



VIA LATINA 22

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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Perpetual vows in the Region of Latin America

In the Region of Latin America, Sector of Colombia-Ecuador, the Marianist Family had the joy of participating in the ceremony of perpetual vows of Bro. Wilson Rentería, SM. The profession took place in the San Gabriel Arcángel Parish, very close to the Marianist Sector House in Bogotá.

On December 11 and 12, the religious held a Sector Assembly in the presence of Father Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life, and Bro. Mauricio Silva, SM, Sector Superior of Chile. This fraternal meeting took place at the same time as the profession. The timing of this meeting allowed almost all

the Brothers of the Sector to witness this very significant and important step for Bro. Wilson.



Bro. Wilson (center, front row), Fr. Pablo Rambaud, the brothers of the Colombia-Ecuador sector and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (Marianist Sisters)

Marianist Sisters and members of the CLM. also attended the Eucharist, presided by Father Pablo. In addition, representatives of the Parishes of Caridad and Blessed Chaminade of Bogota, as well as from the Parish of Espiritu Santo and the school of the same name located in Girardot were present for this profession. For many years, Bro. Wilson has shared his life and his mission with all of these people.

By delegation of the Regional Superior, Fr. Luis Casalá, SM, the Sector Superior, Bro. Pedro José Castañeda, SM, received the vows. The celebration ended with heartfelt words of thanks and a request for prayer from the newly perpetually professed, followed by the traditional photo session and a delicious meal shared with the Marianist Family.

Visit to the Sector of Colombia-Ecuador

From December 4 to 17, Father Pablo Rambaud visited the sector of Colombia-Ecuador, together with Brother Mauricio Silva, superior of the Chile sector and member of the Regional Council of Latin America.

The General Council had made the canonical visitation to Colombia-Ecuador in

January and February 2019. In May 2022, the new Latin America Region was created and, having gone almost five years without any member of the Council visiting this sector, it was deemed appropriate to make a new visit to the communities. The main purpose was to listen to the brothers of the Sector and to see how the new Region was developing. Therefore, it also seemed appropriate for one of the members of the Regional Council to participate in the visit.



Fr. Pablo Rambaud with three brothers from the Colombia-Ecuador sector (from left to right: Fr. Jesús Antonio Obando, Fr. Rodrigo Betancur and Fr. Remo Segalla) during the assembly.

The visit began in Ecuador on December 4, visiting the brothers, first in Quito and then in Latacunga. They celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with the community of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (Marianists) of Latacunga. That same afternoon they traveled to Bogota. The first visit was to the Sector House community, where, on December 11 and 12, the Sector Assembly was held, with the presence of all the religious living in Colombia and Brother Roberto Bordignon, who traveled from Ecuador. Two days of meetings and sharing on the reality of the Sector, its challenges and strengths. These meetings concluded on the afternoon of the day of the Virgin of Guadalupe with the celebration of the perpetual profession of our brother Wilson Rentería.

The rest of the days were dedicated to meetings with the other communities (Girardot, Blessed Chaminade and La Caridad), especially the interviews with the brothers. In addition, the visitors were able to participate in several Eucharistic celebrations in the parishes, in the celebration with the staff of the

Chaminade Foundation, and in the distribution of food and toys to adults and street children.

We thank all the brothers of the Sector and especially Brother Pedro Castañeda, Sector Superior, for his preparations for the meetings, his welcome, and for his willingness to share his life and concerns with us.

New Beginnings at the Madeleine

Today, January 1, 2024, marks a new beginning for one of our oldest, and certainly the “charismatic mother” of our Marianist missionary tradition. The Chapel of the Madeleine in Bordeaux takes up a new structure with the hope of strengthening and expanding its vital mission to the people of Bordeaux and the members of the Marianist charismatic family throughout the world. Bro. Hervé Guillo du Bodan, SM, Rector and Superior of the community, along with the other members of this international community, seek to continue to provide religious services, especially through liturgies and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that have been so important to the local faithful. They hope to expand this outreach with the introduction of other programs and opportunities, including regular collaboration with the Institution Sainte Marie Grand Lebrun. At the same time, expansion of opportunities for charismatic and historical research is envisioned, taking advantage of the many resources available in the archives, library and site of our Blessed Founder. The proximity of Bordeaux and Agen afford an even broader opportunity for mutually beneficial study between members of the SM and the FMI, as well as lay Marianists and other scholars.



Interior of Chaminade's Room at the Madeleine, Bordeaux

The General Administration, with the cooperation of the Region of France, now takes responsibility for the community and mission at the Madeleine. We are extremely grateful for the many Units in the SM who have generously donated to the new fund designed to endow this mission and, in time, make it more widely available. We appreciate this continued support!

Let us all keep this important endeavor in our prayers, especially during this time of transition.

Father Raymond Halter: healing inner wounds

25 years ago, on the night of December 25-26, 1998, Father Raymond Halter set off to meet the Lord and the Virgin Mary, whom he had served all his life. At a time when we had just celebrated the birth of God made man, Raymond, whose stature and face expressed a strong fatherly image, was leaving this world, as if he were stepping aside to make way for Jesus.



A man of great intellectual ability, Father Halter contributed to the development of Marianist spirituality through his study of the *writings on prayer* of Blessed G.-J. Chaminade. He also wrote the book: *The Virgin Mary in the life and work of Paul Claudel*. Appointed general chaplain to the students of Bordeaux, he continued his personal training to better respond to the university world around him.

During a weekend with a group of young people in 1973, they experienced life in the Holy Spirit. Shortly afterwards, following a car accident, he lost his sight. For a man who read *Le Monde* every day and kept abreast of the latest publications, he overcame this tragedy through prayer and the grace of the Holy Spirit. He regained some of his sight following an operation in Nancy, where the surgeon told him that a miracle could also be God guiding his hand. At this time, his superiors sent him to the city of Moselles. From the intellectual milieu of Bordeaux, he had to adapt to the simple people of this working-class city.

Many injured people asked him for help. He accompanied and preached inner-healing retreats. He examined the root causes of wounds, the ravages of spiritualism, satanic links, etc., and warned against the New Age currents that were on the rise. The work was demanding and the requests were numerous. When he was assigned to Abidjan, he suggested to the Provincial that he set up a retreat center in France, where he could spend the whole year. However, God had other plans for him.

He trained people to provide this support. At the start of the retreats he preached, small listening teams were set up to welcome those whose wounds are too heavy. He knew how to surround himself with people who were discerning and not left alone with all the human misery.

We ourselves carry inner wounds or accompany wounded people. Let's take a

moment to let Jesus descend into our inner hell, to let him visit us. Through Father Halter's intercession, let us ask to be visited by the Lord, through the grace of his Holy Spirit. We can make our own the prayer he formulated at Lourdes on July 1, 1979:

You know all our needs, Lord. All those of our body, our emotions, our intelligence, our spirit. You know our hearts. You, Lord, who made us to love and be loved, know everything that life, everything that men, everything that events have wounded in us, or sometimes perhaps killed within us. Lord, you who know us in the depths of our being, you who know our whole existence, come and give each of us what we need most to blossom in the love you put in our hearts and for which you created us. Come and heal in each of us what prevents us from loving those around us. Those things that prevent us from serving those around us.

Lord, we are here in confidence, in peace. We want to tell you now as we look at you, as we look at your face of love and compassion. Lord, heal us, to teach us more how to love, how to be loved. Amen

Prayer for the XXXVI General Chapter



XXXVI
GENERAL CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF MARY

*Mary, to you,
who always gives us Jesus,
who bore him in your womb,
who accepted us as children at the foot of the cross,
we pray for our General Chapter.*

*Open us to the action of the Spirit,
so that the Chapter
may be a time of discernment and encounter.
Help us to know young people better,
that we may share with them the Gospel of joy,
the joy of living centered on Jesus Christ,
the living Gospel,
and thus, be able to offer better,
without exclusion,
the gifts of our Marianist religious life to all,
and attract others to collaborate with us
in building a more just and fraternal society.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Mother of the Marianist Family
Pray for us*

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Necrology 2023

#	Name	Date	Place	Age	Prof.	Unit
1	Michael John Galvin	Jan. 1	San Antonio	81	63	US
2	*Donald James Wallace	Jan. 25	San Antonio	86	67	US
3	*Anthony Gerard Jansen	Jan. 27	San Antonio	98	79	US
4	Valentín Laconcha Abecia	Jan. 31	Vitoria-Gasteiz	84	67	ES
5	Michel Lemay	Feb. 4	Lévis	80	63	CA
6	*Francis Walter Schorp	Feb. 19	San Antonio	91	70	US
7	Juan Miguel Fernández Calleja	Feb. 20	Madrid	82	65	ES
8	*Gustave Lamontagne	Feb. 28	Lévis	86	70	CA
9	*Eugen Mensdorff-Pouilly	Avr. 25	Rainbach im Mühlkreis	80	61	OE
10	*Fermín Gastaminza Ibarburu	Avr. 29	Madrid	91	73	ES
11	*Feliciano Ruiz Gainzarain	May 29	Madrid	100	82	ES
12	Willy Mboma Malie	Jun. 11	Kinshasa	58	28	FR
13	*Shigeru Dominique Tagawa	Jul. 12	Kawasaki	97	79	JA
14	*Diego Tolsada Peris	Oct. 7	Madrid	77	60	ES
15	*John Kracher	Oct. 7	Winnipeg	87	65	CA
16	Albert George Kuntemeier	Oct. 13	San Antonio	92	75	US
17	James Patrick Brown	Oct. 15	Centerville	82	63	US
18	Francis Richard Heyer	Oct. 19	San Antonio	102	83	US
19	*Gerald Thomas Chinchar	Oct. 28	San Antonio	80	61	US
20	Stellino Pedrollo	Nov. 24	Roma	85	69	IT
21	Tarcisio Rimoldi	Dec. 12	Roma	94	78	IT

Jubilarians 2024

January 9

(25° ordination)

*Sarasua, Iñaki (ES)

March 14

(60° ordination)

*Bringas, Antonio (ES)

*Buby, Bertrand Andrew (US)

*Miller, Charles H. (US)

*Russell, James Aloysius (US)

*Valmaseda, Martín (ES)

March 20

(25° ordination)

*Aguirre, Javier Andrés de (LA)

March 24

(50° ordination)

*Cortés, Manuel (ES)

April 2

(60° ordination)

*Pauels, Léo Lambert (IV)

April 4

(50° ordination)

*Witwicki, Robert (FR)

April 11

(50° ordination)

*Chastrusse, Charles (FR)

April 24

(50° ordination)

*Stoltz, Jacques (FR)

May 1

(25° profession)

Bilung, Marianus (IN)

May 25

(50° ordination)

*Fitz, James Francis (US)

June 27

(25° profession)

Batsimba Mounoki, Anthelm Fernand (FR)

Schelker, Nicolas (FR)

July 19

(60° ordination)

*Cano-Manuel, Fernando (ES)

July 31

(25° profession)

*Lugutu, Bernard Ombima (EA)

August 15

(60° profession)

*Eden, Timothy Edward (US)

(70° profession)

Bolts, William Thomas (US)

*Côté, Eugène (CA)

*Dwyer, Timothy (US)

Wachtel, Irwin (US)

(75° profession)

Dix, Richard Joseph (US)

Slay, Leo Irving (US)

(80° profession)

*De Martini, Pierino (IT)

August 16

(70° profession)

*Cantonetti, Arnaldo (IT)

August 18

(50° profession)

Klco, Daniel Lee (US)

August 20

(80° profession)

Leahy, James (US)

August 22

(60° profession)

Bau, Roger (US)

Contadino, James Anthony (US)

Corbin, Lawrence William (US)

Habjan, John Frank (US)

Ormond, Mark Clayton (ME)

Overman, Ronald Leo (US)

Pieper, Thomas Joseph (US)

August 23

(75° profession)

Gausling, Charles Joseph (US)

*Hughes, Robert Emmet (US)

September 8

(70° profession)

Grundish, William Ira (US)

September 12

(60° profession)

*Cremades, Germán (ES)

*Gonzalo, Manuel (LA)

(70° profession)

*Arnaiz, José María (LA)

Fernández, Rafael (ES)

Lara, José Lázaro (LA)

Marchadour, Joseph Marie (FR)

*Pacheco, Antonio (ES)

*Pauels, Léo Lambert (IV)

(75° profession)

*Atucha, Juan Bautista (ES)

Brissinger, André (FR)

*Cano-Manuel, Fernando (ES)

Fernández, Jesús (ES)

Pérez, Eliseo (ES)

September 14

(50° ordination)

*Lapetra, Álvaro (LA)

*Zabala, Ignacio María (ES)

September 24

(75° profession)

*Cahill, Donald (US)

October 2

(60° profession)

*Chastrusse, Charles (FR)

Miclo, Joseph (FR)

(70° profession)

Rota, Evasio (IT)

October 16

(25° ordination)

*Thompson, John F. (US)

November 1

(50° ordination)

*Fernández-Moscoso, Eduardo (ES)

November 30

(50° ordination)

*Bouffier, Robert John (US)

Calendar of the Marianist Family - Year 2024



JANUARY

10: Memorial of Blessed Mother Marie de la Conception (Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon), Foundress.

22: Memorial of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Founder

FEBRUARY

02: Anniversary of the first consecrations in the Sodality of Bordeaux.

APRIL

08: ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family (The four branches of the Family celebrate their common vocation, the day of the “yes” of Mary).

MAY

25: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, Anniversary of the foundation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

31: VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patronal Feast of the AM.

AUGUST

13: Memorial of Blessed Jacob Gapp, Martyr.

SEPTEMBER

12: MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY, Patronal Feast of the Society of Mary.

18: Memory of Blessed Carlos Eraña, Fidel Fuidio and Jesús Hita, Martyrs.

OCTOBER

02: HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, Anniversary of the foundation of the Society of Mary.

13: World Day of Marianist Prayer in communion with the Shrine of Our Lady of Africa, Abidjan – Ivory Coast.

11-12-13: Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family.

NOVEMBER

06: Memorial of Blessed Miguel Léibar, Joaquín Ochoa, Sabino Ayastuy and Florencio Arnaiz, Martyrs.

DECEMBER

08: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patronal Feast of the MLC and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

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G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N. 21**
- **Dec.1: General Chapter Communication 3, with the *Instrumentum laboris* first draft**, in three languages, sent to the Capitulants of XXXVI General Chapter from the Preparatory Commission
- **Dec. 1: The prayer in preparation for the Chapter**, in three languages, to Unit Superiors, from the Preparatory Commission
- **Dec.4: Request for information for the 2023 Marianist Education Directory**, in three languages, sent to Assistants for Education of the Units (except Latin America), from Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education.
- **Dec. 6: Letter to National Councils of the Marianist Family**, in three languages, to Unit Superiors from the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF).
- **Dec. 8: Message from the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF)**, in three languages, to all Marianist religious.
- **Dec. 22: New wine (Sharing resources as Marianist Family) nr.7**, in three languages, sent to the Directors of CEMAS, Presidents of Zonal Conferences, Superiors of Units, Superiors of Formation Houses, Members of the WCMF, from Bro. José Ignacio Islesia, SM, International Coordinator of Centers for Marianist Studies.

G.A. Calendar

- **Jan. 12-25:** Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education, participates to a Symposium of the Asian Zonal Conference on Education and Asian culture.

Happy New Year 2024!

"Behold, I'm doing something new: it's already sprouting, can't you see it? Yes, I am going to make a path through the desert, rivers in dry places". (Is. 43,19).

The Via Latina communities wish all members of the Marianist Family a Holy and Blessed New Year. May the Lord bless us and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea in the storm, may we find serenity in our mission.

