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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

INDEX

- Profession of first vows in the Society of Mary - Region of Togo
 - Celebration of the beginning of the new Latin America Region
 - Symposium of the Association of Marianist Universities of the United States
 - Transfer of the Body of Fr. Vicente
 - General History of the Society of Mary
 - Life Testimony - Fr. Paul Landolfi, SM
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Profession of first vows in the Society of Mary - Region of Togo



Bro. Patrice Agao, SM, with Fr. Jonas Kpatcha, SM, Regional Superior and his family.

On Sunday, June 26, 2022, the Mass of Profession of First Vows of Patrice Médéso Agao took place in Kara, Togo. The celebration was presided over by the Regional Superior of the Marianists of Togo, Fr. Jonas Kpatcha, SM. The profession took place in the chapel of the Collège Chaminade in Kara. Members of the Marianist Family, the family and friends of the professed and of the educational community of Collège Chaminade and Collège Adele of Kara attended the profession. In his homily, the Regional Superior asked the professed to stand firm always in the commitment he has decided to make. To do so, he must fundamentally put on the characteristic virtues of the Virgin Mary. It is then that he can assume a happy and fruitful religious life.

After the celebration, a light collation was offered to all those who attended the liturgy.

Celebration of the beginning of the new Latin America Region



The opening celebration of the new Region of Latin America took place on May 31, Feast of the Visitation, in Lima, Peru.

As already reported in past issues of VL22 (nos. 301 and 306), the former

Regions of Argentina, Chile, Peru and Colombia-Ecuador have become a single region, with Fr. Luis Casalá, SM, as its first Regional Superior.

The Region is composed of four sectors corresponding to the former Regions. The new Sector Leaders are the members of the Regional Council. The Animators-Counselors are:

Argentina: Fr. Javier de Aguirre, SM

Chile: Bro. Mauricio Silva, SM

Peru: Fr. Eduardo Arens, SM

Colombia-Ecuador: Bro. Pedro Castañeda, SM



**The new Regional Council of Latin America, with Fr. André Fétis, SM
and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM**

On the afternoon of May 31, at St. Mary's Retreat House in Lima, the new Region was inaugurated in a beautiful celebration presided over by the Superior General, Father André-Joseph Fétis, SM.

Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, and the Regional Superiors who were finishing their responsibilities attended the ceremony. Representative of each of the other CLAMAR presences (Cuba, Mexico and Brazil) were also present. In addition, all of the brothers of the Sector of Peru, representatives of the MLC and the AM, and many lay people who work in the Marianist works of Peru joined in the celebration.



All SM religious participating in the celebration of the beginning of the new Latin America Region

At the end of Father André's homily, Father Luis Casalá and the new Sector Animators made public their commitment to serve in their respective responsibilities. They asked for the strength of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of Mary, as well as that of all the brothers and laity. We place in the Lord's hands the journey of this new Region and its mission.

Symposium of the Association of Marianist Universities of the United States

From June 14 to 17, 2022, E. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education, took part in the symposium organized by the Association of Marianist Universities of the United States. This symposium took place in St. Louis, USA. This triennial meeting, which is part of the continuing education of their members, brought together a hundred participants chosen from among the professors, staff and administrators from the three universities: *Chaminade University* of Honolulu, *University of Dayton* in Ohio and *St. Mary's University* in San Antonio, Texas.

Created after the unification of the four provinces of the United States, this Association of Marianist Universities of the United States (AMU) has as its mission to support, promote, and advance Marianist higher education by creating an environment for cooperation and the exchange of experience and information among the three universities. The association also represents Marianist higher education at the national and international levels and contributes to the formation of leaders in the Catholic and Marianist educational traditions for service to the Church and the world.



In the face of a world currently troubled by crises of all kinds, the June 2022 meeting provided an opportunity for participants to reclaim their special role as universities and to consider how to respond to the challenges of the day in a way that reflects the Marianist tradition in education.

The three American Universities now total 17,157 students. There are 1,126 members of the administrative and teaching staff, including about forty Marianist religious.

Transfer of the Body of Fr. Vicente

The Cause of beatification and canonization of Father Vicente Lopez de Uralde was initiated in 2017 in the diocese of Cadiz (Spain), and on March 1, 2022, his Positio was examined with a favorable vote at the congress of theologians of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Consequently, his mortal remains were transferred on Saturday, June 25th, from the cemetery of Cadiz to the church of the Marianist colegio of St. Philip Neri.



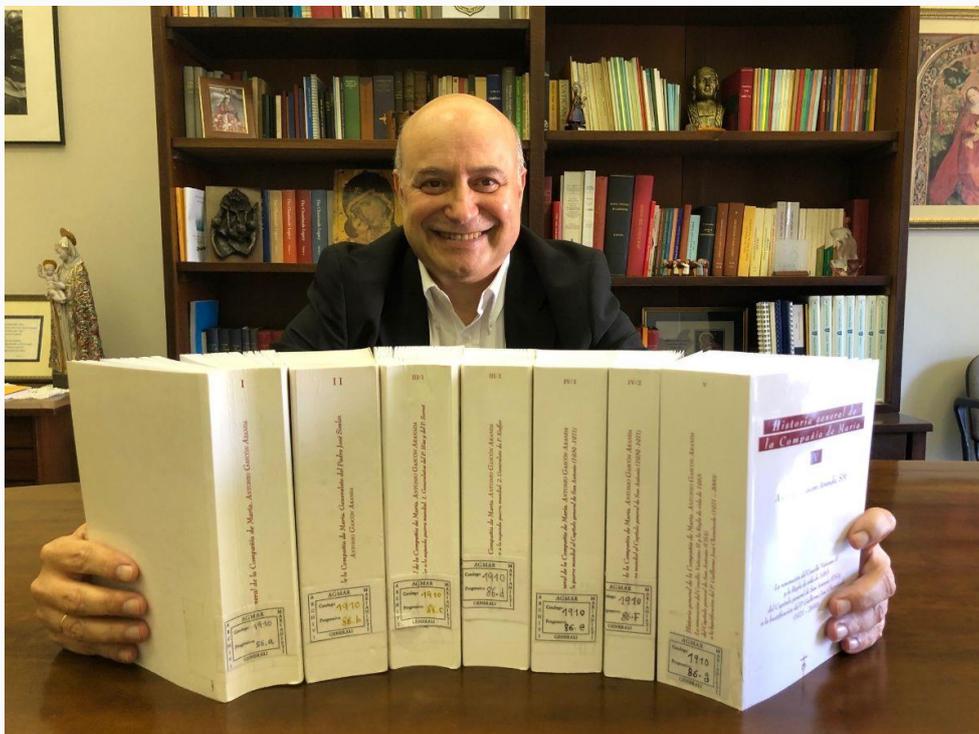
Postulator General, Father Gascón, with Marianist religious from Cádiz and Jerez in the chapel with the remains of Father Vicente in the back wall to the right.

The ceremony was presided over by the Judicial Vicar of the diocese, Pedro Belo, with the assistance of the diocesan notary, the Marianist Postulator General, Father Antonio Gascon, the superior of the community, Father Jose Antonio Barbudo, and numerous faithful, former students, Marianist religious, teachers of the Colegio and friends. Representing the Province of Spain were Father Francisco Sales (Assistant for Religious Life) and Brother Lander Gaztelumendi (Assistant for Temporalities). The mortal remains of Father Vicente rest in a beautiful chapel where they can receive the veneration of the

faithful. We hope that in the coming year Father Vicente will receive the title of "venerable".

General History of the Society of Mary

The fifth and last volume of the General History of the Society of Mary, the work of Father Antonio Gascón, has just been published. The 30th General Chapter of the Society of Mary in 1991 mandated the writing of the history of the Marianist Provinces and, subsequently, the *General History of the Society of Mary*, with the aim of "promoting the appreciation of the Marianist charism". Fr. Gascon received from the General Administration the task of writing the history of the Society, which was to cover the life of the Founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade (born in 1761), until his beatification by St. John Paul II in the year 2000. This work involved twenty years of research in the General Archives of the Society of Mary in Rome. The entire history has been published in five volumes. The various volumes have appeared over two decades: Vol. 1 in 2007; Vol. 2 in 2010; Vol. 3 part 1 and Vol. 3 part 2 in 2013; Vol. 4 part 1 in 2018; Vol. 4 part 2 in 2019; Vol. 5 in 2022. In total, there are more than six thousand pages in these five volumes.



Father Antonio Gascón with the seven volumes of the General History of the Society of Mary.

This last volume covers the complex and difficult post-conciliar period, from the General Chapter of San Antonio (USA) in 1971 to the beatification of the Founder in 2000. At the Chapter in San Antonio, the Society received the mandate of the Second Vatican Council to renew religious life. The approval of the new *Rule of Life* in 1983 was the culmination of this path of renewal. However, the renewal had to be concretized in new forms of community life, of initial formation, of opening the mission to fields of apostolate beyond the school tradition, of government and management of the works, of the Provinces and of the Society based on subsidiarity (putting an end to centralized government). In this way, the concept of religious life created in the 19th century as uniformity and regularity was brought to an end. In its place was created a new and vital institutional form of religious life. However, this immense and profound change in the institution and in the life of religious has led to numerous internal problems in religious institutes. However, in the post-conciliar period, the Society of Mary opened up to new horizons, such as the implantation in the young churches in Africa and Asia, the Marianist Family, and the social impact of the mission...

Finally, the interested reader will find in these five volumes the life, mission, spirituality, characters and works of the Marianist religious throughout time and the geography of the countries where the Society of Mary has exercised and continues to exercise its mission throughout the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. A way of life and evangelization, in which the Marianists adapt or react to the social, political, religious and cultural environment of the countries and societies where they operate.

Life Testimony - Fr. Paul Landolfi, SM

Once, when writing an appreciation of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Father Paul Landolfi used words that could easily have been applied to his own life as well: "It is a fundamental truth of faith that God is always present in our lives, loving us, guiding us, and revealing himself to us. Usually, when we look back in retrospect, we recognize that God always has been with us."

In Paul's case, God's provident care was intimately connected to the Society of Mary. The beloved teacher, chaplain and spiritual director had 73 years of religious profession when he died in 2017 at the age of 90. But he had actually spent nearly 85 of his years in the company of Marianists, having grown up in an

orphanage run by them. He lost his mother when he was only five years old, and his father died a few years later; still, he found in the Brothers' care a family spirit that sustained and nurtured him as a boy.



Greatly attracted to the life of the Marianists, he entered the postulate at the tender age of 14 and went on to profess first vows in 1944. Brother Paul then continued studies to become a teacher, and served in that capacity at several different high schools before entering the seminary in 1952. Ordained in 1955 at Fribourg, Switzerland, he returned to the United States and continued his ministry as a teacher, chaplain and administrator.

During these early years in the classroom, both his colleagues and the Brothers noted something special about his demeanor and spirituality. It was said that Father Paul never uttered a harsh word or committed an unkind act. Instead, he was revered as someone who practiced the beatitudes in everyday life and was known for being open, gentle and extremely kind.

Father Paul would go on to serve in a variety of ministries, including formation work and a return to his childhood residence, St. John's Home in New York, where he served as chaplain. Ever an educator and always a learner, Father Paul eventually earned two master's degrees, one in administration and the other in pastoral counseling.

By the mid-1970s, he was ready to begin a new phase of ministry, beginning a two-decade term in leading the Marianist Spiritual Renewal Center in Pennsylvania. In that role, he designed and provided programs of retreats, spiritual direction and religious instruction – encountering many Lay Marianists who were seeking to deepen their Marianist commitment. Renowned as a most devoted son of Mary, he also became widely known and loved for serving as a gentle guide who demonstrated a genuine, simple joy in all of his encounters.

Deeply respected for his insights into Marianist spirituality, Father Paul once shared thoughts from a “dream interview” with Blessed Chaminade about the unique nature of the Marianists’ vow of stability. Using his “voice of Chaminade,” he wrote, “I wanted Stability to mean [that] members would enter and remain in a state of *being* much more than in a place...I wanted persons who would not be fixed to a house but would be fixed in a state, the state of being devoted to Mary. That’s what Mary wanted. She wanted dedicated people who would help her. She wanted her sons and daughters to be open and docile to the Spirit of Jesus. This required more than permanence in a place.”

The everyday holiness first noted by the Brothers in the 1940s continued in Father Paul until his death. A resident at Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, in his final years, he seemed to those around him to be a human stained-glass window of sorts – someone through whom the light of Christ, in all its radiance, persistently shines. Widely known in the Chaminade community as a kind and compassionate confessor, he also displayed an attitude that was bursting with life, invariably engaging those around him into action, thought and prayer. In the end, he died as he had lived, ever in the service of Mary, reciting the words of the *Memorare* along with members of his community.



PRAYER TO SAINT MARTYR DEVASAHAYAM
(The first Indian Martyr, canonized
on May 15, 2022, in Rome)

Saint Devasahayam, For the love of Christ you have willingly and patiently underwent torments and tortures, and willingly sacrificed your life and obtained the joy of eternal life and the veneration at the alters as God's great reward. We praise and thank God for blessing you with this glorious life.

You set apart your whole life for preaching on the Kingdom of God, leaving behind all the worldly pleasures of wealth, status, name, fame, and glory. You as a true Disciple of Christ faithfully put into practice the values of the Gospel, the equality and Fraternity of all people on earth.

Assist us to follow you in leaving behind all the worldly pleasures and help us to live as children of the kingdom of God and put into practice faithfully the values of the Gospel so that we may one day enter eternal life to be with God and your company forever and ever.

Amen!

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: N. 19-20**
- **June 22: Circular #3 of the Superior General - *Brothers!* - *You should also do as I have done to you (John 13:15b)***, in three languages, sent to all the members of the Society of Mary, from Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General

G.A. Calendar

- **July 2-9:** Meeting of the Superiors of the Developing Units in Rome
- **July 10-23:** General Leadership Assembly in Rome.

Change of Adresses

- **Bro. Pedro José Castañeda (AL):** pejocas@yahoo.es