



## **VIA LATINA 22** **# 320 - April 2023**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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## **General Council Visitation to the USA**

For the last two months, the four members of the General Council have been engaged in the visitation of the Province of the USA. It is a visit that was a long time delayed because of the pandemic. Originally scheduled in 2020, then 2021, the Council and the Province were very happy to complete the visit between the end of January and the end of March of this year. As one might imagine, a visit to a Unit so large, with so many different communities and apostolates, is quite complex. Nevertheless, with excellent organization from the Province leadership, as well as an abundance of fraternal hospitality everywhere, all went quite well.



**Community of Cape May, New Jersey, with Fr. Pablo and Bro. Max.**

After beginning together in San Antonio, the Council then split into two pairs, with Fr. André and Bro. Michael going westward, while Fr. Pablo and Bro. Max went to the east. They traversed the entire country, including visits to Honolulu, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Finally, coming together in St. Louis during the eighth week, they shared their experiences as a Council, and then presented a Report to the Provincial Council.

The Province has approximately 200 members in the USA, Ireland, Puerto Rico and Mexico (not including those in India), who are distributed in more than 25 communities. The Province oversees the mission of 17 secondary schools, 3 universities and several parishes. In addition, there are many other types of works, including retreat centers, social ministries, artistic ministries, and the very unique Marian Library. Internal ministries are also important, including the National Marianist Archives, NACMS (North American Center for Marianist Studies), Marianist Mission, and the Provincial Offices. The Council was pleased to visit the three retirement/health care communities in which a large number of Province members reside, in an extremely fraternal, competent, and caring atmosphere.



**Members of the FMI and SM share lunch, surrounded by original paintings by the late Bro. Cletus Behlmann.**

The Province, like many other Units, has concerns about the aging of its members, and the ability to continue its mission. Thanks to hundreds of lay collaborators, fully committed to the Marianist mission, who receive support and accompaniment from the Province membership, these many ministries are conducted well. The General Council expressed hope for these to continue to be strong with this continued collaboration. Of course, vocations ministry is also a priority within the Province. There continue to be candidates and people in formation, both for the Province, as well as for the Region of Korea. The topic of vocations, and the witness of our own lives as an inspiration for future discerners, was one of the topics discussed in every community of the Province.



**Blessing of new MLC members making their commitments in Honolulu.**

The Marianist Family is also quite active in the USA. In addition to the religious of the SM, the FMI sisters are few, but quite effective in collaborative ministries in San Antonio and Dayton. Thankfully, they too, have several vocation candidates/novices. The lay members of the Marianist Family come from various groups: Marianist Lay Communities, Affiliates, *The State* (consecrated laypersons), and committed collaborators. All of these are active, mostly in areas where there are SM communities and works, but also in some areas where we are not present. For the MLC, there is now a full-time, paid, executive director, who is overseeing substantial expansion of their organization, formation, and other initiatives.



**The General Council meetings with the Provincial Council  
at the conclusion of the visitation.**

Of course, there are challenges in the Province. The very size of the Province is a great challenge for the members of the Provincial Administration, and many efforts are made to assure unity. Nevertheless, all are working to preserve and ever-strengthen Marianist religious life within the Province. The Council expressed its gratitude, not only for the welcome received, but also for the important role that the Province plays in the global SM. Let us remember our religious and apostolic works of this Province in our prayers, asking God's blessings on them, and Mary's maternal protection!

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## **Patronal feast of the Marianist Family (Celebrating the Marianist vocation)**

The Annunciation was chosen as the patronal feast of the Marianist Family, because the "Yes" of the Virgin Mary was the door for the Word, assuming our humanity, to enter into our history and redeem it. It is the feast of the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary. It is also the feast of our Marianist vocation, which is none other than the extension of Mary's mission in the world. Thus, the

Marianist Family wants to open the doors to Christ and announce him to all peoples.



On March 25, 2023, The Solemnity of the Annunciation, the Marianist Family present in Rome, composed of religious and Marianist Lay Communities, met at the Marianist parish of the Most Holy Name of Mary, Rome, to celebrate and give thanks to God for the gift of the Marianist Family. We participated in a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Miguel Ángel Cortés, SM, Procurator of the Society of Mary. He was surrounded by the other Marianist priests present in Rome. In his homily, Fr. Miguel Angel recalled that Baptism is the principle and foundation of our life, where our deepest and most authentic personal and collective identity resides. For us, moreover, the gift is also the Marianist charism, which gives a specific form to the experience of baptism. Through our baptism, we receive a common call to be a “People of Saints,” in the words of Fr. Chaminade.

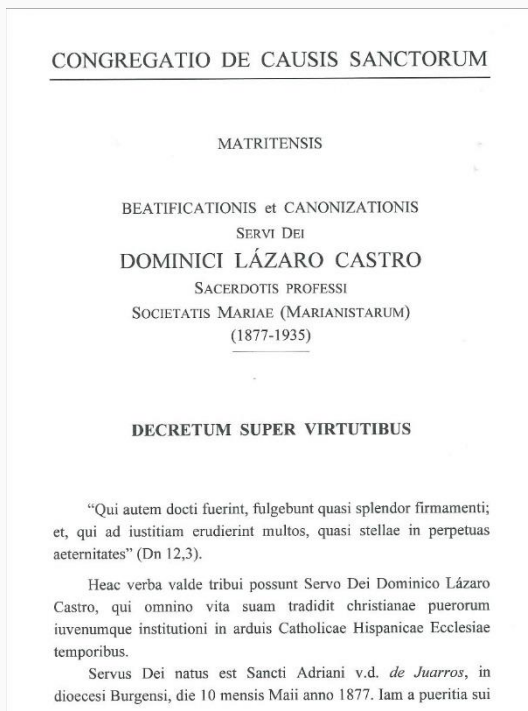
We give thanks to God for the celebration of this feast, which strengthens our bonds of unity. We celebrate the spirit of belonging to the same, unique charismatic family, on our way to holiness. A festive meal was served at the end of the ceremony.

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## Venerable Father Domingo Lázaro and Venerable Father Vicente

The Society of Mary has two new Venerables: Father Domingo Lázaro Castro and Father Vicente López de Uralde Lazcano. This fact was declared and made public in two Decrees of the Congregation / Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, the Postulator of the Causes of the Venerables, Father Domingo Lázaro y Castro and Father Vicente López de Uralde Lazcano, collected the Decrees of both Venerables at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.



The declaration by Decree of "venerable" is a very important step on the road to canonized sainthood. The Decree of the Cardinal Prefect of the Cause of Saints confirms, to the entire Church, the virtuous evangelical life of our brothers, Father Domingo and Father Vicente. The Decree is not an administrative act, but an act of pontifical authority, following the judgment and verdict of the Holy Father. With this decree, the Holy Father affirms and declares that our brothers have lived the theological virtues of faith, hope and

charity, proper to an excellent Christian life. In addition, they have also lived the moral/cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude of an accomplished human maturity. Finally, the decree states that they have lived the virtues attached to the religious and priestly state: humility, prayer, most faithful observance of the religious vows, love of the Blessed Virgin, apostolic zeal, and love of the Eucharist. All of these are proper to a Marianist religious, son of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade.

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints published the Decree of Venerable for Father Domingo, signed and made public, on May 2019, during the Covid19 epidemic. For this reason, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints halted its administrative acts related to the Postulators and did not deliver the Decree to the Marianist Postulator, Father Antonio Gascón, at that time. The Decree concerning Fr. Vicente, signed and made public on January 19, 2023, was delivered to the Postulator shortly after its publication.

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DICASTERO DELLE CAUSE DEI SANTI

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GADICENSIS et SEPTENSIS

BEATIFICATIONIS et CANONIZATIONIS

SERVI DEI

VINCENTII LÓPEZ DE URALDE LAZCANO

SACERDOTIS PROFESSI SOCIETATIS MARIAE  
(1894-1990)

**DECRETO SULLE VIRTÙ EROICHE**

*Allora Pietro gli si avvicinò e gli disse: "Signore, se il mio fratello commette colpe contro di me, quante volte dovrò perdonargli? Fino a sette volte?". E Gesù gli rispose: "Non ti dico fino a sette volte, ma fino a settanta volte sette" (Mt 18,21-22).*

Il Servo di Dio Vicente López de Uralde Lazcano, accogliendo l'invito del Signore Gesù Cristo, ripeteva spesso: "Perdonare, perdonare tutto". Nel Servo di Dio i fedeli trovavano un sacerdote misericordioso, dedito a donare il Sacramento della Riconciliazione agli studenti, ai confratelli marianisti, ai seminaristi, ai sacerdoti, alle suore e a un numero incalcolabile di

In both Decrees, there is a good summary of the Marianist life of our two new Venerables, Father Domingo and Father Vicente. They also give us a fine synthesis of the spiritual profile of each one of them. We encourage you to offer a Holy Mass in thanksgiving for our two new venerable Spanish Marianists.

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**SAINTLINESS COMMITTEE: PRESENTATION OF A NEW SERIES OF ARTICLES  
IN VIA LATINA**

In this issue, and in the following issues of the year 2023, a series of articles will appear to promote our prayer directed to the Marianist Blesseds, or to the persons of our Family whose cause of canonization we wish to introduce. These brothers and sisters are not only models of faith, but also companions along the way who help us as channels through which God's love is made present.

Each of these persons will be linked to an ecclesial or social reality that will be present in the prayer, and for which they will be asked in a specific way.



## Prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade in union with Charismatic Families



*To erect a powerful dam to withhold the torrent of evil, Heaven has inspired me to solicit from the Holy See at the beginning of this century the letters patent, giving me the title of Missionary Apostolic so as to revive or to re-enkindle everywhere the divine torch of faith, while presenting to the astonished world all the sides, imposing masses of Catholic Christians of every age, sex, and condition, who, reunited in special respect, in all the purity of its dogmas and morals. (Letter of Fr. Chaminade to Pope Gregory XVI, September 16, 1838, Letters IV, 1076)*

When Father Chaminade wrote these words to the Pope, he was referring to the Congregation as a large group of Christians of all states of life who, sharing the same charism, live their faith intensely and publicly. However, while this was excellent, it was not enough. He goes on to say that to complete his work he founded two religious institutes that spring from the same charism: The Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Society of Mary. This whole group presented to the Pope is what today in the Church is called a "**charismatic family**", that is, a group of baptized people of all states of life, who share the same charism and complement and support each other in their living of the faith. Undoubtedly, one of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council is the development of these charismatic families in the Church, a sign of the action of the Spirit and a promising reality. It is one of the current manifestations of the permanent vocation of the Church: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1Pet 2:9)

We bring to our prayer the charismatic families present in the Church, giving thanks for them and asking Blessed Chaminade to give them intensity of life and faith, so that they may be a leaven of renewal in the Church at the service of the world.

*Holy Spirit of God,  
we give you thanks because you enrich your Church  
with a multitude of charisms,  
and call men and women to live them  
at the service of the entire ecclesial community  
and of the human family as a whole.*

*Blessed William Joseph Chaminade,  
you dreamed about the Marianist family,  
and worked tirelessly  
For it to be born and to develop  
at the service of the renewal of the Church.*

*We join with all charismatic families  
that the Spirit has awakened in his Church,  
and we ask that each one of its members  
live with ardor and fidelity the gift received,  
and may they all bear eloquent witness  
of the renewing power of the Gospel.  
Amen.*



**Society of Mary  
Marianists**

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



### **XXXVI° General Chapter (2024): Let us together listen to the Young People**

The consultation in preparation for our next General Chapter is open. Let us not forget it. In community, let us start thinking about this without delay, using the consultation that was sent to you in January. In this reflection, let us also remember to involve many of the laity and members of the Marianist Family who work with young people!

Thank you in advance! May the Spirit enlighten us!



***On the occasion of Easter Sunday, 2023, Via Latina 22 sends to its readers our warmest greetings with a prayer that the Risen Lord may bring Peace to all peoples around the world.***