

MEETING OF THE 4 GENERAL MARIST COUNCILS

Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage, France

The words of the late Pope John Paul II to the four Marist Family Branches on 17th September 2001 still resound in the life and animation of the four respective general councils today. Here are the Pontiff's words at Castelgandolfo:

"You have chosen consecrated life in the Church, following Mary in fidelity both to your founders' intuitions and to the charism of your institutes...

Today yours is the call to make the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary visible in the life of the Church and in the life of men and women in an original and specific way and, for this, to develop a Marian attitude. Her presence is distinguished by a joyful availability to the call of the Holy Spirit, by an unshakable confidence in the Word of the Lord, by spiritual growth in relation to the various mysteries of Christ's life and by a



motherly attentiveness to the needs and sufferings of people, especially of those who are smallest"...

This year for the first time, the four general councils met at the Hermitage with the objective of sharing on how the intuitions and charism of our founders are lived today. In addition to places like La Valla and L'Hermitage that speak to us and persons like Jean Claude

GENERAL HOUSE

The General Council began its plenary session on Monday 28 January and will work through to 1 March. The objectives of this plenary session are: to reflect together on one or more topics of interest, review the works and projects of the Secretariats and Commissions, analyse the progress made, accompany the activities of the Administrative Units, look to the future, and make decisions.

Br César Rojas, of the Secretariat Brothers today, has gone to El Salvador to take part in a meeting of the Brothers today Sub-commission for America from 28 to 31 January.

Colin, Marcellin Champagnat, Jeanne Marie Chavoïn, Marie Françoise Perrotton and their "marvelous companions", to motivate the sharing, each Superior General prepared a presentation taking into account the following guideline:

1. What was the original dream or our branch?
2. How this was incarnated in the day of our Founder, Foundress, Pioneers?
3. How do we apply it and what is its relevance today?

These are questions that every Marist can answer in his or her own capacity.

At the origin of the founding experiences of our Founders there is a passion for Jesus and his gospel, community life and willingness to proclaim to the whole world what they have experienced. What M. Champagnat meant saying that "All the dioceses of the world enter into our views" was shared by the other founders. These are the three dimensions that are the pillars of our identity: passion for Jesus, fraternity and compassion that leads to action for the needy and suffering people, especially children and youth.

The role of lay people and lay associations, in Marist history was strongly



highlighted. From the very beginnings, they have been members, either as a third order or as close associates, always reminding us the contemplative dimension of our identity and our mission to evangelize boldly.

The community of the Hermitage, composed of Brothers and Lay Marists, made us feel at home, not only with the organization of transport and the hospitality culture that they are developing, but also with their attentive presence. Being with them was another occasion of learning.

A time spent with Joan Puig-Pey, the architect, helped to understand the structure of the Hermitage and La Valla, a

reflect of what is fundamental and that must be kept and what newness must be integrated to make our Institute more appealing to young generations.

A pilgrimage at Fourvière, another place that speaks to the Marist Family, helped us to celebrate the Eucharist in the Chapel of our Lady of Fourvière and to pledge to continue building a Marian Church and World, as did Fathers Colin, Champagnat and their companion priests in 1816.

After the Eucharist, we were warmly welcomed at the Provincial House in Lyon. Brothers Maurice Berquet, the Provincial, André Thizy, the community animator, the entire community and the commission for vocations made us feel at home. We enjoyed the French "Haute Cuisine".

We concluded our pilgrimage, happy for having touched the signs of a man of unshakable faith, of perseverant audacity and a heart without borders. Though with open questions for all of us Marists: What are we for in our world today? What are we passionate for? What are we seeing that is new?

Br. Eugène Kabanguka



LIFE-GIVING STRUCTURES

Chapter in the Province of "México Occidental"

The Provincial Chapter of Western Mexico took place in Guadalajara, Mexico, on December 26 to 30, 2012, and was preceded by the Provincial Assembly. As part of the General Council, Brothers Eugene Kabanguka, Link Councilor, and Víctor Preciado, also member of the Province, participated both in the assembly and the chapter. Brother Emili held a videoconference at the beginning of the Assembly encouraging discernment and the quest for new ideas. Then Brother Eugene stressed



the spirit of generosity characterizing the Province, and highlighted its contribution to the Institute's projects by sending brothers to Haiti, Africa, and the ad gentes mission in Asia. In his message, he also referred to the importance of service, inner life, the dynamics of fraternal dialogue, and discernment.

Brother Eduardo Navarro was installed as provincial on the first day, beginning therefore his second three-year term as provincial leader.

That same day, Brother Eduardo and those in charge of different work areas within the Province presented their reports regarding the activities carried out in the last three years. The Brothers from Haiti also had the opportunity to inform about the latest developments of Marist life in that country.

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The second day was dedicated to the Action Plan 2013-2015, underlining two aspects in the study of this document: the need to strengthen the experience of the Marist charism, and to revitalize and renew Marist community life. The main conclusion was the need to address Marist mission as a prophetic way of living.

Several concrete issues were discussed, such as the creation of a board overseeing the works of the province, the restructuring of the Provincial Centre for Marist Animation, the Marist Institute for Research and Development, and the possibility of creating

a provincial council whose members could engage fulltime in their mission as councilors.

The new provincial council was elected on the last day. Brothers Agustín Acevedo, Alfredo Alba, Raúl Lara, and José Contreras were appointed as councilors.

A future round of chapter sessions to revise the Norms of the Province, the Chapter Rules, and the Provincial Planning was approved at the end.

It is important to mention the Missioning Ceremony of Rodrigo and Estela during the Chapter, a missionary couple who will participate in the ad gentes project.



EUROPEAN VOCATIONS TEAM

Animation of Marist vocations in Europe

Those who know the life of Br Basilio Rueda recount that his aunt Mercedes tried to enroll him in the school at Jalisco. She took him straight to Br Leoncio Martin, who did not admit him because the school roll was full. Mercedes, however, was not to be put off. She went to her intimate friend, Mlle Carmelita Garibi Rivera, sister of the Auxiliary Bishop of Guadalajara, Mgr José Garibi Rivera, and obtained from her the following recommendation for the Director of the school : "Tell M. Leoncio that if he wishes to keep my friendship, he will admit Basilio to his school." And Br Leoncio Martín had to resign himself to accepting the child... Who could have told him that this boy would become the first Spanish speaking Superior General of the Institute!



This episode in the life of Br Basilio, almost unknown in the Marist Institute,

is one of the most important reasons for presenting these web sites :

- * sur Facebook: "[Animación Vocacional Marista Europa](#)"
- * Sur Twitter: [@AnimVocEuropaMarista](#)
- * Site Web: www.maristas.es/vocacion

It is by all means, including the social networks, that we wish to promote knowledge of the Marist charism. We are thinking in a special way of youth, those to whom our efforts are directed. We wish to meet them (art. 83 of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers), by using the means

of communication which are appropriate to them in this 21st century.

We have officially published the addresses in these social networks on 21 January, date of the anniversary of Br Basilio's death, so that the protector of the initiative and the pastoral activity may be, precisely, Br Basilio Rueda himself.

In his youth, Basilio received from Br Leoncio a copy of a little book entitled "My vocation", which encouraged him to begin an initiation to Marist life ... Today, the Marist charism appeals to many young people looking to follow the Marist project, whether as brothers or lay people.

According to the service you provide, we ask you to help us. We need your assistance:

in adding the links of our Facebook, our Twitter and our Web site to the different sections of your site:

- * Marist Provinces
- * Pastoral activity
- * Sport sections
- * Former students
- * And all Marist web sites in general...

The presence of the European Vocations Team should be known to all to promote the Marist vocation.

In these links, you will find information about the vocation-related

pastoral activities of the Marist Provinces of Europe, as well as testimonies, resources (prayers, videos, activities, etc.), meetings and gatherings, formation, ... We will share initiatives connected with vocation coming from other places of the Institute or the world.

We wish TO DARE TO LOOK, aided by our Brother Basilio Rueda and by the witness of the Marist presence of our brothers and sisters of Aleppo, Syria, so that the MARIST CHARISM of SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT reaches all persons.

European Vocations Team (EVT)



INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIALS (CIAP)

Meeting of the Permanent Committee of CIAP

The formation of the permanent committee of CIAP was decided at the meeting of the Provincials of the Americas held in September 2011. Four provincials compose this committee which has to represent the different Marist regions of all the Americas. So there is one Provincial from Brasil, one from Arco del Sul, one from Arco Norte and one from North America.



House of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu in August 2012. So Brothers Horacio from Argentine, co-ordinator, Wellington from Brésil Centre Nord, Hypolito from America Central and Bernard from Canada met at Los Cobanos, El Salvador, from 9 to 12 January 2013. They were able to carry out the work entrusted to them as well as to make official the appointment of the members of the sub-commissions of mission and of Brother and laity today. Brother João do Prado, responsible for the General Secretariat of Mission for the whole Institute, also took part in the meeting.

Br. Bernard Beaudin



The main point of our meeting at Los Cobanos in El Salvador was to study and accept the new organigramme of CIAP, which the International Mission Commission (CIM) reflected on in its last meeting held at our Provincial

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