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Acts of the XXI General Chapter

Modifications introduced will enter into force on 6 June 2010

The XXI General Chapter, in its last session on 10 October, delegated to the General Council the responsibility for the official publication of the chapter texts. In December 2009, it published the Document of the XXI General Chapter – "With Mary, go in haste to a new land" .

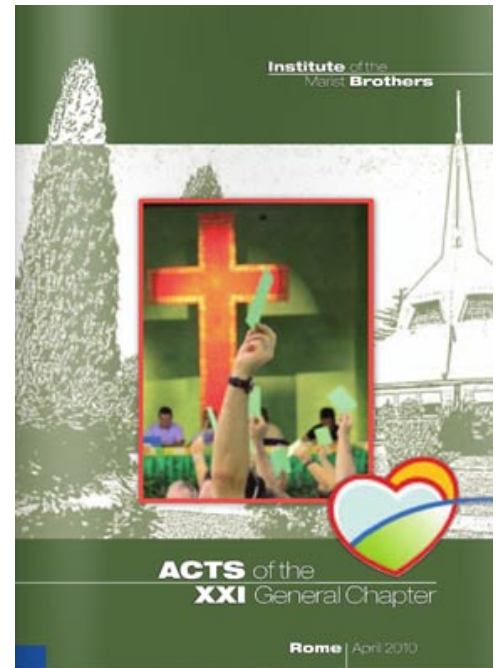
We publish now in this volume the Acts of the XXI General Chapter. Later, an updated edition of the Constitutions will be presented containing all the modifications introduced by the General Chapters since the appearance of the edition of 1985. This will be done by a team appointed by the General Council, in accord with what the Chapter decreed.

These Acts, drawn up on the responsibility of Br. Superior General and his Council, constitute the reference document for the General Council itself, for the provincial governments and for all the members of the Institute, in the service of recalling, understanding and applying the intuitions and decisions of the above mentioned Chapter in their totality.

These Acts are divided into five sections:

1. Development of the XXI General Chapter.

Presents the preparation of the Chapter and its day to day development in the sessions. Helps to understand the steps taken



by the capitular assembly and to provide a context for its definitions.

2. Official document of the XXI General Chapter: "With Mary, go in haste to a new land"

We reproduce here the official Document with its different parts, as it was published and distributed to the whole Institute as the first pastoral dissemination of the Chapter decisions. The electronic version is also offered on our web page: www.champagnat.org.

MARIST News

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3. XXI General Chapter: other texts and decisions

In this section we will find the report of the Verification Commission, all the changes to the Constitutions and Statutes approved by the Chapter and the methods of election used during the XXI General Chapter.

4. Norms of the General Chapter

Two documents contain these norms: The Statutes of the General Chapter and the Rules of Procedure of the General Chapter. Such as they were approved by the XXI General Chapter, they will serve as base for the begin-

ning of the XXII General Chapter.

5. Annexes

This section contains five parts. The first four are texts which express much of the life of the Chapter. These texts are: the Regional Letters sent to the XXI General Chapter, the Opening Address of Br. Seán Sammon, the Message from the Marist Laity invited to the Chapter, and the Closing Address of Br. Emili Turú. The last part lists all the persons directly involved in the development of the XXI General Chapter.

These Acts are published in the four official languages of the Institute: Fren-

ch, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The original language changes according to the documents but is the one which serves as reference for the other three versions.

Br. Superior General and his Council have decided that the modifications introduced into the Constitutions and Statutes, approved by the XXI General Chapter and, in the cases necessary, by the Holy See, will enter into force on 6 June 2010. As disciples of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, we wish to carry on giving life and relevance to his form of following Jesus in the service of the Kingdom.



Calendar of Brother Superior General

June – December 2010



June

- 30-02 Oceania Region Assembly
- 03-05 Meetings Province of Sydney
- 06-07 Meetings Province of Melbourne
- 08-13 Mission Ad gentes Asia

July

- 13-18 Meeting with young Brothers of Brasil. Belo Horizonte
- 19-21 Meeting with Marist Directors. Brasilia.
- 23 Close of course for four Marist branches. Manziana

August

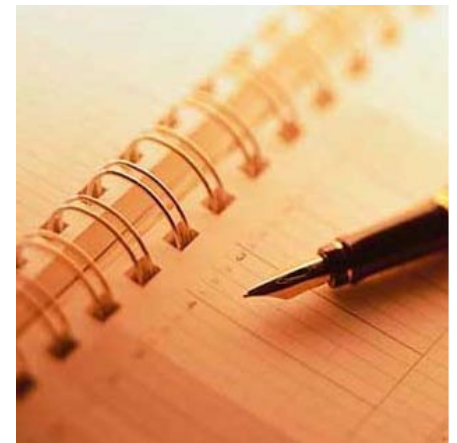
- 01-07 Retreat Province of Madagascar

September

- 05-07 Course Umbrales. El Escorial
- 08-10 Centenary of Les Avellanes
- 11-12 125 years Marist Canada
- 13-15 Provincials of Northern Arc, Canada
- 15-20 Visit to Haití
- 22 Official inauguration of the renovated house of the Hermitage

October

- 05-06 UMBRASIL. Higher Council. Porto Alegre



- 07 Meeting of Marist Universities. Porto Alegre
- 08-09 Meeting with groups of Rio Grande do Sul.

November

- 10-12 Horizons Course. El Escorial
- 19- Council of Union of Superior Generals + UISG
- 20 Catholic Schools. Madrid
- 22 Executive Council, Union of Superior Generals
- 24-26 Assembly, Union of Superior Generals

December

- 10-12 Symposium on the Brother's vocation. Madrid
- 15-18 New Zealand
- 19-22 Provincial Chapters of Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand in Sydney




Association with the Marist Family

The affiliation to the institute of Hans Wennink



Hans' early association with the Brothers was while a seminarian. The residence for the Marist seminarians was next door to the Brothers' residence and school at Nijmegen and the seminarians and Brothers frequently met together. Among his early recollections is that of the Brothers being very hands on, practical people, full of dedication.

Hans' more recent association with the Marist Brothers dates back to 1994. Shortly after joining the staff of a Dutch family foundation, he renewed contact with Br Jacques Scholte, then Provincial of Belgium and the Netherlands whom he had known while still a seminarian. They met in connection with a project for young men coming released from prison. His Marist contacts outside the Netherlands were, however, more extensive.

In his new work, Hans had special responsibility for Southern Africa, Catholic Higher Education worldwide and International projects. In this position, he was soon in contact with the Brothers in South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar and at the Marist International College 

El On Tuesday 27 April, during the celebration of the Eucharist and in the presence of the General Council, thirteen new Provincials in Rome for their meeting with the General Council and Paulien, his wife, Br Emili Turu presented Hans Wennink with a Certificate of Affiliation to the Institute.

with the Marist Family. On completion of secondary schooling he joined the Marist Fathers. Following his novitiate, he started his theological studies at the Catholic University of Nijmegen. During this time he decided not to continue with the Fathers. He however remained on at the university completing his theological studies, obtaining first his Licentiate and subsequently, his doctorate.

Hans has had a very long association

Meeting of young Brazilian Brothers

To build new roads for a new world

The Marist Union of Brasil will hold the National Meeting of young Brothers of Brasil at Belo Horizonte (MG) from 13 to 18 July. This event is aimed at providing the young Brazilian Brothers with a space for sharing life and dreams, which encourages reflection on their being as

« Brothers ». It is a matter of building new roads for a new world.

Faced with the calls of the XXI General Chapter, those taking part in the meeting will reflect on what it means to be a Marist Brother today, starting from the

three grand axes of consecrated life: mission, spirituality and community life.

You can learn about the programming of the meeting through the blog www.marista.edu.br/jovensirmaos.



in Nairobi, Kenya. Hans took a keen interest in the Brothers and their work and was an invaluable partner in a wide variety of projects. He has always been available to advise on a wide range of issues ranging from buildings to formation programs, from rural schools to tertiary institutions, from education and information technology to catechetical programs.

Hans has been a true partner in our mission of making Jesus known and loved. Our values are very much his. His humility and simplicity, love of work, Marial spirit and concern for the poor are evident to all who get to know him.

Affiliation to the Institute was a fitting tribute to a person who has associated

himself very closely with the Brothers and our apostolate. He has made a very significant contribution to our work, not simply through facilitating financial assistance to a variety of projects, a contribution without which much that has been achieved would have been left undone or only partly done, but because he believes in the Brothers and our work. He has encouraged, challenged, supported and associated himself fully with what we are about. He is truly an associate of the Brothers of whom we can be proud.

Here down you find the words that Hans Wennink gave during the event.

*Dear Brothers,
I am grateful to all of you and I am especially grateful to God and to Mary, our*

Mother, that you have granted me the honour to become one of you as an affiliated member of the Institute.

For a long time I have had the honour of working with many of you all over the world. I got to know you as men of compassion, as men taking seriously the dignity of every human being. You are changing structures that exclude people. I saw your solidarity especially towards the disadvantaged youth. And I know your spirituality where this service to people originates. I love this hands-on spirit of hands on, of acting for the common good as your founder Marcellin Champagnat did.

Paulien and I will continue to pray for all of you, that you keep your strong spirit in service of people all over the world alive.



“I choose to become a lay Marist”

Solonirina Jeanne Christophine Rahantamalala, Madagascar

A Protestant Christian woman raised me. My father is Catholic, my mother is Protestant. I was sixteen when I started to teach catechism on Sundays. Before 2000, my husband worked in the Saint Peter Chanel school. I am not going to enter into the details but all that I knew was that the Marist school existed. My relationships with the brothers started in 2001 at the school. I was prejudiced against them because all I could see was the outside. I started to work with the brothers in October 2001 to replace a teacher who was pregnant. From this moment I made good relationships with them. I became used to meeting them and I took the decision to remain in my job. Why?

I found that the brothers are simple, approachable, frank people. But I wanted to know them more: their life, their way of living etc... This led me to ask some questions of a brother. He

gave me the Life of Father Champagnat and he opened my eyes on the community life of the brothers. As I was keen to know the life of the brothers, I did not stop asking him for more explanations. From that moment, our relationships became deeper, more frank, and truer, especially as we had the same task which is the education of young people. We worked together in a cordial way. Our collaboration became great. I felt at ease working with them, with their way of life, thinking about praying, with their love of prayer. All of this contact helped me to improve my life and helped me fulfil the duty that was incumbent on me.

Starting in the month of August 2002, the parish priest invited me to teach catechism to the children of the parish of Saint Paul every Saturday and Sunday. I accepted this work and the course was given at the Brothers' school. It was here that I started to

love the Blessed Virgin. I recited the rosary and always carried the miraculous medal with me. Sometimes I forgot the medal at the house. I asked permission to go and get it. Once when I went to Fianarantsoa, I forgot it and as a consolation, I recited my rosary. It was then that an accident happened. We hit a truck at Mahasoa. I was saved. I understood that it was the work of the Blessed Virgin. Since then, I have never been afraid when I have the medal with me. I also ask her to look after my family.

We take as our model Father Champagnat in the education of children and we never stop asking for his help. I was very happy educating children. I advised them to pray and to ask Father Champagnat to help them have a better life. The number of children never stopped increasing because they were proud of us.

