

Encuentros en Europa



European Meeting

From October 5 to 8, the 8th European Meeting of Marianist Lay Communities took place. It was held in Agen, the birthplace of our founder, Blessed Mother Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon. A pilgrimage to La Madeleine in Bordeaux, where our founder, Blessed Father Guillaume-Joseph Chaminade, worked, completed this return to our roots.

The theme of the meeting, “She rose and departed,” illustrates well the mission that each member of the Family has to follow Mary in her impulse and to share with others the treasure that is the Marianist charism. Uniting us in our being Church was the theme of World Youth Day.

Four days of celebrations, moments of prayer and fellowship helped to weave and strengthen the bonds that unite brothers and sisters in faith and heart across borders.

POLAND

On the occasion of the 170th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a pilgrimage to Rome took place from December 4 to 9, 2024.

ZARAGOZA

A community of faith has grown up around the Colegio del Pilar in Valencia (Spain) that transcends it and is inspired by the first Congregation founded by Blessed G. J. Chaminade in 1800 at La Madeleine in Bordeaux. It is a community of fervent Christians who celebrate, form themselves, and go out on mission. An open and welcoming community that attracts new members through its infectious enthusiasm, with a high presence of young people.



NEWSLETTER CLM

Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista



África

TOGO

Celebration of 45 years of presence of the CLM in Togo. There were 9 consecrated to Mary.



Asia

In January 2024, representatives from four branches of Marianist schools in India, South Korea, and Japan gathered in Bangalore, India, for a training seminar. The then Director of Education at the headquarters participated as a keynote speaker, highlighting the uniqueness of Marianist education and its relevance in the modern world. Marianist schools in the Asian region already have a long history, with some schools dating back more than 100 years.

NORTH AMERIQUE

United States

One of the main activities and primary focus of the CLM in the United States has been the launch in 2024 of a national program called The Fiat Initiative.

The Fiat Initiative is a three-year effort to mobilize and empower Marianist Laity to take an active role in the mission of the CLM-NA as a community of communities. The initiative has four goals with associated actions and objectives.



Quebec (Canada) CLM 2024

Marianist Center for Faith Education

This Center was co-founded in 2000 by members of the SM and CLM. Twenty-four years later, the Center continues its mission of evangelization in collaboration with the Diocese of Quebec and local parishes. While Father Paul-Arthur Gilbert continues to serve part-time, the Center is now 100% run and administered by members of the CLM.

Several members of the CLM participate in this mission, some on an occasional basis, others working there almost full-time. All are volunteers.



AMÉRICA LATINA

Colombia

The National Meeting held between November 2 and 4 was a significant experience in which our brothers encountered God and each other around the theme of hope as part of our charism and our work in the environments where each community is located.

Ecuador

Marianist Family of Ecuador, Patron Saint's Day of the Marianist Family, Day of Prayer for Vocations, city of Latacunga, Ecuador.

Chile.

Under the title "The Meaning of Advent," we, the CLM of San Miguel - Santiago de Chile, gathered on Saturday, November 23rd. Since Advent is a time of hope, we were joined by enthusiastic "new" participants: members of the María sin Fronteras community and representatives of the Marianist school Instituto Miguel León Prado.

Latin American Meeting in Campinas, SP- Brazil

From July 22 to 27, 2024, Centro Cana became the beating heart of the Latin American Marianist Family. During this blessed week, lay men and women from different countries gathered to strengthen communion, share experiences, and renew our commitment to the Marianist mission.

With immense gratitude, we thank the representatives from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador, Cuba, and Brazil for their presence, as well as the special visit of LMC President Boris from Spain.



PERÚ

Lima Zone

Marianist Family Meeting held on August 28 with the presence of CLM, Marian Alliance, and Society of Mary representatives from Latin America. Ideas and dreams were shared. It was very emotional and joyful, leaving much hope.

La Libertad Zone

In March, we participated in Marianist Family Day and Palm Sunday, where we participated in a Station. The presence of the CLM was massive, living the Marianist charism at all times.

Mexico

CLM Mexico, Puebla region.

Communities focused on evangelization in the style of Mary, whose mission includes educating in the faith, promoting justice, and serving others.

Cuba

At the beginning of 2024, there were three Marianist lay fraternities in the country. In the first months of the year, a group of lay people expressed their desire to be part of Marianist life, thus starting two new communities: A Jesús por María (To Jesus through Mary) and Santa María de la Esperanza (Holy Mary of Hope).





World Council of the Marianist Family FMI News- 2025

October 2025

Extraordinary General Chapter: January 15-29, 2025, for the updating of our Constitutions

At the 33rd General Chapter in 2022, the Congregation resolved to undertake an updating of the *Rule of Life*, which has been in use since 1984, as part of the Congregation's reconfiguration. Over two years, all the Marianist Sisters in every Unit collaborated in preparing the revised Constitutions. These were approved at an Extraordinary General Chapter in January 2025, then submitted to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, and we are now awaiting approval. (We met Pope Francis at the General Audience on January 22)



Visits to the Units: This year, we visited the District of India (January 30 – February 11), the Region of France (April 2–15), and the five countries of the Latin American Region (May 12–31: Chile, Argentina, Brazil; and September 12–28: Colombia, Ecuador). During the visit to the District of India, Sister Usha Vichatt was installed as District Superior.



New District Council of India



It is always a source of great joy and comfort for us to meet other members and collaborators of the Marianist Family present in each Unit during our visits, and to have the opportunity to pray together, share our lives, and get to know one another. They value the presence of our Sisters in their countries and are grateful for the chance to share in our charism and collaborate in our mission. We hope that this relationship of mutual support and collaboration, in the spirit of the Marianist Family, will continue to grow.



Community of Les Cédres (France)



Encounter with Faustino group in Miguel León Prado School (Santiago de Chile)



Retreat day with the leadership team of the "Caballito" school in Buenos Aires



Fraternal gathering of the SM and FMI communities of Latacunga (Ecuador) with the GA



Prayer with the lay communities of Campinas (Brazil)



Meeting with the lay communities of Bogotá (Colombia)



Foundation of the New Community in Agen: October 15, 2025

After a long period of reflection, dialogue, and discernment, seeking God's will, our entire Congregation officially established a new community in Agen on October 15th, 2025. This community depends on the General Administration while maintaining solidarity with the Region of France. It is formed by six Sisters: two from the Region of France: Sr. Marie Luce Baillet and Sr. Dominique Saunier; two from the Province of Korea: Sr. Ana Lim and Sr. Gertrude Ju; and two from the Region of Africa: Sr. Lucie Sande (Ivory Coast) and Sr. Christine Tindadeba (Togo).

Beginning in January 2025, the General Council held several online meetings to help these sisters to get to know, understand, and accept one another as an intercultural community, and to participate in the common mission of the Congregation. During these meetings, we reflected and shared on the theme of interculturality within the community. Additionally, through a program held from October 14th to 30th, the sisters had the opportunity to deepen their relationships through several meetings and a retreat.

We hope that this community will become a living witness, embodying the life of Mother Adele within the Diocese of Agen, among the Marianist Family, and in response to the needs of the world.



The new community of Agen



Mission Sending Eucharist

FMI General Council



Curia Generalizia dei Marianisti

News from the Society of Mary | Noticias de la Compañía de María
Nouvelles de la Société de Marie 2024-25

WHAT'S HAPPENING

VISITATIONS

Support Visits

2024 Nov-Dec: Latin America (AF & PR)

2025 Feb: India (DB & PR)

2025 Feb: Switzerland (AF & JB)

2025 Apr-May: Ivory Coast (AF & JB)

2025 May: Austria-Germany (DB & PR)

Canonical Visits

2024 Feb: La Madeleine (AF & JB)

2025 Oct: Eastern Africa

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Feb: Visitation: Togo (Canonical Visit)

2026 April/May: Visitation: Japan (Support Visit), Korea (Canonical Visit)

2026 May 18 - June 3: Nazareth Formation Program – Nairobi

2026 - 3-31 July: Horizons - Berriz, Spain



Marianist Curia hosts youth encounters

Over the past year, Via Latina welcomed several groups of young people to explore Marianist life, leadership and mission. In Rome, about 150 Marianist youth from Japan, Korea, France, Spain, Italy, USA, Togo and Peru joined the Jubilee of Youth from July 31–Aug. 2, participating in three days of prayer, reflection and activities focused on identity, charism and mission.

Students from the University of Dayton visited in October during their pilgrimage to the Synod

of Bishops, meeting with the General Administration Community, touring the archives and joining communal prayer and dinner. Students from the Honors Program at St. Mary's University visited in March for leadership seminars, archive tours and interviews with members of the General Council. In August, 35 young teachers from Marianist schools in Spain visited for a five-day pilgrimage, engaging with leaders, celebrating Mass and exploring the archives.

Mission opens in Ghana, Vietnam explored; Europe considers renewal

New community in Ghana

The Region of Togo opened a new community and mission in Garu (diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga), in northeastern Ghana, on January 5, 2025. This new mission is opened at the invitation of the local bishop, Msgr. Alfred Agyenta. The community is made up of Brothers Frédéric Kodjo Bini and Patrice Médesso Agao, from Togo, and Philipp Adoka Okisai, from the Region of East Africa. The mission will take place primarily at Father Morin Memorial Junior High School in Garu, which belongs to the diocese.

Possible foundation in Vietnam

The SM is considering opening a new foundation in Vietnam. In April 2024, Fr. André Fétis and Bro. Pablo Rambaud paid a visit to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), assisted by the FMI sisters. They visited some houses of congregations of brothers (La Salle, St. John of God...) and met with the bishop and the vicar of religious life of the diocese. From this visit, the Units of the Asian Zone (Japan, Korea and India) have been asked to study the possibility of opening a community there. Japan has a professed Vietnamese brother, and it continues its efforts to have more

candidates from Vietnam. The General Council is in dialogue with these Units, which have given an initial affirmative response to this proposal.

Restructuring Europe

More than a year ago, a process of dialogue began with the different Units of Europe (Austria-Germany, Italy, France and Spain) to discern together the future of the SM in Europe. The reality of each of these Units is different, but they all face the progressive and rapid decrease in the number of religious, while maintaining a good missionary presence in the works.

At the European Zone (CEM) meeting in November 2024, the Superior General presented a first proposal with several options to continue the discernment that had begun. In April 2025, the CMS met again to continue the discernment with the presence of two members of the General Council. The Council has sent a new consultation to the Councils of the Units in order to be able to make a decision with the CEM in April 2026.



La Madeleine: a source place for all!

The project of an international animation of La Madeleine continues. The group visits continued, from the Collège Grand-Lebrun in Bordeaux, Spain, the USA, Australia and Colombia. In September the seminarians and then the community and the staff of the General Administration came from Rome. This visit to the places of foundation, in Bordeaux and Agen, creates a new link with our history and our Founders. The development of La Madeleine as a place of formation, for short or even long-term

stays, offered to the whole Family, must continue: it is an ideal place of rejuvenation. Online training is also to be considered.

To lead this project, the team must be strengthened by local and international contributions on an ad hoc basis or for a long period. The community has lost two important members since March. Volunteers can come from our four branches, in consultation with Brother Hervé, the current director.

Four themes of General Chapter guide new approaches in youth ministry

Evangelizing attention to young people is not only a priority of the Society of Mary, but of the entire Marianist Family, as highlighted by the World Meeting of Families in 2022.

Our General Chapter of 2024 had focused all its attention on this theme of pastoral care for and with young people. At the end of the synodal discernment, the main orientations for the development of youth ministry for the years to come were grouped according to four main lines:

- a. we must increasingly promote a culture of encounter;
- b. we feel called to take special care of the spiritual accompaniment of young people;
- c. we clearly perceive the importance of a look of mercy;
- d. And it seems fundamental to us to give the voice, the leading role and the responsibility to young people in all kinds of initiatives for evangelization

and the improvement of the surrounding world.

As proposed by the General Chapter, we will dedicate the next few years to exploring each of the four themes related to our youth ministry. Although we deepen each theme together over time within the whole congregation, each community is asked not to wait for a specific year to act on a particular theme. Thus:

- during the year 2024-25, we have sent two letters to all communities to introduce this work on the one hand and to begin reflection and exploration on the Preamble of the Chapter document
- In this year 2025-26, we are focusing on the theme of "Culture of Encounter". A first document has been sent to the entire Society of Mary for personal and community reflection on this theme. A second letter will be sent on March 1st.

- During the year 2026-27, we will explore the theme of "Abundant Mercy"

- During the year 2027-28, we will focus on the theme of "A Spirit of Accompaniment"

- And during the year 2028-29, we will deal together with the theme of "Todos, Todos, Todos[1]"

[1] This is Pope Francis' invitation to young people at WYD in Lisbon: "There is room for everyone in the Church. And please, when there is none, let us make sure that there are some, even for those who make mistakes, for those who fall, for those who struggle... para todos, todos, todos" ("for all, all, all"). With these words, Pope Francis welcomed the 1.5 million young people for WYD in Lisbon.



WCMF November 2025 News from Alliance Mariale OCTOBER 2025

➤ Since the 2024 World Council of the Marianist Family: the new General Council of the A.M.

After the General Assembly (in virtual form) and the elections, validated by our bishop-referent, Mgr. Jean-Paul James, of Bordeaux, the new General Council of our Institute was elected for a 5-year term, starting November 21, 2024:

- General Superior: **Marie-Laure JEAN** (France) 2nd term.

- General councilors:

Françoise Romaine LISSANA (Togo), 2nd term. *First councilor.*

Maria Eliana REBOLLEDO (Chile) 1st elective term *After appointment in March 2023 to replace S. Galarza*

Gwladys HOUNTOMEY (Togo) 1st term.

➤ Resolutions for the 2024-2029 period

These resolutions, adopted by our General Meeting, cover three main areas:

1/ OUR IDENTITY - OUR CHARISM - OUR MISSION

1.1 Developing our sense of belonging to a Secular Institute

1.2 Cooperate as consecrated secular women in the maternal mission of the Virgin Mary.

2/ FRATERNAL LIFE - COMMUNICATION - INTERNATIONAL LINKS

2.1 Fostering fraternal relations in the Alliance Mariale

2.2 Revitalizing our newsletter INTERNATIONAL LINK

3/ VOCATIONS and FORMATION

3.1 Encouraging vocations ministry

3.2 Organizing and developing formation.

➤ Since the end of 2024

- Two entries into "discernment" (*corresponding to a period of postulancy*)
One in Chile, one in Ivory Coast.
- A death in Canada: Madeleine Couture, perpetually professed, on August 12, 2025, aged 88.
There are no longer any members of our Institute in Canada.

➤ Overview of membership and countries in October 2025:

French-speaking Africa:

Ivory Coast: 14 perpetually professed, two of them temporary. One person in initial formation, one in discernment.

Togo: 12 perpetually professed. Two people in initial formation.

Congo-RDC: 3 professed sisters: two perpetual and one temporary.

Congo-Brazzaville: 1 perpetually professed.

Latin America:

Chile: 4 perpetually professed, one in discernment.

Ecuador: 1 perpetually professed; **Peru**: 1 perpetually professed.

Other countries:

France and Belgium: 6 perpetually professed, 1 temporary professed.

Japan: a perpetually professed.

Marie-Laure JEAN
General Superior of Alliance Mariale
respugen@alliancemariale.org