



Marist News

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Marist Brothers - General House - Rome

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XXI General Chapter

Members of the new General Council



Antonio Ramalho
Brasil Centro-Norte



Ernesto Sánchez
México Occidental



Emili Turu

Joseph Mc Kee



Eugène Kabanguka
Afrique Centre-Est



John Klein
United States



Josep Soterias
L'Hermitage



Michael De Wass
South Asia

who are the immediate collaborators of the Brother Superior General in the government of the Institute. The term of office of the General Councillors lasts until the convocation of a new General Chapter at the end of eight years..

The 21st General Chapter has chosen as General Councillors Brothers: : Antonio Carlos Ramalho de Azevedo, (Brasil Centro-Norte), Ernesto Sánchez Barba (México Occidental), Eugène Kabanguka (Afrique Centre Est / Central East Africa), John Klein (United States of America), Josep Maria Soterias Pons (L'Hermitage), Michael De Wass (South Asia).

The whole Institute rejoices in the election of these immediate co-workers of the Superior General and his Vicar. In sharing this joy with the Brothers and with all who feel attached to the Institute through the Marist charism, we seek to thank God for the gift of service to authority which these Brothers have accepted. May Mary, our Good Mother and our first Superior, with Marcellin and all the Marist saints accompany them in the animation and government of the Institute in the coming years.

The General Council is made up of the Brother Vicar General and of the Brothers called Councillors General

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Marist Brother's Institute

General House - Rome

Brother Joseph Mc Kee

Brother Eugène Kabanguka presents to us the new Vicar General



Brother Eugène Kabanguka is from Rwanda. He is 56 years old. He has worked in formation as sub-master of novices and master of postulants. He was Vice-Rector, then Rector of the Marist International Center of Nairobi. He has also worked in the animation of the brothers and communities as Superior of the District of Rwanda. At present he is Provincial of the Province « Central East Africa ».

AMEstaún. The election of Brother Emili Turú as Superior General also raised expectations about the future Vicar General. How did you experience that time?

Eugène. After the election of Brother Emili Turú as Superior General, I asked myself who would be his assistant. I saw a number of Brothers, since after all the services he has rendered the Institute, he would do it with the Lord, and I am sure the Good Mother would be at his side to tell him, as at Cana: « Do whatever he tells you ». However, he also needs human hands. And hands which respond with a passionate heart for Jesus Christ and are full of compassion for the Brothers. I believe Brother Joseph McKee can offer those hands to Brother Emili.

AMEstaún. You know Brother Joseph well. Describe to us some features of his personality.

Eugène. Brother Joseph McKee spent many years of his youth as a Brother in the Cameroons and had 6 years in Kenya as rector of Marist International Center in Nairobi. I will describe him as I knew him in Nairobi. Marist International Center is a house of formation, but also a hospitality house for the many Brothers who visit Africa. Even other Brothers on mission in Africa very often pass through. They were always well received. Joe was waiting for them, whether at the airport or in front of the Champagnat fraternity.

The young Brothers in formation, sometimes over 80 in number, found in Joe an older brother, who was often close to them. He gave them a love for a well prepared liturgy, especially by encouraging singing. Musical talents were developed among the youth. Joe is very methodical in all he does. He is rather uncomfortable with carelessness in the dress of the young Brothers. One should be poor but presentable. You see how neat he is without any extravagance.

AMEstaún. How do you perceive Joe's inculturation in Africa?

Eugène. He has a cultural sensitivity. He is attentive to cultural differences. In Nairobi he encouraged what are called cultural days, when Brothers from different cultures presented the values and popular elements of their countries. This sensitivity was evident even in the liturgy. He loves music and performs it. With him, the young Brothers developed their talents, as far as beginning to produce pieces of liturgical music on CD. I can say without deceiving myself that Joe has a gift for languages. He speaks several European languages, but is also interested in some African ones. I think that that is linked to his cultural sensitivity.

AMEstaún. Brother Joe left Africa to live in Nijmegen, where he was appointed Provincial. How did you experience this change?

Eugène. As Provincial of the Centre

West Europe Province, a service he accepted with much faith, Joe has had experience of the Belgian motto: « Union gives strength ». Back in Europe after many years of mission in Africa, he was hardly expecting this appointment, especially since he did not know the Brothers of the Province at all well. He has relied on the experience of other Brothers of the Province, and he is very much at home in the communities. I had an experience of this during a meeting we had in Germany last year. And when I passed through Belgium, all the Brothers were happy with his leadership.

AMEstaún. A thought for Joe

Eugène. I pray that Brothers Emili and Joe may be animated by hearts passionate for God and compassionate for all the Brothers of the Institute.



Fifth week of sessions in sight

XXI General Chapter

The elections to the General Council took place on the 2nd and 3rd of October. One of the specific tasks of the Chapter is to elect the Superior General, his Vicar, and the Councillors. This concluded, a new page is turned in the chapter agenda. This break signals a change of theme in the activities of the Chapter.

Feelings and appraisals

The first meeting after the constitution of the team, which will govern the Institute for the next eight years, served as an opportunity for each of the capitulants to share at the tables his state of mind about the stretch of road remaining to be travelled. The contributions from the tables indicate a double direction as far as feelings and experiences are concerned. A glance backwards sees the past lived together in Rome for the space of a month. Feelings demonstrate that there is great general satisfaction at having shared life lived to-



gether in brotherhood. Brothers experience feelings of peace, optimism faced with the future, and hope. They find themselves happy with the good spirit that has reigned. All indicate that there has been a very good atmosphere and a formidable spirit of brotherhood and collaboration. They also say that the method of work has been excellent. The Central Commission has done a fine job. Life has been lived with emphasis on internationality and brotherhood. The style of work has been a revelation for many Brothers. They have come to value the importance of dialogue and methodology for arriving at agreement for consensus.

The second line of reflection, however, indicates apprehension and fears. There is great concern about how to communicate their experiences to the Marist world. One table uses the metaphor of travelling in a plane. "We have had a good flight, but now we have to make a safe landing". The allusion is to the formulas of the past,

which have been good for the time, but now need new ways of expressing the life, feelings and thinking of the Chapter. How to carry all this in meaningful form when we return home? How to give expression to this beautiful experience? There are many experiences very personal, and also collective, which cannot be put down in writing, which are carried in the soul. But the necessity is also seen of having something to refer to which expresses the feeling of all. One capitulant says: "When I return to my province, I can explain what I have experienced personally, but I need something which sums up what we have lived as a Chapter and which carries the signatures of all". This underlines, perhaps, the necessity of drafting something, that expresses in a significant way the experience of all, which each can take away. This is the task requiring to be done. Some lines of methodology have already appeared for moving towards a synthesis of the work achieved up to today.



The General Council holds its first work meeting

The Brother Councillors have scarcely had time to receive congratulations on their election. Brother Emili called them together for their first session of council work on the afternoon of Saturday, 3 October. Three Provincials still in office form part of the new General Council, as well as the Vicar General. The Council has to appoint the Brother Provincials. The task of initiating the sondage process in the Province and finding the names of the Brothers who will succeed them in this post will be among the other items on the agenda of the new General Council.

The work session began in the chapel of the Superiors, before the statue of our Good Mother and the reliquary of Saint Marcellin, with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for light.



Personal interventions in the assembly

Once the tables had made their contributions, another of the methodologies used by the Central Commission was put into practice: making the microphone available to anyone who wished to express himself in person to the assembly.

A first intervention alluded to how to realize the transmission of the chapter to the Marist world, completing what had been said at the tables. The Chapter has made efficacious use of the method of consensus for reaching agreement. Applying this methodology successfully has been an historic contribution to our capitular praxis in the way topics are treated. One way of disseminating what has been lived at the Chapter

may be to disseminate and use this methodology. It would be to desire that the Marist world start using the consensus method instead of the parliamentary method as the usual way of treating topics.

Other interventions mentioned vocations ministry. This ministry had not up to now been raised in the assembly. Faced with the final stretch of work, one had a more global vision of what needed to be reflected on. Vocations ministry had not stopped being a concern in the heart of many Brothers. They insisted that in our time the cry of Champagnat: "We need Brothers" was also relevant.

All the concerns expressed were noted by the Central Commission, which is responsible for organizing the daily work of the assembly.

