



VIA LATINA 22 **# 337 - January 2025**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Echoes of a Visit to Colombia-Ecuador **(November 26 – December 16)**

For almost three weeks, Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, had the privilege of visiting our communities in the Colombia and Ecuador Sector. In these two countries, which belong to the Latin American Region, the Society of Mary animates several works: in Colombia, three parishes and a school, and in Ecuador, a school, a social center and a vast ecological project for the preservation of nature. Seventeen brothers are at the service of these works; one of them is the novice master for both Latin America and Spain in Lima, Peru.



With students, SM and FMI from the Colegio Hermano Miguel (Latacunga, Ecuador)

The Marianist Family is well represented in Colombia as well as in Ecuador, by a strong presence of Marianist Lay Communities and Marianist sisters. There is an opportunity for everyone.



Bogota, Children from the school support centers and brothers in front of the community of the Blessed Chaminade parish.

Since its foundation, the Sector has been very sensitive to the social dimension. The commitment in working-class areas and with the most disadvantaged is very clear. This experience is a highlight of our presence. It is manifested in parishes, in schools, in the Casa Campesina (house for peasants) in Latacunga, Ecuador, as well as in various educational projects such as the seven Chaminade Children's Choirs or the pre- or extra-curricular educational centers promoted in the Blessed Chaminade parish in Bogotá. Formal education is not neglected and thrives in Girardot, Colombia, as well as in Latacunga. Finally, the Otonga Nature Reserve (Ecuador), with its almost 5.000 acres, offers a grandiose setting for the preservation and observation of nature. It is a very popular place for researchers, pupils and students. Visiting these works is a source of enthusiasm.



SM and FMI of Ecuador from left to right: Bro. Roberto Bordignon, Sr. Inès, Fr. Bruno Galas, Sr. Carmen, Sr. Martha, Fr. André-Joseph, Fr. Oscar Salazar, Sr. Teresa, Bro. Giovanni Onore.

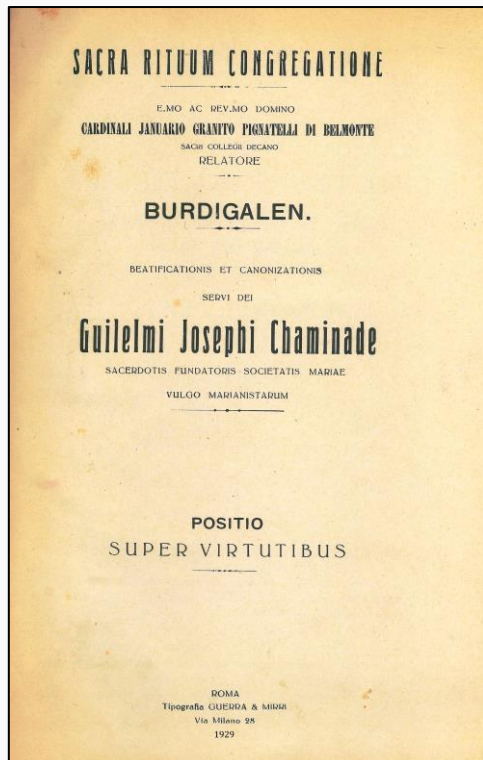
Such activity for a relatively small number of religious also has its challenges. In the midst of so many needs and demands, it is necessary to watch over the primacy of prayer and fraternal life. It is also necessary to prioritize missionary projects and the means that will make it possible to carry them out. Despite the inevitable difficulties that arise, it is clear that the brothers have the capacity to respond favorably to such

challenges. In this way, their contribution to the whole Society of Mary is strengthened. We accompany our brothers and the Family of Mary, present in these two beautiful countries, with our fraternal support and prayer.

Blessed Chaminade Hope in God: Believe-Trust-Act

With the Bull of convocation of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025, *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis wishes to make hope the central message of this Jubilee Year. The Pope wants to encourage our hope against the climate of fear that dominates the world at the present moment. In the face of the unpredictability of the future, "conflicting feelings arise: from confidence to fear, from serenity to discouragement, from certainty to doubt. We often find discouraged people, who look to the future with skepticism and pessimism, as if nothing could offer them happiness. May the Jubilee be for all, the opportunity to rekindle hope."

Theological hope, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches (no. 1817), "is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy spirit. *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful*" (Letter to the Hebrews, 10:23).



In this sense, Blessed Chaminade's hope "was of a completely supernatural nature; for in God alone could be found its object and motive: for the divine Glory" (Canon Henri Lelièvre, *Positio.1929*, p. 618). The hope in God of Father Chaminade was full because his apostolic works had for their purpose the glory of God and the salvation of souls. For this reason, Fr. Henri Lebon affirms that "the virtue of the hope of the Servant of God was as heroic as his faith." His motto might be "God is our help, he is our strength, the rest is nothing" (1819 letter to a Marianist director).

Blessed Chaminade's whole life was an act of hope, from the moment in 1791 when the revolutionary agents expelled him from his Collège of Mussidan and he was led by Providence to Bordeaux at the young age of 30. From that moment we see him undertaking his great apostolic works for the glory of God and trusting in Him alone: first, during the clandestine exercise of the priestly ministry during the time of the revolutionary Terror; then, in exile in Zaragoza where he lived poorly; and on his return to France in 1800 when he developed an active campaign for the re-Catholicization of the metropolitan area of Bordeaux. Finally, this unshakable hope-trust in God shone forth in a particular way in the history of his religious foundations, which developed in the midst of many adversities. So much so that he never ceased to repeat that "trials are the seal of God's works." In all the difficult situations in which he had to live (revolutions, persecutions, clandestine activities, exile, foundations, problems with his religious, with the police, with bishops, with creditors...), his face radiated a serene state of mind, which manifested his full trust in God.

The hope of our founding father was an active hope. Blessed Chaminade did not undertake a work until he was fully convinced that it was the will of God; then he did not hesitate at all and did not back down; His confidence was unwavering. He once

said that "all the works I have undertaken, believing that God commanded me, are the ones that have yielded the best results." Blessed Chaminade wanted supernatural hope to direct all his disciples; because fear is the effect of trusting only in our human strength and not believing that God is with us.

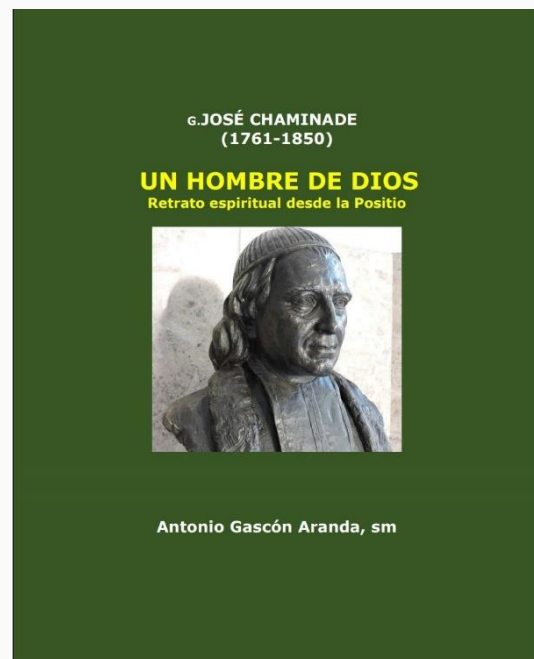
"Every time God gives you a commission or an order," he writes to a Marianist director, "he gives you his grace along with the command. Do you think that God does not know your weakness and that he does not know that you are incapable of executing what he commands you? certainly he knows it; but, then, why does he order us to do so if he knows that we cannot do it? Because He is almighty and because He intends to help you, provided you implore His help with full confidence" (H. Lebon, S. M., *Positio.1929*, p. 612).

To Father Chevaux, a deeply religious spirit, but of a timid character, he says that he needs to overcome the depression caused by the office entrusted to him, because, he asks, "Have you not been legitimately sent [to this office]? Why don't you put your trust in Jesus and Mary?" In his letters of spiritual direction to Mademoiselle de Lamourous, he wrote to her, with great psychological and spiritual insight: "If the divine light makes known to you the depth of the abyss of your nothingness and your misery, your trust in God will be your support. Ah, then you will be strong!" (H. Lebon, S. M., *Positio.1929*, p. 614).

Blessed Chaminade's confidence shone brighter in the face of difficulties. A well-known one was the surprising purchase in 1823 of the large estate of Saint Remy, by the audacity of his secretary Bro. David Monier, without consulting Chaminade and with hardly any financial resources. However, the Good Father accepted the fait accompli, saying: "If the works we undertake are the works of God, what are we to fear? [...] God is our support" (H. Lebon, S. M., *Positio.1929*, p. 613). Later, in the face of the persecution of the July Revolution of 1830, he affirmed: "Our sorrows and difficulties, far from discouraging us, must encourage us without ceasing to undertake what we believe to be the work of God." Like many founders, Chaminade had to overcome *significant financial difficulties* to support the works that God had inspired him to found. In this regard, he wrote to Father Caillet, who was very concerned about

the debts contracted by the young Society of Mary: "Pray and pray insistently that I never get ahead of the orders of Providence in the works that we believe we are undertaking in its designs. [...] God is acting in this way to make us increase our trust in him and to make us live in complete dependence on his grace" (H. Lebon, S. M., *Positio.1929*, p. 615). Finally, in Blessed Chaminade hope and trust in God are identical as seen in the expression: "We must not be anxious but adore God's plan" and also "I am not anxious; everything is in the hands of God" (Fr. Charles Demangeon, S. M., *Positio.1929*, p. 633).

Blessed Chaminade united hope in God with human prudence and sagacity; for his faith was always assisted by reason. "I have never had any fear," he said, "but trust in the Lord; I have never been dejected, but have done all that we can do on our part, without embarrassment or uneasiness, so as not to tempt Providence. Because we do not concern ourselves with our own business, but with those of Our Lord and his Holy Mother."



*Blessed Chaminade transmitted to his disciples this trust-hope in God; We cite an example: to the Marianist sister Mother of the Holy Spirit (only 22 years old), superior of the community at the head of the school of Tonneins, the Good Father writes that "if we act like this with our little human calculations we will not do anything great, and we will not deserve to be employed in the work of God" (H. Lebon, S. M., *Positio.1929*, p. 617). Hence Mother Maria de la Concepción de Batz said to her sisters: "See how the Good God rewards our Good Father, because he acts only for His glory. Sometimes it seems unwise, humanly speaking, but God intervenes to make his works prosper at the moment when they seem to sink." Blessed Chaminade himself realized this, when he recognized that "the divine Providence in which I place all my trust, visibly assists us in all our works; however, it does not do anything in advance, but acts at the right time, when we have a need, or an economic debt; so that I dare to undertake*

only what is sufficiently indicated to me in accordance with his designs" (H. Lebon, S. M., *Positio. 1929*, p. 617-618).

In short, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade was a priest tried by innumerable concerns and problems caused by his numerous apostolic works, undertaken during the political and cultural changes that he had to live through throughout his long life, in the violent transition from the society of the Ancien Régime to the modern, liberal society. The pastoral zeal to sustain the faith of his disciples and to strengthen their works brought him heavy tribulations. However, hope expanded his heart in the expectation of eternal beatitude; for, like the Apostle, he ran towards the goal, fixing his eyes on the glory of heaven (*Saint Paul to the Philippians*, 3:13-14).

To have a broader knowledge of the virtue of hope in Blessed Chaminade, you can read in Antonio Gascón, *G. José Chaminade. Un hombre de Dios. Retrato espiritual*, Chapter 3: *Hope: Believe-Trust-Act*. Click on the link (only version in Spanish): <https://biblioteca.familiamarianista.es/chaminade-un-hombre-de-dios-retrato-espiritual/>

Maintaining Ties of Friendship

On December 7, a group of 20 Polish pilgrims, members of the Federation of Marian Solidalities of Poland and the Marianist Lay Community of that country visited the General Administration. We remember that the first is the governing body of the Warsaw College where our brothers Fr. Emilio Cárdenas and Don José Ignacio Iglesia worked for more than 15 years.



In the absence of Father André Fétis (who was present by letter from Colombia), Fr. Pablo Rambaud, accompanied by members of the General Administration community, welcomed them. Because of the many ties that unite us and because among the pilgrims there was a significant part of them who are professionally engaged in education, Father Pablo himself briefly introduced the work of our last General Chapter. They then visited the community oratory (a work of the Alletti Center) and the General Archives where they listened to a short explanation. After these visits, the two VL22 communities were united in the church and prayed Vespers together in Italian and Polish. Afterwards, they enjoyed a pleasant snack and socializing. During the meeting there was a brief presentation of the Seminary community as well as the educational work of the Federation of Marian Solidalities in Poland.

Thank you very much for coming!

Marianist Sisters in Extraordinary General Chapter.



From January 16 to 29, 2025, the Marianist sisters will be holding an extraordinary General Chapter at the Passionist Fathers' house in Rome. The aim of this Chapter is to revise their Constitutions. In keeping with the Jubilee Year, the Chapter's motto is: "All the reason for our hope" (*Tota ratio spei nostrae*), an expression of Blessed G.-J. Chaminade (letter of August 24, 1839) alluding to Mary's privileged role in our charism.

Together with our sisters, let us pray fervently for the fruits of this important Chapter!

Gathering olives from our trees



In the midst of their duties, the members of the community of the General Administration and the Seminary take care of Via Latina's garden. In this late November photograph we see them picking olives. 191 kg of olives that, once passed through the oil mill, were converted into 25 liters of rich oil.

Necrology 2024

#	Name	Date	Place	Age	Prof.	Unit
1	*Noriyuki Joseph Ikeda	Feb. 6	Tokyo	83	64	JA
2	*Arnaldo Cantonetti	Feb. 12	Roma	87	69	IT
3	Guillermo Suárez Álvarez	Mar. 6	Jerez de la Frontera	85	68	ES
4	Frank Gomes	Mar. 13	Cupertino	83	64	US
5	*Mario Rota	May 10	Condofuri	68	48	IT
6	*Rafael Delgado Gutiérrez	May 29	Madrid	91	72	ES
7	*Donald Cahill	Jun. 18	San Antonio	95	74	US
8	Oscar Kerketta	Jun. 23	Odisha	52	26	IN
9	José Ignacio Garmendia Lasa	Jun. 28	Beizama	73	55	ES
10	John Richard Lemker	Jul. 4	Centerville	91	72	US
11	*Álvaro Lapetra Escoriaza	Jul. 27	Santiago	80	61	LA
12	*Akeo Luc Hiragi	Jul. 30	Tokyo	78	59	JA
13	Gerard Sullivan	Aug. 3	San Antonio	93	73	US
14	Aldo Formentin	Aug. 16	Roma	84	67	IT
15	*Christian Aloysius Janson	Sep. 14	San Antonio	83	64	US
16	Kevin R. Whelan	Sep. 27	Cupertino	83	65	US
17	Javier Anso Bernad	Nov. 7	Madrid	76	53	ES
18	*Timothy Dwyer	Nov. 18	San Antonio	89	70	US
19	*Robert Alméras	Dec. 3	Pessac	85	59	FR
20	Heliodoro Robledo Manzanares	Dec. 3	Madrid	97	64	ES
21	*Ramón María Iceta Olaizola	Dec. 15	Donostia-San Sebastián	79	61	ES
22	DuWayne Brisendine	Dec. 18	San Antonio	89	71	US
23	*Piero De Martini	Dec. 25	Roma	97	80	IT

Jubilarians 2025

February 5

(25° ordination)

*Arulappen, Ignase (IN)

February 11

(60° profession)

*Fitzpatrick, Paul Edmund (US)

O'Grady, Michael Patrick (US)

March 15

(50° ordination)

*Müller, Leo (SU)

March 19

(50° ordination)

*Madinabeitia, Jesús (ES)

March 21

(50° profession)

Nakamura, Manabu Joseph (JA)

*Yamasaki, Masatoshi Pierre (JA)

March 22

(50° ordination)

*González, Antonio (ES)

March 26

(50° ordination)

*Santacroce, Salvatore (IT)

March 30

(50° profession)

*Rodríguez, Eduardo (LA)

April 3

(60° ordination)

*Tonry, Patrick Joseph (US)

*Torres, Enrique (ES)

April 22

(60° ordination)

*Giraud, Patrick (FR)

April 29

(25° profession)

*Barla, Joseph (IN)

*Gallelli, Bhaskar (IN)

*Savarimuthu, Xavierraj (IN)

Tirkey, Dilip Kumar (IN)

May 12

(70° profession)

Pelster, Heinz (OE)

June 8

(50° profession)

*Cardone, Thomas Aquinas (ME)

Endres, George Edward (ME)

Gillen, Michael Joseph (ME)

June 24

(25° profession)

Bini, Kodjo Frédéric (TO)

Borozé, Tcha-Kebalu Jean (TO)

Mukolo, Mbau Jean-Bosco (FR)

Ngakonomo, Brice Octave (FR)

Sery, Zaddy Claude Gérard (IV)

June 26

(50° ordination)

*Segalla, Remo (LA)

July 1

(25° ordination)

*Nicolay, Francisco Javier (ES)

July 29

(25° profession)

Otiende, Erick Odhiambo (EA)

August 15

(60° profession)

Cirelli, Stefano (IT)

Morris, Gary Edmund (US)

Paleari, Norberto (IT)

Scrivani, Lawrence Alfred (US)

(70° profession)

Murakami, Stanley (US)

(75° profession)

Boutin, Raymond (CA)

Metzger, Paul (US)

August 22

(60° profession)

Eck, Gary Bernard (ME)
*Fitz, James Francis (US)
*Kozar, Joseph Francis (US)
Kraszewski, Michael Joseph (US)
Resing, Robert Clement (US)
Thompson, Richard (US)

August 25

(70° profession)

*Battiston, Dino (IT)
*Proietti Segnalini, Romolo (IT)

August 28

(60° profession)

Arnold, Gustav (SU)

September 2

(70° profession)

Ginner, Franz (OE)
*Süß, Josef (OE)

(75° profession)

Pachinger, Friedrich (OE)

September 6

(50° ordination)

*Osborne, José María (ES)

September 8

(60° profession)

*Saglio, Ermenegildo (IT)

(70° profession)

*Haby, Gerald Charles (US)
*Thompson, Thomas Anthony (US)
*Tobin, James (US)

(75° profession)

Aaron, Philip Thomas (US)
Koch, Albert Francis (US)
Neff, Donald Eugene (US)
Stupka, Daniel Roy (US)

September 12

(50° profession)

*Cortés, Miguel Ángel (ES)
*López, José Vicente (ES)

(60° profession)

*Cárdenas, Emilio (ES)
*Cerezo, José Joaquín (ES)
Melón, Eduardo (ES)
Ortiz, Manuel (ES)
Veleda, José Luis (ES)

(70° profession)

Arrieta, Antonio (ES)
*Barrio, Francisco José del (ES)
Barroeta, Francisco María (ES)
Gil, José María (ES)
*Herreros, Jesús (LA)
Marmara, Aldo (FR)
*Otaño, Ignacio María (ES)
*Valls, Francisco (ES)
Villapún, José Antonio (ES)

September 12

(75° profession)

Alonso, Francisco Javier (ES)
Alonso, Pedro (ES)
Zuazo, Prudencio (ES)

September 21

(80° profession)

*Ortega, Justino (ES)
Palma, Avelino (ES)

November 14

(75° profession)

*Cruz, Manuel (ES)

December 2

(25° ordination)

*Barragán, Carlos Julio (LA)

December 6

(50° ordination)

*Prieto, Manuel (LA)

December 12

(25° profession)

*Romero, Jair (LA)

December 23

(25° ordination)

*Pagnan, Pékéti Ignace (TO)

Calendar of the Marianist Family - Year 2025



JANUARY

10: Memorial of Blessed Mother Marie de la Conception (Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon), Foundress.

22: Memorial of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Founder

FEBRUARY

02: Anniversary of the first consecrations in the Sodality of Bordeaux.

MARCH

25: ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family (The four branches of the Family celebrate their common vocation, the day of the “yes” of Mary).

MAY

25: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS,

Anniversary of the foundation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. SUNDAY

31: VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patronal Feast of the AM.

AUGUST

13: Memorial of Blessed Jacob Gapp, Martyr.

SEPTEMBER

03: 25th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed W. Joseph Chaminade. (2000)

12: MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY, Patronal Feast of the Society of Mary.

18: Memorial of Blessed Carlos Eraña, Fidel Fuidio and Jesús Hita, Martyrs.

OCTOBER

02: HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, Anniversary of the foundation of the Society of Mary.

12: World Day of Marianist Prayer in communion with the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore (Rome).

NOVEMBER

06: Memorial of Blessed Miguel Léibar, Joaquín Ochoa, Sabino Ayastuy and Florencio Arnáiz, Martyrs.

7-8-9: Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family.

DECEMBER

08: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Patronal Feast of the MLC and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

Click [HERE](#) to see or save PDF version.



Prayer Intention to Blessed Chaminade

We ask for a novena of prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade for the healing of these two people:

-Mrs. **Adjalo**, a 39-year-old mother of a family, who is ill with ovarian cancer. Although Mrs. Adjalo underwent surgery on November 25 in Benin, her health situation is very critical given that the tumor was already widespread, and doctors have not been able to remove the affected area. This is a request made to us by Father Pékéti Ignace Pagnan, SM, who spiritually accompanies the sick woman.

-**Evelyn**, a 12-year-old girl battling aggressive leukemia. The request comes from Father Dan Griffin, SM. Her family is very close to the Marianist religious and is part of the Kellenberg Memorial HS family.

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N. 19-23**
- **Dec.4:** *Walking the path of the 'Promise of Life'*, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by the General Council.
- **Dec. 9:** *Marianist Proposal for the Jubilee of Young People*, in three languages, sent to Unit Superiors and Assistants of Religious and Pastoral Life, from the Coordinating Team.
- **Dec.11:** *Request for information for the 2025 Marianist Education Directory*, in three languages, sent to Assistants for Education of the Units (except Latin America and Japan), from Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, Assistant General for Education.
- **Dec. 21:** *Christmas Message from the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF)*, in three languages, to all Marianist religious.

Changes of Adresses

Bro. John Ko (KO): johnko03@naver.com

Fr. Jean-Louis Barré (FR) : perejeanlouisbarre@gmail.com

Happy New Year 2025!



"Behold, I'm doing something new: it's already sprouting, can't you see it? Yes, I am going to make a path through the desert, rivers in dry places". (Is. 43,19).

The Via Latina communities wish all members of the Marianist Family a Holy and Blessed New Year. May the Lord bless us and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea in the storm, Let us find serenity and peace to continue carrying out our mission in her name in this Jubilee Year of hope.