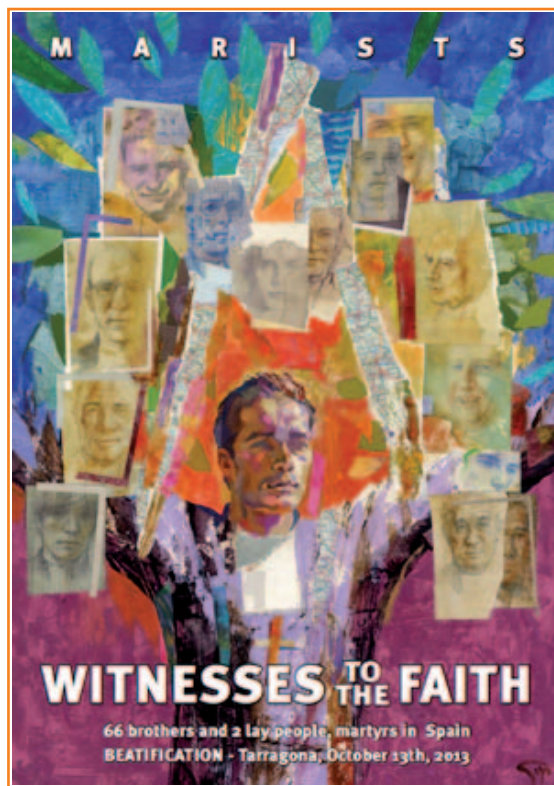


MARIST WITNESSES TO THE FAITH

Marists martyred in Spain

Sixty-eight Marists who were martyred in Spain – 66 brothers and 2 laymen – will be beatified in Tarragona, Spain, on October 13. These Marists are part of the canonization cause known as Brother Crisanto and 67 fellow martyrs. In 2007, were beatified 47 brothers from other two different causes: Brother Bernardo, murdered in October 6, 1934, and Brothers Laurentino, Virgilio and 44 fellow martyrs, who were killed on October 8, 1936.

There is another group of martyrs whose cause is underway: Brother Eugenio, his 58 companions, and Brother Lycarion. These brothers were murdered in different places and dates, between 1936 and 1938. One of them, Brother Sixto José, was not murdered, but tortured and sent to forced labor, dying in hospital some time later. Brother Lycarion, murdered on July 27, 1909, in Pueblo Nuevo, Barcelona, has been added to the group. The hope is that this cause



will follow its way so that these Brothers can also be acknowledged by the Church as martyrs.

As Brother Emili stated in his letter on the feast of Champagnat this year, today the Marist martyrs, "inspired by Mary, disciples of Champagnat, challenge us, we who live at the dawn of the XXI century. It is true that their memory remains distant in time, and that we do not perhaps understand too well the processes of beatification and canonization, but in truth they surprise us with a message that is entirely relevant today".

Against this background of 175 martyred Marists, who witnessed their faith in Christ by giving their own lives, we can only thank God for his faithfulness and strength which lead us to trust Him, He who was and will always be our refuge and support, as we continue being "burning embers, witnesses to the faith"

[Read more about the beatification of the Sixty-eight Marists martyred in Spain](#)



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The European Meeting of Young Brothers is taking place in Notre Dame de l'Hermitage, France, from August 11 to 17. Brothers Antonio Ramalho and Emili Turú are participating in the meeting.

Starting today, August 15, until the 29th, Brother Chris Wills will be visiting a project undertaken by several religious congregations in South Sudan which includes the Marist Brothers.

From August 18 to 24, Brother Eugene Kabanguka will be visiting Haiti.

The Province of South Asia will celebrate its Provincial Chapter from August 19 to 23, which will be attended by brother John Klein.

MARISTS IN COMMUNION

Provincial Assembly of the Province of *Santa María de los Andes*

The Province of Santa María de los Andes – echoing the call from the XXI General Chapter to “go in haste to a new land” – gathered brothers and lay Marists in the Provincial Assembly held in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in order to implement the second horizon of the above-mentioned call: “A new relationship between Brothers and Lay Marists based on communion, searching together for a greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world”.

The Blessed John XXIII retreat house – belonging to The City of Joy from the New Men project – hosted the 100 participants, half of them lay Marists and half brothers, from July 13 to 15.

The Assembly developed under the motto “Marists in communion, new face of the Charism”, and had the following objectives:

- * To live an experience of communion and Provincial integration between brothers and lay people, in order to help build stories expressing the vitality of the charism.
- * To deepen our understanding of the Marist vocation based on the specific vocations of brothers and lay people.
- * To discern the calls to conversion echoing in our hearts after the experiences of communion we have lived according to the second horizon.
- * To celebrate the progress we have made in the Province in recent years.
- * To walk as a Province towards the Second Marist Mission Assembly in Nairobi: “New Marists in mission”.

The Assembly was also attended by Brothers Javier Espinosa, Director of the Secretariat of Laity; César Rojas,



Director of the Brothers Today Secretariat; and Emili Turú, Superior General.

During the days we spent in Santa Cruz we were able to listen to and understand each other better, besides getting to know what is happening in our Province. We carefully listened to the stories of lay people who are working side by side with the brothers, and of brothers who have reinvented their lives by leaving aside management positions to work with the lay people and children of their schools. And finally, we got in touch with young people – heirs of the charism and future of our Institute – who spoke about their experiences in communities, solidarity activities, and youth movements. “The Marist vocation is a gift offered to people engaged in different states of life, who want to live the Gospel according to the Marist charism.”

Brother Javier Espinosa shared some experiences from around the world having to do with Marist life in community, beautiful and daring experiences, interesting approaches to a future of

Marist communion expressing the new relationship between brothers and lay people, to this new identity of the brother’s vocation, and to the process of the lay Marists. Then Brother César Rojas presented us with different situations the brothers are living in the world, commenting on the signs of vitality and the difficulties in this process.

On the morning of the third day, Brother Emili challenged us with his message: “Why are we here? What are we called to do in the Church?” He referred to the three icons mentioned in his circular, which together express the Marist charism: the icon of the Annunciation, referring to inner life and spirituality, the mystical dimension of our lives; the icon of Pentecost, representing community life; and the icon of the Visitation, that is, Mary who reaches out to serve other people, indicating our missionary attitude. Then the Brother Superior General said to the Assembly: “You are the face of the Institute in the places where you live”.

Emili Turú's Marist simplicity, closeness, and fraternity surprised all the participants, for he was just one more in the group.

In the context of the Provincial Assembly, we celebrated Brother Cruz Alberdi's 50 years of religious life. In the closing Mass of the Assembly we thanked God for his life and service

over the years, for his fidelity to the charism, and for his prophetic attitude regarding the laity.

The closing Mass concluded with the missioning ceremony. Brother Emili sent us to continue living in our different life settings the grace we experienced these days together, and to keep walking towards the Second Marist

International Mission Assembly 2014, as "New Marists in mission".

After the Assembly, brothers and lay people thanked God for the time spent together, for the gift it had meant, they welcomed it with love, and then set off, dreaming about the future and committing to it.



MARISTS ON THE ROAD!

4th Provincial Chapter of the Hermitage

The Monastery of Les Avellanes (Lleida) gathered 52 chapter members and six lay Marists (three women and three men) who came from France, Greece, Hungary, Algeria, Switzerland and Catalonia, a mixture of languages and cultures generating a dynamic version of Saint Marcellin Champagnat's charism: communities of consecrated religious enriched by the participation of the laity, and dedicated to the apostolic mission with children and young people. Brother Antonio Ramalho, General Councilor and delegate of the Superior General, also participated in the meeting. Father Emmanuel de Marsac celebrated the daily Mass.

Brother Maurice Berquet, who begins

his second mandate as Provincial of the Hermitage, made the opening speech. He concluded by saying: "I hope our Chapter will be an opportunity to highlight what is being born in our Province, and to thank the Lord, no doubt, but also to focus our energies for the three coming years".

In the previous months, there were a number of meetings to study, analyze, and dialogue about provincial matters, with a large participation of lay people, brothers and communities. All this work was summarized in several documents, namely: a) The Superior General's letter regarding the appointment of Brother Maurice Berquet as Provincial for a second term, in which he mentioned the challenges

and hopes expressed by the brothers. b) The echoes of the councilors' visit to the Province of the Hermitage (November 2012 and March 2013). c) The Provincial Council's report regarding the 2010-2013 period. d) The final document from the Marist Life in Communion Forum. e) And finally, the contributions of the communities outlining the convictions and guidelines for the future of the Province.

The assembly, working in table groups, looked for signs of hope, and challenges leading to the future, and then worked by interest groups around four main priority areas, in order to define some objectives for the next three years, and make concrete recommendations for each objective.



15 August - Patronal feast of the Institute

Assumption

"Our devotion to Mary, like that of the Church, is expressed in love, confidence, and admiration, and by trying to make our own Mary's attitude towards God and people.

Like Father Champagnat, we go to Mary as a child to its mother. By prayer, and by studying what the Church is saying about Mary, we seek to deepen our relationship with her. Her great feastdays, especially the Assumption, which is the patronal feast of the Institute, are special times for intensifying our devotion to this Good Mother.

Every day, we praise the Mother of God by reciting the Rosary, or by some other Marial prayer that reflects the mind of the Church."

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**Guidelines
for the next three-year term**

Although the final wording is yet to be defined by the new Provincial Council, we could summarize the general idea of the four priority areas as follows. Each of these points was almost unanimously approved.

1. Brothers and community life. This area focuses on the brothers' personal lives and on the community experience. We discussed the following aspects: personal life project (relationship with God, relationship with others, ongoing formation, use of time, revision of the day). Two other points: support and facilitation in the homes for older brothers, and criteria to integrate the communities.

2. Vocations ministry in association with youth ministry. This guideline was clearly stressed by the group: "We should invite all the brothers to promote vocations at all levels. To achieve this, we believe it is essential to involve the laity". This objective includes many important aspects regarding youth ministry and formation, and implies offering concrete experiences and vocational accompaniment. Documents such as Making Jesus Known and Loved, and He Walked Along with Them, among others, are a reference point here.

3. Communion of brothers and laity. The 2013 Life in Communion Forum strongly encouraged us to develop this ongoing process in the Province. There are two concrete objectives regarding this area: "To deepen the vocational and mutual-recognition process of brothers and laity", and "to promote and develop communion experiences between lay people and brothers in the Province", guidelines which imply concrete experiences, formation, and group work. Brothers and lay people obviously have a privileged field of common growth in this area.

4. Mission. This aspect is not separate from the whole, nor are the other priority areas. Everything is



integrated. Developing our mission implies concrete objectives encompassing a variety of aspects: formation, opening up to new forms of poverty, a provincial policy to promote the rights of children, the viability of our works (educational and social), and their mutual collaboration.

Saturday began with a community outing. All the participants walked to the Mother of God of Puig shrine on a small mountain near the monastery, entrusting the future of the Province to Mary: Marists on the road!

The assembly then proceeded to elect the councilors in accordance with the Chapter rules. In alphabetical order, the new councilors are André Décully, Pere Ferré, Xavier Giné, J. Manuel Martín, Michel Morel, Jaume Parés, Jean Ronzon, and Gabriel Villa-Real.

After an evening of celebration on Saturday, we had the last work session on Sunday morning. The Letter from the capitulants and lay Marists was approved. The participants completed an evaluation form, and then listened

to the last two interventions.

Brother Antonio Ramalho, General Councilor, congratulated the Chapter on the work accomplished. He stated that the Province of the Hermitage is the mother of all the Provinces in the Institute. Antonio acknowledged the rich contributions of the communities, the Forum, the laity, and the Provincial Council through its report. He invited the group to live a non-conformist and realistic attitude, and to pay attention to the minorities within the Province.

Brother Maurice Berquet made the closing speech. He began with a word of thanks to a number of people. He mentioned the questions he had in mind at the beginning of the Chapter, which marks the 10th anniversary of the restructured Province. One by one, he briefly revisited the four priority areas approved by the Chapter, stating that they are very promising for the coming years. He emphasized the sense of belonging to the Province which characterized this meeting.



The next issue of Marist News will be published on the first week of September.

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