



## GOOD NEWS FOR VOCATIONS

*It's springtime in the Northern Hemisphere. And, as suggested to us by Fr. Rosaire in Canada, could there also be a springtime for Marianist vocations? Let's look at the beautiful signs we are getting from Chile, from Japan, from Canada and from each of the countries named below, and let's take them as encouragements. And let's continue to rejoice in our own vocation, to deepen it and to call others to share in it, convinced that it is the right path for us and for others.*

*André Fétis, sm*



### BRAZIL: LIVE THE WYD IN RIO WITH THE MARIANISTS

Rio de Janeiro will host the next meeting of young people from the entire world. Our brothers in Brazil would like to be able to have a **Marianist pre-session, from July 18 to 22**, followed by the main meeting in **Rio from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>**. The goal is to allow young people from the Marianist world to meet one another and to build among themselves bonds of fraternity

and faith. For more information, see: [http://www.marianistasbrasil.org/site/noticias.php?news\\_id=18&acao=ler](http://www.marianistasbrasil.org/site/noticias.php?news_id=18&acao=ler). For some, that can be a good extension of their experience of Fortes and of the WYD in Madrid in August 2011. Those who would like to receive information about this project and to indicate their wish to be involved (and to involve young people) are requested to make contact at: [imj2013@marianistasbrasil.org](mailto:imj2013@marianistasbrasil.org). Thanks to our brothers in Brazil for this great initiative, let's not lose this wonderful opportunity!

### TAIZE – MEETING OF EUROPEAN YOUTH

The next European Meeting will be held in **Rome, from 28 December 2012 to 2 January 2013**. It will gather tens of thousands of young adults for a new stage of the "pilgrimage of trust on earth" which Brother Roger began in the late 1970's. (Program: [http://www.taize.fr/en\\_article4191.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article4191.html))

We would like to see the Marianist participants lodged in the families and communities of our parish of the Holy Name of Mary in Rome. They will be invited to join in pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles and to the catacombs, to pray in the large basilicas and meet Pope Benedict XVI who wrote: "The Holy Father wants to tell you of the joy he will have in welcoming you next year!"

Marianists who are thinking about accompanying a group to this assembly are requested to inform me about it so that we might coordinate our organization and let our young people meet each other here in Rome. Please write to: [genreism@smcuria.it](mailto:genreism@smcuria.it).



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**OCTOBER 2012**

Send me news and photos of your activities, texts, ... **Thank you!**  
([genreism@smcuria.it](mailto:genreism@smcuria.it))

## A vocational renewal in Chile

*This year marked, for the Region of Chile, a vocational turnaround: we have two pre-novices and one young man is in the novitiate in Santiago. When asked "What is your secret?" Fr. Jesús Herreros, SM, responded:*

We really have had no lines of vocational work for years. Perhaps only vocational failures.

What is happening for us now is the work of God's grace.

One of the young men (28 years old), not from any of our works, but an altar server in a parish since his boyhood, lived nearby us for two years and is now in the novitiate.

His contact was through a person who knows us.

Of the other two, who are now pre-novices, one comes from the Instituto Linares. He had an attraction since his youth and personal monitoring from Fr. Angel Pardo. He did two years at the university and decided to follow the Lord's call at age 20.

The other young man switched from the Marianist school to another institute at age twelve. But he came back as a former student, after his higher studies. He was in contact with the youth lay communities and the Faustino Movement during a period of four years. Now at age 26 he has entered the pre-novitiate.



Members of the Youth branch, Br. Paco and Jesús



In a rural mission (on the right, Francisco, today a pre-novice)

*Do you have specifically vocational activities?*

Personal follow-up is what we consider most effective up until now. And also the age of maturity for following Jesus Christ.

In the lay communities of Colegio Santa María de la Cordillera, we have had several reflections on the theme of vocations and we have received suggestions from the lay persons.

We have held days of prayer, both at the level of the Region and on those proposed by the Church. We have held some vocational retreats with teenagers in their last years of school.

The Faustino Movement has always had some days for vocational reflection.

I have regularly sent out Christian and vocational messages to a list of young alumni, who had a good participation in Christian life.

*And the Region's brothers, how do they participate?*

Vocational concern and hope have never been lost in the Region. We have insisted upon prayer and the project of "network with the Marianist Family" [a prayer chain for vocations organized in the Marianist Family: see Vocism No. 2]

*Would you like to share with us some of your convictions?*

My conviction is that we must make efforts to contact our young alumni who have religious concerns and who are already of an age to discern their future. Then there has to be personal follow-up. →→→



(right) - DANIEL, PRE-NOVICE



LINARES - MOVIMIENTO FAUSTINO

In my community, Puente Alto, we have a weekly Mass with persons from the Marianist Family and on that occasion we frequently talk about vocation and the following of Christ.

My conviction is that among young adults who consider their Christian life important is where we need to follow up in caring for and planting the religious vocation.

But we also need to pay more attention to the Faustino Movement and its Christian life.

*Thank you, Jesus! For us also, let's not lose the concern and hope for vocations! And let us pray for the three young men in formation.*



## VOCATION PROMOTION ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN



In April 2011, Father Jean-Baptiste Aoki became the Regional Superior and I [Fr. André Hirokazu Takada] was named Vocation Director. I did not know what to do to promote vocations. But I began by establishing contact with young people; I met with the FMI vocation team once a month and I took the first steps towards what seems to me today to be an area of possible development.

**In November 2011** there took place a **“Formation Meeting of Catholic students of Marianist Schools.”** We used the personal addresses that we had, we also placed ads in the Catholic newspapers and parish bulletins

referring readers to the activities indicated on the Marianist website. Several young people showed interest, according to their availability, some even beyond our own contact list. And so we discovered the importance of advertisements.

At the end, there were two participants who came from our schools in Tokyo (Gyosei) and Sapporo (Kosei). We profited from the familial atmosphere that developed among us. We realized that it would be possible to broaden that experience by going out to our alumni whom we had not contacted in past years, thus opening up new opportunities.

**In February 2012** we organized the same formation meeting, but inviting also our alumni. At that **“Meeting of the Marianist Spirit of Formation for Youth,”** there were more participants, especially girls, and a very familial spirit. We became aware of the desire of the young people for a place where they could meet. Going deeper into baptism in particular, so dear to Father Chaminade, we offered other opportunities for meeting and teaching, as well as time for common prayer.

We were very happy to see the importance given by the young people to prayer and that confirmed for us that we must commit ourselves to it seriously. On **April 27** we organized a first **“Youth Meeting”** at Chaminade Shudoin. In order to respond to the wish of the young people to deepen their understanding of Father Chaminade, we made translations of the six brochures printed at the time of his beatification. We are also preparing material to deepen their awareness of Faustino, who is an attractive example for youth.

In Japan there are 5 Marianist schools. At the end of **March** we proposed a 3-day activity: **“Prayer Formation Meeting** for Christian Students of the Marianist Schools.” This has been held for more than twenty years, and it served us as the base for the April meeting.

*(continuación →)*



**Morning Prayer: Fr. Shimizu on the guitar**

**JAPAN (2)** In the past, the religious took charge of all aspects of the meeting; this time, the director of teaching, Fr. Yamasaki, asked for a greater participation by the teachers in the schools. From four of the five schools twenty-eight persons came: sixteen students, boys and girls, and twelve adults (teachers, alumni directors and religious). There were 9 girls who participated: 7 from Kokagaku (FMI, Tokyo), and 2 from Kaisei (SM, Nagasaki) and 7 boys.

The below-freezing weather and the snow did not impede our activities. We spent all the day in our rooms, and even during meals, in meditation. The three days passed very quickly. Thanks to the very helpful conferences of Fr. Yamasaki, the students were able to examine their faith life. All of us, students, alumni, teachers, religious, deepened the bonds we had developed from our experience in the Marianist schools.

These new proposals for promoting vocations in Japan take into account the situation of the Region and other factors. We think that even if only one single person came to understand the Marianist charism more deeply, that would already be a fruit of these activities. With the help of many persons, we want to continue along this path in developing other activities for fostering vocations.

*P. André Hirokazu Takada, sm*



**March - Prayer Formation Meeting**



**Prayer Formation Meeting**



**FAUSTINO – March 3, 1963 – March 3, 2013: 50 years!**



March 3, 1963, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Venerable Faustino in Valencia. Today he is the model for thousands of young people around the world. And you, what do you intend to do with young people to mark that anniversary and help them to know Faustino? Your ideas are welcome! Share them with us!

## CANADA: Québec: springtime with a vocational flavor

Our religious had the opportunity to experience an intense moment of vocational flavor on Easter Monday, April 10, 2012.

There was a meeting that day at the *chalet* near Maison Chaminade in Lévis for a spring fling with a very special character: tasting maple taffy. It was a chance for joyful reunions and lots of exchanges about recent activities. After an opening prayer we shared current and future activities: involvement in the preparation for the next General Chapter, recent news from Haiti.... A surprise announcement: that Serge, an adult member of the *Single Men's Group* of St-Henri had been accepted to advance towards novitiate formation.

This gentleman arrived and joined the celebration, which moved outside near the chalet where, over a crackling fire, the maple syrup was heated up to the concentration point necessary for the *pull*. The *pull*?

Boiling jets of blond and steaming syrup are splashed on snow that has been tamped down hard and, instantly, it becomes a sweet and exquisite maple *caramel*, golden and flexible: the *pull* is rolled around a wooden paddle to savor it while chatting about the wonders of springtime.

The "springtime"? Melting snow in March-April, when the temperature swings back and forth around the freezing point between night and day. Under the bark of our maples comes up a clear and slightly sugary sap, reduced to syrup by boiling in the *sugar shacks*. As the song goes: "let's go in caravan to the shack, ho he ho, there's never too much syrup to taste, to taste the maple syrup!"

A symbol! Yes, after a long sterile vocation winter, would this not be a sign of the return of a *Marianist vocational springtime*? A very tenuous sign, perhaps (*one swallow does not a springtime make*), but a very clear encouragement to welcome all types of new vocations to our Marianist life, and **to strongly believe in it**, not just on a scheduled day each year, but all year long. It is God who calls and sends vocations and who supports them by his grace: it is up to us to foster their culturing, their maturation. According to the latest information, Serge goes to work during the week and comes to spend the weekends in our communities, starting with that of the Marianist Center of Saint-Henri; he will take a month's vacation to share the life of our brothers in Haiti and to determine how he wants to proceed.... A swallow that just might announce that lots of others are coming... *P. Rosaire Côté, sm*

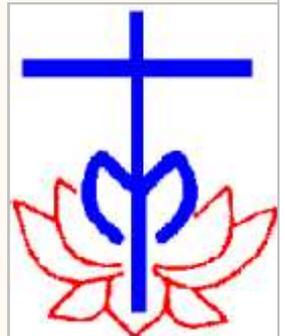
(Tasting maple taffy: Hilaire Babine from Abidjan, Bro. Michel Lemay and Serge)



## INDIA

All over the District trips are being planned or contacts being made for "Come and See" programs and diocesan vocation camps to be visited. Activities are planned or already realized in **Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu** (twice with already 60 contacts and a "Come and See" planned for the 3rd-4th week of May), **Andhra Pradesh** (two visits and a "Come and See" program at our Jacob Gapp School in Khammam), **Orissa** (visit and "Come and See"), **Jharkhand**, (a tour and a "Come and See" in May, 13-19, at the novitiate, in collaboration with the FMI Sisters) and **Bihar**.

*Congratulation for this great energy for vocational ministry! We wish great success to our brothers and sisters!* (Newsletter 2012 March – page 7)



## FRANCE: a year for promoting the consecrated life

It has been launched by the National Service for

Youth and Vocation Ministry of the Church in France. It began with a two-day gathering of 600 religious of under 45 years of age: **“Brother & Sister Act, Missionaries of Hope.”** Two Marianist brothers and one sister participated. It was a time of reflection, prayer and celebration. To read the texts of the talks and testimonies: [http://www.viereligieuse.fr/Brother-Sister-Act-Missionnaires-.html?debut\\_articles=10#pagination\\_articles](http://www.viereligieuse.fr/Brother-Sister-Act-Missionnaires-.html?debut_articles=10#pagination_articles)

To show the vitality and youth of religious life in France a “flashmob” was organized in front of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris. See: <http://www.dailymotion.com/embed/video/xo99fm>

Then there is another video of dance: “Have you considered the adventure of the religious life?” [http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xq5thy\\_brother-sister-act-2\\_webcam?start=7](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xq5thy_brother-sister-act-2_webcam?start=7) in which Guillaume Gervet, SM, appears twice. Several other events are now being prepared.

Le Christ fait danser la vie  
des jeunes religieux et religieuses de France...



facebook



## COLOMBIA: Follow Jesus on Facebook

To promote Marianist religious life, a Facebook page: "Quiero ser marianista comprometido con la causa di Jesus" [*I want to be a committed Marianist for the cause of Jesus*] and a video: "Ser Marianista es..." [*To be a Marianist is....*] which you can find on that page. Take a look!

## ITALY: PRAYER BY THE MARIANIST FAMILY FOR VOCATIONS

At the initiative of Fr. Salvatore Santacroce, provincial director of vocation ministry, all the communities of lay Marianists, sisters and brothers formed a relay for a week of continuous Eucharistic adoration for vocations. He writes: “Thanks to each and every one for their response.... It is a beautiful thing to know that all the Marianist Family will be united in that prayer. Humbly, but with fidelity, let us respond to the invitation of the Lord: ‘And I sought for someone among them, that should build up the wall, and stand in the gap....’ (Cf. Ez 22:30). Let us remain faithful.”



### BRAZIL - BAURU

Taking the ecumenical center of Taizé, France, as an inspiration and model of prayer, the Marianist religious of Bauru began last March a moment of prayer especially for youth. Every second Saturday of the month, Casa Chaminade is transformed into a little “Madeleine,” for the youth of Bauru to be able to have a moment of encounter with God.

It is a moment of gratitude, tranquility, silence, sharing and personal and community prayer. Those who participated in the meetings of March, April and May and who did not know about the dynamic of Taizé approved the initiative and the whole process of prayer.

The invitation is always open to all the youth who would like a time for recollection and prayer. Come pray with us....

More photos at [www.marianistasbrasil.org](http://www.marianistasbrasil.org) or on el grupo Taizé en Bauru on Facebook.



VOCISM — NEXT issue: October 2012.

THANK YOU for sending news and photos about your activities, texts, ... Thanks! ([genrelsm@smcuria.it](mailto:genrelsm@smcuria.it))



## SPAIN: I'm happy, ask me: Why?



This message was sent to all the brothers of the Province of Spain for the XLIX World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Attached was a pin with the words: I'm happy, ask me: Why?

Dear Brother,

Benedict XVI, two years ago, recalled to us on this same occasion:

*Every priest, every consecrated person, faithful to his or her vocation, radiates the joy of serving Christ and draws all Christians to respond to the universal call to holiness. Consequently, in order to foster vocations to the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated life, and to be more effective in promoting the discernment of vocations, we cannot do without the example of those who have already said "yes" to God and to his plan for the life of each individual. Personal witness, in the form of concrete existential choices, will encourage young people for their part to make demanding decisions affecting their future. Those who would assist them need to have the skills for encounter and dialogue which are capable of enlightening and accompanying them, above all through the example of life lived as a vocation.*

I hope that besides being united with the entire Church in praying for vocations, **you will be encouraged to bear witness to all those who ask you about the joy and happiness of your consecration as a Marianist religious.**

### ***We have plenty of reasons to "give the pin"***

We are convinced that for us it is the best thing that ever happened to us. Can we keep just for ourselves alone the treasure of our vocation?

We have plenty of reasons, enthusiasm and desire to bring our grain of sand to the Province's vocation ministry. Each one of us has received a personal letter these days. In it we are invited to be conscious of the witness value of our own lives, of each of ourselves, for the sake of the young people around our works and our communities. Above all, the sincere witness of the happiness in our consecrated life. A life full of lights and shadows, evidently, but in which we are enjoying the hundredfold.



### **Possible activities:**

- Think: if someone were to ask you if you are happy as a Marianist religious, what would you answer?
- Meditate upon the motives, the reasons and feelings that make you happy as a Marianist religious.
- Take the pin into your hands and pray to the Father. Speak face to face with him: praise, petition, thanksgiving, contemplation...
- Wear this pin for a day, a week, a month.... Answer anyone who asks you, "Why are you happy?"
- We can share in community the reasons for our happiness, the joy of living as Marianist religious.
- Give your pin to some young man you know. Dare to invite him to reflect upon the meaning and happiness of his own life. Perhaps he asks you, "And you?" ... Speak to him about your vocation.
- Can you think of anything else? I'm sure you can. Take courage, get down to work!

A strong abrazo,  
Rogelio Núñez, SM

## IVORY COAST: SM & FMI Vocation Camp

We are going ahead with our vocation ministry activities here in Ivory Coast.

The Easter camp took place at the Collège Notre Dame d'Afrique de Biétry in Abidjan, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2012, to give some boys and girls the opportunity to experience Marianist life with us and with the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (pictures). The camp was led by two brothers, two novices and two sisters, accompanied in their work by the pre-novices. It was a beautiful experience of discoveries for many and of growth in knowledge of Marianist spirituality for some. On our schedule: this month our last two-day meeting, May 25-27, at the Marianist Novitiate, and then a work camp in Burkina Faso in July and one in Ivory Coast in August 2012.

