

CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Relevant dates January - March 2012

- J**anuary 1-8: New integrated data system, MIC Nairobi - Pedro Sánchez and Marcelo de Brito
- January 9 - February 24: Plenary Session, Rome
 - January 15-18: Mission Team of Europe, Geneva - João Carlos do Prado
 - Jan 19-21: Meeting of 4 Marist General Councils, Manziana
 - January 22-27: Meeting Director & Co-directors of Secretariat of Lay, Rome - Javier Espinosa
 - January 31 - February 5: Meeting of lay animators of region Asia, Bangkok



- February 2-March 31: 1st Session community animators, Sp. & Port. languages, El Escorial, Secretariat Brothers Today
- February 2-March 31: 1st Session community animators, Eng. language, Manziana, Secretariat Brothers Today
- February 8-16: New integrated data system-Asia, Oceania, USA, Canada, Manila - Pedro Sánchez and Marcelo de Brito
- February 10-11: Closing of 25th anniversary of MIC, Nairobi - Eugène Kabanguka
- February 13: Meeting of Vocations Team of Europe, Seville - César Rojas
- February 13-17: Commission International Marist Youth Meeting-2013, Río de Janeiro - João Carlos do Prado
- February 13-14: Meeting of Governing Team of MIC, Nairobi - Joe Mc Kee
- February 15-17: CSAC (Conference of Superiors of Africa) - Nairobi, Ernesto Sánchez
- February 20-24: Meeting of lay animators of Oceania, in New Zealand - Javier Espinosa
- February 26-27: Meeting of Superiors of Asia, Bangkok - Michael de Waas
- February 29 - March 3: Enlarged General Council Arco Norte, Guatemala
- March 7-10: General House Commission, General House - Joe Mc

THE MISSION AND ITS PATHS

Two recent events in the General House:

- On 2 January, during the Eucharist, Br Emili Turú, Superior General, signed his first circular entitled: "He gave us the name of Mary".
- On the 9th, the General Council began its plenary session period with three days at a resort for a time of community encounter and evaluation.

- Kee, Víctor Preciado, Toni Salat

 - March 8-15: Session community animators, Hermitage - Secreariat Brothers Today
 - March 12-16: International Mission Commission, Rome - John Klein, João Carlos do Prado
 - March 17: Meeting of Marist Publishing Houses, Rome - John Klein, João Carlos do Prado
- March 18 -May 13: Visit to Southern Africa - Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez
 - March 21-29: International workshop on Protection of the Child, Rome – Emili Turú, John Klein and 4 Councilors
 - March 24-26: Congress on the Identity of the Religious Brother. CLAR, Belém do Pará
- March 26-28: Marist meeting with the participants in the Congress, Belém do Pará
 - March 26-30: Opening of PER-GAMUM, Alcalá de Henares, Spain - Josep María Soterias, Pedro Sánchez, Marcelo de Brito
 - March 26-30: Regional meeting Asia on the MYM document, Philippines - João Carlos do Prado



195TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE INSTITUTE

We do not know the consequences of a "yes"

The celebration of the 195th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute in the general house involved the Brothers of the General Council, the community, some visiting Brothers, a Sister of the Sacred Heart, a Chilean layman and the chaplains of the house. As Br Emili reminded us, "we are all here", as representing the whole range of the Marist charism and mission. The Mass was concelebrated by the four priests.

At the time for the homily, Br Superior General addressed us. First of all, he referred to our origins. It was Thursday, 2 January 1817. Not easy beginnings, commencing with the ages: Jean-Marie Granjon 23, Jean-Baptiste Audras 15, and Marcellin himself only 28. The house in La Valla, called "Bonnaire", sheltered the first brothers who dedicated themselves to prayer, manual work (making nails) and study: they learned to read and write. Their ignorance of religious life was equally great. Obviously, the perseverance rate was not high: only 50% of the first brothers persevered. And Br Emili reminded us that the very first, Jean-Marie Granjon, did not leave the Institute, but was sent away.

"We never know the consequences of a yes", he continued. And he cited the Virgin Mary, Fr Champagnat, Br Nestor Quiceno, founder of Remar... No one imagines the consequences of a yes. He recalled to us the significance of the table of La Valla, expressing the gift God has given us through Saint Marcellin. He also referred to the Gospel of the Mass (Mt 18:1-6), an invitation to become like children and to welcome them as Jesus did.

Finally, Br Emili spoke to us of his first circular, the 412th in the tradition coming from Saint Marcellin. The term "circular" also refers to the round table, to communication between those who "belong to the same group". This was a very strong symbol at the last General Chapter, and it is still so today, a symbol of listening, of dialogue. He hopes that the circular will help us continue to build up a family, to maintain an open and constructive dialogue.

The Superior General gave a brief explanation of the circular, He gave us the name of Mary, and its principal parts: "What is happening to us?";

"Called to construct the Marial face of the Church"; "Three icons for a Church with a Maternal face": the Visitation, the Virgin in the apron, in attitude of service; Pentecost: fountain of the people of God; the Annunciation: beauty will save the world. The final part, "Mary, dawn of the new times", invites us to build a Church with a Marial face. We have examples of brothers, like Émile François, who died in Beijing in 2005, and brothers who have lived like him, in difficult situations, their vocation as a little brother of Mary. It was in memory of them that Br Emili gave us an image of Our Lady of China, the original of which is in the General House, a gift of one of the current leaders of the church in that great country. "May Mary remind us of those who have gone before us in the faith and encourage our commitment."

In conclusion, Br Emili symbolically signed his first circular. After the festive supper, the Brazilian couple Zoltan et Iracema Paulinyi, friends of Br Téofilo Minga, put on a concert for us with some pieces of classical and concert music (violin, viola and bassoon).



CENTENARY OF THE MARIST BROTHERS' PRESENCE IN SRI LANKA

Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration

The Marist Brothers, their lay partners, teachers, students, old boys, parents and well wishers were present in large numbers for the Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration held on Saturday the 10th of December 2011, in the Auditorium of Maris Stella College, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo, was the main celebrant, and Very Rev. Father Maxwell Silva, the bishop elect, and the Episcopal Vicar, Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Perera, along with two old boy priests of Maris Stella College concelebrated.

There was a large number of clergy, Religious Sisters and Brothers along with the lay faithful.

Very Rev. Brother Emili Turu, Superior General, Brother Michael De Waas, General Councillor for Asia and Oceania, and Rev. Brother Shanti Liyanage, Provincial Superior of the South Asia, were also present on this occasion.

All the guests were welcomed by Rev. Brother Shanthy, and were accompanied to the auditorium in a colorful procession led by the Maris Stella College Western Band.

The altar and surroundings were very attractively decorated, with a large size painting of our Founder hanging in the background along with the logo of the centenary year.

During the homily, the Cardinal expressed appreciation for the apostolate carried out by the Marist Brothers in Sri Lanka. He emphasized the fact that the pioneer Marists sacrificed their lives and were buried in the mission



land in order to give life to the present generation of Marist Brothers. He further mentioned that moral values are being eroded specially among the youth today. After the 30 year conflict in Sri Lanka, the number of youth affected and led astray is a large one. He reminded the gathering of how Marcellin, the founder of the Marists, responded to the challenges of the French Revolution and engaged in an uphill task to educate the youth of his time. The Cardinal invited the brothers to play a major role in educating the youth, especially the underprivileged.

During the Holy Mass all the Brothers renewed their vows in the presence of Brother Emili.

After the Mass, there was a general assembly where Rev. Bro. Emili addressed the gathering. After his speech, he mentioned the pioneer brothers (Nicholas,

Francis, Lazar and Riyas) to the war affected areas in the North of Sri Lanka. When our first pioneers arrived in Sri Lanka in 1911, the then Brother Superior General, Very Rev. Brother Stratonique, had given them a picture of Our Lady Queen of Angels. A replica of this picture was given to the pioneers to the North by Brother Emili, assuring them of his prayers.

Then Brother Joseph Peiris was missioned to take charge of the Lay Marists of Sri Lanka.

There was also a very attractive power point presentation by Brother Chamara highlighting the major events that had taken place during the past 100 years in Sri Lanka.

This joyful ceremony ended with the lunch of fellowship and all dispersed happily.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Farewell to Br. Antonio Martínez Estaún

On 17 December, the General House community farewelled Br Antonio Martínez Estaún, finishing up as Director of Communications of the General Administration.

Br Juan Moral, Archivist General, was master of ceremonies. The ceremony began with a brief prayer of thanksgiving to God for Br Antonio, for his simplicity, his spirit of service, to the refrain of the Magnificat. We wish our confrère success and great hopes in his new mission.

The ceremony continued with Br Antonio answering three questions in the form of an interview:

Three particularly significant experiences in the General House:

The first was the General Chapter. In waiting for the election of the new Superior General, his first address, anticipating the photos to take... but without the memory card in his camera! The second was the General Conference in Sri Lanka, his baptism of fire as Director of Communications, but without data to communicate as the participants did not tell him much. The third: the Beatification of the Brother Martyrs of Spain. Furnished with accreditation as a journalist with the Vatican, he was allowed access to many places, to take unique views for an excellent and complete reporting, something he was able to repeat for the World Youth Day. Other significant moments for him: publication of his Master's thesis which helped him to discover the history of the Institute; access to the Archives which gave him a more ample vision of the congregation, and a study of the Marial face of the Church.

What he will miss:



If sent to Africa, he said, the communications of quality he was able to use in the General House, the instruments, programmes and technical aids. If he had to go to Asia or Oceania, the translators. In America, the Archives, and in Europe, the community.

Wherever he may go: a pizza "capricciosa"; the kindness of Br Javier Ocaranaza; the brotherhood of Br Aloisio Kuhn; the punctuality of Br Josep Roura in transmitting translations; the company and support of Luiz da Rosa in the work; the presence of Br Edward Clisby; the statements and deeds of Br Ton Martínez; some book; the terrace for sharing times of conviviality; the celebration of birthdays...

His personal hopes for the future:

The first profession of a significant number of novices of Europe. That the community or communities where he lives may be a source of life and animation for the Institute. That the Brother's vocation be valued in the

Church. That a novitiate for laity be opened at Les Avellanes. That Br Virgilio León be discovered by laity as a source of dynamism for the Marist Family and that he be proclaimed "saint" by the Church. And, lastly, that the web site receive more and more visitors.

Some words for the community:

Antonio expressed a blessing for what God had done in him and in the community. He insisted on the importance "of entering into the tent of intimacy, where we are looked for to look for Him, where we are loved to love Him... and so gradually prepare for the final and definitive encounter." He asked pardon for his human failings, but he was especially grateful for the great richness of having shared the project, mission and service as Director of Communications. He shared with us his discovery of the "immense reserves of mercy which the Lord wants to harmonise with the limitations of the creature."

Antonio finally informed us he had discovered in Rome a centre which helped animate his spiritual life: Saint Paul outside the Walls, with its simple liturgy, close to the people, its Gregorian chant... That was where he was taken by the figure of Paul, lover of Jesus and the Church. But also the Lateran Basilica where he renewed his baptism, bare foot, in the baptistery.

Antonio, we are very grateful to you for the gift of your person, for your work and your life given to the Institute; we wish you all the best for the future opening up before you.

Once again: THANK YOU!

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