Priestly Ordination in Brazil (Province of Spain)

On July 31, 2021, the day of the liturgical memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Marianist community of Bauru, together with the Province of Spain, celebrated the priestly ordination of Fr. Victor Augusto Ferreira de Aguiar, SM, during the Eucharistic celebration held in the Parish of St. Sebastian in Bauru.



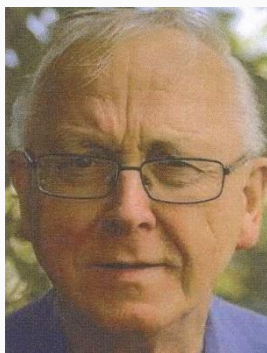
Fr. Victor Ferreira de Aguiar, SM, with Msgr. Ricci and surrounded by some members of the Marianist community of Bauru

Luiz Antonio Lopes Ricci, Bishop of Nova Friburgo, presided over the ceremony. He is a former priest of the clergy of Bauru, and a student of many of our brothers who were teaching in the seminary when he was a seminarian. Indeed, the Bishop is a very close friend of the Marianists of Brazil. Such familiarity could be felt throughout the homily and throughout the celebration. Traces of simplicity, gratitude and familiarity were evident during the ceremony. Frs. Javier Gonzalez, SM and Paco del Barrio, SM, concelebrated together with other members of the diocesan clergy and friends of Fr. Victor. Rogélio Núñez, SM, superior of the Bauru Community, made the call to ordination. Bro. Manuel Álvarez, SM, imposed the stole on the new priest.

The precautions in Bauru necessitated by Covid, led to a celebration restricted to people who were very close to Fr. Victor: relatives, friends and members of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Marianist Lay Communities of the three cities where they are present. The opportunity for many in the Marianist world to join in prayer virtually at this moment was possible through the valuable help of the technicians of the parish.

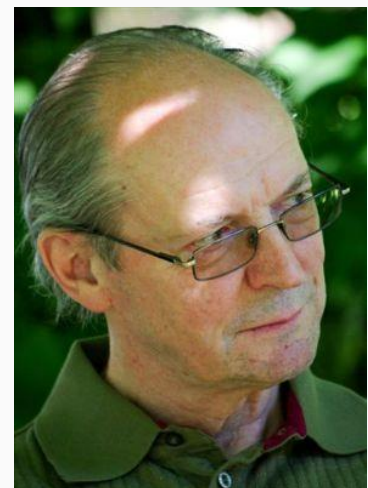
Fr. Leo Müller, SM, Appointed Director of the Area Community of Switzerland

The Director of the Area Community of Switzerland, Bro. Roland Gruber, SM, completed his second term on September 11, 2021.



Based on the opinion expressed by the brothers, the General Council has asked Fr. Leo Müller, SM, to accept this responsibility. Fr. Leo already has a long experience in government and he brings to this task all his human and spiritual qualities. We are very grateful to Fr. Leo for having accepted this responsibility with generosity and with the spirit of faith that characterizes him.

Our gratitude and that of the brothers is also addressed to Bro. Roland who has done an excellent job over the past six years. The Community is small but continues to offer a significant witness in Switzerland, our second place of foundation, even during the lifetime of the Founder. The links with the Region of Togo, founded by Switzerland more than sixty years ago, are today a strength and an encouragement: the seed sown has borne much fruit.



Others fruits will be given through fraternal life, the established links with Europe or those created with the Marianist Family. We pray for the intentions of the brothers and for Fr. Leo, newly appointed.

Fr. Florian Royer-Chabot, SM, appointed for a second term as Director of the Area Community of Canada

At the creation of the Area Community of Canada in October 2018, Fr. Florian Royer-Chabot was named its Director. He carried out his task with great care for the brothers and for the good of the community.



That is why the General Council wished to respond to the desire of the brothers by asking him to serve a second three-year term beginning October 2, 2021. We thank him for generously accepting the request to continue this mission. The brothers are very well known and appreciated by the local people, with whom they have forged many ties. The Alliance Mariale and the MLC are very committed and actively support the witness and presence of the brothers.

We assure Fr. Florian and all the brothers of our prayer and fraternal support.

Marianist World Day of Prayer *October 10, 2021*

Once again, Marianists from around the world will gather to pray, virtually or face-to-face, on the Marianist World Day of Prayer. This year's celebration will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2021. As usual, the prayer will spiritually unite Marianists of all branches, countries and cultures, invoking our Mother, Mary, to intercede for her children. Together we will invoke the tender care of Mary, under the name of Our Lady of Subukia, Nakuru-Kenya (Eastern Africa). The name refers to a particular devotion of the faithful of Subukia or Village of Mary, Mother of God in Kenya, where devotees have been gathering for decades to beg for peace, reconciliation and all kinds of healing.



You can find a brief summary of the very interesting history of the image and shrine of Our Lady of Subukia at www.marianist.org. It is quite a fascinating story showing the devotion and trust of a people placing themselves under the watchful and protective gaze of the Blessed Virgin. Subukia, a Maasai term (Kenya), which means “*high ground*,” describes its geography very well. It is a meeting point of two hemispheres where the prayerful atmosphere and serene nature foster a deep relationship with God.

This year, as we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has not yet stopped taking its toll. It is therefore only appropriate that the entire "Marianist world" unite in prayer, imploring the Virgin Mary to give them strength, hope and an end to this scourge. Let us join the Kenyan people, through the figure and tradition of Our Lady of Subukia, in this fervent prayer.

The website mentioned above offers some suggestions for celebrating this annual event. We encourage all our communities to mark this occasion in any way possible.

Even if it is not possible to meet physically with other communities or branches, we hope that you will unite spiritually, and even virtually, in prayer.

OUR LADY OF SUBUKIA, PRAY FOR US!

Unit Superiors' Online Meeting July 1-2, 2021

All the Unit Superiors of the Society of Mary and the Zonal Presidents met online with the General Council for a working meeting of two three-hour sessions on the first two days of July. The General Leadership Assembly, originally planned for this same period, had to be postponed to July 2022 because of Covid. The virtual meeting made it possible to work together on certain themes that could not wait another year or for which a preparatory reflection was welcome. Due to time zone issues, we scheduled one meeting each day with the three Asian Units and a second with the other superiors.



From the very beginning, our sharing allowed us to become aware of the very serious effects of the pandemic in our Units. We can be grateful to our superiors and to those in charge of the works for having exerted considerable effort to face this situation and to protect the religious and the people under our responsibility. Even if we have to deplore an already significant number of cases of illness and even death, it is nevertheless thanks to this action that we have avoided an even more serious situation. Great efforts have also been made to help vulnerable people in our various countries.

These three aspects remain relevant: protecting ourselves, adapting and helping the most vulnerable.



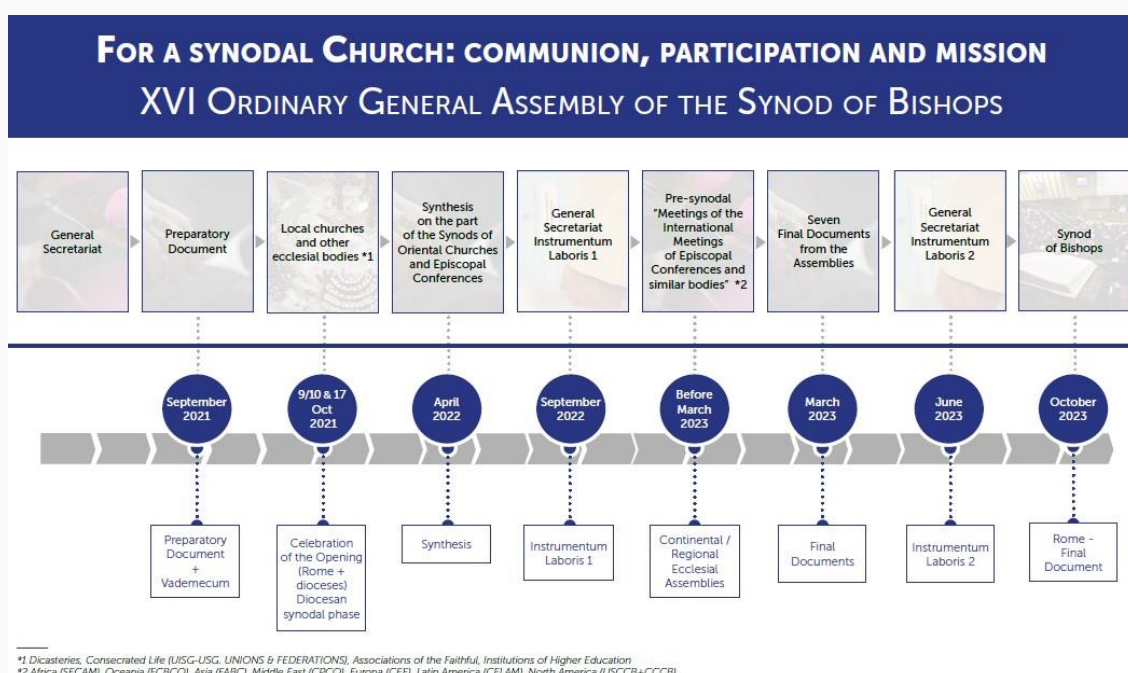
We also discussed and updated different topics that the Units, the Zones and the General Council have been working on in recent months. These topics are: the animation of Unit Chapters (the subject of a document prepared by the General Council and soon to be distributed); the policy of the Units concerning the protection of minors and vulnerable persons; the initial formation of the brothers and also the seminarians in the international seminary in Rome; the Global Educational Pact; various questions concerning the administration of the goods of the Units. We also briefly mentioned the situation of the community of La Madeleine in Bordeaux, which clearly needs the support of other Units, in order to keep this important charismatic place alive. Consequently, we proposed a way of being involved in this important task.

Despite the limitations of a virtual meeting, we were also able to see the value of this way of working to strengthen our international collaboration. Let us hope we can meet next year in Rome.

Preparation of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality (October 2021 - October 2023)

In two years, during October 2023, a Synod of Bishops will be held in Rome with the theme " *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*. This will be an important moment of reflection on the modes of government and decision making in the Church, a fundamental subject for the life and mission of the Church.

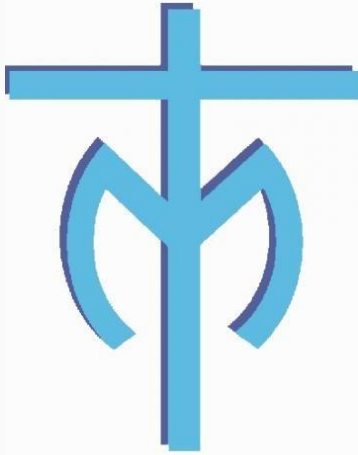
In keeping with the theme, but also because this was the practice of the last three synods, a broad period of reflection and consultation throughout the world will precede this synod. The preparation will itself be an experience of synodality. In the words of Pope Francis: "A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening "is more than simply hearing". It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth" (*Jn 14:17*), in order to know what he "says to the Churches" (*Rev 2:7*). (on 10/17/2015, for the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops).



The first phase runs from October 2021 to April 2022 and is dedicated to listening to the local churches and the various ecclesial realities that are part of the local churches. Consecrated life can contribute in different ways: through an official delegate in a diocese or through the voluntary participation of communities. The participation of those of us who have the possibility to do so is very desirable, as much to be enriched by this experience as to bring our contribution and that of the consecrated life into this reflection. A contribution as the Marianist Family can also be of great value. Let us therefore be attentive to the opportunities that will be offered to us locally to enter into this reflection ourselves. Let us pray for the successful preparation for this event. In addition, let us also pray that the Synod will bear abundant fruit for the Church.

Preparatory document for the Synod (6 languages) and Vademecum for participation (in English): https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/index.htm

Our COVID world



"Mary,
You always illuminate our path as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Protector of the Sick, who, at the Cross, shared in Jesus' pain while remaining firm in faith.

O loving Mother,
You know our needs and we are convinced that you will be there for us, as you were at Cana, in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, for those who have fallen ill from the Covid virus, for those who are vulnerable as well as for those who have passed away".
(Adapted from Pope Francis' prayer at the time of the pandemic)

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: N.18-21**
- **July 12: Various topics on formation in the SM**, in three languages, to Unit Councils, from the Assistant General for Religious Life, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM.
- **Sep. 6: Marianist Solidarity Fund (MSF) and Marianist Formation Fund (MFF) 2021**, in three languages, sent to Assistants for Temporalities, from the Assistant General for Temporalities, Bro. Michael McAward, SM.
- **Sep.6: Marianist World Day of Prayer - October 10 2021**, in three languages, to all the Marianist Family, from the World Council of the Marianist Family
- **Sep. 9: Various formation topics: information and consultations**, in three languages, to Assistants for Religious Life, from the Assistant General for Religious Life, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM.
- **Sep. 17: Virtue, Integrity and Holiness General Policy Template for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults**, in three languages, to Unit Superiors and Assistants for Religious Life, from the General Council

Changes of adresses

All new emails will be included in
the next issue of International Personnel 2021-2022 (# 76), coming soon.