



## VIA LATINA 22

**# 314 - September - October 2022**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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## Perpetual Profession in the Region of Togo

The Marianist Family of Togo and the Church of the Diocese of Kara had the joy of experiencing this Saturday, September 10, 2022, the ceremony of perpetual profession of Brother Henri Bawerima Baragou in the Society of Mary.

The ceremony took place in the parish of Saint Jean Bosco of Kara-Sud, the native parish of Brother Henri. The Regional Superior, Father Jonas Kpatcha, SM, presided over the Eucharist. Several other priests, who came to support Brother Henri, were also present.



**Fr. Henri Baragou, SM, pronouncing his perpetual vows.**

In his homily, Father Jonas talked about the Marian character of the life of the Christian. While recalling that the perpetual vows are not an end to holiness, but another stimulus to more ardor on the path of perfection, Fr. Jonas exhorted both the professed and the faithful to be more vigilant in their efforts to follow Christ more closely. He said that it is when everything seems correct and in order that the evil one invites himself into the apparent quietude to disturb and distance us from our ideal.

The ceremony was a source of immense joy for the people in attendance. Among those present were the members of the Marianist Family, the faithful of the parish, parents, friends and acquaintances of the professed, and members of the educational communities of the Chaminade schools of Natitingou, Benin and of Kara, Togo. A festive meal was served at the end of the ceremony.

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## Perpetual professions in the Province of Spain



**Bros. Enock Pierre and Jean Moïse Néré.**

On Saturday, September 10, Bro. Jean Moïse Néré, SM and Bro. Enock Pierre, SM made their perpetual profession as Marianist religious during a beautiful celebration held at the Pilar Parish in Jerez. Among the participants were fellow Marianist religious, members of the Marianist Family, educators, staff of the schools of Cadiz and Jerez and friends from Valencia and Zaragoza, cities where our brothers have been stationed, since they arrived in Spain in 2013. Fr. Iñaki Sarasua, Provincial of the Province of Spain presided over the ceremony. Bro.

Miguel Ángel Dieste, Assistant Provincial, assisted him at the moment of the call and the imposition of the ring.

In his homily, Fr. Iñaki emphasized the joy that this occasion brought to all of us: to receive Moïse and Enock definitively into the Society of Mary. This gift from God emphasizes the diversity, history and culture of all those who make up the Body of Christ.

After the Eucharist, the people who attended were able to enjoy some refreshments in the school courtyard, while toasting the brothers and enjoying the happiness of being together as a family.

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## Priestly Ordination in the Region of Togo



**From left to right: the parish priest, Fr. Georges Gbeze, SM, Fr. Anselme Agbessi, SM and Fr. Jonas Kpatcha, SM**

On July 30, 2022, Bishop Jacques Danka Longa of the Diocese of Kara, Togo, ordained Brother Anselme Mawè Agbessi, SM, as a priest of the Society of

Mary. The ordination took place in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Kara, Togo. In his homily, the bishop emphasized the role of the priest with the faithful to whom he is sent. Indeed, his role is to be a priest, that is to say, to make Jesus present among the people.

The ordination ceremony took place in an atmosphere of great fervor and reverence. It was attended by many faithful from the cathedral parish, the home parish of Brother Anselme, members of the Marianist family, members of the Agbessi family and many others who came to support Fr. Anselme. After the ceremony, Chaminade College hosted a reception for all participants. This social gave all present the opportunity to congratulate Fr. Anselme.

On July 31, 2022, Fr. Anselme celebrated his first Mass in his home parish, Good Shepherd of Tchaloudè, Kara.

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## Profession of First Vows in the District of Ivory Coast



**Arsène Asséké Abe pronouncing his first vows.**

On Saturday, July 2, 2022 at the National Marian Shrine of Abidjan, the Society of Mary and the entire Marianist Family in Ivory Coast had the great joy of celebrating the first religious profession of Arsène Asséké Abe. The Mass was presided over by His Excellency Mgr. Boniface Ziriou, Bishop of Abengourou, Ivory Coast, in the presence of Father Noël Dominique Kouao Akobé, Superior

of the District of Ivory Coast and several priests who came from various locations in Ivory Coast. Marianist religious of the District, Arsene's family, other members of the Marianist Family, and many other friends and acquaintances attended the profession.

It was also the occasion to celebrate and give thanks to God for the Silver Jubilee of religious profession of Frs. Eugène Adingra, SM, and Georges Gbeze, SM.

The festivities ended with a meal shared at the SM residence of the brothers of the Marian Shrine of Abidjan.

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## First Profession in the Region of Eastern Africa



**From Left: Fr. Gabriel Kiranga, SM, Fr. Michael Otieno, SM, Bro. Joseph Maricky, SM, Bro. Gerald Wellem, SM, Representative of Bro. Gerald's family, Fr. Joseph Mwaura, SM, Fr. Stephen Wanyoike, SM and a Visiting Deacon.**

August 20, 2022, was a day of great joy for the Region of Eastern Africa. Brother Gerald Wellem, SM, from Malawi, made his first profession of vows as a member of the Society of Mary at the Marianist Novitiate in Limuru . Fr. Stephen Wanyoike

Mburu, SM, Regional Superior, was the main celebrant of the Eucharist, preached, and received the vows.

The celebration of the First Profession of Vows was graced by the presence of members of the Society of Mary, the Marianist Lay communities, a contact of the Daughters of Mary, and the Marianist Novices. The solemn celebration was followed by a festive meal with traditional songs and dance, completing the celebration.

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## Profession of First Vows in the Sector of Congo



**Penel Boniche Claide LAHO pronouncing his first vows.**

On Sunday, August 28, 2022, Penel Boniche Claide Laho, from the Congo Sector, pronounced his first vows in the Society of Mary. The celebration took place at the Notre Dame du Rosaire center of Lataha, in the Diocese of Korhogo, Ivory Coast, during the closing mass of the annual retreat of the Marianist brothers of the District of Ivory Coast.

The main celebrant was Father Noël Dominique Kouao Akobé, SM, Superior of the District of Ivory Coast.

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## Marianist World Day of Prayer - October 9, 2022



### **Sanctuary Maria Salus Infirmorum, Scaldafarro.**

Once again, Marianists from around the world will gather to pray on the occasion of the Marianist World Day of Prayer. The celebration, this year, will take place on Sunday, October 9, 2022. As usual, the prayer will spiritually unite Marianists of all branches, countries and cultures, invoking our Mother, Mary, to intercede for her children. Together we will have our eyes turned to the Sanctuary *Maria Salus Infirmorum of Scaldafarro*. Scaldafarro is a town near the city of Vicenza in Italy, which houses the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary: *Salus Infirmorum (Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick)*. A brief summary of the very interesting history of the shrine can be found at : [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org).

The presence of Marianist religious in this sanctuary since 1993 is a great grace.



This year, as we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended. However, we must also pray for peace in the world. It is therefore appropriate that the entire Marianist world unite in prayer, imploring the Virgin Mary to end this scourge and to grant the whole world peace.

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

**MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR US!**

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## Do we still believe in miracles? Marie-Thérèse-Charlotte, a woman of faith



In 1820, La Miséricorde in Bordeaux had more than two hundred boarders. Work was needed but money was short.

"Three thousand francs were owed to the main contractor for the work. Spontaneously, he trusted that the Superior would pay him in due time.

No," says the latter, "God is a good payer. Let us take three months. "

The three months passed and, on the fatal day, Thérèse de Lamourous does not even have the five sols of Thérèse of Avila. This fact does not upset her. A devotional fast is requested from the community. Then, at nine o'clock, she locks herself in the restored chapel. She thinks that she is alone. Fortunately, two directors hidden in the gallery will see and hear everything. This is what happened:

Prostrate on the pavement of the nave, the Mother immerses herself in a long adoration. Then, she lifts herself up, and, out loud, she says: - My God, it is today that you pay your three thousand francs; your honor is involved; you gave your word. Will you grant me what I asked for?

She waited, listening on the side of the parlor to see if the bell would call her. Nothing. Then she gets up, goes to the Holy Table and, this time with sobs in her voice, she resumes her prayer: - Jesus, did you hear me! I know you sometimes act deaf, like a mother who pretends not to hear her child. Well, you owe three thousand francs; I said that at eleven o'clock you would pay; you will not fail to keep your word!

She listens again. The bell is still silent. Then, she enters the sanctuary, climbs

the steps of the altar. There, her emotion is such that she must, with her left hand, squeeze her heart, which beats so strongly that it almost takes her breath away. With her right hand, she knocks on the door of the tabernacle, saying: - Forgive me, O Jesus, but it is you who force me to be bold. You said: Knock and it will be opened. If I have to stay here until tomorrow, I will keep knocking until you pay the three thousand francs. I will cry, Lord, and you will hear me!

No sooner had she completed this third summons than she heard her bell ring in the parlor. She quickly left the church, but politely took leave of the good Lord and promised to come back to say thank you.

In the parlor, she finds a stranger, who tells her about the Countess of M., whom she had met during her trip to Paris. She was dead and the visitor had come to execute one of the bequests of her will. I would be surprised," interrupted Mlle. de Lamourous, "if God did not send me, through you, the three thousand francs that I promised in his name.

Smiling, the stranger drew from his wallet three thousand-francs and handed them to the Superior. - Thank you, I knew, oh my God, that you would be faithful. - Wait, Madame, there are three more!

This time, Miss de Lamourous was a little disconcerted, then, with great spontaneity, she said: -Since it is so, from now on I will ask you, O God, only half of what I need. "

*The Apostle of Mary, no. 174, August-September 1925, p. 135-137.*

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## **New General Council Daughters of Mary Immaculate 2022-2027**

The General Chapter held in Rome in July 2022 elected the new General Council of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. On July 22 the new Superior General, Sr. Susanna Kim, from South Korea, was elected. On July 23, the three Assistants General were elected: Sr. Prudence Adoki, from Togo, as Assistant of Religious Life, Sr. Clotilde Fernández del Pozo, from Spain, as Assistant of Education and Sr. Micaela Lee Pok Sun, from South Korea, as Assistant of Temporalities.

We join in prayer for the mission of the new Council.

To read the official announcement click [here](#)



**Sr. Susanna Kim**  
**Superior General**



**Sr. Prudence Adoki**  
**Assistant for Religious Life**



**Sr. Clotilde Fernández del Pozo**  
**Assistant for Education**



**Sr. Micaela Lee Pok Sun**  
**Assistant for Temporalities**

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## International Meeting of the MLC

The VIII International Meeting of Marianist Lay Communities took place from July 23-30, 2002, in Guadarrama (Madrid, Spain). The theme for this meeting was: "Dreaming Together Our Fraternity".

The meeting was attended by representatives of the MLCs of the different countries, as well as by the advisors accompanying some of the groups. Unfortunately, some delegates could not come at the last minute because they were unable to obtain the necessary visas.



**From left to right: Boris Giambanco, President – Mercedes de la Cuadra, Europe – Lilliam Valle Garagorri, Latin America, - Kiyoshi Hirata, Asia - Matt Dunn, North America, Ireland and Australia and Atsè Yao Narcisse, Africa.**

The first day began with the celebration of the Eucharist, after which the members of the International team presented their reports. The focus of the meeting was on a joint reflection concerning the lines of action to be taken in the coming years. It was found that it was not easy to provide common lines for all, given the real differences between the different regions of the world. The decision was made to work by region. It should be noted that a session was dedicated to listening to the youngest members, who manifested their Marianist identity well. In addition, a new region was created, Asia, which until then had been united to North America.

The final sessions were devoted to the election of the new International Team for the next four-year period. The election results are listed below.

President: Boris Giambanco (Spain)

North American region: Matt Dunn (USA)

Latin American region: Lilliam Garagorri (Peru)

European region: Mercedes de la Cuadra (Spain)

African region: Atsè Yao Narcisse (Côte d'Ivoire)

Asian region: Kiyoshi Hirata (Japan)

Assesor: P. Félix Erdocia,sm.

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## Season for Creation 2022 September 1 to October 4

« Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures, and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. » (Members of the Season for Creation Advisory Committee).



**The Burning Bush**  
Ex 3:1-12

**Listen to the  
Voice of creation**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

This year, the theme for the season is "**Listen to the Voice of Creation.**"

The members of the Season for Creation Advisory Committee

invite us to join the Season for Creation. Here is the link: [Season of Creation](#)

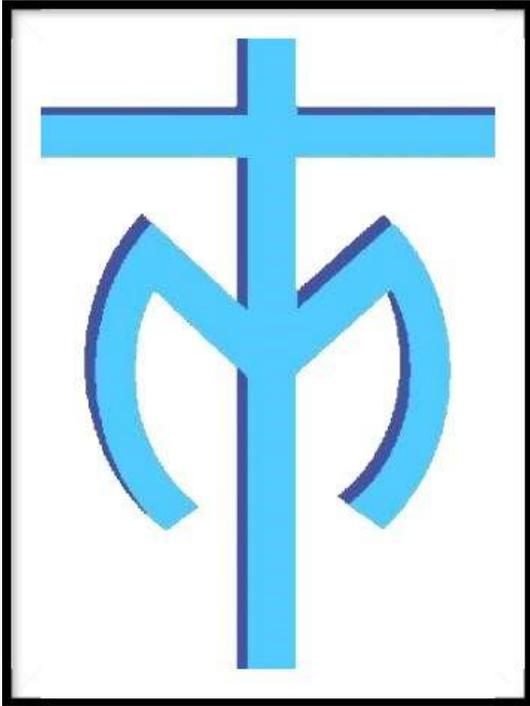
On the first page, you can download a booklet that tells you how to live this time (reflection, actions, and prayers).

**Together, let us take care of our common home!**

Within this framework, we must recognize the preferential option for fragile people and endangered natural and social ecosystems as a universal value of right and conscience. Wherever we are engaged, at the local, regional, national or international level, we must support, act and claim, for any development or technological innovation, the preferential option for the poor and the most fragile as a source of radical innovation benefiting all humanity.

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## Prayer for the ederly



We pray for the elderly and especially for our older brothers, who represent our roots and memory, that their experience and wisdom may help the younger ones to look toward the future with hope and responsibility.

Here is a prayer proposed by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life for the Second World Day for Grandparents and Ederly which each elderly brother can say alone or with others in any place and at any time.

I give thanks to you, Lord,  
For the blessing of a long life  
For, to those who take refuge in You,  
Grant always to bear fruit.

Forgive, O Lord,  
Resignation and disillusionment,  
But forsake me not  
When my strength declines.

Teach me to look with hope  
To the future you give me,  
To the mission you entrust to me  
And to sing your praises without end.

Make me a tender craftsman  
Of Your revolution,  
To guard with love my grandchildren  
And all the little ones who seek shelter in You.

Protect, O Lord, Pope Francis

And grant Thy Church  
To deliver the world from loneliness.  
Direct our steps in the way of peace.  
Amen.

## G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: n. 21-32**
- **Aug.1: Report from the General Council regarding the General Leadership Assembly**, in three languages, sent to all the members of the Society of Mary.
- **Sept. 6: Marianist World Day of Prayer - October 9, 2022**, in three languages, to all the Marianist Family, sent by the World Council of the Marianist Family .
- **Sept. 14: Communication #2: Practical aspects and registration for the online Meeting of Marianist Educational Works in October 2022**, in three languages, to all the members of the Society of Mary, sent by Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General of Education.

## G.A. Calendar

- **Sept. 20-23:** Fr. André-Joseph Fetís, SM, Superior General, and Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General of Education, visit the Area Community of Switzerland.
- **Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 :** Fr. André-Joseph Fetís, SM Superior General and Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General of Education visit France on the occasion of the erection of the Region of France.
- **Oct. 2 - Nov. 4:** The General Council visitation to the Province of Spain.

## Changes of addresses

All new emails will be included in the next issue of International Personnel  
2022-2023 (#77)