



STRONG IN FAITH: FORTES AND WYD THANK YOU, FATHER CHAMINADE!



Nearly 300 young people and 50 religious and chaperones in two groups followed this past summer the paths of Father Chaminade to Bordeaux, Perigueux, Mussidan, Saragossa, coming from all quarters of Europe and North America principally, but also from Latin America and Asia. One hundred Albanians also joined them in Saragossa for the Spanish part, followed by the WYD.

A rich experience of brotherhood, of festivity, of prayer; an unforgettable contact with the places where our Founder lived and a magnificent experience of the universal Church in Madrid. Much of what they lived through remains in their hearts and continues in their commitments today.

It was a joy to see how dialogue was so easily established among the groups and between them and the thought of Father Chaminade. To follow him seemed the most natural thing in the world. On the sites themselves, we tasted something of what must have been the gatherings that he himself organized at the Madeleine and which, going out from that chapel, spread way beyond it.

If I were to savor just one other moment, it was the intense atmosphere of prayer of the adoration period during the night of the vigil with the Pope in Madrid. After an impressive storm, there was only an impressive silence of more than a million young people turned towards him who had invited them, Jesus Christ. In spite of the great diversity of interior attitudes, of personal backgrounds, it was indeed he who showed himself as the great artist of that meeting.

As you can read in the testimony from Brazil, the country of the next WYD in 2013, the demand is there for continuing such assemblies. We must not hesitate to let the young people of our various works encounter one another, within their same Unit, or even from different countries and Units when it is possible. The meetings nourish and stimulate the faith of the young people and the adults, each one becoming more conscious that s/he belongs to one and the same Family, launched by our Founders and assembled by Christ, under the protection of Mary. Each person identifies more what is specific to us as Marianists and what we must continue to live and offer generously.

A big vote of thanks to the organizers of the two splendid stages of our gathering; a big vote of thanks to Father Chaminade for having so visibly spent those days with us!

André Fétis, sm

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Next issue:
FEBRUARY 2012
Please remember to send me news and photos of your activities, texts, documents, ...
Thank you!
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« *Planted and built up in
Jesus Christ,
firm in the faith* »
(cf. Col 2:7)

BENEDICT XVI

ANGELUS— *Cuatro Vientos Air
Base, Madrid*
Sunday, 21 August 2011



"As Successor of Peter I entrust all of you present with this task: make the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ known to the whole world! He wants you to be the apostles of the twenty-first century and the messengers of his joy. Do not let him down!"

"I urge you to ask God to help you find your vocation in society and in the Church, and to persevere in that vocation with joy and fidelity.

It is hard to put into words the happiness you feel when you know that Jesus seeks you, trusts in you, and with his unmistakable voice also says to you: "Follow me!" (cf. *Mk 2:14*).



"You will be swimming against the tide in a society with a relativistic culture which wishes neither to seek nor hold on to the truth. But it was for this moment in history, with its great challenges and opportunities, that the Lord sent you, so that, through your faith, the Good News of Jesus might continue to resound throughout the earth."

"Faith is not a theory. To believe is to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and to live in friendship with him in fellowship with others, in the communion of the Church. Entrust the whole of your lives to Christ and bring your friends to find their way to the source of life, to God. May the Lord make you happy and joy-filled witnesses of his love."



"Christ asks you to be rooted in him and with him, to build your lives upon him who is our rock. He sends you out to be his witnesses, courageous and without anxiety, authentic and credible! Do not be afraid to be Catholic, and to be witnesses to those around you in simplicity and sincerity! Let the Church find in you and in your youthful-ness joyful missionaries of the Good News of salvation!"



Fortes and WYD, what did it mean for us?

A text that we Brazilian pilgrims have written together to share with the Marianist Family

A few months ago, we were not even thinking about living through an experience and a craziness like that which we are going through. Fernanda and Thaissa, young lay Marianists, Brother Victor Augusto, Marianist religious, and almost 200 other young people from the 12th to the 22nd of August, 2011. To be in the places of the Marianist founding was, at the same time, an opportunity and a dream. An opportunity to revitalize our vocation and a dream, in addition, to be part of a World Youth Day.

For some we were crazy, for others we were young people strong in our faith and wanting to reaffirm that faith in an experience of our spiritual and ecclesial family, the Marianist Family. Young Marianists celebrating and remembering the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, and joining this celebration to the encounter of young people with the Pope. And also wanting to be a part of the "Pope's youth."

During the WYD, we shared in moments of prayer, performances by songwriters and catechesis: We experienced a bit of Spanish culture and also saw the Pope right in front of us, only a little more than eight meters away. Although tired, we did not lose heart or breath. It was very hot, but we walked with confidence and happiness. Those were beautiful moments which, in spite of the many words we are writing, trying to express what we lived and did, and even what we continue to feel about all those days, we can't put the whole experience into words.



With our backpacks, we brought home insights and experiences to share with the community, as well as being each one of us revitalized in faith for action and encouraging young people. Convictions and ideals much stronger with the knowledge that we are not alone in this, but are a part of many!

Finally, as young people sent by the Pope and committed to rooting our lives in Christ, standing firm in the faith, as St. Paul and our Founder say, we put ourselves at the service of the Kingdom to continue the work with young people, our hands joined with Mary's, making Christ known, loved and served.

We thank God, our blood families, our spiritual Marianist Family and religious community for the opportunity and the gift that it was for each of us to participate in these meetings, in which we felt renewed energy to continue to give witness about the personal and communitarian encounter we had in those days of a great adventure.

An abrazo,

Fernanda Saggiaro, Thaissa Caroline G. Coppi and Bro. Victor Augusto F. De Aguiar, sm

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY IN FORMATION

All the Marianist religious of the United States, Mexico, India and the Philippines recently received the new edition of a **"PRAYER LIST for Marianists in Formation. For those in temporary profession, initial formation and association with Marianists in the U.S., India, Mexico and the Philippines."**

This booklet of 16 pages proposes a prayer on behalf of a specific group among our candidates and those in formation for each day of the four week cycle of the liturgical Office. For those on each day, their exact names are listed, giving an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with them, at least in that respect.

Here, for example, are the intentions for Week I (I have omitted the names that are included):

WEEK ONE – Sunday: Our Province vocation team; Monday: First-year Novice in the Province of the U.S.A.; Tuesday: Third-Year Scholastics in the District of India; Wednesday: Temporary-Professed in the District of Mexico; Thursday and Friday: First-Year Novices in the District of India; Saturday: Aspirants in the Province of Meribah.

On other days the intentions are for the candidates or young religious of the Daughters of Mary.

In the letter that accompanied the booklet, Tom Wendorf, Provincial Vocation Director, commented:

"Praying for those men and women is one vital way of sharing in vocation ministry. I know that most communities in the Province have used this booklet daily in intercessions during Eucharist or the Liturgy of the Hours. It's a way of getting to know the names of our younger Marianists, and of sharing in their lives through the mysterious power of prayer.

Thank you for your prayerful support of these men and women. Knowing how our Marianist life goes, if you don't know them already, you'll likely meet some of them in the future. Then you'll see the faces behind the names you already know, and you'll have already lifted their names in prayer many times..."

Is not this an excellent initiative that we could imitate? Where there are vocations and young religious in formation by organizing in such a way as to pray regularly for them; where we are awaiting vocations, by praying and continuing to invoke God's help, but also in praying for those who are already in the other Units and who count on our support! Let us open our hearts through prayer to this gift which God has made to the entire Society of Mary. Let's not allow the strength of our prayer to diminish when it can be so helpful!

PRAYER LIST

For Marianists in Formation

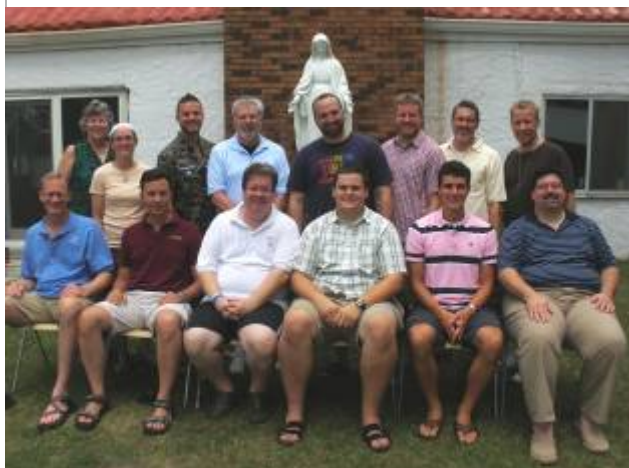


For those in temporary profession, initial formation and association with Marianists in the U.S., India, Mexico and the Philippines

COME AND SEE! - Vocation meetings during the past months:

USA Governor's Island (Ohio, USA)

Several Marianist contacts, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed brothers and sisters gathered at Governor's Island for the summer retreat "Look, Listen and Lounge" from July 21 - 24. The gathering has been held every other summer for the past eight years



The **West Hills Community (CALIFORNIA)** hosted a Discernment Sunday on Sept. 18. Two men participated: **John** and **Matt** ...The West Hills Community, hosted the one-day gathering, something they do regularly throughout the academic year. It usually begins with morning prayer and includes a meeting/discussion about vocation discernment, lunch and Eucharist. The West Hills Community continues its dynamic vocation ministry in the Los Angeles area and beyond...

Discernment evening - The **DAYTON VOCATION OFFICE** hosted a discernment evening on Friday, Sept. 23 at the Marianist brothers' house at 312 Stonemill in the UD student neighborhood. The program began with evening prayer, followed by dinner. Then **Bro. Bob Jones** and **No-vice Mark Motz** presented on the theme of the evening, "Taking Time: An evening of prayer and discernment." Bob and Mark shared their discernment journeys with the 22 students who attended. Both stressed taking time for God in our busy lives to actively hear God's call. After the presentation the students took an hour for quiet reflection. To conclude the evening the students came together for a conversation in which they shared thoughts and insights. **Sr. Nicole Trahan** closed the discernment event by leading night prayer.



**SAN ANTONIO – Five complete live-in experi-
ence at Casa María**

<http://casamarias.com/2011/11/18/five-complete-live-in-experience-at-casa-maria/>

Casa María hosted a live-in experience for five St. Mary's University students during the week of November 13-19. The live-in experience was designed to offer a unique, first-hand look at Marianist religious life by participating fully in the daily experiences of the community.



PERU – VOCATION DAY

On Sunday, June 12, 2011, some of us young catechists of the parish had our first VOCATION DAY, from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We reflected on the fascination and pleasure of knowing JESUS who loves us and calls us to follow him, as did Mary and also Father Chaminade. This sharing was led by our friend Chino Percy García, Marianist postulant, Callao.

Comunicaciones SM – Perú (2011 #2)



CHILI - Faustino Movement CPSM Confirmation Retreat

On Wednesday, October 19, the students of the 3rd medium of the San Miguel Parish School continued their preparation and strengthening of their faith experience on the way to confirming their faith in the sacrament of Confirmation. On that reflection day we wanted to share with the students the experience of the life of silence in order to encounter Jesus. At the beginning we read the text of Mark 3:14: "he chose them to be with him..." accompanied by the Prayer of the Hours. In these times in which we live, it is important that our students allow themselves these spaces for reflection and personal work, to discover how God is present in our lives and to ask themselves where is he sending them at this time in our history. We believe it is important to know ourselves, in order to recognize, like Zachaeus in Luke 19:1ff, the passing by of Jesus in the life of each one and thus also to take the means necessary to see him going by right beside us. CPSM confirmation Team





CHAMIADVENTURE

Aventuras de Chaminade por el mundo en su 250 cumpleaños



What's this.. Chamiadventure?

This initiative comes from the pastoral ministry department of the Spanish Marianist province, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade.

AIMS

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, we would like to connect all the Marianist educational centers around the world.

DESCRIPTION

This is an adventure; an authentic challenge for Marianist Educational Centers of Spain's high school students. It consists of getting a Chami doll photo from all the corners of the world where there are Marianist Educational Centers. We are going to collect the photos of all his missionary trips, with young faces of students from all over the world in their cities and small towns.

This initiative aims to bring Marianist students from all over the world together. By the end of the year (January, 22nd 2012), we hope to have all the photos of all The Society of Mary's schools with the ChamiAdventure's doll.

TO PARTICIPATE: CONTACT chamiadventure@gmail.com. Do it as soon as possible!

BRAZIL—Bauru



Jakob Gapp School (Bonakal) INDIA

**San Antonio —
Callao— PERÚ**



Buenos Aires—ARGENTINA



**Albertus Magnus
Wien—OESTERREICH**



**Amoros
MADRID**



Noviciado Latinoamericano—Santiago CHILE



ECUADOR—Latacunga



Seoul —KOREA



OLN Nairobi



San Juan PORTO RICO

EASTERN AFRICA: a new Regional Team for vocations

In May 2011 the decision was made to set up a regional team for vocations in order to give more dynamism to that activity. In each country (Kenya, Malawi and Zambia) a coordinator and two assistants were named. Bro. Dingiswayo Soko is coordinating this ministry in Kenya and in the overall Region. Bro. Tim Mazundah was the one in charge for Malawi – may he continue to support the brothers from on high!

The team met last July in Karonga, Malawi, for five days of reflection and organization under the direction of Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, Regional Assistant for Religious Life. We wish much success to all the team, with the active support of all the brothers in the Region.



Bro. Dingiswayo Soko

KENYA

Faustino's annual enrollment on the Marianist world day of prayer.



Many of the children are from Our Lady of Nazareth primary school and St Mary's parish. It was a great moment for these young children who are embracing the life of Faustino. Fr. Mike June was the main celebrant. The ceremony was attended by about 200 congregants.

Bro. Julius Nandi, SM

WHY DO SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY NOT HEAR THE CALL OF JESUS?

Interview with Juan Carlos Martos, CMF

Director of Vocations for the Congregation of the Claretian Missionaries



Fr. Juan Carlos Martos, is the author of the well-known work: *“Open the heart. Vocation Ministry in Difficult but Awesome Times.”* This interview done by Zenit in 2009 has just been published: <http://www.masdecerca.com/2011/11/juan-carlos-martos-cmf-pastoral-vocacional-en-la-asamblea-general-de-la-confer/> - <http://www.zenit.org/article-30131?l=spanish>

ZENIT: *Jesus continues to call men and women to follow him, just as he did two thousand years ago on the shores of Lake Tiberias. The problem is that many young people today do not know how to hear that call. (...)*

JCM: The topic of vocations is one of the most serious problems we are currently experiencing, particularly in my congregation, the Claretian Missionaries.

“Difficult times” [in the title of my book] means that the situation, in which we are currently living, on the social plane, as well as on that of the Church, is a culture in which God is not the ultimate reference point. So when God is not THE most important, God is simply not important at all. In this sense, in the big and little decisions that the person of today makes, God is left out. On the face of it, this situation puts the Church in real difficulties for the present and the future. God has disappeared from the human horizon.

What do you think are the real reasons why young people do not say “yes” to the Lord?

Well, it seems to me that our job is this: we have to make it possible for the youth of our time, instead of asking “What am I going to do with my life?” to be able to put the question to God: “Lord, what do you want me to do with my life?”

And, in order to take this step, I believe it is fundamental that they have an experience of great gratitude towards God. And then the question comes up: “Lord, what do you want me to do, you who have done so much for me?” It seems to me that this is the key....

A conviction in the Church today is: Vocation ministry is either anchored in pastoral ministry or it remains marginalized and blurred....

It is a question of creating a vocational culture. That is, the topic of vocation ministry must not continue to be, as it has been, the little Cinderella behind the ministry, but must take the forward place it deserves, which I believe is its rightful place, at the heart, the center, because it means placing any and every person before the Lord who calls. This is vocation ministry.

Mark Motz, Aspirant — San Antonio—USA



2011 08 Spanish group at La Chartreuse



2011 08 — Mussidan — Rue des Frères Chaminade

SOCIETE DE MARIE - SOCIETY OF MARY -
COMPañA DE MARIA

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Next issue: February 2012.

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