

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2012

Calendar of the General Council and the Directors of the Secretariats

02 to 29 September: Intercongregational program on the Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother, Rome – César Rojas

03 to 14 September: Plenary session of the General Council, Rome

12 to 15 September: Meeting of the African Mission Commission, Nigeria - Chris Wills, Javier Espinosa and João Carlos do Prado

20 to 22 September: Provincial Mission Assembly, Compostela, Valladolid – Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho

21 to 23 September: Leadership South Asia – John Klein and Michael de Waas



GENERAL HOUSE

Br Emili gave a presentation on Monday to the inter-congregational seminar on the Identity of the Religious Brother at the general house of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The same day, Br Josep Maria Soterias spent the day with the Spanish and Portuguese speaking Brothers at the Third age course in Manziana.

On Tuesday 18, Br Joe Mc Kee also met the group at Manziana. On 21 and 22 September, he will be at l'Escorial in Spain with the « Horizontes » group.

Brs Ernesto Sanchez and Antonio Ramalho will be taking part in the Provincial Assembly of the Province of Compostella in Valladolid from 20 to 22 of the month.

Brs John Klein and Michael De Waas have left for Sri Lanka where they will animate a leadership workshop for the provincial council of the Province of South Asia, 21st to 23rd.

Brs Joao Carlos do Prado, Javier Espinosa and Chris Wills are just back from their meeting with the African Mission Commission in Nigeria.

23 to 28 September: European "Evangelizers in the midst of youth" Meeting, L'Hermitage – João Carlos do Prado

24 and 25 September: Team of the Marist Places, L'Hermitage – Joe McKee

25 September to 02 October: Visit of East Timor (Prov. of Melbourne) – Michael De Waas

29 and 30 September: Celebration of 20 years of SED, Madrid – FMSI Rome

30 Septiembre to 05 October: Meeting of formators and animators of vocations of Arco Norte, Medellín (Colombia) – César Rojas

01 to 07 October: Provincial As-

sembly of América Central, Guatemala – Emili Turú

01 to 09 October: Meeting of the MAPAC Board, Philippines – Joe McKee

02 to 05 October: National Meeting of Formators of Brasil, Florianópolis – Ernesto Sánchez

03 to 06 October: Executive Committee of the International Marist Network of Higher Education - João Carlos do Prado

07 to 28 October: Synod on the New Evangelization, Vatican (Rome) – Emili Turú

08 to 13 October: Meeting of the International Marist Network of Higher

Education, Mexico City – John Klein, Chris Wills and João Carlos do Prado

09 to 15 October: Retreat of the Province of the Hermitage, at ND de l'Hermitage – Ernesto Sánchez and Antonio Ramalho

19 October to 02 November: Visit to the Marist International Center (MIC), Nairobi (Kenya) – Joe McKee, Antonio Ramalho, Ernesto Sánchez and César Rojas

20 October to 13 November: Visit to Santa María de los Andes, Bolivia and Chile – J.M.Soteras and Eugène Kabanguka



ANSWERING THE CHALLENGES THAT TODAY'S WORLD IS SENDING OUR WAY

Sub-commission of Brothers for America

The Sub-commission of Brothers for America, part of the organizational model of the Conferencia Interamericana de Provinciales (CIAP), met in Lima, Peru from August 6th to 10th. The group is composed of Brothers Carlos Vélez Cacho (Province of América Central), Carlos Saúl Corzo (Province of Norandina), Oscar Montenegro (Province of Santa María de los Andes), Raúl Schönfeld (Province of Cruz del Sur), James Pinheiro dos Santos (Province of Brasil Centro Norte), Antônio Quintiliano (Province of Brasil Centro Sul) and Gerard Bachand (Canada). Brother César Rojas Carvajal, Director of the Institute's Secretariat of Brothers Today, facilitated the meeting.

First of all we would like to express our gratitude for the confidence that has been placed in each one of us. We

see a big challenge in this mission that has been entrusted to us, a mission filled with hope and expectation as we endeavor to respond to the challenges that the world is sending those of us who are living the consecrated life today.

Before becoming a group or team with a job to do, we want to be a community of brothers that looks to the future with hope and fraternal unity. We have begun to draft our strategic plan, which will serve as our compass along the path we have undertaken, helping us find those focal points of Marist Life in America, like signposts enabling us to mine treasures from the past. It's been a wonderful experience to see and confirm the testimony and fidelity of the many brothers who are making it possible for our Marist charism to become incarnate in our everyday lives.

Having reflected and in turn prayed, we believe that as we set out on the Marist road in America, the specific task of the Brothers' Sub-commission is to examine and propose themes and activities that will energize vocation ministry and initial and ongoing formation, as well as promote new ways to be brothers today.

We greatly appreciate and are counting on the enthusiasm of all the brothers in this part of the world and on the tremendous riches of the brothers and students in our houses of formation.

With deep gratitude we joyfully welcome the words that Brother Emili Turú has addressed to us, reminding us that: "With Mary, who 'sets out in haste,' we feel called to live lives of service and to bring Jesus to others..."



RENEWING WITH FERVOR, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

First East Asia Province Assembly

Fifty-five Marist Brothers from Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia attended the first Assembly of Brothers of East Asia Province last August 19 to 20 at The Farm, Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City, Philippines.

Brother Manuel De Leon, the Brother Provincial of East Asia Province, welcomed all the delegates and gave the objectives of the assembly during his opening message:

1. To build a spirit of unity and identity for the Province of East Asia;
2. To inform the Brothers of the developments in the Province; and
3. To consult the Brothers on significant matters affecting the Province.

With the theme "Renewing with Fervor, Building our Future" Brother Peter Rodney, the current Rector of Marist Asia Pacific Center in Marikina, facilitated the Assembly during the round-table discussions.

The two-day gathering was divided into different sessions:

- Setting a Context,
- The Strengths of the Province,
- A Closer Look at Province Life,



- A Closer Look at Ministry,
- Making Choices in Ministry,
- Open Forum and
- Communicating with Fervor.

The Brothers are encouraged by Brothers John Klein and Michael De Waas through their letter that states, "Your province is blessed with strong, effective leadership, many young and vibrant brothers, older brothers whose long-standing commitment humbles us, many ministries that are alive with the energy that motivated the early brothers at the Hermitage, many brothers who are prayerful and living a simple life style, and laypeople who truly want to share life and mission

with us. Our hope is that you will build upon these gifts and will make the necessary decisions so that the Province of East Asia will be able to grow and thrive into the future." Brother John Klein and Michael De Waas are link General Councilors who visited East Asia Province sometime last summer.

Our gratitude to the members of the Secretariat: Dr. MOnina Duqueza, Ms. Michelle Gudes, Mr. Ruben Tugari and Br. Vince Celeste. Also to the Registration Committee: Ms. Gelyn Ninofranco, Mr. Victor Malinao and Br. Noel Fernandez.



PROVINCE OF SOUTH ASIA

Annual Retreat of the Marist Brothers in Tewetta

Almost all the Marist Brothers of South Asian Province gathered at the Retreat House at Ragama ,Tewetta, in the Diocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka, for their annual retreat. This was the first time that the whole Province got-together for a common exercise of this nature.

Brother Seán Sammon, the former Superior General, was the facilitator and at the very outset he emphasized the importance of community and personal prayer', and the value of silence. We had community prayers followed by the Eucharist.

There were two reflections a day animated by Brother Seán. In the afternoon we had the Marial prayer followed by a sharing session. In the evening we had presentations from different communities of the South Asian province followed by evening prayer.

The reflections of Brother Seán consisted of Religious life in the Church today , the spirituality of young brothers and Mid life spirituality , Marist Community life, and prayer, Celibate chastity and promotion of vocations and Marist Mission.

A quite a lot of time allocated for personal prayer and reflection. In the afternoons we had long discussions and sharing of ideas. It was very helpful to internalize the salient points of the lectures given by Brother Sean.



The main emphasis of the whole retreat was on community building and a sense of Marist Spirituality.

Rev. Father Wilfred Pinto was the celebrant of the daily Eucharist. His homilies and introductions were quite inspiring and enabled the brothers to get into deeper reflections.

On the 15th of August there was a spe-

cial seminar on Protection of children from abuses and that was facilitated by Brother Jim Jolley who works in the International Office of the Child Rights of the Marist Brothers in Geneva.

Some Marist Lay Partners joined the brothers on this day and took part in this seminar. All the school Principals were requested to plan out a strategy to execute in their respective schools in order to safe guard the children's. He high lighted the gravity of the problem and requested brothers to be serious with regard to Child Protection.

On the 16th August the Province had its annual picnic which helped to smother the tension created during the retreat.

Our sincere thanks to Br. Seán who led us to reflective and prayerful time after several months of arduous work'.



MARTYRS IN SPAIN

Cause of Br. Crisanto and companions martyrs

As Postulator General, I have the joy of informing you that the Cause of Br. Crisanto and his 67 companions martyrs in Spain, is following a favourable course towards the beatification. The Bishops of the Spanish Episcopal Conference desire that this take place on 27 October 2013, on the occasion of the closure of the Year of Faith.

It is necessary to emphasize that the 4 Causes, all different, have been brought together in a single one. The martyred Brothers belonged to different dioceses and were killed in different places.

At the head of the four groups are Brothers Crisanto, Aquilino, José Cipriano and Guzmán, respectively.

The « Positio », the document which brings together the 4 Causes, was submitted to a group of a 9 theologians for their opinion. The 9 theo-

logians have given a favourable vote (9/9).

The next step will be the discussion of the « Positio » by the Bishops and Cardinals, which will probably take place in October.

As Brothers of the same Marist Family, we ask Jesus, Mary and Champagnat to continue to bless this Cause.

Br Luis Jorge Flores Aceves
Postulator Général

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<p>Director Br. Alberto Ricica</p> <p>Production Mr. Luiz da Rosa</p>	<p>Redaction and Administration Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 C.P. 10250 – 00144 ROMA E-mail: publica@fms.it web: www.champagnat.org</p>
<p>Edit Marist Brother's Institute - General House – Rome</p>	

