



VIA LATINA 22 # 322 - June 2023

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Assembly of SM Religious of India



The meeting room, which was also the chapel, was decorated with typical care by the Scholasticate Community

Last month, from May 18-21, the religious of the SM District of India gathered in Bangalore for an extraordinary assembly. Together with the more than 70 members present were Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM and Bro. Bernard Ploeger, SM, provincial and assistant provincial of the Province of the USA, as well as Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General and Bro. Michael McAward, SM, Assistant General.



More than 70 SM religious participated in the Assembly

The purpose of the assembly was to prepare the District to become a Region in the Society of Mary through the continuation of reflection and steps which already have been in progress for several months. The assembly setting provided a very fraternal context in which to open this process for the Region of India, by stimulating meaningful dialog, reflection and discussion on what such a transition entails, and how to ensure the best possible future of Marianist life and mission in India.



Several small discussion groups reflect on our Common Mission

The sessions allowed for ample and open sharing, group discussion and meaningful prayer time. Members of the District had been designated to present topics for reflection. Members of the General and Provincial Administrations also provided input and guidance, both for the process that is involved, as well as for the enrichment of all. As always, prayer and liturgies were animated and well-prepared.



Bro. Sukrit Tirkey served as “Master of Ceremonies” for all meetings

The topics treated explored the unique, rich and complex reality of India, both in general as well as in the Church; the call to fraternal unity amidst this vast diversity; the gift of Marianist Mixed Composition; the common life, and our common mission; and a view of the new responsibilities within India and in service of the entire SM that a Region of India would present. Sharing and discussion played an important role in the Assembly, allowing for all to participate.



Spirit-filled liturgies

It seemed that everyone appreciated the honest, creative and hopeful dialog, while at the same time opportunity to explore the many challenges that must also be faced. At the end of the Assembly, during the evaluation, many expressed an appreciation for this opportunity to move forward with a common vision and with a deep commitment to living our Marianist vocational call to the full.



Religious of the Scholasticate Community pose with members of the General and Provincial Administrations

Throughout the coming year, in ongoing dialogue with the two administrations, the District Council of India will continue working on this theme with the members of the District. Eventually, it is expected that the Council will formally request of the Superior General that he, with the consent of the members of the General Council, issue the decree establishing the Region of India. It is foreseen that the process could be completed by May 2024.



Members of the GA and PA receive shawls and garlands in appreciation of their accompaniment

We rejoice with the Province of the USA and the District of India that, by God's grace, the Society of Mary's mission has grown and matured over these years. We entrust to Mary, our ever-watchful Mother, this important process, begun at this District Assembly, and continuing throughout the coming year of preparation. May the good work begun there come to fruition in a future Region of India!

Institution of Ministries at the Chaminade International Seminary

On May 26, the celebration of the institution of ministries took place in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Pillar at Via Latina 22. The two communities of the Curia Generalizia participated in the liturgy. There were three seminarians receiving ministries: Messi Loubiya (Congo-Brazzaville) and Showrraiah Ravulapalli (India) as acolytes, and Claudel Noël (Haiti-Ivory Coast) as lector. The celebration was presided over by Father André Fétis, Superior General. Although the ministries of lector and acolyte are lay ministries, the Church also includes them in the formation process toward the priesthood. In his homily, Father André invited the new ministers to live in an attitude of "seeking," open to the signs and newness of God, and in a spirit of service.



**L.R.: Fr. M.A. Cortés, SM, Bro. M. Loubiya, SM, Bro. J. L.González, SM, Fr. A. J. Fétis, SM,
Bro. Claudel Noël, SM, Bro. S. Ravulapalli, SM and Bro. F. Bini, SM**

We thank God for the formative path that these three brothers are following. We entrust them to the Spirit and to the maternal love of Mary so that they may continue to grow in their response to the call they have received.

2022/2023 Statistics of Non-formal educational works

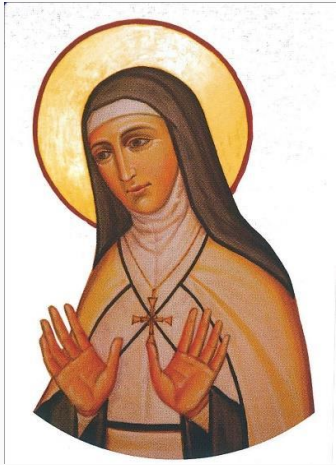
Last month, we published the statistics of the formal educational works directed by the Society of Mary throughout the world (schools, colleges, high schools, universities). However, we know that, in addition to these well-organized works that take place in institutions recognized by the local governments, there is significant educational activity that takes place outside of the formal educational system. At the current moment, there are several Marianist initiatives that give witness to these non-formal educational activities. They are meant to offer an education to those persons who for various reasons (social, economic and political), are excluded from formal education. Among these initiatives, those with a sufficiently clear educational character are mentioned below.

Unit	Total of Works	Total of Students	# Male Students	# Female Students	Total of Educators	# of Lay Educators	# of Relig. Educators
Austria	1	70	35	35	26	25	1
India	4	259	150	109	21	13	8
Spain	3	323	162	161	34	29	5
Latin America	12	557	350	207	311	287	24
TOTAL	20	1209	697	512	392	354	38

As their names suggest, the contours of these non-formal educational works are not always well defined, and therefore not easy to determine. Nevertheless, taking an interest in and striving to have these kinds of statistics allows us to have an increasingly accurate knowledge and appreciation of this ever-growing dimension of our mission.

For an integral ecology with Blessed Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon

The General Chapter of the Marianist Sisters of July 2022 highlighted the fact that the charism offered to us by our founders responds to the urgent signs of our time, especially that of an integral ecology. Our founders and particularly Blessed Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon were very concerned about the question of the poor.



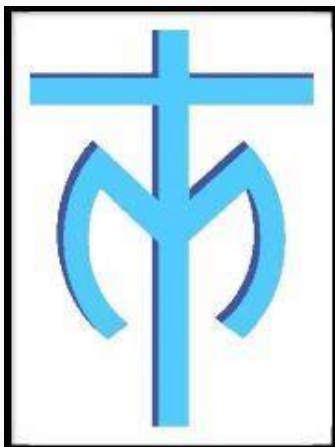
She was very actively involved in the education of poor children, visiting the sick, and helping the needy. She was concerned about reaching out to the different classes of society, especially the poor. Her charity towards them responds in a significant way to integral ecology. Indeed, by integral ecology, we should not only understand an environmental or physical crisis of the earth but also a social crisis. Under the weight of the ecological crisis, not only our mother earth groans, but with her, the poor.

Mother Adele was interested in both aspects. Here are two extracts from her letters to Miss Agathe Diché:

"Look at the smallest blade of grass. Is there a human being skillful enough to make its like? Is there anyone else endowed with the power and authority to cause grain of seed to multiply, as God does? Everything in nature signs of the grandeur of God. Would only we, by our failings, give occasion for the godless to blaspheme God's holy name?" (Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon, Letter 3, to Agathe Diché, Agen, March 27, 1805).

" Dear friend, let us imitate the love of our Blessed Mother. Like her, let us render to all our brothers and sisters the corporal and spiritual services in our power." (Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon, Letter 128, to Agathe Diché, Agen, July 2, 1810).

Prayer



Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness. She is the Woman, “clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars”

*(Rev 12:1). Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51), and now understands the meaning of all things. Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom. **Laudato Si 241***



**Society of Mary
Marianists**

PREPARATION OF XXXVI GENERAL CHAPTER (JULY 2024)



XXXVI° General Chapter (2024): Thanks to the communities and collaborators of our works who have sent their contributions in preparation for the General Chapter. Thanks to those who are preparing to do so. Let us continue to enrich our common reflection for the sake of the mission entrusted to us among young people.

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: N.11**
- **May 12: Circular # 4 - Convocation of the XXXVI General Chapter** in three languages, to all the religious, from Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, Superior General.

G.A. Calendar

- **June 2 - 10:** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, Assistant General for Religious Life, participates in CLAMAR meetings in Argentina.
- **June 27 - July 27 :** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, Assistant General for Religious Life, participates in the *Horizons* program in Spain.
- **June 28 - July 3 :** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, Superior General and Bro. Michael McAward, Assistant General for Temporalities, participate in the Assembly of the Province of the USA.

Changes of Adresses

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