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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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CEM Meeting in Bordeaux (April 2-5, 2024) and Canonical Visit to the Madeleine Community (April 6-10, 2024)

From April 2 to 5, the European Zone Superiors (CEM) met. The meeting itself took place in St.-Symphorien, some forty kilometers south of Bordeaux, in a home that is used as a family guesthouse, owned by Isabelle de Cantellaue. Zonal President José Maria Alvira organized the meeting.

Participants exchanged news from each of the European Units. They also reviewed the successful meeting of European religious held in Fribourg in

October 2023. It was once again noted that the welcome given by our brothers in Switzerland had been exemplary, helping to make this experience a success.



The Superiors of the CEM in Father Chaminade's room (L-R): Bro. José María Alvira, President; Fr. Iñaki Sarasua (ES), Bro. Davide Gozio (IT), Fr. André-Joseph Fetis, Superior General, Fr. Leo Müller (SU), Fr. Jean-Edouard Gatuingt (FR), Bro. Jean-Marie Leclerc (FR), Fr. Helmut Brandstetter (OE)

The central themes of the CEM meeting were restructuring in Europe and strengthening collaboration between European Units. Structural change may sometimes be necessary to ensure that the religious and works have sufficiently strong leadership to support them. The aim was also to look at the situation of each Unit in Europe as a whole, in order to develop a more favorable global vision than isolated individual options. Next October, the superiors will meet in Rome to continue this work, after consulting their respective councils.

On the last day of the CEM meeting, a morning was devoted to dialogue on the development of the Madeleine project. This meeting took place on the premises of the Madeleine, allowing everyone to listen to the religious who work there and to benefit from their warm welcome.



In the Chapel of Blessed Chaminade.

Following the meeting, Brother Jean-Marie, Regional Director for France, and Father André-Joseph, Superior General, carried out the canonical visitation of the Madeleine community. This joint visit highlighted the gradual transfer of the work and the community to the responsibility of the General Council, which the next General Chapter will be called upon to confirm.

The brothers give themselves very generously to the mission of keeping this place alive as a source for our Family, but also to welcoming the many Bordeaux residents who come here to recharge their spiritual batteries through prayer, celebration of the Eucharist or the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our thanks to them! The aim of the international project is also to extend a welcome to religious of the SM or members of other Marianist branches to deepen our charism. We hope that many will make this choice in the near future; the Superior of each Unit can contact the community for this purpose. May the Madeleine always be a place where our charism and the work and thought of Blessed Chaminade shine forth!

Meeting of Education Leaders in Pallanza

The annual meeting of the European Commission for Marianist Education took place from April 3 to 5 at the Chaminade House in Pallanza, on the shores of Lake Maggiore. The community residing in Pallanza did a splendid job in hosting this meeting. Representatives of Marianist education from France, Italy, Spain and Austria have been meeting regularly to develop common projects for Marianist schools in Europe



Participants in the garden of Villa Chaminade in Pallanza.

Among these meetings will be the organization of the first meeting of the administrators of Marianist schools in Europe and the next meeting of management teams. Both will be held in November 2025.

The fundamental objective will be to reinforce the Marianist identity of our European schools in the current context. We have also promoted pedagogical visits to the different Units, as well as the development of Erasmus+ projects, both with teachers and students.

Statistics for Our Educational Works (Formal and Non-formal) - 2023/2024

For the same number of **formal educational works** as in 2023 - 100 to be exact - statistical data for 2024 reveals a significant growth in both the number of students (112,321 in 2023) and the number of educators (8,389 in 2023). There has also been a slight increase in the number of SM religious involved, particularly in the Developing Units. This may provide some indication of the importance that the Units concerned attach to the training of their young members according to their educational missionary orientation. The 100 educational institutions include kindergartens (42), primary education (56), secondary education (88), technical education (3) and universities (3). The majority of these schools are co-educational (83), but there are also schools reserved for boys (16) or girls (1). In addition, there are 25 student residences in different parts of the world.

Here is the table of **formal works by Unit** :

Units	# of Schools	# of Students	# of all Teachers	# of SM Teachers	# of Admin.	# of Religious
Latin America	17	21469	1886	14	369	29
Estearn Africa	9	5662	242	18	47	38
Spain	20	24359	1763	20	125	57
France	10	11932	875	7	406	18
Ivory Coast	2	2901	125	6	29	10
Italy	1	1050	90	0	3	3
Japan	4	5740	486	1	66	8
Korea	1	466	45	1	5	3
Meribah	3	4673	303	23	43	24
Austria	3	2417	243	0	23	3
Togo	3	1596	121	23	21	23
USA (non University)	17	11403	945	6	652	30
USA (University)	3	16800	1126	6	632	41
USA (total)	20	28203	2071	12	1284	71
India	7	3666	167	30	19	31
TOTAL	100	114134	8417	155	2440	318

Data from non-formal works also continues to grow in importance in our educational work, reflecting the diversity of our commitments in the different countries and regions where we are present.

Units	# of Works	Total of Students	# Male Students	# Female Students	Total Educators	# Lay Educators	# Religious Educators
Austria	1	75	32	43	26	25	1
India	4	257	115	142	19	12	7
Spain	3	378	143	235	36	25	11
Latin America	12	548	277	271	314	290	24
TOTAL	20	1258	567	691	395	352	43

For more information, you can visit our website:: www.marianist.org. From there the complete digital version of the Marianist SM Education Directory can be downloaded.

Appointments in the Sector of Congo and the District of Ivory Coast.

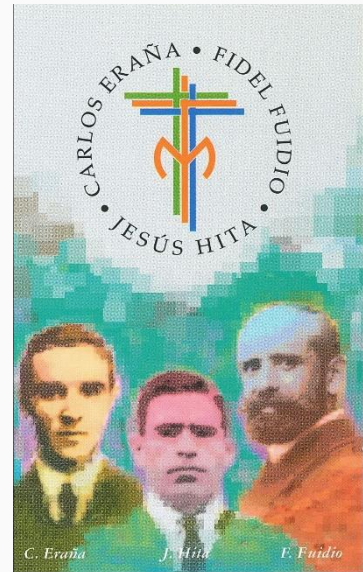


The Regional Superior of France, Brother Jean-Marie Leclerc, on the advice of his Council, has reappointed Fr. Romuald N'Lumbu Mfumu, SM (left), as Superior of the Sector of Congo beginning on August 15, 2024 and Fr. Noël Dominique Kouao Akobé, SM (right), as Superior of the District of Ivory Coast, beginning on August 1, 2024. Fr. Romuald and Fr. Noël are both beginning a second term of three years.

Martyrs of Ciudad Real, educators of youth

The former Marianist students of Ciudad Real have a very positive memory of the Marianist martyrs Bro. Carlos Eraña, Bro. Fidel Fuidio and Bro. Jesús Hita. All three have left the memory of excellent religious, good men and great educators of young people.

The Marianist Province of Spain had assumed the direction of the Instituto Popular de la Inmaculada Concepción, located in Ciudad Real. Monsignor Irastorza, bishop of the city, called the Marianists to direct this diocesan school in 1916. La Popular was a free charitable school of primary education and vocational training for the children of workers. The Provincial Superiors sent Bro. Carlos as principal because of his great qualities as an educator. Bro. Carlos was patient, kind, respectful and gentle in his human treatment.



He soon won the affection and sympathy of the students, their families and even the civil and academic authorities of the city. Every morning he would meet the students at the school gate to greet them personally. In addition to the administrative and teaching duties, because they did not have a Marianist priest in the community, Bro. Carlos directed the religious activities with the students: praying the rosary, the Angelus, first communion catechesis... He said: "My jacket is too short to be a cassock."

When the Republican rulers began to harass Catholic schools, with the Law of Religious Faiths and Congregations of Religious, enacted in June 1933, the Provincial Superiors, in September of that year, sent Bro. Fidel Fuidio to the Colegio Nuestra Señora del Prado, which had been inaugurated in Ciudad Real in the 1928-1929 academic year. Bro. Fidel was not recognized as a Marianist religious in the city. He came from the Colegio del Pilar in Madrid, where he had taught the older students for twenty years. Bro. Fidel had a PhD in Historical Sciences from the University of Madrid, with a thesis in archeology. He was a pioneer in archeology and paleontology, two nascent sciences in Spain. With an extroverted, friendly and cheerful character, he was very innovative in his classes. He knew how to transmit to his students his enthusiasm for archeology and with them, he excavated in the surroundings of Madrid and Ciudad Real. Bro. Fidel understood school education as an evangelizing mission among young people. He used to repeat: "The happiest moment of the day is when I open the classroom door and greet my students."



Bro. Jesús Hita had a very contrary character: introverted, reflective, not at ease in human relationships; but he was deeply religious, serious and with an enormous willpower. An historian like Bro. Fidel, Bro. Jesús was studious, intelligent and meticulously prepared his classes.

In September 1932 he was sent to the Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Prado, Ciudad Real, to avoid being recognized as a Marianist by the political and academic authorities. Once again, he was totally dedicated to his teaching work, very happy with his school activity and with the students. A superior reported, prophetically; "Bro. Jesus will give life beyond what is expected of him, and he will give it generously." The superior referred to the total dedication of the young Marianist in the teaching task; but God not only asks us to consecrate our work to him, but also our whole life and person. The former students of Bro. Jesus remember him for his kindness, deep religious spirit and for being a methodical and rigorous teacher in his explanations during history classes.

Prayer in the month of May with the Venerable Faustino



*"Mother, we are in your month.
Help me to love you more.
To have more faith,
not to be discouraged.
To solidify my vocation;
to be more constant in my duties.
To ignore the discouragement
that I sometimes have.
Help me, Virgin Mary,
all that you can."
(May 7, 1962)*



Prayer intentions to Blessed Chaminade

We ask a novena of prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for the healing of a woman, **Guadalupe**, who is suffering from severe intestinal bleeding. The surgical operation is a very delicate, because the intestines must be drained in an area where Guadeloupe suffered a severe colon cancer. Her son, Pepe Gutiérrez, who is a Marianist novice in Dayton, Ohio (USA), is proposing this intention.

We ask a novena of prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for Mrs. **Eneida**, from Brazil. After the death of her husband, Aeneid began to frequent a spiritualist center (which are psycho-spiritual therapy centers. Such centers are widespread in Brazil). Frequenting this center, Eneida established a relationship with a man who has induced her to use drugs and alcohol, causing serious psychological problems. Her son, Matheus, asks us for prayers to Blessed Chaminade for his mother, Eneida, to break off this relationship, because it is creating serious family conflicts.

Click [HERE](#) for the prayer

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **April 5 :** *General Council Reports - XXXVI General Chapter*, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, from the Preparatory Commission.
- **April 20 :** *Communication #6 and final version of the Instrumentum Laboris (IL2)*, in three languages, to the Capitulants of XXXVI General Chapter, from the Preparatory Commission.
- **April 22 :** *Bulletin #3*, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, from the Preparatory Commission.
- **April 27 :** *Instrumentum Laboris (IL2) Appendix 3*, in three languages, to the Capitulants of XXXVI General Chapter, from the Preparatory Commission.

G.A. Calendar

- **April 22 - May 6:** Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant general for Education visits the Region of Togo.
- **May 1- 6 :** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General of Religious Life, visit India on the occasion of the erection of the new Region of India.