



VIA LATINA 22

315 - November 2022

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

INDEX

- [First Vows in the Province of USA](#)
- [Appointment in the Region of Japan](#)
- [Celebration of the Region of France - Bordeaux - La Madeleine \(October 1, 2022\)](#)
- [General Council Visits the Province of Spain](#)
- [Pilgrimage of the Chaminade International Seminary Community of Rome](#)
- [First World Meeting of the Marianist Educational Works](#)
- [Holiness today](#)
- [2022-2023 International Personnel To Arrive Soon!](#)
- [Contribution of Consecrated Life to the Synod on Synodality](#)
- [Prayer for Migrants and Refugees](#)
- [Marianist World Day of Prayer](#)

First Vows in the Province of USA

Bro. Jesús Álvarez Peña professed first vows in the Society of Mary on Oct. 8, 2022, at Capilla de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe) in Querétaro, Mexico. Director of Novices Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM

and Assistant Director of Novices Fr. Tim Eden, SM presented Bro. Jesús as a suitable candidate for the profession of vows after a period of formation and discernment. His vows were received by Fr. Oscar Vasquez, SM, Provincial of the Province of the USA. Principal concelebrants included Provincial Assistant for Religious Life, Fr. Tim Kenney, SM and Chaplain of Comunidad Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Fr. Quentin Hakenewerth, SM.



Fr. Jesús Alvarez Peña, SM, pronouncing his first vows.

Many family members, friends, and members of the Marianist Community attended the vow ceremony and reception that followed. The ceremony was also live-streamed so that Marianist Family members and friends from all over the world could witness the celebration virtually.

Bro. Jesús Alvarez Peña, 25, is the son of Maria Elena Peña Monroy and Salvador Alvarez Arias, from Querétaro, Mexico. His devout Catholic family includes two siblings.

Bro. Jesús became a pre-novice in February 2018. His first assignment was to study English at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, where he lived in the Casa Maria Marianist Community. Then in 2020, as part of his formation, he moved to Dayton, OH, to live at the Marianist Novitiate. His education now continues with

the pursuit of an undergraduate degree at the Marist University of Querétaro in Mexico.

Appointment in the Region of Japan



The Superior General, Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, with the unanimous support of the General Council, has re-appointed Fr. Ichise Koichi Joseph, SM, to a second term of three years as Regional Superior of the Region of Japan. His term begins on April 1, 2023 and concludes on March 31, 2026. The support he received from the members of the Region in the consultation was very broad.

Fr. Ichise has generously accepted this appointment. The General Council greatly appreciates the work done during his first term and thanks him for having accepted reappointment, with great availability.

Celebration of the Region of France - Bordeaux - La Madeleine (October 1, 2022)

On August 15, the Province of France became the Region of France. This change was requested by the capitulants of the Province, who perceived that the Regional structure was better able to serve the Marianist life and mission of the Unit. The date of the official change was not suitable for a celebration. Instead, on October 1 this new stage was celebrated in the presence of the Regional Superior, Brother Jean-Marie Leclerc, SM, and his Council, brothers from different communities, representatives of the Marianist Family and collaborators active in the service of the Marianist mission in various places in France. The Superior General, Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, and the Assistant General for Education, Bro Maximin Magnan, SM, represented the General Administration. The Chapel of the Madeleine, where the Marianist Family developed, and where the original brothers took their first vows, was an ideal setting for this celebration. The date allowed us to celebrate the occasion in the

context of the anniversary of the foundation of the Society of Mary, on October 2, 1817, in Bordeaux.



The Charter of the Region of France (excerpt) is given by the Superior General to Bro. Jean-Marie Leclerc, Regional Superior of France.

As the Superior General mentioned during his homily, changes are a sign of life, the life that God never stops giving us with fidelity and creativity. Our first brothers made an act of faith in 1817 by committing themselves to a congregation that did not yet have a community or any visible structure. At that time, they did not even have a house to live in. They overcame these uncertainties by the audacity of their faith. It was the two youngest who were able to lead the others, both with the name Jean-Baptiste, Lalanne and Collineau. From the very beginning, they were able to put the variety of their talents, as educators, workers or future priests, at the service of this project.

Let us wish the Region of France a fruitful journey as it responds to the calls and challenges of the present world, in union with the Marianist Family and with the many collaborators in the Marianist mission.

General Council Visits the Province of Spain

Beginning on October 1, the four members of the General Council have been visiting our religious and their works throughout the Province of Spain. After beginning together in Madrid, they traveled in pairs to each of the communities

to spend several days living with the brothers and getting to know their apostolic works and mission. There are currently a little more than 150 religious in the Province.



Provincial Council and General Council meet at the beginning of the visitation.

The Marianists are very respected educators, known for excellent schools in many cities, as well as some parishes and other types of mission. The schools are organized within an extremely active and supportive network, called the Fundación Educación Marianista Domingo Lázaro, which has incorporated all of the schools of the SM, and those of the FMI. Within this network, closely animated by members of the Provincial Council and lay leaders, support on all levels: practical, financial, charismatic and pedagogic, has empowered Marianist education to become a leading entity within the country, as well as sustained our long-tradition of transmitting the Faith through the privileged means of education. Throughout the visit, the Council was happy to meet so many lay collaborators, teachers and leadership, in each of the schools.



Young students participate in their “Encounter with Jesus,” an initiative which introduces children to prayer and building a relationship with Christ offered in Marianist schools throughout Spain.

Another foundation of the Province, the Fundación SM, together with the Editorial SM, has a broad influence upon all education throughout Spain and many countries in Latin America. As a leader in educational and religious publishing, as well as active services in support of education and schools, the Editorial SM provides support to the Fundación SM for its creative and ground-breaking humanitarian/educational projects around the globe.

Although the visitation of Brazil and Cuba, a mission of the Province of Spain, occurred some time ago, it was clear during this current visitation that Marianist traditions in both of these places are well implanted and, each place in its own way, is greatly appreciated by those they serve.

Like the other Units in Europe, Spain also is challenged by the aging of its members, their fraternal care, and the challenge to maintain needed presence in communities and works. Thus, over the last few years, they have developed and are currently working through a plan for internal restructuring, and attentive formation of lay collaborators. In each place visited, the General Council has

found enormous support, commitment and excellence among these collaborators. It is a source of joy and hope.



Meeting with young people in Cadiz.

Although there are no novices in the Province, at the current moment, their attention to youth ministry is exemplary. This, along with specific vocational ministry, keeps alive the hope that young people may respond to a vocational calling. Arising from the schools, and continuing into active and committed MLC's and other organizations, there is a strong presence of the lay Marianist Branch throughout the country. The FMI also have a long tradition, both in pastoral and educational mission. An active Family Council, with several common works and initiatives, fosters unity and identity within the Marianist Family and throughout the land.

The visitation will conclude in a few days, with the delivery of the Council's Report. The kindness, fraternal hospitality, and opportunity to share in the life and mission of the Province of Spain has been a joy and privilege. Let us keep them in our prayers, particularly under the patronage of Our Lady of the Pillar, asking for increased vocations and blessings on their life and mission.

Pilgrimage of the Chaminade International Seminary Community of Rome

This year the Chaminade International Seminary Community in Rome carried out an important activity that takes place every three years: the pilgrimage to the places of our foundation in France and Spain. From September 17 to 27, 2022, the community visited Bordeaux, Mussidan, Périgueux, Agen, Madrid and Zaragoza. It was not only a geographical journey, but also a spiritual journey, with prolonged times of reflection and prayer animated by Fr. Manuel Cortés. This time of prayer and reflection gave to the seminarians the experience of a deeper approach to the Marianist spiritual life following in the footsteps of the Founder. Everywhere they went, the local brothers and sisters graciously welcomed the community of the seminary. They are grateful for everything the different communities have done to make the pilgrims feel truly at home, in an atmosphere of fraternity. This pilgrimage is undoubtedly a good contribution to the formation process of our seminarians.

The photo shows the Seminary community in front of the birthplace of Blessed Chaminade in Périgueux.



From left to right: Bro. Messi Gatien, SM (Congo); Bro. Showrry Ravulapalli, SM (India); Bro. José Luis González, SM (Mexico); Fr. Miguel Ángel Cortés, SM, Rector (Spain); Bro. Frédéric Bini, SM, Vice-Rector (Togo); Bro. Claudel Noël, SM (Haiti-Côte d'Ivoire)

First World Meeting of the Marianist Educational Works



The meeting "***Global Educational Pact and Marianist Education***", promoted by the two Offices of Education of the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, was held on October 18 and 19, 2022. This meeting, which took place via the Zoom platform, brought together over 370 educators from 24 countries.

During the first day, participants first listened to people who were familiar with the topic and then discussed the fundamentals of the *Global Educational Pact* and its integration into an institutional project. During the second day, concrete experiences of this integration, which take place in the context of the Marianist Family, were presented, generating further exchanges in small groups as on the first day. The two Superiors General, FMI and SM, were present and honored the second day with their effective presence, as well as with some very encouraging interventions.



Sister Susanna Kim, FMI, offered a message to Marianist educators thanking them for the work they do in all countries and inviting them to build the Global Educational Pact, person to person, following the example of our founders, and encouraged them to become bearers of hope for each educational endeavor in which they are working. In a very well attended conference on *The future of Marianist education in the perspective of the Global Educational Pact*, Father André-Joseph Fétis, SM, offered some key paths for us to follow in accomplishing this task. He explained that, welcoming Pope Francis' call is an opportunity that can allow us to renew what we are already doing and lead us to some important decisions in our educational works.

Clotilde Fernández del Pozo, FMI, and Brother E. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistants General for Education, presented a guide with possible steps to follow in order to *make our education more Christian and Marianist, more open and outgoing*. This meeting was successful thanks to the work of various

commissions and the collaboration of the Foundation SM, directed by our Marianist brothers of Spain. Sincere gratitude and many thanks to them and to all those who, in one way or another, participated in the preparation and smooth running of this historic event.

Holiness today

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints convened a study meeting at the Augustinianum Patristic Institute in Rome from October 3 to 6, 2022. The theme for this meeting was: **Holiness today**. The Marianist postulator, Father Antonio Gascon, SM, participated in this meeting. On Thursday morning, Pope Francis received the participants in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. The meeting was intended to open a theological and pastoral reflection on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et exultate: On the call to holiness in today's world* (2018).



It was an affirmation shared by all the speakers and presenters that canonized holiness springs from, nourishes, and expresses the holiness common to all the faithful, spread in all ecclesial environments. This includes laity, bishops, priests, popes, men and women religious, men and women, old, children and young, rich and poor, of all trades and cultural levels, of all peoples and nations of the earth, at all times in the history of the Church. The Second Vatican Council in Chapter V, *The Universal Call to Holiness in the Church*, of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, clearly expressed this conviction.

The Church is holy because the Holy Spirit dwells within it. This same spirit calls us to spread the holiness of God and his Kingdom to all men and women, peoples and regions of the earth. Therefore, there are two convictions that all the speakers expressed in their reports:

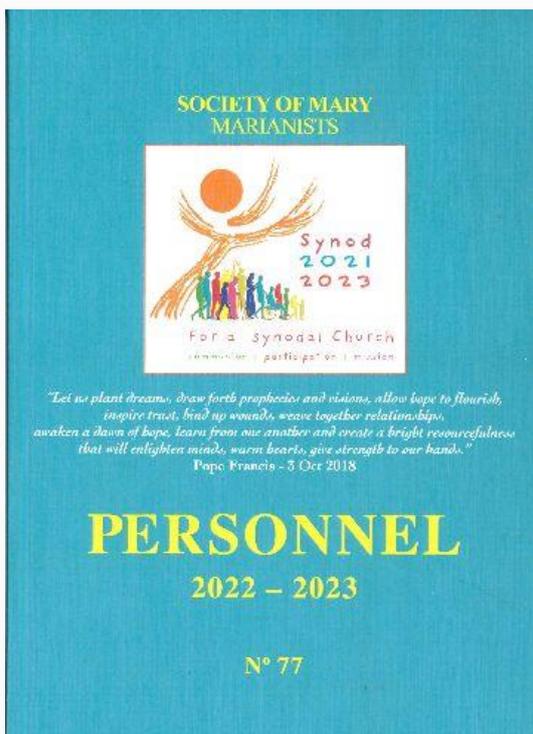
1. All members of the Church live the holiness of God in their daily lives, through their daily tasks, in family life, work, leisure, participation in the life of the Church, liturgy, sacraments, social ministry, religious consecration, and ordained ministry. Canonized holiness arises, then, from the abundance of so many everyday saints living in our midst.
2. Today the problem and challenge for the Church is not secularization, but to give a spirit, a spirituality to this globalized culture and civilization. For the most discerning minds, it is urgent to train people in interiority, in spiritual values; without which, the prevailing banality and vulgarity will degrade people, society and culture, reducing them to a terrible economic materialism. The problem is that neither our politicians nor the people who continue to consider religion as a private matter, without public representation nor purpose, realize the need for such training.



Francis exhorted us to renew the call to holiness in our current contexts, seeking to incarnate it with its risks, challenges and opportunities. During his meeting, Francis also said, it is important to discover the holiness of God's people in the parents who lovingly educate their children; in the men and women who strive in their daily work; in the people who endure a painful illness; in the elderly who smile at us and offer us their experience of life. The witness of virtuous Christian

conduct, lived in daily life by so many of the Lord's disciples, is for all of us an invitation to respond personally to the call to be a saint — to be one of those saints "in our midst" that we all know.

2022-2023 International Personnel To Arrive Soon!



This year's edition of the International Personnel has been printed and mailed to all Unit Administrations. When the copies actually arrive will depend on the various postal and courier services involved. We sincerely hope that the complications from the pandemic do not cause long delays, and that these arrive soon.

Once they have arrived to the Unit Administration, they should be distributed, as usual, throughout that Unit

Contribution of Consecrated Life to the Synod on Synodality



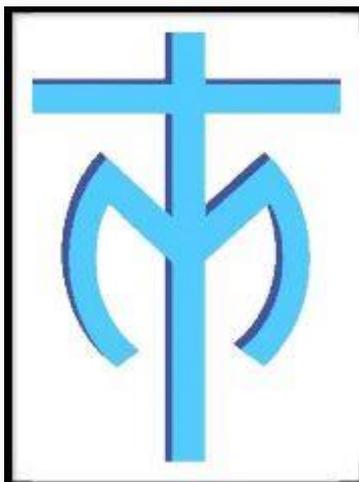
The two Unions of Superiors General (feminine and masculine) have just published a synthesis of all the contributions of religious congregations to the consultation on synodality.

The Society of Mary contributed to this synthesis.

This document can help us reflect on our role as religious in the synodal church. It also presents us with new opportunities that we receive from this way of living and acting in the Church.

For this reason, we encourage you to read this document personally or in community. Click [HERE](#) to read the document.

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees



Pope Francis' Message for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which was celebrated on Sunday, September 25, 2022, on the theme "Building the future with Migrants and Refugees", concludes with this prayer.

Lord, make us bearers of hope,
so that where there is darkness,
your light may shine,
and where there is discouragement,

confidence in the future may be reborn.

Lord, make us instruments of your justice,
so that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish,
and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.

Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom,
together with migrants and refugees
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.

Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is
to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.

Marianist World Day of Prayer

Here are some photos of the celebration of the Marianist World Day of Prayer around the world:



Togo



Benin



Ivory Coast



France



Malawi



Mexico

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices: N. 33-34**

G.A. Calendar

- **Nov. 11-13:** Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family in Rome.
- **Nov. 15:** Virtual meeting of the Extended General Council.

Changes of Adresses

- **Bro. Sang Joon Thomas Park (KO):** bropsjsm@icloud.com