

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MARIST MISSION - 2014

### First Meeting of the Preparatory Commission

With the challenging call of the 21st General Chapter to go toward new lands like Mary, today we follow the road towards the second Assembly on Marist Mission in September 2014.

As a commission of Lay Marists and Marist Brothers from the five continents where the Marist Institute ministers, we received -as a gift- the opportunity of accompanying the preparation for the Assembly: Mrs. Alice (USA), Br. Paul (South Asia), Br. Mark (Nigeria), Mr. Manuel (Mediterránea), Mr. Frank (Australia), Mrs. Mónica (Cruz del Sur), Br. César (Secretariat for Brothers Today), Br. Javier (Secretariat for the Laity), Br. Teófilo (Mission Ad Gentes) and Br. João Carlos (Secretariat for Mission), the coordinator of the commission.

We met from June 25-29, being welcomed by the generous community of the General House in Rome, where we shared fraternity and the joy of being a family together, in the footsteps of Marcellin.

We spent each of these days animated by the dialogue and the openness to the Spirit and to the signs of the times. We were attentive to looking at and listening to the history of the boys and girls and young people who touch the deepest fibers of the Marist heart in our communities,



provinces and regions.

We also met with the General Council and the Superior General in order to put together the lessons of Mendes, of the last Chapter and our dreams for this new Assembly in all its dimensions, because the Marist mission seeks to be a sign of the Kingdom of God and extends and multiplies in committed presences throughout the world.

Mobilized by our shared and personal reflection we proposed themes that resonated with us, in the fashion of itineraries built to: discern them – pray over them – work with them – transform them – convert them... among all of us.

The invitation is that we arrive at the Assembly with the greatest number of Marists having participated in the entire process as heirs and thus responsible for the Mission that we carry like a treasure in vessels of clay, which is nourished by the water from the rock and that is celebrated as we are gathered around the same table.

We uphold the first Assembly with gratitude for the fruitful path it opened, we begin to live this second Assembly with passion for the new, and we go toward the future, toward the new lands, with more hope and vitality.

# FEAST OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT IN BUTARE

Rwanda - Commemoration in the Marist School

The School commemoration in Save took place on 2 June, 2012. We remembered all the Brothers, teachers, students and neighbours who died during the 1994 Genocide. This day of commemoration required careful organization in order to prevent many students from being traumatized. We succeeded in controlling the emotions of the students. We remember the Brothers who died in the 1994 Genocide: Brothers Chris Mannion, Etienne Rwesa, Joseph Rushigajiki, Gaspard Gatali, Fabien Bisengimana, Canisius Nyirinkindi, and also Henri Verges. After Mass, we all went to place flowers on the tombs of many teachers in TTC who died. We remember their commitment in teaching young people to be good citizens. But the enemy didn't want that service.

Just after the school commemoration, we entered the week called Champagnat Week. During this special week, the students played inter-classroom final games in all disciplines: football, vol-



leyball, basketball, handball boys and girls.

The traditional dance groups prepared well for the day. The school choir was given time for practicing songs expressing the purpose of the day.

On 9 June, we celebrated the feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. Holy Mass started at 10.30 with a procession. During the mass, six students were baptized.




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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CLAR 2012

Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Religious

Br. Antonio Peralta, provincial of Santa María de los Andes, represented Br. Emili Turú, Superior General, at the 18th General Assembly of CLAR - 2012. Representatives from the different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at the Ecuadoran Episcopal Conference's Bethany House near Quito from the 18th to the 22nd of June. Br. Antonio commented on the excellence of the meeting: because of the people in attendance and the

atmosphere of hope in the vitality and impact of religious life in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Assembly's opening Eucharist was celebrated by Most Rev. Ricardo A. Tobón, Archbishop of Medellín and a delegate from CELAM. His homily recalled the prophetic mission of Religious Life in Latin America in overcoming evil with the power of good, staying faithful in service and their concern

for those who suffer most.

The Assembly representatives had the pleasure of the presence of Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. He expressed how close he felt to us and his desire to create paths of communion with Religious Life, affirming that the various charisms are the Word of God in history, and that if the various congregations are faithful to them Religious Life will not disappear from the Church. He mentioned the desire of the Holy Father to aproximar el Dicasterio and Religious Life.



Conference of Brazil and present provincial of Rio Grande do Sul, was elected first Vice-President.

Five lines of action for the three-year period 2012-2015 were explained:

1. Inter-congregational cooperation and the laity
2. Humanizing religious life
3. Social networks and youth culture
4. Bringing together the new frontiers and the new areas of poverty on the continent
5. Defense of the environment.

The election of the new board of directors of CLAR 2012 – 2015 took place on June 22. Among the members, Br. Inácio Nestor Etges, of the National



# PROVINCE OF WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

## First Profession of Brother Philip McGee

**B**rother Philip McGee made his first vows as a Marist Brother on Saturday 30th June in St Simon’s parish church, Glasgow, Scotland. Philip was warmly supported by over 100 of his family, friends and the brothers. Brother Brendan Geary, Provincial, received Philip’s vows. The service was both solemn and joyful. People commented on three very powerful and emotional moments during the ceremony: Philip taking his vows, the assembled brothers standing and renewing their vows together and the vibrant singing of the Salve.

Brother Stephen Smyth gave a short reflection. He described joining a religious order today as a “brave decision” on the part of both the applicant and of the community.

Brother Brendan thanked all who came along to support Philip and the brothers. He thanked especially Brother Rob Clark, Novice Master,

and the brothers of the USA for their dedicated work and support over the last two years. Brendan also presented Philip with an icon of “Mary Theotokos” (Mary, Mother of God) to mark the occasion.

After the service most of the guests gathered in St Peter’s church hall for an excellent buffet lunch. Then, in the evening, the brothers gathered in Marist House for a further prayerful and social celebration to end this joyful and significant day.

Brother Stephen Smyth



# EDUCATION: TODAY AND TOMORROW

## New perceptions on Catholic education in the world

**O**n 22 and 23 June, a Meeting on Education was held in Rome, organised by the Holy See's Congregation for Catholic Education. The participants numbered 34, representing Universities, Religious Congregations, UNESCO and various international Education organizations. Br João Carlos do Prado, Director of the Secretariat of Mission, took part as delegate of the USG (Union of Superiors General).

The meeting was held in view of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican Council II and the centenary of the foundation of the Congregation for Catholic Education (2015), the organization of the Holy See for Catholic schools, universities and seminaries. Other celebrations include the fifty years of the Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum educationis), and of the decree on priestly formation (Optatam totius) of Vatican II, and the twentieth anniversary of the apostolic constitution on the Catholic University (Ex corde Ecclesiae).

Desiring to deepen its study of contemporary education and its challenges and perspectives for the future, the Sacred Congregation is in train of preparing a document on education in its Catholic perspec-

tive. So the meeting had as aim making the Instrumentum laboris known, and listening to criticisms, contributions and suggestions in view of the document.



The document, entitled "Education: today and tomorrow ...", is divided into three parts: a) Key challenges of current education; b) Education in the perspective of the Church; c) Perspectives for the future. The methodology of listening used at the meeting allowed new approaches to enrich the document and contribute to the vitality of Catholic Education in the world.

The Congregation of Catholic Education presented some interesting data on world Catholic education. The figures give an idea of the wide scope of Catholic education. In total, there are 3,700 seminaries of philosophy and theology forming some 110,000 candidates for the priesthood. Religious houses of formation are not included in the figure. Catholic Higher Education counts 1,860 universities and faculties, with more than 3,5 million students. Elementary education counts 250,000 schools, catering for more than 58 million students.

It is in this context of Catholic education that we situate Marist education. The figures show our mission in the most diverse contexts of the world. A rereading of Catholic education in today's world, launched by the Holy See, reinforces our progress and our reflection on Marist education in the context of a «new land» or of the "Marist mission in a new world", in conformity with our 21st General Chapter.

Br João Carlos do Prado  
Secretariat of Mission



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