



## VIA LATINA 22

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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

### INDEX

- [First vows in the Region of Latin America](#)
- [Advent encounters mark the General Council's visit to the Region of Italy](#)
- [SM and FMI General Councils meet for biannual collaboration](#)
- [Blessed William Joseph Chaminade: A man of justice](#)
- [Appointments for the Marianist Postulation and General Archives \(AGMAR\)](#)
- [Calendar of the Marianist Family - Year 2026](#)
- [Necrology 2025](#)
- [Jubilarians 2026](#)
- **Publications**
- [Faustino](#)
- [Sharing Resources in the Marianist Family](#)
- [Circular of the Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate](#)

## First vows in the Region of Latin America

On December 8, 2025, in the Chapel of the Marianist School of San Antonio in Callao, Peru, the Region celebrated the First Profession of Vows of Luis Norberto Sánchez Suárez (Colombian) from the Region of Latin America. At the same time we celebrated the initiation, incorporation and first covenant of the MLC Peru. It was a ceremony centered very strongly on the Marianist Family, since members of the MLC Peru, the Alliance Mariale and Marianist Religious were present.



**L-R: Bro. Luis Norberto Sánchez Suárez, Bro. Mauricio Silva and Fr. Eduardo Rodríguez**

The ceremony was presided over by Fr. Víctor Müller, SM, and concelebrated by Fr. José Vicente López, SM., Fr. Eduardo Rodríguez, SM, and Fr. Carlos Julio Barragán, SM. The Vows were received by Bro. Mauricio Silva, SM, Regional Superior of Latin America, who traveled from Chile for the occasion. Also present were Douglas Roper, SM., and first-year novice Pedro Guerrero Espejo, as well as many close friends of the Marianist family. A welcoming atmosphere full of great hope reigned.

Afterwards they had a fraternal sharing and a Marianist Family lunch, where they were not only able to share the delicious snacks and food, but also the fraternal and joyful dialogue and singing.

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## Advent encounters mark the General Council's visit to the Region of Italy



**Istituto Santa Maria Community: The General Council concluded their canonical visitation to the Region of Italy at the Marianist Community of Istituto Santa Maria in Rome.**

From Istituto Santa Maria School and Santo Nome Parish in Rome to parishes in the south—Santa Maria Regina della Pace, S. Domenico, S. Giovanni B., and SS. Annunziata —and north to the Marian sanctuary of Salus Infirmorum in Scaldaferro and Villa Chaminade in Pallanza, the General Council experienced Marianist life in its many forms across Italy. Lay collaborators, Marianist Lay Communities, sisters, students and brothers whose fidelity spans decades shaped the defining moments of the canonical visit to the Region of Italy, held from Nov. 28 to Dec. 12, 2025.



**Scaldaferro Community: Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, Bro. Stefano Cirelli, Fr. Loris Floriani, Bro. Dennis Bautista, Fr. Dino Battiston and Fr. Pierangelo Casella.**

In community meetings, the Council led spiritual conversations with the brothers of the Region. These exchanges invited honest assessment of the Region's current reality and revealed a desire and openness to explore new possibilities to strengthen collaboration with lay partners and deepen connection with youth.

The Council welcomed the liturgical season of Advent with the brothers in Scaldaferro and Condofuri, grounding the visit in prayerful anticipation and hope. In Pallanza, the visitors gathered with the Marianist Sisters at their community, celebrating Mass and sharing the evening meal—an expression of their shared Marianist family on a property overlooking Lake Maggiore.





**Condofuri: Fr. Pablo Rambaud and Bro. Jerome Balakiyema meet  
with Centro Giovanile of Condofuri.**

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of Istituto Santa Maria school, the Council joined a group of students and parents for the annual Dec. 8 gathering at Piazza di Spagna, placing flowers at the base of the Column of the Immaculate Conception.

The Region of Italy is home to 27 members with an average age of 78. Though small and aging, the region offers a steady witness marked by perseverance, hospitality and deep love for the Marianist charism.

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## **SM and FMI General Councils meet for biannual collaboration**

The General Councils of the Society of Mary (SM) and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI) gathered at Casa Generalizia delle Figlie di Maria Immacolata at Via Edoardo Jenner for their biannual meeting in December 2025 to discuss shared concerns in Marianist life and governance. The Councils reviewed recent conversations on collaboration and reflected on how joint projects can support the updated objectives of the World Council of the Marianist Family.

Members shared updates on current and future areas of collaboration, including a more intentional and coordinated approach to the Marianist historical sites in Agen and La Madeleine, as well as formation programs such as Horizons and the Nazareth Program of Formators. The Councils also discussed ongoing work related to the formation of unit councils and superiors, the organization of visitations, and how to respond to specific challenges in certain units.



**The SM and FMI General Councils meet for their biannual gathering, December 2025:**  
**Front:** Sr. Micaela Lee Pok-Sun (Assistant for Temporalities), Sr. Susanna Kim Su-Seon-Na (Superior General), Sr. Prudence Adoki (Assistant for Religious Life), Sr. Clotilde Fernández del Pozo (Assistant for Education). **Back:** Bro. Jérôme Balakiyema, Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, Bro. Dennis Bautista.

The meeting included reflection on future challenges, especially in Europe and Latin America, and possible areas for collaboration in Vietnam. The next biannual meeting is scheduled for June 2026.

In countries where these two branches of the Marianist family are present, meetings like this between SM and FMI unit councils are encouraged to explore and strengthen collaboration, and to share insights on how leaders can respond to the challenges of religious life today.

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## Blessed William Joseph Chaminade: A man of justice

The ultimate goal of evangelization is the sanctification of people. It is not only a question of educating about the faith, but of educating men and women to live their faith. In other words, faith must be incarnated, leading to a real transformation of persons. The morality of the commandments alone is not enough for this; nor the way of imitation and communion with the life of the Christ of the Beatitudes. We must not neglect human virtues. We need to cultivate those "dispositions to do good" that are virtues in the most general sense of the word. Among these dispositions to do good, there is justice, which is: "the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion." Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1807).

Chaminade's life was devoted to seeking and doing God's will, to which he always remained faithful [\[1\]](#). He was so convinced of the importance of fulfilling his duties to God that, despite the urgency and multitude of matters to be settled, he never sacrificed either his daily prayers or his annual retreat. He urged Marianist principals of schools not to neglect either community or personal prayer in the face of an excessive or urgent workload. On the contrary, the more important the work, the more necessary fidelity to prayer became. "The first duty of every Christian," he said, "and even more of every religious, is prayer and frequent recourse to God; everything else must come second." [\[2\]](#)

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[\[1\]](#) D. Antoine Enjugier, SM, *Positio*.1929, p. 825.

[\[2\]](#) Fr. Hippolyte Hérail , SM, *Positio*.1929, p. 827 ; Rev. Fr. François Roquefort, *Positio*.1929, p. 828.





**Prayer vigil, the day before the beatification of Father Chaminade,  
at the Santa Maria Institute, Rome.**

We now wish to emphasize the justice with which he governed the Society of Mary and treated the Marianist men and women religious. In this regard, Father Chaminade astonished all eyes by the evangelical fidelity and simplicity of his conduct. Throughout his life, Chaminade fulfilled his duties as a founder with excellence, against all odds and at the cost of the greatest sacrifices. As a founder, the Good Father considered himself responsible to the Church, the State and the Society of Mary for the mission he had received from God. His love for the Society led him to preserve it in the fervor of its beginnings and in the original principles of the institution, as God had inspired them, and as the Holy See recognized and praised them in the decree of praise of April 1839, promulgated by Pope Gregory XVI to the two Marianist religious institutes. This is why Chaminade insisted that Father Caillet fulfill his duties as Superior General. The correctness of the Good Father's position was recognized by Father Chevaux, who wrote to him on February 9, 1846, to acknowledge that "what you have asked of them, these gentlemen have promised, convinced that you were only demanding respect for the Constitutions. Having promised this to



God and Society, they are obliged to suppress such abuses and think that they can do nothing more than what they are trying to do [3]."

The Good Father always acted justly in his management of men and works, especially during the last years of his life, during the conflict with his Assistants. In the midst of so many suspicions, half-truths and accusations, the elderly priest remained transparent and trustworthy to all. Having nothing to hide and telling the truth, he wrote one day to the archbishop of Albi, on October 9, 1847, wishing to address a circular letter to the bishops in his defense: "*Monsignor, if you still find it difficult to arrive at a decision [...] I shall distribute copies of the circular which I sent you [...]. I won't change a word.*" His conduct was so noble that, when he wrote to the bishops, he took care to enclose copies of the letters received from his adversaries. Fr. Georges Caillet, his successor at the head of the Society, forbade him to express himself on the dangers that threatened the Society of Mary. Thus, whenever Chaminade felt compelled to emphasize a negative aspect of the leadership, he did so in the presence of Father Caillet, in order to have the opportunity to defend himself. Chaminade explains that in all things he strove to act in accordance with truth, justice, and his conscience (as he states in a letter of November 23, 1845 to the bishop of Saint-Claude). He always acted faithfully according to his conscience as Founder and father of the Society of Mary, seeking the spiritual good of religious and their works. Telling the truth, for the good of the Society of Mary, was for him a moral imperative [4]. In this sense, his suffering can be considered a form of martyrdom of conscience, since he could not legally assert his rights or defend himself against the accusations made against him.

*His impartiality in the financial management of the Marianist sisters* was also recognized. To understand this, it is necessary to know that, from the foundation of the two congregations, the Founder administered the finances of the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary, in his capacity as spiritual superior. The sisters submitted the acts of leadership of the General Council to the Founder for examination. However, in 1831, their financial situation became very difficult, to the point that they had to separate the finances of the Daughters of Mary and the Society of Mary. The way in which this problem was solved is a credit to Father Chaminade, who was admirable for his sense of justice, his loyalty and his sensitivity, as evidenced by this statement by the Superior, Mother Saint-Vincent (December 30, 1832): "I, the undersigned, after mature reflection, having noted that Father Chaminade, our Superior General, had, through generosity and

sensitivity, omitted to pay various sums that he had provided to our Institute, and the total amount of which would exceed that which he declared he owed us, I beg you to kindly authorize me to exempt the Society of Mary from the debt of 8,203 francs and 80 centimes.” Years later, when the General Council made accusations against Father Chaminade, Mother Saint-Vincent again defended him, submitting the financial statements of the Daughters of Mary to the Bishop of Agen. Father Roussel had accused Father Chaminade of embezzling funds from the sisters financial resources for the benefit of the Society of Mary. In response to this accusation, Mother Saint-Vincent indignantly affirmed that Father Chaminade's accounts had always been in order. In short, despite all the administrative problems that had arisen during his years as Superior General, Father Chaminade had always acted with precision and integrity; on the contrary, it was his opponents who, by their incompetence and imprudence, had provoked the financial mismanagement against which Chaminade had warned them [\[5\]](#).

Another example of the *Good Father's justice towards people* occurred in 1840, when two unfortunate religious left the Society, having contracted certain debts. Their superior, M. Clouzet, demanded the repayment of these debts on their departure; but the Good Father did not hesitate to advise him to let them go without demanding an account, for the good of the Church. Clouzet replied: "Where shall I find the money? Seven thousand five hundred francs for these two [former religious] is an enormous sum for our condition! In short, he wants me to pay, and I will pay with the Lord's help" [\[6\]](#).

But the most problematic case was the amicable financial agreement concluded with Mr. Auguste Brougnon-Perrière when he left the Society of Mary in 1832. When the Assistants asked the Good Father to resign from his position as Superior General in order to be able to contest this agreement – a decision that had given rise to the above-mentioned conflict – Chaminade agreed, and the courts therefore had to rule on the legitimacy of the agreement. In fact, the expertise of the lawyer Ravez, arbitrator between Auguste and the Society of Mary, in the arbitral award rendered in 1844, concludes that the agreement between Chaminade and M. Auguste was " an act of prudence and wisdom ". [\[7\]](#)

Finally, some religious reproached him for not having been fair to the Society of Mary by not bequeathing his possessions to it. As the legal owner of his property, he was free to dispose of it by will; he therefore stipulated that they should be given to the poor of the hospital of Bordeaux, thus doing an act not only of justice,

but also of charity[8]. The justice of the actions of Blessed Chaminade was confirmed by the arbitral award of 1849 concerning the division of property between Chaminade and the Society of Mary. The arbitration was entrusted to Father Dulorié, a priest from Bordeaux and author of a treatise *On Justice*, who, in his decision, confirmed the loyalty, altruism and generosity of the Founder towards the Society of Mary.

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[3] Fr. Émile Biron, SM, *Positio*. 1929, pp. 807-808.

[4] Fr. Émile Biron, SM, *Positio*. 1929, pp. 806-807.

[5] Fr. Lebon, SM, *Positio*. 1929, pp. 801-802 ; Mme Marie Lucie Rousselot, *Positio*. 1929, p. 814.

[6] Fr. Lebon, SM, *Positio*. 1929, p. 803.

[7] Fr. Lebon, SM, *Positio*. 1929, p. 803; Fr. Henri Rousseau, SM, *Positio*. 1929, p. 926.

[8] Fr. Lebon, SM, *Positio*. 1929, p. 804; Fr. Eugène Scherrer, SM, *Positio*. 1929, p. 809.

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## Appointments for the Marianist Postulation and General Archives (AGMAR)



By mutual agreement, Sr. Susanna Kim, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, Superior General of the Society of Mary, have appointed Sr. Franca Zonta, FMI, as Postulator General for both institutes, effective July 2026. With this appointment, Sister Franca is given responsibility for the follow-up and promotion of all Marianist causes. In this capacity, she is also responsible for representing the two Institutes at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

We thank Sister Franca for her availability to provide this important service.



Sister Franca succeeds Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM, who has held this responsibility for the past twenty years for our two institutes. We thank him for the great work he has done in this area and for the fruits that have resulted from it for the entire Marianist Family. In coordination with Sister Franca, he will continue to put his experience at the service of certain causes. Holiness was at the heart of the project inspired by our two Blessed



Founders and we allow ourselves to be encouraged on our own path of holiness by the example of our venerable and blessed sisters and brothers.



As Father Antonio is destined to continue his mission in Spain from the beginning of the next pastoral year, Fr. Eddie Alexandre, SM, will then take responsibility for the Marianist General Archives (AGMAR). Father Eddie, who trained as an archivist, already holds this position for the Region of France to which he belongs. He is known to many of us for his historical research on the charism and the publications that have

resulted from it. He continues to provide a punctual but regular service at the Chapelle de La Madeleine in Bordeaux. We thank him for accepting this new responsibility. We are also grateful to the Units that make their brothers available for the service of the Society of Mary.

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# Calendar of the Marianist Family - Year 2026



## JANUARY

**10:** Memorial of Blessed Marie de la Conception  
(Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon), Foundress. (For FMI: Feast).

**22:** Feast of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Founder.

## FEBRUARY

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

## MARCH

**25:** 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. (Mary, Mother of the Church).

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

## AUGUST

**13:** Memorial of Blessed Jacob Gapp, Martyr.

## SEPTEMBER

**03:** 26th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed W. Joseph Chaminade. (2000)

**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.

**11:** World Day of Marianist Prayer in communion with the shrine of  
Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre, Pinar del Río (Cuba).

## NOVEMBER

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

**05-07:** Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family.

## DECEMBER

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

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## Necrology 2025

#	Name	Date		Place	Age	Prof.	Unit
1	*James Allen DeLong	Jan.	18	Cupertino, CA	92	71	US
2	A. Joseph Barrish	Jan.	20	Dayton, OH	95	77	US
3	Richard Joseph Dix	Feb.	2	San Antonio, TX	92	75	US
4	Friedrich Pachinger	Feb.	6	Freistadt	92	74	OE
5	*Robert Witwicki	Feb.	13	Bordeaux	82	62	FR
6	James Vorndran	Feb.	22	Centerville, OH	84	65	US
7	Donald Eugene Neff	Feb.	23	Centerville, OH	94	74	US
8	Gary Bernard Eck	Feb.	25	Kettering, OH	79	59	ME
9	Richard Harold Hartz	Mar.	15	Mineola, NY	83	64	ME
10	James Joseph Christiana	Apr.	5	St. Louis, MO	72	34	US
11	*Albert Baffrey	Apr.	12	Issenheim	91	72	FR
12	James Joseph Kostansek	Apr.	20	Rainbach	86	67	OE
13	Gottfried Peyr	May	12	Freistadt	85	68	OE
14	André Brissinger	Jun.	28	Colmar	94	75	FR
15	William Thomas Bolts	Jul.	3	Cupertino, CA	89	70	US
16	John Raymond Habjan	Sep.	1	Kettering, OH	80	61	US
17	*Patrick Giraud	Sep.	1	Bordeaux	92	71	FR
18	Désiré Cadas	Sep.	19	Réquista	93	74	FR
19	*Robert Emmet Hughes	Sep.	24	Cupertino, CA	93	76	US
20	Prudencio Zuazo Echazarra	Oct.	7	Zaragoza	92	75	ES
21	Robert Anthony Facht	Oct.	8	Kingston, NY	83	64	ME
22	*Ralph Joseph Doorack Lober	Oct.	12	Lima	96	78	LA
23	*José Ramirez	Nov.	17	San Antonio - TX	88	69	US
24	*Martín Valmaseda Santillana	Dec.	4	Madrid	92	74	ES
25	Francisco Martínez Garay	Dec.	13	Donostia-San Sebastián	87	69	ES



## Jubilarians 2026

### February 11

#### (60° profession)

Lahey, Robert Joseph (ME)

#### (70° profession)

Suárez, Manuel (ES)

### February 24

#### (25° ordination)

\*Tudu, Santosh (IN)

### March 21

#### (50° ordination)

\*Aoki, Isao Jean-Baptiste (JA)

### March 26

#### (60° ordination)

\*Bielza, Juan (ES)

\*Cruz, Manuel (ES)

\*Schwager, Hugo (SU)

#### (70° profession)

Hatabara, Kazuyoshi Antoine (JA)

Nakashima, Satoshi Paul (JA)

### April 29

#### (25° profession)

\*Kullu, Birendra (IN)

\*Lakra, Rajesh Kumar (IN)

\*Nitta, Prasad (IN)

\*Polisetty, Chinnaiah (IN)

Surin, Augustus (IN)

Tigga, Lucian (IN)

Aalxo, Kerobim (IN)

### June 2

#### (25° ordination)

\*McGuigan, David Bernard (US)

### June 13

#### (50° profession)

Balletta, Stephen Vincent (ME)

Meehan, Dermot Gerard (ME)

Poletti, Roger Adrian (ME)

### June 23

#### (25° profession)

Comoé, Patrice (IV)

### June 29

#### (25° ordination)

\*Ilabi, Abdon (FR)

### June 30

#### (25° ordination)

\*Floriani, Loris (IT)

### July 28

#### (25° profession)

Kimeu, Charles Munyao (EA)

Okisai, Phillip Adoka (EA)

### August 15

#### (50° profession)

Sullivan, Michael (US)

#### (60° profession)

\*Casella, Pierangelo (IT)

#### (70° profession)

Marin, Luciano (IT)

Pugliesi, Santino (IT)

\*Santacroce, Salvatore (IT)

### August 22

#### (60° profession)

Halloway, William Gregory (US)

Kamis, Joseph Henry (US)

Marcinowski, Gary Michael (US)

Oldenski, Thomas Edward (US)

Suda, Thomas (US)

Sullivan, Jeffrey Paul (US)

### September 2

#### (75° profession)

Dreiling, Herbert (OE)

### September 5

#### (50° ordination)

\*Long, Garrett John (ME)

## **September 8**

### **(70° profession)**

Damm, Frank Louis (US)  
Jablinski, Adolph Paul (US)  
Thompson, Kenneth Hull (US)  
Wayer, Vincent Anthony (US)

### **(75° profession)**

\*Russell, James Aloysius (US)

## **September 11**

### **(50° ordination)**

\*Briones, Joaquín (ES)

## **September 12**

### **(50° profession)**

\*Canseco, Francisco T. (ES)  
Fuentes, Domingo (ES)  
Jáuregui, José Manuel (ES)

### **(60° profession)**

\*Aguilera, Enrique (ES)  
Eguíluz, Rafael (ES)  
\*Erdocia, Félix (ES)

Gil, Julio (ES)

\*Vicente, Antonio de (ES)

### **(70° profession)**

Álvarez, Manuel (ES)  
Gutiérrez, Lauro (ES)  
Lejarza, Teófilo (ES)  
Pascual, José (LA)  
Rojo, Amador (LA)  
\*Subero, Francisco Javier (ES)

### **(75° profession)**

\*Ayuso, Jesús (ES)  
\*Bielza, Enrique (LA)  
\*Bringas, Antonio (ES)  
Fernández, José (ES)  
Santidrián, Julio (ES)

## **September 18**

### **(80° profession)**

Pedrosa, Máximo (ES)

## **October 10**

### **(50° profession)**

Gozio, Davide (IT)  
\*Graziola, Giancarlo (IT)

## **October 12**

### **(70° profession)**

Rey, Sabas (LA)

### **(75° profession)**

\*Collicelli, Antonio (IT)

## **October 14**

### **(25° ordination)**

\*Abou, Yapi Mathieu (IV)

## **November 1**

### **(50° profession)**

Lee, Seok Eun Dominic (KO)

## Publications

### Faustino

The bulletins published regarding the Cause of Venerable Faustino are available in the three official languages via a link.

With Faustino. [December 2025](#)

We invite you to read and share them.

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### Sharing Resources in the Marianist Family



We are pleased to share with you the latest issue of the **New Wine** newsletter, number 13, "Sharing Resources in the Marianist Family," sent by Bro. José Ignacio Iglesia, SM, coordinator of CEMAS.

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

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### Circular of the Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate



We are sharing with you Circular No. 9 from Sister Susanna Kim, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

To read the circular, click on the following link: [Circular](#)



## G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: n° 24-25**
- **Dec. 8:** *Christmas Message and Liturgical Calendar* from the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF), in three languages, to all Marianist religious.
- **Dec. 9:** *Request for information for the 2026 Marianist Education Directory*, in three languages, sent to Assistants for Education of the Units (except Latin America and Japan), from Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, Assistant General for Education
- **Dec. 15:** *Bulletin New Wine* n.13, 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.