

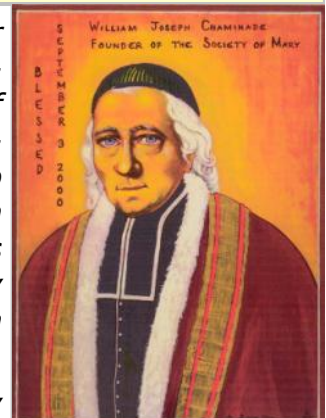


**Now is the favorable time.... (2 Cor 6:2)
to enliven the fire that enkindles other fires:
To review our vocation ministry in the light of the General Chapter...**

"Of critical importance to our life and vitality is a robust plan for vocation ministry in each Unit (*Rule of Life* 5.7 & 6.7; *Partners in Hope* 59-64; *Sent by the Spirit* 38-39). The Chapter strongly reaffirms these directives and calls on each member to be personally involved and committed, appropriate to his age and stage in life, in order to develop a "culture of vocations" in all of our Units and in the Marianist Family. Beyond inviting people to consider Marianist life, however, we remember that the quality of our life together and the relevance and dynamism of our Missionary Project contribute significantly to both the attraction of new members and the perseverance of those already professed." (To Enkindle the Fire, 16d)

That is the invitation we received from the General Chapter a year ago. It concerns all of us and at all levels: individual religious, communities, vocation directors, Unit superiors. At whatever moment of the year we find ourselves, that moment is always favorable for vocations; the Holy Spirit never ceases to work on hearts to respond to God's call. To help you in a review of your current modus operandi in light of the Chapter, I have decided to share the following questions with you. They can be useful for personal consideration, in community or in a recruitment team. One could also think about them during a time of prayer in one's next retreat.

We believe that God calls us to the service of his Mother in the Society of Mary and that, therefore, he needs each one of us; so let's take the time to reflect on that in order to offer our total "yes" to that beautiful work!



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TOWARDS A PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY REVIEW OF VOCATION MINISTRY...

At my Unit level, what about a "solid plan for vocation ministry"?

Are my community brothers and I aware of it? Have we given any thought and reflection about how to implement it in our community?

The Chapter invites "each member to be personally involved and committed, appropriate to his age and stage in life":

what can I do today for vocations? In prayer, in action, in witness?

For vocation ministry, there is never any turning back: "The witness of a long life of joyful fidelity is an attractive dimension to our vocational ministry (*To Enkindle the Fire*, 31d). Am I convinced of this? How to make effective use of the capital that is the wealth of our experience and our fidelity?

Next issue:
NOVEMBER 2013.
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Do I have the feeling of living at the heart of a "culture of vocations"?

What is the "quality of our community life": welcoming, optimistic, joyful, fraternal, and spiritually fervent? Or are certain elements obstacles to a welcoming culture: so, how can we move forward? (cf. RL 38.)

In our community, do we speak of vocations? Do we share with one another on this topic, on a way to work at it and to get closer to the young?

Perhaps I tell myself: "There is no hope, it's all over!" But what does the Holy Spirit think about it? Is he as pessimistic as I am? Are not my life and that of my community called to fruitfulness, "despite [their] great age" (cf. Heb 11:11)? But how?

At the heart of my Unit, of my community or for myself, what can be said about "the relevance and dynamism of our Missionary Project":

Does this project have clear and communicable priorities?

Does it "benefit by our community action" (RL 73), bringing us together into "a unified apostolic group which supports, guides, and evaluates the work of each member" (RL 68)?

Does it facilitate our contact with youth and their contact with us?

What must be followed up on and how can we improve on what is possible?

How is the Marianist Family involved in our interest in vocations, both locally and at the level of each Unit?

Do we ever share about that? Do we have some common initiatives? Are we developing a "common culture of vocations"?

What are my links and our links with the members of the other branches: openness and closeness, brotherliness, spiritual communion, sharing common projects?

And my own vocation:

What of my communion of mind and heart with Christ, with Mary, with Father Chaminade? And with my Unit and with the Society of Mary?

What am I doing in order to give my own vocation a new boost of fervor and of joy?

Thank you for the time that you take to think about all this, personally or together and for all that each one of you has already done and will do for vocations.

Fr. André Fétis, SM
Assistant General for Religious Life



A NEW BULLETIN FOR VOCATIONS IN FRANCE

Vocations



Voici le second numéro de la lettre de liaison sur ce qui se fait au sujet des vocations dans la Province. Bonne lecture !

N°2
mai 2013

Réunion du groupe de travail Vocations des Frères Enseignants – Elle a eu lieu le 16 mai. Participation de Gilles de Almeida et Ch. H. Moulin. Au menu, entre autres : L'utilisation du DVD sur la vie de Frère Enseignant. Vous vous en souvenez ? L'avez-vous utilisé ? Si vous ne le retrouvez plus, allez vite sur : http://www.freres-enseignants.org/UFE/page_ufe.html



The two vocation directors of the French Province, Brothers Charles-Henri Moulin and Gilles de Almeida, have published two issues of their new bulletin on "what's being done about vocations in the Province." We wish long life to that bulletin and may it encourage all the brothers to be active in service of the transmission of God's call.

THE VOCATION TEAM OF THE CONGO SECTOR

The visits of the General Administration are an occasion for a meeting of the vocation teams. This was the case recently in the Congo and Ivory Coast: we were able to reflect together about the methods of local ministry. The *Guide to Formation of the Society of Mary* (nos. 56-71), as well as the text of the General Chapter of 2012 on Mixed Composition (particularly no. 22a), helped us to discuss the fundamental criteria of this ministry. Let's hope for an effective and deeper work in that commission directed by Fr. Abdon Ilabi, SM.



SPAIN: come, follow me!



Over a weekend, May 17-19, we held a vocation meeting aimed at young people discerning their vocation to Marianist religious life. Valeriano Sarto and I shared those days with them in the country house "Isaiah XI" which the Province has near Madrid.

It was a great opportunity for going deeper into the vocational experience of each

person, each believer, in order to get to know up close the call to the Marianist consecrated life and religious life. We had time for conversation, for prayer and for enjoying being together.

For determining participation in the weekend, we asked all the communities to meet in order to think about which young people to invite. We asked that one religious remain personally in contact with each one of them and send them a letter of invitation and a card, inviting them to be open to the possibility that God could call them to be Marianist religious.

Although the majority of the religious had never issued a personal invitation to a young man to consider a Marianist vocation, the experience was very positive. Although many declined to participate in the meeting or excused themselves for not being able to go, all appreciated the invitation and showed interest in it.

Two of the youth are from Zaragoza and one from Madrid. The three participated in the meeting of Taizé in Rome last Christmas.

Rogelio Nuñez Partido, SM (Assistant Provincial)



ROGELIO NÚÑEZ, SM; THE THREE PARTICIPANTS & VALERIANO SARTO, SM



BRAZIL: THE WYD IN RIO WITH THE MARIANISTS

Rio de Janeiro will host the next meeting of young people from the entire world. Fifty of them, from the Marianist Family of Brazil, Chile, Argentine, Colombia and Peru will meet in Campinas (Brazil) for a **Marianist pre-session, from July 18 to 22**, followed by the main meeting in **Rio from the 23rd to the 28th**. 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. In Bogotá, during the WYD, young people from Colombia will meet in union with those of Rio. Let us pray for them, the animators and participants and for the success of those important meetings. May they be the source of a new missionary commitment of all of them.



Canada: Rebirth of the Spirit!

During these last months Haiti and our Region have been strongly shaken. And just recently a "spiritual" event shook us even more strongly by the close succession of the death of Father Joseph Lackner just shortly after that of Brother Richard Joyal.

An evening of intense prayer, full of hope, almost spontaneous, took place on Wednesday, May 1, in the Marianist Center of St-Henri (Québec).

Father Lackner had inspired a prayer to Father Chaminade during the Chapter of 2006. I have addressed it to our Founder very often, *with many spiritual fruits*.

Since last January, along with several members of the Marianist Family, we pray it in our Marianist prayer union in order to ask for a renewal of Marianist life for our institutions, new vocations for all our branches,

I believe that that prayer of Fr. Lackner's to Blessed Chaminade comes at the time to breathe a necessary new life into the entire Marianist Family. It could be made into a very strong spiritual bond for our renewal, asking for a new outpouring of Father Chaminade's charism upon us all....

May that outpouring spread and continue to bear its fruits. Above all in this Year of Faith, Chaminade's charism is very appropriate for an evangelization that promotes a Marian style of Church in today's life.... Is not that our future?

Rosaire Côté, SM

Here is an extract of the prayer of Father Joe Lackner (the entire text is to be found at the conclusion of the Acts of the Chapter of 2006), with Father Rosaire Côté's introduction (in italics).

**Prayer of Father Joseph Lackner
(General Chapter of 2006) – extract.**



Blessed Chaminade,

In union with the other branches of the Marianist Family on this earth,

*In close communion with the Marianist Family in Heaven,
And praying God to welcome to himself our Brothers Yxnold Chevalier , Richard Joyal, Father Joseph Lackner and all those who have left us recently,*

We address this prayer to you:

Continue to bless and watch over us.

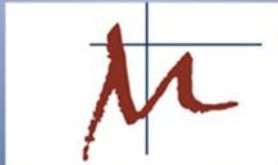
Teach us words that speak to our times as you did to yours,
words, simple and wise,
words to stir both mind and heart,
words to bring light to our lives and attract others to the gift you have given us,
words to rally ourselves and those to whom we speak
to the cause of justice, peace, reconciliation, and the integrity of creation.

Help us be a sign of hope in our world,
a spectacle to the nations, as we live together with others in the Marianist Family,
a People of Saints, who present Christ in every look and gesture,
missionaries of Mary, whose actions are both bold and watchful,
ready to go where we need to go, to wherever we are called for the sake of the gospel.

Ground us in your apostolic imagination ...
grace us with magnanimity and creativity that we may enlarge our understanding
with whatever is good and true, no matter from where it comes.

Harness our energies, powers, and passions for the sake of a new world
of mercy, care, and compassion, feeling, as Mary did,
the plight of the poor, the isolation of the exile, the alienation of the migrant, and the exclusion of the marginalized.

Make deliberate and strong our call to others to join us in our life and mission;
instill your spirit and faith of the heart in us that we may "do whatever he tells us." ...
Amen.



The Marianists
TOP 10 REASONS

USA: "What are your Top 10?"

This is the invitation addressed by Brother Thomas Wendorf, Vocations Director for the Province of the United States, to a group of brothers of his Province (cf. Vocation News, April 2013) :

Everyone loves a list. The three best ways to lose weight. Five tips for getting organized. Seven steps to training your dog. You've got the idea. Now -- and stealing a concept from David Letterman -- what are your **Top 10 Reasons it's Great to be a Marianist?**

This can be a personal list from your own experience, or members of your community might work together to make a list of what you value most about being Marianists. These lists can be heartfelt or silly, about big things or little things.

Send me your list by e-mail. I'll feature them in one way or another during the coming months. This will give me great information to share with others, especially those considering life as a Marianist!

Bro. Thomas Wendorf, SM

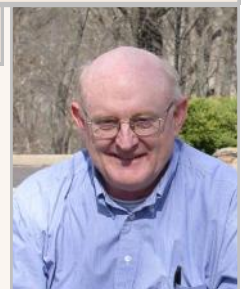
Two responses ...



by Bro. Bob Flaherty, sm

1. Life's too short not to be a Marianist.
2. Mixed composition.
3. Community of equals.
4. "The ring's the habit."
5. Our very own E store at Land's End.
6. We are all missionaries.
7. We are here to serve, not to be served.
8. We teach by every word, gesture and look.
9. "For new times, news methods."
10. We offer Mary as a model of integrity.

by Fr. Dave Fleming, sm



1. I have a regular prayer life, supported by a praying community.
2. I have ongoing contact with young generations who want to grow.
3. I have freedom to go when and where needed.
4. I have contacts with a worldwide community.
5. I have a sense of being able to do worthwhile things for the poor and marginalized.
6. I enjoy long-term, life relationships with a great variety of fellow Brothers from many places.
7. I feel welcomed and at home in many places.
8. I have ongoing stimulus to grow in faith and go deeper.
9. I enjoy contact with people of different talents, gifts, interests and cultures.
10. I am a living part of the Church universal.

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Thank you!
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