



## E-BULLETIN #102

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*"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)*

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item 191

### Santa Maria Province Assembly

The Province of **Our Lady of Victory**, Santa Maria, Brazil, held its Ordinary Provincial Assembly from 2-7 Jan 2014, at the College of Queen of the Apostles, in Vale Veneto (RS), Brazil.

**02 Jan:** The opening took place with a welcome, prayer and message from the outgoing Provincial, Fr Lino Baggio, and the Rector General, Fr Jacob Nampudakam.

**03 Jan:** Fr Lino presented the Final Report for 2011-2014, and Fr Clesio Facco the Financial Report.

That afternoon a new Provincial Council was inaugurated. Provincial, Fr Xavier Edgar Ertl, and councilors Clesio Facco, Egidio Valentin Trevisan, Moacir Piovesan and Vanderlei Luiz Cargnin were given their new mandate in the presence of the Assembly's 95 participants. *"This is certainly a very important moment for the Province. We all want to thank Fr Lino because he served with great dedication all these years. He was always available and happy. He is still a young person and has a big task ahead. On behalf of all of us and of the whole Society I would like to thank Fr Lino for his dedicated work. I also thank all the members of the Provincial Council for their service to the Society. I wish the new Provincial, a friend of mine since we studied together in Rome, a good mission ahead. I would also like to thank the new Provincial Council and wish it a fruitful mission"*, reiterated Fr Jacob.

**04 Jan:** The Rector General presented on the theme "fraternal life, apostolic life and spiritual life". Fr Gilberto Orsolin also shared experiences of the members of the Generalate House. In the afternoon there was group work in local communities on the achievements and challenges of the triennium, followed by a plenum. At 20hrs Holy Mass was celebrated at Corpus Christi parish in Vale Veneto.

Two seminarians from our Mozambique mission, **Gildo Bumane Naene Nhone** and **Eusebius Gaston Mauaie** renewed their religious profession during this Mass. As well three seminarians who will be soon ordained priests - **Ivanildo Magalhães da Costa**, **Leandro dos Santos** and **Elvin Ali Limberg** – were commissioned to mission in Mozambique.

**05 Jan:** Fr Jacob addressed the issue of perseverance. Fr Gilberto commented on the Post-Visitation Letter and on initiatives taken during the Jubilee Year of Pallotti's canonization.

**06 Jan:** A day devoted to reflection on vocations, and the reality of the Pallottine *Colégio Maximo*. Fr Jadir Zaro addressed the issue of the Local Community.

**07 Jan:** Day devoted to the Juridical Assembly attended by ex-officio members and delegates from the Provincial Council and Local Communities of the Province.



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The Rector General further adds:

“The Provincial Assembly of the Santa Maria Province was a wonderful and enriching experience in many ways. It was divided into two parts:

- the first, open to all the members of the province
- the second, called the Juridical Assembly, open only to ex-officio members and delegates

The first part was attended by as many as 95 members – about 85% participation. Those unable to participate were mostly sick and elderly and those working outside Brazil. A significant achievement!

The assembly dwelt on a number of relevant issues like fraternal life, apostolic life and spiritual life. The important question of perseverance in priestly and consecrated life was presented by me in detail. The issues of formation, community life, mission, and economic administration were also given due importance. I tried to emphasise the importance of living a deep and meaningful God-centred life as Pallottines. The Cenacle must be the unique Pallottine spiritual fountain of graces. I even proposed to build up a ‘Cenacle’ in Vale Veneto, in this very house which is a patrimony of the Province, surrounded by beautiful mountains. The suggestion was well accepted and, God-willing, it will become a living Cenacle in the future. In the same way I hope to approach other Provinces and Regions too asking them to establish living Cenacles of Pallottine spirituality and apostolate. In every entity, there should be such a spiritual fountain!

References to the personal witness and teachings of Pope Francis were made in all my conferences, simply because I firmly believe that this prophet of God offers us the right answers as we face the challenges of the church today, especially the challenge of new evangelisation. I appealed to the assembly participants to take up in Local Communities throughout 2014 a study of, and prayerful reflection on, the Apostolic Exhortation ***Evangelii Gaudium***. And to examine the document with a view to identifying parallels between the spiritual teachings of our Founder and Pope Francis. This appeal was once again well accepted.

A third point that I tried to strike home was the importance of a spirit of mission. The Santa Maria Province has a mission in Mozambique, a country that was torn apart by war for more than 16 years. The mission is developing well and a number of seminarians are in formation. On the coming 25th January a new formation house will be blessed, thanks especially to the Immaculate Conception Province of our Society in the US which has generously contributed to its construction. This mission in the African continent, I insisted, should enter into the heart of every member of the Province. The very identity of the Santa Maria Province must be intrinsically connected to this mission ad gentes in Mozambique. Hopefully the members will listen to this earnest appeal.

It must also be admitted that some members showed a fear of anything juridical and structural. While admittedly laws and structures must not suffocate the spirit, we cannot get rid of certain necessary juridical norms and structures.

On the whole it was a wonderful and enriching experience of fraternity, praying together and recreating together. Two great dangers we all face today are those of over-activism and individualism. Some might consider the very thought of coming together for 6 days a waste of time, or a luxury. Others might point to its financial cost. Those who live the most individualistic type of life will be the most critical ones in such cases. It is not easy to resist the temptation to finish community prayers in great haste and finish meals as early as possible and withdraw into one's own room to enjoy tea or a drink alone or with a selected few or spend endless hours on the internet. The danger of the privatisation of spiritual life and extreme individualism are ever before us.

Undoubtedly such meetings should not become a superficial gathering or an escape from one's responsibilities. For this reason it is so important to deal with relevant issues connected to life and apostolate in an atmosphere of prayer. Considering the serious dangers to fraternal life and collaborative ministry that we all face everyday, the experience of the assembly of the Santa Maria Province has been for me indeed a very refreshing experience".

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**item 192**

## **“Dear Francis...**

A 16 year-old Argentine boy who suffers from chronic encephalopathy – a brain disorder – was moved by a letter from Pope Francis responding to a note that he had sent the pontiff a few days earlier.

The boy, Nicolas Marasco, is unable to speak, but was able to send a letter to Pope Francis, with the help of his parents, saying that he asks his guardian angel every night to watch over the Holy Father and assist him in his pontificate.

*“Dear Francis,*

*my name is Nicolas and I am 16. Since I am unable to write you (because I still cannot speak or walk), I asked my parents to do it for me, because they know me best,” his letter said.*

*“I want to tell you that when I was seven years old, Father Pablo gave me First Communion at my school,” he continued, “and this year, in November, I will receive Confirmation – something which gives me great joy.”*

*“Every night ever since you asked me, I pray to my guardian angel – whose name is Eusebio and who is very patient – to watch over you and help you. You can be sure that he is good at it because he watches over me and is with me every day.”*

*“I would very much like to go see you and receive your blessing and a kiss, just that,” the boy continued. “I send you many greetings and I continue praying to Eusebio to watch over you and give you strength. Love,*

*Nico.”*

The Argentinean daily **Clarín** reported that Pope Francis was deeply moved by the letter from Nicolas.

He shared the story of the young boy during his visit to Assisi on Oct. 4, saying, “In this letter, in the heart of this boy, is beauty, love, the poetry of God. God who reveals himself to the simple hearted, the little ones, the humble ones, those who we often consider to be the last.”

A few days later, Marasco received the Pope’s answer, which was also published in **Clarín**.

*“Dear Nicolas,*

*thank you so much for your letter. Thank you so much for praying for me. Your prayers are helping me to do my work, which is to bring Jesus to the people,” the Holy Father wrote. “For this reason, dear Nicolas, you are important to me.”*

*“And I want to ask you a favor. Keep helping me with your prayers, and also keep praying to Eusebio, who is surely friends with my guardian angel, who also watches over me.”*

*“Nicolas, thanks for your help,” the Pope continued. “I am praying for you. May Jesus bless you and the Holy Virgin watch over you. Affectionately, and with my Blessing,*

*Francis.”*

On Nov. 9, Marasco received the Sacrament of Confirmation, together with 16 of his classmates.

His mother, Marisa Mariani, told **Clarín**, “What has happened to us has made us realize that the simple things are what matter, a word of encouragement, someone who listens, someone who doesn’t look the other way, as we sometimes experience out on the street”.

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
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**CNA/EWTN News**



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