



VIA LATINA 22
309 - April 2022

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

Erection of the Region of France
on Tuesday March 29, 2022

In October 2016, the Provincial Chapter of France made the decision to move from the status of a Province to that of a Region. This decision was motivated by the realization that the structure of a Region, more flexible and lighter than that of a Province, would be more favorable to the life and mission of the Unit. If the pandemic had not occurred, this transition would have happened earlier. However, it will finally happen on August 15, 2022.



Students from Marianist establishments in France gathered in Lourdes in 2017

Thus, in response to the request expressed by the capitulants, the Superior General decided, on Tuesday, March 29, with the consent of his Council, to suppress the Province of France and to create the Region of France. This Region integrates all the members of the current Province. It will continue the animation of its current works and will retain responsibility for the District of Ivory Coast and the Sector of Congo.

We assure all the brothers of the Region, its leaders and all those who collaborate in its mission of our support and our prayers as they move to this next phase in the life of the Region. May it be an opportunity for a renewal of life and service for all its members and collaborators.

Perpetual Vows in the Region of Chile

Bro. Mauricio Silva, SM, made his profession of Perpetual Vows on February 5, 2022. The profession took place in the Community of Our Lady of the Pilar in Santiago de Chile during the Eucharist. This celebration ended the week of annual retreats of the Marianist Family of Chile.



The pandemic meant that the number of people in attendance at the ceremony was reduced. Only his fellow Marianists were able to attend the profession. However, a large number of people were able to watch the profession on the internet. José María Arnaiz, SM, presided over the ceremony and received his vows.

Mauricio is a Marianist who is very motivated by education. He works in the two schools that the Society of Mary has in the city of Linares, Chile. He is also very involved in youth ministry. Mauricio is highly respected and loved by his religious brothers.

Annual visit to the Marianist International Seminary

The canonical visitation of the Chaminade International Seminary took place from March 25 to 29, 2022. Preparations for the visit occurred in January when pandemic restrictions were still in place. These restrictions placed limits on the choice of persons for the visiting team. The visiting team consisted of Bro. José María Alvira, SM, president of the European Marianist Conference (CEM) and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, assistant general for Religious Life.

The visit began on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation and patronal feast of the Marianist Family. For this reason, the visit began with everyone participating in the Family celebration at the Marianist parish in Rome (Santo Nome di Maria). As usual, the visitors shared in the life of the seminary community, following its schedule, and eating and praying with the seminarians and their formators. They also met individually, with the seminarians and with the team of formators.



The Seminary community with the commission.

Both visitors are grateful for the welcome they received. They noted the appreciation of the seminarians for the formation they receive. This includes both the Marianist and academic formation programs. They also value the fraternal dynamics of the Seminary and the relationship with the formators.

At the end of the visit, the commission presented its report to the Extended General Council and subsequently communicated it to the Seminary community. They shared with them its observations and proposals for the future. The official written report will be sent to all Unit superiors of the Society.

Virtual meeting of the Extended General Council (March 29, 2022)



On Tuesday, March 29, an online meeting of the Extended General Council was held. This meeting included the General Council and the five Zonal Presidents. The extended General Council has a supervisory and support role with respect to the International Seminary. For this reason, the initial discussions were focused on the report of the visit to the Seminary.

A second objective of this meeting was to share ideas regarding preparations for the General Leadership Assembly that will be held in Rome next July. A meeting of the superiors of the Developing Units will precede the General Leadership Assembly. Finally, we shared news from the various Zones.

We thank the Zonal Presidents for their work of service to the Society of Mary.

The Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family

In a very ancient tradition, the Christian churches celebrate on March 25 the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word with the Feast of the Annunciation. This date corresponds to the beginning of spring and the rebirth of life. The eternal *Logos* of the Father, assuming human nature, divinizes it and thus we are saved. Jesus Christ is the new man, who makes all creation and salvation history new.

This mystery of salvation has been chosen as the patronal feast of the Marianist Family. Why? Because the "Yes" of the Virgin Mary was the door for the Word, who assumed our humanity and entered into our history, redeeming it. It is the

feast of the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary. It is also the feast of our Marianist vocation, which is nothing other than the extension of the mission of Mary in the world. Thus, the Marianist Family wants to open the doors to Christ and announce him to all peoples.



Friar Angelico: Annunciation

The Marianist Family present in Rome, composed of members of the Society of Mary, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Marianist Fraternities, joined with the Marianist parish community of the Most Holy Name of Mary for the Eucharistic Liturgy at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 25. We celebrated and gave thanks to God for the gift of the Marianist Family. In addition, we also said the prayer proposed and prepared for this occasion by the Marianist Lay Communities of Rome. The Mass was presided over by Father André-Joseph Fétis, Superior General of the Society of Mary. Several other Marianist priests currently living in Rome surrounded him. In his homily, Father Antonio Collicelli, SM, invited the entire Marianist Family to contemplate the "yes" of Mary that

opens the door to the hope for the reign of justice and peace that our world needs so much today.

Initial Formation Meeting in the United States

The Assistant General for Religious Life, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, participated in a formation meeting organized by the Provinces of the United States and Meribah. This meeting took place from March 10-13 at Bergamo Center (Dayton). These meetings take place twice a year and bring together all those in the various stages of initial formation within the FMI and the Society of Mary, from the Provinces of the United States and Meribah as well as those from the Region of Korea who are in the United States.

Fourteen young people (candidates, novices and temporary professed) participated in this meeting, together with their formators. The theme of the meeting was the vow of poverty. To assist in this reflection we had the guidance of Marist Brother Don Bisson, FMS, as well as a panel of some of our brothers and sisters.



The group of participants and formators with Fr. Pablo in the chapel of the Bergamo Center

During these days, they also had the opportunity to visit Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton and meet with some of their students. In addition, we celebrated the Eucharist and shared dinner with Marianist brothers from the Siena Woods community/nursing home.

This type of formation meeting strengthens the links between the young people of the various Units and at different stages of formation, as well as between the formators.

CLAMARED is committed to the Global Pact on Education



The Latin American Marianist Educational Network (CLAMARED) has been multiplying initiatives since the launch of the call for the Global Pact on Education by Pope Francis. On Friday, March 25, 2022, this network took another step forward by making a symbolic act of adherence to this Pact by signing what they called the "Manifesto of Marianist Education in Latin America."

With this gesture, they intend, on the one hand, to express their commitment as Marianists to a renewed education at the service of every man and woman of our time. On the other hand, they express their desire to grow in the awareness of being part of a charismatic family open to the newness of the Spirit and of history. In this way, they wish to strengthen the reality of their Educational Network.

The meeting took place on Zoom and involved each educational work of Latin America. The leaders signed the Manifesto that publicly expresses the source of inspiration and the goal of their Marianist educational mission. In addition, it states their commitment to promote and live the orientations contained in the Global Pact on Education. Below, we send you the full text of the Manifesto signed by the directors and main leaders of the works in Latin America.

To learn more, follow this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVrzez29oZw>



We recall that, according to a joint circular issued by the two Assistants General for Education, SM and FMI, a meeting concerning the Global Educational Pact and Marianist education is planned for October 18 and 19, 2022. This meeting will involve all of our Marianist education works throughout the world. The CLAMARED experience could be a source of inspiration in this regard.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL QUIROGA (MICHEL) **A life with "berraquera"**

"Berraquera" is a word used in Colombia to express strength, courage, decision and dedication. Our brother Miguel Angel Quiroga had a sign in his room that said precisely this: A LIFE WITH BERRAQUERA. For him the source of a life lived in this way was in Jesus and his Gospel. Perhaps that is why he did not hesitate to confront an illegal and violent group that was trying to hold as a prisoner someone who was traveling with him. As a result, he was shot in the heart and died. The date was September 18, 1998. He was then 26 years old.

Michel was born in 1972 in a peasant family in the Colombian department of Cundinamarca. However, his family soon moved to Bogotá where he grew up and where he met the Marianists. It was in this contact that his vocation was born. He made his first vows in 1992. In January 1998, he was assigned to the Marianist community of Lloró, located in the department of Chocó. This is an area of jungle and large rivers, located on the Pacific coast, inhabited by a population descended from ethnic groups of African origin as well as indigenous communities.



In those years, it was a territory plagued by violence provoked by guerrillas, the army and paramilitary groups. This violence always brought harm to the civilian population who suffered the abuses of one or the other. On the day of his murder, Michel was traveling along the river with José María Gutiérrez, Marianist pastor of the parish of Lloró, and a group of about 40 people. A group of paramilitaries intercepted them. Without any authority to do so, the paramilitaries asked for their documentation. There was one person who did not have it. For that reason they intended to retain him. Michel protested, and that was enough to get him killed.

This outcome of his life is, in reality, the expression of a dedication to the Lord lived with radicalism from the beginning of his journey in religious life. His intense prayer life, his joy and his dedication to the mission were very clear. What moved Michel from within, the deep desire of his heart, appears with intensity in a prayer that he personally prayed every day after communion:

*Lord Jesus,
unite your life with my life, unite my life with your life,
unite our lives with the lives of others,
so that I may know how to share and be a brother,
and build in this world*

*the Kingdom of God, our Father,
in justice, life and liberation for the poor and oppressed,
On our Marianist journey,
in the footsteps of the Risen One. Amen.*



Meeting of Colombian Marianist religious. Michel is the one in the center, at the bottom.

Michel's presence enlightened the lives of his religious brothers as well as many others outside of the community. After his death, he continues to inspire the following of Jesus of the Colombian Marianist Family. In addition, his example continues to inspire many adolescents and young people from our works in the Region of Colombia through the so-called "Michel Groups".

The Society of Mary has asked the Bishop of Quibdó to open the diocesan phase of the beatification process. In this case, the reason for opening the cause is, *by offering one's life in an act of heroic charity*, a new path to beatification established by Pope Francis in 2017.

Vote in favor of the *Positio* of Father Vicente

Dear brothers and sisters, the Cause of Father Vicente López de Uralde continues. The Congress of theologians examined the *Positio* on the heroic virtues of the Servant of God on March 1. The Congress consists of eight theological Consultors, plus the Promoter of the Faith. In total, there are 9 votes. Out of 9 votes, 8 were *affirmative* and only one was *negative*. The members of the Congress judged that Father Vicente exercised to a heroic degree the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity as well as the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude. In addition, he exercised the virtues proper to religious life (vows, prayer, humility, Marian devotion...) as well as those proper to the priesthood (love of the Eucharist, pastoral zeal, practice of the sacraments ...).



Fr. Vicente confesses a student of the Colegio San Felipe Neri, in Cadiz.

What is the next step for the cause of Fr. Vicente? The Congregation for the Causes of Saints will set the date for the Session of Cardinals and Bishops - the true senate of the Pope - who will vote on whether Father Vicente has exercised the theological and cardinal virtues to a heroic degree. If the vote is affirmative, then the Cardinal Prefect for the Causes of Saints presents the vote to the Pope and the Holy Father authorizes the Prefect to issue the decree of Father Vincent's heroic virtues. Let us put our hope in Christ and our Blessed Mother that we will receive positive news concerning the cause of Fr. Vicente.

Lent: A Time for Hope in Heaven and on Earth

The great mercy of God is found through our own acts of mercy. Said another way: we cannot heal our relationships with God, without healing our relationships with each other. Healing relationships could be simply defined as “making things right.” This applies to each one of us, to our neighbors, our nations and our Church. Pope Francis has been consistently vocal about these truths.



His encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* are particularly rich meditations about our relationships to each other, as believers in the love of God, and therefore, also in relation to our common home. Using these two encyclicals, the international Marianist website (www.marianist.org) has prepared a small special section with weekly meditations on this theme of healing relationships, as a special focus for this Lenten season. We invite you to visit this page and use it as a resource to accompany your 2022 Lenten journey. May it be a journey of hope in the mercy of God and hope in the grace received by mutual care and respect for all God's people and for our common home.

Feel free to post a comment at the website, or to share your own thoughts by email to: lent2022@smcuria.it

PRAYER FOR PEACE



Let us pray for peace in the world, especially in Ukraine with the words of the Pope pronounced on March 25 to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. (...)

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.
Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.
Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.
Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.
Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.
Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.
Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.
Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion.
You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

(The prayer can be found in its entirety in 29 languages at this [link](#))



On the occasion of Easter Sunday, 2022, Via Latina 22 sends to its readers our warmest greetings with a prayer that the Risen Lord may bring Peace to all peoples around the world.

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: n° 8-10.**
- **March 30: *General Leadership Assembly and Meeting with the Superiors of the more recente Units - Practical Infomration***, in three languages, to the Unit Superiors and Zonal Presidents, from the Secretary General, Bro. Kodjo Frédéric Bini, SM.

GA Calendar

- **April 20 - May 3:** The General Council visits the Region of Korea

Changes of adresses

- **Fr. Renny Markose (IN):** rennymarkose@gmail.com.
- **Bro. Narcisse Anoman (IV):** anomanagoua@gmail.com