



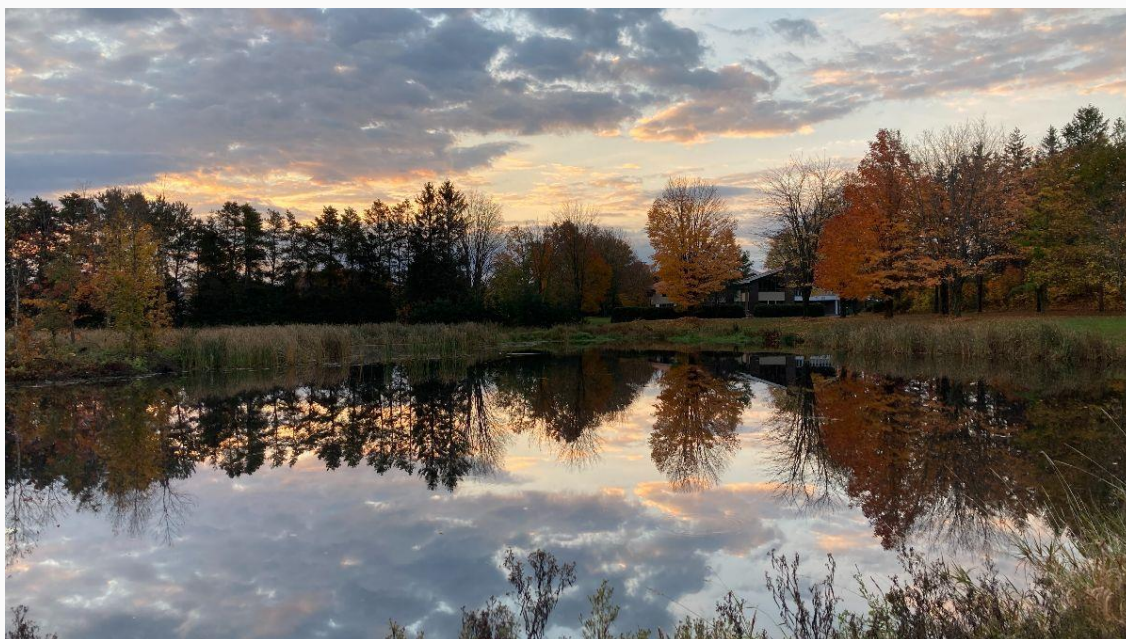
VIA LATINA 22

305 - December 2021

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

Visit to Canada

Fr. André Fétis, SM, Superior General, accompanied by the Assistants for Education and Religious Life (Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM), visited the Area Community of Canada from October 18 to 25, 2021.



View of the St-Anselme community house

The three members of the Council were welcomed to the community of St. Anselme, in southern Quebec. They also visited the four brothers who are in nursing homes due to their health situation. One of them, Fr. François

Boissonneault, SM, died just a few weeks after the end of the visit. They also spent two days with the two brothers who live and work in the community of St-Augustin.

The Council spent an intense day visiting the Centre Marianiste de St-Henri, a retreat and formation center run by lay Marianists supported by some of the brothers.



Members of the Area Community of Canada with General Council members

On October 22, they were able to have the Assembly of the Canadian Area Community, which had not been able to meet for many months due to the pandemic. It was a day of gathering for all the members of the Area Community. It was also a day of sharing, talking about the future and celebrating. The Eucharist was presided over by the Superior General. During the Eucharist, they celebrated the anniversaries of ordination and the birthdays of several brothers.

The Canadian Marianist reality today is small, but alive. The brothers, to the best of their ability, collaborate in the parishes and in various ecclesial centers and institutions which continue to serve the Canadian church. We thank them for their dedication, generosity and hospitality.

Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family - Rome (November 11-13)

It has been two years since the World Council of the Marianist Family last met in person. For this reason, we experienced the meeting this year with renewed pleasure.

The World Council is composed of the members of the General Councils of the four branches. Its mission is to strengthen collaboration within the Family. It is chaired, in turn, by the head of each branch. Sr. Franca, FMI has just completed this responsibility and has passed it on to Marie-Laure Jean, who is responsible for the Alliance Mariale.

This year, our meeting began with a day of retreat in order to listen to the calls of the Spirit for our Family. Mrs. Donatella Acerbi, president of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate, animated the retreat. The Union of the Catholic Apostolate brings together the Pallotine family, founded in Rome by Vincenzo Pallottini, a contemporary of Blessed Chaminade. Her thoughts were very inspiring.



The members of the World Council of the Marianist Family gathered in Rome

During the year, a consultation was sent to all the Family Councils concerning our way of living as a Family: on formation, youth and vocation ministry, mission and communication. The many responses received have supported our thinking and helped us to develop directions for the next four years. These are intended for the World Council but also for the whole Family, as a source of reflection and inspiration to strengthen our communion of life and action.

In these orientations, we have decided to reflect on the structure of the Family Council, to improve it and make it more effective in the service of the whole Family. Contacts will be made with other spiritual families to learn from their experience while remaining fully faithful to our own tradition. We also want to strengthen our missionary communion by collaborating together in youth and vocation ministry and by committing ourselves to the preservation of our common home. We also want to support each other in formation with and for each other. All this is more precisely indicated in the document of the World Council: "[Orientations 2022-2025](#)" that was sent to you a few days ago, along with a [Summary Message](#). Please make extensive use of this document.



MLC, world Council: (l-r) Mercedes de La Cuadra (ES/Europe); Marceta Reilly (USA / North America-Asia); Domingo Fuentes, SM (Assessor); Béatrice Leblanc (Resp.

International); online: Francisca Jere (Zambia / Africa), Nidia Rodriguez (Colombia / Latin America).

It should be noted that the **World Council of Lay Marianists (WCML)** also had its meeting in our house on November 8, 9, 10. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare for the *International Meeting of Marianist Lay Communities* to be held in July 2022 near Madrid. Finally, as is our custom, we concluded our gathering by sharing a meal at the Marianist Sisters' General Administration.

Blessed Carlos Eraña, a simple heroism

Blessed Carlos Eraña was martyred on September 18, 1936, near the city of Ciudad Real (Spain). At the time of his death, he was 51 years old. He had spent 33 years in religious life. Today we would say it was a short life. We know, however, that the important thing about a life is not whether it is long or short, but whether it is full or empty, whether it has borne fruit or has become infertile. Valuable are those lives in which the person has found his or her own path of meaning, his or her way of responding to the call of Love. We would like to remember here those calls that marked Carlos Eraña's life path and how he answered those calls. They can be inspiring for us:

- The call to life and faith. In his case, they were united, since he was born into a family and in a social context in which faith and life were totally intertwined and inseparable. However, for him faith was not just something inherited and taken for granted, but an experience that he would cultivate with care.
- The call to Marianist religious life. It came to him in a very prosaic way: the postulate of the Province of Spain was only two kilometers from his home, in the town of Eskoziatza (Province of Guipúzcoa) and he was attracted by what was happening there. It was his first contact with the Marianist world, in which he felt more and more at home and with which he came to identify completely.



Bust of Bro. Carlos in the courtyards of the Colegio Nuestra Señora del Prado in Ciudad Real.

- The call to the mission of education and evangelization. At that time, the Marianist mission was totally focused on education through schools.

However, Carlos did not simply join the general trend in a passive way, but found his personal missionary vocation in education and in the apostolate carried out in the schools. He revealed himself as a great educator. He assumed positions of responsibility in several educational works in the Province. His role as director of the Instituto Popular de la Concepción de Ciudad Real, a diocesan foundation for the free education of the children of working class families, was very relevant. He worked in this school for 16 years. There he worked hard, was happy, and very much appreciated by his students and the whole city.

- The call of martyrdom. Carlos, like many Catholics, found himself in a situation of indiscriminate religious persecution. Without attracting attention or manifesting any acts of heroism, he accepted the situation as a way of being loyal to his faith and to his vowed commitments. He faced his death with serenity. It was precisely in the place where he had worked tirelessly in the service of the poorest, that he was captured and shot. There was no arrest warrant nor trial.

“This is my servant...he will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street, a bruised reed he shall not break...he will faithfully bring forth justice, he will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice on the earth...”. “Without defense or justice, he was taken away... And through him the plans of the Lord will succeed.” Recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah, we give thanks to God for the simple and faithful heroism of our brother martyrs, and we entrust ourselves to their intercession:

Blessed Carlos, help us to respond to God's calls, whatever they may be, in the simplicity of our lives and circumstances. May we do so with a faithful love that gives meaning and fruitfulness to our vocation in the service of the Kingdom.

New Volunteer Program Launches in Latin America

The Latin American Zone (CLAMAR) has embarked upon a new collaborative effort to host volunteers in Marianist works throughout the Zone. Within this program, opportunities exist for young adults (at least 21 years of age) to spend from 6 months to a year engaged in volunteer work in connection with Marianist works in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador or Peru. The program,

called “VLM” (Marianist Volunteers of Latin America) is coordinated by Mr. José Luis Pérez, a longtime associate of the SM and collaborator in many international projects. Each country has a local coordinator and guide, whose mission is to accompany volunteers during the prior discernment and preparations, as well as during the course of their actual period of volunteer ministry.



José Luis Pérez (right), VLM coordinator in Argentina with Marianist volunteer, Jorge del Ceo (Spain), and Natalia, one of the local community managers.

Of course, during these days of pandemic, it has been difficult to launch such an initiative, but small steps have already been taken. For those interested in more information regarding this program, click [HERE](#).



**Marianiste
FMI**

"TOTA PULCHRA ES, MARIA (You are all beautiful, Mary) "

This is the title that Sr. Franca Zonta, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, gives to her 22nd circular, To read this beautiful reflection click on the link of the language you prefer:

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



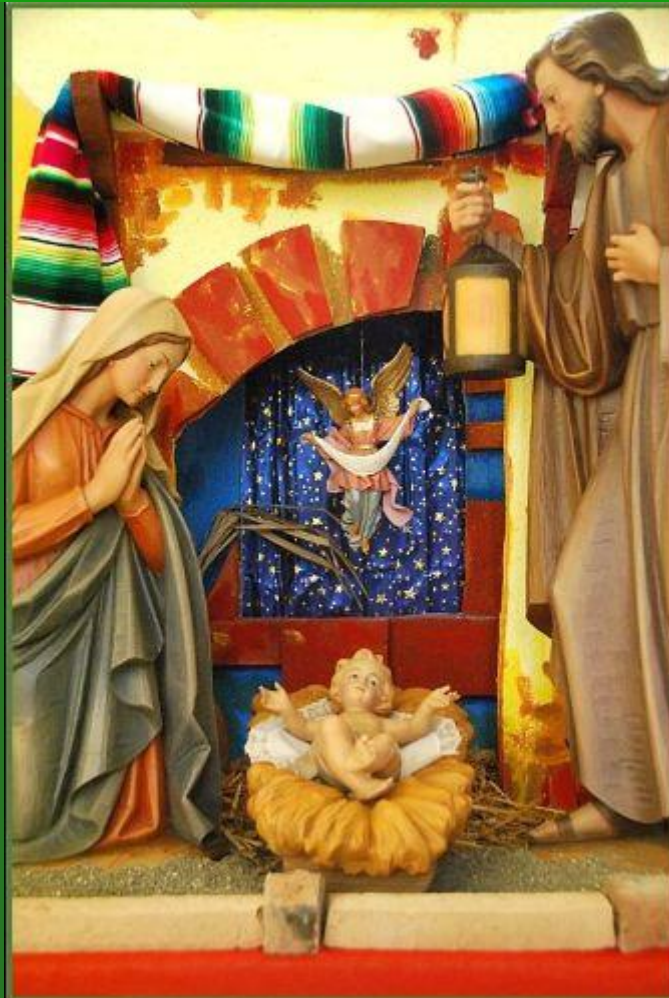
Prayer Intentions to Blessed Chaminade

We ask the Marianist religious and communities to make a novena of prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for the healing of these two people:

-For **Mr. Thierry**, 56 years old. Mr. Thierry is suffering from end-stage colon cancer. Doctors have sent him home and are keeping him under palliative care. It is a prayer intention proposed by Father André-Joseph Fétis, SM, at the request of Mrs. Agnès Pitoux, who has been responsible for the Marianist Lay Communities in France.

-For **Bro. Joseph Miclo**, a Marianist religious of the community of Saint-Hippolyte, in Alsace (France). Our confrere Joseph Miclo, 75 years old, was hospitalized on November 1 in Colmar, suffering from severe depression. His health condition is very worrisome,

despite the medical treatments he is receiving. The Provincial of France, Fr. Hervé Guillo du Bodan, SM, requested our prayers for this intention.



The Community of the General Administration and the Community of the Chaminade International Seminary wish all our brothers and sisters, their collaborators and families, a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: n. 27**
- **Nov. 25:** *Message from the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF)* in three languages, to all Marianist religious.
- **Nov. 29:** *Letter of request of information regarding the Directory of Marianist Works of Education 2021-2022*, in three languages, to all Assistants of Education (except Latin America), from the Assistant General of Education, Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM.

G.A. Calendar

- **Dec. 3-17:** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General of Religious Life, visits Kenya for meetings with a view to preparing the Marianist Formation Course and participating in the ordinations of two Marianist religious from the Region of Eastern Africa.

Change of addresses

- **Bro. A. Mahoungou (FR)** : mahomahongou@gmail.com
- **Bro. W. Mboma Malie (FR)**: awilomboma@gmail.com
- **Bro. K. Nganga Longui (FR)**: kevinnganga@gmail.com