



VIA LATINA 22

336 - December 2024

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

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Visit to the sectors of Chile and Argentina

From November 7-19, the Assistant General for Religious Life, Fr. Pablo Rambaud, visited the communities of the sectors of Chile and Argentina, in the Region of Latin American.



Bro. Mauricio Silva, SM and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, in dialogue with a group of students from the Linares Institute (Chile).

The visit began in Santiago de Chile, where Father Pablo had meetings with the religious of the two communities of the capital, as well as some meetings with officials of the Chaminade Foundation, which brings together educational works in Chile. Father Pablo then visited the community of Linares, where he had opportunity to meet members of the Marianist family in Pejerrey, as well as with a group of students from the Linares Institute.



Fr. Javier Aguirre, SM and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM with a group of young people and companions participating in a program of the Marianist Mission Foundation of Argentina.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, Father Pablo participated in several celebrations and meetings with young people and members of the Marianist Family, as well as interviews with religious.

The Marianist mission in both sectors is very much alive, despite the limited presence of religious due to their small number and age. It is a mission with many works and activities and a large presence of very committed lay people.

Father Pablo, on behalf of the General Council, thanked the brothers for their welcome, as well as all those who contributed to the success of the visit.

Superior of the Region of Korea reappointed to second term



Fr. Chan Bok Dominic Park was reappointed by the General Council to serve a second term of three years as superior of the Region of Korea, starting January 2025.

We are grateful for his willingness to continue in this role of service to the Society of Mary.

Fr. Dominic was born in Gimpo, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea. He met the Marianists as a student in high school, which inspired him to enter the formation program. He professed his first vows on Feb. 2, 1993, and was ordained as a priest on Nov. 21, 2003.

Fr. Dominic earned a bachelor's degree in history from Mokpo National University and a degree in theology from the Angelicum in Rome, Italy. He has served in several important roles for the Society of Mary, including Novice Director, Regional Assistant for Religious Life, and Coordinator for the Marianist Lay Communities (MLC). He also served as the Secretary General of the Korean Association of Catholic Educational Corporations.

Pilgrimage to Bordeaux of the Marianist Fraternities of Spain



A member of the MLC from Valencia writes to us:

If I had to summarize in one sentence what I have experienced these days, it would be: BACK TO UNDERSTAND.

In our process of RE-CREATING the Marianist fraternities of the province of Zaragoza, we decided to "Pilgrimage Together" to Bordeaux, where the experience of RETURNING to our origins and LIVING the founding places where Father Chaminade started the 1st Sodality in BORDEAUX, has been truly enriching.

What we experienced from October 31 to November 3 is difficult to describe. It was a pilgrimage back to our origins, which will remain forever in our memory. A total of 106 members from Valencia, Barcelona, San Sebastian and Zaragoza joined together in Bordeaux, around the Madeleine as the central axis, to live as our brothers of the first Marianist Sodality of Bordeaux did.



Both Fr. Emilio Cárdenas, SM, and Fr. Enrique Aguilera, SM, placed us in an experiential way in the places that our founder traveled with his sodalists, trying to put us, like them, in the hands of Mary, our mother, to help him in his mission of making Jesus known to the world. They were days of great peace, in which we carried out various activities, had time to pray and, above all, to remember the terrible catastrophe that recently occurred in Valencia. We return with our batteries recharged, eager to transmit and pass on the experience to our brothers and sisters who were unable to attend.

Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the work of the organizers, as well as all those who participated and were involved in the preparation of the activities.

From Bordeaux 1804 to Bordeaux 2024, it will always remain in our hearts.

Belén Santamaría (Valencia Fraternities)

Marianist Holiness Committee

This committee was created in 2020 and over the past four years has been chaired by Fr. Eddie Alexandre (FR). Some of its objectives are: to promote Marianist causes; to bring our “saints” closer to us and those around us; to have

and offer a living knowledge of them; to integrate them into our life and missionary projects; to encourage prayer and devotion to them.



The General Council has asked Brother Hervé Dagbo (IV), Vice Rector of Chaminade Seminary in Rome, to be the new coordinator of the Marianist Holiness Committee. Hervé replaces Fr. Eddie Alexandre (FR), whom the General Council would like to publicly thank for the creation of this committee and his coordination during the past four years.

The other members of the committee can be seen in the photograph accompanying these lines: from left to right, Fr. Antonio Gascón (ES), Bro. Hervé Dagbo (IV), the person now in charge, Fr. Eddie Alexandre and Fr. Miguel Ángel Cortés (ES).

Carrying out the objectives of this committee is not the responsibility of its members only. All Units and all religious are invited to make known and promote Marianist holiness in the midst of our Family. In order to accomplish all this, many means can be used creatively. It is a very simple thing, but also very rich.

New General Council of the Alliance Mariale



Marie-Laure JEAN



Françoise Romaine LISSANA



Maria Eliana REBOLLEDO



Gwladys HOUNTOMEY

From May to November 2024, the Alliance Mariale held a General Assembly, by means of contacts made remotely and through local meetings. The General Assembly ended with the elections of the General Council of the secular institute, elected for 5 years beginning on November 21, 2024.

Coordinator: Marie-Laure Jean (France) 2nd term

Counselors:

Françoise Romaine Lissana (Togo) 2nd term

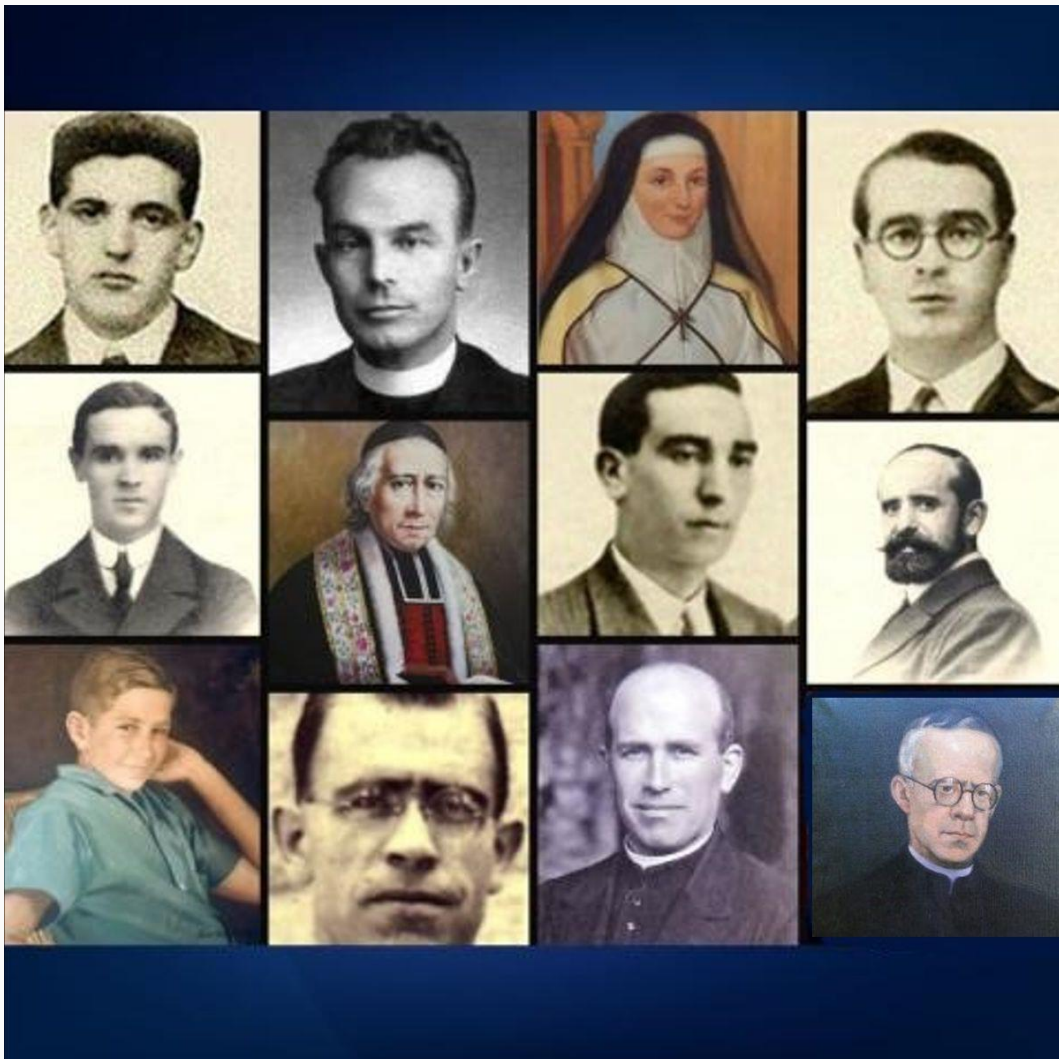
Maria Eliana Rebolledo (Chile) 1st term

Gwladys Hountomey (Togo) 1st term

We assure each of them of our prayers. May the Lord, the Virgin Mary and Blessed Chaminade accompany them in their task of governing and give each of the members of the Institute strength and missionary enthusiasm.

Sharing the Hope of the Marianist "Saints". A help to live the Jubilee Year 2025

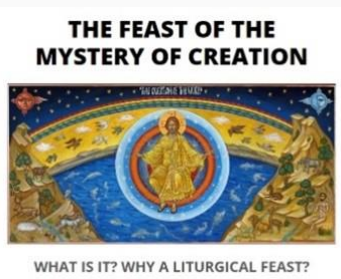
The Jubilee of 2025 is for the whole Church a great call to awaken hope in us. *Spes non confundit*, "hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). In the Bull of Invocation of this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis expresses a great wish: "The next Jubilee, therefore, will be a Holy Year characterized by hope that does not decline, hope in God. May it also help us to regain the necessary trust, both in the Church and in society, in interpersonal bonds, in international relations, in the promotion of the dignity of every person and in respect for creation. May the witness of faith be in the world a leaven of genuine hope, the proclamation of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pt 3:13), where justice and harmony dwell among peoples, oriented towards the fulfilment of the Lord's promise. Let us allow ourselves to be attracted from now on by hope and let it be through us that it may be contagious to those who desire it" (25).



The saints in the Church are privileged witnesses of the three theological virtues, and therefore of hope. Pope Francis makes explicit reference to the martyrs in the Bull: "The most convincing witness of this hope is offered to us by the martyrs, who, firm in faith in the Risen Christ, knew how to renounce earthly life in order not to betray their Lord. They are present in every age and are numerous, perhaps more than ever in our day, as confessors of life that has no end. We need to preserve their witness in order to make our hope fruitful" (20). We can therefore turn to our "saints" to find in them inspiration and encouragement to be witnesses of hope ourselves.

For this reason, throughout the year 2025 we will offer in *Via Latina* 22 small articles that bring us closer to the experience of hope, as lived by these witnesses who are so close to us. All of them were declared venerable, that is, Christians who lived in a heroic way the virtues that identify the Christian life. Let us know what they experienced and call upon their help, they will be good companions on the road in this next Jubilee Year.

Signature of the joint letter for the celebration of the Mystery of Creation



A worldwide ecumenical process is underway for various Christian churches to jointly elevate "Creation Day" (September 1), also known as the World Day of Prayer for Creation, to the status of a new liturgical feast of the Mystery of Creation.

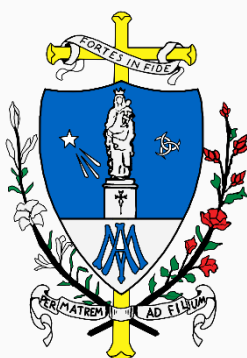
The UISG and USG have recently participated in various dialogues that have reaffirmed that this prophetic proposal is extremely important and necessary in light of the "signs of the times."

We are invited to read and sign the joint letter of support for Pope Francis, supported by Catholic organizations. The Assistant General for Temporalities has signed that letter on behalf of the General Council.

- **Memo with details:** bit.ly/memo-feast
- **Registration form:** bit.ly/sign-on-form

On December 6-7, 2024, a conference in Assisi will explore the specifics of the feast—its rank, title, biblical readings, and more. Join spiritually this important dialogue to work together to prepare for and share this what this celebration represents.

Guest Services at Via Latina 22



In the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025, groups of pilgrims will arrive in Rome. On this occasion we would like to remind you about the criteria for welcoming guests into the two communities (General Administration and Seminary), of Via Latina 22.

The house on Via Latina has limited room availability. For this reason, we remind you of our guest reception policy. First of all, we wish to preserve the nature of our residence, as a religious community dedicated to the governance of the Society of Mary and to priestly formation and not as a hotel or boarding house. For this reason, we do not welcome people from outside the Society of Mary, nor groups of pilgrims.

The following are welcomed with fraternal hospitality:

1. The religious of the Society of Mary.
2. Relatives or very close friends of a religious resident in Via Latina, provided that the religious host accompanies the guests who are using the services of the house.
3. Collaborators of our works and of the Marianist Family, closely linked to the Marianists through their friendship or management positions. These people should be accompanied by a religious resident in Via Latina.

Any exception to this policy for the reception of guests will be examined by the Superior of the General Administration community, in dialogue with the other brothers of the community.

During the month of August we do not accept guests, as the service staff of the house is on vacation.



The Community of the General Administration and the Community of the Chaminade International Seminary wish all our brothers and sisters, their collaborators and families, a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

G.A. Communications recently sent

- **Death Notice: N. 17-18**
- **Nov. 8:** *6 year Plan of the General Council*, in three languages, to all Marianist religious, sent by the General Council.
- **Nov. 25:** *Message from the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF)*, in three languages, to all Marianist religious.

G.A. Calendar

- **Nov. 26- Dec.17 :** Fr. André-Joseph Fétis, SM, Superior General, visits the sector of Colombia-Ecuador.