



VIA LATINA 22

293 - *September-October 2020*

News from the General Administration - Society of Mary

First Profession of Vows in the Region of Eastern Africa



L-R: Bros. Timothy Phillips, SM, Erick Otiende, SM, Deputy Regional Superior, Jackson Nkole Sampa, SM and Thomas Mwenenjawa, SM; Frs. Gabriel Kirangah, SM and Joseph Mwaura, SM, Director of Novices; novice Emmanuel Shaba.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was a particularly joyous occasion for the Region of Eastern Africa. Bro. Thomas Benton Mwenenjawa, SM,

professed his first vows in the Society of Mary in the Novitiate Chapel in Limuru, Kenya on that day, and Bro. Jackson Nkole Sampa, SM, renewed his vows.

It will continue to be for Bro. Thomas a memorable day, as he said, "It is a day of new beginnings for me, a day of consummate joy and passion, a day of embracing God and His love and goodness, a day of accepting to carry on His mission to the fullest, under the mentorship of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade."

The Marianist Novitiate Community, the Regional Superior of the Region of Eastern Africa, Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM, and representatives of the three Marianist communities in Nairobi made up the congregation of fourteen in these days of coronavirus. Fr. Gabriel preached on the meaning of the Assumption, taking the text from Revelation as his starting point, showing God's care and protection for us even when the great dragon sweeps a third of the stars from the heavens. Fr. Gabriel also received the profession of vows.

For the first time in the Region, parts of the ceremony were live-streamed through the Marianist Vocation Facebook page, so that others could participate both spiritually and virtually.

As is customary, a familial meal followed the ceremony, and with the concluding ritual of the cutting of the cake. Cakes were also sent to the communities in Nairobi, so that they too could share in a taste of this joyous occasion.

Priestly Ordinations in USA



Fr. Brandon Paluch, SM and Fr. Michael Chiuri, SM

On Saturday, August 22, 2020, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, the Province of the United States celebrated the ordinations of Fr. Michael Chiuri, SM and Fr. Brandon Paluch, SM, during a Mass at Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in St. Louis.

Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann, bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California, presided at the Mass and gave a very personal homily with references to several Marianists that he has known over the years. Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM, Provincial of the Province of the United States, and Fr. Timothy Kenney, SM, Assistant for Religious Life served as the principal concelebrants.

Due to precautions taken in light of the coronavirus pandemic, physical attendance of the celebration was limited to 75 family members, friends and members of the Marianist community donning masks and socially distanced. However, the Ordination was livestreamed so that more than a thousand Marianist family members and friends from throughout the world were able to virtually witness the celebration.

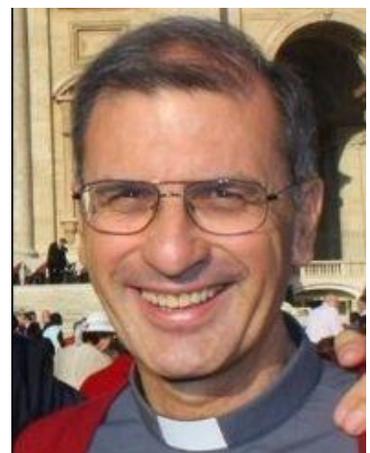
Fr. Miguel Ángel Cortés new Procurator General of the Society of Mary



With the consent of his Council, the Superior General has appointed Fr. Miguel Ángel Cortés, SM, as the new Procurator General of the Society of Mary. He will assume this role in addition to that of Rector of the Seminary, as did his two predecessors, Frs. Francesco Canseco, SM, and Lorenzo Amigo, SM. We thank him for accepting this important position for all of us.

As the *Rule of Life* indicates, "the Procurator General, under the direction of the Superior General, represents the Society of Mary in its official relations with the Holy See" (RV 7.67). This is the case whenever there is a need to transmit to the Holy See requests or information on our part or that of a Unit. The steps are quite numerous: authentication of documents, authorizations for important financial operations, dispensation of vows, ... This work is often quite technical but it refers to concrete pastoral situations, positive or sometimes difficult. Thus, it is important to handle well such communications, because the consequences for the brothers or the Units are often significant. This task, for its part, contributes to building good relations between our Congregation and the Holy See. We congratulate Miguel Ángel for the confidence we have placed in him and thank him for his generous response.

We also thank Fr. Francisco Canseco, SM, who has provided this service with fidelity and precision over the past nine years.



World Day of Marianist Prayer – October 11, 2020



Once again, Marianists throughout the world will gather, virtually or in person, in prayer for the annual World Day of Marianist Prayer. This year's celebration will be held on Sunday, October 11. As usual, the prayer will spiritually unite Marianists of all branches, countries and cultures, in calling upon our Blessed Mother, Mary, to intercede for her children. This unity will be strengthened as, together, we call upon Mary's tender care, under the title of *Nuestra Señora de El Salito*. This title refers to a particular devotion of the faithful of Latacunga, Ecuador, where Marianists of several branches have served for decades.

A short synthesis of the very interesting history of the image and shrine of *Nuestra Señora de El Salito* can be found at www.marianist.org. It is a very interesting story

of devotion, but also of the trust that a whole culture maintains in the watchful and protective eye of the Blessed Virgin. In the shadow of the active volcano, *Cotopaxi*, and in a area that is prone to earthquakes, Our Lady of the El Salito is invoked for the protection of the people against these and other natural disasters.

This year, as we all know, the earth has been shaken with another type of natural disaster, that of COVID-19. The lives of all people, in all places, have endured the tragic effects of this pandemic, and still do so. It is, therefore, entirely fitting, that all throughout the “Marianist world” we join together in prayer, begging Our Lady for strength, hope and the end of this scourge. Let us join with the people of Ecuador, through the image and tradition of *Nuestra Señora de El Salito*, in this fervent prayer.

The website mentioned above offers some suggestions for the celebration of this annual event. We encourage all of our communities, to specially mark this occasion, in whatever way is possible. Even if it is not possible to physically come together with other communities or branches, we hope you will spiritually, and even virtually, unite in prayer.

Nuestra Señora de El Salito, PRAY FOR US!



Rebuilding the Global Education Pact: the Call of the Holy Father

On September 12, 2019, Pope Francis launched an appeal for " the reconstruction of a global educational pact " in the following terms:

"In my Encyclical Laudato Si', I invited everyone to cooperate in caring for our common home and to confront together the challenges that we face. Now, a few years later, I renew my invitation to dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet and the need to employ the talents of all, since all change requires an educational process aimed at developing a new universal solidarity and a more

welcoming society. To this end, I wish to endorse a global event, to take place on 14 May 2020... This meeting will rekindle our dedication for and with young people, renewing our passion for a more open and inclusive education, including patient listening, constructive dialogue and better mutual understanding. Never before has there been such need to unite our efforts in a broad educational alliance, to form mature individuals capable of overcoming division and antagonism, and to restore the fabric of relationships for the sake of a more fraternal humanity”.

(To read the entire message go to:
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2019/documents/papa-francesco_20190912_messaggio-patto-educativo.html)

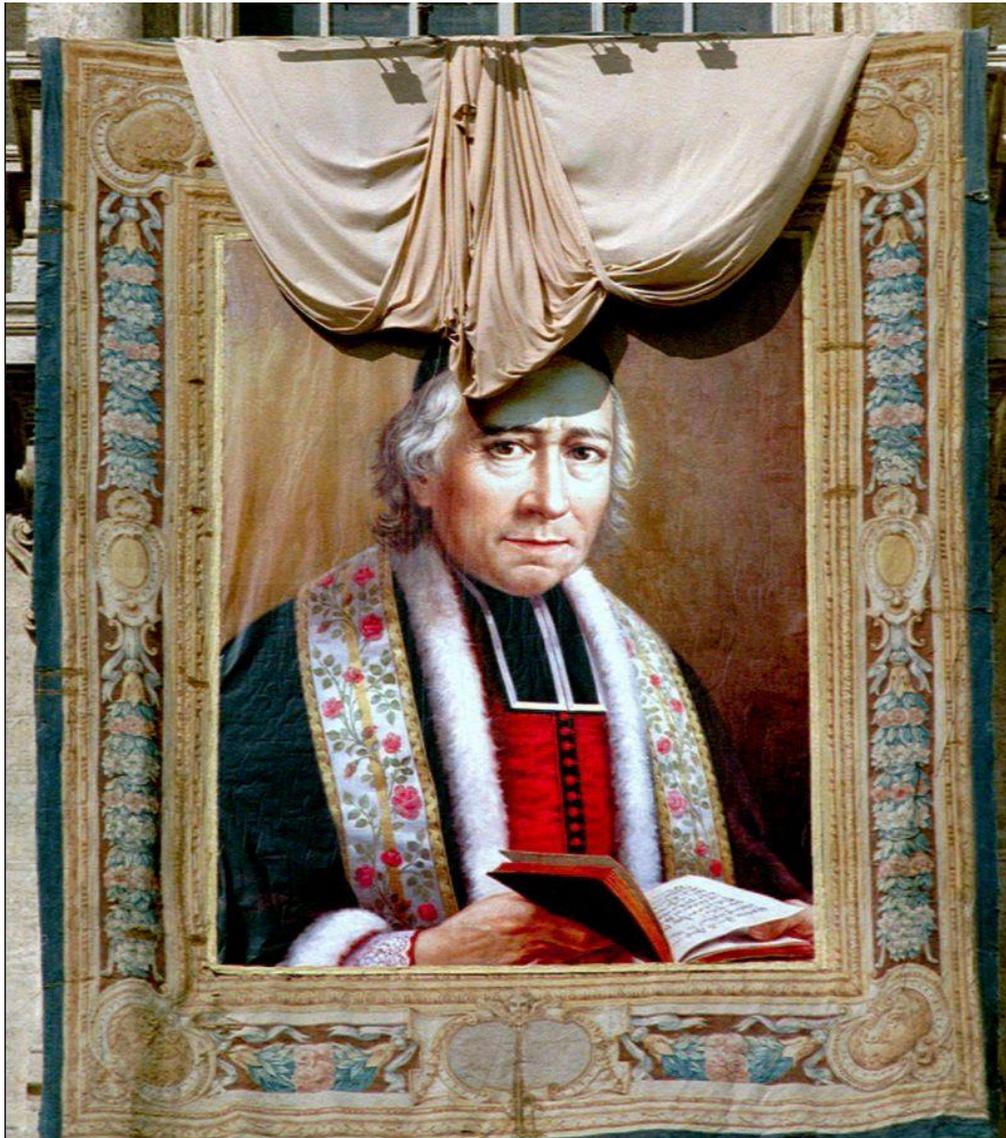


Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this international mobilisation could not take place on the date originally planned. It has been postponed to 15 October 2020 to allow a wider and more serene participation. This meeting, which the Holy Father has asked the Congregation for Catholic Education to organize, will be essentially virtual. But Pope Francis has invited to the Vatican representatives of the main religions, the leaders of international organizations, those of various humanitarian institutions, of the academic, economic, political and cultural world for a face-to-face exchange.

The Society of Mary, as a congregation fundamentally committed to education, is particularly sensitive to this event. We invite all our members to carry this event in their prayers and to stay very attentive to find out what will be going on. This is an event that is even more timely today than ever: all efforts must be united so that education can be a creator of peace and justice!

For more information, visit the Global Education Pact website regularly at <https://www.educationglobalcompact.org>

Twenty years ago Fr. Chaminade was beatified..



We all remember the emotion that had won over the whole Marianist Family at the announcement of the recognition of a miracle by Fr. Chaminade. The ceremony of his beatification by the now St. Pope John Paul II, on 3 September 2000, was a pivotal event. Fr. Chaminade can now be celebrated and invoked throughout the Church, not only by Marianists. The authentic holiness of his message and the example of his life have been recognized by the Church and offered to all Christians.

This anniversary is for each one of us an opportunity to remember: what has this grace changed in my life and in my apostolate? How has it help me get closer to our Founder? How have I introduce him to others? And now that the two Founders of the Marianist Family are both blessed: what new calling has come out of this for all of us? Becoming aware of these gifts will help us celebrate this anniversary. Let us extend it's effects beyond even the exact date, so to allow them to bear all greater fruit. Nor should we forget to entrust new intentions to the intercession of the Blessed, in order to have the joy of soon celebrating his canonization.

To conclude, let us consider, once again, some words pronounced by St. John Paul II during the beatification Mass:

The beatification ... of William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Marianists, reminds the faithful that it is their task to find ever new ways of bearing witness to the faith, especially in order to reach those who are far from the Church and who do not have the usual means of knowing Christ. (...)

His concern for human, moral and religious education calls the entire Church to renew her attention to young people, who need both teachers and witnesses in order to turn to the Lord and take their part in the Church's mission.

Please, take note: new e-mails of Fr. Miguel Ángel Cortés, SM at the General Administration

rettore@smcuria.it (for the Chaminade International Seminary)

procuratore@smcuria.it (as Procurator)

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: # 17-28**
- **Sep. 2: *Letter of Solidarity and Formation Funding***, in three languages, sent to the Superiors of the Marianist Units and Assistants of Temporalities, from the General Assistant of Temporalities, Bro. Michael McAward, SM.
- **Sep. 4: *Marianist World Day of Prayer - October 11 2020***, in three languages, to all the Marianist Family, from the World Council of the Marianist Family
- **Sep. 10: *Extended General Council***, to the Presidents of Zonal Conferences, sent by Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General.

Address Changes

All new e-mails coming with new International Personnel 2020-2021(#75)

G.A. Calendar

Oct. 9-28: The General Council visits the Region of Eastern Africa.