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Updates

03/03/2011: Marist presence in Sri Lanka

02/03/2011: Deceased Brothers: Mathieu France (L'Hermitage); Columbanus (Neil) Pratt - Meulbourne; Aimé Ollier (L'Hermitage); Claudio Lozano González (Cruz del Sur)

02/03/2011: Brother Mario Meuti director of the Rome base

01/03/2011: New book received: 50 años Maristas entre La Marina de Elche y Guardamar del Segura (Francisco Bascónes Peña, FMS)

01/03/2011: New edition of the Constitutions and Statutes

28/02/2011: Photo gallery: Marist International Centre (MIC), Nairobi 12.02.2011, Launching Jubilee Year (25 years of foundation)

28/02/2011: Photo gallery: First profession in Tudella - South Asia - 26/02/2011

28/02/2011: Videos: História Marcelino Champagnat; Basilio Rueda Guzmán, FMS

28/02/2011: Deceased Brother: Virgilio González Rodríguez (Compostela)

28/02/2011: Mission AD GENTES as a promoter of vitality in the Institute

28/02/2011: Marist Schools Australia Newsletter - N. 2

28/02/2011: Novitiate formation - Matola

New edition of the Constitutions and Statutes

Contains the changes introduced by the Chapters of 1993, 2001 and 2009

At the end of February 2011, the text of the Constitutions and Statutes, revised according to the wishes of the 21st General Chapter, arrived back from the printer. The basic text used was that of the Constitutions approved by the 18th General Chapter and published under the date of 8 December 1986. This revised text incorporates the changes introduced by the General Chapters of 1993, 2001 and 2009. The mailing service of the General House has already started sending out the packages, and in a short time the Provinces should receive the newly printed text.

As a letter of introduction of the new text, we reproduce the one signed by Brother Emili Turú inserted at the beginning of the new publication.

Rome, January 2, 2011

Dear Brothers,

Six years from today we will celebrate the Bicentennial of the foundation of our beloved Institute. It will be an excellent opportunity not only to thank

the Lord and our good Mother for their constant blessings throughout those 200 years, but also to review our fidelity to the charism and the mission, as well as to continue deepening the renewal and "aggiornamento" asked by Vatican Council II.



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In this sense, our Constitutions can play an important role, as the members of the XXI General Chapter realized that "for a new world, we need a conversion of heart. A thorough revision of the Constitutions and Statutes, with the full participation of the Brothers, can help to revitalize our vocation". So this new edition of the Constitutions and Statutes will be our companion along the way of our journey towards the next General Chapter, which will take place, God willing, in 2017, coinciding with the Bicentennial.

The precapitular commission charged with revising the text of the Constitutions and Statutes, on presenting their report to the XXI General Chapter, pointed out that "the text is a well-knit document that appropriately inspires the living of our Marist life" and so during this Chapter "is not the time to make a new edition of the complete text of our Constitutions" since "an in-depth study and revision of the Constitutions requires more time and more consultation". Nevertheless, during the almost 25 years that have passed since the Holy See approved our post-conciliar Constitutions, the changes introduced by the General Chapters of 1993, 2001 and 2009 have been accumulating. These Chapters have approved a total of 89 changes in the Statutes and have presented to the Holy See changes to 3 articles of the Constitutions[1].

It did not seem opportune to present the changes introduced by the XXI General Chapter by means of a small pamphlet to be added to the book of our Constitutions and Statutes, as had been done after the Chapters of 1993 and

2001. In fact, the XXI General Chapter mandated that, with my Council, I would 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 text I now present to you is the fruit of the excellent work of the Publication Team that we appointed: Brothers Antonio Ramalho, Edward Clisby, Juan Miguel Anaya and Maurice Goutagny. I thank them for their patience and generosity. They revised the translations into our four official languages, keeping in mind the original language in which the articles of the Constitutions and Statutes were approved[2].

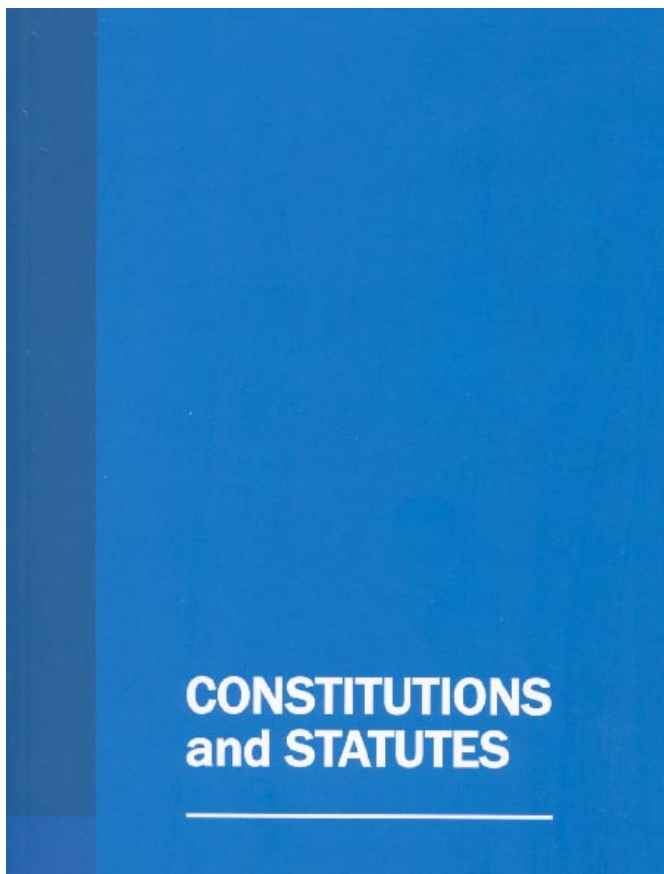
In their work the Publication Team sought to make the wording coherent in each of the languages and to make the different translations faithful to the originals. In addition they made certain that the changes approved by the various Chapters were inserted correctly into the text. They numbered the Statutes that referred to the General Conference, the Provincial Assembly and those in charge of institutions, which previously had no numbers. They changed the numeration of other Statutes so as to avoid duplications or gaps in the order. Finally, they corrected and adjusted to the new numbering all the references within the document, as well as the index.

My Council and I approved this work and made decisions on certain matters dealing with the layout and presentation of the text.

Dear Brother: receive into your hands, and welcome affectionately into your heart, this new edition of the Constitutions, "the application of the Gospel to our life and a sure guide to carrying out God's designs for us" (C 169). Remember what Br. Charles Howard told us when presenting the first edition: "On reading them, on praying with them privately or in community, we will discover their riches; at the same time we will acquire, or we will refine, the particular traits of our identity as Little Brothers of Mary – a unique identity among the People of God – and we will make it attractive, especially to the young people to whom our lives are dedicated".

With brotherly affection,

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General



[1]Changes approved January 26, 2002 (Prot. n. L. 35-1/2002) and November 16, 2009 (Prot. n. L. 35-1/2002) respectively.

[2]The original language is French, except in 70 and 70.1-3, whose original language is Spanish, and in 123.1, 143.7, 155.1-2, 156.1-2, 157.1, 158.2, 159.1-2, 160.1-3, 161.4, 161.6-7, 161.10, 161.16 and 162.7, whose original language is English.

FMSI turns its eyes towards a new land

Brother Mario Meuti director of the Rome base



The brothers from the Geneva office have come to Rome for a few days to take part in the planning meetings organised by the General Council, and to co-ordinate their activities with the other Bureaus, which are doing their planning for the next three years at this time. Brother Mario Meuti has been present at these joint planning meetings. All are studying the policies jointly in order to harmonise projects and activities in accordance with the directives received from the General Council.

Mario Meuti Brother Mario, 56, is of Italian nationality and belongs to the Mediterránea Province. He has worked as teacher and economist in Marist schools at Cesano Maderno, Taormina, Genova and San Leone Magno (Rome). He is at present director of the latter, and will remain so until June, when he takes up his new office as director of FMSI.



Brother Emili Turú, Superior General, has just published the new organizational structure of the Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale (FMSI), as well as the persons in charge of it. From today, the FMSI will have two bases, one in Rome and the other in Geneva, each with a director and both co-ordinated by a president (www.fmsi-onlus.org).

Brother Rick Carey, president of FMSI from 2009, had to resign from his post for reasons of health. Brother Jude Pieterse continued to act in his place, in the role of vice president, although he also left Rome in early December 2010. This situation of vacancy and provisional direction in the functioning of this institution, which manages the global solidarity projects in the Institute,

has resulted in the decision taken by the General Council meeting in plenary session.

Brother Jim Jolley (Province of Melbourne), who took up his work in Geneva in September 2009, will continue responsible for directing the office in Geneva, entrusted especially with the defence and promotion of the Rights of Children, with a presence in the United Nations. He is associated in this work by Brothers Manel Mendoza (Hermitage) and Vicente Falqueto (Brasil Centro-Norte). For the office in Rome, the General Council has appointed as director Brother Mario Meuti. Brother Mario will be supported by Sara Panciroli and Angela Petenzi. The president of FMSI and co-ordinator of the two bases will be Brother Michael De Waas, Councillor General.



Mario Meuti, FMS

« Senderos » at the Escorial

The persons, deeds and days

Dear Reader, the capricious compass directed our steps to this corner of the « Sierra del Guadarrama », near the world famous Monastery of the Escorial, not far from the very noble and illustrious city of Madrid. The neighbours tell us that this property we are on is known as Fuensanta. Good auspices, then, for recounting this history which the chronicler, in imitation of the Greek poet, has entitled CHRONICLE OF PERSONS, DEEDS AND DAYS. It is here, kind reader, that our journey begins. I invite you to travel the TRACKS on this day of the Lord and Saint Blaise, Thursday 3 February 2011.

At 8 o'clock in the evening, we gathered in front of the main door of the house, together with the community of Iberica, our hosts, for a simple and warm ceremony of official welcome. With the language of symbols, we wove a garland of song and prayer, which continued at the festal table in the dining room.

The staff, the star, the footprints... indispensable signs for us who, from today, will be pilgrims. For our long journey of five months will be just that, a pilgrimage.

Tourist tracks

From the Escorial extends a wide range of artistic and cultural possibilities. Nearby cities contain treasures of civil and religious art. Our first trip was to Segovia, a clean and beautiful city, as the publicity slogan declares. At 10 o'clock exactly on 5 February, our « guide », Br. Joaquín López Barriuso was already waiting for us and he accompanied us the whole day. It all began in a spot laden with memories of the great mystic Saint John of the Cross. We celebrated Mass in the chapel of the convent which preserves his remains.



The rocks, river and valley resound with the echo of verses which form the summit of Spanish mystical literature: « Mil gracias derramando pasó por estos sotos con premura » (Scattering myriad graces, he has passed in haste through these groves).

From there, through a maze of narrow and steep streets, we followed our itinerary: the Cathedral, the Alcazar, the Synagogue (now a convent of the Poor Clares) and the emblematic Aqueduct, indispensable rendez-vous for the tourist arriving in the Castillian capital. We were soon going to taste the ineffable suckling-pig immortalised by Don Cándido, « innkeeper major of Castille », as one can read on the monument erected to his memory. It only remained to us to visit the Jewish cemetery, situated on the side of a pine-forest where the Marist school is situated. A privileged viewing point for a panoramic view of the city. On our return to the house by a different route, we were able to enjoy a night view of the city from the Alto del León.

On Sunday, everyone at Mass in the Monastery of the Escorial. Up in the sanctuary, three priests concelebrating; below, the faithful taking part in the Mass. The liturgy of the VIsunday features the well known Gospel passage: You are the light of the world, you

are the salt of the earth... The sun was flooding the skies of Guadarrama with its light. At the tops of the towers, the storks formed with their necks question marks on the bearing of the winds.

All that is left is to say who we are and why we are here. We will do it in the words of Mark's Gospel, Chapter 3: Angel, Gérard, Guillermo (our chaplain), Ismael, Joaci, José Ignacio, José Luis, José Luis, Manuel, Odilmar, Saturnino and Tomás. We are twelve too. And we are here because Jesus wanted to call us, as he did the disciples. In this « hic et nunc » of the TRACKS.

By way of a summary:

Years accumulated: 588 (eleven participants).

Median age: 53.45 (better than the median age of the Congregation).

Official languages of the course: the Spanish of Spain and Latin America; the Portuguese of Portugal and Brasil. Official sponsor of « Senderos »: General Council in Rome

Marist geography: America Central, Brasil, Compostela, Cruz del Sur, District of Paraguay, Hermitage, Ibérica, Norandina, Santa María de los Andes.