



## **VIA LATINA 22**

**# 318 - February 2023**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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## **Priestly ordination in the District of India**

Bro. George Majhi, SM, was ordained by His Excellency Most Rev. Felix Toppo S.J., on January 20, 2023, at Blessed Chaminade Parish, Singhpur. The solemn celebration was witnessed by 1200 people along with the members of SM, FMI, and MLC members. The solemn celebration began with an entrance dance. The Eucharist celebration was prayerful and invited the participants to enter into the deeper love of God.





**Fr. George (in the middle), surrounded by Bishop Felix and his parents**

At the end of the mass the newly ordained priest Fr. George Majhi thanked the members of General Administration of Society of Mary and Provincial Administration of United States, District Council, formators, family members and those people who helped him to grow as a good Marianist priest.

The solemn celebration ended with a dance and the festive meal.

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## **Diaconate Ordination at the Chaminade International Seminary**

On January 7, 2023, our brother José Luis González Molina, SM, from Mexico, was ordained a deacon. The celebration took place in the church of Our Lady of the Pillar, Via Latina 22. A new feature this year was the ordination at the same celebration of a deacon from the congregation of the Marist Fathers, Christian Ngoura Mvoutsu from the Republic of Cameroon. The Marists asked our seminary to be able to perform the two ordinations together. As usual, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, presided over, the celebration.





**L-R: Bro. José Luis González, SM, Mgr Ladaria and Bro.Christian Ngoura Mvouts**

Fr. Timothy Kenney SM, Provincial Assistant for Religious Life of the United States Province, Bro. Nereo Ramirez SM, Coordinator of Mexico, and two people from the Mexican Marianist Lay Communities traveled to Rome to accompany José Luis. The presence of these people, who represented the brothers of the Province to which José Luis belongs as well as the Marianist Family of his country, was very much appreciated. His family was able to follow the celebration live on the Internet.

The ordination celebration brought together members of the different branches of the Family present in Rome: religious sisters, religious brothers and members of the Fraternities. In addition, José Luis' classmates and friends also attended. Naturally, many Marists also took part, accompanying Christian. For this reason, we were able to count on an excellent choir formed by the Marist seminarians. After the celebration, and for the first time since the pandemic, there was a time of fellowship around a snack prepared by the staff of the Curia.

Let us give thanks to God for the gift that the Lord has given to the Society of Mary with this ordination. We ask the Spirit to continue to pour out his gifts abundantly on José Luis so that His ministry may be fruitful.



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## Perpetual profession in the Sector of Congo

On Saturday, January 21, 2023, our brothers, Rufin N'Zaa Monshita, SM and Jean Tigana Nsamper, SM, professed their perpetual vows in the Society of Mary. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Excellency, Bishop Edouard Kisonga, Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa. Father Romuald Nlumbu, SM, Superior of the Congo Sector, received the vows by delegation from the Regional Superior who was unable to attend.



**L-R: Fr. Romuald N'Lumbu, SM (coordinator), Bro. Rufin Monshita, SM, Mgr E. Kisonga, Bro. Jean Nsamper, SM and Fr. Simplicie Moluanton, SM**

Two Marianist priests and others from Kinshasa and Congo Brazzaville were present to support the professed. The three branches of the Marianist family present in the Sector (lay people, Alliance Mariale and religious) were well represented at this profession. At the same time, the Sector celebrated, in anticipation, our Founders' Day. Also present for the ceremony were the two families of our brothers Rufin and Jean, religious men and women, friends and acquaintances.

At the end of the Eucharist, the guests joined the community of the brothers



located in Limete to share the festive meal accompanied by music and dance.

We thank God for his love and for the unconditional gift of our brothers.

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## Perpetual Profession in the District of Ivory Coast

On Sunday January 22, 2023, the District of Ivory Coast had the joy of celebrating a happy event. Brother Stéphane Somda made his perpetual profession in the Society of Mary, at the parish of Notre Dame d'Afrique in Biétry, Abidjan. This profession took place in the context of the closing celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Marianist presence in Ivory Coast.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Pierre Claver Yessoh Vicar General of the Diocese of Abidjan, who is in charge of religious life for the diocese. He was surrounded by several priests, including the District Superior of Ivory Coast, Fr. Noel Dominique, SM.



**Bro. Stéphane surrounded by members of the SM and the Marianist Family**



Bro. Jean-Marie Leclerc, Regional Superior of the Region of France, was also present for the profession and received the vows of Bro. Stéphane Somda. He read a message from the Superior General for the whole Marianist family of Ivory Coast on the occasion of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. During this Mass, 22 lay people made their consecration to Mary in the Marianist family. A festive meal was served at the end of the ceremony.

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## Annual Visit to the International Seminary

The canonical visitation to the Chaminade International Seminary in Rome took place this year from January 10-13, 2023. The members of the commission were: Bro. Jean-Marie Leclerc, SM, Superior of the Region of France, and the Assistant General for Religious Life, Father Pablo Rambaud, SM. Bro. Jean-Marie was asked to be part of the visiting commission, taking advantage of his presence in Rome to visit the members of his Region present in Italy, and for some orientation meetings with the General Administration. As usual, the members of the commission shared the life of the Seminary community, integrating themselves into its schedule, prayer times and meals. At the beginning of the visit, the commission met with the formation team of the seminary: Fr. Miguel Angel Cortes, SM, Rector, and Bro. Frédéric Bini, SM, Vice Rector). During the following days, they met individually with both the seminarians and the formators.



**The seminary community and the two members of the visiting commission**



The two visitors expressed their gratitude for the welcome they received. They underlined the appreciation of the seminarians for the formation they receive (pastoral, Marianist and academic formation programs). They also value positively the fraternal dynamics of the Seminary and the relationship with the formators.

At the end of the visit, the Commission presented its report, first to the extended General Council and then to the Seminary community, with whom it discussed its observations and proposals for the future. The official report has been sent to all superiors of the zones and units of the Society of Mary.

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## **Father Vicente's Decree of Venerable**

On January 19, the Bulletin of the Sala Stampa of the Holy See announced that during the Audience granted to His Eminence Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the Supreme Pontiff [Pope Francis] authorized the Dicastery to promulgate the Decree of Heroic Virtues of the Servant of God Fr. Vicente Lopez de Uralde Lazcano, SM.(Vitoria 1894 - Cadiz 1990). In this way, Pope Francis ratified the favorable vote of the Cardinals and Bishops to the Positio on the virtues and reputation for sanctity of Father Vincent. The vote took place at a meeting on the previous Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

The Cause began with the opening of the Diocesan Tribunal of the Diocese of Cadiz in 2008. The Tribunal concluded its work in 2010. The documentation was sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The Positio, completed in 2017, was also sent to the Congregation. The Theological Consultors of the Congregation examined the Positio and gave a broadly favorable vote in March, 2022. The Cardinals and Bishops, the true senate of the Pope, then examined all of the documentation and approved it on January 17, 2023.





**Retreat of profession of perpetual vows, August 24, 1917. Seated from left to right: Bro. Juan Vergareche, SM (his cause of martyrdom is open), Bro. Vicente López de Uralde, SM, Bro. Emilio Biron, SM (preacher of retreat), Bro. Máximo Martínez, SM and Bro. Florentino Fernández, SM (he was Provincial of Spain and later of Zaragoza); standing, Bro. Emilio García, SM, Bro. Felipe Lasagabaster, SM, Bro. Marcelo Lete, SM, Bro. Marcelino Uribiondo, SM, Bro. Valeriano Rebé, SM and Bro. Celestino Martínez, SM.**

The Postulator must now contact the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to draw up the Decree that gives the name of Venerable to our dear Father Vincent.

What does this event mean for Marianist religious and for the Marianist Family? In the words of the Superior General, Father André Fétis, S.M., we can affirm that "to have one more Venerable in the Congregation and in the Marianist Family is a great gift from God that will help us move forward. Marianist life continues to produce fruits of holiness. It is a sign of its relevance in the current time. It can also be an occasion to reflect on the role of the sacrament of forgiveness in Christian and religious life".

We end with Father Vincent's exhortation to his penitents: "Forward, always forward."

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## Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Father Raymond Halter

Once again, this year, the Marianist religious of the District of Ivory Coast organized a pilgrimage to the tomb of Father Raymond Halter, SM (1925-1998). The tomb is on the property of the Novitiate in Abidjan-Doumé. This was the 15th year that these religious had organized the pilgrimage. On this occasion, the faithful consecrated to Mary at the National Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Africa and members of the Charismatic Renewal collaborated in visiting the places of Father Halter's pastoral action.

The pilgrimage took place on Saturday, January 7, 2023. The motto for the pilgrimage was: "Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God and cured every kind of disease" (Mt 4:28). Nearly 2,000 pilgrims gathered to pray at the tomb of Father Halter.



**Vast assembly of the faithful gathered in prayer at the tomb of Father Halter.**

Fr. Halter enjoys a significant esteem among the faithful as a man of God, adorned with the spiritual gifts of discernment of spirits and inner healing. Fr.

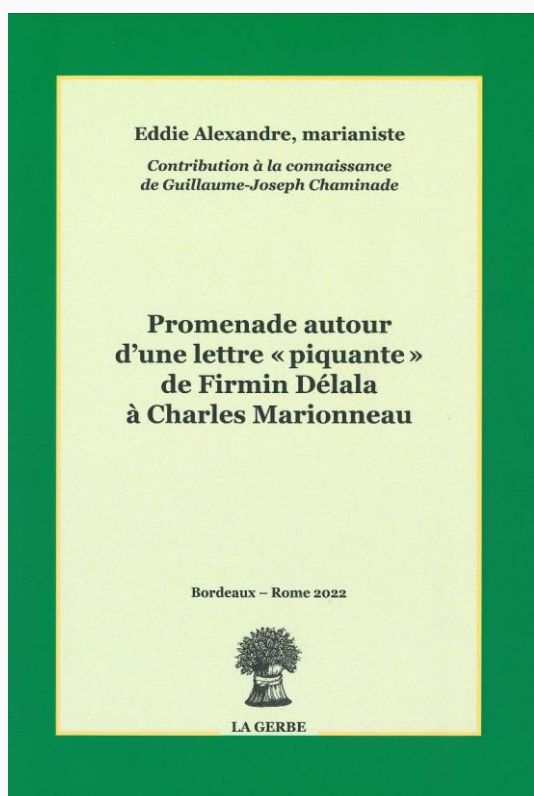


Halter was involved with the Charismatic Renewal in France. He went to the Marian Shrine in 1989. In this ministry, he helped reconcile many people with God. These people had experienced deep spiritual consolation and inner healing. Many of them were poor, destitute, sick, and tormented by multiple problems and difficulties of life.

The General Council has asked the Marianist postulator, Father Antonio Gascón, to present to the Archbishop of Abidjan the request for the opening of the Cause of Father Halter. We hope that in a short time the request can be made and that the Archbishop will initiate the Cause at the diocesan level.

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## A new AGMAR publication



AGMAR has just published the 13th volume of the collection "La Gerbe": *A tour of an exciting letter from Firmin Délala to Charles Marionneau*, a contribution to the knowledge of William-Joseph Chaminade. Father Eddie Alexandre, a Marianist, analyzes the letter of a grand nephew of Fr. Chaminade to try to decipher the true from the false. The different chapters lead the reader into the discovery of the Dubourg family, David Monier, the Chaminadian land in Bordeaux, and other areas of interest. These chapters can be read independently of each other.

Copies of the book have been sent to Unit administrations for further distribution among the religious of the Society of Mary.

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## **PREPARATION OF XXXVI GENERAL CHAPTER (JULY 2024)**

**Consultation of All Communities,  
open to the Marianist Family, collaborators, and volunteer friends**



### **A consultation regarding the SM and Youth for the General Chapter**

On January 22, the day of the celebration of our Blessed Founder, a consultation was sent to all the communities concerning Pastoral Care with and for Youth in the context of the Marianist Family. This consultation is also open to all members of the Marianist Family and to our collaborators who wish to participate. The first phase, which will last until next September, consists of four successive stages.

This consultation, in synodal mode, will enlighten us on the calls received from the world of youth (adolescents or young adults), about the responses we already offer and on those we could develop, not only for them, but also with them. This phase is in keeping with the tradition we received from our Founder who called on young people to be the first actors in the accompaniment and evangelization of other young people.

The consultation was sent through the Superior of each Unit, to be distributed to his brothers. Thank you to everyone for their collaboration in this great project.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten our reflections and help us to serve the youth of today.



## G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: n° 1-4**
- **Jan.22: *Launch of the Consultation in Preparation for the XXXVI General Chapter of the Society of Mary (July 2024) on Pastoral Ministry with and for Young People in the Context of the Marianist Family***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors, from the General Council.
- **Jan. 23: *Multiple Financial Reports and Documents***, in three languages, to all Unit Superiors and Assistants for Temporalities, sent from Bro. Michael McAward, SM, Assistant General for Temporalities .
- **Jan. 24: *Report on the visit to the Chaminade International Seminary***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors, sent by Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life.
- **Jan. 24: *S.M. 3 Offices # 158 - Distribution of Funds for the Marianist Solidarity Fund and the Marianist Formation Fund 2023***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent from Bro. Michael McAward, SM, Assistant General for Temporalities.
- **Jan. 25: *To Extend the Online Meeting from January 17, 2023***, in three languages, to the Superiors of the developing Units, from the General Council.

## G.A. Calendar

- **January 28 - March 26:** The General Council visits the Province of United States.