



**VIA LATINA 22**

**# 279 - April 2019**

News from the General Administration of the Society of Mary

## General Council Visitation of the Region of Peru



**Members of the Region of Peru with the General Council.**

From February 19 until March 12, all four members of the General Council visited the Region of Peru. They arrived together, from Bogotá, Colombia, having just completed their visitation there.

The Region of Peru is comprised of 13 religious, dispersed among 3 communities. The community in Lima is located on the same property as the *Parish of María Reina*, which the SM staffs, as well as the *Colegio* by the same name. The community in the nearby city of Callao is located on the campus of the *Marianist Colegio of San Antonio* and also animates the nearby parish of *María, Madre del Redentor*. In the northern part of the country, in the city of

Trujillo, the third community lives on the campus of the *Colegio of San José Obrero*. These three schools, along with the *Colegio Santa María* and its retreat house, also in Lima, have been longstanding works of the Society of Mary in Peru, and have made the Marianists very well respected throughout the entire country for their leadership in education.

In addition to these educational works, the Region is responsible for a large number of social works in Callao as well as in Otuzco, a small city in the mountains about two hours north of Trujillo. In Callao, a city that suffers from a good deal of poverty, violence and fractured families, the *Centro Thomas Helm, SM* and *Centro Pastoral Albert Mitchel, SM* offer an oasis for youth and support for their families, by providing positive alternatives to these negative elements. In Otuzco, one can find a number of very interesting works nestled in the high sierra surrounding the city. *ChamiRadio* provides inspirational broadcasting to a radius of more than 250 km! It also gives a voice to the indigenous people of the sierra who often find themselves isolated and exploited. *AMAS*, a small group of scientists, help the indigenous people monitor their environment so that contamination by large mining companies can be identified and confronted. The pastoral house, *María Madre del Buen Consejo*, located in the center of Otuzco, serves as a central headquarters for catechetical formation, support and hospitality for villagers in the surrounding regions. In addition to all these, student and adults from various Marianist Lay Communities from Lima, Callao and Trujillo, come periodically to these villages to help teach the faith by word, and by deed as they educate the people in the Faith and assist in building projects in their communities.



**The General Council and Fr. Ralph Doorack, SM prepare for a broadcast on *ChamiRadio*.**

The Region, though it has only a few religious, is graced with a very large and dedicated group of lay collaborators. From those who staff the Regional Office, to the school faculties, to those

who assist in social ministries, the lay involvement in our Marianist mission is exemplary for the rest of the SM. There are challenges as well in the Region. Chief among these are the aging of the religious and the strong need to receive new and fervent religious vocations. The General Council was very grateful for the opportunity to share in the life and mission of our brothers of Peru, as well as experience the deep spiritual and cultural life of its people. We commend the Region of Peru to the prayers of the entire Marianist Family, asking our Lady to send vocations, and sustain those who are already dedicating their lives to Her mission in this country.



**Fr. André Féris, SM, poses outside a Chapel in the Sierra near Otuzco where a catechetical mission was recently held.**

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## Canonical visit to the Chaminade International Seminary



Fr. Ignace Pagnan SM, superior of the Region of Togo and president of (CAM – Marianist African Zone) and Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, Assistant General for Religious Life, made the annual visit to the Chaminade International Seminary at Via Latina 22 in Rome from March 15-17, 2019.

During this time, they met with the team of formators, from whom they received a complete report. They also met with all of the seminarians. They shared with them the liturgical celebrations and their meals. They also spent time with them at an informal community gathering on the night of March 16.

The visitors presented the report concerning this visit to the Extended General Council of the Society of Mary on March 19. The two visitors also met with the seminary community to present the most important insights stemming from their visit.

The process of formation in the seminary is very important in the Society of Mary. For this reason, all aspects of life must be considered: prayer, formation, community life, and pastoral activity. The formators as well as the seminarians themselves are very conscious of this fact and take care that all of these areas remain important in their lives.

We must mention in a special way Bro. Lester Kaehler, SM. Bro. Lester is in his last year of service as Vice-Rector of the seminary, as was mentioned in the last edition of *Via Latina 22*.

Fr. Ignace and Fr. Pablo appreciated the welcome extended to them by the seminary community. They also appreciated the transparency and the open communication they experienced during their visit.

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## Meeting of the Extended General Council (March 19-21, 2019)



The members of the General Council along with the Presidents of the various Zones met in Rome from March 19-21, 2019. In addition to the General Council, the following people were in attendance: Africa – Ignace Pagnan, SM (TO); Asia – Francis Chang, SM (KO); Europe – Jean-Marie Leclerc, SM (FR); North America – Timothy Driscoll, SM (ME); the representative from Latin America - Javier de Aguirre, SM (AR) was not able to come due to illness. The description of these Zones are located on pages 133-136 of the *International Personnel*.

The Extended General Council allows for the reinforcement of the solidarity that exists between the Units as well as between the Zones. It also eases the work of the General Council. Because each President deals with the concerns of the entire Zone, the Extended General Council allows the group to perceive in an immediate way the global unity of the Society of Mary. In addition, these concerns allow them to deal with questions that involve the entire Congregation.

The General Leadership Assembly of 2015 suggested a manner of restructuring based on the Zones. For this reason, the Zones have taken on a new importance. They are today an essential step in the collaboration between the Units.

Over the course of their meetings, participants exchanged news, particularly concerning the reception and the practical application of the General Chapter of 2018. They also read the report concerning the visit to the International Seminary, as the statutes require. The EGC also reflected on the operation of each of the Units and the ways to improve these operations. They spoke about their experience of collaboration within the Marianist Family, as called for by the General Chapter. Finally, they exchanged ideas on the Zonal Centers of Marianist Studies, which are under the authority of the Zonal Conferences and in particular the authority of the President of that Zone. The last two themes were discussed in collaboration with the General Council of the Daughters of Mary. This was so that all could hear their advice and at the same time facilitate a collaboration with them in these areas.

The growing needs for collaboration in the Society of Mary, invite us to reinforce the role of the Zonal Conferences, as well as, the Extended General Council. Little by little, meetings such as these contribute in a positive way to this collaboration.

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## General Administration Temporalities Committee Meets in Rome



**Members of the GA Temporalities Committee (L-R): Paul McDonald, Bro. Ron Overman, SM, Bro. Jérôme Balakiyéma, SM, and Bro. Michael McAward, SM.**

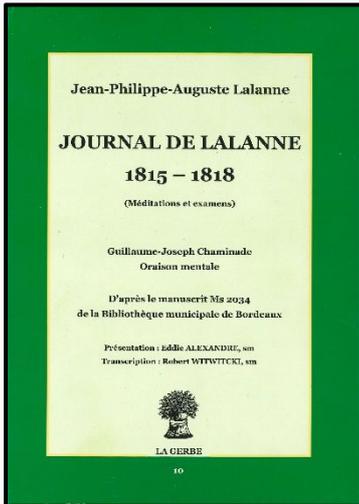
Like all Provinces and Regions of the SM, the General Administration also has a committee to review and give advice in the area of Temporalities. This committee, under the leadership of Bro. Michael J. McAward, SM, Assistant General for Temporalities, meets at least once each year, and is in communication at other times, as needed, throughout the rest of the year. This year, the Committee met in Rome from March 22-23, 2019. In addition to the customary review of the state of the General Administration's investments, and the financial operations of the Curia, the Committee focused this year on the orientations given to the Office of Temporalities by the XXXV General Chapter last July.

The committee is comprised of Bro. Michael, from the General Administration, Bro. Ronald Overman, SM (US), Mr. Paul McDonald, a financial expert from New York, and Bro. Jérôme Balakiyéma, SM (TO). Mr. Ron Kern, a principal in the investment firm retained by the Chaminade Foundation, also attended part of the meeting. In his closing remarks, Bro. Michael

shared that the advice of the committee during this face-to-face meeting, as well as its ongoing assistance throughout the year “are a great support” to him and “a great assistance in helping to maintain the ability of the Society to support its mission around the world, particularly those works that provide religious formation and social assistance to the poor and marginalized.”

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## Spiritual diary of the young Lallane (1815-1818)



A previously unseen batch of documents hidden in the municipal library of Bordeaux turned out to be the diary of the young Lallane.

Under the careful watch of Fr. Eddie Alexandre, SM and thanks to the perseverance of Fr. Robert Witwicki, SM, this previously unseen document was transcribed, displayed and published. Each Unit has now received a copy of this work.

It appears, at first, to be a very serious document, since it is a matter of some very brief notes on different themes of the spiritual life. Nevertheless, this document is very important. It allows us to know the interior life of a major participant at the beginning of our congregation. He wrote these notes over the course of the first few months involved in planning and bringing into reality the Society of Mary. Incidentally, it is surprising to note than any direct allusions to these events are rare.

We thank the producers of this beautiful edition (n° 10 de la collection *La Gerbe*) for not allowing themselves to be discouraged by the difficulties of editing this document, and the almost illegible writing of the future Fr. Lallane.

Once each Unit has received this work, it will be possible to order more copies from the General Administration.

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## Petition to open the cause of Michel Quiroga



**Moment of the delivery of the Supplex Libellus opening the cause. Left, Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM, Postulator; center, Mons. Barreto; right, Fr. Carlos Julio Barragán, SM, Regional Superior.**

Fr. Antonio Gascón, SM, the postulator of the Society of Mary, traveled to Qibdó (Colombia) in order to petition the diocesan bishop, Mons. Juan Carlos Barreto, to open the cause of Miguel Angel Quiroga (“Michel”). He based the reasons for this petition on the way Miguel offered his life in an act of heroic charity. On Monday, March 4, Fr. Gascón, accompanied by Fr. Carlos Julio Barragán, SM, the Regional Superior of Colombia-Ecuador, was received by Mons. Barreto in his office at the Bishop’s residence. Fr. Gascón delivered the “Letter of Petition” (Supplex Libellus) to the Bishop for the opening of the cause. Along with this letter, he also gave the Bishop documents concerning Michel, conserved in the archives of the General Administration. In addition, he also handed the Bishop documents conserved in the Region of Spain and the Region of Colombia-Ecuador. Now, it is up to Mons. Barreto to establish a diocesan tribunal to question the witnesses.

We recall that a paramilitary patrol in Lloró killed Michel on September 18, 1998, when he was 25 years old. They killed him as he tried to defend the lives of a group of peasants. Michel was

a young religious with temporary vows, stationed in the Marianist Community near the church of the Immaculate Conception in the town of Lloró. He was a religious with an intense spiritual life. He was a creative young man. Michel worked with great apostolic zeal for the Christian education of young people as well the social needs of the poor people. He valued his vocation and his religious consecration. He had a great love for Christ and the Virgin Mary. With our prayers, we hope for a good outcome for this new cause of the Society of Mary.

## ***Positio* Fr. Domingo Lázaro**

Dear brothers: On Tuesday of Holy Week, April 16, the ordinary session of Cardinals and Bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints will examine the *Positio* regarding the sanctity and virtue of the life of Fr. Domingo Lázaro, SM. For this intention, the Marianist Postulator General requests prayers that, if it is God's will, our dear Fr. Domingo might receive a positive votum and thus be declared *venerable*.

## **G.A. Communications recently sent**

- **Death Notices: # 11 - 13.**

## **G.A. Calendar**

- **April 23 - May 8: The entire Council visits the Region of Argentina.**

## **Address Changes**

- **Bro. Kenneth Thompson (US): [thompsonkh987@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonkh987@gmail.com)**



*On the occasion of Easter Sunday, 2019, Via Latina 22 sends to its readers our warmest greetings with a prayer that the Risen Lord may bring Peace to all peoples around the world.*