

# Via Latina 22

News From the General Administration - Society of Mary

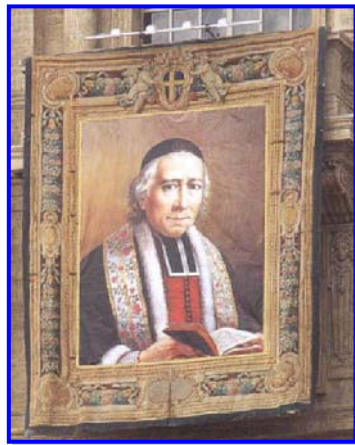


Issue # 179 - June 2009

## Cause of Blessed Chaminade: A Cure in Saint Louis

In the Congregation for the Causes of Saints they say that the miracle for canonization comes ten years after beatification. Let's hope that this is true in the case of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade.

In May 2004, at the age of 24, Rachel Baumgartner was cured of Askin Sarcoma. Rachel was born in St. Louis (USA) in 1983; She is a parishioner of the



Marianist parish of Our Lady of the Pillar. At the age of 15 she began to feel the first pains in her shoulder. Since it was a tumor, she received all the medical treatments available. In the year 2000 she made the pilgrimage to Rome with her parish to assist at the beatification of Father Chaminade and to ask his help. But the illness continued to advance. When Rachel was declared incurable by her doctors, in May 2004 she had her last surgery, just to relieve the pain. Her parents, her pastor Father Tobin, and the Marianist community and the parish prayed to Father Chaminade for Rachel's health. When the doctors

examined the extracted tissues, they realized that the cancerous mass was dead.

Since that time, Rachel's health has continued to improve. Her pediatrician, Dr. Bergamini and Rachel herself are convinced that medical science cannot explain this cure. Rachel believes she received a favor from Father Chaminade. She is a happy young person who radiates peace and who helps other persons to live with hope through their infirmities and problems. Rachel was married in July 2008 to Gabe Lozano, son of a Catholic family very involved with the Cathedral Parish of St. Louis. Finally, Glamour Magazine chose her as "Woman of the Year" last year, in great part due to her charitable work.

Given the extraordinary conditions of the case, Dr. Bergamini suggested it be studied as a possible miraculous cure. The outgoing Superior General, Father Fleming, asked the Postulator, Father Gascón, to study the case. Father Gascón consulted the Congregation for the Causes of Saints about the seriousness and viability of this process. Having received a positive response from the medical consultant, the Postulator has taken the steps necessary to initiate the cause at the diocesan level. Accompanied by Brother Michael McAward, Secretary General, he traveled to St. Louis last January to speak with Rachel Lozano, Dr. Bergamini, Father Tobin and the Provincial Council of the Province of the United States, in order to pursue this step in the cause for the canonization of Father Chaminade. An attorney, Mr. Gerard T. Noce, former student of the Marianists, has worked at collecting the medical records and the list of witnesses. In a meeting held last January, Father Antonio and Brother Michael communicated to the Apostolic Administrator

### General Administration Calendar

- June 4-7: AF and JMA visit Poland
- June 9: General Council meeting with the General Council of the FMI
- June 10-25: EV visits Korea and China
- June 14-23: AF and JMA visit the Philippines
- July 19-Aug 1: General Leadership Assembly, Rome

### G.A. Communications

- Death Notice - #'s 7-8
- Apr. 20: Information and Links for the Consultation on Mixed Composition
- May 21: Update regarding the Consultation on Mixed Composition

of the Archdiocese, Bishop Robert J. Hermann, the desire of the Marianists to proceed toward opening the cause of Rachel's cure. Bishop Hermann received the news happily. The local press has become interested and even published a very favorable article about Rachel, the Marianists, and Father Chaminade.

Given such signs of holiness and goodness in the persons and institutions, the Postulator and the General Council think that we should proceed with the opening of the cause of the cure attributed to Blessed Chaminade. We expect the list of witnesses and the medical proofs at the beginning of summer; so at the beginning of the new academic year we should be able to present to the new Archbishop of St. Louis, the Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, the formal request for opening, at the diocesan level, the cause of the miraculous cure attributed to the intercession of Blessed Chaminade. With joy and hope, let us pray for this "good cause."

To read an article from the St Louis *Post-Dispatch* about this subject click on the following link:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/1F4756723DBCDD73862575BC001E5C7F?OpenDocument>



## PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN SECTOR OF THE CONGO

Congratulations to Stanislas Makouaya, SM, of the Sector of the Congo. Stanislas professed perpetual vows on May 3, 2009 at Saint Rita de Moukondo. We pray for the continued development of his vocation and for his life-mission in the Society of Mary

## ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON MIXED COMPOSITION



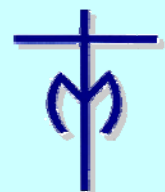
As the Consultation on Mixed Composition comes to a close, we would like to thank so many members of the SM who have responded with care and enthusiasm. We have had a very good "response percentage" and have many reasons to believe that this information will be very useful as we move forward in this study and in the discussions that will follow throughout the next year. Special gratitude to those who, for one reason or another, ran into trouble while completing the survey and through patient perseverance completed it successfully. Though the last date for submitting written Consultations has passed, we are happy to continue to receive online responses up until June 7. May Blessed Chaminade intercede for us in this important matter of our precious charism of Mixed Composition!

<http://dparesearch.net/Marianist/English> <http://dparesearch.net/Marianist/German>

### Request for Prayers:

Prayers are requested through the intercession of Fr. Chaminade for OLWEN OWLES, a resident of Kenya. She is suffering from an aggressive and inoperable brain tumor.

*Request submitted by Fr. Martin Solma, SM (EA).*



## SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOREST : *by Remy Sandah, SM*

In thought and word, in prayer and actions, Marianists wish to live in solidarity with the most neglected. Through various involvements, they try to combat the injustices which cause or aggravate situations of poverty. As the JPIC Commission of Rome has suggested, it is in our houses of formation that the basic work must be done to familiarize young religious with the problems of our countries and our planet, and to involve them in the search for solutions that flow from our knowledge and our faith. In this regard, I am happy to share with you the reactions of one formation community, the Marianist Pre-Novitiate of Togo, who sent us this feedback after its participation in the Marianist Lenten campaign, "40 Days with the 40 most neglected."

*Lent 2009*  
**40 days with**  
**the last 40**

"The community of the Pre-Novitiate of the Region of Togo inserted the prayer for the forty most neglected countries into its program of prayer during the season of Lent. For this purpose, the community began morning prayer earlier than usual. The brother who led the prayer read the letter from the country of concern for that day and, at the end of the letter, a prayer intention was articulated so that each brother might think and pray for that country during the course of the day. Furthermore, a sheet of paper carrying the inscription 'Pray for ...(name of country)' was placed on the altar. Since the students of our school come to pray in the community chapel, it was a good opportunity for the community to involve the students in that campaign of prayer for the forty most neglected countries on the planet.

"That prayer campaign awakened in us a solidarity with the most neglected countries in the world. We certainly are conscious of the existence of very poor countries, our own included, but we could not put our finger on just what constituted the poverty of these countries for which we prayed during Lent. The letters written by citizens of these poor countries, those citizens who daily live the reality on the ground, put us into communion with the sufferings that they endure each day. This campaign of prayer allowed us to look closer to home to see if our Marianist works seek to eradicate poverty and provide means to the needy to help them out of their destitution.

"The campaign was very enriching. For some among us, it broadened geographic and historical knowledge. For others, the campaign sensitized us to the injustices in certain countries, as well as to the bad distribution of resources in poor countries. We hope that this campaign ignites in us the desire to struggle or to work for more social justice and for peace in our countries. We thank the provinces of Spain and the General Administration for this initiative." *The Community of Notre Dame du OUI, Kara, Togo.*

### CHANGE OF INFORMATION: NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Fr. Juan Carlos Manrique (Brazil):

[jcmanrique@marianistas.org](mailto:jcmanrique@marianistas.org)

Fr. Javier Nugent (CH):

[javier.nugent@marianistas.org](mailto:javier.nugent@marianistas.org)

Bro. Simon Choi (KO):

[smarysimon@hotmail.com](mailto:smarysimon@hotmail.com)



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS

On Saturday, May 9, Fr. Antonio Gascón participated in the celebration of the Eucharist at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the institution of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The Eucharist, presided over by the Congregation's Prefect, Archbishop Angelo Amato, included the participation of all the members of the Congregation, theological consultants, historians, doctors as well as the College of Postulators.

What we know as the Congregation for the Causes of Saints today, was instituted by Pope Paul VI with the Apostolic Constitution *Sacra Rituum Congregatio*, on May 8, 1969. Out of the old Congregation of Rites, the Pope created two new Dicasteries: The Congregation of Rites and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints which is concerned with the processes of beatification, martyrdom and canonization. At the same time, the Holy Father simplified the canonical procedures applicable to both the local diocese, as well as in for the Congregation in Rome. This canonical simplification paved the way for the declaration of the virtues of Fr. Chaminade and the recognition of the miracle which brought about his beatification in 2000, as it also has done for the other 8 Marianist religious martyrs.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, there was a reception in the lobby of the Paul VI Hall in Vatican City. It is at these events, and in this context that one can see very clearly how many people actually work closely with the Vatican Curia for these Causes, and it is evident that they all form a true community of faith and work devotedly in the service of the Holy Father.



Fr. Gascón receives communion from the Prefect of the Congregation, Archbishop Amato.

## MARIANIST STUDENTS FROM SAN ANTONIO VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICE IN PERU

Led by Brian Halderman, SM, a group of students from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas (USA) have traveled to Peru where they are working at the Marianist Rural Pastoral Formation Center in Otuzco. So far they are having a great experience. You can see more about this effort by visiting a blog at:

<http://buenconsejo.marianistas.org/> .

