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**Next issue: JUNE 2011**

*Please remember to send me news and photos of your activities, texts, documents, ... Thank you!*  
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**THE SAINTS ARE WORKING FOR US!**

**CHAMINADE YEAR NEWS**



This entire year is certainly a great vocational opportunity. Thanks to the special page of the website [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org), you can follow the events in the various countries of the world. But here let's look at some pastoral activities....

Yes, the saints are working for us!

**Collège Chaminade – KARA – TOGO: TWO GREAT MOMENTS OF MARIANIST SPIRITUALITY**

**PONTIFICAL MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL:** On Saturday, January 22, at 7:30 a.m., with all the students of the two schools, the communities of the sisters and the brothers, with the members of the MLC and of the Alliance Mariale and with many diocesan priests. During that celebration, the bishop presented Father Chaminade as a man of faith, of vision and a servant of Mary. Then, at the collège, the bishop met with parents, students and teachers.



**THE BROTHERS' TEAM WINS THE CHAMINADE TOURNAMENT.** Organized on the same January 22: basketball and soccer games followed. Of course, the brothers beat the teachers in soccer (1-0). But we must admit: they were doped up... with Marianist spirituality. We're sure that that will raise up new Marianist vocations!

<http://www.chaminade-kara.net/spip.php?article30>

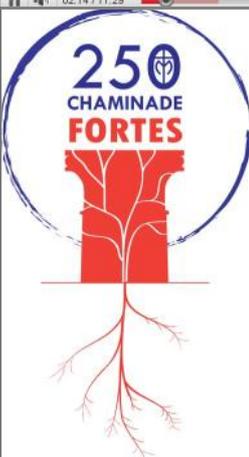


## FATHER CHAMINADE MAKES A PASTORAL VISIT (Colegio Santa Ana y San Rafael—Madrid)

At the *Colegio Santa Ana y San Rafael* (Madrid), the celebration of "Blessed Chaminade Day" (January 21, 2011). Many chances to enjoy the feast of our Founder! New Chaminadean games were revealed: ask the children to teach them to you! And, of course, Father Chaminade himself enjoyed it with everyone else! For more accounts of that day: (<http://www.terra.es/personal4/jpv1952/> → Día del Beato Chaminade)



**SPAIN - A new video for children about the life of Father Chaminade. Some pictures**



### NEXT SUMMER, TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

**FORTES (August 12-15):** a pilgrimage for European youth in the footsteps of Father Chaminade (Bordeaux, Périgueux, Saragossa), linked to the WYD. (<http://fortes.marianistas.org/>)

**WYD (August 21-25):** The World Youth Days in MADRID with young people from the whole world.

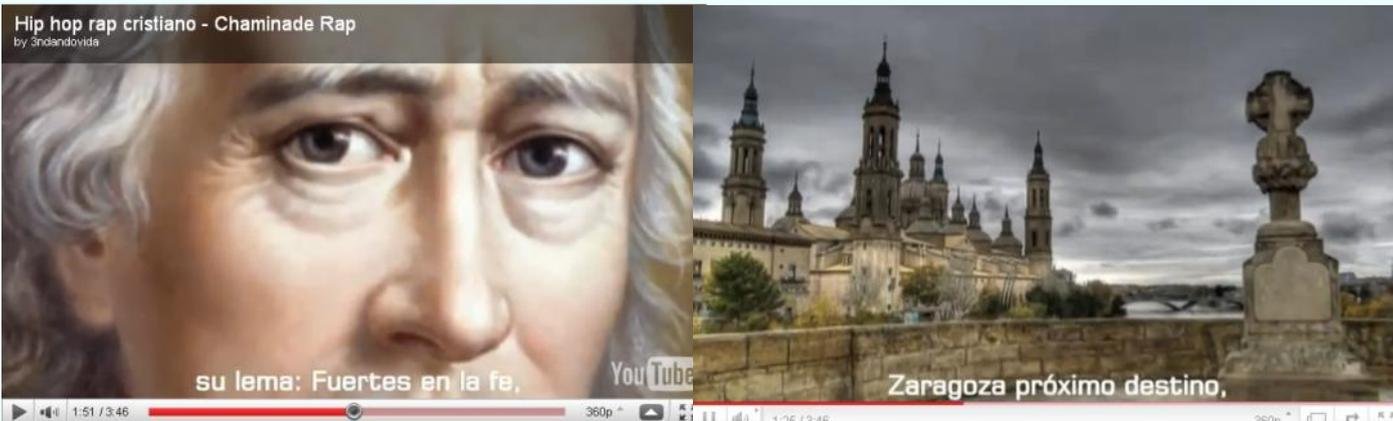
Let us pray for the full success of all these initiatives! May the Lord make them produce much fruit!



### Father Chaminade conquers the world of Rap!

Thanks to our brother Dani Pajuelo, sm (Rome, Chaminade Seminary), Father Chaminade speaks out in hip hop language.... Follow this link to find the video with or without subtitles in Spanish, English and French, and even a mute version for karaoke.

<http://smdani.marianistas.org/chaminade/>. Congratulations, Dani!

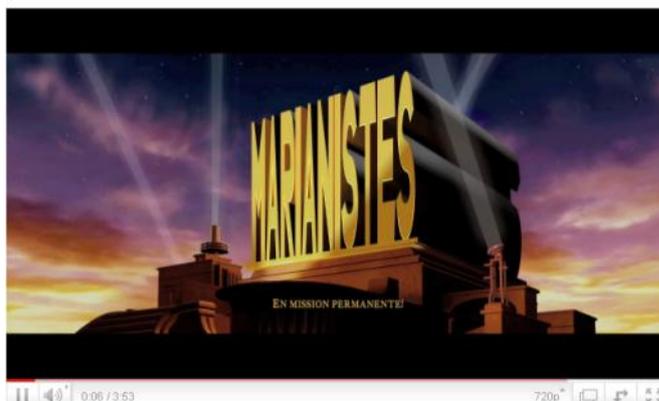


### FRANCE / LOURDES : RALLIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE



LOURDES from April 6 to 8, organized by the Province of France: rally of the school network at Lourdes: 2200 participants expected (including 1600 youth).

(<http://www.chaminade2011.com/> with a video presentation.)



### FAUSTINO

The declaration of heroicity of virtues of young Faustino (last January 14) brought a great number of positive reactions, not only in the Marianist world, but also well beyond. Many articles were dedicated to him, especially in Spain. The Italian Catholic daily *Avvenire* [*The Future*] published an article on Saturday, February 12, under the by-line of Matteo Liut, entitled: "The New Venerable Faustino Pérez-Manglano, 'a hea-

venly protector of the vocations of young people." The article was picked up the same day on the Rogationist Fathers' website dedicated to vocation ministry (<http://www.vocazioni.net/>). Let's make Faustino known among young people, among adults in ministry and put him to work for vocations!



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12 Febbraio 2011

**Il nuovo venerabile Faustino Perez-Manglano**

**«Dal cielo un protettore delle vocazioni giovani»**

Sul letto di morte, alla età di soli sedici anni, Faustino Perez-Manglano Magro promise che dal Cielo avrebbe vegliato sulle giovani vocazioni. Giovani proprio come la sua, sbocciata già a 14 anni e concretizzata nel progetto di diventare sacerdote marianista. «È

**THE CONSECRATED LIFE WAS DESIRED BY THE LORD ...  
THE CHURCH HERSELF WILL NEVER BE DEPRIVED OF IT**

**Benedict XVI**

*On November 26, 2011, the Pope met with the Superiors General in a private audience on the occasion of their general assembly and made a short but very profound address. We will do well to welcome his words of encouragement to all religious. Encouragement to live ... and to promote our vocation; encouragement for us to commit to the ways of renewal proper to our life so that it may bear all its fruit. What can be done for vocations? Let us go forward on this path and they cannot fail to find it a good one!*

*The whole text is available, except for a few sentences of the first paragraph that were more suited to the immediate circumstances. This text can be read in its entirety at: [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/speeches/2010/november/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2010/november/index_en.htm) [in [English](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#)].*



*Dearest Brothers and Sisters,*

I am pleased to meet you on the occasion of the bi-annual Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (...)

A special greeting goes ... to the numerous Superiors General. I extend my thoughts to all your brothers and sisters scattered across the world and especially to those who are suffering for their witness to the Gospel.

**I would like to express my deep thanks for all you do in and with the Church on behalf of evangelization and of the human being.** I am thinking of the many pastoral activities in the parishes, shrines and centres of worship, of catechesis and of the Christian formation of children, young people and adults, in which you show your passion for Christ and for humanity.

I am thinking of your important work in the field of education, in the universities and schools, of the many social institutions through which you meet the needs of the most deprived brethren with God's own love. I am thinking also of the witness, at times full of risk, of evangelical life in the mission *ad gentes*, in circumstances that are often difficult.

Your last two Assemblies were dedicated to reflecting on the future of the consecrated life in Europe. This has meant rethinking the very meaning of your vocation which entails, first and foremost, seeking God, *Quaerere Deum*: **you are seekers of God by vocation.** You devote the best energies of your lives to this research. You move from what is secondary to what is really essential to what is really important: seeking God, keeping your gaze fixed on him. Like the first monks, cultivate an eschatological orientation: behind the provisional seek what remains, what does not pass away.

Seek God in the confreres or sisters he has given you, with whom you share the same life and mission. Seek him in the men and women of our time, to whom you are sent to offer the gift of the Gospel with your life and your words. Seek him particularly in the poor, the first to whom the Good News is addressed (*cf.* Lk 4:18). Seek him in the Church, where the Lord makes himself present, especially in the Eucharist and in the other sacraments, and in his word, which is the main road for seeking God. It introduces us into conversation with him and reveals to us his true Face. May you always be enthusiastic seekers and witnesses of God!

**The profound renewal of the consecrated life starts from the centrality of the word of God, and more practically, from the Gospel, the supreme rule for all of you,** as the Second Vatican Council states in the Decree [Perfectae Caritatis](#) (cf. n. 2) and as your Founders understood well: the consecrated life is a plant with a mass of branches whose roots are sunk in the Gospel. The history of your Institutes in which the determination to live Christ's Message and to configure your own life to it, was and remains the fundamental criterion of vocational discernment and of your personal and community discernment. The Gospel lived daily provides the element that gives fascination and beauty to the consecrated life and presents you to the world as a reliable alternative. Contemporary society stands in need of this, and the Church expects this of you: to be a living Gospel.

Another fundamental aspect of the consecrated life that I would like to emphasize is brotherhood: *Confessio Trinitatis* (cf. John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation [Vita Consecrata](#), n. 41) and model of Church communion. Indeed, **the witness of your consecration passes through it. Fraternal life is one of the main aspects that young people seek when they approach your life; it is an important prophetic element that you offer in a strongly individualistic society.**

I know the efforts you are making in this area, as I also know the difficulties that community life entails. There is a need for serious and constant discernment to listen to what the Spirit says to the communities (cf. Rev 2:7), to distinguish what comes from the Lord from what is contrary to him (cf. [Vita Consecrata](#), n. 73).

Without discernment, accompanied by prayer and reflection, the consecrated life runs the risk of adapting to the criteria of this world: individualism, consumerism, materialism; criteria that cause fraternity to fade and the consecrated life itself to lose its fascination and pungency. Be masters of discernment so that your confreres and your sisters may adopt this *habitus* and your communities become an eloquent sign for the world today.

May you who exercise the service of authority and have duties of guidance and of planning the future of your Religious Institutes, remember that an important part of spiritual animation and governance is the common search for the means to foster communion, mutual communication, warmth and truth in reciprocal relations.

A last point that I would like to highlight is the mission. The mission is the Church's way of being and, within her, of the consecrated life. It is part of your identity; it spurs you to take the Gospel to everyone without boundaries. The mission sustained by a strong experience of God, by a robust formation and by fraternal life in community, is a key to understanding and revitalizing the consecrated life. **Go, then, and in creative fidelity make your own the challenge of the new evangelization.** Renew your presence in today's areopagi to proclaim, as St Paul did in Athens, the "unknown" God.

Dear Superiors General, at present many Institutes are faced with dwindling numbers, particularly in Europe. The difficulties, however, must not make us forget that **the origin of the consecrated life is in the Lord: it was desired by him for the edification and holiness of his Church, and therefore the Church herself will never be deprived of it.** While I encourage you to walk in faith and hope, I ask of you a renewed commitment to the pastoral care of vocations and to initial and continuing formation.

I entrust you to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to your Holy Founders and Patrons, as I warmly impart to you my Apostolic Blessing, which I extend to your religious Families.



Horizons 2011 (Bordeaux)

## 48<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2<sup>nd</sup> Marianist Day of Prayer for Vocations



Next May 15 the 48<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be celebrated. Recall that the World Council of the Marianist Family has decided to promote our participation in that prayer by proposing each year some material for our reflection and our prayer. This year the Daughters of Mary Immaculate have prepared something for all of us, which you will receive shortly.

The message of Pope Benedict XVI for the World Day of Prayer is accessible at the following links in seven languages ([English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#)):

Here are some short extracts:

### **48th WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS (15 MAY 2011) Theme: "Proposing Vocations in the Local Church" (extracts)**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters!*

The work of carefully encouraging and supporting vocations finds a radiant source of inspiration in those places in the Gospel where Jesus calls his disciples to follow him and trains them with love and care. ... it is clear that the first thing he did was to pray for them: before calling them, Jesus spent the night alone in prayer, listening to the will of the Father (cf. *Lk 6:12*)

To those to whom he says: "Follow me!", Jesus, ... invites them to leave behind their own narrow agenda and their notions of self-fulfillment in order to immerse themselves in another will, the will of God, and to be guided by it.

It is important to encourage and support those who show clear signs of a call to priestly life and religious consecration, and to enable them to feel the warmth of the whole community as they respond "yes" to God and the Church.

The Lord needs you to cooperate with him in ensuring that his call reaches the hearts of those whom he has chosen.

**BENEDICTUS PP. XVI**



« **BROTHER** »: 3 videos to make known and appreciated the vocation of the teaching brother!



In France, for some time already, the male congregations of “teaching brothers “ have had a common working group to promote common exchanges, collaboration and proposals. The Society of Mary is one of eight congregations that are working together. This year, they have chosen to make together three professional videos to present, make known and loved the vocation of the teaching brother. Let me comment on the goal of this creation:

“We want: + To show the originality and richness of our lives;  
 + To reveal the abundance of relationships within which we live as brothers;  
 + To make visible our significant contribution to the growth of persons;  
 + To say how our life carries values that are a response to the deepest aspirations of our modern world: demand for meaning, hope and fraternity.

This message is spelled out in the films through five dimensions:

- The mission of education of the whole person
- Brotherhood
- The spiritual life
- Proclamation of Jesus Christ
- The international dimension of our congregations

The three videos: **24 hours in the life of a brother** (3:45): without words.

**Brother** (2:07): in French.

**Brother, a shared life** (9:00): in French.

The first video is silent, so usable in all countries. The pictures have been deliberately filmed in a variety of countries and of cultural contexts.

You can find this material (free) at the following address: <http://www.freres-enseignants.org/>, or use that address to buy a CD and the booklet which accompanies it.

The outcome is very good: don't hesitate to use it for vocation ministry or with our collaborators; make it known to the diocesan and religious vocational services.



**PERSONALLY, RECRUITMENT IS CLOSE TO MY HEART AND MY PRAYERS EVERY DAY.**

Some simple means that I have been using lately:

Recently I have responded to our benefactors who send us money for our missions. I have written perhaps 140 letters by hand. In each response, I put something in about our mission in Africa, how it is coming along. I have also added each time how much we wish for vocations in Switzerland.

In my community, we pray each day for vocations.

I have three groups of adults with whom I celebrate Mass once a month. Each time I treat some topic about Father Chaminade. I'm just sorry I don't have any young people. In the newsletter (in German), I always treat Marianist topics.

*(WITNESS of Father Urs Schenker, Switzerland—Fribourg)*

## NEW ASPIRANTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Last January 20<sup>th</sup> three young Filipinos were received into the aspirancy program in Davao.

They are Renato Alias, Melvin Azucenas and Jerson Descallar.

They have been living with us for some months already getting to know our community and our ministry; after that initial period of discernment they requested to be accepted into the aspirancy.

We are very grateful for the gift of these young men starting their process of discernment in search for the will of God in their lives.

At the beginning of the Chaminade year we think is a sign of hope for our charism in the Philippines.



The three new aspirants, Renato (Renz), Melvin and Jerson



Davao Community with the aspirants: Back row: Bro. Peter Kiama and F. Pablo Rambaud. Front: Bro. Raimond Toppo, Renz, Melvin and Jerson (aspirants) and Bro. Oscar Kerketta (Director of aspirancy). Not shown: Bro. Jerry Valencia (taking the picture)

## TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR VOCATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

February 2011

### IN-FORMATION

News about men in formation with the Marianist Province of the United States



The **PROVINCE OF THE UNITED STATES** has just launched an electronic bulletin:

### IN-FORMATION

News about men in formation with the Marianist Province of the United States

which will appear alternatively with the already existing bulletin: "Vocation Notes," published by the Province's National Director of Vocations.

IN-FORMATION is edited by Father Bill Meyer, Provincial Assistant for Religious Life, in collaboration with the director of the temporary professed (Father Oscar Vasquez) and the formators of novices (Father Mike Lisbeth and Brother Mike O'Grady) and of prenovices (Brother Dennis Bautista and Bob Wiethorn).

Its goal is to "keep you updated about our men in formation."

Thanks to all of them and best wishes for their journey to the two aspirants, eight novices and five temporary professed of the Province.

We also believe in supporting those in formation in our own Unit or elsewhere.

The **Province of Meribah** has just published the first number of its bulletin for vocations, with the evocative name:

### Striking the Rock.

Its readers will find therein reports on activities that have taken place, news about future programs and items of reflection about vocation ministry. Thanks to Brother Tim Driscoll for this beautiful publication.

## STRIKING THE ROCK

VOCATION NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE OF MERIBAH

Issue 1 - Advent

December 2010

Vocation Activities

September - December 2010

First Impressions

Listening and Learning

Bro. Timothy Driscoll, Vocation Outreach

**May these two publications bear abundant fruit... and give us ideas for our own Units!**

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**Next issue: June 2011.**

Thank you for sending news and photos about your activities, suggestions of texts, of documents, of websites.... Thanks! (genrelsm@smcuria.it)