

REFLECTION PROGRAM FOR LAITY AND BROTHERS

Promoting together the vitality of our charism

The Secretariat of Laity is proposing on [the website](#) a set of worksheets intended to bring about reflection regarding the new relationship between brothers and lay people as promoted by the XXI General Chapter. By means of this, the Secretariat wants to offer some hints to address the implications of this new relationship, which is grounded on communion, and entails a common search for a greater vitality of the Marist charism in the present world ([Download sheets](#)).

The Chapter specifies there is novelty to this relationship – although it was already there – and indicates some fresh nuances to it. When the Chapter documents use the expression “brothers and lay people”, they imply shared participation in a specific vocation. “Grounded on communion” indicates the breaking down of differences and categories. “Searching together” speaks of shared responsibility, of joining hands. “Vitality of our



charism” denotes it already belongs to all.

The reflection process proposed throughout the ten worksheets reminds us that lay people and brothers, while sharing the same Marist charism, have specific vocations at the service of each other; that our diversity is complementary; and that by aiming at communion among us “we are presenting the Marian face of the Church we really want” (B. Emili).

GENERAL HOUSE

The General Council continues its plenary session until 14 September, with meetings with the various secretariats.

This week, Brothers Joao Carlos do Prado, Javier Espinosa and Chris Wills, directors of the secretariats of Mission, Laity, and International Collaboration for Mission, are in Nigeria for a meeting of the African Mission Commission.

Br Cesar Rojas, director of the Secretariat Brothers today, is attending the Seminar of Religious Brothers in the general house of the de La Salle Brothers.

Reflecting on the new relationship between lay and religious Marists at the present moment the Institute is living stands, undoubtedly, as an act of maturity. This is a powerful certainty: the path of unity will contribute to the coming of the Kingdom into the heart of each member, and within the institution as such, subsequently finding expression in its different works. We are not inventing the Gospel. We are

joining forces to make it real. Marist future is a future of communion. This reflection suggested by the Secretariat is an invitation to undergo a process together. Its thematic lines challenge us to deepen our conversion, and are an opportunity for prayer. They are a point of departure for fraternal and sororal dialogue, an opportunity to share what inspires our hearts, and what our eyes envision as Marists.

Having the same horizon, and walking together towards it, is what we deeply desire.

Each worksheet includes a text, a motivational PowerPoint presentation, and a number of questions for personal and group reflection, as well as a complementary article or document.

Secretariat of Laity
[Download sheets](#)



INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION FOR MISSION

Challenged to being animators of life and mission

The Interamerican Commission for Mission (ICM), at the service of the Interamerican Conference of Provinces (IACP), assists in reflecting on the Marist mission in the Americas; it suggests processes, projects, courses of action and initiatives for the continent, while accompanying the development and the execution of the same. Furthermore, it coordinates the preparation of budgets and reporting. The subcommittees for Education, Evangelization, Solidarity and Management, which is being created, are linked to this Commission.

The ICM is made up of the following members: Angelica Alegria, Br. Michael Flanigan and Br. Luis Carlos Gutierrez representing the sub-region of Arco Norte; Ernesto Reyes and Br. Juan Ignacio Fuentes representing the sub-region of the Southern Cone; Mercia Procopio and Br. Valdicer Civa Fachi representing Brazil. Br. Joao Carlos do Prado, Director of the Secretariat for Mission, and Br.

Chris Wills, Director of the Secretariat for Missionary Cooperation of the Institute, are also members.

During a meeting held from August 19th to the 24th of this year in Sean-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Canada, the ICM dedicated the first two days to visiting and getting acquainted with the com-

ity community of Wilowdale, to the College and Community of Laval in Montreal, where a meeting was held among Brothers and Lay animators of the mission of the Province; the Community for hospitality and work with Latin migrants in Drumondville and the Community and work of Valcartier.

In the following days and after a meeting with the Provincial, Br. Bernard Beaudin, the ICM covered an extensive agenda. Br. Teofilo Minga, Director of the Secretariat Mission Ad Gentes, presented the context of the Secretariat he coordinates: what was done, what he is doing and a look to the future. Br. Chris Wills, Director of the Secretariat for International Missionary Cooperation and a new member of the Commission,

explained the work plan of the Secretariat, highlighting that through the Secretariat, he intends to form inter-provincial and international communities, consolidate the project Mission



munities, works and projects developed in the Marist Province of Canada, as well as meeting with the key leaders in the area of mission of the Province. Let us note the visit to the hospital-

Ad Gentes, create a Marist volunteer service and develop an international mentality (break down barriers among countries and Provinces).

After reviewing the deliberations of the IACP established in a meeting held from September 4th to the 9th of 2011, inLujan, Argentina, the ICM analyzed the composition, the achievements, the projects and proposals from the Subcommittees for Evangelization, Education and Solidarity. It drafted the profiles of the future members of the Subcommittee for Management, and indicated some names to be presented to the IACP for approval. The Commission also defined the participation of the members serving as links with the Subcommittees, as follows: Solidarity: Angelica Alegria; Education: Ernesto Reyes, Mercia Procopio and Luiz Carlos Gutierrez; Evangelization: Juan Ignacio Fuentes; Management: Michael Flanigan and Br. Valdicer Fachi.

As a result, general considerations and contributions were made to the Strategic Plan being prepared. Based on the work developed by the Commission, each Subcommittee will develop the initiatives, expectations and deadlines to be integrated to that plan, which term is 2011 to 2017. Its mission states: "The Interamerican Commission for Mission promotes a reflection about the Marist mission in America

and on the development of projects which give it vitality, while supporting the individuals in charge and the animators of the Administrative Units and responding to the calls of the General Chapter and the common needs identified"; and its vision states: "To have significantly contributed by 2017, to a greater vitality, articulation and prophetism of the Marist mission in the Americas".

The ICM also defined the relevant topics to be presented for the consideration and approval of the Permanent Council of the IACP, as a result of the work performed by the Commission and Subcommittees.

Some general reports were presented, such as the referrals and work achieved by the International Commission for Mission; the organization of the International Meeting of Marist Youth from July 17th to the 22nd of 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, and the World Youth Day, from July 23rd to the 28th, also in Rio de Janeiro. In addition, Br. Joao do Prado provided information about the Course for the Development of Marist Leaders and Directors, as a pilot experience addressed to Brothers and Laity, to be held from March 17th to April 26th of 2013, in Curitiba, Brazil. Also, the Course on Marist Patrimony and Spirituality, promoted by the Higher Education Network, will begin in August 2013.



MISSION ASSEMBLY 2012

70 Australian Marists gather at Mittagong

An interim Mission Council, Brothers and Lay, was established in 2011. One of its key responsibilities was to prepare a Mission Assembly to gather Marists from across Australia before the inauguration of the new Province of Australia on 8 December 2012 and the Brothers' Chapter.

The historic gathering, that took place from 12 to 15 August in Mittagogn, had participants engaged in the following:

* The ratification of the Mission Council Charter. This was a remarkable outcome for the Province. It marks the movement of decisions relating to mission from the Provincial Council to the Provincial and his Mission Council; a Council comprising both Brothers and Lay Marists.



* Nominations for the next Mission Council by Assembly participants.

* The emergence of a clear statement of priorities for Mission for the period 2013-2015.

Key areas identified included:

AUSTRALIAN MARIST COMMUNITY
LIVING OUT VOACTIONAL LIVES,
CO-RESPONSIBILITY, FORMATION,
MINISTRY, SOLIDARITY, YOUNG
MARISTS – OUR FUTURE

Provincial-elect of the Province of Australia, Br Jeff Crowe, addressed the Assembly to conclude and placed before the participants a call to carry our mission forward together as Brothers and Lay as part of the Australian Marist Community. Br John Klein from the General Council noted in an address to the participants the ground-breaking moves taking place in Australia as

co-responsibility for mission among Brothers and Lay Marists is increasingly more evident across a range of ministries and Province structures, but particularly evident in our relationships.

The Assembly was a critical gathering for Australian Marists in establishing a common understanding of Marist mission and provided participants with the impetus to go out to their communities and beyond with a renewed vigor for our work.

It is very difficult to capture the resounding sense of hope and anticipation that was palpable at the Assembly, but the following comments from the participants give some insight into this:

"We were involved in an historic con-

sultative process involving the wider Marist family in Australia to set a forward path. I felt like I was on the crew of Captain Kirk of Star Trek fame on the Enterprise, being asked to boldly go where others dare not to go. It was a privilege to be a part of the process". "A fantastic gathering of like-minded, committed and passionate people with a common goal of ensuring the Marist mission lives for the next 50, 100, 150 years".

"My lasting impression is that this was a very significant event in the life of Marist Mission in Australia. I do not think we will fully appreciate this fact until sometime in the future. I was also moved by the depth of just how Marist the people present were. It would have been good for some of those who can struggle with what it means to be a Lay Marist to have been present."



A NETWORK OF COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

Looking for paths for a new way of being Brother

A meeting of Marist communities of Europe was held in our house of l'Escorial, Spain, from 9 to 13 August. It had been called by the Spanish Marist Conference (CEM), as fruit of the reflection of the Enlarged General Council at ND de l'Hermitage in March 2011 on the future of the Marist presence in the continent. Each Province could send representatives from one or two communities. There were participants from 5 Provinces : for Central West Europe : Arlon, Belgium, and Dessau, Germany ; for Compostela : Ponferrada, Spain ; for Ibérica : Fuenlabrada, Spain, and Bucarest, Romania ; for Mediterraenea: Torrente, Spain ; for l'Hermitage : Karzac, Hungary, and the new community in Athena, Greece, which will open soon.

The organizing team for the meeting was composed of the members of the European Commission « Brothers today » : António Leal (Portugal), Carlos Martín (Spain), Maurice Taildeman (Belgium), Juan Miguel Anaya (Spain) and Jean-Pierre Destombes (France), absent for health reasons. Brs Brendan Geary, Provincial of Central West Europe and current co-ordinator of the CEM, and Antonio Ramalho, General Councillor, were also present. The Provincials of Ibérica, Br Ambrosio Alonso, the Hermitage, Br Maurice

Berquet, and Compostela, Br Óscar Martín, remained at least one day with the group.

The proposal for the meeting was to share experiences and reflect on the calls of the XXI General Chapter in the sense of « going in haste to a new land » and « exploring new ways of being brother ». The profile of the communities present were quite different with regard to their mission and composition, some being international. The sharing proved to be very rich and stimulating, the accent being placed on fidelity to the Marist charism and its updating. At the conclusion of the meeting, the group submitted to the CEM a series of propositions and concrete suggestions, with a view to analysing the possibility of creating a network.



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