



VIA LATINA 22

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News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Celebration of Perpetual Vows in the Region of Japan

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, Bro. Phero (Peter) Le Van Sinh, a member of the Region of Japan from Vietnam, professed his perpetual vows in a ceremony held in the Gyosei School Chapel in Tokyo. Brother Sinh becomes the first perpetually professed member of the Society of Mary from Vietnam, and for the Region of Japan, his profession is the first such ceremony held in the Region since 1994, thirty years ago. The profession ceremony itself was held on the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, something closely associated with the origins of the Society of Mary and the other branches of the Marianist Family.



Bro. Le Van Sinh with the members of the Society of Mary.

The ceremony was presided over by Fr. Koichi Ichise, SM, Superior of the Region of Japan. Several Marianist priests, including Fr. Dominic Park, SM, the Regional Superior of Korea, and three Vietnamese priests ministering in Japan concelebrated. In attendance were Brother Sinh's two older brothers and his younger sister who travelled from Vietnam to be present for the ceremony as well as several other relatives and members of the Vietnamese community living in Japan. In addition to the two Society of Mary members from his own religious community in Sapporo and from the other Marianist communities in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagasaki, were members of each of the other Marianist Family branches: both Japanese and Vietnamese sisters from the FMI, several members from the various groups of the Marianist Lay Communities, and the member of the Alliance Mariale in Japan. A number of faculty members from Gyosei School also attended the Eucharistic Liturgy of Perpetual Profession.



Bro. Le Van Sinh with his older brothers and younger sister.

Following the ceremony some seventy participants moved to the Dining Room of the Chaminade Marianist Community Residence next-door for a festive meal.

Though the weather was beautiful that day, a large tent had been set up in the lawn area in case of inclement weather and also to handle the large number of participants. The meal ended with Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese songs sung by groups and by individuals. The younger Vietnamese participants also did a song and dance for the group.



Brother Sinh's journey to perpetual profession has been a long one. He began his Marianist community life experience in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam in 2012, arrived in Japan in April of 2014 and, after several years as an Aspirant and Postulant, completed his novitiate formation in Tokyo in October of 2020. Since April of this year he has been assigned to the Kosei Marianist Community in Sapporo and is involved in ministry at Sapporo Kosei School.

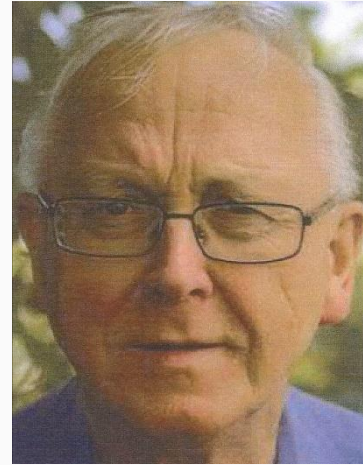
We sincerely hope that Brother Sinh's profession of perpetual vows will be a catalyst for the development of the Society of

Mary in Vietnam and mark a new beginning for its growth in Japan.

Appointment of the Director of the Area Community of Switzerland

At its very first meeting, on September 16, 2024, the General Council appointed Fr. Leo Müller for a second term as Director of the Area Community of Switzerland. This was the first decision taken by the new Council, at the service of our brothers present in the second country of foundation of the Society of Mary, in 1839.

Father Leo has a long experience in leadership. He is an attentive pastor. He will continue to put these qualities at the service of his brothers. The synodal spirit encourages the brothers, in union with their Director, to actively unite their experience and talents for the good of the community and all those around them. We thank Fr. Leo for his availability once again and we assure all the brothers of our prayers in union with them.



Appointment of the Director of the Area Community of Canada



In the same month of September, the General Council appointed Fr. Florian Royer-Chabot for a second term as Director of the Area Community of Canada. We thank him for having accepted this mission with generosity. Due to a greater dispersion of the brothers, following the departure from St- Anselme last year, attention to each one and communion and communication between them have become especially important.

We thank Father Florian for providing this service with availability, enriching it with his fraternal sense and his humor, which are always appreciated.

May the Lord and the Virgin Mary support him and each of the brothers on the path of their vocation.

The General Council finally meets!



L-G: Bro. Jerome Balakiyema, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, Bro. Dennis Bautista and Fr. Andre Fétis at *Centro Ad Gentes* in Nemi for planning, team-building sessions.

The General Council began their year together on a five day retreat at *Centro Ad Gentes* in Nemi on Oct. 17-22, 2024 to pray, reflect, plan and orient their ministry of service to the Society of Mary.

This was their first opportunity to be together, after the conclusion of the General Chapter in July, after awaiting approval for the Schengen visa and arrival to Rome of Brothers Jerome on Sept. 22 and Dennis on Oct. 13.

Meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family

The World Council of the Marianist Family met in Rome, at our home on Via Latina 22, on October 11-13, 2024. The Council is made up of the General Councils of the two religious branches (FMI and SM), the International Team of the MLC and the Coordinating Council of the Alliance Mariale.

This year, for health reasons, the Coordinator of the Alliance Mariale, Marie-Laure Jean, could not be present, although she was able to connect by means of the internet at various times during the meetings. Bro. Dennis Bautista, the new Assistant General of the SM, only arrived for the final celebration, as he had not received his visa to come to Italy.



The members of the World Council of the Marianist Family, at the feet of Our Lady of the Pillar, in the chapel of the SM General Administration, on October 12.

The meeting continued to reflect on the issues that have occupied the Council for the past couple of years, such as communication within the Family, especially with the National Councils, and formation. We also dedicated special time to the reflection begun last year on the Marianist reality beyond the four branches that make up the Family, and how to recognize and accompany this reality.

On Sunday, October 13, the meeting concluded with the celebration of the

Eucharist in the Marianist parish of Holy Name of Mary. Together with the Italian Marianist Family, we celebrated the World Day of Marianist Prayer.

Students and faculty from the University of Dayton visit the Marianist Generalate

Eleven students and three faculty from the University of Dayton visited the Marianist Generalate in Rome for conversation, prayer and dinner on Wednesday, October 16. This Marianist gathering was part of the group's October 12-19 visit to Rome attending the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

They are among the 150 from the United States making this pilgrimage to meet Roman Catholic leaders, attend Pope Francis' general audience, join communal prayers and participate in discussions and guided tours. Mason Hennessy, a theology and communication student, received media credentials for special access to the press gallery and general assemblies.



Archivist and Postulator General Fr. Antonio Gascón showcases historical items from the International Archives.

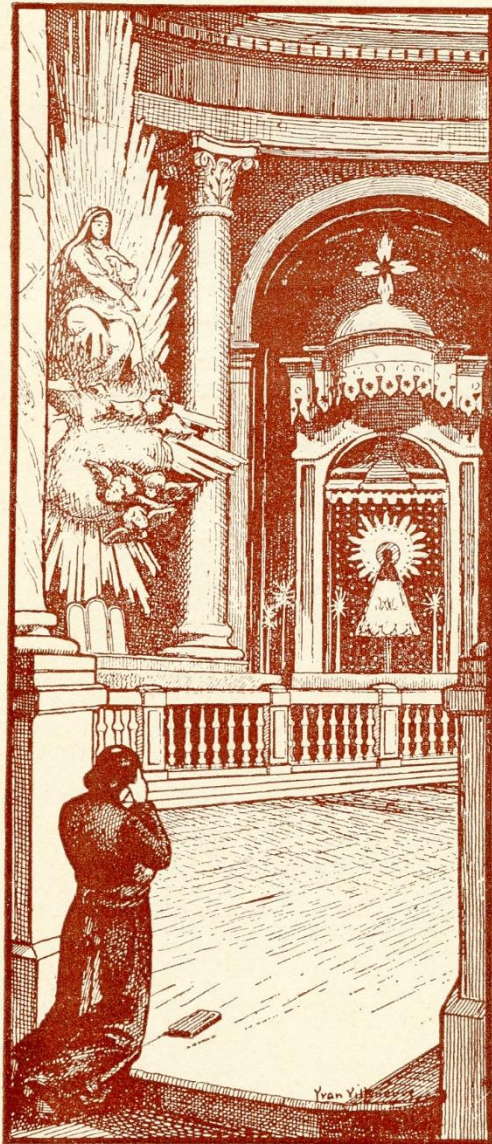
At the Curia, the students met with the General Council and administrative staff, learning about the leadership team of the Society of Mary and the upcoming international initiatives from the recent General Chapter.

Students also had the opportunity to visit the International Archives and view several historical items of note, including a handwritten letter of Blessed Chaminade. "At least one student said it was their favorite part of the day -- and they saw the pope this morning at the general audience!" Campus Minister Kelly Adamson said.

A pilgrimage to Saragossa with William-Joseph Chaminade

At last we arrived, after days of public carriages and walking, but what happened on the evening of October 11, 1797? The whole town is decked out with flags and the procession of the Virgin of the Pillar advances. My companion, Guillaume Bouet, is overcome with emotion and our tears flow, sweet and bitter at the same time, after all that we have experienced during the Terror and while the mission was resuming, my oratory was full and I had reconciled so many priests with the Catholic and Roman Church. What does God want to tell me? What is his plan for me, for Guillaume, for my brother Louis who should join us?

In Mussidan, apart from the financial problems, we had our normal routines and I deepened my knowledge of mathematics and physics. For this I did not hesitate to travel: Bordeaux, Toulouse, Marseille, Paris... All this without forgetting the essential: my consecration to God and to Mary. Hence, when they wanted to make us take the oath on the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, we refused. Our "no" was categorical. I left my brother and Father Moze, and I went to Bordeaux, to settle our parents and meet up with old acquaintances, parents of students, and the Vicar General Langoiran who was waiting for me. We had to move on and adapt.



M. Chaminade, aux pieds de Notre-Dame del Pilar, reçoit sa mission d'Apôtre de Marie.

During the Terror, my ministry was reduced to a minimum. I admit that beyond fear, I liked to play tricks on my pursuers by changing my clothes, my profession. Above all, I had absolute confidence in the Immaculate Mary who protected me many times. I had my oratory in the suburbs of Sainte-Eulalie with several possible exits and I was not too far from Saint-Laurent, to greet my aging parents.

After the Terror, I opened my oratory at my legal home on rue Dabadie, which was quickly too small, and moved to rue Sainte-Eulalie (now Paul-Louis-Lande). There, God made me understand that it was necessary to start with the youth in order to regenerate society. A small group had formed and I accompanied several of them, in particular the former noble, the citizen Lamourous (the "de" is no longer allowed). She was distraught at my departure, but I promised to write to her in the hope of finding a safe way to insure that the letters arrived.

Now, here we are in Zaragoza. Certainly the Virgin was waiting for me, there, on her pillar, to speak to my heart. Together with other priests, we cultivate the virtue of hope and prepare missionary plans. We have to live well, and we create plaster statues and white paper flowers. However, the physicist in me uses certain processes so that by dipping them in a secret mixture, in front of the stunned people, they changed to many different colors. Yes, we had to adapt once again.

In these three years of retreat, Our Lady has worked on my heart. I understood that it was necessary to be strong in faith, like the unshakable pillar. I understood,

like the Apostle James, that she sent us on mission in faith, hope and charity. I can't wait to leave. However, we still have to wait a little bit longer. In the meantime, I spend hours at the feet of *Nuestra Señora del Pilar*, as it is called here. Yes, I am sure of it, the Immaculate will triumph!

For your reflection after reading this text:

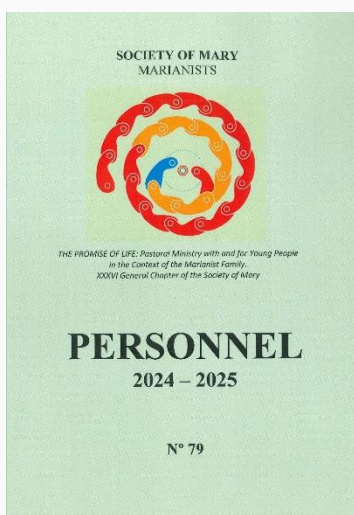
How do we adapt to change?

Is faith the driving force of our lives?

What is our hope?

What relationship do we have with Mary Immaculate?

The 2024-2025 International Personnel will arrive shortly



This year's edition of the International Personnel has already been published and will be sent to all Unit Administrations in the coming days. The time of arrival of the copies will depend on the postal and courier services used. We hope that the Personnels will arrive soon. Once they have reached the Administration of the Unit, they must be redistributed to all the communities, works, persons and institutions indicated in the previous correspondence with the General Secretariat.

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: n. 16**
- **Oct. 7: *Bulletin New Wine nr. 9***, in three languages, sent to the Directors of CEMAS, Presidents of Zonal Conferences, Superiors of Units, Superiors of Formation Houses, Members of the WCMF, from Bro. José Ignacio Iglesia, SM, International Coordinator of Centers for Marianist Studies.

G.A. Calendar

- **Nov. 6-20:** Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life, visits the Sectors of Argentina and Chile.
- **Nov. 20-22:** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, participates in the meeting of the Union of Superiors General in Rome
- **Nov. 26-Dec.17:** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, visita the Sector of Colombia-Ecuador.

Changes of Adresses

All new emails will be included in the next issue
of the International Personnel 2024-2025 (#79)