



VIA LATINA 22

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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

INDEX

- [First Vows in the Province of United States](#)
- [Blessing of a new Statue of Blessed Chaminade in Bauru \(Brasil\)](#)
- [Calendar of visits of the General Council](#)
- [FMI and SM General Councils Meet at Via Latina 22](#)
- [Meeting between the members of the General Administrations of the Brothers of St Gabriel \(Gabrielists\) and the Society of Mary \(Marianists\)](#)
- [Reminder: Share your community's reflections on The Promise of Life](#)
- [The hope of the Martyrs](#)
- [On the terrace of Via Latina 22](#)
- [Sharing Resources as Marianist Family](#)
- [Jubilee of Consecrated Life: October 8-12, 2025 \(Rome\)](#)

First Vows in the Province of United States

Bros. Carlos Alexis Roman Altamirano (known as Bro. Alex) and Jose Manuel Gutiérrez Manzo (known as Bro. Pepe) professed first vows in the Society of Mary on June 7, 2025, at Capilla de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Querétaro, Mexico.



Bros. Alex (center left) and Pepe (center right) with Marianist brothers and sisters.

Director of Novices Fr. Tim Eden, SM, presented Bros. Alex and Pepe as suitable candidates for the profession of vows after a period of formation and discernment. Their vows were received by Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM, Superior of Province of USA, and with the Assistant for Religious Life, Fr. Tim Kenney, SM, concelebrating. Also present was Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, General Assistant for Education. Many family members, friends, and Marianist religious from the Querétaro and Puebla communities in Mexico and the United States attended the vow ceremony and reception that followed.



Brothers Alex and Pepe with Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM.

Bro. Alex, 27, is born in Coatzacoalcas, Veracruz, Mexico. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Veracruzana. Bro. Alex began pre-novitiate in 2022 in Querétaro, Mexico, aspirancy in San Antonio, and entered novitiate in August 2023 in Dayton, Ohio. He will begin his service as a teacher and a student at the Marianist Community in Puebla, Mexico.

Bro. Pepe, 30, is born in Tangamandapio, Michoacán De Ocampo, Mexico. He began pre-novitiate in 2020 in Queretaro, Mexico; aspirancy in San Antonio, Texas, and entered novitiate in August 2023 in Dayton, Ohio. He will begin his service as a teacher and a student at the Marianist Community in Puebla, Mexico.

Blessing of a new Statue of Blessed Chaminade in Bauru (Brasil)

On April 8, 2025, the day on which we remember the birth of our founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, and as part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Marianist religious in Brazil, a statue was unveiled at the entrance of the Chaminade College in Bauru. The image was modeled in carbon fiber by Brazilian artist João Monteiro who said that day:



Art and religion have always walked together, because the authentic artist, as well as the monk, seeks spirituality. Even when it is not sacred art, of an artist belonging to an order or a spiritual school, only the work that imbues matter with a vision of the spirit remains worthy of the name of art. Without that vision, we would be talking about crafts and decoration. [...]

William Joseph Chaminade was considered a man of great spiritual and physical presence, hence his majestic and serene bearing, an upright, vertical bearing, reminding us that man has his feet on the ground and his head rises to the sky.

Jacob Klintowitz, Brazilian art historian and critic, says about João Monteiro: "His sculpture tends toward the monumental. He has a vocation for public art, and this is due to the harmony of the internal proportions of his sculpture. It is as if the artist creates models and the scale is the city. No matter the format and size of the sculpture, we are, most of the time, in front of the monumental".

Click [here](#) to read the sculptor's words of presentation on the day of the statue's blessing.

Calendar of visits of the General Council

- Specific dates may be subject to slight modifications
- Visits to the Area Communities of Switzerland and Canada, as well as regular visits to La Madeleine, remain to be determined
- More (support visitations) will be made to some of the Units. Yet to be determined.

YEAR	MONTHS	UNIT	VISITS	COUNCILORS
2024	November-December	America Latina	Support	AF, PR
2025	February	India	Support	DB, PR
	February	Switzerland	Support	JB, AF
	February	La Madeleine	Canonical	JB, AF
	April-May	Ivory Coast	Support	JB, AF
	May	Austria-Germany	Support	DB, PR
	October	Eastern Africa	Canonical	All
	November-December	Italy	Canonical	All
2026	Februart	Togo	Canonical	All
	April	Japan	Support	JB, PR
	April-May	Korea	Canonical	All
	September-October	France	Canonical	All
	November-December	India	Canonical	All
2027	January-February	Congo	Canonical	2
	January-February	Ivory Coast	Canonical	2
	April-May	Spain	Canonical	All
	September-October	America Latina	Canonical	All
2028	March-May	U.S.A.	Canonical	All
	October	Japan	Canonical	All
	November-December	Meribah	Canonical	All

FMI and SM General Councils Meet at Via Latina 22

The FMI and SM General Councils met on Monday, June 9, 2025 (on the eve of the anniversary of the birth and beatification of Mother Adele), at Via Latina 22, Rome, for their second biannual meeting.



In an atmosphere of dialogue, freedom, attentive listening in the form of spiritual conversation. The members of the two councils who were present, reflected on and shared ideas about essential questions around the collaboration between the two general councils, in particular: what is the current state of collaboration between the two councils? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this collaboration? What are the pitfalls that must be avoided in this collaboration? Why, how and in what areas should this collaboration be developed? The collaboration between the two councils is excellent; Let us be sure that these conversations will help us to strengthen it even more.

Meeting between the members of the General Administrations of the Brothers of St Gabriel (Gabrielists) and the Society of Mary (Marianists)



The two General Councils in the General Administration Chapel

The last General Chapter of the Society of Mary (Marianists) asked the General Council to "foster collaboration with other congregations to share experiences and to listen to young people more effectively." (*Promise of Life* #69). It is in this context that an invitation was made to the General Administration of the Brothers of St. Gabriel. The invitation was accepted and a meeting of exchange and friendship was held on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Via Latina 22.

This meeting allowed the two administrations to get to know each other and to share information on their presence and mission in the world. It should be noted that the Brothers of Saint Gabriel belong to the Montfortian Family and they devote themselves mainly to education just like us. Other meetings are planned in the future.

Reminder: Share your community's reflections on *The Promise of Life*



XXXVI
GENERAL CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF MARY

In March, communities received letter #2, which invited reflection on the preamble of the XXXVI General Chapter document, *The Promise of Life*, and encouraged sharing any insights or ideas that emerged.

Many thoughtful responses have already been submitted. These contributions are helping to shape a shared direction and deepen collective understanding of the General Chapter's call.

Communities that have not yet responded are encouraged to submit their reflections here: <https://form.jotform.com/250825800333046>

Links to previous letters:

[Letter #2 \(March 2025\)](#) | [Letter #1 \(December 2024\)](#)

Here's a glimpse of how units and communities around the world are putting the General Chapter's ideas into action:

THE TEXT OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER WORKED OUT IN IVORY COAST



Brothers from the District of Ivory Coast during the Assembly

From April 25 to 27, 2025, all brothers of the District of Ivory Coast gathered to work on the General Chapter document. Each community was assigned to present on one chapter of the document, highlighting key points for reflection for the District, and facilitating a time of discussion and idea exchange. Two secretaries recorded comments and suggestions shared. Based on the insights gathered, the District Council will propose additional working sessions on the District Chapter. Congratulations to the District Council and the brothers!

The hope of the Martyrs

In November 2007, Pope Benedict XVI gave the Church the encyclical letter *Spe Salvi*. His successor, Pope Francis, announced to us with the bull *Spes non confundit* (May 2025) the convocation of the ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025.

Pope Benedict exhorted us to hope in the "redemption" of a "gifted, sure hope, by virtue of which we can face our present." A present that the Pope called "arduous". Hence the Pope's exhortation to theological hope, because it "leads us to a goal" of which "we can be sure." "This goal is so big that it justifies the fatigue of the road." Seventeen years later, the situation has become more tiring, for the world, politics, war, emigration, young people, poverty, ...; for the Church. Pope Francis convokes this Jubilee Year under the sign of a hope for the whole world: "All hope" and hope for the good, the Pope affirms: "In the heart of every person there is hope as a desire and expectation of good, even if we are ignorant of what tomorrow will bring. However, the unpredictability of the future gives rise to often conflicting feelings: from confidence to fear, from serenity to discouragement, from certainty to doubt. We often find discouraged people, who look to the future with skepticism and pessimism, as if nothing could offer them happiness. May the Jubilee be an opportunity for all to rekindle hope."



Commemorative plaque of the martyrs Carlos Eraña, Jesús Hita and Fidel Fuidio in the Chapel of the General Administration.

Witnesses and models of hope are the martyrs; for, if they had only hoped in this life, they would not have despised death, because they expected a greater good: salvation. Our martyrs Bro. Carlos Eraña, Bro. Fidel Fuidio and Bro. Jesús Hita accepted a martyr's death, violent and unjust, to bear witness to an immeasurable Love and Good: Christ and the Virgin Mary.

Hope lives by faith and is nourished by works of charity. Bro. Carlos's spiritual trait was his piety and his deep sense of faith. In his letter of petition for perpetual vows (24, III, 1908) he wrote: "The service of God, the practice of love for the divine Model and for Mary his Blessed Mother, I want them to be the object of my whole life." He was an excellent religious and a very good school director who strove to instruct students in the catechism and in the practices of piety: confession, communion and participation in Sunday Mass. He loved the Virgin Mary and children. They loved him because they saw in him a kind, self-sacrificing religious, as a parent to them. Simple and humble. Trusting in Providence, he writes: "We are all very ready to go wherever she wants."



Commemorative plaque of the martyrs Miguel Leíbar, Joaquín Ochoa, Sabino Ayastuy and Florencio Arnaiz in the Chapel of the General Administration.

Faced with the legal persecution of the religious schools of the Second Spanish Republic (1931-1939), Bro. Carlos confesses: "I don't know what the future is preparing for us. The horizon is very black." "We trust blindly in Providence, which will watch over us." When he was arrested by the revolutionary militias, he foresaw his death, but he was convinced that God would not abandon him; "whatever God wants," he said. When the time came for his martyrdom (September 18, 1936) he entrusted herself to God, prayed to his Mother in heaven and little by little his spirit became calm. That sad and tormented night was spent in prayer.

Bro. Fidel Fuidio had a different type of personality: he was extroverted, cheerful and very friendly; unreflective, but enthusiastic in everything he did (he even obtained a doctorate in archaeology!). "All for the greater glory of God and the honor of our Mother," he said. Also; "Our Father Founder and the Mother in heaven have accompanied, sustained and encouraged me during those moments of intense life raised upwards by the spirit of Faith."

When the Second Republic was established (April 1931), great public, political and social disorder ensued throughout the nation. In the midst of such unreassuringly events, Bro. Fidel did not lose his optimism and repeated: "Do we not have as our motto: *Maria Duce, Religioni et Patria*? Well, to defend our ideals until we die." He always expressed great confidence in the Lord's promise to protect His Church. Once arrested by the militia, in prison he was calm, serene and in good spirits; according to what God sent him; and so, there was in Bro. Fidel a progressive abandonment of human support to sustain himself in God alone.

Bro. Jesús Hita was of a more complicated psychology because he had a nervous, emotional and shy temperament, which made him suffer from a certain stutter. But he was very charitable, serious, hardworking, pious; sincere and trusting; docile as a child. He always manifested great purposes of holiness.

When immediately after the declaration of the Second Republic social disorders and political assassinations broke out, Bro. Jesús confessed: "I do not know what will become of us once the situation is clarified. [...] I do not fear dangers to personal integrity." Bro. Jesús did not lose his inner calm, but gave himself more to prayer and dedicated himself with greater ardor to the education of his students. He said: "whatever God wants; if we are martyrs, all the better." He hoped to receive as a reward for martyrdom to be received into heaven by the Virgin Mary. His prayer in the month in which he was a refugee and in hiding repeated: "Blessed Virgin, if you want us to be martyrs, I am ready to give myself totally."

On the terrace of Via Latina 22

See you soon, Bro. David!



On June 14, Br. David Bruner ended his service in the General Administration and returned to the Province of Meribah. On this occasion, the two VL communities shared a moment of prayer and dinner on the terrace. We thank Brother David for the seven years he has spent in Rome and for his work helping, always discreetly and effectively, the General Council in its mission. We assure you of our prayers in your future mission.

With the staff of Via Latina 22



On June 6, the usual end-of-year dinner was held with the staff of Via Latina 22. It was an opportunity to share a table and conversation with those who work in the General Administration and who, as Fr. Antonio Gascón said in the brief prayer that preceded the meeting, support the members of the General Council and the communities of the General Administration of the International Seminary day by day in the fulfillment of their mission.
Happy summer to all!

Sharing Resources as Marianist Family



We share with you Bulletin **New Wine No. 12**, *Sharing Resources as Marianist Family*, sent by Bro. José Ignacio Iglesia, SM, coordinator of CEMAS.

To read the newsletter, click on the link: [Newsletter](#)

Jubilee of Consecrated Life: October 8-12, 2025 (Rome)

In the issue n. 343 of Via Latina 22, we published information about the Jubilee of Consecrated Life. We remind you that the registration deadline is August 3, 2025. Official website and registration: [Jubilee of Consecrated Life](#)



There are a limited number of rooms available at Via Latina 22. To reserve, please write to the Secretary General, Bro. José Ignacio Iglesia, at gensecsm@smcuria.it

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N. 14**
- **June 20:** Bulletin *New Wine* nr.12, 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 Iglesia, SM, International Coordinator of Centers for Marianist Studies.

G.A. Calendar

- **July 3 - 14:** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, Assistant General for Religious Life, and Bro. Dennis Bautista, Assistant General for Education, participate in the Assembly of the Region of Latin America and CLAMAR in Lima, Peru.

