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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Visit to France strengthens community and mission

History and hope met during the General Council's visit to the Region of France, Sept. 23-Oct. 18, 2026.

The council visited Marianist communities in Paris, Antony, Bordeaux, Saint-Dié-des-Vosges and Saint-Hippolyte. Council members shared prayer, meals and daily life with the brothers and guided spiritual conversations about accompanying young people, a priority of the General Chapter. Bordeaux and Saint-Hippolyte held special historical importance. Blessed William Joseph

Chaminade lived and worked in both places, where Marianist brothers continue to live today.



The General Council meets with the Regional Council in Paris to discuss the present needs and future of the Region of France.

At Notre-Dame Cathedral, in Paris, the council joined Pope Leo XIV for vespers and prayed for new vocations. On Oct. 2, the 209th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Mary, the council celebrated Mass at La Madeleine in Bordeaux, where Chaminade began his work to establish the Marianist Family.

Visits to schools showed the variety of Marianist education: Institution Sainte-Marie d'Antony, Sainte-Marie Grand Lebrun, Ensemble Scolaire Marie de Galilée, Institution Sainte-Marie Belfort, Saint-Louis Saint-Joseph, Institution Sainte-Marie Lons-le-Saunier and Lycée Privé Sainte-Maure. In this video vídeo Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, returns to Antony and recalls his years as a student while reviewing his school file. He later taught at Grand Lebrun and served at Sainte-Marie Belfort.



Above: the community in Antony. Below: the communities of Saint-Hippolyte and Saint-Dié-des-Vosges gathered during the canonical visit.

The council also met Marianist Sisters in Sucy-en-Brie and Agen. The members visited Petit Val, Les Cèdres care center and Institution Adèle de Trenquelléon and celebrated Mass with the Bethany community.

At cemeteries in Réquista, Saint-Hippolyte and Troyes, the council remembered Marianist brothers who had gone before them and prayed for new vocations.

The Region of France has 36 Marianists: 26 brothers and 10 priests, with an average age of 73. The region accompanies the District of Ivory Coast and the Sector of Congo, which the council will visit in early 2027. The District of Ivory Coast is on the way to become a Region.



The General Council meets students across France. Clockwise from top left: photography students take the council's portrait at Ensemble Scolaire Marie de Galilée; primary students speak with council members at Institution Sainte-Marie d'Antony; students welcome the council at Lycée Privé Sainte-Maure; and students meet the visitors at Sainte-Marie Grand Lebrun.

Marianist school leaders strengthen European cooperation



Marianist brothers and sisters present Oct. 22. Bottom: More than 160 participants from 33 schools gather for the 11th CEME meeting at Casa Fraterna Domus in Sacrofano.

A shared commitment to Marianist education brought together more than 160 participants from 33 schools at Casa Fraterna Domus in Sacrofano, near Rome. They represented Austria, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

The General Council took part Oct. 21-22 in the 11th meeting of the European Marianist Education Conference, or CEME. This year, CEME organized two connected programs: one for general directors, held Oct. 19-21, and another for members of school management teams, held Oct. 21-23.



Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, and Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, speak with participants about the Marianist response to current educational challenges.

The theme was “Co-responsible for the Marianist educational mission today and tomorrow.” An introductory video presented the European Marianist school network through photographs and short video clips from its schools. Sessions invited participants to strengthen their identity and share responsibility for the mission.

On Oct. 21, Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, Assistant General for Education, presented a Marianist response to educational challenges. Other sessions focused on Catholic education in Europe, shared leadership, governance and structures to support the mission. Participants worked in groups, traveled to Rome and visited Istituto Santa Maria.



Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, Assistant General for Education, invites school leaders to consider how Marianist identity and mission can guide their response to current educational challenges.

School leaders prayed, exchanged ideas and learned from different national experiences. The event continued a long tradition of meetings among Marianist school leaders in Europe, including gatherings in Saint-Hippolyte in 2015, Vienna in 2018 and San Sebastián in 2022.

CEME strengthens cooperation among Marianist schools and their service to young people across Europe.

New sponsorship model approved for three U.S. Marianist universities

The Marianist Province of the USA has taken an important step to secure the Catholic and Marianist mission of its three universities for future generations. After more than five years of study and consultation, the Vatican approved Marianist Educational Ministries, or MEM, as a public juridic person under church

law. Superior General Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, S.M., formally submitted the request.



MEM will assume Catholic and Marianist sponsorship of Chaminade University in Honolulu, St. Mary's University in San Antonio and the University of Dayton. The new model responds to the declining number of vowed Marianists and strengthens shared responsibility with lay colleagues for the Marianist mission and charism.

The transition will not change the universities' daily operations, finances, academic programs, governance or nonprofit status. Each university will remain responsible for these areas.

The MEM Task Force, Provincial Council and three university presidents will guide the next steps, including communication, educational resources and formation programs. A new sponsorship board, called the Collegium, will include vowed Marianists and lay members. Provincial Bro. Ed Violett, S.M., will serve as its president.

Forty Years of a Path to Holiness

Forty years ago, on October 17, 1986, the Cause of Beatification of Faustino Pérez-Manglano was opened in Valencia. Thus began a journey intended to show within the Church that, in the life of that young man, the universal call to holiness had shone in a special way.

The ceremony, held in the chapel of Colegio del Pilar, brought together people

who were important to Faustino and to the Marianist Family. The opening was presided over by Archbishop Miguel Roca, Archbishop of Valencia and a former student of Colegio del Pilar in Madrid. At his side was Fr. José María Salaverri, SM, Faustino's spiritual director and then Superior General of the Marianists.



Eucharist celebrated for Msgr. Miguel Roca in the chapel of the Colegio del Pilar, Valencia

Also taking part were Fr. Enrique Torres, SM, then Postulator General; Vice-Postulator José Antonio Romeo, founder of CEMI, the lay group to which Faustino had belonged; and Fr. Ignacio Otaño, SM, then Provincial de la Province de Zaragoza.

Forty years later, that beginning still challenges us as an invitation to reflect on what his way of living the Faith can teach us today: naturalness, joy, apostolic commitment, service and a deep friendship with Jesus and Mary.

The Rosary: a friendship made prayer

According to a well-established tradition, the month of October is dedicated to this prayer. Through the Rosary, "the Christian people learn from Mary to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depth of his love." Faustino came to understand this from childhood, when he learned to pray

the Rosary, and it helped him to live in friendship with Jesus and Mary. This is Faustino's gift to us: to approach the Rosary freely. It is a prayer that can be prayed in community or alone with God. We simply have to dare to discover it.

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

Last October, communities received letter #5, 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 #4 (March 2026) | Letter #3 (Septemer 2025) | 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:

A Summer of Encounter and Synodality in the Region of Korea

During the summer months of June to August, the Marianist brothers in the Region of Korea brought together young people for a special *Synodality* activity. It was a beautiful opportunity to come together, share experiences, listen to one another, and grow in faith and friendship.

The gathering featured lively discussions, thoughtful presentations, and fun

activities that fostered fellowship and strengthened the bonds among the young people. The highlight was the celebration of the Eucharist, bringing everyone together in prayer and thanksgiving.



It was a joyful summer of encounter, listening, and communion, a wonderful expression of walking together as a Church and growing together in the spirit of synodality.

The Death of Michelle Héraud



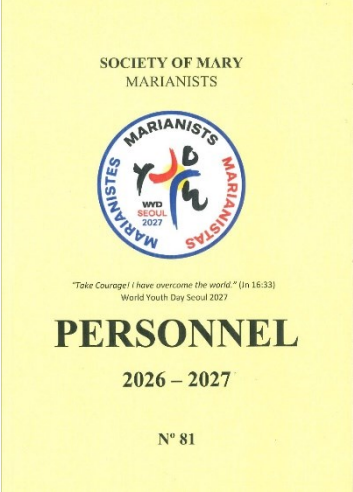
The Lord has called to himself the former general leader of the Alliance Mariale: Michelle Héraud who died on October 9, at the age of 93.

Michelle Héraud was responsible for the Alliance Mariale from 1983 to 1998. She worked to have the Alliance Mariale recognized as an "Association of Lay Faithful", which was achieved in 1995 (the first major step before the recognition of the Alliance Mariale as a Secular Institute in 2019).

Michelle lived in the West of France, in La Rochelle, where she was a history and geography teacher in a public high school.

Let us give thanks to God for all that she has brought to the Alliance Mariale for so many years. Let us pray to the Lord to welcome her into his Kingdom of light and peace.

The 2026-2027 International Personnel will arrive shortly



This year's edition of the International Personnel has already been published and will be sent to all Unit Administrations in the coming days. The time of arrival of the copies will depend on the postal and courier services used. We hope that the Personnels will arrive soon. Once they have reached the Administration of the Unit, the Unit Superior must ensure that they are redistributed to all the communities, works, persons and institutions indicated in the letter from the General Secretariat included. Labels already prepared to facilitate distribution are also included.

Publications

Faustino

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

With Faustino November 2026 Forty Years of a Path to Holiness

We invite you to read and share them.

GA Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N. 15**
- **October 12:** ***Message from the Marianist Postulation***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by the General Council.
- **October 14** : ***Walking the path of the 'Promise of Life' Letter - #5***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by the General Council.

General Council Calendar

- **November 5-7:** Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family in Rome.
- **Nov.14 - Dec.12**: The General Council visites the Region of India.

Changes of adresses

All new emails will be included in the next issue
of the International Personnel 2026-2027 (#81)