



## **VIA LATINA 22** **# 310 - May 2022**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

### **Nomination of the Regional Superior of France**

At its meeting of March 29, the General Council examined the results of the consultation carried out in the Province of France for the nomination of the very first Regional Superior of the new Marianist Region of France.



The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed Brother Jean-Marie Leclerc as Regional Superior. His first term of 5 years will begin on August 15, 2022. Brother Jean-Marie has accepted this responsibility with a spirit of faith and a readiness to serve. For this reason, the General Council is very grateful to him.

Brother Jean-Marie already has a long experience of administration within the Province as Assistant for Education and as Assistant Provincial. He also served as President of the European Zone from 2016 to 2021. As was noted in the consultation, this experience and his knowledge of the places and people in the three Units, France, Ivory Coast and Congo, are real assets that he will be able to put at the service of the whole Region.

The Council would also like to thank the outgoing team, the Provincial, Brother Hervé Guillo du Bodan, SM, and the Assistant Provincial, Father Jean-Edouard Gatuingt, SM, as well as the entire Provincial Council for the work accomplished during the past five years.



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## **Statistics of our educational works for 2021-2022**

We are pleased to present the statistical data of our formal educational works, for the school and academic year 2021-2022. The constraints and difficulties related to Covid-19 that have somewhat disrupted the collection of information over the past two years seem to have been overcome. Thanks be to God, the work in our educational institutions is returning to a certain normality. Thank you to the entire Marianist educational community for its tenacious commitment and perseverance, which allow our institutions to regain progressively their vitality and their numbers of former years. Since the publication of the last statistics, two new schools have appeared in the Marianist school network in Spain where our Spanish Marianist sisters have joined with our brothers in a single school network. This brings the total number of our formal educational institutions to 100.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#of all</b>	<b># of SM</b>	<b>#</b>	<b># of</b>
	<b>of schools</b>	<b>of Students</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>of Admin.</b>	<b>Consacra</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6631</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chile</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6140</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Colombia-Ecuador</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3201</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Eastern Africa</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4892</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>España</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24339</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11138</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2878</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Italia</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5951</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Korea</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Meribah</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4850</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Peru</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5540</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Togo</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>USA (non-University)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11239</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>USA (University)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17157</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>USA (total)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28396</b>	<b>2042</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2751</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>SM TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>111838</b>	<b>8041</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2194</b>	<b>369</b>

This network covers all levels of education: kindergartens (42), primary (56), secondary (88), technical (3) and university (3). Some works are mixed (83), others are for boys only (16) or girls only (1); 25 of them host student residences. Non-formal education organizations and their staff, which are less easily accounted for, are not included in these statistics. However, they remain significant and important.

More information can be obtained by going to our website: [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org). There you can download the complete digital version, in pdf, of the Directory of Marianist Education.

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## Peter A. Pontolillo, SM -- 1939-2022



On April 12, 2022, the Society of Mary received the sad news of the passing of our dear brother, Peter A. Pontolillo. It was particularly poignant news for those at the General Administration since Bro. Peter was a fixture in the GA Community for many years. Whether one had lived with him during those years, or just passed through Via Latina 22 at one time or another, memories of Bro. Peter remain indelibly imprinted in one's recollection.

Peter Pontolillo came to Rome in 1997 to serve as Secretary General. He remained in that service for more than 10 years.

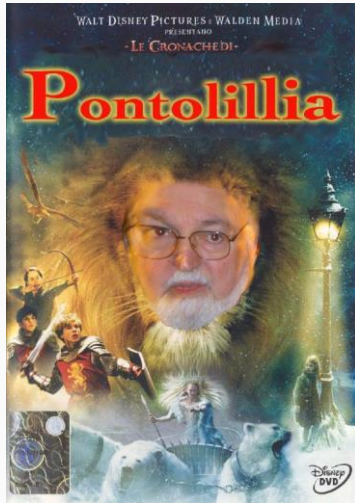
During that time, he would also serve the community as its director. As Secretary General, he transformed the Secretariat, introducing computer technology for the better functioning of the General Administration. He introduced many new initiatives in communications, include the transformation this very publication,



*Via Latina 22.* He organized the practical aspects of countless meetings and programs, and saw to the translations, distribution and archiving of thousands of documents.

But it was not only his work that was so memorable. He himself, by his mere presence, by his confident self-assurance, by his hearty laugh so generously given, was unforgettable. He loved to laugh, often at himself. He also loved to sing, tell stories, and above all, watch movies on video during the weekends. He would often offer film showings in the Sala Chaminade several times in a weekend, including Friday night screenings and matinees on Saturday or

Sunday. Those in the community called him the “Emperor” because he was very much at home presiding over any gathering. He loved that name, and wore it like a badge of honor.



At his “goodbye” party, just before he returned to the USA in 2006, the community presented him with a few humorous memorabilia, including a DVD of one of his favorite movies, *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. But, the cover of the DVD case had been digitally transformed, so that Peter’s face appeared as the hero, and the title changed to the *Chronicles of Pontolillia*. He laughed so hard that we worried he would collapse!

Laughter was one of Bro. Peter’s special gifts. It was not borne of frivolity, rather of a sincere joy and appreciation of a good joke, even if it was on him. He was also a faithful religious, devoted to the Blessed Mother, and her “Little Society.” We can image him, now enjoying the heavenly banquet, telling stories and, of course, laughing heartily.

Rest in peace, Bro. Peter!

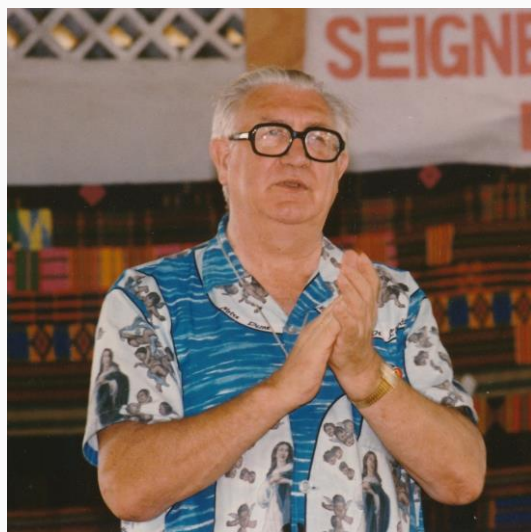
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## Raymond Halter (1925-1998)

A spiritual experience marked the life of Raymond, Halter : la grace of life in the Holy Spirit. After his first vows in 1942 and his ordination on July 14, 1957, Raymond took on various missions. He became chaplain to the students of Bordeaux in 1964. A car accident in 1972, in which he became almost blind, forced him to reduce his activities and take more time for prayer. The ecumenical group of about thirty students with whom he shared the Word of God every week wanted to go further and pray together. The spiritual experience occurred on the weekend of January 6 and 7, 1973. The theme for the weekend was: "The Holy Spirit certifies in our hearts that we are children of God." (Rm.8:15-17). During a time of prayer in the evening, the charisms began to manifest themselves and Raymond began to live a true conversion although he was not acquainted at that

time with the Charismatic Renewal. He would only discover this movement a few months later.

In 1979, the Provincial put Raymond at the service of the Charismatic Renewal for training in inner healing. Thus, he led numerous sessions in France, trained and intervened in Canada, and was invited to several African countries. Little by little, he received the gifts of healing and liberation, which he exercised in retreats and large charismatic assemblies.

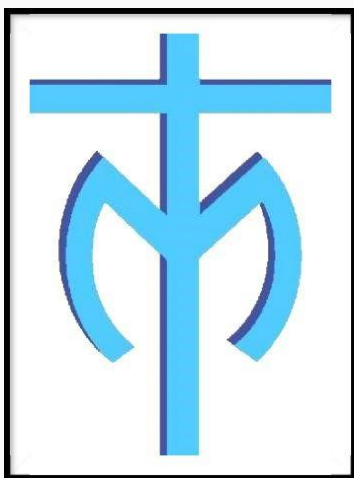


It is as a Marianist that he devoted himself totally to this mission. It was with Mary that he led retreats of inner healing. In 1989, at the National Marian Shrine of Abidjan, he proposed, with the community of that location, the consecration to Mary.

Let us give thanks for Raymond Halter. Let us not hesitate to ask for graces through his intercession, we hope that soon the diocesan process for the introduction of his cause will begin.

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## Let us pray with Charles de Foucauld, who will be canonized in Rome on May 15



Father,  
I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.  
Whatever you may do, I thank you:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.  
Into your hands I commend my soul;  
I offer it to you  
with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord,  
and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands,  
without reserve,  
and with boundless confidence,  
for you are my Father.

### G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: N. 11-16.**
- **April 1°: *Report on the visit to the Chaminade International Seminary***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors and Presidents of Zonal Conferences, sent by Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life.
- **April 9: *Information on Formation Programs and Meetings***, to Unit Superiors and Assistants for Religious Life, sent by Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life.
- **April 19: *General Leadership Assembly and Meeting with the Superiors of the developing Units***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors and Presidents of Zonal Conferences, sent by Bro. Kodjo Frédéric Bini, SM, Secretary General.

### G.A. Calendar

- **May 4 - 21:** The General Council visits the Region of Japan.

- **May 25 - 27:** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, Superior General, attends the meeting of the USG (Union of Superiors General), in Rome, Italy.
- **May 30 - June 5:** Fr. André-Joseph Fetís, Superior General, and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, Assistant General for Religious Life, visit Peru on the occasion of the erection of the Region of Latin America.