



This bulletin of Vocsm is entirely dedicated to news from our various Units.

Much is being done that we are not always aware of! So let's share our good news, that all might be encouraged to work with joy and hope for vocations!

André Fétis, sm

MARIANIST FAMILY: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

**"WITNESSING INSPIRES VOCATIONS"
(APRIL 25, 2010)**

On April 25 the entire Marianist Family joined together in the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Thanks to the message and document received (Cf. <http://marianist.org/site.php?id=442>), many persons were able to observe that day, either individually or collectively. Here are some of their testimonies:

CHILE A family that joins together in prayer... bears many fruits.



Boletín Chaminade – Publication des Communautés Laiques Marianistes du Chili – N° 349
http://www.marianistas.cl/boletin_laicos.html

Welcoming that invitation, on Saturday, April 24, we gathered the Marianist Family in Chile to ask God to send vocations to our religious family, that it might continue to work for his Kingdom in our society.

We could not pray together without knowing one another, so we began our vigil with an exercise of integration and discovery. Then, as a family, we looked at our Church and our society. Like our Founder, we must continue to serve it with freedom and transparency and with a lot of love. We asked forgiveness and disposed ourselves to encounter the mercy of our saving God. With the help

of the brothers and sisters, we were able to choose between two forms of prayer (prayerful reading and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament), closing with the Eucharist.

We thank all those who accompanied us, in participating or in uniting themselves to that prayer. The harvest is plentiful... the Gospel tells us, and even more so in our time, so let us not tire of asking the Good Shepherd, through the intercession of our Founders, for holy vocations for our Church and perseverance for those who have already responded.

http://www.marianistas.cl/boletin_laicos.html

← Logo of the Day of Prayer in Chile

"We need to connect with our world... to ask God that he send religious vocations to our Family."



IN THIS ISSUE:

Day of prayer: Chile, 1-3
Québec, Barcelona, Kenya, Meribah

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Next issue:
October 2010
Please remember to send me news and photos of your activities, texts, documents, ... Thank you!
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IN QUEBEC, THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Our response to the call from the World Council of the Marianist Family

In the communities in Québec in the Canadian Region, the invitation of the WCMF was well received. A meeting was held in each community to reflect upon the meaning and the “dimensions” of that call. Contacts were made with the other branches: Alliance, MLC, and also with our brothers in Manitoba and Haiti. We drew inspiration from Circular #5 of Father David Fleming (1999) *Marianist Religious Vocations Today*, a document still very valuable in our own time.

It was decided that each Unit (community, family, center...) would pray “at home” on the 25th, and that there would be a meeting of the Marianist Family the following Sunday, May 2. Our prayer would be in solidarity with the other Units of our Region, including Haiti, and above all joined to the whole of the Marianist Family throughout the world. Some linked these two Sundays with a novena for vocations.

Our prayer was joined to that of the whole Church, sometimes in a parish, on this “Vocation Sunday,” but with **intentions specific to our Marianist Family.**

Our “Marianist” intentions

- For vocations to the priestly and consecrated life, certainly, but also for vocations of lay persons of all categories in service to the people of God, according to the spirit of Vatican II and of Father Chaminade.
- For the strengthening of the vocations of our current elderly religious, active or retired, that we might fully play out our role as consecrated persons in the bosom of the local and universal Church in confronting contemporary needs.
- That our local Marianist Family (consecrated + laity) together with the greater worldwide Marianist Family might fulfill its vocation and mission to be a people of saints active in the service of today’s Church.
- That we be able, in the spirit of our covenant with Mary, to overcome present heresies and to break through current taboos in order to act with faith and boldness, convinced of the value of our charism now and for the future.

Current heresies and taboos? Faith = a private matter / non-practicing Christians / in our days no one cares about vocations / in addition, Christians are too weak to get involved and to persevere / with the current scandals, our life has lost its credibility / it is too late, there is nothing that can be done, we are too old and outmoded to support vocations... / etc...



We held the “Prayer for vocations” of the World Council of the Marianist Family on Sunday the 25th in the afternoon. Present were the Marianist male and female religious of Barcelona, a representative of the Marianist Fraternities of Barcelona and Sister M. Bénédicte Munck, Mistress of Novices of France, and a novice, Nathalie.

The prayer program was carried out following the guidelines of the World Council, with biblical readings, moments of personal prayer and sharing of the latter, and meditative hymns. Altogether it lasted a good hour. It went well.

BARCELONA (ZA)



Some very eloquent current calls and signs

Persons who come to us and open themselves to a renewed Christian life and who find our spirituality or family spirit attractive / major events that force us to move forward: Haiti, cures among our ranks, restructuring of our ministries / new realities that call us to move: a renewal in catechesis, Jesus’ sheep, EAL (Équipes d’animation locales—local animation teams) in parishes, ECR (cours d’éthique et culture religieuse – courses in religious ethics and culture) in schools: realities that cannot leave us indifferent, either as individuals or as the Marianist Family!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

KENYA (1)

There were more than 300 young people in attendance. The whole activity was a well organized event by the Vocation promoters from Nairobi. Br. Samuel Goko and Br. George Sakala are seen talking to the young people.



KENYA (2)



Bro. Samuel Goko



Bro. Ben (on the left) and candidates (Antony Ouma, Stanley Cwianga and Christopher Ndeti)



Bro. Samuel Goko, Ben Mway, George Saka-



Congratulations! May we all be infected with your enthusiasm for vocation ministry!

MERIBAH - Pilgrimage to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

On April 10, 2010, over 150 students **form** our schools travelled with 16 Marianists by busses to the Basilica. We enjoyed a presentation made by a graduate of Chaminade High School on the role of the laity in the Church. Afterwards, the Brothers hosted a youth-fest hour, with song and prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Holy Hour concluded with benediction. To conclude the pilgrimage, all attended a Mass in the Basilica celebrated by the Bishop of our Diocese. In all, it was a great witness to the Marianist spirit in our schools as we travelled to Our Lady's Basilica to pray and praise together! Bro. Thomas Cleary, S.M., Bro. Timothy Driscoll, S.M. and Bro. Michael Gillen S.M. organized the pilgrimage.



YOUTH EASTER (PASCUA JOVEN) FROM GUINOMAI MOVEMENT IN LOGROÑO: in four voices, with four pictures

PROVINCE OF SARAGOSSA

The boys and girls of the 1st Bacalaureate are usually one hundred and fifty in the Guinomai groups which, since 2001, meet each year in the Colegio Santa María in Logroño to celebrate together Holy Week and Easter, our great fiesta. It is an activity that marks a before and an after in the series of experiences that we try to develop to go along with the fiesta; a project that for many of them represents the point of entry into a faith lived with more depth, more authenticity, more joy. All the youth faith groups of the Province of Saragossa and the Scouts of Troop X El Pilar of Valencia join forces for this beautiful adventure.

It is difficult for me to compress into a few lines all that we live and share in Logroño. So I will try simply to offer some "fragrances" that might help you – hopefully -- to sense the beauty of the setting. First, through the testimony of its real protagonists: our kids. Then, from the perspective of the monitors, evoking four images that already form part of the history of this project: four moments that, year after year, create with tenderness and deep meaning the experience that each participant carries back home in his backpack.

Four voices

"I went to Logroño with the hope of discovering God, of getting rid of doubts; but I was also out to see the whole world, to live and laugh and sing. And my goals were met. Heartfelt thanks for all the celebrations prepared for us. For the moments of silence, for being able to be in the chapel for the time you needed, feeling, listening, praying.... For breaking down my preconceptions, for making me so comfortable in the Masses, without being afraid to express my feelings; for crying together.... Logroño was life, joy, peace, love.... Now there remains the most difficult part: to give life, to go out into the world" (E., from Valencia, Easter 2005).

"Honestly, I had never experienced an Easter like this:

full of emotions, of people around you who welcome every morning with a smile ... It was incredible. Logroño makes you change; it is true what they say, that you come back different, trusting a bit more in that little light we all carry within us" (A., from Saragossa, Easter 2007).

"Thanks for giving me so much strength to live my life more and better. Thanks for having had such a tremendous effect on me. I have changed my life to a point that you can not imagine. Every night I think, every night I pray for you all to come back to see us. I wish more people lived this experience, because this is very difficult to live if you're not close to God" (J. from Almería, Easter 2008).

"The nicest thing was that I was always wrapped up in Him who was there with me, who did not abandon me... and then I realized that there is no reason for sadness, much less for us who are so privileged. I thought of the open wounds of the world. From that moment I was filled with His message and felt more strongly than ever that it is worth the struggle to proclaim the News about Him" (B., from Vitoria-Gasteiz, Easter 2008).

Four pictures

The first picture was born in the celebration of Love, on Holy Thursday. It is a photo of the chapel. The students have decorated the altar and prepared the Altar of Repose, have covered the walls with large posters with the words that touch them deeply, have rehearsed the songs, have improvised small theater presentations, have devised creative happenings that, in silence, are able to speak louder than many sermons.... It is the result of the workshops, in the Workshop of the Word and Life. And so, more than *observing*, they celebrate. More than *attending*, they participate. More than *hearing*, they listen... and feel themselves listened to. And they share. And understand. Many of them continue admit to us, even weeks later, that what they miss most are the moments of celebration in the chapel.

The second picture we took from the prayer before the Altar of Repose, the same Thursday, in the intimacy of the night.



Each participant has received a letter from that Jesus who loves and gave himself to the end, from the same Jesus who tenderly asks for a response. ... The kids scatter throughout the chapel and put into words the letter they will send back.

The third picture.... It is Friday. Along the Via Crucis we all carry our own little cross which, some hours before, another companion had constructed for us. First, it is inserted between our hands, then loaded onto our neck, and later delivered to the brother; finally placed along with all the rest into the arms of the big cross that presides over our walking ... all of our little crosses received a response, support, hope ... sustained by the beam.





The fourth picture is fire, the fire of the conquering light of the Easter Vigil. The fire which we kindle there where a few hours before reigned an emptiness, fire which the Paschal Candle takes up and lights the star formed by *one hundred fifty* candles with *one hundred fifty* names which now celebrate the Resurrection as a true Fiesta. Uncomplicatedly, with an irrepressible joy that breaks forth from where no limits can be put. That star, symbol of our Young

Easter, is also that of the experience being formed in the heart of our kids.... We ourselves are also *made of stars*, of the same matter by which the stars light up the heaven, called to be a reflection of that heaven upon the earth... at Easter the theme acquires a new light: the enkindling of living four intense and transforming days, the flame flickering in synch with the others all around it, of this Guinomai family that remains united for ever in the memory of a Holy Week that perhaps will change the lives of many.

KENYA

Faustino group at Our Lady of Visitation Catholic Parish

In the presentation of Vocsm 3, almost one group was missing! This group was founded in Nairobi by Bro. Julius Nandi, SM, in 2008, on Chaminade day and has really grown rapidly. The group has almost thirty boys and girls who are very good. Some of the pictures are from their Lenten retreat at "Ressurrection Garden" and others are when they enrolled as Faustinos.



USA

The National Vocation Office is in a process of transition- Bro. Thomas Wendorf will be the new national vocation director beginning in July.

The Office of Religious Life is sponsoring the "New York Experiment" this summer. Nine members of our formation program will spend time in New York living at St. John's Rockaway and working with the poor in Harlem. We hope that this will be a very good ministerial experience for our younger members. It should also be known that the idea for the program came from our younger brothers.



Many thanks to Bro. Charles Johnson and his team for the great work he did during the eight last years!

Welcome to three new members of our Aspirancy Program for next year. (from left to right) → Alejo Perez (Los Angeles, California); Luis Guerra (San Antonio, Texas) and Mark Motz (Dayton, Ohio)



MEXICO - Vocation Day

Twelve young adults from the states of Puebla, Mexico, Veracruz, Guerrero, Durango, Guanajuato and Jalisco attended the Marianist Vocation Day at the Marianist Pre-novitiate on June 4-6. Ten Marianists and pre-novices accompanied them, sharing with them the Marianist charism, mission and apostolate. The context was very inspiring and fraternal.

O Mary, my Mother,
 You have called me to community life
 With my brothers.
 Like you,
 I want to be available,
 Serving my brothers in the most humble tasks.
 Help me to accept the place and the role
 That will fit best
 For the happiness of the community.

O Mary,
 You have called me to religious life in your service.
 Let me forget myself.
 It is You who must guide my life,
 And not my whims and my personal satisfaction.
 With You,
 I want to live more intensely my religious life
 In order to witness still better that I belong to you.

O Mary,
 You have called me to a select apostolic life:
 To bring children back to You
 So that they might draw near to Jesus, your Son.
 Thank you for the missionary life you have given me.
 Accept the offering of my life
 So that youth might desire to serve you
 And to consecrate their life as Marianists.

Jean-Marie Danis, sm

Brother Jean-Marie, "Ya Jean-Marie" (1932-1988), spent long years in the service of the children and youth of Congo-Brazzaville, where he inspired a children's movement that is still vigorous: the Yambote. This beautiful prayer can inspire our own!



Ya Jean-Marie
 Danis, sm

A reflection upon the image proposed by Rogelio Núñez, recently named Vice-Provincial of the Province of Madrid (he is also the author of the lead item of Vocsm!). You can meditate upon other compositions of his by visiting "Partido, Le blog-bloc de pastorale visuelle" (visual ministry blog). <http://partido.marianistas.org/>



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CANADA

In April Father Luis Melo (below right in the photo) organized a meeting with some university students from Brandon and Winnipeg. During that event, he gave a presentation on the Marianists and on his own personal vocational journey. Seven students participated in that meeting.



FRANCE

Bordeaux During the Year of the Priest, Father Charles Chasstrusse (La Madeleine, Bordeaux) was interviewed by Catholic television KTO.

You can listen to his witnessing to his own experience as a Marianist priest at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfuloYEx0-U&feature=Playlist&p=D70FC7CFFEE759BF&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=1&aia=true

Issenheim. The brothers of the Marianist community of Issenheim (six brothers from 83 to 97 years old) joined the celebration of the Day of Consecrated Life on February 2 in their parochial sector. On that occasion, the community was included, along with other congregations present in the sector, in a tract written for the circumstance. Thank you for your active interest in vocations! Thanks to all our elderly brothers throughout the world who support the vocation ministry by their prayer and the witness of their lives!

Next issue: Octobre 2010.

Thank you for sending news and photos about your activities, suggestions of texts, of documents, of websites.... Thanks!
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