



VIA LATINA 22 # 323 - July 2023

News from General Administration of the Society of Mary

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First vows in the Province of USA



Bro. Juan de la Cruz pronounces his vows.

Bro. Juan de la Cruz professed first vows in the Society of Mary on June 10, 2023, at Capilla de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe) in Querétaro, Mexico. Director of Novices Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM and Assistant Director of Novices Fr. Tim Eden, SM presented Bro. Juan as a suitable candidate for the profession of vows after a period of formation and discernment. His vows were received by Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM, Provincial. Principal concelebrants included Assistant Provincial of the Office of Religious Life Fr. Tim Kenney, SM and Chaplain of Comunidad Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth, SM

Family members, friends, and members of the Marianist community attended the vow ceremony and reception. The ceremony was also livestreamed so that Marianist family members and friends worldwide could witness the celebration virtually.



Bro. Juan de la Cruz with confreres and relatives.

Bro. Juan, 32, was born in Villahermosa, the capital city of Tabasco State in southeast Mexico, and is the middle child of three. “I met the Marianists at the age of 13 in 2003, my first contact was Bro. Lawrence McBride and Bro. Nereo

Ramirez Hernandez. They introduced me to Marianist life and my interest in knowing more about them increased,” explained Bro. Juan.

Bro. Juan applied for aspirancy in 2015 and connected with the Marianists in Mexico both in Puebla and Querétaro, living in community until he went to the novitiate in Dayton, OH, in 2018.

First vows in Ivory Coast



Bros. Espoir Edzilambusi, Prince Nestor Lusindu and Juvel Samba with some members of the District of Ivory Coast

On Saturday June 24, 2023, at the Marianist Novitiate of Notre Dame del Pilar, the Society of Mary and the entire Marianist family in Ivory Coast had the great joy of celebrating the first religious profession of novices Espoir Edzilambusi, Prince Nestor Lusindu and Juvel Samba, all from the Sector of Congo (Region of France).

The Mass, which began at 10:30 a.m., was presided over by Father Elie Oka, SM. Several religious communities were present, as well as members of the Marianist family and friends of the professed.

The festivities ended with a shared meal in the Novitiate community.

Virtual Meeting of Delegates for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons

The first meeting of delegates for the protection of minors and vulnerable persons took place on June 1. The General Council and two members of the Via Latina communities also took part in the meeting. For the seventeen delegates chosen by each of their Units, this was the first training session in a planned cycle of four meetings. To fit in with the schedules in force in our various countries, participants were divided into two groups, each lasting two and a half hours.

The course was ably led by Ms. Tina Campbell, a laywoman from the UK who specializes in training on this theme. She works with several other congregations. Since last January, the General Council has asked Ms. Campbell to share her own reflections on this subject.



Some participants in the training

This meeting focused on the delegate's role and the main aspects of his mission. Some of the delegates are just starting out, while others have already had this

responsibility for several years. During the meeting, language groups were invited to share their questions and experiences.

Our desire is to better meet our responsibilities in this important area. We need to correct what may have been neglected by ourselves or in the works entrusted to us. This sometimes means dealing responsibly with proven cases of abuse. However, we are particularly keen to promote a culture of respect for the individual person among ourselves and in all our works, to prevent the various forms of abuse. This task requires awareness on everyone's part. For this reason, in consultation with those in charge of their Unit, delegates will be called upon to work with all the brothers and with those responsible for the works entrusted to us. This culture of respect is fully in tune with the evangelical spirit, or family spirit, that we want to foster everywhere. This is the call to which we wish to respond through these training sessions.

The next virtual meeting will take place on October 24. We thank the delegates for their availability.

General Administration Hosts Students and Faculty of The University of Dayton



UD Students visit the Seminary Chapel, guided by Bro. David Bruner, SM

On June 6th, the community of the General Administration hosted a group of 30 students from the University of Dayton, a Marianist university in Ohio, USA, along with three of their professors. These students had come to Italy as part of their university experience, participating in a special program entitled: *Engineering in Florence: City Design between the Renaissance and the 21st Century*. Based in the beautiful classical Italian city of Florence, they spent several weeks studying public spaces within that city. They also had opportunities to explore sites outside of Florence, include a pilgrimage to Rome where they spent several days. During that excursion, they were able to visit the Generalate for prayer, discussion, a short tour and lunch on the terrazzo, featuring homemade pizza. The community of the International Seminary also joined the group for lunch.



**Visiting the Archives of the GA (AGMAR) with an explanation from
Mr. Maximiliano Vidili, Assistant Archivist.**

Members of the General Administration also enjoyed other moments with the group, including accompanying them on their visit to St. Peter's Basilica, a group meal and discussions in Rome one evening and another meeting and meal together back in Florence. As part of the worldwide preparation for the upcoming XXXVI General Chapter, the discussions with the group, both formal and informal, were geared toward exploring the topics suggested by the "Step 3" in the preparatory document. Thus, with this direct interaction with lay people, the Community of the General Administration was able to contribute concretely to the preparatory process.

We were grateful for the opportunity for these encounters with such fine, enthusiastic and thoughtful young people!

Priestly Goodness and Mercy: Pastoral Charity Venerable Fr. Vicente López de Uralde Lazcano

On January 19, 2023, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, by mandate of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, issued the Decree of Venerable in favor of Father Vicente López de Uralde Lazcano, S.M., a professed priest of the Society of Mary, who died in Cadiz (Spain) in 1990 at the age of 96.

On June 7, a Eucharist of Thanksgiving was celebrated in the church of Colegio San Felipe Neri in Cadiz. The Eucharist was presided over by the Bishop of the Diocese of Cadiz and Ceuta, Msgr. Rafael Zornoza; concelebrating were the Provincial of Spain, Father Iñaki Sarasua, the director of the community, Father Rafael Iglesias, and the Marianist postulator, Father Antonio Gascón, as well as numerous priests of the Diocese. Many of the faithful attended this Eucharist, including former students, teachers of the College, lay people from the Marianist Lay Communities, Marianist religious and the Provincial Council of the Province of Spain. At the end of the Eucharist, they went in procession to the chapel where the remains of Father Vicente rest. There, the Bishop blessed the niche that contained the urn of the Venerable Marianist priest.



Blessing of the chapel and relics of Venerable Father Vicente López de Uralde by Mons. Rafael Zornoza, accompanied by (from left to right): Fr. Antonio Gascón, Fr. Rafael Iglesias and Fr. Iñaki Sarasua.

This event marked the end of the Cause on heroic virtues and fame of sanctity that began in the diocese of Cadiz in 2008. Once the *Positio* was prepared, it was examined by the Theological Consultors of the Dicastery for the Cause of Saints in March 2022 with a favorable vote. Subsequently, the Cardinals and Bishops, in the session of January 17, 2023, recognized that the Servant of God Vicente López de Uralde had lived to a heroic degree the theological and cardinal virtues, as well as those attached to the religious and priestly state.

Father Vincent lived a humble life as a Marianist religious; a man of good character who became famous as a confessor and dispenser of God's tender mercy. He spent many hours in the confessional and an immense number of the city's faithful came to his confessional, because in his gestures and words they found welcome, a listening ear to their problems and God's forgiveness. Father Vincent was a simple, cheerful and modest Marianist priest, of good character

and good humor, cheerful and jovial with everyone. He was conciliatory and always kind, making no distinction between people. He was a bond of union among the brothers of the community. During his lifetime, he enjoyed a reputation of sanctity for his patience, kindness, self-denial and simplicity. He was highly esteemed by his Marianist brothers, the students, priests of the Diocese, nuns of the cloistered convents of the city and by the faithful. He treated everyone who came to him for confession with calmness and kindness, manifesting with his words and his life the mercy of the Lord Jesus with sinners, the little ones and the needy.



Father Vincent identified himself completely with his vocation as a priest and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation he knew how to transmit the mercy of God, who heals weary and burdened hearts (Matthew 11:28), exercising the ministry of the Good Shepherd, never that of a judge. "Forgive, forgive everything," was his confessor's motto; and at the end of confession, he would dismiss penitents with the words: "Forward, always forward."

Minister of Mercy, he became more merciful every day. Giver of the infinite mercy of God who in Jesus Christ has reconciled and saved us and made us adopted children. Father Vincent has incarnated the doctrine of the Second Vatican Council, which defines the priest's love for God and the faithful with the expression "pastoral charity," proper to the priests of the New Testament. "Priests, carrying out the office of the good shepherd, will find in the very exercise of pastoral charity the bond of priestly perfection, which will reduce their life and action to unity" (*Presbyterorum ordinis*, 14). In his life of community and mission as a Marianist religious, he practiced the teaching of St. Paul the Apostle: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with tender compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, gentleness, patience. Bear with each other and forgive each other when one has grievances against the other. The Lord has forgiven you: do the same. Above all this, clothe yourselves with love which is the bond of perfect unity" (Colossians 3:14).

Meeting with the General Council of the Marist Brothers



The two councils, in the first row, 3rd from the left, Bro. Ernesto, Superior General of the Marist Brothers

The General Council wished to share a fraternal moment with the General Council of the Marist Brothers. We have a great affinity with this congregation, its fraternal Marian spirit and its commitment to education. For this reason, we were delighted to spend some time with them, the Superior General, Brother Ernesto Sánchez, and his five councilors. We met on June 12. A time of free exchange on common themes was followed by a moment of prayer. After that, we enjoyed a 'Cena' together on the terrace of the house. It was a great time for all of us.

Prayer to Mary, woman of listening



Mary, woman of listening, open our ears; grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus among the thousands of words of this world; grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live, to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.

Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitating, the

word of your Son Jesus; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life.

Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move “with haste” toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did. Amen.

Pope Francis



Prayer Intentions to Blessed Chaminade

The Marianist Postulator requests a novena of prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for the healing of **Father Robert Witwicki**, S.M., of the community of La Chapelle de la Madeleine-Maison Chaminade (Bordeaux-Region of France). Fr. Robert is seriously ill with a brain tumor. The Regional Council of France and the General Council have requested our prayers for this intention.



**Society of Mary
Marianists**

PREPARATION OF XXXVI GENERAL CHAPTER (JULY 2024)

**92 more days to share your reflection in preparation
for the General Chapter.
Thank you to all of you !**

G. A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N.12**
- **June 21: S.M. 3 Offices # 159 - *Strengthening Marianist Education through Global Compact on Education: The importance of right questions and right criteria***, sent to all the members of the Society of Mary, from Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education.

G.A. Calendar

- **June 27 - July 28:** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life, participates in the *Horizons* program in Spain.
- **July 9-15:** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, participates in the *Horizons* program in Spain.
- **July 19-26:** Bro. Michael McAward, SM, Assistant General for Temporalities, participates in the *Horizons* program in Spain.
- **August 11-29:** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life, participates in the *Nazareth* program in Nairobi.
- **August 19-30:** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, participates in the *Nazareth* program in Nairobi.