

ON THE WAY TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 2013

2. Participants in the General Conference

Participants: Brother Superior General, Brother Vicar General, the Brothers Councilors General, the Brother Provincials and District Superiors. Also three invitees: the Vicar Provincial of the Hermitage, the Superior of the Ad Gentes Sector and Br. Seán Sammon.

In the chart below are the names of the Provincials and Superiors. Each will be visiting another Province or District prior to the Conference to come into contact with a different reality.

The Preparatory Commission of the Conference is made up of Brothers Emili Turú, Michael de Waas, Joe McKee, Ernesto Sánchez and Óscar Martín. They have already prepared the principal directions of this important gathering. Brother Michael French, of the de La Salle Christian Brothers, will facilitate the processes which will be implemented during the Conference.



	Provincial	Province/District	Province that he will visit
1	Joseph Walton	Southern Africa	Distr. Melanesia
2	Valentin Djawu	Central East Africa	L'Hermitage
3	<i>New Provincial</i>	América Central	Madagascar
4	Wellington Medeiros	Brasil Centro-Norte	Compostela
5	Joaquim Sperandio	Brasil Centro Sul	Mediterránea
6	Bernard Beaudin	Canada	Dist. Paraguay

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Br Emili is travelling to the Philippines to visit the formation center of MAPAC. Then, on Sunday, he will join the members of the General Council in Mittagong, Australia, for the Enlarged General Council meeting for the Oceania region.

General Councillors Ernesto Sanchez and Antonio Ramalho paid a visit to our works in Hungary last week.

Br Josep Maria Soterias will be attending the course for administrators of the region of America in Curitiba, Brasil.

	Provincial	Province/District	Province that he will visit
7	Óscar Martín	Compostela	Southern Africa
8	Horacio Bustos	Cruz del Sur	Nigeria
9	<i>New Provincial</i>	East Asia	Dist. Amazonia
10	Brendan Geary	West Central Europe	Cruz del Sur
11	Ambrosio Alonso	Ibérica	Santa María de los Andes
12	Maurice Berquet	L'Hermitage	Brasil Centro-Sul
13	Thomas Randrianantenaina	Madagascar	New Zealand
14	Antonio Giménez	Mediterránea	Brasil Centro-Norte
15	Jeffrey Crowe	Australia	México Occidental
16	Ricardo Reynoso	México Central	Ibérica
17	Eduardo Navarro	México Occidental	South Asia
18	David Mc Donald	New Zealand	Canada
19	Joachim Ezetulugo	Nigeria	AMAG
20	Libardo Garzón	Norandina	Australia
21	Inácio Etges	Rio Grande Do Sul	Compostela
22	Antonio Peralta	Santa María de los Andes	América Central
23	Shanthi Liyanage	South Asia	United States
24	Ben Consigli	United States	Central East Africa
25	João Gutemberg	Dist. Amazonia	Dist. West Africa
26	Ken Mc Donald	Dist. Melanesia	Norandina
27	José M ^a Custodi	Dist. Paraguay	México Central
28	Francis Lukong	Dist. West Africa	East Asia
29	Pere Ferrè, <i>Vicario Provincial</i>	L'Hermitage	West Central Europe
30	<i>New Superior</i>	Sector AMAG	Rio Grande do Sul

1. What is a General Conference? - <http://www.champagnat.org/400.php?a=6&n=2716>



A MEXICAN FAMILY WILL TAKE PART IN MISSION AD GENTES

A young couple with the Marist missionary vocation

Estela and Rodrigo, a young couple, with their two and a half year old son, Josué, will be taking part in the programme Mission Ad gentes. On this occasion we interviewed them to find out what had made them take this courageous and generous decision.

Both Estela and Rodrigo shared a desire to be missionaries, even before coming to know each other. "Already at the time we were going around together, we discovered this personal desire capable of being shared as a couple ; later we shared it as a married couple,

then as a family..."

Estela has studied medicine and Rodrigo design.

For a dozen years they have been taking part in missions in Holy Week: "We

have been in many communities, first as single, then as engaged and finally as a married couple. We have also been part of a group of parish missionaries with other young people."

Recently they lived a year in the region of the Tarahumara with the Marist Brothers.

What process did you follow in coming to your decision ?

Estela: We were able to benefit from accompaniment, as well as our personal discernment in prayer. We have also benefitted from the help of persons. When we were engaged, it was Br Héctor Dessavre who accompanied us; then, before our marriage, we began accompaniment with Rafa Castro, our marriage sponsor ; he is a psychoanalyst and we remained with him the year before our marriage. The intention of Rafa was precisely to discern with us if we were called to marriage, and not simply to marriage per se, but to form a missionary couple. We then asked ourselves what we really wanted and if it was God's will that we form a missionary couple. We reflected on it well before our marriage so as to be sure about it afterwards...

And finally, already married, we followed an accompaniment with Br Quique Escobar. We had contacted the brothers to collaborate in the Marist mission. Br Quique accompanied us for 6-7 months before our departure for the Tarahumara.

Rodrigo: When we were already in the Tarahumara, we stayed in contact with him, even if we remained a year without seeing one another... At present it is no longer a matter of discerning but of clarifying...

Was it difficult for you to take this decision ?

Rodrigo: I don't think so, it was very clear for us. The discernment helped us strengthen our decision. We have never been in crisis because of the decision we had taken.

Estela: For myself, the matter has been clear for many years ; the more things move forward, the clearer it is for me, the firmer my decision, the more certain I am of being able to say: "This is what I want". We have never had doubts about our choice.



What do you expect of Mission Ad Gentes ?

Rodrigo: First of all, to integrate ourselves, to follow a process of inculturation in the community where we will be in order to be able to collaborate in something. Yes, we have a very clear idea of serving, of having received a gift to share – our profession, our faith in Jesus, our love as a couple ; in sum, to share something and to serve. And we are sure that in becoming integrated in that way we will learn enormously. So we are setting out with an open heart to learn, to grow personally and as a couple, to grow as a family. If something has been clear to us from the beginning of our relationship, it has been to

live among the poor, to live more simply ; so we are counting on, and hoping for being able to live in a way closer to the Gospel.

Do you know where you will be and what will be your activity ?

Rodrigo: No, we will stay for two months in Cambodia to take part in an introductory course to Mission Ad Gentes, which is the last step in preparation for becoming part of the Ad Gentes sector. We are called group "nine" for we are the ninth Ad Gentes group, made up of a Brazilian lay woman, a Bolivian brother, a Spanish brother, a Filipino brother and the three of us. After the course, each will be appointed to a mission post for three years ; that is when we will learn the work to be done, which will be different according to the place.

Would you like to add something... ?

Rodrigo: Yes, we are very grateful to the Brothers for letting us share in their charisma, for being part of their community.

Estela: I feel very grateful to God and to the Brothers for they have opened the doors to us, despite their lack of experience of missionary couples. They offer lay people the possibility of serving, of giving oneself more, as Jesus asks of us. Thank you very much because for me the process has been very rapid ; moreover, it confirms me in the certainty that the opening of the Brothers to the laity is very wide.

The missioning Mass of Estela and Rodrigo took place on Friday 1st of March in the chapel of Loma Bonita. The missionary family was accompanied by parents, friends and many Marist Brothers.

The General Council meets with the personnel of the General Administration

As is customary, after completing their plenary session, the Council invited the brothers and lay men and women who work at the General House to a meeting on March 7.

The meeting consisted of two parts. In the first, Br. Antonio Ramalho explained the topics that the Council considered during their meetings.

The second part was led by Br. Emili Turú, Superior General. Its purpose was to initiate a discussion and surface ideas on

the celebration of the bicentenary of the Institute, which we will celebrate in 2017. The General Council wants to gather some opinions on this important event. Br. Emili invited those present to reflect on three themes: the purpose of the celebration, criteria to keep in mind, and concrete actions. They divided into four groups, and each one was able to express his or her own opinions. Then they gathered the results of their brainstorming and exchange of ideas in order to send them on to the General Council.



WELCOME, BROTHER FRANCIS

Br. Emili Turú: "Thanks for embracing the dream of a more evangelical Church"

Saint Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesus to serve the mission of the Church with the availability and freedom which are distinctive of religious life. Consequently, he wanted the Jesuits not to seek or accept episcopal charges, unless it was ordered by the Pope. So it may seem contradictory that precisely a spiritual son of Ignatius was called to exercise the global leadership of the Catholic Church.

It may also seem a contradiction that the new Pope would choose the name of Francis, the man who aspired to transform the Church of his time from the grassroots, and certainly not from a hierarchical position.

So what can we make of the fact that a Jesuit has been elected as Pope and that he chose the name of Francis?

First, I find an implicit recognition of the validity of religious life nowadays and of its potential for renewal. At a time when some people anticipate, even publicly, the funeral of the tradi-



tional forms of religious life, Benedict XVI invited us, a few days before resigning, to ignore these prophets of doom, and then the elector cardinals chose a Jesuit as his successor, who took the name of the founder of another religious order.

Secondly, some people could interpret that the Church hierarchy is trying to tame religious life by assimilating it, but vis-à-vis this interpretation

the simple name of Francis is a clear message about the model of Church and of religious life the new Pope has in mind, and of the kind of freedom he wants for himself. Francis, a non-ordained religious who was called to rebuild the Church by living the gospel "without gloss". Poverty, simplicity, and the prophecy of universal brotherhood. Mission without borders and interreligious dialogue. Passion for the Lord Jesus Christ and passion for humankind.

So welcome, then, brother Francis. Thanks for embracing the dream of a more evangelical Church, enthusing so many of us who bear the same dream in our hearts. Count on your brothers and sisters in religious life, with our specific vocation amidst the People of God, when you try to meet the formidable challenges of the XXI century. Your commitment encourages us to become ever more consistent with the call to be mystics and prophets for our time.

Br. Emili Turú, Superior General



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