



VIA LATINA 22 **# 312 - June 2022**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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First Vows in the District of India



L-R: Bros. Binod Kerketta, SM, Amit Dungdung, SM, Sunil Lakra, SM and Sushil Minz, SM.

On May 1st, 2022, Amit Dungdung, Binod Kerketta, Sunil Lakra and Sushil Minj professed their first vows as Marianist religious of the District of India. The profession took place in the Nirmal Deep Chapel, Jaipur. The celebration began with the Eucharist at 10.30 am. The main celebrant was Fr. Sudhir Kujur, SM, the District Superior. Marianist Brothers and Sisters, along with members of the MLC in Ranchi and other religious from around the Nirmal Deep, and family members were present. There were around one hundred and eighty people in attendance.

The rite of profession took place after the homily and Fr. Sudhir Kujur received the vows, in the name of the Provincial. Bro. Sukrit Tirkey, SM, the Assistant for Education also was present. The Eucharistic Celebration concluded around 1 p.m. and all proceeded to the Dining hall, where congratulated the newly-professed brothers. They cut the cake and served a delicious meal to all. After the lunch, all danced traditional tribal dances long into the evening, until family members of the newly-professed Brothers and other participants departed in the evening.

Institution of Ministries at the Chaminade International Seminary

On May 27, the celebration of the institution of ministries took place in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Pillar in Via Latina 22. The two communities, that of the seminary and that of the Curia Generalizia, participated in this liturgy. There were four seminarians installed in ministries: José Luis González (Mexico), as acolyte, and Gatien Messi Loubiya (Congo-Brazzaville), Frantzy Perier (Haiti-France) and Showraiah Ravulapalli (India) as lectors. Father André Fétis, SM, Superior General, presided over the celebration. A joyful meal followed on the terrace.



**L-R: José Luis González,SM, Gatien Messi Loubiya,SM, André-Joseph Fétis,SM
(Superior General), Frantzy Perier, SM and Showraiah Ravulapalli, SM.**

Although the ministries of lector and acolyte are lay ministries, the Church also includes them in the formation process leading to the priesthood. Fr. André stressed in his homily that these ministries are at the service of a Church on a synodal journey. During this journey, we all listen to each other and help each

other to carry out the mission of proclaiming and making Christ present in the world.

We thank God for the formative path that these four brothers are following. We entrust them to the Holy Spirit and to the maternal love of Mary so that they may continue to grow in their response to the call they have received.

Visitation of the General Council to the Region of Korea

Despite a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia, with special assistance from the Holy See and the respective Embassies, the four members of the General Council were able to complete long awaited visits to Korea and Japan. The visitation of the Region of Korea lasted two weeks, beginning with arrival on April 21. The visit began in the community of the Regional Administration in Seoul.



Mokpo Marianist High School, Mokpo, South Korea

The Region of Korea has three communities: Seoul and Incheon are near one another in the north-west side of Korea, near the Yellow Sea. Mokpo is also on the west coast, but on the southern end of the peninsula. In Incheon the SM has a parish and a large nursing home, which is recognized annually as one of the

best in the country. In Mokpo, Marianist High School is the major work of the community. In Seoul, at the Marianist Center, many activities for the Marianist Family and other pastoral services are conducted.



Marianist religious of the FMI and SM gathered at the Marianist Holy Family Parish in Incheon, South Korea

The Region has 22 members, with an average age of 58 years. As this is relatively youthful, there is plenty of energy and potential for dynamic ministry present. The entire Council had the pleasant opportunity to visit with the FMI community in Seoul, as well as spend an evening of interaction with all three branches the Marianist Family present in Korea. At the same time, there are concerns presented by language barriers, secular social intensity, and a Church culture that tends to be quite clerical. Certainly these are challenges for the SM in Korea, but the Charism and traditions of the Marianists seem particularly fitting to give witness to a Church that is devoted to mission, values all states of life, and appreciates the contributions of each person.

The General Council received a cordial and fraternal welcome by our brothers in Korea and found the stay in the Region to be quite pleasant. Let us keep our brothers there in our prayers!

Visitation of the General Council to the Region of Japan

Immediately following the visitation of Korea, the General Council flew to Tokyo for a 18-day visitation of Japan. Like in Korea, Japan had strict COVID-19 protocols, that required much preparation and process before, during, and after entry into the country. Yet, thanks be to God, all went well, and both the Council and religious of Japan were grateful.



Due to COVID distancing norms, the presentation of the General Council to the Students in Nagasaki was streamed from the school chapel, via the school's network, rather than gathering all together in one room.

Japan has 28 members and an average age of 77. While many members are retired, the Region still runs four large schools, with a member of the SM serving as the presiding officer in each one. These schools are located in Tokyo, Sapporo, Osaka and Nagasaki. They are highly respected and have earned longstanding esteem throughout the nation. The Catholic population in Japan is rather minimal, as a percentage of the total population. Therefore, the great

majority of our students, and their teachers are not Catholic. As in Korea, there is a very strong intensity toward academic achievement, sometimes leaving little or no time for the pastoral. Nevertheless, in each of the Marianist schools, efforts to create a Marianist identity and a culture that is inspired by the Gospel, are priorities.



**Fr. André Fétis, Superior General, addresses primary school students
at Gyosei Primary School in Tokyo, Japan**

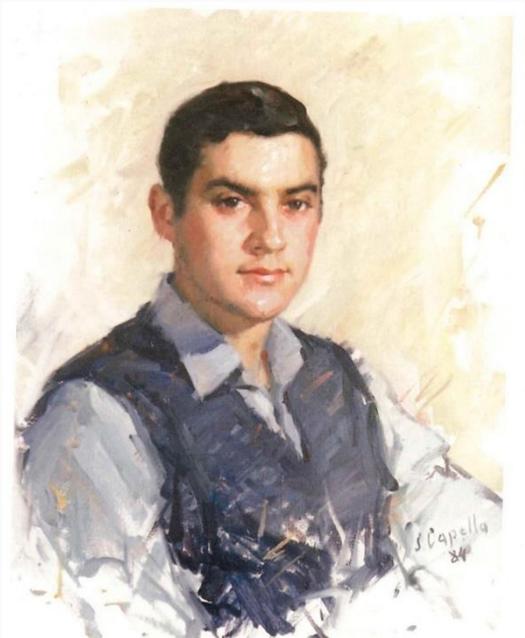
Members of the Council had opportunities to make visits to both the Archbishop of Tokyo and the Apostolic Delegate to Japan. Both were exceedingly welcoming and encouraging. They expressed a deep appreciation for the presence and work of the Marianists throughout Japan. They emphasized the importance of this work, especially for the youth.

Of course, the General Council also appreciated the most gracious welcome received in each of the communities. As with Korea, we were particularly grateful to those who acted as our interpreters (chiefly David Herbold, SM in Japan and Thomas Park, SM in Korea). Without these and the others who helped them, it would have been difficult to have such fine visits. We continue to pray for our Marianists in Japan and for their mission.

Serafín Taberbero Young Lay Marianist

"Above all is God, giving meaning to my life."

This article does not refer to any of the causes of beatification that the Society of Mary is promoting or plans to promote. We present here the testimony of Serafín Taberbero because we believe that there are good reasons to make it known within the Marianist Family. Above all, it is the example of a young person who took faith seriously and made it central to his life. In addition, he found in the lay Marianist charism a "spiritual home" which, strengthening and channeling the deep experience of faith received in the family environment, encouraged him to grow rapidly as a person and as a believer. His short life was truly fruitful, because for all those who knew him he was, and continues to be, a strong stimulus to find in God the meaning of life. Making him known can also encourage many others to follow this path. This review is based on the book *Hoy puedo ser hijo de Dios. The life in fullness of a young layman*, written by his brother Sebastián Taberbero, Marianist layman like Serafín, who passed away due to a serious illness.



Serafín was born in Valencia (Spain) on May 27, 1959. He died in the same city on August 17, 1984, at the age of 25, as a result of a traffic accident. He was a student of the Marianist school Nuestra Señora del Pilar of Valencia. He studied Civil Engineering and, immediately after finishing his studies, he started working at the Port of Valencia. When the Marianist Fraternities were founded in that city in 1982, he was one of its first members. He was later elected as the first person in charge of all the Fraternities of the Valencia Zone.

Serafín was a person of great intelligence, very brilliant academically, both in school and in his career. His profession was considered one of the most difficult to enter at that time. Despite his youth and the few years he practiced as an engineer, he quickly stood out as a highly skilled person. In addition, those who

knew him emphasize his ability to establish personal relationships, his understanding, his humility and his vital and cheerful disposition. He was an enthusiastic person who wanted to live life to the fullest. In addition, Serafín was a natural leader who passed this desire on to others.

As an alumnus, he became involved in the pastoral activities of the school. He was a Confirmation catechist, an animator in the spiritual exercises organized for the students, and a participant in prayer groups for young people. He remained closely linked to the Marianist religious community. When the religious launched the proposal to start the Fraternities, he enthusiastically joined the project. Serafín quickly identified with the charism and dynamics of the Fraternities, and found there the path he was looking for to live his faith deeply and radically. He was a sure and significant presence in the meetings and activities, and his "personal life plans" reflect a constant spiritual tension in the direction of deepening his roots. As an example of this, we transcribe part of his last personal notes, written a few months before his death, as a "personal plan":

May my life be fruitful. To attain that fulfillment, strong work is needed:

Of inner liberation: forgetting the admiration of men, looking to accomplish the good that I can do. Not clinging to the things of this world: that is not where happiness is.

Discipline: taking care of myself, making the most of my physical abilities, that is also an important part of being able to give myself to others and to relate to them.

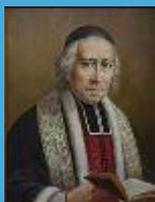
Of prayer: for the only foundation on which my life rests, where something firm can be established, is YOU.

Work: only with effort can one be a worthy man and that is my greatest offering to society, since I dedicate most of my time to that goal. In addition, living an exciting experience of research and fellowship, and earning an honest living.

Of abandonment and trust in the Lord. Strive against the illusion of the things of this world. Do not anchor your joy or your raison d'être in them. God is at the basis of your happiness because he created you and loves you, and as long as you are a Christian and faithful to God's plan, you feel "fulfilled" and happy. Today I can truly begin to be a child of God.

We conclude this very brief portrait of Serafín with the words of one of his companions, also a member of the Fraternities. These words speak to us eloquently and clearly of a faith lived with a sense of incarnation and presence in the world:

He was a man fully inserted in society. The God of Love inserts himself fully in the world and from this full insertion expands his message. Serafín did a little bit of that, he was fully inserted in the "civil society", he was a great student, a great worker, he got along with everybody, and he also went to the places where everybody goes. One of his successes was witnessing to God from his work, with his friends from other backgrounds. He never confined himself exclusively to religious circles. In contrast to a sometimes "boring" vision of religious commitment, Serafín lived it with a deep joy that was reflected in his permanent smile, which I attributed to the happiness of the one who carries God inside. That happiness had many more consequences: affability, kindness, availability, humility and an enthusiasm in everything he did. He transmitted this enthusiasm to those of us who were involved with him in the same projects.



Prayer Intentions to Blessed Chaminade

We ask the Marianist religious and communities to make a novena of prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for the healing of these two people:

-Bro. Rudolf Plötzeneder, SM, a Marianist religious of the Chaminade community of Greisinghof (Austria). Rudolf suffers from very advanced pancreatic cancer; he has undergone surgery and is now receiving chemotherapy treatment. It is a prayer intention proposed by Bro. Alfred Eigner, S.M. and the Marianists of the Region of Austria-Germany.

-Bro. Jean-Guy Pannatier, SM, a Marianist religious of the community of Fribourg (Switzerland), seriously ill from a malignant tumor. It is a prayer intention requested by Fr. Leo Müller, SM, Director of the Area Community of Switzerland.



Prayer Intentions to Venerable Faustino Pérez-Manglano

We ask the Marianist religious and communities to make a novena of prayer to Venerable Faustino Pérez-Manglano for the healing of **Matteo**, 24 years old. After an accident suffered in the summer of 2021, Matteo has been left quadriplegic, losing the movement of his hands; In addition, a serious injury to the esophagus prevents him from eating, having to take food through a tube that enters directly into his stomach. It is a prayer intention requested by Fr. Antonio Collicelli, SM, a Marianist religious of the Santo Nome di Maria parish community (Rome, Italy).

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: n. 17-18**
- **May 15: *Communication #1 Registration and preliminary work in preparation for the online meeting of Marianist Educational works in October 2022***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education

G.A. Calendar

- **5-10 June:** Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education, attends meeting of the World Congress of the International Organization of Catholic Education in New York City.

Changes of Adresses.

- **Bro. Christophe Mbonde (IV):** eluchristophe@gmail.co

