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# BULLETIN FAUSTINO

*Luca Faustino*

## Editorial

This issue 35 of the Faustino Bulletin is long overdue!

A new portrait by a local artist - Luis Lonjedo, from Valencia. He reminds us of Faustino's message with the benevolent smile we know and love. His message is the simple question we are trying to make our own. It was the "guiding thread" of his short "ordinary" life, as much in his family as in his schooling, making room for leisure activities with his friends, for prayer as well, taking on commitments within his reach, until illness came to visit him.

Today, he continues to inspire us. Whether we live among the "haves" or the "have-nots," let us ask ourselves this same question: **AND IF GOD SPOKE TO ME ?**

Sometimes, caught up in "entertainment", we disperse, as if lost, as if deaf and blind to the presence of God among us. Yet we are given signs of this presence, today as in the past. He is present at our side.

Young or old, let us ask Faustino to accompany us, to read these "signs of the times", to find our bearings in this "crazy" world where rapid changes sometimes destabilize us, to draw from the source of life, to love life as he does.

- In Ivory Coast, the vitality of the Faustino groups (number, activities, formation, prayer) impresses us! Thank you for this example!
- Elsewhere, Faustino is there, often discreetly, to help us ask ourselves the right questions.
- In Haiti, in a disastrous political and social context, elders accompany young "Faustino" with courage, patience and perseverance.
- In France, the 2023 summer camp for the JFM (Young Marianist Family) is built on Faustino, with the question "What if God spoke to me? "
- The next General Chapter of the Marianist Brothers (in 2024) will focus on Youth. Faustino will be there to ask the right questions and define action plans for the future.

André Vernhes

## En Côte d'Ivoire



A well thought out organization, which touches many children.

Elsewhere, we will be able to take a closer look at how you are organized, what you do concretely, the importance you attach to training, your activities, your dynamism that you draw from the "SOURCE", with Faustino. You show us the way. Perhaps an invitation to imitate you in different countries and situations.

**Last summer**, the now customary camp was held at the Marianist Novitiate in Abidjan. Ten Days Together: 75 children (29 boys, 46 girls) from 6 to 14 years old with 9 "animators" for training.... **Camp theme** : "You are the salt of the earth .... You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:13, 14). An educational and fraternal **program** without neglecting the pleasures of life in nature.

To know the Venerable Faustino Pérez Manglano.

Knowing how to live together (animated by Mrs. Rosalie Ambeu, responsible for MLC, and Sister Annick Aka). How to grow in relational life from the family (accepting differences, respecting the other, tolerance, forgiveness, mutual help, solidarity, mutual support).

Affective life and the path of Love (with Sr. Carine Djoué, Passionist, Bro. Guy Ouattara, Marianist). What does it mean to love? Different ways of loving? Values of friendship ?

Communicating for information and training (with Mrs. Constance Yeboua, professor at Collège Jean Bosco and Bro. Guy Frédéric Kouame). Meaning of the words communicate, inform, train? Use of the Media for formation, communication, evangelization?

Discovering and knowing the Bible better with Bro. Hervé Dagbo. Bible tour... identifying the books of the Bible.

Learning to pray, with Bro. Hervé Dagbo. What is prayer? Various types? Putting it into practice....

Manual activities: bracelet making (6 to 10 years old), liquid soap making, cleaning, laundry, yard maintenance (11 to 14 years old).

Visit of the site: the agropastoral farm Tshanfeto (religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharam).

Sports and recreational activities: fitness, soccer, volleyball, board games, movies.





The Camp on the Marianist Novitiate space: children and animators







*Sports preparation*

*Teaching on "Know-how for Living"*

*Manual activities for children from 6 to 10 years old*

*Manual activities for children aged 11 to 14*

*Visit of the agropastoral farm*



**Prayer at the grotto**



## Faustino in Haiti



Haiti is far away... Yet, who of us is not in direct or indirect link with Haitians who are fighting to survive there, via local communities, associations, the Church? Hope seems to be "at half-mast". The stone of despair must not remain closed on the Haitian tomb! The Easter message reminds us of this!

Let's not resign ourselves to bad news, to sliding towards indifference.... The "friends of Faustino" are there, in their own way, to look to the future with hope and confidence, counting on fraternal solidarity from elsewhere....

Let us read better days on these faces, these "festive" clothes, signs of hope, of life that resists the forces of evil ....

Announced photos, expected, did not arrive!!! Let's be satisfied with these. They express the celebration (19 years!) and augur a better future.



## In D.R.C.

From DRC, this testimony from T., a Marianist lay person accompanying the "Faustinos" since 2018... A logical commitment after his journey: Faustino, JFM, MLC... The latest news speaks of 3 "classes": 7 to 11 years old, 12 to 17 years old, 18 to 21 years old. All of them are children of Marianist lay persons attached to the National Office.

*"We were on retreat from September 2 to 4 with the MLCs and the Faustinos of the second and third classes," we learn. Unfortunately, some of the announced photos got "lost on the way"!*

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"I'm going to try the 'asceticism of yes': say yes to everything that is good!"

"The best apostolate we can do is to say yes to every good work. I must be the hands of God, because I must be his instrument. Yes to superiors. Yes to the inferiors. Yes to friends. Yes to the enemies".

"God is calling me to holiness here on this earth. To be holy is to love God above all else. Lord, help me to detach myself from the things of the earth."

### Various testimonials:

- If sometimes we talked about someone to criticize him, he would get angry and say: "Please don't be critical all the time, he surely has qualities too! »
- A friend talking about him: "Faustino was small in stature, but he wasn't self-conscious about it; he felt good the way he was, and he didn't care about anything else. I liked the way he reacted to these details."
- He was a boy who communicated peace and always had a smile on his face. With his smile, he made us forget the inevitable.
- Those who have attended testify: "He was all smiles", and again, "wherever he went, he brought peace".
- I never asked him for a particular favor, but I always ask him for the courage and strength to move forward, and I always felt something special that made me feel better.
- Personally, I consider him a saint. Whether or not it is recognized as such is not important to me. I turn to him and he listens to me when I need something. He helps me with the little things that are sometimes very important to us....

Faustino speaks to us

## Faustino: soon a saint?

In order to be declared "officially" a Saint in the Church, one must go through a long process of the "investigation" type. This process is "ongoing" for Faustino. The "postulator" of his cause in Rome is a Marianist priest, Antonio Gascón.

Although the process has not been fully completed to date, we believe it will be soon. This does not prevent us from thinking that Faustino is a "Saint", that is to say that he was "heroic" in his fidelity to faith in God, a faith received "freely" at baptism, after the gift of life, as for each of us.

Whether Faustino also becomes an "official" saint on the calendar, that also depends on us! Every time we confide in him and make him known, it makes the beautiful event of his beatification and canonization more likely and closer.

What makes Faustino so close to us is that he did nothing extraordinary; he was, as our Pope says, "a saint from next door", simple and accessible. He loved life, learning to say "yes" to everything that is good, seeing this as what we call "God's will". In these "yeses", he was very present to his family, his school, his city, his friends, his relatives, attentive to the needs around him and doing everything to remedy them. He drew his energy from prayer.

Like all of us, he had his ups and downs, until the ordeal of the illness that took him away. He showed us how to live through these trials in faith and trust. His smile, in all situations, is an example for us.

Thank you, Faustino! From "On-High", be our model, interceding with the Good Lord for our needs, associating yourself with our prayer! AV

### Prayer

*By decree of January 14, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI declared Faustino "venerable"!*

**Faustino** you asked yourself this simple question:

**What if God was talking to me?**

And you found that God was speaking to you through the events, the encounters of everyday life. This led you to want to live in faith, serving others.

**Lord**, we pray to you! May Faustino's life and message speak to us and draw us in today, so that we may know how to make our lives a joyful service, like Faustino!

*Obviously, if you receive this Faustino Bulletin N° 35 and are surprised not to be included, even though you are far from being indifferent to Faustino, you are welcome to send in a future bulletin: reactions to this N° 35, suggestions/proposals for the next one.*

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