



VIA LATINA 22 **# 330 - April 2024**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Visit to Quebec

From March 8 to 14, Father André-Joseph Fétis paid a brief visit to our brothers in the Area Community of Canada.



The Area Community of Canada: seated (from left to right): Fr. A-J Fétis, SM, Bro. Jean-Marie Larochelle, SM: standing, Frs. Gérard Blais, SM, Florian Royer-Chabot, SM, Eugène Côté, SM, Paul-Arthur Gilbert, SM, Bro. Raymond Boutin, SM (absent, Bro. Jean-Charles Casista).

It was good to have this contact with our brothers because their situation has changed so much in recent months. Since the closure and sale of the St Anselme house, the seven brothers of Canada have been living in six different locations. Two brothers live in a Marianist residence close to Quebec City, another in a Marianist spiritual center, and the other four in residences where they can receive the attention they need for their health, while two of them carry out pastoral work on site and in neighboring areas.

In this situation, the first challenge is to maintain links, through visits, occasional meetings, the exchange of news and spiritual union between the brothers. The community is geographically dispersed, but not spiritually or in its fraternal dimension.



**Meeting of a Lay Marianist Community and Fr. André-Joseph Fétis
at the St-Henri Center**

Another reality in Quebec is the presence of highly committed lay Marianists. A group of them have taken charge of the St-Henri Spiritual Center, founded by the brothers in 2000, and run it with dedication and skill. This year, four new CLMs were born nearby. This is a great sign of hope for the Marianist presence in Canada, which can also count on the presence of a member of the Alliance Mariale.

This stay gave the visitor the opportunity to speak with each brother in the context of his own life. A joint meeting provided an opportunity to exchange community and SM news.

The Marianist presence in Canada is small but meaningful. Lay people play an increasingly important role. The presence and activity of the brothers is appreciated; may they continue to offer it generously.

New Novitiate in Peru

On March 17, the new Santa Maria Novitiate in El Callao (Peru) was formally opened with the celebration of the promises of the novitiate made by the new novices. The novitiate is located at 1865 Guardia Chalaca Avenue, in the former residence of the Colegio San Antonio community.



Left to right: Bro. Douglas Roper, SM, Fr. José Vicente López, SM, Luis Sánchez Suárez (nov.), Dominic Matata Mbuva (nov.) and Fr. Carlos Julio Barragán, SM.

The Santa Maria Novitiate depends on the CLAMAR zone and the Province of Spain. The team of formators is composed of Fr. Carlos Julio Barragan SM (Master of Novices), Bro. Douglas Roper SM (assistant) and Fr. José Vicente López SM (Assistant Formator). Carlos Julio and Douglas are members of the Latin America Region (Colombia-Ecuador and Peru sectors, respectively) and José Vicente belongs to the Province of Spain.

The novitiate has begun with two novices from the Latin American Region: Dominic Matata Mbuva, from Kenya, who met the Marianists in Peru, and Luis Sánchez Suárez, from Colombia. A novice from Spain may join them next month.

We rejoice in this new sign of life in the Society and entrust the novices and formators to Mary's protection and guidance.

New Leadership Appointed for the Province of Meribah

In separate consultations, the members of the Province of Meribah were recently asked to provide their thoughts and recommendations for the next provincial and assistant provincial of the Province. Bro. Timothy Driscoll, SM and Fr. Thomas Cardone, SM, Provincial and Assistant Provincial, respectively, will complete their second terms at the end of next May. Thus, in the middle of February, after consideration of the consultation responses and the needs of the Province, Bro. Joseph Bellizzi, SM was appointed to the Office of Provincial (see *Via Latina* 22 – March 2024) and most recently, Fr. Peter Heiskell, SM was appointed as Assistant Provincial.



Fr. Peter is a graduate of Chaminade High School in Mineola, NY. Following completion of his education there, he entered the Marianist Community and professed first vows in 1988. He has been a teacher of Spanish and Religion, as well as a guidance counselor and moderator of several clubs and activities. In 1991, Fr. Peter professed his perpetual vows. He has served for many years in the school's administration and the administration of the Marianist Community.

Responding to the call of his brothers, as well as the call of his vocation, Peter came to the Chaminade International Seminary in 2016 for sacerdotal studies. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2019. Upon returning to Chaminade, he accepted appointment as Chaplain of the school. He has also served as Province Novice Director for the past several years.

We are grateful to Fr. Peter for accepting this latest appointment in a spirit of generous service. We are also grateful to Fr. Thomas Cardone, who will be completing many years of leadership service! We have God's blessing on them both, as well as on the Province.



Appointments at Via Latina



At the end of the General Chapter, Brother Frédéric Bini, General Secretary and Vice-Rector of our International Seminary, will leave Rome and return to Togo. We thank him for his years of service to us in these two important roles. At Via Latina, we have benefited from his expertise and fraternal presence, and we know that his Region will put to good use the experience he acquired during his years in Rome. Two brothers will replace Brother Frédéric at the Curia.

Brother José Ignacio Iglesia, from the Province of Spain, already present at Via Latina, will be the next Secretary General, starting at the end of July. Brother José Ignacio professed his first vows in 1989. He was trained in art history in Spain, and completed his doctorate at the University of Dayton's Institute of Marian Studies. He spent twenty-four years in Poland teaching Spanish and religion.



Fr. Hervé Dagbo, from the District of Côte d'Ivoire, will be the next Vice-Rector of the Chaminade International Seminary. Brother Hervé professed his first vows in 2004. For several years, he taught mathematics and religion and was in charge of pastoral care in Marianist establishments in the Ivory Coast. Since 2018, he has been assistant to the Novice Master in Abidjan as well as the District Secretary and Director of the *Centre d'études marianistes d'Afrique francophone*, located in Abadjin-Doumé, Village Chaminade.

We thank these three brothers for their past and future service, and for their readiness to respond to calls from the Society of Mary.

Patronal feast of the Marianist Family Celebrating the Marianist vocation

March 25 is the feast of the Annunciation, the feast of Mary's "Yes" , the feast of the Incarnation of the Word in Mary's womb. It is also the feast of the celebration of the Marianist vocation.

This year, the Church has chosen the date of April 8 (during the Easter season) to celebrate this feast. The Alliance Mariale invites us to meditate on Mary's **YES** by remembering, using the Angelus prayer, the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the womb of Mary. We want to give thanks for our Marianist vocation in the Church, for our Founders, for the call we have received to live the same spirituality in our different states of life through our consecration to Mary our Mother. Click [HERE](#) to view the message sent by the World Council of the Marianist Family.



On the road to the General Chapter



XXXVI
GENERAL CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF MARY

The 36th General Chapter of the Society of Mary, which will take place in Rome from July 5 to 27, is just over three months away. The preparation process, initiated in January 2023 by the General Council, is proceeding according to plan.

We are currently in the second phase of the process, which focuses on the elaboration of the *Instrumentum laboris* for the work of the Chapter.

In December 2023, a first draft of this document was sent to the capitulants, the Councils of all the Units and representatives of the other branches of the Marianist Family, encouraging all to consult with other persons and institutions,

and especially with young people. Contributions and proposals were collected until the end of February and sent to the members of the Editorial Committee (RedCo) formed by Brothers Timothy Driscoll, SM (Meribah) and Rogelio Núñez, SM (Spain-Brazil). We expect to have a new version of the *Instrumentum laboris* by mid-April, which will be sent to the capitulants. In addition, this new version will be made available to all members of the Society of Mary. The General Council has already sent its reports to the capitulants, and they will soon be sent to all the members of the Society.

Meanwhile, the Preparatory Commission (PrepCo) continues to organize the distribution of the topics as it prepares a possible calendar of the Chapter. They will finalize the calendar once the deadline for submitting propositions to the Chapter has expired. So far, we have received four propositions suggesting topics for the Chapter to consider and discern. We thank all those who have contributed to the first draft and those who have submitted propositions.

We ask everyone to pray more intensely for the Chapter in the coming months and especially during the time the Chapter is in session.

Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous and the daughters of “Miséricorde”: “It was a mutual gift.”



It was a mutual gift. From her first being anxious in responding to the invitation to be with the women of the Miséricorde, Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous was surprised at how pleasant and comfortable she felt once she was with these women. And these women of the Miséricorde, in turn, felt they were in the presence of an understanding and grace-filled woman. Marie-Thérèse embodied the spirit of the Miséricorde – mercy, compassion, and acceptance. It was a mutual gift that was shared between Marie-Thérèse and the women of the Miséricorde. Women came to the Miséricorde

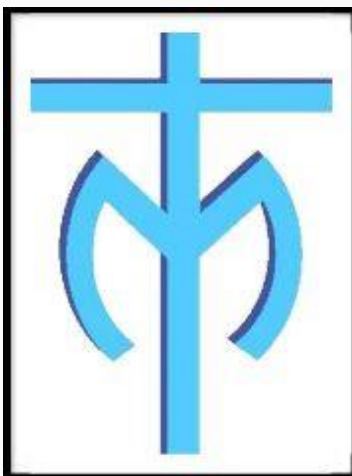
because there really wasn't anything left in their lives.

The war with England took the lives of so many husbands and fathers that many widows and daughters had little to survive on except to earn a meager wage on the streets. Besides that, the Revolution had lowered the moral code of society. The Miséricorde offered a home, an opportunity to learn a trade, and above all place to regain a sense of self-respect. The Miséricorde was a home where a mutual gift of grace-filled presence and acceptance was shared among these women and Marie-Thérèse.

It was a mutual gift. His trust in Providence was reinforced when Father Chaminade saw such an abundant grace flowing through Marie-Thérèse in her presence with the women in the Miséricorde. And for Marie-Thérèse, through the support of Father Chaminade, found her life-long vocation in the Miséricorde. This was a mutual gift of grace shared between Marie-Thérèse and Father Chaminade.

It is a mutual gift. The grace we receive from God is the grace we share with others; this is "grace upon grace" – such a wonderful and abundant gift flowing from God who cannot stop giving, which in turn becomes a gift that is mutually shared among others.

Prayer for the vocations



*Jesus, Son of God, in whom abides the fullness of the divinity,
You call all the baptized "put out into the deep",
by following the path of holiness.*

Arouse in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses to the power of your love in today's world.

Fill them with your Spirit of strength and prudence, so that they will be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation.

*Our Savior,
sent by the Father to reveal his merciful love,
give your Church the gift of young people ready to move out to sea,
to be among their brothers a manifestation of your presence that renews and
saves.*

*Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer,
guide assured in the way to God and to the neighbor,
You who have kept his words in the intimacy of your heart,
support with your maternal intercession the families and ecclesial communities,
so that they may help adolescents and young people to respond generously to
the call of the Lord.*

Amen

Pope John Paul II



International Newsletter of the Lay Marianist Communities - March 2024

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“To believe in the resurrection of Jesus is to remain on the threshold of a new life, it is to remain on the threshold of the impossible becoming reality.”

On the occasion
of Easter Sunday, 2024,
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.

**“Les Myrophores” (the bearers of
perfume)**

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notices : N. 3-4**
- **March 6 : *Message for the Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by the World Council of the Marianist Family.
- **March 6 : *Bulletin New Wine #8***, in three languages, sent to the Directors of CEMAS, Presidents of Zonal Conferences, Superiors of Units, Superiors of Formation Houses, Members of the WCMF, from Bro. José Ignacio Iglesia, SM, International Coordinator of Centers for Marianist Studies
- **March 9 : *Communication #5 and Reports of the General Council***, in three languages, to the Capitulants of XXXVI General Chapter from the Preparatory Commission.

G.A. Calendar

- **April 2-10** : Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, attends the meeting of Marianist Superiors from Europe and visits the community of Madeleine, Bordeaux.
- **April 3-15** : Bro. Maximin Magnan, SM, Assistant General for Education, visits Ghana.
- **April 23 - May 6** : Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General of Religious Life, visit Vietnam and India on the occasion of the erection of the new Region of India.