



VIA LATINA 22

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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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A day of Celebration and Commitment

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, the Society of Mary in Côte d'Ivoire celebrated an event of grace and fidelity to God at the Novitiate of Our Lady of the Pillar. This day was filled with deep commitments and gratitude, symbolizing the vitality and continuity of religious life. The highlight of this day was undoubtedly the religious profession of the brothers Samba Evariste, Guy Roland and Prince Obed. This solemn act represents the culmination of an intense spiritual journey and the definitive commitment of these young men to God, through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It is a moment of immense joy for the whole community, welcoming these new members who have chosen to dedicate their lives to the service of the Church and the Marianist charism.



At the same time, Bro. Ouattara Beda Guy Fiacre renewed his temporary vows. This gesture is not insignificant; It marks a crucial stage in his training journey, confirming his adherence to his Marianist vocation. Finally, this day was an opportunity to celebrate the silver jubilee of Bro. Zady Claude Gérard Sery, marking 25 years of religious life. A quarter century of service, dedication and fidelity is an inestimable grace, and a whole life dedicated to the charism of faith education. The Jubilee is a time to give thanks for the progress made, the challenges overcome and the fruits borne.



These three events, although distinct, are intrinsically linked and converge towards the realization of the Marianist charism. They illustrate well the different stages of religious life – from initial commitment to perseverance over time, including the confirmation of choices – all turned towards the mission of forming and accompanying people in their spiritual journey.

Assembly of the Region of Latin America

The first Assembly of the Region of Latin America took place in Lima (Peru) on July 8-10, 2025. 25 members of the Region participated, as well as another 10 brothers belonging to the CLAMAR Zone and the General Assistants of Education (Bro. Dennis Bautista) and Religious Life (Fr. Pablo Rambaud).

After the Assembly, the meeting of the CLAMAR Zone took place, which brought together the Council of the Region of Latin America and the representatives of the Provinces of the United States (Bro. Reinaldo Berríos) and Spain (Bro. Rogelio Núñez).



From left to right, the new regional council: Fr. Javier de Aguirre, Fr. Jesús Obando, Bro. Mauricio Silva and Fr. Victor Müller.

The Assembly included an initial time for the presentation of the different Sectors. During the initial Eucharist the new Regional Council took office. It has been a time of grace and fraternal encounter that has helped to consolidate and grow the bonds between the brothers and sisters of the different sectors that compose it. There was time to pray, to celebrate and have fun and, certainly, also to reflect together on the present and future of the Region.



Then, a long time was dedicated in groups to reflect on the last General Chapter through spiritual conversation. Educational issues were also addressed, such as the influence of artificial intelligence, the situation of the educational network of the Region (CLAMARED) and issues related to formation (CELAFOM), youth and vocation ministry... while also having time to look at the reality and challenges of the different sectors that make up the Region.

Appointment of the president of CLAMAR



The Superior General, Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, has appointed Brother Rogelio Núñez, SM, of the community of Bauru (Brazil) as president of the Latin American Marianist Conference (CLAMAR) for a period of three years. This appointment was made after a consultation with the members of the zone.

We thank Brother Rogelio for his availability for this service to the Society of Mary.

The CLAMAR members present at the meeting, recognized the importance of collaboration between the Latin American Region and the other Marianist presences in the Zone (Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Brazil).

CLAMAR has established as common projects of the Zone the center for Marianist studies CELAFOM, the educational network CLAMARED and the Latin American volunteers VLM.

Special thanks to the outgoing president, Fr. Luis Casalá, SM, who has led CLAMAR since 2019 with great wisdom and dedication.



Marianist Education Congress ignites innovation and builds the future

Under the motto “Juntos cuidamos el futuro,” (link: <https://congresomarianista.com/>) over 650 participants from every Marianist school in Spain (and Brazil) gathered in Zaragoza to celebrate over 200 years of Marianist legacy and inspire a shared path for the future of Marianist education. The congress united leaders, educators, students, and families to share faith, pedagogy, and innovative educational experiences.



Among the attendees were three members of the General Council: André Fétis, Superior General; Pablo Rambaud, Assistant for Religious Life; and Dennis Bautista, Assistant for Education. This was the first event of its kind to bring Marianist educational platforms together at this scale—an ambitious initiative led by the Province of Spain and Grupo SM, with promising practical outcomes for Marianist education.



Some participants in the congress.

Highlights included expert talks by national and international educators, 20 school-led projects showcasing creative teaching, and a moving Eucharist at the Basilica of El Pilar. Archbishop Carlos Escribano encouraged all to “Dare to dream like Chaminade.”

Notable moments included engaging presentations on Marianist pedagogy, a strong sense of community fostered through shared prayer and celebrations, and a tribute to diverse voices shaping Marianist education—from students and teachers to families and alumni.

Watch key moments in the Congress summary video [YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/fCiCQf61sis?si=vqLJopWRp0s3F2qL>].

A new member in the GA Community



The community of the General Administration is delighted to welcome Brother Erick Otiende, from the Region of East Africa, into its midst. Brother Erick worked for many years as the head of the scholasticate in Nairobi and is now completing a year of Marianist charism formation at the NACMS Center in Dayton. He collaborated in various projects of the General Administration, in particular those concerning youth ministry.

We welcome him and we thank his Region for releasing him for this mission.

25th anniversary of the beatification of Fr. Chaminade

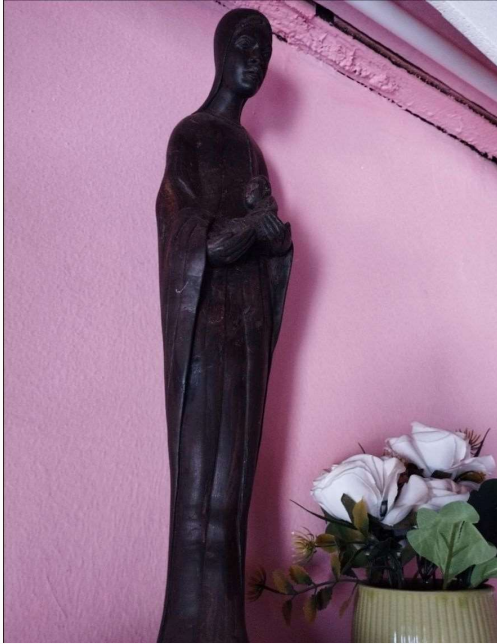


On September 3, 2025 we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the beatification of Fr. Chaminade. With the whole Marianist Family we thank God and Mary for this great gift for the Church and for our Family.

United with all of the members of the Marianist Family throughout the world, we will unite in prayer around this most important day with the materials prepared by the World Council of the Marianist Family.

We invite you to share with us your records, photographs and publications on the occasion of this anniversary. You can send it to Bro. José Ignacio Iglesia: wcmf-sec@marianist.org

Prayer to Our Lady of Hope (Ghana)



O Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Hope,
Mother full of gentleness and mercy,
You who carry in your heart the
Hope of the world,
We come to you with confidence and
devotion.
Walk with us on this new mission in
Ghana,
we want to cast the nets with you in
this your Mission,
for it finds its inspiration and model in
you,
and it is in Your Name and for your
glory that we embrace it,
to make you known, loved, and
served.

Grant us the grace to work towards its fulfillment,
in union with the Marianist Family and the Church.
Our Lady of Hope Mother of God,
watch over our emerging community.
May it radiate Joy and Hope,
May it live with zeal and faithfulness to its mission,
and the charism of our founders.
May it bear witness to a people of saints.
And may it strive to pray and work,
so that the youth may know the joy of serving you.
May it be driven by the Holy Spirit,
to carry the Good News even to the ends of the earth.
May the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.
Amen!

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N. 15**
- **July 16: *Prayer and Novena of Thanksgiving to God for the Beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade***, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, from the World Council of the Marianist Family.

G.A. Calendar

- **Sept. 29 - Oct. 30:** The General Council visits the Region of Eastern Africa

The next issue of Via Latina 22 will be published on October 1, 2025.