

December 2023

COMUNION



General Curia, Rome



Recreation of the redemption of Jesus Nazarene, 1682



*17/12/1198-17/12/2023 :
825 years since the approval of
the Trinitarian Rule of St. John
de Matha*

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IN MEMORIAM



NEWS BRIEF

SIT: Week of prayer for Persecuted Christians

Since October 17, 2023, the Trinitarian family scattered around the world has dedicated a week to prayer for our brothers and sisters who are suffering for reasons of faith in many nations globally.

Gaza: Christians killed in Israel-Palestine conflict



Ten Christians have lost their lives in the ongoing attacks in Gaza. Amidst the Jewish and Islamic conflict, Christians are the ones who consistently suffer without visibility or a voice. On Thursday night, October 19, at least 16 Christians, including 10 family members, were killed during an attack in Gaza. The assault led to the complete collapse of the church where they had sought refuge.

Nigeria: Kidnapping and Murder of Priests



Nigeria, home to a sizable Christian community, is deemed one of the most perilous countries for Christians. Recently, an armed gang abducted three nuns and a seminarian along with their driver. Concurrently, another group kidnapped three Benedictine monks. Two of them were eventually released, but tragically, one was murdered, and his body was discarded into the river.



Granby, Canada: Tribute to Brother Michel Comeau (Michel des Saints)



On All Saints' Day, the community of Granby, Canada, paid homage to the new dean of the Order, Father Michel Comeau (96), acknowledging his contributions and service to the community. This tribute extended beyond Brother Michel to honor all 'cooperating' friars who have silently and unassumingly worked in the Vicariate General of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Canada-France), often in the shadows. They collaborated in various capacities to fulfill the mission of the Order.

Father Michel officially retired a year ago due to a minor health issue but has remained actively engaged in service. His last role in Granby was in the sacristy and kitchen. Presently, he dedicates his time to prayer and maintains a keen interest in the life of the Order.

The Vicariate General of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which once had over 15 religious members, now has only 7. Despite the decrease in numbers, they persist in serving according to their capabilities and capacities. Gratitude is extended to all our 'cooperating' brothers who have responded to the Lord's call, undertaking various ministries of service, particularly towards the poor, destitute, prisoners, and the community.



Chile: Enlarged Vicariate Council of the Saint Simone de Rojas Vicariate



One year after the conclusion of the triennium, the Vicariate Council of the Saint Simone de Rojas Vicariate (Argentina-Brazil-Chile-Bolivia-Peru), in preparation for the upcoming Vicariate Chapter in 2024, convened an Enlarged Vicariate Council to foster fraternity and guide the future of the vicariate. The meeting, held at the Trinity House in Santiago de Chile, unfolded in two parts: an initial session dedicated to ongoing formation and a subsequent segment to contemplate the future of the vicariate.

The proposed themes included a Theological-Synodal Update with the assistance of professors from the Faculty of Theology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Additionally, various topics and information related to the Order, along with its challenges and future directions, were discussed. These included the issues of persecution and the lack of religious freedom, focal points of the Inter-Trinitarian Assembly in Seville-Morocco 2023 and slated to be the theme of the upcoming General Chapter.

Furthermore, the President of the Conference of Religious of Chile presented on the theme of synodality and religious life. A noteworthy aspect of this Enlarged Council was the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, Cardinal Celestino Aós Braco. The meeting coincided with the conclusion of the pastoral visit to the Vicariate by the Minister Provincial of the Holy Spirit Province, Brother Pedro Aliaga.



Spain: XXI National Meeting of Trinitarian Confraternities



The XXI National Meeting of Trinitarian Confraternities took place in Jaén from November 3 to 5, with the participation of 20 confraternities from across Spain and over 150 attendees.

This gathering marked a historic occasion due to the presence of both the Minister General and the Minister Provincial. Various prayerful moments were observed, including the Solemn Eucharist presided over by the Minister General and the veneration of the Holy Face at the cathedral.

The meeting also provided opportunities for formation, highlighted by a lecture from the Minister Provincial, Father Pedro Aliaga, focusing on the Convent of the Most Holy Trinity in the city of Jaén. This session acknowledged the contributions of Father Antonio de la Bella, a Trinitarian monk from Jaén who, along with another monk from the Trinitarian Convent of Jaén, played a role in saving Miguel de Cervantes.

Another notable lecture, titled "Redemptive Mission Today," offered dual perspectives: one on persecuted Christians and SIT, presented by Father Miguel Manuel Artiach, and another on social exclusion and Prolibertas, discussed by Father Antonio Jimenez.



Spain: Pastoral visits of the Minister General

The Minister General continued his visit to the Province of the Holy Spirit.

Algeciras



The visit unfolded according to the following schedule: a meeting with the community, followed by a session with Prolibertas technicians to introduce the welcoming and job placement programs. Subsequently, there was a shared meal prepared by the students of the hostel school. This was followed by a Eucharistic celebration and a large parish assembly where each group presented their activities.

The itinerary also included a visit to the Bishop of Cadiz and Ceuta, Bishop Rafael Zornoza Boy, during which the Minister

General discussed various topics such as the parish, the Diocesan Delegation of Prison Pastoral Care, and issues concerning persecuted Christians.

Another significant meeting took place with the Lay Fraternity "Most Holy Trinity" of Cadiz at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Additionally, there was a meeting and Eucharistic celebration with the Trinitarian Brotherhoods of San Fernando.

The Minister General visited the old convent of the Trinitarians Calzati in Tarifa and participated in a prayer before the Christ of Consuelo, where Trinitarians and prisoners from that community joined in prayer. The visit also included participation in the Circle of Silence, an act of solidarity with migrants, and a visit to the Penitentiary Center, where a Eucharist was conducted with prisoners, demonstrating the heartfelt closeness of Father General.

Further engagements included a reception by the Mayor, Mr. José Ignacio Landaluce, and a Eucharist, prayer, and meeting with the Trinitarian laity of Algeciras.



Shrine of La Cabeza

From October 22 to 26, 2023, the Minister General conducted a pastoral visit to the Community of Andujar at the Shrine of La Cabeza.



Malaga

From November 10 to 14, the Minister General visited the community of Malaga. On this occasion, he met not only with the community of fathers but also with members of the Prison Pastoral. He was welcomed by the Bishop at the Diocesan House, held a meeting with Christians from our parish communities, and visited various women's workshops organized for the Vive Association in the parish facilities of Jesus Worker. Finally, he paid a visit to the Community of the Trinitarian Sisters. The visit was characterized by a very rich and genuine fraternal fellowship from both a human and spiritual perspective, complemented by the exquisite cuisine offered by the community. The visit concluded on November 14 after the recitation of Lauds.

Granada



Minister General Fr. Luigi Buccarello visited the community of fathers in Granada and the Marcos Criado Fraternity in Granada. They shared updates about the life of this fraternity, discussing its origins, growth, and current dynamics. These were unforgettable moments of communion during which the Minister General encouraged them to persist in bringing this precious charism to every aspect of their lives.



Seville

Father General visited the community of Seville. In addition to the community of fathers, he met with the Trinitarian laity, parish groups, and the two Trinitarian confraternities. Father General was received by Archbishop José Ángel Meneses, the Archbishop of Seville. Subsequently, he engaged with volunteers from the prison ministry and Casa de Acogida at the Prolibertas shelter. Finally, he visited the two communities of the Trinitarian Sisters of Madrid in Seville.



Cerfroid-France: Meeting of Trinitarian religious in France



From Monday, November 6, to Tuesday, November 7, the religious members of the Vicariate General of the Sacred Heart of Jesus present in France gathered to reflect on future prospects in preparation for the Vicariate General Chapter in March 2024. This meeting followed the celebration of the 775th anniversary of the arrival of the Trinitarians in Vianden, Luxembourg, where a substantial delegation of Trinitarian men and women religious was present, accompanied by Fr. Roger Matton, Vicariate Minister.



The meeting included the participation of Malagasy Trinitarian religious who work in our houses in France. Each house's ministers presented the life of their community and house, including activities and prospects for the future. Those unable to attend in person joined via Zoom video conference. Following the sharing of news, the reflection focused on actions to revitalize the life of the houses, considering the imperative to actualize the charism and the pursuit of financial autonomy.

These two days of exchange were both fraternal and fruitful, offering a promising outlook for a new breath and hope in the future.



SIT GENERALE



Continuing the projects and aid carried out by SIT for those suffering because of their faith, Krakow Minister Fr. Maciej Kowalski and Redemption Procurator Fr. Antonio Aurelio Fernández Serrano traveled together to Ukraine. This contribution, made possible by a donation from Spanish benefactors, included more than 8 tons of food, warm clothing, electric generators, and mechanical saws. Specifically, this aid was provided in Lviv and Zaporizhzhia. The situation remains catastrophic and dire, with a pervasive sense of sadness evident as people walk the streets with downcast eyes. The sound of sirens and the daily worry about having enough to eat are ever-present concerns.



During the visit, they went to a cemetery where at least 3 or 4 young men who fell on the war front are buried every day. This cemetery is constantly attended by fathers, mothers, and relatives of the deceased.

Once again, we pray for those who work for peace, hoping that their vocation may be an instrument leading to the knowledge of Christ and the salvation of all people.



Madrid-Spain: National Meeting of the Trinitarian Family

The event took place in Madrid on November 11 and 12, at the House of the Sisters of the Assumption. Approximately 50 people attended, including religious and lay individuals, with the participation of the Minister General of the Order and the Mothers General of Majorca and Valencia. Fernando Matas, a De La Salle confrere, delivered an insightful reflection on the mission of the Trinitarian Family. Various members of the Family presented the apostolic dimension of the Institute itself and highlighted some notable Trinitarian works in Spain.

Fr. Pedro Aliaga, the Provincial Minister, introduced the latest book by Fr. Isidoro Murciego. The current situation and challenges facing SIT were also discussed. On November 12, the Minister General provided insights into the state of the Order and presided over the concluding Eucharist.



Frascati (Italy): Annual National Convention of the Trinitarian Laity of Italy



From November 10 to 13, 2023, the Annual National Convention of the Laity in Italy took place at the Capuchin Friary in Frascati (RM), with the theme "Returning to the Origins." The event featured the collaboration of numerous speakers who participated both virtually from Spain and Chile and in person. Noteworthy contributors included Bishop Aldo Berardi from the Apostolic Vicariate of North Arabia, who traveled from Bahrain, and Fr. Thierry Kneicht from Faucon (France).

This conference, a truly extraordinary opportunity to explore the pursuit of Trinitarian love and rediscover our spiritual roots, was enriched by the insights and contributions of the religious, women religious, and lay participants.



Avignon-France: Perpetual Profession



On Sunday, November 26, 2023, Sister Noëline RAZAFIMALALA made her perpetual profession in the Institute of the Trinitarian Religious of Valence, at the parish of Saint Ruf in Avignon, in the presence of Sister Myriam RAZAFINDRASOA, the Superior General. The Eucharist was presided over by Monsignor François FONLUPT, the Archbishop of Avignon.





Madrid-Spain: Pre-Chapter Provincial Assembly



The Pre-Chapter Assembly was held from December 5 to 7 at the Cristo del Pardo Spirituality House in Madrid. Trinitarians from almost every community in Spain participated. The theme of the assembly was the restructuring of the Province in view of all the work that needs to be done and the problems that will be encountered. The Preparatory Commission, under the leadership of Fr. Fernando Dominguez, a specialist in these processes, presented the work done, analysis, and diagnosis of the situation that makes clear the need for restructuring. Through various presentations, dynamics, and group work, criteria were established to continue working on this issue in the communities, with the contribution of all to prepare the "instrumentum laboris" for the next Provincial Chapter.

Notable was the presence of the Minister General, who is making his pastoral visit to the Province and celebrated his birthday on December 6 in a very joyful and fraternal atmosphere.



Bayamón-Puerto Rico: Admission to Trinitarian Laity



On December 7, at the Holy Spirit Parish in Bella Vista, Bayamón, Puerto Rico, ten new members were admitted to the Fraternity of the Daughters of Our Lady of Good Remedy as part of the Trinitarian Laity. The admission ceremony was presided over by Fr. Dairo Arboleda, the Vicariate Minister of the Blessed Dominic Iturrate Vicariate, and concelebrated by the Fraternity's spiritual assistant, Fr. Sergio Pereira. In addition to the Trinitarian fathers, members of the Bayamón Trinitarian Laity, and many parishioners, were present at the celebration.

12/17/1198-17/12/2023: 825 years since the approval of the Trinitarian Rule of St. John de Matha



The Rule serves as the set of norms governing the lives of those belonging to the monastic or religious Order. Each Rule defines the identity of the institution, encapsulating its name, purpose, and end. Written by our Founder John de Matha, the Trinitarian Rule received approval from Pope Innocent III (1160 - 1216).

Turning 825 years old this year, the Rule was crafted to regulate the lives of the religious in the Order of the Holy Trinity and Slaves. According to the rule, Trinitarians are instructed to divide all their goods into three parts: one for the poor, one to ransom and free prisoners, and one for their own sustenance. Through this concise text, John de Matha expressed his intent to align with the gospel.



On this 825th anniversary, the Minister General, in his message on the Solemnity of St. John de Matha and the Nativity of Our Lord, reminds us:

“The Rule left by our founder serves as a shining beacon that has guided the centuries-long journey of our religious family and continues to be a significant point of reference for the present and the future.

This historical document encapsulates our historical, spiritual, biblical, and theological origins. Within these origins lies the inspirational spark that continues to animate our life and mission. The Rule approved by Pope Innocent III gives us the assurance that the Trinitarian Family is the work of God. St. John de Matha did not transmit a human project or a humanitarian program but a way of living the Gospel, of giving concreteness to the profession of faith in the great mystery of God-Trinity. The Trinitarian charism expresses the fruitfulness of the Gospel and the creativity of the Spirit, which, in every age, gives rise to particular gifts as a response to the problems of humanity.”

IN MEMORIAM

Mother Matilde



On the morning of October 24, M. Matilde of the Trinitarian Nuns Monastery in Lima departed for her father's home. May the Lord grant her the crown of glory that does not wither. R.I.P.

Fr. Franco D'Agostino



Fr. Franco D'Agostino of the Province of St. John de Matha passed away on October 27, 2023. He was born in Sant'Antimo (Na) on July 23, 1926, entered the novitiate in Palestrina on November 24, 1943, and made his first profession in Rome on November 26, 1944, where he also made Solemn Profession on January 2, 1949. He was ordained a priest on July 18, 1954, in Rome. R.I.P.

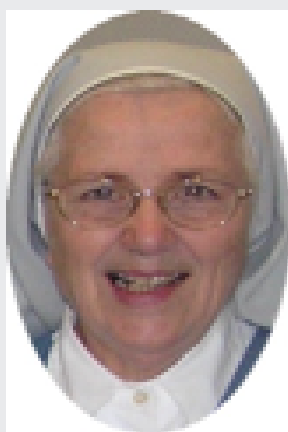


Fr. Barthélémy Razafindraibe



Fr. Barthélémy Razafindraibe of the Province of Our Lady of Good Remedy passed away on November 16, 2023, at the young age of 39. He was born in Ambatofitorahana on August 5, 1984. Fr. Barthélémy entered the novitiate on July 10, 2014, in Moramanga, where he also made his First Profession on October 8, 2015. He made his solemn profession on 22 September 2023 and his diaconal ordination on 23 September 2023 in Moramanga. R.I.P.

Sister Denise MATTE



Sr. Denise MATTE, of the Trinitarian Sisters of Valence, entered the joy of God the Trinity on October 21, 2023, in Forcalquier. She was born on March 18, 1933, in Metz, Moselle, France. Sr. Denise made her profession on July 18, 1957, in Valence and was the last of 12 children. She took her first vows at the age of 24. Throughout her long life as a Trinitarian religious, she experienced many communities, including Paris, Avignon, Brussels, Mazargues, Margalhan, Embrun, Marsanne, Valencia, and Forcalquier. R.I.P.

Mrs. Julia Cardona



Mrs. Julia Cardona, the mother of Coraly Maldonado, Vice President of the International Council of Trinitarian Laity (CILT), passed away on November 13, 2023. May the Most Holy Trinity, the source of infinite Mercy, receive her into the joy of Heaven. R.I.P.



Sister Marie Thérèse Razanadrasoa



Sr. Marie Thérèse Razanadrasoa, Trinitarian Religious from Rome, returned to the Father's house on November 24, 2023. We entrust Sister Marie to God the Trinity, praying that He may grant her eternal rest. R.I.P.

Let us offer prayers and suffrage for the souls all those who have departed. May they find eternal peace and rest in the embrace of the Most Holy Trinity.

*Blessed Christmas of our Lord Jesus Christ
&
Happy New Year 2024*

