

Star DAILY

FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2022 | VOL 2



FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Day 1 – Friday 9th December 2022

Session 1: Placing the Chapter – Br Ernesto (Superior General)

1. Placing the Chapter: Chair of the Steering Committee - Br Darren Burge

Darren in opening this Session highlighted three aspects:

- a. We are here to '*navigate new waters together*'. Doing this will require wisdom and patience from all Marists, as the Province begins its journey. From the delegates at this Chapter, it will need '*genuine and active listening*'.
- b. What does God want of us?
- c. How and where will Mary guide us?



Setting for the Opening Liturgy.

2. Ernesto:

Ernesto began his presentation by thanking John Hazelman and Peter Carroll for their leadership of the Province and District over the past three years. He then shared his thoughts as we begin navigating new waters together. Mary could accept the new reality of her life because her heart was free and full of the warmth of God, and like her, we too need to move to the newness.

This move was powerfully symbolized at the Inauguration Mass held in Sydney yesterday evening when John and Peter doused the two candles representing the former Province of Australia and the former District of the Pacific.

Ideas about the Institute

- a. In the early years of the Institute, Champagnat was faced with a crisis in vocations. It was during this time he planned for the future of the Brothers and with his confidence in God and in Mary he began to build The Hermitage. Like Marcellin, we too need to look 'beyond'. Can we look beyond our own ministries, countries, interests, etc as we navigate new waters together?
- b. The variety and diversity in our eleven countries - that is the richness that we have.

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND > AUSTRALIA > CAMBODIA > FIJI > KIRIBATI > NEW CALEDONIA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA > SAMOA > SOLOMON ISLANDS > TIMOR LESTE > VANUATU



Chapter Delegates gathered in the Br Ludeke Hall at The Hermitage, Mittagong.

- c. We need new ways to see ourselves and all situations. 'Look within and see beyond': have a sensitive look; a prophetic look; a global look; an inclusive look; a look of hope.
- d. Giving hope in difficult times.
- e. In a private audience with the Pope, Francis said to the Brothers to look further and look beyond worldly interests. Champagnat taught young people to look beyond and open themselves to God. That is visually apparent in the statue of Marcellin that graces the walls of the Vatican. Mary was open to the world and able to see the future.
- f. In the three years remaining for the current General Council the following areas are a priority:
 - i. Spirituality – cultivating a spirituality of the heart. A spirituality that nourishes, gives meaning to and integrates our life and mission.
 - ii. Walking together in communion – the Marist vocation (Brothers and Lay), co-responsibility.
 - iii. Emerging Needs – Brothers and Lay together on mission, discernment and responding.
 - iv. The Global Marist Family – journeying together, building and sharing.
 - v. Reconfiguration – for the vitality, viability and sustainability of our life and mission. It is about reconfiguring and not necessarily, reconstructing.
- g. What does this mean for the SOTS Province?
 - i. Reconfiguration is not easy with geographical and cultural diversity, nevertheless, the Province will be an example of walking together as a global and charismatic community.
 - ii. The Province will foster and strengthen local leadership.
 - iii. Remember each day that 'you are sent'.
 - iv. Be continually aware of the call to belong to God and to serve Him. We will be able to work together as a family.



Br Ernesto giving his Opening Address.

- v. In order to 'navigate new waters together' the Chapter needs to decide who is best to support the Provincial and serve on his Council with the key task of growing the Province.

Following the presentation from Ernesto the delegates spent time in personal and shared reflection.

Session 2: Placing the Chapter (cont) – Br Peter (Provincial)

Peter began his presentation by updating the present situation. It has been a long journey to get to this point with curves, bumps and bends along the way. There has also been a lot of preparation for this Chapter coming from the Working Groups and from the delegates.

1. Challenges for this Province:

- a. We are one Province because it makes sense. We are part of one global Marist family and it is the urgings of the Holy Spirit and the Call of the General Chapter that brings us here. It is a hopeful move for the future.
- b. This Chapter is longer than usual. It is the chance to mix, talk, listen and learn from each other. It is designed to be a relaxed brotherly experience without rushing.
- c. Leadership will be important. Electing the Council will be happening earlier than usual so that those who have been elected can be more involved in pulling it all together in the final days. In this place we are symbolizing what we are becoming – a rich cultural community of Brothers.
- d. There are three key tasks. Deciding the Norms of the Province; electing the Provincial Council; and identifying the priorities that the Provincial Council will focus over the next three years.

2. Synthesis Paper:

This Paper emerged from the Working Groups that have been working on the various aspects of Province life following the announcement that a new Province was going to be established. This Chapter will review what has emerged from these Working Groups as there are issues that need to be clarified in order to assist the incoming Council. The ten areas are:

- a. Establishing good Governance.
- b. Promoting a Common Identity and Sense of Community.
- c. Stewarding Financial Resources.
- d. Supporting Brothers, Communities and their Leaders.
- e. Establishing effective Decentralised Management and Leadership.



Br Peter Carroll giving his Opening Address.

- f. Ensuring Brothers' Health and Wellbeing.
- g. Promoting and Nurturing Marist Life.
- h. Prioritising Safeguarding.
- i. Nurturing Marist Mission, Ministry and Service.
- j. Instituting Co-responsible Leadership and Responsibility.
- k. Fulfilling Requirements in Civil Law. There are eleven countries.

Some of these areas will take time.

3. Other Areas of Focus

- a. The Marist Brotherhood we wish to live in our part of the world.
- b. What do we desire for this Province? The Province and Province Culture will take time to form. The Chapter needs to provide direction so that we can navigate the new waters together.
- c. In some locations our Provinces, our Churches are broken. Do we want to live in ruins or do we build again as has happened in other times? Continually promoting renewal – that is always necessary. The Chapter needs to discern new pathways.
- d. Community. Religious Life is not dying, it is changing. How do we cooperate with this call of the Spirit? The need to reinvent 'community' for our times is an urgent call.
- e. 'Brother'. The title 'brother' is our identity and mission. It is a gift we have been given, one that we nurture and one that we share. How do we want to live as Brothers in these times? How can I choose for the 'common good'? Fraternal love is the key to true connection, interdependence, dialogue, relationships and reconciliation.
- f. The Word. How do we make the Word central to our communities? The Word is the first source for Christian communities. In our Communities we need to take more time to ponder the Word together. When you do that, you leave behind some of the other personal issues, you reveal things about yourself and your faith. It also helps to inform about cultural differences.
- g. How do we make Communities really eucharistic? In some communities Masses are very rare and many parishes are floundering. It is more than just about Mass. Any Christian community is by nature is eucharistic. What does this mean and how do we build on it? In the very early Church, eucharistic communities gathered in households.
- h. Renewal of Mission. What does this mean for the SOTS Province? Do we need to reinvent Champagnat's charism? What are the new answers to the new questions in our part of the world? What are the unmet needs that we can respond to in our countries? The needs will differ from place to place. Mission is central to our life as Marists. We are aging, but Mission is still calling us. What does that mean and what does it look like?

The Province is a Community of Brothers and a Community of Communities.

The Session ended with some private and group reflection time.

The afternoon Sessions were given over to personal reflection and group discussions on the documentation and points raised during the morning.

Please note the following links:

Br Ernesto Sánchez keynote address:

https://marists.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/MaristFormationTeam2/EXuJQjXGcedNp2OQcAAeMYcBeytjEQG_2wtH3uVVTt-t2g?e=538Lx7

Br Peter Carroll keynote address:

https://marists.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/MaristFormationTeam2/EYFMj1bZg05CvNPLtu8ITwoB_TQXeikJCB6NY2uUcEuSxA?e=EXCEY6

The Galley Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/provincial-marists>

The Chapter Website: <https://www.mariststar.org/province-chapter-2022>

UPDATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To follow news and updates during the Chapter being held in Mittagong from 9-14 December, please follow us through:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StaroftheSeaProvince>

Instagram: [@StaroftheSeaProvince](https://www.instagram.com/StaroftheSeaProvince)

Twitter: [@StaroftheSeaMoC](https://twitter.com/StaroftheSeaMoC)

