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Edition of the Constitutions and Statutes

Publication Team incorporate the changes



The General Council has begun to carry out a first mandate from the Chapter concerning the Constitutions. The relevant text says: "The 21st General Chapter mandates the General Government to appoint a Publication Team, which will integrate in a single text the various changes effected in the Constitutions and Statutes by this and previous Chapters. This text will be consistent in style, language, numbering and references".

The team responsible for carrying out this work met in the General House in Rome from 21 to 26 June 2010. This Publication Team is composed of Brothers Antonio Ramalho, co-ordinator, Juan Miguel Anaya and Edward Clisby (General Administration), and Maurice Goutagny (l'Hermitage).

The work entrusted to the team was to collect in a single text all the changes

which have been made in the Constitutions since the publication of the text in 1985. The changes are of different types: they may refer to the suppression of texts or articles, corrections or updates required by the evolution of laws, new legislation produced since 1985, changes in the numbering of articles, etc. This committee was also charged with comparing the translations in the four official languages of the Institute to ensure consistency and harmony, and supervise the publication of the new text in the four languages.

Once the work of compiling and harmonising the texts is completed, the Publications Team will submit the fruit of their labours to the General Council, who will then decide how to proceed for the future.

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Towards a 2020 Vision

Oceania Lay Partnership Conference

From 4-7 July, 35 Lay Marists representing a cross section of Marist activities and enterprises in Oceania, gathered in Brisbane for the Oceania Lay Partnership Conference. The participants were from the Provinces of Melbourne, New Zealand and Sydney and the District of Melanesia and the proceedings were guided by the Chair of the Oceania Partnership Commission, Alan Parker, Director of Champagnat Partnership in New Zealand.

Two representatives of the Extended Bureau of the Laity within the General Administration – Tony Clarke from the Marist Ministries Office (Sydney) and Ana Sarrate, a primary teacher from the Brothers School in Pamplona (Spain) also attended as part of their roles in the Bureau. Commencing in September, Tony and Ana, together with Br Javier Espinosa, have been appointed co-Directors of the Bureau.

It was originally planned that the conference would be held in 2009 but was postponed due to the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus in the region at that time.

The Conference is part of a suite of regional activities where participants from the four Administrative Units are coming together over the next few months to discern the way forward for Brothers and Lay Marists in the period leading up to the concurrent Chapters of the Provinces to be held at Sydney in December. Already the Regional Assembly has been held in May and other Assemblies of a Province or District nature are being planned.

The Marist region of Oceania is unique in many ways especially in geography and number of countries represented. Geographically it is widespread (there is over 3000 km between the two



Marist communities at either extremity of the region, Perth and Kiribati. It would take eight hours of flying time to go between them. It is when the participants from each of the Administrative Units sit down together under their national flags that one realises the cultural richness and diversity in the group and the need to respect the histories and traditions of the members. In the conference room there were 15 flags representing the countries and cultural traditions in the Administrative Units in Oceania where the Marists have schools or missions. Can you name the 15 flags? (See overleaf for answer).

The Conference was opened by Br Julian Casey (Provincial of Melbourne) representing the College of Major Superiors (the three Provincials and the District Leader) who would be acting as an observer. He focused on four questions:

- How do Lay Marists see their mission?
- How do Lay Marists see their commitment to a Marist life and

mission?

- How are we to describe the spirituality of the Lay Marist?
- What are Lay Marists actually looking for?

To answer these questions, participants shared their stories and ministries representing all aspects of Marist life and mission as well as their personal vision of the Champagnat charism. Through this process, they gained a sense of what 'Marist' means to them, how they engage with Marist spirituality now and how they see it operating in the future.

The document, *Gathered Around the Same Table: The Vocation of Champagnat's Marist Laity*, was the source of inspiration for the Conference.

Several participants had previously attended Marist formation experiences including the International Mission Assembly at Mendes (Brazil), the Joint Formation Experience at St Paul Trois Chateaux (France), and the General Chapter at the General House (Rome) and the Sydney Province's Joint For-

mation Experience at Mittagong (Australia). They reported that these had been profound formation experiences and their stories enriched the conversations at this Conference.

The major outcomes of the conference were gathered together under the heading of Future Dreaming. Participants workshopped their responses under seven themes: Vocation, Mission, Sustaining the Charism, Formation, Shared Living (Community), Co-responsibility, and Diversity. The development of definitions and principles for these themes and establishing a set of desired actions for each was one of the major tasks of the Conference.

These will be reported more fully in other publications.

Marie Dorrington, an educator from Adelaide with a Marist background, facilitated the proceedings and skilfully guided the participants to a consensus of the outcomes.

In summing up the Conference Br Julian said in his observations that the Conference will be a significant contribution to Marist life in Oceania and would be an encouragement for the participants to continue the discernment and dialogue when they returned home and across the region. Participants and the people who share the

journey in taking the charism forward would be affirmed by this conference, he said.

It was a happy co-incidence that the Conference concluded on the celebration of the Solomon Islands Independence Day and also the Feast of Blessed To Rot, the PNG Martyr – important Oceania connections

[Aboriginal Australia, Australia, Bougainville, Cambodia, East Timor, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia (France), New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Torres Strait Islands, Vanuatu.]



Marist Spiritual Patrimony

Planning Meeting in Africa

At the invitation of the Conference of Provincials for Africa, a meeting was held at MIC Nairobi (Kenya) between 28 June and 1 July, to plan for the better diffusion of our Marist spiritual patrimony across the Administrative Unites of Africa and Madagascar.

Participating in the meeting were the African graduates of the six-month Patrimony Course that was held at the General House in Rome during 2008: Brothers Vincent de Paul Kouassi (West Africa), Henri Bashizi (PACE), Auxensio Dickson (Southern Africa), Elias Iwu and Benedict Umoh (Nigeria). The meeting was facilitated by Brother Michael Green (Australia) who was Superior of the 2008 course in Rome.

During the five days of their meeting, the Brothers developed a detailed set of recommendations to be considered by the Superiors of Africa.

The two most important proposals concern, first, the establishment at MIC of an African Centre for Marist



Spirituality and Mission and, second, an integrated programme for the teaching of Marist spiritual patrimony across the three stages of initial formation: postulancy, novitiate and scholasticate.

For the last five years, Brother Michael Green and Vincent de Paul Kouassi, have conducted workshops at MIC. This will now be extended so that there is a progressive programme from the beginning of the

postulancy. It is also envisaged that a range of other courses, workshops, seminars and retreats will be offered for Brothers and Lay people, both in the new Centre at MIC and across the continent.

It is envisaged that the Centre for Marist Spirituality and Mission will play a key role in preparing and in supporting African Marists in their undertaking of Marist mission into the future.



The General Council appoints two new provincials

Shanthi Liyanage (South Asia) and Luis García Sobrado (Sector Mission ad gentes)



Br. Shanthi Liyanage

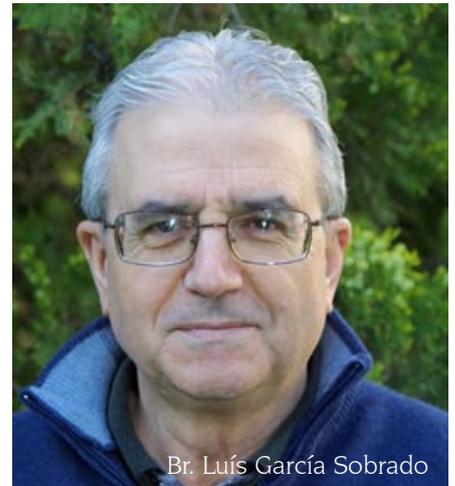
Brother Superior General and his Council, meeting on 1st July 2010, have appointed Brother Shanthi Liyanage as Provincial of the Province of South Asia, for a first mandate of three years, beginning on 18 August 2010.

Brother Emili Turú, in a letter addressed to all the Brothers, thanked Brother Santhi for being ready to direct the Province of South Asia for the next three years. This young Province, composed of Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, has some great challenges in front of it

but also a fine future. Among the challenges, Br. Emili underlined the following: constructing solid bonds between communities, reinforcing the religious life of the Brothers, promoting the Marist laity, and confronting the decline of vocations. At the same time, there are great hopes concerning the pastoral care of the Brothers, the leadership promoted by the General Chapter, formation and vocations promotion, and the development of a common vision. The new leadership calls on all the Brothers to « facilitate the birth of a new epoch of the Marist charism » in the Province, which is preparing to celebrate the centenary of the Marist presence in Sri Lanka in 2011.

At the same meeting of the General Council, Brother Luis García Sobrado was appointed superior of the Mission ad gentes Sector. Brother Luis has generously accepted the direction of this Sector for a period of three years, from 1st September 2010.

After a stay of eight months in the Sector, Br. Luis has won the confidence of the Brothers. His leadership experience, acquired as General Councillor



Br. Luís García Sobrado

and Vicar General, his ability to take the appropriate decisions, his international and intercultural experience, his remarkable qualities of communication, his capacity for facing up to diversity, his knowledge of the world, human realities and the universal Church, all will help him give a definitive drive to the Sector.

Brother Luis replaces Brother Michael De Waas, who was elected to the General Council during the XXI General Chapter.



N. D. de L'Hermitage

