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Thank you message



Since the 26th of this month many individuals, groups and institutions have expressed their good wishes on the occasion of my election as Superior General of the Marist Brothers and the election of Brother Joseph McKee as Vicar General.

I believe it would be quite impossible for me to write a personal response to all those who have been in touch, sending messages either to me or to Brother Joseph. I wish, therefore, through this brief communication, to express my thanks for all the demonstrations of support and concern, the congratulations and good wishes which you have conveyed from so many places, especially via the webpage.

As I read your names, I think back and remember the faces of so many friends with whom I have shared experiences that I will never forget. The messages you sent make evident the closeness, esteem and even the attachment which the Marist charism

elicits in you today, a charism that is present around the world with more vigor than ever before.

The General Chapter will continue to make its way forward up to the planned closing date of October 10th. We are counting on the prayers of all, so that our work will continue to develop in the excellent atmosphere which has prevailed up to now, and that the Chapter will bear fruits of renewal as the coming eight years unfold in the life of the Institute.

I especially request your prayers during the days of October 2nd and 3rd when the election of the new General Council will take place.

I pray that Jesus, his Good Mother, and Saint Marcellin will bless you, your families and the different apostolic works with which you are involved

Br. Emili Turú, Superior general

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Marist Brother's Institute
General House – Rome

Elections of the new Superior and the new Vicar General

September 27th

26 September 2009 was chosen as the day for electing the new Superiors to preside over the fortunes of the Congregation for the next eight years. The members of the General House were surprised with the speed with which the capitulants chose Brother Emili Turú as thirteenth successor of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Scarcely half an hour had passed after the doors were closed on those voting, when the bell rang to announce that voting was over and the choice had been made. The Brothers of the house immediately gathered to greet and congratulate the new Superior General.

With Brother Emili carrying a reliquary of Saint Marcellin, capitulants and other Brothers processed to the church to give thanks to God and to Mary for the new Superior General.

Brother Sean Sammon officially presented the new Superior to the Brothers and to the Marist world. Brother Emili's first words, in English, expressed his strong and varied emotions. "I hope I will not disappoint the many Brothers and lay people who have placed their hopes in me". After these few words, the assembly intoned the Magnificat thanking God through Mary for the gift of the new Superior General. This simple act of community and family concluded with the singing of the chapter song "A new heart," composed by Brothers Maurice Goutagny (song-writer) and Miquel Cubeles (composer).

A notice, accompanied by a photograph, circulated rapidly, by means of the web page, around the Marist world. Numerous messages of salutation and congratulation immediately began to arrive.



The capitulants were free for the remainder of the morning to attend to other tasks.

Election of the Brother Vicar General

According to the programme, the afternoon of the same day, Saturday, was set aside for the election of the Vicar General. Nobody expected that, in this case too, things would proceed quickly. But again, there was soon news of the election of Brother Joseph Mc Kee as Vicar General. Faces registered happiness and satisfaction. There was another round of congratulations, followed by a photography session for the records.

All the comments included a common refrain: these rapid decisions were a fruit of the communion existing among the capitulants.

The day concluded with a family fiesta

in the chapter hall after supper. Brother Emili Turú dedicated some words of gratitude to Brothers Sean Sammon and Luis García Sobrado for their dedication and service to the Institute, as Superior General and Vicar general respectively. They had served the institute for almost two decades. The Brothers present were warm and lavish in their applause. The celebration continued with presentations from the Brothers of the various regions of the Institute.

Assisi, Pompeii, Tivoli

Sunday 27 September was a day of relaxation. The capitulants had a choice of three tourist destinations: Assisi, Pompeii or Tivoli. Some chose to stay at home or visit the city of Rome, which was celebrating the European Days of Patrimony. Thus closed another week of chapter work. Next week, the work groups continue their study of the seven tasks.

Progress of the work groups

Monday, September 28th

Today several of the work groups reported back on progress to the assembly. The one preparing the way the Chapter will transmit its message to the Institute informed the capitulants about the form and the style they are going to use and those for whom it is destined. The 20th General Chapter used the form of "a message" divided into seven parts. The group's proposals received the placet of the assembly, which also provided some contributions with reference to the eventual addressees. It is suggested that it be a simple text, with direct language, capable of inspiring hope and encouragement.

A second group presented its reflections on the management of the different sections of the General House: General House, Villa EUR



and Manziana. The property situated at Piazzale Champagnat 2, EUR, in Rome, functions according to Italian law accepted by different juridical figures. The group presented a report on the economic performance and management of the last eight years. The assembly listened to the report and will devote time during the week to react and draw the appropriate conclusions.

Union of Barcelona E.T.R. with The Celtic Mc Kee Club

The afternoon session began with an amusing game organized by Brother Tony Leon. Making use of his astute humour and his artistic abilities, he summed up the task of the Chapter in the next days with an image taken from the world of sport. An important football club: Barcelona E.T.R. (Emili Turú Rofes), has united with a rival: The Celtic Mc Kee Club, to organize a competition in the 31 administrative units of

the Marist world. At the end of this week will be known the names of the team of experts and coaches of this new entity.

The group studying the best means of organizing the Institute for the animation and government of the Brothers and the works, pointed the reflection of the assembly in two directions, summed up in two words: regionalization and number of general councillors. With regard to the regionalization of the Institute, there was reflection about the instances most suitable for establishing dialogue in each Marist region and for managing human and economic resources better. At present, we make use of the following structure: Regions, Provincial Conferences, Extended General Council, Provincial Councils, General Council meetings with Regional Provincial, visits of the Brother Superior General or of his Council to the administrative units, the meeting of new



wording, references and numbering to provide consistency. The Chapter is very aware of the importance of the Constitutions for the spiritual life it arouses and maintains in the Institute. But, seeing that the Chapter alone is competent to make changes in the Constitutions, the group considered this would be an opportune time to do this simple work.

The capitulants at this stage turned off their computers and went quietly to celebrate the Eucharist. Here they found that there had been a change of chaplain. Fr. Pedro Alarcón, who had given excellent service for the first three weeks, had moved on to attend to other tasks. His place today was occupied by Fr. Mauro Filippucci, another Marist Father, who will accompany the capitulants to the conclusion of their work.



provincials in Rome with the General Council and those in charge of the General Administration. Besides these structures, account must be made of the means normally used, as with the General Administration, the circulars of the superiors, the publications of the Institute, etc. The group asked the assembly if it had any mandate or suggestion for the General Council with regard to numbers, structures of animation and government, which could be put into practice over the next eight years.

The second topic the group raised with the assembly was the number of General Councillors they should

give to the Superior General and his Vicar. Connected with this was the question whether any of the members of the Council should regularly reside in the Regions or whether all should form community with the Superior General in Rome. The subject was left to the discussion of the assembly in the work groups over the next days.

The Constitutions under consideration by the Chapter

The work group studying the Constitutions concludes that the current edition of the Constitutions is excellent with regard to content, but needs some changes of form,

